

# SEARCHING IRISH RECORDS FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

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**Many of us have a goal of tracing our families back to Ireland. It's very important to do your homework in US records BEFORE trying to identify your Irish immigrant in Irish records.**

(See *Searching US Records for Your Irish Ancestors* at <http://www.rochesteriaci.org/>)

### What's the problem with searching Irish records?

- Irish records usually require knowledge of specific geographic info for your family (County NOT enough).
  - **Solution:** Use US records to discover specific geographic info for your family in Ireland
- All Irish families seem to use the same group of names for their children.
  - **Solution:** Use US records to develop a knowledge base of “identifiers” about your family and especially your immigrant ancestor.
- Irish naming patterns and Baptism traditions, <https://irelandxo.com/ireland-xo/news/irelandxo-insight-irish-naming-and-baptism-traditions> (EXCELLENT)
- **Encouraging Signs on the Irish Genealogy Front**
  - Ireland Reaching Out, an Ireland-wide network of volunteers researching diaspora <http://www.irelandxo.com/home>.
  - February 2015 report of the Joint Committee on Environment, Culture, and the Gaeltacht, <http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/media/Committee-Report-on-Genealogy.pdf>
  - 1926 Irish Census might possibly be made available before 2026 as the current law requires. [Probably won't happen!]
  - Community initiatives to generate tourism such as making the records for Limerick's largest cemetery available online for free, <http://limerick.ie/Archives/MountStLawrenceBurialGroundRegisters1855-2008/>
- **Searching Irish records from the US**
  - LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT - largest collection of Irish records outside of Ireland
  - Other Irish resources: [American Irish Historical Society](#), New York, NY; [Archives of Irish America at New York University](#), New York, NY; [Western Reserve Historical Society Irish American Archives](#), Cleveland, OH; [Allen County Public Library](#), Fort Wayne, IN; [New England Historic Genealogical Society](#), Boston, MA; [Irish Genealogical Society International](#), St. Paul, MN; [Irish Emigration Library](#), Milwaukee, WI
  - LDS Family History Centers (FHC) such as Brockport & 1400 Westfall Road, Rochester. Other [locations](#)
    - FamilySearch.org Library Catalog: <https://www.familysearch.org/#form=catalog>
    - [FamilySearch.org Library Catalog for Ireland](#)
    - FamilySearch.org Library Catalog for a county in Ireland: *Search* box = Place-names, *For* box = enter *Ireland*, followed by the county name [Ireland-comma-space-county, example: Ireland, Wicklow]
      - Clicking on a film/fiche number will lead you to the online ordering process
  - [FamilySearch.org Historical Records Collection for Ireland](#) (online digital collection)
- **Searching Irish records when you're in Ireland**
  - The National Library of Ireland (Kildare Street, Dublin) offers a free Genealogy Advisory Service. This is a good chance to discuss your research with an experienced Irish genealogist. <http://www.nli.ie/en/genealogy-advisory-service.aspx>
  - The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin) also offers a free Genealogy Advisory Service. <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/genealogy-service/>
  - EPIC Ireland (Custom House Quay, Dublin). The Irish Family History Centre (€9.50) **offers much for the researcher including a 15 minute consultation with an expert, full access to FindMyPast, and lots more.** <http://epicirelandchq.com/irish-family-history-centre/>
  - The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (Titanic Blvd, Belfast) does not have an official advisory service, but staff does meet with first time visitors. [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/visiting\\_proni/what\\_happens\\_when\\_i\\_arrive.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/visiting_proni/what_happens_when_i_arrive.htm)
  - If you know an ancestral location, when visiting that area contact librarians, post masters, historical societies, and local historians.
- **During the 1922 Civil War, the Public Record Office at the Four Courts in Dublin was destroyed. Records lost:**
  - Pre-1858 wills and administrations (most did not have wills) Copies of some of these wills exist as well as indexes.
  - 1821 to 1851 census records (1861 - 1891 were "pulped")
  - About half of the Church of Ireland parish registers (Church of Ireland represented about 10% of the population)

