



Monaghan County Libraries *A Centre of Light & Learning*
Leabharlanna Chontae Mhuineacháin



how to **trace** your **Ancestors** in county **monaghan**



*< Every man is his own ancestor, and every man his own heir.
He devises his own future, and he inherits his own past >*



< **Genealogy - A search for the greatest treasures, our ancestors** >



< introduction

Before beginning a genealogical search from public records, it is essential to collect as much information as possible about the family which is to be investigated. In order to have a reasonable chance of carrying out a successful search, it is generally necessary to know at least three things:

- 1 The **Name** of the family
- 2 The **Parish** in which they lived (if the surname is of the popular variety, then the townland of origin is most important or even perhaps a nickname).
- 3 Approximate **Date**

If this information cannot be supplied, a search can still be made in certain records but the chances of success are small.



< starting point

The starting point for any genealogical search depends on the information one already has. If one is starting with a name, a place and an approximate date, then the best place to begin is as follows:

- > For a person living around **1901 or 1911** *Census Returns for those years*
- > For a person living in the **1850's or 1860's** *Griffiths Primary Valuation*
- > For a person living in the **1820's or 1830's** *Tithe Applotment Books*

If one also knows the date of a birth, marriage or death, further details can be sought in different records. In cases where the parish or townland in which the family lived cannot be identified, an index to the Tithe Applotment Books/Griffiths Primary Valuation is available showing the parishes in which each surname appears. This index is generally of value only where the name is a fairly unusual one. Otherwise it is likely to yield only a long list of persons of the same surname, with no way of knowing which, if any, are connected with the particular family being investigated.



< sources of genealogy

< census returns



A Census of Ireland was taken every 10 years from 1821. Complete sets of enumerators' returns, the original manuscript forms from which the printed Census reports were compiled, have survived for two years – 1901 and 1911. The returns were arranged by townlands or in urban areas by streets.

The returns for each townland or street include a form filled in by the head of each household, giving the names of all persons living in that household with their age, occupation, religion and place of birth. No enumerators returns survived from the Census of 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891, these having been destroyed on the orders of the government. There are some returns from the Census of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 covering part of the counties of Antrim, Cavan, Cork, Fermanagh, Galway, Offaly, Derry, Meath and Waterford but not Monaghan.

< **Genealogy is like hide and seek, they hide and I seek** >

As stated above, the **Census of 1901** is the earliest household returns available to the public. The 1901 and 1911 Census for County Monaghan is available on microfilm in the County Library in Clones.

< **Primary Valuation & Tithe Applotment Books**

While no complete set of Census returns survives for a period prior to 1901, there are two records, which provide a partial substitute:

> **Primary Valuation** – Also known as Griffiths Valuation. This was a survey of the land and property carried out between 1847 and 1865 for purposes of local taxation. There is a printed valuation book for each poor law union showing the names of all occupiers of land and buildings and of the persons from whom these were leased, the amount of property held and the value assigned to it.

> **The Tithe Applotment Book** – These were compiled between 1823 and 1837 for the purpose of determining the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings were to pay in tithes to the established church, the Church of Ireland. The Applotment book for each parish gives the names of occupiers, the amount of land they held and the value assigned to it.



< A family tree can wither if nobody tends it's roots >



< births, deaths and marriages



A system of state registration of births, deaths and marriages began in Ireland in 1864. Records of all births, marriages and deaths occurring after this date should be preserved in the Office of the Registrar General, Custom House, Dublin 1.

The records for County Monaghan are to be obtained from The Registrar, Births, Deaths & Marriages, Rooskey, Monaghan. The main source of information on births, deaths and marriages occurring before 1864 are parish registers. The surviving **Catholic Church Registers** for the period up to 1880 are available on microfilm in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

The Registers of the Church of Ireland for the period up to 1870 are Public Records. Some of these are preserved in Public Records Offices, while others remain in the custody of the local clergy.

