





A short discourse on land in Ireland and related sources of interest to genealogists

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13 March 2010




The early period

- Family association with land
- English invasion
- Creation of an Irish landed class
- Rebellions
- Land confiscations



The last 450 years

- Tyrone's Rebellion of 1590s
- Plantations – Ulster and Munster
- Confederation and English Civil War
- Cromwell's conquest
- Payment of soldiers' pay by land grants
- Transplantation to Conaught



Why is land important?

- Store of value
- Source of income
- Identity



Agents and middlemen

- In Ireland there was a hierarchy of landlords
- The fee simple owners let to middlemen who sub set to more modest tenants
- Larger landlords were often not resident at least part of the time so they employed agents
- The agents collected the rents and managed the property



Land divisions

- Province
- County
- Barony
- Parish
- Townland
- Holding



The Registry of Deeds – beginning

- King Billy defeated the Papist King James at the battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690
 - Now celebrated on 12 July
- The Protestant Irish Parliament wanted to cement Protestant power
- It passed a number of laws to restrict Catholics
 - Oaths
 - Land tenure



Penal laws

- Enforcement
- Registration of land transactions



Registry of Deeds Act 1707

- An act for the Publick Registering of all Deeds, conveyances and wills that shall be made of any Honors, Manors, Lands, tenements or hereditaments — MDCCVII
- Main provisions:
 - Set up office of Registrar
 - Stated what should be registered
 - Stated how records should be kept
 - All deeds after Lady day 1707



Main provisions

- Memorials on parchment
- Signed by a grantor or grantee
- One Witness signed the memorial and made an oath
- Date and time of registration recorded
- Lands involved indexed
- Grantors indexed



The legacy 300 years later

- While many transactions were not registered the registrations have immense genealogical value
- About 600,000 memorials prior to 1834 when the numbering changed
- Each memorial usually has at least two parties and two witnesses



Who Registered

- Many transactions were not registered
- A registered deed had priority over an unregistered deed
- Where there was doubt or a transaction might be contested it was more likely to be registered
- Middle level tenants
- Middle class and above tended to register



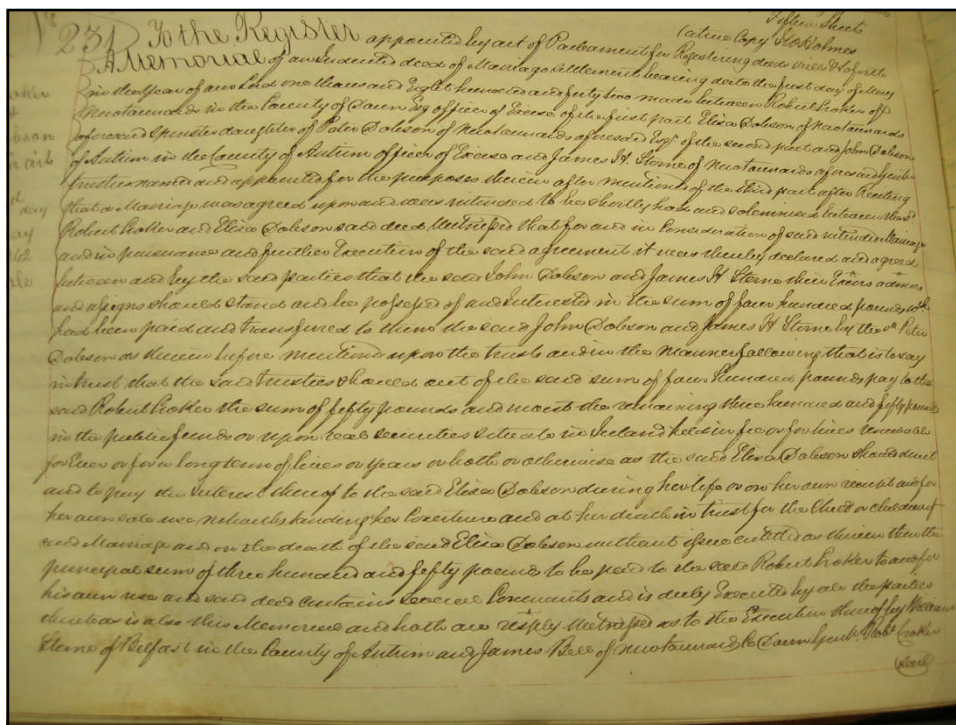
What information?

