

Causes of the 1641 Rebellion Documents

Deposition of Christopher Jesson, Rope-maker in Co. Down

And this deponent said that at the time of this going from Newry to Dublin, which was possibly about the middle of October, the deponent possessed of goods to the value hereafter mentioned:

- Beasts & cattle worth £9,
- Household stuff ... worth at least one hundred and one pounds then shillings
- Timber worth £9 13 shillings and 6 pence
- In cash: £24
- One lease of a house in Newry & backside for 14 years to come worth 46 shillings and 8 pence a year
- One house lease of another house for 14 years worth 12 shillings a year
- One other lease of a house & two parks of land in Newry for ten years to come worth £5 per annum. The profit of all these leases the deponent is likely to lose by occasion of this present rebellion.
- And this deponent further said that there were several debts due to him by several persons whereof some are now as the deponent is informed & believes in rebellion.

The mark of the said [mark]

Christopher Jesson

Jur 25o ffebr 1641

William Hitchcocke

Roger Puttocke

MS 837, fols 002r-003v

Deposition of Thomas Fleetwood, Curate of Kilbeggan Co
Westmeath

And this deponent heard many of the Rebels say that the reason why they went into Rebellion, was because ... the lands that were taken away these 40 years ... by way of plantation, should be restored.

Tho: fpletewood

Jur 22o Marcij 1642 coram

Hen: Brereton

Joh Watson:

MS 817, fols 037r-040v

Deposition of Robert Maxwell, Rector of Tinon in County Armagh

This deponent asked Sir Phelim O'Neill [leader of the Northern Irish rebels] what his demands were.

His lordship ... first told this deponent that they required only liberty of conscience, but afterwards his demands increased.

They must have no lord deputy. All officers of State, privy councillors, judges or justices of the Peace had to be of the Irish nation.

No standing army in the kingdom.

All taxes payable by papists* to be paid to Catholic priests. Church lands to be restored to their bishops.

All plantations since King James's time to be reversed.

No payments of debts due to the British or compensation of any taken in the war.

All fortifications to be in the hands of the Irish with power to erect and build more if they thought fit.

All strangers (meaning British) to be restrained from coming over.

All acts of parliament against popery and papists together with Poynings Act* to be repealed, and the Irish parliament to be made independent.

Rob: Maxwell

deposed 22 Aug. 1642

Joh Watson

Will: Aldrich

MS 809, fols 005r-012v

Deposition of Thomas Johnson, vicar in County Mayo

'The Catholic Archbishop of Tuam, Malachy Keely, assured the rebels that they had no need to fear, for the English will not have the power to fight against them and that they will be delivered into their hands so that the rebels can cut their throats or kill them at their pleasures. He also told the rebels that they should hear mass three times before they go into battle.'

Thomas Johnsonne Clarke viccar

of Turlogh and KildeCaminge

Jur xiiijo ~~febr~~ Jan: 1643

Hen: Jones

Hen: Brereton

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MS 831, fols 190r-191v

Papists	Another term for Catholics
Poynings Act	<p>In 1494 an Irish Parliament meeting at Drogheda passed Poynings' Law, named after Sir Edward Poynings, the recently-arrived chief governor in Ireland. It would survive, with modifications, until 1782.</p> <p>Under the terms of Poynings' Law, all Irish Bills had to be submitted by the English chief governor in Ireland to the King and Privy Council, via the English Parliament.</p> <p>There they could be amended and approved, or rejected. Only Bills approved and returned to Ireland under the Great Seal of England were presented to the Irish Parliament.</p> <p>The original purpose of had been to to curb the independence of Ireland's Anglo-Norman chief governors. However, the Irish Parliament resented its restrictive effect.</p>