



**NUI Galway**  
**OÉ Gaillimh**

**James Hardiman Library**

# **Resources for Local Studies Research**

**James Hardiman Library Special Collections & Archives**

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## LOCAL STUDIES RESOURCES

This guide provides an introduction to resources, both print and electronic, which will assist in research on local areas in Ireland.

### Townlands Index - printed and online

The townland is the smallest administrative area in Ireland. Indexes are available which show the names of townlands and the Counties, Baronies, Civil Parishes and Poor Law Unions in which they are situated as well as the number of the relevant six-inch Ordnance Survey Map. These indexes are available in various parts of the library including General Reference and the Special Collections Reading Room at **914.15(083)** The 1904 edition of the *Townlands Index* is available in hardcopy and microfiche in the Microform Room. It also shows the District Electoral Divisions within which townlands were situated. Searchable versions of the *Townlands Index* are available online at [www.seanruad.com](http://www.seanruad.com) And <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/placenames> These do not, however, contain either the OS Map numbers or the District Electoral Divisions.

### Directories and Gazetteers

Many directories and gazetteers were published about Ireland especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the advent of tourist travel. Some are still only available in their original printed form although increasingly extracts, especially in relation to particular counties, have been reprinted. In addition, some of the complete works have been digitised and are available electronically.

Probably the most famous of these publications is Samuel Lewis' *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* (London. 1837) As it contains a description of each Civil parish as well as most towns it is a very useful depiction of Ireland before the Famine. The Library holds several sets of Lewis' both in the original and in reprinted formats at **914.15 LEW**. Copies are available in the Reference area and the Special Collections Reading Room. In addition, the extracts from Lewis for Counties Clare and Cork have been published and are available in the Special Collections Reading Room at **914.93 LEW** and **914.1956003 LEW** respectively. The text is available online at [www.libraryireland.com](http://www.libraryireland.com) and on the Ordnance Survey of Ireland's Historic Map Viewer at [www.osi.ie](http://www.osi.ie). The library holds other directories of Ireland notably those by Leet, Pigot and Slater as well as the Thom's Directory series. These are listed in the *Special Collections Local Studies bibliography* at the end of this guide.

### Local History Books and Periodicals

The Library holds an extensive but by no means exhaustive collection of books and periodicals relating to Irish places. The majority of the current periodical collection is held in the Special Collections Reading Room with issues prior to 2000 shelved in the Periodical Store in the Basement. A select list of local studies periodical titles for each Irish County is available in both John Grenham. *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* (Dublin, 2006) **929.10720415** Floor 1 and James G. Ryan. *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History* (Dublin. 1997) **929.309415 RYA** in the Reference area.

Many local and parish histories are published in Ireland each year. It is difficult to keep a complete list of these updated. The Grenham volume mentioned above contains lists by county and another useful source of such titles is on the IrelandGenWeb page at <http://connorsgenealogy.com/books/> This page is regularly updated with new additions.

## Place Name Research

Many researchers working on local studies wish to research place names. There is a substantial body of literature on this topic. Browse the library catalogue using "names geographical Ireland" as subject. Other useful resources include:

*Ainm: journal of the Ulster Place Name Society* located at **914.16** on Floor 1.

Placename Database [www.logainm.ie](http://www.logainm.ie)

LOCUS project <http://www.ucc.ie/locus/>

RASCAL <http://www.rascal.ac.uk/>

Ulster Place Names [www.ulsterplacenames.org](http://www.ulsterplacenames.org)

## Statistical Information

Preparing a study of a local area often requires use of statistics such as population, land use and house size. From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century on, this information is readily available for towns and townlands. Much of it is contained in the publications of the British House of Commons. The Library holds a printed index to the 19<sup>th</sup> century House of Commons papers

Peter Cockton. *Subject Catalogue of the House of Commons Parliamentary papers 1801-1900*. **941.081016 COC** General Reference

which acts as a signpost to the microfiche collection shelved at **941.081 HOU** in the Microfilm Area. Full text of House of Commons publications 1715-2004 is available through the House of Commons database, accessible to NUI Galway users only, via [the Library Catalogue](#). See the information leaflets on *House of Commons Papers* and *19<sup>th</sup> Century Official Publications and Statistics* for more information.