## Quick Start Guide

- **Consider alternative names and spellings**
  - Surnames:
    - Irish surnames have evolved, often in a non-obvious ways (ex: Judge vs Breheny)
    - At <https://www.johngrenham.com/> enter your target surname. Alternatives will be listed in the right column.
    - Also check out <https://www.barrygriffin.com/surname-maps/>
    - <https://www.irishorigenes.com/> based on 1911 Census database
    - <https://www.swilson.info/sdist.php> based on 1850s
    - For more info, see [Irish Name Variations & Search Techniques](#)
  - Given Names:
    - First & middle names can also be recorded in non-obvious ways (ex: Delia is a synonym for Bridget)
    - [Alternate Forms for Given Names](#), includes examples such as Abbreviation, *Jno.*; Nickname, *Nabby*; Synonym, *Delia*; Irish, *Alaiois*; Latin, *Ioannes*
  - Some search options:
    - Replace vowels with wildcards
    - If last name is optional, try first name only plus date and/or place of birth (also try last name with no first name)
    - Switch first name and last name or switch first name and middle name
- **If you only know the county**
  - The Heritage Centre for that county may have a county-wide index that can yield the civil parish and/or the townland
  - For detailed info, see [Heritage Centres](#)
- **If you aren't sure about even the county**, prioritize research of counties based on distributions of surnames from:
  - <https://www.johngrenham.com/> (based on 1847-64 data). Note that this won't help for common names.
- **Search for 2 surnames in the same parish**, for example you know a wife's maiden name as well as the husband's surname:
  - <http://www.swilson.info/surnamexref.php> (based on 1847-64 data).
- **The Irish Ancestors Wizard** Produces a series of research recommendations and links.
  - <https://www.johngrenham.com/wizard/>
- **To research family in Ireland 1900 or later** (to find living relatives):
  - Start with the 1901 & 1911 census available free at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>
  - Search for death certificate free at: <https://www.familysearch.org/s/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1927084> & order certificate. For more detail, see the Civil Registration section below.
  - Search for death notice, see the Newspapers section below.
- **To research family in Ireland 1864 or later** (particularly for births or marriages):
  - Start with the civil registrations free at: <https://www.familysearch.org/s/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1927084>
    - For more detail, see the Civil Registration section below
- **To research family in Ireland prior to 1864:**
  - Search church records, see the Church Records section below
  - Search Griffith's Valuation, see the Land Records section below
- The **Ryan, Grenham, and Mitchell** books complement each other and are often cited as goto resources for Irish research (see resource page). Much of the Grenham content is available for free at <https://www.johngrenham.com/>. When researching a placename, the Mitchell book is very valuable because it has maps of civil and religious jurisdictions.
- *Irish Genealogy course* at <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/2016-family-history>
- *Irish Roots* is a quarterly magazine, see [www.irishrootsmedia.com](http://www.irishrootsmedia.com)
- *Irish Lives Remembered* is a free online magazine, see [www.irishlivesremembered.com](http://www.irishlivesremembered.com)
- *Clann* is a free quarterly newsletter of the Irish Family History Foundation, see <http://www.rootsireland.ie/clann-newsletters/>

- **The Big 4 Digitized Resources Per John Grenham, 8 May 2019**
  - **1901 & 1911 Census** available at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>
    - Also on ancestry.com & FindMyPast.com, but only National Archives site has the latest updates
  - **General Register Office**, <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/irish-records-what-is-available/civil-records>
    - See Civil Registrations section below
  - **Catholic Parish Registers**,
    - See Church Records section below
  - **Property Records**, Griffith's Valuation <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>
    - See Land Records section below

- **Administrative Divisions & Place Names**

- Province (4) - Connaught, Leinster, Munster, Ulster
- County (32)
  - Connaught - Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo
  - Leinster - Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Leix (Queens), Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly (Kings), Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow
  - Munster - Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford
  - Ulster - Antrim(NI), Armagh(NI), Cavan, Donegal, Down(NI), Fermanagh(NI), Londonderry(NI), Monaghan, Tyrone(NI)
- Barony (270) - collection of civil parishes (or parts)
  - <http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/> for baronies within counties
- Civil Parish (2,508 - these are not church parishes) - Repositories often catalogued by civil parish
  - [https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil\\_index.php](https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php) for parishes within counties
  - <http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/>
- Townland (~60,000) - Smallest official geographic unit, but does not have its own government.
  - <https://www.townlands.ie/>
  - <http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/>
  - <https://www.swilson.info/townlands.php>
  - [www.johngrenham.com/places](http://www.johngrenham.com/places) 1851 Townlands Index
  - [www.irishancestors.ie](http://www.irishancestors.ie) 1901 Townlands Index
  - [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie) Complete list including sub-townlands & geographic features
- Poor Law Union (163) - Poor Law Act of 1838, unions of townlands responsible for poor. Each had a workhouse.
  - PLUs ignore county & parish boundaries. So do not restrict your research a specific jurisdiction – look at surrounding
  - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Irish\\_Poor\\_Law\\_Unions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Irish_Poor_Law_Unions) for PLUs within counties.
  - [https://www.johngrenham.com/places/plu\\_index.php#maps/](https://www.johngrenham.com/places/plu_index.php#maps/)
  - <https://www.swilson.info/regdistmap.php>
- Superintendent Registrars' Districts (245, based on the Poor Law Unions) – civil registration districts
  - <http://swilson.info/regdistmap.php> for districts within counties
  - Each PLU was subdivided into 4 or 5 Dispensary Districts which were later called Registrar's Districts
- District Electoral Division (3,751) - a division of the Poor Law Union, important when using Griffith's Valuation and census **DEDs within counties**
- Other aids for navigating Irish place names
  - [www.logainm.ie/en/](http://www.logainm.ie/en/)
  - <http://www.placenamesni.org> placenames for Northern Ireland
  - [http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page\\_id=5392](http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=5392) based on 1904 publication
  - <http://www.irish-place-names.com/> based on 1861 publication
  - [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) Includes P.W. Joyce's Irish Names of Places (3 Vols)
  - <https://www.swilson.info/placesrch.php> helps sort out what jurisdiction a placename can be
  - <https://www.johngrenham.com/places/> jurisdictions by county
  - <https://registers.nli.ie/> variant names for Catholic parishes
- Maps: see <http://www.townlands.ie/> for maps of all administrative divisions & the Brian Mitchell book in the resource page has maps for both civil & church entities.
  - County boundary changes in 1898, <http://www.swilson.info/wp/?p=1738>
  - British War Office maps from the 1940s <https://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=6&lat=53.3993&lon=-7.9500&layers=13&b=1>
  - Ordnance Survey GeoHive <http://geohive.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9def898f708b47f19a8d8b7088a100c4>

