

Beginners' Family History Research Guide For the Irish county of TYRONE

Irish Special Interest Group of the Western Australian Genealogical Society Inc.

This county research guide is for family historians starting out to research their ancestors from this county. Internet links listed below were tested and active at the time of publication, but can change at any time. The guide covers basic information related to this county. General guides to family history research for the whole of Ireland are available from the webpage of the [Irish Special Interest Group of the Western Australian Genealogical Society](#). Access to the site is free unless otherwise stated. Note that many organisations charges fees for research or issuing certificates etc.



Background

County Tyrone lies in the middle of the **Province of Ulster** and is the largest county within Northern Ireland. It shares boundaries with Donegal, Londonderry (Derry), Armagh, Monaghan and Fermanagh.

The county has been inhabited for over 6,000 years. It was created a county in 1585.

The O'Neill family ruled this area for more than a thousand years. Other Gaelic families in the area were Doherty, Donnelly, Gallagher, Kelly, McGuirk, McKenna, McLaughlin, Mullan, O'Devlin, O'Donnelly, O'Hagan, O'Hegarty and Quinn.

From the late 16th century Scottish and English surnames are to be found in the county. Some of these names are Anderson, Ansley, Buchanan, Caulfield, Chichester, Cochran, Crawford, Drummond, Galbraith, Hamilton, Newcommen, Lindsay, McAleer, McIntyre, Pringle, Stewart and Wilson.

Maps and lists of parishes and baronies

John Grenham's Irish Ancestors site where some content is free, rest is by subscription from 24 hours upwards www.johngrenham.com/browse/county_civil.php?county=Tyrone

Ulster Historical Foundation www.ancestryireland.com/civil-parish-maps-for-ulster/civil-parishes-of-county-tyrone/

Family Search Wiki https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/County_Tyrone

Ireland Reaching Out links you with parish communities in Tyrone. Many have an active presence here. Some request you join and post queries anyway. www.irelandxo.com/search-communities?field_county_tid%5B31%5D=5019

Historic maps www.visionofireland.org/

Ordnance Survey maps of Ireland, including historical maps, some online and others available for purchase www.osi.ie/Products/Professional-Mapping/Historical-Mapping.aspx

Co. Tyrone Townlands

There are 2,180 townlands in Co. Tyrone. They define the area of leases in the 18th and 19th centuries and were used on maps, as addresses, for Tithe Applotments and Griffith's Valuation surveys and censuses.

County Tyrone Genealogical Research site with links to parishes for each townland www.cotyroneireland.com/townlands/townlands.html

Genuki www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/TYR

Public Records Office Northern Ireland historical maps viewer www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-proni-historical-maps-viewer

Sean Ruad's Townland Database www.thecore.com/seanruad

Down Survey Parish Maps 1654-1659 the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the world. Trinity College Dublin has created a site using these maps and other historical information, geo-referencing with 19th century Ordnance Survey Maps, Google Maps and satellite imagery. Co. Tyrone at: <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php>

Records Offices and archives for Co. Tyrone

Tithe Applotment Survey 1823-37 reports. The original books are held in the Public Record Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) and are catalogued under FIN/5A. Note that the books are also available on microfilm in PRONI - MIC15AA available and the rent records are in FIN5B (personal visit). Also in the National Library of Ireland (NLI). But they are available free online at the National Archives of Ireland (Republic)

<http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp>

Griffith's Primary Valuation 1856-57 gives a complete list of occupiers of land, tenements and houses, includes maps and are searchable by family name or place name at Ask About Ireland's site www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml

Information on the Griffith's Valuation www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/revision-books.html

Hard copies are available in repositories such as PRONI VAL/2A and VAL/2 B and NAI.

Annual Revision Books of the original Griffith's Primary Valuation in PRONI VAL/12/B covering the years between 1864 and 1933. These are searchable on-line

www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/val12b.htm

The **Householders' Index** of the Griffiths Primary Valuation Survey was compiled in the 1960s and is available at PRONI in the Public Search Room., the National Archives and the NLI.

Microfilms can be ordered from the Church of Latter Day Saints and viewed at an LDS Family History Centre or at WA Genealogical Society. WAGS can tell you how to do this.

