

# Connecticut Irish-American Historical Society Genealogy Group

## Some Genealogy Terms

**ANCESTOR:** A person from whom one is descended. Your ancestors are your grandparents and great-grandparents, etc.

**CENSUS:** An official count of the people in an area to find out how many people there are, their age, sex and kind of work they do.

**DESCENDANT:** A person who comes from a particular ancestor or group of ancestors.

**EMIGRANT:** A person who leaves his own country to live in another.

**FAMILY TREE:** A chart showing a person's lineal ancestors (parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.) without the other members of their families (children). It is also known as a Pedigree Chart.

**GENERATION:** One step in the line of descent of a family. A grandfather, father, and son make up three generations.

**HERITAGE:** Something that is handed down from earlier generations or from the past; tradition.

**IMMIGRANT:** A person who comes to live in a country in which he or she was not born.

**LINEAGE:** Direct descent from a particular ancestor; ancestry.

**MAIDEN NAME:** A woman's last name before she is married.

**MATERNAL ANCESTORS:** Your mother's family line.

**PATERNAL ANCESTORS:** Your father's family line.

**SURNAME:** A person's last name or family name.

**VITAL RECORDS:** A record of birth, marriage, or death.