



## Project Outline 1: WICKLOW DURING THE FAMINE

The Great Famine of 1845-52 stretched the county to its limit. Surviving workhouse records from Shillelagh and Rathdrum show that both were continually full during this time. Many inmates were very young and there were quite a number of deserted children, some of whose parents had emigrated. Between 1847 and 51 approximately 850 families were cleared from the Fitzwilliam Estates in Shillelagh many of whom emigrating to Canada while Fr. Thomas Hore led a mass exodus of his parishioners from Tinahely and Kilaveny to Ohio.. Crime increased significantly as many were driven to crime to survive. Soup kitchens and relief works were set up throughout the county. 16,930 deaths were recorded in Wicklow from 1841 to 1851, most of which due to consumption, old age, fever and starvation with the spread of fever reaching its height in 1847. By 1851, death and emigration had reduced the population of the county by a quarter.

### Possible subtopics:

- Famine Emigration - The Fitzwilliam Estate and Coolatin.
- Shillelagh workhouse
- Rathdrum workhouse
- Rathdrum famine graveyard
- The famine in West Wicklow
- Wicklow Gaol during the famine & convict transportation

### Images:



Famine Relief Works, drains on Abbey Street Wicklow Town prior to being covered over by tarmacadam during road surfacing in 2010. Courtesy of John Finlay (2013).



Rock Denis	M	15	Single	Labourer	
Butter Estlin	F	33	Married	none	
John	M	9	child of 1522	D <sup>o</sup>	
Margaret	F	5	D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>	
Maloz Mary	F	24	Single	Spinster	
Males Lennart	M	64	Widower	Labourer	Pro
Boyle Mary	F	53	Married	Spinster	
" Ned	M	11	child of 1527	none	
" Ellen	F	9	D <sup>o</sup>	none	
Armotho William	M	113	Wife child of	none	

Extract from Rathdrum Workhouse register 1849 housed in Wicklow County Archive.



Men's House Rathdrum Workhouse. Taken from Kevin Byrne (2008).



## Sources:

### 1) Books & Book Chapters

The Local Studies Collection houses a number of publications relating to the famine in Ireland and Wicklow, many of which are also available in local library branches. These include:

*The Atlas of the Great Irish Famine 1845-1852* (2012) Edited by John Crowley, William J. Smyth and Mike Murphy.

*The Workhouses of Ireland: the fate of Ireland's poor.* By John O'Connor(1995) Provides an overview of the workhouse system of poor relief in Ireland, detailed accounts of life in the workhouse system as well as an account emigration during this time.

The Famine in Wicklow. In *Footsteps through Wicklow's Past: A History of Wicklow Town and its environs from the Earliest Times to the end of the Civil War and Beyond.* Finlay, John (2013), p. 128 – 137.

*Wicklow on the Eve of the Famine.* In *The Last county: the emergence of Wicklow as a County 1606 – 1845.* County Wicklow Heritage Project (1993), p. 76 – 78. Also available online at: [https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/the\\_last\\_county/the\\_last\\_county\\_-\\_wicklow\\_on\\_the\\_eve\\_of\\_the\\_famine](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/the_last_county/the_last_county_-_wicklow_on_the_eve_of_the_famine)

*A Farewell to Famine* by Jim Reese (1994) follows a group of over 1000 people who emigrated from their homes in Tinahely, Co. Wicklow and Wexford to the American Mid-West.

*Surplus People: The Fitzwilliam Clearances 1847 – 1856.* Provides a vivid and detailed account of the he Fitzwilliam Estate Coolatin and the assisted emigration to Canada given to tenants during the Famine. Also see online article [https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/coolattin/the\\_surplus\\_people](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/coolattin/the_surplus_people)

*The Wicklow World of Elizabeth Smith 1840-1850* (1996) Dermot, J. and O'Maitiu, S (Eds). Provides eyewitness descriptions of early nineteenth-century Ireland, especially concerning the peasant community, landlord-tenant relations, and the Famine in Baltiboys, West Wicklow.

*Time Did Not Stand Still: The History of St. Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow* by Kevin Byrne (2008). Paints an evocative picture of life in the Rathdrum workhouse, including a description of the equipment purchased and the typical diet.

*Aspects of Wicklow Goal (2008)* by second year Junior Certificate School Programme students of Abbey Community College Wicklow .

*Wicklow Historical Goal 1702 – 1924 Education Pack.* Produced by Wicklow Historical Goal.

### 2) Journal Articles

There are numerous journal articles covering different aspects of the famine in Co. Wicklow. These provide a unique and often previously unpublished accounts of local events and local phenomenon. Articles can be accessed in the Local Studies facility and include the following:

'The awful visitation which fell upon the country and its attendant evils': The Great Famine and Crime in County Wicklow., Kavanagh, J. (2009) Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Journal. No. 20, p. 45-55.

Wicklow and the Famine. Hannigan, K. (2009) Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Journal. No. 20, p. 1-21.

Famine Reports 1845: Letters of Diocesan Priests. Medleycott, J. & Healy, T. (2009) Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Journal. No. 20, p. 22-26.

Extracts from the Rathdrum Union Minute Books 1842-50. Byrne, K. (2009) Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Journal. No. 20, p. 27-32.

### 3) Education Pack:

A Famine Education resource Pack titled 'The Famine in County Wicklow' was produced by the County Wicklow Heritage Project in 1996. It provides students with an insight into many aspects of the Famine in County Wicklow, using source material, both of a primary and secondary nature. The pack can be consulted in the Local Studies Library.



#### 4) Reports:

Afri report on famine graveyards (2010) edited by Sean Steele.

