History of *Contae Luimneach*/County Limerick
Live Zoom Course: Thursdays 6–7:30 pm / September 8, 15, 22 & 29, 2022

Limerick "Treaty County"

"City of the Broken Treaty."

The Treaty Stone

The Treaty stone has rested on a plinth since 1865, at the Clare end of Thomond Bridge.

St. Patrick brought Christianity to Limerick area in the 5th Century. Various annals record that St. Patrick quarreled with the chief of the Ui Fidgenti (who, though hosting St. Patrick, had his horses stolen as he journeyed into their territory) but he was embraced by the brother of the chief.

During the Civil War anti-Treaty forces held Limerick as part of the "Munster Republic". After three days of fighting, they evacuated the city and retreated towards Kilmallock. There, in the Kilmallock-Bruff-Bruree triangle, would be seen some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

BY MARCH 1921, the British forces, in their attempts to suppress the republican government, began striking at the civil authority of the Republic through its elected public representatives.

Two such victims of the Black and Tan murder campaign were the Mayor of Limerick, George Clancy, and his predecessor, Michael O'Callaghan.

It is thought that humans established themselves in the Lough Gur area as early as 3000 BC, while megalithic remains date back further to 3500 BC. The arrival of the last Celts around 400 BC brought about the division of the county into petty kingdoms or *túatha*. From the 4th to the 11th century, the ancient kingdom of the Uí Fidgenti (Collins and O'Donovan) was approximately co-extensive with what is now County Limerick.

Limerick city was established by the Danes in 922AD. The Normans captured Limerick in 1195 and built King John's Castle. They confiscated and then granted the Uí Fidgenti lands to the Fitzgerald's. Distrust by England of the leading Fitzgerald families precipitated a revolt against English Rule in 1569 which ended with confiscation of the vast estates of the Geraldines and other Irish families.

Limerick city was a battleground during the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland in 1649–53. The invasion of the forces of Oliver Cromwell in the 1650s included a twelve-month siege by Cromwell's New Model Army. During the Williamite War in Ireland (1689–1691) the city was to endure two further sieges, one in 1690 and another in 1691. Following the Irish defeat, the Treaty of Limerick was signed and was followed by the expulsion from Ireland of soldiers who became part of the exiles known as the "Wild Geese".

The Great Hunger/ Famine of the 1840s set in motion mass emigration and a huge decline in Irish as a spoken language in the county.

Limerick saw much fighting during the War of Independence of 1919 to 1921 particularly in the east of the county. The subsequent Irish Civil War saw bitter fighting between the newly established Irish Free State soldiers and IRA "Irregulars", especially in the city.

To enroll please email seanmurphy630@gmail.com Course fee is $90