

2. My Family Tree: Using Civil Records (births)

You can search all Irish births (1864 to 1919), marriages (1845 to 1944) and deaths (1878 to 1969) for free here: <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>

All you need to start is a person's name and approximate date range, preferably along with their civil registration district, which was centred on the local market town.

Let's, for example, take Galway's Pádraic Ó Conaire, the prolific Irish-language writer whose statue is in the Museum, with its clone in Eyre Square. He died in 1928, aged 46.

Leaving aside the registration district for the moment, if you enter 'Pádraic and 'Ó Conaire' into the name search boxes and, say, '1881' and '1883' into the year range boxes and press the search button you will come up blank. The reason for this is because like many Gaelic Leaguers of the era Pádraic Ó Conaire used the Irish rather than the English form of his name. The English form is Patrick Conroy.

If you re-enter 'Patrick' and 'Conroy' into the name search boxes, along with '1881' and '1883' into the year range boxes, you will get 23 results from across the country, including 10 in civil registration district in Co. Galway: Clifden (4), Galway (1), Oughterard (4) and Portumna (1).

As Ó Conaire was born in the Galway City, his civil registration district was 'Galway' and his birth record tells us that he was born Patrick Joseph Conroy on 28 February 1882 at New Docks, the son of Thomas Conroy, a merchant, and Kate Conroy (nee McDonogh).

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