

Records generated by laws restricting papists

Nick Reddan
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Convert Rolls — conformity

- The penal laws were generally a stick to discourage Popery
- There was also a carrot to encourage 'genuine' conversion to the Church of Ireland
- There was a record-keeping public service
- The full records were destroyed but calendars survive and have been published



Convert rolls books

- *The convert rolls*; Eileen O'Byrne (Ed), Dublin: Stationery Office for the Irish Manuscripts Commission, 1981.
NLA – 248.244 C766
- *The convert rolls : the calendar of the convert rolls, 1703-1838* / edited by Eileen O'Byrne ; with Fr Wallace Clare's annotated list of converts, 1703-78, edited by Anne Chamney. LinkDublin : Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2005.



Mrs. Frances SWAN

- Cert. 9 Nov 1730, enrolled 16 Nov 1730
- Conformity 25 Oct 1730
- Wife of William SWAN Esq.
- He was High Sheriff of Dublin 1730 and 1735
grandson of Sir Daniel BELLINGHAM the first Lord Mayor of Dublin
- His eldest son was an MP
- A daughter married a bishop
- Another son (by his second wife) was a capturer of Lord Edward FITZGERALD



Mr. Pierce CROKER

- Whitechurch parish diocese of Lismore, cert. 11 July 1751, enrolled 23 Nov 1751
- Conformity 7 July 1751
- of Kilclocker, Co. Waterford
- Deed Book 184 p 605 Memorial 127059



Abstract of associated deed in the Registry of deeds

- Alexander NEWELL declares that a bill filed against Margaret CROKER & others to be declared a protestant discoverer to lands of Kilcloker (Kilclogher) & Ballynselly WAT was in trust for the sole benefit of Pierce CROKER
dated 18 Dec 1751
- <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~registryofdeeds/index.html>



Deeds more generally

- Land changes particularly those which might be contested were registered in the Registry of Deeds
- Land transactions settling law suits (including bills of discovery) were generally registered
- Indexes
- Abstracts eg Casey – O’Keiffe Coshe ...



Wills

- There are a few references in wills
- One type is “I disinherit my son John as he married a Papist”



Facilitating intermarriage a crime

- Pue's Occurrences — 1740
- 19 Aug: On Sunday last one SEWELL, a degraded clergyman, was committed to Newgate, for marrying the son of an eminent citizen to a servant maid, who is a Roman Catholic
- 2 Dec: On Saturday last, Mr SHEWELL, a degraded clergyman was executed at Stephens Green for a clandestine marriage. He was carried to the place of execution in a coach and behaved in a decent manner, becoming a person in his unhappy circumstances




Conversions made news

- BLEWETT, Ann, spinster, Limerick, cert. 22 Nov 1770, enrolled 23 Nov, Conformity 30 Oct
- *Hoey's Dublin Mercury* — 22-24 Nov 1770
Country News – Limerick, Nov 15, A few days ago Miss Anne BLUETT read her recantation from the tenets of the Church of Rome, and embraced the Protestant religion and was soon after married to Henry BINDON, Esq., recorder of this city



Special Sessions – Reports

- *Limerick General Advertiser* – 13 Sep 1816
- At the Special Commission, under the Insurrection Act, held yesterday in our County Court, at which Sergeant JOHNSON presided, the three following fellows, who were taken by the manly and spirited exertions of the Messrs CROKER, of Ballinaguard, on the night of the 9th of August last, viz. John C HOULAHAN, Thomas DUNDOON, and Patrick SCOTT, (the latter whose brother was shot on that night) were convicted of being *idle and disorderly*, as White Boys, and taken at night in arms. They were sentenced for transportation, and instantly taken from the dock, amidst the cries of their female friends under guard of Cavalry, for the transport ship at Cork. Michael TOOMY, Timothy CUMBS, and Jas CANNY were acquitted.



Assizes – reports

- *Limerick General Advertiser* 2 Aug 1820
- On Friday last, Bernard ROCHFORD and Patrick EAGAN, the former an attorney and the latter a half-pay Officer of a Dragoon Regiment, passed through here, on their way to Cork, to be transported to Botany Bay, being convicted at the Assizes of Galway, as leaders of a party of ribbonmen in that county.



Conversions made news 2

- *Freeman's Journal* – 13 Apr 1848
- On the 7th inst, at Mullinshone, co Kilkenny, James JONSTON Esq. He lived 96 years as a respectable and enlightened Protestant of the Church of England, and for the last ten days a pious and penitent Roman Catholic



Changed times

- *Freeman's Journal* – 30 Sep 1849
- On the 23d of September, at Kilelton House, co Kerry, aged 80 years, William HICKIE Esq. He was one of the oldest Catholic magistrates of that county, having got a commission of the peace the first year that Catholics were eligible in this kingdom.



Changed times

- Limerick Evening Post and Clare sentinel – 23 April 1830
- At a late Vestry meeting held in the Church of St. Iberius, Wexford, the salary of the Organist was reduced by opposition of the Roman Catholic Parishioners from £50 to *forty pence*



Resistance to Catholic franchise

- *Limerick Evening Post & Clare Sentinel* – 23 Jul 1830
- Though 568 notices of freeholds were given at Rathkeale and Bruff, only 70 were registered, as follows:—At Rathkeale, De Courcy O'GRADY, 8; Earl of Limerick, Sergeant GOULD, and Lord Lismore, 6 each; Lady LANGFORD, and Loyd George QUIN, 5 each; Earl of Clare and Counsellor DWYER 2 each, and 7 individuals— at Bruff, Hon. George MASSY, 6; Viscount Gort, and Chidley COOTE, 4 each, and 7 individuals. Total 70



Summary

- The laws were a reflection of the siege mentality of the Ascendancy
- Were ultimately a failure
- Many skirmishes along the way
- Lots of brutality from both sides