

Online Irish History Course

Contae Chill Mhantáin / County Wicklow

Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm / June 9, 16, 23 & 30, 2022

 <p style="text-align: center;">Wicklow, the 'Garden of Ireland"</p>	<p>Established as a distinct county, it was aimed at controlling local groups such as the O'Byrne's. The Military Road that crosses the mountains was built by the British Army to assist them in defeating the rebels still active in the Wicklow Mountains following the 1798 rebellion.</p>
<p>The last of the traditional 32 counties to be formed in 1606.</p> <p>Its motto is <i>Meanma Saor</i> meaning "Free Spirits"</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;">Saint Kevin's monastery at Glendalough.</p> <p>The O'Byrnes, O'Tooles and O'Kavanaghs are the three main Wicklow clans</p>
<p>When St. Patrick returned to Ireland in 432 AD, he landed at Travilahawk. The local chieftain sent his people out to discourage their arrival. Stones were tossed down on them and one of St. Patrick's monks lost his teeth. The toothless monk later returned to Wicklow Town to build a church and became known as Manntan (Gubby). They called the place Cill Mhantain (Gubby's Church), which is the Irish or Gaelic name for County Wicklow.</p>	<p>The Clan O'Byrne are reputed to be descended from Heremon, who along with his brother Hebor established the Gaels in Ireland. Cahir Mor, Charles the Great, was elevated from the throne of Leinster to reign over the entire country in 144 A.D. It is from his grandson <i>Feacha Baiceada</i> that the O'Byrnes, O'Tooles and O'Kavanaghs, the three main Wicklow clans, are descended.</p> <p>The County was the territory of the O'Byrne's and O'Toole's in pre-Norman times. Along its coast, there were also several Viking settlements. The Normans invaded the area near the end of the twelfth century.</p> <p>Fiach Mac Hugh O'Byrne was one of the most famous fighters against the English. In 1596 the English captured his wife, Rose, and burned her at the stake. A year later Fiach was betrayed, captured and then hung, drawn and quartered. His sons continued to fight. They lost everything starting with the defeat of the Irish at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, confiscation of the O'Byrne lands by the Crown, and the total confiscation of O'Byrne property by Cromwell in 1649.</p>
<p>Curse and swear! Lord Kildare Fiach will do what Fiach will dare Now FitzWilliam have a care! Fallen is your star low!</p>	

Course fee is \$80. To enroll please email seanmurphy630@gmail.com