

EAST GIPPSLAND FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC

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BULLETIN

Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Saturday in the month

APRIL 2016

Dear Members

Once again our regular band of volunteers rose to the occasion and conducted two sausage sizzles at Bunnings in quick succession, raising in excess of a thousand dollars. Firstly, I would like to thank these selfless folk for giving so generously of their time. These events are a lot of fun, you meet all sort of old mates and you only need to give up two hours.

It would be terrific if we could rely on a few more members to volunteer as sometimes the regulars are unavailable.

Please contact the rooms and let us know if you can help out.

The second information session was well attended and very highly commended. These activities are designed to assist members with research techniques as we all forget avenues we used to take for granted.

The committee is developing more for the near future. We will be in touch.

This Saturday ie the ninth of April is a special open meeting with a presentation by Debbie Squires: -

On a hot summer day at the end of January, Debbie spent an afternoon wandering around Recoleta cemetery in Buenos Aires. It is the most historical and artistic cemetery of Argentina and being inaugurated on 17 November 1822 it became the first public cemetery for the city. It is also regarded as one of the top tourist destinations Buenos Aires such is it beauty and tranquillity.

There are some 4,500 vaults (all above ground) on the 14 acres that the cemetery covers and they are in a wide variety of styles and over 90 of them have been classified as of National significance.

Debbie will be sharing with us some of her images from the cemetery and what information she gleaned with her limited Spanish skills.

See you there on Saturday
Tony Meade
President EGFHG

Thought to ponder upon -

*Myself when young did eagerly frequent
Doctor and Saint and heard great argument
About it and about: but ever more
Came out by the same door as in I went*

Omar Khayyam

AUSTRALIA

The future of the Trove online database is in doubt due to funding cuts to the National Library of Australia.

Key points:

- Trove digitises items like books, photos, newspapers and maps
- It currently holds over 4 million items
- The National Library is facing \$20 million in funding cuts

In February it was revealed a number of national cultural institutions were looking at reducing staff numbers as they [face \\$20 million in cuts from the Federal Government's efficiency dividend](#).

Later that month, a [leaked email from the National Library's director-general projected 22 jobs would be axed next financial year](#), with more in the future, as a result of the funding cuts.

Although Trove, which was launched in late 2009, is funded by the library's budget, without government funding the library will not be able to update the material in the database.

Currently the database hosts more than 4 million digitised items, including books, images, music, historic newspapers and maps.

In 2014, the database's fifth year, an estimated 70,000 people were using the website each day.

Australia Library and Information Association chief executive Sue McKarracher said Trove was a visionary move by the library and had turned into a world-class resource.

"It was a real sign of leadership that they made that decision," she said.

"If you look at things like the digital public libraries in the United States, really a lot of that came from looking at our Trove and seeing what a nation could do investing in a platform that would hold museum, gallery and library archives collections and make them accessible to the world."

As well as providing a service to people overseas, Trove has been an important educational resource for academics and rural communities in Australia.

Ms McKarracher said despite its widespread use, the database was undervalued.

"Trove isn't just a nice thing to have, it's not just about digital access to museum pieces or library documents, this is a fundamental piece of our national research infrastructure," she said.

"We've [the Australia Library and Information Association] actually written to the Minister for Infrastructure Darren Chester asking him to expand the definition of infrastructure.

"We're hopeful that the Minister will take a look at the idea of [Trove] as a piece of national infrastructure [and see it] as important as roads and transport."

Ms McKarracher said without funding from the library, institutions or organisations that want to submit collections to the Trove database would have to find the money to fund it themselves.

Meredith Hinchliffe from arts advocate organisation Childers Group said privatising or charging for items to be added to the online database could result in less institutions contributing material.

"Public institutions like the library and in particular Trove, they connect us to our past and enable us to critique our present and prepare for the future," she said.

"It might not deter universities and it might not deter the major museums... but for small museums - of which there are 2,500 in Australia - many of which are volunteer run and funded through councils, they may not be able to afford it.

"So the information they hold won't go into Trove and won't be available for the rest of the community and the rest of the world."

The National Library declined to comment.

(Note! There are a number of on line petitions circulating trying to have this decision reversed. If you would like to join in go to: <https://www.megaphone.org.au/petitions/fund-trove-1> or <https://www.change.org/p/malcolm-turnbull-mp-stop-cuts-to-national-library-of-australia-save-trove>)

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him 'How do you expect to get into Heaven?'

The boy thought it over and said, 'Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!''

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The following is from the Rootsweb Mailing List for **South Australia** –

It might be of interest for people who use Chrome to know that you cannot download Scotlandspeople files with Chrome you have to use another search engine. So if you have another one - keep it on your computer - because not all Government sites in the world use the same one.

I kept getting frustrated - Paying for certificates and then not being able to download them - because you have to pay FIRST - this was getting me down then I heard not to use Chrome - and I went back to me old search engine and was able to download them.

Just beware

VICTORIA

PROV – Children’s Hospital

Records from the Royal Children's Hospital, dating from 1870, are now part of PROV's collection.

