County Armagh

A Brief History

County Armagh was part of the old Gaelic territory of Uriel or Oriel. The town of Armagh was the ancient seat of the High Kings of Ulster and has also been the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland for some 1500 years.

The main Gaelic families associated with the area are O'Neill, O'Hanlon, MacCann, MacMahon, O'Keelaghan, McPartlan, MacVeagh, O'Heany, MacSherry, MacAlinden, O'Mulcreevy, O'Heron, O'Garvey, O'Loughran, O'Rogan, O'Hoey, and McEntee or McGinty. Most of these are still much in evidence in the county. Although the Normans invaded Armagh following their invasion of Ireland in the twelfth century, they did not exercise effective control because of the power of the Gaelic families. This situation of independence from English rule continued for several centuries.

The O'Neill rebellion in 1594 led to the emigration of Hugh O'Neill and the major families of Ulster, the confiscation of their territories, and, in 1609, the English plantation of Ulster by "adventurers" (see Co. Antrim).

Among the English adventurers given land in Armagh at this time were the families of Acheson, Brownlow, St. John, McHenry, and Blacker. The plantation of Ulster, which also took place in Cavan, Donegal, Derry, Fermanagh, and Tyrone, was largely successful. Thousands of settlers, of all social classes, came to Armagh from Scotland and England during the early seventeenth century. The names of the Scottish settlers who came to the county include Boyd, Fraser, Lindsay, Johnston, Morrison, Patterson, and Maxwell. The English settler names include Bradshaw, Bradford, Watson, Taylor, Walker, Jackson, Wilson, Johnson, and Young.

The native population was predominantly Catholic, the Scottish were usually Presbyterian, and English were of the of the Protestant faith. The proportions of these religions among the population can, in very general terms, be used to estimate the origins of the inhabitants of the county. When religious affiliation was first determined in the census of 1861, the respective proportions of Catholic, Presbyterian, and Protestant were 49, 31, and 16 percent.

The Penal Laws, enacted in the 1690s following the accession of the Protestant King William to the English throne, were mainly aimed at restriction of the rights of Catholics. However, they also included various measures which disadvantaged Presbyterians. As a result many Ulster Presbyterians, the so-called Scots-Irish or Ulster Scots, emigrated to North America during the eighteenth century.

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Armagh became a major center of Ulster's linen industry, particularly around the town of Lurgan. This industry and other farming activities made the county relatively prosperous during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. By the nineteenth century the population had grown to over 200,000 making it one of the most densely populated in the country. The population density was 511 people to the square mile at the peak population (232,000) in 1841.

The county was relatively less affected than others by the Great Famine of 1845-47, although it still reduced the population by around 15 percent between 1841 and 1851.

In 1921 the county was one of those which remained in the United Kingdom when the Irish Free State was formed. The main towns are Armagh, Portadown, Lurgan, Tanderagee, and Keady.

Census and Census Substitutes

1602

"First Census of the Fews." Louth Arch. J. 8 (2) (1934): 136-38.

1612-13

"Survey of Undertakers Planted in Armagh" (names, acreages allotted, and account of the progress of each). Hist. Mss. Comm. Rep. (Hastings mss.) 4 (1947): 159–82.

1630

"Census of Men and Arms on Settlers' Estates" (names and arms, arranged under name of "undertakers"). Seanchas Ardmhacha 5 (2) (1970): 401-17.

Muster Roll of Armagh. Armagh Co. Library NLI. P206. PRONI D1759/3C/1.

1631

Muster Roll. PRONI T934; BL add. ms. 4770.

1634

Copy of Subsidy Roll, NAI. M. 2471, 2745.

1641

Book of Survey and Distribution (extract for Creggan parish). Louth Arch. J. 8 (2) (1934): 142–46. PRONI T 370/A and D 1854/1/8. SLC film 1279327.

1654-1703

Books of Survey and Distribution. ACM M96, F7; SLC film 1279356.

1659

"Census" of Ireland. Edited by S. Pender. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1939. NLI I6551 Dub. SLC film 924648.

"Extract for Fews Baronies." Louth Arch J. 8 (2) (1934): 149-52.

1660

Poll Tax Abstracts. SLC film 1279356.

1661

Books of Survey and Distribution, PRONI T 370/A and D 1854/1/8.

1663-64

Hearth Money Roll for Orior Barony. Louth Arch. J. 7 (3) (1931): 419-431.

1664-65

Co. Armagh Householders. Seanchas Ardmhacha 3 (1) (1958): 96-142.

Hearth Money Roll. GO ms. 538; NLI ms. 9586/9856; PRONI T604; NAI m2741, 2745; also printed in Anal. Hib. 8 (1936): 121-202; SLC film 100181

"Extract for Barony of Fewes." Louth Arch. J. 8 (2) (1934): 152-56.

