

# Neill of Tullylish Parish in County Down, in the *Belfast News-Letter*: Evidence from 1738—1799

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*This research study conducted on the contents of the Belfast News-Letter from its inception in 1738 until 1799 resulted in critical new information on the Quaker Neill family of Tullylish, county Down. The advertisement in Image 1 is the first record of the Neill family in the townland of Ballymacanallen, in a sublease that expired in 1754. Further information on them is found in Part 3. Despite the advances in searchable text technology in irishnewsarchive.com, 75% of the records reviewed were distracting to the search and there is a gap in the database for the years 1773 to 1782. Yet, 103 records were identified for the surname Neill, summarized in Part 1. In Parts 2 through 6, five identifiable families are discussed, and Part 7 discusses individuals and themes. The coverage of the Newsletter included all of Ulster, although its audience was the predominant population of Ulster Scots. The study yielded an unexpected observation that the Newsletter might have been the driving force standardizing the surname spelling of Neill in Ulster during this period.*

Image 1

*Advertisement.*  
**THAT** the Farm in *BALLYMACANALLEN*,  
near Gillford in the County of Down, formerly in the  
Possession of Mr. JOHN NEILL, containing seventy Irish Acres,  
with a good Bleach-yard and Bucking-house, are to be Set  
in the Whole or in Parcels from the first Day of November  
Inst. for such Time as shall be agreed on. Proposals to be  
received by Messrs ANDREW MC. CREIGHT, or WILLIAM  
JOHNSTON of Gillford, aforesaid.  
· Note, Said Lands lye near the River Bann, within three  
Miles of Tandragee, five of Lurgan, four of Loughbrickland,  
eleven of Newry and seven of Rich hill  
Dated November 6, 1754.

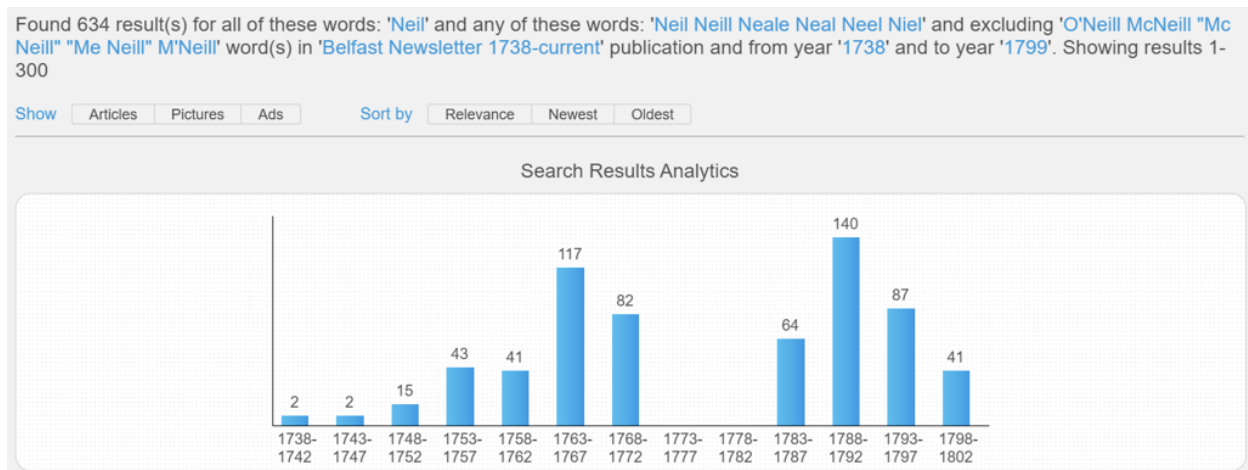
Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

## Part I

The search parameters for Neill in *irishnewsarchive.com* allowed for the use of variants spellings and the exclusion of others. The primary search term was Neil, the shortest

version of the name, most likely to capture the most results. The spellings Neill, Neal, Neale, Niel, and Neel were used, and excluded O'Neill, McNeill, Mc Neill, Me Neill, M'Neill. However, the application limited the number of name exclusions which limited the ability to filter out superfluous results. Search results are shown in screengrab in Image 2.

Image 2



Variants spellings not filtered included Mc. Neill, Me. Neill, McNeill, instances of double spacing after Mc or Me, and the surnames Neilson and Nelson. Further, technology limitations in this source allowed in a substantial amount of excluded spellings. The impact, shown in Table 1, was 75% of results were distracting to the effort, demonstrating the difficulty of this method of research.

Table 1. Results for Sample of 300 Records

Result	Number	%
Incorrect transcription due to source technology	14	5%
Incorrect surname	62	21%
Incorrect, but useful to research	4	1%
Correct, but used as first name	70	23%
Correct, but content repeated over multiple days	58	19%
Correct, but content related to ship news at port	16	5%
Subtotal	224	75%
Correct	76	25%
Total of Sample	300	100%

In Table 2, Neill was found to be the leading spelling for the surname, at 82% (84) records, with Neil a distant second at 15% (15) records. Other variants detected of Neal, Neall, Niell, were *de minimus*. The search term Neale, driven by the observation of O’Neale as the primary spelling during the early and middle parts of the century prior, yielded no results. Likewise, the search term Neel, included because of its use by a collateral genetic branch in county Antrim during the period of study, yielded no results. Even the use of Neil in instances among the fifteen results was sometimes side by side with Neill, from rent roll spellings in prior decades. While the *Belfast Newsletter* records from 1738 to 1799 clearly reflected a preference for the spelling Neill, it might have been the driving force for the standardization of this spelling throughout Ulster.

Table 2. *Records by Spelling Variants of Neill*

Spelling	Number	%	Search Strategy
Neill	84	82%	Research target
Neil	15	15%	Primary search term
Neal	2	2%	Additional search term
Neall	1	1%	Picked up by additional search term Neal
Niell	1	1%	Picked up by additional search term Niel
Neale	0	0%	Additional search term
Neel	0	0%	Additional search term
Total	103	100%	

Beyond the 103 records in Table 2, the Neil variant was found primarily in results of shipping news as the surname of various captains coming into the port of Belfast. Anecdotal and without tabulated evidence, it seems while Neill was standardizing for surname spelling, Neil was standardizing for first name spelling. Records from southern Ireland, shown in Part 7, shown no such standardizing trend. Similarly to southern Ireland results, no such standardization was observed in prior studies of deeds in Ulster from this period. Also from prior study, Quaker meeting records from this period pertaining to the subject of this research, the Neill family of Tullylish parish, demonstrated a consistent use of the spelling Neill by 1756. No cause and effect is inferred here.

