

Museum of Orange Heritage

*Handling
our History*

Exploring and Preserving the Past

This workbook is designed to work in connection with a Museum Handling Box from the Museum of Orange Heritage.

Handling boxes give students an opportunity to explore how documents and artefacts have played an important part in history.

The Museum of Orange Heritage has handling boxes for a number of subjects:

- The Glorious Revolution
- The First World War
- Handling out History

Please contact a member of staff if you are interested in using any of the above.

Museum of Orange Heritage

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European Union

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Archives and History

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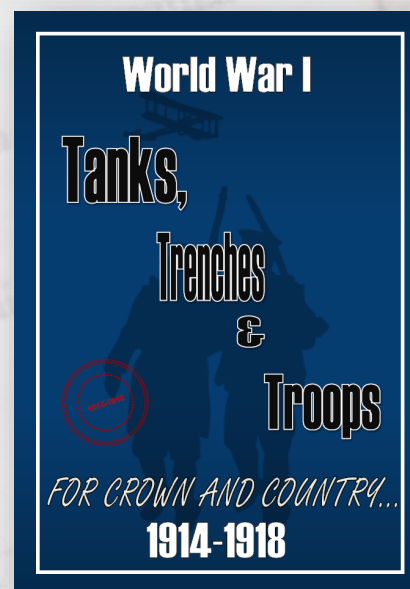
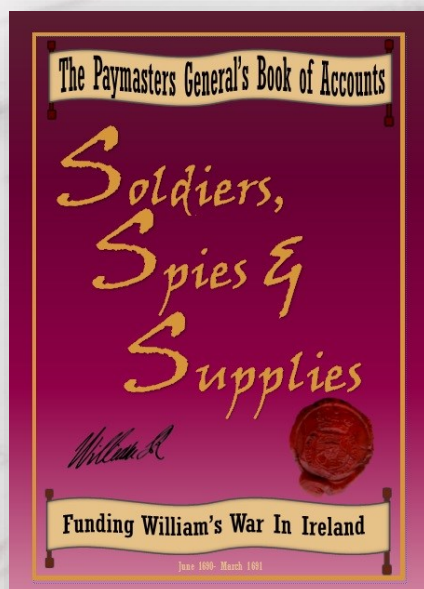
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1-Introduction

'Handling our History' is the third resource that has been produced as part of the outreach and engagement aspect of the Reaching out through Education And Cultural Heritage project (REACH) being undertaken by the Museum of Orange Heritage.

The REACH Project aims to encourage everyone to learn more about the Orange tradition and is a project supported by the European Union's PEACE III Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Through this booklet we hope to inspire young people to engage with Irish history. We also want to encourage debate, discussion and learning through some of the artefacts and manuscripts held in the archives of the Museum of Orange Heritage.



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2-Handling Guidelines

A good way to learn history is to examine historical artefacts and documents up close. When doing so it is important to remember that these items may be delicate, fragile and easily damaged. As students of history it is our responsibility to preserve and pass on artefacts and documents to the next generation so that they too can learn from the past.

Here are some important things to remember when handling historical artefacts and documents:

- *Wear the gloves provided when handling items*
- *Hold items over a table*
- *Do not touch artefacts or manuscripts (documents) with pencils, pens or sharp items*
- *Check artefacts and box content at the beginning and end of each session*
- *Report any missing, damaged or broken items immediately to your teacher or member of the Museum of Orange Heritage staff*



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3-The Glorious Revolution and the War of the Three Kingdoms

The Battle of the Boyne has long been remembered as the most significant event of the War of the Three Kingdoms. It was the one battle of the war in which two 'Kings' faced each other in the struggle for the British throne.

Background

The late 1680s saw the development of a political crisis within the British Isles. James II, a converted Roman Catholic, was viewed with suspicion by the largely Protestant political establishment in Britain. The birth of a male heir confirmed to many that the Stuart Monarchy would now be a Roman Catholic one and, therefore, at odds with the majority of the population.

