

# Revolution in Ireland 1798



# Background to 1798 Revolution

**Penal laws** denied Catholics the right to education, property and religious services after 1700

Catholics rich and poor had to pay **taxes** (tithes) to **Church of Ireland**

**Presbyterians** were also unhappy at this  
Neither group had representation in  
**Irish Parliament** in Dublin

# **The United Irishmen**

Formed in Dublin and Belfast in **1791**

**Theobald Wolfe Tone** wanted to:  
**end religious disagreement among Irish  
people**  
and **win freedom from Britain**



## **Theobald Wolfe Tone**

**1763 – 1798**

**Dublin Protestant**

**Barrister**

**Angry at how Catholics were  
discriminated against**

**Secretary of Catholic Committee – right  
for representation in parliament**

**Convinced of need for forceful action to  
gain freedom from Britain**

# **United Irishmen**

Society of United Irishmen 1791 dedicated  
to:

**Irish Unity and Freedom from Britain**

Samuel Neilson and Henry Joy McCracken  
Convinced that only rebellion would achieve  
their aims

United Irishmen seek help from France

1796 French fleet under General Hoche

43 ships and 14,000 men

Half the ships arrived at Bantry, Co. Cork

Poor weather and bad luck meant the fleet  
never landed and they returned to France

British troops and militias of loyal Irish  
arrested and tortured people

# General Hoche



After the Wexford and Ulster uprisings in  
1798 Wolfe Tone succeeded in  
persuading the French to send more help

**General Bompard** set sail for **Lough Swilly**  
in **October 1798** with **3,000 men**

Expected by the British and intercepted

**Tone** brought to Dublin and **convicted of**  
**treason and sentenced to death**

# 1798 Rebellion

**Fr. John Murphy** organised a rebel force at Oulart Hill in Co. Wexford

Camped at **Vinegar Hill**

Won battles for **Enniscorthy** and **Wexford**

Later seized **New Ross** but lost it again

**General Lake** cornered and defeated the 15,000 rebels at Vinegar Hill on **June 21<sup>st</sup>** 1798. End of Wexford rebellion