Record commencement dates for County Monaghan are listed below:

< Catholic Records

Parish	Date	Parish	Date
Aghabog	1856	Errigal Truagh (Emyvale)	1835
Aughnamullen	1841	Killeevan (Newbliss)	1850
Clontibret	1861	Monaghan	1835
Clones	1848	Maghaire Rois	1836
Donagh (Glaslough)	1836	Magheraclone	
Donaghmoyne	1852	(Carrickmacross)	1836
Drumully (Scotshouse)	1845	Muckno (Castleblayney)	1835
Drumsnat & Kilmore	1836	Tullycorbet (Ballybay)	1862
Ematrix (Rockcorry)	1848	Tydavnet	1835



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If your ancestors were **Presbyterian**, the Presbyterian Historical Society, Central Public Library, Royal Avenue, Belfast may be able to help. The Society holds some Presbyterian registers and can provide information on others kept by local ministers. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY, would also prove useful in your genealogical research.

< Church of Ireland Records

Representative Church Body Library, RCB Library, Braemor Park, Rathgar, Dublin 14.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Date</i>
Ballybay	1813	Killeevan (Clones)	1811
Carrickmacross	1796	Kilmore	1796
Castleblayney	1810	Magheracloone	1806
Clones	1682	Monaghan	1802
Currin (Rockcorry)	1810	Newbliss	1841
Donagh (Glaslough)	1796	Tydavnet (Scotstown)	1822
Emyvale (Truagh)	1809	Tyholland (Monaghan)	1806
Killanny (Carrickmacross)	1825		

< Presbyterian Records

Also Registrar General Office, 8/11 Lombard Street, Dublin 2.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Date</i>
Ballyalbany	1802	Derryvalley (Ballybay)	1816
Ballybay	1833	Drumkeen (Newbliss)	1856
Ballyhobridge (Clones)	1846	Frankford (Castleblayney)	1820
Broomfield (Castleblayney)	1841	Glennan (Glaslough)	1805
Cahans (Ballybay)	1752	Middletown (Glasslough)	1829
Castleblayney	1832	Monaghan	1824
Clones	1856	Newbliss	1856
Clontibret	1825	Scotstown	1856
Corlea	1835	Stonebridge (Newbliss)	1821

< **Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better than you** >

< **Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress** >

< I should have asked them
before they died! >



< gravestone inscriptions



All over the country there are cemeteries and tombstone inscriptions providing details of name and date, which might not be available from any other source. Those not particularly enamoured with the idea of trudging through long wet nettles in an overgrown graveyard in hopeful pursuit of a reference to a long-departed ancestor will be relieved to know that a large number of graveyards have been inspected over the years and the inscriptions recorded. The following gravestone inscriptions have been recorded in printed sources and are available at Monaghan County Library in Clones.

< Catholic Cemeteries

Aghabog	<i>Clogher Record 1982</i>	Errigal	<i>Clogher Record 1987</i>
Annyalla	-	Killanny	<i>Clogher Record 1967</i>
Aughnamullen	<i>West 5 Graveyards by Seamus Drudy</i>	Killeevan	<i>Clogher Record 1982</i>
Ballintra	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>	Magheross	<i>Clogher Record 1963</i>
Clones	<i>Clogher Record 1984</i>	Muckno	<i>Clogher Record 1966</i>
Clontibret	<i>Clogher Record 1974</i>	Oram	<i>'Beyond the Bridge' by Paula McGeough</i>
Donagh	<i>Clogher Record 1957</i>	Rackwallace	<i>Clogher Record 1962</i>
Drumully	<i>Clogher Record 1954</i>	Roslea	<i>Clogher Record 1984</i>
Drumsnat	<i>Clogher Record 1967 & 'Replay'</i>	Tydavnet	<i>Clogher Record 1954</i>
		Tullycorbet	<i>'At The Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>

