

THE 1798 IRISH REBELLION

by

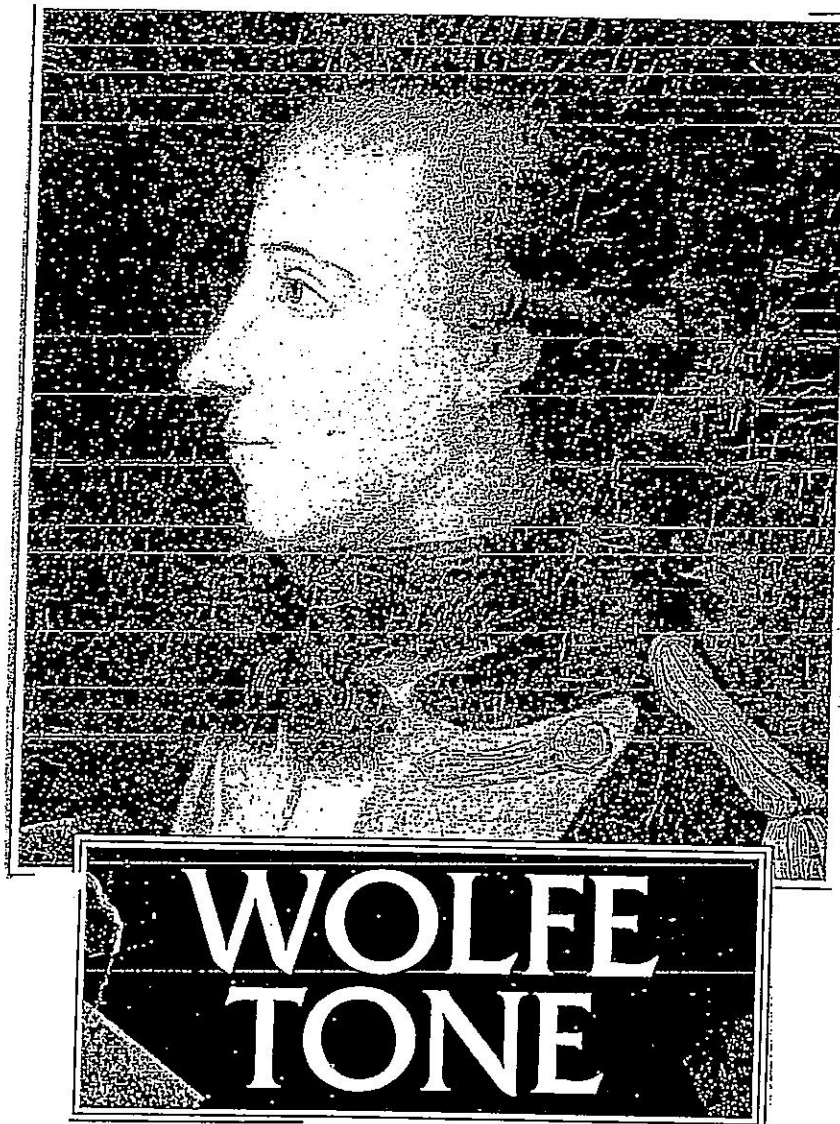
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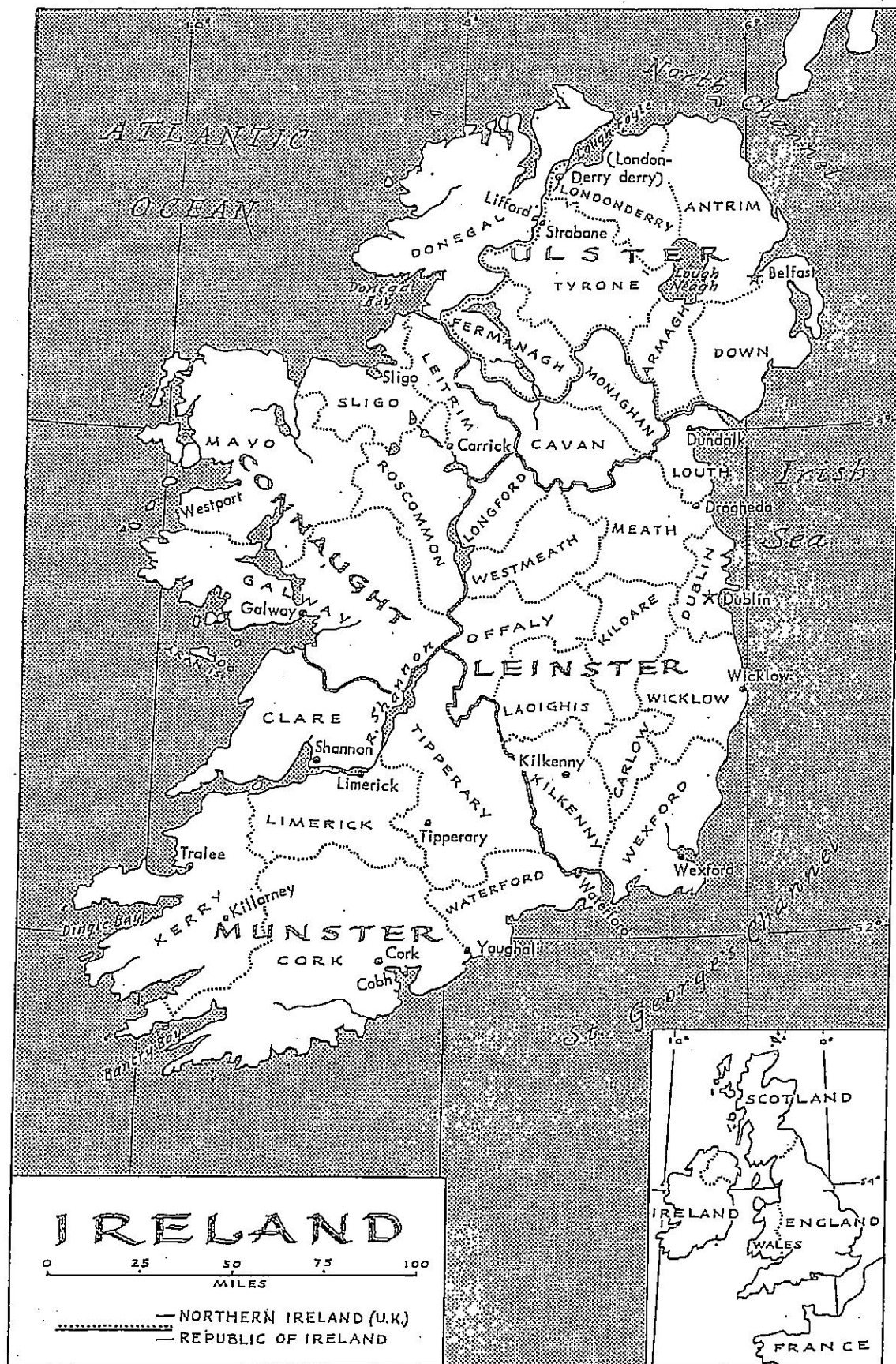
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for

