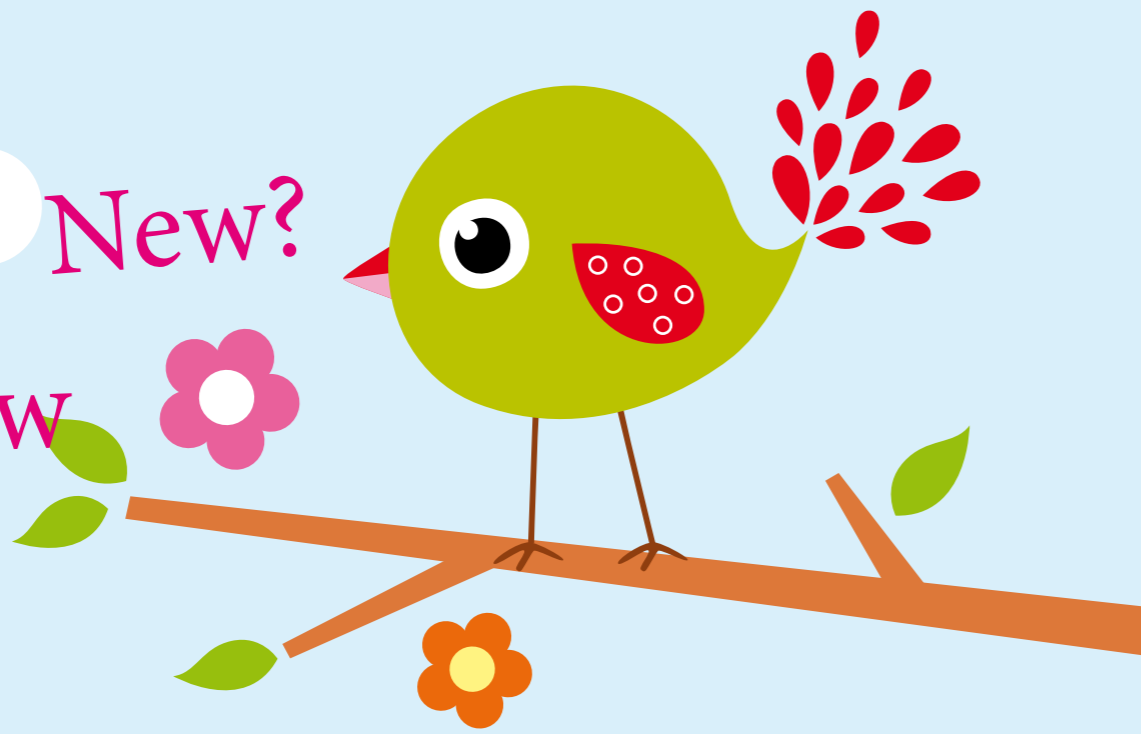


What's New? Review



Despite A Few Glitches Here And There, Claire Santry Brings Us Plenty Of Reasons To Celebrate All That Is Happening In The World Of Irish Genealogy

It wasn't just us researchers who suffered shock when the state-managed [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) unexpectedly uploaded another tranche of images to its online database of civil registration indexes towards the end of last year. The managers got a shock, too!

It wasn't meant to happen. It appears that the www.irishgenealogy.ie techie team were running some tests after adding a significant number of images to the offline database. In the process it is thought that someone accidentally pressed the 'live' button, and whoops, all the new records were suddenly available for us genealogists to explore. Warts and all, as it turned out. The unplanned availability came with a good number of teething problems, but as these have mostly now been solved, I won't dwell on them. Instead, let's be happy we now have improved, free access, as follows:

- Births: index and images of register entries from 1864 to 1916.
- Marriages: index and images of register entries from 1870 to 1941.
- Deaths: index and images of register entries from 1878 to 1966.

Indexes are on the site for Marriages 1845-1869 and Deaths 1864-1877 but the respective images of the register entries are not. They will be included in future updates.

The next upload, which may or may not

include all the outstanding images, is provisionally scheduled for the middle of this year. It will also include the 'top-up year' of 1917, 1942 and 1967 to maintain the 100-75-50-year rule of access to these historical records.

User-Submitted Corrections Actioned

A secondary but welcome piece of good news from this recent upload is that errors submitted by researchers via the Feedback page of [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) have now been actioned. The cut-off date was 31 July 2017. If you submitted details of an error prior to that date, you should find it corrected; if it is not, the managers ask that you resubmit giving the date of your original feedback submission.

If you sent details of errors from August 2017 onwards, your submission will be actioned as part of the 2018 upload.

Another site with a backlog of user-submitted corrections was the National Archives of Ireland's Census portal at www.census.nationalarchives.ie. Not anymore! Genealogist John Grenham has ploughed through 15,000 submissions related to the 1901 and 1911 census databases, verifying them and actioning

an amendment where necessary. He will be making monthly instalments of corrections going forward, so another backlog should not become established.