1669

"Hearth Money Roll for Parish of Lisburn and Adjoining Parts of Parishes of Magheragall and Magheramesk." Down & Connor Hist. Soc. 7 (1936): 85-92.

"Extracts for parish of Aghagallon and adjoining parts of parishes of Magheragall and Magheramesk." Down & Connor Hist. Soc. 6 (1934): 52-54.

"Early Census of Glenravel" (parishes of Dunaghy and Skerry). Down & Connor Hist. Soc. 5 (1933): 59.

1670-71

Franciscan Petition Lists (Diocese of Armagh; names only of Gentry and principal inhabitants). Seanchas Ardmhaca 15 (1) (1992): 186-216.

1689

Protestants attainted by James II. PRONI T.808/14985. SLC film 1279332; ACM P8.

1737

Tythe Payers of Drumcree (from records of rector). NLI I 920041 P1.

1738

A List of the Freeholders of Co. Armagh ca. 1738. NLI: P206 and Armagh Co. Museum.

1740

Protestant Householders in Parishes of Creggan, Derrynoose, Loughgall, Lurgan, Mullaghbrack, Shankill, and Tynan. GO 539; NAI 1A 46 100; RCB Library; SLC film 258517. PRONI T808/15258.

1753

County Armagh Poll Book. GO MS 443; NAI M 4878; PRONI T808/14936. Ref. 1 324 411307. SLC film 1279327; ACM P8. Belfast Central Library. Contains the names of 1181 voters, valuation and situation of their freeholds, and residences.

1755

Poll Book for Co. Armagh. GO ms. 443; SLC film 100181, 258500.

1766

Reference, i.e., a list of holdings and occupiers, to a plan of Armagh City. Armagh Public Library.

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Extract from the Barony of O'Neilland East, Co. Armagh, of the "Return of Registered Freeholders of £20 and 40 shillings from First January 1813 to First January 1820." NLI IR 94116 al.

Appendix (G.)

A RETURN of the several Houses in the Towns in Ireland, which Return Members to serve in Parliament; specifying the Streets in which each is situated, its Number, and the Name of the Occupant; together with the Annual Value of each, as estimated and returned by the Valuators appointed to make the Annual Applotment of Rates and Taxes for Municipal Purposes, either under the Provisions of the Act 9 Geo. 4, c. 82, or of any Local or Private Acts passed for the Regulation of these Towns, or of the New Valuation Act, where it has come into operation.

ARMAGH.

Houses of the Yearly Value of £. 10 and upwards.

An extract from tables showing the holders of houses of more than £10 annual valuation in the town of Armagh. This is a sample of the information on ratepayers and voters presented to the Select Committee of Fictitious Votes, 1837. From Parliamentary Papers, Appendix G, 1837, 2 (1).

"Religious Census of Parish of Creggan." GO ms. 537; SLC film 100173; Louth Arch. J. 8 (2) (1934): 156-62. Also Parliamentary Returns 657 in NAI.

1770

List of inhabitants of Armagh City. SLC film 258621. PRONI T1288/1, Armagh Pub. 9/5/20, NLI Ms. 7370.

1793-1908

Armagh Militia Records, Armagh Co. Library, NLI P. 1014.

1796

"List of Flax Growers of Armagh" (with background to the industry). Ulster Gen. & Hist. Guild Newsletter 1 (7) (1981): 204-16. (Gives names in each parish; also NLI.)

Surname index for the 1796 Spinning Wheel Premium entitlement lists. All-Ireland Heritage, Inc., 1986. 12 microfiches.

See Co. Mayo 1796 (list of Catholics).

1799-1800

Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, PRONI T1115/2A-C.

1802

"Game-license Holders." Ir. Anc. 8 (1) (1976): 35-39.

1813-30

Registered Freeholders of 20s and 40s, Baronies of O'Neilland E. and Upper Orior (1,372 and 1,471 names respectively, arranged alphabetically with residence, location of freehold, etc.). NLI IR 352, p. 2. PRONI T862.

Barony of Tureny (395 names), Lower Fews (1,250 names), Upper Fews (365 names). NLI IR 94116 A1.

Lists of Freeholders. SLC film 993156, 279324.

1821

Government Census Remnants for Parish of Kilmore (townlands of Balleney, Corcreevy, Crewcat, Derryhale, Drumnahushin, Listeyborough, and Maynooth). PRONI T450; SLC film 258511, 258621.

Extract of Derryhale (townland in par. Kilmore) published in Ulster Folklife 7 (1961): 41-50. (All named with ages.)

Family Compositions and Occupations in Kilmore Parish. North Irish Roots 3 (1): 27-36.