With fears growing that James II was modelling himself on the dictatorial Louis XIV of France, leading politicians and soldiers agreed to invite William Prince of Orange and Mary Stuart to take the throne. Many were concerned about deposing their rightful king but convinced themselves that offering the throne to both William and Mary as a joint monarchy (Mary was the daughter of James II) ensured that the 'British' monarchy was continuing.

In 1688 William Prince of Orange arrived in England with an army of 15,000 men. The political, religious and military establishment figures declared support for him and James was forced to flee to France. William and Mary were invited to take the 'vacant' throne. The peaceful 'Glorious Revolution' had taken place at Westminster.

The transition of power in Ireland was not as simple. With the exception of Ulster, the majority of Ireland had remained loyal to James II. James tried to use this support to regain the throne and landed in Ireland with soldiers and money from France. Over the next 3 years war raged back and forward with 4 significant Williamite victories securing the Glorious Revolution - the Siege of Londonderry (1688-89) and the Battles of Newtownbutler (1689), the Boyne (1690) and Aughrim (1691).

The Glorious Revolution marked the beginning of constitutional monarchy and democracy in Western Europe.





Artefact in the Spotlight



Seventeenth Century Pistol and Shot

- Flint-lock pistols such as this one were a key feature of any Seventeenth Century army.
- They were used in close quarters fighting, especially by Cavalry soldiers.
- They fired small metal balls known as shot that could kill an opponent or badly injure them with flesh wounds or broken bones.
- Flint-lock pistols were more reliable than older black-powder versions which could be affected by wet weather conditions.
- When being used by Cavalry they would usually only be fired once in a battle. Rather than reload (which would take time) soldiers would fire their pistol or pistols and then rely on their sword.
- A Cavalry pistol could weigh up to 10lbs or 4.5kg.

Questions

What were flint-lock pistols used for?

How much could a pistol weigh?

What happened to someone shot by a pistol?

Manuscript



The Last Letter written by William III before he came to Ireland in June 1690.

This particular letter was written to the Marquis of Carmarthen who was made advisor to Queen Mary just prior to William's departure from England. In the letter William III described the events as they were unfolding:

Hylack 19 June 1690

'I had thought we would be embarking this morning but the wind is so adverse it is impossible. Come the slightest favourable wind I will not let the opportunity pass, although the money cannot be here until tomorrow evening or the morning of the day after, something which is not small hindrance given also that the ships transporting 1100 horses from Holland and ordered to come here have passed Kirkambery via which port I do not know, but I fear that as usual the Admiralty has not given clear enough instruction to the convoy, which means that three cavalry regiment are lacking ships....

All remaining troops are already in Ireland, or so I am assured by a warship arriving yesterday from Carrickfergus which had left the day before.

I had forgotten to tell you before my departure my feeling that when Parliament meets for the first time the Queen should prorogue it instead of adjourne it. I ask that you tell her this on my behalf.'

Definitions:

Kirkambery - probably Kirkcaldy, a port on the east coast of Scotland.

Prorogue Parliament - to discontinue or postpone Parliament rather than dissolving it.

Questions:

What has prevented William III sailing to Ireland?

What is William waiting for in 'Hylack'?

Are there any tensions in the Williamite camp?

What does this letter tell us about Seventeenth Century warfare?



Artefact in the Spotlight



Gun Money

Background

In an attempt to regain his throne James II had landed in Ireland with French support and was enthusiastically greeted by his Irish allies. Despite receiving military and financial support from his ally, Louis XIV, James still did not have enough money to pay his Irish troops. With the machinery of government largely in the hands of the Williamites in London James was forced to improvise to pay for the war in Ireland.

- Gun Money was the name given to the coins minted by James II to pay his soldiers during the Irish campaign. It was called gun money because the coins were made from, amongst other things, melted down old cannons.
- It was important for James to create this money for 2 reasons:
 1. In order to pay his soldiers.
 2. To demonstrate that he was still the rightful King.
- William III and Mary II had been crowned King and Queen and could therefore use the British Treasury to ensure that their army was paid in money that would not devalue.
- 'Williamite' coins featured both William and Mary. This reinforced the fact that it was a joint monarchy.

