



**Brian Donovan, Irish Records Expert, Findmypast**



[brian.donovan@findmypast.com](mailto:brian.donovan@findmypast.com)



[@BrianEneclann](https://twitter.com/BrianEneclann)

Poor relief was available in Ireland in some form at almost all time periods. It was dispensed by the church, the state or private charities, and they generated records that have left information about millions of impoverished people from all over the country. Often these records date from before the Famine (1845-52) with information unavailable anywhere else. Given that the poor Irish were the most likely to migrate to America, these records are an essential resource for your research.

The culture of poorest sector of Irish society will also be addressed. They inhabited a world of gross inequality, where they were more likely to be Irish speakers and casual labourers. They clung to superstition, tales of malicious fairies, local cults of saints, as well as a plethora of customs that have long since disappeared.

**Census, BMD and parish registers**

Website	Notes
<a href="http://www.irishgenealogy.ie">www.irishgenealogy.ie</a>	BMD indexes and images, RC for Dublin, West Cork, CoI for Dublin, Kerry, Carlow, etc.

<a href="http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/">www.census.nationalarchives.ie/</a>	1901 & 1911 census, pre-1901 census survivals, Tithe books.
<a href="http://www.findmypast.com">www.findmypast.com</a>	RC index and images, 1901 & 1911 census, pre-1901 census survivals, BMD indexes, Quaker records, Col records, etc.

### Poor Relief

<i>Resource</i>	<i>URL</i>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-poverty-relief-loans-1821-1874">Poverty Relief Loans 1821-1874</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-poverty-relief-loans-1821-1874">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-poverty-relief-loans-1821-1874</a>
<i>Resource</i>	<i>URL</i>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/clare-poor-law-unions-board-of-guardians-minute-books">Clare Board Of Guardians Minute Books</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/clare-poor-law-unions-board-of-guardians-minute-books">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/clare-poor-law-unions-board-of-guardians-minute-books</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/donegal-workhouses-registers-and-minute-books">Donegal Board of Guardians minute books &amp; workhouse registers 1840-1920</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/donegal-workhouses-registers-and-minute-books">https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/donegal-workhouses-registers-and-minute-books</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/dublin-workhouses-admission-and-discharge-registers-1840-1919">Dublin Workhouse 1840-1919</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/dublin-workhouses-admission-and-discharge-registers-1840-1919">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/dublin-workhouses-admission-and-discharge-registers-1840-1919</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/dublin-poor-law-unions-board-of-guardians-minute-books">Dublin Board Of Guardians Minute Books</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/dublin-poor-law-unions-board-of-guardians-minute-books">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/dublin-poor-law-unions-board-of-guardians-minute-books</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/galway-poor-law-union-records">Galway Board of Guardian minute books 1839-1922</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/galway-poor-law-union-records">https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/galway-poor-law-union-records</a>
<a href="https://www.limerick.ie/discover/explore/historical-resources/limerick-archives/archive-collections/limerick-union-board">Limerick city Board of Guardian minute books and workhouse registers</a>	<a href="https://www.limerick.ie/discover/explore/historical-resources/limerick-archives/archive-collections/limerick-union-board">https://www.limerick.ie/discover/explore/historical-resources/limerick-archives/archive-collections/limerick-union-board</a>
<a href="https://www.limerick.ie/discover/explore/historical-resources/limerick-archives/archive-collections/register-cases">Limerick PLU Register of Vaccinations 1864-1912</a>	<a href="https://www.limerick.ie/discover/explore/historical-resources/limerick-archives/archive-collections/register-cases">https://www.limerick.ie/discover/explore/historical-resources/limerick-archives/archive-collections/register-cases</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/sligo-workhouse-admission-and-discharge-registers-1848-1859">Sligo Workhouse 1848-1859</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/sligo-workhouse-admission-and-discharge-registers-1848-1859">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/sligo-workhouse-admission-and-discharge-registers-1848-1859</a>
<a href="http://tipperarystudies.ie/workhouse-registers/">Tipperary (Thurles &amp; Cashel) Board of Guardian minute books and workhouse registers</a>	<a href="http://tipperarystudies.ie/workhouse-registers/">http://tipperarystudies.ie/workhouse-registers/</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/waterford-poor-law-union-board-of-guardians-minute-books">Waterford Board of Guardians minute books 1840-1920</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/waterford-poor-law-union-board-of-guardians-minute-books">https://search.findmypast.co.uk/search-world-Records/waterford-poor-law-union-board-of-guardians-minute-books</a>
<a href="https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections">Wicklow (Rathdrum &amp; Shillelagh) workhouse registers 1842-1917</a>	<a href="https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections">https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections</a>
<a href="http://wexfordcountyarchive.com/our-collections/digital-collections/poor-law-union-minute-books-wexford-union/">Wexford (Enniscorthy &amp; Wexford) Board of Guardians minute books 1840-1922</a>	<a href="http://wexfordcountyarchive.com/our-collections/digital-collections/poor-law-union-minute-books-wexford-union/">http://wexfordcountyarchive.com/our-collections/digital-collections/poor-law-union-minute-books-wexford-union/</a>

### Land records

<i>Notes</i>	<i>Resource</i>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books">Valuation Office Field and House Books</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864">Griffith Valuation 1847-64, plus original maps</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864</a>

<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/landed-estates-court-rentals-1850-1885">Landed Estates Court Rentals 1850-85</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/landed-estates-court-rentals-1850-1885">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/landed-estates-court-rentals-1850-1885</a>
--	---

**Security, Courts and the police**

Resource	Image/Index
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/irish-prison-registers-1790-1924">Irish Prison Registers 1790-1924</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/irish-prison-registers-1790-1924">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/irish-prison-registers-1790-1924</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-petty-sessions-court-registers">Petty Sessions Court Registers 1828-1917</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-petty-sessions-court-registers">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-petty-sessions-court-registers</a>
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-dog-licence-registers">Dog Licence Registers</a>	<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-dog-licence-registers">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-dog-licence-registers</a>
<a href="https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/">Irish historic newspapers</a>	<a href="https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/">https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/</a>

**Newspapers**

Resource	Notes
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books</a>	Valuation Office Field and House Books
<a href="https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864">https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/griffiths-valuation-1847-1864</a>	Griffith Valuation 1847-64, plus original maps

**Printed articles & books mentioned in the presentation**

David Fitzpatrick, "[The Disappearance of the Irish Agricultural Labourer, 1841-1912](#)", *Irish Economic & Social History*, Vol. 7 (1980)

Gerard Moran, [Sending Out Ireland's Poor](#) (Dublin, 2013)

Gerard Moran, "[James Hack Tuke and his schemes for assisted emigration from the west of Ireland](#)", *History Ireland*, 2013