Recent Royal Children's Hospital records which have been transferred into PROV's custody include hospital minutes, correspondence, autopsy registers, nurse's lecture books and training records, and minutes, agenda and papers of the Committee of Management.

You can read more and access specific series information [here](#).

Ballarat Benevolent Asylum Registers of Inmates 1860-1897/98 at

<http://www.ballarathistoricalsociety.com/collection/hospitalRecords/Ballarath%20Benevolent%20Society.htm>

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Western Australia Birth index

The Western Australia Birth index contains over 106,000 transcripts. Civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths in Western Australia started 1 September 1841. Prior to this, churches had the responsibility to record all baptisms, marriages, and burials. Each records consists of a transcript of the original birth register entry. Each record will list your ancestor’s name, birth year, birth place and registration number. Once you have located the relevant birth transcript within our record set, you can order the birth certificate itself from the Western Australian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.

Western Australia Marriage index

The Western Australia Marriage index contains over 527,000 records. Marriage records can provide you with useful information in your family history research. Each records consists of a transcript of the original birth register entry. Transcripts will reveal when, where and to whom your ancestor was married as well as the marriages registration number.

Western Australia Death index

The Western Australia Death index contains over 450,000 transcripts. Death records can be vital in your family history research. These death records can be particularly useful as they will sometimes provide parents’ name. This allows you to link your ancestor back to a previous generation. Each records consists of a transcript of the original document. The amount of available information provided varies from transcript to transcript, but most will include your ancestors name, birth year, death year, place of death, registration number and the names of their parents including mother’s maiden names.



U.K.

British Newspapers

Over 2.3 million new articles and 12 brand new titles have been added to our collection of historic British Newspapers Articles. Substantial updates have also been made to 31 existing publications.

The 12 new publications included in this update come cover towns and cities across England, Scotland and Wales.

Amongst these new titles is the Illustrated Weekly News. Covering the years 1861-1869, the IWN provides you with a rare graphic insight into Victorian Britain before the widespread use of photography.

Deceased Online

The central database for UK burials and cremations

Search registers by Country, Region, County, Burial Authority or Crematorium free of charge.

Register as a Deceased Online user and gain access to

- Computerised cremation and burial records
- Digital scans of cremation and burial registers
- Photographs of graves and memorials
- Cemetery maps showing grave locations
- Other occupants in the same grave

<http://www.deceasedonline.com/>

Find a will or probate (England and Wales) <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#wills>

Find a will or 'grant of representation' for people who died in or after 1858.

A 'grant of representation' gives someone the legal right to deal with a deceased person's estate. This right is called 'probate'.

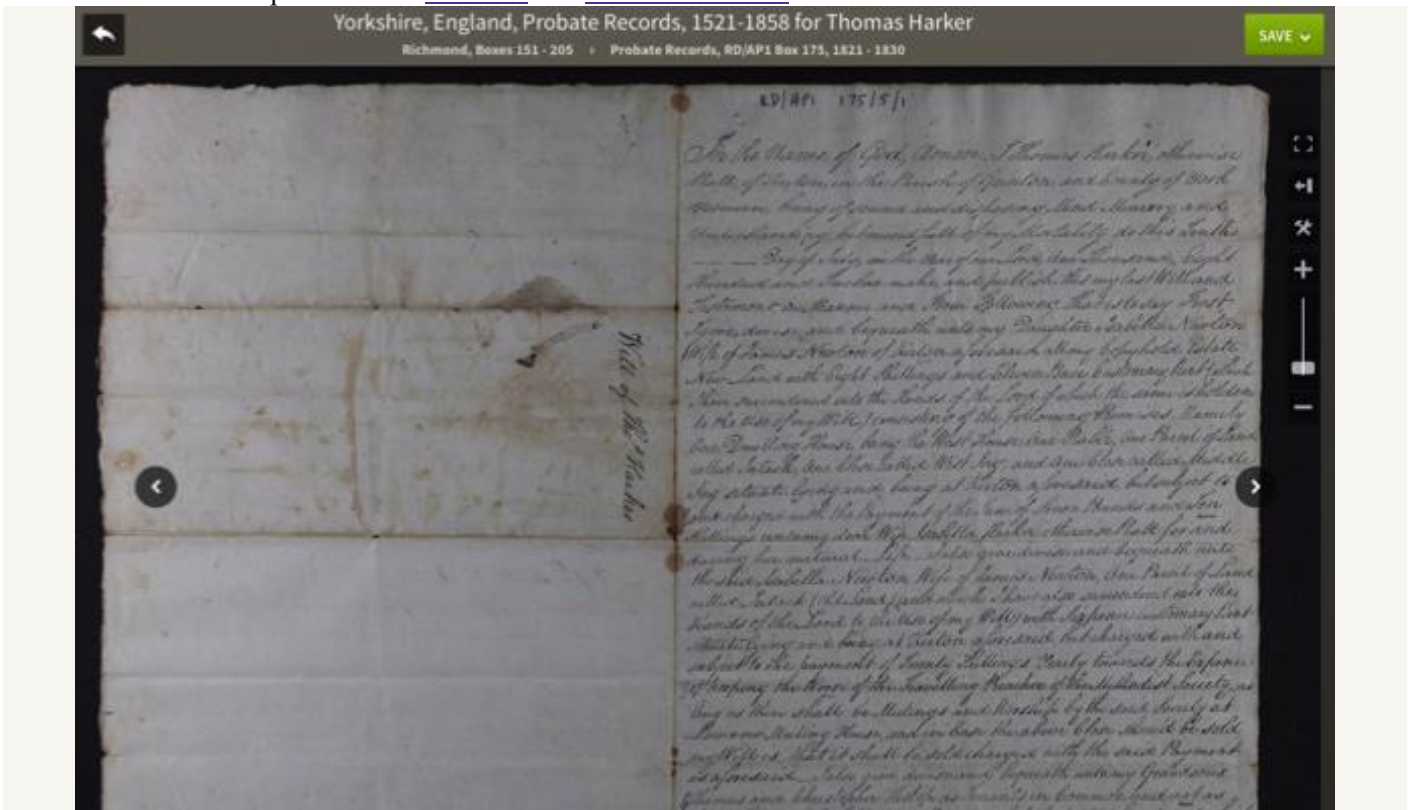
You can order copies of documents online. They cost £10 each - you can pay by debit or credit card.

