

### Abstract and/or Background

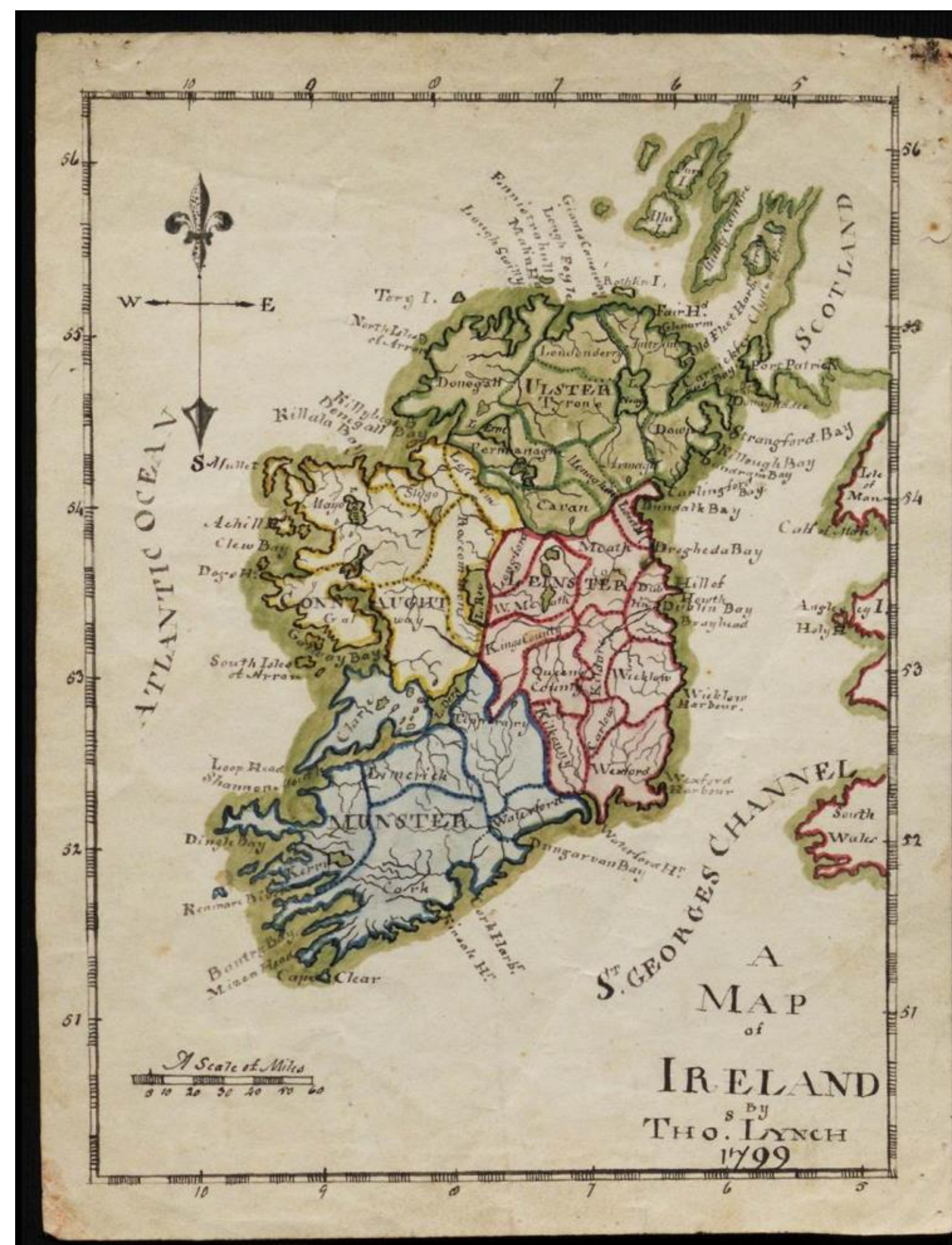
Irish music has for hundreds of years brought enjoyment to thousands of people. Poets, lyricists, and musicians wrote these songs to bring enjoyment to people around the world. Some of these songs, particularly the Irish ballads, held a deeper meaning. Songs like “The Rising of the Moon,” “Boolavogue,” and “General Munro” were written with a deeper meaning behind them. The writers of these songs intended to commemorate the people who fought for Ireland’s freedom in 1798, but these songs romanticize the people of the rebellion. John Casey, the author of “The Rising of the Moon” wrote the song intending to spur the people of Ireland to rebellion by retelling the uprising of 1798 in a ballad. P.J. McCall not only wrote the lyrics to “Boolavogue,” he also chose a tune from another song that gives it a heavy emotional appeal to it. McCall makes Father John Murphy the focus of his song, and he tells the story of how Murphy spurred rebellion in Wexford County. The song “General Munro” is a lesser-known song that has an obscure history. It is another song that discusses a prominent leader of the rebellion in County Down by the name of Henry Munro, who was caught and executed for rebelling against the British. These songs are truly fascinating tales that commemorate the leaders of a rebellion doomed to fail.

