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[www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)



Welcome everyone to our latest newsletter in which we keep you all informed of the activities of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) centres and the Roots Ireland website.

## NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS!

Since our last newsletter we have uploaded the following records to our database at [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie):

- 16,762 new baptismal records for Ballyferriter parish, Kerry, 1807-1899;
- 4,028 marriage records in County Tipperary for the Roman Catholic parish of Killenaule, 1742-1801 and 1812 -1900.

This, along with 36,616 records from the electoral register for County Monaghan in 1938-39, means that so far in 2024, we have uploaded just over 57,400 records this year!

We have many more records coming for the Roots Ireland database later this year, so keep an eye out for our updates!

You can read more about the various records which have been uploaded in recent years on our blog at [www.rootsireland.ie/category/blog/](http://www.rootsireland.ie/category/blog/)

We will notify those on our mailing list when new records are uploaded and available, so make sure to register to our mailing list to keep abreast with new additions to [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)!

## EYE ON COUNTY CENTRES

### Limerick claims Conan O'Brien - Update

Conan O'Brien's new travel show *Conan Must Go* featuring his visit to his ancestral home of Galbally, County Limerick, with the help of our centre in Limerick, Limerick Genealogy, is now available to stream on Max in the U.S. A trailer for the show can be found at <https://youtu.be/eDFFY6swDY0?si=tEDxqQBrUwf8vBu9> We will update when we know when the series can be viewed in Ireland.



Images: @teamcoco, Instagram

## National School Registers for Co. Monaghan (c. 1870–1920)

### By Grace Moloney

A collection of forty national school registers for Co. Monaghan containing 20,000+ records has recently been added to RootsIreland.ie with more to follow towards the end of this year. National school registers are an excellent source of information, especially for rural parts of the county and for families who moved around. In essence, these records offer a close-up and personal view of the social environment in which children were educated.

National school registers for Ireland are of a standard printed format, issued by the Commissioners for National Education and completed by hand by the school heads. They begin with an index of pupils, then the register of infants, and finally the main register. When a pupil graduated from the infant class, their details were transferred to the main register. The 'infant' section of the register was discontinued about 1910. In a small rural school, a register that began in the 1870s might have been in use for a hundred years, whereas in a large school, a register might only have been in use for thirty years. Data from school registers concerning past pupils who might still be alive is, of course, excluded from RootsIreland.ie transcriptions.

So what information can be found in a school register? When a child first entered school, their name was added to the register, along with age, religion, residence and the occupation of their parent or guardian. A unique 'register number' was assigned to each pupil. If they had moved from another school, the name and county of the previous school were recorded – occasionally pupils had previously been educated in Scotland, England or America. A register might contain several entries for the same pupil, each with the same register number. Siblings can be observed entering school on the same date, with the same address and parent's occupation, and consecutive register numbers.

Registers can include brief notes on pupils leaving the area or moving to another school, also on scholarships, careers, emigration, serious illness, or even death. In Threemilehouse school in the parish of Drumsnat, for example, the register has pupils who

were 'gone to America', 'gone to Scotland' or 'gone to France'. In Ballybay school, many emigrated or left the area in the 1880s and 1890s. One went to Artane (possibly to the infamous Industrial School), a few were appointed as school monitors (one of these went on to St Patrick's Training College in Drumcondra), one became a shoemaker and another joined the General Post Office.

Most children can be found in a school register near home, even if the family only lived there for a short time. Moving from one school to another was more common than one might suppose and it happened for a variety of reasons. The family might simply have moved a little too far away for the child to continue walking to the same school. Railway workers, postal workers and police were frequently moved around the country by their employment and their children are found in school registers in multiple counties. When schools were amalgamated, whole classes moved from a school that was closing to another school nearby. Amalgamations increased as larger schools were built and railway transport improved. Sometimes the standard of education was a factor – at the turn of the century, many children moved from Ballybay school to nearby Cornanure for tuition by a notable teacher, Patrick Keenan of Drumlongfield. As well as teaching at Cornanure for half a century, Keenan was a pioneer of the co-operative movement in mid-Monaghan.