It can take up to 10 working days for you to receive your documents. Working days do not include weekends or public holidays.

Not all grants of representation contain a will. Check the type of grant when you search:

- 'Probate' or 'Grant and Will' – a will exists and will be provided
- 'Admon with Will' or 'Grant and Will' – a will exists and will be provided
- 'Administration (Admon) or Grant' – a will doesn't exist and won't be provided

There's a different procedure in [Scotland](#) and [Northern Ireland](#).



Ancestry's new Yorkshire probate collection contains more than 30,000 records, including wills, letters of administration and inventories

A new database recognising the qualifications of professional UK genealogists has launched online The [Register of Qualified Genealogists \(RQG\)](#) says its purpose is to “provide, and make public, a record of those genealogists who hold a recognised qualification in the field of genealogy and associated practices, and who may be willing to provide professional services in that field”.

To qualify for inclusion on the Register, researchers must have earned suitable degrees or diplomas from one of three accredited institutions: the Institution of Heraldic and Genealogical Studies, the University of Dundee and the University of Strathclyde. Members of the public can then check a genealogist's credentials and get in touch with them via the [RQG website](#). Find out more [here](#).

UK – TheGenealogist has added over 150,000 World War II Prisoner of War records to their military collection. These are British military personnel held in German prisoner of war camps from 1939 to 1945. The records provide such information as name, service number and regiment. Access is by subscription. [[World War II Prisoner of War Records](#)]

ENGLAND

Yorkshire

Ancestry users can explore thousands of newly digitised Yorkshire records online.

The largest of the three record sets, published on Tuesday 15 March, contains more than **300,000 Quarter Sessions records** from the West Riding of Yorkshire, providing a detailed insight into both civil and criminal proceedings between 1637 and 1888.

This is backed by two smaller collections: one containing over **30,000 probate records** from across Yorkshire in its entirety, and another **providing the names of practising Roman Catholics** in the west of the county between 1714 and 1787.

All three sets have been made available on Ancestry through the subscription site's continuing partnership with West Yorkshire Archive Service, which holds the original records.

Staffordshire records added to Deceased Online

Burton-on-Trent's historic Stapenhill Cemetery is one of two burial grounds in East Staffordshire whose records have been made available on [Deceased Online](#) this week. Opened 150 years ago, the occupations listed in Stapenhill's records reflect Burton's major 19th-century industries – particularly its beer-brewing heritage. More recent records from the nearby Rolleston Cemetery are also available, spanning 1975 to 2014. Find out more [here](#).

County Durham records hit the web A large tranche of parish registers and nonconformist material has been uploaded to [Durham Records Online](#). Most of the new additions come from [St Margaret's Church](#) in the city of Durham, providing details of 4,407 baptisms, 1,118 marriages and 4,586 burials spanning 1558-1700. Also now available on the site are 1,174 baptism records from the [Barnard Castle Wesleyan Methodist Circuit registers](#) (1854-1894), plus details of 6,561 burials at [Sunderland Cemetery](#) (1935-1947).

Ancestry adds historic Cornish indexes

Indexes to thousands of historic Cornish records have been made available to explore on Ancestry. Created by volunteers at Cornwall Record Office in Truro, the fully searchable resources enable users to track down the names of **prisoners at Bodmin Gaol** (1821-1899), search a series of **nonconformist registers from Falmouth** (1763-1923) and learn more about the inmates of [St Lawrence's Asylum, Bodmin](#) (1840-1900). For more details of Ancestry's Cornish collections, click [here](#).

