

Irish Roots

**Catch Our County Series
And Discover The Many Local
Family History Resources
Available For Your
Research!**



Celebrating Irish Ancestry



**Local Resources For Family History Research In County MAYO.
How To Overcome The Pitfalls Of Online Church Records.
Using Irish Naming Convention Strateg To Trace Your Elusive Ancestors.
Discover The History And Origins Of Many Surnames From County Mayo.
DNA Testing And Results; Frequent Queries Answered And Resolved.
Keep Up To Date With The Latest Irish Genealogical Record Releases.
News From The World Of Irish Genealogy And Lots Lots More!**



Donna Rutherford answers some of your more frequent queries when it comes to DNA testing and results

If you have not looked at your DNA results for awhile it is often a good idea to do so sometime after January, this is because any new matches from DNA kits given as Christmas gifts should start to appear in your match list. Maybe the new match is the one to break through your longstanding brick-wall. If you are new to DNA for Genealogy, or just need a refresher, this article will run through some of the most common questions that beginners have.

Ethnicity Estimates

The first thing most beginners do is look at their ethnicity results. For some this the reason they did a DNA test, and they may look no further. There is often confusion about what the ethnicity results really mean. Ethnicity Estimates are just that, estimates. They can relate to your ancestry from hundreds or even thousands of years ago and therefore will not match your paper trail from the genealogical period. Ethnicity results are calculated by comparing you to a specific group of people (called a reference panel). These are people that meet certain criteria requested by the test company and have deep ancestry in specific regions. Companies are continuing to update their reference panels and updating their ethnicity estimates. Ancestry have updated their estimates yearly and in 2022 added their powerful technology SideView[™] where they split your ethnicity by parent. My Heritage have promised an Ethnicity Estimate update for some time, but apart from some minor tweaks in 2023 have not refreshed their assignments.

Uploading DNA To Another Site

Other users may suggest you immediately upload your DNA result to another DNA site. Whilst uploading to other sites can be a good idea as you will get more matches, it can be easier to learn all the necessary details and jargon at your original test site before tackling other sites. You can upload your AncestryDNA test to My Heritage, ftDNA, GEDmatch and LivingDNA. At the time of writing 23andMe have temporarily disabled the ability to download your raw file in response to the security issues in 2023. Always check the Terms & Conditions and privacy settings of the sites you want to upload to. ftDNA and GEDmatch have law enforcement matching that you can opt in or out of. Ancestry and 23andMe do not allow uploads and you must test with them to get into their database.

Match List

Your match list is arranged in order of highest match at the top and lowest match at the bottom. The test sites categorise your DNA into groups of cousins. Usually, close family are listed as Immediate or Close Family, but the names of these categories can be different at each site. Although a match might be in say the 2nd cousin category, it does not mean this person is your 2nd cousin. An amount of DNA shared (centimorgan) can represent many different relationships. Things such as half relationships, once or twice removed cousins, or a cousin marriage in that branch can mean the relationship is different than the category it is in. It is key to learn about how to predict a relationship based on the centimorgan (cM) amount. At Ancestry you can find the predicted relationships by clicking on the cM amount in your match list, which will open a table showing all possible relationships for that amount. There are now several relationship predictor tools available, the most common one is the SharedcM project at DNAPainter.

Centimorgans and Segments

Centimorgan is usually abbreviated as a lowercase c and an uppercase M. Centimorgans are the result of a complex calculation to work out how much DNA you share. The test site will report the total amount shared as either a cM number or a percentage, the preference is to use cM where possible. Sites will also include another number for segments. A segment is just a block of DNA you share and for most people the number of segments doesn't really help determine a relationship and most people can safely ignore segment numbers. However, the DNA results of someone from an endogamous population (a population where there have been many generations of cousin marriages) will find the longest segment information useful to distinguish between a close match due to a recent common

Local Resources For Family History Research

County MAYO

By James G. Ryan

This article deals with records for research on Mayo ancestors, but with an emphasis on those specific to the county. Mayo is a maritime county in the province of Connaught, and was historically relatively remote from the rest of the country having few industries, and few amenities of strategic importance. The residents were predominately involved in agriculture and fisheries although much of the land is bogland of poor agricultural value. Due to a relatively high dependency on potatoes, the people were badly affected by the Great Famine (1845-47) which led to a high level of emigration. The population declined from a high of 367,596 in 1831 to a low of 109,000 in 1971, but has been growing again in recent decades. The population in 2022 is 137,970. The major towns are Castlebar (13,000 in 2022), Ballina (10,556), Westport (6,872), Claremorris (3,857) and Ballinrobe (3,148). The most common surnames are Walsh, Gallagher, Kelly, Moran, O'Malley, Bourke, Duffy, Durkan, Murphy, Barrett, Gibbons, McHale, McDonnell, Lyons, Ruane, Brennan, McNulty, Gaughan, McNicholas and O'Donnell.