- **Census & Substitutes**

- 1600-1874 Irish Records Extraction Database 100,000 name database of Irish vital records. [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)
- 1659 Census of Ireland, <http://clanmaclochlainn.com/1659cen.htm>
- 1701-1845 Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls, free forever at <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-catholic-qualification-and-convert-rolls-1701-1845>
- 1766 Religious Census – FHC, fiche 6394349 (index), film 100173, NI: [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/proninames.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/proninames.htm)
- 1796 Spinning Wheel Survey - also known as Irish Flax Growers List, 1796 <http://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php> Included on FHC, Ancestry.com
- 1816-1921 Royal Irish Constabulary was staffed mainly by Irish-born men. [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)
- 1821 Census remnants & abstracts - parts of 11 counties. For Cavan see <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlcav2/1821Census.html>, [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) & <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2345228>
- 1821 Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)
- 1823-1837 Tithe Applotment Composition Books
  - Records the head of household of each property (the person responsible for paying taxes)
  - Index and images free at National Archives site, <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie> and Family Search, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1804886>
- 1824-1856 Ireland Valuation Office Books
  - Field, house, quarto, rent, survey, tenure books
  - Index and images free forever at <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books>
  - For an aid to using these books, see <http://www.townlandvaluationtranslator.com/>
- 1821 Census remnants. [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)
- 1831 Census remnants & abstracts - parts of Londonderry and Antrim. [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) & <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2334949>
- 1831 Tithe Defaulters, [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)
- Pre-1840 Freeholders' Records for NI, [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/freeholders\\_records.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/freeholders_records.htm)
- 1840-1847 Valuers' Notebooks, also known as Perambulation Notebooks, Surveyors' Notebooks, or Field Books
  - Records the head of household of each house, not just the landlord
  - Valuation Office Books 1824-1856 are free at <http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/vob/home.jsp>
  - Great info on how to use the Valuation Office Books, <http://www.townlandvaluationtranslator.com/>
  - Available in Ireland at National Archives of Ireland and Valuation Office. Images (not yet indexed) available at <https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1149346> but must be used at a Family History Center.

- **Census & Substitutes – Cont'd**
  - 1841 Census remnants & abstracts - parts of 14 counties. [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) & <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2346276>
  - 1841 Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)
  - 1841 Morpeth Roll. Recently discovered document with 160,000 signatures. Available on ancestry.com.
  - Census searches for old pension applications. Old age pensions began in 1908. People could request searches of the then surviving 1841 & 1851 censuses. Census Search Forms or Form 37s – FHC. NI Only: <http://www.ireland-genealogy.com/> & [www.emeraldancestors.com](http://www.emeraldancestors.com) (both search free, \$ for details). National Archives in Dublin has records for all Ireland, now online at <http://censussearchforms.nationalarchives.ie/search/cs/home.jsp> & <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2346275>
  - Griffith's Primary Valuation (1844-1864, varies by county)
    - Records the head of household of each property (the person responsible for paying taxes)
    - Some Heritage Centres have indexes for their county
    - Free site: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/> included images of original documents and maps
    - Available at [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) (\$) & ancestry.com
    - Dates of completion for individual counties, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Griffith's\\_Valuation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Griffith's_Valuation)
    - Reilly, James R. *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000. Now available on google books, <https://books.google.com>
    - More info on Griffith's Valuation, see [Griffith's Valuation - Background & Usage](#)
  - 1848-1849 William Smith O'Brien Petition
    - 80,000 names, including addresses and sometimes occupations
    - Available at [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) (fee). Available on CD (ISBN 0 9537557 2 X)
  - 1851 Census remnants & abstracts - parts of 25 counties. [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie) & <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2340880>
  - 1851 Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)
  - 1851 Census Index for Dublin, [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) (fee)
  - 1850s-1980s Valuation Office Revision Books or Cancelled Books
    - A follow-up to Griffith's Valuation containing updated information
    - Changes to occupier column usually indicate significant event like death, emigration, marriage, etc.
    - Northern Ireland counties are free at [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/val12b.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/val12b.htm)
    - Republic counties are available at the Valuation Office in Dublin. Not online yet.
  - 1871 Census remnant – County Meath, free at [http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page\\_id=1699](http://www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=1699)
  - 1876 Landowners of Ireland (1 acre or more) <http://www.failteromhat.com/lo1876.php>
  - 1901 & 1911 Census available at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie> Includes forms filled out by head of household.
  - 1912 Ulster Covenant at [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/ulster\\_covenant.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/ulster_covenant.htm)
  - 1926 The next census for both Irelands. Both countries have a 100 year waiting period, however politicians in the Republic have long promised to release the 1926 census early...so far only talk.
  - CensusFinder has a good list of census substitutes at <http://www.censusfinder.com/ireland.htm>

