

**Background: Ireland and the United Kingdom**

- 1798: failure of the **United Irishmen** rebellion
- 1801: Ireland joins Britain to form the **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland**
- Roman Catholic emancipation and repeal of the union
- **Irish Rebellion** (1803), **Young Irelanders** (1848), and **Fenian Rising** (1867)
- 1845 – 1851: **The Great Famine / An Gorta Mór**
- Irish land reform: **Home Rule League** 1873

***Key decade: 1912-1922/23***

- Irish Home Rule within the UK
- Women's suffrage
- Workers' rights
- First World War
- Easter Rising
- War of Independence
- Partition
- Irish Civil War

**Irish Home Rule within the UK**

- Home Rule Bills 1886, 1893 and 1912
- *"We Will Not Have Home Rule"*
- **The Ulster Covenant** and the **Declaration of Loyalty**
- Available online at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/search-archives-online/ulster-covenant](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/search-archives-online/ulster-covenant)

International signatures beyond UK:

- **Canada** 56 (Winnipeg 30, Alberta 25, Quebec 1)
- **USA** 23 (Auburn, New York state)
- **Australia** 39 (Perth, WA)
- **China** 9 (Nanking, Kiangsu Province)

13 JAN 1913	<b>Ulster Volunteer Force</b> formed to prevent Home Rule
25 NOV 1913	<b>Irish Volunteer Force</b> formed to safeguard Home Rule (many IRB men recruited)
AUG 1914	<b>Home Rule Bill</b> is passed, but is suspended due to First World War

Sources:

- UVF material and various Unionist associations included in the **Ulster Unionist Council Papers** at PRONI (D1327)
- Some UVF recruitment lists e.g. Seaford Company, Co. Down (D1263/3), 2nd bn North Derry (D304/1), Lisburn (D845/4), Co. Fermanagh list (D1402/3/1)

**Women's suffrage**

1832 – Reform Act – women excluded from the vote

1867 – 2nd Reform Act – still no vote for women  
1872 – Suffrage tour of Ulster led by **North of Ireland Women’s Suffrage Society** (Isabella Tod)  
1876 – Dublin Women’s Suffrage Society (Anna Haslem)  
1909 – NIWSS renamed **Irish Women’s Suffrage Society**  
1911 – Margaret Robinson and Dr. Elizabeth Bell of IWSS arrested in London  
1912 – IWSS attacks GPO in Donegall Square in Belfast  
1913 – attacks in Belfast, hunger strikes  
1913 – foundation of **Cumann na mBan** in Dublin  
1914 – **Women’s Social and Political Union** begins militant campaign in Belfast; WW1  
1918 (Feb 6th) – **Representation of the People Act**

Sources:

- The Ulster Suffragettes [www.belfasthistoryproject.com/thesuffragettes/](http://www.belfasthistoryproject.com/thesuffragettes/)
- PRONI: **Guide to Sources for Women’s History leaflet**

### **Workers’ Rights: The Dublin Lockout (25 AUG 1913 – 18 JAN 1914)**

1907 – Jim Larkin organises dock and transport workers in Belfast  
1908 – Larkin forms Irish Transport and General Workers Union  
1912 – ITGWU appoints James Connolly as Belfast organiser  
1912 – Connolly and Larkin form Irish Labour Party

1913 – Dublin United Tramway Company workers clash with chairman William Martin Murphy  
15 AUG – forty workers dismissed from post for membership of ITGWU  
26 AUG – four hundred tram workers go on strike  
Murphy persuades four hundred employers in Dublin not to accept ITGWU members  
Employers Federation locks out workers, brings in backleg labour; 25,000 workers now on strike  
30 AUG – Connolly arrested  
31 AUG – Larkin arrested in Imperial Hotel, Sackville Street

- Nov 1913 – **Irish Citizen Army** established to defend strikers
- Jan 1914 – Dublin Lockout ends; workers defeated

### ***Aftermath***

- Larkin goes to USA (1914-1923)
- Irish Citizen Army retrained as a socialist revolutionary militia under James Connolly

Sources:

- For more on the ICA, including membership lists, see [MilitaryArchives.ie](http://MilitaryArchives.ie) (see later)
- Newspapers collections
- Dublin Metropolitan Police prisoners books from 1905-1908, and 1911-1918, at <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:43945>

### **The First World War 1914-1918**

4 AUG 1914 – the UK declares war on Germany

- General recruitment – members of both the **Ulster Volunteer Force** (36th Ulster Division)

- and **Irish Volunteers** sign up (after the latter splits)
- Battle of the Somme commenced 1 JUL 1916

