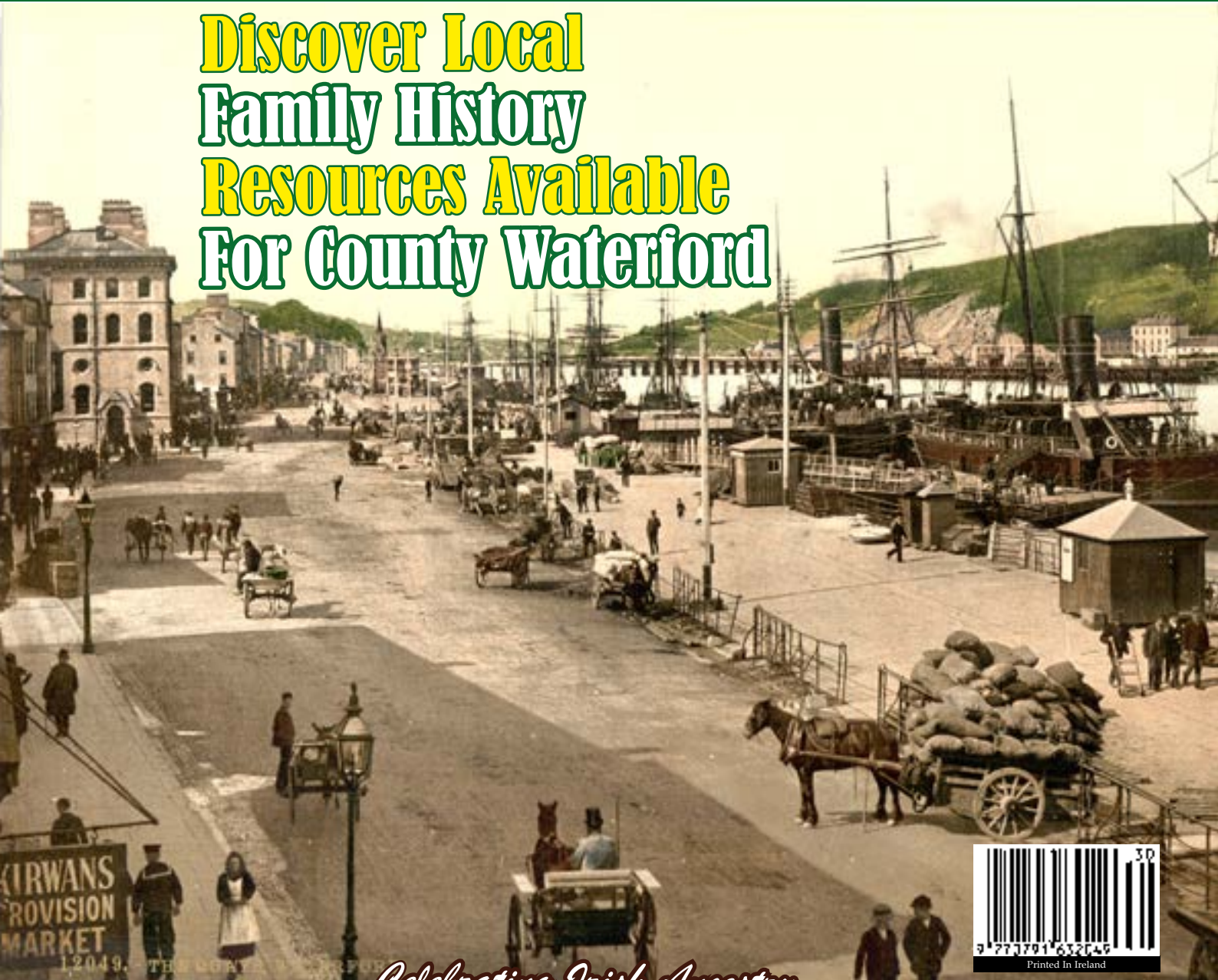




# Irish Roots

**Discover Local  
Family History  
Resources Available  
For County Waterford**



*Celebrating Irish Ancestry*

**Accessing Irish Ancestral Records At The National Archives, Kew, UK.  
Shared Genes, Unique Stories; The Role Of Siblings In Genetic Genealogy.  
Irish Naming Convention Strategies Using Catholic Church Records.  
Discover The History And Origins Of Many Surnames From CO. WATERFORD.  
Helpful Tips To Assist You With Your Irish Family History Research.  
Keep Up To Date With The Latest Irish Genealogical Record Releases.  
News And Reviews From The World Of Irish Genealogy And Lots More!**



The history of Irish immigrants in Britain is a complex and multifaceted story that spans centuries and is influenced by a wide range of economic, social, and political factors. Migration between Ireland and Britain has had a lasting impact on both countries national development and historical trajectory. The earliest significant wave of Irish migration to Britain occurred in the 19th century during the Industrial Revolution. Economic hardship, lack of opportunity, and the devastation of the Great Famine (1845-1852) prompted millions of Irish men and women to seek work and a better life in Britain. The Irish population in Britain swelled, particularly in cities like London, Liverpool, Manchester, and Glasgow. Irish immigrants found work in industries such as construction, mining, and domestic service, playing a vital role in Britain's growing economy.

