Irish immigration to America through Canada

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TOPICS

• Irish immigration to America through Canada

• Public Library Genealogy Resources

• Miscellany: Who, what, where and when

• Number and asterisk match web sites on separate list
GEOGRAPHIC - British Isles
POLITICAL:

• United Kingdom of Gt Britain and Northern Ireland
  – England conquered Wales mid 1200s
  – Scotland and England united 1603 (James vi Scotland/James i of England)
  – N. Ireland (Ulster) part of UK in 1922
United Kingdom of Gt Britain & Northern Ireland a.k.a. “Britain”
BRIEF HISTORY OF IRELAND

• 1166 – Strongbow (Norman) invited to invade by Dairmait Mac Murchada, ousted King of Leinster.

• 1199 - Pope “gave” Ireland to King John (England)

• 1541 – Kingdom of Ireland (under Henry VIII)

• 1707 – Act of Union (with kingdoms of England, Wales and Scotland). Ireland retained own Parliament
• 1801 – Irish Parliament merged with UK

• 1922 – Irish Free State. All Ireland (except 6 counties in Ulster) became a self-governing dominion within the British Empire

• 1936 – Republic of Ireland (independent of the UK)

• Up to 1936 anyone from Ireland was a British Citizen
4 Provinces of Ireland

Republic of Ireland + 6 counties of N. Ireland
Irish Immigration to Canada

• Late 1700s:
  – to Newfoundland (mostly from Co. Waterford)
  – To Nova Scotia

• 1815 - End of Napoleonic Wars. British government encouraged immigration from the British Isles and Ireland to British North America (now Canada). The most significant ports - Quebec, Montreal, St. John NB and Halifax, NS.
Early map of British N. America
Immigration through Quebec. Grosse Ile Quarantine Station

- Located in the middle of the St. Lawrence River. Canada’s “Ellis Island” (3 sq miles)

- Quarantine st. for Port of Québec 1832- 1937 (now a historic site). Memorial erected 1997 commemorates arrival of Irish immigrants from the potato famine.
• Thousands of Irish were quarantined on Grosse Île 1847 - an outbreak of Typhus fever.

• 8,339 people of various nationalities buried in the Grosse Île cemeteries 1832 -1937.

• > 3000 Irish died on the island and > 5000 are buried in the cemetery there.

• Grosse Île Immigration database - 33,036 references to immigrants who stayed, were born, married or buried at Grosse Île Quarantine Station between 1832 & 1937 *1
Irish Immigrants who stayed in Canada

• Check Canadian Censuses (@Ancestry) *2
• 1825 Census of Lower Canada (Quebec)
• 1842 Census of Canada East (Quebec & S. Ont)
• 1851 Census of Canada E, Canada W. (Ont), NB & NS
• 1861 – 1901, Census of Canada, every 10 years
• 1906 Canada Census of Man, Sask, & Alta
• 1911 Census of Canada
Canada as we know it today
Canadian Confederation - 1867
( previously British North America)
Irish Immigration to America – Transition through Canada

• 1825 - 1845, 60% of all immigrants to Canada were Irish. Most stayed in Canada (in the eastern provinces)

• 1845-1852 - Potato Famine:
  – Passage to Canada less expensive.
  – British citizen
  – Geographically closer
Trans-Atlantic Transportation

• Pre-1838 – Sail (>6 weeks)
• >1838 – 1st steam assisted propulsion of a sailing ship
• Arrivals at Halifax or St John had a choice of taking a steam package to Portland, Maine or Boston or, train to Montreal
• or sail up St Lawrence River to Quebec, then train to Montreal or Toronto.
• 1860s - iron hulled ships (compound steam engines & screw propulsion) - crossing times about 8-9 days

• Ports of embarkation and ports of call of Irish emigrants included Belfast, Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Liverpool, Southampton, Bristol, and London

• >1894 Steamship and railroads advertised to potential immigrants to US to sail into Canadian ports.
Ship’s List *3

• Click on “passenger List” button. Enter name i.e. first last or last, first.
• Click “search passenger list” button.
• Scan down results and select a page. e.g. *Passenger List - Elizabeth, Saint John, NB 1833.*

• OR select the name of a ship and click on it.
• Alternate site is  G.G. Archives  *4

• Browse Passenger Manifests By:
  Port City,  Region,  Year of Voyage,
  to find ship name. Then go to Ship’s List to search names
Intercontinental Transportation

• Pre – 1850s
  – By river - when not frozen
  – By horseback
  – By stagecoach
  – On foot
  – RR - Montreal to Saint Jean-sur-Richelieu. Then steamer to New York via Lake Champlain and the Hudson River
St Lawrence to Champlain Railway
• 1853 – Grand Trunk Railway. Montreal to Portland ME.

   1st cross border railway in N. America north of St Albans, VT (St Alban’s Lists). Passengers crossing were not registered until 1895.

