

# SEARCHING US RECORDS FOR YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

Rochester Genealogical Society, 17 Oct 2019

<https://nyrgs.org/>

Dennis Hogan, [www.dennisAhogan.com](http://www.dennisAhogan.com)

# Slides are Online

- At [www.dennisAhogan.com](http://www.dennisAhogan.com), click on Lectures and Handouts tab
- Select a handout and save to your computer, then you can click on links to try out websites
- The detailed handouts are:
  - "Course I - Searching US Records for your Irish Ancestors"
  - "Course I - Slides"
  - "Course II - Searching Irish Records for your Ancestors"

# Searching US Records

- It's important to do your homework in US records BEFORE researching Irish records
- One of the five elements of the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) guidelines developed by the Board for Certification of Genealogists Is a "reasonably exhaustive search"

# What's the problem with searching Irish records?

- Irish records usually require knowledge of specific geographic info for your family (County is 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.

# Traditional Irish Naming Pattern

- ***Sons' Names***
  - First Son named after Paternal Grandfather
  - Second Son named after Maternal Grandfather
  - Third Son named after Father
  - Fourth Son named after Father's Oldest Brother
  - Fifth Son named after Mother's Oldest Brother
  - Sixth Son named after Father's Second Oldest Brother
- ***Daughters' Names***
  - First Daughter named after Maternal Grandmother
  - Second Daughter named after Paternal Grandmother
  - Third Daughter named after Mother
  - Fourth Daughter named after Mother's Oldest Sister
  - Fifth Daughter named after Father's Oldest Sister
  - Sixth Daughter named after Mother's Second Oldest Sister

# Basic Name & Search Tips

- For O names & Mc/Mac names, search indexes with & without the prefix (& don't forget Ma forms, ex: Magory for McGory)
- Don't assume 1 spelling of names when searching records (use Soundex, non-exact or wild cards when available)
  - O'Reilly, O'Riley, Reily, Riley, etc
  - O640, O640, R400, R400 (Soundex codes)
- Inconsistent punctuation in indexes:
  - O'Flynn, OFlynn, O Flynn, O\_Flynn, O.Flynn
  - McGrath, MacGrath, Mc Grath, M'Grath, Mgrath, Magrath

# Basic Name & Search Tips

- Don't assume 1 given name is used in all records (nicknames/synonyms, middle names)
- Nicknames/synonyms: BJ, Delia or Biddy for Bridget
- "Mc is Irish, Mac is Scottish" - Wrong! Mc & Mac are legitimate prefixes for both Irish & Scottish.
- For females, do a separate search with maiden name and with all married names.

# Basic Name & Search Tips

- Alternate Forms for Given Names (another file on my [website](#)), examples:
  - Abbreviation, Jno.
  - Nickname, Nabby
  - Synonym, Delia
  - Irish, Moira
  - Latin, Ioannes



# US Research Goal

- To be in a position to identify the correct family in Ireland, you need to find some of the following in US Resources:
  - At least 1 sibling of the immigrant or...
    - Possible Sources: Sponsors for Baptisms for all children of the immigrant or Census
  - Immigrant's father's name and/or mother's maiden name or...
  - Location in Ireland (County not enough)

# US Census

- Every 10 years, 1790-1940 currently available, 1890 mostly destroyed
- FamilySearch, free [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- Heritage Quest, free from home with a library card from participating libraries (now uses Ancestry index & images).
- Ancestry.com, free at participating public libraries. Ancestry.com, free at Family History Centers, see locations at [www.familysearch.org/locations](http://www.familysearch.org/locations)
- [Course I](#) has charts detailing features by year

# State Census

(at most indicates country or county of birth)

- **New York State Census**

- **New York State** census in 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865(\*\*), 1875(\*\*), 1892(\*\*, \*\*), 1905(\*\*, \*\*), 1915(\*\*), 1925 \*\*Ancestry.com, \*\*\*FamilySearch.org
- 1855, 1865 and 1875 have "better" info than the US 1850, 1860, and 1870.
- Course I has charts detailing features by year
- Family Search Research Wiki New York Census, [https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New\\_York\\_Census](https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York_Census)
- When researching other states, check for state census or substitutes: <http://www.censusfinder.com/>