The Ancient Order of Hibernians

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Map taken from Lawrence J. McCaffrey, *Ireland from Colony to Nation State* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1979)

CHRONOLOGY

1789:	14 July	Attack on the Bastille in Paris; revolution in France begins
1791		British Parliament passes Roman Catholic Relief Act which allowed Catholics to practice law and establish schools
	September	Wolfe Tone publishes "An Argument on Behalf of the Catholics of Ireland"
	October	Tone and others found the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast
	November	Tone and others establish a branch of the United Irishmen in Dublin
1792	April	Irish Parliament accepts Roman Catholic Relief Act
1793	February	France and Britain exchange declarations of war
	April	Act of Irish Parliament allows Catholics to vote in municipal elections; attend Trinity College, Dublin; and hold most civil and military offices (except MP, Lord Lieutenant and other high offices of state, and military rank above colonel)
		Militia Act passes Irish Parliament authorizing creation of a militia
1794	May	Irish government outlaws the United Irishmen, driving it underground and making it more committed to revolution
1795		Irish government establishes Maynooth College in County Kildare to train Catholic priests
	January	Earl Fitzwilliam arrives as Lord Lieutenant, committed to winning Catholic good will and support with reforms, including full Catholic Emancipation
	February	Fitzwilliam's policies bitterly opposed by the majority of the Protestant Ascendancy, which engineers his recall
	May	Tone flees to the United States to avoid prosecution
1796	February	Tone moves to France to cultivate French support for military action
	December	French expedition of some 44 vessels and 14,000 soldiers, under the command of General Lazare Hoche, arrives off Bantry Bay to launch an invasion, but due to storms and unfavorable winds never makes landfall and returns to France, much to the disappointment of Tone and fellow radicals
1797	March	General Gerard Lake begins harsh campaign of disarmament in Ulster