< Church of Ireland Cemeteries

Ballybay Christ Church	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>
Clones	<i>Clogher Record 1988</i>
Drumswords	<i>Clogher Record 1985</i>
Glaslough	<i>Clogher Record 1978</i>
Kilmore	<i>Clogher Record 1983, 1985</i>

< Keep on digging, the best
bones are buried deepest! >



< Presbyterian Cemeteries

Ballybay 1st	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>	Creevagh	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>
Ballybay 2nd	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>	Derryvalley	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>
Braddocks	<i>'At the Ford of the Birches' by Peadar Murnane</i>		

< I trace **family history** so I will know who to blame >

< other genealogical sources

< Newspapers

Below are listed the newspaper holdings of the Monaghan County Library Service. On microfilm, the newspaper can be researched at Clones Branch during opening hours:

> Northern Standard	1839 to present	> The Monaghan Argus	1875 to 1881 1954 to 1959
> People's Advocate	1876 to 1906	> The Dublin Penny Journal	1832 to 1836
> The Farney Leader	1908 to 1909	> The Dundalk Democrat	1849 to 1948
> Clones Weekly Chronicle	1906 to 1908		
> Monaghan People	1906 to 1908		
> The Anglo Celt	1846 to 2007		

< To understand **ourselves...** we must study the past! >

< Rentals

A major source of information for the genealogist is estate rental books. The vast majority of our ancestors have acquired their properties in relatively recent times. In 1876 only two McKenna families owned land in County Monaghan. Unfortunately, there are very few rentals housed in the County Library but those in our possession include **Anketell Estate 1784-1876 and Newbliss Estate 1840 - 1843 and 1852 - 1853. Ballybay Estate 1872.**

*< Isn't genealogy fun?
The answer to one problem,
leads to two more! >*



< Directories

A number of street directories for County Monaghan are available in the County Library, Clones and lists of residents are also to be found in many parish histories.

- | | |
|---|---|
| > Pigot's Directory 1824 | > Monaghan County Yearbook 1913 |
| > Ulster Counties Directory 1895 | > Northern Standard Centenary Supplement Directory 1939 |
| > Gillespies County Monaghan Directory 1897 | > MacDonalds Irish Directory 1952 |
| > Monaghan County Alphabetical List 1900 | > Members of Established Church in Clones 1823 |



< Parish Histories

These are another valuable genealogical resource. The Centenary Year of the GAA in 1984 led to the valuable production of club and parish histories. Whether due to lack of club information or indeed club success, most club histories were expanded to include much valuable genealogical information. Publications available through the County Library Service include the club and local histories of the following clubs:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Aughnamullen GFC | Cremartin GFC |
| Emyvale GFC | Monaghan GFC |
| Carrickmacross GFC | Currin GFC |
| Inniskeen GFC | Oram GFC |
| Castleblayney GFC | Donaghmoyne GFC |
| Killanny GFC | Rockcorry GFC |
| Clones GFC | Doohamlet GFC |
| Killeevan GFC | Scotstown GFC |
| Clontibret GFC | Drumhowan GFC |
| Latton GFC | Sean MacDiarmada GFC |
| Corduff GFC | Eire Og (Smithboro) GFC |
| Magheraclone GFC | Truagh GFC |

*< Theory of relativity:
If you go back far
enough, we're all
related >*

*< Genealogy: Tracing
yourself back to
better than you >*



< Family Histories

Burkes Peerage, Burkes Irish Family Records and publications such as **Shirley's History of the County** give the family history of what the eminent Monaghan historian, Denis C. Rushe called "the local snobocracy". Such material is totally irrelevant to the vast majority of Irish people but the County Library does contain many family histories of local people who had emigrated to foreign parts. Anybody intending to draw up a family tree could consult this material for guidance and ideas.

