

APPENDIX: GAZETTEER OF HISTORIC PLACE NAMES

Geographical and Topographical Identification in the Memoirs of General Joseph Holt (1798)

Editor's Note: During the 1798 Irish Rebellion and his subsequent years of hiding, General Joseph Holt traversed the mountain passes, glens, and river valleys of Leinster. The place names appearing in his 1818/1826 manuscript and the 1838 first edition reflect 18th-century spellings, local Wicklow dialect, and phonetic transcriptions by various secretaries. This gazetteer provides a comprehensive reference mapping Holt's original places and military positions to their modern Irish spellings, modern Anglicised names, county locations, and historical significance.

1. County Wicklow Strongholds & Military Stations

Original Text Name	Modern Name / Spelling	County	Military & Historical Significance
Ballydaniel	<i>Ballydaniel / Castlemacadam</i>	Co. Wicklow	Holt's birthplace in the parish of Castlemacadam, near Avoca and Woodenbridge.
Roundwood	<i>Roundwood (An Tóchar)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Key village where Holt worked as sub-overseer of roads; near his burned home at Charleville/White Rock.
Devil's Glen	<i>Devil's Glen (Gleann an Deamhain)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Picturesque 100ft waterfall gorge near Ashford; Holt's first refuge after his house was burned in May 1798.
Ballinalea	<i>Ballinalea / Ashford</i>	Co. Wicklow	Village near Ashford Bridge; Holt visited Thomas Kavanagh's tavern here after entering the Glen.
Whelp Rock	<i>Whelp Rock (Whelp-rock)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Remote granite crag station between Ballylow and Lavarna; Holt's central mountain headquarters and rallying point.
Knockalt	<i>Knockalt (Knockalt Hill)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Mountain village on the King's River; Holt's main drilling ground where he trained 380 disciplined insurgents.
Glenmalure	<i>Glenmalure (Gleann Maoiliúra)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Historic, inaccessible mountain pass; principal rebel fastness where Holt engineered river barricades.
Imail	<i>Glen of Imail (Gleann Uí Mháiiil)</i>	Co. Wicklow	High valley between Lugnaquilla and Donard; birthplace of Michael Dwyer and frequent camp for Holt.
Lugnaquilla	<i>Lugnaquilla (Log na Coille)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Highest peak in Wicklow (3,039 ft); used by Holt to position marksmen against attacking infantry.
Aughrim	<i>Aughrim (Eachdhroim)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Town in S. Wicklow; site of 'Holt's Battle of Aughrim' where he defeated Hunter Gowan's yeomanry.

Original Text Name	Modern Name / Spelling	County	Military & Historical Significance
Aughavanagh	<i>Aghavannagh (Achadh Mhanach)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Strategic mountain junction south of Glenmalure; site of military encampments and skirmishes.
Blessington	<i>Blessington (Baile Coimín)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Lakeside town; raided by Holt to capture military horses and burn Lord Waterford's Lodge.
Russborough	<i>Russborough House</i>	Co. Wicklow	Grand Palladian estate near Blessington belonging to the Earls of Miltown; site of military posts.
Hollywood Glen	<i>Hollywood (Cill Iníon Léinín)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Mountain pass and village near Blessington; used by rebels to evade royal cavalry.
Greenane	<i>Greenane (An Grianán)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Village near Rathdrum; site of Holt's night ambush on Lieutenant Sutton's yeomanry at Greenane Bridge.
Black Ditches	<i>Blackditches / Lacken</i>	Co. Wicklow	Peat-bank village near Blessington; 'ditch' in local parlance referred to raised earthen hedgerows.
Whaley's Abbey	<i>Whaley Abbey / Ballykine</i>	Co. Wicklow	Estate built by 'Buck' Whaley near the Vale of Avoca, erected on the ancient site of the Abbey of Ballykine.
Annamow	<i>Annamoe (Áth na mBó)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Village near Roundwood on the Vartrey River; residence of Luke Toole.
Croghane	<i>Croghan Mountain (Cruachán)</i>	Co. Wicklow	High mountain on the Wexford border near Arklow and Gold Mines; Holt's lookout post.
Adown	<i>Adown Valley</i>	Co. Wicklow	High mountain valley stretching from Sally Gap to Scurlock's Leap near Blessington.
Douse Mountain	<i>Djouce Mountain (Diúis)</i>	Co. Wicklow	Major mountain peak (2,380 ft) near Powerscourt Demesne where Holt made his final surrender trek.
Newtown Mount Kennedy	<i>Newtownmountkennedy</i>	Co. Wicklow	East Wicklow town; modern single-word spelling; site of major 1798 engagement.
New Dunleary / Kingstown	<i>Dún Laoghaire</i>	Co. Dublin / Wicklow	Renamed 'Kingstown' in 1821 for George IV; reverted to Dún Laoghaire in 1920. Holt lived and died here (1826).

