Local History Review

Vol. 18, 2013

Federation of Local History Societies
Conascadh na gCumann Staire Aitiula

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Larry Breen, Hon. Editor

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Federation of Local History Societies

What it is and what it does

History

The Federation of Local History Societies was established in 1981 to promote the interests of amateur historians and voluntary museums and to represent their views. In the intervening years the number of affiliated societies has grown to 134 societies.

Aims

The aims of the Federation are:

1. To encourage research in the fields of history, archaeology, folk-life and folklore.
2. To exchange information among affiliated societies through the medium of newsletters, publications, seminars, etc.
3. To develop mutual support among affiliated societies.
4. To encourage the publication of information of historical interest and the better utilisation of Archives.

Membership

Membership of the Federation is open to all Local History societies, Archaeological societies, Field Groups, Folklore and Folk-life societies, Family or Genealogical Societies and local museums. Other similar organisations which don't come within these categories can be linked with the Federation through Associated Membership.

How the Federation Operates

The Federation has a voluntary secretariat by which societies can help one another and combine to achieve results which could not be achieved by individual effort.

The member societies come together twice yearly at different venues around the country.

The Annual General Meeting and Seminars, Lectures and Workshops provide an exciting exchange of ideas from all over the country.

The Federation's Journal is a source of information on the activities of the member societies and its contents indicate the widespread and growing interest in local history, which highlights the need for such an organisation as the Federation.

Individuals

When you join your local history group you are joining a lively group of enthusiastic people who share a common interest in local history, archaeology, folklore. You do not need to have any particular qualification or a high level of knowledge of the subjects outlined, but as a member, you will learn much about your heritage, in a most enjoyable way, by having access to the lectures and slide shows organised during the autumn, winter and spring.

Membership Application/Renewal Form is available for download on the Federation website:

www.localhistory.ie

Federation of Local History Societies' Officers 2012 – 2013

President: Canon Sean O'Doherty, P.P.
Durrow, Co. Laois
Tel. (057) 873 6156
Email — olmns.ias@eircom.net

Chairman: Dick Ryan,
6 Hillcourt Road,
Glenageary, Co. Dublin,
Tel. (01) 285 3960
Email – rmjryan@gmail.com

Vice Chairman: Martina Griffin
Lorelei, Toorphelim
Moate, Co. Westmeath
Tel. (090) 648 1428
martinacloghergriffin@gmail.com

Secretary: Betty Quinn
Cordoogan,
Monasterboice, Co. Louth
Tel. (041) 9826710
Email – bett.quinn@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mairead Byrne,
135 Dara Court,
Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Tel. (087) 223 9410
Email – maireadccbyrne@gmail.com

Editor/PRO Larry Breen
8 The Paddocks,
Naas, Co. Kildare
Tel. (045) 897445
Email – info@localhistory.ie

Committee Members

Joe Williams, 17, Kilmahuddrick Crescent, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Email: – joewclonhist@hotmail.com

Kay Lonergan, 142, Vernon Avenue, Clontarf, Dublin 3
Email: – parkstennis@eircom.net

Eugene Jordan, An Chorrbhuaile, Bearna, Co. na Gaillimhe
Email: – 2eugenejordan@gmail.com

Frank Taaffe, Ardreigh House, Athy, Co. Kildare.
Email: – fbtaaffe@indigo.ie

Michael Gaynor, Rockmars Hall, Jenkinstown, Co. Meath
Email: – michaeljgaynor@hotmail.com

Richard Farrelly, Balgeeth, Kilmessan, Co. Meath
Email: – rjfarrelly@gmail.com

Eddie Synnott, Weatherstown, Glenmore, via Mullinavat Post Office, Co. Kilkenny
Email: – edsynnott@yahoo.co.uk

James Dockery, The rise, Hodson Bay, Athlone, Co. Roscommon
Email: – jamesdockery@eircom.net

Michael Maher, 26 Kenure Court, Powerscoourt,, Waterford
Email: – michael.maher54@gmail.com

John Bradshaw, Goats' Lane, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary
Tel. 062.33188.

Padraig Laffan, 92 Springhill Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin
Email: – padraiglaffan@gmail.com

The Society's Website address is **http://www.localhistory.ie**

Editorial

I suppose one could measure the health of any organisation by the state of its membership. What is happening? Is there any growth, stagnation, regression or is it just holding its own? The Federation has shown significant growth in membership over the past few years and this year alone over twentythree new societies representing fourteen counties have come on board. We have all worked hard to improve communication and that effort is now bearing fruit. The health of the Federation is good so let us keep the ball rolling and we can continue to lead and promote the organisation with confidence into the future.

Our programme of events continues to offer members the opportunity to engage in promoting local history in their own communities, around the country and abroad. We have designed it to also encourage social interaction and help develop friendships between all who enjoy what local history is all about.

The A.G.M. this year in Waterford was a great success and we extend our thanks to the Waterford Archaeological & Historical Society for being such wonderful hosts. We experienced another memorable trip to the U.K. with our visit to Bath and the Southern Cotswolds. At home we welcomed our friends from the FULS to Dublin for our annual exchange event and also joined forces with them on a visit to Aras an Uachtarain to meet President Michael D Higgins. The launch of our new Hidden Gems & Forgotten People leaflet in Iniskeen, Co. Monaghan, attracted a huge audience from north and south. We were delighted to visit Derry City where we met up with our colleagues from Ulster for a weekend trip and join in the City's celebration as U.K. City of Culture 2013.

Speaking of the FULS we were all greatly saddened by the loss of a dear friend Doreen Corcoran from Carrickfergus who passed away during the year. Doreen was an accomplished historian, a lovely lady and a great friend of the Federation for many years. She will be greatly missed.

Our Hidden Gems & Forgotten People Project continues to grow albeit at a slower pace than we would like so we would encourage people to get involved and make a contribution. We are working jointly with the Library Authorities on a "County History" project designed to produce summarised histories of all the counties in Ireland. These will be uploaded to the history section of the public libraries' website. We are looking at a "history in schools" project with a view to introducing local history to students. In keeping with modern technology our Autumn Seminar was on the topic of social media.

I would like to thank the Federation committee for all their hard work and dedication during the year. It is through their efforts that we continue to provide the services to our members.

I would like to say a sincere word of thanks to all those who contributed articles and news for the review which was of a very high standard. Thanks to the production team for making it all possible, Brendan Cullen for all his help and a special word of thanks to J. J. Woods for all his invaluable work and commitment in the typesetting and design of the publication.

Remember our motto: "Local History is your History" and enjoy the read.

Larry Breen, Hon Editor.

Arthur Young's — *A Tour in Ireland* 1776-1779[1] Part One

By Denis G. Marnane

Introduction

Arthur Young and Mary Wollstonecraft,[2] an unlikely pairing, might have bumped into each other at Mitchelstown. He, an advocate of scientific farming; she, a proponent of woman's equality; both cutting edge and each for a brief time at Mitchelstown employed by the King family. Alas, 'might have'. Young was at Mitchelstown at the end of the 1770s, employed to run the estate. Wollstonecraft was there as a governess a decade later. Neither found the experience a happy one. Each an extraordinary personality, was destined to have an impact on the world. Their respective periods in Ireland illustrate how at the time, Ireland attracted such individuals, though the country did not necessarily pay heed to what they had to say.

Arthur Young

Young's employment at Mitchelstown was around the time of his 'Tour' of the country but before his account was published. Like many 'experts' Mr. Young was more comfortable with theory. Occasions when he got his hands dirty, so to speak, either working for himself or others, were not very successful. Ireland had no shortage of visitors scribbling away, telling the world what the place was like and what was wrong with it. It should be admitted that Young is more informative than other visitors, but less entertaining than most. Like Mr Gradgrind, Young was a believer in facts and figures and to that end asked set questions of his hosts. Given that the land mattered more than anything else in Ireland and that Young's interest and expertise was agriculture, it's no surprise that his account is frequently cited in works about pre-Famine Ireland.

Young arrived in Ireland with letters of introduction from ten worthies, whom he knew in England, including Lord Kenmare, the dowager Lady Middleton and rather more notably, Edmund Burke. Once in Ireland, the great and the good were most obliging to the visitor, ready to show him their estates and hopefully merit his approval. In his preface, he lists several dozen individuals who helped him; ranging from the duke of Leinster (Castletown), the earl of Altamont (Westport), viscount Kingsborough (Mitchelstown), Sir Lucius O'Brien (Dromoland), the bishop of Elphin (Church of Ireland, Sligo), Sir John Jefferyes (Blarney)

and some plain misters, including Robert Gregory (Kiltartan, Coole). These were all estate owners, a socio-economic system largely a creation of the eighteenth century and Young arrived at its heyday, interested less in our modern focus on landlord-tenant relations and much more on how landlords exploited the land under their control.

It is perhaps a minor irony that this great agricultural expert was born in London, in 1741, so that he was thirty-five when he came to Ireland.[3] His background was comfortably middle class. His father, an Anglican clergyman obviously had good contacts, having the post of chaplain to the Speaker of the Commons. In his early twenties, after several false starts, Young took up tenancy of a farm, for reasons of health more than anything else. (In London, the Thames was the city's main sewer and gin a lot better for you than the city's water supply.) As mentioned, Young was not a very successful practical farmer, but he read a great deal, talked to progressive agriculturalists and one of his false starts had been journalism, so not only had he an inquiring mind but a talent for writing. Prior to coming to Ireland, Young had already travelled through England and Wales and published his account. Ireland was an obvious challenge, at a time when learned societies were avid for more and more information. Visitors who wrote about their travels around Ireland generally saw the country throught the mists of antiquity, rather than bother about turnip yields.

From Dublin to Wexford

Arthur Young's first tour lasted from mid-June to mid-October 1776, around 120 days. This article covers the first half , sixty days or so, of this and deals with Leinster and Ulster. Young's sailing from Holyhead to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) took a potentially stomach-churning twenty-two hours. As it was June, he was perhaps lucky. He dismisses it as just 'tedious'. Dublin, with its own parliament, was as it should be, a capital city and straight away Young started at the top, getting an introduction to the Lord Lieutenant. Between this first visit and the publication of his account, Young lived in Dublin for a few months while waiting to take up his post at Mitchelstown. Therefore, like a *Lonely Planet* writer he assures his readers about his first-hand knowledge of the city. 'Good lodgings' he declares, 'almost as dear as they are in London'. Humour is not in Young's comfort zone but he is funny about Dublin's efforts to stage fashionable Italian opera, not so much performed as 'murdered'.

On 24 June he left Dublin and had his first substantial encounter with the reality of Irish agriculture at Luttrellstown, where the agent soaked his visitor with statistics. 'Good grass-land lets at 40s. an acre.... rent of cottages 26s. to 30s. with a potato garden.' The following day he was in County Kidare, at Killadoon, home of the Clements family, now

remembered (if at all) because of the murder of the earl of Leitrim in 1878.[4] Young did not hang about and of course had to pass through Carton, the country seat of the duke of Leinster. Young never reaches lyricism in his descriptions but approached it when describing the vast acres of the duke's park being cropped and 'kept in the highest order by 1,100 sheep.'

A surprising feature of Young's 'Tour' is the speed with which he travelled. By the evening of 28 June, he's at Dangan where he meets Lord Mornington , who shows Young the improvements on the estate. Earlier that day he had visited Summerhilll, seat of the Rowley family. Mornington was the father of some extraordinary sons, including the duke of Wellington. Along the way, though he did not meet him, Lord Conyngham of Slane Castle, received a backhand compliment; while a great deal of money had been spent on the castle 'an instance of magnificence not often met with', he rarely lived there but 'while it is so common for absentees to drain the kingdom of every shilling they can' the investment in the local economy by his lordship was duly noted. Young discussed absentees in his second volume and published a list of the substantial landowners who earned their income in Ireland but spent it abroad. Conyngham, with £8,000 p.a. was near the top.

Because Arthur Young was in Ireland during a period when the government in London was free with peerages in order to make influential individuals see things their way, some of those whom he met became better known dressed up in their robes, so to speak. Near Mellifont, he renewed acquaintance with John Baker Holroyd, someone who shared his interest in farming and who, some years before, had purchased an estate in England. In 1781 he became 1st baron Sheffield. As Young described the situation, Holroyd's estate was an example of what had happened on many estates earlier in the century. The land was leased to a handful of individuals who were only interested in maximising their return by sub-letting the land. When these leases expired, and very much to Young's approval, Holroyd's refused to renew, knowing that packing the estate with miserable tenants and rackrenting them, was not in the long term interest of the estate or the country. As Young described the matter, Holroyd invested in his property. This you might think unexceptional, except that unlike the practice in England, Irish tenants and not Irish landlords invested in farm improvements.

On 1 July, leaving Slane, Young spent that evening with Lord Bective, along the way having visited and interrogated one of the district's largest farmers, a Mr Gerard. Young has a deal to say about Headfort, Lord Bective's seat near Kells. 'All Lord Bective's gates are iron, which cost him £5 5s and as wooden ones come to £3.3s, he finds them the greatest improvement.....' And so on. In 1800, his son was created

marquis of Headfort and the family owned some 22,000 acres.

Leaving Lord Bective and his fancy gates on 3 July, his next call was to Lord Longford at Packenham Hall (Tullynally) in Westmeath, who was on hand to give his visitor all the facts he might want (and then some more). This was the 2nd baron Longford (the title had been created in 1756 and Edward Packenham had succeeded in 1766). 'The cows give two to three gallons of milk a day, and yield 40s., produce per year by butter and calf.' Or 'The tillage is all done with horses, use four in a plough and do better than half an acre a day.' Or 'Expense of building a cabin 40s..' The writer gave an example of the increase in land values. A 276 acre (Ir) farm on the estate, let in 1736 for £75 p.a. was now reckoned to be worth £250 p.a. From conversation with Longford about the living conditions of the poor, some startling images emerged, such as 500 children fishing at the same time in the local lakes, using packthread and crooked pins, allowing a child 'catch perch enough in an hour for the family to live on the whole day'.

On 5 July, Young left Mullingar, 'a dirty ugly town', behind him and headed for Tullamore and from there on to Rahan in Offaly where Lord Shelburne (a member of the Petty family, descendant of William Petty, associated with the 17th century Down Survey) was landlord. Shelburne was briefly prime minister in the early 1780s. Young was delighted to meet a Norfolk man, something of a farming expert, put in place by Shelburne to bring agricultural improvements. In a display of unusual social intelligence for the time, the writer notes that the Norfolk man displayed no negative reaction to the place or its people. In other words, the bringer of enlightenment did it modestly, without rubbing the faces of the natives in their ignorance. After praise is lavished on all concerned, we learn that Young was responsible for effecting this job placement.

Moving through Carlow, Young noted the property of Browne of Brownshill, which place is today associated with a prehistoric monument, a dolmen. Young, of course, kept his eyes very much on the present and remarked on the mountain in front of Browne's residence, which 'was cultivated very high up the sides'. On inquiry he found that this was done by cottiers, who paid dearly for permission to improve their landlord's property, as much as 10s. an acre. This description of marginal land being reclaimed is of interest because with population increasing in the coming decades, this type of cultivation was more common. Browne had 800 sheep, consuming twenty-five tons of hay in winter.

On 10 July, Arthur Young visited Mount Juliet, the seat of Lord Carrick, near Thomastown in Kilkenny. The earldom of Carrick had been restored in 1748 for this branch of the Butler family. The following day,

Young rode from Kilfane near Thomastown to Woodstock, describing the journey as 'the finest ride I have yet had in Ireland'. Woodstock, built for Sir William Fownes, at least regarding its setting, very much appealed. Moving out of Kilkenny into Wexford, the author thought it opportune to tell his readers something about Whiteboys, the large-scale rural conspiratorial collectives that ranged about the countryside, mainly at night, their identities hidden, intent on imposing their version of right and wrong. Sometimes called Levellers, due to their efforts to level ditches created to mark out common land that landlords had taken into private ownership. Appearing first around 1760 and also campaigning against tithe payments,[5] Young thought it very important to reassure his readers that there was no evidence to link Whiteboys to foreign conspiracy, always the nightmare scenario in Anglo-Irish relations. Generally Young does not bother with history but at this point in his *Tour* he delivered a lecture on recent history. At the time of writing, the agitation had abated and so Young could be optimistic. Of course, he was wrong, such mass agitations continued episodically for decades.

In Wexford, intent on investigating Bargy and Forth and the idea that the population was ethnically different, he spent a night at the village of Taghmon, which in fact returned a member to Parliament His description was cleverly circumscribed. The inn was as good 'as the appearance of the place could allow, though I was told it was very good.' With the person whom he hoped to meet not available, we see something of Young's method of establishing contacts. He asked the landlord of the inn to identify the gentlemen, meaning land owners, who were interested in agriculture. In a throwaway remark, Young commented that lower class women in Ireland were ugly, unlike the ladies of Wexford, evidence of their non-Gaelic origin. He also indicated that a distinctive characteristic of the county was the wearing of straw hats, something he found comic and the sartorial habit of both men and women.

At Courtown, Young was flattered by the attention of James Stopford, a local MP, who had been created baron Courtown in 1758 and a few years later promoted to the earldom of Courtown. On Sunday 14 July, he attended church, surprised at the size of the congregation, unusual in Ireland, unlike catholic mass houses. He also enjoyed a gallop on the strand and observed that 'the paddies were swimming their horses in the sea to cure the mange, or keep them in health.' The following evening, Young was at Mount Kennedy in County Wicklow, then the seat of General Robert Cunningham, who had led the British forces in Ireland. The general gave Young all the information he could wish and took him to visit his most progressive tenant farmer. Again, the

attention of the modern reader is drawn to such incidental details as ewes being fed with cows milk 'given them by women from their mouths, squirted down the lambs' throats to the quantity of a noggin a day at first, and rising to one and half and two (noggins).' Cunningham died in 1801 and Jonah Barrington in his famous *Sketches* describes the event in supernatural terms.

From Wicklow to Belfast

On 17 July, passing through the Glen of the Downs, Young travelled towards Powerscourt, 'which appears to be in the most beautiful situation in the world'. For once, the writer manages to forego his fascination with farming and devoted Wordsworthian pages to the wonders of nature on display. This idyll must have been an acute contrast with Dublin , which Young passed through on the following day on his way north, managing to collect 'a fresh packet of recommendations' to introduce him to some key figures in that part of the island. By breakfast time on the 19th our traveller was at the recently built Hampton Hall (1758) at Balbriggan, property of the Hamilton family. Young's highest praise was heaped on baron Hamilton, calling him a 'considerable improver'.

On 20 July, Arthur Young was at Drogheda, 'a well-built town, active in trade'. His biggest catch, so to speak, was Lord Chief Baron Foster (Young called him 'Forster') whose estate at Collon (Young called it 'Cullen') very much impressed. Foster, a hugely influential figure in law and politics, took the time to give his visitor all the information he wanted. No wonder Young was impressed. Foster spent around £50,000 on improvements over a twenty year period. In Young's words: 'the greatest improvements I have anywhere met with'., which included establishing a colony of foreign protestants on the estate. It seems unlikely that his tenants were as enthusiastic as their landlord. 'Raising rents,' Foster considered, 'as one of the greatest causes of the improvement of Ireland.' This rather novel notion, he explained as giving tenants an incentive to be better farmers. However, there was a cut-off point, after which the law of diminishing returns kicked in. What Young does not tell his readers, because he would not have known, is the extent of Foster's debts. Getting away from agriculture, Young raised the matter of the penal laws against Roman Catholics and was told, accurately, that there was a huge gap between these laws and their implementation. This meeting with Foster was presumably an example of the value of his letters of introduction.[6]

Young spent the night of 21 July at the Clanbrassil Arms Inn in Dundalk , 'a very good inn'. He was disappointed that James Fortescue of Ravensdale Park in Louth, to whom he had a letter of introduction, was away. However, the author was able to tell his readers something about local improvements, especially the colonisation of previously waste

land. When Young reached Newry, he had a lot to say about the state of roads, especially around Markethill and the Gosford estate. This was a topic on which he was clearly an expert. According to Young, turnpike roads automatically meant 'vile' roads. These were roads, the upkeep of which came from tolls. On the other hand, Young had nothing but praise for roads financed by local taxation. Lord Gosford was away but the agent was forthcoming about the estate. The fact that the wives of local manufacturers drank tea for breakfast was worth remarking and indicated how well their husbands were doing.

By the evening of 22 July, Arthur Young was at Armagh, his mission to meet the Church of Ireland primate, Archbishop Richard Robinson who held his post from 1765 for nearly thirty years and was one of the many English clergy to gain preferment in Ireland. Apparently John Wesley complained that the primate was more interested in buildings than souls and sure enough, when the following day the archbishop took his visitor on a tour of the district, it was all about his palace, his library, his barracks, his infirmary, his market house. Certainly, Young was impressed, proclaiming about the city, that His Grace 'had found it a nest of mud cabins and will leave it a well-built city of stone and slate'.

Fans of Jane Austen will remember that when Elizabeth Bennet, with her aunt and uncle visited Pemberly, the housekeeper was pleased to show them around the house, illustrating the point that the Establishment was sometimes pleased to show off to the aspiring upwardly mobile. Among the properties in the region visited by Young was Glaslough, where however, Mr Leslie was away but his wife gave him the tour, the emphasis very much on improvements. That evening, the proprietor, having returned, made a point of contacting Young and giving what information he wanted. Young also visited William Brownlow's estate at Lurgan and very much enjoyed the setting of the property and was delighted when Brownlow accompanied him around Lurgan on market day, explaining about the sale of some 3,000 lengths of linen by the piece-workers, a trade worth in excess of £5,000 a week. Given his location, Young got lots more information on this topic before his tour of that part of the country was finished.

By 27 July, Arthur Young was at Belfast but found the two individuals to whom he had letters of introduction, were away from home and so on the following day set off towards Strangford Lough, where that evening he watched the herring fleet go out. He was intrigued by the local industry, collecting seaweed for burning into kelp, some of which was exported to England. On 30 July, a local official, a collector of customs, provided Young with the kind of information he relished, lots of prices and yields. Calling at Lord Bangor's Castle Ward, with one of his letters of recommendation, Young was again out of luck and had to

make do with a walk through the grounds. That evening near Crossgar village in County Down, some fifteen miles south of Belfast, the reader is reminded that one of the penalties of Young's gallop across Ireland was the necessity of finding different lodgings virtually every night. The reader can sympathise with him when told that that night, calling at Arthur Johnstone's place, and finding him away (yet another one), 'I desired the servants to give me a bed, dreading being caught again at a village cabin.'