Questions:

What was Gun Money made from?

What was different about the new Williamite Monarchy?

Why was it important for James II to produce his own money?

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4-The Orange Order

Background

Officially called the Loyal Orange Institution, the 'Orange Order' was formed at Sloan's Inn, Loughgall on 21 September 1795.

The 1790s were a period of agrarian strife in parts of Ireland. In County Armagh this was further complicated by sectarianism. A Roman Catholic secret society called the Defenders often clashed with a Protestant secret society called the Peep O Day Boys; so called because they often attacked homes at the break of day. On 21 September 1795 a large group of Defenders attacked a group of Protestant houses at the Diamond near Loughgall owned by the Winter family. The Protestants won this 'battle' and afterwards decided to go to James Sloan's Inn, Loughgall, to form a permanent organisation. This was the Orange Order.

Three years later a national leadership was formed called the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland (1798).

There were a number of other 'Orange' related societies that predated the formal establishment of the Orange Order that contributed to its formation and ideology.

Definitions:

Agrarian Secret Societies: These were groups made up of people involved in farming or other related countryside jobs. They usually formed as a response to difficult economic conditions. They could be very small - taking in a particular townland or area - or large 'oath bound' societies like the Defenders or the Peep O Day boys.



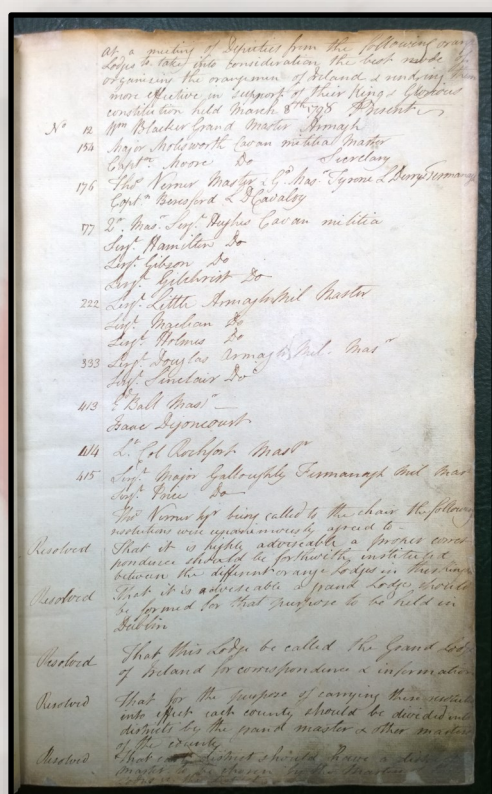
Image of an 'Orange warrant' granted to Orangemen who were serving in the Sligo Militia. Note the wax seal.

Early Orange Societies

The Aldermen of Skinners Alley - In the period leading up to the 'Glorious Revolution' James II's administration in Ireland had attempted to tighten its control over the political and military establishment. By 1688 all Protestant members of the Dublin Corporation had been removed. Despite having been dismissed they continue to meet in secret and declared their support for William III. They became known as the Aldermen of Skinners Alley. The society commemorated the Battle of the Boyne and the birthday of William III.

The Boyne Society - Formed in Enniskillen by men who had fought in the Williamite Wars, the rural difficulties of the 1760s resulted in an increase in members for this organisation and a growth in branches. With the loss of the American Colonies (1776) and war with Revolutionary France (1789) the British army was over stretched and viewed 'loyal societies' such as the Boyne Society as a check against rebellion or revolution in Ireland.

The Orange Boys - Formed during the early 1790s by James Wilson, a prominent farmer and Presbyterian in County Tyrone, the Orange Boys were established as a 'defensive' Protestant organisation at a time of sectarian difficulties in Armagh and Tyrone. Centred on the Dyan, County Tyrone, it had a number of branches and after the establishment of the Orange Institution in 1795, Orange Boys clubs received the first ten warrants of the new organisation.



