

The History of Ireland as it affects our Genealogy

Summary

c 8000 BC	Arrival of first people in Ireland across land-bridge from Scotland.
c 3000 BC	Arrival of Stone Age people.
c.100 BC	Arrival of Gaels.
432	St Patrick arrives to help convert pagan Kings to Christianity.
795	Arrival of first Norsemen or Vikings off Dublin.
997	Brian Boru crowned king of Ireland at the Rock of Cashel.
1014	High King Brian Boru killed after victory over Vikings and their Irish allies at battle of Clontarf.
1155	Henry II given permission by the pope to invade Ireland.
1170	Arrival of Normans led by Strongbow and the deposed Irish king.
1172	King Henry arrives to accept the fealty of the defeated Irish kings.
1176	John de Courcy, a Welsh-Norman, landed in Wexford and headed North with his army. He defeated the last of the ancient Ulster kings and rules Ulster as a semi-independent state until 1244.
1315	Edward Bruce, brother of Robert Bruce, king of the Scots, landed in Ulster and declared himself king of Ireland. This was a year after the Scots had beaten the English at Bannockburn.
1318	Edward Bruce killed in a battle north of Dublin in 1318. This effectively ended the Scottish invasion. Not all the Scots however returned home. The famine ravaging Europe had reached Ireland and this together with the wars had created much hardship ¹ .
1366	The Statutes of Kilkenny were enacted. These comprised 36 laws intended to try to prevent Normans, who were now governing Ireland, and later settlers, becoming “more Irish than the Irish”. For example, the Normans had to ride their horse like the English not the Irish, they were not allowed to be godparents to the Irish children nor could they take Irish girls as concubines, and most importantly, any disputes were to be settled in a courtroom. This established a system of governance.
1504	The earl of Kildare mobilises northern and eastern (ie the English Pale around Dublin) parts of Ireland in a battle against southern and western parts. It was the first battle in Ireland that used firearms.
1507	Accession of Henry VIII.
1515	Anarchy in Ireland.
1534	Kildare rebellion.
1536	Henry VIII, as part of his break from Rome, declares himself head of the church of England and Ireland.
1558	Accession of Elizabeth I. State thereafter permanently identified with the Reformation which fails to take root in Ireland.
1562	Elizabethan wars in Ireland.
1595	Rebellion of Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone. This was known as the Nine Years War. For the first time religion played a part in an Irish war. After Henry

¹ I think that it is unlikely that we are related to any of the Scottish left behind as they settled mainly in the North.

- broke with Rome he made the struggle not only between the Irish and English but also between the Catholics and Protestants. O'Neill looked for help from the Catholic king of Spain.
- 1598 O'Neill's great victory at Yellow Ford in Ulster.
- 1601 Defeat of O'Neill and O'Donnell and Spaniards by the English led by Mountjoy at battle of Kinsale.
- 1603 Accession of James I. Enforcement of English law throughout Ireland.
- 1607 Flight of O'Neill and O'Donnell ("The Flight of the Earls").
- 1641 Great Catholic-Gaelic rebellion for return of lands, later joined by Old English Catholics in Ireland. 59% of land owned by Catholics.
- 1649 Cromwell arrives.
- 1650 Catholic landowners exiled to Connaught.
- 1652 Catholic army exiled to France and 40,000 Catholic orphans and peasants sent to Barbados as slaves on English plantations. As Catholics they were considered not worthy of identification and so no records were kept of who they were or where they came from.
- 1660 Accession of Charles II.
- 1685 Accession of James II.
- 1688 James II deposed in England. 22% of land in Ireland owned by Catholics.
- 1690 William of Orange (William III) lands and defeats James II at Battle of the Boyne.
- 1691 Catholic defeat at Aughrim and surrender at Limerick.
- 1691 First penal laws enacted against Catholics
- 1695 14% of land owned by Catholics.
- 1714 7% of land owned by Catholics.
- 1782 Legislative independence won from Britain by Irish Parliament.
- 1796 French fleet with Wolfe Tone arrives at Bantry Bay.
- 1798 Various rebellions.
- 1800 Act of Union passed with effect from 1/1/1801.
- 1829 Catholic Emancipation passed.
- 1837 Accession of Queen Victoria.
- 1845 Blight on Potato harvest. Beginning of famine years (1845-1849).
- 1848-9 Worst years of famine
- 1861-5 American Civil War.
- 1869 Protestant Church in Ireland disestablished.
- 1870 First Land Act.
- 1879-82 Land Wars.
- 1881 Second Land Act.
- 1903 Land Purchase Act.
- 1909 Land Purchase Act.
- 1922 Civil War and the burning of the Four Courts Building, holding large quantities of documents, many of which are destroyed.
- 1937 Constitution of Eire.
- 1949 Republic of Ireland declared.