Having been disappointed a few days earlier, on 31 July Arthur Young returned to Belfast and this time managed to find informants to satisfy his appetite for factual information. Belfast absorbed, so to speak, Young investigated other parts of Antrim , especially Shane's Castle on the shores of Lough Neagh. It apparently did not take a lot to get Mr Young excited. He gushed to his readers that near the castle four men were hoeing a field of turnips and that 'these were the first turnip hoers I have seen in Ireland and I was more pleased than if I had seen four emperors.' The property that impressed him most was Leslie Hill near Ballymoney, the mansion having been built in the 1750s and the proprietor received warm praise from the writer, as the best informed man in Ireland about matters agricultural. High praise indeed. 'I should remark that Mr Leslie's crops of wheat were the finest I had seen in Ireland, nor do I remember finer in England.' Over the generations, this family produced an extraordinary number of clergymen. A visit to that region had to include the Giant's Causeway but while Young is prepared to admire he is not overwhelmed, admitting that he might have been more awe-struck had he not seen prints of Fingall's Cave.

From Belfast to Cavan

On 5 August, Young left for Coleraine, where his informant about salmon fishery and much more was the Right Honorable Richard Jackson MP, whose home near the present county hall was demolished in the 1980s, having been originally built three hundred years earlier. One of the pleasures of accompanying Arthur Young on his *Tour* is the frequent refrain of 'who knew?' on the part of the reader. For example, who knew that at Magilligan on Lough Foyle, a rabbit warren (a sandy length along the shore and owned by the bishop) yielded on average 3,000 dozen (36,000!) rabbits, and as many as 5,000 dozen had been known. They were sold at 2d. a pair, the skins being sent to Dublin , producing up to 6s. a dozen. The said bishop of Derry was the famous Frederick Hervey, bishop 1768 to 1803 and 4th earl of Bristol three years after Young's visit (on the death of his brother). Once again, Young was out of luck and to his great disappointment , the bishop was away and so he had to rely on other local sources of information.

Young was intrigued by Inch Island on Lough Swilly (now well known

for bird watching), very much a centre for herring fishing and when he visited, some 500 boats were employed. In a 'middling' year, each boat could catch 6,000 herrings a night, during the season (Oct-Dec) and the reader is told that a ton of salt would cure 10,000 herring and that a barrel held 500 fish. An important figure in this trade was Robert Alexander, who in 1775 was able to send 1,750 barrels of herrings to the West Indies. Young gives very detailed figures with respect to Alexander's business.

By 10 August, early in the morning, Young arrived at Mount Charles the Conyngham estate , west of Donegal town and was pleased to meet the agent Alexander Montgomery who brought him on a tour of the coast and told him about the three hundred or so boats engaged locally in fishing, not just catching huge quantities of herring but harpooning whales. Leaving Mount Charles the following day, Young travelled towards Ballyshannon and was very impressed by the scenery. That night he spent at Castle Caldwell on Lough Erne (now a forest park) and was very warmly welcomed by Sir James Caldwell, the 4th baronet and fellow of the Royal Society and as such perhaps more likely to welcome a traveller like Young. Judging by the amount of information off-loaded on his visitor, Sir James must have spent the entire next day talking. Certainly, he was among Young's most attentive hosts.

In a table printed by Young, showing the expenses in cultivating one acre for flax, a surprising number of women were engaged: for example, six women employed to weed at a cost two shillings and twenty four women 'beetling' at a cost of sixteen shilllings. Apparently, this involved wetting and beating the fabric. One of the pleasures of this kind of writing is the arresting fact, the startling detail, the unexpected statement. 'Six people, a man, his wife and four children,' Young tells us, 'will eat eighteen stone of potatoes a week.' or his declaration that 'the common people are remarkably given to thieving, particularly grass, timber and turf.'

On 15 August, Arthur Young reached Enniskillen and absorbed more information about such notable estates as Castle Coole, Belleisle and Florence Court. Regarding the first of these, the Lowry Corry family had not yet stepped on the first rung of the peerage or begun the building of the notable house that stands today. A few years before Young's visit, Ralph Gore a notable soldier had been created earl of Ross (not to be confused with the Parsons, Birr, earldom of Rosse) and Young was very taken by the location of Belleisle, the earl's seat. (Like so many of these properties, it is now an hotel.) Regarding the local economy, Young noted the increasing importance of the linen trade, declaring that 'they breed up their sons more and more to weaving'. Weavers earned, on average, 10d. a day. Florence Court was the seat of the Cole family

and William Cole was created viscount Enniskillen in 1776, the year of Young's visit. His lordship supplied his visitor with comprehensive information. Farmers allowed cottiers take a crop of potatoes, if they manured the land. Thirty two men would set an acre a day, with five children.

As Young travelled into Cavan, another estate that came under scrutiny was that of the Maxwell family, whose seat at Farnham is yet another hotel. A decade before Young's visit, John Maxwell was created baron Farnham and by the time Young arrived, Maxwell's son was an earl and condescending enought to accompany his visitor in a ride around the property. All these properties, not least because of their watery locations, Young considered extremely beautiful. Farnham being 'one of the finest places I have seen in Ireland; the water, wood and hill are all in a great style'. You will agree that as a writer, Arthur Young was more at home delivering agricultural statistics.

1 The 1st ed. was 1780. The Irish University Press 1970 reprint of the 1892 4th ed. is used here. This edition is in two volumes. Volume one is the 'Tour', whereas volume two discusses Ireland's agricultural economy under various headings.

2 Her daughter was the author of *Frankenstein*

3 It is unexpected but fitting that this Englishman, who spent a tiny part of his life in Ireland, merited a substantial entry (by L.M. Cullen) in the recent *Dictionary of Irish Biography*. This reinforces the point about Arthur Young's significance.

4 William Clements was 3rd earl of Leitrim

5 Roman Catholic tenants were taxed to support the upkeep of the Church of Ireland. Obviously, not popular, especially as this tax was levied on ground growing potatoes but not on land in grass.

6 Anthony Malcomson wrote a biography of Foster called *John Foster The Politics of the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy* (Oxford UP, 1978).

Ahead of their Time
The Drumm Battery Railcars, 1932 — 1949

by James Scannell

Introduction

In July 1984 a new era in Irish transport was inaugurated with the electrification of the Dublin suburban rail network, using the overhead wire system, from Howth, Co. Dublin on the northside, to Bray, Co. Wicklow on the southside under the brand name of DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transit). In 2000 the service was further extended northwards from Howth Junction to Malahide, Co. Dublin and southwards from Bray to Greystones Co. Wicklow. But in 1984 and again in 2009 when the 25th anniversary of the launch of the DART service was celebrated, overlooked was the fact that between 1923 and 1949 electrically powered railcar sets had opened on the Dublin to Bray line. Known as the Drumm battery railcars, these vehicles were powered by up to 160 on-board rechargeable batteries, developed by Dr. James Drumm, which could be topped up between journeys and fully recharged overnight

The Electricity Supply Board

Prior to 1927 when the Electrical Supply Board (ESB) was established, over 160 companies and municipal bodies were generating and selling electricity to industrial and private consumers but no two operators used the same voltage. Once up and running, the ESB began taking into public ownership the various electricity supply operations within the state in a process which took several years to complete and ultimately ended the era of local electricity generation and supply and also established a unitary national voltage. Having built the Ardnacrusha electricity generating facility on the River Shannon which came on stream in 1929, their priority was to find consumers for a product which could not be stored in bulk and had to be consumed as generated

Dr. James J. Drumm

Dr James J. Drumm was born at Dundrum, Co. Down, in 1896, receiving his primary education at the national school where his mother taught and his secondary education at St. Macartan's College, Monaghan, where he won a County Council Scholarship. Entering the Chemistry School of University College Dublin (UCD) in 1914, he graduated with an Honours B.Sc. degree in 1916 and the following year obtained his M.Sc. degree by research. He then spent 3 years as chief analytical chemist with the Continuous Research Company of Manchester working

on methods of analysing the tungsten and molybdenum alloys from ores which were key materials used in the preparation of special tool steels during the First World War. Returning to Ireland in 1922, he first worked as a research chemist with Fine Chemicals Ltd, 40 Mary Street, Dublin 1, and later with James Crean and Co., Soap and Lard and Lubrication Oil Manufactures, 140- 149 North King Street, Dublin 1, for whom he produced a very fine toilet soap sold under the *Dromona* brand name. He also acted as consultant chemist for various firms and engaged in some academic research funded by an 1851 Scholarship.

In conjunction with Professor James Bayley-Butler, UCD, he worked on the canning of peas aimed at preserving their colour and his research laid the foundation for modern methods of food processing but it was for his work on industrial rechargeable electric storage batteries that Dr. Drumm is best remembered, amongst his many achievements.

An Idea is Born

In 1925 Dr. Drumm attended a lecture in UCD on hydrogen ions given by (Professor) Michael T. Casey in the course of which the quinhydrone electrode was discussed. While on their way home by tram after this lecture to their lodgings, Dr. Drumm suggested to Casey that the quinhydrone electrode could be used to produce electrical current. The next day Dr. Drumm set up a laboratory experiment and although he proved that this was possible, the current produced was very small and after subsequent experimentation found that while the cell could be charged and discharged rapidly, it only had a short life, so he discontinued his experiments with this type of cell and began work on the alkaline cell instead.

Dr. Drumm undertook his research in the Experimental Physics Laboratory of UCD under Professor John J. Nolan, Head of that Department, who was highly respected for his work in physics where he dealt with such topics as ‘ The Electric Charge on Rain ‘ and was renown as a teacher for his research work on atmospheric electricity and had a very high international reputation. Between 1926 and 1931 Dr. Drumm worked unceasingly at his research, which eventually yielded the Drumm Rechargeable Battery and was awarded his D.Sc. degree in 1931 by the National University of Ireland. Professor Nolan was also an adviser to the Ministry of Industry and Commerce and kept them informed on the progress of Dr. Drumm’s research.

From Theory to Reality

In 1927 Dr. Drumm approached Mr. P. McGilligan, Minister for Industry and Commerce, and offered the state a majority holding in his discovery if the Government would provide the finance for its commercial development. In 1928 a company called Celia Ltd. was

formed to develop and exploit the commercial applications of the Drumm rechargeable battery with a great deal of the research work taking place in the laboratories of UCD aided by Professors Nolan and Taylor. On 24 October 1929 the ESB facility at Ardnacrusha came on stream, forcing the Government to consider ways and identify industries that would consume its electricity with Dr. Drumm's invention appearing to be an ideal consumer for it as it might help to revitalise the Irish railway system within the Irish Free State where all the individual railway companies, except cross border ones, had been amalgamated into the Great Southern Railways (GSR) in 1925. That year McGilligan asked Sir Walter Nugent, chairman of the GSR to make facilities available at their Inchicore Works in Dublin, undertaking to re-inburse the company if it came to nothing

From the Laboratory to the Real Thing

At the GSR's Dublin Inchicore Works, Drewry four-wheel petrol driven railcar No.386 was converted into a test vehicle for the Drumm batteries and was fitted with 2 x 30 horse power 110-volt direct current axle drive motors made by the Victory Dynamo Company of Leeds with the necessary control and switch equipment being supplied by Valsto, Clarke and Walson. The 110-volt Drumm batteries were constructed at the Inchicore Works and fitted between the wheels of No. 386.

Tests commenced on 21 August 1929 over an 8-mile stretch of the Dublin — Cork main line between Inchicore and Hazelhatch with speeds of between 40 and 50 miles per hour being recorded. After a series of experimental runs, No. 386 was put into regular use as " The Cab " conveying railway staff between Kingsbridge (Hueston) Station and the Inchicore Works on a regular basis. When this vehicle was withdrawn from service, it was used as a summer holiday home for a number of years and stood on the outskirts of Bray in the vicinity of the North Strand beside the railway line. It was later sold in the 1960's to a Co. Wicklow farmer and its ultimate fate is unknown.

In January 1930 Professor Allman of the University of London, a world renowned expert in electromechanical studies, was invited by the Government to provide an independent review of the batteries and their commercial possibilities. Visiting the Inchicore Works he witnessed No. 386 in use and within the space of a few hours stated that he agreed with the claims made by Dr. Drumm that the project was a commercially viable one and would be successful. The project now proceeded to the next stage involving the construction of a full size vehicle with Celia Ltd. being replaced by a semi-state company, The Drumm Battery Co. with offices at 78 Merrion Square South, Dublin 2, where further experimentation and research was carried out.

The GSR now proceeded to construct a full sized two-car articulated unit, Railcar A — 126 feet in length, powered by 2 x 300 horse power 600 volt direct current motors driving the axles of the central bogies, weighing 85 tons including the 15 tons of batteries required to power it. Passenger capacity was 140 passengers, divided into 1st and 3rd class compartments.

On the night of Sunday 29 November 1931 Railcar A was operated on a trial run between Amiens Street and Westland Row (Dublin Pearse) stations during which a minor problem with the controls stopped the test as the problem could not be resolved then and there. A second test run took place the following night when this railcar made its first trip between Dublin and Bray and performed as expected without any hitches. This was followed by a demonstration trip for Mr. W. D. Cosgrave, President of the Executive Council of the Irish Free State, and a number of guests, who were brought on Wednesday 2 December 1931 by Railcar A from Westland Row Station, Dublin to Bray, Co. Wicklow without any mishaps. Trials and testing continued into mid December in preparation for the railcar entering normal service. At a later date President Cosgrave and a party of dignitaries were brought on an 80 miles trip from Kingsbridge (Dublin Heuston) Station to Portarlington and back.

Railcar A entered revenue earning service on Friday 12 February 1932 and full time service on Monday 15 February 1932, operating on the Amiens Street, Dublin — Bray, Co. Wicklow route, covering 110 miles per day, a figure later increased to 134 miles per day. In the early days of operation a steam locomotive followed it in case of failure but this practice was soon discontinued. This railcar operated Monday to Friday providing a number of Bray – Dublin — Bray trips and some Dublin — Dalkey — Dublin trips daily. Charging equipment was installed at Amiens Street, Dublin, and Bray, Co. Wicklow stations making it possible to give the batteries a booster charge between trips. Saturdays were devoted to maintenance work on the batteries at Bray. Most of the drivers of the Drumm battery railcars were drawn from the Bray depot drivers' pool.

While Railcar A continued in service, attention was focussed on the construction of a second railcar set, Railcar B, which was fitted with an improved type of battery, subsequently installed in Railcar A. Later a special vehicle connecting Railcar A to Railcar B to enable the two railcar sets to operate together as one unit capable of accommodating 400 passengers was constructed but was not successful in operation and was rarely used.

Railcar B, identical in appearance to Railcar A, entered revenue earning service in September 1932 and was used on the Harcourt Street,

Dublin — Bray route, with the added advantage that the Dublin United Tramways Company (DUTC) already had an existing sub-station in Hatch Street supplying current for its electric trams. An additional connection from this sub-station was then laid into the station to facilitate the recharging of the railcar batteries.

Problems

In December 1934 a dispute with the ESB which wanted to increase the price of electricity from 0.06d. to 2.5d. per unit led to the suspension of the service and following negotiations over this issue, the service resumed in March 1935.

However, contrary to the great public adulation these railcars received and their popularity with the travelling public, leading Dublin consulting engineers Merz and McClellan, reported that the cost of the batteries was very expensive and their commercial viability uncertain and suggested that a more lightweight railcar design was required. Their report also disputed the calculations by the Drumm Battery Co. that estimated savings of £9,130 could be achieved and came up with an alternate figure of £3,850 on the assumption that the batteries were properly maintained. Some railway historians have disputed these figures in recent years.

On Tuesday 25 June 1935, Railcar A was damaged in the cutting between Sandycove & Glasthule and Dun Laoghaire stations when it ran into some masonry which had fallen from the walls after an extremely heavy cloudburst which occurred along the East Coast that evening. What appeared to be small battery fire was observed and Dr. Drumm, who by coincidence was in Dun Laoghaire that evening, was notified of the accident and brought straight to the incident site where he determined that the cause of the alleged fire was smouldering rubber battery cables. These were disconnected from the batteries, the line was cleared, and the railcar then brought to the Inchicore Works where any necessary repairs were carried out to its body and to any batteries damaged after which it was returned to service.

Railcars C & D

By 1935 the GSR had spent £27,147 on Railcars A and B, £7000 more than the cost a year later of building 5 Class D4 4-4-0 steam locomotives. In April 1937 the Dáil approved a further £30,000 for " electrical battery research " with these funds being used to refurbish the batteries in Railcars A and B and provide new batteries for Railcars C and D on which construction work commenced in 1938 in the GSR Inchicore Works.

Completed by Spring 1939, these railcar sets emerged more streamlined in appearance than Railcars A and B, with better designed seats and

improved doors, entering service on the Harcourt Street, Dublin – Bray, Co. Wicklow, route towards the end of September that year. Railcars A and B had already been transferred to this route with the recharging facilities at Amiens Street, Dublin, subsequently being taken out of service and transferred in 1938 to Harcourt Street.

Attempts to interest the Great Northern Railway (I) in using these railcars on their Amiens Street Dublin — Howth, Co. Dublin branch line came to nothing despite a train test on this route. Railcars C and D were tried out on the Cork — Cobh and Mallow — Tralee routes but the outbreak of World War 2 in September 1939 and the subsequent economies which the 1939-45 Emergency placed on Ireland prevented this concept being developed further. Another very interesting proposal not proceeded with was to use the railcars on the main Dublin — Cork line with a 20 mile stretch of the line being electrified so that the railcars could pick up a boosting battery recharge while passing over it.

The Final Decade of Service — 1939 to 1949

During the Emergency good quality coal for steam locomotives and petrol for road vehicles was extremely scarce and virtually non-existent at times resulting in the contraction of rail and road services. The Drumm railcars became the mainstay of the commuter service provided on the Harcourt Street, Dublin – Bray line and were greatly appreciated by hard pressed commuters due to the limited public transport road services available during this period.

By this time Dr. Drumm was working in the United States of America where in conjunction with the Edison Company of America, he managed to improve the design of the battery resulting in a 20% reduction in the weight to output ratio and a 10% reduction in the size of the battery. But the outbreak of World War 2 meant that supplies of nickel essential for the batteries could not be obtained nor could export sales be generated.

In 1941 the Government decided not to provide further additional funds to the Drumm Battery Co. on the grounds that then (1941) was not the time to subsidise new inventions. The Drumm Battery Co., based at the GSR Inchicore Works, suspended its operations until conditions were more favourable while the Government continued to keep the patents in force. The Company went into voluntary liquidation on 27 March 1945.

A 1942 paper read to the Institution of Electrical Engineers in Ireland suggested that main line trains could be operated by electric locomotives drawing their power from tenders containing Drumm batteries which could receive boosting charges from lengths of electrified rail laid at strategic intervals thus avoiding the need to put down 'third' rails or an overhead wire system. Feeder services to the main line could be operated by Drumm railcars but no further work was carried out in this

novel and original concept for electrifying the Irish railway network.

In 1944 at the height of the electricity shortage due to low water levels on the River Shannon, which restricted the generating output of Ardnacrusha hydro-generating station, the Drumm railcars ceased operating from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily and completely on Sundays in compliance with a Government Order which curtailed the use of electricity for motive purpose. This restriction also applied to the Dublin United Transport Company (DUTC) which was forced to suspend its tram services for several months with the Dollymount tram route remaining closed when services resumed in October 1944.

Mileage covered by the railcars up to June 1944 was:

Railcar A: 218827 milesBattery Guarantee expiry date: 1943

Railcar B: 218340 milesBattery Guarantee expiry date: 1943

Railcar C: 115201 milesBattery Guarantee expiry date: 1948

Railcar D: 138754 milesBattery Guarantee expiry date: 1948

Total: 691,122 miles

On Monday 1 January 1945 a new semi-state body, Coras Iompair Eireann (CIE), came into existence through the merger of the GSR and the DUTC to form a national rail and road transport entity. In March of that year the true operating costs of the Drumm railcars showed that they cost 4 times more to operate than steam locomotives but remained in service until 1949 when the batteries reached the end of their working life and were in urgent need of replacement. At a CIE board meeting on Friday 18 March 1949 it was decided to terminate the Drumm railcars with immediate effect as they were uneconomic to operate. At that time only 2 of the units were operational and the railcars were withdrawn from service without ceremony. The last railcar departed from Bray, Co. Wicklow, on Tuesday 12 July 1949 after which their batteries and electrical control equipment were removed and sold off. 3 of the 4 railcar sets, 1 was suffering from dry rot, were then converted for use as normal coaching stock with steam locomotive hauled trains and continued in this role into the mid-1950's when the introduction of diesel railcars led to their withdrawal and subsequently storage at Foxrock Station, Co. Dublin, until scrapped. Railcar B was scrapped in April 1956 and Railcar A in September 1957. On Wednesday 31 December 1958 the Harcourt Street, Dublin — Bray line was closed on the grounds that it was unrenumerative and at that time it was reported that Drumm railcars C and D were being stored on a siding in Foxrock Station where they remained until the line was lifted a year later. Railcars C and D were finally scrapped in February 1964, a sad and ignominious end to these unique, pioneering and revolutionary items of Irish railway development.

Other Applications

Drumm batteries were also used in 1934 in bread vans by a number of Dublin bakeries but their performance fell short of expectation due to leakage of the charge. These batteries were also fitted in a 2½ ton lorry with greater success as this vehicle was able to cover 45 miles a day only requiring a 1 hour boosting charge in the middle of the day which was given while the driver was on his lunch break. Other electric vehicles using Drumm batteries were produced for dairies and laundries but unlike the railcars, some examples of battery road vehicles have been preserved and are held by the National Transport Museum Society Heritage Depot in Howth Castle Demesne.

Dr. Drumm's Subsequent Career

The outbreak of the World War 2 made it impossible for Dr. Drumm to carry out further development work on the batteries, generate sales, or import vital raw materials needed for their construction and so he embarked on a new career serving on the board of the Government created Emergency Scientific Research Bureau (1941 — 1945) and was a founder member of this very important body which played a vital role to Irish industry during the Emergency. The board of the Emergency Scientific Research Bureau consisted mainly of academics from the universities together with a small number of people with an industrial background such as Dr. Drumm. The Bureau sponsored research and development work mainly in the area of industrial raw material substitution. This work was carried out in the laboratories and workshops of the universities and various state and semi-state organisations. During this period Dr. Drumm enjoyed meeting the challenges of the times and was successful in helping many clients to produce their own raw materials or in organising production for them.

Due to the great demand for raw materials generated by the post war recovery in Industry, chronic shortages and high prices prevailed for many metals and metal containing minerals. Right up to the middle 1960's there was a considerable amount of good money to be made in world markets by those who were able to engage in what we currently term ' recycling ' with Dr. Drumm being one of the exponents of this in Ireland. In the early 1960's he established lead smelting at the site of the original Mining Company of Ireland lead mines and smelter in Ballycorus, near Shankill, Co. Dublin, and for about 10 years about 500 tons of lead / tin alloy and antimonial lead alloy was produced annually using mainly Irish sources of lead / tin dross and lead battery scrap as raw materials. In today's era of recycling, one can only speculate on the processes that Dr. Drumm might have pioneered in this field if he was still alive.

