

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ?

A Guide To Genealogy Resources

Donegal County Council Cultural Services Library Service





Flight Of the Earls, Rathmullen
Image: Claire Curran



The Fid.
Location: The Old Pier,
Moville, Co. Donegal.
Image: Paul McGuickan
http://donegalpublicart.ie/dpa_fid.html



Grianan of Aileach
Image: leisha.kelly@gmail.com



Killydonnell Friary Ramelton
Image: Claire Curran

One Donegal

Many Pasts, One Future!

As custodians of the collective memory of the county, genealogy or family history resources are important library services.

Genealogy plays an important role in how we view ourselves, our history and the connections we have around the world. Genealogy makes history come alive because when people learn about their ancestors they are able to make connections to history.

This booklet provides a brief introduction to the family history records available within the Library, Archives and Museum Services of Donegal County Council. It will also guide those interested in tracing their family tree to other online resources and give the contact details of other agencies that can help in their research.

This booklet has been funded by Donegal County Council's Hands of History – One Donegal, Many Pasts, One Future project. Hands of History is supported by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation, led by Donegal County Council under the auspices of the Donegal County Development Board's Peace and Reconciliation Partnership. Hands of History aims to develop an understanding of how key events in our history were experienced by different communities within the county and how these historical legacies have contributed to relationships today.

August 2013.

Our Resources

Central Library, Letterkenny, located on Oliver Plunkett Road, has an extensive collection of books, journals and other material on genealogy and family history. While we do not have primary resources such as records of births, death, marriages etc, our family history resources can help you get started on your search for that elusive ancestor. Spending a day or part of a day in Central Library is the best way to make use of these unique resources. Some items of interest are on microfilm therefore we recommend that you contact Central Library to make a booking. To book please call (074) 9124950 or email central@donegalllibrary.ie

Our local libraries have relevant local history collections and may be able to provide you with what you are looking for locally or guide you to what you need. Microfilmed items are also available in Buncrana, Bundoran and Na Rosa (Dungloe) Libraries, once again booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. Use of all materials in the library is free of charge; however there is a small charge for prints and photocopies. For contact details and opening hours check our website www.donegalllibrary.ie. Staff are happy to provide assistance to customers carrying out family history research however they are unable to carry out research on behalf of customers.

It is possible to photocopy many of our resources. There are some exceptions such as maps and rare books, although most of these can be photographed without a flash. Permission to print copies from Church of Ireland parish registers for Killaghtee, Killybegs, Inver and Mountcharles must be obtained from the parish.

It is necessary to obtain permission from University College Dublin, School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics, before any material from The Schools' Folklore Scheme (1937-38) is reproduced in any form. The limit on copies for personal use is twenty sheets. All photocopying must comply with the Copyright and Related Rights Act 2000.



Microreader, Central Library Letterkenny
Image: DCC Library Service

Getting Started

Do your homework!

Begin your search by talking to family members and gathering as much information as possible including old photographs, old documentation, newspaper cuttings and any other mementoes of significant events that may still be available in your family. Check family gravestones for dates and names, contact the Civil Registration Service to access birth, death or marriage certificates. Remember gathering as much information as you can initially will focus your research and ultimately make it less time consuming.

When you have gathered all available information move on to the next steps in Central Library.

Check:

- Possible family obituaries in newspapers
- Published family history books
- Published books about your local area

The following books will be of help with your search:

- *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* by John Grenham
- *Tracing your Donegal Ancestors* by Helen Meehan & Godfrey Duffy

More information can be found on our website:

<http://www.donegallibrary.ie/quicklinks/localfamilyhistory/>

The following important resources are found at Central Library:

1. Census and Census Substitutes 1901 and 1911 Census

Because of the destruction of records in the Four Courts building during the Civil War, the earliest surviving complete records are for the Census taken in 1901 and 1911. We hold microfilm copies of both Census returns for County Donegal, [originals in the National Archives]. These list all those present in the household on the night of the census (31st March 1901, and on a range of dates from January to May 1911), their relationship to the householder, religion, occupation, age and other personal details. The returns are arranged by District Electoral Division (DED) and townland. The 1901 and 1911 Census can also be viewed online at www.census.nationalarchives.ie

Ireland 1841/1851 Census Abstracts by Josephine Masterson documents census abstracts from Old Age Pension Records.

