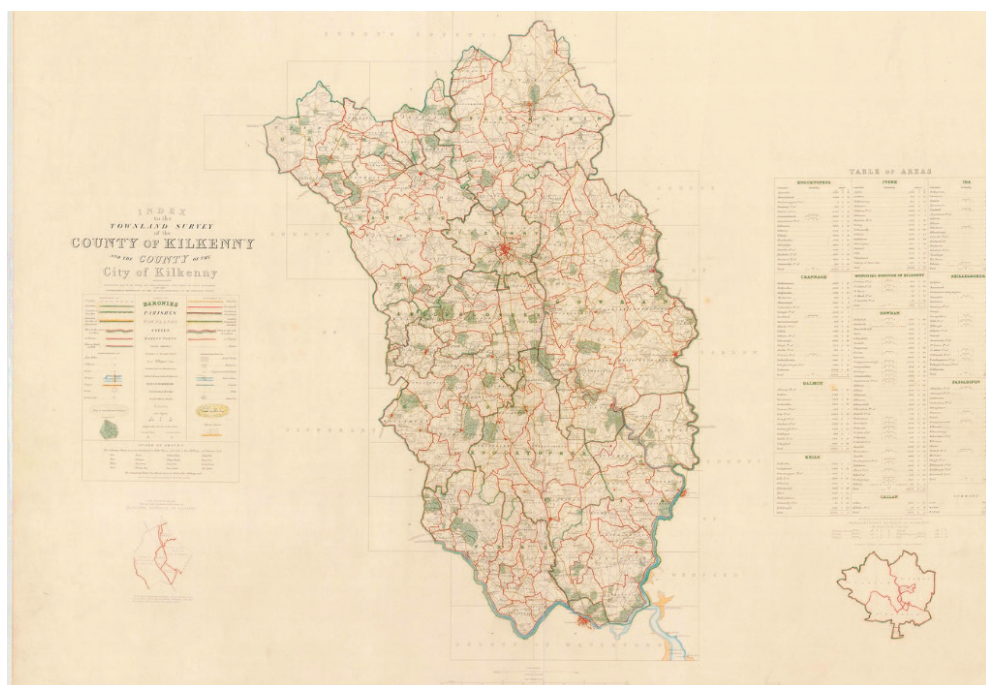# KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL LIBRARY SERVICE

Kilkenny County Council
Library Service

Finding Kilkenny in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland & The Statute of Kilkenny Book Launch

On 25 November 2025, Kilkenny County Council Library Service will host the Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow from 6.45 to 9.00 p.m. in the Mayfair Library, Kilkenny.

Seven centuries of Irish history were lost when the Public Record Office was destroyed during the Battle of the Four Courts in 1922. In recent years historians and archivists have been searching for any copies that can help replace these lost records.

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland was launched in 2022, providing free online access to tens of thousands of replacement records, collected from around the globe.

Now, the Virtual Treasury team is coming to Kilkenny to share the results of their research. "We are thrilled to welcome this roadshow to Kilkenny – this rich treasury provides vital access to all interested in Irish history and brings ordinary lives buried in official documents back into the light "comments County Librarian, Josephine Coyne.

The Kilkenny Roadshow will highlight local records and their significance, featuring speakers:

Alicia Dunphy, Kilkenny Library Service - Local resources in Kilkenny County Council Library Service

Dr. Ciarán Wallace, VRTI Deputy Director - Ireland's public records: destruction and recovery

Lynn Kilgallon, VRTI Research Fellow - Medieval Kilkenny records

Brian Gurrin, VRTI Research Fellow - Kilkenny census records

Following the Roadshow, the Statute of Kilkenny, edited by Professor Keith Busby and published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission, will be launched, with remarks by Professor John McCafferty and Dr. Peter Crooks.

Attendance is free, but space is limited. To book, contact: Mayfair Library on 056 7794174 or email mayfair@kilkennylibrary.ie

FADÓ, FADÓ: Young Voices Unearth Kilkenny's Hidden Histories

Over 100 primary school students took part in the "Fado, Fadó: Sparking Memories" competition last year. The initiative is a collaboration between Kilkenny Archaeological Society, Kilkenny Library Service, and Rothe House Trust.

Senior winner Beatrice Mealy (Presentation Convent, Castlecomer) traced her family's business, Fonsie Mealy Auctioneers. Junior winner Patrick Gallagher (Clara N.S.) documented "Tony's Cottage," a home filled with traditional tools and equipment. Standout entries included Katie Shortt's interview with her grandmother about Padmore & Barnes, Katie O'Sullivan's account of an ancestor's rabies treatment by Louis Pasteur, and Anna Usenko's family memories of WW2 in Ukraine. Winning entries are digitised on the Kilkenny Digital Archive.

The competition returns in 2025/2026 with new themes:

- Primary Schools (4th-6th Class) the theme is: Stories from the Lives of People in the Past
- Second-Level Schools the theme is: The Past is My Place and we have two exciting categories:

Third Years: submit standout CBA history projects from last spring.

Transition Years: A hands-on, fun research project that sparks curiosity.

Deadline for entries is 4pm on Friday, 13th February 2026 and winners will be announced on the 10th April 2026.

The prize-giving ceremony will be on the 21st April 2026 at 5:00 pm in the Mayfair Library

You can submit entries by post, email or in person to: lstudies@kilkennycoco.ie

Kilkenny County Council Library Services, Local Studies Department, John's Green House, John's Green, Kilkenny, R95 YH61.

Entry forms and full guidelines are available at **www.kilkennylibrary.ie**