Away from work, Dr. Drumm enjoyed good company, good food and the pleasures of country life such as walking and trout fishing. He found intellectual relaxation in his studies in philosophy, in reading poetry and in his readings of classical Greek and Roman literature. To the end of his life he retained his ability to speak and read classical Greek and Latin and had a good speaking knowledge of the Irish language which he attributed to evening spent in Irish classes run by his tutor, Dr. Douglas Hyde, later 1st President of Ireland, while a student at UCD. Dr. Drumm was also a Member of Seanad Eireann, NUI, 1934 — 1959 and Vice-President of the Federation of Irish Industries in 1935.

Dr. Drumm died on 18 July 1974, aged 79 years, at his home, 70 Rathgar Road, Dublin, following a short period of illness.

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From Dublin to Strabane – an Irish Doctor's Travels in 1810

by Johnny Dooher

Dr John Gamble was one of a large number of gentlemen travel writers on Ireland in the 19th century and was carrying on a tradition that went back to Elizabethan times. Generally these travellers were English or European and many saw their task as seeking out and describing the activities, traditions and mode of living that characterized these semi -civilized people on the western fringes of Europe. Some were sympathetic, others antagonistic but most had limited knowledge of the heritage and background of the people they were describing. And no doubt many of the natives were not averse to colouring their accounts to suit the predilections of the writers.

John Gamble was, however, different. He was born in Strabane and had lived his early years there, leaving in the later 1790s and with suggestions that his leanings towards the reformist ideas of the United Irishmen forced a rather hurried departure. He had pursued his medical training in Edinburgh and had been active in helping the wounded of the Napoleonic wars. His failing eyesight made medical practice difficult and writing appeared an alternative means of earning an income. He believed also that his knowledge of Ireland and its people would enable him to put right many of the misconceptions and prejudicial comments and attitudes that were rife throughout the people of England in regard to the real Ireland.

Gamble left London in early August 1810 and his account of the journey from there to Liverpool in the stagecoach and his recorded impressions would suggest that he found this part of his expedition difficult and exasperating: 'my fellow travellers were mighty common- place people; they had neither sense to instruct, beauty to charm, or wit to enliven' while the outside travellers on top of the coach were described as noisy and quarrelsome. On arrival in Liverpool he was forced to stay for two days due to contrary winds at sea but eventually got away on the ferry and arrived in Dublin after twenty six hours on the voyage. Gamble appears to have been a strong drinking man and no doubt this helped him pass the time on the sea journey. His account of his arrival in Dublin, disembarking at the Pigeon House at 4.00am, provides some early impressions of coming back home to be met by beggars who helped passengers ashore — for a small payment — and travelling in an open style cart, the long coach, to the Mail Coach Hotel in Dawson Street. He spent a number of days in and around Dublin making contact with

a former acquaintance from medical school days and found that there were only four of their group of twenty five surviving. He made his way from dining with this doctor group to the Theatre Royal in Crow Street and found that the Dublin theatre goers were as appreciative as their London counterparts, despite the limited fare on offer — 'song without music, comedy without humour and dialogue without wit'.

Gamble spent the next day visiting some of the sites of Dublin and was generally unimpressed. He was persuaded to visit Palmerston Fair but found this unsettling: the roads were dusty but his ire was directed at the beggars that thronged the streets, 'seated at the roadside and exhibiting the most disgusting sores to excite compassion' though he did add that he found the solicitations of the Irish beggars 'much more poetical and animated' than those of the typical English ones. He was taken on his return journey past the areas known as Bully's Acre at Kilmainham and was distressed by the apparent overflowing cemetery there for 'the poor, the strangers and the criminals'; several of the graves were open, 'with coffins exposed and decaying bodies visible'.

Such sights would have hastened Gamble's departure and he left Dublin the following day on the 7.00 a.m. coach – though it was actually 8.00 before they got away. Like other travellers he commented on the large number of beggars surrounding the coach as it set off on the road to Drogheda. A short stop at Swords must have been a comfort break and it was dismissed as 'an inconsiderable place about seven miles from town' while a fuller breakfast stop was made at the Man of War inn about half way to Drogheda and Gamble left well pleased with the food on offer – 'one of the best breakfasting houses I was ever in'. The stop had also provided the opportunity for the passengers to get to know one another and the next stage of the journey passed in amiable conversation on a variety of subjects and Drogheda was reached by 2.00pm. Gamble found accommodation for the night with a shopkeeper and was soon to discover that religious animosities were very strong in that town. His host was bitterly against any mention of Catholic Emancipation and believed strongly in the superiority of the Protestant settlers. Gamble asked his host to accompany him to the Catholic cathedral the next morning but this was seen as impossible for the god fearing shopkeeper, though he did agree to accompany him to the memorial of William's victory at the river Boyne. Part of Gamble's mission was to demonstrate the depths of unwitting bigotry among sections of the people of Ireland and his accounts frequently dwell on such exemplars.

John Gamble seemed partial to imbibing copious amounts of alcohol and he describes how his head and stomach were suffering on the day following his visit to the Boyne and other sights around Drogheda. It was

1.00 a.m. before he got the next coach on the journey to Castleblaney and this proved a bit of an ordeal for the travel writer. He found himself sandwiched between a loudly snoring drunk and a highly inebriated one who shouted tunelessly for a good part of the journey. Gamble eventually asked the man to let him get to sleep but the singer took umbrage at anyone trying to sleep in a coach; he did turn to whistling, however, and this eventually allowed the doctor to doze off. When they stopped at Carrickmacross about 5.00 in the morning Gamble was surprised to find the singer inviting him home to his house to revive himself with a drink but was able to decline without causing further offence. He rejoined the coach and found that it now contained only one inside passenger, allowing him to doze most of the way to Castleblaney, described by the doctor as ' a poor looking place, contains probably a hundred houses'. During the change of horses Gamble was suddenly surrounded by a group of beggars, 'with the appearance of being well fed', and not badly clad. On his giving them 'some trifling change' he was rewarded by 'a world of blessings'.

He arrived in Monaghan without further mishap but decided that he would spend the night there and had with him an introduction to a gentleman of the place. He spent the afternoon walking around the town and was pleased with the 'neat little place' with its thriving linen trade and fine buildings. He saw it as the entry point to Ulster and recognised the Scotch influences on its language and leaders but with some tolerance of the native population; they were not trusted but were allowed to contribute to the economic advancement of the area. The gaol was to Gamble 'a paltry building' and its inmates, with their 'yellow and sickly countenances' a clear condemnation of the 'squalid, filthy, forbidding wretchedness' of the justice system. His host was an apothecary and they were joined for dinner by two shopkeepers from the town of Clones, a few miles distant. Gamble soon learned that they were Methodists and he made clear that he saw the members of that religion as useful in compelling the leaders of the Established church to keep in touch with the lower orders. Nor did their presence stint the provision of punch at the dinner and the follow up talking session and Gamble himself was forced to seek refuge in a long walk in the evening air.

Next morning he was off to Cootehill in Cavan to visit the mother of one of his former medical friends and despite the distance of some fifteen miles he set off walking, presumably a mode of travel quite common in the period. He arrived at Rockcorry, about eight miles from Monaghan and decided to seek refreshments in one of the many public houses in the village which he described as 'a poor little place, containing about a dozen indifferent houses'. He ordered a glass of wine, expecting it to be half whiskey, but was pleasantly surprised to find such pleasant

wine in such an out of the way place and this helped him to set off with a lighter step towards his destination. He was nearing Cootehill when overtaken by a fellow foot-traveller who sought to engage him in conversation. Gamble had to endure a series of complaints about the roads, the coaches and the poor service at the inns and about the difficulty in understanding the local accent before he rounded on his would-be companion and condemned those Irishmen who, after a few months living in England, tried to imitate their attitudes and accents and felt it necessary to condemn everything Irish. He was no doubt glad to arrive at the house of his host and spend the evening reviving memories of times since passed and of departed friends.

The leisurely pace of his travel allowed him to spend several days with his former companion's mother and time seemed of little consequence. Gamble was impressed with the appearance of Cootehill, with its long wide street and he described the shambles area as very neat. The people around the town he found 'outrageously loyal' and compared this state of opinion to the alleged radical leanings of the people prior to the '98 rebellion. In a dinner with a group of strong farmers just outside the town he was made very aware of the strong anti-emancipation views of the Protestant population and their total rejection of any Irish member of parliament who voiced support for the Catholic cause; even the Prince of Wales was not above suspicion in this regard.

Gamble made his escape from the farmer's house early in the morning and set off walking northwards and his account reports that he walked for nearly five hours before resting or indeed meeting anyone and stopping at a small place called Crossroads, near Emmyvale. He had breakfast there and discovered that the hostess of the small public house where he ate was happy to serve both Catholics and Presbyterians; Gamble concluded that this may have been because the local priest lodged with her and it was good business to remain on friendly terms with all denominations. As frequently happened in his accounts he sought information on the meaning of the older Irish name for Crossroads, Scarnageragh, and asked a well dressed fellow traveller for a possible explanation. This native told him plainly that he spoke no Irish and rejected the appellation of being an Irishman, asserting that his family had been settled in the area for centuries and had 'gone to meeting this four hundred years'. This rejection of the country and its place names and heritage was something that Gamble found difficult to understand but found very prevalent in south Ulster.

Following a short walk Gamble was happy to accept a ride in a jaunting car driven by a servant and found his driver surprisingly well informed about politics in both Ireland and Britain and a strong supporter of

the radicalism of Sir Francis Burdett. He was curious as to how this illiterate Irishman could converse so knowingly about national matters and discovered that the servant listened to the conversations while serving at table and attended when 'Barney Gallagher reads the paper to us at nights at the smith's forge, and gets two-tenpennys a week for reading'. This chance meeting served Gamble well and they travelled in leisure to Aughnacloy where their roads separated but not before a shared glass of whiskey at the roadside inn. He planned to take the coach from there to Omagh and ate in the less ostentatious of the two village inns where he found the landlady most charitable towards her neighbours and a provider of good food and a well charged glass of port.

There was to be no room for Gamble on the coach, however, and he set off walking towards Ballygawley where he had planned to stop for the night. He found the inn, a mean looking place but discovered that 'it was a little Eden within' with good food and tasty whiskey. He was even further pleased the following morning when the girl from the lodging house caught up with him after half a mile and restored to him his pocket book, with all his notes and observations. The plan had been to walk from there to Omagh but he was soon caught in a heavy rainstorm and forced to seek shelter in a roadside cabin which consisted of a kitchen and a room off it; 'it was not cleanly, certainly, nor was it squalidly dirty' and he was provided with a noggin of milk. On setting off again he was overtaken by the Derry coach and joined the three inside passengers on what promised to be a reasonably uneventful journey to Omagh. But even the stagecoaches had their accidents and Gamble's journey was interrupted by the guard falling off the top of the coach and being killed on the spot. He was taken to a nearby cabin and left there while the coach continued on its way, arriving in Omagh about seven o'clock in the evening. The unfortunate guard from the coach seemed to have passed out of memory in a short space of time.

Gamble had little positive to say about Omagh and suggested that it was best viewed from afar, with the streets ' dirty and irregular – yet with few of the hovels which generally appear on the approach to an Irish town'. He described it as a 'gloomy town' and insisted he would not choose it for his prison and found the army officers stationed there brash and loud. He was called out to visit a sick man but made little headway: the patient refused to accept any medicine and believed firmly in predestination; his only reason for allowing the doctor to visit him was to tell him whether or not he was likely to die from the fever that he was suffering under. If it were likely he would send for his son who was working in Armagh but he did not want to take him from his work if death was not imminent.

Then it was on to Newtownstewart, a town that Gamble knew well from his early years in Strabane and the short coach journey from Omagh was largely uneventful – though he had to tell the tale of a bag of 'dollars' that fell off the top of the coach and was widely scattered on the roadside; the passengers got out to help collect the scattered coins but when willing country people gathered to help the guard refused this additional assistance and drove them off with the threat of his loaded musket. Supper in Newtownstewart was described as delightful and the appearance and location of the town was likewise highly praised. But there was no such praise for the townspeople and Gamble appears to have had a strong antipathy towards the populations of small towns – 'more cunning and trick, more envy and jealousy, more heart burnings and dissensions, more hatred and malice, more mean, pitiful and paltry contentions will be found here than in ten times its size in the largest town in Christendom'. There was little explanation provided for such scathing criticisms of poor Newtownstewart but Gamble went on to describe a recent case where the Orangemen from the area had decided to march on Strabane to demonstrate their own organisational strength. Many of these marchers were also Militiamen and Yeomanry but refused to accept the exhortations of their commander to disperse. The march took place and the 'invading' troops were allegedly led through every street before being brought back to Newtownstewart for dispersal. This particular event was highlighted twenty five years later when a parliamentary inquiry had been set up to examine the problems caused in that era by the Orange Order in its response to the growing clamour for Catholic Emancipation.

On the following Sunday morning Gamble set off to walk to his home town of Strabane and overtook a young couple who were showing signs of distress. In conversation he soon found out that the young man was setting off for Derry to get the emigrant boat but with a heavy heart and with strong pleading from his fiancée to be allowed to accompany him. Gamble tells of how he attempted to convince the young couple that the planned emigration of the young man to America was the best option at that moment and this allowed him to digress to the whole issue of migration and the impact that this mainly Presbyterian emigration was having on the economy and on social stability in Ireland.

On approaching Strabane Gamble was feeling heartened by the prosperity of the countryside and the picturesque view of his home town, describing how the lower part of the town, 'surrounded by water, appeared like a city in a lake, or like a Venice in miniature'. Local people who were often flooded and forced from their homes in times of high floods might not have been so enamoured of his description but a returning emigrant must have some leeway. And he was soon into his

more customary description of country towns: 'the streets are mean and narrow, the houses (with a few exceptions) very indifferent; in the extremities of the town, carelessness and want, misery and neglect are too apparent'.

Sources

That ended the journey, though there were additional chapters describing Strabane, its people and its history. Gamble had intended to spend a further number of days in travelling out from Strabane towards Derry and Donegal but good company and a bout of illness prevented this happening. He had enough material, however, to go to press and publish the first of three accounts – this one entitled *Sketches of History Politics and Manners, Taken in Dublin, and the North of Ireland, in the Autumn of 1810.* Two years later he published *A View of Society and Manners in the North of Ireland in the Summer and Autumn of 1812* while a further work appeared in 1818, *Views of Society and Manners in the North of Ireland in a Series of Letters Written in the Year 1818.* These books by Gamble have recently (2011) been published in a single volume – *Society and Manners in Early Nineteenth-Century Ireland John Gamble* – with an excellent introduction and explanatory notes by Dr Breandan Mac Suibhne and published by Field Day in association with the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame, Newman House, St Stephen's Green, Dublin. [ISBN 9780946755431] Another more general account — *Travellers' Accounts As Source-Material for Irish Historians*- by C J Woods and published by the Four Courts Press as part of the Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History provides a very good introduction to this type genre of descriptive research and a useful window into how outsiders viewed Ireland through the centuries.

The Hunt/De Vere Family and Some Descendants

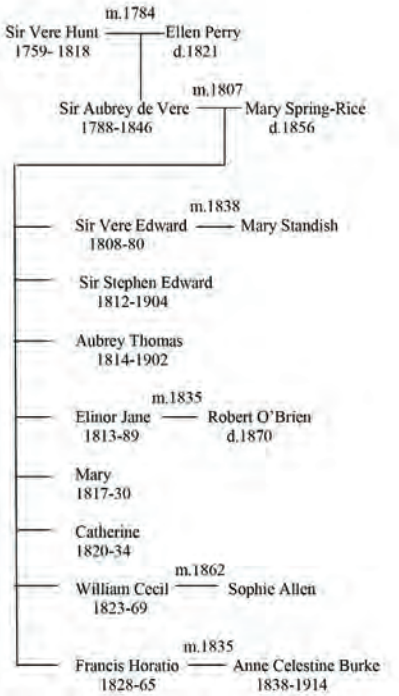
by Jim Heffernan

The rather incongruous name 'New Birmingham' applied by the Ordnance Survey, if not the local people, to a small village at the foot of the Slieveardagh Hills in County Tipperary is a monument to a failed enterprise by a reforming landlord Sir Vere Hunt (1758-1818**),** the first Baronet of Curragh and Glangoole, his great-great grandfather having acquired lands in Tipperary and Limerick as a result of the Cromwellian settlements of the 17th Century. Vere was a common forename among the Hunt families of Limerick and Tipperary who claimed descent from the de Veres through the marriage in 1572 of Jane, the granddaughter of John, the fifteenth Earl of Oxford, to Henry Hunt of Gosford, Essex. The main branch of the family lived in Curraghchase near Adare, County Limerick. Sir Vere's descendants intermarried with other well-meaning liberal gentry families in the area including the Spring-Rices of Mount Trenchard, the O'Briens of Drumoland and the Burkes of Cahirmoyle. At the beginning of the 20th Century their descendants were marrying into the upper echelons of the English Establishment. At the end of the 1930s a great-great granddaughter was living in No. 10 Downing Street as the wife of the British Prime Minister.

Vere Hunt had a military career in early life serving in the American War of Independence. Subsequently he was colonel of the 135th Regiment and raised the County Limerick Regiment of Fencibles. He was created Baronet of Curragh and Glangoole in 1784 for his services to the State. In the same year he married Eleanor, the only daughter of William Cecil, the Protestant Bishop of Killala, who subsequently became Lord Glentworth and Bishop of Limerick. Unlike other landlords in the Slieveardagh area Sir Vere Hunt was a man of liberal views who favoured Catholic Emancipation. He is said to have been a heavy drinker, a heavy gambler, a roisterer and inclined to run into debt but

to have been a man of considerable ability. Sir Vere had wide-ranging interests, he operated a theatre company for two years and he tried to found a provincial newspaper with little success. He was member of the Irish Parliament for Askeaton from 1797 until the Act of Union. Perhaps as a reward for voting in favour of the Act of Union he was given the sinecure of Weighmaster of Cork with an annual stipend of £600 and served a period as Sheriff of Limerick. Another of Sir Vere's projects was the purchase of Lundy Island off the coast of Devon where he settled a small Irish colony for which he drafted his own laws. He appears to have spent a period in the debtors' prison in London in 1803.

Simplified Hunt/de Vere Family Tree



Vere's main interest however was in his lands in Glengoole, County Tipperary where he hoped to develop a model town. He renamed the village 'New Birmingham' hoping it would prosper based on the coal deposits in the Slieveardagh area and the extensive peat bogs nearby. The project foundered however, mainly because of an inadequate transport infrastructure and, in part, because Sir Vere's land only encompassed the fringe of the Slieveardagh coalfield. He appears to

have had difficulties throughout. His Journal entries of 13th and 14th October, 1813, record that he arrived in New Birmingham to find rents in arrears, disputes with the stone masons building the Catholic chapel and the need to advance a £350 contribution which the parishioners had failed to raise. The project appears to have turned very sour in the years leading up to Sir Vere's death in 1818: his letters of the period constantly press his agents to collect overdue rents from recalcitrant tenants in view of his pressing debts. By 1837 the project was in decline. Lewis's Topographical Dictionary records a town of 50 houses and refers to patents obtained by Sir Vere for one or two weekly markets and twelve fairs which had been discontinued and the village was comparatively deserted. A police station and lock-up recorded by Lewis in 1837 have long since disappeared. By the mid 1850s the family had disposed of the lands at Glengoole.

Sir Aubrey Hunt/de Vere and his family

Aubrey (1788-1846), the only son of Sir Vere and Ellen, became the second baronet on the death of his father in 1818. The estate he inherited was encumbered with debts from which it did not recover until the mid 1820s. He took little interest in the lands at Glengoole. Sir Aubrey's interest centred on the estate at Curragh which he renamed 'Curraghchase'. On 14th March 1832 he assumed by Royal Licence the right to bear the surname and arms of de Vere. Aubrey married Mary Rice daughter of Stephen Edward Rice and Catherine Rice (née Spring) of Mount Trenchard, County Limerick who was the sister of Thomas Spring-Rice the first Lord Monteagle. The couple had five sons, Vere Edward, Aubrey Thomas, Stephen Edward, Francis Horatio and William Cecil and three daughters Mary, Catherine and Elinor Jane two of whom died young. Mary, aged 12, died as a result of a boating accident on the River Shannon and Catherine, aged 14, of fever. Sir Aubrey was an accomplished literary man who is often confused with his more celebrated third son, the poet Aubrey Thomas de Vere. His sonnets were highly regarded by the poet William Wordsworth. Sir Aubrey was a close friend of the poet Alfred Tennyson who was a regular visitor to Curraghchase. Only two of Sir Aubrey's children produced offspring, two sons remained bachelors and of the three sons who married only Francis Horatio had children. Elinor Jane, the daughter who survived to adulthood, also married and had children. Aubrey died at Curraghchase on 28th July 1846 after a week-long illness.

Vere Edward de Vere, Sir Aubrey's eldest son, who was born on 12th October 1808, became the third baronet on his father's death. He married Mary Lucy Standish a second cousin in 1838. Vere and his four brothers organised famine relief in the 1840s and tried to encourage their fellow landlords to commit resources to alleviate distress. Both

Vere and his wife converted to Catholicism in 1851. Vere and Mary had no children and when Vere died in 1880 the estate and baronetcy passed to his brother Stephen. Vere was buried in the family vault at Askeaton.

Sir Stephen Edward de Vere was born on 26th July 1812 at Curraghchase. He studied at Trinity College Dublin and Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Irish Bar in 1836. Like his uncle Lord Monteagle he saw assisted emigration as the solution for poverty in rural Ireland. He travelled incognito in steerage to America in April 1847 with a group of Limerick emigrants and wrote a letter on his experiences to the British Colonial Secretary Lord Grey. The letter was read out in the House of Lords and forwarded to the Governor-General of Canada Lord Elgin. This resulted in the Passage Act which was aimed at improving conditions for passengers. He was received into the Catholic Church in Montreal in 1847 and in 1851 wrote a pamphlet defending the restoration of a Catholic hierarchy in England. He was liberal MP for Limerick from 1854 to 1859. Although open to local government reform and legislation to benefit tenant farmers he was opposed to Home Rule. A classical scholar he published *Translations from Horace* in 1886 and some light verse including the *Snowy-Breasted Pearl* which became a drawing room favourite. Having transferred his interest in the Curraghchase estate to his nephew Major Aubrey Stephen Vere O'Brien in 1898 he retired to a cottage on Foynes Island on the Shannon where he died on 10th November 1904. He is buried at the entrance to the Catholic Church in Foynes, the construction of which he helped to finance. On Sir Stephen Edward's death the baronetcy became extinct.