- **Civil Registrations** (birth/marriage/death)
  - Non-Catholic marriages start 1845, all bmd 1864
  - Search civil registrations FREE at: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1408347> (index only)  
<https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp> (index & images)  
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-civil-birth-registers-index> “best birth index”  
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-civil-marriage-registers-index> “best marriage index”
  - Births 1864-1921 for all Ireland (1864-1918 at [www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/)) (100 year waiting period)  
 Births 1922-1958 for Republic of Ireland
  - Marriages 1845-1864 for all Ireland (only non-Catholic marriages)  
 Marriages 1864-1921 for all Ireland  
 Marriages 1922-1958 for Republic of Ireland (1864-1943 at [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)) (75 year waiting period)
  - Deaths 1864-1921 for all Ireland  
 Deaths 1922-1958 for Republic of Ireland (1878-1968 at [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)) (50 year waiting period)
  - Info for ordering certificates: <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/civil-records/help/i-want-to-get-a-copy-of-a-certificate-what-do-i-do>
  - Info for ordering certificates: <http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/General-Register-Office.aspx> or <http://www.certificates.ie>
  - Waiting period restrictions do NOT apply if you visit the General Register Office in Dublin in person.
  - Search civil registrations (bmd) for Northern Ireland (Counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, or Tyrone)  
 FREE at: <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/> (\$ to see content)  
<http://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp> (index, some images not available)  
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-civil-birth-registers-index> “best birth index”  
<https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-civil-marriage-registers-index> “best marriage index”
  - Births 1864-1917 (100 year waiting period)
  - Marriages 1845-1942 (75 year waiting period)
  - Deaths 1864-1967 (50 year waiting period)
  - Info for ordering certificates for Northern Ireland: <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/> or <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro>
  - Waiting period restrictions do NOT apply if you visit the GRONI in Belfast in person.
  - GRONI also includes adoptions from 1 Jan 1931, civil partnerships from 5 Dec 2005, and WWII death index for 1939 to 1945
  - Other sources of bmd:
    - <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp> images available at IrishGenealogy.ie
    - [https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil\\_index.php#maps/](https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php#maps/) to determine what records are available
    - Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS)
      - [Marriage Index](#) – Free to IGRS members, and non-members
      - [Birth Index](#) - Free to IGRS members. Free Name search only for non-members
      - [Death Index](#) - Free to IGRS members. Free Name search only for non-members

- **Church Records**

- For detailed info see the Ryan, Grenham, and Mitchell books on resources page.
- Rural Catholic records begin ~1820, while some urban records begin ~1760. Due to the Roman Catholic Relief Act of 1829, most Catholic records are for 1829 and later.
- The Irish National Library ([registers.nli.ie](http://registers.nli.ie)) has free images of Catholic parish registers through 1881, but not indexed.
  - These images are made from original forms and are good quality.
  - FindMyPast is offering an index which links to these images for free forever at <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms>  
For marriages or burials: substitute *marriages* or *burials* for *baptisms* in the above link
  - Ancestry.com (\$) also has an index – based on microfilm which is not good quality.
- Heritage Centres have indexes of church records for their county – mostly Catholic.
  - Several Centres offer free searches of their databases at [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) (\$). These are transcriptions made from original documents. [Can use % as a wildcard. Use %%% to indicate a blank field.]
  - For detailed info, see [Heritage Centres](#)
  - The transcriptions at [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) are now linked to the parish register images at [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)
- Catholic records in Latin - see Latin guide in resources & [Given Name Alternatives for Irish Research](#)
- Church of Ireland records may include all denominations prior to the mid-1800s.
  - UK & Ireland Records Collection, Parish and Probate Records, 15 million names covering 1538 - 1837, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)
  - List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers including links to sources:
    - <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegistersTable.pdf> or
    - <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/online-parish-records>
  - More Church of Ireland access, <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/news/7250/church-of-ireland-parish-record>
  - Many church records for Dublin City, Carlow, Cork and Kerry are available at <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/>
  - Anglican Records Project (bmd), <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/anglican-record-project>
  - Vestry Minute Books, <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/vestrybooks.pdf>
  - PRONI Church Records, [https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Guide\\_to\\_church\\_records.pdf](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/Guide_to_church_records.pdf) WWII
- Current Church info:
  - For current Catholic church info: <http://www.catholicireland.net/church-in-ireland/dioceses>
  - For current COI (Anglican) info: <http://www.ireland.anglican.org/information/dioceses/search/>
  - For current Presbyterian info: <http://www.presbyterianireland.org/About-Us/Find-a-Church>
- Historical Church info:
  - Annual Irish Catholic Directory lists dioceses, parishes, churches including historic & current parish names. From 1835, several past directories can be found on [Google Books](#). See [1848 Directory](#).
  - The first directory for the Church of Ireland was published in 1814 as the Ecclesiastical Registry by Samuel Percy Lea. See also <http://ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/registers/ParishRegistersTable.pdf>
  - The first Irish Presbyterian Directory was published in 1840 as McComb's Presbyterian Almanac.
  - The minutes of the annual conferences of Irish Methodists have been published from 1746.
  - The Ecclesiastical Directory for Ireland from Thom's Directory of 1848 documents Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, and Methodist at <http://www.swilson.info/eccdir1848.php>
- IGRS Marriages Index, <http://www.irishancestors.ie/search/marriage/index.php>
- Maps:
  - [https://www.johngrenham.com/places/rcmap\\_index.php](https://www.johngrenham.com/places/rcmap_index.php)
  - <https://registers.nli.ie/>