FORM No. 12. Parliamentary Registration (Ireland) Act, 1885, 48 Vict., c. 17.

Donegal Division of the County of *Donegal* Polling District of *Raphoe*

CLERK OF THE UNION'S SUPPLEMENTAL LIST for the year 188*9*, of Male Persons (not already appearing on the Copy of the Register for this Polling District) who are Inhabitant Occupiers as Owners or Tenants of Dwelling-houses within the Polling District of *Raphoe*, being part of the Poor Law Union of *Strabane*, for which Dwelling-houses all Poor Rate due on the First day of January has been paid by either the Owner or the Occupier on or before the First day of July in this year.

NOTE.—All persons whose names already appear on the Copy of Register for this Polling District are to be omitted from this List.

Margin for note that name appears in Supplemental List of £10 Rated Occupiers.	Column for entering the Clerk of the Union's Objections.	Householder's Surname and Christian Name.	Situation and Description of the Dwelling-house constituting the Qualifying Premises.
		<i>Allen John</i>	<i>Legnathraw</i>
		<i>Bennett Richard</i>	<i>Raphoe</i>
		<i>Birnes John</i>	<i>Castlefen in Succession from Mullam...</i>
		<i>Black Robert</i>	<i>Killoe</i>
		<i>Blackburn Robert</i>	<i>Ballyban</i>
		<i>Blair Alexander</i>	<i>Black Repent</i>
		<i>Bomber Hugh</i>	<i>Maghera...</i>

Electoral Register, Raphoe, 1880s
Image: DCC Archive Service

Pynnar's Survey 1618-1619

Pynnar's Survey was carried out between 1618 & 1619 and lists the English and Scottish landowners who were granted lands under the Plantation of Ulster. It details the acreage granted to each 'undertaker', but also surveys the principal Irish tenants remaining on the fortified lands.

[Hill, George *An Historical Account of the Plantation of Ulster at the Commencement of the Seventeenth Century 1608-1620*. Belfast: McCaw Stevenson & Orr, 1877]

Muster Rolls 1630

The Muster Rolls date from 1630 and is the oldest census substitute held in Central Library. This is a list of major landowners and of able-bodied men at arms (16-60 years) to be mustered to fight if needed, for the Crown. The list is compiled by barony and 'undertaker' or landlord.

Pender's Census 1660-1661

Pender's Census contains lists of people entitled to land or 'tituldoes'. It is divided into baronies, parishes and townlands and lists the number of Irish, Scots and English in each townland. It is a particularly valuable source as it lists the principal Irish names and their frequency.

[Seamus Pender. *A Census of Ireland circa 1659*. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1939]

Civil Survey 1654-1656

The Civil Survey is a record of land ownership compiled between 1654 and 1656. These records contain some topographical details and descriptive features.

[*The Civil Survey A.D. 1654-1656: Counties of Donegal, Londonderry and Tyrone.* Dublin: Stationery Office, 1937]

Hearth Money Rolls 1665

The Hearth Money Rolls is a list of householders liable to pay tax based on the number of hearths per house. It lists the head of the household in each barony and parish liable to pay this tax.

Central Library's Copy is an indexed photocopy taken from PRONI T 307/C manuscript.

Wills

Wills are an important resource as they often mention many family members and properties associated with that family.

The major central surviving wills collection is now located in the National Archives. The collection is indexed and is continually being supplemented. The index provides name of deceased, address and year of the will or year of administration.