School registers preserve some unusual variations of local surnames and placenames – Branyan of Shanwallagh (Shanmullagh) at Creeve school and Toye or Toey of Knockamudgie (Knocknamaddy) at Cornanure school are good examples. Although the parents' names are not usually recorded in the register, names or initials in brackets help to distinguish one family from another. For instance, John Mairs (John) and John Mairs (Frank) at Cornanure school, or Patrick Connolly (John's) and Patrick Connolly (Mick's) at Drumgarley school in Aghabog. Another pupil at Drumgarley was Patrick Whelan of Glasdrummond and later Dooskey, who became a leading figure in the G.A.A. and politics of North Monaghan. Whelan's career is featured in Bishop Joseph Duffy's recent book *Aghabog Inheritance* (2024), as is the family background of

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy, whose Gavan relatives are found in the same school.

The terms 'register number' and 'roll number' are entirely different. The 'roll number' was a unique number assigned to the school – it is found on the title page of the school register, along with the parish and county in which the school was situated. In the 19th century, national schools were divided into girls' and boys' schools, each with its own separate register and roll number. For that reason, it is useful to check both girls' and boys' registers at the same school when compiling a family history. When a school moved to a new building, it was usually given a new roll number. Roll numbers are important in distinguishing between different schools with the same name or the same address – they are also vital when tracing the history of a school through the

annual reports of the Commissioners for National Education and education records in the National Archives of Ireland.

Another feature worth remembering is that children living near the county border sometimes had strong links with the neighbouring county. A couple of examples spring to mind. At Dromore school in Muckno, some pupils had addresses in Co. Armagh or had moved from schools at Annaghmare or Crossmaglen. At Raw school in Aughnamullen, a proportion of pupils were living in the neighbouring parish of Drumgoon, Co. Cavan.

With so much to discover, why not delve into Co. Monaghan's school registers today and see what you can reveal about your own family and your local national school?



## COUNTY WICKLOW NEW DIGITISED COLLECTION

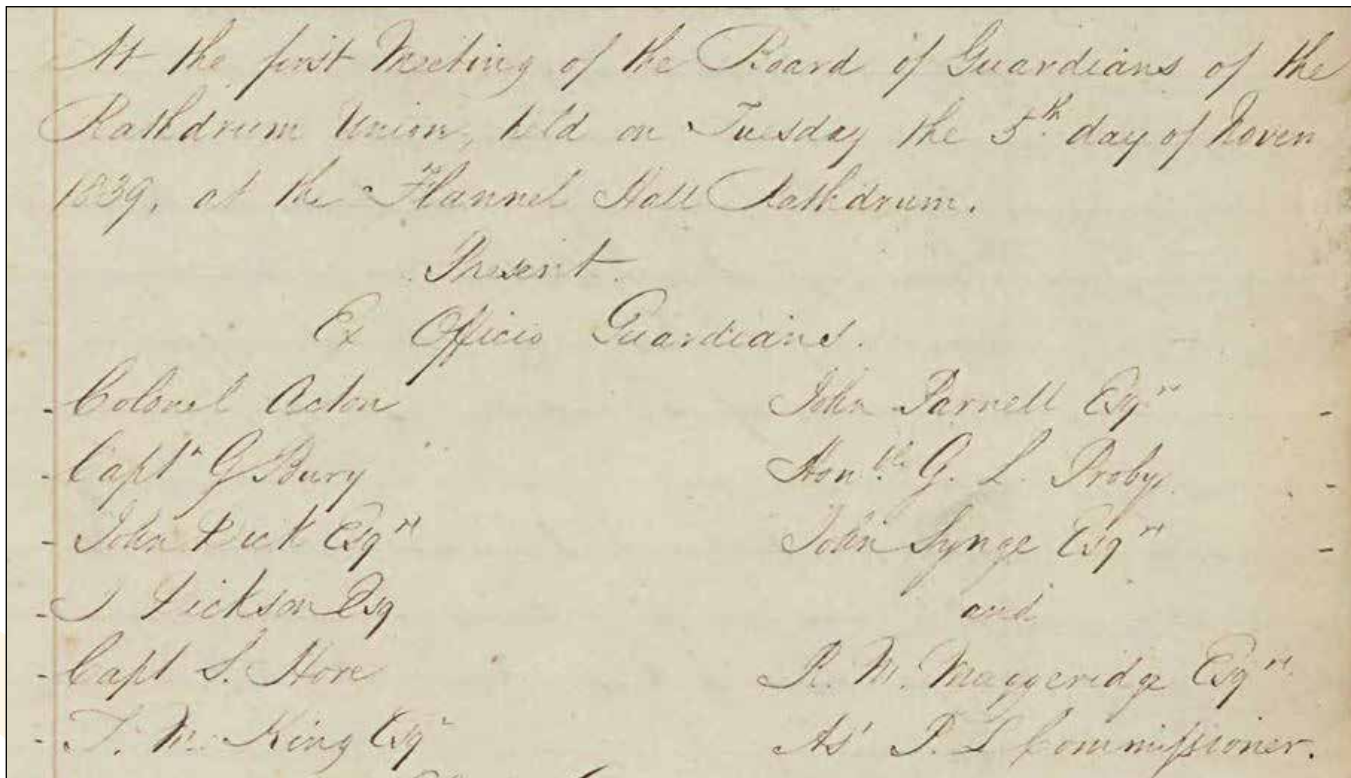
### The Rathdrum Board of Guardians 1839-1921