The 103 Neill, Neil and variant records identified in Table 2 were then grouped into families where multiple records indicated so, while 42 (41%) represented individuals with one-off mentions. The individuals were analyzed further for traits and themes in Part 7.

Table 3. *Records by Neill Family Groups, ranked, with placement in text*

Family Group	Number	%	Location from Records	Text
Hamilton Neill family	23	22%	Antrim, Down	Part 2
<b>Neill family - subject of inquiry</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>Down, Armagh, Monaghan</b>	<b>Part 3</b>
Neill of Templepatrick	9	9%	Antrim	Part 4
Neill of Ballymoney	5	5%	Antrim	Part 5
Alexander Neill of Ballymacarret	3	3%	Antrim, Down	Part 6
James Neill of Downpatrick	3	3%	Down	Part 6
Neill of Carrickfergus	2	2%	Antrim	Part 6
not family group aligned	42	41%		Part 7
Neill	103	100%		

## Part 2

Table 4. *The family of Hamilton Neill, importers, in Belfast and county Down*

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1755	James	Neill	stallion for stud, Lisbarnet	Down	Friday, May 23, 1755 , p. 3
1757	James	Neill	farm sale Lisbarnet 62 acres, Ardmillan 80 acres	Down	Friday, June 24, 1757 , p. 4
1785	Hamilton	Neill	arrived from Rotterdam with goods	Antrim	Friday, July 29, 1785 , p. 3
1788	Hamilton	Neill	father and son regarding North Carolina visit	Antrim	Friday, January 25, 1788 , p. 1
1788	Patrick	Neill	father and son regarding North Carolina visit	Down	Friday, January 25, 1788 , p. 1
1789	Hamilton	Neill	party to court case in Belfast	Antrim	Friday, July 10, 1789 , p. 3
1792	Hamilton	Neill	estate settle, late of Belfast, sale of Lisbarnet	Antrim	Tuesday, April 17, 1792 , p. 3
1792	Hamilton	Neill	estate settle, widow and sons, Lisbarnet	Down	Tuesday, May 08, 1792 , p. 3
1797	Hamilton	Neill	land sale, Lisbarnet 62 acres	Antrim	Friday, June 16, 1797 , p. 3
	Hamilton	Neill	shipping notices about arrival of goods at port	Antrim	14 individual entries

Hamilton Neill was the most prolific Neill name in the *Belfast Newsletter* during the 1700's. His commercial interests involved importing goods through the port of Belfast, which were publicly announced. This item was typical of Neill's offering:

Image 3

**Strong Jamaica Rum & Cognac Brandy.**  
**A**RRIVED to **HAMILTON NEILL**, a Quantity of well-flavoured Jamaica Rum, by the Linen-Hall, Capt. Dixon; also in the Industry, Capt. Boyd, from Bordeaux, a Parcel Cognac Brandy, Whitehaven Vinegar, and a few Bags of Shell Almonds. He is well supplied as usual with Rum-Dee, Common ditto, Brandy and Geneva; all of which will be sold on the lowest Terms.  
 Belfast, 8th March, 1785.

Image courtesy of [irishnewsarchive.com](http://irishnewsarchive.com)

Based on land ownership, Hamilton was evidently the son of James Neill of Lisbarnet, located south of Bangor and Newtownards in eastern county Down. In 1757, James advertised sales of land in Lisbarnet near Comber and in Island Magee near Ardmillan.

Image 4

to be let for such Term of Years as may  
be agreed on, by James Neill, the Farm he now possesses  
in Lisbarnet near Cumber, containing 62 Acres; also 80 Acres in  
Island M.C. near Aramillan, both in the County of Down.  
Each has good Dwelling Houses and Office Houses. Each will  
be let in Whole or in Parcels from the first of November next.  
Dated May 23, 1757.  
N. B. Proposals will be received by the said James Neill, any  
Time before the first of October next, and any who takes any of  
said Lands, may by paying a Fine in Proportion, have Abatement  
at his Rent.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

In 1788, Patrick Neill directed correspondence to himself at Dromore, county Down, or to Hamilton Neill, Belfast.

Image 5

IF any of the Heirs of Owen Bready of North Caro-  
lina, deceased about twelve or fourteen years ago,  
will immediately apply to Patrick Neill of Dromore, in  
the county of Down, who is just from that place, and  
intends to return the first opportunity, he can inform  
them of something considerably to their advantage.  
Said Bready is supposed to have come from about  
Dublin.—Letters (post-paid) directed to me at Dro-  
more, or to Hamilton Neill, Belfast, will be duly an-  
swered.  
Dromore, 25th Jan, 1788.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

In 1792 after Hamilton's death, his widow Ann publicly defended her interests against the creditors of properties in North street, Belfast, and Lisbarnet. She wrote, concerning “the property of Hamilton Neill: the purchaser is to take notice I [Ann Neill] hold a deed of conveyance from the late James Neill and Patrick Neill his son dated 10th April 1777.”

Image 6

NOTICE.  
THE Sale of Mr Hamilton Neill's Concern in Bel-  
fast and Lisbarnet, in the county of Down, adver-  
tised for the 16th instant, is put off till a future day, of  
which notice will be given.  
We request a full Meeting of Mr. Neill's Creditors on  
Thursday next, at the Donegall Arms, at 12 o'clock.  
Belfast, 14th May, 1792.  
HUGH Mc. ILWAIN,  
THOS. BROWN.

A CAUTION.  
AN Advertisement having appeared in the Belfast  
News-Letter, purporting a Sale of Lisbarnet, in the  
county of Down, signed Hugh Mc. Ilwain and Thomas  
Brown, the property of Hamilton Neill: The purchaser  
is to take notice that I hold a deed of conveyance from  
the late James Neill and Patrick Neill his son, dated the  
10th April, 1777, for the sum of 74l. 8s. which I will  
proceed immediately for recovery thereof.  
WILLIAM CARILE.  
Ballymartin, 12th May, 1792.