Central Library holds the following three volumes:

Abstract of Wills at the Registry of Deeds: Vol 1 (1708-1745)

Abstract of Wills at the Registry of Deeds: Vol 2 (1746-1785)

Abstract of Wills at the Registry of Deeds: Vol 3 (1785-1832)

Spinning Wheel Premium Entitlement Lists

To encourage the Linen Industry in Ireland, the Irish Linen Board awarded free spinning wheels to landholders growing certain acreage of flax.

Entries are based on Parish and the number of spinning wheels given to each person is listed.

The Tithe Applotments 1823 -1838

These are lists of landholders, originally compiled as the basis for tithe payments, which had to be paid to the local Church of Ireland Rector. The Tithe Applotment Books are arranged by parish and townland listing the name, area of land and tithes paid. Tithe Applotments for Co. Donegal are held on microfilm in Central Library and online at (www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie)

Other Resources

- 'Donegal remembers World War I dead' (a list of men from the County who fought and died in World War I).
- A list of families in the Parish of Conwal 1878 / compiled by W. Craig.
- Old Letterkenny families / compiled by Sam Fleming.
- Murlog Church baptisms 1773-1777.
- St. Eunan's Letterkenny: List of Marriage Lines 1853-57.
- List of persons in the parish of Culdaff, March 8th, 1782.
- List of Protestant householders in the parish of Leck in 1766.

2. Land Records

Register of Deeds in County Donegal – Freeholders 1760 - 1769

This is a bound typescript of the owners of freeholds in Donegal, registered between 1760 and 1769. The original manuscripts were found in the basement of Lifford Courthouse in 1933 and sent to the National Library.

Griffith's Primary Valuation 1857–1858

Griffith's Primary Valuation was the first standard valuation of all real property in Ireland and lists householders and lessors by townland, parish, poor law union, and barony. Central Library holds a full set for Donegal, in volumes arranged by barony. The maps relating to Griffith's Valuation are in the Valuation Office, Dublin. Valuation records and maps may also be viewed online at (<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>)

3. Church Records

Church Records are a valuable family history resource. Where these records are stored depends on religious denomination. It should also be noted that a lot of parish records are held locally in parish churches.

Church of Ireland

Church of Ireland records are held by the Representative Church Body Library www.ireland.anglican.org

Church of Ireland Parish Registers for Inver, Mountcharles, Killaghtee and Killybegs are held on microfilm in Central Library.

Permission to print from these records must be obtained from the parish.

Roman Catholic

Most of the surviving Roman Catholic parish registers to 1880 are held on microfilm in the National Library of Ireland. More recent records are held locally at the parish church.

Methodist

Methodist Church records are available in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI). PRONI has microfilm copies of a large volume of baptism entries dating from 1815 for Methodist churches throughout Ireland. Marriage registers generally start in 1845. There are few Methodist burial registers because most Methodist churches did not have their own burial grounds. Permission to copy must be obtained from the individual Methodist Church.

Methodist Church registers for the parishes of Ardara & Dunkineely, Ballintra, Donegal Mission, Inishowen and Ramelton are held by Donegal Ancestry Ltd. www.donegalancestry.com

Methodist Church records are also held by the Wesley Historical Society in Ireland.

Presbyterian

Presbyterian Church records are held by local Churches and by the Presbyterian Historical Society <http://www.presbyterianireland.org/>
Most Ulster Presbyterian records have been microfilmed.
Central Library holds hard copy indexes to the following local Presbyterian Churches.

