

## **Genealogy - February 2022 Report**

Due to low numbers the group reverted to meeting by Zoom in January and February. The January meeting discussed the 1921 census which was released that day. The topic for the February meeting was “Researching Irish Ancestry”.

Researching Irish family history before 1920 is difficult because

- a) Destruction of the Public Record Office in Dublin in June 1922 means loss of
  - 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 census
  - Over 50% of Church of Ireland parish registers
  - Wills and court records
- b) 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 census records were destroyed by bureaucratic mistake
- c) Civil registration does not begin until 1864 for all births, deaths and marriages
- d) Roman Catholic parish records before the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century have only partly survived.

Unfamiliar and inconsistent place names and surnames add to the difficulty. The researcher needs a fair degree of luck – represented in the slides by a four-leaf clover – to find the individuals sought amongst those records which do survive. Progress is possible, even if not guaranteed, provided the researcher follows up on all those sources which are available. A quick run through of these sources was inadequate to illustrate the possibilities.

The topic at the March meeting will be ‘Wills and Probate’ in family history research. The meeting will again be by Zoom, as usual on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm. Details will be circulated to Genealogy group members nearer the time.

Alan Swindale [ajs@fivenine.co.uk](mailto:ajs@fivenine.co.uk) 01388488348 .