Calderdale burial records go online

More than 40,000 West Yorkshire burial records have been uploaded to [Deceased Online](#). Digitised in partnership with Calderdale Council, the entries provide details of interments at both Brighouse Cemetery (1874-1996) and Halifax General Cemetery (1842-1962), also known as Lister Lane Cemetery. Fully searchable, both sets of records provide the name of the deceased and their date of burial, while the Brighouse records also include maps showing the location of the grave. Records for six further cemeteries managed by Calderdale Council will be added to Deceased Online in the near future

SCOTLAND

Scotland – The website ScotlandsPeople has released the 1930 valuation rolls for Scotland. This is the latest in a long line of valuation rolls that have been released by ScotlandsPeople. The 1930 valuation roll contains some 2.5 million names and provides a glimpse into Scottish life between the two world wars. Access is by subscription. [[Scotland 1930 Valuation Rolls](#)]

IRELAND

Royal Irish Constabulary History & Directories

Royal Irish Constabulary History & Directories contains over 1,670 pages from 6 different publications printed between 1871 and 1920 that provide further insight into the daily operations of the police force and the history of the organisation. Included is a history of the force, lists and directories for 1889, 1915, 1918 and 1920 and The Royal Irish Constabulary Guide to the Discharge of Police Duties.

With compliments from the EGFHG Travel Service -

This is undoubtedly the closest most of us will ever get to the top of Mt. Everest. Keep an eye on the elevation, left side of your computer screen, and then move the mouse when you get to the top to see a panoramic view. It's almost like being there and there's a 360 degree view from the top!

<http://everestavalanchetragedy.com/mt-everest-journey.html>

Irish Revenue Police, 1830-1857

Ireland, Irish Revenue Police 1830-1857 contains over 37,000 records that list the details of men who served with the Irish Revenue police between 1830 and 1857. The Irish Revenue Police were formed to work with the Customs and Excise Service to prohibit illegal distillation of liquors and spirits or poteen (poitín) making. Each record consists of a transcript and a scanned image of the original document held at National Archives in Kew. Transcripts will include a combination of your ancestor's name, station or address and the date the records was taken. Images will provide further particulars about your ancestor. There are various types of documents available to view such as lists of new appointments, which will give you the date of your ancestor's appointment, which corps he was assigned to and who appointed him. Minutes of appointments, which recorded transfers of privates between stations or parties and dismissal records are also included.

Royal Irish Constabulary pensions 1873-1925

Royal Irish Constabulary pensions 1873-1925 contains over 112,000 records. The R.I.C was the armed police force of the United Kingdom in Ireland from the early nineteenth century until 1922. The force was responsible for keeping the peace through the detection and prevention of crime and suppressing rebellions and agrarian disturbances. They enforced laws related to food, drugs and fishery and took over the duties of the Irish Revenue Police, which had previously enforced the laws against whiskey production. In areas that lacked a fire brigade, they were also called upon to stop the spread of fires.

This unique collection comes from The National Archives in Kew and consists of the records for pensions and allowances given to officers, men and staff of the RIC and their widows and children. The collection includes registers of pensions along with registers of deceased pensioners and pensions paid when the RIC was disbanded in August 1922. Many of the records show whether the individual paid into the Constabulary Force Fund. This fund, which was formerly called the Reward Fund, was used to reward RIC members monetarily after acts of achievement and/or bravery. For example, in July 1875, Constable John Daly was awarded £6 for gathering evidence by visiting infected houses and families. The evidence gathered was sufficient to arrest a swindler doctor.

Free Dublin directory goes online

Researchers with Irish roots could benefit from a new tranche of records made available online thanks to the [Irish Genealogical Research Society](#) (IGRS). Released to mark St Patrick's Day on Thursday 17 March, the index to *Wilson's Dublin Directory* provides details of people practising a variety of occupations in the city, ranging from barristers to bakers. The free resource, available through the IGRS website, also includes a list of Dublin's streets, lanes and alleyways. Search [here](#).

PRONI unveils new-look website

The online home of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has undergone a major revamp. Boasting a sleeker and cleaner look, the [new website](#) is also now integrated into the NI Direct platform – used by the Northern Irish government for an array of web services. Genealogist and blogger Chris Paton provides an overview of some of the key changes [here](#).

From EGFHG member, Bryan James -

Here is a website with which you already be familiar but, if not, which may be of use for passing on to others.

<https://www.measuringworth.com/>

Ireland – FindMyPast has kindly decided for the moment to make their collection of ten million Irish Roman Catholic parish records available for free. Parish records are particularly important in Ireland because of the number of lost/destroyed/missing census records. These are baptism, marriage and burial records that can be searched by first name, last name, year and location. [[Irish Catholic Parish Records](#)]

Alternatively, the largest collection of Irish parish records can be found at the website *RootsIreland*, which is run by the Irish Family History Foundation. Access is by subscription. [RootsIreland](#)

U.S.A. & REST OF THE WORLD

New FamilySearch Collections Update:

