

## Griffith's Valuation

### (The Primary Valuation of Ireland)

Between 1848 and 1864, Sir Richard Griffith and his team of surveyors carried out the *Primary Valuation of Ireland*, known as Griffith's Valuation. It was to evaluate property holdings to assess liability to pay for the support of the poor and destitute in each Poor Law Union. It is now also used as a census substitute for 19<sup>th</sup> century Irish census records which were destroyed.

The Tithe Applotment Books, an assessment of land taken during the 1820 – 1830s. Tithes were a church tax for the support of the established church, and previously had been paid by an annual valuation of crops. The Tithe Composition Act 1823, allowed a twice yearly payment in cash by the landholders. Used by family historians as an earlier census substitute. Towns are not included.

A barony is the old Gaelic land holding of the Lordship, a civil parish is the mediaeval church parish, used after the Reformation as an administrative area, but still sometimes the same as the present Church of Ireland parish. The townland is the smallest division of land, varying in extent from a few acres to many hundreds. Another territorial area, dating from the nineteenth century, is the Poor Law Union, set up to administer the Poor Law, which covers several civil parishes, sometimes crossing parish and even county boundaries.

Catholic parishes, founded mostly in the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, are generally larger than the civil or Church of Ireland parishes, and may contain several civil parishes. The Index fiche for each county, contains a listing of the Civil Parishes in 1) number order and 2) alphabetical order, with a list of Catholic parishes and the civil parishes they contain.

The book, held at the LFHHS Research Centre, *Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland*, is a must for finding the correct spelling of places in the Valuation, or where they may be found, including the Poor Law Union. For instance, the townland of Grawn in Ballingarry parish,

Co Tipperary is officially known as Garranacole, and has also been written in documents as Gurrane. It is in the Poor Law Union of Callan, a town across the county border in Kilkenny.

Always record the Ordnance Survey reference of the townland and property your ancestor leased or owned. You can then pinpoint the exact house etc occupied by the family on the appropriate townland map, used by the Griffiths' surveyors.

Publishers of Books and CD's listed in the text are

a) "Grenham's Irish Surnames" (CD) Eneclann Ltd., Trinity College, Enterprise Centre, Pearse St., Dublin 2, Ireland.

b) "Index to Griffith's Valuation" (CD) The Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, USA

c) "Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland" (mentioned above) The Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, USA (ISBN: 9780806310527)

d) "Irish Genealogy – A Record Finder" Heraldic Artists Ltd., Genealogy Bookshop, Trinity Street, Dublin 2, Ireland (ISBN: 0 9502455 7 7). NB These publications may be available in libraries and to buy through family history magazines and other organizations selling CDs, books etc. Second hand copies of books may be available through Abebooks <[www.abebooks.co.uk](http://www.abebooks.co.uk)>.

### Irish Tithe

Tithe payment was an obligation on those working the land to pay ten per cent of the value of certain types of agricultural produce for the upkeep of the clergy and maintenance of the assets of the church. After the Reformation in Ireland of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the assets of the church were allocated by King Henry VIII to the new established church being the church of Ireland non catholic. The majority in Ireland who remained loyal to the old religion were then obliged to make tithe payments which were directed away from their own church to the reformed one.

This increased the financial burden on subsistence farmers, many of whom were at the same time making voluntary contributions to the construction or

purchase of new premises to provide Roman Catholic places of worship.

The new established church was supported by only a minority of the population, seventy-five percent of whom continued to adhere to Roman Catholicism.

The tithe burden lay directly on the shoulders of farmers, whether tenants or owner-occupiers. More often than not, tithes were paid in kind, in the form of produce or livestock. In 1830, given the system of benefices in the Anglican system, almost half of the clergy were not resident in the parishes from which they drew their incomes. These issues, more often than not, were inflamed by the senior Irish Roman Catholic clergy, who were now dependent on voluntary contributions. Incensed farmers vehemently resisted paying for the support of two clerical establishments. Aided and abetted by many of the Roman Catholic bishops and clergy, they began a campaign of non-payment from the eighteenth century.

### The Tithe Applotment Books

Were compiled between 1823 and 1837 in order to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland There is a manuscript book for almost every parish in the country giving the names of occupiers, the amount of land held and the sums to be paid in tithes.

### Tithe Defaulters

Lists detail people involved in the Infamous Tithe War of 1831-1838. From 1831 onwards, many people refused to pay the tithe and so began the Tithe War, which was fiercest in Leinster and Munster. The names of people who refused to pay their tithe were recorded by The Church of Ireland clergy.

### The Tithe War

Was a campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience, punctuated by sporadic violent episodes, in Ireland between 1830-36 in reaction to the enforcement of Tithes on subsistence farmers and others for the upkeep of the established state church - the Church of Ireland.

## Irish Ancestry Group

### Branch Information

The group was established in July 1996 and is one of the branches of the Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society. The group meets six times a year on a Saturday afternoon at the society's Resource Centre, 2 The Straits, Oswaldtwistle, BB5 3LU.

Information about meeting dates, times and programme can be found on the society's website; [www.lffhs.org.uk](http://www.lffhs.org.uk) under the branch tab (Irish Ancestry).

It is also available in the journal "Lancashire" published quarterly by the society; copies can be obtained by applying to the society's Resource Centre address listed above.

The group has a growing reference library of research aids for tracing Irish ancestry. The majority covers Southern Ireland, with some journal and reference books for Northern Ireland. The resource centre is equipped with computers with Internet access together with helpful volunteers to assist with your research.

The library is always available at meetings or at other times by arrangement. Unfortunately, we cannot carry out research for members but will willingly give advice and guidance. All LFHHS members are automatically entitled to be part of the group and attend meetings.

### Lancashire Family History & Heraldry Society

Formed in 1973 as the Rossendale Society for Genealogy and Heraldry (Lancashire), the Society now has thirteen branches in Lancashire, together with one in London where members meet regularly. The society also has a worldwide community of family historians with roots in Lancashire. Please check out the benefits of membership for yourself by visiting the society's website.

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