## Maps

See the *Guide to Maps* for more information on the maps available for local research

## Local History Publications

Two especially useful series on Local History are published by Irish Academic Press. These include publications from many parts of Ireland as well as a series of Guides to Sources. Further details can be found on the Library Catalogue by searching under "Maynooth Research Guides"

## Useful Links

A comprehensive list of useful Internet links is available from the Federation of Local History Societies at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~localhist/index-page6.html>

## Local Studies Bibliography

### General Series

Royal Irish Academy. Historic Towns Atlas Series: all available in SCRR. Towns published

- No. 1 Kildare (1986)
- No. 2 Carrickfergus (1986)
- No. 3 Bandon (1988)
- No. 4 Kells (1990)
- No. 5 Mullingar (1992)
- No. 6 Athlone (1994)
- No. 7 Maynooth (1995)
- No. 8 Downpatrick (1997)
- No. 9 Bray (1998)
- No. 10 Kilkenny (2000)
- No. 11 Dublin, Part 1, to 1610 (2002)
- No. 12 Belfast, Part 1, to 1840 (2003)
- No. 13 Fethard (2003)
- No. 14 Trim (2004)
- No. 15 Derry~Londonderry (2005)
- No. 16 Dundalk (2006)
- No. 17 Belfast, part II (2007)
- No. 18 Armagh (2007)
- No.19, Dublin, part II (2008)
- No.20, Tuam (2009)

County History and Society Series. (Dublin: Geography Publications, in progress.)

County Armagh 941.661 ARM

County Carlow (check library catalogue for shelf number)

County Clare (check library catalogue for shelf number)

County Cork 941.95 COR

County Derry/Londonderry 941.62 DER

County Donegal 941.63 DON

County Down 941.65 DOW

Dublin City & County 941.835 DUB

County Fermanagh 941.63 FER

County Galway 941.74 GAL

County Kildare 941.85 KIL

County Kilkenny 941.89 KIL

County Laois 941.87 LAO

County Offaly 941.86 OFF

County Tipperary 941.92 TIP

County Tyrone 941.64 TYR

County Waterford 941.915 WAT

County Wexford 941.885 WEX

County Wicklow 941.84 WIC

A copy of each of these titles is available in SCRR.

## DIRECTORIES AND TOPOGRAPHICAL SOURCES – IRELAND

### \* TITLES NOTED AS ONLINE ACCESS ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Wilson, William. **The Post Chaise companion or a traveller's directory through Ireland.** Dublin. 1786. Sp Coll 112 Strong Room & online access

Leet, Ambrose. **A Directory to the market towns, gentlemens' seats.. in Ireland.** Dublin: Brett Smith, 1814. 914.15003 LEE Strong Room

**Pigot's Directories for Ireland, Scotland and the northern counties of England, 1820-1 and 1822.** (microfiche) 914.1 DIR Microform Room & on CD-ROM

Lewis, Samuel. **Topographical Dictionary of Ireland.** London: S. Lewis. 1837. 914.15 LEW SCRR & Reference Available online at www.libraryireland.com

**Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland.** Dublin: A. Fullerton, 1846. 914.15081 SCRR Available online at www.libraryireland.com

**Slater's National Commercial Directory of Ireland.** Manchester: Slater, 1856. 914.15 (058) SCRR 1846 edition available online at www.failteromhat.com

Goulding, John. **Laois around the famine times; descriptions from Lewis' and Slater's directories.** Wexford: [the author], 2000. 941.58 LAL SCRR and Floor 1

**Lewis' Cork: a topographical dictionary of towns, villages and parishes in Cork city and County originally published in 1837.** Cork: Collins Press, 1999. 914.1956003 LEW SCRR, Cork entries also available online at http://www.failteromhat.com/lewis.htm

Lewis, Samuel. **County Clare: history and topography from Lewis Topographical Dictionary.** Ennis: CLASP Press, 1995 and 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2002. 941.93 LEW SCRRR & HUM REF

**Thom's Commercial Directory for Ireland, 1849 - (incomplete run).** 380.10294415 SCRR

The Library also holds a large collection of **travel accounts** of Ireland and elsewhere, many dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Type "Ireland Description Travel" into the Catalogue. It is possible to limit your results by date of publication.