Aubrey Thomas de Vere

Sir Stephen Edward de Vere

Aubrey Thomas de Vere, born in 1814, was a celebrated poet. He studied at Trinity but spent much time subsequently travelling in England and elsewhere. He was a friend of the poet William Wordsworth and the author Sarah Coleridge with both of whom he regularly corresponded. He was also a friend and correspondent of the future Cardinal John Henry Newman and Henry Edward Manning who was to become the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster. He was deeply influenced by his father's death in 1846 and the horrors of the famine which he and

his brother Stephen tried to alleviate with various relief schemes. He followed Newman and Manning into the Catholic Church in 1851. Aubrey Thomas is best known for his poetry which generally dealt with religious or romantic themes based upon Irish history and legend. Like his brother Stephen, Aubrey never married. He died on 21st January 1902 and was buried at his own request in a grave in the cemetery of the Protestant church at Askeaton rather than in the family vault.

Sir Aubrey's fourth son William Cecil (1823-69) was an officer in the Royal Navy. He married Sophia Allen of Burnham, England on 8th July 1862. There were no children of the marriage. He retired from the Navy with the rank of captain on 28 June 1867 dying of cardiac disease less than two years later, aged 45.

The youngest son Francis Horatio, an officer in the Royal Engineers married Anne Celestine Burke, youngest daughter of John Hardiman Burke of St Clerans, County Galway, by whom he had three daughters Mary, Eleanor and Margaret. A veteran of the Crimean war he was shot by a disgruntled soldier on the parade ground at Brompton Barracks, Chatham, Kent on 11th August 1865. The soldier responsible for the murder was hanged in Maidstone Prison. Horatio was buried in the family vault in Askeaton on 28th August 1865. The *Irish Times* of 31st August 1865 reported that such a funeral had not been witnessed since that of Major Horatio's father Sir Aubrey in 1846.

Large numbers of gentry were in attendance, 300 mounted farmers led the cavalcade, 500 tenants and labourers followed the hearse and the line of carriages behind stretched for three quarters of a mile.

Horatio's widow Anne Celestine had four sisters and three brothers. All her brothers met untimely ends. James Thomas Burke was killed at the battle of Giurgevo in 1854 becoming the first British Army officer to die in the Crimean war. Anne's oldest brother Robert O'Hara Burke was the leader of the ill-fated Burke and Wills Expedition, the first expedition to successfully traverse Australia. Having reached the North Coast with an advance party Burke and others died of exhaustion and starvation in 1861 on the return journey. Anne's eldest brother, who had inherited St Clerans on the death of his father in 1854 died unmarried in 1861 of an illness contracted while serving in the Crimea. As a result of the high mortality rate amongst her siblings Anne inherited St Clerans in 1866 restoring the original name of Issercleran. Anne's second marriage to the Reverend Charleton Maxwell of Birdstown, County Donegal was childless.

Some Descendants

Horatio and Anne's eldest daughter Mary, who inherited Issercleran on the death of her mother in 1914, has been described as having great

beauty, a formidable intellect and a quick temper and was regarded as a gifted poetess. A book of her poems containing 64 short poems written between 1886 and 1925 was published in 1932 two years after her death. She spoke Irish and she converted to Catholicism believing it to be 'the only true religion of Ireland'.

Issercleran, Near Loughrea, County Galway

Mary married twice, her first husband, Major William Utting Cole, by whom she had two sons and a daughter, died of cholera while serving in India. Her second husband, with whom she had two daughters, was another soldier, William Studd, who subsequently commanded the Brigade of Guards. The family followed the Galway Blazers. She was passionately fond of hunting and resented the intrusion of pregnancies upon her hunting activities. She looked down upon the family of Neville Chamberlain whom her daughter Anne had married considering them to be mere 'Birmingham businessmen'. Her favourite child was her dissolute son Horace, evidently to Mary 'breeding' counted for everything!' Mary died aged 69 at Ripon Derbyshire on 14th May 1930 and is buried in the Abbey Cemetery, Loughrea, County Galway.

Mary's elder son William Horace de Vere Cole was born in Ballincollig, County Cork on 15th June 1881. He was known as 'Horace' and was a notorious hoaxer. His most famous hoax was to lead a group of friends in 1910, including Virginia Stephen, the future Virginia Woolf, posing as Abyssinian princes and their retinue on a tour of the battleship Dreadnought while its officers, including the future king George V of England, stood to attention. Born to wealth and privilege he was thwarted in his ambition to be a career soldier by partial deafness and

a serious injury sustained as a gentleman volunteer in the Boer War. He lived entirely on private means; he drank heavily and was highly promiscuous. He inherited the Cole family's West Woodhay estate in Berkshire but by unwise investment and extravagant living he dissipated a considerable fortune during his lifetime. Although he had an idealistic period after leaving Cambridge University he was essentially an unpleasant, self indulgent individual whose numerous hoaxes were often cruel and sometimes violent. He is said to have had a preference for young girls. He married twice, relatively late in life, to women much younger than himself and was cuckolded by both. Horace's first wife was a wealthy heiress Denise Daly, a very unstable young woman. The couple were married in a Catholic Ceremony in the University Church in Dublin on 30 September 1918. Horace divorced Denise in 1928 on the grounds of Denise's infidelity. In 1931 Horace married for a second time, again to a much younger woman. He was 50 and his bride Mavis Wright was 23. At this stage Horace was facing financial ruin: he was heavily in debt and his income from unwise investments in Canada had dwindled. The couple moved to France where they lived in straightened circumstances until Mavis left and returned to England in 1934. Two years later Mavis gave birth to a boy, Tristan, who was widely regarded as the son of the painter Augustus John. Horace died in Honfleur, France on 25 February 1936 where he was living in poverty dependent upon a remittance from his brother Jim.

The Dreadnought Hoaxers. From Left; Virginia Stephen (the future Virginia Woolf), Duncan Grant, Adrian Stephen (posing as an interpreter), Anthony Buxton, Guy Ridley, Horace de Vere Cole (posing as a Foreign Office official).

In 1911 Mary de Vere's daughter Annie Vere Cole (1883-1967) married Neville Chamberlain who was at that time a forty-one year old successful businessman. She encouraged him in taking up a political career firstly as Lord Mayor of Birmingham, then as a Member of Parliament, a Cabinet minister and ultimately as Prime Minister of Great Britain. From 1938 to 1940 the couple lived in 10 Downing Street together with Horace's daughter Valerie whom they had taken in after Horace's death. Chamberlain died in November 1940 a few months after his fall from office in May of that year.

Annie de Vere Cole and her husband Neville Chamberlain in St James's Park, London in 1938

Mary retired to Birmingham; she died 26 years later aged 84 and is buried in St. Peter's Church Harbourne. The couple had two children, Dorothy (1911-1994) and Francis (1914-1965). Their niece Valerie married Marcel Crosier, an officer in the French air force in 1945 and settled with him in France where they had one son.

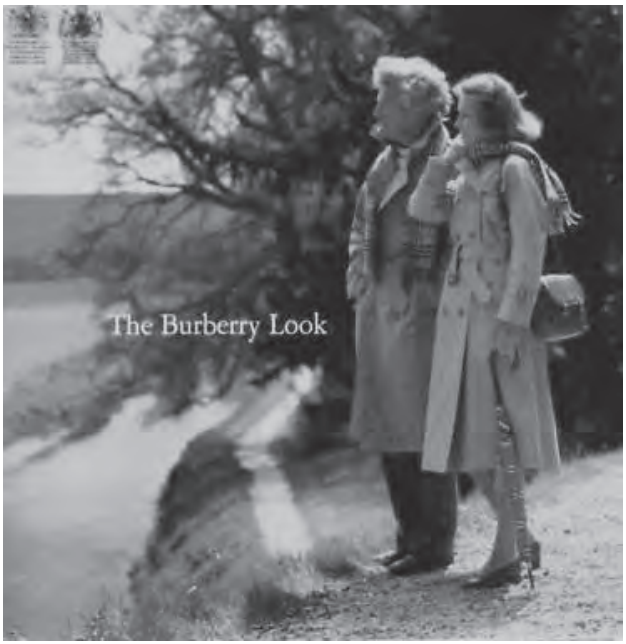
John James Burke Cole, the younger son of Mary de Vere and Major William Cole, was born at Woodstown, County Waterford on 18th October 1884. He was generally known as Jim, and he pursued a distinguished military career winning the Military Cross in the First World War and a DSO in the second. Jim married Ailleen McNeile in

London on 20th March 1918. He inherited Issercleran on his mother's death in 1930 and farmed there. An *Irish Times* article of 4th May 1938 reported a proposed fishing holiday at Issercleran for Colonel Burke Cole's brother-in-law the British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to be taken depending upon the ongoining European negotiations. It is not clear whether the developing crisis allowed the visit to take place. Jim Cole died of a heart attack in London in 1948 aged 64. His son John who inherited Issercleran sold it in 1956 to John Huston the film director who restored the earlier name 'St. Clerans'. The house was later used as a boutique hotel.

Mary de Vere Studd, the elder daughter of Mary's second marriage, who was born in Kilmainham in 1895, married Michael Palairet a career diplomat in 1915. Palairet was given a knighthood for his service in Vienna at the time of the *Anschluss*. Both he and Mary had converted to Catholicism while serving in Paris in 1916. The marriage produced a son and a daughter. The son Anthony Michael attained the rank of Commander in the Royal Navy. He married a French woman Marie Tripier in 1953 and died aged 46 the marriage having produced no children.

The Palairets' daughter Anne Mary Celestine (1916-1988) married Julian Edward Asquith the second Earl of Oxford and Asquith on 28 August 1947. Julian was the grandson of Herbert Henry Asquith the first Earl of Oxford and Asquith who was British Prime Minister from 1908 to 1916. Anne was born in Paris but spent the first six years of her life at Issercleran with Anne Celestine, her maternal grandmother. Subsequently she accompanied her parents on various postings in the Far East where she survived the great earthquake at Tokyo in 1923 in which 300,000 people died. Her father was British Ambassador to Greece when the Germans invaded in 1941. The family were evacuated via Crete to South Africa, in company with the Greek king and government. While serving in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force in Palestine in 1946 she narrowly escaped the bombing of the King David Hotel. Anne's husband Julian served in the British diplomatic service, his final posting before retirement was Governor of the Seychelles.

Anne's and Julian's eldest daughter Lady (Mary) Annunziata, was a fashion model for Burberry and wrote a biography of Marie Antoinette. She remained unmarried but was the long term partner of Lord Patrick Lichfield from the time of his divorce in 1995 until his death in November 2005. Lichfield, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth of England, was a photographer of royalty and other celebrities and was a fixture of the London social scene.



Lord Lichfield and Annunziata Asquith in a 1964 Burberry advertisement

Eleanor Hester (1864-1946) married Frederick William Shaw, of whose family the more celebrated George Bernard Shaw was a 'poor relation', on 8th July 1885. The marriage produced six children, two sons and four daughters. Frederick William became fifth Baronet of Bushy Park on his father's death in 1895. Eleanor Hester died in 1946: she is buried with Sir Frederick William and two unmarried daughters in Rathmines Cemetery. The cemetery lies across the Dodder River from the Bushy Park Estate which is now a public park having been acquired by Dublin Corporation in 1951. Annie Kate the eldest daughter married Cyril de Putron the son of a Ship Broker from Guernsey. The de Putrons were a long established Guernsey family and the name is said to have been of French origin. Cyril served in the Boer War and the Great War and was a Justicar of the Royal Court of Guernsey during the 1930s. He died in Guernsey in 1941.

Anne Celestine's youngest daughter Margaret Elizabeth (1865-1949) married a widower Francis Joseph Joyce a land agent of Tallyho Park, Athenry Co. Galway on 6th September 1886. A son, Francis Horatio de Vere, was born in 1889. Margaret was widowed in May 1890 when Francis, was killed in an accident at Loughrea. Francis Horatio served in East Africa in the Great War. Retiring with the Rank of Major he

settled in the Ukamba district of Kenya, farming there until his death in 1959. Margaret was married for a second time on 20th October 1908 to a major in the Royal Horse Artillery Cyril Prescott-Decie. Prescott-Decie, who subsequently achieved the rank of Brigadier General, was RIC Commissioner for Munster No. 1 Division in 1920. He was a controversial figure during the War of Independence and its aftermath. Margaret was 43 when she married Prescott-Decie and the union produced no offspring. She died, aged 84, in April 1949.

Postscript

On the death of Sir Stephen Edward de Vere in 1904 the direct male line of Sir Vere Hunt's descendants died out and the baronetcy became extinct. The house and lands of Curraghchase were entailed requiring male inheritance and that the succession should favour the son of a daughter rather that the daughter of a son. The estate passed to Robert Stephen Vere O'Brien, grandson of Elinor, the only one of Sir Aubrey de Vere's three daughters to survive to adulthood and marry, and her husband Robert O'Brien. A condition of Robert Stephen's inheritance was that he adopt the name 'de Vere'. A Royal Licence to this effect was granted to him in April 1899. Robert Stephen was born in England on 23rd July 1872 and was educated at Trinity College Cambridge. He was called to the English Bar in 1898. He served in the Boer War and in 1903 he joined the British Colonial Service serving in various posts overseas. Robert married Isobel Catherine Moule daughter of the Anglican Bishop of Durham. After serving in the Great War as Military Censor to the British Expeditionary Force in France he had appointments as Chief Justice of the Seychelles and of Granada before retiring in 1935. Robert and Isobel had no children of their own but adopted a daughter Joan from Bishop Auckland, County Durham. Robert died following a stroke on 15th September 1936 at 14 Dorchester Square London. Although Curraghchase remained the family home Robert's career involved long assignments overseas during which the house was left in the care of a housekeeper. Robert's adopted daughter Joan married Martin Wynne-Jones a minister of religion with whom she had five children one of whom was the broadcaster the late Vere Wynne Jones. When Robert Stephen de Vere died the estate was left to Michael Cole the second son of John James Cole. It is unlikely that Michael, who was a serving RAF officer and unmarried, ever resided there.

The house was destroyed by an accidental fire in 1941 with little of the contents being saved. Michael, who survived the Second World War, was accidently killed in an air crash. Curraghchase then passed to Murrough Vere O'Brien a great grandson of Elinor Jane de Vere and Robert O' Brien descended from their second son Robert Vere. His parents Hugh Murrough Vere O'Brien and Margaret Celestine O'Brien

were second cousins both being descended from Sir

The ruins of Curraghchase House, March 2011

Edward O'Brien fourth Baronet of Dromoland. Margaret was the granddaughter of Sir Edward's second son the Young Irelander, William Smith O'Brien. The estate was sold to the Forestry Commission in 1956. Curraghchase is now a forest park open to the public, the house remains as a ruin. The name New Birmingham remains on Ordnance Survey maps as a reminder of Vere Hunt's failed enterprise in Tipperary.

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Talking about 'Talking about History'

by Padraig Laffan

"The medium is the message" — is a phrase coined by Marshall McLuhan meaning that the form of a medium embeds itself in the message, creating a symbiotic relationship by which the medium influences how the message is perceived, or, as a famous comedian used to say, "It's how I tell it".

So, let's talk about it.

The historical and archaeological academic community have probably more than any other academic group brought their fields of study out into the wider community and embraced and fostered the remarkable growth of historical societies over the last 30 to 40 years.

This is a personal view about how local history talks can best be delivered

This presentation rather boldly purports to discuss with the amateur and eminent historian how the message might be better enjoyed.

What about the local history talk?

It is not a class. It is not like a business presentation. It is not just entertainment, but well delivered it can provide knowledge and information and a degree of mental stimulus and personal satisfaction to the audience which brings them out of their warm homes on winter evenings again and again.

Surely it is important to consider the medium for the sake of the message.

That was the published outline of my topic for today.

The reason I am here with this strangely titled topic, is simply that I was asked to speak on some subject that might have a general interest to historical societies irrespective of their location. So what do I do? No getting away with the castles of Foxrock. Where's that? You might well say.

It is difficult to think of a topic that might fulfil that criterion. However I hope my personal observations on this subject may be of some interest and possibly even of a little value. And I am only talking about talks I can't get into all the other aspects like research, field trips, museums and so much more that relates to the whole history scene.

So, here I am talking about, "talking about history"!

Are there rules for how you do this? If there are, or if I seem to be making them, well when we get to the end of this talk you will probably tell me I broke them all myself.

If you are an expert and can deliver your topic with no notes, few pictures and loud enough to never need amplification, then perhaps it's goodbye, but before you go, just consider your listeners and that as they go home they discuss how good you were, how you delivered your lines, how they understood it all and what your visuals were like. And don't we all like to deliver our message to the best satisfaction of our listeners.

We are very fortunate in our own local society to have a professor with contacts in more than one university. He has assisted us in getting some outstanding and brilliant academic lecturers and nothing I say should seem to diminish in any way our appreciation of their presentations and the pro bono extension of their expertise out into the wider community well away from the hallowed halls.

In fact perhaps this is a topic for another day *'The whole phenomenon of the local history movement.'*

For ordinary folk who want to deliver a local history talk there are a few tips which I hope will be of use. And I will sneak in a few opinions that the professionals should consider too.

This talk is not a computer lesson or, a — how to do PowerPoint tutorial, even if sometimes it seems like that. My advice with regard to all that, is to spend time experimenting with your computer. Use the dropdown menus and see what they do. If someone gives a presentation with a visual effect you like, experiment and see how it is done. Spend the time and make a few notes, we all know the frustration of doing something and ten minutes later saying "how did I do that?" I think computer actions are like dreams, if you don't make a note immediately, it just disappears from your memory. (The one in your head I mean).

At least it does with me.

And rehearse your presentation very well.

First, will you write it all and read it?

Well, academic papers are presented like that and it means you have a record to publish later if you wish. But of course for your local society talk you don't want to appear too stilted. Print it in really big print perhaps 14 or 16 size type. Mark your slides in red in the margin. Write a title like 'xxx castle' or 'Lord Xxx painting' etc. as well as the slide number.

With regard to the text, remember that spoken text is different and less formal than written text, so lighten it up for speech. And leave yourself plenty of time.

Don't go on too long, it always takes longer than the rehearsal when you do the real thing.

A way to make it less stilted and to convince your listeners that you really know all this stuff and didn't just copy it from a book, is to leave a little to be said about each picture which you will do from memory. The picture will prompt your memory for something short like "that was him as a young man, as you can see he was quite handsome". Or, "that picture of the building was before 1910, the street lights went in 1915" and explain maps, not everybody gets them at first glance. This is what you need the extra time for.

Sometimes a speaker may have a collection of pictures and just speak to each picture as it comes up. By the way — If you keep an emergency collection of pictures on a disc and you can do this, it can rescue the night, if, as happened to us, the famous speaker fails to show on the night.

Some people prefer to use flash cards to trigger their memory and have no formal written text and some experts know their subject so well that they use neither, but to do this, you need very severe time discipline.

And many brilliant people fail here; they go on too long and then have to curtail the later part of their presentation. They don't feel the need to rehearse, but we must. A sudden ending is always noticed.

Here is another vital point. Make your talk have a narrative. If people are to enjoy and understand it then it must be a story, there must be a thread of continuity through it all. If you have to put in dates then they make more sense this way. But beware, ask anybody about history and many of them will say "I hated it at school—all those dates really got me down" Here they are now without that pressure and they love it.

Let's go back to my first paragraph for a minute

The local History presentation

It is not a class. — Dump the old academic baggage of, tell them once, then tell them again and then revise it all again.

I hate bullet points; I know they have a value. Perhaps I could be using them now, but most people hate to be told something and to see all of it written on the screen at the same time. Someone can scan the screen in a fraction of the time it takes the speaker to deliver the same information, then their attention wanders while they wait for him to catch up. What are you doing waffling to people who have already got the message? A picture on the other hand will compliment the speaker's point with it's ability to be worth a thousand words. Also good clear maps are a brilliant tool and lend themselves to informal speaker intervention with

a laser pointer. So if you use bullet points keep to headings not reams of text.

For the same reasons, remember it is not a business presentation. You are not selling the story just telling it. Sometimes we are quoting the work of experts Historians, Linguists and Archaeologists and Scientists, fields in which we must accept their superior knowledge. But when we get to the end, we should be able to have an opinion or at least put forward a few possible scenarios. The facts should have educated us if they are going to inform our listeners. For many of us, this is why we do it, and we love it, getting an ordered presentation together really makes us learn our subject.

My last point from paragraph one about the history presentation, is it entertainment? It is much more than that; it is intellectually stimulating, it is educational informational and of course when done well, we all enjoy it.

As well as the text, there should be visuals and sometimes audio material and occasionally speakers bring physical objects which can add an extra dimension.

I deal with speakers who come to talk at our society and I always try to encourage them to have lots of visuals. They have done their research and prepared their excellent text and many of these people are way more knowledgeable and better as speakers than me, but I make them even better by preparing visuals for them. Often people find it difficult to get visual material like film slides photographs, internet pictures videos and digital camera pictures and perhaps sound and so on all integrated into a presentation. And they may want something done with the quality or the colours or they want to extract little bits or overlay pictures on maps etc.

Generally PowerPoint is the chosen computer programme to display all this.

Also we need to learn some of the skills of the handling of visual material.

And, I would advise speakers to consider Presenter view in PowerPoint, where the presenter sees a different view to the audience and he or she can see their own notes on their screen and looking over the top of the screen everyone wonders how does he remember all that, and it gives other information as well including the slide number and time elapsed so far — and since the text is on the screen under each picture, you are always on the correct slide.

However this needs practice and rehearsal as sometimes certain things don't work in presenter mode like short pieces of video.

Always have another copy of your presentation saved on a standby like a memory stick or a disc so that you can use another computer if yours fails on the day.

However, when saving PowerPoint presentations it is essential to save them in what they used to call “Pack and go”, or “Package for CD”. Go through the instructions to save the presentation to disc and if not using a disc put in the memory stick location. The ordinary way PowerPoint saves to your computer just saves the file and for all extras like sound or video etc it just saves pointers to their location on your own computer. So, on a different computer it can’t find these. When saved as a presentation to disc they are all included and a player to play it all on a computer without PowerPoint installed is also included. Watch out though the sound saved while adequate for most purposes is not hi -fi.

People in our modern day society are now very visually aware and accustomed to high quality design and layout, so we need to make a special effort to deliver the history message in the fullest extent of the language and media of today. So it is important that you can display material so that you can talk on as the visuals keep the audience focussed.

Title slides are important and should show the talk title and a suitable picture or graphic and if it goes through a transition as you introduce your topic it is even better. For the design and layout consider the layout of book covers and how we have all come to expect a certain standard as well as some information. Remember that despite the old proverb, we all do judge the book by the cover.

The man in the street has been visually educated by the barrage of visual media and expects a certain level of design layout. But don’t despair so have you and a little thought and consideration will pay off.

Equally some presentations will benefit from a well made terminal slide.