INDEX TO PARISH RECORDS OF:	RECORD	YEARS AVAILABLE
First Letterkenny Presbyterian Church	Births and Marriages	1845-1899
Gortlee (Letterkenny) Reformed Presbyterian Church	Marriages	1872-1898
Letterkenny Second Presbyterian Church	Baptisms and Marriages	1821-1858
Letterkenny Third Presbyterian Church	Baptisms and Marriages	1841-1899
Milford Presbyterian Church	Births and Marriages	1838-1899
Rathmullan Presbyterian Church	Births, Deaths and Marriages	1845-1899
Fanad Presbyterian Church	Births and Marriages	1827-1899
Trentagh Presbyterian Church Letterkenny	Marriages	1845-1952 1958-1998
Trentagh Presbyterian Church Letterkenny	Baptisms	1964-1998

4. Gravestone Inscriptions

We hold records of gravestone inscriptions for the following graveyards, including a layout plan:

- Aughaninshin
- Balleeghan
- Bruckless
- Clonleigh
- Gartan
- Inver (Church of Ireland)
- Inver (Old)
- Killaghtee (Church of Ireland)
- Killaghtee (Old)
- Killybegs (St. Catherine's)
- Kilmacrennan
- Kilmonaster
- Leck
- Raphoe (St. Eunan's Cathedral)
- Raymoghly
- Tullaghobegley
- Tullyaughnish

Central Library also holds the following graveyard inscriptions:

- Eileen Hewson, *Donegal Graveyards* Part I-VII

A number of graveyard inscriptions have been published in various volumes of the Donegal Annual and in local history publications held in Central Library.

More records are available online at:

<http://www.irishgraveyards.ie/index.html>



St. Mura's Historic Graveyard, Fahan
Image: Joseph Gallagher



Raphoe Castle
Image: Jimmy Harte



Tory Island Cross
Image: Claire Curran



Gortan, Co. Donegal
Image: leisha.kelly@gmail.com



Tory Island, Tower
Image: Claire Curran



Aodh Rua Ua Domhnaill 1427 - 1505
Donegal Town
Image: Claire Curran



Donegal Friary
Image: Claire Curran

5. Passenger Lists

We hold a number of published passenger lists (mainly for vessels leaving Derry Port) and US immigration lists. The earliest records date from 1735. They include:

- *Donegal Passengers on the Assisted Passenger List from Plymouth, England to Sydney, Australia (1848-1868)*, compiled by Richard Reid.
- *Across the Atlantic: Emigrating from Moville and Derry* by Niamh Brennan and Bernadette Walshe (eds.)
- *Emigrants from Ireland to America 1735-1743* by Frances McDonnell.
- *Passengers from Ireland: Lists of passengers arriving at American ports between 1811 and 1817* by Donald M Schlegel.
- *Irish Passenger Lists 1847-1871: Lists of passengers sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J & J Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line*, compiled by Brian Mitchell.
- *Immigration of Irish Quakers into Pennsylvania 1682-1750* by Albert Cooke Myers.
- *Emigrants from Derry Port 1847-49*, Dessie Baker (ed.)
- *Passenger List of the 'Invercargill', which sailed to New Zealand 1878 (65 passengers from County Donegal)* [photocopy].



Ship Invercargill at Timaru. Ferrier, William: Negatives. Ref: 1/1-003654-G. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.
<http://natlib.govt.nz/records/22870285>

The Famine Immigrants, lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York [7 volumes]

- Volume 1: Jan 1846 – June 1847
- Volume 2: July 1847 - June 1848
- Volume 3: July 1848 - March 1849
- Volume 4: April 1849 - Sept 1849
- Volume 5: Oct 1849 - May 1850
- Volume 6: June 1850 - March 1851
- Volume 7: April 1851 - Dec 1851

The Search for missing friends: Irish immigrant advertisements placed in the Boston Pilot [8 volumes]

- Volume 1: 1831 - 1850
- Volume 2: 1851 - 1853
- Volume 3: 1854 - 1856
- Volume 4: 1857 - 1860
- Volume 5: 1861 - 1865
- Volume 6: 1866 - 1870
- Volume 7: 1871 - 1876
- Volume 8: 1877 - 1920

Useful websites include:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~donegal/passengers.htm>

<http://www.ellisland.org/>

6. Trade Directories

We hold a range of directories, in printed and microfiche form, listing merchants and 'gentlemen'. These include:

- Slater's Directory of Ireland 1846, 1856, 1870, 1881 and 1884.
- Pigot's Directory of Ireland 1820, 1821, 1822 and 1824.
- *Porter's Guide to the Manufacturers and Shippers of Ireland* by Frank Porter.

