



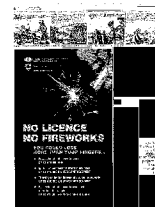
TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

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# Press Book

# Summary Media Coverage Report

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<a href="#">Irish Independent Metro Edition</a>	<a href="#">20071018</a>	<a href="#">7</a>	<a href="#">College's cold-case probe digs up past on massacre</a>
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# College's cold-case probe digs up past on massacre

**Brian Hutton**

**ONE of the most hotly disputed controversies of Irish history may finally be settled with the release of evidence of an alleged massacre of Protestants during a rebellion four centuries ago.**

In what could be described as the ultimate cold-case investigation, academics are to release about 19,000 pages of testimony from English and Scottish settlers at the centre of the 1641 Rising by Catholic rebels.

The Protestant death toll has most recently been put at between 4,000 and 12,000, but accounts vary, while graphic propaganda images from the time depict natives raping, mutilating and murdering settlers.

The so-called Depositions, exploited by historians, politicians and propagandists down through the years, will be opened up to the court of public opinion when Trinity College Dublin puts them online in about three years time.

The €1m digital imaging and release of the documents is one of the biggest and most ambitious projects of its kind ever undertaken in Ireland.

Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, head of the school of histories and humanities at Trinity, and one of the main investigators, believes it will allow people to form their own conclusions about one of the most formative events in Irish history.

"It will make it possible to resume the debate on the alleged massacres on a constructive and thoroughly informed basis," she said.

The Depositions were gath-

ered by government-appointed commissioners from Protestant settlers after the 1641 Rising and have been locked away in Trinity College Library since 1741. The condition of the manuscripts, which include 3,400 accounts and the chief evidence of the disputed events, have made it difficult for them to be fully explored in recent times.

Academics say the defining period of history was invented and re-invented by successive generations in response to contemporary developments and has never been satisfactorily resolved in Ireland, North and South.

Researchers from Cambridge University and Aberdeen University will join TCD investigators for the the three-year project to transcribe all the evidence for digital release.

"This body of material, unparalleled elsewhere in early modern Europe, provides a unique source of information for the causes and events surrounding the 1641 rebellion and for the social, economic, cultural, religious and political history of 17th-century Ireland, England and Scotland," said Prof Ohlmeyer.

"Through making this relevant material easily accessible to a wide audience, it will help all traditions, both North and South of the border, reach a better understanding of and come to terms with their own history."

The release of the documents is one of the biggest and most ambitious projects of its kind ever undertaken in Ireland



Propaganda images from the 1641 rising by Catholic rebels of an alleged massacre of Protestants during the Irish rebellion known as the Depositions.

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# 1641 rebellion reports online

**By MIRROR REPORTER**

A UNIVERSITY is to put witness reports of the bloody 1641 rebellion online.

The three-year project will look at testimonies from Protestants after the outbreak of the Catholic Irish uprising.

They run to around 19,000 pages and contain controversial allegations that it began with a general massacre of Protestant settlers.

Trinity College Dublin's Professor Jane Ohlmeyer is working on the three-year project, called Massacres, Myths And Memory.

She said: "It will help all traditions both North and South of the border reach a better understanding of and come to terms with their own history."



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## Inquiry over 1641 slaughter

**ONE** of the most disputed controversies of Irish history may finally be settled with fresh evidence of an alleged massacre of Protestants four centuries ago.

Academics are to release around 19,000 pages of depositions from English and Scottish settlers at the time of the 1641 Rising by Catholic rebels.

The Protestant death toll has most recently been put at between 4,000 and 12,000 but accounts vary wildly, while graphic images from the time depict natives raping, mutilating and murdering settlers.

Trinity College Dublin is to put the reams of testimony online in around three years.

Professor Jane Ohl-meyer from TCD said it will lead to a "thoroughly informed" debate.

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## News in brief

### 'Massacre evidence'

**EVIDENCE** of an alleged massacre of Protestants during an Irish rebellion in the 1641 Rising by Catholic rebels is to be made public.

The Protestant death toll has been put at between 4,000 and 12,000.

The 'Depositions' will be put online for the public by Trinity College Dublin by 2010.