#### 5) Online Resources:

Coolattin Lives in an online database of thousands of tenant records which have been transcribed, digitised and mapped allowing descendants of these tenants – in Ireland, Canada and around the world – to trace their ancestors, find the district where they lived. Can be accessed at:

<https://coolattinlives.ie/>

Extensive information on the Coolatin Estate and the assisted emigration scheme can also be found on Our Wicklow Heritage at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/places/coolattin>

The County Archives collection of admission and discharge registers of the Rathdrum and Shillelagh workhouses Rathdrum Workhouse, 1842-1914 and Shillelagh Workhouse, 1842-1921 tell the story of the poor and destitute of the county in stark reality. Can be accessed online at:

<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections>

There are excellent resources available online on the Our Wicklow Heritage Website. This includes articles, images and reports which can all be incorporated in your project. See links below:

Wicklow Workhouse Records now online!

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/genealogy/links/wicklow\\_workhouse\\_records\\_now\\_online](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/genealogy/links/wicklow_workhouse_records_now_online)

Eyewitness Accounts of the Famine in Wicklow:

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/places/county\\_wicklow\\_historical\\_societies/wicklow\\_historical\\_society/1993\\_wicklowhistorical\\_society\\_journal/eyewitness\\_accounts\\_of\\_the\\_famine](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/places/county_wicklow_historical_societies/wicklow_historical_society/1993_wicklowhistorical_society_journal/eyewitness_accounts_of_the_famine)

Shillelagh (Union Road)

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/co\\_wicklows\\_pure\\_miles/shillelagh\\_union\\_road\\_pure\\_mile](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/co_wicklows_pure_miles/shillelagh_union_road_pure_mile)

The Stephens Family: A Story of Family Reunion during the Famine

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/the\\_stephens\\_family\\_a\\_story\\_of\\_family\\_reunion\\_during\\_the\\_famine](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/the_stephens_family_a_story_of_family_reunion_during_the_famine)



## Project Outline 2: **MINING IN CO. WICKLOW**

County Wicklow has a long and rich heritage of mining, dating from prehistory to recent years. Mining activities centred around rich copper and lead deposits as well as lesser amounts of sulphur, iron, ochre, gold, silver and zinc. The main areas of mining activity were the Avoca Valley, Glendalough and Glendasan Valleys and in Glenmalure.

### **Possible topics:**

The Great Wicklow Gold Rush of 1795

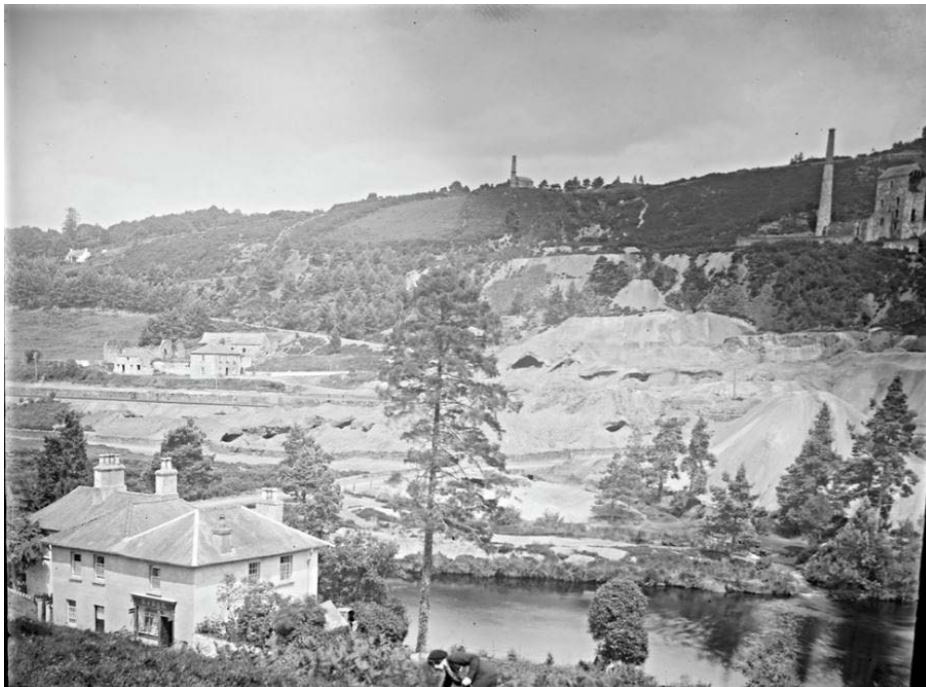
Gold mining in Co. Wicklow

The Avoca mines

The Miner's Village Glendalough

Barravore and Ballinafunshoge mines Glenmalure

Nineteenth century mining in Co. Wicklow



Avoca mining site c. 1910 showing spoil heaps and mine buildings some of which still visible today.  
Lawrence Collection. Courtesy of NLI.



Etching of gold mining/panning along Wicklow river from MR. and Mrs S.C. Hall  
'hanbooks for Ireland, Dublin and Wicklow 2<sup>nd</sup> ed 1853



Mid 19<sup>th</sup> century etching depicting miner working the ore vein in Ballygoneen mine, Glenmalure. Note the single candle providing the only source of light. Taken from 'The Mines of Wicklow' 1856. Author unknown.



## Resources Available

### 1) Books & Book Chapters

The Local Studies Collection houses a number of books on this topic, many of which can also be found in local library branches. These include:

*Exploring the Mining Heritage of County Wicklow.* (2008) Critchley, Martin (ed). A copy of this booklet can be downloaded from the 'Our Wicklow Heritage' website at: [https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/exploring\\_the\\_mining\\_heritage\\_of\\_county\\_wicklow](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/exploring_the_mining_heritage_of_county_wicklow)

Gold Frenzy: The story of Wicklow's Gold. (2011) McArdle, Peadar.