COLLECTION	INDEXED RECORDS	DIGITAL RECORDS
Brazil Pernambuco Civil Registration 1804-2014	204,849	0
California San Pedro Immigration Office Special Inquiry Records 1930-1936	2,736	0
Denmark Deeds and Mortgages 1572-1928	0	2,993,164
England Cornwall and Devon Parish Registers 1538-2010	11,418	0
Hawaii Index to Filipino Arrivals to Honolulu 1946	7,408	0
Illinois Church Marriages 1805-1985	9,190	0
Illinois Civil Marriages 1833-1889	8,975	0
Illinois County Marriages 1810-1934	179,181	0
Indiana Marriages 1811-2007	0	16,771
Maryland Church Records 1668-1995	137,984	27,644
Maryland Piney Point Crew Lists 1950-1956	5,429	0
Michigan County Marriages Index 1820-1937	1,012	0
New Jersey Church Records 1675-1970	1,144	613
New Jersey State Census 1865	0	3,646
New York New York Soundex to Passenger and Crew Lists 1887-1921	5,800	0
North Carolina Civil Marriages 1763-1868	53,614	4,567
Ohio Marriages 1800-1942	3,567	785
Peru Junín Civil Registration 1881-2005	87,987	0
Spain Province of Cádiz Municipal Records 1784-1956	0	155,324
Tennessee Civil Marriages 1838-1888	5,946	1,079
Texas and Arizona Arrivals 1903-1910	59,299	0
United States Freedmen's Bureau Marriages 1861-1872	34,323	599
United States War of 1812 Index to Service Records 1812-1815	1,130,851	0
Utah LDS Missionary Registers 1860-1937	48,207	0
Virginia Alexandria Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels 1946-1957	6,669	0

South African National Archives

www.national.archives.gov.za

SKELETON:

A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

HINTS, TIPS & HELPFUL ADVICE

8 Steps for Protecting Water-Damaged Photos

From Ancestry.com blog - Posted by Maggie Mora on April 1, 2016

As April approaches, we're sharing some tips on how to salvage water-damaged photos. At Storyhouse, we always encourage our clients to digitize all of their family memories and important documents before catastrophe strikes, but we know this isn't always possible during sudden and unexpected bouts of inclement weather. Here is a quick guide to steps you can take to minimize long-term damage to photos and paper heirlooms. Special thanks to the folks at University of Texas at Austin's iSchool for providing us with training and materials which helped us distill a plan for you to salvage and protect your valuable documents.



Soaked photos were placed in plastic bags for approximately 24 hours

Guidelines for DIY Salvage

First thing's first. If you are in the midst of recovery mode, an undoubtedly stressful and trying time, take a deep breath and step back so that you can make a realistic assessment of your surroundings. Then, you can prioritize and develop a plan of action. Know that there will likely be items that you will not be able to recover and remember that rushing may cause you to damage fragile items. Before you get to work, remember to:

- **Protect yourself first.** Check for rotting wood, electrical hazards, etc. Do not work in an unsafe environment.
- **Gather necessary materials and prepare a workstation.** Wear nitrile or latex gloves when working with flood-damaged materials to protect yourself from potentially hazardous contaminants from the water. When possible, also wear long sleeves, pants, waterproof shoes and N95 respirators. Bonus if you're able to bring along paper towels, wax paper, clean dishcloths or any other absorbent material to aid in the drying process. Also, twine, tacks and clothespins can be helpful. Clear a dry work area and/or hang a clothing line so that you can start to lay out items to dry.
- **Assess the situation.** Determine which items are of utmost priority (i.e., items that can't be replaced and no other copy exists) and make a plan.

Salvaging paper heirloom articles like photos, receipts, documents, and artwork, etc.

- If you are unable to deal with the drying process at the moment, carefully place all items into a plastic bag and then directly into a frost-free freezer. If possible, separate some of the most important items using layers of wax paper. These items will hold up in a frozen state, buying you several weeks or even months of time so you can deal with them when you are ready. Once you're ready to



Soaked photos in various states of disrepair.

proceed, place your items in a cooler inside an air-conditioned space and allow them to slowly thaw over the course of ~2 days, then proceed with the following steps. Note: If the items are in enclosure like albums or frames, remove them immediately to prevent from sticking. **REMEMBER:** Do not freeze glass!

- If you are dealing with a pile of wet items, always start by carefully removing items on top and work your way down.
- On a long table, lay out cloth, pillowcases, paper towels, any dry layers you can find to create a barrier between your dry surface and the wet items so they will not dry and stick to the dry surface. If you are limited on space, you can also pre-emptively crinkle up paper and lay photos and more sturdy items against it in a triangular shape.
- Carefully separate photographs and documents using both hands and lay them flat on your absorbent surface. Make sure nothing is overlapping or the items will stick together as they dry.
- If you don't have time to separate individual paper stacks, dry them in stacks no more than ¼" high. Photos should always be laid out in single layers.
- If preserving especially old photographs or artwork, consider placing wax paper on top of the item and weighting down just the edges with glass (jars, bottles, etc.) or any small heavy item so they will dry a little more flat.
- If using a clothesline method, hang only sturdy items only on the line. Hanging drenched papers might result in more damage to the item.
- If you have any items that appear as though they are unsalvageable (i.e. they would fall apart if you tried to pick them up), take several photos of the document before attempting to pick it up.
- Try to keep the air moving and reduce humidity in the room where these items are drying to avoid mold growth. Consider using a dehumidifier and fans, but make sure the air circulation is gentle – avoid directly pointing fans at wet materials. Dry for 48 – 72hrs, if possible.
- Once your items are dry and out of danger, you can remove any mold that might have formed with a soot sponge. Cut the sponge into small squares and use slow circular motions to remove mold. Remember to wear a mask, gloves, and long sleeves before attempting this.
- For damaged items you hold especially dear, consider contacting a local photo/document restoration expert or conservator, but note these services can be costly.