Work on every slide to make it visually interesting. This will keep your audience focussed and interested as you speak. For example it you show a house where some person was born and it has a plaque on the wall, arrange for the general view of the road to show first, then the house should fade in and the plaque should ideally be expanded so that it can be read and then fade back and all this can run automatically as you continue to speak. If you show a newspaper clip or picture it becomes much more interesting if you show the whole newspaper page for a few seconds and then zoom in to the required picture This lets the audience see a little of the times and historical period in which the picture is set and this can all run as you speak. Mind you I sometimes say “If you get fed up listening to me you can always read the paper”.

With maps and drawings it is often good to use exactly the same basic picture and fade in different versions with various changes made so that people see the historical changes occurring before their eyes. Equally a line drawn to show the path of a road or boundary on an identical map after a map without the line can be made to draw itself in with a wipe command for the overlay picture as only the new detail changes as the same image is painted over itself.

It is difficult to describe these effects in words on this page but my earlier advice still stands. Open up PowerPoint and experiment.

Finally, here is a handy tip that saves a lot of time.

Many people insert one picture after another and adjust the size of each individually. If you first create a folder for the pictures you wish to use irrespective of their size, then in PowerPoint you can insert pictures from album, select the file with them, then select them all and then INSERT and they all go in as a slide show all adjusted for size to fill the picture frame.

If you happen to be inserting an individual picture from a high quality camera it will always be way too big and even the dot handles for adjustment are very inconveniently too far out. Just click format picture and in the box that comes up click size and make the height 19.3 cm or the width 25.5 cm. Then, and this is very important, go to position and insert zero for horizontal and zero for vertical position. And then 'OK' and you have it in and positioned. If you forget the position command the picture will disappear, don't panic, just re do the 'format Image' and make it zeros for position.

Write those two sizes beside your computer and save a lot of mousing around with handles.

I can not do any better about PowerPoint here than to repeat play with it and learn, it's great fun.

This has been my attempt to put in text form some of the content of a PowerPoint presentation given at The History Fair on 15June 2013

Vedra Fjord, Urbs Intacta, Crystal City

An Introduction to Waterford

by Julian C. Walton

Waterford: the name

If Waterford were situated in Berkshire or Somerset, people would say: "Waterford — what a pretty name! There's water, and there's a ford, so — Waterford. How English!" But Waterford is not in England, the name is not English, it has nothing to do with water, and there is no ford. The name is pure Viking, and an important reminder of the origins of this city. The *ford* is actually *fjord* meaning an inlet from the sea — quite a long inlet actually.

As to the *water* bit — *Vedra* in Norse — the opinions of experts are divided. Some say it is derived from the name of a Norse god; some that the name means "windy haven"; and others that as the Vikings looted large quantities of sheep they called their base *Vedra Fjord*, a wether being to a ram what a bullock is to a bull. Not surprisingly, the notion that their city is named after castrated rams is not popular with the inhabitants.

Woodstown

Until ten years ago, we could have stated with confidence that Waterford began on the high ground where Christ Church Cathedral now stands. Then the archaeologists discovered Woodstown, several miles further up the river. It was a discovery that excited the whole archaeological world — for it was a large site, undisturbed and hitherto unknown. Excavation indicated that it was a Viking site, dated from the ninth century, and had been occupied for only a short time and then abandoned.

The theory is that when the Vikings first invaded Ireland they established a base somewhere on the Wicklow coast, whence they could raid the riverine monasteries of the east. When this was attacked by the Irish, they moved their base to the Woodstown site, where they established what the Irish called a *longphort*. From here they could raid the monasteries of the south. (It was a bit tough on Ferns, which counted as both east and south and thus continued to suffer.)

Then, in 848, the series of raids came to a dramatic end: the men of Cashel fell upon the hated enemy and slew five hundred of them in battle. There were no more Viking raids from that base for many years, in fact not until after the foundation of Waterford itself. And what happened to the inhabitants of Woodstown? The survivors may have been enslaved by the victorious Tipp-men, or they may have stayed on and lived very quietly, or they may have simply given up and returned to Scandinavia.

Woodstown is the earliest Viking site so far discovered in Ireland, and the only purely Viking site, uncontaminated by later settlement. And that makes it very important indeed.

Viking Waterford; Reginald's Tower

In 914, so the annals tell us, the Vikings took their booty to a place called *Port Láirge.* Waterford was therefore in existence by this date — which means that next year will be a very important centenary in this — apparently the oldest — city in Ireland.

The Norse city was small, compact, and secure behind its defences, which were partly natural and partly man-made. It was situated on high ground; to the north was the river, and to the west the marshy ground which was drained in the 18th century to form the Mall. The lines of fortification formed a rough triangle, with a tower at each apex. One of these was Reginald's Tower. When was it built? A plaque erected in the 19th century confidently ascribed the date to 1003, for no reason other than that a chieftain called Ragnall or Reginald is recorded as having died in that year. In point of fact, the first tower on this spot could have been older, but made of wood. In the 12th century the Vikings replaced their wooden defences with walls and towers of stone. And the Normans in their turn rebuilt Reginald's Tower; the upper storeys may in fact date from the 15th or even the 16th centuries.

What was its function? It's too big to be a mere angle tower, too small to be a citadel. Nor is there anything like it in any other Irish city. It has served in its time as a fortress, a mint, a prison, and a private residence. Today it is a museum dedicated to Viking Waterford.

The coming of Christianity

The Vikings who built Waterford were of course pagan. But as they intermingled more and more with the natives, they came to adopt Christianity. Admittedly, it took some years before they could trust themselves entirely to the new religion. There is a record of a Viking chief named Helgi the Lean, who "believed in Christ but invoked Thor for seafaring and brave deeds". And though he named his house after Christ, he asked Thor to choose the site.

The Norse Christians of Waterford worshipped in Christ Church, St Olaf's (typical Norse dedications) and St Peter's. Their patron saint was Otteran or Oran, an Irish hermit whose grave on Iona was specially venerated by the Vikings. In 1096 they acquired their first bishop, an Irish monk of Winchester named Malchus, and Waterford remained a separate diocese until it was united with Lismore in 1363 — a conference to be held in three weeks time will mark the 650th anniversary.

The coming of the Normans

The Norse who had founded *Vedra Fjord* and turned from raiding to trading did not live here undisturbed. Even apart from the hazards of fire and disease, they were constantly at war. As early as 917, the city was besieged for three weeks by Niall *Glún Dubh*, the vigorous new High King of Ireland (from whom the O'Neills are descended).

When the Normans landed at Baginbun in 1169, the Norse of Waterford went out to deal with them but were disastrously defeated in battle. In the following year it was the Normans' turn to go on the offensive, and the city was taken by storm by the Norman army under Raymond le Gros. The famous marriage between Strongbow and the fair Aoife — so masterfully depicted in Daniel Maclise's painting — took place here in Christ Church Cathedral.

In 1171 Henry II arrived in Waterford and received the homage of some Irish chieftains. He was followed in 1185 by his young son Prince John, whom he had appointed Lord of Ireland, and here took place the celebrated episode in which the prince's silly friends mocked the Irish chieftains and pulled their beards. A more mature John returned here in 1210 and proved to be the real founder of Anglo-Norman Ireland. At a later period, Richard II's two Irish expeditions — in 1394 and 1399 — started and ended in Waterford.

Royal city — royal charters

Waterford under the Normans owed its allegiance solely to the King, not to any feudal lord. And as the King was conveniently remote, this meant that Waterford was virtually an independent city-state. It thrived on trade, both with England and the continent, and became in effect Ireland's second city, a position it maintained until the late 17th century. As Ireland lapsed into a chaos dominated by Norman warlords and Gaelic chieftains, it suited the Crown and the Dublin administration to boost the power of the towns, which in turn were apt to cleave ever more closely to their royal allegiance. This symbiotic relationship was symbolised by the impressive series of royal charters now on display in our medieval museum. No other Irish city has preserved such an impressive run of these documents.

It was King John who gave Waterford its first charter in 1215, and I anticipate another commemoration coming up in two years time. Unfortunately, the original does not survive, but there are several later versions, into which the citizens ingeniously wrote several clauses that they were sure John would have included, had he thought of them. It was not exactly forgery, but certainly an early example of municipal initiative.

King John from Great Charter Roll of Waterford (1373)
Courtesy Waterford Museum of Treasures

Walls, Towers — and Hogs

The Normans rebuilt the Viking walls and towers, and extended the Viking triangle to the west. Much further building took place in the 15th century. Today, Waterford more of its medieval walls and towers surviving than any other Irish city. Curiously, perhaps, there was no castle, as at Dublin or Limerick — or indeed Dungarvan, which has one of the finest medieval castles in the country.

The churches too were rebuilt, and the impressive remains of the Franciscan and Dominican priories survive to this day. Above all, Christ Church Cathedral was greatly enlarged, and — situated as it is on the highest ground in the old city — it must have been an impressive sight indeed, particularly after the erection of its great crenellated tower in the 15th century.

The large-scale excavations carried out in the Viking Triangle tell us much about life in medieval Waterford. It must have been a colourful place: the great stone buildings were painted inside and out; people wore clothes dyed in bright colours. But the narrow streets made it an unhealthy place to live. The large number of sea-shells dug up suggest an unwise preponderance of sea-food in the diet. And the method of recycling waste was not without its disadvantages: the people threw their waste out into the streets; there it was eaten by the wild hogs who roamed at will; the people ate the hogs; and then wondered why they felt sick.

New Ross and the Charter Roll

Despite continual pleas of poverty sent to the Crown by successive mayors, medieval Waterford prospered. But it was challenged on two fronts. For one thing, it shared a common outlet to the sea with New Ross, and there was continual friction between the two towns to secure the trade coming up the joint estuary of the Barrow and the Suir. As

late as 1518 the little Waterford fleet sailed up to Ross and engaged in a pitched battle with the Ross men, armed to the teeth with "surcoats, coats of mail, helmets, shields, spears, swords, lances, crossbows, darts, bows, arrows, broad axes and bombards or cannon".

One significant relic of this long-standing feud was the extraordinary petition prepared by the citizens for King Edward III in about 1372. Attached to it are transcripts of the city charters and a series of coloured portraits of medieval kings and governors of Ireland. At the top is a delightful picture of Waterford itself — the earliest known depiction of any Irish town. The Charter Roll of Waterford is a unique and uniquely impressive document; today, beautifully restored, it may be seen in our medieval museum.

Powers and O'Driscolls

The other front on which Waterford's success was challenged was from the Hiberno-Norman Power clan that dominated east Waterford and their maritime allies, the piratical O'Driscolls of west Cork. The perpetual depredations of these foes led occasionally to pitched battles, and the strife went on for two hundred years. In 1367 the Powers attacked the city itself, and a fierce battle took place outside St John's Gate.

In 1461 the O'Driscoll fleet landed at Ballymacaw near Tramore, where the invaders were set upon by the little citizen army and soundly thrashed, three of their ships being captured. And as late as 1538 the Waterford fleet sailed to Baltimore and laid waste Sherkin Island and the castle of the O'Driscolls.

The Vestments

The late 15th century was a period of intense piety throughout Europe, and Waterford has some fine relics of this aspect of medieval life. The city's dominant figure at this time was James Rice, eight times Mayor. His monument in Christ Church Cathedral is a particularly fine example of a cadaver tomb. But the most significant example of the "art of devotion" is the stunning set of vestments made for the Cathedral. Manufactured in the Florence of Lorenzo the Magnificent and decorated with imagery by the finest Flemish craftsmen, they are unique in this country and (for their period) probably in Europe as well.

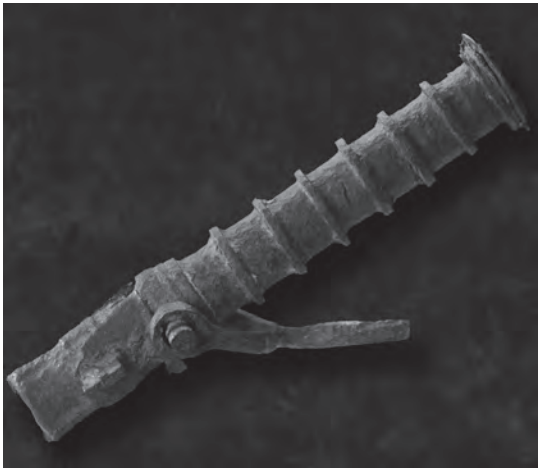
Their survival is equally miraculous. Hidden from the destroying hands of Cromwell's Puritan warriors, they were rediscovered when the old Cathedral was being demolished in the late 18th century and generously presented to the Roman Catholic dean. They remained in the Catholic Cathedral until sent on loan to the National Museum in the mid-20th century. Now painstakingly restored, they are displayed in our medieval museum.

The Motto

The late 15th century put Waterford's loyalty to the Crown to its greatest test. The Wars of the Roses were waged in miniature in Ireland, and even when they were over and Henry VII installed on the throne, it was Ireland that the two Pretenders, Lambert Simnel and Perkin Warbeck, used as their base for the invasion of England.

Simnel's attempt to secure Waterford's support in 1487 was treated with contempt. The citizens' rejection of Warbeck in 1495 met with a more serious response. For three weeks the city was besieged by land and water, rebel ships sailing up the river and bombarding the city walls with cannon-fire. But 15th-century cannon were unreliable at best, and when one of the guns exploded it set fire to the ship, which sank like a stone.

In 1901 the city dredger fished up one of these cannon, and if you don't believe me you can see it for yourself in the museum.



Cannon used in the siege of Waterford in 1495. Courtesy Waterford Museum of Treasures

So pleased was Henry VII with Waterford's resistance to the Pretenders that he granted the city its motto: "Urbs Intacta manet Waterfordia." This is usually translated as "Waterford remains the untaken city". But Henry had quite a sly sense of humour, and as the word *Intacta* is normally associated with *Virgo* (a virgin) I think a better translation of *Urbs Intacta* would be "the Virgin City".

A generation later, Waterford's rejection of Silken Thomas FitzGerald brought rewards from Henry VIII — the gift to the city of a sword and hat to be borne before the Mayor on ceremonial occasions. These rare and impressive survivals are also to be seen in our museum.

The coat of arms

The museum also contains several representations of the city's coat of arms in the 16th century. These arms aptly symbolise Waterford's position in Tudor Ireland. At the top of the shield are three lions passant — the arms of the Kings of England and a reminder of the city's independence from all intermediate lords. They are depicted on a seal of Mayor James Rice dated 1483 among the archives of Lord Waterford at

Curraghmore — still in perfect condition after 530 years.

The lower part of the shield has three galleys — a reminder of the importance of maritime trade in the life of the city, and also of the three ships captured from the O'Driscolls in 1461. The shield is supported by a lion and a dolphin — the King and the Sea again. The crest shows a lion rather improbably playing an Irish harp (the harp having been the emblem of Ireland since at least Henry VIII's time).

When Ireland became a republic in 1949, a plot was engineered to remove the royal lions from the shield; and in 1954 (the Marian Year) an attempt was made to remove the crest (Irish harp and all) and substitute a cross. Happily, commonsense prevailed.

Tudor Waterford

Waterford continued to bask in royal favour under the Tudor monarchs. More charters brought further privileges, and in particular the charter of Queen Elizabeth in 1574 established a separate county of the city and liberties of Waterford, governed by its mayor and sheriffs and independent of the county administration — a happy system, confirmed by the Great Charter of Charles I in 1626 and the Municipal Reform Act of 1840 but now falling under the axe of cold and unheeding bureaucrats.

There is no need for me to tell you what Waterford was like in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, for it has been so eloquently described by the Dublin historian Richard Stanihurst, whose "Plain and Perfect Description of Ireland" appeared in Holinshed's *Chronicles of England, Scotland and Ireland* in 1586:

> The city is properly builded and very well compact, somewhat close by reason of their thick buildings and narrow streets. The haven is passing good, by which the citizens, through the intercourse of foreign traffic in short space attain to abundance of wealth. The soil about it is not all of the best, by reason of which the air is not very subtle, yet natheless the sharpness of their wits seemeth to be nothing rebated or dulled by reason of the grossness of the air.
>
> For in good sooth the townsmen, and namely the students, are pregnant in conceiving, quick in taking, and sure in keeping. The citizens are very heedy and wary in all their public affairs, slow in determining matters of weight, loving to look ere they leap. In choosing their magistrate, they respect not only his riches but also they weigh his experience. And therefore they elect for their mayor neither a rich man that is young, nor an old man that is poor.
>
> They are cheerful in the entertainment of strangers, hearty one to another, nothing given to factions. They love no idle bench-

> whistlers nor luskish faytoures, for young and old are wholly addicted to thriving, the men commonly to traffic, the women to spinning and carding. As they distil the best *aqua vitae*, so they spin the choicest rug in Ireland.

These Waterford rugs — the great woolly blankets in which the Irish liked to wrap themselves — were often sent as gifts — with the famous *aqua vitae* — as sweeteners to prominent courtiers. One friend of Stanihurst who visited London wrapped in a Waterford rug, nearly ended up as a sweetener himself, being mistaken for a bear by the hounds in the bear-garden; luckily for him, the mastiffs were muzzled.

Reform and Counter-Reform

It was around this time that the cosy relationship between crown and corporation began to come unstuck. There were several reasons for this — the rampant inflation of the late Tudor period, the curtailment of trade with Spain, the devaluation of the coinage — but the breaking-point was over religion. Waterford accepted the royal supremacy without demur, but the government's clumsy attempts to impose Protestantism were rejected with scorn.

The city was ruled by a *junta* of about thirty families — Walshes, Sherlocks, Whites, Lombards, Wyses, Dobbyns and so on — and they were Catholic to a man. Their sons were educated in the school of Peter White, "the happy schoolmaster of Munster", first in Kilkenny and then in Waterford. Stanihurst, a former pupil, speaks of him with affection and reverence. He also describes his school as a Trojan Horse of the Counter-Reformation, from which young men emerged to do battle with heresy. They went on to train in continental seminaries, and then either pursued brilliant careers in the universities of Europe or returned to their native country filled with missionary zeal. One family, the Waddings, produced in a single generation five distinguished Jesuits and the illustrious Franciscan scholar, Luke Wadding.

Loyalty to the crown in politics but to the pope in religion was a concept intolerable to the government, especially after the excommunication of Queen Elizabeth by Pope Pius V in 1570. A rupture between the monarchy and the Munster towns that had remained staunchly Catholic was inevitable. It happened on the death of Elizabeth in March 1603. In Waterford the Catholic clergy took possession of the churches and celebrated high mass in the cathedral. A very angry Lord Deputy Mountjoy soon appeared before the city with an army of 5000. Amazingly, the citizens refused to admit them, citing their privileges under the charter of King John. Mountjoy retorted that if they did not open their gates immediately he would "cut King John's charter with King James's sword, ruin their city and strew it with salt". They

submitted, and luckily Mountjoy was tolerant.

There followed twenty years of religious acrimony, declining trade and administrative chaos, culminating in the revocation of the city's charters in 1618 and the imposition of direct rule from Dublin. Already, the city's fortifications had been strengthened in the aftermath of the Spanish Armada; now a great citadel was built at Ballybricken on the high ground west of the city. "I have mounted some guns," reported the governor, "on a wooden platform, and they overlook the town." So indeed they are shown to do in the illustration accompanying his report: the massive bulwarks are designed to defend the city from outside attack, but the guns pointed into the city.

The accession of Charles I brought a rapprochement: the new King needed money, the citizens wanted a new charter, and the deal was done for the then huge sum of £3,000. The magnificent Great Charter of 1626 is now on display in our medieval museum.

However, the Catholic oligarchy remained understandably suspicious of English intentions. And in the appallingly confused period of feuding and fighting that followed the outbreak of rebellion in October 1641, Waterford was soon captured by an Irish army and thereafter supported the extreme Catholic position advocated by Rinuccini the papal nuncio. The city's wholehearted support for the Counter-Reformation at this time earned her the sobriquet *Parva Roma* — Little Rome.

In planning his invasion of Ireland in 1649, Cromwell picked Waterford as being the soft-underbelly that would bring him a strong base and an easy victory. Reportedly, seeing Hook Head and Crook near Passage East on the map, he vowed that he would take Ireland "by hook or by crook". Circumstances changed and he headed for Dublin instead, and when he did arrive before Waterford the onset of winter, our beautiful Irish rain, and the exhaustion and sickness of his troops forced him to abandon the siege. Waterford thus became the only city that Cromwell besieged and failed to capture.

However, in the following summer, demoralised by blockade, plague and famine, the city did surrender to his son-in-law General Ireton.

The decade that followed marked the nadir of the city's fortunes. The corporation was dissolved and replaced by military rule. It was the intention of the parliamentary government to expel all the Roman Catholic inhabitants from the cities of Ireland and replace them with sturdy English Protestants. In practice, however, this proved impossible to achieve, other than at the top of the social scale, and some Catholics were allowed to remain "as hewers of wood and drawers of water". But the old Catholic junta of Sherlocks and Waddings and Lincolns were gone for ever.

Georgian Waterford

It was therefore an exclusively Protestant oligarchy — Alcocks, Christmases, Barkers and Boltons — that controlled Waterford's affairs from the restoration of Charles II in 1660 until the Municipal Reform Act of 1840. A pictorial map compiled in 1673 shows us the city they ruled, still largely confined within its medieval walls.

The 18th century, however, was to see the transformation of Waterford from a virtually medieval town into a fine Georgian city. The century began with the demolition of the fortifications along the waterfront and the creation of "the Noblest Quay in Europe", which by the end of the century extended for about a mile and had been paved throughout its length. The fine panoramic view of the city by the Dutch painter William Van der Hagen (1736), the similar view in Smith's history of Waterford (1746) and the map compiled by Richards and Scalé (1764) chart the changes in the rapidly expanding city.

The finest of Waterford's Georgian buildings are the work of one man, a native of the city — John Roberts. His big opportunity came when he was commissioned to finish the palace of the Anglican bishop on the newly formed Mall; designed by Richard Castle, it had been left unfinished at the death of Bishop Este in 1745. The official residence of the bishops down to 1920, it later housed Bishop Foy's School and has recently been restored as Waterford's museum for the 18th to 20th centuries.

When it was decided to demolish the medieval cathedral and replace it with a classical building more in the spirit of the times, it was John Roberts who got the job. He also designed and built the Assembly Rooms (now the City Hall), the adjoining Theatre, the Leper Hospital (later the County and City Infirmary), and a number of private residences, including those for the Wyse family (now Newtown School) and the prosperous merchant William Morris (later the Chamber of Commerce). Finally, at the end of his long life, he was commissioned to design the Catholic Cathedral. In the words of architectural historian Mark Girouard, Roberts

> achieved the remarkable feat not only of designing two cathedrals in one town but of giving the two buildings an absolutely different character, each suited to its own religion. The Protestant cathedral is cool and northern, redolent of lawn sleeves and the communion service; the Catholic cathedral, with its forest of huge Corinthian columns, is warm, luscious, and Mediterranean.