*Avoca: Our Mining Heritage: a brief history of metal mining in the Vale of Avoca, County Wicklow* (1998) Thomas, A. and McArdle, P.

### 2) Audio Visual:

*The Life and Times of Glendalough Mines* (2006) Glendalough Mining Heritage Project. Miners collectively recall their memories of working in the mines at Glendalough. Provides interviews with local people and a mining historian.

### 3) Geology Reports:

*The Geological Heritage of Wicklow: audit of County Geological Sites in Co Wicklow.* Meehan et. al. (2014) The Geological Survey of Ireland. Also available online at:

<https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/publications/Pages/The-Geological-Heritage-of-Wicklow.aspx>

### 4) Journals:

A vast number of articles have been written on the topic of mining in County Wicklow many of which can be found in the Local Studies Library or can be downloaded from the JSTOR database which is free to access from any Wicklow Library branch. Articles include:

Alborn, T. (2011) An Irish El Dorado: Recovering Gold in County Wicklow. *Journal of British Studies*, 50 (2), 359–380.

Schwartz, S. P., Critchley, M. F. (2014) 'The Silver-Lead Mines of Glenmalure, County Wicklow: A History and an Archaeological Survey of Extant Remains' *Journal of the Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland*, 14, pp. 23-86

### 5) Online resources:

There are excellent resources available online on the Our Wicklow Heritage Website. This includes articles, maps, images and reports which can all be incorporated in your project. See links below:

Overview of Wicklow mining activities and related topics:

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/exploring\\_the\\_mining\\_heritage\\_of\\_county\\_wicklow](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/exploring_the_mining_heritage_of_county_wicklow)

The Great Wicklow Goldrush of 1795

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/exploring\\_the\\_mining\\_heritage\\_of\\_county\\_wicklow](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/exploring_the_mining_heritage_of_county_wicklow)

Glens of Lead:

<https://glensoflead.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics>



## Project Outline 3: COUNTY WICKLOW AND THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

The turbulence of the War of Independence engulfed the Garden of Ireland as it did the country at large. Although Dublin was the epicentre of the conflict, tensions were frequently at boiling point in the capital's southern neighbour. Elections to the County Council in 1920 resulted in a resounding victory for Sinn Féin. Curiously, Wicklow enjoyed the unique distinction of having the highest Protestant population outside the province of Ulster. However, this Anglo-Irish group was not exclusively loyalist in its political sympathies, as the career of Annamoe resident and treaty negotiator Robert Barton demonstrates. His cousin, Erskine Childers, who also grew up in the area - played a pivotal role in the struggle, and was eventually executed for his anti-treaty activities in the Civil War. While the level of violence in Wicklow was not as intense as in other pockets of Ireland, its environment was considered dangerous enough for London to dispatch a series of British regiments to the county in order to crack down on the nascent national movement.

### Possible topics:

Events: The War in specific places, e.g. Arklow, Ashford, Carnew, Dunlavin etc.

Black & Tans in County Wicklow

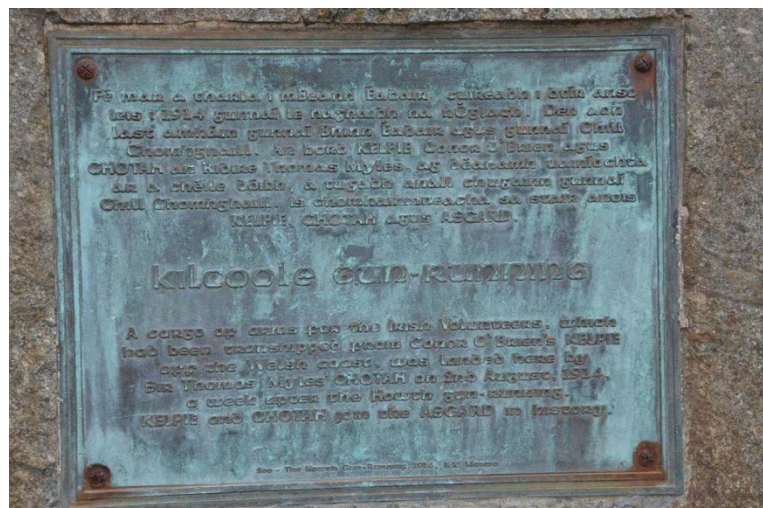
Kilcoole Gun Running

Wicklow Goal during the war of independence

People: Robert Barton

Erskin Childers

Maria Curran



Memorial commemorating the Kilcoole gunrunning on 2 August 1914, when approximately 600 Mauser rifles—the remainder of the weapons bought in Germany by the Irish Volunteers were landed at Kilcoole under cover of darkness. Photo author's own.



### BATTLE RAGES AT THE SEVEN CHURCHES

Commencing about 11 o'clock on Saturday night the Royal Hotel, Glendalough, which is being guarded by a small garrison, was subjected to a terrific attack, which lasted for eight hours until the attackers withdrew at 8 o'clock on Sunday morning.

Several times previously this building had been attacked, and raids had been made for foodstuffs, etc., twice in quick succession, and military were then stationed on the premises for protective reasons. Threats to burn it were then received, and attacks were made, culminating in the desperate onslaught on Saturday night.