A page from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland Minute book dated March 1798.



Etching showing the Diamond Crossroads.



Artefacts and Manuscripts



LOL No. 442 Box Lid

Historical Context

The first 50 years of its existence was a difficult time for the Orange Order.

As a consequence of changes in legislation, intended to target revolutionary secret societies, the Orange Order, in common with many other legitimate groups, was forced to change its rules and regulations to remain within the law. On two occasions the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland did not act quickly enough and was forced to dissolve.

The second of these dissolutions was brought about after a Parliamentary Inquiry (1835) into the size and activities of the Orange Order in the British Isles and fears that the King's brother (who was Grand Master of the Order) might use his influence over Orangemen in the military to rival the Government in some way.

With the Grand Orange Lodge of England and Ireland dissolving (1836), all private lodges were expected to do the same. Some lodges did, burning their warrant (which was their governing document) and destroying their flags and regalia. Others, especially in rural areas, believed Orangeism was too important so they continued to meet, often in secret or as constitutional societies or shooting clubs.

In the case of LOL No. 442 it appears that they had a lodge box which had an image of William III painted on the inside. The box would have held the paperwork and regalia of the lodge and while appearing plain on the outside (it was painted white) it would have acted as a focal point for private lodge meetings between 1836 and 1845.

Questions

When was the Orange Order formed?

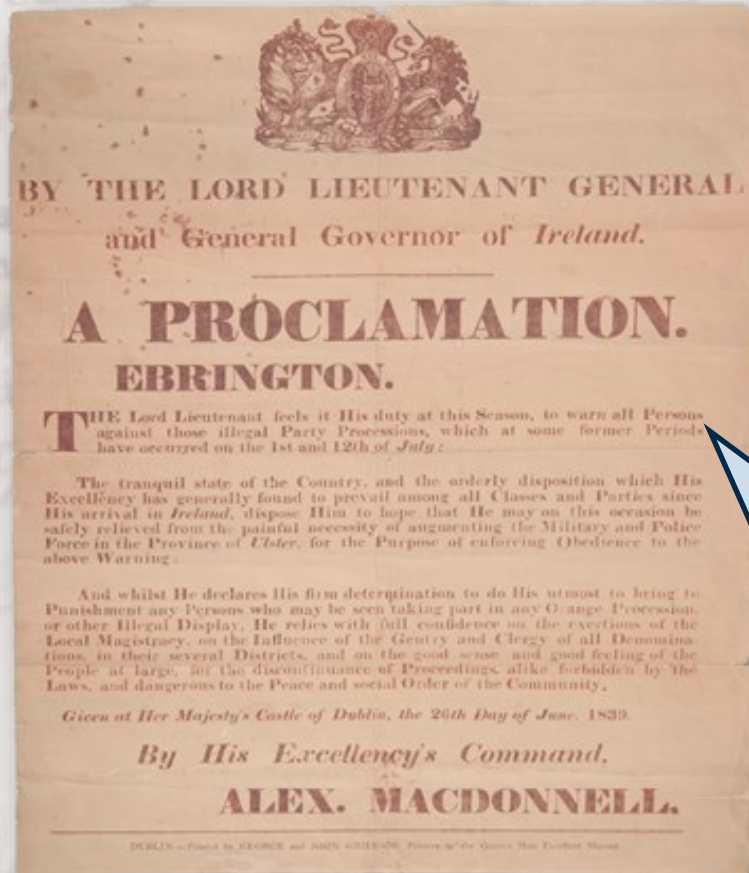
Can you name 2 'Orange' related societies that were in existence before the Orange Order?

What is the name of the Orange Order's governing body?

What were the names of secret agrarian societies that operated in Ulster?

Why did the Grand Orange Lodge dissolve in 1836?

