

Irish Roots

Helpful Resources For Researching Your County SLIGO Ancestors!

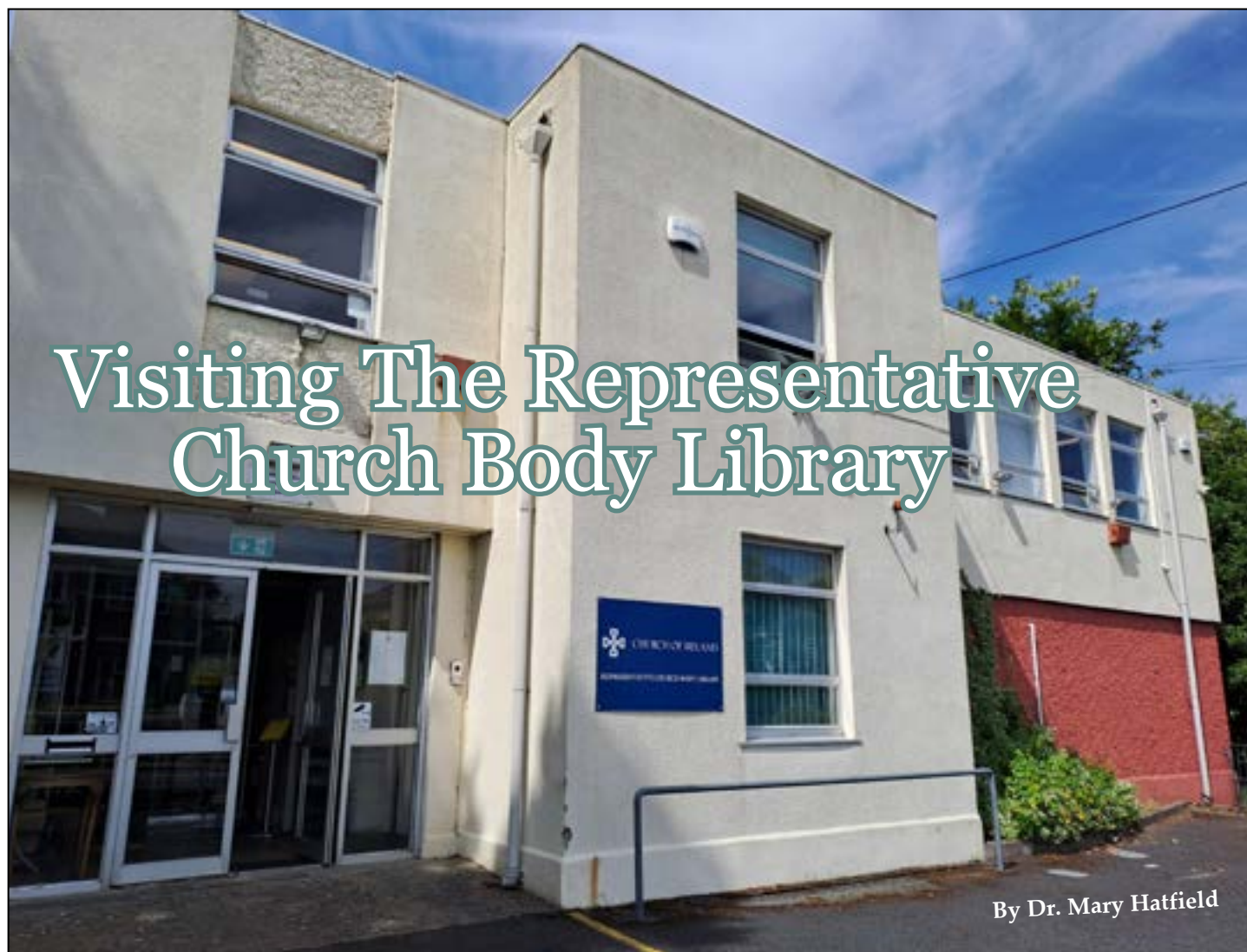


Celebrating Irish Ancestry



Printed In Ireland

**Irish Ancestral Research Tips From The Irish Genealogical Research Society.
Making The Most Of Your Trip To The Representative Church Body Library.
Discovering A 'Not Parent Expected' Shock In Your DNA Research.
Some History Behind The Popular Surnames Associated With County Sligo.
Keep Up To Date With The Latest Irish Genealogical Record Releases.
News From The World Of Irish Genealogy And Lots Lots More!**



The Representative Church Body Library (RCB Library) is the main theological library of the Church of Ireland, located in Dublin, Ireland. It was established in 1931 as a repository for records, manuscripts, and other historical materials related to the Church of Ireland.

The library's primary purpose is to preserve and provide access to a wide range of resources related to the history and traditions of the Church of Ireland. Its collections include historical records, parish registers, manuscripts, photographs, prints, maps, and a substantial collection of printed books. The RCB Library is an essential resource for researchers, academics, and anyone interested in the history of the Anglican Church in Ireland.

Historical Background

The Church of Ireland was the established state church in Ireland for over three centuries. It became the established church during the reign of King Henry VIII in the 16th century. It had a privileged status and support from the government until the Irish Church Act of 1869 (The Disestablishment Act) was passed by the British Parliament. After disestablishment, the Church of Ireland lost its special status as the state

church, and became a self-governing, voluntary church like other religious denominations in Ireland.

During the nineteenth century, the Church of Ireland experienced a gradual decline in membership due to various factors, including political and social changes and the growth of other religious denominations in Ireland. While it remained a significant institution, its influence and membership waned in comparison to previous centuries. The 1901 and 1911 censuses in Ireland provide some insights into the religious affiliation of the population. In the 1901 census, out of a total population of about 4.5 million, around 14.2% identified as members of the Church of Ireland. By the 1911 census, the Church of Ireland's membership declined to around 13.3% of the total population.

