

Where to Find Irish Ancestors: Records to Search

By Jeannette Holland Austin

If you have Irish ancestors, you will want to read this article. It seems like almost everyone has an Irish ancestor or two in their family tree. It is no wonder, given the vast migration to America during the 18th and 19th centuries. Probably more people came from Northern Ireland than England, Scotland, Switzerland, Germany, and France.

Yes! There was a vast migration from Northern Ireland to America. If you do not have an Irish ancestor, then you are different from most of us.

There was a great interest in searching for the ancestors during the 19th century. It was expressed in individuals publishing genealogies and other collections. Sometimes you will see books published around the turn of the century on library shelves, but more often, the fate of these books is a library and/or garage sales.

Too often, historical and genealogical records are lost in time, and the tedious life work of individual researchers is forgotten. That means that past eras' great work must be repeated if the records from which they took their information survived.

Before the Internet, we exchanged information through mail. Yes, all of that sharing has gone away. Disappeared. We now have the Internet to help us find information. Hopefully, the future of genealogy over the Internet will be more expansive, offer more data, and churn out lost records.

I am excited to report that the following Irish Genealogy has been added to Genealogy-Books.com and is available to members of GeorgiaPioneers.com. (After logging in, click on Genealogy-Books, then Irish Genealogy Records). Some of this material dates from the 1700s! Rare.

This special section (on Genealogy-Books) was created in the hope of finding more Irish records that could help researchers. Ireland was engaged in so much conflict that its official records do not begin until the 1800s. (To view existing records for that period, go to familysearch.org)

I was lucky to find several old issues (long out of print) of the Irish-American Historical Society. Many of the pioneer emigrants from Northern Ireland are listed.

Emigrants to America

Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, Boston, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts (Pelham), Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Virginia,
Traced Families: John Barry, James Caldwell of the Revolutionary War, Hugh Cargill, Dorrance of Rhode Island, Thomas Fawcett, Fitzgerald-Slocum, and Haley.

Irish Biographies: Lewis, Burke, Preston, Lyons, Burkes, Michie, Mahone, and McGuire of Virginia, Thomas Lewis, Dennis McCarty of Rhode Island, Barnabas Palmer, Rourke and Hotchkiss of Rhode Island, Savage Family, James Stevenson, General John Sullivan, Matthew Watson

Miscellaneous:

Vessels from Ireland to America, Commerce between Ireland and Rhode Island, Irish Marriages, Irish-French Officers in the Revolutionary War, Irish Revolutionary War Soldiers in Kentucky, Irish Prisoners on the Jersey prison ship during the Revolutionary War

Irish Records to Search

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Why Did So Many Irish Come from Antrim, Ireland?

The Glens of Antrim

Three countries sent more immigrants to America than any other, viz: Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Germany. This information is of value to genealogists in searching for the origin of their ancestors.

A large population of the Irish settled in County Antrim. So, what port city did they use to come to America? The answer is Belfast.

A List of Port Cities in Northern Ireland.

Ardglass

Ballycastle, County Antrim

Bangor, County Down

Belfast Harbour

Carrickfergus

Coleraine

Kilkeel

Larne

Londonderry Port

Portaferry

Portavogie

Portstewart

Strangford

Warrenpoint

Thus, it becomes important to do genealogical research in these areas.

About Antrim, Ireland

Legend has it that the first rulers of Ireland came from the Baltic Sea area and were Iranians. The country known as Ireland was divided into three parts, among three brothers. During Biblical times, as one legend goes, the princess Tea Telphi, a daughter of King Zedekiah who lost his kingdom (Israel) to Nebuchadnezzar, was brought to Ireland ca 583 B. C. by the prophet Jeremiah (Ollam Fodhla) who refueged two daughters out of Jerusalem. One was given in marriage to the King of Spain and the other, Tea Telphi, was wed to Prince Eochaidh of Northern Ireland.