Parades and Protests



Copy of a proclamation from Dublin Castle, 1839, reminding anyone who was contemplating celebrating the Twelfth of July through processions or parades that they would be breaking the law and would be arrested.

"The Lord Lieutenant feels it His duty at this Season, to warn all Persons against those illegal Party Processions, which at some former Periods have occurred on the 1st and 12th of July"

The issues surrounding parades and protests are not new. On a number of occasions in the past, Governments have introduced legislation prohibiting parades and 'party displays' in Ireland. In many cases the motivation behind such legislation was to prevent clashes between Protestants and Roman Catholics.

In 1849 Orangemen and Defenders clashed outside Rathfriland at Dolly's Brae. In the aftermath the Government, in an effort to prevent future clashes, introduced the Party Processions Act (1850) which prohibited any kind of party processions or parades. This was reinforced in 1860 with the Party Emblems Act which was an attempt to outlaw the flying of 'party' flags and colours.

- Orangemen felt that the legislation was targeting them unfairly as it was they who celebrated their traditions in the form of parades and processions.
- During the 1850s William Johnston of Ballykilbeg emerged as a leader who publicly opposed the Party Processions Act. He became a champion of ordinary Orangemen. A number of Orange Lodges and Black Preceptories are named after him.
- During the 1860s he organised several public acts of defiance. The largest of these involved 2,000 Orangemen parading from Newtownards to Bangor in 1867. Johnston was arrested and jailed but not before his trial gave him a platform for Orange grievances. Upon his release he was elected to Westminster for South Belfast beating the Conservative candidate who was backed by representatives from the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland.

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5-Home Rule 1886-1914

Background

The Home Government Association was formed in Dublin in 1870 by Isaac Butt, a former Orangeman and barrister, who had been educated at Trinity College. The Association, which later became the Home Rule League, was the latest in a series of organisations or movements to lobby for limited self-government for Ireland. Successive Governments had failed to pacify the whole of Ireland and some now felt that a devolved parliament in Dublin, similar to that which had existed prior to the Act of Union, would satisfy the majority of Irish people and reduce calls for total independence.

On three occasions, 1886, 1893 and 1912-1914 the issue of Home Rule would dominate British and Irish politics. Each time the issue became more complicated and divisive, especially in Ireland, and eventually resulted in partition and the creation of two countries - the unionist dominated Northern Ireland and the nationalist dominated Free State (which would later become the Republic of Ireland).

The Three Home Rule Acts

1886 - Introduced by the Liberal Government but defeated in the House of Commons as Liberal Unionists sided with the Conservatives.

1893 - Again introduced by a Liberal Government with backing from Irish Nationalist MPs. It was passed in the House of Commons but defeated in the House of Lords which had an overwhelming Conservative and Unionist majority.

1912-1914 - A Home Rule Bill was passed by the House of Commons and after the introduction of the Parliament Act in 1911, could only be delayed by the House of Lords for two years. It became law but the political picture became muddled with the outbreak of the First World War.

In the early Twentieth Century two documents were created which defined the political aspirations of the two main political movements in Ireland and went on to be regarded as the foundation documents for both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Their importance cannot be understated. In this section we will examine both documents and their meaning.

The Ulster Solemn League and Covenant



Ulster's Solemn League and Covenant.

Being convinced in our consciences that Home Rule would be disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as of the whole of Ireland, subversive of our civil and religious freedom, destructive of our citizenship and perilous to the unity of the Empire, we, whose names are underwritten, men of Ulster, loyal subjects of His Gracious Majesty King George V., humbly relying on the God whom our fathers in days of stress and trial confidently trusted, do hereby pledge ourselves in solemn Covenant throughout this our time of threatened calamity to stand by one another in defending for ourselves and our children our cherished position of equal citizenship in the United Kingdom and in using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland. ¶ And in the event of such a Parliament being forced upon us we further solemnly and mutually pledge ourselves to refuse to recognise its authority. ¶ In sure confidence that God will defend the right we hereto subscribe our names. ¶ And further, we individually declare that we have not already signed this Covenant.