It is estimated that some 60 to 70 Irregulars launched the surprise attack when the garrison—seven men under Lieut. Thomas Cullen, of Rathdrum—were in bed for the most part. Rifles, bombs, etc., were used. Lieut. Cullen jumped from his bed and fell wounded, a bullet having penetrated his side. Bleeding copiously, he heroically continued to respond briskly to the firing, and having received first aid treatment from one of the lady members of the staff, he and his few comrades fought desperately. Mr. Slefer, the manager, and staff, as well as the garrison, were in a most precarious position, for the bullets shattered every window in the building, penetrated every room, perforated the walls, furniture, beds, clothing, etc., all over the hotel. Fortunately the occupants, other than the Lieutenant, sustained no further injury.

**CAPTURED AND INJURED.**

Rescued an Irregulars' mobilisation in the vicinity of the town. Strong patrols were immediately sent out from the Castle barracks. They searched the neighbourhood, but failed to find the Irregulars.

At about 1.30 the following morning shots were fired at the Castle. While Captain Furlong was endeavouring to locate the snipers fire was opened on him by three men. He and his party immediately replied.

In the exchange of fire Captain Furlong sustained a slight wound in the shoulder and Volunteer Water was hit in the leg with splinters.

### NENAGH BARRACK ATTACK

On Friday night an attack was made on the military barracks at Nenagh and the inhabitants were startled by a heavy outburst of rifle and revolver firing, it being feared that the town was going to experience another night of terror. The troops, fully equipped, turned out in lorries and the attackers withdrew.

### CLONMEL FUSILLADES

#### Irregulars Under Dense Fog Get Into Town

Our Clonmel correspondent writes:— National troops have for some past been

There is hardly a town or village located in County Wicklow who cannot recall an historic incident relating to the War of Independence. This newspaper article reports on the fighting which took place at the Glendalough Hotel? On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1922. Freemans Journal 26<sup>th</sup> Sep 1922.



Maria Curran born in Arklow 1862 became a member of both Sinn Féin and Cumann na mBan, the female wing of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. She became Ireland's first female urban councillors and then the first ever to be chosen as chair of her town council. Image courtesy of ...



## Resources available:

### 1) Books & Book Chapters

The Local Studies book collection contains a number of publications relating to the War of Independence. These include the following:

*Atlas of the Irish Revolution* (2017) Crowley Jim et. al.

*Wicklow and the War of Independence*. Cairns et. al. (2021) Also available in ebook format on:

<https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/wicklow-the-war-of-independence/e-book-wicklow-and-the-war-of-independence/wicklow-and-the-war-of-independence>

*Wicklow in Revolt: A History of County Wicklow from 1913 – 1923*. Cairns, Henry (2016)

*Aspects of the War of Independence and Civil War in Wicklow 1913 – 1923*. Cairns, H. and Gallagher, O. (2009)

*Wicklow During the Troubles (1916) – 1913): The story of Wicklow during the War of Independence in the Civil War period between 1916 and 1923*. In Finlay, J.(2013) *Footsteps through Wicklow's Past: A history of the Town and its environs from the earliest times to the end of the Civil War and Beyond.*, p. 198 – 221.

### 2) Education Pack:

*Wicklow Historic Gaol 1702 – 1924* Education Pack. Produced by Wicklow Gaol.

### 3) Journal Articles:

There have been numerous articles published on the topic of 1916 and the War of Independence in County Wicklow. These can be accessed in the Local Studies facility while national journals such as History Ireland can be accessed and downloaded from the JStor database from any Wicklow library branch. Articles include:

Clark, Sheila (2021) The War of Independence. *Ashford and District Historical Journal*. No. 6, P. 39 - 51.

Cleary, Jimmy (2014) The Battle of Glendalough 1922. *Wicklow Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp 119 – 122.

Kavanagh, A. (1992) Memories of the Black and Tans. *Ashford and District Historical Journal*. No. 2, P. 8.

Timmons, Martin (2016) Wicklow and the 1916 Rising. Special edition publication as part of centenary celebrations for 1916. Roundwood & district history and folklore journal : Vol. 1, No. 26

National journals such as History Ireland can be accessed and downloaded from the JStor database from any Wicklow library branch

### 4) Newspapers:

Newspapers are an excellent source of information as they often reported on local conflicts and related happenings in the county. Digital copies of the local newspapers can be accessed for free on the British Newspaper Archive available in any Wicklow library branch while microfilm copies can be accessed in the Local Studies Library.

### 5) Online resources:

There are a numerous sources of information on the War of Independence period in Wicklow on the Our Wicklow Heritage Website. This includes podcasts which cover different geographical area in the county including Arklow, Ashford, Bray, Greystones, Carnew, Enniskerry and Dunlavin: <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow-the-war-of-independence>

There are also lots of articles on Our Wicklow Heritage covering the 1916 and War of Independence period. These can be accessed at the links below: <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow-the-war-of-independence/wicklow-john-finlay-stan-oreilly-brendan-flynn-john-goodman>  
[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow\\_1916-1923/wicklow-1916-commemoration-programme](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow_1916-1923/wicklow-1916-commemoration-programme)

“Under the Stairs”: A Wicklow War of Independence Diary by Stan O'Reilly:

<https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/wicklow-the-war-of-independence/wicklow-john-finlay-stan-oreilly-brendan-flynn-john-goodman/under-the-stairs-a-wicklow-war-of-independence-diary-by-stan-oreilly>

A history of all Wicklow Women, including Maria Curran can be consulted online at:

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/people/our\\_wicklow\\_women-2](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/people/our_wicklow_women-2)



## Project Outline 4: 1798 REBELLION

County Wicklow experienced some of the most ferocious fighting during 1798 and was to remain disturbed long after the Rebellion had ended in the rest of the country. There was an enormous loss of life, torture, destruction of property and the transportation of rebels to the penal colonies of New South Wales. Battles took place all over the county. The Battle of Arklow was an unsuccessful attempt by Wexford rebels to take the coastal town from British control while the Battle of Newtown Mount Kennedy was a bloody but unsuccessful attempt to drive loyalist militia out of the town. Ambushes on British and loyalist forces were launched from the wilderness of the Wicklow mountains while reprisals were many. Famous Wicklow rebel leaders include General Joseph Holt Michael Dwyer and William 'Billy' Byrne.