Legends

There is no proof of this particular legend; however, the genealogist should bear in mind that the origin of the Irish people, who were Celts, is also unproven. The latter belief suggests that ancient Antrim was inhabited by Celtic people known as the Darini. Nonetheless, Ireland, with its cultural divisions, has an interesting mix. For example, During the Middle Ages, the southern portion of Antrim was the Kingdom of Ulidia. Then there are the Vikings who visited the country during the eighth and ninth centuries.

The 12th Century

During the twelfth century, Antrim was part of the Earldom of Ulster, which was conquered by Anglo-Norman warriors. During Edward Bruce's campaign (1315 A.D.), the only significant English stronghold that remained was Carrickfergus.

The 16th Century

During the sixteenth century, while the British attempted to colonize the territory, the Scots settled Antrim.

The 17th Century

Then, during the Williamite War in Ireland (1689 A.D.), Antrim was the center of Protestant resistance. That was when Scots Irish became a familiar reference.

After the advance of the Irish Army under Richard Hamilton, all of County Antrim was brought under Jacobite control. Thus, to escape persecution, Protestant congregations (Presbyterians) commenced the process of migrating to America during the 1700s. There is a world of stories about the migrations of Irish Protestants. When they settled the American colonies during the seventeenth century, the major land ports from Northern Ireland were Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Wilmington, North Carolina, and Port Royal, South Carolina.

Foreign migrants to the American colonies tended to stay within their group because of language and other cultural issues. So, when a group of Irish or Scotch-Irish moved into a region, others followed. Some early groups from Northern Ireland began a settlement along the Cape Fear River, while others went to Laurens and Chesterfield counties in South Carolina. Charleston and Port Royal received emigrants.

Genealogy Records Online

Members of Genealogy-Books.com (part of georgiapioneers.com) have access to Irish Genealogy Books as follows:

1. Traced Genealogies
2. Vessels from Ireland to America
3. Commerce between Ireland and Rhode Island
4. Irish Marriages
5. Irish-French Officers in the Revolutionary War
6. Irish Revolutionary War Soldiers in Kentucky
7. Irish Prisoners on the Jersey prison ship during Revolutionary War

8. Journal of American-Irish Historical Society, Vol 5 and 1906 Members

9. Emigrants to Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Tennessee, South Carolina, Boston, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia.

10. Emigrants from Ulster to Opequan, Virginia.

Important Note: All of the above records can be found on Georgia Pioneers.com (which includes genealogy records in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, NC, SC, Tennessee, and Virginia).

There are some genealogy records of Ireland on familysearch.org. However, the researcher should recognize that there were many wars or skirmishes in Ireland, and parish records for the Catholics are about all that survived.

A great deal of genealogical data was published in the Journal of American-Irish Historical Society Magazine! The collection includes Rhode Island, Connecticut, Virginia, Kentucky, Texas, etc.

Irish Settlers to Virginia

The following information was found in The Journal of the American-Irish Historical Society (Vol. II) By Thomas Hamilton Murray.

Lewis Genealogy.

Perhaps the most distinguished man of Irish birth who identified himself completely with Virginia was Gen. Andrew Lewis, who was born in Ireland about 1720 and came to Virginia with his parents in 1732. John Lewis, the father, was the first white man who fixed his home in the mountains of West Augusta.

Andrew Lewis served as a major in the regiment commanded by Washington in the Ohio campaign of 1754 and 1755. He served with valor in the

French and Indian wars and was highly regarded by Washington, at whose suggestion he was appointed a brigadier-general in the Continental Army. Four of his brothers served in the Revolutionary War, one of them, Col. Charles Lewis, being killed at Point Pleasant. No better evidence of the value which Virginia placed on the services of this Irishman could be wished than the fact that she has deemed his effigy worthy to stand for all time besides the immortal group of Henry, Mason, Marshall, Nelson, and Jefferson, which surrounds the heroic equestrian statue of Washington in the Capitol Square at Richmond. This celebrated work of Crawford is pronounced by critics to be one of the finest in the world.

