

Sources for Local History

Donegal County Archives Service, Lifford

074 91 72490

Major collections include:

- Poor Law Union/Workhouse Records: 1849 - 1923: from Letterkenny, Ballyshannon, Stranorlar, Dunfanaghy, Carndonagh, Donegal, Glenties and Milford
- Rural district councils, 1899 - 1925: Letterkenny, Ballyshannon, Stranorlar, Dunfanaghy, Inishowen, Donegal, Glenties, Milford.
- Valuation/Rates books: 1833 - 1975: Valuation records for each area within each townland.
- Ordnance Survey: maps dating back to 1850
- Grand Jury presentments and accounts 1753-1899
- County Committee of Agriculture, 1901 - 1913
- Donegal County Council, records include minutes, managers' orders, labourers' & workers' cottages, 1899 - date.
- School Records: 1880's - 1990's: a growing number of school roll books from around the county.
- Private Collections including estate papers: Murray Stewart rentals; Lord George Hill's Gweedore Hotel Book, Groves of Castlegrove, Oral History recordings and others.

Local Studies, Central Library, Letterkenny

074 91 24950

The Central Library contains a unique collection of books, pamphlets, newspapers, microfilms and other material on the history, natural history, economy, archaeology and culture of County Donegal.

Useful Websites:

www.donegal.ie/dcc

www.donegallibrary.ie

www.askaboutireland.ie

www.hist.ie

www.seanrud.com

www.nli.ie

www.nationalarchives.ie

www.bbc.co.uk/history/forkids

www.folkpark.com/childrens_corner

www.victorianvoices.com

www.proni.gov.uk

Donegal County Archives Service

Donegal County Library

Library Council of Ireland

Department of Education and Science

Townland Database

National Library of Ireland, including National Photographic Archive

National Archives of Ireland

BBC website, interactive games and video clips

Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh

National Archives, UK Schools Project

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

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*Seirbhís Cartlainne Chontae Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Archives Service*

Glossary

Buttermilk	Liquid left after butter has been churned from milk or cream.
Calico	Course unbleached cotton cloth.
Clerk	An employee who performs clerical work.
Consumption	Disease causing wasting of the body, form of tuberculosis.
Corporal Punishment	Physical punishment applied to the body, such as slapping.
Destitute	Having no means of support.
Diphtheria	Infection of the heart and nervous system acquired by contact with an infected person.
Dropsy	Swelling of the body caused by retention of fluid in tissue.
Drugget	A fabric woven from wool, formally used for clothing.
Flannel	Soft woven cloth of wool and cotton.
Frieze	Coarse, shaggy woollen cloth.
Ground Seine	A large commercial fishing net that is weighted so that it hangs vertically in the water.
Idiot	An inmate of the workhouse who was classed as having mental health difficulties.
Indian Meal	Coarse ground corn.
Labourer	A person who does unskilled physical work for wages.
Molasses	Thick brown syrup made from sugar.
Muffler	A heavy scarf.
Nominal Charge	An insignificantly small amount.
Outdoor Relief	Aid given to the poor who lived outside the workhouse.
Pauper	A poor person.
Poor Law Union	Area made up of a number of townlands with a workhouse in the central market town.
Rationing	A limiting of foods and luxury items because of scarcity.
Refractory Ward	A small dark room where inmates were sent as a form of Punishment.
Register	An official written record of names, events or transactions.
Shelter Belts	A barrier of trees and shrubs that protects crops from winds and lessen soil erosion.
Shrouding	Cloth used to wrap the dead for burial.
Tetanus	An acute, sometimes fatal infection.
Tuberculosis	Infectious disease affecting the lungs.
Twill	A fabric woven with diagonal parallel ridges.
Wincey	A plain fabric of wool and cotton used especially for warm shirts or skirts and pyjamas.