The minute books of the Poor Law Unions are a rich and informative resource for Irish social history. They provide detailed information on the day to day work of the Boards of Guardians who were charged with administering the workhouse and the relief of the poor in their Union: Workhouse Master's report, numbers admitted, clothing for the inmates, discipline inflicted, staff and provisions. These books are the largest series of poor law archives, reflecting not only the functions of the board, but also resolutions on internal and poor law matters and on wider political or social issues. The Irish Poor Law system was the quintessential product of the Victorian enthusiasm for administrative reform in Ireland. Over the nineteenth century it changed from being a safety net for the poor, to being a more complex early public health service. Poor Law Unions were established under the Poor Law (Ireland) Act 1838 as a response to widespread poverty in Ireland. The Board of Guardians was the governing body of the poor law union and the workhouse it contained. In County Wicklow the

Poor Law Unions were Rathdrum, Baltinglass and Shillelagh, and the county was also served by the bordering Unions of Naas and Rathdown. The functions of the Board of Guardians were gradually extended to include public health, sanitation and rural housing, but the Local Government (Ireland) Act 1898 saw most of its public health functions taken over by the newly created county councils. The board continued to administer the workhouse and its hospital, and to supervise some forms of outdoor relief, until its abolition in 1923.

These records can be accessed with the rest of the Wicklow digitised collections on <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections> (Note: This project is supported by Creative Ireland funding). The AI search-tool Transkribus has been applied to these records, so it is now possible to search both hand-written and typed documents by using the 'ctrl/f' keys.



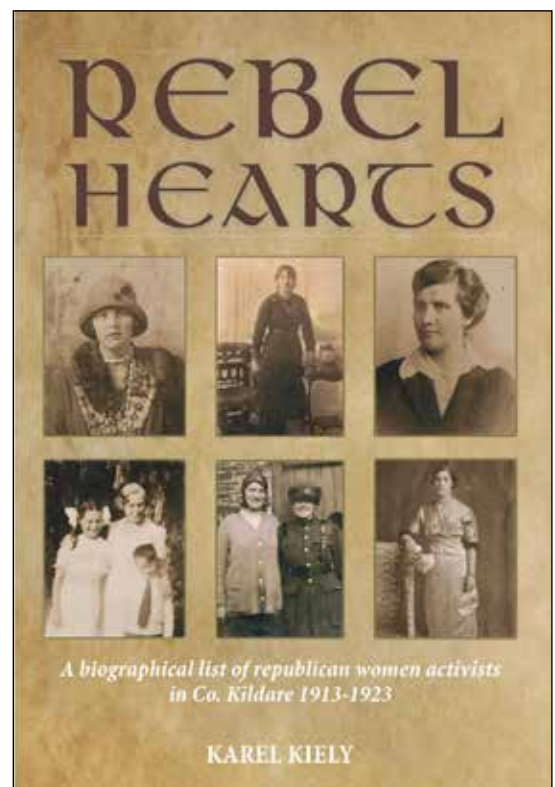


Extract from first meeting of Rathdrum Guardians  
(including father of C.S. Parnell and grandfather of J.M. Synge)