Descendants of John Lewis, the father of Gen. Andrew Lewis, are numerous in the state to this day. Some of them have been very distinguished men: John F. Lewis, who died recently, was lieutenant governor of Virginia, and a senator of the United States. Lunsford L. Lewis, his half-brother, was president of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia for twelve years, retiring from that office a few years ago. Dr. Lewis Wheat is a well-known practicing physician of Richmond. Judge John Lewis Cochran, whose mother was a great-granddaughter of John Lewis, father of Gen. Andrew Lewis, and whose great-grandfather, with his wife, nee Susanna Donnelly, came to America about 1742, was a gallant soldier in the Confederate army, and a distinguished lawyer and judge. James C. Cochran, brother to the foregoing, was a colonel of the Confederate militia in the late war. Henry King Cochran served as a surgeon in the Confederate service throughout the war. William Lynn Cochran was a major in the Confederate service and a lawyer by profession. Howard Peyton Cochran was a captain in the same service. It is claimed that there were one hundred and five of the Lewis family in the service of the Confederate states.

John Daly Burk

John Daly Burk, Irishman, of Petersburg, Va. He was born in Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin. Because of his political opinions and affiliations, he was compelled to leave the country (1797) while yet a student at college. He first tried his fortune in Boston, and afterward in New York. But he received no encouragement. His love for Ireland and his ardent democracy made against his success at the North, and he finally came to Virginia. Here he became the friend of Jefferson and John Randolph, both of whom encouraged the brilliant young refugee.

Burk was a lawyer, poet, dramatist, and historian, and was undoubtedly one of the most accomplished men in the state during his day. His history of Virginia in four volumes was the first comprehensive history of the state written and is regarded as one of the best compiled. He also wrote A History of the Late War in Ireland, with an account of the United Irish Association, from the first meeting in Belfast to the landing of the French at Killala (8 vols., 1779, Philadelphia). Before he completed the fourth volume of the history of Virginia he was killed in a duel with a French gentleman at Campbell's Bridge, Chesterfield County, Virginia, on the 11th of April, 1808.

Preston Genealogy

The Preston family in Virginia is a distinguished one. Its propositus John Preston was born in Ireland and came to Virginia in 1735. He married Elizabeth Patton before coming to America. She was a sister of Col. James Patton, also of Irish birth. The latter was killed in Virginia by the Indians in 1753, leaving two daughters, from whom descended John Floyd and John B. Floyd, governors of Virginia; Hon. James D. Breckinridge of Louisville, Ky., and Col. Wm. P. Anderson of the United States Army.

John Preston left one son, William, and four daughters, from whom are descended some of the most distinguished men in American history. Dr. R. A. Brock in his *Virginia and Virginians* says, Scarce another American family has numbered as many prominent and honored representatives as that of the yeoman-founded Preston, with its collateral lines and alliances. In support of this claim, he continues: It has furnished the National government a vice-president [Hon. John Cabell Breckinridge], has been represented in several of the executive departments and in both branches of congress. It has given Virginia five governors McDowell, Campbell, Preston, and the two Floyds and to Kentucky, Missouri, and California, one each, in Governors Jacobs, B. Gratz Brown, and Miller; Thomas Hart Benton, John J. Crittenden, William C., and William Ballard Preston, leading molders of public sentiment; the Breckinridge's, Dr. Robert J. and William L., distinguished theologians of Kentucky; Professors Holmes, Venable and Cabell, of the University of Virginia, besides other distinguished educators.

Nor is their battle roll less glorious. It is claimed that more than a thousand of this family and its connections served in the contending armies during the late Civil War. Among the leaders were Generals Wade Hampton, Albert Sydney Johnston, Joseph E. Johnston, John B. Floyd, John C. Breckinridge, and John S. and William Preston. When is stated that besides the names enumerated, the family is connected with those of Baldwin, Blair, Bowyer, Brown, Buchanan, Bruce, Cabell, Carrington, Christian, Cocke, Flournoy, Gamble, Garland, Gilmer, Gibson, Grattan, Hart, Henry, Hughes, Howard, Lee, Lewis, Madison, Marshall, Mason, Massie, Mayo, Parker, Payne, Peyton, Pleasants, Pope, Radford, Read, Redd, Rives, Seddon, Sheffey, Taylor, Thompson, Trigg, Venable, Watkins, Ward, Watts, Winston, Wickliff, among many others, as well-esteemed, some idea may be formed of its mental characteristics and social influence.