### Possible topics:

People: Billy Byrne and the Billy Byrne Monument Wicklow Town.

Michael Dwyer 1772 – 1825

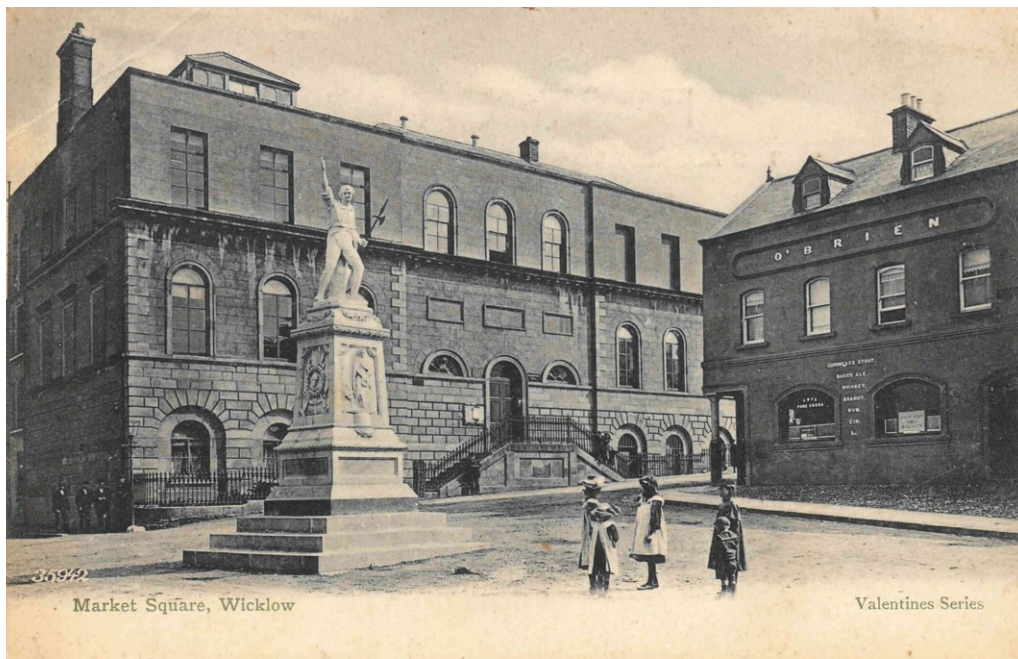
Joseph Holt

Anne Devlin

Events: Wicklow Gaol and 1798

Massacre on Dunlavin Fair Green

Battle of Arklow



Memorial on Market Square, Wicklow Town unveiled 1900, dedicated to Billy Byrne, a local leader of the 1798 rebellion who was tried and executed in Wicklow Gaol.  
Image courtesy of Wicklow County Library Postcard Collection.



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A local story of the 1798 Rebellion 10<sup>th</sup> June.

In the Rebellion of 1798, a man, by the name of Bob White, informed on the Yeomen their movements. The Yeomen were trying to capture him, but he understood that they were looking for him and he tried to get to the nearest rebels camp which was in Hacketstown; because he knew that he would be safe there.

One day he asked a man, who had a jennet, if he would be able to bring him there. The man said he would, and he packed him into a load of turf and started on with him. When he was on the road he met the Yeomen and when he was passing them he said "blar the road for Bob White and I." He was pretending that the jennet's name was Bob White. The Yeomen laughed at him and passed on, and he got safely into the town with the man packed in the load of turf.

Extract from Duchas Folklore Collection describing an event at Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow. Provided by Mr. Jackson of Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow in 1938. Taken from the Schools' Collection, Volume 0917, Page 230.



Monument commemorating the execution of 40 United Irishmen Dunlavin Fairgreen.



## Resources available:

### 1) Books & Book Chapters:

The Local Studies 1798 Book Collection contains over one hundred publications relating to the 1798 Rebellion in Ireland and County Wicklow. A number of relevant publications can also be found in local library branches. These include: The 1798 Rebellion in Wicklow including the stories of William 'Billy' Byrne of Ballymanus, Michael Dwyer, General Joseph Holt and others. In Finlay, J. (2013) *Footsteps through Wicklow's Past: A history of the Town and its environs from the earliest times to the end of the Civil War and Beyond.*, p. 95 – 110. John Finlay: Wicklow.

The 1798 Rebellion In County Wicklow Heritage Project (1993) *'The Last County: the emergence of Wicklow as a County 1606-1845*, p. 61 – 68. Also available online at: [https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/the\\_last\\_county/the\\_last\\_county\\_-\\_the\\_1798\\_rebellion](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/the_last_county/the_last_county_-_the_1798_rebellion)

*Aspects of Wicklow Goal* (2008) by second year Junior Certificate School Programme students of Abbey Community College Wicklow.

### 2) Education Packs:

A 1798 Rebellion Education resource Pack was produced in 1998. It contains a broad overview of the rebellion in Co. Wicklow, facsimiles of many primary documents and suggestions for further reading. The pack can be consulted in the Local Studies Library or online at [https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/1798\\_in\\_county\\_wicklow/1798-rebellion-education-resource-pack](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/1798_in_county_wicklow/1798-rebellion-education-resource-pack) *Wicklow Historical Goal 1702 – 1924 Education Pack*. Produced by Wicklow Historical Goal.