- Names
- Relationships
- Ages – death dates
- Places – residences – townlands
- Sub-tenant names
- History of tenancy – tenures
- Settlements
- Autographs




How is the information recorded

- Memorial
 - A copy or detailed abstract of deed
 - Certified by a party and a witness of the deed
 - Certified photocopies available for €12
- Memorial volumes
 - A copy of the memorial written out by the clerks into the 'tombstone' books
 - Microfilmed by the Mormons and available through the Family History Centres and at HAGSOC



	V		184209
	P		231
	M		184209231
	T	marriage articles	
	DD		1
	DM		5
	DY		1842
P1	N	Robert Croker	A
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Esq, Officer of Excise	
P2	N	Eliza DOBSON	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	spinster, daughter of C	
	N	Peter Dobson	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Esq	
trustee	N	John Dobson	
	R	Antrim ANT	
	O	Gent, Officer of Excise	
trustee	N	James H Sterne	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Gent	
		marriage shortly to be solemnised between A + B, C gave £400 to trustees £50 to A and interest on £350 to B for life reversion to issue of marriage then to A if no issue	
W	C		
	N	William Sterne	
	R	Belfast ANT	
	O	Gent	
W	N	James BELL	
	R	Newtownards DOW	
	O	Gent	



Indexes

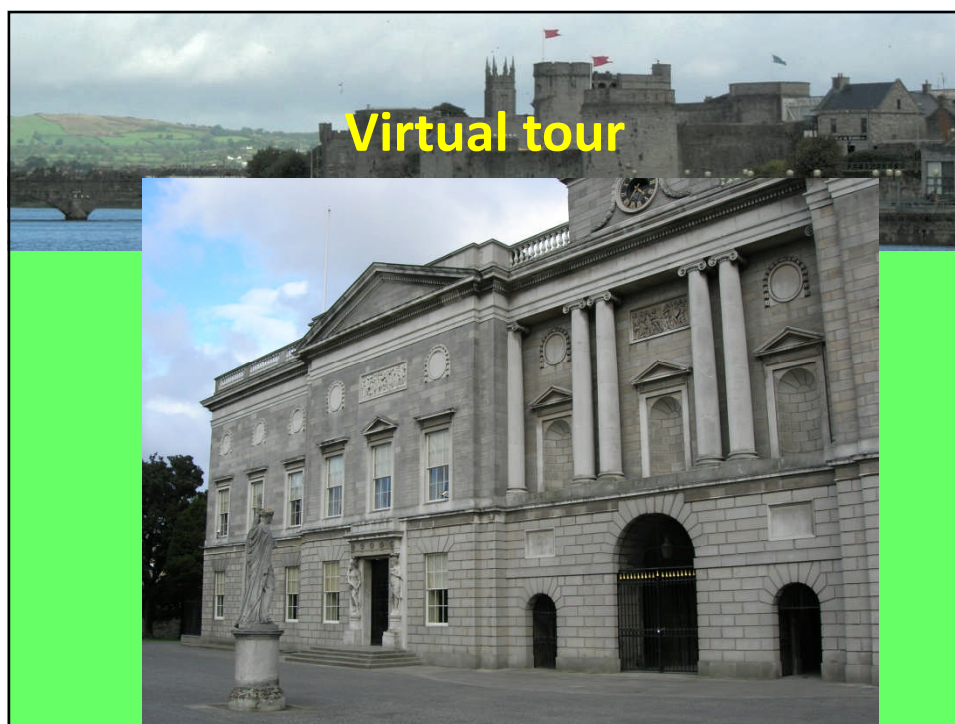
- Grantors index — devisors, testators
 - Has family name of other party
 - Can be used for a reverse grantees index
- Townland index — lists lands in deeds
 - Useful starting point
- Full name index — the dream I am creating!!
 - Registry of Deeds Index Project



Virtual tour









Memorial No. 1

- Grantor – Nafan COOTE Earl of Bellomont
- Grantee – Connell VERECKER, Esq of Ballinscalla LIM (he signed the memorial)
- Lease and release dated 26 March 1708 (the second of the year)
- The lands of Stephenstown, Ballinscaula, and Fanningstown, barony of Coshlea, county Limerick (near Kilmallock) for lives of Connel's brother Henry and eldest son Henry



One person's story through deeds

- Edward CROKER son of Andrew CROKER and Elizabeth TAYLOR
- His parents marriage settlement
15 Feb 1728 – Memorial 102702
- A transfer of trusts under MS
13 Apr 1752 – Memorial 102701
- Lease of houses from above MS
25 Jan 1787 – Memorial 256826



Edward Croker of Annets, Bruff & Kilmallock; continued

- Second marriage – Memorial 185107
- Settlement of dispute – Memorial 199212
- Settlement of debts – Memorial 211904
- Lands to son-in-law 1792 – Memorial 292878
- Houses in Kilmallock made freehold c1850
- Autographs



William SWAN in deeds

- Father's living will 1733 – Memorial 51820
- Consolidations to circa 1750 – e.g. Memorial
- Power of attorney – Memorial 186353
- Deed with second wife – Memorial 194442
- Autographs