Although Mayo is not as rich in sources as some other Irish counties, it has all the major national records: Civil records of birth, death and marriage start in 1864 (see www.groireland.ie) and are free on-line at www.Irishgenealogy.ie. Griffith's Valuation (land occupiers in 1854) is on many websites including the free site www.askaboutireland.ie; 1901 and 1911 census returns are free on-line at www.nationalarchives.ie. If you are beginning your search and do not know where your family was located within Mayo, these are useful starting points.

Mayo has two Genealogy Centres: North Mayo Heritage Centre (located in Crossmolina) and South Mayo Family Research Centre (Ballinrobe) and both have indexed local Catholic and Church of Ireland records, gravestone inscriptions and some other records. Both are part of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF), an all-Ireland

network and can be accessed through www.rootsireland.ie. They will conduct research for clients based on their access to primary records and their extensive local knowledge.

Other online sources of interest include:

- The Golden Langan. (www.goldenlangan.com) has compiled records and trees for families in North Mayo, and particularly for Bourke, Collins, Connor, Deane, Early, Forde, Golden, Healy, Langan, Lavelle, McDonnell, Purcell, Sweeney, Tomas and Gallagher. Their varied assortment of local records was contributed by enthusiasts and is worth a look.
- Pat Deese site: [Deese Genes Have Irish Eyes](https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~deesegenes/genealogy/), <https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~deesegenes/genealogy/> (rootsweb.com) also has a varied collection of records, particularly for areas around

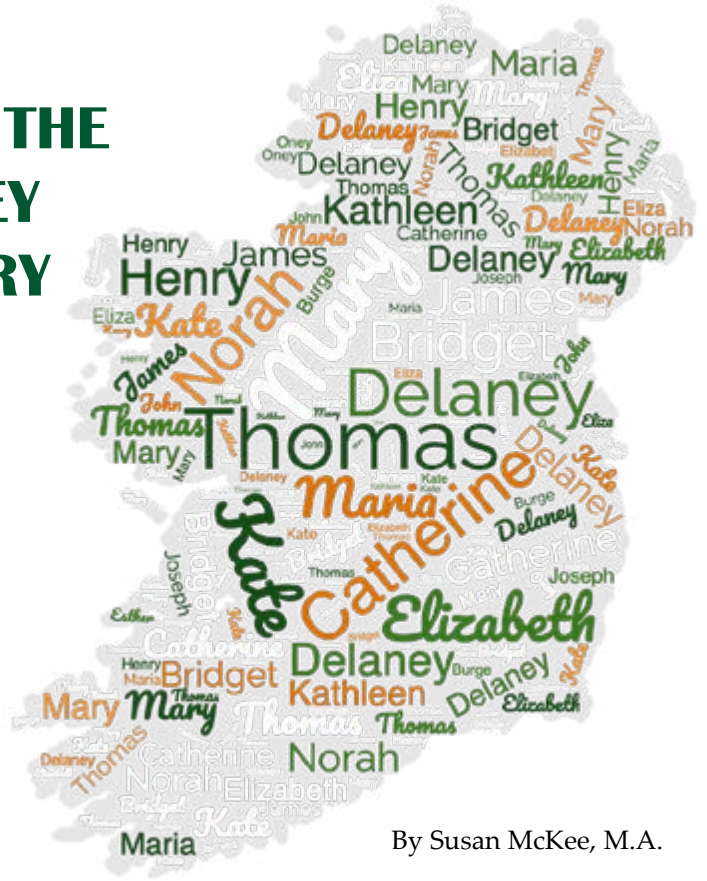
Castlebar and Westport including church, school, estate and business records.