• > GTR most Irish immigrants did not stay in Canada
Figure 3: Map of the Grand Trunk Montreal to Portland Line ca 1853.
St Alban’s Lists

- Records kept 1895-1954
- Also records of immigrants crossing at Washington, Montana, Michigan, New York, North Dakota, and Minnesota,
- > 1917, anyone entering WEST of Montana/N. Dakota State line were filed in Seattle, WA
- Originally records filed in Montreal INS office. INS moved to St. Albans, Vermont, records moved there too.
3 sources to search St Alban’s Lists

1) family search.org/search/collection/2185163

Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954

SEARCH BY NAME and BIRTH PLACE (IRELAND)
2) Ancestry  *5

- Search > Immigration & Travel > Border Crossings and Passports. Filter by location: Canada
  - U.S. Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895-1956
  - Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935
  - Canadian Immigrant Records, Part One
  - U.S. Records of Aliens Pre-Examined in Canada, 1904-1954
  - Canada, CNR Immigrant Records, 1937-1961
Ancestry (Card Catalog) – Ancillary listings

- Irish Emigration to New England through the Port of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada, 1841 to 1849
- Irish Passenger Lists, 1847-1871
- Irish Emigrants in North America, 1670-1830, Part Six
- Irish Emigrants in North America, 1775-1825
- Emigrants from Ireland to America, 1735-1743
- Ships from Ireland to Early America, 1623-1850. Vol. II
3) microfilm from LDS Family History Centers. *5

• 4 Groups:

1) Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, VT, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1895-1954. 639 rolls.

2) Passengers Arriving in the St. Albans, VT, District through Canadian Pacific Ports, 1929-1949. 25 rolls.

   – indexed by yr. & mth. then alphabetically by port
3) **Index to Canadian Border Entries through the St. Albans, Vermont, District, 1895-1924. 401 rolls.**

4) **Index to Entries into the St. Albans, VT, District through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1924-1952. 98 rolls.**

- **Indexed by surname** (admission date & port of entry)
- **Check with Soundex for spelling variations**

*6*
Public Library Genealogy Resources

- Free access (at most libraries) to:
  - Ancestry
  - Heritage Quest
  - News Bank
Ancestry

• since 1996, users have created more than 70 million trees
• 2.64 million subscribers
• More than 1.7 billion records added during 2015
• AncestryDNA database now holds DNA samples from 1.5 million
Heritage Quest

• comprehensive treasury of American genealogical sources. Six core data sets:
  – U.S. Fed. Censuses - original images 1790 - 1940,
  – Genealogy & local hx books of 28,000 family histories, local histories, etc.
  – Revolutionary War - Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, (83,000 application files from officers and enlisted men who served in the Revolutionary War)
– Freedman’s Bank Records, 480,000+ names of bank applicants, their dependents, and heirs from 1865–1874,

Links to:
- Congressional memorials, petitions, private relief actions made to U.S. Congress > 1789,

- Periodical Source Index Archive from Allen County Public Library. Comprehensive index of genealogy & local history periodicals.

> 2.3 million records from around world since 1800.
New Additions to Heritage Quest 2015

• Birth, Baptism, Marriage, Death & Census Records includes > one billion names from U.S., Canada, Europe, Mexico, Central and South America, Caribbean, Africa and Asia

• Cemetery Indexes for U.S., Canada, U.K. and Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, Mexico, Germany, Italy, Brazil and Global Burials at Sea
• Military Records:
  – U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files 1800-1900
  – U.S. Records of Confederate Prisoners of War 1861-1865,
  – U.S. Re-married Widows Index to Pension Applications 1887-1942.
  – Other military records
• Immigration and Naturalization Records from selected U.S. states, Belgium, Brazil, Germany, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, etc.

• Social Security Death Index (SSDI).
  – >94 million records of deceased persons with social security numbers whose deaths were reported to the Social Security Administration
• U.S. Public Records Volumes 1-2, - 800 million various public records spanning all 50 U.S. states from 1950 to 1993

• Map and Photo Collection -> 7 million names identified and 600,000 images from the Library of Congress Photo Collection 1840-2000
Newsbank

• abstracts and selected full-text articles from domestic and international newspapers (news articles and obituaries)
Obtaining a Library Card

• Sumter Co – Free with driver’s license. Villages residents (renter, snowbird, or permanent resident)
• Marion Co.- Villagers in Marion and Lake Cos.
• Lake Co. For Lake and Marion Co. residents only, Sumter County residents pay a $40 annual fee or $20 for 6 months (per household).
Leesburg Library (Lake Co.)
Leesburg Library

• Free access to Lake and Marion Co. card holders and with “visitor’s pass” for Sumter Co residents
• Ancestry.com,
• Heritage Quest,
• Pro Quest Obitis
• News Bank Online
• American Ancestors - New England Historic Genealogical Society
• Micro-film reader
• Microfilm library
• CD Library – e.g. Family Archives Passenger and Immigration lists Irish to America 1846-1865
• Large reference section
• Volunteer support
• Closed Fri and Sun
WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN?

• WHO?
  – Old occupation names (Hall Genealogy Web page) *7

• WHAT?
  – Medical Terminology *8
• Letters.
  — ff = F
  — ss

• In print
WHERE

- County names
  Offaly = King’s Co
  Laois = Queen’s Co

- abbreviations

• Chapman Codes *9
• WHEN
  – Julian to Gregorian calendar

  – Prior to 1752 New Year’s day was March 25\textsuperscript{th}

  – Original documents <1752 use Julian calendar

  e.g. April 10th 1737 is BEFORE March 10\textsuperscript{th} 1737
• Genealogists express dates between Jan 1st and March 24th (before 1752) as:

Month.    Day,    Julian yr/Gregorian yr

e.g.  Feb    2nd  1711/12