HAVING seen an Advertisement in the Belfast News-  
Letter and Northern Star, from Messrs. McIlwain  
and Thomas Brown, purporting a Sale of the Tenements  
in North-street, Belfast, now occupied by Messrs. Bank-  
head, Emerson, and Thoburn, also, of Lisbarnet in the  
county Down, the property of Ham. Neill—The pur-  
chaer is to take notice, I have it in my power to leave  
any one of these concerns chargeable with 150l. which  
may be seen by examining the Register Office, Dublin.  
ANN NEILL.  
Lisbarnet, 13th May, 1792.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

### Part 3

Table 5. *The family of Neill linen drapers and horse sellers in counties Down, Armagh, and Monaghan*

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1754	John	Neill	land in Ballymacanallen	Down	Friday, November 15, 1754 , p. 2
1762	William	Neill	petition Lurgan drapers did not riot in Lisburn	Armagh	Friday, May 28, 1762 , p. 3
1767	John, Jr.	Neill	horse pedigree	Down	Tuesday, April 21, 1767 , p. 2
1767	John, Jr.	Neill	linen theft from McCreight in Gilford	Down	Tuesday, April 07, 1767 , p. 3
1767	John, Jr.	Neill	dappled grey horse, of Moyallen near Gilford	Down	Friday, July 17, 1767 , p. 3
1767	John	Neill	horse for sale (see, Alexander Neill, same pg)	Down	Friday, May 01, 1767 , p. 2
1767	John, Jr.	Neill	horse sale, 'of Moyallen near Gilford'	Down	Friday, July 10, 1767 , p. 3
1768	John	Neil	linen theft, signatory to reward offer	unknown	Tuesday, June 07, 1768 , p. 1
1769	John	Neill	horse sale, 'of the Ash Trees' near Tandragee	Armagh	Tuesday, May 30, 1769 , p. 3
1795	William	Neill	linen inspector, Monaghan, full list signers	Monaghan	Monday, August 03, 1795 , p. 3
1795	William	Neill	linen inspector of Co. Monaghan	Monaghan	Monday, August 24, 1795 , p. 4
1795	W.	Neill	married Miss Purdy, Gilford	Down	Monday, August 24, 1795 , p. 3
1795	John	Neill	linen inspector of Newry	Down	Monday, September 28, 1795 , p. 1
1796	John	Neill	linen inspector, agent for land sale	Armagh	Monday, December 26, 1796 , p. 1
1799	John	Neill	linen inspector of co. Armagh	Armagh	Tuesday, October 22, 1799 , p. 3
1799	John	Neill	linen inspector dispute, of Rich-hill	Armagh	Tuesday, December 03, 1799 , p. 1

In 1754, a lease to John Neill in Ballymacanallen expired and an advertisement was placed in the *Belfast Newsletter* for proposals on parceling the seventy-acre plot. The bleach yard and bucking house indicates linen production. Johnston was the owner of land in and around Gilford, and McCreight the apparent leasee who had sub-let to Neill.

*Advertisement.* That the farm in Ballymacanallen, near Gillford in the County of Down, formerly in the possession of Mr. John Neill, containing seventy Irish acres, with a good bleach-yard and bucking-house, are to be set in the whole or in parcels from the first day of November instant for such time as shall be agreed on. Proposals to be received by Messrs. Andrew McCreight, or William Johnston of Gillford, aforesaid. Note, said lands lie near the River Bann, within three miles of Tandragee, five of Lurgan, four of Loughbrickland, eleven of Newry and seven of Rich hill. Dated November 6, 1754.

Image 7

*Advertisement.*  
**THAT** the Farm in *BALLYMACANALLEN*, near Gillford in the County of Down, formerly in the Possession of Mr. JOHN NEILL, containing seventy Irish Acres, with a good Bleach-yard and Bucking-house, are to be Set in the Whole or in Parcels from the first Day of November Inst. for such Time as shall be agreed on. Proposals to be received by Messrs ANDREW MC. CREIGHT, or WILLIAM JOHNSTON of Gillford, aforesaid.  
 Note, Said Lands lye near the River Bann, within three Miles of Tandragee, five of Lurgan, four of Loughbrickland, eleven of Newry and seven of Rich hill  
 Dated November 6, 1754.

Image courtesy of [irishnewsarchive.com](http://irishnewsarchive.com)



In 1762, the linen weavers and manufacturers from 'in and about' Lurgan, county Armagh, issued a statement they were not involved in the riots at the Lisburn marketplace. One of the signers was William Neill.

Image 8

WHEREAS a report prevails in some places, as false as it is scandalous, That numbers of the linen weavers and manufacturers in and about the town of Lurgan were present at and concerned in a most audacious and insolent Riot and disturbance that happened in Lisburn market last Tuesday.—WE think it our duty, in justice to this place, and support of the characters of the linen manufacturers and weavers, to declare, as the truth is, That to our knowledge not one single manufacturer or weaver from the town or neighbourhood of Lurgan was present at, or concerned in said riot and disturbance.

Given under our hands at Lurgan, May 22, 1762

John Shaw	Edward Burke	Arthur Forde
Edward Shaw	Christopher Byrne	James Forde
George Shaw	George Wilson	Wm. Shaw
Mark Maziere	Thomas Turner	John Menich
Thomas Hardin	Joseph Malcomson	David Maziere
William Richardson	George Young	Archibald Shaw
Richard Beil	William Wilson	Thomas Shaw
Jacob Kirk	Wm. Maxwell	William Burke
Richard Eustace	Henry Greer	James Bradshaw
Isaac Stone	John Kirk	Samuel Pesdin
James McCormick	John Greer	David Ruddleil
Samuel Turner	John Lawrence	Thomas Uther
John Turner	John Turner, senr.	Robert Stewart
Wm. Neill	David Malcomson	John Gaddis
James Menich	John Turner, junr.	John Walte
Joseph Menich	William Shaw	John Crooks
Richard Humphres	Samuel Henderson	John Crooks, junr.
Solomon White	Moses Bullock	Abraham Wynne
Wm. Miler	John Fox	Joseph Wilson
Hawkins Magill	Michael Short	Laurence Bellaw

Image courtesy of [irishnewsarchive.com](http://irishnewsarchive.com)

Between 1767 and 1769, there were seven records involving two John Neill men. Four from 1767 were from John Neill, Jr., from 'Moyallen near Gilford' in county Down offering reward for the theft of linen from McCreight in Gilford and for the sale of a prize-winning horse. In 1769, John Neill, 'of the Ash Trees near Tandragee' in Armagh offered a horse for sale.

