

# Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls, 1700 to 1845 for Co. Fermanagh

Under the Penal laws, Catholics and Protestant dissenters in Ireland were deemed to be treasonous by default. Catholics were not allowed to hold public office, intermarry with anyone from the Church of Ireland, hold firearms, serve in the armed forces, inherit property, study abroad, vote, or become members of Parliament or the legal profession.

Under these conditions, those who had most to lose, mainly the middle classes and Catholic aristocracy, considered taking drastic action. By swearing an oath before a court pledging allegiance to the British Crown, certain privileges could be retained. However, many chose the drastic action of converting to the established religion, at least in name, thus qualifying them for full rights under the law.

Conversion to the established church also had to be sworn in a court of law, which means that in both the qualification and convert rolls you will find people listed by the court they appeared before. The courts listed are generally the local county town Assizes, although conversions then had to be lodged in Chancery. The procedure for conversion was to renounce Catholicism in front of a clergyman and congregation in open service. The convert would then receive a certificate from the diocesan bishop, which was then enrolled in Chancery. Before 1782, the diocesan bishop's certificate was mandatory, however, following 1782, conversion was deemed complete as long as the individual converting received the sacrament from a minister of the Church of Ireland, took the oath before said minister, and filed a certificate to that effect in Chancery.

The convert rolls themselves were destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922, but luckily, they had been calendared and recorded elsewhere. The calendars are in two volumes: volume 1 covers the years 1789 to 1838 and volume 2 from 1800 to 1838. Most people enrolled in Dublin.

While most of the converts were men, there are about 1,500 women named in the rolls. You will also find names that are not of Irish origin as naturalised citizens were likewise subject to the Penal Laws. In fact, the names of naturalised Irish citizens take up the majority of the later records that occurred after the Catholic emancipation, which removed the restrictions on Irish Catholics.

The qualification rolls make up the majority of the records and arose as a result of the various Catholic Relief Acts from 1778, which lifted many of the Penal Laws around land ownership. But to avail themselves of these new rights, Catholics and Dissenters had to appear before a court and swear allegiance to the British monarch. So just like conversions, these oaths were sworn in front of a judge of one of the various courts (usually Assize), following which such petitioners were judged to have qualified to avail themselves of these rights.

Throughout the eighteenth century, restrictions enacted by the Penal Laws were relaxed for those Catholics who took the Oath of Allegiance to the King and renounced their religion for that of the established Church of Ireland. In the majority of cases this was not a sincere renunciation of the Catholic religion, as it was the only legal means whereby a Catholic could obtain basic civil rights.

In 1774 an Act was passed to permit the King's subjects, of any religion, to take an oath at the local assizes (courts) "to testify to their loyalty and allegiance to him, to promote peace and industry in the kingdom."

These names were then registered in the Catholic Qualification Rolls according to surname, first name, address, and date of qualification. Occupation is sometimes also supplied. The rolls cover the period from 1700 to 1845, with most entries after 1800 dealing with naturalised citizens. Over 50,000 people are listed.

The Rolls can be searched by name, date, county, residence and diocese. The county, residence and diocese entries are not consistent; sometimes all three appear; sometimes only one.

**Access the records at:** <http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/cq/home.jsp> for the extended information. There are 90 names that relate to Fermanagh but many townland locations have transcription errors, to check these refer to <https://www.townlands.ie/fermanagh/>

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Residence</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Diocese</b>
<a href="#">Alave</a>	<a href="#">Terence</a>	1782	Hamlethill	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Boyle</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1794	Ballyshannon	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Brady</a>	<a href="#">Andrew</a>	1785	Edergould	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Browning</a>	<a href="#">Thomas</a>	1782	Drumsillaugh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Browning</a>	<a href="#">John</a>		Drumsillaugh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Cox</a>	<a href="#">Merchant</a>	1780	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher

<b>Surname</b>	<b>Forename</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Residence</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>Diocese</b>
<a href="#">Craige</a>	<a href="#">Charles</a>	1786	Bcagh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Cunningham</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1783	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Doonagan</a>	<a href="#">Owen</a>	1784	Aughalane	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Dougherty</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1786	Drumgoome	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Durnin</a>	<a href="#">Redmond</a>	1786	Cooleran	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Durnin</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1786	Cooleran	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Flaherty</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Flaherty</a>	<a href="#">Hugh</a>	1785	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Flanagan</a>	<a href="#">Nicholas</a>	1780	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Gallagher</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1786	Killyculla	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Gallagher</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1793	Killicullen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Gallagher</a>	<a href="#">Philip</a>	1793	Killicullen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Goodwin</a>	<a href="#">Roger</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Grayson</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1780	Bellak	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Healy</a>	<a href="#">Peter</a>	1795	Aughaherin	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Jneayson</a>	<a href="#">Denis</a>	1782	Belleek	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Jones</a>	<a href="#">Francis</a>	1794	Drumgorm	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Jones</a>	<a href="#">Hugh</a>	1794	Drumgorm	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Jones</a>	<a href="#">Francis</a>	1794	Drumgorm	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Jones</a>	<a href="#">Hugh</a>	1794	Drumgorm	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Karr</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Keary</a>	<a href="#">Conner</a>	1782	Kiernmore	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Keary</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1796	Goland	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Keenan</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1793	Pattanwier	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Keenan</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1793	Pattanaweira	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kelly</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1793	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kernan</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kernan</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1793	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kernan</a>	<a href="#">Felix</a>	1793	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kernan</a>	<a href="#">Terence</a>	1795	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kerr</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1795	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Kurican</a>	<a href="#">Charles</a>	1795	Curran	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">MacHugh</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1782	Tempo	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maglaughlin</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1780	Coe	Fermanagh	Clogher

<a href="#">Maglaughlin</a>	<a href="#">Terence</a>	1780	Coe	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Magrier</a>	<a href="#">Francis</a>	1784	Greoghnaфина	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Robert</a>	1739	Tullycreel	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Philip</a>	1779	Tempo	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1779	Cornmuckle	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Philip</a>	1779	Cornashanil	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Denis</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Philip</a>	1780	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Denis</a>	1780	Tolenabodagh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Terence</a>	1780	Coe	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1780	Coe	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1782	Drumsillaugh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1782	Drumsillaugh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Lewis</a>	1782	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Thomas</a>	1782	Killcsser	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Patt</a>	1782	Letterbellif	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1780	Coe	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Owen</a>	1782	Letterbellif	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Michael</a>	1782	Letterbellif	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1780	Coe	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Connor</a>	1782	Buvow	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1782	Richol	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Christopher</a>	1786	Lislea	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Maguire</a>	<a href="#">Robert</a>	1739	Tullyersel	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Mayo</a>	<a href="#">Anne</a>	1718		Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McAuley</a>	<a href="#">William</a>	1781	Bannaghmore	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McCaffry</a>	<a href="#">Edward</a>	1783	Desternon	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McCaffry</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1786	Carrickahenan	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McCallam</a>	<a href="#">Margret</a>	1788	Ardinagh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McCallam</a>	<a href="#">Margret</a>	1788	Arinagh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McDermott</a>	<a href="#">Christopher</a>	1783	Letterbaily	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McGobrick</a>	<a href="#">Andrew</a>	1783	Lowtherstown	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McGobrick</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1769	Island	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McGolrick</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1769	Bow Island	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McGuire</a>	<a href="#">Bryan</a>	1779	Glasslough	Fermanagh	Clogher

<a href="#">McHugh</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1784	Portanade	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McMahon</a>	<a href="#">Benjamin John</a>	1786	Kilskerry & Maheracross	Tyrone & Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McMahon</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1782	Aughalurcher	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McManus</a>	<a href="#">Terence</a>	1779	Tallanwier	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">McNovy</a>	<a href="#">Denis</a>	1780	Skeagh	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Morris</a>	<a href="#">Patt</a>	1782	Belleek	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Moynagh</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1782	Drumully	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Mulligan</a>	<a href="#">James</a>	1782	Drumma	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Murphy</a>	<a href="#">Edmond</a>	1779	Gullyisland	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Nugent</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">O'Brines</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1785	Drumlin	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Reilly</a>	<a href="#">Miles</a>	1780	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Shally</a>	<a href="#">Patrick</a>	1782	Davenish & Boho	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Shanly</a>	<a href="#">Edmond</a>	1782	Newtown butler	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Sheannon</a>	<a href="#">Daniel</a>	1793	Tallinwier	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Sweeny</a>	<a href="#">Miles</a>	1779	Enniskillen	Fermanagh	Clogher
<a href="#">Tearney</a>	<a href="#">John</a>	1786	Maguires bridge	Fermanagh	Clogher

*These records were previously transcribed by the Rev. P. O Gallachair from Ms 2486 in the National Library of Ireland & MS 1A.52.77 National Archives of Ireland, and published in the Clogher Record 1959, Vol ii, No. 3, pp. 544-551 W.*