

DIANE L. RICHARD LOOKS AT THE WEALTH OF GENEALOGY INFO YOU CAN GATHER FROM THIS IRISH WEBSITE

It's All Relative: Ulster Historical Foundation

THE ULSTER HISTORICAL Foundation, www.ancestryireland.com, is an Irish research and publishing firm based in Ireland. Services include online databases of over two million records, genealogy and history books, as well as personal ancestral research.

Besides offering research services to clients, the website also contains some guides that you can use as you do research into your Irish ancestors. These free PDF booklets cover researching your Belfast and Sperrin ancestors and some information on the 6th Connaught Rangers.

You will find that the images, for the most part, will be illegible due to their low quality and this does allow people to easily download these helpful guides because the file size will be smaller. These guides are supplemented by a collection of Irish Parish Civil Maps (for Ulster), a listing of townlands for each county in Ulster and two timelines — history and genealogy.

Let's now explore its database offerings. Regarding the over two million searchable family records available, some are freely accessible, some are member-only access and others are pay-per-view.

- Databases which are free to any visitor to the website. This currently includes a list of surnames in Ireland created in 1890.
- Pay-per-view databases for which individuals buy credits to access the data (about \$6 US for full details of these records for the general public and half that price for Guild members). Indexes for birth, marriage and death/burial records for County Antrim and County Down are currently included.
- Member-only databases, which are only available to members of the Ulster Genealogical and

Historical Guild (membership rates start at about \$45 US). These include collections, such as Directories (1807-1900), Occupations, Census, Education, Emigration, Wills and Testamentary Papers, Election Records, Estates Papers, 17th- and 18th-Century Records and Parliamentary Papers, among others.

titles currently available. Some of the titles include:

- *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors*. The essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, between 1600-1800.
- *The Plantation of Ulster: British Settlement in an Irish Landscape, 1600-1670*.
- *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718-1775*.



The homepage for the Ulster Historical Foundation.

Some of the gems in this collection include: Indexes to 1796 Flaxgrowers Bounty List, Dissenters in the Parish of Ahoghill, County Antrim in 1766, Scottish Settlers in Ulster, Subscribers to Samuel Lewis' Topographical Dictionary in 1837, Illiterate Voters in Irish Boroughs in 1837, several early 18th-century rent rolls and tenants lists, 17th- and 18th-century freeholder lists, several will calendars, Teachers and Schools (1826-1827), 1803 Agricultural Census of Antrim, Apothecaries: Apprentices and Licensed (1791-1829).

Additionally, the Ulster Historical Foundation is a leading publisher of Irish history and genealogy books, with over 200

- *Scottish Irish Merchants in Colonial America*.
- It also includes several guides for researching in particular areas and many other helpful books.

In your quest to research your Irish ancestors, consider both the free and subscription-based content available on this website. It just might provide the clues regarding those elusive Irish ancestors.

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Diane L. Richard has been doing genealogy research for more than 23 years. She can be found at www.mosaicrpm.com/Genealogy.