The above was signed by me at _____
"Ulster Day," Saturday, 28th September, 1912.

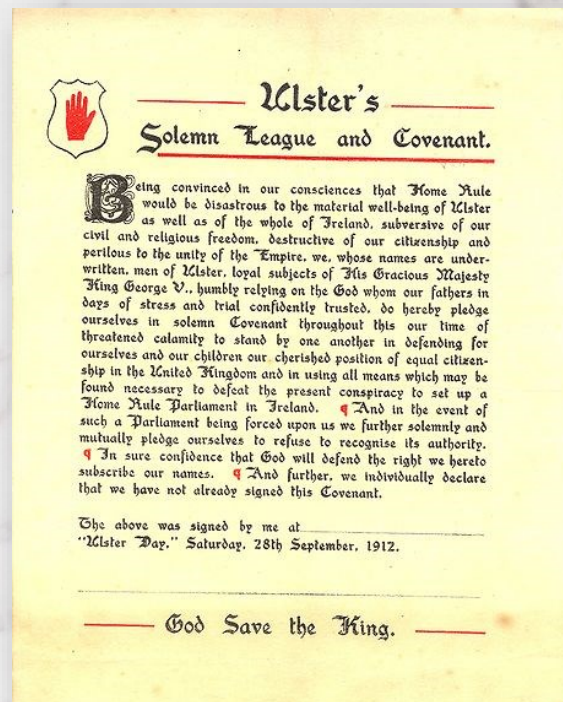
— God Save the King. —

This document, written by Thomas Sinclair, was signed by 471,414 people on 28 September 1912 at the height of the Third Home Rule Crisis.

A tale of two papers

The Ulster Solemn League and Covenant and the Proclamation of the Irish Republic

Manuscript: Ulster Solemn League and Covenant (1912)



The Ulster Solemn League and Covenant may be regarded as one of the most powerful and emotionally charged documents ever to have been formulated and placed before an entire community for endorsement.

By 1912 there were real fears that the division over Home Rule in Ireland would descend into bitter sectarian strife and even civil war. In an effort to divert their supporters from such potential clashes, Unionist leaders mounted a series of large scale public political rallies. These were to act as a 'safety valve' for ordinary unionists by allowing them to voice their concerns and allowing them to feel that they had made a contribution to the fight against Home Rule.

In 1912 Edward Carson believed that a large scale demonstration of defiance against Home Rule was required. He came on the idea of a document that could sum up the views of the unionist community in Ulster and at the same time show how the whole unionist community opposed Home Rule. Taking inspiration from the Scottish Covenants of the Seventeenth Century Thomas Sinclair and B.W.D. Montgomery penned the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant. Only those who were of Ulster Birth could sign the Ulster Covenant but the very first signature was that of a Dubliner — Edward Carson!

Definitions:

Irish Nationalist: A person who wanted to break the link with Britain and create an independent Ireland.

Irish Unionist: A person who wanted to maintain the link with Britain and keep the United Kingdom together.

Metal Printing Plate used to produce the small Ulster Solemn League and Covenants that each person was given after signing the main document.



A number of key phrases summed up the unionist opposition to Home Rule:

'Disastrous to the material well-being of Ulster as well as the whole of Ireland' - Ulster had benefited greatly from the Industrial Revolution with the factories and industry of Belfast and the Lagan Valley contrasting with the agricultural economy that drove development in much of the south and west. Unionists felt that this prosperity would be lost if a Dublin Home Rule Parliament was able to introduce trade barriers between Great Britain and Ireland.

'Destructive of our citizenship and equality of citizenship' - Unionists feared that Home Rule would result in a diminishing of their equal citizenship within the British Isles. Protestants and unionists in Ireland had always had a tremendous attachment to the Glorious Revolution. The Glorious Revolution or bloodless revolution may have been initiated at Westminster in 1688 but it had been fought for on the battlefields of Ireland between 1688 and 1691. Unionists were therefore opposed to anything that threatened the rights that had been secured by this Constitutional settlement and the parliamentary democracy that had flowed from it.