## KILDARE PUBLICATIONS

The recent publication of these two books from staff in Kildare County Archives and Local Studies will be of interest to those with Kildare connections. ***Rebel Hearts. A biographical list of republican women activists in Co. Kildare 1913-1923*** by Karel Kiely lists the known women activists of Co. Kildare during the 1913-1923 period with biographical information compiled from pension and medal applications; witness statements; birth, death, and marriage records; census records; arrest reports; newspaper obituaries; family information and photographs. The book was funded as part of the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations programme for 2023 and supported by Kildare County Council, Kildare Library and Arts Service, and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2013-23 initiative.

The book is freely available at <https://kildarecoco.ie/library/KildareCountyArchivesandLocalStudies/DecadeofCommemorations/CivilWar/> and also to public library members via the BorrowBox app.



*Stand you now for Ireland's Cause. A biographical dictionary of County Kildare Republican activists 1913-23* by James Durney lists the Co. Kildare men, women and children who took part in the fight for Ireland's freedom in three revolutionary periods: the 1916 Easter Rising, War of Independence (1919-21) and Civil War (1922-23). Over 1,200 names of

activists are included from the Irish Volunteers/Irish Republican Army, Sinn Féin, Cumann na mBan, Fianna Éireann, Irish Citizen Army and the National Army. The book is available from local Co. Kildare bookshops, Barker & Jones, Naas; Farrell & Nephew, Newbridge; Seanchaí Books, Kildare Town and Woodbine Books, Kilcullen.



## ROTHE HOUSE KILKENNY

### Genealogy Visitors

Co. Rothe House was delighted to welcome Mrs Carolyn Shaw and her husband in early May. Mrs Shaw is a descendant of Thomas White (1739-1820), a Kilkenny man by birth and the only Irishman to have taken part in the Boston Tea Party in 1773. 2023 marked the 250th anniversary of the historical event and in September that year, a commemorative ceremony was held at Rothe House to honour Thomas White.

While researching her trip to Ireland, Mrs Shaw came across publicity of the event and was thrilled to visit her ancestral home. She met with genealogist Mary Flood and members of the Rothe House team. Other visitors include a return visit by Mr Charles Phelan to meet his cousins and visit the burial ground where his Rafter ancestors are laid to rest.

Also, Mr Mike Willoughby who is a descendant of the family of same name who lived in Rothe House for a time prior to passing the house on the Timothy O'Hanrahan. This was the family of jewellers on High Street who lived in various parts of the city in the nineteenth century.



*Valerie O' Sullivan Rothe House Trust, Angela Moylan, Kilkenny Archaeological Society and Carolyn Shaw, descendent of Thomas White.*

## ANNUAL PLANT SALE

On Saturday 25th May, Rothe House held its annual plant sale, featuring a fantastic array of blooms for your garden. There will be over 40 varieties of plants available, and Head Gardener Mary Pyke was on hand to give tips and advice for nurturing your plants at home. An Annual Garden Pass was also launched, allowing people to have access to the garden and enjoy it throughout the seasons.



*Carolyn and her husband Tom in the Rothe house Garden, placing gravemarker at the rose bush planted in honour of Thomas White.*



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT OFFALY HISTORY

All lectures are presented in person and online through Zoom if possible and commence at 8 p.m.

For the Zoom link, please email [info@offalyhistory.com](mailto:info@offalyhistory.com).

16 June: Tour of Kilbeggan with Stan McCormack, 16 June at 2 30 p.m. meet at The Square, Kilbeggan. Lifts from Offaly History Centre, Bury Quay at 2 10 p.m. departure;

7 July: from 2 30 p.m. at Bury bridge – 90 minutes. From Bury (Whitehall) to Cox's (Clara bridge). A walking tour taking in the impact of the canal on the growth of Tullamore;

August, Heritage Week, 17 to 24 August – programme to follow in June;

30 September: John Feehan on The River Brosna, an Environmental History, 8 p.m. at Offaly History Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore

21 October: The oral story of Offaly people in the Offaly History Centre sound archives collection. 8 p.m. at Offaly History Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore.