## • Cemetery Records

- Often great info on tombstones, however many did not have stones. Church of Ireland cemeteries contain all denominations.
- Ireland Genealogy Projects Archive has a headstone section, <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/headstones.htm>
- A community based heritage project, <http://historicgraves.com/>
- Irish Graveyard Surveyors, <http://www.irishgraveyards.ie>
- Discover Ever After, <http://www.discovereverafter.com/>
- FindAGrave for Ireland, <http://www.findagrave.com/php/famous.php?page=country&FSCountryid=35>
- BillionGraves for Ireland, <http://billiongraves.com/pages/search/> & select *Ireland* from Country menu
- Internment for Ireland, <http://www.interment.net/ireland/>
- From Ireland, <http://www.from-ireland.net/free-gravestone-records/>
- Burial records for Limerick's largest cemetery are free online, <http://www.limerick.ie/cityarchives/cemeteryrecords/>
  - For further info on this cemetery, see <http://limerickslife.com/mount-st-lawrence-cemetery/>
- Glasvenor Trust (~5 Dublin cemeteries) <http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/genealogy/> (search free, \$ for details)
- Other Dublin cemeteries (~3) <http://databases.dublincity.ie/cemeteries/>
- Dublin Graveyards Directory includes maps and available records, <http://databases.dublincity.ie/graveyards/>
- Belfast city cemeteries (~3 cemeteries), free at <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/burialrecords/burialrecords.aspx>
- History from Headstones (~800 cemeteries in Northern Ireland) (\$) <http://www.historyfromheadstones.com/>
- County Kerry cemeteries (~140 cemeteries), free at <http://www.kerrylaburials.ie>
- County Cork cemeteries (~5 cemeteries) free at <http://www.corkarchives.ie/collections/onlinedigitalarchive/>
- County Waterford cemeteries (~30), <http://www.waterfordcouncil.ie/en/Resident/Research.Family.History/Burial.Records/>
- Sometimes immigrant children sent money home to erect tombstones for family members (and the stone may indicate where the immigrant was living).
- Memorials of the Dead, 70,000 tombstone transcriptions for 1500s-1800s (\$), now contained in [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)
- FHC has some records. [www.from-ireland.net](http://www.from-ireland.net) has some. Heritage Centres have indexed many, [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)
- Cemetery resources by county at <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/records/graveyard/>

## • Land Records

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1824-1846). Survey commissioned as preparation for Griffith's Valuation. Microfiche is available from FHC. Copies available at <http://www.osi.ie/> (\$)
- Can browse historic maps free at <http://shop.osi.ie/Shop/Products/Default.aspx#historic>
- Northern Irish Ordnance Surveys at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/ordnance-survey-of-northern-ireland>
- Memoirs recorded during Ordnance Survey of Ireland (only Northern counties). Published as a 40 volume set by the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University of Belfast. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa/osmemoirs.html>
- Valuation Maps at the Valuation Office in Dublin. During Griffith's Valuation, plot numbers were added to the ordnance survey maps yielding the Valuation Maps.
  - Finding your ancestor in Griffith's Valuation yields a townland and plot number which can be used to find your ancestor's plot in the Valuation Maps (Free site: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>)
- Griffith's Valuation Dates by County, <http://www.swilson.info/wp/?p=1645>
- Landed Estate Court Files, 1850-1885, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2040586>
- Land Direct maps, <https://www.landdirect.ie/>
- Registry of Deeds, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds/>, 1708 on.
  - Registry of Deeds User Guides, <http://irishdeedsindex.net/guides/index.php>
  - Registry of Deeds Index Project, <http://irishdeedsindex.net/index.php> – pointer to the familysearch content
  - At <https://familysearch.org/catalog/185720>
  - More deeds, free at [http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/servlet/Controller?action=digitisation\\_backlist](http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/servlet/Controller?action=digitisation_backlist)
- “Landed Estate Records” or “unregistered deeds” refer to agreements between landlord and tenants. “Registry of Deeds” or “registered deeds” were intended to restrict Catholic ownership and had legal priority over unregistered deeds.
- Landed estate database for provinces of Connacht and Munster (western Ireland) at <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie>
- Original Will Registers 1858-1920, free forever at <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-original-will-registers-1858-1920>
- [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) (\$) has a great collection of records, including land records
- Map collections from the Survey of Down, <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>
- Valuation Office Archives, [http://www.valoff.ie/en/Archives\\_Genealogy\\_Public\\_Office/](http://www.valoff.ie/en/Archives_Genealogy_Public_Office/)
- Family Search Wiki, [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland\\_Maps](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Maps)
- <http://libguides.ucd.ie/findingmaps/mapshistIreland>