- County Mayo Genealogy Page. The IGP archive page includes information donated by volunteers including abstracts of church records, census, headstones; newspapers; baptisms or marriages, land records, newspaper extracts, memorial cards, directories and other information and is well worth a visit. <https://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/ire/mayo/>

Mayo County Library:- (www.mayo.ie/library) has a local studies section in their Castlebar branch and has an extensive collection of local interest - books, manuscripts, journals, newspapers, photographs, maps, microfilm etc. and a variety of donated papers. They also have a Newspaper collection (see below) as well as a Photographic Archive, Tithe Applotment Books, Griffith's Valuation,

USING IRISH NAMING CONVENTION TO DISCOVER THE FAMILY OF THOMAS DELANEY IN MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY IRELAND

Researching ancestors in Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century has a reputation for being difficult. This reputation exists for multiple reasons. The era predates civil registration in the country. Nearly all nineteenth century census returns have been lost for one reason or another. Researching births and marriages using church records can be tricky and, for some areas in the country, no church records survive from the early half of the nineteenth century. However, there are strategies that can help researchers seek the most out of available sources to push through the challenges and navigate how and where to look for information.



By Susan McKee, M.A.

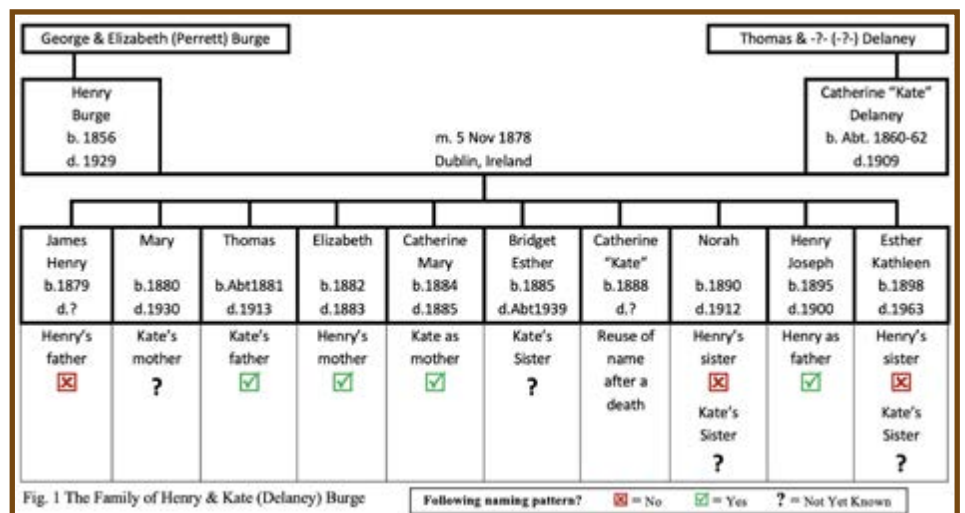
One effective strategy is directly related to another challenge in Irish research. A traditional naming convention (see Table 1) was often used by Irish parents until the late nineteenth century and was still used into the early twentieth century, though less reliably. The pattern of naming children resulted in many individuals with the same name living close to each other. This makes it challenging to tell same named individuals apart in the records.

Irish Naming Convention As A Tool To Meet Its Own Challenge

Fortunately, the very same naming convention can provide information about what names are likely to be found within any three-generation family unit. By looking at the names a couple gave to their children, it is possible to speculate, often successfully, about names for siblings and parents of the couple. This speculation is grounded in the culture and tradition of Ireland around the importance of naming. There is great benefit when researching to think broadly about cultural context and use known information to speculate about Irish ancestors, particularly when there is little information known about them, or there are fewer records to consult further back in the early nineteenth century. Looking at all possible clues surrounding an ancestor can potentially further the research.

This is illustrated in research carried out to identify Thomas Delaney, father

Naming sons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First son usually named after the father's father • Second son usually named after the mother's father • Third son usually named after the father • Fourth son usually named after the father's eldest brother • Fifth son usually named after the mother's eldest brother
Naming daughters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First daughter usually named after the mother's mother • Second daughter usually named after the father's mother • Third daughter usually named after the mother • Fourth daughter usually named after the mother's eldest sister • Fifth daughter usually named after the father's eldest sister



of Kate (Delaney) Burge. Thomas was named on the marriage record when Kate married Henry Burge in Dublin on 5 November 1878. Apart from knowing Kate's father's name, information about Kate's family of origin was unknown.

To learn more about Thomas, and guide research into his life in the mid-nineteenth century, clues were extracted from extensive research conducted into the lives of Kate and Henry.