Other Valuable Resources



Photos drying on a makeshift line.

The [UT-Austin iSchool](#) has compiled an incredible *Quick Tips Guide* and a comprehensive list of reputable in-depth resources to help you navigate through your personal salvage. [Click here](#) to read their post and to stay informed. Also, call them for advice at 512-903-9564.

Also, the [American Institute for Conservation – Collections Emergency Response Team \(AIC-CERT\)](#) has a volunteer-driven hotline set up to respond to the needs of cultural institutions during emergencies and disasters. They provide advice and referrals by phone if you call this phone number: 202-661-8068.

[Contact us!](#) We employ trained archivist teams who can help you with the first phase of salvage and with follow-up resources for an hourly rate. Email us at info@yourstoryhouse.com for a complimentary consultation.

PHOTO CREDIT: *All photos were captured during a salvage effort after the Central Texas Floods of 2015.

Storyhouse worked with UT's iSchool and other volunteer archivists to assist with washed up photos and heirloom items that residents took to local libraries.

- See more at: http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/04/01/8-steps-for-protecting-water-damaged-photos/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+ancestry+%28Ancestry.com+blog%29#sthash.U95hQy3Z.dpuf

Finding Your Irish Roots in Irish Catholic Parish Registers

The following is from an Ancestry.com blog - Posted by Juliana Szucs



St. Matthew Chapel, Parish of Milltown, Co. Westmeath, Ireland

I feel like the doors to my Irish ancestry have suddenly been opened wide with the recent addition of more than [10 million Irish Catholic Parish Registers on Ancestry](#). For many of us, this collection represents the best chance of discovering a written record of our ancestors and their families online.

The National Library of Ireland has been working to preserve these records since it began microfilming them in the 1950s. While the records can date as far back as the 1600s and as recent as 1915, the majority of the collection dates from the late 1700s to the early 1880s. Recently the images were digitized and indexed and can now be searched and viewed on Ancestry (free through March 17th). I've had some great luck in this collection and have put together some search tips that will hopefully help you as you explore your Irish roots in this historic collection.

Where and When in Ireland?

You'll have the best chance of success if you have an idea of where in Ireland your family lived. Not sure where they're from in Ireland? [Download our guide here for tips on where to look.](#)

Know Their FAN Club

Irish names are often very common names, so distinguishing your James Kelly from others can be a challenge. This is not a time for tracing your direct ancestors alone. Gather as much information as you can on extended family and get to know their FAN Club (Friends/Associates/Neighbors). Look at the people they interacted with after they left Ireland. If you've done research in Catholic records here in the States, make note of sponsors (godparents) and witnesses at marriages. Make note of the names of people they travelled with and their neighbors in the U.S., particularly those that lived around them soon after their arrival. Immigrants often travelled with and settled near neighbors from the old country.

Be Flexible with Spelling

Spelling of both first and last names varied widely, so be flexible. Huggins can become Huggin, Huggans, Higgins, Higgans, Huggens, Hugens, etc. Wildcards can help when you're searching for name variants. On Ancestry, a question mark (?) will replace one character (great for folks who treated vowels as interchangeable), and an asterisk (*) will replace zero or more characters. So H?g*n* will capture all of the above renderings of Huggins. Because you may get a lot of variants depending on the name, wildcards are most useful when you can specify a particular parish. (Be sure to choose the place from the drop-down menu and use the Exact link to restrict results to that place.)

William or Guilielmus

Many of the records of the Catholic Church in Ireland are in Latin and while it's not difficult to interpret them for the most part, you will want to keep this in mind when you're searching. If you're not finding the English version of your ancestor's surname, try searching for a Latin equivalent. (If you're not sure, just use a search engine and search for "Latin for [NAME].") Be aware though, that here again, spelling wasn't uniform.

Because many Latin names have the same root as their English version, wildcards can help here, as well. Marg* will pick up Margaret, Margarita, Margaretta, Marguerite, etc.; Pat* will find Patrick, Patricii, Patricius, Patritius, Patk., and other spellings.

Search for Just a Surname and a Parish

If you're searching for ancestors in less-populated areas, try searching for just the surname and the place. When searching for my Huggins family in Milltown, County Westmeath, with all the variants I got a list of 127 hits, which I printed out, noting the most promising entries. Focusing first on those that most closely matched the Huggins spelling,

I was able to quickly identify my immigrant ancestor's family. I found some children that I was not aware of prior to this. They don't show up with the family in the passenger lists or in American records that I've found. Using my printed list and clicking through to the image, I created a Word document and began sorting out the baptism records into families using the parents' names. Rearranging the records by family and in chronological order, I added in details not found on the index, such as maiden names and sponsors/witnesses.