- **Newspapers, Obituaries**

- Database of newspapers relevant to Irish research, <http://www.nli.ie/en/catalogues-and-databases-printed-newspapers.aspx>
- Free searches available at [www.irishnewsarchive.com](http://www.irishnewsarchive.com) (\$) & <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> (\$)
- Wikipedia has a list of papers at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List\\_of\\_online\\_newspaper\\_archives#Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives#Ireland)
- <http://www.xooxleanswers.com/free-newspaper-archives/newspaper-archives-europe/>
- <http://libguides.bgsu.edu/content.php?pid=478027&sid=3921573> (scroll down to *Ireland* )
- Others available at [www.irishancestors.ie](http://www.irishancestors.ie), [www.irishtimes.com/archive](http://www.irishtimes.com/archive)

- **Wills**

- Virtually all wills up to 1858 were destroyed in 1922. Indexes (containing helpful info) do exist.
  - The Irish Wills Index 1484 to 1858 at NAI and online at findmypast (\$)
  - 26 Counties of the Republic, 1858-1920, free at <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/home.jsp>
  - 26 Counties of the Republic, 1922-1982, free at <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/search-the-archives/> . See guide at <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Will-calendar-search-guide.pdf>
  - 6 Counties of Northern Ireland, 1858-1965, free at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/search-archives-online/will-calendars>
- Ireland Calendar of Wills and Administrations, 1858-1920, <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1921305>
- Registry of Deeds Dublin abstracts of wills, free at [http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/servlet/Controller?action=digitisation\\_backlist](http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/servlet/Controller?action=digitisation_backlist)
- Wills of Irish soldiers in the British Army, 1899-1917, free at <http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/search/sw/home.jsp>
- Others at FHC and [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) \$

- **Courts**

- Petty Sessions Court Records, <https://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-Records/ireland-petty-sessions-court-registers>

- **Estate Records**

- Connacht and Munster Landed Estates Database, free at <http://www.landedestates.ie/>
- Northern Ireland, [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)
- Estate collection at the National Library of Ireland, <http://sources.nli.ie>
- The Down Survey, database of 10,000 major landowners & maps, free at <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>
- Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers (EPP), <http://www.dippam.ac.uk/eppi>
- Others at FHC and [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) \$

- **Military**

- For records of those who served in the Irish Volunteers & Irish Military from 1913 through 1970, including the Military Service Pension Collection (1916 - 1950s), <http://census.militaryarchives.ie/>
  - Their online databases are available at <http://www.militaryarchives.ie/en/collections/online-collections>
- Bureau of Military History 1913-1921, <http://www.bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie/>
- Database of 49,000 Irish WWI Dead, <http://imr.inlandersfields.be/search.html>
- Many Irish served in the British military, see [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
  - For WWI, see [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/first-world-war)
- Guide to WWI research at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), see [www.proni.gov.uk/fww\\_guide\\_version\\_3\\_july\\_2014.pdf](http://www.proni.gov.uk/fww_guide_version_3_july_2014.pdf)
- [Irish Regiments of British Army](http://www.angelfire.com/mp/memorials/memindz1.htm), also see soldier's memorials at <http://www.angelfire.com/mp/memorials/memindz1.htm>
- Free search - British Army Regiments recruited from southern Ireland which were disbanded with creation of the Irish Free State in 1922 (the Royal Irish Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, the Leinster Regiment, the Royal Munster Fusiliers and the Royal Dublin Fusiliers), <https://www.nam.ac.uk/soldiers-records/persons>
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission documents 1.7 million who died in the WWI & WWII, <http://www.cwgc.org>
- Search the UK War Memorials and the servicemen listed on them, <http://www.iwm.org.uk/memorials/>
- Royal Irish Constabulary stations, ca. 1890 at <http://www.swilson.info/ricdmp1890.php?co=Clare&coid=7>
- WWII Death Index, <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/introduction-groni-and-its-records>
- Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1863-1921, free forever at <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-merchant-navy-crew-lists-1863-1921>

- **Police**
  - Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) stations, ca. 1890 at <http://www.swilson.info/ricdmp1890.php?co=Clare&coid=7>
  - RIC Service Records 1816-1922, [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) (\$)
  
- **Emigration Records**
  - Irish Emigration Database, <http://www.dippam.ac.uk/ied/>
  - Ireland-Australia transportation records (1791–1853), <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/genealogy-records/ireland-australia-transportation-records-1791-1853/>
  - Irish Ship Passenger Lists (\$), <http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/quis.php?page=0&prevStartQuery=0>
  
- **Directories**
  - Directories in Ireland began in the 1700s as listings of prominent gentlemen. Gradually they became more inclusive, but will not be a good source for info on landless farmers.
  - On-line collection for Northern Ireland, [http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search\\_the\\_archives/street\\_directories.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/street_directories.htm)
  - FamilySearch has many, some have been digitized, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
  - [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) (\$) has large collections.
  - Burke's Landed Gentry – Irish Family Records (\$) free search at <http://www.exacteditions.com/read/lgireland>
  
- **Workhouses**
  - There are not many records about residents of the workhouses. See <http://www.workhouses.org.uk/> for a list of all workhouses in Ireland and the UK, plus histories & photos of each. When records exist, their location is given.
  