'Subversive of our civil and religious freedom' - Unionism was a predominantly, but not exclusively, Protestant political movement in Ireland, especially in Ulster. On the other side of the Irish political spectrum Nationalism was predominately Roman Catholic in composition. Given that constitutional nationalism and the Roman Catholic Church had become intertwined since the early Nineteenth Century, Unionists believed that any Dublin Parliament would be disproportionately influenced by the Roman Catholic Church and as a result its laws would be Roman Catholic in ethos.

'Perilous to the unity of the Empire' - One of the recurring themes of unionist opposition to Home Rule was that it would encourage other countries within the British Empire to demand independence and thus lead to the break-up of the Empire. Ulstermen, Ulster-Scots and Irishmen had all been closely involved in the development of the Empire and as a consequence there was a fear that Home Rule would destroy this association.

Unionist opposition was located primarily in Ulster by the time of the Third Home Rule Crisis. This was down to simple numbers and the economic development of the province. The rhetoric of unionism may have been embodied in words like 'loyalty', 'duty', 'service', 'integrity' and 'self-sacrifice', but the psyche of this political movement was also characterised by a conditional loyalty. By 1912 this conditional loyalty was beginning to manifest itself in popular action.

'...using all means which may be found necessary to defeat the present conspiracy to set up a Home Rule Parliament in Ireland.' - To many, this phrase was a thinly veiled threat that Unionists were prepared to use force to remain within the Union.

Questions:

Why did Unionists oppose Home Rule?

What was sinister about the Ulster Covenant?

Could anyone sign the Ulster Covenant?

The Proclamation of the Irish Republic

POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty, six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

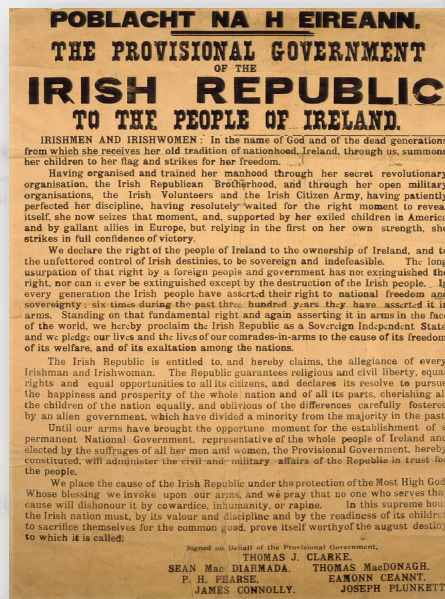
We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

THOMAS J. CLARKE,
SEAN Mac DIARMADA, THOMAS MacDONAGH,
P. H. PEARSE, EAMONN CEANNT,
JAMES CONNOLLY. JOSEPH PLUNKETT.

The Proclamation was read to the public from the steps of the General Post Office in Dublin on Easter Monday 24 April 1916.

Manuscript: Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916)



Composed by Patrick Pearse, the Proclamation of the Irish Republic was signed by all 7 members of the IRB Military Council. With preparations well advanced for a military rising against the British Government in Dublin (1916) Pearse and James Connolly recommended that the proclamation be read in public to mark the official start of the 'Rising'.

Its flowing and often romanticised references was typical of Pearse.

On 24 April 1916 the 'rebels' occupied key buildings across Dublin. One of these was the General Post Office where Thomas Clarke, chosen as President of the Provisional Government of the Irish Republic, read the declaration to an initially bemused public audience. As he did so groups of Irish Volunteers and members of the Irish Citizen Army took up their positions and prepared to ward off attacks from the police or army. The Easter Rising had begun.

The purpose of the proclamation was to express the plans and aspirations of those taking part in the Rising, especially their view that the Rising itself would lead to the creation of an Independent Irish Republic. Like their Unionist counterparts in Ulster they had formed a Provisional Government, established a 'volunteer army' and secretly imported weapons through the Howth gunrunning.

