

# Partition *in* Ireland: --- Partition *of* Ulster

## 1919 – 1922 EVENTS

*From sources at the time*

Exploring the Causeway connections  
with the seismic changes occurring  
across the island of Ireland 1919 - 1922  
through local newspapers, diaries  
and museum collections.



'Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, June 28th, 1919' by William Orpen.  
5th in from the left in the middle row is President Woodrow Wilson (United States) then  
M Georges Clemenceau (France); Mr D Lloyd George and Mr A Bonar Law.  
© IWM (Art. IWM ART 2856)

## Partition in Ireland: Partition of Ulster

As part of the PEACE IV Understanding Our Area Programme, research was conducted into local newspapers and other sources to reveal local connections relating to pivotal events shaping life throughout the island of Ireland between 1919 - 1922. This booklet provides a timeline of events across the Causeway area during this period, with information provided by that research, to accompany the travelling exhibition Partition in Ireland: Partition of Ulster.

*For sources used please refer to page 20 & 21. For more information on the Peace IV Understanding Our Area Programme and our Decade of Centenaries work, please go to our website [www.niarchive.org](http://www.niarchive.org)*

The legacy of Peace IV should be that we, as a wider community feel comfortable to explore, discuss and debate our past, present and future as well as being well enough informed to appreciate and to listen to each other's stories.

The impact of the Peace IV Understanding Our Area Programme has been that we have learned from each other and are more confident in appreciating other people's heritage and identity without feeling that it any way impacts upon our own.

More importantly as our society continues to diversify, we are acutely aware that shared history, heritage and stories are an important tool which we can use to include those people, groups or individuals who do not identify with the two 'traditional tribal communities' here.

This exhibition which is part of Council's programme for Decade of Centenaries, is a culmination of gathering local stories, accounts and testimonies relating to 1919 - 1922. We hope that in the same way the local voices help us understand our past, that the experiences of the Peace Programmes can be highlighted for future generations to witness in the next century.

**Peace IV Chairperson**  
Councillor Orla Beattie

- **21 January**  
Irish War of Independence/Anglo Irish War starts.
- **25 January**  
Irish Volunteer Force reorganises with others to form Irish Republican Army.

## January 1919

### Early January

Engineers, shipyard workers, gas workers and electricity station workers in Belfast strike for 44 hour working week.

*Recurrence of "Flu" Epidemic In Coleraine.*  
There has been an alarming recurrence of the influenza epidemic in Coleraine within the past fortnight. Numerous cases have been reported, and on Wednesday afternoon the pathetic spectacle of a mother and daughter being interred at the same time as witnessed in Killowen Parish Churchyard.

Courtesy Coleraine Chronicle January 18th, 1919.

### 8 January

Reports of 'alarming' recurrence of flu in Coleraine. Killowen is considered the worst affected.



Limavady Welcome Home for returned soldiers organised by Catherine Anne Swetenham Trench MBE. Courtesy of Limavady Museum.

### c.16 January

Receptions held for local ex-Prisoners of War including at Limavady (Mrs Trench) and Ballymoney (Mrs Armour). Events organised in other towns follow.



Royal Irish Constabulary badge. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

### 18 January

The Paris Peace Conference opens to establish the terms of the peace after World War One. Representatives from Britain, France, the United States and Italy dominate negotiations.

### 21 January

Cart carrying gelignite for a quarry is ambushed at Soloheadbeg, Co. Tipperary. Two Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) policemen (both Catholics) guarding the gelignite are shot dead. This act is regarded as launching the Irish War of Independence/Anglo-Irish War.

### 21 January

The First Dáil Éireann opens in the Mansion House, Dublin. A Declaration of Independence is issued, reiterating the original 1916 Proclamation of an Irish Republic.

### 25 January

Belfast strikers, including gas and electricity workers, smash windows of shops that are continuing to use gas and electricity. The strike action results in trams ceasing to run, picture houses closing and many linen workers laid off.



Buckle, Irish Volunteers ammunition belt. Courtesy of S. Mac Niocaill.

## February 1919

### 3 February

Eamon de Valera escapes from Lincoln Jail.

### 14 February

In response to the Belfast strike, the army occupies the gasworks and electricity station in the City; by the following Thursday the strike has collapsed.

## March 1919

### 18 March

Polling for the North Derry by-election, won by Mr Hugh Barrie, has taken place during what is reported to be a severe bout of influenza. In the same month National Schools in Belfast would be closed and calls for people in Derry to be compelled to wear masks as a 'flu' prevention measure. Dr Boylan in Ballycastle records that he called for another doctor to help, as the epidemic was not abating and that along one side of Glenshesk valley 'almost every family was laid up'.

- **28 June**  
Versailles Treaty marks official end of WWI.

## 20 March

A local Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Federation is formed at Articlave.

## 23 March

Meetings are held in the grounds of the Catholic Churches in Limavady, Magilligan and Ballykelly to protest against the treatment of Irish political prisoners (in Belfast Prison) by the British Government.

## April 1919

### 1 April

Eamon de Valera is elected President.

## June 1919

### 1 June

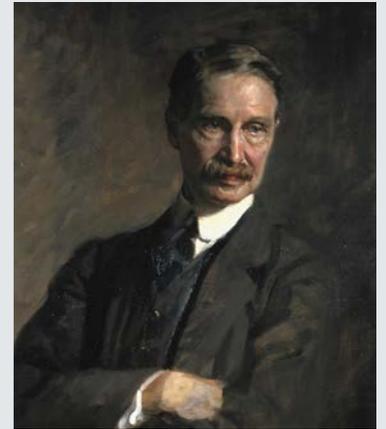
De Valera leaves Ireland for a tour of the United States to gain recognition for Irish Independence and to gather American support and funding for the Irish cause. He is to remain in America until December 23, 1920.



'Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, June 28th, 1919' by William Orpen. 5th in from the left in the middle row is President Woodrow Wilson (United States) then M Georges Clemenceau (France); Mr D Lloyd George and Mr A Bonar Law. © IWM (Art. IWM ART 2856).

## 28 June

The Versailles Peace Treaty between Germany and the Allies is signed at the Palace of Versailles, near Paris. Chief architects of the Treaty are British Prime Minister David Lloyd George, French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau and American President Woodrow Wilson. The signing of the Treaty consolidates the ending of World War One. Bonar Law, whose father lived in Portrush, is in attendance.



Portrait of Andrew Bonar Law by James Guthrie. Courtesy of National Galleries Scotland. Presented by W.G. Gardiner and Sir Frederick C. Gardiner 1930.

## 29 June

A Shane O'Neill Day commemoration meeting, due to take place in Cushendun, had been proclaimed by the Authorities on the 27th. Police are drafted in to the village to prevent the guest speaker, Mrs Sheehy-Skeffington, from delivering her speech; she manages to elude the authorities and appears in the Diamond, Ballycastle where she addresses a large gathering.



#### 1919 Peace Medal

Distribution began in March 1919. School children received their medals on Friday 18 July and on 'Peace Day' Saturday 19 July.  
Courtesy Private Collection.

## July 1919

Sinn Féin, Irish Volunteers, Cumann na mBan and the Gaelic League are declared illegal in Co. Tipperary. This prohibition later extends to other areas.

### 19 July

Designated as 'Peace Day' in Britain to celebrate the signing of the Versailles Treaty. As well as large-scale victory parades, smaller towns and villages have organised their own festivities. Celebrations are held in Portrush, Portstewart, Coleraine, Ballymoney, Limavady, Dungiven and Macosquin. Belfast is to hold its Peace Celebrations later, on August 8-9, 1919.



'Peace Procession July 19, 1919 (The VADS)' by George Harcourt.  
© IWM (Art. IWM ART 4037).

## August 1919

### 19 August

The Land Settlement (Facility) Act (1919) is passed in the UK, to allow local authorities to provide

small-holdings and allotments to war veterans.

### 20 August

Dáil Éireann passes a Motion that Irish Volunteers and Dáil Officials must swear an Oath of Allegiance to the Irish Republic and to the Dáil.

### c.20 August

A Post of the Comrades of the Great War is formed at a meeting of demobilised sailors and soldiers in the Town Hall, Coleraine.

### Summer

The number of attacks by Irish Republican Army (IRA) on RIC barracks in various parts of the country continues to increase.

## September 1919

### 12 September

Dáil Éireann is proclaimed by the British Government as a 'dangerous association'.

## October 1919

### 9 October

A Post of the Comrades of the Great War is opened in Limavady. A Post had previously been formed here, but had not been maintained.

## December 1919

### c.6 December

Coleraine carters go on strike demanding a wage increase, affecting businesses and the unloading of cargoes at the port.

### 19 December

An attempt is made to assassinate Viscount French, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, by the IRA at Ashtown Gate, Phoenix Park, Dublin. One of the ambush party, Martin Savage, is shot dead.

### 23 December

The Sex Disqualification (Removal) Act is passed into law: A person shall not be disqualified by sex or marriage from the exercise of any public function, or from being appointed to or holding any civil or judicial office or post, or from entering or assuming or carrying on any civil profession or vocation, or for admission to any incorporated society (whether incorporated by Royal Charter or otherwise).

(Source- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/Geo5/9-10/71/section/1>).

### 23 December

The Irish Land (Provision for Sailors and Soldiers) Act 1919 becomes law, to facilitate the provision of houses and small-holdings for ex-servicemen in Ireland.

## January

Recruitment for 'Black and Tans' begins.

## January 1920

### 2 January

First enrolments of the 'Black and Tans' to reinforce the RIC. Recruits include English ex-soldiers.



Black and Tans.  
Courtesy IWM Q113489.

### 15 January

Local elections are held for Councils in Ireland; proportional representation is used for the first time. Sinn Féin fails to make the sweeping victory it had achieved in the 1918 General Election, but dominates in many areas. Nationalists secure a majority in Derry, and the first Catholic Mayor for over 300 years is elected.

### 31 January

Reports that a new strain of 'flu was emerging just when the earlier version was losing its virulence.

Ministry of Health has issued a warning that measures should be taken to avoid the risk of infection; advice includes healthy habits, good ventilation, avoiding fatigue, excess alcohol, crowds and unnecessary travel. A vaccine is reported available.

## February 1920

### 12 February

The epidemic is reported across America, Poland and Japan as well as parts of Paris and some English ports. The public are advised to take precautions and there are recommendations that local authorities should appoint emergency committees.

## March 1920

### 20 March

Tomás MacCurtain, Mayor of Cork and Commandant of the Cork No. 1 Brigade of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), is shot dead in his house. Among the suspects alleged to have been involved is RIC District Inspector Oswald Swanzy, who would later be murdered by IRA Volunteers in Lisburn, Co. Antrim, on August 22, 1920.

### c.20 March

Scavengers employed by Coleraine Urban District Council go on strike for a wage increase of 10s. per week.

