

Your Family Tree Series: 15



Pedigrees And Genealogical Papers

PRONI has in its custody records compiled by scholars that are of enormous interest to genealogists. Pedigrees for families from many different parts of Ireland are available. Most notable of these are extract pedigrees from wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Ireland, 1536-1800, compiled by Sir William Betham, Ulster King of Arms, and copied for his own use by Betham's successor, Sir Bernard Burke. Burke's set of 42 large volumes of Pedigree Charts (PRONI Reference **T559/1-42**) are of great importance to all record searchers. Indexes to these volumes are available in the Search Room in PRONI (PRONI Reference **T559/43**). Each volume itself has an index at the back and these are worth checking to ensure that you have seen all the entries for the family name included in that particular volume. (See *Guide to Probate Records* for more details)

The Groves Manuscripts

These contain a great deal of valuable material for genealogists. Tenison Groves, a Belfast genealogist, spent more than forty years compiling a vast collection of transcripts, abstracts, notes, etc., from records held in the Public Record Office in Dublin prior to its partial destruction in 1922. The part of the collection that relates to Northern Ireland was purchased by PRONI in 1939. The 9,000 plus items includes seventeenth-century muster rolls, militia lists and family pedigrees. The genealogical material has been arranged rather haphazardly, although surnames starting with the same letter are usually grouped together. The arrangement under each letter is not strictly alphabetical and material on one name can appear in several volumes. The Groves Manuscripts can be found under the PRONI Reference **T808**; typescript copies of some of these documents are available on the shelves of the Search Room.

Canon Leslie Manuscripts

Canon Leslie was another antiquarian/genealogist who spent a lot of time in the Public Record Office in Dublin before 1922 transcribing wills and compiling genealogical notes and pedigrees from the records. Most of his notes can be found under the PRONI Reference **T1075**.

Pedigrees and genealogical papers relating to individual families can be located using the Personal Names Index. A number of such papers have also been collected together under the single PRONI Reference **D3000**. Researchers interested in the pedigrees of the leading landowning families in Ulster should consult the introductions in the respective catalogues.