The RCB library was first established through a gift of 5,000 books and items from Miss Rosamund Stephen in 1931. The library was originally located on

St. Stephen's Green, but moved in 1969 to its current premises in Rathgar (now Churchtown), Dublin. In the late 1930s the Ecclesiastical Records Committee of the General Synod began to place stray church records into the care of the library. The library's formal role as a repository for church records was confirmed in 1981. There are more than 70,000 items in the library's collections currently and new items are regularly added.

Parish Registers

The primary resource for genealogical researchers at the RCB are the parish registers. As discussed in previous articles, because of the 1922 fire in the Public Records Office, many parish records and invaluable genealogical records were destroyed. The RCB library holds 1,159 original collections of registers, many of them in the context of larger collections of parish registers. The definitive and colour-coded *List of Church of Ireland Parish Registers* is available on their website. These registers are valuable

What's New? Review

Along with Ireland's short-lived early summer of glorious sunshine and warmth, the mid-year's haul of Irish genealogy records has been anything but average. Without going OTT, it seems fair to say there's been a bit of a wow factor arriving with some recent family history releases and developments. So dive in; your research discoveries may give you a late summer glow.

By Claire Santry



One of the biggest surprises came with news from the [LandedEstates.ie](#) project and its database of landed estates and historic houses in Connacht and Munster from c1700 to 1914. The last time I reported on the project was nearly a year ago after the much-appreciated database, which is managed by the University of Galway's Moore Institute,

had been offline for some months following an attempted cyber attack crippled the University's online systems.

Since then the restored database has settled in at a new hosting service and the project team began looking at extending the project's geographical reach into the Republic of Ireland's three Ulster counties: Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan. The Heritage Council

provided funding and the result is now available: an excellent resource guide for historians and genealogists, full of wonderful data from a wide range of historical sources and still free to use.

A second 'wow' was heard when the Ulster Settlers database was released. Having been initially funded by the Royal Irish Academy and now hosted by the IIS at Queens University Belfast, the



Surnames of County Sligo



By Seán Ó Murchadha

The modern County of Sligo can trace its origins back to the kingdom and territory of Uí Fiachrach. Uí Fiachrach was located in north Mayo and Sligo. The tribal grouping traced their origins back to the fifth century to Fiachra, brother of Niall of the Nine Hostages. The area was traditionally dominated by the MacDermotts, but with the Anglo-Norman invasion, the area became the territory of the de Burgos. By the mid-fourteenth century the Norman influence had declined and in its place a branch of the O'Connors, namely the O'Connor Sligo, rose to power and held sway for three centuries side by side with tier subordinates and allies- the MacDonaghs, O'Garas, O'Dowds, and the O'Haras. In 1567 Donal O'Connor Sligo received from the crown a grant for life of the whole area and it was officially shired as a county in 1585. Its boundaries reflect the Ó Conchobhair Slighigh confederation which consisted of the territories that became the English baronies of Carbury, Tireragh, Tirerrill, Leyny, Corran and Coolavin.

Whilst the names listed here are not a comprehensive of those in the county they do give a sense of the surnames found there. Some minor names have been included as it is mainly in County Sligo that they are associated with or originate in. Even though some of the names listed here are also found in other parts of Ireland, they have specific links to County Sligo.

O'Connor - Ó Conchobhair

From the personal name meaning 'lover of hounds'. This sept was the main family in the county from the fourteenth century to the mid-seventeenth century. They initially controlled the barony of Carbury. In 1586 they took the title O'Connor Sligo, which separated them from their sister septs O'Connor Donn and O'Connor Roe.

They were a warring clan and were involved in continual warfare with both the O'Donnells of Donegal and the English. Like most of the great families, they lost all their possessions in the wake of the Cromwellian wars.

MacDonagh - Mac Donnchadha

From Donnchadha, 'Brown Hound/Warrior'. A branch of the MacDermotts, they controlled the baronies of Tirerrill and Corran. It was under their patronage that the famous 'Book of Ballymote' was compiled in the fourteenth century. Some of this sept settled in Co. Clare. Another separate family called MacDonagh was based in Cork.

O'Hara- Ó hEaghra

From the personal name Eaghra, a name of now uncertain origin. In the fourteenth century the sept was divided into two separate groupings. One was the Ó hEaghra Riabhach (grey) based in Ballyhara and the other was Ó hEaghra Buidhe (yellow) who were based in Collooney.

The O'Hara Boy became the most prominent of the families. They were one of the few Gaelic families to survive the transition of Gaelic-Ireland to Anglo-Ireland and maintained its former standing into the eighteenth century

and beyond. In the fourteenth century a branch of the family migrated north to the Glens of Antrim.

O'Gara Ó Gadhra

From the word gadhar meaning a hound. They and the O'Haras were of the one group but separated in the tenth century. Their territory fluctuated until they settled in Cúl Ó bhFionn (Coolavin), before being ousted by the MacDermotts. They built the fine castle of Moygara beside Goirtín. It was the O'Garas who provided the patronage for those who compiled the famous Annals of the Four Masters.

MacDermott - Mac Diarmada

An old name of uncertain origin. One of the premier septs in Connacht. The main sept were based in Moylurg in modern Co. Roscommon.

In Sligo they were overtaken by the O'Connors, who were of the same stock as them. They became lords of Cúl Ó bhFionn (Coolavin), after ousting the O'Garas.