1821-31

A List of the Registered Freeholders of Co. Armagh (also listing by barony-except Orior lower-for 1813-20). PRONI T862.

1825-35

Tithe Applotment Survey (see introduction).

1830-39

Armagh Freeholders. ACM M87, F7; SLC film 1279330.

1833

Extracts of Kilmore Parish Tithe Applotments. NLI I920041 P1.

1834

Mullabrack Parish List (from Tythepayers lists of 1834). NLI I 920041 P1.

1834-37

"Occupants of Armagh, Arranged by Street within 2 Sections" (over and under £10 value). Parl. Papers 1837, 11 (1): Appendix G, 176-91.

1837

Marksmen (i.e., illiterate voters), Armagh Borough, Parliamentary Papers 1837, Reports from Committees, Vol. 11 (I), Appendix A.

1839

"Freeholders and Leaseholders in Armagh, Tiranny, O'Neiland West, and O'Neiland East." Commercial Telegraph 27 (960) (3 Oct. 1839). PRONI T808/14961.

List of Persons who obtained Game Certificates in Ulster. PRONI T688.

1843

Voters List. NAI 1842/85.

1847

"Castleblayney Poor Law Rate Book." Clogher Record 5 (1) (1963): 131-48 (ratepayers in each townland in Castleblayney Poor Law Union).

1851-73

Co. Armagh-Persons entitled to vote. ACM D7; SLC film 1279325.

1852

Registry of Voters in Armagh, Lower Fews, Tiranny, O'Neiland E. and W., Upper Fews, Lower and Upper Orior. SLC film 258499 and Belfast Public Library.

1859

List of persons who voted at the election for the borough of Armagh, May 1859, 1 page. Gives names and religious denominations of voters and how they voted. Armagh Museum and PRONI.

1864

Griffith's Valuation (see introduction).

1901

Census. NAI. SLC (mf).

1911

Census. NAI.

Church Records

Church of Ireland

See the introduction for a description of C of I records and their major repositories. Many C of I records were lost in the PRO fire of 1922. These are indicated as "Lost." However, as Church of Ireland records were effectively state records, the records of marriage (from 1845) are also in the General Registrar's Office. Many are still in local custody (LC), while others are in one of a variety of other archives (e.g., RCBL or NAI). Some of the registers of this county have been indexed by Armagh Ancestry (see Research Services) and will be searched for a fee. These are indicated "Indexed by AA."

Acton

Earliest Records: m. 1845-

Status: LC; indexed by AA (to 1900)

Aghavilly

Earliest Records: b. 1844-76; d. 1846-76 Status: LC

Annaghmore

Earliest Records: b. 1856-; d. 1859-Status: LC

Armagh

Earliest Records: b. 1750-; m. 1750-; d. 1750 Status: LC; indexed by AA (to 1900)

Armaghbreague

Earliest Records: m. 1845-1922 Status: LC

Baleek

Status: Lost

Ballymore (Tandragee)

Earliest Records: b. 1783-1871; m. 1783-1845; d. 1783-1871 Status: LC

Ballymoyer

Earliest Records: b. 1820-75; m. 1820-45; d. 1836-75 Status: LC

Camlough

Earliest Records: b. 1832-76; m. 1835-45; d. 1833-

Status: LC

Charlemont (Loughgall)

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Clare (Ballymore)

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Creggan

Earliest Records: b. 1808-75; m. 1808-39; d. 1808-75

Status: LC

Derrynoose

Earliest Records: b. 1822-75; m. 1822-45; d. 1835-75

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

The Diamond

Earliest Records: b. 1848-77

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (m. 1910-1922 only)

Drumbanagher

Earliest Records: b. 1838-79; m. 1838-45; d. 1838-79

Status: LC

Drumcree

Earliest Records: b. 1780–1875; m. 1780–1845; d. 1780–1875

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Eglish

Earliest Records: b. 1803-; m. 1804-; d. 1803-Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Forkhill

Status: Lost

Grange

Earliest Records: b. 1780-; m. 1780-; d. 1780-Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Keady

Earliest Records: b. 1780-1871; m. 1780-1845; d. 1813-1881 Status: LC

Kilclooney

Earliest Records: b. 1832-75; m. 1835-45; d. 1837-75

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Kildarton

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Killeavy or Mullaghglass

Status: Lost

Killylea (Tynan)

Earliest Records: b. 1845-75; d. 1845-75 Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Earliest Records: b. 1789-1879; m. 1798-1845; d. 1824-79

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Lisnadill

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Loughgall

Earliest Records: b. 1706-1875; m. 1706-1845; d. 1706-1875

Missing Dates: b. 1730-78; m. 1730-78; d. 1730-78 Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Loughgilly