Lyons Genealogy

Judge Peter Lyons was born in Ireland and came to Virginia in his early life. He was made a judge of the general court in 1779, becoming also a judge of the first court of appeals. He served as such until his death, on July 30, 1809. As a jurist, he ranked high. Among his colleagues on the bench were Chancellor Wythe, Edmund Pendleton, St. George Tucker, and Spencer Roane. His descendants for several generations were eminent in the professions, and 164some of them are

still living in Virginia. James Lyons, Jr., who was a colonel on the staff of Governor O Ferrall, is the oldest male descendant in the direct line. He married a daughter of William Wirt Henry, grandson of Patrick Henry, and by her has several children living.

William C. Burks

Another Judge of the Supreme Court of Appeals was William C. Burks, whose ancestors little is known except that they were Irish. He died recently, mourned by the profession which he had so signally adorned by the profundity of his juridical learning and the simplicity and spotlessness of his life. His opinions are as highly regarded as those of any man who sat upon the bench of that court within a half-century. Burks was one of the early presidents of the Virginia Bar Association, which he was largely instrumental in organizing; and until the time of his death was one of the editors of the Virginia Law Register, the organ of the profession in this state.

Michie Genealogy

Perhaps the ablest Irish lawyer in the state was Thomas J. Michie, whose reputation extended throughout Virginia as a brilliant wit as well as an able jurist. Among the judges of the present Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia is John W. Riely, who was a major in the Confederate service, and whose ancestors were Irish. The speaker of the House of Delegates, session of 1897 8, was John F. Ryan. A late governor of Virginia was Philip W. McKinney, of Irish descent. His successor was Charles T. O Ferrall, a man of Irish descent. Among the state officers of Irish descent may be mentioned P. H. O Bannon, public printer; John Bell Bigger, clerk of the House of Delegates; Major B. W. Lynn, superintendent of the penitentiary, and the writer (Secretary of State Lawless), both of whose parents were born in Galway, and came to America after the black famine.

Mahone Genealogy

General William Mahone was a descendant of an Irish progenitor who settled in Virginia in colonial days. Judge Anthony Kiely is of Irish lineage, and you know his history.

McGuire Genealogy

Dr. Hunter McGuire, who was the medical director of Stonewall Jackson's corps and the intimate friend of that great soldier, is of Irish lineage. His great-grandfather, Ed. McGuire, left Ordvest, County Kerry, in 1756, and settled in Winchester, Va. The Dooleys, Pattersons, Glennans, Kevills, Barrys, O Connors, Fitzgeralds, Keans, Rheas, Kendricks, Kellys, McChesney's, Goolricks, Wards, Higgins, Doyles, Lawlers, Rafters, Ferriter's, McKenney's, McCrackens, Youngs, Coles, Macgills, O Bannons, Irvings, Irwins, Nolans, O Sullivans, Sullivans, Walshs, O Neills, Kanes, Murphys, Ryans and a hundred others, came largely during the present century. Perhaps most of these families left Ireland in the great exodus which followed the famine of 1846 1847. Virginia received about that time the greatest number of immigrants who preferred to lead urban lives. But they and their progeny have not failed to leave the impression of

their character upon the people among whom their lot was cast.

O'Brien and McCarty

Capt. Page McCarty, of Richmond, Va., wrote that from the papers of his father, Governor of Florida and 1839 Member of Congress, that the Scotch-Irish appeared to have established a theory of pre-emption or monopoly.

O'Brien, of General Washington's staff, was from Alexandria, Virginia. Colonels McClanahan, Andrew Wagoner, and Major Richard McCarty, of the Revolutionary War, were the descendants of a small group of Irishmen who named the little town of Kinsale on the Potomac about 1662.

