

# Online Irish History Course

## Contae Lú / County Louth

Thursdays 6:00 – 7:30 pm / October 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2022



Louth, the "wee" county

The famous Irish band The Corrs came from County Louth.



"Lugh equally skilled in many arts"



There are a number of historic sites in the county, including religious sites at Monasterboice, Mellifont Abbey (above) and the St Mary Magdalene Dominican Friary.

Ardee, *Áth Fhirdia* (the Ford of Ferdia) gets its name from a four-day battle in the 1st century AD between Cuchulainn and **Ferdia**, for the defense of Ulster under attack from Queen Maeve of Connacht.



Statue of the grief stricken Cuchalainn carrying his dead friend Ferdia. They were great friends but ended up on opposing sides and were forced to fight. Neither wished the death of his friend. Their epic battle lasted four days. It is documented in the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*

County Louth is named after the village of Louth, which is named after Lugh, a mythological warrior and leader of the Tuatha Dé Danann. Lúnasa the Irish word for August is called after him. Drogheda, its main town, was founded in 911 by the Norse Vikings.

The whole area became part of the O'Carroll Kingdom of Airgialla (Oriell) early in the 12th century under Donnchad Ua Cerbaill.

In about 1183, the area was settled by English farmers and became known as English Oriell. It was controlled by England over most of the following centuries. Louth was a part of Ulster, until the late 16th century, before being included as part of Leinster.

Oliver Cromwell attacked Drogheda in 1649 slaughtering the Royalist garrison and hundreds of the town's citizens at the start of a campaign in which a half million Irish people died or were transported. Towards the end of the same century, the armies of the warring Kings, James II and William (III) of Orange, faced off in south Louth during the build-up to the Battle of the Boyne;

In 1798, the leaders of the United Irishmen included a number of people from Louth. The book *County Louth and the Irish Revolution, 1912–1923* documents the role played by people from the county in that revolutionary period. Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein represented the people of Louth in the government of the Republic of Ireland from 2011 to 2020.

**To enroll, please email [seanmurphy630@gmail.com](mailto:seanmurphy630@gmail.com) / Course fee is \$90**