### **British First World War collections online**

- Ancestry [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)
- FindmyPast [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)
- TheGenealogist [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)
- Forces War Records [www.forces-war-records.co.uk](http://www.forces-war-records.co.uk)
- Commonwealth War Graves Commission [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)
- Lives of the First World War <https://livesofthefirstworldwar.iwm.org.uk>

### **Ireland divided 1916-1923**

*“England’s difficulty is Ireland’s opportunity...”*

Various revolutionary bodies:

- Irish Republican Brotherhood
- Irish Volunteers
- Irish Citizen Army
- Cumann na mBan
- Fianna Éireann

“Rebellion” – 2 seasons x 5 parts TV series from RTÉ, now available via Netflix

Easter Monday 24 April – Saturday 29 April 1916

- Irish Volunteers led the rising, establishing a base at the GPO, and declaring an Irish Republic
- 1200 Volunteers involved
- British Cavalry, Volunteer Training Corps, DMP and RIC defended

Sources:

- Sinn Féin Rebellion Handbook <https://archive.org/details/sinnfeinrebellio00dubl>
- Glasnevin Cemetery burials [www.dctrust.ie](http://www.dctrust.ie)

3-12 May 1916      Fifteen leaders of the rebellion are executed at Kilmainham Gaol, 1500 Volunteers interned (For a list of the leaders who were executed, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Executed1916Leaders>)

1917      rise of Sinn Féin

Apr 1918      Conscription Crisis

Dec 1918      Sinn Féin wins 73 out of 105 Irish seats

21 Jan 1919      First Dáil

### **War of Independence**

- Fought from 1919-1921 (also known as the Anglo-Irish War and The Tan War)
  - Republican forces restyled as the Irish Republican Army (IRA)
  - British Crown forces
- Sep 1919 – Dáil Éireann declared illegal by Westminster

## The Partition of Ireland

- Dec 1919 – 4th Home Rule Bill introduced to UK Parliament seeking to divide Ireland into two territories
- Michael Collins' Squad targets RIC and DMP (G-men)
- Mar 1920 – Royal Irish Constabulary Special Reserve (Black & Tans)
- Jun 1920 – Royal Irish Constabulary Auxiliaries
- 3 May 1921 – Partition of Ireland into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland
- June 1921 elections – Sinn Féin wins 124 seats out of 128; 2nd Dáil Éireann established
- July 1921 truce; De Valera sends Collins to London to negotiate with the British Government
- 6 Dec 1921 – Anglo-Irish Treaty signed by Collins

Anglo-Irish Treaty [www.nationalarchives.ie/2021commemorationprogramme/the-treaty-1921-records-from-the-archives/](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/2021commemorationprogramme/the-treaty-1921-records-from-the-archives/)

## The Civil War

- 7 Jan 1922 – 2nd Dáil Éireann ratifies Treaty
- 28 Jun 1922 – Civil War erupts
- 22 Aug 1922 Michael Collins assassinated at Béal na Bláth, Co. Cork
- 6 Dec 1922 – Irish Free State formed
- 24 May 1923 – end of the Civil War

Sources:

**1) British Army** (see earlier)

### 2) Royal Irish Constabulary

RIC service records up to 1922, for officers and men, are held by The National Archives in England [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) (HO 184/45-48 and HO 184/1-43)

Pension records (PMG 48 and HO 184/129-209)

RIC Auxiliaries (Black and Tans) service and pension records (HO 184/50-51 and HO 340)

**Ireland, The Royal Irish Constabulary 1816-1921** database on Ancestry.co.uk

### 3) FindmyPast: Easter Rising & Ireland Under Martial Law 1916-1921

- Events of Easter Rising week (WO 35/69)
- Raid and search reports (WO35/70-86)
- Court martial registers (Military), Dublin, 1920-1922 (WO35/57-58)
- Civilians tried by court martial, 1920-1922 (WO35/94-95, WO35/121-131, WO35/208)
- Court martial registers, June 1916-1921 (WO35/132-137)
- Internment camps and prisons, 1920-1922 (WO35/140-144)
- Courts of inquiry (WO35/145-160)

### 4) Republican Forces

Military Archives website [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

Collections include:

- **Irish Army Census** November 1922
- **Military Service Pensions Collection** 1916-1923
- **Bureau of Military History** 1913-1921
- **An tÓglach** magazine
- Maps, Plans and Drawings Collection

### **Beyond 2022**

<https://beyond2022.ie>

*“Beyond 2022 is an all-island and international collaborative research project working to create a virtual reconstruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which was destroyed in the opening engagement of the Civil War on June 30th, 1922.”*

