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Discover Your Irish Ancestors

Using the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)

https://www.genealogycenter.info/persi/

What is the Periodical Source Index (PERSI)?

The PERiodical Source index (PERSI) is the largest subject index to genealogical, historical, and ethnic periodical publications published largely in North America and the British Isles. Currently, there are over 3.08 million subject entries and counting.

- Geographic and ethnic publications are the primary focus.
    - At this time surname publications (example: the Hodges-Archer family history newsletter) are not included in PERSI, but there are plans to do so in the future.
- Note: While you can search for surnames that appear in article titles, PERSI is not an every name index– it is a subject index.

Keyword Searching Tips, and Tricks

- Get in the shoes of an indexer– Past & Present!
    - Before using the keyword search options, take a look at the verbiage used in the other article title entries in the search results. This will help you pinpoint the best keyword search terms for your search.
    - Start with broader, more conservative search terms before narrowing down as needed. Doing this will prevent any accidental exclusions of results that you actually want to see!
- Keyword search options:
    - The search box at the top of your search results searches all four columns at once.
    - There are additional search boxes at the bottom of the list that allows you to filter your results down by searching in each individual column.
        - Pro-Tip: If you are wanting to filter your results down to a specific timeframe or decade the article was published in or what era the article covers, I would recommend type the beginning part of a year to filter it down.
            - Example: Type 177 in a search box to see articles that mention the 1770s in the title.

Search Tips for Irish Records

- Keep the Historical Political Timeline of Ireland in Mind
  - The subjects of many, if not most, of the articles in PERSI relate to records, local histories, etc. from *before* the Partition of Ireland in 1921. If you are searching for articles in a county *currently* in Northern Ireland, you will want to search both under Northern Ireland *and* Ireland (which will often have more articles than Northern Ireland).
- County and City/Town Names
  - If you are searching for a county that is also the name of a town or city (ex: Cavan, Co. Cavan), PERSI will thankfully lump the articles relating to both the city/town and the county together instead of excluding one of the other.
- Derry/Londonderry
  - Search under both names.
  - Search under both Ireland (which has the most results) and Northern Ireland

Examples of Irish Treasures in PERSI

- Critical Historical Context
- Local Census Substitutes
- Abstracted Church Records
- Passenger Lists
- School Records
- Court Record Abstracts
- Directories
- **And MORE!**

Subject Categories/Record Types in PERSI

- Biographies
- Cemeteries
- Census
- Church
- Court Records
- Deeds
- Directories

- History
- Institutions
- Land
- Maps
- Military
- Naturalization
- Obituaries

- Other
- Passenger lists
- School records
- Tax Lists
- Vital Records
- Voter Lists
- Wills

Requesting a Periodical Article – Who You Can Contact

1. **Publisher**
   - Publishers are usually interested in helping people obtain copies of articles or issues, so we included a column in our search results with the publisher's contact information. Requesting copies directly from the publisher is typically the fastest way to receive the articles you need.

2. **Your Local Library**
    - There might be a library in your area that owns the periodical. To figure this out what libraries have the periodical, search for the periodical title on WorldCat: https://www.worldcat.org/
3. **The Genealogy Center at ACPL**
    - ***Note: This is <u>not</u> the fastest, simplest way to obtain your articles. Your best option is to utilize option #1 first.***
    - The total fee structure:
        - $7.50 (up to and including 6 articles) plus $0.20 per page (not including the periodical cover/title page).
    - To request articles from the Genealogy Center, email a filled out copy of the request form linked below to Genealogy@ACPL.Info. The articles and fee statement will be sent via email.
        - https://www.genealogycenter.info/pdf/Article-ORDER-FORM.pdf
    - Articles we **<u>cannot</u>** copy:
        - Any periodical published in Europe.
        - While we can copy Irish <u>American</u> articles, copyright laws are much stricter in Ireland and the UK (and simply the EU in general). The relationship with societies in Europe is delicate, so in order to continue to index their periodicals we cannot make copies of their articles. <u>Please utilize option 1 or 2 for articles published in Europe.</u>

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