7. Military Records

Royal Irish Constabulary: A Complete Alphabetical List of Officers and Men, 1816-1922 / by Jim Herlihy.

Royal Irish Constabulary Officers: A Biographical Dictionary and Genealogical Guide, 1816-1922 / by Jim Herlihy.

Royal Irish Constabulary Index microfiche.

County Donegal Book of Honour: The Great War 1914-1918 / Paddy Harte (ed.)

Liam Ó Duibhir Archive – materials relating to the Irish Civil War and War of Independence.

Useful websites include:

<http://www.militaryarchives.ie/>

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<http://www.cwgc.org/>

**COUNTY DONEGAL
BOOK OF HONOUR**



**THE GREAT WAR
1914 - 1918**

Additional aids to Family History Research

LOCAL NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

Local newspapers are excellent sources of family history as they often list birth, death and marriage details. Obituaries may also include references to other family members and indicate where the deceased is to be buried.

Central Library holds the following newspaper archives:

- The Derry Journal: 1772-73, 1825, 1835 - present
- The Donegal Democrat: 1919 - present
- The Ballyshannon Herald: 1831, 1833, 1835-36, 1851-1883
- The Vindicator: 1906-1911, 1921-1956
- Donegal People's Press: 1984 - present
- Inniú: 1943-1984
- Derry People Donegal News: 1903-2010 (Missing 1922, 1931, 1942, 1972). 2011 to present are hard copy
- The Irish Times: 1969 – 2011

Most of the newspapers listed above are stored on microfilm, therefore it is advisable to contact the library in advance to book an appointment on the microreader.

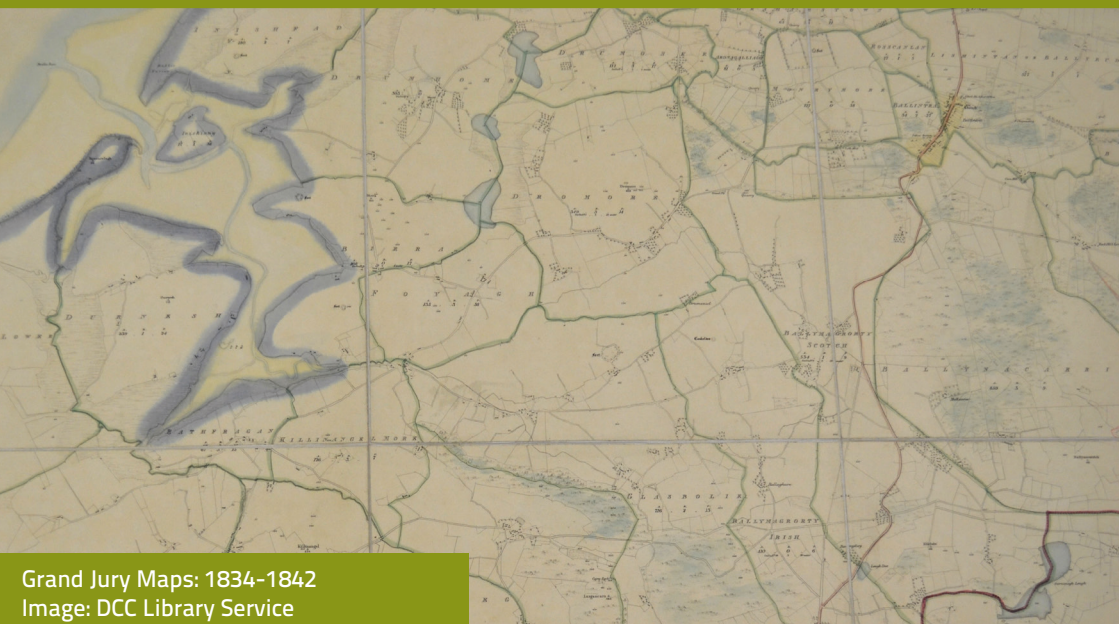
Hard copies of other, more recent local newspapers are also available.