Daniel McCarty, Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1715, was the grandson of McCarty, of Clenclare. The main immigration of Irish was through Philadelphia and Charleston, South Carolina. They traveled across the Blue Ridge Mountains, and met in the valley that extends from the Peaks of Otter to the headwaters of the Tennessee River.

Source: The Journal of the American-Irish Historical Society (Vol. II)
By: Thomas Hamilton Murray.

General Andrew Lewis of Augusta County, Virginia

General Andrew Lewis was born about 1720 in Ireland. He came to Virginia with his parents in 1732.

John Lewis, the father, was the first white man who fixed his home in the mountains of West Augusta. Andrew Lewis served as a major in the regiment commanded by Washington in the Ohio campaign of 1754 and 1755; also in the French and Indian wars, and was highly regarded by Washington, at whose suggestion he was appointed a brigadier-general in the Continental Army. Four of his brothers served in the Revolutionary War, one of them, Colonel Charles Lewis, who was killed at Point Pleasant. The descendants of John Lewis (the father of General Andrew Lewis) are numerous. Some of them have been very distinguished men: John F. Lewis, who died recently, was Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, and a senator of the United States. Lunsford L. Lewis, his half-brother, was president of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia for twelve years, retiring from that office a few years ago. Dr. Lewis Wheat is a well-known practicing physician of Richmond. Judge John Lewis Cochran, whose mother was a great-granddaughter of John Lewis, father of Gen. Andrew Lewis, and whose great-grandfather, with his wife, Susanna Donnelly, came to America about 1742, was a gallant soldier in the Confederate army, and a distinguished lawyer and judge. James C. Cochran, brother to the foregoing, was a Colonel of Confederate Militia during the Civil War.

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Source: Some Irish Settlers in Virginia by Hon. Joseph T. Lawless, Richmond, Virginia

Irish Settlers on the Opequan
Frederick County, Virginia, on Cedar Creek

The year 1718 marks an epoch in America's history because, in that year, a band of sturdy Ulster men turned their faces and fortunes towards the new world. This early and most crucial organized company of emigrants to leave Ireland in the eighteenth century sailed from Lough Foyle and consisted of about 100 families.

Lough Foyle in Ireland.

A colony was founded in New Hampshire that became famous in American history. The emigrants were as important to America as were those of Plymouth, and from them are descended equally, if not more, distinguished men.

Belfast Lough.

In 1727, 3,000 people sailed from Belfast Lough to the North American colonies. The following year, ships took 1,000 more, and in the next three years, as many as 4,200. The tidings of the success of the New Hampshire colonists and those who preceded them to other parts of America drew between the years 1720 and 1742 over 3,000 emigrants annually from Ulster alone. For the period, this enormous emigration was stimulated by the rich resources and grand opportunities offered in a new country on the one hand and on the other by the land laws and the restrictions placed on Irish industries.

Banbridge, County Down, Ireland.

In 1736, several families emigrated from Banbridge, County Down, and the neighborhood, including members of the Glass, MacDowell, Magill, Mulholland, Linn, and other families. These people settled in the Shenandoah Valley on the banks of Opequan, Virginia. In the beautiful valley of Shenandoah, three miles south of Winchester, Virginia, you will find the ruins of the old Opequan Presbyterian Church, destroyed in the Civil War.

From the Donegal (Pennsylvania) Presbytery, as early as 1736, the Presbyterian settlers received attention as they were visited by missionaries and ministers from that Presbytery, making it the earliest preaching place in the valley. The first pastor was John Hodge, who may justly be esteemed the church's founder, as he gave five acres of land for the church site and graveyard. Mr. Hodge, with

many of his large family, is buried there, and Samuel Glass, the emigrant from Banbridge. Samuel Glass, the leader of the Banbridge emigrants, took up his residence at the head spring of the Opequan after many wanderings through the then almost pathless woods, naming the homestead Greenwood, from the grand old forest which covered, for the most part, the 16,000 acres of land which he had purchased. His son David settled lower down the river at Cherry Mead, and Robert, another son, took up his abode at Long Meadows. James Vance, a son-in-law of Samuel Glass, resided in the same neighborhood. Another son-in-law, named Becket, lived between the Glass estate and North Mountain.

