

Before commissioning research, you may find it of benefit to have an understanding of the types of records which might exist for your ancestors.

While many useful records survive, it is an unfortunate truth that Ireland has lost important genealogical records.

The single greatest loss of records happened in June 1922 with the destruction of the Public Records Office of Ireland, housed in the Four Courts, Dublin. During our Civil War, this building was occupied and used as a munitions store, leading to a fire on 30th June which almost completely destroyed all the records held here - some of which dated back to the 13th century.

Amongst the records destroyed were:

- Original Wills (indexes and some abstracts survive)
- Marriage licenses (indexes survive)
- 1821; 1831; 1841 and 1851 census returns for Ireland.
- Many Church of Ireland baptism, marriage and burial registers.

Adding to this, the census returns of 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 were all destroyed by government order.

Surviving Primary records fall broadly into four categories:

- [Civil records of Birth, Marriage & Death](#)
- [Census records](#)
- [Church records](#)
- [Land or property records](#)

Amongst the many other types of records we use are:

- Wills and abstracts of wills
- Records of Trades and Professions
- Graveyard & Gravestone records
- Newspaper archives
- Registry of Deeds
- Emigration & passenger lists
- Prison and Petty Sessions Court Records

Based on the outskirts of Dublin, Irish Family Footsteps has easy access to all the main record repositories, archives and libraries.

If you need help locating or accessing a record, we can do this on your behalf.

We will provide a transcript of the record and a copy of the original where feasible.

Please complete our [Assessment Form](#) and we will be happy to quote for the search you need.