

THE CROMWELLIAN PLANTATION

The tensions in Ireland between the new Protestant settlers and the Gaelic Catholic Irish

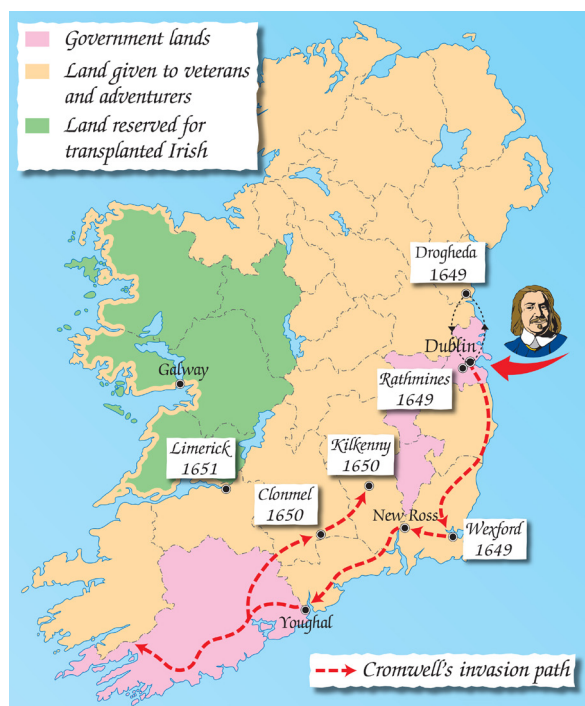
continued. In 1641 a rebellion broke out across all of Ulster. Between 10 to 15% of Protestants in Ulster were killed and many more fled either to Britain or to the safety of Dublin and towns.

Fearing that the new Protestant English would associate them with the Gaelic Irish and persecute them for their religion, the Old English joined forces with the Gaelic Irish in an alliance called the Catholic Confederacy in 1642.

However, the Old English and the Gaelic Irish did not really trust each other and they fought two separate campaigns against the Protestant settlers rather than fully cooperating and fighting as one group.



English Protestants being killed by Irish Catholics.



Cromwell's Path of Invasion in Ireland

By the way . . .

In the nineteenth century the Catholic Confederacy became known as the Confederation of Kilkenny.

In 1646, Sir John Temple wrote:

. . . All bonds and ties of faith and friendship were now broken; Irish tenants and servants. . . sacrifice[d] . . . their English Landlords and masters, one neighbour cruelly murdered by another; Irish children. . . fell to strip and kill English children; all other relations laid aside, and it was now esteemed [thought] a most meritorious work [a great deed] in any of them that could by any means or ways whatsoever, bring an English man to slaughter. . . The English well know they had given them [the Irish] no manner of provocation; they had entertained them with great demonstrations of love and affection . . . [the Irish had] their hearts enraged with malice and hatred against all of the English nation, breathing forth nothing but their ruin, destruction and utter extirpation [extermination].

From The Irish Rebellion by Sir John Temple

Events in England

Between 1642 and 1649 a civil war broke out in England. The civil war was fought by two groups – one was the **Parliamentarians**, which was largely made up of Puritans (also known as Calvinists, see page 173 of Chapter 7, The Reformation), led by Oliver Cromwell. This group wanted to reduce the power of the king and give parliament more power. On the other side, the **Royalists** supported the position of King Charles I. By 1649 the Parliamentary Army, known as the New Model Army or **Roundheads** due to their short haircuts, had defeated the Royalist forces. The English Parliament decided to behead Charles I. In 1649 Cromwell turned his attention to Ireland.



Oliver Cromwell, leader of the Parliamentarians, who wanted to reduce the power of the King of England and give parliament more control.



King Charles I, King of England, who was beheaded in 1649.

Cromwell in Ireland

The English Parliament believed that the defeat of the Catholic Irish would be of benefit to them because:

1. They needed to pay Parliamentary soldiers for their many years of fighting and they wanted to offer land in Ireland as payment. Also the Parliament had borrowed money from adventurers during the civil war which they needed to repay.
2. Many of the Parliamentarians were strict Puritans and so they wished to gain revenge for the killing of so many Protestants in the 1641 Ulster rebellion by the Catholic Irish. They also wanted to destroy all Catholicism in Ireland.
3. The English Parliament wanted to put down the rebellion to ensure no other Catholic European country (e.g. Spain, France) would use Ireland as a landing point for an invasion into England.

In 1649 Cromwell landed in Dublin with 12,000 well-trained and battle-hardened Roundheads. He immediately marched on the town of Drogheda and besieged it. Eventually the town fell and Cromwell killed all the defending soldiers as a warning to other towns that did not surrender. Dundalk surrendered and upon hearing the news of the massacre in Drogheda, the soldiers fled from Trim so fast they left their guns behind them. Cromwell now travelled south and besieged the town of Wexford which refused to surrender. It was captured and all its defenders and most of its population were killed. He took the towns of New Ross, Clonmel, Kilkenny and Youghal. Within a year Cromwell felt it was safe to leave Ireland in the hands of his son-in-law and return to England. By 1652 with the fall of Limerick and Galway, Ireland was fully under the control of the English forces.



A roundhead soldier



Oliver Cromwell's soldiers besiege Drogheda in 1649