- **Pedigrees from Prerogative Wills**
  - Sketched pedigrees by Sir William Betham in the early 1800s, [www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/316677](http://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/316677)
  
- **Other Resources**
  - Archeological Monuments maps, <http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/>

- **British Records**
  - Since Ireland was part of the United Kingdom until 1922, British repositories and websites often include Irish info. Many Irish lived in England or other parts of UK at some point.
  - **Civil Registrations** (birth/marriage/death)
    - England & Wales
      - Registration began 1 Jul 1837
      - Search FreeBMD FREE at <http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>
      - Also available at [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) (\$) & ancestry.com
      - Info for ordering certificates: <http://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/>
    - Scotland
      - Registration began 1 Jan 1855
      - Search FamilySearch FREE (birth records 1855-1875), <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1771030>
      - Search FamilySearch FREE (marriage records 1855-1875), <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1771074>
      - More complete BMD available at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk> (\$)
      - Info for ordering certificates: <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/content/help/index.aspx?r=554&412>
- **Census**
  - England & Wales
    - Genealogically-relevant censuses available to the public are 1841-1911
    - Search FreeCEN (most 1841-1891) FREE at <http://www.freecen.org.uk/>
    - 1881 is available at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) (free)
    - 1841-1901 are available at [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk) (\$)
    - 1841-1911 are available at [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) (\$)
  - Scotland
    - Genealogically-relevant censuses available to the public are 1841-1911
    - Search FamilySearch (1841-1891 indexes only) at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&countryId=1986318>
    - 1841-1911 are available at [www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk](http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk) (\$)
- **Church Records**
  - England & Wales
    - Search FreeREG FREE at <http://www.freereg.org.uk/>
    - Many records free at [https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&region=UNITED\\_KINGDOM\\_IRELAND](https://familysearch.org/search/collection/list#page=1&region=UNITED_KINGDOM_IRELAND)
    - Also available at [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) (\$) & ancestry.com
    - For more info on researching England Church Records, see [http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/England\\_Church\\_Records](http://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/England_Church_Records)
  - Scotland
    - Search ScotlandsPeople at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/> (\$)
    - For more info on researching Scotland Church Records, see [https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Scotland\\_Church\\_Records](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Scotland_Church_Records)
- **Other British Sources**
  - Free sites: familysearch.org, FreeBMD.com, FreeReg.com, FreeCen.com
  - Free at FamilySearch centers: FindMyPast.co.uk, British Newspaper Archive, The Genealogist, and ancestry.com
  - UK National Archives at [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)
  - Portal to UK/Irish BMD links, <http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/>
  - Also check out associated sites: <http://www.ukgdl.org.uk/> & <http://www.ukmfh.org.uk/>
  - Genweb site for UK/Ireland, <http://www.genuki.org.uk/>
  - To compare UK/Irish subscription offerings, [http://www.britishgenealogy.net/compare\\_genealogy\\_subscriptions.php](http://www.britishgenealogy.net/compare_genealogy_subscriptions.php)
  - For other resources available for British, as well as Australian and Canadian (or any country) go to <http://www.cyndislist.com/> and search for the desired country or topic.
  - Connected Histories ([www.connectedhistories.org](http://www.connectedhistories.org)) provides British historical digital resources for the period 1500-1900.

- **Reverse/Decendancy Genealogy**

- Once we have traced our ancestors back to the ancestral couple in Ireland, many of us would like to identify living relatives in Ireland and throughout the world. Reverse genealogy is the process of researching an ancestral couple and their descendants all the way back to those currently living. This ancestral couple may have hundreds or even thousands of living descendants so this could be a very rewarding exercise.
- Some resources helpful for reverse genealogy:
  - Valuation Revision Books
    - Northern Ireland, online at PRONI, [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)
    - Republic, Valuation Office in Dublin, digitization project in process
  - Death records.
    - [IrishTimes.com/archive](http://IrishTimes.com/archive) from 1856
    - [Irishnewsarchive.com](http://Irishnewsarchive.com)
    - [Britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://Britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)
    - [www.rip.ie](http://www.rip.ie)
  - Marriage records.
  - 1901/1911 Censuses
  - Death notices in newspapers (likely 1940 to current)
  - Will calendar and probate
  - Sites such as [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://IrishGenealogy.ie), [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)
  - Maps to pinpoint the ancestral homestead
    - Griffiths Valuation, [askaboutireland.ie](http://askaboutireland.ie)
    - Ordnance survey maps, [map.geohive.ie](http://map.geohive.ie), shows structures and can overlay contemporary maps
    - Old local maps, [logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie)
  - Directories
  - Voter lists
  - Passenger lists, see [SteveMorse.org](http://SteveMorse.org) for Ellis Island and Castle Island – can put in just a locations
  - UK Census, many Irish spent time in UK, see [findmypast](http://findmypast) and [ancestry](http://ancestry)
  - General Register Office birth indexes, [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) and <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk>
  - Ireland Reaching Out
  - Cemetery records, no central repository, but many large and small cemeteries
  - Online trees, check [FindMyPast](http://FindMyPast), [ancestry](http://ancestry), [familysearch](http://familysearch), [MyHeritage](http://MyHeritage)
  - DNA