The IRB or Irish Republican Brotherhood, was a secret revolutionary organisation that believed in the use of force to create an Independent Irish Republic. It had been originally founded in America but quickly arrived in Ireland.

The document contained a number of key phrases that reflected the aspiration of the authors and were designed to capture the imagination and support of ordinary people:

'Ireland through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for freedom.' - Pearse and others saw the minority who were taking part in the Rising as a vanguard that would inspire a general uprising. For him the 'blood sacrifice' of a few would inspire the greater number of the population. In reality the majority of people were bemused by the actions of this small section of the Volunteers, the Irish Citizen Army and the IRB. Some even felt that they were letting down the thousands of Irishmen who were fighting for the rights of small nations on the battlefields of the First World War. It wasn't until the later mass imprisonments and execution of the remaining Leaders of the Rising that public opinion began to shift in favour of the Rebels.

'We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland....' - given the failure of successive land acts during the late Nineteenth Century to pacify rural Ireland, this phrase would have appealed to both the rural community who had been hamstrung by the Irish tradition of subdividing ever increasingly small tenant farm holdings and the urban workers of places like Dublin.

'In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty...' - as with the Ulster Covenant there were several references to the past or a particular view of the past.

Our *'...gallant allies in Europe...'* - this was an extremely controversial reference at a time when thousands of Irishmen were fighting for the allied cause on the battlefields of France and Belgium.

'Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom...in arms...six times during the past 300 years.' - this was an attempt to justify the Rising by pointing out that their actions were not spontaneous or opportunistic but were instead part of a long struggle for independence.

'The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens...cherishing all the children of the nation equally....' - This phrase highlighted two things. The creation of the Republic would not only mark a political change but would also result in social and economic change for the better. In addition there was an attempt to reach out to the unionist and Protestant minority by re-stating an often used Orange mantra of 'civil and religious liberty for all'.

Questions:

What does the Proclamation tell us about the political situation in Ireland in 1916?

How many people signed the Proclamation?



Artefacts and images from the Archives



A UVF armband – the UVF was a ‘private army’ established by Unionists in January 1913. It was an attempt by Unionists to demonstrate to the outside world that they were prepared to fight to remain within the Union.

Image courtesy of the Museum of Orange Heritage.



Martini Henry rifle - Rifles such as this one were part of the consignment smuggled into Ulster by the UVF in 1914.

Image courtesy of the Museum of Orange Heritage.

Photographs are useful pieces of evidence or source material for students of history.

As with artefacts, manuscripts and documents, they present a view of an event, person or landscape at a particular point in time. Like other pieces of historical evidence they may not always be what they seem! When using photographs as source material we must be aware of a number of issues:

- Images will show what the photographer wants you to see. They may be a staged or ‘false’ image of a particular event e.g. photographs of soldiers advancing into ‘No-mans land’ during World War I.
- Photographs may have been produced for particular purposes e.g. Political campaigns, propaganda exercises and personal views.
- In many cases we do not know who has taken a photograph because, unlike documents or paintings, they are not signed.
- Unlike today, when people can manipulate photographs with ‘Photoshop’, it is much more difficult to change or manipulate old existing images.



John Redmond MP presenting a flag to the Irish Volunteers c1916. Image from Multitext Gallery UCC.



Molly Childers and Mary Spring Rice on board the 'Asgard' during the 1914 Howth gun-running by the Irish Volunteers. Image courtesy of the National Museum of Ireland/ Collins Barracks.



Photograph of unionists and their arch welcoming Edward Carson to Ballynahinch at the height of the Third Home Rule Crisis. Note the two children on their bicycle at the front of the assembled crowd. Image courtesy of the Museum of Orange Heritage.



Photograph of Orangemen and members of the Ulster Clubs leaving Balmoral Showgrounds at the end of the mass Unionist rally, 12 April 1912. Image courtesy of the Museum of Orange Heritage.

Produced by the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland

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