1798	March	Irish government arrests leadership of Dublin United Irishmen
	May	Rebellion breaks out in Leinster and is crushed, except in Wexford
	June	Rebellion in Ulster is suppressed
	June	Lord Edward FitzGerald dies from wounds received during his arrest in May
	21 June	Wexford rebels are defeated at Vinegar Hill
	August	French force of some 1,000 men under command of General Jean Joseph Humbert lands in Killala, County Mayo, and with support of some 5,000 rebels defeat the British at Castlebar
	September	Humbert is defeated and surrenders at Ballinamuck, County Longford; harsh treatment of Irish rebels by victors
	October/ November	A larger French expedition of some 3,000 men, including Tone, attempts a landing in Lough Swilly, but is intercepted by the British navy; Tone arrested and commits suicide to avoid the executioner
1799	January	Irish House of Commons defeats the first Act of Union bill by a vote of 111-106
1800	January	Following the "persuasive tactics" of Pitt, Cornwallis, and Castlereagh, the Irish House of Commons passes an Act of Union by a vote of 158-115 and House of Lords by 75-26
	July	British Parliament passes an Act of Union with little opposition
	1 August	King George III gives royal assent to the Acts of Union
	2 August	The Irish Parliament meets for the final time
1801	1 January	Acts of Union take effect and Ireland is merged with Great Britain to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland; Ireland is granted 100 seats in the British House of Commons and 32 seats in the House of Lords; Ireland is also admitted to the British trading system and has free trade with Britain and the Empire
	February	Pitt, Cornwallis, and Castlereagh resign their offices after failing to secure Catholic Emancipation as a corollary to Union
1803	July	Poorly organized rebellion in Dublin led by Robert Emmet is easily crushed
	September	Execution of Robert Emmet

SELECTED LEADERS

Irish Radicals

Theobald Wolfe Tone (1763-98)—born in Dublin to middle class, Protestant parents; educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and Inns of Court, London; author of “Argument on Behalf of the Catholics of Ireland” (1791); one of the founders of the Society of United Irishmen (1791); became increasingly radical; fled to U.S. in 1795 and then to France in 1796 to enlist French support for an Irish rebellion; participated in French expeditions to Ireland in 1796 and 1798; seized by authorities in 1798, committed suicide to avoid execution; regarded as the leader of the 1798 rebellion and father of Irish republicanism.

Lord Edward FitzGerald (1763-98)—Irish aristocrat, 5th son of Duke of Leinster, member of Protestant Ascendancy; soldier; Irish MP (1790-98); sympathized with doctrines of French Revolution; joined United Irishmen in 1796; involved in planning for 1798 rebellion; died in June of 1798 from wounds received during his arrest in May.

Robert Emmet (1778-1803)—son of prominent Dublin physician, member of the Protestant Ascendancy; politically active and joined United Irishmen as a student in Trinity College, Dublin; expelled, fled to France in 1798; returned to Ireland in 1802 and led short, ill-organized rebellion in July 1803; captured and executed; his speech from the dock gave him posthumous fame.

British officials

William Pitt (the Younger) (1759-1806)—son of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; Tory statesman, Prime Minister, 1783-1801, 1804-1806; led British in the wars against revolutionary France and Napoleon; engineered the Acts of Union of 1800; sought Catholic Emancipation as a corollary of Union, resigned from office in 1801 after failing to achieve Catholic Emancipation.

William, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam (1748-1833)—British Whig statesman; Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (January-February 1795) in Pitt’s administration; wanted to reconcile Irish Catholics to British rule by enacting Catholic Emancipation; strongly opposed by the majority of the Protestant Ascendancy who engineered his recall in February 1795.

Charles, 1st Marquess Cornwallis (1738-1805)—prominent British army general and statesman; served during the American War of Independence, surrendered in 1781 at the siege of Yorktown; later served as Governor General and Commander-in-Chief in India; Lord Lieutenant and Commander-in-Chief in Ireland (1798-1801); oversaw defeat of Irish rebels and French invasion in 1798; instrumental in securing passage of the 1800 Act of Union by the Irish Parliament; resigned following the failure to secure Catholic Emancipation with Union.

Gerard Lake, 1st Viscount Lake (1741-1808)—British general, commander in Ireland (1796-99); led in the disarming of Ulster in 1797 and in the suppression of the Rebellion in Counties Kildare, Wexford, and Mayo; noted for dealing harshly with the rebels, which led him into conflict with Cornwallis; later served in India.

Irish officials

Henry Grattan (1746-1820)—Irish politician, noted for his oratorical skills and reformist views; advocated legislative independence for Ireland (achieved to an extent in 1782), loyalty to the Crown and British connection, and moderate parliamentary reform and Catholic Emancipation (partially obtained in 1793); opposed the 1798 Rebellion and the Acts of Union; the period from 1782-1800 is often referred to politically as the era of “Grattan’s Parliament.”

John FitzGibbon, 1st Earl of Clare (1749-1802)—Irish politician and statesman; Lord Chancellor of Ireland (1789-1802); strong champion of the Protestant Ascendancy and opponent of Catholic Emancipation; supported hard line policy in crushing the 1798 Rebellion; ardent supporter of Union.

Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, 2nd Marquess of Londonderry (1769-1822)—Irish-British statesman, chiefly known as British Foreign Secretary (1812-22), but earlier was an Irish MP (1790-1800) and Chief Secretary for Ireland (1798-1801); involved in suppressing the Rebellion and securing passage of the Act of Union in the Irish Parliament, using bribery in the form of peerages, honors, and cash; resigned along with Pitt and Cornwallis following the failure of the British government to enact Catholic Emancipation.

IRISH ORGANIZATIONS

Protestant Ascendancy—term for the political, economic, and social domination of Ireland from the 17th century to the early 20th century by an Irish minority of landowners, Protestant clergy, and members of the professions, all congregants of the Church of Ireland (Anglican).

Irish Volunteers—local militias raised in 1778 to guard against invasion and to preserve law and order when British troops were withdrawn from Ireland to fight abroad during the American Revolutionary War, developed a political agenda and supported Henry Grattan and the reformers in persuading the British to concede legislative independence to the Irish Parliament, ushering in the era of “Grattan’s Parliament” (1782-1800).

Peep o’ Day Boys—an Protestant agrarian secret society established in Ulster in the early 1780s; launched night time raids on Catholic homes under the pretense of confiscating arms; forerunner of the Orange Order, established in 1795 to defend the Protestant Ascendancy.

Defenders—a Catholic agrarian secret society founded in the mid-1780s in response to the Protestant Peep o’ Day Boys; became closely allied with the United Irishmen and involved in the 1798 Rebellion.

Society of United Irishmen—founded in 1791 as a liberal political organization that initially sought parliamentary reform in the direction of democracy; evolved into a revolutionary republican organization that launched the 1798 Rebellion to achieve a sovereign, independent Irish republic.

BALLADS OF THE 1798 IRISH REBELLION

"Boolavogue"

"The Boys of Wexford"

"Croppies Lie Down"/ "The Croppy Boy"

"Dunlavin Green"

"Come All Ye Warriors"

"Jimmy Murphy"

"John Kelly of Killanne"

"The Minstrel Boy"

"The Rising of the Moon"

"Tone's Grave"

"The Wearing of the Green"

"The Wind that Shakes the Barley"

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