.

Geography:

*Barony – A territorial division of a county often based on medieval Gaelic lordships and used as administrative units for taxation and other administrative purposes until the late 19th century. There are 331 baronies in Ireland. Some baronies overlap more than one county. The local government no longer uses baronies. (Taken from Find My Past explanation of terms)

Province: From ancient times, Ireland was divided into four sections or provinces. A pre-Norman king ruled each province. Today the Provinces have little genealogical value.

*County – The principal unit of local government, created by the English between the Norman invasion and 1606. They often reflected older Gaelic territorial boundaries. There are thirty-two counties on the entire island of Ireland. (Taken from Find My Past explanation of terms)

*Parish – The use of the word Parish in the valuation refers to the Civil Parish not to be confused with the Ecclesiastical Parish. The Civil Parish is an administrative unit of the government. Civil parishes number about two thousand five hundred. Each Civil Parish contains an average of twenty-four townlands.

*Poor Law Union – In 1838, due to the high level of poverty throughout Ireland, the Poor Law Union was introduced, creating a workhouse system. Each workhouse served an area comprising several civil parishes. That area was called a Union.

*Townland – A Townland is the smallest official government administrative division of land. There are more than Sixty-four thousand townlands in Ireland. They range in size from a few acres to thousands of acres. The average size of a townland is three hundred and twenty-five acres.

Valuations:

Townland Valuation: The Townland Valuation was the result of Acts of Parliament passed between 1826 and 1836. The tax system was considered by many to be unfair. A valuation of every piece of property throughout Ireland was to be conducted. Individual occupiers were not named unless they held a house that was valued at more than £5. When the Tenement Valuation of 1844 replaced the Townland Valuation, it reduced the property level to be valued to £3.

Tenement Valuation: The Tenement Valuation began in 1844 with the counties of Cork, Dublin, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, and Waterford. Individual tenements or holdings were valued, and the occupiers' names were recorded in the Field Books. The Tenement Valuation was extended to cover the entire country by 1852. Valuators went over the townland valuations and valued holdings of £3 or over.

Griffith's Valuation Years Published for each County by Province

Province		County	Year of Publication
Connacht		Galway	1855
Connacht		Laois (formerly Queen's)	1851 - 1852
Connacht		Mayo	1856 - 1857
Connacht		Roscommon	1857 - 1858
Connacht		Sligo	1858
Leinster		Carlow	1852 - 1853
Leinster		Dublin	1847 - 1851
Leinster		Kildare	1851
Leinster		Kilkenny	1849 - 1850
Leinster		Longford	1854
Leinster		Louth	1854
Leinster		Meath	1855
Leinster		Offaly (formerly King's)	1854
Leinster		Westmeath	1854
Leinster		Wexford	1853
Leinster		Wicklow	1852 - 1853
Munster		Clare	1855
Munster		Cork	1851 - 1853
Munster		Kerry	1852
Munster		Limerick	1851 - 1852
Munster		Tipperary	1851
Munster		Waterford	1848 - 1851
Ulster		Cavan	1856 - 1857
Ulster		Donegal	1857
Ulster		Leitrim	1856
Ulster		Monaghan	1858 - 1860
Counties now in Northern Ireland			
Ulster		Antrim	1861 - 1862
Ulster		Armagh	1864
Ulster		Down	1863 - 1864
Ulster		Fermanagh	1862
Ulster		Londonderry (formerly King's)	1858 - 1859
Ulster		Tyrone	1851

Signification Of The Letters

Height, from I to V Stories

1st Class.

A +   Built or ornamented with cut stone, of superior solidity and finish

A   Very substantial building and finish, without cut stone ornament.

A -   Ordinary Building and finish, or either of the above, when built 25 or 30 years.

2nd Class

B +   Medium, in sound order, and in good repair.

B   Medium slightly decayed, but inn repair

B -   Medium, deteriorated by age, and not in good repair.

3rd Class

C +   Old, but in repair.

C   Old, and out of repair

C -   Old, and dilapidated – scarcely habitable

Where to Find Griffith's Valuation online

- Free Sites:
- Ask About Ireland www.AskAboutIreland.ie
- National Library of Ireland www.nli.ie
- Family Search www.FamilySearch.org
- Failte Romhat www. failteromhat.com
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni
- Claire Santry's Irish Genealogy Toolkit.
- Toolkit www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com

  Paid Sites:
- Ancestry www.ancestry.com
- Find My Past www.findmypast.com
- John Grenham's Irish Ancestors www.johngrenham.com
- Irish Genealogy www.irish-genealogy.ie