### 3) Journal Articles:

There have been numerous articles published on the topic of the 1798 Rebellion in Co. Wicklow. These can be accessed in the Local Studies facility while national journals such as History Ireland can be accessed and downloaded from the JStor database from any Wicklow library branch.

### 4) Online resources:

The 'Our Wicklow Heritage' website contains numerous online articles that can help you with your project, many of which provide images. These include:

A dedicated page about the 1798 Rebellion in County Wicklow:

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/1798\\_in\\_county\\_wicklow](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/1798_in_county_wicklow) *Massacre on Dunlavin Green* by Chris Lawlor.

<https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/together-apart-wicklow-2020-stories/dunlavin-diversions/dunlavin-diversions-21-30/22-massacre-on-dunlavin-green> *The 1798 Rebellion in County Wicklow: Why was the 1798 Rebellion so ferocious in County Wicklow?* By Joan Kavanagh (2020) Available online at:

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/1798\\_in\\_county\\_wicklow/the\\_1798\\_rebellion\\_in\\_county\\_wicklow](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/1798_in_county_wicklow/the_1798_rebellion_in_county_wicklow)



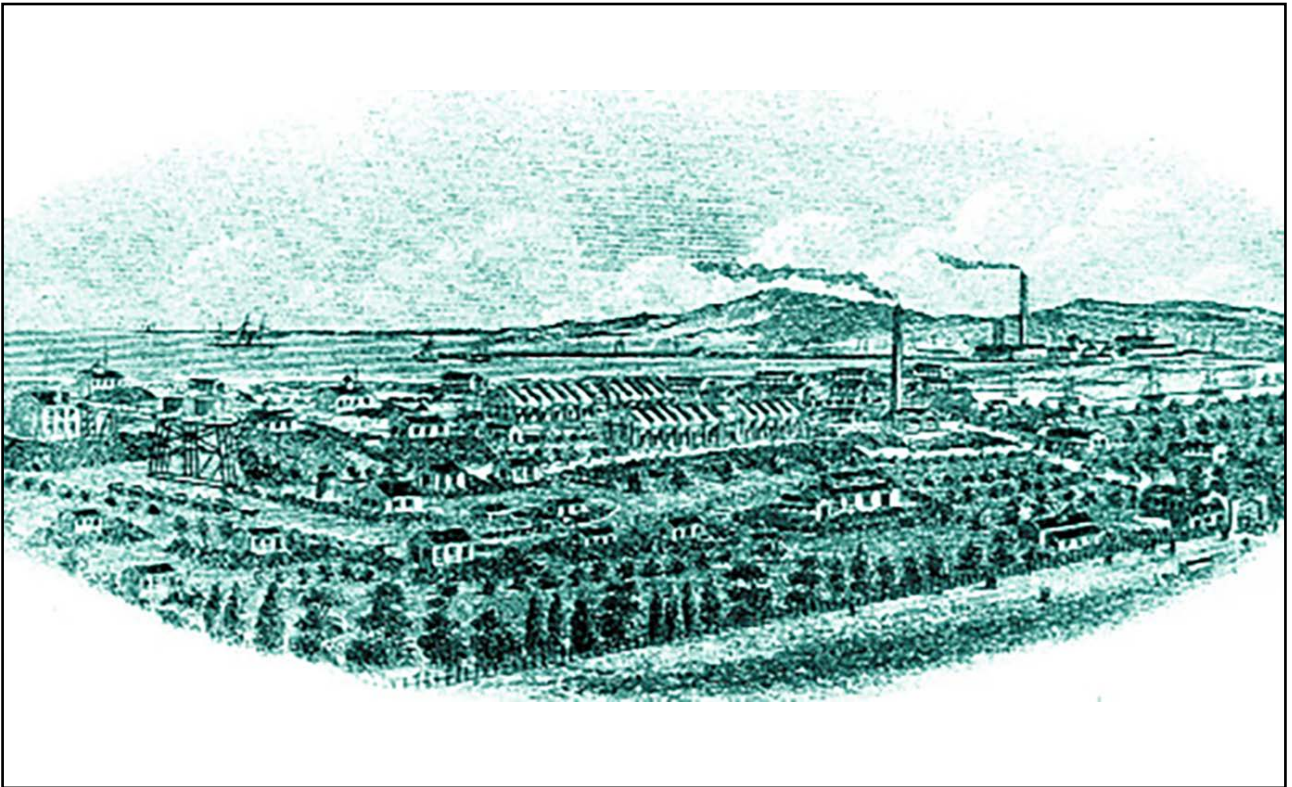
## Project Outline 5: The Kynoch Munitions Factory

For over twenty three years Arklow was home to one of the largest munitions manufacturing facilities in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It is difficult to imagine now but the site of the Kynoch factory extended one and a half miles northward from the mouth of the Avoca River up the entire length of the north beach and beyond. It had its own gas works, electricity generator and tramway system. During WWI Kynoch constructed dozens of new buildings. The number of employees increased from a pre-war figure of 600 to almost 5,000.

