

Giffith's Valuation Fermanagh town maps and Ordnance Survey maps

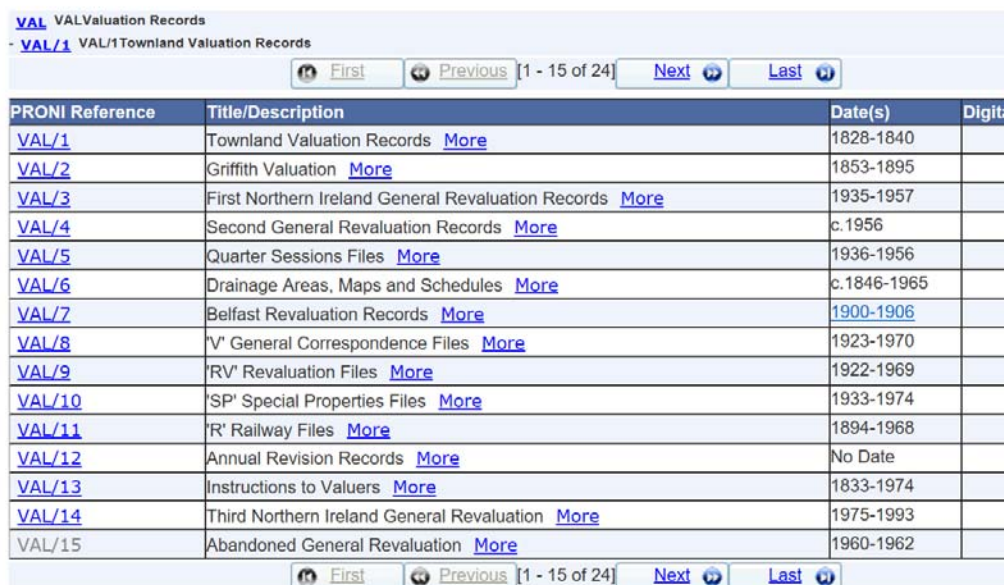
Roger Cousens

At some point many of us go back to where our Ancestors lived, visit their graves and perhaps try to find the buildings that they lived in. For this, Griffith's Valuation and its associated maps are invaluable. In rural areas these allow us considerable precision; historical versions of Ordnance Survey maps (now on line for some scales at <https://apps.spatialni.gov.uk/PRONIApplication/>) also allow us to see how things have changed – as long as we are only interested in the mid-nineteenth century onwards. But many people are unaware that there are maps that allow us to see greater detail in towns, at the time of Griffith's Valuation and showing the householder reference number.

If you do a place name search on AskAboutIreland <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>, then open the map, click on "Show Towns" and move so that the cursor is over a town in Eire, you will see a symbol over the town. You can click on the symbol to bring up a map at a finer scale. So where are the equivalents for towns in Ulster counties?

There are some great instructions on accessing Griffith's town maps by Bill Macafee: I highly recommend his site <http://www.billmacafee.com/> He has a guide showing how he accessed detailed maps of Coleraine in PRONI's catalogue <http://www.billmacafee.com/valuationrecords/griffrevisions.pdf>. It appears to show amazing stuff that we can access on-line. Unfortunately, Bill's screen-dumps are from an old version of the PRONI eCatalogue, where "View" just means "view more information". You can only access Griffith's town maps at PRONI. But this is still worth knowing about, for when you do manage to get there, because there is a (little-known) treasure trove of other things in the VAL/ collection that you can access (even PRONI's help desk link did not know about it, only about the Valuation Revision books that are on-line!).

Here is what you see on their eCatalogue:



PRONI Reference	Title/Description	Date(s)	Digit
VAL/1	Townland Valuation Records More	1828-1840	
VAL/2	Griffith Valuation More	1853-1895	
VAL/3	First Northern Ireland General Revaluation Records More	1935-1957	
VAL/4	Second General Revaluation Records More	c.1956	
VAL/5	Quarter Sessions Files More	1936-1956	
VAL/6	Drainage Areas, Maps and Schedules More	c.1846-1965	
VAL/7	Belfast Revaluation Records More	1900-1906	
VAL/8	'V' General Correspondence Files More	1923-1970	
VAL/9	'RV' Revaluation Files More	1922-1969	
VAL/10	'SP' Special Properties Files More	1933-1974	
VAL/11	'R' Railway Files More	1894-1968	
VAL/12	Annual Revision Records More	No Date	
VAL/13	Instructions to Valuers More	1833-1974	
VAL/14	Third Northern Ireland General Revaluation More	1975-1993	
VAL/15	Abandoned General Revaluation More	1960-1962	

Unfortunately, clicking on “More” tells you little about what the files contain (except for VAL/12, shown at the end of this document). VAL/2 is the main valuation that is presented on AskAboutIreland. Most of Bill Macafee’s examples come from VAL/12, the revision books that contain most of the information that you and I would need:

VAL VALValuation Records
 - VAL/12 VAL/12Annual Revision Records
 -- VAL/12/A VAL/12/ARevising Valuers Office Notebooks