Image 9

TO be let to Mares this Season, by John Neill the younger, of Moyallen near Gilford, at half a Guinea Leaps and Trial, and a British Shilling to the Groom; the Money to be paid before Covering, the noted dappled bay Horie brought to this Kingdom by Thomas Walpole, Esq. He is fifteen Hands and an half high, with a large Star, Ratch, and Snip, and both hind Feet white, extremely beautiful and strong, as appears by his Performance. The following is his Pedigree: He was bred by Mr. Beavor in Yorkshire, out of a Daughter of the Bald Galloway, and got by the Duke of Devonshire's Blaze, Son to his Grace's Childers; at four Years old he, by the Name of Trial, won the Stakes at Andover, consisting of 150 Guineas, and there beat Lord Portmore's Ebony, Mr. Rogers's Rachel, and two others; the same Month at Chipping Norton he beat Vinam, Johany Armstrong, and distanced young Standard, Beverly Tom, and Cinder Wench; the Year following he beat Sir Matthew Featherston's Paris, and three others; and the next Year, to wit, in 1761, he won the 50 Pounds for Hunters at Trinn, by the Name of Bobadill, Weight 12 Stone, and there beat Gorge Lowther, Esqrs. noted Horie Granby, with many others; and hath covered Mares ever since, at Courtown in the County of Kildare until the Year 1766, at two Guineas each. He is extremely fruitful, and his Colts are equal to those got by any other Horie in the Kingdom, and can be exceeded by none for Beauty, Strength and Bone. There is good Grass convenient at a moderate Price.

Dated 15th April, 1767.

Image courtesy of [irishnewsarchive.com](http://irishnewsarchive.com)

Image 10

**S T A L L I O N S.**

YOUNG SHUTTON, at Liscalinshy, within a Mile of Ballyclare, at Half a Guinea and a Shilling. Good Grads may be had on reasonable Terms.

YOUNG FEARNUGHT, at Robert Thompson's of Brackinhill in the Parish of Ballinderry, and County of Antrim, at Half a Guinea and Half a Crown, and Six-pence to the Boy, the Money to be paid on the first of March next.

BOADILL, at John Neill's of the Ash Trees near Tandragee, at Half a Guinea and a Shilling. The Money to be paid before covering. His Pedigree to be seen in the Hands of the Groom.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

In August 1795, William Neill obtained the position of linen inspector for county Monaghan, and wed Miss Purdy, daughter of Thomas of Gilford. Both items appeared on Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, on different pages.

Image 11

**LINEN TRADE.**

**W**E, the Linen Buyers of the Counties of Antrim, Armagh, and Down, who attend the different Markets in the County Monaghan, do highly approve of the salutary Regulations for the Good of the Linen Trade which Wm. Neill, the County Inspector, has put in Practice in that County, agreeable to the Linen Laws, which being of great Advantage to the Fair Trader: We do therefore return him our sincere Thanks.

Given under our Hands this 3d day of August, 1795.

[Signed by Fifty one Linen Buyers.]

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**N O T I C E.**

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

Image 12

**MARRIED.**

On Monday the 17th inst. Mr. W. Neill of Castle Hill, to the amiable and accomplished Miss Purdy, daughter of Thos. Purdy, Esq. of Gilford, County Down.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com



The following month, September 1795, John Neill, the third person by the name, became linen inspector for the 'Newry and Vicinity', included in counties Down and Armagh. The next year, Neill is linen inspector for county Armagh, residing there at Rich-hill.

Image 13

**THE LINEN DRAPERS and MANUFACTURERS**  
are hereby informed, that (in consequence of the death of Archibald Lowry, late Inspector of Linen and Yarn in the upper District of the County) the undersigned Inspectors are appointed to take Charge of the Markets until the pleasure of the Linen Board is known respecting the vacancy:  
William Boyd—Killkeel and the Vicinity.  
John Kelsey—Banbridge and Vicinity.  
John Neill—Newry and Vicinity.  
The Market of Rathfriland has been annexed to the lower District, and the Flax Claimants in the upper District are to apply to William Boyd for payment, &c.  
Lurgan, 30th July, 1795.  
J. GREER,  
Inspector General.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

Image 14

**TO BE LET, FOR EVER,**  
*From first November instant,*  
**IN AHORY,** fifty-six Acres of Land, with a fall for three over-shot wheels; if on the new construction, equal to finish 10000 pieces of fine linen in the season, having plenty of spring-water. There are two houses built; one with a double wath-mill, two pair of rubbing-boards, and a beetling-engine; the other with a beetling-engine and a flax-mill; there are eight bleachers houses on the lands: It is within two miles of Rich-hill, two of Tadragee, six of Armagh, eight of Lurgan, and eleven of Newry, and within a mile of turf-bog, at one guinea per acre. Apply to John Neill of Rich-hill, Inspector, or R. Atkinson, the proprietor, H. Hall, near Charlemont.  
November 30th, 1796.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

In 1799, there was a claim of unfair treatment from a linen manufacturer, William Bleakley, to which John Neill responded as linen inspector.

Image 15

**NOTICE.**  
**WHEREAS** John Neill, who acts as Inspector of Brown Linen, for the County Armagh, produced one Piece of Linen sealed by me, before Geo. Perry, Esq. Sovereign of Armagh, one End of which there was upwards of two Yards cut, and forged Figures put thereon, in Order to have a Fine levied against me.—Now I think it my Duty to give Notice to the different Magistrates of the County of Armagh, and elsewhere, to levy no Fine against my Conduct in Sealing Brown Linen, without first duly summoning me, otherwise I do not look on myself safe in holding my Appointment.  
Armagh, October 13, 1799. WM. BLEAKLEY.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