The Book of Invasions

The 12th Century book called Lebor Gabala (The book of Invasions) outlines how the Irish envisioned a series of fantastical invaders conquering Ireland and each other. After Noah's granddaughter was sent to Ireland to escape the flood, the Partholonians fought and won a battle against one legged, one-armed monsters, only to be wiped out by a plague. Then came the Nemedians, the dark Fir Bolgs, the mystical Tuatha De Danann, and finally came the Western European Milesians from Spain, the supposed ancestors of the Irish.

All of this had allusions to the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, Greek mythology, and local gods. Some may have been based upon factual incidents.

Early Ireland

From its earliest days Ireland was divided into four tidy quarters, the provinces of Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connacht. There was a single high king of Ireland who ruled from the sacred hill of Tara. This was generally an empty title. A few high kings were powerful leaders, however, most were more mystical or religious than political or military.

Below the high king each province had its own king and below each of them were dozens of lesser kings. Between the 5th and 12th centuries there could have been 150 of them at any one time. None inherited the title in their own right. Each was chosen or approved by the nobles of the kingdom. Any person could become king if they had the support of the people. This search for a constituency resulted in many small wars and battles. These troubles were not caused by a desire for more land, as was the common cause of wars in Europe at the time. In pre 12th century Ireland land had little political value. Wealth was measured in cattle and the people had a farming culture.

At this time there were only around 500,000 people in Ireland and there were no towns to be found.

The Vikings

The Viking era can be divided into two periods: an early era beginning in 795 and ending by the mid 9th century and a second period beginning around 914 and ending around the middle of the 10th century.

The first recorded Viking raid was in 795. Over the next 25 years or so the small Norse raiding parties were supplanted by massive well organised fleets of Viking ships manned by Danes. These hit and run raids were not unlike what rival Irish kings were doing to each other. The Vikings established trading centers and all the large coastal cities have these origins. Although they arrived as raiders and kidnappers they later became businesspeople who established the ports.

The various Irish kings made alliances with the Vikings who took part in the ongoing skirmishes between and among the Irish kings. In time the Norwegian and Danish Vikings began competing heavily for power over the Irish. This enabled the Irish to strike back and by 902 the Vikings had been driven out of Dublin – to North Wales.

The second period began with the return of large Viking fleets to Waterford in 914 and Dublin in 917, regaining control of these ports. Settlements were also established at Limerick and Wexford.

In 997, Brian Boru was crowned as the high king of Ireland. He received the crown not on the traditional Hill of Tara but at the Rock of Cashel, seat of the kings of Munster. Under Boru, the title of high king was to be no longer ceremonial. In 1014 he led an Irish army into battle against the Vikings and the Irish of Leinster at Clontarf, on the outskirts of Dublin. He was defeated and lost his life in this battle.

In circa 1100 (ie Pre Norman), the clan of Ua hEidin was recorded as being in Co Galway. It is commonly believed that this is an origin of Hayden/Headon etc families. It is yet to be proved genetically if these are linked to Hayde, etc.

