

FGS talk for 13 March 2021 – 10:00 AM EST – Via Zoom

“Paths and Methods for Irish Researchers Today”

This talk will be given by Aiden Feerick, a member of Accredited Genealogists Ireland.

Today's topic is Researching Irish Ancestors. But before getting onto the main topic, I would like to address briefly a topic of interest to all genealogists, namely, why people today want to find out about their ancestors; then, I would like to give an overview of the places Irish people immigrated worldwide and examine how the Irish government wishes to help them.



The government of Ireland has put, online and free of charge, our Census records from 1901 and 1911, the only years for which a full Census is available. Then, the Vital Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1864 are available online with the original pages of the registers imaged. Marriage records begin in 1845 but the majority of the Catholic population opted out; restrictions apply to these Vitals with 100 year for births, 75 years for marriage and 50 years for deaths. Church records, both Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland, are partially online with more to come. Using these three sources, Census, Vitals and Church records, I will give an example of how an Irish-American family discovered more about their Dublin ancestors.

Finally, using Census substitute records, namely Griffith's Valuation, as well as Census and Vitals, I hope to show you the family background of a well-known Irish American personality who lived most of his life in Massachusetts.