

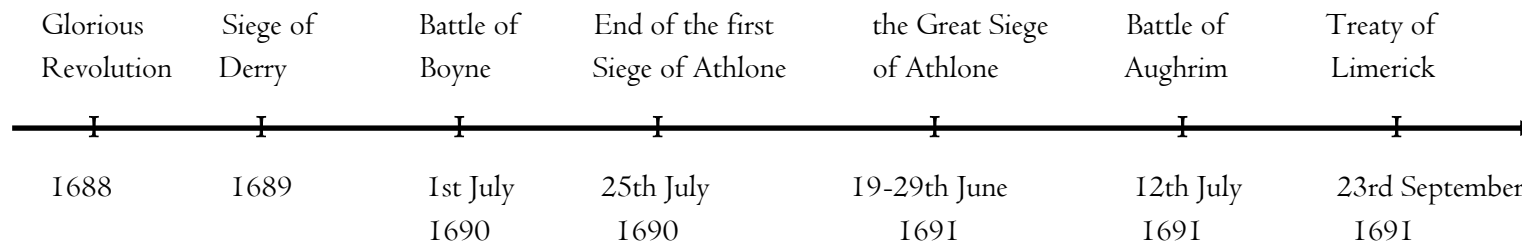
# ATHLONE BESIEGED

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLONE  
CASTLE



Caisleán  
Áth Luain



# WHERE IT ALL STARTED

In 1688 the unpopular English King, catholic James II was overthrown by his Dutch son-in-law William of Orange in what historians call the Glorious Revolution.

## The war of two Kings

With support of French King Louis XIV, James came to Ireland. He was welcomed by Irish Catholics, who believed his victory will bring back their own power and wealth.

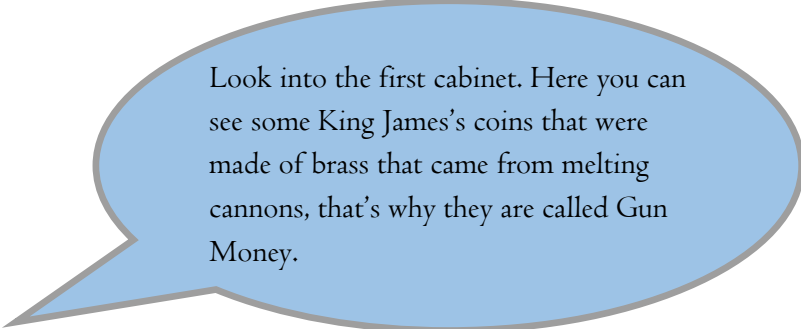
What do we call King James's supporters?

J\_\_\_\_\_S

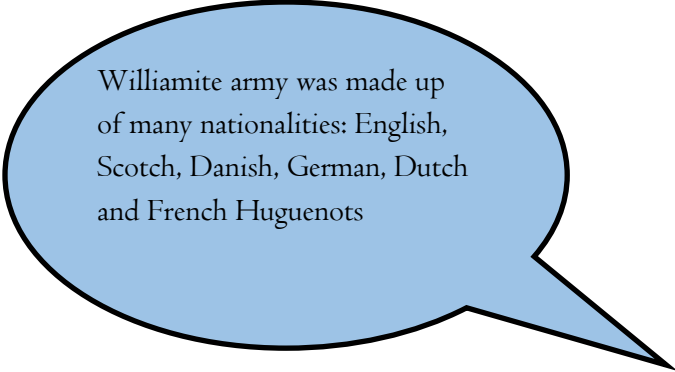
But not all Irish were happy to see James. Irish protestants backed William and in 1689 successfully defended Derry against Jacobites.

What is the name of William's army?

W\_\_\_\_\_S



Look into the first cabinet. Here you can see some King James's coins that were made of brass that came from melting cannons, that's why they are called Gun Money.



Williamite army was made up of many nationalities: English, Scotch, Danish, German, Dutch and French Huguenots

## Battle of Boyne

In the summer of 1690 King James and William of Orange met face to face in the Boyne Valley.

On the 1st of July Williamite army of 35000 soldiers defeated Jacobite army of 24000 men.