**Resources** [MCLS= [Monroe County Library System](#) (Monroe County, NY, US), GB=[Google Books](#)]

- FamilySearch Wiki Ireland Research, <https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ireland>
- FHC Irish Resources, specific to LA FHC but a wealth of info, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa/resire.html>
- FamilySearch Wiki Latin Research, [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Latin\\_Genealogical\\_Word\\_List](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Latin_Genealogical_Word_List)
- <http://blog.genealogybank.com/a-genealogists-guide-to-old-latin-terms-abbreviations.html> genealogists guide to latin
- *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland.* 1851. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2006. GB
- Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, Ltd., 2012. MCLS
- MacLysaght, Edward. *The Surnames of Ireland.* 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 1985. MCLS
- Matheson, Robert. *Surnames in Ireland.* 1901, 1909. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994. MCLS
- Mitchell, Brian. *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002. MCLS
- Reilly, James R. *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland.* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000.
- Ryan, James G. *Irish Records: Sources for Family & Local History*, rev. ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1997. MCLS
- <http://www.google.ie/> Irish google site. With google's "local bias," searches Irish sources 1<sup>st</sup> rather than US sources.
- <http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com>
- <http://www.cyndislist.com/ireland.htm>
- <http://www.catholicireland.net/church-in-ireland/dioceses> Directory of present day dioceses, parishes, churches.
- [1876 Irish Catholic Directory](#) lists Dioceses, parishes and churches. GB
- [www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie) Irish genealogy resources for sale & how to info.
- [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk) UK + Ireland Genealogy
- <http://www.irelandgenweb.com/> Ireland GenWeb (current)
- [www.rootsweb.com/~irlwgv](http://www.rootsweb.com/~irlwgv) Ireland World GenWeb Project (original)
- [www.rootsweb.com/~nirwgv](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nirwgv) Northern Ireland World GenWeb Project
- <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/> Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives
- <http://www.libraryireland.com/topog/placeindex.php> *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* by Samuel Lewis, 1837.
- <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/> Placename & John Grenham Surname info
- [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) This is the official web site of the Irish Genealogical Project.
- [www.irish-roots.ie/counties.asp](http://www.irish-roots.ie/counties.asp) Irish Family History Foundation & details of resources held by each Heritage Centre
- [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie) National Archives of Ireland. Home of the 1901 & 1911 Irish Census plus more.
- [Rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/iremaps.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/iremaps.htm) Ireland's history in Maps
- [www.ancestryireland.com](http://www.ancestryireland.com) Excellent guide to research in Northern Ireland
- [www.irishgenealogical.org](http://www.irishgenealogical.org) Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) – includes research guide
- <http://lists.rootsweb.com/> then enter *Ireland* for Mailing Lists for Ireland
- [www.vitalrec.com/links2.html](http://www.vitalrec.com/links2.html), How to get foreign vital records
- [www.irishdiaspora.net](http://www.irishdiaspora.net) Irish Diaspora
- <http://www.cigo.ie/links.html> Council of Irish Genealogical Organizations, links to many Irish resources
- [www.genealogylinks.net/uk/ireland/index.html](http://www.genealogylinks.net/uk/ireland/index.html) links to transcriptions of many Irish records
- <http://freeirishgenebooks.blogspot.com/> links to free Irish books and journals
- <http://www.iar.ie/> Irish Archives Resource
- <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/> tips and practice for reading old handwriting

**Subscriptions made available by Monroe County Library System:**

- Heritage Quest, Free at [www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html](http://www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html) with a Monroe County library card
- Ancestry.Com, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Henrietta, Ogden, Greece, Irondequoit, Penfield, and Pittsford Libraries) with Monroe County library card
- Free at the Rundel Bldg, Local History Room with a library card: AmericanAncestors.org, FindMyPast, Historic Map Works, Digital Sanborn Maps, and New York History

**Subscriptions available at Family History Centers (including Brockport, Rochester, Perinton, Palmyra – [find locations](#)):**

- US Research: Heritage Quest, Fold3.com, American Civil War, Historic Map Works, Paper Trail, ProQuest Obituary Listings
- UK Research: FindMyPast.co.uk, British Newspaper Archive
- World Research: Ancestry.com - FHC Version, World Vital Records, ArkivDigital (Swedish), MyHeritage
- Other Tools: Kinpoint, Puzilla - Premium