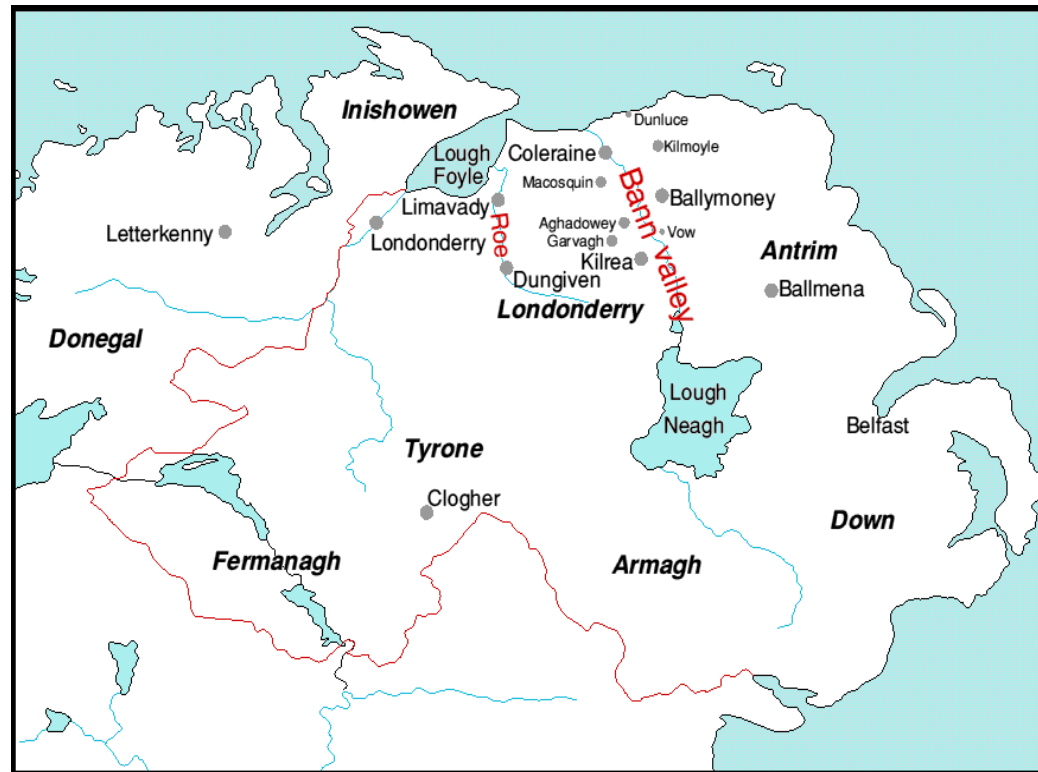


# VINEGAR HILL 1798



# Rebellion in Ulster 1798

Antrim and Down by Presbyterians which were soon crushed



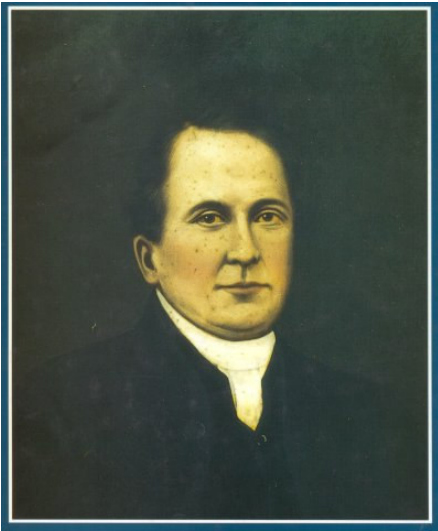
# More French Help in 1798

**General Humbert** landed in Killala,  
Co. Mayo

1,000 men and had successes

Reinforcement never arrived

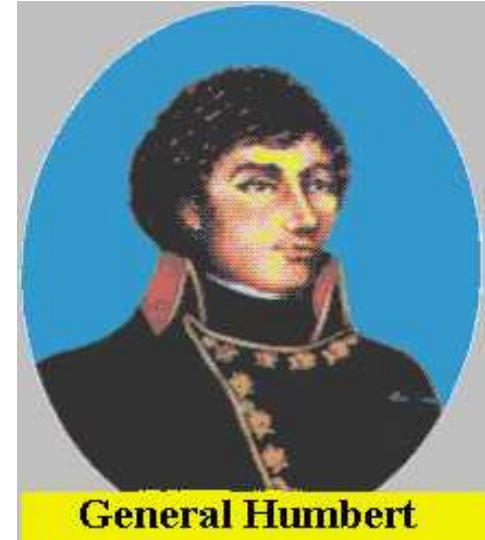
Surrendered to British **General  
Cornwallis** within two weeks



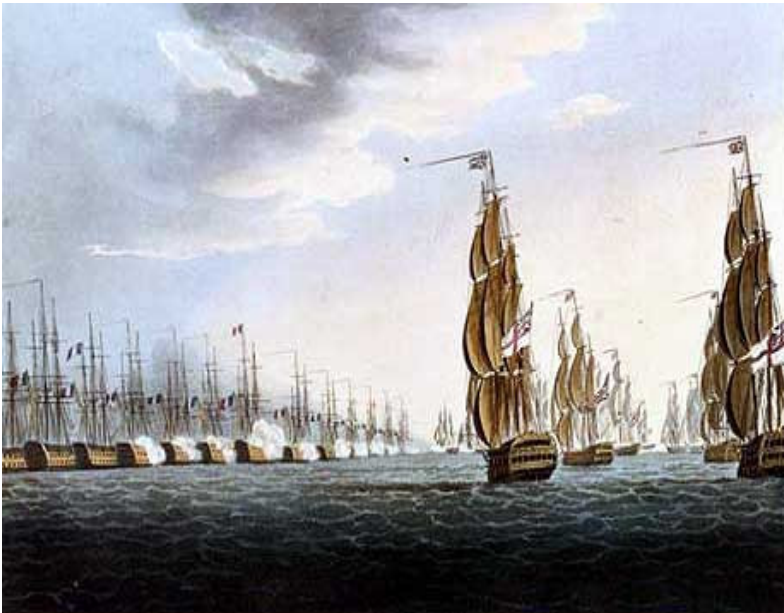
Fr. Murphy



Gen. Cornwallis



General Humbert



# **Results of 1798 Rebellion in Ireland**

**25,000 to 40,000 died**

**Irish Parliament abolished**

**Act of Union (1801)**

**Robert Emmet planned another rebellion  
1803 Rebellion but it was crushed quickly**

**Fight for freedom inspired others such as  
Thomas Davis and**

**Charles Stewart Parnell and others**