Image 16

**H**AVING seen an advertisement in the Belfast News-Letter, dated 13th October inst. and signed William Bleakly, insinuating that I had cut a piece of Brown Linnen, and forged figures thereon, for the purpose of having a fine imposed upon and levied from said Bleakly, I think it necessary for this time *only*, let what will in future appear in public with such a signature, to state the simple facts, which are—that the said Bleakly has very often appeared to have misconducted himself in the office of Seal-Master of Brown Linnen, which made it necessary for me, to have him frequently fined, which is the reason of the present malicious and unfounded attack:—and as to the piece of linen mentioned in his advertisement, it was handed to me in the state it appeared before the Sovereign of Armagh, in said Bleakly's presence, by Mr. John Mulligan, of the county of Down, a reputable merchant, for the purpose of having a fine imposed on the Seal-Master; which would have been done, had not said Bleakly faithfully promised not in future to let any linen of his sealing appear without his seal at both ends

JOHN NEILL, Co. Armagh Inspector.  
Rich-hill, 29th Oct. 1799.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

#### Part 4

Table 6. *The Neill family of Templepatrick, including a teacher and student*

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1768	William	Neil	tenant in land sale, Templepatrick	Antrim	Tuesday, December 20, 1768 , p. 3
1768	William	Neil	tenant in land sale Rickamore, Templepatrick	Antrim	Tuesday, December 20, 1768 , p. 3
1768	James	Neill	tenant land sale Rickamore, parish Templepatrick	Antrim	Tuesday, July 19, 1768 , p. 2
1768	James	Neill	tenant in land sale Templepatrick parish	Antrim	Tuesday, December 20, 1768 , p. 3
1785	W.	Neil	slating the meeting house roof, Templepatrick	Antrim	Tuesday, August 02, 1785 , p. 3
1785	W.	Neil	opened school at Templepatrick	Antrim	Tuesday, August 02, 1785 , p. 2
1790	Robert	Neill	Telfair's student of Hercules st., Belfast	Antrim	Friday, October 22, 1790 , p. 1
1791	Charles	Neil	Telfair's student of Templepatrick	Antrim	Tuesday, February 01, 1791 , p. 1
1792	Samuel	Neill	Telfair's student of Anodoyne	unknown	Tuesday, October 30, 1792 , p. 3

In 1768 in Templepatrick parish, James resided in Rickamore townland and William in Rickamore and Templepatrick townlands. The two entries for William might have been the same person. James had the spelling Neill, while William was Neil. Both versions seemed to have been used. In 1785, W. Neill (possibly William and another generation) provided roofing for the meeting house and opened a school. Of the three students between 1790 and 1792 at Telfair's school, Charles is identified as being from Templepatrick while Robert and Samuel also attended. This nexus, however, does not indicate relationship.

In prior research by the author, dating to the 1970s, it was determined his lineage was not descended from Neill of Templepatrick.

Image 17

K : L U M A K E T Townland.			A. R. P.		
Andr. Fleming's Farm	15	2	8	John Thompson	16 0 0
John Craig	10	0	24	James Mc. Burney	14 0 3
John Deboys	11	1	0	John Mc. Henry	13 0 32
David Brison	9	3	4	James M. Henry	12 2 0
Stephen Martin	41	1	28	Neill and Horner	13 1 24
Arthur Grange	26	0	32		
T M P L E P A T R I C K.			A. R. P.		
Clotworthy Gowdy	18	2	0	Samuel Duffield	7 0 3
Hugh Fackner	8	3	4	John Coleman	10 2 32
William Neil	7	1	32		
C L O U G H A N D U F F.			A. R. P.		
Arthur Greer	17	1	32	Widow H. Jones	37 1 24
James Mc. Cullough	26	3	24	Widow Birnie	7 2 22
Joseph Price	13	2	36		
B A L L Y M A R T I N.			A. R. P.		
William Thompson	6	0	16	John Bair	21 1 37
John Mc. Mican	27	0	28	Archibald Finlay	10 2 32
James Mc. Alexander	29	0	24	John Lill	9 3 23
Widow Crawford	13	2	8		
B A L L Y C U S H A N.			A. R. P.		
Widow Crawford	23	1	0	William Douglafs	22 1 3
John Douglafs	19	1	8	Frances Scott	45 3 3
S T R A I N B A L L Y M O R R I S.			A. R. P.		
David Gilb	31	2	8	Samuel Birnie the Corp	22 0 3
Hugh Wilson	22	3	16	Will of Clady, and	
W I C K L O M O R E.			A. R. P.		
The late John Birnie	32	2	8	Clotworthy Gowdy	63 3 24
John Birnie	15	3	22	Widow Mc. Mullen	19 1 32
James Neil	14	0	0	John Mc. Henry	45 3 16
Thomas Mc. Neil	0	3	0	Robert Mc. Mullen	30 2 16
James Brown	6	0	0	James Young	39 0 23
Charles Littlejohn	12	0	0	Widow Hunter	59 2 3
John Brown	43	1	0	Geo. Adams	64 1 16
Ditto	46	0	24	John Mc. Neilly	67 1 16
Patrick Robb	46	0	8	James Boyd	27 0 28
William Young	35	1	4	James Mc. Gie	25 0 0
John & Henry Mc. Kergar	34	3	28	Wm. Neil	10 0 32
William Mc. Cauland	22	1	4	John Kilpatrick	10 2 12
John Thompson	13	0	24	John Ramsey	8 2 24
George Russell	17	3	12	John Mc. Neight	7 0 0

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

## Part 5

Table 7. The family of Neill near linen works and innkeeper at Ballymoney

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1756	Samuel	Neil	tenant in Ballymoney, land sale	Antrim	Friday, June 18, 1756, p. 2
1790	Samuel	Neill	lands to be sold at auction, tenants	Antrim	Friday, February 26, 1790, p. 4
1790	Samuel	Neill	tenant Ballymoney, mention bleach greens	Antrim	Friday, May 28, 1790, p. 4
1790	Samuel	Neill	tenant in Ballymoney, land sale	Antrim	Friday, June 25, 1790, p. 4
1799	William	Neill	innkeeper of Ballymoney	Antrim	Tuesday, October 22, 1799, p. 4

In 1756, Samuel Neil was a tenant on land placed for sale. It seems Samuel Neill in 1790 was a subsequent generation. Note the shift in spelling from Neil to consistently Neill. William Neill, in 1799, was an innkeeper in Ballymoney and possibly the third generation.

In prior research by the author, dating to the 1970s, it was determined his lineage was not descended from Neill of Ballymoney.