FamilySearch has a guide to using the Householders' Index. It is available in hardcopy or microfilm form and can be ordered to view at a Family Research Centre. Ask at WAGS how to order this film. The film number for Co. Tyrone is 919007

www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Ireland_Householders_Index

Registry of Deeds 1708-1929 on-line index is being compiled with new records added regularly <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds>

Birth, marriage or death certificates available at Registrar's offices

Civil Registration

Claire Santry Genealogy Toolkit is informative www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/Irish-civil-registration.html

General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) provides indexes and images of historical civil registration events, now on-line. Free search, then buy credits for an enhanced view or the full on-line image view. The records available cover birth records over 100 years old, marriage records over 75 years old and death records over 50 years old.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/family-history

FamilySearch (LDS) has some births (1864-1921), marriages (1845-1921) and deaths (1864-1921) registered throughout Ireland including County Tyrone. Some have been microfilmed and may be viewed at LDS Family History Centres after ordering through WAGS. You can search historical civil registration for the whole of Ireland at IrishGenealogy.ie and see register images for an increasing number too. All free. www.familysearch.org

General Register Office Republic of Ireland www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/General-Register-Office.aspx

Irish Genealogy is a Republic of Ireland Government portal which includes a searchable index of historic civil registration events, and includes the registration districts of co. Tyrone. It is searchable by name, registration district but not by county name. Historical images of the register are being added and are free to view www.irishgenealogy.ie.

Family History Societies

North of Ireland Family History Society (NIFHS) charges associate membership £18.00 single, £30.00 joint (2016), two journals and register research interests. Branches in Omagh in Co Tyrone and also Ballymena, Belfast, Coleraine, Foyle, Killyleagh, Larne, Lisburn, Newtownabbey, North Armagh, North Down & Ards www.nifhs.org and on Facebook www.facebook.com/NIFHS/

Parish Registers

Church Records

Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) guide www.proni.gov.uk/guidetochurchrecords.pdf

County Tyrone Genealogical Research site has some transcribed church records www.cotyroneireland.com/menus/churchrecord.html

Photographs of Co. Tyrone churches at www.churches-uk-ireland.org/tyrone.html

Church of Ireland <http://ireland.agnlican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/parregs.pdf>

Church of Ireland Diocese of Armagh <http://armagh.anglican.org/>

Church of Ireland Diocese of Clogher <http://clogher.anglican.org/>

Church of Ireland Diocese of Derry and Raphoe <http://derryandraphoe.org/>

Congregational Union of Ireland www.cuofi.com

Methodist Church in Ireland does not provide a genealogical search service but initial enquiries may be made to the archivist. There are few burial registers as most Methodist churches did not have their own burial ground. There is a section for genealogists and family historians at <http://methodisthistoryireland.org/>

Bready Ancestry, Bready and Districts Ulster Scots Development Association has transcribed many Presbyterian records www.breadyancestry.com/

Presbyterian Church in Ireland www.presbyterianireland.org/

County Tyrone, The Gravestone Photo Project has on-line graveyard and cemetery photos and transcriptions www.cotyroneireland.com

History from Headstones extensive listing of location of graveyards and cemeteries by denomination with detailed location references
www.historyfromheadstones.com/index.php?tyrone

Discover Ever After is a professional graveyard plotting service using information technology to capture information about graves across Northern Ireland. Searchable by name, graveyard, district, 12,000 graves for this county recorded so far. Free view of image and transcription
www.discovereverafter.com

North of Ireland Family History Society holds a large collection of transcribed grave records, increasingly being placed on-line, some available to members only.
www.nifhs.org/resources/graveyard-records/

Irish Genealogy, the Irish Government's portal site includes some burials for members of the Tyrone Militia, and some people from Tyrone buried elsewhere, none for Tyrone burials.
www.IrishGenealogy.ie

Jane Lyons' From Ireland site holds grave record transcriptions, free to access www.from-ireland.net/county-tyrone-genealogy/

County History

Rev George Hill, A historical account of the Plantation in Ulster 1608-1620, McCaw, 1877 Stevenson and Orr, Belfast, free to view online
<http://archive.org/details/anhistoricalacc00hillgoog>.

Estate Records are held in the National Library of Ireland and The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Refer to their sites for Co. Tyrone records.

UK and Irish Workhouses about the history of individual workhouses including county Tyrone
www.workhouses.org.uk

Strabane Workhouse History

www.strabanedc.com/filestore/documents/dcal/tourism/StrabaneWorkhouse.pdf

Northern Irish workhouse records are held at PRONI <http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

British History covers Northern Irish history www.british-history.ac.uk

Other Resources

Michael C. O'Laughlin, County Tyrone, Ireland: Genealogy & Family History Notes, Irish Roots Cafe, 2002 at Google Books

<https://books.google.com.au/books?id=kdPn7JappCkC&lpg=PP1&pg=PP1#v=onepage&q&f=false>

Google Books search for old books <https://books.google.com.au/>

Genuki www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/

Fianna's Tyrone page at RootsWeb www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fianna/county/tyrone.html

Genuki page for Tyrone <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/TYR>

Facebook

Tyrone Family History Society <https://www.facebook.com/groups/omaghfhs/?ref=bookmarks>

County Tyrone Ireland Genealogy researching family in Co. Tyrone
www.facebook.com/groups/326996944081379/

Descendants of Strabane Tyrone County Ireland www.facebook.com/groups/116754780369/