MAPS

Maps form an important resource in family history research as they provide the researcher with an image of the landscape in which their ancestors lived. Indeed Griffith's Valuation maps show the exact plot of land where their ancestors lived and worked.

The following is a sample of maps held by Central Library:

- Ulster Maps 1609: Maps of the Escheated Counties in Ireland
- Barony and Parish Maps of Co. Donegal/Down Survey Maps 1655-56
- Grand Jury Maps: 1834-1842 (see below)
- Griffith's Valuation 1834-58 maps are viewable online at <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>
- Second Edition Ordnance Survey Maps: 1906



Grand Jury Maps: 1834-1842
Image: DCC Library Service

RARE BOOKS PUBLISHED IN THE EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH CENTURIES

Central Library has a collection of old and rare books published about Donegal, or by Donegal authors in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They offer a valuable insight into life in Donegal in past centuries.

The following are just a few examples from our collection:

- *A Tour in Ireland in 1775 with a View of the Salmon-Leap at Ballyshannon*/ Richard Twiss
- *Narrative of a Journey to the North of Ireland in the Year 1802*/ J.C. Beresford
- *A Statistical Account, or Parochial Survey of Ireland: Drawn up from the Communications of the Clergy*/ William Shaw Mason [3 volumes]
- *Sketches in Ireland: Descriptive of Interesting Portions of the Counties of Donegal, Cork and Kerry*/ Caesar Otway, 1839



Rare Books
Image: DCC Library Service

SCHOOLS' FOLKLORE SCHEME

1937-38

In 1937 the Irish Folklore Commission in collaboration with the Department of Education introduced a scheme in which schoolchildren were encouraged to collect and document folklore and local history. The result is a rich collection of local folklore, legends, songs, customs and beliefs, each specific to their own locality. While not every primary school in the county participated, the collection offers a rich source of local traditions. Many people have found pieces written by a family member.

A full list of participating schools in County Donegal is available in Central Library and may be viewed on microfilm.



JOURNALS

Central Library holds a large selection of current and historical journals; many of which contain information on local history useful to the family history researcher. Below are a few suggestions:

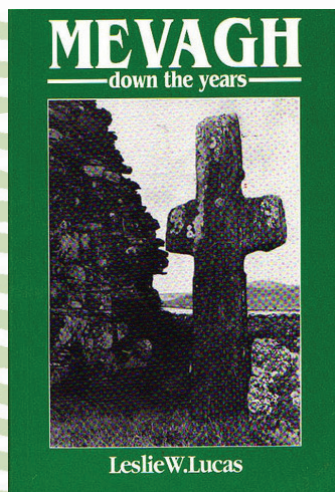
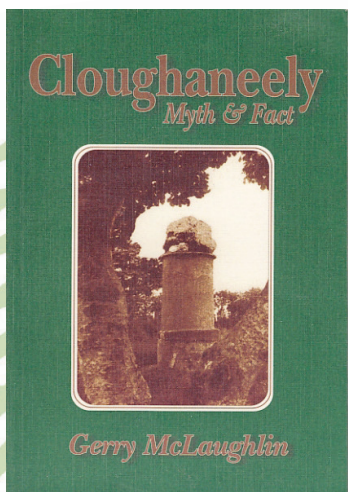
- *Irish Family History 1985-2006*
- *Donegal Annual 1947 – present*
- *Ulster Folklife 1959 - 2004*
- *Clogher Record 1953 – 2012*
- *Béalóideas 1928 – 2012* (some volumes are missing)

LOCAL HISTORY BOOKS

Donegal Library Service aims to collect and preserve all books published in Donegal, written by Donegal authors or about the county. These books are held as part of the Donegal Local Studies collection in Central Library Letterkenny. Additional copies of books specific to certain districts of the county are held in local libraries. Family history research is intrinsically linked to local history and these books written by many diverse authors offer a valuable source of information. Many researchers find that local history books round off the work they have already put into tracing their family trees.