Image 18

William Kennedy,	}	Uppper	}	144	15	}	1. 2. d.	}	This Farm is well supplied with Turf Fogg, and lies-within three Miles of Ballymoney.
Widow Boyd,									
Joseph Boyd									
John Smith									
Robert Woodside									
Samuel Neil	}	Lower	}	115	12	}	35 0 5	}	The like.
John Connel									
Robert Thompson									
William Smith									
John Stewart									
Widow Bowland	}	Stroan	}						On this there are 2 good Farm Houses. the Farm lies within 1 mile
Widow Chelnutt									
Widow Thompson									

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

Image 19

Lands to be sold,  
*BY AUCTION.*

ON Thursday the first day of April next, at the house of Terence M Guichan of Ballymoney, in the county of Antrim, will be sold, for payment of the debts and legacies of Parrot Innes, Esq. deceased, those parts of the two quarter lands of Ballypartree, now in the possession of Thomas Brennan, Archibald Clarke, John M'Clothy, Samuel Neill, Mrs. Allen, Henry M'Connell, John M'Cartin, and William Ewin, containing three hundred and twenty-six acres and five perches and now producing a clear yearly well paid profit rent of one hundred and twenty two pounds, twelve shillings, and five pence. These lands are held under the Marquis of Antrim for three lives, renewable for ever, are of a good quality and very improvable, being situate in a country abounding in lime—nearly one half of those lands are held under lease made in the year 1782, for a term of thirty years, of which twenty years now remain unexpired; the remainder of the lands are now out of lease and thereon is an eligible site for a bleach-green, having a plentiful supply of water in the drest leadon, and an abundance of excellent turf bog very convenient. The situation is almost peculiarly advantageous for carrying on the hocking business, as the lands are nearly central on the great road leading from Ballymoney to Ballymenagh, the two most extensive brown linen markets in the county of Antrim. William Ewin, one of the tenants of those lands, will show them. For further particulars application to be made to Mr. J. Church, near Newtown-Limevaddy.

The sale of the lands in the above advertisement, is adjourned to Thursday the 27th inst.

Dated this 1st of April, 1790.

The Sale of the above lands is further adjourned to Thursday the 1st day of July next, when they will be peremptorily sold.

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

## Part 6

Table 8. Alexander Neill of Ballymacarret, now Belfast, county Down

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1749	Alexander	Neill	tenant in land sale, 2 acres & field, Ballymacarret	Down	Sunday, March 09, 1749, p. 3
1750	Alexander	Neill	rent roll land sale, Ballymacarret	Down	Monday, March 30, 1750, p. 3
1761	Alexander	Neill	deceased, settle estate, Ballymacarret, Belfast	Down	Friday, August 07, 1761, p. 3

Alexander was possibly among those entries of the name found in Table 12.

Image 20

TO be sold by publick cant, at the Market-house of Belfast, on the 18th day of this instant August, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, for the benefit of the administration of Mr. Alexander Neill, late of Belfast, deceased, the interest of several leases, viz. one of one field of land lying near Ballymacarret turnpike gate, containing two acres, and well inclosed, whereof there are twenty-three years to come; and a large garden, with two very convenient dwelling houses lying in Ballymacarret, whereof there are yet to come 87 years, clear of all chief or quit-rent; as also, a field adjoining said garden, containing one acre and twenty perches, whereof are yet to come 28 years; as also, another field of land, with two dwelling houses on it adjoining said garden, whereof are yet to come thirteen years; and likewise for the benefit of said administration, will be sold by publick cant, on the 22d inst. at the house of Alexander Dean in Ann's Street, Belfast, the surviving administrator of the said Mr. Neill, all the household furniture and other goods and chattels whereof the said Mr. Neill died possessed and intitled to.

As the intention of this sale is to settle the administration aforesaid no bidder will take it ill, that the money must be paid down for every article. Dated in Belfast this first day of August, 1761.

ALEXANDER DEAN

Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

Table 9. James Neill, clothing merchant and shipping agent, of Downpatrick, county Down

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1789	James	Neill	business haberdashery, Downpatrick	Down	Friday, November 06, 1789, p. 1
1791	James	Neill	starting haberdasher business, Downpatrick	Down	Tuesday, January 18, 1791, p. 4
1795	James	Neill	merchant and shipping, Downpatrick	Down	Monday, April 13, 1795, p. 3

Table 10. Robert and Samuel Neill, petitioners, of Carrickfergus, county Antrim

Year	First Name	Surname	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1796	Robert	Neill	petitioner from Carrickfergus, 1796	Antrim	Friday, October 28, 1796, p. 3
1796	Samuel	Neill	petitioner from Carrickfergus, 1796	Antrim	Friday, October 28, 1796, p. 3

## Part 7

Table 11. Earliest Neill records not identifiable in a family or grouping of more than two

Year	First Name	Surname	Theme	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1749	James	Neill	land sale	tenant with 86 acres in land sale, Ballymiscaw	Down	Wednesday, January 08, 1749, p. 3
1749	James	Neill	land sale	estate Capt. Ross of Down, tenant at Ballymiscaw	Down	Sunday, January 26, 1749, p. 3
1755	James	Neall	commerce	yarn buying hours in Dromore, typeset unclear	Down	Tuesday, March 04, 1755, p. 5
1756	Alexander	Neill	horses	horse stolen near Ballycross near Donaghdee	Down	Friday, November 19, 1756, p. 3
1757	Elizabeth	Neill	left husband	left husband William Fitzgerald	unknown	Friday, May 06, 1757, p. 2
1757	Mrs.	Neill	commerce	selling two ships, of Ann Street, Belfast	Antrim	Tuesday, September 13, 1757, p. 3
1758	Henry	Neil	land sale	tenant in Lurgan, nearby Tole O'Neil	Armagh	Tuesday, October 24, 1758, p. 3

Henry Neil was possibly an O'Neil, being near-neighbor to Tole O'Neil in county Armagh.