The Anglican cathedral was much altered by Sir Thomas Drew in the 1890s and became almost a spectre of its former self in the 1980s

but is now restored and humming with life. The Catholic cathedral has retained more of its Georgian features, including its fine wooden galleries, to which were added in the 19th century a new high altar and *baldachino* and a magnificent oak pulpit.

Abstracts of the destroyed religious census of 1766 suggest that in the mid-18th century between a quarter and a third of the city's population belonged to the Established Church. The operation of the Penal Laws prevented the Catholic majority from participating in the city's administration. Catholics did, however, play an important role in Waterford's commercial life, and mutual self-interest ensured that the city was comparatively free of religious bigotry. There were several mass-houses, one of which — St Patrick's Church — has survived with little change to the present day. Mark Girouard has described it as "a building of few architectural pretensions but of immense charm". Its erection was funded by Waterford exiles in France and Spain, who had done well in the commerce of their adopted countries. Their support for churches at home may also be seen in the fine silverware now exhibited in the former Palace on the Mall.

No account of 18th-century Waterford would be complete without mention of the Glass Factory, founded in 1783 by the Quaker family of Penrose and continued by the Gatchells. In its heyday it employed 60-70 workmen and produced about fifty tons of cut glass annually. It was never a big operation, but its products were of superb quality and George Gatchell's enthusiasm for exhibiting them ensured a worldwide reputation. Alas, lack of capital and a crushing excise duty on Irish glass brought about the closure of the factory in 1851.

By the end of the century Waterford had its first bridge over the river Suir, built in 1793 by the Boston engineer Lemuel Cox. The brainchild of a private consortium, its tolls were bitterly resented, but it was not until the early 20th century that the Corporation was moved to buy out the toll owners and replace the now tottering bridge with a new structure of ferro-concrete. This in turn was replaced by the present bridge in 1984.

19th-century Waterford

The recession that followed the end of the Napoleonic Wars caused the virtual collapse of Waterford's provision trade, a decline in population from nearly 40,000 to 28,000, and emigration to North America at the rate of 2000 a year. The once-mighty trade with *Talamh an Éisc* — the fishing-grounds of Newfoundland — died out. The cholera epidemic of 1831 devastated the warren of tiny streets where the poor huddled together in conditions of appalling squalor.

The advent of steam power in the early 19th century brought back a

measure of prosperity. One industry to benefit dramatically was ship-building. By the middle of the century there were several shipyards on the banks of the Suir, the most notable being the Neptune Works. Built by the Quaker family of Malcomson, the Neptune was designed to service the ships travelling to their mighty cotton mill at Portlaw, but it soon developed a life of its own. During its thirty-year existence, from 1847 to 1877, over forty steamships were built at the yard. These included the first steamer to trade regularly between London and St Petersburg, the first steam ice-breaker, and the first steamer to bring live cattle from America to Liverpool.

Waterford was also a major beneficiary of the railway era. By 1914 there were no fewer than six lines into and out of the city. They ran west to Limerick and Sligo; north to Kilkenny and Dublin; north-east to New Ross and Dublin; east to Rosslare Harbour; south to Tramore; and south-west to Dungarvan and Cork.

This railway network in turn generated further industry: the building suppliers Graves & Sons, for instance, who developed roofing felt for use in the Australian outback and other far-flung outposts of the Empire. Another example of the use made by local enterprise in harnessing Victorian technology and communications is the Queen's Bacon Factory. Opened in 1864 at new premises in Ballybricken, within a few years it had 150 men and women in constant employment and was processing no fewer than 2000 carcasses a week, mainly for export to the London market.

It was not only factories that dominated the Waterford landscape a hundred years ago. The expansion of commerce led to the erection of some fine institutional buildings in the city centre, notably the GPO on the Quay and the branch offices of the leading banks. Ballybricken became the site for two large military barracks (for artillery and cavalry regiments) and a gaol.

The perimeter was the usual site for the great charitable and educational buildings. The Irish Christian Brothers were founded in Waterford by Edmund Rice in 1802. The Presentation nuns established themselves in the city as early as 1798, and in the same year the Quakers founded Newtown School. The Ursuline, Mercy, and St John of God orders, and the Sisters of Charity and Little Sisters of the Poor all had bases in Waterford by the end of the century. In 1892 the De la Salle order erected a massive building in Newtown as their teacher training college; it is now the city's largest secondary school. An impressive Roman Catholic seminary was erected to the south-east on John's Hill in 1868; but this area is mainly dominated by hospitals: St Patrick's (the former workhouse), St Otteran's (the former lunatic asylum) and the now closed Infirmary (formerly the Leper Hospital).

The 20th century — and beyond

The early decades of the independent Irish state were uneasy ones for Waterford, which sustained yet another siege at the outbreak of the Civil War. After the Second World War the city made another of its great leaps forward, with new housing estates, the establishment of new factories (in particular the revival of Waterford Crystal) on a new industrial estate established west of the city; and a huge extension of the municipal boundary in 1980. The Celtic Tiger too brought its own brand of development.

Inevitably, progress has been achieved at a price. But for some years now there has been a heightened awareness of our illustrious past. The extensive excavations of the city's historic core; the care taken in assembling and displaying the treasures that have miraculously survived; the enthusiasm and generosity of all involved in promoting our heritage — all have helped to make Waterford — Haven of the Castrated Rams, Virgin City, Little Rome — a place to visit. Go out and enjoy!

The Cantillons and the Crosbies of Ballyheigue, Co. Kerry: a tale of two families

by Bryan MacMahon

Baile Uí Thaidhg – The town of the descendants of Tadhg.

The name Ballyheigue comes from the Irish 'Baile Uí Thaidhg', the town of the descendants of Tadhg. It is in north Kerry, part of the barony of Clanmaurice, a division dating back to Norman times.

The name is believed to have come from Tadhg Mac Ruairí O'Connor, an 8th or 9th century chief of the clan which was the leading Gaelic dynasty of north Kerry. There is more recorded information on two prominent local families from later periods: the Cantillons and the Crosbies.

I The Cantillons

The Cantillon or de Cantillon name is Norman, and the family arrived in England with William the Conqueror and from there came to Ireland in the late 12th century. (One of the English family was St. Thomas of Cantelupe, and there is still a shrine to him in Hereford Cathedral.) The Cantillons became extensive landholders in Ballyheigue and elsewhere in north Kerry until they lost their lands in the Cromwellian period. Despite this, they continued to remain influential, as is evidenced by the prominence of Cantillon tombs in the old graveyard in Ballyheigue and the enduring legend of Teampall-fo-Thoinn. Some Cantillons returned to their French homeland in later centuries and descendants from various parts of the world are regular visitors to their ancestral home of Ballyheigue.

Teampall fo Thoinn

According to a local tradition, there is an underwater church in Ballyheigue bay, a burial place reserved for the Cantillon family. The first written version of the tale was in Charles Smith's *History of the Kingdom of Kerry* (1756). The story of Teampall fo Thoinn, the Church beneath the Waves, tells of the distinctive burial customs of the Cantillons, who had a special island churchyard for their own family. The legend is that one of them married a creature of the sea, and folklore has it that when she died, her father had her burial place submerged so that she would lie among her own people. The waves can still often be seen to break at some distance out to sea, and this spot, called the Church Banks on old nautical charts, is still pointed out today as the location of Teampall fo Thoinn.

Thomas Crofton Croker, in *Fairy Legends of the South of Ireland* (1870), gives an embellished account of the tale as follows:

> *The ancient burial place of the Cantillon family was on an island in Ballyheigh Bay. This island was situated at no great distance from the shore, and at a remote period was overflowed in one of the encroachments which the Atlantic has made in that part of the coast of Kerry. The fishermen declare they have often seen the ruined walls of an old chapel beneath them in the water, as they sailed over the clear green sea of a sunny afternoon. However this may be, it is well known that the Cantillons were, like most other Irish families, strongly attached to their ancient burial place; and this attachment led to the custom, when any of the family died, of carrying the corpse to the sea-side, where the coffin was left on the shore within reach of the tide. In the morning it had disappeared, being, as was traditionally believed, conveyed away by the ancestors of the deceased to their family tomb.*

Croker says that the custom came to an end when the sea-creatures were observed by land-people who stayed to watch them bearing away the coffin of Flory Cantillon. When they realized they were being watched, the sea-creatures took umbrage:

> *'The time is come,' cried the unearthly being, 'the time is come; a human eye looks on the forms of the ocean, a human ear has heard their voices. Farewell to the Cantillons; the sons of the sea are no longer doomed to bury the dust of the earth!'*
>
> *When the sound of the keening died away, there was nothing but the sound of the waves and at length nothing was heard but the rush of the waters. That was the last occasion when the Cantillon coffin was borne out to the undersea graveyard.*

In countries such as Scotland and Finland there are folk tales of sea-creatures who come on shore, take human form and marry. They always pine for their first and true birthplace, however, and eventually return to it. The Cantillon legend is linked to these tales and it also serves to add to the importance of the family as the outstanding name of the area.

The French Connection

Many of the family returned to France in the early 1700s as 'Wild Geese,' soldiers in the French army. A French military officer, Antoine Sylvain de Cantillon, was created 'Baron de Ballyheigue' in the 1830s, claiming descent from the Ballyheigue line, although the evidence for his claim is doubtful. A true descendant of the Ballyheigue line, Marie Andre Cantillon, received a bequest of 10,000 francs in the will of Napoleon Bonaparte, in a clause added just six days before his death in St. Helena in May 1821. Napoleon wished to reward Cantillon for an

unsuccessful attempt to assassinate the Duke of Wellington in Paris in 1818. When Napoleon's bequest became public, there was outrage in England and elsewhere that the French military hero was thereby giving his approval to the heinous crime of assassination, and it was suggested that Napoleon was not of sound mind as he approached his death.

Richard Cantillon, Father of Economics, d. 1734

Undoubtedly, the most famous Cantillon of all was Richard, who was born in the townland of Ballyronan in Ballyheigue. He went to France at a young age and his remarkable story has a distinct resonance for our times. He was both banker and economist and he made a fortune from share dealing and currency speculation, drawing on himself the wrath of those who lost money in schemes he had recommended to them. He has been described as 'the father of economics' and the U.S. economist Dr. Mark Thornton wrote: 'The title of best economist in history I would give to Richard Cantillon.'

Little is known about Richard Cantillon's early life, except that he was born between 1680 and 1690, and that he travelled to France where he applied for citizenship in 1708. His cousin was a banker in Paris and with his help Richard had a meteoric rise in French financial circles. One caustic comment on him was that 'he never wore shoes until he came to Paris.'

Cantillon invested in the Mississippi Company and made a huge amount of money – an incredible £50,000 in the summer of 1719 alone. This is the equivalent of almost €5,000,000 today. He had a good sense of how to play the market, and he sold when share values were very high. Thus he is described as making two fortunes from the shares, one when they were low and one when they were high. He was one of the top twenty-five so-called 'Mississippian millionaires', having made 20 million livres (or approximately £630,000) out of the Scheme, the equivalent of about €60million today. He was one of the wealthiest private citizens in the world.

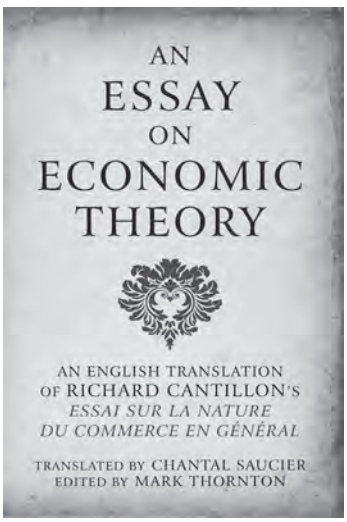
In another boom, the South Sea Bubble, Cantillon again made a fortune. When shares fell dramatically there was consternation in the markets.

Once again, the shrewd Cantillon came out very well, having sold his shares early, but there was great resentment towards him from those who had lost large amounts, and so it was that powerful people laid charges of theft, usury and even attempted murder against him. The Irish community in Paris was astonished when the great banker was ignominiously arrested and jailed in December 1728; he was released within hours however. Despite constant and prolonged litigation throughout the 1720s, he ultimately escaped any conviction.

Cantillon always travelled widely throughout Europe, and he was enigmatic and secretive in character. He was said to have owned a house in each of seven European capitals, and he certainly moved frequently between London, Paris and Amsterdam. As Prof. Antoin Murphy, the biographer of Cantillon and champion of his reputation, puts it: 'Cantillon moved in mysterious ways all through his life, ever mindful to cover his tracks and maintain a low profile in the society in which he mixed.'

On 14 May 1734, Cantillon was found dead after a fire in his house on London's fashionable Albemarle St. It is likely that he was killed by his cook, whom he had dismissed some days previously, and who then set the house on fire to make the death look accidental. Cantillon was buried in Old St. Pancras churchyard in London. However there has been speculation that Cantillon might have faked his death in order to escape his tormentors and the body buried in St. Pancras was not his at all.

Cantillon's reputation as an economist rests on his only book, *Essai sur la Nature du Commerce en Général,* which was written between 1728 and 1730, but first published in 1755, twenty-one years after his death. In it he develops his theory of the entrepreneur as the most significant force of the economy; this theory is regarded as his distinctive contribution to economics. *The Irish Times* now has a regular column under the heading 'Cantillon' in its Business section; it provides comment and analysis on topical economic issues. A plaque commemorating Richard Cantillon was unveiled at the gates of the ruined Ballyheigue Castle in 2009. This location was the seat of the landlord family of Crosbies from the 1700s, but there was an earlier Norman keep occupied by the Cantillon family.



II The Crosbie Family

McCrossan was the original family name of the Crosbies who lived in Ballyheigue for over 200 years, and they were a Gaelic family from Co. Laois, the hereditary bards of the O'Mores, Gaelic chieftains of that part of Ireland. In the late 1500s, as they became aware of the far-reaching consequences of the Elizabethan conquest, they changed their name to Crosbie, and co-operated with the new regime. They benefitted by this shrewd move: two brothers, Patrick and John, were granted lands and positions in north Kerry after the Munster Plantation. Patrick was given land in the Tarbert area on condition that he transfer members of the troublesome seven septs of Laois there. These were the remnants of Gaelic families who were attacking the new settlers in Laois-Offaly. While Patrick himself did not remain in Kerry, many of the transplanted families did.

The other brother, John, was appointed Protestant bishop of Ardfert in 1600. He established the line of Ardfert Crosbies and from them, a branch settled in Ballyheigue in the early 1700s. When the male line of succession died out in Ardfert in the early 1800s, it continued until 1921 as Talbot-Crosbie. In the early 1800s, an impressive mock-Gothic castle was built in Ballyheigue, designed by the Morrison family of architects. The Castle was burned down in 1921 but the facade still stands, the centre-piece of a 9-hole golf course.

Although there were undoubtedly conflicts and evictions of tenants, most of the Crosbie landlords of Ballyheigue were fair and even-handed in their treatment of tenants. In the early 1800s, Col. James Crosbie supported Catholic Emancipation. There were conflicts in regard to the siting of the Catholic Church and schools: the Crosbie landlord in the 1820s and 1830s would not allow these to be built on his land. Hence the location of today's St. Mary's Church, a mile away from the village. In the 1870s, however, another James Crosbie had good relations with local clergy and supported the national schools of the parish.

James Dayrolles Crosbie (1865-1947)

James Crosbie died in 1899 and his son, James Dayrolles (J.D.), inherited the estate. Times were changing, and the land was being transferred to tenants, and J.D. embraced the terms of the Wyndham Land Act of 1903, by which tenants received long-term loans to purchase their farms. This proved to be the solution to the long-running conflict about land ownership in Ireland. J.D. retained his own demesne around the Castle. He was active in local politics and was elected to the first County Council in Kerry.

When war broke out in August 1914, J.D. Crosbie resumed his army career. He spent little time in Ballyheigue after that and eventually sold

the property to his sister in 1918. He was mentioned in dispatches after an attack near Ypres in 1916, which he commanded, and he achieved the rank of Brigadier General. His war did not end in November 1918 when the armistice came, as he was sent to Russia to combat the Red Army of Communists. By the time his military career ended, he had severed his links with Ballyheigue. He went to live in Fife in Scotland, where his wife came from, and played a prominent role in local government there. An obituary described him as 'Fife's No. 1 public orator,' and he was chairman of the County Council for a long period. He lived in Kilconquhar and his only child, Oonagh, lived in the village of Elie. She did not marry, so the direct Crosbie line of Ballyheigue came to an end with her death in 1983.

In contrast with the Cantillons, the Crosbie name is today found only in the Old Graveyard in Ballyheigue.

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Bryan Mac Mahon is a member of Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society. He has published a number of local history books, the most recent being *A Guide to Ballyheigue* (2013). Further information from:ballyheigueheritage@gmail.com.

Bryan is also on the Council of the Old Dublin Society and the committee of Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society.

The Cantillons — Ballyheighue Castle

Naas-Ancient and Modern
A History of our Town

by Paddy Behan

Early Naas

Naas was the capital of the district anciently called Airthear Life and was on the border between Uí Faoláin — the O'Byrne Kingdom — and, Uí Muiri — the O'Toole Kingdom. The Dun or Fort was considered almost impregnable in ancient times. It was nearly certainly built on the North Moat, which is still intact, and commands the town from a central position, behind the Town Hall. The South Moat has disappeared as such and its site is now a large low hillock which is the Fair Green.

How or why how our town is situated where it is, is really unknown. It nestles inside the sweep of the River Liffey, and yet not on it. The town is placed in that fertile stretch of land which runs between the Wicklow mountains and the vast central boglands. It was the chosen site of the chieftains of Leinster who built their fort on the high ground near the centre of the town. It was a day's journey from Dublin and placed at the junction of the main roads to the south and south-west of the country.

The fort at the North Moat was for centuries the stronghold of the chieftains of Leinster. Naas was second only to Tara (in the province of Meath) as a meeting and rallying place. Our town's name comes from this very early period as Naas or Nas na Riogh means place of assembly or meeting place of the kings. Bardic history relates that it was founded by Lewy of the Long Hand, and according to ancient tradition the original founders commenced the building of the town somewhere in the townland of Broadfield.

After the Connacht dynasty had conquered a great part of North Leinster, including Tara, and established the new Kingdom of Meath and the High-Kingship, the Kings of North Leinster — drawn from Uí Faoláin and Uí Muiri — were forced to retire from Tara and take up residence at Naas. They were still recognised as provincial kings until the tenth century though their power and influence were weakening from the sixth century onwards. Thereafter, North Leinster ceased to be an important kingdom and the kings who occupied Naas held the status of local chieftains only.

The Dun of Naas existed at a very early period. It is mentioned in connection with the legendary origin of the Boroma Laighain or Leinster Tribute in the reign of the High King of Ireland Tuathail Teachtmhar in the second century.

Tuthail had two beautiful daughters, Fithir and Darina. The King of Leinster at that time was Eochy Aincheaun, who married Darina and carried her off to his Palace at Naas. Eochy was also determined

to get his hands on her sister Fithir, as his second wife so he shut up Darina in a room in his palace, and sent out a report that she was dead. He then went to Tara, in a great appearance of grief and informed Tuathail that his daughter was dead, and asked for her sister. Tuthail consented, and Eochy returned home to Naas with his new wife. Soon afterwards, however, Darina, escaping from her prison, unexpectedly met her husband and her sister. Her sister fell dead before her face, and the young Queen Darina soon died of a broken heart.

This insult to his daughter so enraged_Tuthail that he at the head of a powerful force, raided Naas in 134 AD and avenged the insult by conquering and beheading Eochy. O'Flaherty's Ogygia informs us that Naas was destroyed and the inhabitants massacred. He levied a Leinster Tribute of 6000 ounces of Silver, 6000 richly woven mantles, and 6000 cows, hogs, and sheep, every two years, this was abolished in 680 AD by King Finachtach. It was however revived 300 years later by Brian Boro, King of Munster, hence his name Boroime. Some time towards the end of the second century the Dun of Naas which was rebuilt by Luighdech Eithlenn King of Leinster, but was burnt again in 277 AD by Cormac Mac Art, a powerful High King of Ireland, whose laws remained in force throughout the middle ages, to avenge the massacre by Dunlang, King of Leinster, and of thirty royal maidens, with a large number of their attendants.

Early Christian Period

During the years of St. Patrick's ministry, 432 – 469 he paid several visits to Naas. The site of his pupall or tent was on the green of the fort, approximately where St. David's Churchyard now is. In 448 he baptised Dubhlang's two sons, Oillill and Illann, and Oillill's two daughters, Moaghain and Fiedelm, at a well which is still to be seen in the Elder Grove at Oldtown. He also baptised at Sunday's Well, where an annual Patron Sunday was held in olden times.

St. Fechin of Fore visited Naas in 650. He founded the Monastery of Tulach-Fobhair, close to the site of Sunday's Well, at Millbrook, which was built upon land given by the King of Naas. Ware says the Monastery was dependent upon "Foure", hence the name Tulach Fobhair (Tulach means hillock). During his visit to Naas in 660 he obtained the release of certain captives, in memory of which the Market Cross was erected, it stood in the Market place until the mid eighteenth century.

The Four Masters tell us that about 705 King Congal, son of Fergus of Fanat, while making a hosting against the Leinstermen, devastated Naas and carried away hostages, probably for the payment of "Tribute", or some such debt.

In 861 Muireghan, son of Diarmead, Lord of Naas and Airther Life was slain by Norsemen. In 904 Cearbhall, the last King to be recognised as King of Leinster was tragically killed, some say by accident at Kildare Town when he fell from his horse, and was accidentally killed by his own sword, others say he was killed in battle. He was a very brave man, and by all accounts, avenged the death of his father Muireghan, by defeating the Norse men at the battle of Dublin in 880. He also played a prominent part in the defeat of the powerful Cormac Mac Cuileannain, King and Archbishop of Cashel, at the Battle of Bealach Mughna in 903. He was buried at Cill Corban as were eight previous Kings of Leinster before him. With his death, we come to the end of a glorious era in the history of our town.

The Norman-English Town

About the year 1156 King Dermot McMurragh, of Leinster, carried off Dervorgilla the wife of Tiernan O'Rourke, King of Breifne. The revenge battles that ensued resulted in Dermot having to flee to Wales, and seek succour from Richard deClare, Earl of Strigul, Richard known to the Irish as Strongbow, later married Dermot's daughter Aoife. Strongbow, with a contingent of 300 Welshmen, assisted by Robert FitzStephen (half brother of the bishop of St. David's, and of Maurice FitzGerald), and Myler FitzDavid, son of the Bishop, crossed to Ireland in 1170. Strongbow soon stamped Norman authority on Leinster, and granted the prosperous towns and fertile lands to his supporters. Maurice FitzGerald. was granted the barony of Naas in 1175.