Meanwhile, an online petition has been raised by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) calling on the Government of Ireland to honour a 2011 commitment to release the 1926 Census of Ireland. The returns are currently stored in the National Archives in Dublin, but will require cataloguing and conservation work before they can be digitised in preparation for making them available online. Given that this work will take time, CIGO is calling on the Government to commit to releasing the 1926 census in 2022, as part of the celebrations to mark the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the State. See <http://bit.ly/2nyllep> to read more and support the petition or visit www.cigo.ie/1926-census.

New Record Releases And Sources

One of the major releases in the last few months came from the Church of Ireland's RCB Library and saw all 19th-century editions of the Church

of Ireland Gazette uploaded to a free database which now spans 1856 to 1923. Genealogists don't need to have Church of Ireland ancestors to find the *Gazette* valuable to their research. As well as exploring the major national and international issues of the day, the paper also carried localised church and social news, which would have been of relevance to all local communities, whatever the beliefs of individual households. See <http://bit.ly/2C8yqaS> or visit www.ireland.anglican.org.

Another collection to make its online debut was the Dublin Metropolitan Police Personnel registers. These registers hold the records of some 12,567 police officers who served from 1837 to 1925 and provide considerable information about each individual across two pages. On the first page are recorded warrant number, name, age, height, previous trade or occupation, county, parish, post town, previous public service, and the name of the person who recommended the officer.

On the second page are details of the divisions the officer was attached to, service details (dates, rank, promotions etc.), good service pay, date and cause of removal from the force, reappointment details, and general observations. Religion was added from 1858. Don't be distracted by the 'Dublin' connection. Officers came from all parts of Ireland. You can search the registers by warrant number at goo.gl/8pRX9f, or via the name index at goo.gl/X1oXNk. Both are free to access.

The West Cork Graveyards burials database available at www.graveyards.skibbheritage.com has been updated with register entries for three burial grounds and more than 2,000 transcriptions from the Skibbreen Funeral Register. HistoricGraves.com has also added photos and transcribed inscriptions for four County Cavan burial grounds. RootsIreland.ie uploaded church registers for the Co. Wexford parishes of Monageer and Piercestown, while the IrishNewsArchive.com added the *Waterford News and Star*, the *Limerick Chronicle* and the *Irish Daily Independent*.

The bigger commercial databases also uploaded some huge and very welcome overseas collections likely to be of interest to Irish family historians. Ancestry.ca uploaded sixteen Canadian baptism, marriage and burial records sets, while the NEHGS uploaded to AmericanAncestors.org parish records from the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston; they include ten volumes of registers from 1854 to 1900 from the Immaculate Conception in Marlborough, Massachusetts, a church largely serving Marlborough's community of Irish Roman Catholics.

www.findmypast.ie recently announced a partnership with the Ontario Genealogical Society


to publish millions of the Society's records. The first instalment of some six million Ontario records are expected on the site later this year.

And Now For Something Completely Different

Some more great news for Irish genealogists came with the launch of Beyond 2022, a project that aims to digitally recreate the building and contents of the Public Record Office of Ireland at the time of its destruction by fire on 30 June 1922. A complete inventory of loss and survival from the flames will be created and will serve as a vital hub to present surviving records and substitute copies identified in archives and other repositories around the world.


The project, funded by the Irish Research Council, is a collaboration between Trinity College Dublin and its four archival partners: The National Archives of Ireland, The National Archives (UK), The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and The Irish Manuscripts Commission.

The completed project will be made available on the centenary of the Four Courts fire on 30 June 2022. It's a long way off, but it holds a lot of promise for family historians. Visit the new website at <http://beyond2022.ie> or see page 16 for further details of this project.



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Dates For Your Diary!

Ireland

Saturday 3 March to Tuesday 20 March. North American Irish Genealogy Lecture Tour. Hosted by the Ulster Historical Foundation. See details of the itinerary and hosts at goo.gl/7w98jK

Monday 5 March and Friday 9 March. Accredited Genealogists of Ireland (AGI) will present lectures and afternoon workshops at the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Places are free but must be booked. See goo.gl/mnNspR for details.

Saturday 24 March 2018. Bridging the Past & Future Family History Conference, Cork City. Hosted by Cork Genealogical Society. Venue: Silver Springs Clayton Hotel. All welcome. Details: corkgenealogicalsociety.com

30 April to 4 May. Genealogy Essentials. A 5-day family history course hosted by the Ulster Historical Foundation in Belfast. Full details of programme, costs etc at goo.gl/BJE8hY

USA

Sunday 22 April. Master Class: An Introduction to Irish Genealogy (for beginners), with Bridget Bray. Host & venue: Irish Arts Center, 553 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10019, USA. 2pm-5pm. \$40 for IAC members/students/seniors and \$50 for all others, includes tea/coffee. Booking required. goo.gl/Zc86jE.

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Claire Santry is a journalist who specialises in architecture, history, travel and genealogy. She is editor of www.Irish-Genealogy-Toolkit.com, a free online guide for family historians, and www.IrishGenealogyNews.com a blog dedicated to keeping researchers of Irish heritage up to date on the latest developments and events.