Table 12. *Neill records not identifiable in a family or grouping of more than two, sorted by first name*

Year	First Name	Surname	Theme	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1756	Alexander	Neill	horses	horse stolen near Ballycross near Donaghdee	Down	Friday, November 19, 1756 , p. 3
1761	Alexander	Neill	horses	horse sale, Lismuraty near Strancum	Antrim	Tuesday, May 26, 1761 , p. 3
1767	Alexander	Neill	horses	horses for sale (John, Alexander)	unknown	Friday, May 01, 1767 , p. 2
1767	Alexander	Neill	horses	horse stud, Mullaghbrack, Ballymecally parish	Armagh	Friday, April 10, 1767 , p. 2
1768	Ann	Neill	left husband	left husband John Stevenson, Kinbally in Skerry	Antrim	Friday, July 15, 1768 , p. 2
1794	Catherine	Neill	left husband	left husband James Thompson of Ballyclog	Tyrone	Friday, November 21, 1794 , p. 1
1796	Charles	Neill	political	house destroyed by Orangemen at Derrytrasna	Armagh	Friday, January 22, 1796 , p. 3
1785	Daniel	Neil	political	Freeholders petitioning parliament, "Dan."	Down	Tuesday, January 04, 1785 , p. 1
1792	Daniel	Neill	land sale	rent roll, land sale Ballyharty, Newtownards	Down	Friday, June 15, 1792 , p. 3
1757	Elizabeth	Neill	left husband	left husband William Fitzgerald	unknown	Friday, May 06, 1757 , p. 2
1798	Henry	Neal	political	church-warden of Clonallen, petitioner to king	Down	Friday, January 26, 1798 , p. 1
1758	Henry	Neill	land sale	tenant in Lurgan, nearby Tole O'Neil	Armagh	Tuesday, October 24, 1758 , p. 3
1794	J.	Neill	student	Mr Alexander's school, student, Belfast	Antrim	Friday, July 04, 1794 , p. 3
1749	James	Neill	land sale	tenant with 86 acres in land sale, Ballymiscaw	Down	Wednesday, January 08, 1749 , p. 3
1749	James	Neill	land sale	estate Capt. Ross of Down, tenant at Ballymiscaw	Down	Sunday, January 26, 1749 , p. 3
1755	James	Neall	commerce	yarn buying hours in Dromore, typeset unclear	Down	Tuesday, March 04, 1755 , p. 5
1766	James	Neill	land sale	clover field rent at Innishargie in Ards peninsula	Down	Tuesday, April 29, 1766 , p. 2
1768	James	Niell	commerce	kelp for sales at Greyabby	Antrim	Friday, July 15, 1768 , p. 2
1769	John	Neill	land sale	rent roll land sale, Scredhavren in Killeen parish	Antrim	Friday, August 18, 1769 , p. 1
1789	John	Neill	horses	horse stolen near Randalstown	Antrim	Friday, August 21, 1789 , p. 2
1797	John	Neil	political	hanged during rebellion	Monaghan	Friday, September 15, 1797 , p. 2
1788	Mary	Neil	crime	news of trial involving rape, perjury	unknown	Tuesday, December 16, 1788 , p. 4
1788	Mary	Neil	crime	news report 13 yo rape victim	unknown	Tuesday, December 23, 1788 , p. 3
1765	Matthew	Neal	land sale	rent roll land sale, Craigs in Kilconway barony	Antrim	Tuesday, September 24, 1765 , p. 2
1757	Mrs.	Neill	commerce	selling two ships, of Ann Street, Belfast	Antrim	Tuesday, September 13, 1757 , p. 3
1767	Mrs.	Neill	commerce	baggage arrived	unknown	Tuesday, October 13, 1767 , p. 2
1764	Mrs. Jane	Neill	commerce	of Killyleagh, customer of Hugh Bell in Dublin	Down	Friday, July 06, 1764 , p. 3
1768	Patrick	Neill	commerce	moving hosier business Downpatrick to Dromore	Down	Tuesday, July 19, 1768 , p. 3
1798	Patrick	Neill	political	reward subscribers, rebels steal arms, Drumbo	Down	Monday, March 26, 1798 , p. 1
1798	Patrick	Neill	political	petitioner against military, Hill-Hall in Drumbo	Down	Friday, January 19, 1798 , p. 1
1798	Ros [sp?]	Neill	political	petitioner offering reward from rebel theft, Belfast	Antrim	Friday, January 19, 1798 , p. 3
1790	Robert	Neill	court	court case, 'Robert Nickle, otherwise Neill'	Antrim	Tuesday, October 19, 1790 , p. 3
1791	Robert	Neil	commerce	selling oats at Cultra near Holywood	Down	Tuesday, September 27, 1791 , p. 4
1768	Samuel	Neill	crime	servant from Lisburn theft	Antrim	Tuesday, July 19, 1768 , p. 2
1769	Samuel	Neill	commerce	back from Dublin and started business in Lisburn	Antrim	Tuesday, February 21, 1769 , p. 3
1788	Samuel	Neill	land sale	farm 15 acres Corncastle lease , for sale	Antrim	Tuesday, July 08, 1788 , p. 4
1799	Thomas	Neill	political	pro-union petitioner for United Kingdom	Antrim	Friday, October 11, 1799 , p. 1
1769	William	Neil	crime	petitioner offering reward for theft in Ballymartin	Antrim	Friday, October 06, 1769 , p. 4
1786	William	Neill	political	supporting loyalist parade in Belfast	Antrim	Friday, July 14, 1786 , p. 3
1789	William	Neill	land sale	leasehold of building next to Linen Hall, Belfast	Antrim	Friday, January 23, 1789 , p. 4
1790	William	Neill	commerce	innkeeper at Ballycastle near Dunluce	Antrim	Friday, December 24, 1790 , p. 3
1791	William	Neil	commerce	yarn buying hours in Ballyclare	Antrim	Friday, October 07, 1791 , p. 4

Table 13. *Subset of records in Table 12, sorted by variant spelling (not Neill)*