In 1177 the grant was reconfirmed to Maurice FitzGerald's son, William FitzMaurice, by Henry II; it was also confirmed by Prince John. This Anglo Norman possession was followed by the settlement of a colony from the St. David's area of Pembrokeshire in Wales and these colonists made many changes. The Parish Church originally dedicated to St. Patrick or St. Corban, was rebuilt and rededicated to the Welsh Patron St. David. The church which is now one of the oldest buildings in the town has undergone many changes over the past 800 years. A report in 1767 describes the steeple as being in such a ruinous state that it was resolved to pull it down and build another. The new steeple was commenced in 1781 but was never completed and remains so to this day.

The town soon grew into a Norman stronghold with castles, walls, and gates. Practically no trace of these remain but the names of at least six castles within the town are extant, and vaulted ground floor rooms of the old buildings still exist in King John's Castle now known as St. David's Castle, and in the house known as Eustace Castle, the walls of which stood on the Friary Road up to about 20 years ago. The gates, too have disappeared though the names of all six remain. They were Corban's

Gate (junction of Corban's Lane and South Main Street), West Gate (New Row), Green Gate (Fairgreen Street), Yeogogs Gate (Sallins Road), North Gate (Dublin Road), and Water Gate (Friary Road). The arches of some of them still stood in 1680 when two of them were demolished and the stone used for church and other repairs.

There was also a line of castles to the south and east of Naas which, with its own defences, made it the chief southern stronghold of the "Pale". At least some remains of six of these castles can still be seen, among them Kilteel, Hartwell, and Rathasker.

It is interesting to note that the most clearly defined and possibly the only remains of the "Pale" fence, ordered by Poyning's Parliament in 1494, are to be seen at Clongoweswood about six miles from Naas.

Yet though its charters allowed moneys for the repair and maintenance of fortifications, these were allowed to fall into decay and by the end of the sixteenth century Naas was a market town. In 1642 Ormonde considered it capable of fortification, but in 1680, as already stated, two of its gates were pulled down and all pretensions to maintaining Naas as a fortified town were abandoned.

Naas at War

While the Kings of Leinster lived there, it is clear from references in annals and other records, that Naas suffered much at the hands of the High-Kings from Tara on their Boraniha-collecting raids. For instance, against the year 705, the Annals of the Four Masters record that King Conal devastated Naas, carried away hostages and spoils, and composed a poetic farewell to the Liffey.

There are records of at least two raids by the Norsemen on Naas and district.

Its position as "corner-stone" of the Pale made Naas one of the chief targets of attack by the local Irish kings. It was burned and plundered by Edward the Bruce in 1316. It was taken for a time by Silken Thomas but recaptured by Lord Deputy Skeffington in 1535. In 1575 there was intense heat and drought throughout the summer and Naas suffered severely from a plague. In 1577 Rory Og O'Moore and his men burned the town in the night after the celebration of St. David's Day. The insurgents took possession of Naas for a few days in 1642 but Ormonde soon re-took it and placed a garrison; it was again taken by Preston in 1647 but after his defeat by Jones, he burned and deserted the town which then fell into the hands of the Parliamentarians. Ormonde re-occupied it for Charles II in 1649, but it was finally captured by Hewson for Cromwell in 1650. Following the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the town again returned to local control.

In 1798 one of the first acts of insurrection took place at Naas when

a local farmer, Michael Reynolds, and a number of men attacked the town but were repulsed. Several prisoners were taken and most of them brutally executed or otherwise barbarously treated.

Local Administrators

In 1409 Henry IV granted to Naas its first charter as a Corporation consisting of Portreeve, Burgesses and Commonalty, and a few years later these were given the right to all tolls for the fortifying of the town. Thereafter Parliaments were frequently held in the town, especially during the tenure of the office of Lord Deputy by the Earls of Kildare in the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century.

From 1559 (possibly earlier) Naas had two representatives in Parliament up to the time of the Union. This was reduced to one after 1800 and ceased altogether in 1840, when Naas was no longer a borough.

A new charter was granted by Queen Elizabeth I in 1568, adding a Sovereign to the Corporation. This was confirmed by James I in 1609 in a charter which gave further powers, including the right to fortify the town and appoint a Sergeant-at-Mace. (A Mace of Naas of late seventeenth-century make has been in the National Museum since 1861. It remained unidentified for over fifty years until the arms at the base were recognized.) A replica of the original mace was commissioned by Naas Town Council from silversmith Hugh Statham, and sponsored by Bank of Ireland, Naas, and was presented to the council by Mr. Jimmy Cox on Civic Awards night, Friday 29th January 1999; it is present at all special occasions of the council. Further charters were granted by Charles I (1628) and by Charles II (1671). This latter charter came into force in 1689 and Naas was governed under it until 1840 when the Corporation was dissolved by Act of Parliament.

Between 1840 and 1854 it was controlled by a Grand Jury; it had Town Commissioners from 1854 to 1900 ; the Urban District Council administrated the affairs of the town from 1900 to 2001 when new local government legislation created the office of Mayor and the new title of Town Council for all towns and boroughs.

Principal Families

Up to the time of Henry VIII the Fitzgerald family exercised a large measure of control over Naas. After that the lists of Parliamentary representatives and sovereigns shows a predominance of Sherlocks up to 1641. The names of Eustace and Aylmer occur most frequently from then until the early eighteenth century and there is a fairly regular alternation of de Burghs and Bourkes (afterwards Earls of Mayo) to 1760. From then to the dissolution of the Corporation in 1840 the Bourkes had almost a complete monopoly of the sovereignty.

The last of those ruling families to reside in Naas are the de Burgh family, whose family connection with Naas which began in 1707 which ceased following the passing of the late incumbent, Major John de Burgh. This connection which began when Thomas Burgh, then Surveyor General of Ireland, purchased land in Oldtown to build himself a mansion in the same style as Russborough House. The colonnades and the main house were commenced, money ran out causing the partly built main house to be pulled down resulting in the left wing being developed as the main house. The family lived in this wing for 250 years until it was burnt down in the 1950s.The right wing which was used as stabling was then developed as the family home and remains so until the present day.

Transport

Up to the middle of the eighteenth century transport in Ireland was very primitive and slow. Dublin, the capital, 15 Irish miles away, was " A winter day's journey on horse back" This was a time when the road network was poor and the only way of travelling was horse back or horse-drawn vehicles for the wealthy and walking or "shank's mare" for the ordinary travellers of the time.

An Irish Parliament Act was enacted in 1729 to improve the roads of the Kingdom. Trustees were appointed to oversee the making, repair and financing of the turnpikes, as the roads to be managed under this system were called. Tolls would be charged and the money raised would finance the scheme. Toll exemption would apply to Soldiers, Farmers taking their cattle to drink, Road Maintenance persons, vagrants, and no tolls would apply on Election Day. It was decided that after 21 years all roads would be built, repaired and no money would be owed. However, maintenance and running costs were greater than expected, resulting in further time extensions being sought in the 1740s, 1762 and 1787 when there was a debt of £9000, and one-third of the income went to pay interest on loans. In the same year, there were five toll-houses on the route with three keepers employed at each gate.

The movement of goods in bulk by horse drawn vehicles with only two or four wheels was very tedious. A single horse could haul a ton at most. In a cart, but it could haul up to fifty tons if it was supported by water, that is, if the load was in a barge on a canal. So the construction of canals was mooted as a means of improving the carriage of heavy goods across the country, the main line canal reached Sallins in 1780 bypassing Naas, despite the lobbying of the local gentry and business people. In 1782 they decided to build their own canal to link up with the main line at Osberstown and having overcome many difficulties a new era of transport arrived in Naas in 1789. The County of Kildare Canal was completed at a cost of £12,300. It was extended as far as Corbally

in 1810 at a further cost of £20,000. In 1811 the canal bridges had to raised to allow passenger boats to ply between Naas and Dublin, and two years later a new Market House was built in the Harbour by Lord Mayo.

Despite being very slow the canal passenger boats were carrying over five hundred passengers a day in the 1930s but a new invention was to revolutionise transport in Ireland; the railway, the first steam locomotive ran from Westland Row to Dun Laoire in 1834. In less than ten years the railway would bypass Naas just like the canal did 65 years before. It would be another 40 years before a branch line would be opened to Naas.

But coming of the railway in the 19th century just like the coming of the Naas bypass in the 20th century was not welcomed by the Naas traders. Robert Scott Hayes addressing the people of the town in 1854 said "My name is Robert Scott Hayes I am an old and respected citizen of Naas I welcome the opportunity to address you the people of Naas. Having spent over thirty years of my life in the town my reason for addressing you, my friends and fellow townsmen, is that I feel a deep interest in the prosperity of the town and that it is self-evident that our town is retrograding, while other towns in our county are advancing. I hope that my observations will be received in the spirit in which they are written.

It must be patent to the most cursory observer that since the opening of the railway Naas has been degenerating. It is a truth generally admitted that all towns near the metropolis by which a railway passes are more or less injured - this owing to the facilities which railways afford for visiting the city by which persons are induced if they only want a hat, a coat or a basket of groceries to run-up to town for them whereas formerly small matters of this kind were procured from the town shopkeepers".

Development

The oldest man made structures in the town which are still there includes the north moat which dates from the 9th century, following close on that must be St. David's Church and King John's Castle. In the 14th century, Castle Rag; 16th century, Jigginstown House; 17th century, Oldtown House, The Knocks, The Town Hall, Maudlins Cemetery, The Guardhouse on the moat, The Canal; 18th century, The Court House, The Market House, The Clock tower of the Army Barracks, The RC Parish Church, The Workhouse, The Constabulary Barracks, The Convent, William Staples Buildings. The Railway Storehouse; 19th century, the Fever Hospital. The General Hospital, The Church of the Irish Martyrs, The Garda Station and some fine houses and housing estates arrived in the 20th century. The twenty first century has begun well with the erection of the new Aras Chill Dara award winning municipal building

on the site of the Devoy military barrack at Devoy Park on the Newbridge road.

Naas Today

Naas today is the administrative headquarters of County Kildare, as indeed it has been since the formation of the county almost seven hundred years ago. In keeping with its royal heritage, Naas is today a centre of the sport of kings. It has its own racecourse on the Dublin side of the town, "peerless" Punchestown is a mere two miles to the east, on the road to Ballymore-Eustace, while the Curragh, headquarters of Irish racing, and venue for the Irish Derby, is only seven miles away. Its hotels and restaurants are noted for their fine fare and hospitality. Spacious, well-stocked shops line its streets, and busy factories, staffed by industrious men and women, contribute to the lifeblood of the nation.

In his account of his journey through Kildare in 1732, John Loveday described Naas as a town of "one street and a good Market House". It would seem to have grown considerably in the following hundred years for the Boundaries Survey of 1836 gives its population as four thousand but states that its prosperity had been on the decline for the previous fifteen years and that the appearance of many of the cabins on the outskirts was poor and miserable. (The ancient boundaries were then unknown but the Survey laid down new boundaries which would enclose an area about three-quarters of a mile in length from north to south, and in width about a half-mile from east to west. This description of a town in decline is a far cry from the growing and thriving community that is Naas today. The town boundary today is a circle of one and a half-mile radius with the Town Hall as its centre point. Its population is circa 20,000 and growing.

From Village to Resort, from Township to Suburb: Clontarf since 1760

Claire Gogarty

Most people who have heard of Clontarf have done so in the context of two features, either the Battle of Clontarf, which was fought in 1014, in which Brian Boru with his army is said to have driven the Vikings out of Ireland, or else Clontarf Castle. Yet both of these historical events have rather shallow foundations. There is considerable doubt over whether the Battle of Clontarf actually took place where the district of Clontarf stands today. Yes, there were certainly skirmishes in the immediate area. It may have been a landing area for most of the incoming Viking and non-Viking ships, but the 'Plain of Clontarf' on which it was fought was not necessarily in Clontarf. The land at the coast in Clontarf would have been quite marshy – not exactly the best place to hold a battle, as soldiers would find it difficult to find a stable foothold. A lot of land has been reclaimed from the sea, so the whole area looks very different from the way it would have looked in the 11th century. One 19th-century chronicler said a Danish sword was found in a garden of one of the houses. It may have been dropped by an escaping attacker or it may have been from a later century and just called Danish because of the link in people's minds between the battle and Clontarf.

As to the Castle of Clontarf, it is, as we shall see, a fake. To the untrained eye, it looks like the real deal but the structure that stands today is a 19th-century pastiche. John Edward Venables Vernon commissioned William Vitruvius Morrison in 1835 to restyle Clontarf Castle. However, his expert opinion was that it should be demolished and rebuilt entirely, as it was such a collection of medieval buildings that it had neither overall character nor relevance to Victorian times. So the Castle was rebuilt, although instead of building a contemporary castle or mansion, Morrison designed a castle the way he felt a

decent castle 'would have' looked. He gave it parts that looked medieval, parts that looked Romanesque and parts that looked Elizabethan.

A great portion of Clontarf's history concerns the land, the houses and the long-dead citizens who lived in them, forging lives and a community. The story of Clontarf is made up of bricks, stones and people. Clontarf began as a village surrounding a castle and grew into a well-heeled suburb. Well into the 19th century, Clontarf still had countryside between itself and Dublin. It was a place of 'tranquil rural retirement with a near vicinity to the metropolis', with 'numerous pleasant villas and ornamented cottages built in detached situations' according to Samuel Lewis in his *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* of 1837.

The centre of the original village of Clontarf is just three miles from Dublin City centre and is now one of the nearer suburbs surrounding the capital. The village remained around the Castle, and a cluster of houses developed at the Sheds, at the bottom of Vernon Avenue, a spot right on the sea. Many of the original inhabitants of this area worked as fishermen and at preserving herring and oysters in the large oyster sheds, from which this area of Clontarf takes its name. It was a fair-sized village and the population of the immediate area was recorded in 1837 as being 3,314, of whom 1,309 lived in the village. John Edward Venables Vernon esq. was recorded as being the 'present proprietor'. He was one of a long line of Vernons, who kept a close eye on what was happening in their small stretch of land. It was a very good land-holding of approximately 600 acres, in an accessible part of the country: close to the capital city, on the coast, with a small river (the Nanniken) and no mountainous or blanket bogland. It had been densely wooded when the first settlers arrived.

Clontarf developed a commercial, maritime character but this began to change during the 18th century, when fishing started to become big business for other areas with more favourable beaching facilities. During the 19th century, the nearness to the sea meant Clontarf served as a holiday resort for many of the wealthier citizens of Dublin, a place to go to as a way of getting out of the polluted city for the summer, into an oasis that was beside the sea, outside the town but near to it.

For a short period in the latter half of the 19th century, Clontarf was also a township, or a separate town within the city, with its own town council and town hall. There were nine townships in Dublin, including Rathmines, Rathgar, Drumcondra and Dalkey. Some of them remained separate townships up until 1930, but Clontarf was one of three that was taken back into the city in 1900. Unfortunately the bulk of its records were then kept in the national archives in the Four Courts, which were destroyed by fire during the Civil War.

At the end of the 19th century, as the population of Dublin grew rapidly and a tram service developed, Clontarf became more popular as an easily accessible suburb of the capital, where people could live while working in the city, and this continued throughout the 20th century. Many professionals and city councillors have made their homes in Clontarf, including a number of Lord Mayors such as Lorcan Sherlock, Lord Mayor 1912-13 and Sean Dublin Bay Rockall Loftus, Lord Mayor 1995-96.

The map drawn by John Rocque of County Dublin of 1760 was the first accurate map of the area. It showed a number of local houses, of which some are still in existence today.

The Vernons, developers, architects, builders and even Public Utility Society determined how Clontarf looks today, through deciding what kind of people would live there, how the buildings would look and fit together. The only record that survives today in public use from the Vernon family is *A Map of the Manor of Clontarf*, drawn up by Sherrard, Brassington and Greene in 1823, with a list of George Vernon's direct lessees. A few of the larger houses were marked and occasionally named by Rocque in 1760 and these and many more were named by both the 1837 Ordnance Survey map and in Samuel Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* of 1837. There was an increased pace of development of Clontarf in the larger sphere after about 1890, dealing with the appearance of terraces of middle-class houses and stretches of villas.

Clontarf started as everything east of the River Tolka, so it included the present-day areas of Fairview and Marino. The original Parish of Clontarf stretched west to Marino Crescent, north to Mount Temple and to part of Killester Demesne and east to Bedford Lodge and Thorn Hill the house, but did not contain most of today's St Anne's Park, as that was within Lord Howth's territory. Within the Clontarf area on the 1837 map, there were about seven townlands and more importantly three separate villages: Clontarf, around the Castle; the Sheds, at the bottom of Vernon Avenue on the coast; and Dollymount, well out to the east, where Mount Prospect Avenue meets the coast.

The Vernon family owned the area around Clontarf from about 1649 when they came over to Ireland with Cromwell until 1967, when the last member of the family died. Their land holding was usually described in leases as Clontarf Castle, Upper and Lower Hollybrooks, Clontarf Island, the Sheds, Blackbush and Dollymount. While they did not actively build very many houses, they kept tight control over what they allowed to be built within the area. Even when development was allowed, they held the reins very tightly. Their desire not to allow Clontarf to become industrialised prevented it from becoming more heavily populated.

In reality in English terms they would have been very minor inhabitants

of the upper class. In Clontarf, however, they were very big fish in a very small pond. Most of the heads of the family were Justices of the Peace for the area, were captains of the sporting clubs and chaired the board that ran Clontarf as a township for a short period.

Probably the most important to the history of Clontarf was John Edward Venable Vernon, who was head of the family from 1833 until 1890. He exercised tight control over the conditions he put onto his leases, and what buildings he allowed to be built on his estate. A very common paragraph in many of his leases was that no building was to be used 'as Shop, Tavern, Public House, Hospital or conventual home, Public school, public or charitable institution, burial ground, nunnery, monastery or chapel or any trade or business whatever'. £15 would be sought per month per breach. It was in a sub-lease, from a lessee of Vernon's to a sub-lessee, that it stated that the following occupations were not to be carried out on the land: 'Slaughterman, Butcher, Tripe dealer, Tobacco Pipe burner, Dyer, Distiller, Melter of Tallow, Tallow Chandler, Soap maker, Sugar Baker, Feltmonger, Ink maker, Farrier, Blacksmith, Coppersmith, Scavenger, Dustman or Nightman or any other noisome or offensive trade or business whatsoever.' A nightman was one who collected the personal waste that was put out at night-time, as no-one had running water or toilets in 1846.

The editor of the *Dublin Builder,* written for those in the building industry from 1859, quite often during the first two years of its publication talked of the 'retrogradation of this suburb', with 'tottering' structures along the Clontarf Road becoming wholly uninhabitable. He claimed there was strong public feeling in favour of improving the area and that overtures had been made, 'but ineffectively', as 'the restrictions in building leases were found to be such as to discourage from completion', and that the 'annual value of the estate would be doubled, nay trebled or quadrupled within a very short time, if the opposite course to that now adopted were pursued'. The editor pointed out that 'sewerage provisions in Clontarf are defective', and that 'landlord proprietors of Rathmines, Rathgar etc. lay down main and minor sewers where they are likely to be required', rather than waiting 'until they are and are found wanting', as Vernon evidently did in Clontarf. He made a prediction: the rent-roll of the estate would become 'small by degrees and beautifully less'.

These comments were published in April and July 1861, but only three editions later there was talk of 'a new and spacious thoroughfare' being opened up between the Clontarf and Howth Roads (St Lawrence's Road). But seeing as this improvement was being carried out on the Howth estate, he hoped that 'Mr Vernon will even at this the eleventh hour follow a good example and raze those abominable eyesores that present themselves on his property'.

Luckily, by May the following year, the 'good genius of progress' had visited the locality. The ruins at the town side of the police barracks in the Sheds had disappeared and 'a couple of plain but neat dwelling-houses occupy their place'. The editorial said that 'requirements as to the class of houses which have been formerly imposed' have been removed, and opined that there would be a 'very speedy progressive reaction in consequence'. In April 1863, it was calling Clontarf 'a healthful and picturesque outlet' and by May that year, the 'miserable block of dwellings on the town side of the chapel house square' (also on the Clontarf Road) had now been ordered demolished. There was not much sympathy shown for the tenants, who had 'received peremptory notice to quit', with not a word about where they were going to be able to afford to live, as presumably if they had been living in miserable dwellings it was because they could not afford anything better. That was the end of Clontarf's appearances in the *Dublin Builder* for reasons of the landlord's negligence or lack of improving fervour.

In fact in the same edition, it went on to say that Clontarf was a site

…about the best in the county of Dublin for the erection of dwellings for people of moderate means, and we confidently expect that it will be eagerly snatched at. The lord of the soil of Clontarf, Mr Vernon, has been himself engaged in adding to and improving his own palatial residence, 'the castle', than which, for its extent, there is not in Ireland a more truly architectural structure.

Griffith's Valuation was a valuation of all the land in the country, completed between the years 1850 and 1864 in order to get a comprehensive valuation of all the land for the purpose of extracting rates from everyone who owned any land or buildings. It was not a direct valuation, it was designed to be multiplied by a figure of the local authority's making, to give a figure for rates. Jev Vernon was listed in Griffith's Valuation as being the biggest landowner in Clontarf. He was the first landowner to be mentioned, under Clontarf East, owning 58 acres, 3 roods and 11 perches. He ultimately owned the whole area of Clontarf, stretching over at least 600 acres, but evidently most of it was leased out at this stage. His land was rated as being worth £294.5.0 (primary valuation) and £244.12.0 (corrected by the sub-commissioners), but the buildings on the land (i.e. the Castle and its outbuildings) were valued in both of these valuations at £165. They were also the buildings which were worth the most in Clontarf, as would be expected. The other houses which were valued highly were Furry Park, Sybil Hill, Elm View and Verville. These were lived in by wealthy men and their families, but not by any titled people, apart from Baron Southwell, who used Elm View during the later 18th century as his base while attending Parliament in Dublin.

For more about Clontarf's development generally since 1760, see Claire's *book From Village to Suburb: the Building of Clontarf since 1760*. This charts Clontarf's development since the 18th century and looks at all of the houses that were listed in Lewis' *Topogaphical Dictionary* and on the 1837 OS map. It also looks at all of the large houses that were built since that date and goes through how the streets were developed by the building of terraces of houses by developers, for sale to more middle-class professional types. Look also at her website, www.clontarfbuildinghistory.com, which is always open to extra information.

