

Your Family Tree Series: 6



Census Substitutes: Eighteenth And Nineteenth Century

1708

In 1708 James Maguire made a survey of the town of Downpatrick, Co. Down. He described each premise by name, giving its size, its principal tenant and the half yearly rent due. A manuscript copy of this survey, made by the Rev. David Stewart in 1927, is available under the PRONI Reference **MIC637/8**.

1740

In 1740 the Irish House of Commons ordered a religious census of Protestant householders to be carried out. Although the original returns were lost when the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin was destroyed in 1922, transcripts of some have survived for parts of Cos Antrim, Armagh, Down, Donegal, Londonderry and Tyrone. The returns are arranged by county, barony and parish and give names only. The typescript copies can be found under the PRONI Reference **T808/15258** but copies of them are available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI.

1766

In March and April 1766, Church of Ireland rectors were instructed by the government to compile complete returns of all householders in their respective parishes, showing their religion, as between Church of Ireland (Episcopalian), Roman Catholic (termed 'Papists' in the returns) and Presbyterians (or Dissenters), and giving an account of any Roman Catholic clergy active in their area. Some of the more diligent rectors listed every townland and every household, but many drew up only numerical totals of the population. All of the original returns were lost when the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin was destroyed in 1922 but extensive transcripts survive and are available under the PRONI Reference **T808/15264**, **15266** and **15267**. Copies of these are available on the shelves in the Search Room in PRONI.

1770

In 1770 a census was carried out for the town of Armagh giving individual names and occupations, size of family and religion and is arranged street by street. It can be found under the PRONI Reference **T808/14938** and **T808/14977**.

1796

As part of a government initiative to encourage the linen trade, free spinning-wheels or looms were granted to individuals planting a certain area of land with flax. The lists of those entitled to the awards, covering almost 60,000 individuals, were published in 1796. They are to be found under the PRONI Reference **T3419** but a typescript copy is available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI. A microfilm index to the lists is also available under the PRONI Reference **MF7**.

1803

The 1803 agricultural census returns for Co. Down, although a government led survey, are to be found in the Londonderry estate archive (PRONI Reference **D654/A2**). Similar returns exist for Co. Antrim but they are in the National Archives in Dublin. British authorities, fearing a French Invasion of Ireland, made plans for the defence of the coastline so that in the event of an invasion they would know what to move and what support would be available for the army. The plans involved taking an inventory of livestock, provisions, crops and equipment. The returns of 'live and dead stock' record the names of householders by townland and parish with details of what stock each held but the names of householders are only recorded for 30 out of the 50 parishes. Nevertheless over 11,000 names are recorded.

1824-1838

The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the Established Church, which had been payable in kind, should now be paid in money. As a result it was necessary to carry out a valuation of the entire country, parish by parish, in order to determine how much would be payable by each landowner. The Tithe Applotment Books list the occupiers of titheable land and are not a list of householders as is the case in a census. Therefore, labourers, etc. were all omitted, in addition to all purely urban dwellers. The books can be found under the PRONI Reference **FIN/5A**. The Householders' Index, available on the shelves of the Search Room in PRONI, can be used as a guide to the surnames listed in the Tithe Applotment Books

c.1860-c.1940

National school registers, which record the age of the pupil, religion, father's address and occupation, are a valuable source of information for anyone interested in tracing their family tree. PRONI has in its custody registers, etc for almost 1,600 schools in Northern Ireland. An index to the schools with the appropriate **SCH/** number is available in PRONI and can also be found in the *Guide to Educational Records*, available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI.

1848-1864

Popularly known as Griffith's Valuation, the Primary Valuation of Ireland lists every householder and occupier of land in Ireland. It is arranged by county, barony, poor law union, civil parish and townland. A printed edition of the Griffith's Valuation is available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI. See also '*Your Family Tree*' Leaflet 4: *Valuation Records*.

1876

The '*Landowners in Ireland: Return of owners of land of one acre and upwards...*' records more than 32,000 owners of land in Ireland in 1876, identifying them by province and county. A copy of this publication is available on the shelves of the Search Room in PRONI.