The following is a sample of local history books available in Central Library:

- *Donegal History and Society*
/ Liam Ronayne et al. (eds), 1999
- *Mevagh Down the Years*/ Leslie Lucas, 1962
- *The Story of the Rosses*/ Ben O'Donnell, 1999
- *Inver Parish in History*/ Helen Meehan, 2005
- *Ballyshannon Genealogy and History*
/ Anthony Begley, 2011
- *Three Hundred Years in Inishowen*/ Amy Young, 1929
- *Cloughaneely: Myth & Fact*/ Gerry McLaughlin, 2002
- *The Kirk and Lands of Convoy since the
Scottish Settlement*/ Mullin, T.H., 1960
- *A Local History of Lifford*/ Lifford ICA



DONEGAL COUNTY ARCHIVES

Donegal County Archives holds a wide variety of archival material relating to family and local history. These include:

- General Valuation registers which list occupiers and owners of land and property in Donegal from the twentieth century
- Electoral (voters') registers for the county; late nineteenth/ twentieth centuries
- Nineteenth/twentieth century workhouse and hospital records including minutes of meetings and admission and discharge registers
- Estate papers, including rentals and correspondence from some large Donegal estates
- Roll books and registers for a large number of primary schools across the county
- Donegal Grand Jury presentment/assize records (and some minutes of meetings) from 1753 to 1899
- Legal documents including abstracts of title, leases etc
- The records of Donegal Local Authorities, both extant and predecessor bodies

Donegal County Archives is based in the Three Rivers Centre, Lifford. Access to archives is by prior appointment, to make an appointment call (074) 9172490 or email archivist@donegalcoco.ie.



DCC Archive Service
Image: Niamh Brennan

DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM

Donegal County Museum is based in part of the old Letterkenny workhouse, built in 1843. The Museum develops and cares for a comprehensive collection of original artefacts relating to the history of County Donegal.

The first floor exhibition gallery gives visitors an overview of the history of Donegal from the Stone Age to the Twentieth Century. A series of contemporary exhibitions and associated events covering a wide variety of themes are held throughout the year in the ground floor of the gallery.

Admission is free and the Museum is open all year from Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.30pm and Saturday 1.00pm to 4.30pm, closed on public holidays. For further information contact Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. Tel (074) 9124613 or email museum@donegalcoco.ie



DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM
MUSEAM CHONTAE DHUN NGALL