2. County Wexford & Border Campaign Locations

Original Text Name	Modern Name / Spelling	County	Military & Historical Significance
Ballyellis	<i>Ballyellis (near Carnew)</i>	Co. Wexford	Site of the famous Battle of Ballyellis (30 June 1798), where Holt ambushed and crushed the 'Ancient Britons' cavalry.
Carnew	<i>Carnew (Carn Bui)</i>	Co. Wexford	Border town in S. Wicklow / N. Wexford; garrisoned by royal troops during the Ballyellis engagement.
Moneyseed	<i>Moneyseed (Móin na Saod)</i>	Co. Wexford	Village near Gorey; staging ground where Holt reconnoitred before trapping the royal cavalry.
Carrigrua	<i>Carrigrua Hill (Carraig Rua)</i>	Co. Wexford	Prominent hill near Ferns; major insurgent encampment prior to the White Heaps dispersal.

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Slievebuoy	<i>Slieveboy / Slievebuoy</i>	Co. Wexford	Conical mountain (1,385 ft) near Ferns; served as a weather indicator and rebel rally point.
Vinegar Hill	<i>Vinegar Hill (Cnoc Fíodh na gCaor)</i>	Co. Wexford	Famous conical hill overlooking Enniscorthy; primary Wexford insurgent headquarters.
Enniscorthy	<i>Enniscorthy (Inis Córthaidh)</i>	Co. Wexford	Major town on the River Slaney; scene of fierce fighting throughout June 1798.
Newtown, Barry	<i>Bunclody (Newtownbarry)</i>	Co. Wexford	Reverted officially from Newtownbarry to its original Irish name, Bunclody, in 1950.
Scullabogue	<i>Scullabogue</i>	Co. Wexford	Location near Lacken Hill; site of the tragic barn fire during the Wexford campaign.
Gorrane / Girrane	<i>Girrane / Templeshanbo</i>	Co. Wexford	Townland near Enniscorthy mentioned in connection with local yeomanry families.

3. Kildare, Meath, Louth & Dublin Locations (Northern Expedition)

Original Text Name	Modern Name / Spelling	County	Military & Historical Significance
Clonard	<i>Clonard (Cluain Ioraird)</i>	Co. Meath / Kildare	Strategic bridge over the River Boyne; site of the repulse of 3,000 rebels on 11 July 1798.
Castle Carberry	<i>Carbury (Cairbre)</i>	Co. Kildare	Village and castle ruins in N. Kildare; plundered during the retreat from Clonard.
Robertstown	<i>Robertstown (Baile Roibeard)</i>	Co. Kildare	Canal village where Holt drove cattle into a ditch to form a bridge for his army.
Prosperous	<i>Prosperous (An Cuan)</i>	Co. Kildare	Kildare town where Wexford/Wicklow insurgents joined forces with local rebels.
Summerhill	<i>Summerhill (Cnoc an Léonáin)</i>	Co. Meath	Village near Culmullen where rebels were attacked by Colonel Gough's Edenderry force.
Boyne River	<i>River Boyne (An Bhóinn)</i>	Co. Meath / Louth	Historic river crossed near Duleek during Holt's harrowing escape to the north.
Ardee	<i>Ardee (Baile Átha Fhirdhia)</i>	Co. Louth	Northernmost point reached by the rebel column before breaking into smaller retreat groups.
Ballyboghil	<i>Ballyboughal (Baile Bachail)</i>	Co. Dublin	North Co. Dublin village near Swords; site of the final military dispersion of the northern column.
Castle Pollard	<i>Castlepollard</i>	Co. Westmeath	Market town 75 miles from Dublin; egg-cars from here were used by Holt as cover during his escape.
Harold's Cross	<i>Harold's Cross</i>	Co. Dublin	Dublin suburb; Holt scaled a 9ft wall here to escape cavalry led by Alderman Beresford.
Montpelier Hill	<i>Montpelier Hill ('Bevan's Hill')</i>	Co. Dublin	Site of the Hell Fire Club ruins; Holt's refuge overlooking Dublin after escaping Harold's Cross.

Original Text Name	Modern Name / Spelling	County	Military & Historical Significance
Three Lough Mountain	<i>Three Rock Mountain</i>	Co. Dublin	Spelled 'Three Lough' in Holt's MS; corrected by Croker to Three Rock Mountain in S. Dublin.
Dublin Castle	<i>Dublin Castle (Caisleán Átha Cliath)</i>	Co. Dublin	Seat of British administration; Holt was held in the Birmingham Tower as a State Prisoner.

4. Summary of Editorial & Phonetic Variations

Understanding 19th-Century Manuscript Variations:

In addition to Irish place names, Thomas Crofton Croker noted in his 1838 preface that Holt and his amanuenses frequently spelled proper nouns phonetically due to limited formal schooling. Readers of the combined edition will encounter phonetic forms such as 'Mager Provoux' for Major Foveaux, 'Bly' for Governor William Bligh, 'Puttleton' for Putland, 'Blacksell' for Blaxcell, 'Graace' for Grose, and 'Drewryy' for Durie. By retaining Holt's main narrative text while removing Croker's intrusive footnotes, this edition preserves the authentic speech patterns and historical texture of General Joseph Holt's remarkable life.