

Online Irish History Course

History of County Meath / Contae na Mí

Thursdays 6 – 7:30 pm / January 5, 12, 19 & 26, 2023

Colloquially known as "The Royal County", the historic Kingdom of Meath was the seat of the High King of Ireland and, for a time, was also the island's fifth province.

Ruled for centuries by the Southern Uí Néill dynasty, in the late 1100s the kingdom was invaded by the Anglo-Norman conqueror Hugh de Lacy, who ousted the Uí Néill and established himself as the Lord of Meath.

This lordship gradually diminished in size before being formally shired as County Meath in 1297, which was further sub-divided into Meath and Westmeath in 1542.

The county took its present boundaries in 1977, when much of Drogheda was transferred to County Louth.



Newgrange. Constructed over 5,000 years ago

Brú na Bóinne/Palace of the Boyne refers to the area within the bend of the River Boyne which contains one of the world's most important prehistoric landscapes. The archaeological landscape within Brú na Bóinne is dominated by the three well-known large passage tombs, Knowth, Newgrange and Dowth, built some 5,000 years ago in the Neolithic or Late Stone Age- older than Stonehenge and the Pyramids of Giza.

The Hill of Tara is thought to be the burial grounds of the ancient Celtic High Kings and the dwelling place of the Tuatha De Dannan. Tradition has it that the Lia Fail was the original Jacob's Pillar which was brought to Ireland by the Milesians.

Tara - meaning house of music- was famous all over the world and dates back over 4,000 years. Every three years an assembly was held at Tara at which laws and customs of the land were discussed and instituted. The decline of Tara began as Christianity took hold.

The Battle of the Boyne between King James 11 and King William of Orange took place in July 1690.

In 1843 Daniel O'Connell held his famous "Repeal the Act of Union" rally at Tara attended by about one million people.



The Stone of Destiny (Lia Fáil) at the Hill of Tara, once used as a coronation stone for the High Kings of Ireland.

Ireland's version of the ancient Olympic games, the Great Aonach, took place at Táilteann (Teltown) located half way between Kells and Navan tri-annually for over 3,000 years.

Course fee is \$90 / to enroll please email seanmurphy630@gmail.com