3 Valuation Records

The *Tithe Applotment Books* and *Griffith's Valuation* are two nineteenth-century valuation records which are much used by genealogical researchers. They are important as census substitutes, providing, in part, a substitute for information lost as a result of the destruction of the nineteenth-century censuses.

The Index of Surnames

Because of the significance of both valuations to genealogists, in the 1950s the National Library of Ireland arranged for the compilation of an index to the surnames recorded in the *Tithe Applotment Books* and *Griffith's Valuation.*

This *Index of Surnames* is available for consultation - by county - in the Reading Room and in the Genealogy Service.

USING THE INDEX OF SURNAMES

The *Index of Surnames* can assist you as follows:

- if you know the county of origin of your ancestor but are unsure of his or her exact place of residence, the *Index of Surnames* will allow you to pin-point the Civil Parishes in which persons of the surname lived;

- if you wish to search either the *Tithe Applotment Books* or *Griffith's Valuation* for information on land-holders and their property, the *Index* acts as a guide to relevant Civil Parishes;

- if you wish to know something of the distribution of a particular surname in any county.

Each *Index of Surnames* contains the following information:

- a map showing the Baronies and Civil Parishes in each county with a key to the relevant Catholic parishes;

- an alphabetical listing of the surnames recorded in each Barony of the county;

- an alphabetical listing of the surnames recorded in each Civil Parish in the county in question;

For example, in the *Index of Surnames* for Co. Carlow you will find the following entries:

Murphy	G 56	T Forth
Murphy	G 103	T Rathvilly

The example above indicates that the surname Murphy was recorded in the *Tithe Applotment Books* in the Baronies of Forth and Rathvilly. In *Griffith's Valuation* it was recorded 56 times in the Barony of Forth and 103 times in the Barony of Rathvilly. (The *Index* records the number of entries in *Griffith's Valuation*; this information is not given for the *Tithe Applotment Books*).

The Tithe Applotment Books

The scarcity of early 19th century Catholic parish records, the destruction of so many Church of Ireland registers in the Public Record Office fire in 1922, together with the loss of so much nineteenth century census material, ensure that the *Tithe Applotment Books* constitute a key source of genealogical information for the early decades of the nineteenth century.

The *Tithe Applotment Books* were compiled between 1823 and 1838 (the date varies from parish to parish) as a survey of titheable land in each parish. (They do not cover cities or towns).

In general, the information contained in the *Tithe Books* is as follows:

- name of occupier
- name of townland
- acreage
- classification of land
- amount of tithe due.

It should be noted that they are not available for all parishes. Also, in some cases, you will find that one parish is united with another for the purposes of the survey.

The *Tithe Applotment Books* are available on MICROFILM in the National Library of Ireland. A guide to the Tithe Applotment Books on film is available in the Reading Room and in the Genealogy Room. This guide includes an alphabetical index to parishes, the diocese and county in which each parish is situated, the date of the original *Tithe Book* and the relevant Microfilm Number. It also includes a listing of parishes for which Books were not received.

The originals of the Tithe Applotment Books are held at the National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin 8).

Griffith's Valuation is available online at www.irishorigins.com. The Library makes this subscription service available free of charge to Library users in the Genealogy Room.

The Primary Valuation of Ireland (Griffith's Valuation)

The *Primary Valuation of Ireland* or *Griffith's Valuation* - carried out between 1848 and 1864 - is an important Census Substitute. It provides the only detailed guide to where people lived in mid-nineteenth century Ireland and to the property they possessed.

Griffith's Valuation was a valuation of property holdings carried out in order to determine liability to pay the Poor Rate (for the support of the poor and destitute within each Poor Law Union). Unlike the *Tithe Applotment Books, Griffith's Valuation* covers property in the cities and towns.

It is arranged by county and, within counties, by Poor Law Union. Each Poor Law Union is broken down into electoral divisions, parishes (Civil Parishes) and townlands.

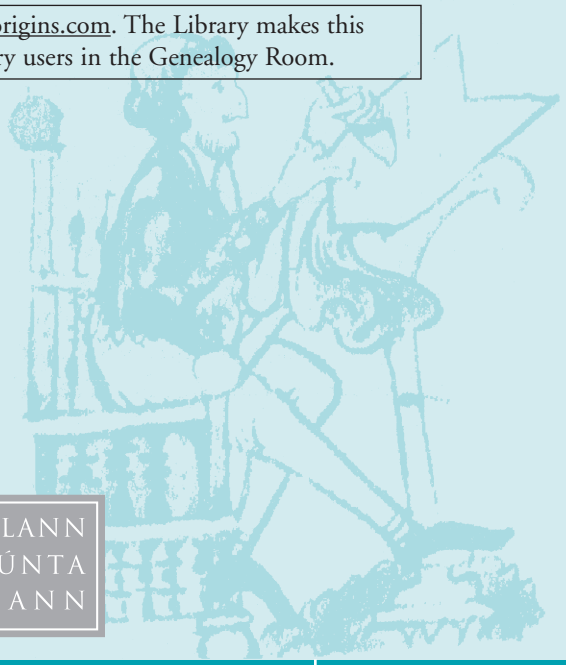
The *Valuation* contains the following information in respect of each townland or street:

- map reference number (location of the holding on the first edition six-inch Ordnance Survey maps)
- names of occupiers of holdings
- names of immediate lessors (the person from whom the holding was leased)
- descriptions of tenements (holding) eg, "House, offices and land"
- area (in Acres, Roods and Perches) of each holding
- valuation of buildings, land, etc. with Total Annual Valuation of each holding

Griffith's Valuation is consulted on MICROFICHE in the National Library of Ireland. A county-by-county guide to the Microfiche is available for consultation in the Genealogy Service and from the staff at the desk in the Reading Room. The fiche reference for each civil parish is given; civil parishes are listed alphabetically by county.

- As *Griffith's Valuation* was a published survey, copies are available in many repositories. The manuscript records of the survey ('field books', 'house books' and 'tenure books')- which contain information additional to that given in the published valuation - may be consulted in the National Archives.
- The Valuation Office (Irish Life Centre, Lr Abbey Street, Dublin 1. Tel 817 1000 Website: www.valoff.ie) was set up to administer the Primary Valuation. The "Cancelled Land Books" and "Current Land Books" held there give details of all changes in holdings, from the time of the original valuation, up to the present day. The Valuation Office also holds the Ordnance Survey maps annotated/coloured to accompany the Valuation.

Griffith's Valuation is available online at www.irishorigins.com. The Library makes this subscription service available free of charge to Library users in the Genealogy Room.



LEABHARLANN NÁISIÚNTA na hÉIREANN