Samuel Glass died at an advanced age, honored and respected by all the settlers over a large portion of the state; he had centered in his person many good characteristics courage, thrift, and perseverance. In the cemetery, near the old homestead, stands a monument to Samuel Glass and his wife, erected by his descendants. It is an obelisk, executed in limestone, standing on a pedestal, all over ten feet tall. On the south side is inscribed: To the Memory of SAMUEL GLASS and his wife, MARY GAMBLE, emigrants from Banbridge, County Down, Ireland, A. D. 1736.

Sources: IRISH SETTLERS ON THE OPEQUAN. Compiled from an Article by Iveagh, in the Belfast Witness in Ireland; and Marmion's Maritime Ports of Ireland; Foot's Sketches of Virginia, second edition; Gordon's History of Ireland.

How and Why Irish Settled in the Far West

Between 1683 and 1701, Philadelphia grew with over 2,500 new European settlers. The Quaker stronghold and its pledge of religious tolerance were probably a major draw. For example, before 1722, the Catholics forced all Protestant religions out of Austria, giving them two weeks to pack up and be gone! Most historians credit the largest influx of the Irish in Philadelphia to the 1844 famine.

However, let us look at some of those families who arrived in Philadelphia during the early 1700s and elected to go to the far Western frontier to receive free public land. Those who went into the Shenandoah Valley and Augusta County faced Indian raids and other hardships.

Robert Poage appeared in the Orange County court on May 22, 1740, to prove his importation to take up public lands. The record showed that he had a wife and nine children (named) who came from Ireland to Philadelphia and from thence to this colony at his own expense. The Poage family settled on a 772-acre plantation three miles north of Staunton, which was probably purchased from William Beverley, as the land was in Beverley's Manor.

Free public land was the premium reason for millions of Irish, Scots, Germans, etc., migrating to the American shores. The public land was

offered to settle the western frontier. Virginians along the eastern shores have been profiting from tobacco crops since John Rolfe planted his first successful crop in 1609. Yet, even before the Revolutionary War, the plant depleted the soil, and there was a need for rich soil. A study of the old deeds and records in Orange County, Virginia, tells the story.

Mr. Poage acquired his land directly from the government. The evidence is a patent on parchment executed by Governor Gooch dated July 30, 1742, granting Poage 306 acres of land in the county of Orange on the west side of the Blue Ridge to be held in free and common soccage, and not in spite or by knight s service, in consideration of thirty-five shillings; provided the grantee should pay a fee rent of one shilling for every fifty acres, annually, on the feast of St. Michael the Archangel. . . The patent contained the impression of the royal crown of Great Britain.

The terms used in the records are of old English origin, encompass English Law, and should be noted to understand better the problems or situations that new settlers faced. Soccage is a feudal tenure of land involving payment of rent or other non-military service to a superior. Capite is an ancient English tenure (abolished by 1660) by which the king held the land or person.

Source: Orange County, Virginia deeds; Annals of Augusta County by Joseph A. Waddell, pp 258-259.

Where to Search in Ireland About County Antrim

The ancient remains of Dunseverick Castle in County Antrim. If you are Scots-Irish, chances are that your people came from Northern Ireland, or Ulster, when Antrim became part of the Earldom of Ulster. Before that, it was inhabited by a Celtic people, called the Darini. It was during the 16th century that the British attempted to colonize the region, and that was when many Scots settled in and around Antrim. The Spanish began sending their trading vessels and in 1588, twenty-four wrecks of the Spanish Armada were found along the coast of Antrim. It is estimated that some 1300 lives were lost.

This beautiful land is divided into sixteen baronies. Island Magee is known as the home of witchcraft. It was during the Irish Rebellion of 1641 that Protestants were declared witches and massacred, and by 1689, Antrim was the center of Protestant resistance against the rule of James II, a Catholic. Things were so unpleasant for the Protestants that by the early 1700s, the residents of Antrim were migrating to the American colonies. Generally speaking, they could sell their possessions to pay for passage.