< **Genealogy: Where you confuse the dead and irritate the living!** >

< List of other Genealogical Sources

- > Monaghan County Museum
The Hill, Monaghan. Tel. 047-82928
- > National Library of Ireland
*Kildare Street, Dublin 2.
Tel. 01-60302000. Website www.nli.ie*
- > National Archives of Ireland
Bishop Street, Dublin 8. Tel. 01-40723000. www.nationalarchives.ie
- > Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY, Northern Ireland.
*Tel. (+44) 028 9025 5905
Website www.proni.nics.gov.uk*
- > Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages, North Eastern Health Board, Rooskey, Monaghan.
*Tel. 047-30400/30443
Email: mary.lenihan@maile.hse.ie*
- > Clogher Historical Society, C/O St. Macartan's College, Monaghan.
Tel. 047-71984. Website www.clogherhistoricalsoc.com
- > Griffiths Valuation of Ireland, Index Extracts
Website: www.failtrromhat.com
- > St. Louis Heritage Centre, *Broad Road, Monaghan. Tel. 047-83529*
- > Land Registry & Registry of Deeds, *Chancery Street, Dublin 7.
01-8048015 or website www.landregistry.ie*
- > Valuation Office, *Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1.
01-8171113 or website www.valoff.ie*
- > The Cahans
<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~denesbitt/menu.html>
- > Ulster Historical Foundation
Website www.ancestryireland.co.uk
- > Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Website www.cwgc.org
- > Familia
Website www.familia.org.uk
- > Irish Roots
Website www.irishroots.net
- > Monaghan Links
Website www.monaghanlinks.com
- > Gravestone Inscriptions
www.irishgenealogy.ie/gravestones

< Life is lived *forwards*, but
understood *backwards* >



< Catholic - Parochial Addresses

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| > Aghabog | Parochial House, Latnamard, Monaghan. 042-9744976 |
| > Killeevan | Parochial House, Newbliss, Monaghan. 047-54011 |
| > Clones | Parochial House, Church Hill, Clones, Monaghan. 047-51048 |
| > Clones | Curates House, Clones, Monaghan. 047-51064 |
| > Scotshouse | Parochial House, Scotshouse, Monaghan. 047-56 |
| > Monaghan | Park Street, Monaghan. 047-81220 |
| > Magheraclone | Parochial House, Magheraclone, Carrickmacross,
Monaghan. 042-9663500 |
| > Shantonagh | Parochial House, Shantonagh, Castleblayney, Monaghan.
042-9745015 |
| > Latton | Parochial House, Latton, Castleblayney, Monaghan.
042-9742212 |
| > Donaghmoynes | Parochial House, Donaghmoynes, Carrickmacross,
Monaghan. 042-9661586 |
| > Carrickroe | Parochial House, Carrickroe, Emyvale, Monaghan. 047-87104 |
| > Corrawacan | Parochial House, Corrawacan, Rockcorry, Monaghan.
042-9742243 |
| > Broomfield | Parochial House, Broomfield, Castleblayney, Monaghan.
042-9743617 |
| > Tydavnet | Scotstown, Co. Monaghan. 047-89204
Email: bearyl@eircom.net |
| > Killanny | Parochial House, Killanny, Carrickmacross, Monaghan.
042-9661452 |
| > Ballybay | Parochial House, Ballybay, Monaghan. 042-9741013 |
| > Annyalla | Parochial House, Annyalla, Monaghan. 042-9740121 |
| > Carrickmacross | Parochial House, O'Neill Street, Carrickmacross, Monaghan.
042-9663200 |
| > Glaslough | Parochial House, Glaslough, Monaghan. 047-88120 |
| > Emyvale | St. Joseph's, Emyvale, Monaghan. 047-87152 |
| > Corcaghan | Parochial House, Corcaghan, Monaghan. 047-9744806 |
| > Castleblayney | Parochial House, York Street, Castleblayney, Monaghan.
042-9740024 |
| > Threemilehouse | Parochial House, Threemilehouse, Monaghan. 047-81051 |
| > Scotstown | Parochial House, Scotstown, Monaghan. 047-89204 |



