Background:

There are different sets of records for genealogical research of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Although records are generally in English, the different historical development of these countries has resulted in individualistic procedures for establishing, maintaining and archiving data. The records for Scotland and Ireland are separate and distinct from those for England and Wales.

Genealogists face a challenge in research of Irish records. Many of the early records were destroyed. Another problem is the overlapping jurisdictions of ecclesiastical and civil authorities (Baronies, Unions, Parishes and Counties).

The extant, old records for Ireland are fragmentary. Their locations are scattered. However, many of the extant records are accessible via films held by the Family History Library. Major projects are underway to digitize these records. Parish Records are very important for researching vital data (b, m, d) prior to the inauguration of Civil record keeping in 1845.

The following information was obtained primarily from the GENUKI Website "Links." The Instructor has little personal experience with genealogical research of the Ireland records cited herein.

Suggested Approach for Research in Ireland:

First  -  Research your U.S. records for clues
Second  -  "Mine" overseas records that have been filmed and are available in the U.S.
Then  -  Plan your trip for supplemental information available only in Scotland.

Sources:

(A) General Sources:

Provides comprehensive description of types of records and their locations for all regions of the British Isles.
(B) GENUKI Website \{ http://www.genuki.org.uk \} offers guidance to research in the British Isles; describes Shires (Counties) & Parishes; contains census & map resources. Also has links to many websites.

(C) Civil Registration (b m d)
Record keeping started in 1845 (Protestant marriages).
In 1864, registration started for all births, marriages & deaths
General Register Office (Dublin) has Register copies for all Shires (Counties)

1st Step - Search the INDEX to identify location of RECORD.
Indexes are available at the GRO Office for a fee
Microfilms available at FHL (can be viewed at FHC)

2nd Step - Obtain copy of RECORD from the REGISTER OFFICE
GRO does not allow anyone to copy their files
However, the FHL was able to film the Registers

(D) Church Records

Parish Registers are especially important for obtaining vital records prior to 1864. Although registration of Protestant marriages started in 1845, registration of all births, marriages and deaths was not begun until 1864. The 1901 census is the earliest complete census surviving. Parish Registers were started in 1634 by the Church Of Ireland (Anglican).

Microfilms available at FHL (can be viewed at FHC)
National Archives of Ireland holds some of the extant Registers
Refer to GENUKI Website for locations of other surviving Registers
Ancestry.com Website has very little Parish Register information

(E) Census

Taken every 10 years - started in 1821
1821-1891 - most records destroyed
1901 & 1911 - available.
Microfilms available at FHL (can be viewed at FHC)
GENUKI Website provides Link to National Archives
Findmypast.com Website at { www.1911census.co.uk } has 1911 Census (Fee-based)
Ancestry.com Website has very little census information

Census Substitutes: Two sets of property tax records are available from the early 1800's. These records may be helpful in identifying family names and locations in the absence of census records.

(F) Griffith's Primary Valuation (Griffith Union Books):

During the period 1848-1864, a survey was made for property tax purposes. The records identify, for each landholding, the names of the "Occupier" and "Immediate Lessor." Reference is made to the specific location on Ordnance Survey Maps (c. 1840). These records have survived.

Askaboutireland.ie Website { www.askaboutireland.ie } has index to extracted data, Griffith page image and Survey Map image.
Microfilms of the Griffith Books and Fiche of the maps are available at FHL

(G) Tithe Applotment Books:

During the period 1823-1837, valuations of properties were made for Tithe Assessment purposes. The records identify, for each landholding, the Townland and the name of the "Landholder." These records have survived. Microfilms of indexes and records are available at FHL

Family History Library (FHL) { http://www.familysearch.org }

(H) The International Genealogical Index (I. G. I.) is available on-line. Additionally, records are held by the FHL and FHC

The I.G.I. often identifies baptism and marriage events; parish names and locations where these events took place; and family relationships. Also, the I.G.I. provides the microfilm reference for the event.

(I) FHL Library Catalog - "Place Search" identifies microfilms and other records for localities. Access is from the FHL website. Enter the desired "Town" or "County" in the "Place" Field, and the desired "Country" in the "Part of" Field.
(J) FHL Library Catalog - "Title Search" provides identification of microfilms and other records for topics of interest, with entries as follows:

- "Ireland Parish Registers" entry for extant Registers
- "Ireland Census" entry for extant 1821-1891 census records
- "Ireland 1901 Census" entry for the 1901 Census
- "Ireland 1911 Census" entry for the 1911 Census
- "Ireland Births" entry. Scroll to "Register Of Ireland, General Register Office, births, marriages and deaths 1845-1959"

(K) FHL Pilot Project. This "link" from Familysearch.org Website provides access to databases (generated to date) for a major effort by the LDS Church to digitize and place on-line their vast collection of filmed records.

(L) The World GenWebProject {http://www.worldgenweb.org} provides access to Country and County information.