18 November: The changing face of Offaly's towns, 1900-1920: an illustrated history. 8 p.m. at Offaly History Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore. Speakers from the contributors to this new volume of essays.

2 December: Tullamore in the 1960s, 8 p.m. at Offaly History Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore. Speakers from the contributors to this new volume of essays.

## Ulster Historical Foundation 2024 Family History Conferences

Are you wishing to find out more about your Irish ancestors? Have you been thinking of what to do or where to go for your 2024 Summer vacation? Have you always wanted to visit some of Ireland's famous landmarks and journey through the country's beautiful landscape? Unlock your family story with one of Ulster Historical Foundation's 2024 research programmes. Contact the Ulster Historical Foundation at [enquiry@uhf.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@uhf.org.uk) for more details.



## Forthcoming book from the Ulster Historical Foundation

### Abercorn: The Hamiltons of Barons Court

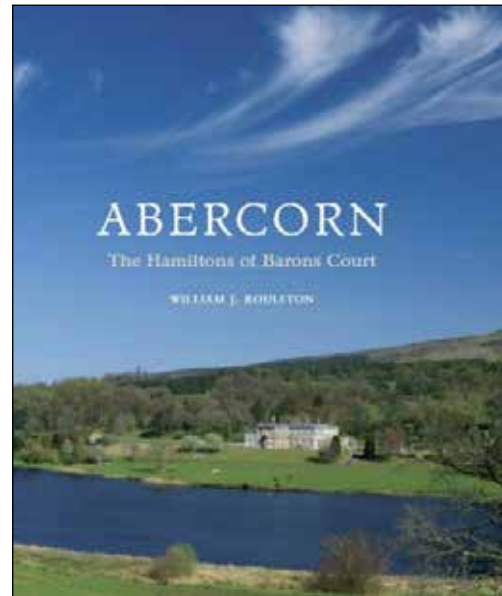
Written by Ulster Historical Foundation's Research Director, Dr William Roulston, *Abercorn: The Hamiltons of Barons Court* explores in considerable detail the history of one of Ulster's best-known families.

Ten years on from its first publication, and due to continued demand, Ulster Historical Foundation is reprinting this beautifully illustrated book in 2024.

*The story of Hamiltons of Barons Court* is so much more than simply the study of an individual family, for it reflects all of the complexities of the history of these islands and challenges many of the preconceived notions associated with a family of noble birth.

In fascinating detail, the family's contributions to local and national politics, science, the arts, architecture, education, the armed forces, forestry and estate management are all examined, as are their relationships with each other, their tenants, the Royal

Family, and other landed families. Contact the Ulster Historical Foundation at [enquiry@uhf.org.uk](mailto:enquiry@uhf.org.uk) for more details.



Available Summer 2024

## CAVAN GENEALOGY BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER



*Concepta from Cavan Genealogy with Jeff Welles and Jeff Reilly.*

Pictured here with Concepta from Cavan Genealogy are Jeff Welles and Jeff Reilly, who connected to each other via DNA links. Their common ancestor was Peter Reilly who was born in Belturbet, County Cavan in 1837. Cavan Genealogy were able to connect them to another possible cousin.

Peter travelled to America in 1847 at the age of ten with a brother and two sisters to join an uncle and a brother who preceded him and who settled at Lacon in Marshall County, Illinois. Peter's voyage on a sailing vessel took ten weeks, and a long journey up the Mississippi river, as the landing was made at New Orleans.

Enlisting with the Co. B Forty-seventh Illinois infantry, Peter served all four years in the Civil war. He enlisted in September, 1861, at Washington, Tazewell County, Illinois. He was

wounded in battle on October 3, 1862, receiving a rifle ball in the hip which later had to be removed. Peter was taken prisoner and spent much time in a hospital camp before again getting into active service.

