

the WILLIAMITE TRAIL



- 1** Sites of main events
- ▲** Associated sites
- M** Museum
- Military movements:**
- Williamite army, 1689/90
- Williamite army, 1691
- Jacobite army
- ✂** Battle (with date)
- 🕒** Siege (with date)

20 • KINSALE
King James II landed at Kinsale, County Cork, on the 12th March 1689 in an attempt to reclaim the throne of England, Scotland. In September of 1690, following the Battle of the Boyne, King William's Army, led by the Duke of Marlborough, advanced upon Charles Fort at Kinsale and took control of it following a 13 day siege.

19 • CORK
On the 28th of September 1690, the Williamite army attacked Cork from both sides of the River Lee. The siege of Cork lasted from 24th to 29th September 1690.

18 • LIMERICK
It was here that the Treaty of Limerick was signed, which ended the Williamite war in Ireland between the Jacobites and the supporters of William of Orange and concluded the Siege of Limerick.

17 • AUGHRIM
The Battle of Aughrim was a decisive battle of the Williamite War in Ireland. It was fought between the Jacobites and the forces of William III on 12 July 1691, near the village of Aughrim in County Galway.

16 • DROGHEDA
It was here that the Jacobite Army encamped on the south side of the River Boyne close to the town of Drogheda. King James chose the Boyne as he had a garrison in Drogheda and a sufficient number of militia in Dublin.

15 • RIVER BOYNE
It was here on 1 July 1690 that the 36,000 strong army of King William III met with King James II's force of 25,000 Irish and French troops. The Battle of the Boyne was the decisive encounter in a war that was primarily about James' attempt in Ireland to regain the thrones of England and Scotland.

14 • OLD BRIDGE / SLANE
July 1 1690, the Williamite Army stretched to the left toward Drogheda and to Slane on the right with the centre of the Williamite Army at Oldbridge.

13 • DUNDALK
The winter of 1689 proved to be a difficult time for the Duke of Schomberg. It was from here that he withdrew the Williamite Army, northwards to their winter quarters.

12 • NEWRY
In 1689 King James II ordered his son James, the Duke of Berwick, to conduct a delaying action around Newry. King William's General, the Duke of Schomberg, stayed in Newry on his way to the Boyne.

1 • LONDONDERRY
The siege of Derry took place 1688 – 1689 and is recorded as being the longest siege in British military history having lasted 105 days.

2 • WHITEHOUSE
William landed a portion of his army at Whitehouse on the shores of Belfast Lough on an artificial island known as 'Donald's Island', in June 1690.

3 • GROOMSPORT
It was at Groomsport, Fredrick Herman, the Duke of Schomberg, who was second in command to King William III landed with the first of the Williamite Army in 1689.

4 • CARRICKFERGUS
William of Orange stepped ashore at Carrickfergus Castle on 14th June 1690, to an enthusiastic welcome from the townspeople.

5 • BELFAST
King William remained in Belfast for five days while the Duke of Schomberg advised caution and it was from here he organized his troops and set out southward towards the Boyne to seek out and engage the Jacobite Army.

6 • LISBURN
King William spent the afternoon and evening inspecting troops on Blaris Moor, and then on to Hillsborough Castle for the night.

7 • HILLSBOROUGH
William stayed at Hillsborough Castle where a further 2,500 of the Williamite Army encamped on Saturday 21st June 1690.

8 • DROMORE
"The Break of Dromore" was fought on March 14, 1689 and resulted in a Jacobite victory.

9 • LOUGHBRICKLAND
Loughbrickland was the rendezvous point for King William's Troops who had been dispersed in winter quarters. A large stone marks the Army's camp.

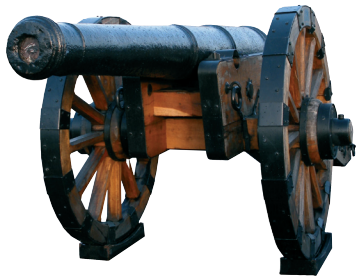
10 • SCARVA
King William camped under a large Spanish chestnut tree in the Scarva area, where his army trained before marching on to meet the forces of King James II at the Battle of the Boyne on 1 July 1690.

11 • NEWTOWNBUTLER
The Battle of Newtownbutler took place on 31st July 1689. Approximately 2,000 Williamite 'Inniskillingers' came face to face with the Jacobites about a mile south of Newtonbutler.



LONDONDERRY

The siege of Derry took place 1688 – 1689. By November 1688, the walled city of Londonderry was the only one in Ireland whose garrison was not completely loyal to James II. Thirteen apprentice boys seized the city keys and locked the gates while the approaching army was within shouting distance. On arrival the Jacobite army found the city gates locked, and the siege began. A policy of 'no surrender' was confirmed by the city's mayor. British warships under Percy Kirke arrived at the mouth of the Foyle on 11 June 1689 but refused to risk shore guns. Another 47 days later, under the orders of the Dutch Marshal Friedrich Schomberg, three armed merchant ships called the Mountjoy, Phoenix and Jerusalem sailed up the Foyle, protected by the frigate HMS Dartmouth under Captain John Leake. The 'Mountjoy', rammed and broke the barricading boom at Culmore Fort, which had been stretched across the river and relieved the siege on July 28 1689. The city had endured 105 days of siege during which some 4000 people (apparently about half the population) were said to have died. The siege is commemorated annually in August by the Apprentice Boys of Derry.