One Irish Hayde Haplogroup (I-M223) is of Viking origins. Due to the poor Irish records it is not possible to trace the names of these Vikings, apart from some who became merchants and established a business. One set of Hayde/Hade/Heade families with this DNA can be traced back to Tipperary. As we develop a better understanding of the history and movements of type M223's, it may be possible to better understand the origins into Ireland.

The Normans

In 1155, Henry II was given permission by the Pope to invade Ireland. Pope Adrian IV (an Englishman) decried the sad moral state that Ireland and the local church had fallen into since the days of glory after St Patrick converted the pagans to Christianity in the fifth century. Henry however was busy with wars in France and chose not to take direct action.

However, a deposed king of Leinster (Dermot MacMurrough) came to him seeking assistance in 1166. The king refused but gave him permission to hire mercenaries in England. Dermot headed to South Wales where he persuaded the Earl of Pembroke to assist.

The earl, known as Strongbow, arrived from Wales in 1170 with an army of Welsh-Normans. The Normans had superior military technology (armour and archers versus slings and stones) and Strongbow ended up taking over as king of Leinster. The invaders soon held the land from Waterford to Dublin.

It was then that the king of England, Henry II, intervened. He came not to subdue the Irish but Strongbow who was having ideas above his station as one of the king's feudal subjects. That was the beginning of 800 years of London's claim to concern itself with Ireland. The problem of eventually subduing the Irish as well was taken on almost without realising it.

The Normans intermarried with the Irish and exchanged their own Norman French for Irish, adopted Irish ways and Irish laws and became as the saying went "more Irish than the Irish". Numerous attempts were made by kings of England to stop this process of assimilation.

A second Irish Hayde Haplogroup is the most common Haplogroup in European populations and is assumed to have been introduced into Ireland by the Normans. Hayde/Hade/Heade families with this DNA can also be traced back to Tipperary in the same general area as the

families with the Viking Haplogroup. They are clearly related and it appears that a Norman male was introduced into the earlier Viking family.

There is however no evidence to support (or deny) the arrival of Haydes, etc as part of the Norman invasion.

Four and a half centuries after the Norman invasion, Henry VIII came to the throne. In 1534 Henry decided to put an end to the anarchy. He decreed that all land, whether owned by Gaelic Irish or Gaelicised English, was to be surrendered to the Crown and then re-granted, thus asserting unquestionably the Crown's claim to ultimate control over them.

His daughter, Elizabeth I, was to make this control a reality. Her deputies in Ireland were newly appointed Englishmen, not the old Norman-English lords who had simply been their own masters in the past. These new English saw Ireland and its natives as a territory and a population to be conquered and civilised and acted accordingly. By the end of her reign (in 1603) Ireland was for the first time under something like effective control of the English government.

However there was also laid the foundation of traditional Irish hatred for governing Englishmen, which was to remain so deep in Irish consciousness. Other foundations for the future were also laid at this time. There was the closer association between the Old English and the Gaelic Irish resulting from their common need to defend themselves from the New English. A further century of adversity would complete their amalgamation.

The failure of the Reformation of the Church in Ireland (in the 16th century) also encouraged this amalgamation. The Reformation, which had made England Protestant and the English monarch supreme head of the church instead of the Pope, had not taken effect in Ireland. The reason for this was the difficulty communicating in a country of one million people scattered across a country half covered with bog and scrub. The Irish Church - which had itself shown no interest in the new Lutheran ideas - was to a great extent still inaccessible behind the barrier of the Irish language.

After the Reformation in the 16th century, the parish structures of the Catholic Church and the Church of Ireland diverged. The Catholic Church, weakened by the confiscation of assets and restrictions on its clergy, had to create larger parishes. In the 19th century, as population increased, new parishes were created. Unfortunately, due to the disadvantages suffered by the Catholic Church between the 16th and 19th century, very few records for this period have survived.