Peter died at home in Wakita, Oklahoma, in 1916, aged 78 years. He was suddenly stricken with paralysis while at supper, and died at midnight. Although he had for years suffered from rheumatism

and from complications attributed to his hip wound he had been quite active for his age. His vitality seemed much impaired, however, during the previous Christmas, when he had an attack of 'The Grip'. During Peter's long life, he had escaped famine in Ireland, survived a civil war and died in the middle of the first World War and just before the Easter Rising of 1916 in his native Ireland.



## The Irish origins of Maggie Hinchey 'The Thrush of Suffrage'

### Mellon Centre Symposium

#### 'The Question How' – Ulster American Folk Park, 20th-21st June 2024

Hosted by the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, the symposium explores the question of how migrants actually accomplished the journey across the Atlantic Ocean. The central theme evolves around how migrants accomplished the journey across the Atlantic Ocean. This includes ways of communication, the migration trade, logistics, and rituals of departure and arrival.

The symposium will encourage scholarly study and public awareness of the historical connections between Ulster and North America. It will also demonstrate the strong bonds and partnerships the Mellon Centre, Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, continue to enjoy across the Atlantic.

This is an academic symposium that promises stimulating exchanges over the weekend in Mellon Centre for Migration Studies. Contact [mcms@librariesni.org.uk](mailto:mcms@librariesni.org.uk) for more details.



### By Catriona Crowe, Limerick Genealogy

Margaret Hinchey, Irish immigrant and U.S. labour activist and suffragist has long been associated with Limerick. Now on the eightieth anniversary of her death, genealogical evidence can conclusively place her birth in neighbouring County Clare with some interesting and inspiring origins.

Irish born Margaret 'Maggie' Hinchey emigrated in the 1890s to New York where she found employment as a laundry worker. In 1912, she became involved in labour rights for women and children, joining the Women's Trade Union League. She led the strikes of laundry workers which resulted in her imprisonment and subsequent blacklisting by New York's employers. Realising that workplace conditions for women and children would only improve with legislation she became involved in the suffrage movement, working as an organiser and street speaker for the Woman Suffrage Party. As a campaigner, she spoke of the terrible conditions experienced by working women, poor wages, fifteen to eighteen hour days and the struggle of mothers to work and care for their children. In 1914,





Margaret was one of the leaders of a group of five hundred female workers who marched on the White House and one of few chosen to speak with President Woodrow Wilson. One newspaper article in 1917 described Maggie as the ‘Irish thrush of suffrage’ with her ability to speak on behalf of working women and the power of her

possible to locate the Hinchey family less than twenty miles away in neighbouring county Clare.

Thomas Hinchey and Mary Molony, as recorded, both of labouring families, married at the Roman Catholic chapel of Bodyke in east county Clare on the 16th August 1870. Margaret was their

eldest daughter of eight children, born at Coolready townland on the 19th October 1873. Subsequent records for Margaret Hinchey in the U.S. gave greatly varying ages and years of birth, from as early as 1870 to as late as 1887. Such inconsistencies are typical of genealogical records of the



*Birth record of Margaret Hinchey, 19th October 1873, Feakle Registrar's District, county Clare (courtesy: [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie))*

‘Irish brogue’ to persuade immigrant voters to support women’s suffrage. Through her public speaking and canvassing of voters, Margaret was influential in the passing of suffrage bills in the state of Montana in 1914 and New York in 1917.

period, as people were generally unsure of their age and date of birth and ages tend to be more inaccurately recorded as people got older.

Finding Margaret’s New York death certificate of 1944 was the key to researching her early life in Ireland as it named her

Margaret’s youngest sibling Patrick died aged two and a half in January 1892 which was likely the final straw in the decision of the Hinchey family to leave Ireland. It can be difficult to be

parents as Thomas Hinchey and Mary Maloney. These names were confirmed on Margaret’s marriage record to Timothy Gleeson in New York in 1896. All writings to date give Limerick as Margaret’s place of birth in Ireland and there were a number of girls named Margaret Hinchey born in Limerick in the 1870s and 1880s, as listed on the [RootsIreland.ie](http://RootsIreland.ie) database. However none had parents Thomas Hinchey and Mary Maloney, or possible variants of those names. Fortunately by extending the search outside of Limerick, it was



*Margaret Hinchey (far right), head of laundry workers union marching with the Woman’s Trade Union League in New York, 1914 (courtesy: Library of Congress)*



conclusive about when ancestors emigrated as subsequent records such as census returns can offer conflicting dates and passenger records can be limited in the information they offer. The most likely record of Margaret Hinchey's arrival in New York dates to 2nd April 1892 when she was eighteen years of age while her parents Thomas and Mary Hinchey and a number of their children appear to be on record as travelling to New York later that month.

