Additional Resources

Irish Naming Convention

Naming convention was used extensively in the early 1800s and persisted up into the early 1900s. Families did not always stick rigidly to the convention and adopted it to suit their own family needs. If you can identify all the children born to a particular couple, and the correct sequence of the children, then this can be a very useful way of predicting the likely names of other family members. And this can be an additional piece of circumstantial evidence that reinforces the probability that you have found the right record for other family members.

Irish naming convention for male children was as follows:

- First son named after father's father
- Second son named after mother's father
- Third son named after father
- Fourth son named after father's eldest brother
- Fifth son named after mother's eldest brother

A similar convention was used for daughters:

- First daughter named after mother's mother
- Second daughter named after father's mother
- Third daughter named after mother
- Fourth daughter named after mother's eldest sister
- Fifth daughter named after father's eldest sister

Thus, if you have identified the children's names and sequence of birth correctly, you can deduce the forenames of the following family members:

1. The paternal grandparents (from 1st son & 2nd daughter)
2. The maternal grandparents (from 2nd son & 1st daughter)
3. The eldest brother and sister of the father (from 4th son & 5th daughter)
4. The eldest brother and sister of the mother (from 5th son & 4th daughter)

Another convention that is commonly seen is that if a child died, the subsequent child of the same sex would be named after the deceased child. If that second child died then the convention was "to turn your back on your ancestors" and choose a Christian name for the next (third) child that was totally unconnected with the family. This was thought to break the spell of bad luck associated with the particular Christian name bestowed upon the first two children who had died.

List of Forenames and Shortened or Alternative Versions

Anne (Ann, Nancy, Hannah)
Bridget (Brigid, Bridie, Bedelia, Delia)
Catherine (Kate, Cate, Kitty)
Elizabeth (Eliz, Eliza, Betty, Bess, Lisa, Lily)
Ellen (Eleanor, Nelly, Helen)
Frances (Fanny)
Hanora (Honora, Hannah, Nora)
Mary (Maria, Mollie, May, Maire)
Margaret (Mgt, Meg, Peggy)
Darby (Jeremiah, Jerome, Dermot, Demetrius)
Denis (Dennis, Dinny)
Edward (Edmund, Ted, Ned)
Frank (Francis)
Hugh (Owen, Eugene)
John (Jno, Sean)
Michael (Mike, Mick)
Mortimer (Morty, Mort, Murtagh)
Patrick (Pat, Patk, Patt, Paddy, Patsy, Padraig, Packie)
Timothy (Tadhg, Thadeus, Thady)
William (Liam, Gulielmus, Billy)

A comprehensive list is available in the Help section of the RootsIreland website. Searching for these alternatives may reveal records previously hidden.

List of Latin Words and Christian Names

baptizandi nomen … Christian name (forename)
cognomen … surname
die … day
mense … month
anno domini … year of Our Lord
nomina parentum … names of the parent
nomina patrinorum … names of the sponsors
et … and
in matrimonium coniunxi sunt … they are joined in marriage
testimonii … witnesses
domicillum … home address / residence

consanguinati … bride & groom are related
in tertio grado … in the third degree (i.e., a third degree relationship would be second cousins; second degree would be first cousins; first degree would be siblings; etc.)
affinitatus … related by marriage

Carolus … Charles
Demetrius … Dermot, Darby, Jerome, Jeremiah
Gulielmus … William
Eugenius … Eugene, Owen
Ioannes … John
Jacobus … James
Joannes … John
Honoria … Hanora, Hannah, Nora
Patricius … Patrick

Example of a Birth Entry in Latin:
Junii 25
Bapt. Jacobus f.l. Gulielmus Spierin et Maria Agnes Ryan, 11 Dawson St
Sp: Patricius Donoghue, Anna Quilty

This is a shortened version of the way it would appear in Latin if it were written in its full form, thus:

Junii 25
Baptisavi Jacobus, filium legitimum Gulielmus Spierin et Maria Agnes Ryan de 11 Dawson St. Sponsoribus, Patricius Donoghue, Anna Quilty

… which would roughly translate as:

June 25
I baptized James, legitimate son of William Spierin and Mary Agnes Ryan of 11 Dawson St.
Sponsors (godparents) were Patrick Donoghue and Anna Quilty

Any Latin phrase can be translated into English (or any other language for that matter) by simply using Google Translate at *http://translate.google.com.*

Build Your Family Tree Online
There are several websites where people can publish their family trees online, and some do not require having to pay a subscription. It would be worthwhile checking these sites to see if anybody else is researching the same people that you are. The major sites to consider are the following:

- *www.wikitree.com*
- *www.GENI.com*
- *www.familysearch.org*
- *www.genesreunited.com*
- *www.MyHeritage.com*
- *www.FindMyPast.com*
- *www.Ancestry.com*

The first three of the above websites offer free hosting of your family tree as part of a One World Tree. Kitty Cooper performed an interesting comparison of these three websites and the advantages of contributing to a One World Tree - *http://blog.kittycooper.com/2014/06/the-advantages-of-working-with-a-one-world-tree.*

Abbreviations Used In the Text
BMD … Birth, Marriage, & Death records
GRO … General Register Office
GRONI … General Register Office of Northern Ireland
IGRS … Irish Genealogical Research Society, *www.irishancestors.ie*
NAI … National Archives of Ireland
NLI … National Library of Ireland
PRONI … Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
RC … Roman Catholic
UHF … Ulster Historical Foundation, *www.ancestryireland.com*
WMC … WikiMedia Commons

General Resources
FindMyPast's Irish Record Catalogue, *www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/world-records/full-list-of-the-irish-family-history-records*

Ancestry's Irish Record Catalogue, *http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/CardCatalog.aspx*

FamilySearch – their Wiki has a relatively comprehensive list of resources available for Irish genealogy, including records held by the LDS themselves, *www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy*

John Grenham's Irish Ancestor's website, *www.johngrenham.com*

Claire Santry's Irish Genealogy Toolkit, *www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com*