WHITEHOUSE / GROOMSPORT

Friedrich Hermann, Duke of Schomberg, was second in command to King William III, Prince of Orange, at the Battle of the Boyne. He landed in England in November 1688 with William and the following year was to lead the Williamite Army in Ireland. He landed at Groomsport and quickly secured Ulster for William cementing the successes of Londonderry and Enniskillen. General Schomberg met William III at the White House on his way to the Boyne. The remains of an ancient quay at Whitehouse point are described in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs of 1839. William landed a portion of his army here, or nearby on an artificial island known as 'Donald's Island', in June 1690. This quay was destroyed in the late 1970s when the M5 motorway was built.

CARRICKFERGUS

William of Orange stepped ashore at Carrickfergus on 14th June 1690, determined to take personal charge of the Irish campaign, to an enthusiastic welcome from the townspeople. Along the way, bonfires lit up the hills of Antrim and Down, spreading the news of the King's



arrival. William had with him by far the largest invading force Ireland had yet seen. Some of the Dutch guns required 16 horses to pull them, and altogether William had more than 1,000 to draw his artillery and gun equipment.

BELFAST

One witness in Belfast described the scene of King William's arrival: 'The Lough between this and Carrickfergus seems like a wood, there being no less than seven hundred sail of ships in it, mostly laden with provisions and ammunition...the great numbers of coaches, wagons, baggage horses and the like is almost incredible to be supplied from England, or any of the biggest nations in Europe. I cannot think that any army of Christendom hath the like.' William remained in Belfast for five days while Schomberg advised caution. Then, impatient to carry on the campaign, William organised his troops and set out southward to seek out and engage the Jacobites. The line of march continued along Upper Malone by the Old Coach Road and past the ruins of both Drumbeg and Lambeg Parish Churches which had been burnt down in 1641.

LISBURN

King William spent the afternoon and evening inspecting troops on Blaris Moor, and then on to Hillsborough Castle for the night. He dined with his senior officers in the house of William Edmondson, which stood on the site now occupied by the Northern Bank.

HILLSBOROUGH

The Rt. Hon. William Hill who resided at Hillsborough Castle had influence with Royalty. In June 1690 when he was playing host to William III, he informed the King that the nearby Down Royal Racecourse had not been subsidised by a Royal Grant. William III immediately sent a signed letter to Christopher Carleton, the Collector of Customs in Belfast,

granting £100 for a King's Plate to be raced for annually. In 1750 King George II donated another £100, and from then onwards a Royal Plate has been held at Down Royal, sponsored by Buckingham Palace. In 1922 the government bought the Castle from the Hills and it became the home of the Governor of Northern Ireland. From 1972 until today it has been the official residence of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.



DROMORE

The Break of Dromore is the name given to the first engagement fought during the Williamite War, on March 14 1689. The battle was fought between Jacobite troops under Richard Hamilton and Williamite troops. The engagement, fought near Dromore, County Down resulted in the rout of the Williamites, with the Jacobite's securing eastern Ulster. It is known as a "Break", because the small Williamite force were outnumbered and unable to put up much resistance. They were put to flight after only a short fight.

LOUGHBRICKLAND / SCARVA

The Williamite Army moved on through the little round hills of Co. Down, crossing the Upper Bann between Huntly and Ballievey close to Banbridge. At Loughbrickland, the rendezvous appointed for the troops dispersed in winter quarters, King William ordered the army to march into a review. Instead of remaining at the saluting base, he rode through the regiments encouraging them personally. The Williamite army camped in the Scarva area before marching on to meet the forces of King James II at the Boyne on 1 July 1690. Whilst training his army,



King William is said to have camped under a magnificent Spanish chestnut tree. The tree still flourishes and measures over 25 feet in circumference at the base. Each year, a Sham Fight re-enactment takes place on the 13th July on the old training ground used.

NEWTOWNBUTLER

On 28 July 1689, McCarthy's force encamped near Enniskillen and bombarded the Williamite outpost of Crom Castle to the south east of Enniskillen. Two days later, they were confronted by about 2,000 Williamite 'Inniskillingers' under Colonel Berry, Colonel William Wolesley and Gustave Hamilton. The Jacobite dragoons under Anthony Hamilton stumbled into an ambush laid by Berry's men near Lisnaskea and were routed. Mountcashel managed to drive off Berry's cavalry with his main force, but was then faced with the bulk of the Williamite strength under Wolesley, who was pursuing him with more than twice his number of troops. Unwisely, McCarthy halted and drew up his men for battle about a mile south of Newtownbutler. Many of the Jacobite troops fled as the first shots were fired and up to 1500 of them were hacked down or drowned in Upper Lough Erne when pursued by the Williamite cavalry. Of 500 men who tried to swim across the Lough only one survived. McCarthy, the Jacobite commander, along with about 400 Jacobite officers were captured and later exchanged for Williamite prisoners; the other Jacobites being killed. Mountcashel was wounded by a bullet and narrowly avoided being killed. He went on to command the Irish Brigade in the French army.

