



Newtownmountkennedy & District Tidy Towns

www.1798.ie

Heart of History

1798 Festival of Remembrance

The 225th Anniversary

May 26th – 28th 2023



Cille Mannáin



Newtownmountkennedy District and Tidy Towns
kindly sponsors this booklet for the children of
Wicklow.

This booklet would not be possible without the
artistic and historical work of Michael Kunz.

① NEWTOWN-MOUNT-KENNEDY

NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY WAS A MARKET TOWN BUILT BY THE SURVIVORS OF NEAR BY NEWCASTLE ON LAND DONATED BY R KENNEDY, AND DATES FROM 1670.

IT HAD ONE LONG COBBLED STREET ON THE MAIN DUBLIN-WEXFORD ROAD!

IT HAD FINE STONE-BUILT DWELLINGS WITH SLATED ROOFS!

WITH INNS, SHOPS, BLACKSMITH, HARDWARE SADDLERY AND MILL FOR GRINDING CORN INTO FLOUR!

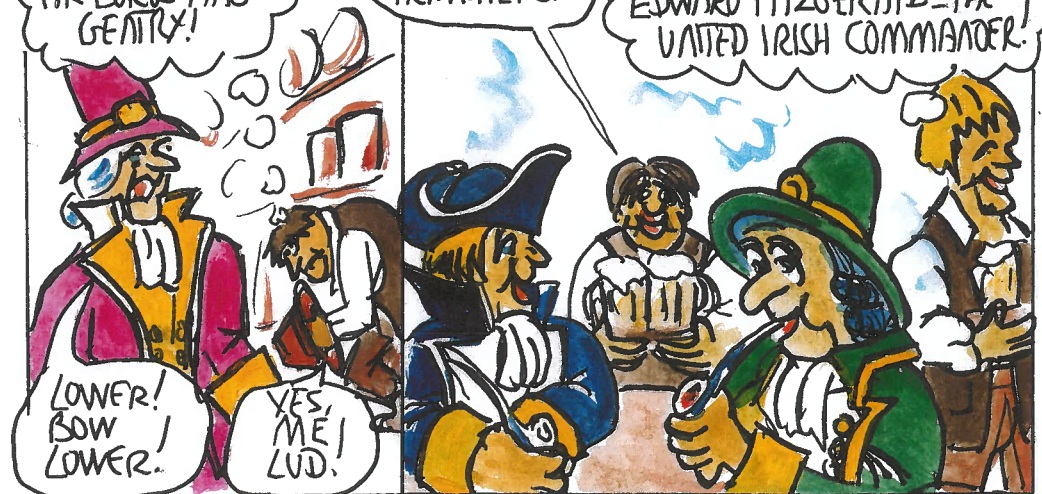


BY 1798 NEWTOWN HAD ITS MARKET HOUSE, ASSIZES COURT, YEOMANRY, MILITIA BARRACKS AND ORANGE LODGE.

WE CATERED FOR THE LORDS AND GENTLY!

AND PASSING TRAVELLERS!

LORD ROSMORE WAS A LIBERAL AND FRIEND OF LORD EDWARD FITZGERARD - THE UNITED IRISH COMMANDER.



LOWER!
BOW
LOWER.

YES,
ME!
LUD.

② THE ASCENDANCY

THE ASCENDANCY ROSE TO POWER DURING THE PENAL LAWS. THEY WERE THE GREAT LANDLORDS WHO LEASED THEIR VAST ESTATES TO PROTESTANT TENANT FARMERS KNOWN AS THE GENTRY.



BY 1780 CO WICKLOW HAD MANY PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL LANDLORDS SUCH AS EARL FITZWILLIAM, HENRY GRATTAN AND HOPTON SCOTT.



(NK23)

③ THE CROPPIE

CROPPIES WERE SMALL TENANT FARMERS, MOSTLY CATHOLIC, WHO GREW CORN AND POTATOES ON THEIR HOLDINGS. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL CORN MILLS IN KILINCARRIG, KILCOOLE AND NEWTOWN.



THE CROPPIE TENANT FARMERS HAD LARGE FAMILIES TO LABOUR, TILL, SOW, WEED AND HARVEST THEIR CROP. CROPPIES FLOCKED TO JOIN THE UNITED IRISHMEN WHO NEEDED AN ARMY OF STRONG YOUNG MEN.



(NK23)

④ YEOMEN AND MILITIA

THE YEOMANRY WERE A LOCAL POLICE FORCE LED BY A LEADING LORD OF THE ASCENDANCY, RECRUITED FROM HIS LOYALIST TENANTS WHO SUPPORTED THE ENGLISH CROWN, WERE CONSERVATIVE AND ANTI REPUBLICAN.



THE MILITIA. EACH COUNTY HAD AT LEAST ONE STANDING MILITIA CORPS. LARGER COUNTIES HAD TWO, EXAMPLE - THE NORTH CORK CATHOLIC MILITIA WHO SLAUGHTERED UNITED IRISH IN WEXFORD. THE WICKLOW MILITIA WERE BASED IN WESTMEATH.



(18223)

⑤ THE UNITED IRISHMEN

PRESBYTERIANS IN ULSTER ENGAGED IN FLAX GROWING AND LINEN MANUFACTURE, ENGINEERING AND TRADE WERE ALSO DISCRIMINATED BY THE PENAL LAWS, AND PAID HIGH TAXES, RENTS AND TITHES TO THE PROTESTANT CHURCH.