### Introduction and/or Research Question

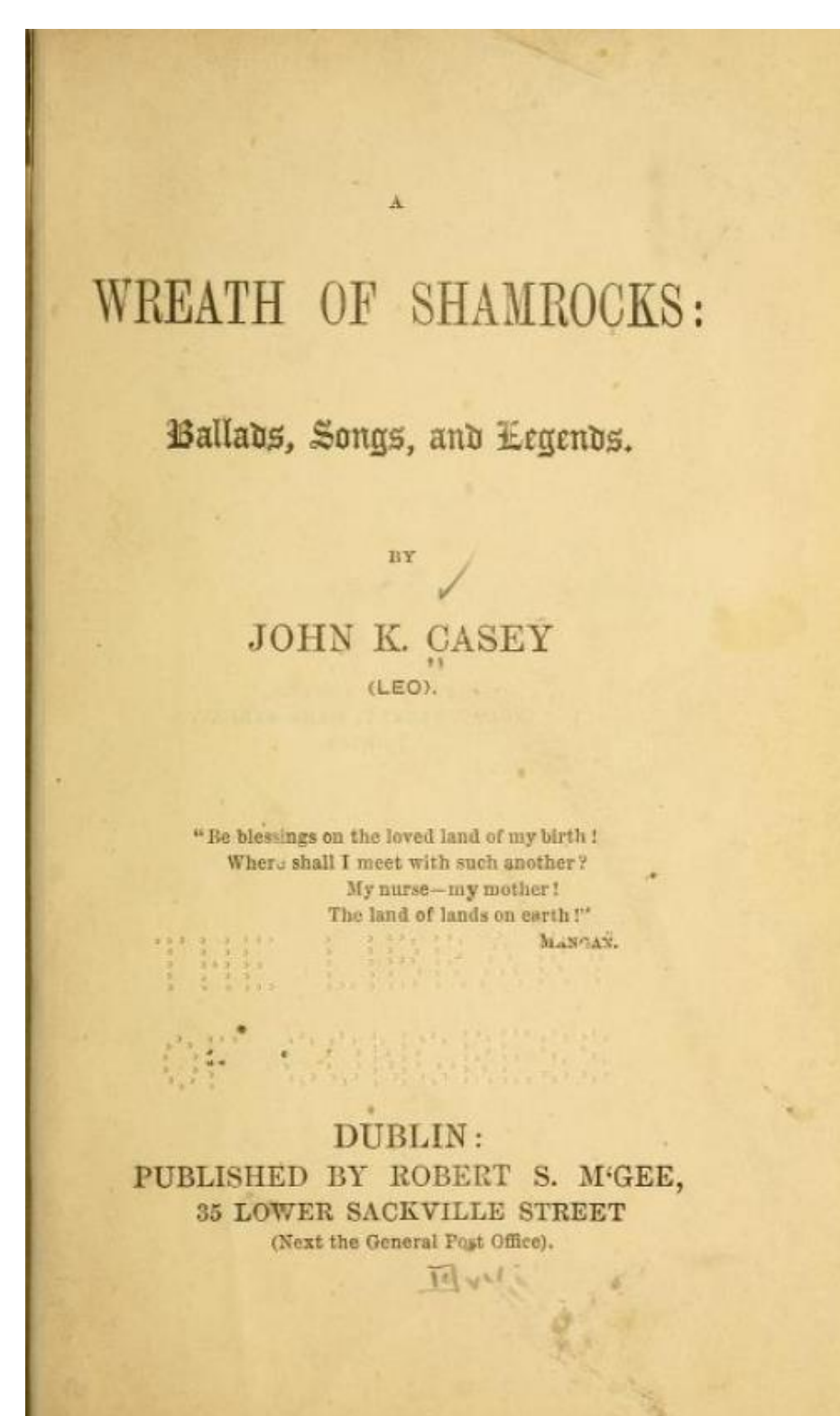
There have been many Irish songs that are about rebellion in Ireland. These songs reflect the desire of the Irish to have an Ireland free from British rule, and this is particularly true for Irish nationalists in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. One nationalist, John Casey, looked back to the rebellion of 1798 and saw inspiration for many of his songs, particularly his “The Rising of the Moon.” Then there are songs like “Boolavogue” and “General Munro” that commemorate the leaders of the Rebellion of 1798. These songs do romanticize the role the events that occurred, but they are still important songs that provide insight into the minds of the songwriters.

### Methods

For this research I searched through newspaper articles on the rebellion itself, read through the writings of some of the writings of the participants, most of whom were British. I also consulted the songs themselves to show understand how people might react to the tales that are weaved into the songs. In addition, I also reviewed secondary sources to provide a general narrative for this research. Sources like *The Year of Liberty* and *The People’s Rising* really helped in providing a general overview of the Irish Rebellion of 1798.



Map of Ireland from 1799. Image from Lynch Family Papers and can be found online in Adam Matthew Digital.



“Wreath of Shamrocks,” written by John Casey, is a collection of songs that Casey wrote. It was published in 1867, three years before Casey died. The book can be found in the Library of Congress.