17th Century

In 1610 the six counties of Donegal, Tyrone, Derry, Armagh, Cavan and Fermanagh became subject to the most systematic attempt to plant or settle in Ireland strangers from England and Scotland.

The idea of planting settlers with the specific aim of stabilising English rule was by no means new. It had been tried first in the reign of the Catholic sovereigns Philip and Mary in the 1550s - in Leix and Offaly which were then renamed King's and Queen's. It had been tried in Munster in the 1560s and the 1580s and Ulster in the 1570s. These had however failed due

to a lack of support or else being wiped out by the rebellion of those who had been dispossessed.

The 1610 plantation was financially supported by the City of London and the native Irish were often allowed to stay on the land. By 1622 13,000 settlers had arrived - half English and half Scottish - but the Irish still lived around them. As a result the Catholic Gaelic Irish lost none of their resentment because they regarded it as theirs in the first place.

In 1606 two Protestant Ministers organised a private settlement in the north of Ulster, just across the water from Scotland. This prospered and became the bridgehead by which, for the next century and beyond, Scottish settlers flocked to Northern Ireland. They spread to Belfast, over the whole of Antrim and Down and right across Ulster filling in the gaps left in the official plantation. Other plantations also took place principally in Longford, Leitrim, Clare, Mayo, Wexford, Kilkenny and Wicklow. I think it unlikely we are related to these plantations due to our Catholic linkages.

In 1641 there was a rebellion by the Gaelic Irish Catholics. It was directed against settlements everywhere in Ireland but mainly focused in Ulster. Some 12,000 (out of around 100,000 - 150,000) Protestants were killed in the early days of the rebellion. An important feature of this rebellion was the way the Gaelic Irish had risen in the Catholic cause as well as the cause of their own lands lost².

At this time the English parliament was moving towards a civil war with the king and was becoming more and more anti-Catholic. The Old English settlers were Catholics like the Gaelic Irish and all Catholics in Ireland became more and more anxious that their religion would prejudice their rights to land. Thus, these two groups of Catholics now became joined in rebellion.

In 1649 Oliver Cromwell, who had won the civil war against King Charles I, arrived in Ireland to fight the Royalist armies who were in alliance with the Catholic rebels. In the name of the English government, all Irish Catholics were to be trodden under and Irish Protestants were to triumph. After winning the battles, all the Catholic land east of the Shannon was distributed among his soldiers and supporters. However, only the landowners were transplanted. Tenants and labourers stayed to serve their new Protestant masters. The percentage of land owned by Catholics which had shrunk to 59% at the time of the rebellion in 1649 was reduced to 22% after the Cromwellian settlement. By 1695 it had shrunk to 14% and by 1714 to 7%.

Between 1651 and 1654, 34,000 soldiers of the original Irish army, mostly Catholic landowners and their tenants, were banished to Spain. Some 7,000 were shipped in 1652 from Waterford, Kinsale, Galway, Limerick and Bantry to the King of Spain. In the same year a further 3,000 was sent to Spain and 5,000 to the King of Poland. In 1654, 3,500 were sent to serve the Prince de Conde.

Between 1651 and 1655, some 6,400 Catholic men, together with the orphan boys and girls were shipped to Barbados to work for the English planters on their sugar plantations. In

² There are 32 volumes of evidence about this rebellion in Trinity College, Dublin. These are available online. The only entry slightly relevant relate to an Edward Head(e). This is covered further in the section covering the years from 1600-1800.

1655, a further 1,000 boys and 1,000 girls were sent to Jamaica. The remnants of the Irish nation were transported to Connaught to eke out a living in the poor soil³.

The population of Ireland falls from 1.466m to 616,000 between 1641 and 1652. Some 850,000 were wasted by sword, plague, hardship and banishment.