# Census Inventory

<b>KEEGAN</b>		1st	Michael	Mary	Mary	Joseph
		middle		Ann	Ann	
		(maiden)		(Fay)	(Keegan)	
		surname	Keegan	Keegan	Meal	Keegan
		birth	bCa1843	bCa 1849 IRL	bCa 1876	bCa1880 US
		marriage	m1868 Scot	m1868 Scot	mCa ?	
	<b>Official</b>	death	d1878-1884US	d1921 AmerNY	d?	dCa1915US
<b>Census:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Source:</b>				
1940 US	1-Apr	FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1930 US	1-Apr	FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1925 NY	1-Jun	ANY/FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1920 US	1-Jan	HQ/FS/A	deceased			deceased
1915 NY	1-Jun	ANY/FS/A	deceased			
1910 US	15-Apr	HQ/FS/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY		AmsterdamNY
1905 NY	1-Jun	FS/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY	NF NYS	AmsterdamNY
1900 US	1-Jun	FS/HQ/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY	NF NYS	NF NYS
1892 NY	16-Feb	FS/ANY/A	deceased	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS
1890 SUB	2-Jun	HQ/FS/A	deceased			
1890 VET	2-Jun	FS/A	deceased			
1890 Police	NYC only	FHC	deceased			
1880 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS
1880 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	ANY/A				
1875 NY	1-Jun	FS				
1870 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A				
1870 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	ANY/A				

# Vital Records (birth/marriage/death)

(includes birthplace, parents' names)

- Not universally kept until about 1890, varies by state
- New York required bmd in 1881, but some areas started earlier.
- NYS Vital Records Index is available at the major city libraries. Does NOT include 5 boroughs of NYC nor Buffalo & Albany before 1915.
- The Death subset of this index is available for free at <https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex?sort=titleSorter>
- The Birth subset of this index is available for free at <https://archive.org/details/nybirthindex?sort=titleSorter>
- The Marriage subset of this index is available for free at <https://archive.org/details/nymarriageindex?sort=titleSorter>

# Vital Records Cont'd

- The fastest way to procure a civil registration certificate is to visit the City Hall or Town/County Clerk at the location where the certificate was issued.
- For local transcriptions of bmd events:  
[www.usgenweb.com](http://www.usgenweb.com)
- To order New York State certificates (SLOWWWW):  
[http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital\\_records/genealogy.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/genealogy.htm)
- To order Vital Records in the US:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm> or  
[www.vitalrec.com](http://www.vitalrec.com).

# Church Records

- Excellent vital records substitute - may be found 50 to 100 years prior to civil vital record registration.
- Baptisms, marriages, funerals; also sometimes first communion, confirmation, cemetery
- **Witnesses & godparents - may be close relatives or friends from Ireland.**
  - **Sponsors at their wedding and the first few baptisms are often siblings of the bride or groom!**
- Catholic Diocese of Rochester: LDS microfilmed every parish from its origin to about 1905. Copy is available Westfall Rd FHC and Local History Room/Central Library/Rochester. Buffalo see Erie County Church Recs
- These Catholic records are in Latin but decipherable (see Latin aids on Resources page of Course I).

# Church Records, Cont'd

Example of chart for immigrants married in US. Tracking their marriage, baptisms for all children, AND sponsors for all events. Once you know the names of sponsors, they can be researched to establish their relationship to the immigrants.

Parents	Name	Church	Baptized	Born	Sponsors
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	[Marriage...]	StMarysCan	m12 Sep 1852	NA	John Hogan & Mary Tuohy
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	John	StMarysCan	3 May 1853	29 Apr 1853	Michael Murphy & Mary Tuohy
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Catherine	StMarysCan	30 Jul 1854	9 Jun 1854	Patrick Connolly & Bridget Finerty
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Bridget	StMichaelPY	15 Feb 1856	8 Feb 1856	Maurice O'Connors & Hanora Flannery
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Mary	StFrancisPh	15 Jul 1858	18 Jun 1858	Margaret Nagle
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Dennis	StMarysRush	17 Mar 1860	12 Dec 1859	John Hogan & Mary Hogan
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Margaret			1862	
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Susan			"Nov 1863"	
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Elizabeth			31 May 1867	
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	Michael			"Dec 1869"	
Hogan, Michael & Susan Nagle	James			"Dec 1869"	



# Church Records, Cont'd

You may need to learn the "genealogy" of a parish...