**T**he Irish in Britain faced significant challenges, including discrimination, prejudice, and poor living and working conditions. Anti-Irish sentiment was prevalent, fueled by stereotypes and political tensions, particularly around issues such as Irish nationalism and Home Rule. The Irish community in Britain formed tight-knit communities and established social and religious institutions to support their needs. Irish migration to Britain continued into the 20th century, with significant numbers arriving during periods of economic hardship and political unrest in Ireland. Both World Wars saw Irish men and women contribute to the British war effort, further integrating into British

society. Post-war reconstruction and labor shortages also drew Irish workers to Britain.

Finding records about Irish relations in Britain can be difficult because for most of the modern period Ireland was considered part of the United Kingdom and therefore travel was not tracked or monitored between the two islands. Additionally, emigration to Britain could be temporary and seasonal in a way that emigration to the Americas or Australia simply was not because of the distances involved. This means that tracking down Irish ancestors in Britain can take some creativity and the British National Archives at Kew are an excellent starting place.

### *History of the Archive*

The British National Archives, located in Kew, England, originated from the Public Record Office (PRO), established in 1838. The PRO was created to manage and preserve governmental records, which were previously scattered across various repositories. Over time, the PRO expanded its collection, becoming the primary repository for millions of historical documents, including state papers, court records, and military records. In 2003, the PRO merged with the Historical Manuscripts Commission to form The National Archives. At the UK National Archives in Kew, ([www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)) researchers can access a vast array of significant

# Local Resources For Family History Research

## County Waterford

By James G. Ryan

This article deals with records for researching Waterford ancestors, but with emphasis on those specific to the county. Waterford is an agricultural county which was dominated by large estates on which the bulk of the population lived as tenant farmers. Waterford City was, and still is, a major port and an industrial centre. The county also has several substantial towns, including Dungarvan, Tramore and Clonmel. Waterford City was founded by Norse Vikings in AD 853 but became a Norman stronghold after their invasion in the early 12th century. The county was originally within the Gaelic Kingdom of Decies and the major Gaelic families were O'Phelan, McGrath, O'Brien and O'Keane. The Norman families included Power, Aylward, Wall and Wyse. Waterford was also a port of emigration and has particular associations, through trade and fishing, with Newfoundland and the US states of New England.

**W**aterford has all of the major national records: *Civil records of birth, death and marriage* start in 1864 and are online at [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie); *Griffith's Valuation* (a major listing of land occupiers in 1848-51) is available on many websites; and the 1901 and 1911 census returns are online at [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie).

### The Major Local Archives And Support Organisations Are:

Waterford Libraries (<https://waterfordlibraries.ie/>) has a Local History Room with a collection of newspapers, photographs, journals, books, genealogical records, and books on local places and subjects. Visits are by appointment to [lstudies@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:lstudies@waterfordcouncil.ie). They also maintain an online collection (<https://waterfordlibraries.ie/local-history-online>) of Trade directories (see below); newspapers: (Dungarvan Leader, Dungarvan Observer and Waterford Chronicle), and death registers. Their digital editions are free to all users.

Waterford City and County Council (<https://archive.waterfordcouncil.ie/>) are responsible for local government administration. Their document archive contains a variety of material related to this function. In addition, it has several items of family history value including an online collection of Local History Books, Papers and Reports; Issues of the Journal of the Waterford and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society (JWSEIAS) from 1894-1906; and issues of *Decies* (Journal of the Old Waterford Society) from 1976-2015.

Waterford City and County Archives (<https://waterfordcouncil.ie/services/culture-heritage/archives/>) holds the records of local authorities in Waterford City and County, past and present and also holds private collections including the private papers of the Lismore and Chearnley estates. Public records include the Poor Law Union Minutes for Kilmacthomas, Lismore, Waterford and Dungarvan; and Grand Jury records, maps and County council records. They also maintain a

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WaterfordCountyArchive>) which highlights local sources. The archive is only accessible by appointment. Queries about access should be addressed to: [archivist@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:archivist@waterfordcouncil.ie). Waterford Poor Law Union Board of Guardians Minute Books are also available on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie). This collection contains more than 229,000 records and covers the Waterford Union.

A further local resource is **Waterford Heritage Services**, which has indexed almost 700,000 Catholic and Church of Ireland baptismal and birth records, and over 300,000 marriage records; and gravestone inscriptions. They conduct research for clients based on their access to these records and their extensive local knowledge. It is part of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF), an all-Ireland network and can be accessed through [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie) or directly to: [waterfordheritage@icloud.com](mailto:waterfordheritage@icloud.com).