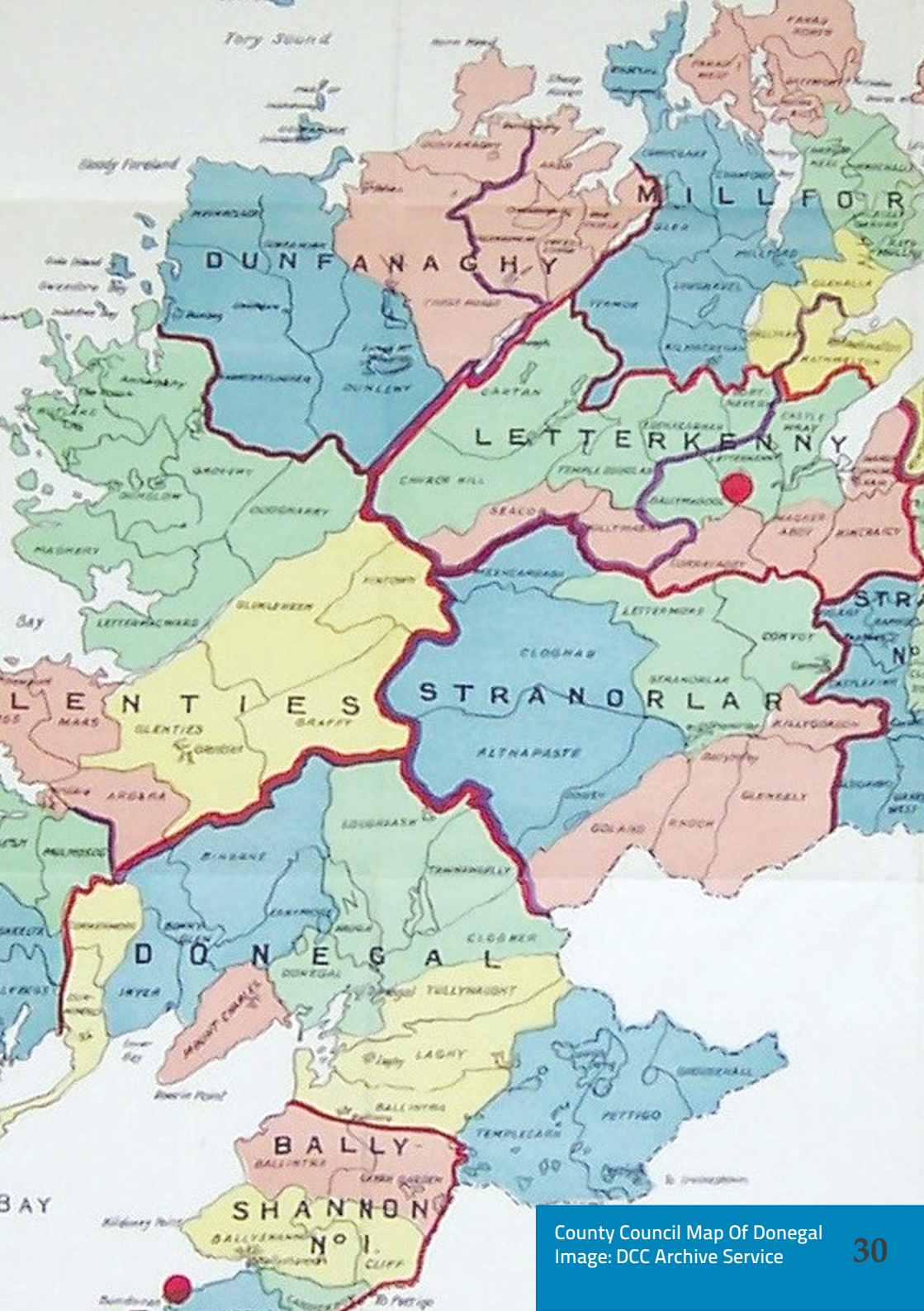
THE DONEGAL DIASPORA PROJECT

If you are away from home and have an interest in, or connection to, Donegal this project may be of interest to you. The Donegal Diaspora project has been created to reach out and actively engage with the global community, acting as a resource for information, connections, partnerships and development. For more information check the website www.donegaldiaspora.ie

USEFUL WEBSITES

- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~donegal/>
- www.askaboutireland.ie/
- www.donegalancestry.com
- www.historyofdonegal.com/
- www.familysearch.org/
- www.proni.gov.uk
- www.nli.ie
- www.nationalarchives.ie
- www.groireland.ie

Genealogical research is a step by step process, information from one record will lead to another and you will need to access various different archives and libraries. We wish you every success and hope you enjoy your research.



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European Union

European Regional
Development Fund
Investing in your future



Comhairle Chontae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council



Donegal County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



hands of history
one donegal: many pasts • one future



donegal gathering
slógadh dhún na ngall



donegal diaspora
pobal domhanda