

## **IRISH NAMING PATTERNS**

There was more than tradition involved in naming Irish children; there was a "British Isles Naming Convention" of the late 1500 to 1850 that suggested naming children as follows:

First son named for Father's father.

Second son named for Mother's father

Third son named for Father.

Fourth son named for Father's eldest brother.

First daughter named for Mother's mother.

Second daughter named for Father's mother.

Third daughter named for Mother.

Fourth daughter named for Mother's eldest sister

Second wife's oldest daughter named for the first wife.

### **CAUTION:**

Applying this pattern to a genealogy search is both a valuable "clue" and a potentially dangerous and misleading one. First of all, not all of the Irish followed the pattern.

Secondly, in most cases there is nothing recorded about death in infancy. In some instances the names were "re-used" as a commemoration of a dead child's existence.

The procedure is to use it as an indication in a search but to confirm through other sources of data.