< My roots only go down so far,
but my **branches** spread forever! >

< Catholic - Parochial Addresses cont/d

- > Inniskeen Parochial House, Inniskeen, Co. Louth 042 9378105
Fax: 042 9378988
- > Truagh Parochial House, St. Joseph's, Emyvale, Co. Monaghan
047-87152. Email: tru@tinet.ie
- > Tyholland Parochial House, Tyholland, Co. Monaghan. 047 85385
Fax: 047 85051
- > Clontibret Parochial House, Annyalla, Castleblayney, Co.
Monaghan. 042 9740121
- > Corduff Parochial House, Corduff, Carrickmacross, Co.
Monaghan. 042 9669456
- > Doohamlet Parochial House, Doohamlet, Castleblayney, Co.
Monaghan 042 9741239
- > Donagh Parochial House, Glennan, Glaslough, Co. Monaghan.
047 88120 Fax: 047 88520
- > Aughnamullen Parochial House, Shantonagh, Castleblayney, Co.
Monaghan. 042 9745015

< Rectories / Manse Addresses

- > **Presbyterian**
- > Ballybay 1st Clones Road, Ballybay, Monaghan. 042-9741051
- > Ballybay 2nd Carrickmacross Road, Ballybay, Monaghan 042-9741703
- > Rockcorry C/O Ballybay 2nd, Carrickmacross Rd, Ballybay. 042-9741703
- > Ballyalbany Monaghan. 047-82151
- > Drum Monaghan. 049-5552679
- > Carrickmacross Monaghan. 042-9669216
- > Monaghan 1st Monaghan. 047-71607
- > Castleblayney Castleblayney, Monaghan. 042-9746181
- > **Church of Ireland**
- > Carrickmacross Drumconrath Rd, Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9661931
- > Ballybay Knockmaddy, Ballybay, Monaghan. 042-9741102
- > Monaghan Clones Rd, Monaghan. 047-81136

< Genealogy... it's not a hobby,
it's an **obsession** >



< Other Sources

- < Department of Irish Folklore: Folklore collection of County Monaghan 1930's
- < Grand Jury Presentments 1822 –1834
- < Outrage Papers 1832 –1852
- < Manuscripts of Irish Civilisation
- < Clogher Records 1953 – to present
- < Register of Presbyterian marriages for Derryvalley 1846 –1953 and 1849 - 1956
- < Shirley's History of County Monaghan
- < The McKenna's of Truagh
- < Full Circle, a story of Ballybay Presbyterians
- < Some account of the territory or dominion of Farney
- < The Corry's of County Monaghan
- < O.S Memoirs – South Ulster
- < The War of Independence in Monaghan 1916 –1966
- < Monaghan Memories 1867 – 1984
- < The Cahan's Register
- < Admittance Register for Monaghan County Infirmary 1846 –1849
- < Lewis Topographical dictionary of Ireland Vol. 1 & 2
- < Round Towers of Ulster
- < Archaeological Inventory of County Monaghan

< Why waste your money looking
up your tree? Just go into politics
and your opponents will
do it for you! >

< Your Genealogy is never done! >

< No man, however great, is
known to everybody and no
man, however solitary, is
known to nobody >

< In order to find his
equal, an Irishman is
forced to talk to God >

< Just when you think
you've found them all,
up pops another! >

< Sharing genealogy is a
rewarding experience! >



< Happiness is a genealogist who just found their lost ancestor! >

< available on micro film

< Available on Micro Film at Monaghan County Library, Clones, Co. Monaghan

- < Northern Standard – 1839 to present
- < People's Advocate – 1876 to 1906
- < The Farney Leader – 1908 to 1909
- < Clones Weekly Chronicle – 1906 to 1908
- < Monaghan People – 1906 to 1908
- < The Anglo Celt – 1846 to 1950
- < The Monaghan Argus – 1875 to 1881 and 1954 to 1959
- < The Dublin Penny Journal – 1832 to 1836
- < The Dundalk Democrat – 1849 to 1926
- < Department of Irish Folklore: Folklore collection of County Monaghan 1930's
- < Grand Jury Presentments 1822 –1834
- < Outrage Papers 1832 –1852
- < Manuscripts of Irish Civilisation
- < The Tithe Applotments
- < The 1901 and 1911 Census
- < Report of Condition of Poor in Ireland 1836

