

Marriage in Ireland, 1660–1925

What were the laws on marriage in Ireland, and did the church and state differ in their interpretation? How did men and women meet and arrange to marry? How important was patriarchy and a husband's control over his wife? And what were the options available to Irish men and women who wished to leave an unhappy marriage? This first comprehensive history of marriage in Ireland across three centuries looks below the level of elite society for a multi-faceted exploration of how marriage was perceived, negotiated and controlled by the church and state, as well as by individual men and women within Irish society. Making extensive use of new and under-utilised primary sources, Maria Luddy and Mary O'Dowd explain the laws and customs around marriage in Ireland. Revising current understandings of marital law and relations, *Marriage in Ireland, 1660–1925* represents a major new contribution to Irish historical studies.

MARIA LUDDY is Emeritus Professor of Modern Irish History at the University of Warwick and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Her book *Women and Philanthropy in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (1995) was awarded the James S. Donnelly Sr Prize for best book in Irish history in 1996. She has published extensively on Irish social history, writing on unmarried mothers, nuns and the history of Irish childhood. Her most recent publications include *Prostitution and Irish Society, 1800–1940* (2007) and the co-edited collection *Children, Childhood and Irish Society, 1700 to the Present* (with James M. Smith, 2014).

MARY O'DOWD is Emeritus Professor of Gender History at Queen's University Belfast and a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. She has published extensively on women and gender in Irish history. Her most recent publications include *Reading the Irish Woman: Studies in Cultural Encounters and Exchange, 1714–1960* (co-authored with Gerardine Meaney and Bernadette Whelan, 2014) and *A History of the Girl: Formation, Education and Identity* (2018), which she co-edited with June Purvis.

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Maria Luddy

University of Warwick

Mary O'Dowd

Queen's University Belfast



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*For Mary Cullen and Margaret MacCurtain who
began it all*

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Abbreviations

BL	British Library, London
CIF	Criminal Index Files
CRF	Convict Reference Files
CSO/RP	Chief Secretary's Office, Registered Papers
DDA	Dublin Diocesan Archives
DIB	<i>Dictionary of Irish Biography</i>
DMP	Dublin Metropolitan Police
KL	Kildare and Leighlin Diocesan Archives
NAI	National Archives of Ireland
NLI	National Library of Ireland
ODNB	<i>Oxford Dictionary of National Biography</i>
PHSIB	Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, Belfast
PRONI	Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
TNA	The National Archives, Kew