



FamilySearch full text search and the Registry of Deeds

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Registry of Deeds as a family history source

- I have talked many times about the usefulness of the Registry of Deeds
- People, places and dates
- The legislation required the compilation of a grantors index and a land index
- Both were available for public consultation at the Registry
- I have found many gems in these records



Background

- Prior to about the 1960s the records were only accessible at the Registry of Deeds
- Familysearch microfilmed almost all the records
- Up to a few years ago these microfilms were available through Familysearch affiliate libraries
- This was a slow process relying on mailing the films back and forth
- More recently these films were digitised and made available through the [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) website



Finding things

- The traditional finding pathways were to use the Registry's own indexes
- They both have limitations
- To address these limitations, I started the Registry of Deeds index project in 2007
- This has grown into a substantial resource including a names index and database versions of the townland and grantors indexes

Number of index entries					
6	2	6	7	8	1
Update of 22 Apr 2025					
702,594 townland index entries					
last updated 19 Feb 2025					
52,041 grantor index entries					
last updated 10 Apr 25					



Treminology

- Grantor
- Grantee
- Memorial
- Transcription book
- How to refer to a memorial so other people can find it



Recent developments

- Earlier this year Familysearch introduces a full text search on the Registry of Deeds images
- It is essentially OCR for handwriting and is based on AI
- In addition, the AI classifies some words as names and other words as places
- This is a good development but like all tools there are some issues



The site

- <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/collection/M9J1-ZYL>
- [We then had a bit of a browse around the site testing various search combinations]