

## What happened at Portadown? – Primary Documents

### Document A

#### Deposition of William Clarke

I was imprisoned by the rebels for nine days with at least 100 men, women and children. During which time, many of them were tortured by the rebels who strangled them and committed many other cruel actions.

Afterwards, William and about 100 men, women and children were driven by the rebels and their companies like hogs about six miles to a river called the Bann.

During their journey of six miles the Christians were most barbarously abused by forcing them to go faster. The rebels thrust swords and pikes into their sides and they murdered three on the way, William Fullerton, minister, and Master Abree and Richard Gladwish.

The rest they drove to the river and there, forced them to go upon the bridge which was cut down. They then stripped the people naked and with their pikes and swords and other weapons thrust them down headlong into the river. And there immediately they perished and those of them what attempted to swim to the shore the rebels stood and shot at them.

Further William said that he escaped by promising to give them money that he had hidden near his dwelling. For his money the promised him many kindnesses but after they had obtained the money, being 15 pounds, all former promises were forgotten.

William [mark] Clarke  
his

Jur. 7to Januarij 1641

John Sterne

Roger Puttocke

## Document B

### Deposition of Katherin Cooke

A great number of Rebels in the said county of Armagh did about 20 December 1641 most barbarously drown at one time 180 Protestants, men, women & children in the river at the bridge of Portadown.

About nine days afterwards she saw a vision of a spirit in the shape of a man that appeared in the river in the place of the drowning. The ghost stood bolr upright breast high, with elevated and closed hands & stood in that posture in the latter end of Lent.

Some of the English army marching past told this deponent that they saw the spirit or vision ... but after that time the spirit or vision vanished and appread no more that she knows of. The depoenet also heard of but did not see other visions and apparitions there. Many reported that they heard much screeching and strange noises in that river at times afterwards.

The mark of the said  
Katherin Cook [mark]  
{J}ur 24o febr 1643  
{Hen:} Jones  
Hen: Brereton

## Document C

### The deposition of Elizabeth Price

Elizabeth Price sworn and examined deposed that her five children and about 40 more young and poor prisoners from Loughgall along with 15 more who were all promised to be safely convoyed and sent to their friend in England. Those poor prisoners being in number about 115 were marched like sheep or beasts to the bridge of Portadown. The rebels then and there forced and threw all those prisoners into the water and then and there instantly and most barbarously drowned most of them. Those that

could swim and come to the shore they either knockt them in the heads and so after drowned them, or else shot them to death in the water. The deponent further saith that hearing of apparitions and visions that were seen at Portadown bridge since the drowning of her children. The rebels all gathered together to see this spirit. There appeared unto them a spirit or a vision assuming the shape of a woman waist high upright in the water naked with elevated and closed hands, her hair disheveled very white, her eyes seeming to twinkle in her head and her skin as white as snow which spirit seeming to stand upright in the water often repeated the word revenge revenge revenge.

Signum predicte Elizabeth

Price [mark]

Jur xxvj<sup>o</sup> Junii 1643

Joh Watson: John Sterne

Will: Aldrich

Hen: Brereton.

## Document D

### Deposition of Joane Constable

The Rebels within the County of Armagh, from the time of the beginning of the present Rebellion, until her escape from prison out of the said County of Armagh, did act and commit many other bloody, barbarous & devilish murders and cruelties upon the protestants in that county.

Many were killed by fire, drowning, hanging, the sword, starving and other fearful deaths.

And in particular, they drowned at one time at the bridge of Portadown, 156 Protestants, as the Rebels Patrick O'Devlin, Donnell O'Halligan and George Fleming (Who did drive the Protestants thither and had hands in their deaths) and diverse other Rebels told her the deponent.

<Jur 6 Junij 1643: Mr St Mr Br>

Signum predictæ [mark] Johannæ

Constable

Jurat: Junij 6to 1643

John Sterne

Hen: Brereton.