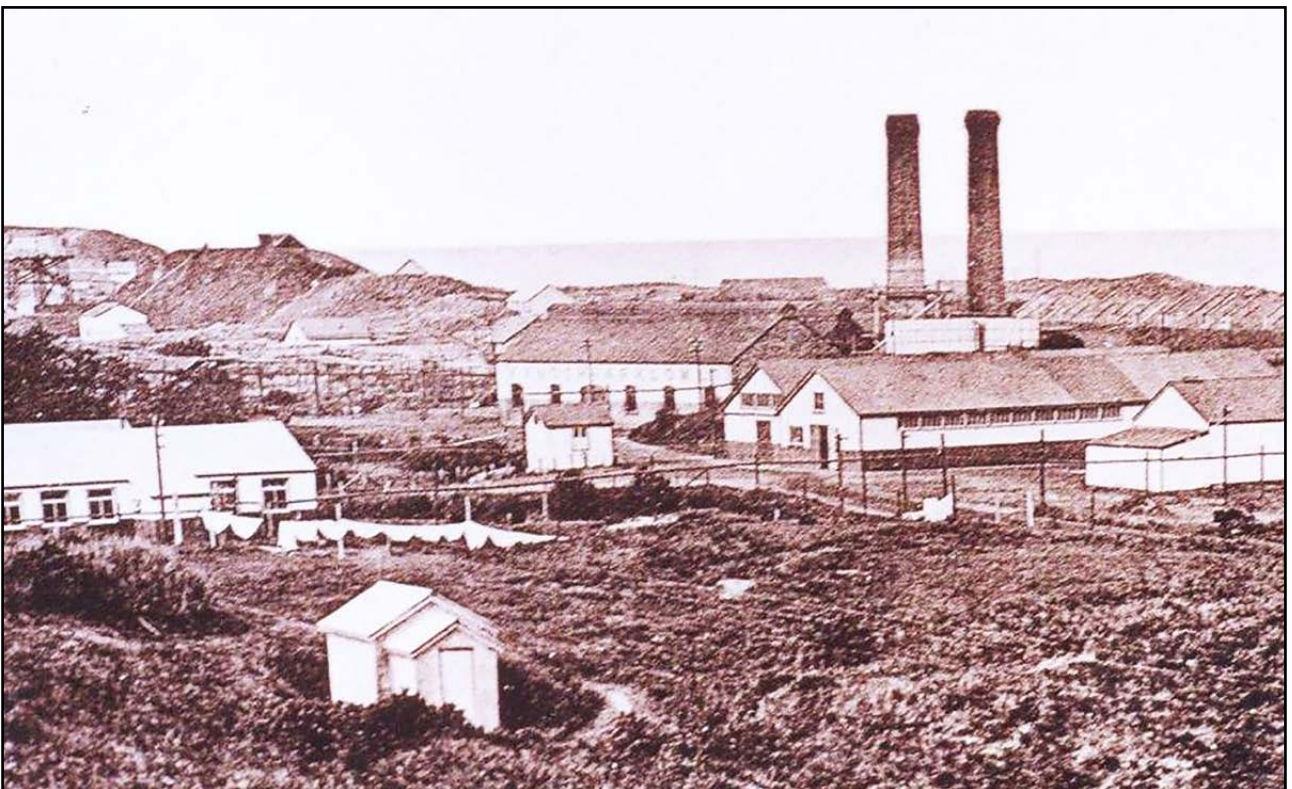
It was a significant supplier of munitions throughout the war. It also became a potential source of explosives during the 1916 rising.



Electricity Generating Station at Kynoch's Pat Power - Kynoch Walk Information Board



Seaward view of the factory. Note that many of the smaller buildings in the foreground are ringed by mounds of sand to protect surrounding buildings in the event of an explosion.



Nitro Glycerine Houses Pat Power - Kynoch Walk Information Board



Postcard of Kynoch Works

### Resources Available:

Our Wicklow Heritage [https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/arklow/kynochs\\_arklow](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/arklow/kynochs_arklow)

Cannon, Anthony (2006). Arklow's Explosive History – Kynoch. History Ireland. Available at: <http://www.historyireland.com/20th-century-contemporary-history/arklows-explosive-history-kynoch-1895-1918/> Cannon, Anthony 2006.

Cocroft, Wayne, D. 2000, *Dangerous Energy: the archaeology of gunpowder and military explosives manufacture*. English Heritage.

Macrosty, Henry William. (2013). *The Trust Movement in British Industry: A Study of Business Organisation*. London: Forgotten Books. (Original work published 1907)

Marshall, Arthur.(1920) Dictionary of Explosives. Forgotten Books. 2013.

Morgan, Gilbert. T. 1916 *Chemistry, The War and Ireland*. Irish Quarterly Review, Vol. 5, No. 17 (March 1916). pp. 32-43 Irish Province of the Society of Jesus.

Mulvihill, Mary. (2002). *Ingenious Ireland*. TownHouse & CountryHouse Ltd. Dublin.

Murphy, Hilary (1976). *The Kynoch Era in Arklow*. Arklow Historical Society. Wexford: The People Newspapers Limited.

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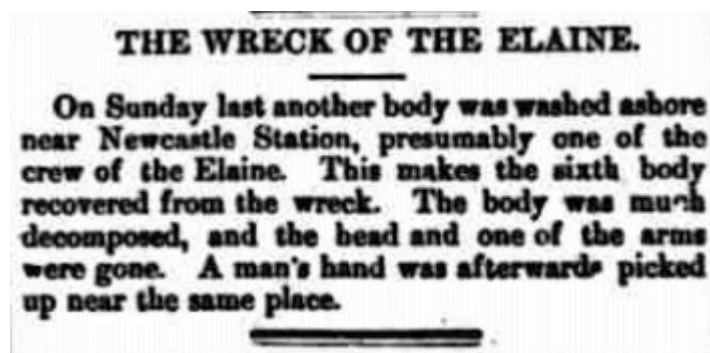
## Project outline 6: MARITIME WICKLOW

The coastline of Wicklow stretches for over 60kms from Bray in the North to Arklow in the south. Along the way are the many towns, villages, harbours, monuments and other evidence of the human interaction with the coast for food, communication, trade, defense and leisure.

