



Casóg gíománraí, c.1796  
Yeomanry coatee, c.1796



Trúipéir ó Mharcshlua Gíománraí, déanach san 18ú haois  
Yeomanry Cavalry Trooper, late 18th century

## AN PÓILÍNIÚ SA CHUID DHEIREANACH DEN 18Ú HAOS

Sular bunaíodh Fórsa Coimeádta na Síochána in 1814, is faoi chonstáblaí, forairí, mílístí, gíománraí áitiúla agus reisimintí garastúin an ghnáthairm a bhí rial agus reacht a chur i bhfeidhm.

Duine níos sine de mhuintir an bhaile a bhí san fhoraire áitiúil, de ghnáth. Chaitheadh sé cóta mór agus hata, bhíodh lóchrann leis san oíche agus crann bagair, agus crothal in amanna lena dtiocfadh leis aird a tharraingt air féin agus cúnaimh a lorg má bhí sé i dtrioblóid. Baiclí fear neamhghairmiúil nach raibh traenáil cheart faighte acu a bhí sna mílístí. D'fhéadtaí fios a chur orthu nuair a bhí aighneas i gceantar, rud a tharla le linn Éirí Amach 1798 mar shampla. Ba é an difear ba mhó idir na Gíománraí agus na

Mílístí gurbh iad na húinéirí móra talún a chuir na Gíománraí le chéile as measc a gcuid tionóntaí den chuid is mó. Bhíodh na Gíománraí le fáil in oirthuaisceart na hÉireann thar aon áit eile mar gheall ar bhagairt an aighnis a bheith níos mó.

Chuirtear fios ar aonaid ghairmiúla, lán-aimseartha míleata go rialta chun cuidiú a chur ar fáil do na grúpaí éagsúla páirtaimseartha póilínithe. I gceantair thuaithe na hÉireann, bhíodh na Póilíní Barúnacha ag plé le mionchoireanna amháin. I gcás coireanna níos tromchúisí, bhíodh siad ag brath ar chúnamh ó na haonaid mhíleata. As siocair an éilimh mhóir a bhí ar acmhainní míleata le linn Chogaí Napoléon (1803-1815), ní raibh an t-arm in ann aghaidh a thabhairt ar chúrsaí póilínithe in Éirinn.

## POLICING IN THE LATE 1700s

Prior to the establishment of the Peace Preservation Force in 1814, the maintenance of law and order was the role of locally organised part time constables, watchmen, militia, yeomanry and garrisoned regiments of the regular army.

The local watchman was usually an older town resident clearly identifiable by his large coat, hat, lantern at night, wooden truncheon and sometimes a rattle with which he could summon help when in trouble. Militias were non-professional, inefficiently trained bands of men who could be called upon when an area was deemed in distress, such as during the 1798 Rebellion. The Yeomanry differed to Militia in that they were organised by large landowners mostly from their own tenantry. Yeomanry were more common in the north east of Ireland where the heightened threat of unrest demanded their formation.



Mílisteoir as Port Láirge, 1805  
Waterford Militiaman, 1805

Bonn Mhíliste Mhaigh Eo Theas, 1793  
South Mayo Militia medal, 1793



Professional, full time military units were regularly called on to assist the various part-time policing bodies. In rural Ireland, the Baronial Police dealt only with minor infringements and so were dependant on the assistance of military units for more serious crimes. The drain on military resources caused by the Napoleonic Wars (1803-1815) meant that the army could not cope with policing demands in Ireland.