Year	St. Mary's Canandaigua	St. Michael's Penn Yar	St. Michael's Penn Yan	St. Francis Phelps	St. Agnes Clifton Springs	St. Mary's Rushville	St. Theresa's Stanley
1853	Can Fr. Edmund O'Connor						
1854	Can Fr. Edmund O'Connor	PY Fr. Joseph Dean					
1855	Can Fr. Edmund O'Connor	PY Fr. Joseph Dean	PY Fr. Joseph McKenna				
1856	Can Fr. Edmund O'Connor		PY Fr. Joseph McKenna				
1857	Can Fr. Edmund O'Connor		PY Fr. Joseph McKenna	Phelps Fr. Clark?			
1858	Can Fr. Edmund O'Connor		PY Fr. Joseph McKenna	Phelps Fr. Clark?			
1859			PY Fr. Joseph McKenna	Phelps Fr. Clark?			
1860			PY Fr. Joseph McKenna	Phelps Fr. Clark?			
1861			PY Fr. Joseph McKenna	Phelps Fr. Clark?			
1862	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna		PY Fr. Joseph McKenna	Fr. Patrick Lee (Rush&Phe)			
1863	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna			Fr. Patrick Lee (Rush&Phe)	Clifton Springs		
1864	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna				Clifton Springs		
1865	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna				Clifton Springs		
1866	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna				Clifton Springs		
1867	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna				Clifton Springs		
1868	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna				Clifton Springs		
1869	Can Fr. Joseph McKenna				Clifton Springs	Rushville	
1870					Clifton Springs	Rushville	
1871					Clifton Springs	Rushville	
1872						Rushville	
1873						Rushville	
1874						Rushville	
1875						Rushville	Stan Fr. James A. Connolly
1876						Rushville	Stan Fr. James A. Connolly
1877						Rushville	Stan Fr. James A. Connolly
1878						Rushville	Stan Fr. James A. Connolly
1879						Rushville	Stan Fr. Joseph Hendrick
1880						Rushville	Stan Fr. Joseph Hendrick
1881						Rushville	Stan Fr. Joseph Hendrick
1882						Rushville	Stan Fr. Joseph Hendrick

# Tombstones, Cemetery Records

(sometimes Irish county, parish or townland)

- Immigrant tombstones often include their Irish county and sometimes a parish or townland, as well as dates & relationships
- Cemetery records may include birthplace in Ireland as well as next of kin and lot purchaser
- Death Certificates identify the cemetery and possibly birthplace and/or parents of the deceased
- Funeral Homes can be a good source of copies of death certificates and other information
- See FHC, also [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com), [www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com), [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net), <http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov> (veterans)

# US Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

- SSDI includes SS#, given name, surname, birth & death dates, last known address for those who died 1962 or later.
- Free access available at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535> and [NEHGS](#).
- Using info from the index, you can order a photocopy of the SS application form (SS-5) which includes address, birth place, father's full name, mother's full name with maiden name.
- SS-5 applications were submitted beginning in 1936. If you believe your subject completed a SS-5, you can request a copy even if you don't find your subject in the SSDI. Use [Form SSA-711](#) but don't select "Computer Extract" (subset only).

# Military Records

(pension application & draft registration contain detailed info, including birthplace)

- **Your immigrant ancestor did not serve? Pension application for his siblings/cousins could yield valuable clues.**
- 1840, 1910, 1930 census include indication of service as well as the 1865 NY census. Also 1890 Veterans (& Widows) schedule in ancestry.com.
- Pensions records for Rev War/1812/Civil, National Archives has microfilms & indexes. [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) has Civil War Pension index. Fold3.com & Ancestry.com.
- [How to order Older \(pre-WWI\) Military Service or Pension Records](#)
- [How to order Post-WWI Military Service or Pension Records](#)
- WWI Draft Registration of 1917-18. 24 million men registered - almost all born between 11 Sep 1872 & 12 Sep 1900.
  - Some include birthplace/half include address of next of kin. Familysearch.org. Some of these are hard to read. The [Southeast NARA Branch](#) has a service that provides high quality digital copies for \$5.

