



Your Family Tree: 11

EMIGRATION RECORDS



Emigration records deposited in PRONI are the most obvious source for researchers who are descendants of emigrants from Ireland, particularly Ulster. Unfortunately, emigration is not particularly well documented. Most passenger lists, for example, are to be found at the country of entry rather than departure due to the fact that the authorities were more concerned with recording those entering a country rather than those leaving.

Many of the emigration archives that are deposited in PRONI have been indexed and either transcribed or digitised to form part of DIPPAM (Documenting Ireland: Parliament, People and Migration), an online virtual archive of documents and sources relating to the history of Ireland and its migration experience from the 18th to the late 20th centuries. The Irish Emigration Database provides access to copies of most of the emigration letters, passenger lists and journals held in PRONI. This resource is freely available online at www.dippam.ac.uk.

Emigrant letters form a substantial part of our emigration records. This material is found in many of the private collections in PRONI. Search the PRONI eCatalogue by keyword, phrase or PRONI reference number.

Emigration to USA

Passenger Lists held in PRONI are:

T711/1	List of passengers from Warrenpoint and Newry to Philadelphia and New York, 1791-2
MIC333/1	Passenger Lists – Philadelphia, 1800-82
MIC333/2	Passenger Lists – Baltimore, 1820-91
MIC333/3	Passenger Lists – Boston, 1871-91
MIC333/4	Passenger Lists – New York, 1826-27, 1840-2 and 1850-2
T1011/1	Passengers from various origins arriving mainly in New York, 1802-14
T3262	Passenger Lists from Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, Newry, Sligo, Warrenpoint to USA, 1803-06
T2786/1	Volume containing census information for United Parish of Rathespick with Russagh, Co. Westmeath, together with genealogical and emigrant information, 1863-1916.
T521/1	Passenger Lists from Ireland to America, 1804-06 (index available)

in Deputy Keeper's Report 1929)

D2892/1/1-4 Passenger Books of J & J Cooke, Shipping Agents. Sailings from Londonderry to Philadelphia, Quebec, St John's, New Brunswick, 1847-71 (see also MIC/13)

A number of published lists of emigrants are also available in PRONI. These include:

The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851 (seven volumes, published in 1983), contains data from the original ship manifest schedules, deposited in the National Immigration Archives in the Balch Institute in Philadelphia.

Irish Passenger Lists 1847-1871, contains lists of passengers sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J & J Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line.

Immigrants to New England 1700-1775, contains an alphabetical list compiled by Ethel Stanwood Bolton.

Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1829.

Lists of Emigrants to America, 1635-1776, contains lists of passengers, including Irish emigrants, who departed from English ports.

Irish Passenger Lists, 1803-6: Lists of passengers sailing from Ireland to America extracted from the Hardwicke Papers.

Also available are some transcripts of passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1821, and at Boston, 1820-91.

Emigration to Canada

Settlers from Ulster set up home in every Canadian Province and played an influential role in the national life of their adopted home. Many Ulster people migrated to the United States via Canada. It was cheaper to travel to Quebec from the port of Londonderry than to go from Belfast or Liverpool to Boston or New York. The voyage was also usually shorter.

The first large-scale settlement of Upper Canada came when individuals - many of them Scots-Irish - fled from the United States during the American War of Independence (1760-1791). A second wave of immigration, coming directly from Ulster, consisted of disbanded soldiers and small farmers hit by the agricultural slump which followed the Napoleonic Wars (which ended in 1815).

Of particular interest to researchers interested in emigration to Canada are the passenger lists, the most important of which are listed below:

D2892/1/1-3 Three volumes of passenger lists, February 1847-1849, February 1850-August 1857, March 1858-July 1867, of J & J Cooke, shipping agents, Londonderry. The Canadian destinations are Quebec and St John's, New Brunswick, with details also being given for Philadelphia and New Orleans (see also MIC/13).

D3000/104/1-10 Typed transcripts, compiled in 1984, of notices which appeared in Canadian local newspapers, mostly the New Brunswick Courier, 1830-46, and the Toronto Irish Canadian, 1869. The notices include

queries as to the whereabouts of various persons who had emigrated from Ulster to Canada and the United States.

- D3000/104/11-13 Typed transcripts, compiled 1984-5, of notices inserted in Canadian local newspapers by passengers arriving from Ireland. The newspapers were the New Brunswick Courier and the Saint John Morning News, covering the period 1828-58. There are also summaries based upon these notices which list the passengers involved, their ports of embarkation in Ireland and the dates of arrival in Canada.
- T768/1 List, 1833-34, of emigrants from Coleraine parish, Co. Londonderry, giving information on the names, ages, religion, townlands of residence and date of departure of those involved. The destinations are also given and include St John's, New Brunswick and Quebec.
- T3168 Passenger list, 11 May 1847, issued by A.C. Buchanan, Chief Agent for Emigration at Quebec, giving the date of sailing, the names of the ships involved, their point of departure and the number of passengers carried.

Emigration to Australia and New Zealand

Australia emigration, as a mass organised movement did not get going in a major way until the 1820s, after the disruption of the Napoleonic Wars. The distance involved, and the logistics of the journey, meant that the numbers going to Australia as compared with North America were much smaller. For the same reasons emigration to Australia was much more controlled. Regulation was applied at points of departure in Britain and Ireland and at entry points in Australia.

There were also government-assisted schemes such as the emigration of workhouse inmates to Australia. Labour had become extremely scarce in Australia around the time of the Famine in Ireland and the colonists in New South Wales and Western Australia pressed the Colonial Office to secure more settlers. Arrangements were made with the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for a scheme of assisted emigration and the first 5,000 adults were sent in 1847.

Convict settlements were a feature of Australian society for nearly a century until the transportation system was progressively withdrawn from 1840 onwards. In that year New South Wales was removed from the system. It was followed by Tasmania in 1852 and Western Australia in 1867. The main reason for this was that the Australian colonists came to regard the convict system as a stigma on those who had chosen to emigrate as well as the criticism in both Britain and Australia because of the inevitable brutality of certain aspects of the convict system.

The following records are of particular importance:

- MIC/468/1 Indexes to male convicts transported to New South Wales, 1830-1842 and 1850-1868.
- T3036/6 Passenger List, 1841, Victoria, Australia.
- D648/9 Register of Girls' Friendly Society - sponsored emigrants from various counties in Ireland, 1890-1921.
- MF/4 Indexes to births, deaths and marriages in New South Wales, Australia, 1787-1899.

- MIC468/1 3 volumes of indexes to male convicts transported to New South Wales, Australia, 1830-42, and to Western Australia, 1850-68, taken from the records of the Principal Superintendent of Convicts.
- T2786/1 Volume containing census information for United Parish of Rathespick with Russagh, Co. Westmeath, together with genealogical and emigrant information, 1863-1916.

Useful Websites

www.ancestorsonboard.com – a searchable database of names from outward passenger lists for long distance voyages leaving the British Isles, 1890 to 1960.

www.castlegarden.org – search for arrivals to New York's Ellis Island Immigration station prior to 1892.

www.ellisland.org – a searchable database of names of those who entered the United States through Ellis Island and the port of New York from 1890-1924.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com – view Irish Emigration Lists (1833-1839) extracted from the OS Memoirs for Counties Londonderry and Antrim.

www.ancestry.com - US Immigration Collection including indexes to passenger lists of ships arriving from foreign ports to:

- Boston from 1820 to 1943 (3.8 million immigrants),
- Philadelphia, 1800 to 1945 (1.6 million), and
- New York, 1820 to 1957 (83 million)

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