Prehistoric flint scatters, Viking finds, castles and Martello towers attests to the pivotal role the sea has played in the development of the county from earliest times to the present day, while placenames and coastguard stations bear witness to the lucrative smuggling activities. Fishing and shipbuilding was key to the growth of towns and villages, most notably in Greystones, Bray and Arklow. Hundreds if not thousands of ships were lost along this stretch of coast during the 18th and 19th century necessitating the construction of lighthouses at Wicklow Head.

### Possible topics:

- The Fishery, Arklow
- Shipbuilding in Arklow
- The Regatta Wicklow Town
- Lighthouses of Wicklow Head
- History of the Coastguard Wicklow, Arklow or Bray
- Katie Tyrell – the first female captain.
- Captain Robert Halpin -



Countless shipwrecks and groundings have taken place along the Wicklow Coast. The Elaine on route from Liverpool to Paraguay with a cargo of salt was wrecked off Five Mile Point Newcastle resulting in the loss of all nine crew members. Three crewmen were recovered from the water soon after. However, more bodies were to wash up on the shore in the weeks following the accident, This notice appeared in the Bray and South Dublin Herald Newspaper Feb 1883.



Arklow Harbour c. 1900. At this time, there were just under 200 boats involved in fishing and approximately 800 boys and men employed on the vessels. Photo Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.



The original Coastguard Station in Bray as marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1838. The building was situated close to a Martello Tower on the seafront, occupying a site on which today stands the Esplanade Hotel. Work began on the current Coastguard building in 1877. Image courtesy of Wicklow Library Service.



## Sources:

### 1) Books & Book Chapters:

The Local Studies book collection contains a number of publications relating to different aspects of maritime Wicklow. These include the following:

*Footsteps Through Wicklow's Past* by John Finlay (2009)

*The Life of Captain Robert Halpin* by Jim Rees (1992)

*Kate Tyrrell 'Lady Mariner'*: the story of the extraordinary woman who sailed the Denbighshire Lass by John Mahon (1995)

*Wicklow and the Sea: Wicklow Historical Society*. Proceedings of the one-day Conference which took place in the Grand Hotel, Wicklow, Saturday, 7th November 2015.

*The Fisheries of Arklow 1800 – 1950* by Jim Rees (2008)

*Maritime Arklow* by Frank Forde (1988).

*Wicklow Lifeboat Station: All clear, let 'er go* by Ciaran Doyle (2015) .

*That Favourite Resort: the story of Bray, Co. Wicklow* by Mary Davies (2007)

### 2) Journal articles:

Local history journals provide a mine of information on the maritime history of the Wicklow coast. Articles have been written about local shipwrecks and heroic rescue attempts. Others recall the history of smuggling in the area and the efforts of the coastguard to stamp out the practice, as well as, articles regarding harbour developments and lighthouse. A number of articles have also been written on well-known maritime local people such as Kate Tyrrell and Captain Robert Halpin. A good overview of Wicklow's maritime history can however be found in the following two articles available from Wicklow Local Studies Library:

Rees, Jim (1999) Maritime Wicklow Part 1. *Wicklow Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 5, p. 20 –30.

Rees, Jim (2000) Maritime Wicklow Part 2. *Wicklow Historical Society Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 6, p. 45 –56.

### 3) Newspapers:

Newspapers are a great primary source of information for wrecks and smuggling incidents and often provide eyewitness accounts of events. Digital copies of the local newspapers can be accessed for free on the British Newspaper Archive available in any Wicklow library branch, while microfilm copies can be accessed in the Local Studies Library.



#### 4) Online resources:

The 'Our Wicklow Heritage' website contains numerous online articles that can help you with your project, many of which provide images. These include:

Kate Tyrrell - Pioneering Sea Captain

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/our\\_wicklow\\_women-2/kate\\_tyrrell\\_-\\_pioneering\\_sea\\_captain](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/our_wicklow_women-2/kate_tyrrell_-_pioneering_sea_captain)

'The Elaine' by Stan O'Reilly

<https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/topics-miscellaneous/the-elaine>

Wicklow Coast Wrecks by Jimmy Cleary

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/county\\_wicklow\\_historical\\_societies/wicklow\\_historical\\_society/1989\\_wicklow\\_historical\\_society\\_journal/wicklow\\_coast\\_wrecks](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/county_wicklow_historical_societies/wicklow_historical_society/1989_wicklow_historical_society_journal/wicklow_coast_wrecks)

Earthquake And Tempest by Rosemary Raughter

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/topics-miscellaneous/earthquake\\_and\\_tempest](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/topics/topics-miscellaneous/earthquake_and_tempest)

Romans In Bray by Megan McGrath

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/bray/romans\\_in\\_bray](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/bray/romans_in_bray)

The Remarkable Captain Halpin by Jim Rees

<https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/people/the-remarkable-captain-halpin>

The History of Greystones by C. Love

<https://rathdown.wicklowheritage.org/places/the-history-of-greystones>

East Pier to the Wolves: Coastline between Wicklow Harbour and Three Mile Water by Jimmy Cleary

[https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/county\\_wicklow\\_historical\\_societies/wicklow\\_historical\\_society/wicklow\\_historical\\_society-2/east\\_pier\\_to\\_the\\_wolves](https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/places/county_wicklow_historical_societies/wicklow_historical_society/wicklow_historical_society-2/east_pier_to_the_wolves)

#### Other Sources:

Arklow Maritime Museum displays information on the maritime history of Arklow, focusing in particular on its boat building, lifeboat and fishing traditions.

Further details: <https://www.arklowmaritimeheritage.ie/>