King James returned to France and his supporters retreated to the West .

River Shannon was the new frontier and two towns in particular, with their stone fortresses became the main strong points of defence.

Do you know what towns are they? Write your answer below

A\_\_\_\_\_E , L\_\_\_\_\_K

# FIRST SIEGE OF ATHLONE

Mid July 1690 Athlone was attacked by Williamite army commanded by Scottish general James Douglas.

Athlone governor, Colonel Richard Grace was in charge of defending the town.

After the victory at Boyne, Douglas expected to take Athlone quite easily. On reaching the bridge he sent a messenger with terms of surrender. In response Richard Grace fired his pistol over the messengers head and shouted that he will rather eat his old boots than surrender.

Without the heavy artillery Douglas was unable to take the Castle and on hearing that Jacobites reinforcements were on the way, he withdrew.



Listen to the stories of Margaret Daly, Robert Hume and William Jones. What do you the life during the siege was like?

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A pamphlet was published and distributed in London recounting the capture of Athlone on the 25th of July 1690. The exact day that Williamites attack was beaten off by Colonel Richard Grace.

# THE GREAT SIEGE OF ATHLONE

The following year Dutch General, Baron Ginkel was given control of Williamites Army.

Go into the Siege 360 and watch carefully. Afterwards try and answer those questions:

What town Ginkel had to win to cross over the Shannon?

\_\_\_\_\_

How did the Irish Soldiers try to stop the Williamites from crossing the river?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many cannon balls were fired during the Siege?

\_\_\_\_\_

*'We were exposed on all sides, and with the balls and bombs flying so thick it was a mere hell upon earth. This was the hottest place I ever saw in my service.'*

Who tried to stop the Williamites' effort to repair the bridge? What happened to them?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did Williamites decided to cross the river?

\_\_\_\_\_

What was the signal for the attack?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many soldiers and civilian lost their lives during the Siege?

\_\_\_\_\_



Colour this picture of a member of Sergeant Thomas Maxwell's Dragoons 1690

What were the consequences of the Siege of Athlone?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# PEOPLE OF THE SIEGE

The reporter from Athlone Castle Gazette called in sick and there is no one to interview the hero of the siege. Can you do the job?

## ATHLONE CASTLE GAZETTE

One of the people that lived through one of the most violent periods in Athlone's history tells us their story...

Introduce yourself to our readers in a few words

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How did you end up in Athlone?

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What do you think of Athlone Castle as a fortress?

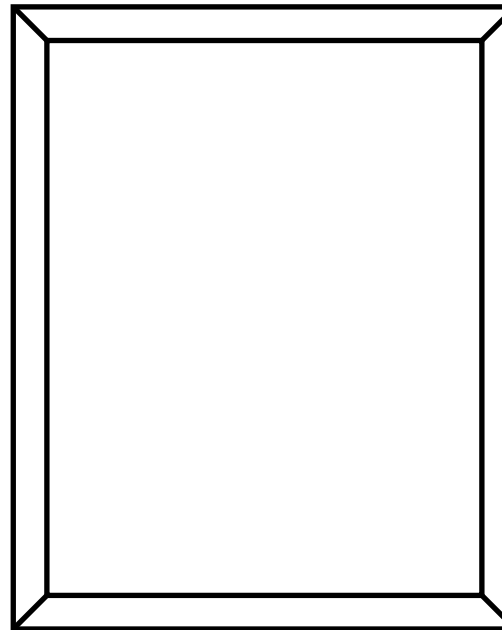
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How did the war affect you?

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A portrait of our special guest...

Are you or any of your family a member of any army or a band of warriors? If so, can you tell us more about them?

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Tell us more about yourself. What was your life during the War of Two Kings like?

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What was your most memorable moment during the fighting in Athlone?

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Thank you for talking to Athlone Castle Gazette

## WELL DONE!

Do you want to know more?  
For more information on exhibition and educational programmes, contact Athlone Castle:  
Tel: 090 64 42130  
Email: [info@athlonecastle.ie](mailto:info@athlonecastle.ie)