### **Additional Sources:**

The Irish Government's Decade of Centenaries website is at [www.decadeofcentenaries.com](http://www.decadeofcentenaries.com)

The NAI's Decade of Centenaries site is at <http://centenaries.nationalarchives.ie/centenaries/>

Explore Letters 1916-1923 (University of Maynooth)

<http://letters1916.maynoothuniversity.ie>

The Irish Labour History Society

[www.irishlabourhistorysociety.com](http://www.irishlabourhistorysociety.com)

The centenary of the first Dáil is commemorated at a dedicated website at [www.dail100.ie](http://www.dail100.ie), with a timeline of events from 1919-1921, a list of the first TDs (Teachtaí Dála, Ireland's MPs), and additional digitised resources. For speeches made in Dáil Éireann from 1919, visit

<https://tinyurl.com/DailDebates>.

RTÉ hosts an online exhibition entitled The First Dáil (An Chéad Dáil) at

[www.rte.ie/archives/exhibitions/920-first-dail-eireann-1919/](http://www.rte.ie/archives/exhibitions/920-first-dail-eireann-1919/), including interviews with some of the participants.

### **My Books**

Further collections are discussed in several of my books, which can be purchased in paperback or ebook editions – details are available at [www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Chris-Paton/a/1799](http://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Chris-Paton/a/1799):

- Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2nd edition) (2019)
- Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records (2021)
- Tracing Your Scottish Family History on the Internet (2020)
- Tracing Your Scottish Ancestry Through Church and State Records (2019)
- Sharing Your Family History Online (2021)

### **PharosTutors Courses**

[www.pharostutors.com](http://www.pharostutors.com)

- Progressing Your Irish Research Online

- Scottish Research Online
- Scotland 1750-1850: Beyond the Old Parish Registers

### **Further Reading**

BARDON, Jonathan (1992) *A History of Ulster*. Belfast, Blackstaff Press.

BOWMAN, Timothy (2012). *Carson's Army: The Ulster Volunteer Force, 1910-22*. Manchester, Manchester University Press.

BOWMAN, Timothy (2006). *The Irish Regiments in the Great War: Discipline and Morale*. Manchester, Manchester University Press.

COOGAN, Tim Pat (2005). *1916: The Easter Rising*. W&N

COTTRELL, Peter (2008). *The Irish Civil War 1922-23 (Essential Histories)*. Osprey

DEVINE, Francis (2013). *A Capital in Conflict: Dublin City and the 1913 Lockout*. Dublin, Dublin Corporation Public Libraries.

FORESTER, Margarey (1989). *Michael Collins – The Lost Leader*. Gill and MacMillan

FOWLER, Simon (2017) *Tracing Your Army Ancestors (3<sup>rd</sup> edition)*. Barnsley, Pen and Sword Books Ltd.

FOWLER, Simon (2013) *Tracing Your First World War Ancestors*. Barnsley, Pen and Sword Books Ltd.

KILLEEN, Richard (2007). *A Short History of the Irish Revolution, 1912-1927*. Gill and MacMillan

LITTON, Helen (2008). *Kathleen Clarke – Revolutionary Woman*. The O'Brien Press

MCCARTHY, Cal (2014). *Cumann na mBan and the Irish Revolution*. The Collins Press

MARTIN, F. X. (2013). *The Irish Volunteers 1913-1915 – Recollections and Documents*. Merrion.

MATTHEWS, Ann (2014). *The Irish Citizen Army*. The Mercier Press Ltd

O'DONNELL, Peadar (2013). *The Gates Flew Open: An Irish Civil War Prison Diary*. Mercier Press

PATON, Chris (2019) *Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)*. Barnsley, Family History Partnership.

SHEEHAN, William (2007). *British Voices from the Irish War of Independence 1918-1921*. The Collins Press

TOWNSHEND, Charles (2014). *The Republic: The Fight for Irish Independence, 1918-1923*. Penguin

URQUHART, Diane (2001). *The Minutes of the Ulster Women's Unionist Council and Executive Committee 1911-1940*. Irish Manuscripts Commission.

WATKINS, Sarah-Beth (2014). *Ireland's Suffragettes – The Women Who Fought for the Vote*. The History Press

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Scotland's Greatest Story family history research

**[www.ScotlandsGreatestStory.co.uk](http://www.ScotlandsGreatestStory.co.uk)**

Scottish GENES Blog (GEnalogy News and EventS)

**<https://ScottishGENES.blogspot.com>**

Twitter: **[@genesblog](https://twitter.com/@genesblog)**

Facebook: **[www.facebook.com/TheGENESBlog](https://www.facebook.com/TheGENESBlog)**