



CENTRAL COAST FAMILY HISTORY IRISH GROUP

JANUARY 2016

Hello fellow Irish researchers,

As I have hoped most of you would keep checking to see what new Irish records have been placed on the internet, I haven't sent a Newsletter out for some time. Perhaps you have come across a site by chance that normally searchers wouldn't find. If so, how about sharing it with others. I am always hopeful that one day I will find the information that has eluded me for many years and I am sure there are many of you in the same situation so it's a pity not to share and perhaps help others.

It is great that the Catholic Church Registers for the Republic of Ireland have been made available on the net by the National Library of Ireland. Unfortunately they haven't been indexed so you must indicate the County and parish which will bring up the original register to trawl through. If you know the parish but can't find an entry for your family, try looking at nearby parish registers as sometimes people didn't always attend the same church when registering births, marriages or deaths. I have found some pages are very difficult to read owing to poor handwriting, damage etc. but it's a great plus that these records have been made available – and for free!! Northern Ireland parish records at PRONI unfortunately have not been released, but hopefully we will be able to access them on their webpage in the future. Familysearch should also be looked at as they are placing Irish Registry Office BMD's and other Irish records on their site regularly.

If you are not sure of the name or spelling of a parish, have a look in the book "Index to Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland" which is on the Irish shelf in our library. If you cannot get into the Centre, I am happy to look this up for you. Sometimes the spelling on certificates, shipping records, letters etc. can be different (it was often spelt as it sounded) but usually eventually the correct parish can be found.

It is hoped that the Church of Ireland registers will appear on the Church Representative Body, Dublin website this year but you will probably have to pay for the information. Keep watching that site.

Many church registers, newspaper entries etc appear on the County Donegal site, I just wish other Counties would have as much information. If you have any Donegal information not on this site, I am sure Lindel who runs the site would love to hear from you.

Find My Past have Irish Dog Licences for the 1800's and some County Court cases. Also many Irish Newspapers are available online and you can be very lucky if someone in your tree was selling their home, farm, land etc. as often you get a very full description of it.

There are great photos on many sites – try putting your town, parish etc. into Google to see if there are photos of what it used to look like. I had visited the town of Strabane, Co. Tyrone some years ago as I had an address of where my gg/uncle used to live, but couldn't work out which was his house. Lately, looking through the Strabane newspapers, I found his house advertised for sale, with a complete description of it and all the land adjoining. I then looked at photos of Strabane on another site and found the street where he lived and his house.

Take time to look at every site you can think of, there is just so much available and you might be rewarded with a great 'find' as I was. We have Ancestry and Find my Past in the Society rooms if you aren't a subscriber.

Best of Irish luck to you all,
Heather