# Newspapers

(anniversary & death notices may include birthplace)

- Birth, Wedding & Death notices as well as Anniversary notices, like 25th and 50th
- "Fulton History" site, great collection of old New York State newspapers and photographs. <http://www.fultonhistory.com/>
- NYS Historic Newspapers at <http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/>
- New York State Newspapers, <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/> (inventory)
- Rochester Newspaper Index, 1818-1897 at <http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=963>
- Digital Newspaper Gateway of Monroe County Library at <http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=1360>
- Rochester Catholic Journal/Courier (1889-2004) at <https://catholiccourier.com/archives>
- Boston Pilot (1831-1921) had regular columns with Missing Friends ads. This is a country-wide resource, not just for Boston.
  - Extracts available at free web site, <http://infowanted.bc.edu>
  - Complete transcriptions are at [www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org) (\$)

# Naturalization Records

(some include county, parish or townland of origin)

- US naturalization process began in 1795, Declaration of Intention (1st papers), Petition for Naturalization (final papers)/ Certificate of Naturalization
- 1870, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 US census indicates naturalization status. 1920 includes year of naturalization. All New York State census indicate naturalization status. The 1915 & 1925 NYS census include year & place of naturalization.
- **The steps (papers) could be recorded in different localities**
- No central repository prior to 1906. Since 1906, forms are standardized and records are held by [Immigration & Naturalization Services \(INS\)](#)
- Some indexes, see FHC, National Archives and the Szucs book. Also <http://www.germanroots.com/naturalization.html>

# Immigration Records

(prior to late 1800's, no "last residence" or birthplace)

- 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 US census includes year of immigration. The 1905, 1915, and 1925 New York State census includes the number of years in the US.
- US government began keeping arrival lists about 1820 but usually only port of origination
- In late 1800's began including last residence, from 1906 includes Town of Birth.
- Famine Irish Data Files, 600,000+ immigrants between 1846 and 1851. US National Archives site at [www.archives.gov/aad](http://www.archives.gov/aad) Some records include "last residence."
- [www.castlegarden.org](http://www.castlegarden.org) Database of 10 million immigrants who passed through New York City immigration centers between ~1820 and 1892.
- [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) Database of 17 million immigrants and 5 million crew members who passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.
- Passenger lists are available through the FHC and National Archives as well as [www.immigrantships.net](http://www.immigrantships.net), [www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com), ancestry.com
- ancestry.com has the "U.S. Immigration Collection" including NY Emigrant Bank, 1850-1883. See [Bank User's Guide](#).

# Other US Sources

- **City Directories** (no birthplace, but excellent "census substitute")
- **Family Bible** (may include birthplaces)
- **Court, Land, Probate** (may include clues to Irish birthplaces)



# Other US Sources

## Offline Resources (may include birthplaces)

In the area where your ancestors lived, there may be a goldmine of information about your family which has not yet been digitized and made available online. Check out historical societies, genealogical societies, local history sections of libraries, and county and city archives in the locality that you are researching.

# What Now? My Process that has proven successful the last few years!

You have completed a very thorough search in US resources and you now have "fairly solid" info about:

- At least 1 sibling of the immigrant
- Maybe also the immigrant's father's name and/or mother's maiden name
- Location in Ireland (location is NOT required for this process)

# What Now? Cont'd

## Caveats:

- All of my research has been for Catholic families
- All of my research has been for families that immigrated from the 1840s to the 1860s

# What Now? Cont'd

- For the immigrant and each of their siblings, you have a good idea of their year of birth (which serves as a baptism year estimate)
- (Free) At <http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms>  
Enter a name, baptism year (and parent's name if known)
- Use a range of years for baptism

# What Now? Cont'd

- Print out the results of the search
- Repeat the search for all siblings and the immigrant (and print out results)
- Compare the print outs side-by-side looking for common parents AND common location
- This should identify the parents and the family's location

# What Now? Cont'd

- Once you know the names of the immigrant's parents, you can discover all of the children of that couple.
- Search the baptism file by entering:
  - The parent's names
  - Blank first name of child plus the surname
  - Blank baptism year or a very large range

# What Now? Cont'd

- Can you shortcut the US research?
- There is a situation where you may get lucky. From your census inventory, you may discover that 1 or more of the immigrant's children were born in Ireland.
- You can search the baptism file for those children and learn the family's location in Ireland.

# You *CAN* do it!

