



## Your Family Tree: 9

# STREET DIRECTORIES



Street Directories contain lots of information particularly on the gentry, the professional classes, merchants, manufacturers etc., including details of the smallest of market towns and ports in Ireland. To facilitate wider access PRONI has completed a major project to digitise some of the most heavily used directories which were formerly on open access in our Search Room. A full list of Directories, from 1819 – 1900, which are now available on-line is available on the PRONI website – [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni).

### What information is found in Street Directories?

- Description of the town and surrounding countryside
- Names and addresses of traders, nobility and gentry (often listed by trade and by street).
- Names and addresses of officials such as magistrates, Poor Law guardians, town commissioners, ministers of religion
- The location and names of churches, schools and other public buildings in the towns.

### What information is not found in Street Directories?

Small tenant farmers, landless labourers and servants are not listed.

### What Directories are held in PRONI?

The principal country-wide directories are:

Pigot's Commercial Directory of Ireland, 1824 – towns of Ireland listed alphabetically, supplying the names of the nobility etc, and dividing the traders of each town according to their trade.

Slater's Directory of Ireland, 1846, 1856 and 1870 – arranged by province. Trade lists for each town and village within the provinces are included as well as lists of nobility, gentry and

clergy. Principal farmers are not included. The main cities - Belfast, Cork, Dublin and Limerick – have alphabetical indexes to their lists of traders, nobility, etc.

Thom's Official Directory of Great Britain and Ireland, 1845-1958 – most comprehensive for Dublin and Co. Dublin. There is an alphabetical listing of the nobility, gentry, merchants and traders for Dublin as well as a listing by street. For the counties and municipal towns including Belfast there is a general description followed by a list of officials.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century local directories were produced for important commercial centres such as Belfast, Derry, and Newry. The quality varies considerably from locality to locality. Some of the local directories held in PRONI are:

Thomas Bradshaw's General Directory of Newry, Armagh, Dungannon, Portadown, Tandragee, Lurgan, Waringstown, Banbridge, Warrenpoint, Rosstrevor, Kilkeel and Rathfryland, 1820, includes an alphabetical list of traders but does not include local gentry.

Matier's Belfast Directory, 1835-36, includes an alphabetical list of gentry, merchants and traders residing in Belfast and its neighbourhood as well as a listing by professions and trades.

Martin's Belfast Directory, 1839 and 1841-42, includes an alphabetical list of gentry, merchants and traders living in Belfast and also a street-by-street listing of the principal streets.

Henderson's Belfast Directory and Northern Repository, 1846-47 includes a street-by-street listing and an alphabetical list of the 'principal inhabitants'.

Belfast and Province of Ulster/Northern Ireland Directory from 1852 to 1996 (with some gaps in the series), includes an alphabetical and a street listing of the inhabitants of Belfast as well as a listing by trade and profession. This is followed by a county directory listing the officials in each county and a provincial town directory for the principal towns and villages of Ulster providing details of officials, the nobility and gentry and traders and manufacturers. (1852–1900 available online only)

Slater's Directory of Ulster, 1894, lists the nobility, gentry, clergy and traders for the provincial towns. For Belfast the arrangement

is by street and by trade/profession as well as an alphabetical listing.

Check the PRONI Library catalogue for a full list of directories held.

*Belfast and Ulster Street Directories 1805–1914* (Deirdre Armstrong ed.), Library and Information Services Council (NI), 2008, is a guide to Ulster Street Directories and where they can be accessed, also available in the PRONI Library.

**Opening Hours**

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm  
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm  
*(Please check in advance for  
late evening opening)*

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