### 31 March

The Second Reading of The Government of Ireland Bill (also known as the Fourth Home Rule Bill) in the House of Commons. It passes by 348 votes to 94.

## April 1920

### 17 April

At the inquest into the death of Tomás MacCurtain, a jury returns a verdict of wilful murder deemed to have been carried out by members of the RIC, under the direction of the British Government. British Prime Minister Lloyd George, Lord French and other members of the British Establishment are named as culpable in MacCurtain's murder.

### c.22-29 April

Around 200 Ballymoney labourers, members of National Amalgamated Union of Labour (N.A.U.L.) go on strike. Striking Portrush labourers and masons return to work around the middle of the month.

'Politics were seething ... So, on Wednesday, 10 March, we all went to Belfast for the most awful meeting I ever attended. It went on and on and we were all desperately tired and hungry when Sir Edward Carson asked for a show of hands on throwing overboard the counties of Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan, because we were afraid that they might sink our little Ulster ship. I have never heard such impressive speeches as those made by Lord Farnham and Bob Maxwell. They had come from France, where our Ulster Battalion had been reinforced from these three counties, and, while the men out there were fighting and dying for King and Country, we were throwing down their homes. Mr Moles was the chief opposition, with his confounded statistics.

The result was to me and many others a dishonourable business. To throw over those three counties on a show of hands was surely lacking in dignity and consideration and so puzzling was it, that James G Leslie sitting beside me said, "By Jove, Farnham won it". He hadn't and I am sure the majority was strongly for Moles, but we all left that meeting feeling miserable, like traitors.'

## 27 April

A branch of the National Amalgamated Union of Labour (N.A.U.L) is formed at Ballycastle. 130 members are enrolled.

## April - May

Violence erupts in Derry/Londonderry on April 17-18, after soldiers are attacked in various parts of the city. In a gun battle between police and the IRA on May 14-15, Denis Moroney, an RIC officer, is shot dead. Rioting continues over the weekend and a Catholic ex-soldier is also shot. The Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) mounts roadblocks. After a scuffle between rival factions on 20 June several deaths, mainly of Nationalists, occur in more than one incident. Fierce rioting breaks out in the city. 1500 troops arrive on June 23 and martial law is imposed on June 26. But even with the presence of the army the death toll continues to rise, and is said to have eventually reached 40.

## May 1920

### 20 May

The Holyhead cargo sailings are disrupted because of a Dublin dockers' strike, as they refuse to handle munitions for the Crown Forces in Ireland. They are soon to be joined by others, especially the railway workers of the Irish Transport and General Workers Union. Dockers at Coleraine hold up the export of pork, butter and other farm produce. A resolution of approval for this action is approved at a meeting of Coleraine and District Trades and Labour Council (prices for bacon and butter etc. are considered too high locally).

### c.24 May

Stokers, drawers and yardmen employed at Coleraine municipal gasworks go out on strike, refusing concessions offered by the Urban Council. The strike is short-lived.

### 27 May

The well-known Sinn Féin solicitor, Louis J. Walsh, is greeted with hostility when he attempts to hold a campaign speech in Ballymoney. He is a candidate in

The Recollections of Mary Alice Young née Macnaghten (1867-1946) of Dunderave and Galgorm County Antrim. By Dr Eull Dunlop. Published by Mid-Antrim Historical Group:32.

the forthcoming County Council elections. He receives minor injuries and requires a police escort through the crowd.

## May

Miss C. E. Hamilton of Portrush Urban District Council, is appointed as a magistrate. The *Coleraine Chronicle* reports that Miss Hamilton was the first woman in Ireland to have been elected to the Chair of an Urban Council.



Miss C. E. Hamilton. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

- **June**  
Ulster Volunteer Force revived.
- **July**  
Belfast shipyard expulsions of Catholics and 'disloyal Protestants'.
- **August**  
Belfast trade boycott of British interests.

## June 1920

### 4 June

Almost 200 weavers and winders from Gribbon's Factory in Coleraine strike. As a result the mechanics, tenters and heddlers are left without employment. Shirt-cutters from Rogers' Factory in Coleraine go out on strike soon after, demanding a wage increase.

### 25 June

The Ulster Unionist Council revives the UVF in response to IRA attacks within Ulster. In early July the Council would appoint Lieutenant Colonel Wilfrid Spender as Officer Commanding.



Ulster Volunteer Force Badge. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

Mr Louis J. Walsh was the recipient of a tremendous ovation on his arrival in Ballycastle from Belfast after the declaration of the poll in the Antrim County Council Election. The local Sinn Féin Pipers' Band turned out to do honour to the victory.....

Courtesy of Dublin Evening Telegraph June 11th, 1920.

## July 1920

### 12 July

Sir Edward Carson, addressing Orangemen at Finaghy, Belfast, warns that if the British Government is unable to protect Northern Unionists from 'the machinations of Sinn Féin', then 'we will take the matter into our own hands. We will reorganise'.

### 21-24 July

Sectarian disturbances erupt in Belfast; Catholics and Socialists are expelled from shipyards and engineering works by Unionist workers. Trams carrying shipyard workers are stoned as they pass Short Strand. In the riots that follow seven Catholics and six Protestants are killed (Bardon 1992, p471). Outbreaks of violence continue in Belfast over the summer of 1920 and during the following two years.

### 27 July

Members of an Auxiliary Division are recruited to assist the RIC as guerrilla violence spreads in Ireland.



Cumann na mBan War of Independence Medal. Courtesy of private collection.