Thomas Swan CROKER

- Annuity from lands in father's marriage settlement – Memorial 443742
- Inventory of house – Memorial 542735
- Marriage settlement for second wife – Memorial 553026
- Death date in deed involving widow and son – 1840 V20 No139
- Autographs



How to use the Registry of Deeds

- Indexes
 - Grantors
 - Townland
 - Full names – in development
- Start with what you know and work back
- Do your homework
- Share your results




Registry of Deeds Index Project

- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~registryofdeeds/index.html>
- Accepts contributions:
 - Index entries
 - transcriptions



Economic development and land tenure

- With the lowest level tenants being very short term they had little incentive to improve land
- This probably made Ireland poorer than it might have been otherwise affecting landlords
- The old economic principle that those who discriminate are often as much hurt by the discrimination as the targets
- This was recognised with the land reforms in the latter half of the 19th century



Tithe applotment

- In the first third of the 19th century a number of things were happening
 - The growing political and economic power of Catholics
 - Weakening power of the established Church
 - The Government started to regulate the levying of tithes
 - Adoption of British standard measures and sterling as currency



Tithe applotment books

- An applotment determines how the tithes will be levied on land holdings
- This was done by applotters appointed by the Col parish vestry usually as a fixed levy per acre based on surveys sometimes a hundred years old
- To regulate the process Commissioners were appointed listed all the land holders

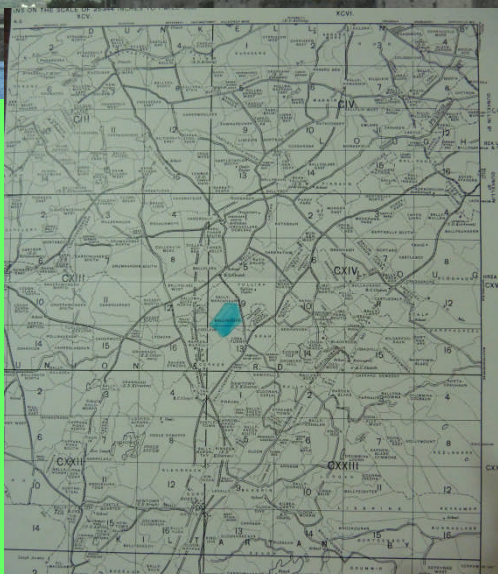


Tithe applotment books

- Very useful for genealogists
- Links people and land
- At an early period 1825 – 1835
- Partial index with Griffith Valuation fishe
- Many parishes being transcribed eg:
- <http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/LIM/Athn/easyTithes.htm>



Griffith Valuation and related records





A

Barony of Ballinduff

Parish of Ballinduff

County of

Galway

Electoral Division of Ballinduff

1864-1865

NAME

Description of

RURAL ANNUAL VALUATION

OBSERVATIONS

Reference to Map

Tenements and Outbuildings

Inclosure Tenants

Area

Land

Buildings

Total

Ballinduff (Cont)

46

Wedge Lane

18 1 8 10 0 0 1 0 0

47

Lane

1 0 5 0 10 0

48

James Sheehan Rpts John Hartigan

Lane

1 2 6 0 10 0

12 5 0

49

John Hartigan

0 5 0

50

Lane

7 0 0 3 10 0

51

Lane

11 0 2 5 0

52

John Barrett

Rpts John Hartigan

Wedge Lane

26 2 2 13 5 0 1 0 0

12 15 0

53

John Barrett

Lane

1 2 5 0 17 0

10 15 0

54

Lane

0 2 10 0 3 0

55

Lane

0 1 20 0 5 0

Barony of Killarney Parish of Killarney County of Galway
Value of £ 100 Electoral Division of Killarney

Reference to Map	NAMES		Description of Tenement	Area		RATES				REMARKS
	Townlands and Occupiers	Immediate Lessors		Statute Measure	Land	Buildings	Inc.	Grass		
3A	<u>Ballinacorney</u>	<u>Land</u>	<u>Land</u>	6	1	0	0	0		
3B			<u>Land</u>	10	1	0	0	0		
4	<u>James O'Brien</u>	<u>James O'Brien</u>	<u>Land</u>	1	0	0	0	0		
6			<u>Land</u>	1	2	0	0	0		
10			<u>Land</u>							
50			<u>Land</u>	7	0	0	0	0		
3			<u>Land</u>	4	1	0	0	0		
6	<u>James O'Brien</u>	<u>James O'Brien</u>	<u>Land</u>	26	0	0	0	0		
9	<u>James O'Brien</u>	<u>James O'Brien</u>	<u>Land</u>	1	2	0	0	0		
60			<u>Land</u>	1	2	0	0	0		
70			<u>Land</u>	0	1	0	0	0		