### Surveys

Mason, William Shaw. *Statistical account or Parochial Survey of Ireland.* Dublin: Graisbery & Campbell, 1814-19. The Library holds volume I only in hardcopy but the work is also available online at www.books.google.com

## Statistical Surveys published by the Royal Dublin Society

(All held in hardcopy in Library Special Collections store and must be requested.  
Note that some are also available online from the *Making of the Modern World* series via the Library Catalogue. Some titles are also on Google Books)

*[These publications were motivated by a desire to effect improvements in the economy and in agriculture in particular. They often contain descriptions of agricultural and economic practices in specific localities]*

Weld, Isaac, **Statistical survey of the county of Roscommon**. Dublin: Royal Dublin Society, 1832 [630.941750723 WEL](#) & online access

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Dutton, Hely: **A statistical and agricultural survey of the county of Galway**. Dublin: Printed at the University Press by R. Graisberry, 1824 [630.94174 DUT](#) & online access.

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Dubourdieu, John. **Statistical survey of the county of Antrim** Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1812

[630.94161 DUB](#) [Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Townsend, Horatio. **Statistical survey of the county of Cork**. Dublin: Graisberry and Campbell, 1810. [941.95 TOW](#)

Dutton, Hely. **Statistical survey of the county of Clare**. Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1808 [630.94193 DUT](#)

Fraser, Robert. **Statistical survey of the county of Wexford**. Dublin: printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1807 [630.941885 FRA](#)

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Rawson, Thomas James. **Statistical survey of the county of Kildare**, Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1807. [630.94185 RAW](#)

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Coote, Charles, Sir. **Statistical survey of the county of Armagh**,  
Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1804 [630.94166 COO](#) SCR & online  
access

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Coote, Charles, Sir, 1765-1857: **Statistical survey of the county of Cavan**,  
Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1802 [630.941698 COO](#)

Dubourdieu, John. **Statistical survey of the county of Down**. Dublin: Printed  
by Graisberry and Campbell, 1802. [630.94165 DUB](#)

McEvoy, John. **Statistical survey of the county of Tyrone**. Dublin : Graisberry  
and Campbell, 1802 [630.94164 McE](#)

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

McParlan, James. **Statistical survey of the county of Donegal**.  
Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1802 [630.941693 McP](#)

McParlan, James. **Statistical survey of the county Leitrim**. Dublin: Printed by  
Graisberry & Campbell, 1802. [630.94176 McP](#)

McParlan, James. **Statistical survey of the county of Sligo**. Dublin: Printed by  
Graisberry and Campbell, 1802. [630.94172 McP](#)

[Available online at www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

McParlan, James. **Statistical survey of the county of Mayo**. Dublin: Printed by  
Graisberry and Campbell, 1802. [630.94173 McP](#)

Sampson, George Vaughan. **Statistical survey of the county of Londonderry**.  
Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1802. [630.94162 SAM](#)

Sampson, George Vaughan. **A memoir explanatory of the chart and survey  
of the county of London-Derry**. London: G. and W. Nicol, 1814. [630.94162  
SAM](#)

Thompson, Robert. **Statistical survey of the county of Meath.** Dublin: Printed by Graisberry and Campbell, 1802.. 630.941822 THO

Archer, Joseph. **Statistical survey of the county Dublin.** Dublin: Printed by Graisberry & Campbell, 1801. 630.94183 ARC

Available online at [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)

Coote, Charles, Sir. **Statistical survey of the county of Monaghan.** Dublin: Printed by Graisberry & Campbell, 1801. 630.9416970723 COO

## SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF LANDED ESTATES

### Modern Printed Sources

Bary, Valerie. *Historical, genealogical & architectural notes of some houses of Kerry*. (Whitegate: Ballinkella Press, 1994) 728.094196 BAR SCRR

Bence-Jones, Mark. *A guide to Irish Country Houses*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London: Constable, 1990)

- *Life in an Irish country house*. (London: Constable, 1996).