IN 1791 ULSTER PRESBYTERIANS FORMED THE UNITED IRISHMEN.

IN 1792 THE CATHOLIC COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN DUBLIN.



(18223)

6 BANTRY BAY AND THE GROWTH OF THE UNITED IRISH MEN

IN 1796 REVOLUTIONARY FRANCE SENT 14,000 TROOPS IN 43 SHIPS UNDER THE COMMAND OF GENERAL HOCHÉ TO BANTRY BAY IN MID DECEMBER.



WITH NO LOCAL IRISH SUPPORT THE FRENCH DEPARTED. THE ENGLISH WERE DULY ALARMED.



17923

7 REVOLUTION

THE UNITED IRISH WERE SUPPRESSED IN PRESBYTERIAN USTER.



BUT SPREAD RAPIDLY THROUGHOUT THE CORN-GROWING COUNTIES OF WEXFORD, WICKLOW AND KILDARE.



SO WICKLOW HAD 14,000 SWORN IN UNITED IRISH BY MAY 1798.



NEWCASTLE PARISH HAD 4,000 UNITED MEN. OVER 1,000 WERE TRAINED BY JOSEPH HOIT FROM ROUNDWOOD.



17923

8 BATTLE OF NEWTOWNMOUNTKENNEDY

THE UNITED IRISH REVOLUTION BEGAN ON 23RD MAY 1798.

THE BATTLE OF NEWTOWN WAS ON NIGHT OF 29-30 MAY.

WEXFORDS UNITED MEN WERE MOSTLY CATHOLICS!

WICKLOW HAD A MIX OF CATS, PRODS AND DISSETTERS!

1,000 PIKE MEN ASSEMBLED NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE TOWN!

WE REACHED THE MARKET HOUSE AND BURNT PART OF THE BARRACKS!



THE YEOMANRY UNDER CAPT ARCHER AND LT. BURGNEY OF THE WELSH YEACIBLES TOUCHED THE WEST SIDE OF THE TOWN TO HAUNT AN EXPECTED ATTACK BY HOLT'S ROUNDWOOD MEN.

FORM THREE LINES - ONE LOADING, ONE AIMING AND ONE FIRING!

RUN AT 'EM WHEN THEY ARE RE-LOADING!



MR 23

9 MICHAEL NEILL

AFTER LT. BURGNEY'S FUNERAL IN NEWCASTLE, CAPT ARCHER AT THE HEAD OF THE NEWTOWN YEOMANRY HAD MICHAEL ARRESTED.

WHERE IS MICHAEL? TELL ME OR I WILL KILL YOUR FATHER!

I AM HERE!

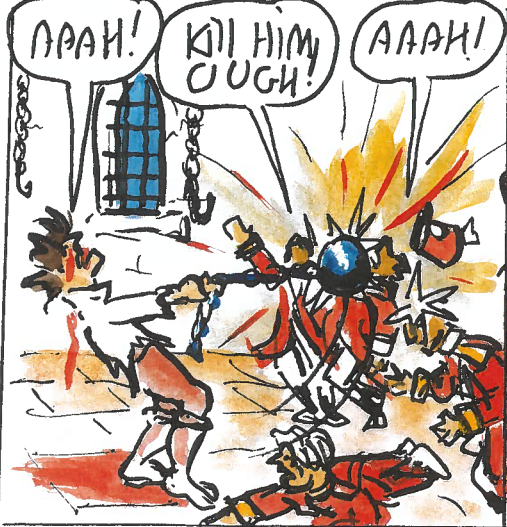
TAKE HIM TO THE MARKET HOUSE AND BREAK HIM!

TORTURE HIM! KILL HIM!



AFTER INTENSE TORTURE HE WAS CUT DOWN. HE ASKED TO SPEAK TO ARCHER, GROPING BLINDLY ON FLOOR HE SEIZED A BALL AND CHAIN

HE WAS DRAGGED OUT ONTO THE STREET AND SHOT ALONG WITH HIS DOG.



MR 23

10 AFTER THE BATTLE

RETREATING REBELS GAVE STIFF RESISTANCE AT THE PASS OF DUNRAN AS THE WOUNDED WERE BROUGHT TO THE 'SAFETY' OF THE DEVILS GLEN.

30 REBELS WERE KILLED IN THE BATTLE ALONG WITH 9 MILITIA, YEOMANRY AND WELSH FENCIBLES.

TAKE THE CROPPERS' LIVESTOCK. IT'S OURS THROUGH RIGHT TO ALLIAGE!

THE SUN IS IN THEIR EYES, THE YEOS CAN'T SEE US!

AHH! I AM GOT!



IN ALL, SOME 170 WOUNDED AND FATIGUED REBELS WERE CAPTURED, TORTURED AND EXECUTED. THEIR BODIES WERE DUMPED IN A SAND-PIT AT KILLADREENAN.

DUMP HIM WITH THE OTHERS!

MANRAN OF THE DOWNS!
MAGUIRE OF KILCOOLE!
MICK NEILL OF NEWCASTLE!
AND SO MANY MORE...



THE CHURCHES OF KILMURRY AND KILQUADE WERE TORCHED.