Townland of Ballinacorney Parish of Killarney County of Galway
Value of £ 100 Electoral Division of Killarney


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50			<u>Land</u>	7	0	0	0	0		
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60			<u>Land</u>	1	2	0	0	0		
70			<u>Land</u>	0	1	0	0	0		

[illegible]

COUNTY OF Galway County HEALTH DISTRICT OF Galway
 Townland of Ballinduff O.S. 114

Reference to Map	Owner	Deed or Lease	Description of Tenement	Area	Value	Rate	Other	Remarks
2900111 14	Robert Whelan	20 fee	2A House					15 minutes, early 18th c.
2900110 12	Michael Whelan		No off-land	0 2 22	14 10 0	2 10 0		2nd 7/100
2900126 10177	Robert Murphy 2A66 James Bennett		No off-land	20 0 22	10 10 0	3 75		2nd 7/100
2900126 3A4A66	Malachy Quinn Rella Kelly		No off-land	21 1 11	11 0 0	0 15 0		2nd 7/100
2900126 3B6B	John Mahony	20 fee	No off-land	25 0 76	14 2 10	1 10 0		2nd 7/100
2900126 3A4A66	John Mahony		No off-land	15 3 1	7 2 10	0 15 0		2nd 7/100
2900126 3A4A66	John Mahony		No off-land	21 1 11	10 0 0	1 0 0		2nd 7/100
2900126 3A4A66	John Mahony		No off-land	0 0 39	3 0 0			2nd 7/100
2900126 3A4A66	John Mahony		No off-land	16 3 14	3 10 0	1 0 0		2nd 7/100
2900126 3A4A66	John Mahony		No off-land	3 3 39	1 10 0			2nd 7/100

* See Explanatory Notes Attached



Estate records

- Another treasure trove for those lucky enough to have an ancestor renting land from the estate
- Example — Lismore papers in NLI
 - Begin late 1500s when Richard BOYLE obtained Sir Walter RALEIGH's estate in Ireland
 - Very helpful for CROKER and DREW families in 1600s



Estate records

- An interesting resource:
- <http://landedestates.nuigalway.ie>



Ejectments




R. G. Kelly and dates to 1848-51. Alternately titled "A Tear and a Prayer for Erin" or "An Ejectment in Ireland," the work depicts the eviction of poor Irish from the land during the Famine.



Landlords evicting tenants

- Main reason is non-payment of rent
- Not all landlords rapacious
- Some granted rent reductions, rent holidays and rent waivers
- Happened at all times but particularly after the 1840s famine



Landlords evicting tenants

- A lot of resistance to evictions
- Beatings and murders of new tenants
- Intimidation, oaths to move on
- Ireland in the early 1800s a violent place
- The limerick papers reports of beatings of Kerry men employed in county Limerick



Legislative interventions

- Laws to redress some of the balance between landlord and tenant
- Restoration of evicted tenants
- Rights of purchase given to tenants
- Loans to assist purchase



Newspaper sources for land

- Advertisements pertaining to land transactions
- For sale or rent
- Settlements of court cases
- Mention of tenants



Newspaper sources

- Limerick Chronicle 22 July 1826 – Deaths:
On the 4th instant, at Shewsbury, Colonel William PEACOCKE, aged about 90 years. By his death several extensive tracts of land are out of lease.



Limerick Chronicle 2 Aug 1826

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.
TO BE LET, TITHE FREE,
For Three Lives, from the 1st day of November next, In such divisions as shall be agreed
on,
THE LANDS OF
AGHANIS AND FANEMORE,
Late in the possession of the Representatives of Sir Joseph Peacocke, Bart. and his
under-tenants,
Containing about 800 Acres, plantation measure, Bounding the River Shannon,
With the Island of THRU MMERA adjoining, Part of the Estates of the Right Honorable
the Earl of CARRICK and the Hon. EDWARD MASSY
Situate within 2 miles of Askeaton, and Shanagolden,
and 7 of Rathkeale,
ALL MARKET AND POST TOWNS. THESE Lands are of excellent quality for Tillage,
Meadow, and Pasture, and have the advantage of an inexhaustible supply of the finest
manure, from the adjoining Island, and being the principal Meadow Farms in that
neighbourhood, are considerably enhanced in value.

The background image shows a large, historic stone castle or fortress situated on a riverbank. The castle has multiple towers and battlements, with several red flags flying from the top. A stone bridge with multiple arches spans the river in the foreground. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text 'Ejectments in British Parliamentary papers' is overlaid in yellow.

Ejectments in British Parliamentary papers

- NLA electronic resources
- Chadwyk
- Search subject – evictions Ireland