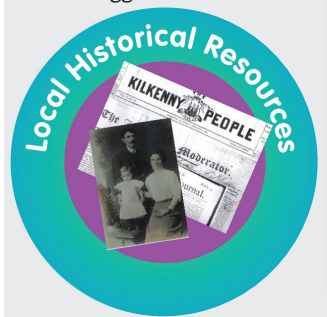


Decade of Centenaries 2022

DECADE OF CENTENARIES

1922 in many ways was a year of transition for Kilkenny and Ireland. The start of the year saw the signing of the Treaty and the gradual disappearance of the symbols of British Rule in Ireland. The handing over of Kilkenny Barracks to the IRA was emblematic of this process. However, it was also the year that fractures in the Independence movement were laid bare by the Treaty debates. These disagreements were to lead to violence and Civil War.

Kilkenny reflected these seismic changes with early attempts by anti-Treaty side to seize Kilkenny City, defeat and a descent into Guerrilla warfare by year's end. The burning of Woodstock House, a symbol of the old Ascendancy Ireland, another potent symbol of this struggle.



Kilkenny County Council Library Service endeavours to bring to life these important events as part of Decade of Centenaries Programme. We have partnered with author and historian Eoin Swithin Walsh to deliver a series of podcasts during the year covering these events. An outline of the series is detailed below:



Military Barracks Taken on the afternoon of 7 Feb 1922 at KK military barracks - IRA stand attention.

February 2022: 'The handover of Kilkenny Military Barracks by Crown Forces'.

A historic day in Kilkenny which was the scene of much rejoicing and celebration. The IRA - soon to be the Free State Army - took control of the military barracks, bastion of British rule in Kilkenny for over a century.



Peter Deloughry Mayor of Kilkenny and appointed Free State senator in 1922

March 2022: 'Peter DeLoughry: Fenian, IRB head centre, Mayor of Kilkenny, IRA Leader and Free State Senator'

Find out about the life and times of Peter DeLoughry, one of the most important figures in revolutionary era Kilkenny.

April 2022: 'The Battle of Kilkenny Part 1'

In late April 22', prior to the Civil War starting in Dublin, the anti-Treaty IRA took over Kilkenny Jail and a bonded warehouse. They were unceremoniously 'turfed-out' by the Free State forces, which did not go down well on the anti-Treaty side. As a result, a large-scale takeover of Kilkenny City by the anti-Treaty

May 2022: 'The Battle of Kilkenny Part 2'

During the early hours of a Tuesday morning in May 22', the anti-Treaty IRA amassed in Kilkenny City and proceeded to take over strategically important buildings. What followed was a full-scale attack on these positions by the Free State forces commanded by Commandant General Prout. Rifle bullets, grenade explosions and machine gun fire could be heard all around Kilkenny for two full days.



Cathal Brugha smiling in Mooncoin - canvassing for the Pact Election in June 1922.

June 2022: 'The Pact Election in County Kilkenny'.

June 22' witnessed a historic election, the first general election to use the PR system. How did the general public vote in Kilkenny? In the running were Pro-Treaty and Anti-Treaty Sinn Fein candidates. Also involved were the Labour Party and the Farmers Party. Pictured above is Cathal Brugha in Mooncoin.



Woodstock House, Inistioge destroyed in July 1922



May 1922 - Free State soldiers shaking hands with their anti-Treaty foes just prior to the latter's release after a truce agreement.



1922 July 16 - anti Treaty passing through Graigueenamanagh

July 1922: 'Woodstock House'

The beautiful Georgian era Woodstock House had its final curtain call in July 1922. Destroyed by anti-Treaty forces, the ancestral home of the Tighe family had been occupied most recently by a company Auxiliaries, followed by Free State soldiers.

August 1922: 'Summer 1922 - Free State take control'

Find out how the Free State forces took control of Urlingford Barracks and other key battles around Kilkenny during the summer months, as they attempted to push anti-Treaty columns back into the Munster area.

September 1922: 'Guerrilla war returns to County Kilkenny'

The autumn of 1922 witnessed the return of War of Independence era guerrilla warfare. Find out about clashes involving Kilkenny combatants, as each side tried to gain the upper hand in their own local areas.

October 1922: 'Everyday life in 1922'

Following on from previous

podcasts in the series, we take a look at life in Kilkenny during 1922. Although the Civil war was causing huge upheaval to the general populace, 'normal life' had to go on as best as it could.

November 1922: 'On the front line; stories of Kilkenny natives on both sides of the Civil War fighting'

A look at some individual stories of those Kilkenny natives who fought on the front line of the civil war, in their native county and further afield. Some, unfortunately paid the ultimate price.

December 2022: 'The anti-Treaty fight back'

The anti-Treaty forces in Kilkenny launched an audacious offensive in early December 1922. Over the course of one night, they managed to capture the Free State barracks in Callan, Thomastown and Mullinavat. Hugely embarrassing to the Pro-Treaty side, the anti-Treaty IRA captured a large amount of weapons in the process.



December 2022: 'Executions in Kilkenny Military Barracks'

John Phelan and John Murphy, from Thomastown and Bennettsbridge, hold the unenviable title of being the first Free State executions to take place outside of Dublin or The Curragh. Both members of the anti-Treaty IRA, their initial arrest and charges in December 1922 would not have suggested what was to become their ultimate fate. Pictured is John Murphy, Bennettsbridge.

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