*< Whoever said, seek and ye shall find was **NOT** a genealogist >*

< When some people talk about their family tree, they trim off a branch here and there >

It is advisable to ring at least one day in advance for use of microfilm reader

This guide was produced by Monaghan County Library Services, 98, The Avenue, Clones, Co. Monaghan. The Library Headquarters is located above the Clones Branch Library. Last updated 2008.



Monaghan County Libraries *A Centre of Light & Learning*
Leabharlanna Chontae Mhuineacháin

Contact Details

Monaghan County Library
98, The Avenue, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Telephone 047 51143

Fax 047 51863

Email clennon@monaghancoco.ie

Web www.monaghan.ie

Opening Hours

(For Use of Microfilm Reader)

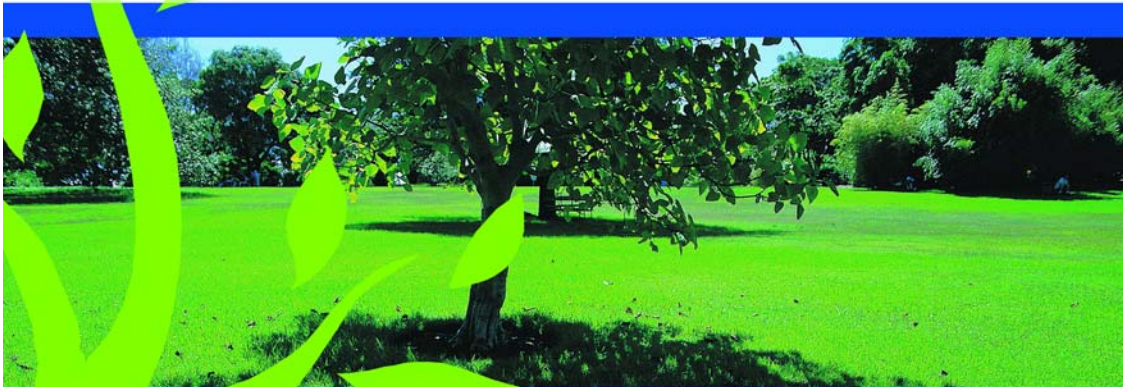
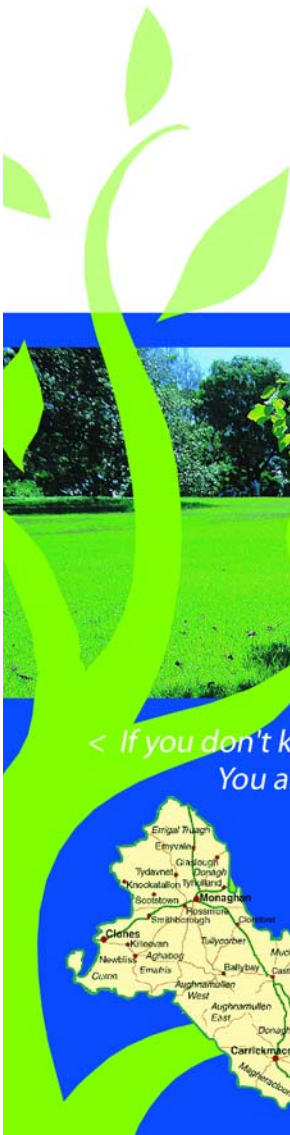
Monday 2-5pm and 6-8pm

Tuesday 11am – 1pm and 2-5pm

Wednesday 11am – 1pm and 2-5pm

Thursday 2-5pm

Friday 11am – 1pm and 2-5pm



< If you don't know your family's history, then you don't know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree >

