

# **FOOTPRINTS OF EMMET**

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Footprints of Emmet by J. J. Reynolds

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**J. J. REYNOLDS**

**FOOTPRINTS  
OF EMMET**





*Robert Emmet*

THE ORIGINAL DRAWING OF ROBERT EMMET, TAKEN AT THE TRIAL, BY COMERFORD  
Now in the possession of Thomas Addis Emmet, M.D., New York.  
Reproduced, by permission, from "The Emmet Family."

# Footprints of Emmet

J. J. REYNOLDS

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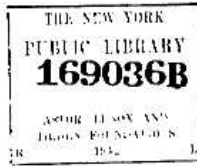
Fifty Illustrations in Half-tone, including reproductions from the Author's Photographs as well as several Plates from "The Emmet Family," by Thomas Addis Emmet, M.D., LL.D., New York (by permission)

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DUBLIN  
M. H. GILL & SON

1903

100



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## PREFACE

THE writer having, in view of the Emmet Centenary, prepared a series of photographs of places, etc., with which the name of Emmet is associated, considered that it might not be inappropriate that they should be accompanied by a short narrative sketch that would serve the purpose of explaining them. With this object he has collated from authoritative sources, as comprehensively as circumstances permitted, the authenticated facts of the young patriot's life story. He has endeavoured, at the same time, to make this little volume something more than a mere compilation, and trusts that it presents features sufficiently original to justify its appearance in conjunction with the many excellent biographies that have already appeared.

In preparing the book the writer has of necessity drawn largely upon the materials supplied by Dr. R. R. Madden, whose arduous labours have preserved to us so much that relates to the 1798-1803 periods; and to whom we are undoubtedly indebted for almost all that is known of Robert Emmet.

Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, of New York, grandson of the celebrated leader of the United Irishmen of the same name, and grand-nephew of Robert Emmet, continued the researches of Dr. Madden. His investigations have confirmed many of the facts adumbrated by Dr. Madden's statements, and have thrown a flood of light on the mysterious circumstances underlying the Insurrection of 1803, particularly with regard to its actual *origin* and the real part played by its devoted and ill-fated leader.

Dr. Emmet embodied the result of his investigations in his monumental work, *The Emmet Family*, a valuable historical record, printed in 1898. This interesting work, which was issued in a form that makes it one of the most beautiful and artistically produced books issued in America in recent years, was intended for merely family purposes, and only a limited number of copies were printed. Consequently it remained comparatively unknown until the approach of the Emmet Centenary year brought some of the facts it contained more prominently forward.

In compiling the present sketch the writer has made full use of Dr. Emmet's valuable work, and has drawn upon it to an extent which would not be justified had the book been published for general circulation and otherwise available.

The writer was enabled to submit the present short sketch to Dr. Emmet before publication. The author of *The Emmet Family* was kind enough to read the MS., and expressed the opinion that "from an historical standpoint the facts are correctly stated in accord with our present knowledge."



Dr. Emmet was good enough to permit the writer to utilize several of the illustrations in his work. Consequently he is enabled to reproduce in photographic facsimile, for the first time in Ireland, several unique and interesting plates from *The Emmet Family*, many of which were obtained by Dr. Emmet under exceptionally difficult circumstances.

The writer has supplemented Dr. Emmet's valuable pictures by some thirty additional photographs. Amongst these the pictures of "The Priory" originally appeared in the *New York Gael*, but are again reproduced by permission of the Editor, Mr. S. J. Richardson.

The writer begs to take the present opportunity of expressing his indebtedness to Sir Henry L. Harty, Coroner for the County of Dublin, for facilities afforded him in photographing the historic house and grounds of "Casino." To Mr. Deane C. Taylor, of "The Priory," Rathfarnham, for similar permission. To Mr. T. W. Lyster, M.A., Librarian of The National Library of Ireland, for the opportunity afforded of copying some scarce prints, etc., in the Library, including two original portraits from the Joly Collection; and also to Mr. W. G. Strickland, Registrar of The National Gallery of Ireland, for permission to photograph the Emmet death mask in the Gallery.

The book has been printed by a Dublin firm: the materials used are as far as possible of Irish manufacture. All the photo-blocks have been made by Mr. Thomas FitzPatrick, of 6, Upper O'Connell-street, Dublin, who has reproduced the original photographs with the greatest care and exactness.

As a century has elapsed since the events herein narrated took place, the writer, in the present sketch of the great patriot's career, has treated them with the freedom which appertains to the discussion of events that have long since fallen into the natural perspective of history. The fame of Robert Emmet is now secure even from partisan prejudices or political prepossessions. In the words of D'Arcy Magee his reputation is "safe beyond the reach of calumny, or party zeal, or time's changes," and we may unreservedly adopt the motto quoted by Dr. Madden:—

"Speak of me as I am—

Nothing extenuate, nor set down aught in malice."

J. J. R.

*March, 1903.*

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