## August 1920

### 9 August

The Restoration of Order (Ireland) Act is passed in response to the collapsing British Administration in Ireland. It receives Royal Assent on August 13. The Act is an extension of the Defence of the Realm regulations to allow for the replacement of trial by jury with Court-Martial in areas where the IRA is most active, with the proviso that the Court must include at least one properly qualified legal official in any case involving the death penalty.

**c.9 August**

Work resumes at Gribbon's Factory Coleraine after the strike there ends. It had lasted for more than nine weeks. The workers arrive at their own settlement without interference from their employers.

**12 August**

Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork and Commandant of Cork No. 1 Brigade of the IRA, is arrested by the British Military on a charge of possessing an RIC secret cipher. He begins a hunger strike in protest, and is transferred to Brixton Jail on August 17.

**22 - 31 August**

The IRA assassinate RIC District Inspector Oswald Swanzy as he leaves church in Lisburn, Co. Antrim. Swanzy had been implicated in the murder of Tomás MacCurtain in Cork in March. Swanzy's killing sparks retaliatory attacks by Unionists on Catholic businesses in the town. Many Catholics are forced to flee their homes. Further intense rioting and sectarian clashes break out in Belfast.

**BALLYCASTLE BARRACKS RAIDED**

*Policemen held up at revolver point. Rifles, ammunition & grenades carried off.*

A sensational occurrence took place in Ballycastle on Sunday afternoon last, when a party of Sinn Féiners, numbering close on twenty, made a raid on the police barracks and carried off a number of rifles, ammunition, hand grenades, and Verey lights.

Courtesy of Ballymoney Free Press September 2nd, 1920.

**c.29 August**

A party of 20 men raid the police barracks in Ballycastle and carry off arms and ammunition, hand grenades and verey lights (flares).

**Summer**

A majority of local Councils and Poor Law Boards (outside Ulster) agree to transfer their allegiance from the established local government board to Dáil Éireann.

(Ref: A New History of Ireland IV, p243).

**Summer/Autumn**

Attacks and reprisals carried out by members of the IRA and the Black and Tans increase.

**September 1920****c.8 September**

A quantity of arms, ammunition and equipment is found in the Carrick Hill area of Belfast; it is considered by the authorities to be an important discovery, and is believed to include the items stolen from Ballycastle Police Station during the recent raid.

**c.11 September**

40 to 50 armed and masked men raid Torr Head Coastguard Station and carry off guns, ammunition and other equipment; it is reported that the leader was wearing an Irish Volunteer uniform.

**24 September**

The 9 a.m. train from Ballymoney to Ballycastle is held up by six men at Stranocum Station. The raiders proceed to select mail intended for the military and police at Armoy and Ballycastle; officials and passengers are held at gunpoint.

- **October**  
Ulster Special Constabulary established.
- **21 November**  
'Bloody Sunday' Dublin.

**October 1920****25 October**

Terence MacSwiney, Mayor of Cork dies in an English jail after 74 days on hunger strike.

**28 October**

The *Ballymoney Free Press* reports that Dáil Éireann has sent an order (read at a recent meeting of Ballycastle Guardians) for a complete severance of relations with the English Local Government Board. Some of the members propose to comply, but the majority vote against it and the motion is lost.

**October**

The Increase of Rent & Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920 comes into operation.

**November 1920****1 November**

Kevin Barry, a Dublin student, is hanged for his part in the murder of RIC men.

**1 November**

Enrolment for an Ulster Special Constabulary officially begins. There are to be three categories: A Specials (full-time, paid), B Specials (part-time, unpaid), C Specials (reserves who could be called out in emergencies).

*'We, in our turn, raided the homes of both Protestant and Catholic parents whose Sons had joined, or were about to join, the Ulster Specials.'*

Bureau of Military History, 1913-21  
Statement document No. W.S. 1663.

**c.6 November**

Torr Head Coastguard Station is burned down.

**c.8 November**

The Unemployment Insurance Act (1920) comes into operation. It provides 15 weeks' unemployment benefits to much of the civilian working population, and is partly funded by contributions from employers and employees.

**c.15 November**

Labourers at Coleraine Foundry go on strike for a wage increase.



'Michael Collins' by Leo Whelan R.H.A. (1892-1956).  
Courtesy Oireachtas.

**21 November**

Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence of the IRA, dispatches members of his execution squad to assassinate a number of British intelligence agents in Dublin. Eleven agents, and two Auxiliaries who had attempted to intervene, are shot dead. That afternoon British forces (Auxiliaries & Black and Tans) retaliate by firing into the crowd at the Dublin-Tipperary Gaelic Football final in Croke Park, Dublin, killing 12 people and wounding an estimated 60 more. The day is known as 'Bloody Sunday'.

1920

KEY EVENTS

- **23 December**  
Government of Ireland Act 1920.



Inside double page illustration from Royal Ulster and Special Constabulary Christmas card. Date unknown. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

## December 1920

### c.6 December

A recruitment meeting for the Special Constabulary is held in Coleraine Town Hall. Over the following weeks meetings will be held in other local towns, including Portstewart, Ballymoney, Articlave, Garvagh and Portrush.

### 10 December

Lord French imposes martial law on Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary. It is later to be extended to Kilkenny, Clare, Wexford and Waterford on December 30.

### 11-12 December

Cork city centre is burnt by the Black and Tans & Auxiliaries, in retaliation for an IRA ambush on an Auxiliary

patrol. Numerous buildings are destroyed, including the City Hall and Carnegie Free Library.

### c.21 December

Louis J Walsh, Sinn Féin, is taken into custody, along with a colleague, Mr P. J. Agnew. They are observed passing through Coleraine on the way to Derry/Londonderry under escort. Louis Walsh would subsequently spend several months in Ballykinlar internment camp.