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PRONI Reference	Title/Description	Date(s)	Digital Record
VAL/12/A	Revising Valuers Office Notebooks More	1895-1934	
VAL/12/B	Annual Revision Lists More	No Date	
VAL/12/C	Abstracts of Valuations More	c.1860-1935	
VAL/12/D	Six Inch to one mile (Star and Union) Annual Revision Maps More	No Date	
VAL/12/E	Town Plans (Annual Revision) More	1859-c.1935	
VAL/12/F	Annual Revision Volumes More	1930-1935	
VAL/12/G	Registers of Sales More	1923-1936	
VAL/12/H	Summary of Abstracts (Revision) More	1930-1933	

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You will find Co. Fermanagh town maps under:

VAL/1/D/4 (1834) At least some of these are 30 inches to one mile

VAL/2/D/4 (1859) at 5 feet to one mile

VAL/3/G (1935-1957) (all Ulster counties together)

VAL/12/E (various dates, mostly 1860 onwards) (all Ulster counties together)

There is also PRONI’s excellent collection of Ordnance Survey town maps, referenced under OS/9 in their catalogue, but again only available at PRONI. But these maps do not show the household numbering system used in Griffith’s.

OS OSOrdnance Survey, Records of
 - OS/9 OS/9Manuscript Town Plans, 1828

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PRONI Reference	Title/Description	Date(s)	Digital Record
OS/1	First Edition 6" (1:10560) maps More	No Date	
OS/1A	6" Ordnance Survey Maps: Cos Donegal, Cavan, Monaghan, Louth and Leitrim More	1836-1877	
OS/1B	6" Ordnance Survey Map Negatives More		
OS/2	c.1900 Edition 6" (1:10560) maps More	No Date	
OS/3	Air Photographs More	1951-1955	
OS/4	Boundary Records, 1825-1830 More	1825-1830	
OS/5	Sample Field Books, c.1900 More	c.1900	
OS/6	County Series 6" (1:10560) maps More	c.1830-1959	
OS/7	Irish Grid Series 6" (1:10560) maps, 1950s- More	c.1950-1959	
OS/8	Published Town Plans More	No Date	
OS/9	Manuscript Town Plans, 1828 More	1828 - 1834	
OS/10	County Series, 1:2500 (25") plans, 1890s-1950s More	1893-1952	
OS/11	Irish Grid Series, 1:2500 (25") plans, 1950s More	1960-1978	
OS/12	County Series, 1:1250 (50") plans of towns (enlarged from 25" County Series) More	No Date	
OS/13	Irish Grid Series, 1:1250 (50") plans More	No Date	

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More information on VAL/12:

Repository :	Public Record Office for Northern Ireland
PRONI Reference :	VAL/12/A
Level :	Series
Access :	
Title :	Revising Valuers Office Notebooks
Dates :	1895-1934
Description :	<p>The Office Note Book appears first in 1894 as a result of a change in admin procedure. This series of Note Books is itself incomplete, as the Note Books for some areas were misplaced, lost, or destroyed before they were transferred to the Public Record Office.</p> <p>The Note Books record the details which explain the Revising Valuers decision to revise, upwards or downwards, the valuation of those premises where an addition or other alteration has taken place. In determining the revised valuation the Valuer took account of the nature of the walls and roof, recorded the dimensions, and normally supplied a sketch plan of the property. The standard information - the map number, names of occupier and immediate lessor etc., is supplemented by notes on rent, nature and terms of tenure, cost of construction, reputed purchase price etc., in cases where such information was available, and by a pot-pourri of information under the heading "General Remarks".</p> <p>With the introduction of loose-leaf binders in 1924, allowing the notes to be arranged in topographical rather than purely chronological order, the amount of incidental information recorded by the Valuer declines.</p> <p>The revised valuation once determined was noted in the Revision List (See VAL 12B).</p>
Digital Record :	

Repository :	Public Record Office for Northern Ireland
PRONI Reference :	VAL/12/B
Level :	Series
Access :	
Title :	Annual Revision Lists
Dates :	No Date
Description :	<p>valuation lists record only the basic facts about each tenement - its map reference number; then names of the occupier and the immediate lessor. The Annual Revision Lists here described also show and date changes made in the valuation in consequence of alterations which affected the value of property.</p> <p>Rating authorities were obliged to submit to the Valuation Office, each year, a list of those tenements which required revaluation. When a valuation was amended the old data was cancelled, the new substituted and the amended date recorded.</p> <p>Changes in occupier or immediate lessor were similarly noted. when informed of the changes by the Valuation Office. Each years amendments were recorded in distinctively coloured ink; most were, moreover, dated. Fresh lists were made up as required, i.e. when the cumulative clutter of annual amendments threatened to render the current list illegible.</p>
Digital Record :	

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Repository :	Public Record Office for Northern Ireland
PRONI Reference :	VAL/12/G
Level :	Series
Access :	
Title :	Registers of Sales
Dates :	1923-1936
Description :	Registers recording brief details of some properties sold or offered for sale, 1922-36. The information abstracted in respect of each sale includes the names of the Vendor and purchaser, the date of the sale, the sale price and the rents reserved, the area and PLV of the property etc.
Digital Record :	