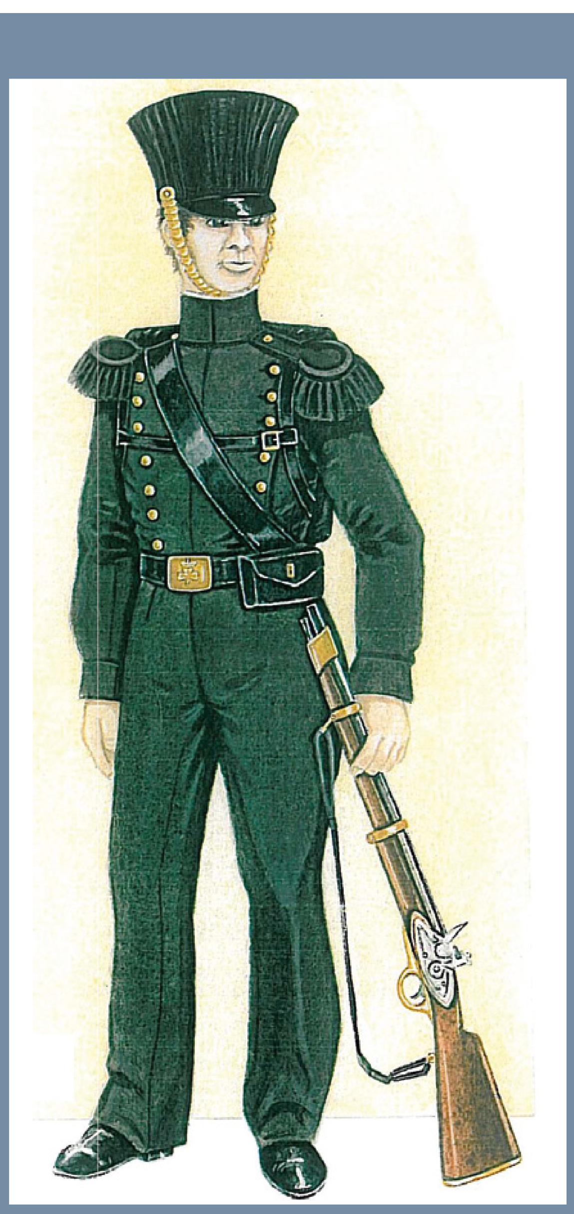
Oifigeach, Constáblacht Chontae, c.1822
Officer, County Constabulary, c.1822

Cnaipe Constáblachta Contae, c.1822
County Constabulary button, c.1822

FÓRSA COIMEÁDTA NA SÍOCHÁNA – AN CHONSTÁBLACHT CHONTAE 1814-1836

Go luath sa naoú haois déag, thuig údaráis na hÉireann go maith nach raibh na bearta traidisiúnta póilínithe oiriúnach níos mó chun an tsíocháin a choimeád.

Bhrúigh Sir Robert Peel, Ardrúnaí na hÉireann, an t-athchóiriú chun cinn d'fhonn socruithe áitiúla póilínithe a chur ar leataobh. Bhí Fórsa Coimeádta na Síochána (PPF) a bunaíodh faoi thionchar Peel in 1814 difriúil leis na heagrais a bhí ann roimhe ar dhá chúis: bhí oifigeach póilíneach lán-aimseartha amháin i gceannas air, agus bhí sé faoi riail Chaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath. Murab ionann agus seirbhísí nua-aimseartha póilínithe, ní raibh aonaid den PPF lonnaithe in áiteanna éagsúla ar fud an oileáin, ach bhí an fórsa ar fáil le cúnamh a thabhairt i gceantair a bhí i gcruachás.



Constábla, Constáblacht Chontae, c.1830
Constable, County Constabulary, c.1830

Ba mhinic an PPF ag streachailt le haighneas ar mórscála a choinneáil faoi smacht. Bunaíodh an Chonstáblacht Chontae in 1822 chun dul i ngleic leis an bhfadhb seo agus le fadhbanna eile. Ba fhórsa buan í an Chonstáblacht Chontae a bhí lonnaithe i ngach contae, agus murabh ionann agus an PPF, bhí sí faoi riail giúistísí áitiúla agus na n-údarás Éireannach i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath.

PEACE PRESERVATION FORCE – COUNTY CONSTABULARY 1814-1836

By the early 1800s, the Irish authorities were convinced that traditional policing measures were no longer suited to maintaining the peace.

Fo-Chonstábla, Constáblacht Chontae, 1822-36
Sub Constable, County Constabulary, 1822-36

Sir Robert Peel, Chief Secretary for Ireland pushed for reform in order to side-line local policing arrangements. Peel's Peace Preservation Force (PPF) which was established in 1814 differed from what had gone before in that the new civil force was to be overseen by one full-time police official and ultimately controlled from Dublin Castle. Unlike modern police services, the PPF was not stationed in units throughout the island but was available to distressed areas.

The PPF often struggled to contain large-scale disturbances. This and other inherent problems were addressed by the formation of the County Constabulary in 1822. The County Constabulary was a permanent force based in each county but unlike the PPF it was controlled by local magistrates and the Irish authorities in Dublin Castle.