Ballykinlar Internment camp. Courtesy of Down County Museum.

### 23 December

The Government of Ireland Act 1920 receives Royal Assent, providing for subordinate parliaments and administrations, one to be in Dublin and the other, for the six counties of the north, in Belfast.

### 23 December

Eamon de Valera returns to Ireland from his fund-raising tour in the U.S.A.

### c.28 December

Shots are fired at police when they arrive to carry out a raid at a dance in Boleran Hall near Garvagh. Further shots are fired by police, when men standing around the hall run away and refuse to halt when ordered. A 16 year-old boy, Joseph Doherty, is shot and killed in the commotion.

1921

KEY EVENTS

- **3 May**  
Temporary partition of Northern Ireland.



First Ulster Cabinet in 1921

From L to R:  
Sir Richard Dawson Bates, Minister for Home Affairs;  
Charles Stewart Henry Vane-Tempest-Stewart, 7th Marquess of Londonderry, Secretary of State for Air;  
Sir James Craig, 1st Viscount Craigavon, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland;  
Hugh MacDowell Pollock, Minister of Finance;  
Sir Edward Mervyn Archdale, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce;  
John Miller Andrews, Minister of Labour.  
©National Portrait Gallery

## February 1921

### 4 February

Sir Edward Carson resigns as leader of the Ulster Unionists. Sir James Craig is elected by the Unionist Council to take his place.

### c.16 February



Dr Anne Louise McIlroy during her World War One service with Scottish Womens Hospital. Courtesy of Glasgow City Archives.

Dr Anne Louise McIlroy, from Lavin near Ballycastle, is appointed to the Chair of Obstetrics

and Gynaecology, and to the Directorship of the Obstetric and Gynaecological Unit of the Royal Free Hospital, London School of Medicine.

### c.19 February

A new hut and recreation grounds on William Street are opened for the Limavady Post of the Comrades of the Great War.

## March 1921

### 12 March

Published advice on measures to take to avoid flu.

### 19 March

The *Northern Constitution* reports that Alexander Butler, from Ballycastle, has been court-martialled and sentenced to 18 months hard labour for possessing ballot papers in aid of Casement S.F. Club, and a membership card for the Irish Volunteers.

### March

Catherine Anne Swetenham Trench of Greystone Hall, Limavady, is awarded an M.B.E. for her services throughout the War. She had collected funds for soldiers

and prisoners of war, and had regularly dispatched parcels to them while abroad. She had also been secretary and treasurer of the British Prisoners of War Fund.

## April 1921

### c.Mid-April

A building strike begins when a reduction in wages is threatened. It appears to affect the Coleraine, Portrush, Portstewart, Ballymoney and Ballycastle districts. It continues for 10 weeks and is settled after the Building Trades Federation of Employers decide to continue paying existing wages for a 50 hour week.

## May 1921

### May

Louis J. Walsh is released from Ballykinlar internment camp. He and other imprisoned candidates had made a demand that they should be paroled to enable them to conduct their Northern Ireland election campaigns.

**15 May**  
British Legion established.

Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



1921

KEY EVENTS

• 22 June

King George V opens first session of Northern Ireland parliament.

• 24 May

Irish elections are held for the 'Southern Ireland' and 'Northern Ireland' Parliaments. No actual polling takes place for the Southern election, as all nominated candidates are uncontested (Results: Sinn Féin 124, Independent Unionist 4 (TCD)). Sinn Féin uses this election to establish the Second Dáil of the Irish Republic.

In the Northern Ireland election 40 seats are won by Unionists, 6 by Nationalists and 6 by Sinn Féin. In order to avoid division over the sensitive issue of Partition, the Belfast Labour Party does not directly contest this election but rather supports four Independent candidates who fail to win any seats. Six Unionist candidates have won seats in Co. Antrim, and it is announced that a voting record has been created here, with a polling average of 85%.

Three Unionists, one Nationalist and one Sinn Féin are elected for Derry/Londonderry. Sir Robert Anderson (Unionist) and



Professor Eoin MacNeill.  
Photographer W.D. Horgan.  
Courtesy of NLI.

Mrs Dehra Chichester.  
Courtesy of IWM WWC D8-5-872.

Eoin MacNeill (Sinn Féin) receive the highest number of votes, and a woman, Mrs Dehra Chichester (Unionist) from Castledawson, is also elected. An 80 year-old woman, Bessie Hunter, from Portstewart, dies on her way to the polling station at Agherton.

• 25 May

The Custom House in Dublin is destroyed by the IRA.

• c.26 May

Two policemen are shot at from behind a hedge while cycling to their barracks in Cloughmills. Special Constable Watson is injured in the arm, while Constable Walsh is hit in the leg.

## June 1921

• c.5 June

Alexander Connor, a Sinn Féin member from Limavady, is shot dead while cycling along the road near Garvagh. The killing is believed to have been politically motivated.

• 7 June

The House of Commons of Northern Ireland meets. A Cabinet is appointed under Sir James Craig as Prime Minister.



Crowds around the Robinson Cleaver Building Belfast for the State Opening of Parliament in Belfast City Hall.  
Photographer W.D. Horgan. Courtesy of NLI.

• 22 June

The new Northern Ireland Parliament is opened by King George V at the City Hall in Belfast. Among the addresses later received by the King at the Ulster Hall are those from Coleraine Urban District Council. Celebrations are held in many of the local towns, such as Bushmills, Coleraine and Limavady.