Year	First Name	Surname	Theme	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1798	Henry	Neal	political	church-warden of Clonallen, petitioner to king	Down	Friday, January 26, 1798 , p. 1
1765	Matthew	Neal	land sale	rent roll land sale, Craigs in Kilconway barony	Antrim	Tuesday, September 24, 1765 , p. 2
1755	James	Neall	commerce	yarn buying hours in Dromore, typeset unclear	Down	Tuesday, March 04, 1755 , p. 5
1785	Daniel	Neil	political	Freeholders petitioning parliament, "Dan."	Down	Tuesday, January 04, 1785 , p. 1
1797	John	Neil	political	hanged during rebellion	Monaghan	Friday, September 15, 1797 , p. 2
1788	Mary	Neil	crime	news of trial involving rape, perjury	unknown	Tuesday, December 16, 1788 , p. 4
1788	Mary	Neil	crime	news report 13 yo rape victim	unknown	Tuesday, December 23, 1788 , p. 3
1791	Robert	Neil	commerce	selling oats at Cultra near Holywood	Down	Tuesday, September 27, 1791 , p. 4
1769	William	Neil	crime	petitioner offering reward for theft in Ballymartin	Antrim	Friday, October 06, 1769 , p. 4
1758	Henry	Neil	land sale	tenant in Lurgan, nearby Tole O'Neil	Armagh	Tuesday, October 24, 1758 , p. 3
1791	William	Neil	commerce	yarn buying hours in Ballyclare	Antrim	Friday, October 07, 1791 , p. 4
1768	James	Niell	commerce	kelp for sales at Greyabby	Antrim	Friday, July 15, 1768 , p. 2



In Table 13, variant spellings were relatively few and mostly Neill, and followed no particular pattern. From Table 12, Robert “Nickle, otherwise Neill” likely had unwed parents.

Image 21

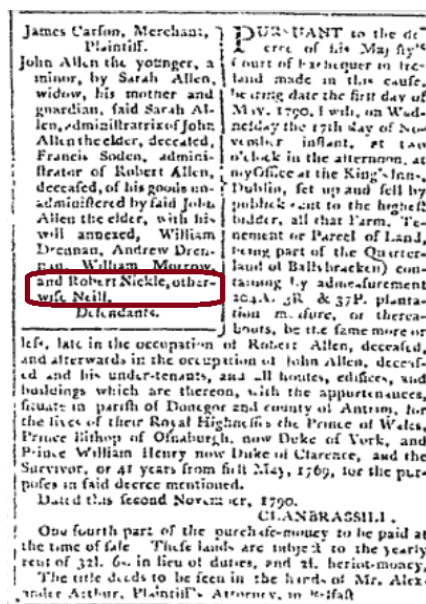


Image courtesy of irishnewsarchive.com

Table 14. Subset of records in Table 12, elaborating on the political theme, and whether likely to have opposed or supported the British government

Year	First Name	Surname	Theme	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1796	Charles	Neill	oppose	house destroyed by Orangemen at Derrytrasna	Armagh	Friday, January 22, 1796 , p. 3
1785	Daniel	Neil	support	Freeholders petitioning parliament, "Dan."	Down	Tuesday, January 04, 1785 , p. 1
1798	Henry	Neal	support	church-warden of Clonallen, petitioner to king	Down	Friday, January 26, 1798 , p. 1
1797	John	Neil	oppose	hanged during rebellion	Monaghan	Friday, September 15, 1797 , p. 2
1798	Patrick	Neill	support	reward subscribers, rebels steal arms, Drumbo	Down	Monday, March 26, 1798 , p. 1
1798	Patrick	Neill	unclear	petitioner against military, Hill-Hall in Drumbo	Down	Friday, January 19, 1798 , p. 1
1798	Ros [sp?]	Neill	support	petitioner offering reward for rebel theft, Belfast	Antrim	Friday, January 19, 1798 , p. 3
1799	Thomas	Neill	support	pro-union petitioner for United Kingdom	Antrim	Friday, October 11, 1799 , p. 1
1786	William	Neill	support	supporting loyalist parade in Belfast	Antrim	Friday, July 14, 1786 , p. 3

First names were a poor indicator of political alignment: 2 of 9 who might have opposed the government were Charles and John, while the two Patrick entries were either unclear or indicate support of the government. Surname spelling variants were not indicative.

Table 15. Subset of records in Table 12, individuals not from counties Down or Antrim

Year	First Name	Surname	Theme	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1767	Alexander	Neill	horses	horse stud, Mullaghbrack, Ballymecal parish	Armagh	Friday, April 10, 1767 , p. 2
1796	Charles	Neill	political	house destroyed by Orangemen at Derrytrasna	Armagh	Friday, January 22, 1796 , p. 3
1758	Henry	Neil	land sale	tenant in Lurgan, nearby Tole O'Neil	Armagh	Tuesday, October 24, 1758 , p. 3
1797	John	Neil	political	hanged during rebellion	Monaghan	Friday, September 15, 1797 , p. 2
1794	Catherine	Neill	left husband	left husband James Thompson of Ballyclog	Tyrone	Friday, November 21, 1794 , p. 1

Of these five records in Table 15, three were from county Armagh and one each from counties Monaghan and Tyrone. This indicates there were few Neill or Neil families who were Ulster Scots living outside countries Antrim and Down.

Table 16. *Additional records of Neill and variants from southern Ireland*

Year	First Name	Surname	Theme	Abstract	County	Belfast Newsletter, date and page
1785	[blank]	Neil	political	Counsellor Neil spoke in Parliament	Dublin	Tuesday, February 08, 1785 , p. 2
1766	George, Jr.	Neil	commerce	letter about Russian commerce	Dublin	Friday, August 08, 1766 , p. 2
1754	John	Neil, Neal	commerce	stage coach, Yorkminster Inn	Dublin	Tuesday, June 11, 1754 , p. 4
1757	John	Neill	crime	robbed of horse, Yorkminster Inn, Capel street	Dublin	Friday, May 27, 1757 , p. 3
1767	John	Neill	crime	attacked by a group of men	Kilkenny	Tuesday, October 13, 1767 , p. 2
1798	[blank]	Neill	political	innkeeper at Carrick on Suir, rebellion of 1798	Tipperary	Friday, August 03, 1798 , p. 4
1754	[blank]	Neile	political	news involving "papist priest"	Tipperary	Tuesday, April 16, 1754 , p. 3
1793	Patrick	Neill	political	murder of British soldier in Wexford	Wexford	Friday, August 02, 1793 , p. 4
1798	James	Neil	political	court case indicating rebellious actions	Wicklow	Monday, March 26, 1798 , p. 3

Beyond the 103 records of interest, nine records were identified pertaining to parts of Ireland south of Ulster. These were generally news accounts involving politics, crime, and commerce mentioning an individual named Neill. There was no consistent spelling of the surname, including one record using John Neil and John Neal for the same person. These records were from Dublin, Kilkenny, Tipperary, Wexford, and Wicklow.