The birthplace of Margaret Hinchey, the townland of Coolready, its village of Bodyke, and the surrounding area go down in the Irish history books as the scene of the Bodyke evictions in June 1887, an infamous event in the Irish Land War of the late nineteenth century. The Land League, established in 1879 believed in the power of the Irish people to protest peacefully through the means of demonstration, withholding of rents, offering of reduced rents and boycott. As part of this struggle for tenant rights and ownership, the tenants of Colonel John O'Callaghan in the Bodyke area of east county Clare protested against unfair rents throughout the 1880s and this culminated in the evictions of June 1887, which were reported in the national and international press of the day. It was commented by many on how the women of Bodyke in particular were to be praised for the defence of their homesteads.

One of the most dramatic incidents during the two week period of evictions occurred at John O'Halloran's home, which became known as 'Halloran's Fort', in the nearby townland of Lisbarreen. The O'Halloran family, including

John's wife Hannah and three daughters, put up the strongest fight against those who were evicting them, the bailiffs, emergency men, sheriff, police and soldiers, throwing down pails of boiling water, all while being watched by the ever present crowd of supporters. Two of the O'Halloran sisters, Ann aged nineteen and Hanora aged twenty-four were among a



*Margaret Hinchey speaking in 1916 (courtesy: Library of Congress)*

significant number of women whose actions at the Bodyke evictions resulted in their imprisonment in Limerick Gaol.

Margaret Hinchey would have witnessed these events as a young girl of thirteen. The Hinchey family were not among those listed as withholding rents or among the twenty-eight families subsequently evicted in the first two weeks of June 1887, nor were they mentioned in the press. However as subtenants on the O'Callaghan estate living in a cabin in Coolready townland a short walk from Bodyke village, these tenant farmers who were being



evicted were their neighbours, likely friends or employers or even distant relatives and on each day of the evictions, Margaret and her family must have been among the reported huge crowds from the surrounding area who fully and vocally supported the tenants, helping to delay the evictions over the period of two weeks through some comic antics such as dispersing farm animals (who also had to be evicted) and even helping some of the evicted tenants to reoccupy their homes.

Margaret Hinchey must have been greatly influenced by what she witnessed as a young girl during the Bodyke evictions, particularly in terms of the role women could play in the struggle for equal rights. It is fascinating to see how she took that experience, applied it to labour and suffrage rights in the United States and played her part in changing the history of her adopted country.

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Catriona Crowe of Limerick Genealogy would love to hear from any possible descendants of the Hinchey family and can be reached at [research@limerickgenealogy.com](mailto:research@limerickgenealogy.com)

## GENEALOGY MUSINGS

The following is a poem written in the 1980s by Willie O’Kane of Irish World in Tyrone, following a day guiding American tourists to their ancestral homestead in the bracken-clad hills near Swatragh in south Derry.

### *Pilgrimage*

*They trample through knee-high bracken,  
Armed with Kodaks, wondering why houses  
Were built in such places in those days.*

*At the ruins, half-buried in blackthorns,  
They talk passionately about roots and family trees  
And wonder what life was like back then.*

*Then discharge their cameras and say it’s a pity  
These old places are forgotten - Ever hear of restoration -  
You know, Williamsburg and all that?*

*Sitting on a stone, with thistles and sheep-droppings  
Where the fireplace once was, they talk of the distance  
Between Swatragh and New Haven, Connecticut.*

Thank you for reading, and please let us know if you have any queries or comments about our site and/or centres by emailing [enquiries@rootsireland.ie](mailto:enquiries@rootsireland.ie).



Research your Irish Ancestry at  
[www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

