

## Subscribers to Clare Papal Army, 1860

### Outline of Project:

- **Inception.** In recent times staff at the County Clare Library Local Studies Centre came across extensive lists of subscribers' names published in the '*Clare Journal*'<sup>1</sup>, the Clare Newspaper of the day. The subscriptions were in response to an appeal for funds to support the Irish Volunteers to the Papal Army in the summer of 1860. Peter Beirne, Local Studies Librarian, immediately saw the value of these lists to genealogy researchers tracing Clare families. The printed lists not only included the surname but also the Christian name of subscribers and the sum contributed. In some cases the list included the title of prominent citizens or business names, and some area names of residence. The detail is invaluable to researchers.
- **Clare County Library & Clare Roots Society** have collaborated on a number of Genealogy related projects over recent years with the projects published on the Clare County Library website. Discussions took place with Larry Brennan and Eric Shaw of Clare Roots Society and all agreed on the potential of the project with Clare Roots Society agreeing to undertake the research with Clare County Library website hosting the database. Oversight of the project was provided by Larry and Eric with co-ordination of the project research and transcription undertaken by Larry Parks.
- **Research.** A comprehensive search of '*Clare Journal*' publications commenced in March of 2014 with the discovery of 14 Parish Papal Collections in support of the Papal Army, all published in the '*Clare Journal*'. The estimated number of names was 2400 ensuring the project was worthy of transcription. The quality of the printed pages - on microfilm - varied greatly however, and some requiring careful analysis and proofing due to limitations of typesetting and printing of the day. With the proximity of Clare County boundaries, within the Killaloe Diocese, to other population centres it was thought other regional newspapers could be a source of published church collections. To this end the assistance of Lucille Ellis, of C. R. S. also, was enlisted to search other newspaper archives in the National Library of Ireland. An experienced researcher and author of a recent local history publication, '*Ennis at Work in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century*', Lucille came up trumps with 9 additional Parish Lists, five found in the '*Munster News and Limerick and Clare Advocate*' and a further four in the '*Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator*'. This brought the master list of names to 4000, exceeding all expectations of the Clare Roots group. The search for additional information considered other possible sources; in particular the Killaloe Diocese Archives; however contact between C. R. S. and the Dioceses failed to unearth any additional information regarding the Papal Army.
- **Transcriptions of published records.** Clare Roots Society is blessed with a dedicated group of diaspora volunteers, scattered across the globe, who undertake genealogy transcriptions of church and public records related to County Clare for the

Society. The volunteers are ably co-ordinated by Chris Goopy, located in Australia. The release of this extensive database to the general public would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of these volunteers with Clare connections. Transcriptions were completed by the following team of volunteers:

Anne Horrigan-Dixon	Australia	Frances Hudson	Australia
Mary Considine	Australia Northern	Neil Cook	Australia
Marie Crowley	Ireland	Margaret Spearin	Ireland
Gail Schau	Canada	Barry O'Shea	Australia
Kate Welch	U.S.A.	Lorraine O'Brien	Australia
John Mayer	U.S.A.	Owen Goulding	Australia
Patricia McGill	Australia	Carmel Raven	Australia
Eric Shaw	Ireland	Jim McNamara	U.S.A.

**Database:**

- Database on-line at *Clare County Library*
- Over 4000 individual subscriber names as printed in newspapers of the day
- Arranged alphabetically by Parish as published
- Arranged alphabetically by surname

Some names were found to be difficult to read in the microfilm of the newspaper. These are indicated in red. Better copies of the newspaper reports may come to hand and these may be adjusted in time.

**Notes**

1 '*The Clare Journal*' (Newspaper)

2 '*Munster News and Limerick and Clare Advocate*' (Newspaper- N.L.I.)

3 '*Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator*' (Newspaper- N.L.I.)

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Clare Roots Society  
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