

City University of New York (CUNY)

CUNY Academic Works

Publications and Research

York College

1994

Review of the book Irish Family Histories

John A. Drobnicki
CUNY York College

[How does access to this work benefit you? Let us know!](#)

More information about this work at: https://academicworks.cuny.edu/yc_pubs/138

Discover additional works at: <https://academicworks.cuny.edu>

This work is made publicly available by the City University of New York (CUNY).
Contact: AcademicWorks@cuny.edu

31-4118

93-85474 Orig

Grehan, Ida. **Irish family histories**. R. Rinehart, 1993. 262p bibl index
ISBN 1-879373-70-X, \$24.95

Grehan's book is based largely on earlier work by Edward MacLysaght, whose *Irish Families: Their Names, Arms and Origins* (4th ed., 1985) remains the standard work in the field. Grehan has selectively chosen to elaborate on 80 families, for each providing the origin and meaning of the surname,

a brief sketch of the family's history and movements, and short biographical profiles of prominent family members. Although Grehan provides information about more individual persons, both MacLysaght's book and Michael O'Laughlin's *The Book of Irish Families* (1992) contain information on more families; MacLysaght has the most extensive bibliography. All three reproduce coats of arms, although Grehan also supplies portraits and photographs. None of these books provides comprehensive lineage information, so users will *not* be able to trace their ancestry back generation by generation, but *will* obtain background information on the family which can then help point the researcher in the right direction. Recommended for libraries that do not own MacLysaght and O'Laughlin; libraries with large genealogical collections will want all three.—*J. A. Drobnicki, formerly St. John's University*