Irish peace conference July 1921.  
Photographer W.D. Horgan. Courtesy of NLI.

## July 1921

• 10 July

Nationalists and Unionists die, and numerous properties are damaged or destroyed, in an outbreak of violence in Belfast. In retaliation for the IRA ambush of a police vehicle, Nationalist homes and businesses are burned by Unionists. Gun battles erupt between loyalist and republican groups, and between republicans and police. The day has been referred to as 'Belfast's Bloody Sunday'.

• 11 July

A truce agreed between the IRA and the British Army on July 9, 1920, comes into effect at noon.

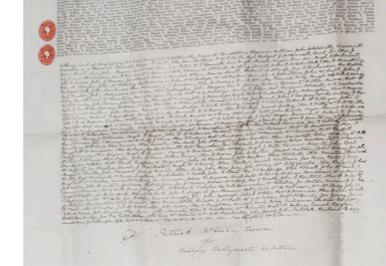
• 12 July

De Valera travels to London to attend preliminary peace talks with Lloyd George on July 14. The terms offered by Lloyd George do not meet Republican demands,

however, de Valera agrees to discuss them with Dáil representatives in Dublin.

• 8-11 July

End of Irish War of Independence/Anglo-Irish War.



Law certificate for Patrick McCarry.  
Courtesy of McCarry family.

• c.17 July

Patrick McCarry, a well-known Ballycastle Sinn Féin Councillor, and Justice of the Peace, is shot at Ballycastle Police Barracks. He and the constable accompanying him, are mistaken for raiders as they enter the barracks late at night, and a Special Constable on guard duty fires a shot, fatally wounding Councillor McCarry.

## August 1921

• c.15 August

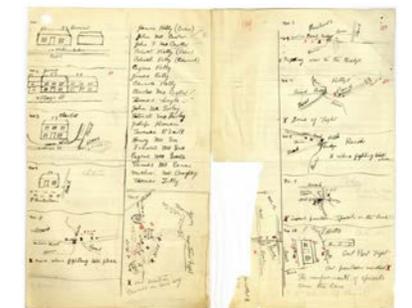
The Lord Chief Justice for Northern Ireland The Right Hon. Denis S. Henry, ex-Attorney-General and from Coleraine, and the new Attorney-General for Ireland Mr T. W. Brown, are sworn in at the Town Hall in Portrush. The ceremony is conducted by the Lord Chancellor, Sir John Ross.

• 16 August

Sinn Féin MPs who had been returned in the Southern Ireland election meet in the Mansion House, Dublin, as the second Dáil Éireann.

• 24 August

The *Londonderry Sentinel* reports that IRA training camps have been established at various places in Ulster. One of these is at Torr Head, where there are 30-40 well-armed men.



IRA intelligence gathering, 2 Brigade, 2 Northern Division.  
Courtesy of the Bureau of Military History.

1921

KEY EVENTS

- **6 December**  
Anglo-Irish Treaty signed in London.

Anglo-Irish Treaty signatures.  
Courtesy of private collection.

## September 1921

### c.10 September

An orthopaedic clinic is opened in the Convalescent Hospital in Portrush. It is to be used to administer massage and electrical treatments to the discharged disabled soldiers of Co. Londonderry and North Antrim. Mrs Dehra Chichester MP performs the opening ceremony.

### c.16 September

A dance is held to mark the opening of the new clubrooms for the Coleraine Post of the Comrades of the Great War, in Beresford Place. The official opening will take place within the next few weeks.

## October 1921

### 6 October

A deputation from Co. Antrim, headed by Louis J. Walsh, visits the Mansion House in Dublin to protest against Partition. Eamon de Valera responds, saying that *'...the unity of Ireland is as much a fundamental principle as that of self-determination. Both are based on right and justice'*. Mr McAllister

makes the case that Rathlin Island is overwhelmingly Nationalist, and is as much entitled to be included with Southern Ireland as is County Donegal.

### 11 October

The British-Irish Conference opens in London. De Valera himself does not attend, but rather a group of representatives including Sinn Féin leader Arthur Griffith, and Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence for the IRA, to negotiate terms of a treaty with the British Government. These negotiations are to continue until December 6, 1921.

## November 1921



Aghadowey War Memorial.  
Courtesy of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

### c.13 November

A War Memorial obelisk is unveiled at Aghadowey. The ceremony is performed by Lieut-Col. R. S. Knox, D.S.O.



Ulster Memorial Tower, Thiepval, France.  
Courtesy of The Scotti Rooms.

### 19 November

The Ulster Memorial Tower is dedicated at Thiepval, France. Lieut. James Douglas, from Limavady, attends the ceremony on behalf of Mrs Trench who is unable to go. Two wreaths from Limavady are placed at the monument. Sgt. Given, also from Limavady, represents 'the Derrys' (10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers) at the unveiling ceremony.

## December 1921

### 6 December

The Anglo-Irish Treaty is signed in London; not all members of Sinn Féin are happy with the outcome and a rift ensues.

### 14 December

A debate on the Treaty terms begins in Dáil Éireann.

1922

KEY EVENTS

- **7 January**  
Anglo-Irish Treaty narrowly ratified in Dublin.

## January 1922

### c.7 January

Coleraine gas workers strike in protest against the proposal to reduce wages by 12½%. A settlement is reached quickly and work resumes.

### 9 January

Arthur Griffith is elected President of Dáil Éireann, succeeding de Valera.

