

Genealogy and Family History Sources in Louth County Archives

Research Guide

The documents listed below are available for consultation, by prior appointment, in Louth County Archives Research Room. Email archive@louthcoco.ie to make an appointment.

Please note that you can view the list of archival holdings on our online archive catalogue. Click on the [Online Catalogue](#) link on the left. The introduction page gives a list of collections available with dates and collection codes. When you do a search, note down the reference code for any item in your search results that you are interested in and quote this when making an appointment to view the item in the Research Room. See our [Archive Collections](#) web-page which contains descriptive lists for some collections in pdf format. This page is updated on an ongoing basis. See our [Online Digital Archive](#) for collections that may be viewed and searched online. See also our Research Guide on '[Useful Online Sources for Family History and Property History](#)'.

Please note that Louth County Archives **does not hold census records; nor births, deaths and marriage records**. For these records, please contact the Genealogical Service of Louth County Library at: Email: referencelibrary@louthcoco.ie Web: [Genealogy Research Sources](#)

GJ Query books: The Grand Jury was an important 18th and 19th century local authority who met twice yearly at the spring and summer assizes for the purpose of passing presentments of proposed and approved works which were effectively financed by the cess payer. The Louth Grand Jury's series of presentment books or query books (GJ/005/) are a useful research resource for genealogists as there is a wealth of names contained within these books in relation to contracts awarded to local contractors and workmen throughout the county. The books date to 1815, 1823 – 1899. They have been digitized and are available on our [Online Digital Archives web-page](#). When you open a book, you can perform searches of the text by holding down control on your keyboard and pressing 'f' for find, then type in your word and press return/enter.

National School Registers: Louth County Archives holds the archive collections of several national schools in County Louth: Jocelyn Street or Dun Dealgan (Dundalk); Ardee; St Nicholas, Dundalk; Plaster in the parish of Ballymascanlon; St Laurence's, Omeath (photocopies); St Peter's Church of Ireland, Drogheda; and St Peter's, Dromiskin. The Service is interested in acquiring those of other schools in the county to preserve and make accessible for present and future generations. School archive collections include registers, roll-books, report books and other records, with records commencing in 1862 for three schools. Registers provide details on the name, age, residence and religion of the pupil, parents' occupation, and names of any previous school attended. References begin with 'SCH' followed by a three digit number – 001, 002 – unique to each school (eg SCH001 is Dun Dealgan). Collection catalogues can be found near the end of our [Archive Collections](#) web-page.

Valuation & Rate Books: These books record the names of landowners and occupiers of property in each street or townland (head of household only, not other family members). Valuation and rate books can be invaluable in helping identify where a family were living or in finding out when a family moved into or out of an area. For Dundalk urban, rate books exist from 1839 – 1970s (with several gaps), references DTC/RB/ and DUDC/RB/. For the rural townlands of County Louth, rate books exist from (1912) 1919 – 1941, 1951 – 1966, reference LCC/RB/. Valuation books survive for the bulk of the 20th century, reference LCC/VB/. There is a small quantity of 19th century valuation and rate books for several townlands in the Ardee union, references BG/ARD/VB/ and BG/ARD/RB/.

Estate Records & Family Records: The main collections held include the Roden Collection 1611 – 1986 (Dundalk), reference PP00069/ and the Filgate of Lisrenny Papers 1757 – 1964, reference PP00001/. Catalogues for both are available on our [Archive Collections](#) web-page. Other small collections date from the 18th – 20th centuries. Records of interest include rental books, correspondence, account books and legal

documents. See the section 'private collections available' on the introduction page of the online archive catalogue available at www.louthcoco.ie.

Workhouse/Board of Guardian Records: Collections for the three poor law unions in County Louth: Ardee, Dundalk, and Drogheda survive. They date from the 1840s – 1924 and largely consist of minute books of meetings, financial and administration records. Extremely little records of admission survive. A very small quantity of records relate to "inmates" of the workhouse. References are BG/ARD/ for Ardee, BG/DDK/ for Dundalk, and BG/DRO/ for Drogheda.

Voters' Lists/Registers of Electors: Records of those eligible to vote in elections can be helpful in locating your ancestor's place of residence. Several voters' lists for the 19th century survive (1852, 1857, 1859, and 1865); however, not everyone was eligible to vote. A list for a quantity of townlands survives for the years 1945-6 and 1963-4, and then more comprehensive lists survive from the 1970s onwards.

Local Government Archives: These archives are quite varied and those listing names can include items such as registers of sheep owners and of dairymen, commencing in 1918 with gaps (references LCC/ADM/018/, LCC/ADM/019/, DUDC/ADM/019/); winter and summer fuel scheme registers for Dundalk 1947-48 (reference DUDC/FIN/005/); or pre-1963 planning application files for Dundalk, Louth county, and Drogheda (references DUDC/PLA/001/, LCC/PLA/001/, DBC/PLA/001/).

Tillage registers and maps: This archive collection was created under the Compulsory Tillage Order, 1940 to 1948, by government inspectors from the Department of Agriculture. The series of tillage registers for Co Louth dating from 1945 – 1948 detail the name and address of rated occupiers, area in acres, arable area in acres, tillage quotas, and details on areas tilled, reference PP00293/001/. The tillage maps dating to the 1940s period cover the County of Louth and show names of landowners, reference PP00293/003/. The collection catalogue can be found on our [Archive Collections](#) web-page.

Records of Clubs and Societies: Louth County Archives holds records of a number of clubs and societies, some of which include subscription lists recording members' names and addresses or correspondence with members. Examples include the Dundalk and Haggardstown branches of the Ancient Order of Hibernians commencing in 1907 and in 1912 (references AOH1/, AOH2/), or the Saint Nicholas Men's Institute Dundalk, 1908 - 1910, 1913 – 1958 (reference PP00060/).

Business Archives: The Macardle Moore and Company collection spans the 18th - 20th centuries and the bulk of the collection relates to legal documents and correspondence with the company arising from their interests in properties in several counties (reference PP00240/). There are also archive collections relating to the Great Northern Railway (Ireland), Tempests (Dundalغان Press), and ECCO.

Photographic Archives: Several collections contain a small quantity of photographs illustrating events and activities in County Louth. The Old Dundalk Society deposited a collection of photographs relating to Dundalk and surrounding areas (currently staff catalogue only).

Oral History Archive Collection: In 2005 Louth County Archives established an official County Oral History Archive collection (reference OHA/). An archivist travelled around the county and recorded many interviews or oral histories with people across the whole spectrum of Louth society – politicians, businessmen, fishermen, elderly, clergy, voluntary groups, and some past and present staff of Louth Local Authorities. People talked about their lives, where they lived, what their jobs were like. A number of oral histories that were recorded in the 1980s were also donated to the collection.

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