Belfast was a common port city for transporting passengers and merchandise abroad. The typical voyage took 6 to 10 weeks.

If you have Scots-Irish ancestors, county Antrim is a good beginning point. Unfortunately, because of the civil strife and wars in Northern Ireland, it is virtually impossible to locate any old records.

Northern Ireland (where most people migrated to America) is divided into six counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone.

Genealogy available on FamilySearch.org

1. 1623-1866 - Ireland, Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage License Bonds Indexes.

2. 1701 - Ireland. Catholic Qualification and Convent Rolls 1701-1845.

A good many vessels landed in Philadelphia and Charleston, South Carolina. Notably, there were pioneer trails out of Philadelphia into South Carolina, so they could have landed in Philadelphia and taken the trail into South Carolina or landed in one of the oldest port cities in America where the records survived. Charleston. I have found some of the oldest Irish settlements in the South Carolina counties of Laurens, Abbeville, and Chester. The reason migrants went there was to join earlier groups of Irish settlers. The language was rather sharp, and this was a convenience. The German emigrants did the same thing. The earliest known settlement of Scots-Irish in North Carolina was in 1729 along the Cape Fear River. If this location is found, some old slate tombstones might provide more clues.

Don't forget to search for clues written in books about congregations that migrated in whole groups to America.

3. Most Catholic Records are available. However, this resource must be checked out. Northern Ireland encountered many conflicts, and records did not survive.

Information available to members of georgiapioneers.com

American Irish Histories

Immigration of the Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania 1682-1750

Scotch Irish Pioneers in Ulster and America

Scotch-Irish in New England

Minnis Family of Ireland and America

Biographical History of the American Irish in Chicago

A History of the Irish Settlers in North America

Brief History and Complete Record of American Descendants of John and Mary Smith

Early Irish of Old Albany, New York

Woods-McAfee Memorial and their descendants in America

Irish Rhode Islanders in the American Revolution
Irish-American History of the United States, Volume 1
Irish-American History of the United States, Volume 2
The Story of the Irish in Boston
The Irish in America
The Scotch-Irish in America
A Record of the Families of Robert Patterson, emigrant from Ireland to America
Ancient Records
Ireland from A.D. 800 to A.D. 1600
Ancient Irish Deeds and Writings from the 12th to the 17th Century
Ancient Laws and Institutes of Ireland, Volumes 1 & 4
Biographical Sketches of Ancient Irish Saints, etc.
Short History of Ireland from earliest times to 1608
An Ancient Parish, being Parish of Donaghmore, County Down
Calendar of Justiciary Rolls
Celtic Ireland
Lake Dwellings of Ireland, or Ancient Lacustrine Habitations of Erin, Crannogs
The Tribes and Territories of Ancient Ossory
Ireland under the Normans Volumes 1-4
The Journal of the Royal Society of the Antiquities of Ireland, 4th, 5th & 6th Series

Wills and Estates
Index to Prerogative Wills of Ireland 1536-1810
Register of Wills and Inventories of the Diocese of Dublin
Biographical Sketches
Cody of Ireland and Georgia
Candler Family From 1650 to 1890 (1896). Revolves around the Candler of Georgia, descendants of Lieutenant Colonel William Candler of Callan Castle, Ireland
Notes and Documents Relating to the Family of Loffroy
Lives of illustrious and distinguished Irishmen
Record of the Smith family of Monaghan, Ireland
The county families of the United Kingdom
The Montgomery Manuscripts (1603-1706)
Genealogies, Tribes, and Customs of Hy-Fiachrach, commonly called O'Dowda's country
History of Clare and Dalcassian Clans to Tipperary, Limerick, and Galway
History of the Ancient Ryedales
History of Boyd Family and Descendants
Sketches of Celebrated Irishmen
Sketches of Irish Highlands
Genealogy of the Family of Cole
The Ancient House of Kavanaugh
Searches into the history of the Gillman or Gilman Family
Isaac Greene, a Lancashire Lawyer in the 18th century
Jones Family in Ireland
Notices of the Ellises of England, Scotland and Ireland
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