William and Anne (nee Weir) Huggins

Names: [Wm Huggans and Ann Wier](#)
Married: Apr 1833 at Milltown, Westmeath, Ireland, Diocese of [Meath](#)
Witnesses: John Jeffries and [Winnie Donoho](#)

Name: [John Huggins](#)
Baptism: 29 Jan 1835, Milltown, Westmeath, Ireland
Diocese: [Meath](#)
Father: William Huggins
Mother: Anne [Wyre](#)
SS: [Jno Jefferies](#) and [Cath Murta](#)

Name: [Catherine Huggins](#)
Baptism: 19 Jun 1836, Milltown, Westmeath, Ireland
Diocese: [Meath](#)
Father: Wm Huggins
Mother: Ann Weir
SS: James Huggins and Margaret Weir

Name: [Robert Huggins](#)
Baptism: 6 March 1838, Milltown, Westmeath, Ireland
Diocese: [Meath](#)
Father: William Huggins
Mother: Ann [Wier](#)
SS: William and Bridget Huggins

With this technique, I was able to easily piece together several families, including one in which my immigrant ancestor fit perfectly, with parents Roberto and Bridgitta. We've long speculated a relationship between our Huggins family and the Murtagh family (sometimes spelled Murta in the records) because of the appearance of Murtaghs with our Huggins family in several other records. Of 9 baptisms in Robert and Bridget's family, 6 of them had at least one Murta/Murtagh sponsor listed. Although none of these baptisms gave the mother's maiden name, I was beginning to strongly suspect I had found my Murtagh connection.

I reviewed the list of matches from my search one more time and found one entry that I had initially missed because it had been indexed as Haggan. The luck of the Irish was with me on this one. It was the only baptism that listed Bridget's maiden name. Murtagh. (Cue happy dance.)

[Browse](#)

Once you've found a parish, don't be shy. Browse the parish records. Think of it. When my mom was fortunate enough to visit the church in Milltown years ago with my dad, they caught the parish priest just as he was running out on a holiday. He was kind enough to look up a few records for them, but all we got was my 3rd great-grandmother's baptism and her parents' marriage. There wasn't time for more. We now have access to these records 24/7, and in just one night I was able to expand greatly on what we know about that family, taking it back another generation. And I'm just getting started. Going forward, we'll be able to piece together entire communities.

Also keep in mind that indexes are not perfect. In looking over the list of baptisms chronologically, while the spacing between baptisms was typically 1 ½ to 2 years, in one case I found a gap of 6 years between two children. I used the browse to locate the years where the pattern dictated that more children might have been born and was able to fill that gap with two more children.

The doors are open, and your Irish Catholic ancestors are waiting. Dig in and start exploring your Irish roots today in the Irish record collections on Ancestry

See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/03/11/finding-your-irish-roots-in-irish-catholic-parish-registers/#sthash.b4Ra2vQV.dpuf>

Wonderful English from Around the World

In the lobby of a Moscow Hotel, across from a Russian Orthodox Monastery:

YOU ARE WELCOME TO VISIT THE CEMETERY, WHERE FAMOUS RUSSIAN AND SOVIET COMPOSERS, ARTISTS AND WRITERS ARE BURIED DAILY, EXCEPT THURSDAY.

Using Death Records to Find Hidden Children and Married Daughters

The following is from an Ancestry.com blog - Posted by Amy Johnson Crow.

Birth records are wonderful, but they don't always give us the complete picture of the family. There could be children listed without first names (which can make it harder to find them in a search). There's also the sad reality that some infants who were stillborn or who died shortly after birth weren't recorded in the births.

So how do we look for people when we don't know their names, or when they are missing from the birth records? One strategy is to use death records.




Why Use Death Records to Fill in the Gaps

Death records give us another opportunity to take a look for someone. When the records list the parents' names, it opens up a new way to search for a person even if we don't know that person's name. This strategy also works well for finding those daughters who we think got married, but we don't know to whom.

I went into the [Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1963](#) collection on Ancestry. This collection includes the names of the parents. Since that information is indexed, I did a search without filling in the name of the deceased. Instead, I searched just by the names of the parents, George and Caroline Martin.

The screenshot shows the search interface for the 'Kentucky, Death Records, 1852-1963' collection. At the top, there is a 'SEARCH' button and a checkbox for 'Match all terms exactly'. Below this are two input fields: 'First & Middle Name(s)' and 'Last Name'. Underneath these are four rows of filters: 'Birth', 'Death', 'Lived In', and 'Any Event'. Each row has dropdown menus for 'Day', 'Month', and 'Year', and a text input for 'Location' with a placeholder 'City, County, State, Count'. Below the filters, there is a section for 'Add family member:' with tabs for 'Father', 'Mother', and 'Spouse'. Under 'Father', the first name is 'George' and the last name is 'Martin', both with 'Exact' search options checked. Under 'Mother', the first name is 'Caroline' and the last name is empty, with 'Exact' checked. Under 'Spouse', both first and last name fields are empty.

I got three results – two married females and a male (Sherd) whose surname was indexed as “Hartin.” (On his death certificate, the name was typed and the top corner of the M is missing.) All three death certificates list the parents as George Martin and Caroline Frazier.