Earliest Records: b. 1804-75; m. 1804-45; d. 1804-

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Meigh

Status: Lost

Milltown

Earliest Records: b. 1840-75; m. 1840-45; d. 1815-75

Status: LC

Moyntaghs or Ardmore

Earliest Records: b. 1822-75; m. 1822-45; d. 1822-75

Status: LC

Mullaghbrack

Earliest Records: b. 1622-1826; m. 1622-1826; d. 1622-1826

Status: NLI Ms 2669 (Leslie manuscript); Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Mullavilly

Earliest Records: b. 1821-74; m. 1821-45; d. 1821-

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Newry

Existing Records: b. 1784-1864; m. 1784-1864; d. 1784-1864

Status: NLI Ms 2202-34 (Leslie manuscript)

Newtown Hamilton

Existing Records: b. 1622-1826; m. 1622-1826; d. 1622-1826

Status: NLI Ms 2669 (Leslie manuscript)

Portadown

Earliest Records: b. 1826-76; m. 1827-45

Status: LC

Richhill (Kilmore)

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

St. Saviour Portadown

Earliest Records: b. 1858-72; d. 1862-76 Status: LC

Seagoe

Earliest Records: b. 1683-1865; m. 1683-1845; d. 1683-1875

Missing Dates: b. 1713-53; m. 1713-53; d. 1713-53 Status: LC

Tynan

Earliest Records: b. 1686-1875; m. 1683-1845; d. 1683-1875

Missing Dates: b. 1725-1805; m. 1724-1807; d. 1724-1807

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Presbyterian

An account of Presbyterian records is given in the introduction. These registers rarely contain death records, and occasionally have only records of births. This is indicated where appropriate. Many of the Presbyterian registers of Armagh have been indexed by Armagh Ancestry (see Research Services at the end of the chapter). A search of the index will be conducted for a fee. Copies of some are in the PRONI at the call reference given below. Those indexed by Armagh Ancestry are noted below as "Indexed by AA."

Ahorey (Loughgall)

Starting Date: b. 1834-; m. 1834-Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/353

Armagh

Starting Date: b. 1707-; m. 1707-Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/4 and 281

Armaghbrague

Starting Date: b. 1908-; m. 1840-Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/ 297

Bellville

Starting Date: b. 1863-; m. 1875-Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/ 271

Bessbrook

Starting Date: 1854

Cladymore

Starting Date: 1848

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Clare (Tandragee)

Starting Date: b. 1824; m. 1825

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/50

Creggan

Starting Date: 1835

Status: LC

Cremore

Starting Date: 1831

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Donacloney (Lurgan)

Starting Date: 1798

Status: LC

Drumbanagher

Starting Date: 1832

Status: LC

Drumhillory

Starting Date: b/m. 1829

Status: Indexed by AA (m. 1845 to 1900); PRONI

MIC IP/286

Druminnis

Starting Date: m. 1846

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/

286

Gilford

Starting Date: 1843

Keady (Temple)

Starting Date: b. 1838; m. 1845

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/71

Kingmills (Whitecross)

Starting Date: 1842

Status: LC

Knappagh

Starting Date: 1842

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Lislooney

Starting Date: 1836

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Loughgall

Starting Date: b. 1842; m. 1845

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/287

Lurgan

Starting Date: b. 1746; m. 1845

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/71 and 109

Markethill (1st)

Starting Date: 1821

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Middleton

Starting Date: m. 1847

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Mountnorris

Starting Date: b. 1810; m. 1804

Status: Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC IP/29

Newmills (see Portadown)

Newtownhamilton

Starting Date: 1823

Status: LC

Portadown

Starting Date: b. 1839; m. 1838

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/52 and 269

Poyntzpass

Starting Date: b. 1840; m. 1850

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Redrock

Starting Date: b. 1808; m. 1812

Status: Indexed by AA (from 1845); PRONI MIC IP/

285

Richhill

Starting Date: b. 1848; m. 1845

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/372

Tandragee

Starting Date: b. 1830; m. 1835

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/258

Tartaraghan

Starting Date: b. 1853; m. 1845

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/288

Tassagh

Starting Date: m. 1845

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Tullyallen

Starting Date: b/m. 1795

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900); PRONI MIC

IP/29 (m. 1834-1885)

Vinecash (Portadown)

Starting Date: m. 1838

Status: LC; Indexed by AA (to 1900)

Methodist

An account of the Methodist church in Ireland is given in the introduction. Methodist churches existed in several areas of Co. Armagh. In 1795 there were churches at the following locations: Armagh, Bluestone, Charlemount, Clanmaine, Derryanville, Lurgan, Mullyhead, Scotch St., and Tanderagee. The Methodist records of Newry circuit, 1830-65, are described in Seanchas Ardmhacha 1977, Vol. 7, No. 2.