NEWRY

In 1689 King James II ordered his son James, the Duke of Berwick, to conduct a delaying action around Newry, breaking up causeways, bridges and holding roads, while he organised the training of the force against the Duke of Schomberg. The Duke of Berwick was responsible for the burning of Newry to the ground rather than let it fall into Williamite hands with only one castle and a few houses left standing. King William's General, the Duke of Schomberg, stayed in Newry on his way to the Boyne.

DUNDALK

The winter of 1689 proved to be a difficult time for the Duke of Schomberg. There were many obstacles to a swift and overwhelming victory, his caution, the severe weather and disease. In fact the Williamites, like Cromwells soldiers before them, fell victim to dysentery and fever and there was an acute shortage of physicians and medicines.

OLD BRIDGE / SLANE

Between nine and ten o'clock on the morning of July 1st 1690 the crossing of the Boyne began. The Williamite Army stretched to the left toward Drogheda and to Slane on the right. The centre of the Williamite line was at Oldbridge, where an obelisk was erected in 1786 and subsequently destroyed in 1923.

RIVER BOYNE

The River Boyne the course of which is approximately 112 kilometres (70 miles) long. It was here that the 36,000 strong army of King William III met with King James II and his force of 25,000 Irish and French troops who were on the south side of the Boyne. William's Army consisted of English, Scottish, Dutch, Danes, Finns, French Huguenots, Ulster and Irish soldiers.



On the evening prior to the battle, King William was slightly wounded by a shot which grazed the bank of the Boyne, and rising hit the King on the right shoulder, tore away a piece of his coat and ruffled his skin and flesh. With no major injuries, he was still in control the next morning, 1st July 1690, and sent a small force upstream to divert the enemy from the village of Oldbridge. The diversion worked and after a valiant battle in which Duke Schomberg and Rev George Walker, the hero of the Siege of Derry, was killed, King James, realising that he was defeated, fled from the battle scene and made for Dublin. The next morning he fled south, first to Waterford and then scurried to Kinsale where he picked up a French Naval escort and returned to France for the rest of his life.

DROGHEDA

The Jacobite Army encamped on the south side of the River Boyne close to the town of Drogheda. King James chose the Boyne as he had a garrison in Drogheda and a sufficient number of militia in Dublin. Following his victory at the Boyne, William presented a ceremonial Mace and Sword to the town Council.

AUGHRIM

The Battle of Aughrim was the decisive battle of the Williamite War in Ireland. It was fought between the Jacobites and the forces of William III on 12 July 1691, near the village of Aughrim in County Galway. The battle was the bloodiest fought and meant the effective end of Jacobitism in Ireland, although the city of Limerick held out until the autumn of 1691. Estimates of the two army's losses vary. It is generally agreed that about 7000 men were killed at the battle. Most recent studies put the Williamite dead as high as 3000, with 4000 Jacobites killed. Many of the Jacobite dead were officers whom it was very difficult to replace. On top of that, another 4000 Jacobites either deserted or were taken prisoner. They had also lost the better part of their equipment and supplies.

LIMERICK

The Treaty of Limerick ended the Williamite War in Ireland between the Jacobites and the supporters of William of Orange. It concluded the Siege of Limerick. The treaty really consisted of two treaties which were signed on October 3, 1691. Reputedly they were signed on the Treaty Stone, an irregular block of limestone which once served as a mounting block for horses. This stone is now displayed on a pedestal in Limerick city. Because of the treaty, Limerick is sometimes known as the Treaty City.



CORK / KINSALE

King James II landed at Kinsale, County Cork, on the 12th March 1689 in an attempt to reclaim the crown. It was from here he launched his ultimately doomed campaign and marched toward Dublin accompanied by French Jacobite and Irish Officers with 6,000 French soldiers. In September of 1690, following the Battle of the Boyne, King William's Army, led by the Duke of Marlborough, advanced upon Charles Fort at Kinsale and took control of it after a 13 day siege. Cork City was practically indefensible and the commander of the garrison in Cork, Roger MacElligott, had been advised to burn the city and retreat to Kerry by Jacobite generals. The Duke of Marlborough, who shared command of the Williamite army with the Dutch commander Wurtemberg, encamped his forces in the vicinity of the Lough. A detachment was sent under the command of Scramoer to attack from the north side of the Lee, while Marlborough's forces attacked from the south. On the 28th September, the Williamite army attacked, supported by their artillery and by warships which had sailed up the river and joined in the bombardment. Recognizing that the situation was hopeless, and after some haggling, it was agreed to hand over Elizabeth Fort immediately and to surrender the city on the following day. The siege of Cork was over. Its walls, which had stood for centuries were exposed as powerless, against the new weapons of war.



WILLIAMITE

the TRAIL



Battle of the Boyne Diorama



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