Trade Directories

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Dublin Directories

- *The Gentleman's and Citizen's Almanack* produced by John Watson, began publication in Dublin in 1736 and continued until 1844.

- The first true trade directories in Ireland were those published by Peter Wilson for the city of Dublin, beginning in 1751 and continuing until 1837, with a break from 1754 to 1759. From the outset these were considered as supplements to *Watson's Almanack* and were regularly bound with it. In 1787 the two publications were put together with the English Court Registry, and, until it ceased publication in 1837, the whole was known as *The Treble Almanack*.

Wilson's Directory

- Wilson's *Directory* consisted purely of alphabetical lists of merchants and traders, supplying name, address and occupation. In the early years these were quite scanty, but they grew steadily over the decades, from less than a thousand names in the 1752 edition to almost five thousand in 1816. The last decades of the eighteenth century also saw the inclusion of separate lists of those who might now be termed the 'establishment': officers of the city guilds and of Trinity College, state officials, those involved in the administration of medicine and the law, Church of Ireland clergy etc. The range of people covered expanded markedly, if a little eccentrically, in the early nineteenth century.

Alexander Thom's Directory

- Alexander Thom's *Irish Almanac and Official Directory*, which began in 1844 and has continued publication up to the present, is by far the best-known Irish directory. As the name implies, it continued Pettigrew and Oulton's extension of coverage outside Dublin. To take one year as an example, the 1870 edition includes, as well as the alphabetical and street listings for Dublin, alphabetical lists of the following for the entire country: army officers; attorneys, solicitors and barristers; bankers; Catholic, Church of Ireland and Presbyterian clergy; coastguard officers; doctors; members of Parliament; magistrates; members of the Irish Privy Council; naval and marine officers; officers of counties and towns; and peers. Although Thom's is generally regarded as a Dublin directory, its usefulness goes well beyond Dublin.

Country wide directories

- Until the productions of Pigot and Co. in the early nineteenth century, very little exists that covers the entire country. Although not true directories in the sense of the Dublin publications, four works may be used in a similar way, at least as far as the country gentry are concerned. The earliest of these is Taylor and Skinner's *Road Maps of Ireland* (1778), which prints maps of the principal routes from Dublin to the country towns, including the major country houses and the surnames of their occupants, with an alphabetical index to these surnames. The aim of William Wilson's *Post-Chaise Companion*(1786) is similar, providing a discursive description of what might be seen on various journeys through the countryside. These descriptions include the names of the country houses and, again, their owners' surnames. There is no index. The next publications were the two editions, those of 1812 and 1814, of Ambrose Leet's Directory. This contains an alphabetical listing of placenames-with towns, villages, country houses and townlands in an arbitrary mix-showing the county, the nearest post town and, in the case of the houses, the full name of the occupant. These names are themselves indexed at the back of the volume.

Country Directories

- The earliest countrywide directory covering more than the gentry was Pigot's *Commercial Directory of Ireland* (1820). This goes through the towns alphabetically, supplying the names of nobility and gentry living in or near the town and arranging the traders of each town according to their trade. Pigot published a subsequent edition in 1824, and his successor, Slater, issued expanded versions in 1846, 1856, 1870, 1881 and 1894. These followed the same basic format, dividing the country according to its four provinces and then dealing with towns and villages alphabetically within each province. With each edition the scope of the directory was steadily enlarged, including ever more towns and villages. 'Chapter 4: Guide to Irish Directories' in *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder* (ed. Donal Begley; Dublin: Heraldic Artists, 1981) includes a detailed county-by-county listing of the towns and villages covered by each edition. A more detailed guide to the towns covered is available at via the civil parish, Ancestor search, and subscription areas of this site.

Differences between editions

- 1824: Includes a countrywide alphabetical index to all the clergy, gentry and nobility listed in the entries for individual towns, omitted in subsequent issues.

- 1846: Includes the names of schoolteachers for the towns treated-a practice continued in later editions.

- 1881: Supplies the names of the principal farmers near each of the towns treated, giving the relevant parish. This feature was continued in the 1894 edition. From 1824, separate alphabetical listings are given for the clergy, gentry and nobility of Dublin and for most of the larger urban centres.

Slater's Commercial Directory of Ireland 1846

- http://www.failteromhat.com/slater.htm

- Commercial

- Slaters's directory goes through the towns of Ireland alphabetically. It lists a detailed description of the town or city, post office information and shows the names of nobility and gentry living in or close to the town. The traders of each town are arranged according to their trade. Slater's directory contains some additional information over Pigot's Directory.

Example of place

- Mallow

- http://www.failteromhat.com/slater/0098.pdf

- C:\Users\Lorna\Documents\ppttemplates\mallow.pdf

- Examples of different trades and professions

Pigot & Co's Provincial Directory of Ireland 1824

- Scanned images of Pigot & Co's Provincial directory of Ireland 1824. These files are PDF documents for easy viewing. Pigot & Co's directory goes through the towns of Ireland alphabetically. It lists a detailed description of the town or city, post office information and shows the names of nobility and gentry living in or close to the town. The traders of each town are arranged according to their trade. Pigot & Co's Directory was first published in 1820.

- http://www.failteromhat.com/pigot.htm

Sources

- 1778: *Taylor and Skinner's Road Maps of Ireland* (reprinted 1969: Irish University Press). NLI Ir 9141 t 1.<u>failteromhat</u>.

- * 1786: William Wilson's *The Post-Chaise Companion*. NLI J 9141 w 13. <u>books.google.com</u>.

- * 1812: Ambrose Leet, *A List of . . . noted places*. NLI Ir 9141 l 10; lds film 990023, item 2.

- * 1814: Ambrose Leet, *A Directory to the Market Towns, Villages, Gentlemen's Seats and other noted places in Ireland*. NLI Ir 9141 l 10. <u>findmypast</u>

- * 1820: J. Pigot, *Commercial Directory of Ireland*. NLI Ir 9141 c 25.

- * 1824: J. Pigot, *City of Dublin and Hibernian Provincial Directory*. NLI Ir 9141 p 75. Republished by Archive cd Books Ireland, CD-ROM #iet0005, 2005. <u>failteromhat</u>.

- * 1846: Slater's *National Commercial Directory of Ireland*. NLI Ir 9141 s 30. <u>findmypast</u>

- * 1856: Slater's *Royal National Commercial Directory of Ireland*.

- * 1870: Slater's *Royal National Commercial Directory of Ireland*.<u>findmypast</u>

- * 1881: Slater's *Royal National Commercial Directory of Ireland*. <u>findmypast</u>

- * 1894: Slater's *Royal National Commercial Directory of Ireland*. <u>findmypast</u>

- * See also Dublin directories from 1834.

- Eneclann's collection of CD-ROM versions is online at <u>www.findmypast.ie</u> and includes Pigot's (1824) and Slater's (1846, 1870, 1881 and 1894). Pigot's (1824) and Slater's (1846) are also at <u>www.failteromhat.com</u>, along with Taylor and Skinner's *Road Maps of Ireland* (1778).