In the first census of 1659 (commonly known as Penders Census), the only Hayde, or variant, was in Tipperary. It showed 7 people using the name Heade. This is confirmed by Hearth records of 1665/6/7 that showed a similar number of people in Tipperary recorded as using surnames similar to Hayde.

In 1800 censuses, there is no sign of any Hayde, or a variant, living west of the Shannon. This means that they were not transplanted by Cromwell. They were therefore not landholders at this time and, assuming that they were in Ireland by this time, they were required to stay and work for their new masters.

An exemption to this transplantation was made for the residents of Fethard. They provided Cromwell with food and shelter and he let them keep their property. However, I don't think we had any relations in Fethard at the time.

Several maps are available in the National Library of Ireland showing the lands that changed hands. These maps are from the Books of Survey and Distribution and Down Survey of 67 Tipperary parishes. I have copied these. No Hayde or variant is mentioned as a landowner.

The restored monarch Charles II replaced the Cromwellian regime in 1660 but nothing changed. His Catholic brother, James II, however appointed Catholics to high offices of state in Ireland.

In 1688 efforts were made in England to replace James II with the Protestant William III, Prince of Orange. James fled to France and then to Ireland. William landed in Ireland in 1690 and defeated James in the Battle of the Boyne. By 1691 all the Catholic armies had surrendered. Most of the troops were allowed to go into exile to serve in the armies of Louis XIV. This included some 11,000 Irishmen. Interestingly, the IGI for France has the baptisms of two children of William Hayde and Marie Risdon from Angleterre in 1697 and 1698. However, these Hayde references in France are actually Hyde and not related. James had married Anne Hyde and the original records were Hyde rather than the Hayde shown in the index.

In the London SOG library, I found King James's Irish Army List for 1689. There was no mention of any Hayde or a variant.⁴

18th Century

In the late 1600s and early 1700s, a series of harsh laws were introduced that penalised the majority of the Irish population just because they were Catholics. They could not vote, hold an important office or own land. They could not lease land for longer than 31 years. By the third quarter of the 18th century barely 5% of the land was owned by Catholics.

³ The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland by John P Prendergast.

⁴ I did find that a Michael Head from Waterford was in charge of raising taxes in a certain area.

These laws attacked the Catholics in the most basic way. They were designed to remove all power and influence from the Catholic population. As examples, they:

- Prevented a man from inheriting his family land unless he was a Protestant,
- Stopped Catholics from owning a horse worth more than 5 pounds,
- Deemed that no Catholic could work in a government or official job, nor could they run for elected office, become a lawyer or doctor, buy or lease land, trade in any goods, live in a town, or within 5 miles of a town, or vote.
- Prevented Catholics from practicing their religion (all Catholic priests and bishops had to leave Ireland by 1 May 1698),
- Denied education to Catholics. They were not even allowed to own a book. (Many teachers and priests fled but some stayed as fugitives and hid in caves or holes in the ground so that they might live long enough to perform their life's work).

I found a deed dated 1768 for land in Co Carlow where a Hade family leased some land for 31 years. In 1819, the same land was leased to a John Hade for his natural life and those of his two sons. I understand that the practice at this time was to lease land for the natural lives of up to three people. From DNA testing results, I have proved that these Hade families were linked to the Tipperary families. Therefore, sometime between 1659 and 1768, someone moved from Tipperary to Carlow (In the Carlow section, I have discussed my theory on how this happened).

The laws did not prohibit the worship of the Catholic religion however it made it difficult. Restrictions were placed upon priests and places of worship destroyed. The Church however survived and was strengthened by its bond to the majority of the population who, as they were deprived of political and other rights, saw the Church as their one representative organisation. The Church and various secret societies subsumed those energies which ordinarily might have gone into politics.

When America rebelled in the 1770s it had an important impact upon Ireland. The Protestants in Ireland formed armies to protect the nation from invaders in the absence of British regiments in America. However, they also acted as a threat should the "Nation's" demand for legislative independence be ignored. This independence was achieved in 1782.

The French Revolution occurred in 1789.

In 1796 (3 years after France went to war with Britain) a great French invasion fleet arrived in Cork at the request of the United Irishmen, a party committed to uniting Catholics and Protestants in one Irish nation in an Irish Republic. However a storm blew all the ships out of the bay and the invasion failed.

The English government ruthlessly responded to this threat and by 1797 the conspiracy in Ulster was broken. Although Catholics were entitled to vote from 1793 they could still not hold high office.

19th Century and the Famine

The Act of Union in 1800 united the two kingdoms of England and Ireland.

The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the Established Church, the Church of Ireland, which had hitherto been payable in kind, should now be paid in money. As a result, a valuation of the whole country was needed, civil parish by civil parish, to determine how much was payable by each landholder. This was done over the next 15 years up to the abolition of tithes in 1838.

These tithe records are not a full list of householders however they provide the best information for the period and are most valuable because they have records of the poor for whom very little other records survive.

This record of the tithes is the starting point for genealogical research in Ireland. I have found Hayde/Hade/Heade records in Tipperary (the same areas as they were in the 1600s) and also further north in Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow and Meath. All were tenant farmers with no land ownership.

In 1800 the population of Ireland was estimated at 4.5 million. In 1841, the year of the first reliable census, it was 8 million. The pressure of this vast increase in numbers on the land was enormous as the land became subdivided into smaller and smaller plots and more and more people subsisted mainly on potatoes. The poorest of all simply hired out their labour in return for land on which to grow potatoes.

In the first three decades of the century the potato crop had failed several times for a variety of reasons. In 1817 there was a particularly severe famine with thousands of deaths.

The potato famine hit between 1845-49. By July 1847 over 3 million people (almost half the population) were receiving relief by way of rations, soup kitchens or on public works projects.

Poor Law legislation was enacted enabling workhouses to feed the poor in return for work. The 130 Poor Law Unions were established to raise money from land owners to feed the poor. However, no-one in possession of more than a quarter of an acre of land was entitled to workhouse relief.

The Tenement Act of 1842 provided for a uniform valuation of property in order to produce accurate information for taxation purposes. The man appointed to undertake this valuation was Richard Griffith, a Dublin geologist. This valuation was done between 1848 and 1864.

Given a normal rate of increase, the population would have been expected to be around 9 million by 1851. It was 6.5 million. Some 1.5 million were estimated to have emigrated (250,000 per year) therefore deaths from the famine can be estimated at 1 million (around 15%). The names of only a few hundred are known, the vast majority went unrecorded.

Those emigrating were aiming for America. Many of the poorest however did not get beyond the English port to which they sailed. For example, by May 1847, there were 100,000 poor Irish wandering, begging and destitute around Liverpool and other towns in the North of England.

75% of those emigrating went to America (mainly New York) while others went to Canada and Australia.

For the rest of the century there were numerous rebellions and much unrest. During this time the Irish continued to “emigrate”. Many young labourers went over to England for the summer and many young girls went over to be servants. Many young couples spent years in the industrial towns and either stayed or returned home after saving some money. “Emigration” to England is not the correct term to use at the time because Ireland was part of Great Britain. It was no different to travelling to England from Scotland.

At this time much of Ireland was no poorer than much of England and Scotland. The religious divide was also not so wide in the early 19th century as it became.

20th Century

From 1800 to 1922 the capital of Ireland was London. It was made a free state of the British Commonwealth in 1922.

It was very divided at this time over treaty conditions with Britain. As a consequence, there was a civil war. From a genealogical perspective, this civil war was catastrophic. The Four Courts, where all governmental records were kept, was practically destroyed in a 1922 battle. All census records were destroyed and other irreplaceable records such as wills etc were also destroyed.

However, many records did survive because they were not in Dublin at the time - they were in the capital (London) or with churches etc.

Ireland had a new constitution in 1937 and became a Republic in 1948.