### c.10 January

Coleraine tailors inform the press that they have been locked out by their employers for refusing to accept a 33½% reduction in wages. The strike is settled by the beginning of February when a 17½% wage reduction is accepted.

### 14 January

A Provisional Government is set up to administer the handover from British rule to the new Irish Free State (de Valera, Brugha and Stack have resigned over acceptance of the Treaty).

### 16 January

Provisional government formally takes over control of Dublin Castle from the British.

### 21 January

A meeting between Michael Collins and Sir James Craig begins in London. An agreement is signed but this breaks down within a short time.

## February 1922

### 12-15 February

Violence erupts in Belfast resulting in a number of deaths.

## March 1922

### c.2 March

The Limavady War Memorial Institute is opened by Major-General Sir Oliver Nugent.

### 4 March

A report that the 'flu has appeared again in Aghadowey and many are confined to bed.

### c.18 March

Three men, in possession of 24 rifles and a quantity of ammunition, are arrested on the hills of Gortnarney, a few miles from Limavady. The police have been alerted by a farmer who encounters the men while tending his sheep.

### 26 March

IRA leaders vote to reject the Anglo-Irish Treaty and affirm allegiance to the Republic. The IRA splits into Pro (National) and Anti (Irregulars) Treaty forces.

### 30 March

A second Craig-Collins pact is signed in London. This will again fail.

### c.31 March

A train carrying potatoes and grass seed from Ballymena and Ballymoney is intercepted at Limerick Junction by members of the IRA, who redirect it to Tipperary and burn the wagons carrying the Antrim goods. This is executed as part of the Ulster/Belfast Boycott.

### 31 March

The Irish Free State (Agreement) Act is passed.



Overprint on British stamp as a quick way of creating a visible new identity for the new Irish State.  
Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

## Limavady Sensation

### Minister's Wife and Girl Shot Failure to Hear Police Challenge

A sensational incident occurred late on Wednesday night about three-quarters of a mile outside Limavady, on the Coleraine Road. It appears that a Crossley tender containing a mixed party of RIC and Specials were on patrol duty, and called on an approaching motor to halt. Two of the occupants of the motor one Mrs. Huston, wife of the Rev. Samuel Huston, Myroe, Limavady, and the other a young girl named Brown – were seriously injured.

Courtesy of *The Derry Journal* April 7th, 1922.

## April 1922

### 5 April

The wife of Rev. Samuel Huston of Limavady, and a young girl named Brown, are shot when the car they are travelling in fails to stop at a Special Constabulary patrol check-point. The driver of the car is slightly deaf. Mrs Huston is reported to be in critical condition in the Derry/Londonderry Infirmary.

### 7 April

The Civil Authorities (Special Powers) Act, Northern Ireland (renewed annually until made permanent in 1933) is passed. Special courts can detain suspects without trial and impose sentences.

### 14 April

Anti-Treaty forces (Irregulars) seize Four Courts, Dublin, and establish a military headquarters.

### April/May/June

A number of properties are fired and destroyed, particularly in the Dungiven area. Two garages are destroyed there in April, and a bar/shop and flax mill in May. People in Dungiven desert their houses in the town at night to stay with friends in the country.

## May 1922

### c.6 May

A school teacher, John Carolan, and his nephew, Mr Kilmartin, are taken from their beds in Cluntygeragh, near Dungiven, by six armed men and shot. They are thrown into a hole. Mr Carolan dies almost immediately, but Mr Kilmartin manages to make his way to a neighbour's house. He later dies as a result of his injuries.

### c.20 May

An attempt to attack the police barracks in Ballycastle is thwarted by Ballymoney constables while

returning home from a patrol.

A gun battle takes place between police and the attackers, and the latter are driven back. A 50lb bomb is discovered, as well as boxes of Mills bombs intended for use against the police.

### c.21 May

The houses of loyalists are attacked in Cloughmills, and several of the roofs blown off by a bomb.

### 22 May

William J. Twaddell, Unionist MP, is shot dead as he walks to his business premises in Belfast. His murder causes a sensation and leads to a crack-down on the IRA in Northern Ireland. In the follow-up to this, many raids are made by the police and military across the Six Counties, with a large number of arrests. Mr Twaddell's death is deeply regretted in Ballymoney, where he is well-known. A native of Ballintoy, he had lived in Ballymoney and served his apprenticeship there.

### 1 June

Royal Ulster Constabulary established.

### c.22 May

Widespread raids are made by Crown Forces, particularly in the Dungiven, Garvagh and Coleraine districts. Many men are taken into custody. In the course of the operations, a teacher is shot and injured while trying to escape from police at Garvagh. Thirteen men from the Coleraine district are detained under guard in the Town Hall for a week before being removed to Derry/Londonderry Jail.

### c.23 May

An attempt is made by IRA members to burn Garron Tower, Co. Antrim. Fires had been placed at nine different points around the building, and an annexe is also fired, but damage is minimised by the swift action of the servants who work to extinguish the flames.

### 31 May

A Curfew Order comes into operation across the Six Counties at 11.00 p.m. From this time anyone without a permit must remain indoors between the hours of 11.00 p.m. and 5.00 a.m.

### May

Businesses are burned in an IRA campaign in Belfast, as well as properties elsewhere.

### May

150 armed men take possession of Cushendall village and a four-hour gun battle with police ensues. The attackers are eventually repelled with no loss of life. Glenmona House, residence of Ronald McNeill, MP is burned, as well as other properties in the district.

## June 1922

### 1 June

The Royal Ulster Constabulary is established to replace the RIC in Northern Ireland. Constable Sturgeon has been promoted to sergeant in the new police force, and transferred to Castlerock.

