

300  
years  
ago

- 1600s fine linen being produced in Lagan and Bann Valleys
- 1725 Hamilton Maxwell introduces the first beetling machine in Drumbeg
- 1760 Vitriol (sulphuric acid) used for bleaching linen
- 1764 William Coulson set up damask handloom factory in Lisburn
- 1774 John Barbour opens first linen thread factory in Lisburn

200  
years  
ago

- 1780-90 White Linen Halls built Belfast and Newry
- 1801 Jacquard looms invented in Lyons, France
- 1822 introduction of first damask handlooms to Ireland by Michael Andrews in Ardoyne
- 1825 invention of wet spinning for cotton
- 1827 wet spinning adapted for linen production

100  
years  
ago

- 1870 power-looms used in the production of damask linen
- 1900 – 1914 busiest time for linen industry
- 1914 – 1918 production of linen for military use
- 1939 – 1945 production of linen for military use
- After 1945 decline of linen industry due to competition from modern synthetic fabrics