- *Twilight of the Ascendancy*. (London: Constable, 1987)

Dooley, Terence. *Sources for the history of landed estates in Ireland*. (Dublin, 2000)

- *The decline of the "Big House" in Ireland*. Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 2001.

- *The Big Houses and Landed Estates of Ireland: a research guide*. (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007).

Eiriksson, Andres & Ó Grada, Cormac. *Estates Records of the Irish Famine: Guide to Famine archives 1840-1855*. (Dublin: 1995)

Grenham, John. *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*. (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2006)

Griffin, David, Robinson, Nicholas. *Vanishing country houses of Ireland*. (Dublin: Irish Architectural Archive, 1989)

Hajba, Anna-Maria. *Historical, genealogical & architectural notes of some houses of Cork: Volume I: North Cork*. (Whitegate: Ballinakella Press, 2002)  
728.8094195 HAJ SCRR

Marsden, Simon. *In ruins: the once great houses of Ireland*. (London: Collins, 1980).

Montgomery Massingberd, Hugh. *Burke's Irish Family Records*. (London. 1976, Reprinted 2007)

Rowe, David & Scallan, Eithne. *Historical, genealogical & architectural notes of some houses of Wexford*. (Whitegate: Ballinakella Press, 2004) 728.0941885 ROW SCRR

Weir, Hugh W.L. *Historical, genealogical & architectural notes of some houses of Clare*. (Whitegate: Ballinakella Press, 1999) 728.8094193 WEI SCRR

*Burke's Landed Gentry of Ireland*. [Various editions, 1912 usually regarded as the most comprehensive]

### Contemporary Printed Sources

Simington, R.C. *Books of Survey & Distribution*. (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1949-67). [Counties Clare, Galway, Mayo & Roscommon] 941.5 IRI SCRR

Pender, Seamus (ed). *Census of Ireland, c. 1659*. (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1939). 314.17 IRI SCRR

Goblet, Y.M. *Topographical Index to townlands mentioned in Sir William Petty's Maps 1655-59*. (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1939). LA 1391.4 SCRR

Taylor, George & Andrew Skinner. *Taylor and Skinner's Maps of the Roads of Ireland surveyed 1777*. (London. 1778) [reprinted by the Irish University Press, Shannon, 1969] 912.415 TAY SCRR [Available at [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) Digital Book Collection]

Griffith, Richard. *Primary Valuation of tenements in Ireland* (Griffith's Valuation). Dublin: A. Thom, 1848-1864. [Available at [www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie)]

Charles Charlesworth. *Index to Rentals of Properties sold in the Encumbered and Landed Estates Court, 1849-1864*. (Dublin; National Library of Ireland. [Microfilm copy available in SCRR]

House of Commons. *Return of Owners of Land of One Acre and Upwards*. (Dublin. 1876) 929.3415 LAN SCRR

Hussey de Burgh, U. *The Landowners of Ireland* (Dublin. 1878). 929.72 LAN SCRR

J. Bateman. *The Great Landowners of Great Britain and Ireland*. (London. 1879) 333.3230941 BAT Special Collection Ref & [Available at [www.books.google.com](http://www.books.google.com)]

Walford, Edward. *The County Families of the United Kingdom*. (London. 1860 & 1888) 929.741 WAL Special Collection Ref

*Census of Ireland*. 1901 & 1911 available at [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)

Ordnance Survey of Ireland. *Name Books series*. Dublin: 1927. (based on MSS sources from 1<sup>st</sup> OS survey) SCRR & [county Galway data available at [www.galwaylibrary.ie](http://www.galwaylibrary.ie)]



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