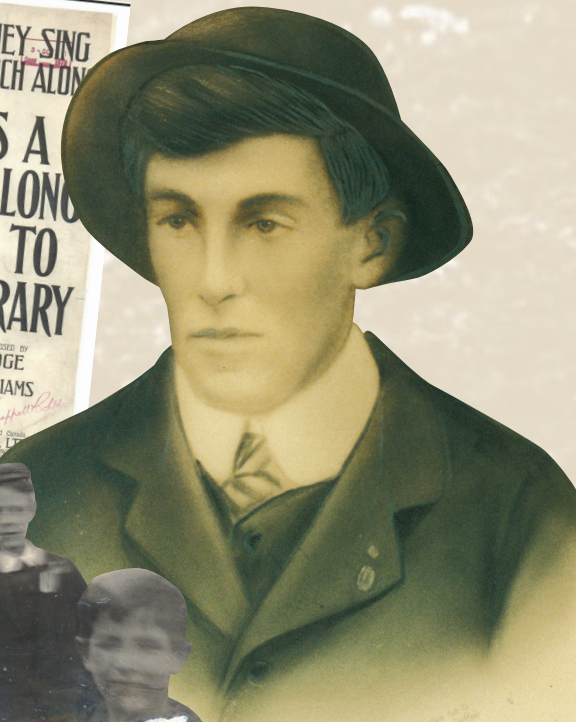
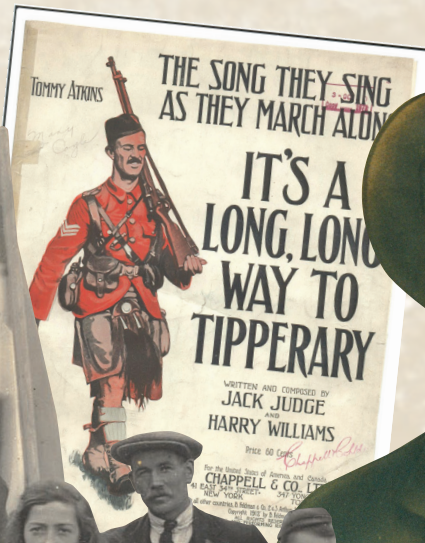


# IRELAND AND LONGFORD IN TIMES OF WAR AND REVOLUTION, 1914-23







# INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHERS

“**T**his resource pack is a project of the County Longford Decade of Centenaries Programme.

It is intended for senior pupils in primary schools and can also be used by Junior Certificate students. It consists of two booklets covering the major events in Irish history in the period from 1914 to 1923. The first booklet concerns the Great War (World War I), 1914-18; and the second, developments in Ireland: the Easter Rising in 1916; political change, 1916-18; the War of Independence, 1919-21; the Treaty of 1921; and the Civil War, 1922-23.

Throughout the pack, there is particular focus on events in County Longford and always they are placed in a broader context. Thousands of men from the county served in the First World War and in that sense, the conflict was close to home. The Easter Rising of 1916 changed the course of Irish history and while there was no activity in Longford, sixteen people from the county are known to have taken part in it. In the aftermath of the rising, Longford was important in the rise of Sinn Féin. The South Longford by-election was a great victory for the party and a sign that the Irish Parliamentary

Party (which had long fought for Home Rule) was in trouble. The arrest of Thomas Ashe, for a speech he made in Ballinalee, led to his imprisonment and untimely death in 1917, which further boosted the growing separatist movement.

During the War of Independence, Longford had one of the highest levels of activity, relative to its population size, of any county in the country. The war was especially intense in the northern area of the county in the period from 31 October 1920 to the spring of 1921. During that time, some of the broader characteristics of the conflict were evident including the establishment and operation of flying columns and the ‘tit-for-tat’ pattern of violence. In the latter case, there was usually an I.R.A. action, such as the shooting of a member of the Crown forces, followed a collective punishment or reprisal - mostly the destruction of property.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 was decisive and the ensuing split over its terms led to the outbreak of civil war. That conflict did not affect Longford very much as most of those in the local I.R.A. and Sinn Féin supported the Treaty.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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MEMBERS OF DÁIL ÉIREANN, 22 JANUARY 1919.



MEMBERS OF THE NORTH LONGFORD  
FLYING COLUMN, 1921.  
*(THE MILITARY ARCHIVES)*







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