Results 1-3 of 3						
View Record	Name	Gender	Birth Date	Death Date	Death Place	View Images
View Record	Mary Francis Combs	Female	15 Jan 1865	18 Dec 1960	Perry, Kentucky, USA	
View Record	Rhoda Geyhart	Female	1882	25 May 1912	Knott, Kentucky, USA	
View Record	Sherd Hartin	Male	16 Mar 1870	12 Mar 1962	Perry, Kentucky, USA	

1-3 of 3 Per page

Searching with just the parents' names can also reveal children who were born and died between census years. Searching in the Kentucky death records for father Gilbert Abner and mother Ada revealed two children: McKinley, who was born in 1915 and died 26 October 1918, along with Minnie, who was born in 1913 and died a few days after McKinley.

Tips for Searching by Parents' Names

When you're in a collection of death records and you're searching by parents' names, you should try a variety of searches. The parents' names could be recorded any number of ways, especially the mother's name. Her surname might be recorded as her maiden name, her married name, or left blank. This is why my first search is with father's full name and just the mother's first name.

Because of all of the variations of how the parents' names might be recorded, try different searches using:

- Father's full name and just the mother's first name
- Father's full name and just the mother's maiden name (first name blank)
- Just the father's surname and the mother's maiden name

Of course, there will be instances where the person giving the information was completely wrong about the parents' names. However, this strategy of searching just with their names can help you discover children who were previously unknown as well, and possibly find the deaths of those married daughters.

See more at: <http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2016/03/28/using-death-records-to-find-hidden-children-and-married-daughters/#sthash.scTXmjFM.dpuf>

The following is from the Rootsweb Mailing List for **Kent, England**, and may be of interest to some EGFHG members looking for information on LDS films.

If you visit <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search> you can enter the location for which you're searching (in the order of England, county, parish - and perhaps city or town), and all the films covering that area will appear.

Click on your selection. They've marked the ones that you no longer have to order; those digital images are available on the Familysearch website for free. (Many of the Devon and Cornwall parish records are digitized for instance - we have to "browse", as they aren't indexed yet, but they're arranged by parish, by date, and by subject - birth, marriage, death.)

They want you to "join" - it's free, and you're not joining anything but the website. (no ads will ensue.) Once you have an account you order all films this way. You don't have to visit a Family History Center to do so. In the US, you can also order an LDS film to be delivered to your local library. (Make sure they still have readers, however. Our libraries have removed all the readers!!)

You can order films for a short time - I believe it's 3 months - or "permanent". (2 different charges.) It's up to you which will serve you best.

As for finding the names of persons who served, or tried to serve, as clergy during the Civil War, I've found that reading very old histories, many of which have been digitized and are available for free on Google books, or Archive books, often uncovers such nuggets of information. For instance, one parish of interest to me had a rector leave in a panic, after hearing many of his parishioners were dying - and another clergyman returned from his assigned church to cover both. He did heroic duty for several years, but the first man returned, and actually sued to recover his position! Hope this helps someone.

Julia Symons Mosman (I'm a volunteer at our local FHC, but not a church member.)

West Briton Transcriptions, 1836-1856 at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wbritonad>

St. Austell Area History and Genealogy at <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~staustell>

When I was six months pregnant with my third child, my three year-old came into the room when I was just getting ready to get into the shower.
She said, 'Mummy, you are getting fat!'
I replied, 'Yes, honey, remember Mummy has a baby growing in her tummy.'
'I know,' she replied, but what's growing in your bum?'

WRINKLES:

Something other people have - similar to my character lines.

I'M MY OWN GRANPAW

No doubt there are times during our own research where we get tied up in knots trying to sort out some of the more complicated relationships in our Family Trees but, hopefully, we never arrive at the same conclusion as the poor chap in this light hearted bit of nonsense.

I was married to a widow, who was pretty as can be.
This widow, had a grown-up daughter, who had hair of red.
My father fell in love with her and soon they too were wed.
This made my dad my son-in-law, and really changed my life.
Now my daughter was my mother, cause she was my father's wife.
And to complicate the matter, even though it brought me joy,
I soon became the father of a bouncing baby boy.
My little baby then became a brother-in-law to dad,
And so became my uncle, though it made me very sad.
For, if he were my uncle, then that also made him brother.
Of the widow's grown up daughter, who was of course, my stepmother.
Father's wife then had a son who kept them on the run,
And he became my grandchild, for he was my daughter's son.
My wife is now my mother's mother, and it makes me blue.
Because although she is my wife, she's my grandmother too.
Now, if my wife is my grandmother, I am her grandchild, yeah.
And every time I think of it, heh!
Nearly drives me wild.
Cause now I have become, the strangest case you ever saw,
As husband of my grandmother, I am my own grandpaw.
Oh I'm my own grandpaw. I'm my own grandpaw.
It sounds funny I know, but it really is so,
Oh I'm my own grandpaw.
It sounds funny I know, but it really is so
I'm my own grandpaw.

WRINKLES:

Something other people have - similar to my character lines.

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.
Thomas Jefferson

After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint . . . you're probably dead.
Will Rogers

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.
Will Rogers

And finally, old Omar again –

Here with a loaf of bread beneath the bough
A flask of wine, a book of verse – and Thou
Beside me singing in the wilderness –
And wilderness is Paradise enow.