

Our speaker for the November meeting was Rebecca Kichta Miller on "Finding Your Irish Ancestors". She started off dispelling a couple of myths:

- Irish records were all lost in a fire - many but not all and more and more records are becoming accessible
- Your name was changed at Ellis Island - no, the ship's manifest was filled out before a person left the departure port. Your ancestor may have changed their name once they got here, and for many reasons.

Irish records are often organized by townland, which is not necessarily an organized entity but more of a neighborhood within some larger entity. If your Irish ancestors were still living in Ireland when the 1901 or 1911 census you can find that when searching those censuses here:

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/about/index.html>

Very few census records prior to 1901 survived the fire of 1922.

Another excellent online resource is the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, which also holds records for the Republic of Ireland:

[http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/research\\_and\\_records\\_held.htm](http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/research_and_records_held.htm)

Rebecca recommends this site for getting started in Irish research:

[Free Irish Genealogy Advice, Tools and Resources](#)

and also this web site:

[http://genealogy.about.com/cs/ireland/a/irish\\_genealogy.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/cs/ireland/a/irish_genealogy.htm)

This is a book she recommends: "Tracing Your Irish Ancestors". Available here in the latest, fourth edition:

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/080631897X?ref\\_=cm\\_cr\\_pr\\_sims\\_i](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/080631897X?ref_=cm_cr_pr_sims_i)

Or cheaper used in the third edition:

<http://www.amazon.com/Tracing-Irish-Ancestors-Third-Edition/dp/080631768X>

Or, using [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org), from your local library, perhaps through inter-library loan:

<http://www.worldcat.org/title/tracing-your-irish-ancestors-the-complete-guide/oclc/28112561>

<http://catalog.einetwork.net/search/o28112561>

One item Rebecca didn't have time to talk about are the newly available Catholic church records here:

<http://registers.nli.ie/>

They aren't indexed and you have to know the name of the parish, but if you can find that it opens up a new source of records.

If you want a copy of the material Rebecca presented, and a whole lot more, you have to email her at: [shake\\_the\\_tree@hotmail.com](mailto:shake_the_tree@hotmail.com)