### 8 June

Archie McCann, a Cloughmills farmer, and his nephew John, are taken from their beds and shot by three armed men. Mr McCann is killed but his nephew survives and

testifies in the investigation.

Two 'B' Specials are detained initially, but although John McCann identifies one of them as being present at the shootings, there are ultimately no convictions.

### 16 June

A General Election is held in the Irish Free State. Pro-Treaty Sinn Féin win by a large majority.

### 22 June

Field Marshal Sir Henry Wilson (a Unionist MP and government adviser) is assassinated by the IRA in London.

### c.23 June

Three Catholics are shot dead and two are wounded shortly after Crown Forces enter Cushendall. The incident generates much outrage and controversy, and accounts of the events differ. According to the official report the Crown Forces were ambushed and after an exchange of fire, the victims were found dead. Local residents maintain that there was no ambush and that the Specials opened fire on a group of men as the order was given for them to clear the streets.

1922

KEY EVENTS

## 28 June

Irish Civil War begins, it would end in 1923.



Four Courts on fire during the attack that started on June 28, 1922. Within the complex the Irish Public Records Office was destroyed with the substantial loss of Irish genealogical records. Photographer W.D. Horgan. Courtesy of NLI.

## June 28

An attack is made on the Irregular Forces garrison in the Four Courts, Dublin, by the Provisional Government forces. The Irish Civil War begins. By the time it ended in May 1923 there were over 77 executions and 11,400 detentions under the Public Safety Act introduced by the Irish Free State in response to the violence.

## August 1922

### 12 August

Arthur Griffith, President of Dáil Éireann, dies.

### 22 August

Michael Collins is killed in an ambush at Béal na Bláth, Co. Cork.

## September 1922

### c.3 September

A patrol of 'B' Specials are fired on from behind a wall on the Benvarden Road near Dervock. The alarm is raised from Benvarden House and reinforcements arrive, surrounding the house. After a three hour gun battle, a constable is slightly injured but no loss of life is reported.

### 9 September

William Cosgrave is elected President of the Provisional Government (Irish Free State).

## October 1922

### 23 October

After Conservative MPs have voted to end the Coalition Government, Andrew Bonar Law becomes leader of the British Conservative Party and replaces David Lloyd George as Prime Minister.



Courtesy Coleraine Chronicle November 11th, 1922.

## November 1922



Portrush War Memorial unveiled in 1922. Pictured here in 1925 with returned soldiers convalescing in Portrush.

Courtesy of H. McGrattan.



Coleraine War Memorial. Courtesy of Coleraine Museum.

### 11 November

War Memorials are unveiled at Coleraine and Portrush. Sir James and Lady Craig attend both events and Sir James performs the unveiling ceremony at Coleraine. Lady McNaghten unveils the Portrush memorial.

1922



The Daily Mirror November 8th, 1922. Courtesy John Frost Newspapers/Alamy stock.

### 15 November

A General Election is held in the United Kingdom. The Conservatives, under the leadership of Andrew Bonar Law, gain an overall majority. The Session and Committee of Ballywillan Presbyterian Church, Portrush, send a message of support and congratulations to Bonar Law, whose family has connections with Ballywillan. They later receive a reply.

### 17 November - 2 May 1923

The first of 77 Republican prisoners is executed by the Provisional (Free State) Government.

### 25 November

While on duty at RUC platoon headquarters in Ballycastle, Special Constable Robinson is shot at and

returns fire. He receives an eye injury during the exchange. The assailant escapes.

## December 1922

### c.2 December

As part of a tour of Northern Ireland Sir James and Lady Craig visit Coleraine, Kilrea and Limavady. Sir James inspects 600 RUC men from the Coleraine District, RUC and 'B' Specials from the Limavady District, and 373 'B' Specials at Kilrea.

### 5 December

The Irish Free State Constitution Act (UK) receives Royal Assent and formally ratifies the constitution as approved by the Dáil (on October 25).

### 16 December

A new War Pensions Committee is established under the War Pensions Act (1921). Ulster is to form one area under the control of a committee of 25 members. The existing local war pensions committees are abolished, although the NI Minister of Pensions hopes that their assistance will continue.

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'Geographia' New map of Northern Ireland.  
Courtesy of private collection.

## SOURCES

### LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

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*Belfast Newsletter* (BNL). Published from 1737 until the present day; in 1855 it became daily.

*Coleraine Chronicle* (CC). Published weekly from 1844 until the present day.

*Derry Journal* (DJ). Published (tri-weekly) from 1772 until the present day. Prior to 1880 it was known as the *Londonderry Journal*.

*(Weekly) Freeman's Journal* (FJ) Founded in 1763 by Charles Lucas, this became a leading Irish newspaper based in Dublin. Publication was suspended temporarily when its printing equipment was destroyed by Anti-Treaty IRA members in the lead-up to the Irish Civil War, and ended when it merged with the *Irish Independent* in 1924.

*Londonderry Sentinel* (LS). Published from 1829 until the present day. It ran bi-weekly until 1879 when it became tri-weekly.

*Northern Constitution* (NC) Published from 1875 until the present day. Prior to 1908 this newspaper was known as the *Coleraine Constitution*.

*Northern Whig* (NW) First published in 1832 and issued twice weekly until 1849 when it increased to three issues per week. From 1858 until it ceased publication in 1963 it was issued daily. Between 1919 and 1957 it was known as the *Northern Whig and Belfast Post*.



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# Partition *in* Ireland: --- Partition *of* Ulster



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