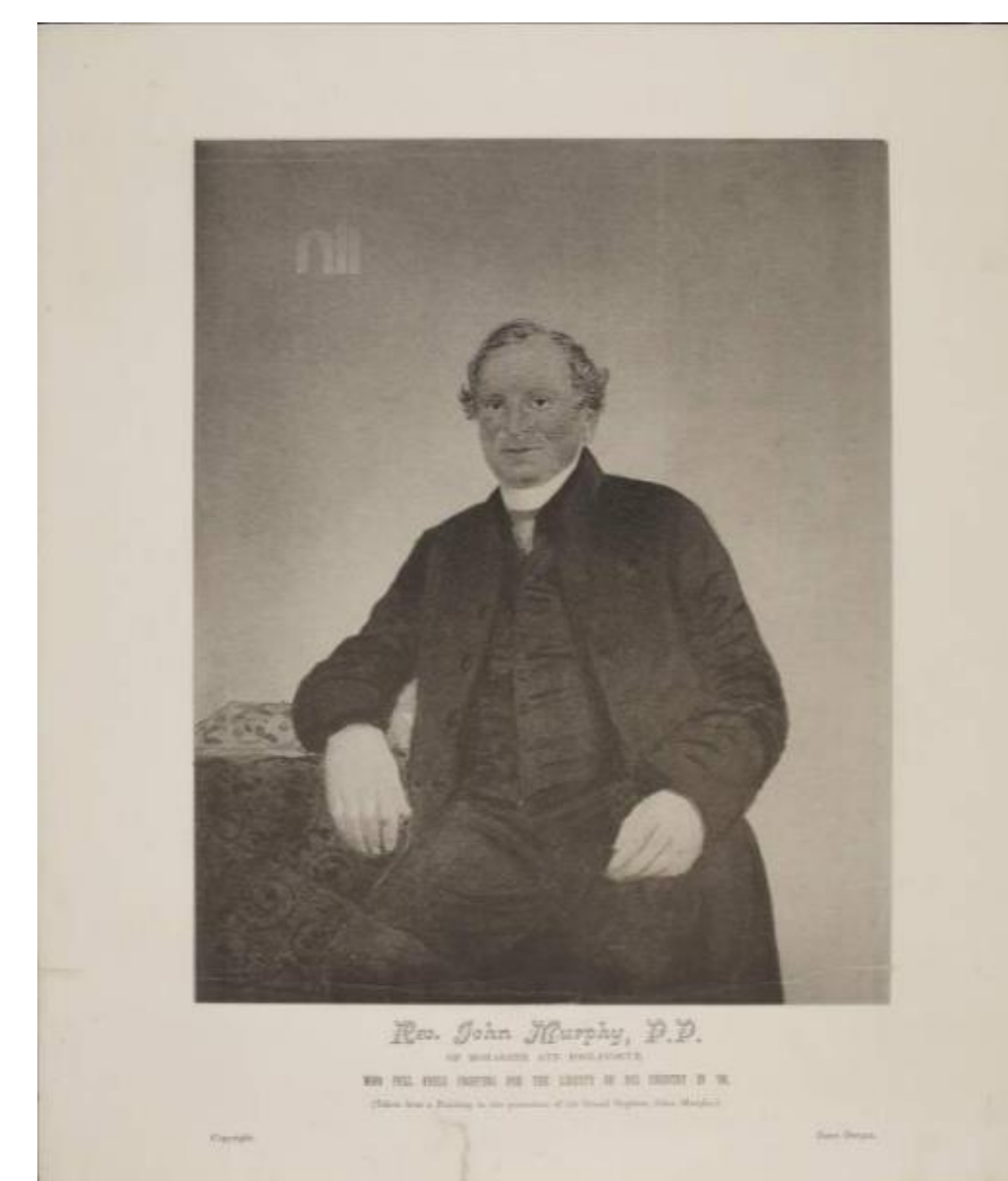


Image of Father John Murphy. Father Murphy is the main focus in P. J. McCall’s “Boolavogue.” Image from National Library of Ireland.

### Results and/or Conclusion

**Conclusions:** Through the research process, it is clear that, despite the romanticism of the people and the events in the 1798 rebellion, the songs written show the importance of understanding the Irish perceptions of the uprising. For nationalists like James Casey, it is a tool for propaganda that he used efficiently to advance the cause of Irish independence from the English. For Patrick James McCall, it is a method to preserve old traditions and to prevent the public from forgetting their past. Lastly, These songs epitomize the history of the Irish rebellion in a way that allows ordinary people to sympathize with the people and to understand their desire for freedom.

### Future Work

This research can still use some more work. Adding more on Patrick James McCall would certainly benefit this topic more. He wrote many well-known Irish rebel songs, and going deeper into why he wrote those songs, like “Boolavogue,” would certainly benefit this topic. In addition, there needs to be more research done on “General Munro,” because there is little information on the origins of the song itself. Like John Murphy and the rebellion in Wexford, there is plenty of information about Henry Munro, but the song itself is more unknown than songs like “Boolavogue” and “The Rising of the Moon.”

### References and/or Acknowledgments

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 Zimmerman, George Denis. *Songs of Irish Rebellion*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2002.