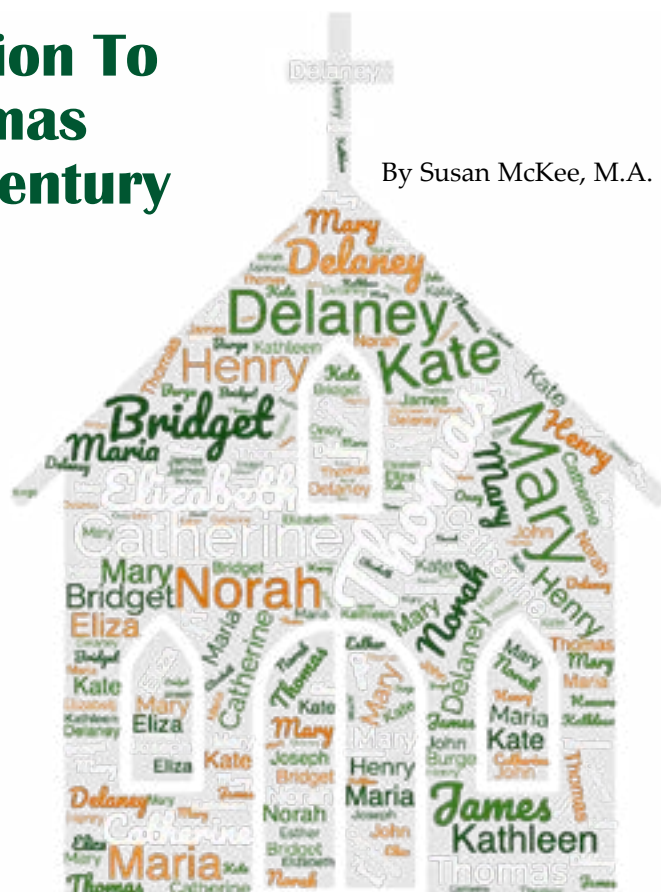
The following are some websites and Facebook pages relevant to local family history.

# Using Irish Naming Convention To Discover The Family Of Thomas Delaney In Mid-Nineteenth Century Ireland

By Susan McKee, M.A.

## Part 2 of 4; Searching Catholic Church Records

In the last issue we examined the background for this case study in which Irish naming convention (see Table 1) was employed as a predictive tool to discover the family of Thomas Delaney. Kate (Delaney) Burge identified her father as Thomas Delaney on her 1878 marriage record. The names Kate and her husband Henry gave to their children generated likely names for Thomas's wife and other possible children (see fig. 2). The predicted names guided research in records in the mid-eighteen hundreds. This article demonstrates how naming convention, and various resources relating to Catholic Church records, progressed the search for Thomas's family.



### The Importance Of Catholic Church Records For Research In Mid-Nineteenth Century Ireland

The value of church records stems from limitations surrounding other records for the time. Civil registration began in Ireland in 1845 for non-Catholic marriages, extending to all births, marriages, and deaths from 1864. It took another couple of decades before a high level of compliance was reached amongst the Irish Catholic population. Census taking in Ireland began in 1821 and continued every ten years throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. For various reasons, almost all census records in the nineteenth century have been lost.

### Optimizing Searches In Catholic Church Records

Although images of original baptismal and marriage registers are freely available on The National Library of Ireland's (NLI) website <https://registers.nli.ie/>, this collection remains unindexed and incomplete. Furthermore, fewer than half the parishes in Ireland kept burial records, and most of those cover parishes in the northern half of the country.

Searching is made easier using online indexes available at RootsIreland, FindMyPast (FMP), and Ancestry. FMP and Ancestry collaborated to create an index from the registers available on the NLI website. Accessing the index is free on FMP. Ancestry requires a subscription.

RootsIreland, operated by the Irish Family History Foundation, also requires a subscription. While its records overlap with some of those at the NLI, it contains unique records from county sources such as local parishes, historical societies, county libraries, and local government.

The site's Full Text Search feature enables comprehensive searches across all fields within selected records, which makes it possible to search parish registers by townland.

In addition, websites FamilySearch and [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://IrishGenealogy.ie) provide free access to church records. [IrishGenealogy.ie](http://IrishGenealogy.ie) covers counties not included at RootsIreland.



Fig. 1 Derryduff and Coolrain townlands and the surrounding Catholic parishes

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

### Searching For Kate's Baptism

Finding Thomas's family began with the search for Kate's baptismal record. Extensive research into Kate's life narrowed her birth to around 1860-62 in Queen's County, where Delaney is a native surname. Specifically, the townlands of Derryduff and Coolrain appeared in records related to Kate's family. She and Henry briefly resided in Coolrain following Henry's discharge from the British army in December 1880. Their daughter Mary was born in the adjacent townland of Derryduff that same month.

Traditionally, Irish women often returned to their home parish for the birth of their first or second child, a plausible scenario in Kate's case with the birth of Mary (her second child).

Coolrain and Derryduff fall within the Catholic parish of Offerlane (also known as Castletown). Offerlane and a second associated parish, Camross (see fig. 1), were identified using:

- The RC Parish-Townland Database:- <http://www.swilson.info/rcparishlink.php>