A Cautionary Tail

by Alan Counihan

I first heard of the man with a tail buried upside down in his own field soon after my arrival in the North-Kilkenny parish of Rathcoole. On that occasion I took this for some odd test of my credulity even though experience had taught that a germ of truth might lie in the tale. Thirty five years previously I had been welcomed to a West Kerry townland with an account of a nearby fairy fort and another of a giant living on the slopes of the mountain behind my cottage. Not far from that small dwelling there was indeed a remarkable stone cashel and souterrain while the giant turned out to have been an accountant from London who one day abandoned his urban life for the harsh and temporary comforts of a mountainside sheepfold. In both instances there was a thread of truth within the embroidery. A similar process of welcome occurred years later when my wife and I moved to west Waterford where we were regaled with stories of fields in which we should not wander at night and of strange lights that floated on the River Blackwater, home to fine salmon and dangerous poachers. There was always some truth or local stratagem communicated in such stories. However, by the fifth time I had heard about the tail in north Kilkenny, each account as vague as the first and with no apparent root in local folklore, it had come to feel a provocation. It seemed as if this curious anecdote might be a coded warning as to the fate of outcasts and transgressors in the locality. If the tellers knew the tale, why did they claim to know, or tell, so little about it?

Whatever its purpose, for years I could glean no more of this mysterious myth or history. Questions proffered to neighbours elicited no further facts or fictions so that on long winter nights I began, in my own mind, to embellish this vague and rumourous account. Soon I could imagine a life that scurried within the shadows of buildings, and along the parish hedgerows at dusk - shameful, secretive, withdrawn - heard the whispers of discovery, the terrors of encounter, the brief rush of violence, pictured the darkness of the grave, the shroud fallen down towards the head, the long tail wrapped, serpent-like, around the limbs, entangled with the roots of trees. These images were secreted in notebooks and sketchpads, draft outlines for some future works of fantasy as wild as their source. Then the tale was told again.

I was thinning ash trees in a hedgerow with a local man, Paddy Hogan, when human tails and upright burials were mentioned one more time. “You mean your man with the tail, Ellis? Sure he’s supposed to be doing headstands below the ground above our place. Would you like to see the spot? I’ll have a chat with the brother, Mattie, and he’ll take you there

some time". After several years of questions, doubts and fantasies there was finally a name, Ellis, for the man with a tail and a specific location for his grave. These facts now placed him, albeit in absentia, within the realm of physical reality and could possibly explain his mysterious burial. This was a welcome development but, while Paddy's offer came as a pleasant surprise, doubts remained as to whether some larger ruse was unfolding.

Fortunately, I was mistaken. It appeared that my curiosity had only served to reignite that of others who were equally intrigued by the mystery. Early on the first day of a new year, not long ago, eight men gathered on the driveway at Mattie Hogan's house, each eager for further adventures in local history. Given the company that was in it, sharp banter and good humour were anticipated. A hard frost lay on the fields of Gaulstown townland as we walked towards our destination, the frozen verge of the road crackling underfoot. Close to the gates of Rockbrook House where, I was now informed, Ellis once lived, the road on which we were travelling took a sharp turn to the left. Our company, however, here turned right into what appeared at first glance to be a very large and ruined farmyard. As we made our way through a remarkable complex of stone buildings it became clear that these crumbling structures had been home to a mill and a bakery. In one building, the huge grinding stones, and the gears which had driven them, lay tumbled askew among a riot of young ash and elder trees, their once great support beams turned to a rain-sodden pulp. In another space the cavernous drying kiln and baking ovens were still intact, although they now bore the weight of mature beech trees well rooted in their masonry. The floor of each building was a carpet of broken slates, rotten wood, and leaf mulch. Like ants among a carcass we moved from room to room, scavenging for insight, finding nothing of substance to carry home.

It is remarkable, and salutary, how little is known about the origins of this once industrious place. It must, upon a time, have been a hub of great activity, central to the lives, if not the living, of many farm families in the locality. The well-made walls still honour a venture built to endure but time and nature's urgence have made mockery of the millers', and the masons', good intentions. On this morning the walls seemed to mock our curiosity also. While some within our company had heard tell of its final working years, no person present could say when these mill wheels began their slow, grinding revolutions or the smoke from the kiln fire first floated up and out across the fields. Our conversations were full of conjecture and snatches of hearsay handed down across the years, as intriguing, and perhaps as useless, as the scattered tesserae of broken vessels which lay among the undergrowth about our feet.

Our guide to the burial spot of the mysterious Mr Ellis was the late owner of Rockbrook House, Mr John Hunt, whose family have resided there for the past century and who we now followed like a pack of eager, noisy, but obedient hounds towards the nearby Douglas River. As we stepped down towards that black current a beautiful, small, skewback stone bridge came into view, still serving its purpose today as it bore us dryshod across the river. It is a work of which the masons' ghosts can still be proud, a perfect marriage of practical function and aesthetic form. It is also a reminder of the transient nature of all human endeavour. Our works in the world carry each of us across the currents of our own time although these in turn will one day be carried off in the flood unless useful to later generations. This bridge too will eventually fail, the process of its destruction through the growth of ivy and vigourous young trees being well under way.

Across the bridge we found ourselves upon a narrow roadway that was being slowly enclosed from both sides by ancient hawthorn trees and the tentacular growth of briars. According to John, this remnant once formed part of an ancient road linking the lands of what is now known as Kilkenny to provinces further north. It was, he informed us, along this bosheen that Brian Ború led his army towards Clontarf in 1014 having encamped at a place called Faiche, and its holy well, less than two miles from this spot. With a hint of a smile he wondered aloud whether that High King might have returned by the same route.

Encouraged by this particular history someone else mentioned a hearsay that Cromwell's forces rampaged their way southward along this trail although the rattle of armour or the screech of cannon wheels seemed to make for unlikely echoes in what is now a narrow country lane. But the place does feel ancient with the moss inches deep on the stone walls and the stone pavement still evident in places. Perhaps, upon a time, it was a thoroughfare through this hilly country, growing ever narrower over the centuries as the carts which carried corn, flax, linen and flour ceased to trundle to and from the mill and the fences of private properties pressed upon it from both sides. Now the road leads nowhere but into a chaos of undergrowth ending abruptly in a barbed wire fence at the edge of a large meadow field.

It was in this field that Mr Ellis was, apparently, laid to ground, or, more exactly, in a field within this field. The Ordnance Survey maps of 1830 do show a small enclosure at the head of the lane and oral tradition also tells that its boundary was of a strong stone ditch and mature trees. In 1954 an attempt was made to level the lot but the legend of Ellis and his grave was seemingly still strong enough at the time to avert that calamity. Forty years later the job was finally effected and no trace of the field, or of Ellis's grave memorial, if it ever existed, remains. And so

it came to pass that eight men found themselves standing in the middle of a sunlit meadow looking at the ground they shadowed.

Warm breath condensed in the air as we spoke, rising from our huddle in small clouds of steam. One man wondered doubtfully if there was a grave here at all, only to be assured, with the imprimatur of hearsay, that the soles of our feet were pressing down on the upturned soles of another. Someone else set off for a metal detector before being stalled with a reminder of the laws of trespass. Still unconvinced, the man who had first expressed his doubts persisted with a reasonable query as to the noticeable lack of a gravestone. Swept, he was told. Emboldened, I now put the question as to why the body might have been buried upside down. Several suggestive answers came at once. The corpse belonged to a Quaker. He was buried standing up, or upside down, in his armour and with a long sword. However challenging this description might seem in light of the practice of non-violence as espoused by the Society of Friends it made for a wonderful image. I could contain myself no longer. What about the tail? "Common enough", said John Hunt. "One in a million have it".

And then the peaceful silence of the morning grew around us, punctured from time to time by a pheasant's strangled call. Had Ellis chosen this beautiful spot as a resting place for his bones, he had chosen well. The alleged burial place is on the crown of a small hillock encircled in turn by the hillsides of Knockmajor, Wildfield, Kilmadum and Cloghpook townlands. Where the high ground falls towards Gaulstown the land opens out to the north-east and the valley of the River Dinan. On the far side of the river rise the hills of Kiltown and Skehana with the tops of the Slieve Bloom mountains in the distance beyond. If you believed in the resurrection of the flesh and the life hereafter this would be a pleasant spot to awaken from death's long, dark slumber. But if of another disposition you might doubt that Ellis slumbered here at all. Perhaps he had never drawn breath. Without any physical trace, only his legend holds fast to this landscape.

When conversation resumed Ellis was no longer its topic. Retracing our steps towards the mill the company now spoke of other historic events from these hills and of yet another life without a memorial stone. According to this account, that life belonged to a man who had socially transgressed, repeatedly, in the 1920's and who, as a result, had been summarily executed by members of the local IRA. He was shot not far from this mill, where he had been employed, and his bloodied body was carried to Rockbrook House. Chance had brought a priest to that house, on a visit home from Australia, and he was able to minister to the dying man laid out upon the kitchen table. Later, as we all sat in that same kitchen warming ourselves with hot tea, John Hunt laid out

the priest's blood-stained prayer stole as proof of the event. The body of this victim of vigilante justice now also lies in an unmarked grave, albeit within the local cemetery.

Later that day, reflecting on the events of the morning, I wondered what, apart from their lack of memorial, these two burials might have in common. Had Mr Ellis also somehow transgressed? Was the tail with which legend has endowed him real or imaginary? Was it more metaphor than flesh, signal that he too had been outcast? I realised that, for all our earlier explorations and conversation none of us could be any the wiser about his life or death. It was as though we had all gathered on this cold bright morning , each with our various hearsay, our shards of the actual, in the hope of making a broken vessel whole. We were, in essence if not in fact, making history.

Some months after that New Year's Day walk I discovered a paper published in 1871 by the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society. Written by a Mr John Hogan and entitled *The Topographical and Historical Illustrations of the County and City of Kilkenny*, the paper explores the history of the clan Úi-Cearbhaill, dynastic rulers of north-eastern Kilkenny during the ninth century.[1] Among its florid paragraphs much is written of the small roadway that so recently had led us into an empty meadow on a cold January morning. According to Mr Hogan, this *time worn pathway* was indeed once the ancient historical road known as *The Gabhair* which ran from Kilkenny through the Sliabh Margy hills to ford the River Barrow at Athy. With recourse to The Annals of the Four Masters he deduced that armies hosted along the route in the year 868 AD and he so exactly describes its trail across *the Alpine ridges of the Johnswell mountains,* that one can easily share his conviction. The oral traditions told about the roadway no longer seem so incredible.

But what about Mr Ellis? Was he a real or mythological personage? A back issue of the Old Kilkenny Review contains a paper entitled *Mr Henry Ellis.*[2] According to its author, Thomas Hoyne, this man, Ellis, was indeed of flesh and blood and resident at Rockbrook House in Wildfield townland, Muckalee Parish, at the close of the eighteenth century. Although considered locally to be an eccentric individual, Ellis was, by other accounts, a most capable and industrious farmer. Thirty five pages of his recommendations for the improvement of agricultural practice were incorporated into William Tighe's Statistical Survey of County Kilkenny including an elaborate design for a new type of churning machine.[3] Like many of the landed gentry of his day he was also an ardent antiquarian who carried out several excavations in his locality. Along with the finds from his excavations, Ellis also presented to Tighe a remarkable collection of fossils gathered from the bed of the

Douglas River. These were accompanied by *"ingenious remarks"* which suggest that his geological adventures must have pleased Ellis most. A fantastic image would have him standing in the low waters of a summer season, with rolled up shirt sleeves and trousers, his tail rising into the daylight as he bent about his work. Picture this singular country gentleman, with his hammers and chisels, attempting to pry from the grip of dessicated, sedimentary slime those impressions left by ancient life forms to which he was more closely linked than most.

Ellis was, it seems, a singular man. That he might have had a singular burial in a bright, lofty place within his own farmland, to his own instruction, should not surprise. Such isolated burials are, while rare, not unknown. Perhaps Ellis was familiar with the life and death of another eccentric gentleman and devotee of natural philosophies, Major Henry Eeles, who in 1781 was interred high on the Comeragh Mountains, on lands of the Lismore Estates for which he was Receiver of the Earl of Burlington's Rents. Having been a proponent, if not the pioneer, of the cure of physical ailment and malaise through electricity, Eeles had sought mountainside interment so as *to be near the home of his beloved lightning*.[4] Eeles is supposed to have been buried upright while rumour has Ellis upside down much like the citizens of Lilliput in Gulliver's Travels by Johnathan Swift. In Lilliput they *bury their dead with their heads directly downward because they hold an opinion, that in eleven thousand moons they are all to rise again, in which period the earth (which they conceive to be flat) will turn upside down, and by this means they shall, at their resurrection, be found ready standing on their feet*.[5] A similar rationale for Ellis's inverted burial was given to pupils of Johnswell National School by their teacher in the 1960s.

And what of Mr Ellis' tail? John Hunt was correct in his assertion that the human tail is indeed a very rare but not unnatural occurrence. All human embryos have a tail which, as the foetus develops, is absorbed into the growing body of the child. This temporary tail is a vestigial growth reflecting our primate origins. While very occasionally a child is born with a soft tail without vertebrae there are documented cases of tails with both cartilage and bone.

The possiblity of Mr Ellis having had a tail does indeed exist although one must wonder how rumours of this appendage took hold in the locality of Muckalee Parish as it would have been more an object of personal or familial shame than of pride. It would also likely have made this landlord an object of ridicule among his tenants. It seems most improbable in the stratified society of the time that Ellis would have willlingly shared his secret with the peasantry. Perhaps the local midwife did whisper in other ears of the remarkable body at whose birth

she had assisted, or some servant of what had been seen through a keyhole or felt beneath the hand. Once in the realm of conjecture one might as well suggest that Mr Ellis's tail was indeed more metaphor than flesh, expressive of some diabolical act which the oral traditions of this locality have nurtured into a physical simulacrum of evil lest that act be ever forgotten.

While reading a paper by the historian Dan Dowling, the nature of this act came to be revealed. This paper examines events in south-east Kilkenny in1798 and its primary subject is a miller from Glenmore, William Gaffney, leader of the Kilkenny United Irishmen.[6] Gaffney became locally notorious for failure to lead the men under his command into New Ross during the rebellion so allowing Crown forces to organise their defences against the rebels of Wexford and to hold the town. Though executed for his activities immediately after the battle of New Ross, rumours of Gaffney's alleged treachery and collusion were rife for generations forcing his great-grand-daughter to defend him in print a century after his demise. In the pages of the New Ross Standard she attacked the editor of another Wexford paper, The Weekly Independent, for the perpetuation of calumnies against her dead relative and issued this challenge:

> *Can he find a single Gaffney, or any person from the County Kilkenny, except a Protestant named Ellis, on the secret List of Traitors ?* [7]

Could this person have been Mr Henry Ellis, the miller of Rockbrook House? The evidence was suggestive. Thomas Hoyne, in his paper on the man, had heard local rumours of his treachery but considered them insubstantial given the lack of any documentary evidence. William Tighe writing in 1801 describes Ellis as *having formerly resided at Wildfield in the parish of Mucullee.*[8] What might have caused the miller's departure from a landscape in which he once seemed, given his agricultural, archaeological and geological pursuits, so deeply immersed? I posed the question within the locality but my suggestions as to his possible treachery were rebuffed by a legend of him kneeling to say the rosary with local rebels when they trained in a nearby field. Clearly Mr Ellis had multiple personalities in the popular mind.

Research in the National Archives soon revealed that there is no List of Traitors from 1798 in existence and this obliged a trawl through the collection known as the Rebellion Papers for all references to the surname Ellis. In the State of the Country Papers within that collection a reference to correspondence between Lord Castlereagh and Mr A Marsden *about allowance to be given to one Ellis* led to the following letter:

Committee 2013: (Back) L. Breen, M. Maher, M. Griffin, E. Synnott, M. Gaynor, K. Lonergan, J. Williams, J. Dockery. Front: J. Bradshaw, D. Ryan, B. Quinn, M. Byrne.

Walking tour, Waterford City, May 2013

FLHS and FULS at Memorial Stone, Islandbridge. June 2013.

At the Garden Party in Áras an Uachtaráin, July 2013.

FLHS and FULS members outside Derry's guildhall. October 2013

FLHS and FULS members outside the entrance to the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, October 2013.

FLHS and FULS members at Grainan of Aileach, Co. Donegal. October 2013.

FLHS and FULS members in front of Salis;bury Cathedral, April, 2013.

At the Royal Crescent, Bath. April 2013.

Visiting Stonehenge on our Bristol/Bath trip, April 2013.

Brunel's famous ship, Bristol, April 2013.

Quaint pub, Bristol, April 2013.

Bath Cathedral, April 2013.

The Cloisters, Lacock Abbey, April 2013.

The Market House, Tetbury, April 2013.

Delegates at the AGM in Dooley's Hotel, Waterford. May 2013.

Grand staircase, Bishop's Palace, Waterford. May 2013.

At the History Festival, Duckett's Grove, Carlow, June 2013.

North/South meeting, Dublin, August 2013.

1916 plot, Arbour Hill, June 2013.

Asgard Exhibition, Collin's Barracks, Dublin, June 2013.

The Weaver's Cottage, Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, October 2013.

Loom in the Weaver's Cottage, American Folk Park, Omagh, October 2013.

Emigrant ship, Ulster American Folk Museum. October 2013.

Western Pennsylania Log House, Ulster American Folk Park, October 2013.

Thomas Mellon Pennsylvanian log house, Ulster American Folk Park, October 2013.

Candlemaking in the New World, Ulster American Folk Park, October 2013.

Old World shop, Ulster American Folk Park, October 2013.

New World shop, Ulster American Folk Park, October 2013.

Austin's, oldest department store in the world, The Diamond, Derry City, October 2013.

Martin McCrossan's Walking tour, City Walls, Derry City, October 2013.

Ferryquay Gate, Derry's walls, October 2013.

Group with the Deputy Mayor in the Council Chamber, Guildhall, Derry City, October 2013.

Grand Master's Chair, Apprentice Boys' Centre, Derry, October 2013.

Free Derry Corner, Bogside, Derry City, October 2013.

St. Columb's Cathedral, Derry City, October 2013.

Cathedral Silver and original gate lock from the Siege of Derry, October 2013.

Peace Bridge, linking the City and the Waterside, October 2013.

Grianan of Aileach, Donegal, October 2013.

Priory(?)21st April 1802

My dear Marsden,

I am again importuned by Sir Charles Asgill to write to you about Mr Ellis, which I cannot avoid doing, as I apprehended from the obscure brevity of my former letter the circumstances of his case were not fully explained to the Lord Lieutenant.

Ellis was a miller in the neighbourhood of Kilkeny, he gave very important information to Sir C Asgill which enabled him to act with effect in that district – upon his strong representations in the year after the Rebellion, I wrote by Lord Cornwallis, directed to Sir C, promising an annuity of £30 a year for life to Ellis. It was intended that this should be charged on £1500 a year provided by Parl[t] to reward persons who had rendered services during the Rebellion – when the distribution came to be made , the fund was inadequate to the ---(?) taxes to which it was to be applied and a certain number amongst others Ellis's was omitted, it was then proposed to place him on the general compensation fund, and to pay them off out of the Treason Fund, which is unlimited in amount, the application being sworn to - Ellis finding delay and difficulty in getting anything applied to Mr Abbot, he offered him £100 in discharge of his claims – Ellis applied to Sir C the latter to me, I wrote fully to Mr Abbot explained the undisputable engagement Ellis had to an annuity of £30 a year. Mr A wrote me for answer that it should be immediately settled by giving him such a sum as should be fully equivalent to the value of the annuity and I thought Ellis had been paid off.

Hence only further to add, that from 2 to 3 years annuity is now due to the man and I undersatnd from Sir Charles that he has been obliged to give up from the part he took business in that part of the country and has lost much of his time in Dublin in soliciting this object. What his annuity is worth you can easily judge, whatever it may be, together with the arrears, he appears to be fully entitled to under the Official Assurance given him thro me.

Many thanks for your letters
Ever my dear Marsden

Very sincerely yours,
Castlereagh.[9]

This is a remarkable document not only for its proof that Henry Ellis was indeed an informer during the Rebellion of 1798 but also for the identities of those individuals petitioning for his compensation, some

of the most powerful men in Ireland at the time. Major General Sir Charles Asgill had been in charge of crown forces in Kilkenny during the Rebellion although not on the Irish Staff at the date of this letter. Lord Castlereagh had been Chief Secretary to Lord Cornwallis, the Lord Lieutenant and Commander in Chief of Ireland during 1798 and both men were the architects of the Act of Union in 1800. While both had resigned these positions by 1802 the fact that Mr Ellis could have them involved in his petition at that time speaks either of his influence, the extent of his ruin, or the nature of the information which he had supplied.

It is clear from this letter that Ellis was aware his role as an informer was locally known and that he had abandoned his life as miller and farmer in Muckalee parish as a result. Further research in the archives brought forth more correspondence concerning Ellis and his plea for compensation some of which was written in his own florid hand and bore his seal. Writing to Asgill in the month of August 1801 he had outlined his predicament in great detail:

> *Formidable losses, great in their consequences to your memorist, have driven him to repeat the liberty of writing to you, and supplicating again your interference on his behalf, the more especially as it is impossible for your memorist any other way, than through your kindness, to acquaint the government of his grievious situation, and losses, on account of his loyalty to his king and government, during the late wicked Rebellion, - the information that your memorist did then at the hazard of his life, and property, procure for you, relating to it, were diligently sought for, and given from pure, and disinterested motives, memorist having neither gain, nor reward of any kind in view, more than the suppression of the Rebellion, and support of his Majestie's Crown and government – and it may not be doubted, but that these informations coupled with your activity, and promptitude, in taking up certain persons (nay it is notorious) prevented a considerable rising of the Rebels, and their encampment, having taken place in the County of Kilkenny the incalculable calamities, such would have produced were thereby prevented.*
>
> *Very unfortunately for your memorist the strongest and most implacable hatred of all the Rebels in the neighbourhood has from that time attached to him, they having suspected that memorist found out their intended plans, and made discoveries thereof to you, and that it was in consequence, several of their leaders, in said county, had been taken up, confined and transported, so - in revenge for this, those*

that had escaped being taken up, conspired to take away memorist's life by waylaying him, with intent to shoot him from behind a wall where he often had to pass, but which he most providentially escaped and avoided.

But respecting his property, he has been really unfortunate, and has suffered very materially therein, as follows, - your memorist's father built mills for grinding and fulling for the public, on which he expended £1200 and upwards about 16 years back, and which at his decease, were a principal part of the provision left by him for your memorist, which brought him annually better than £200, but since the Spring of the year 1798 they have not produced your memorist £30 this loss by want of employment for those mills has been occasioned by a successful and continued combination against, and dislike to your memorist, for the above recited reasons, by the disaffected persons, who exceed the proportion of 200 to 1 loyalist in the neighbourhood where your memorist had his residence, near said mills, and who still are licentiously and rebelliously inclined as ever, if an opportunity offered.

Your memorist expected that time would have removed their prejudices, but alas to his great disappointment and continued losses, it is not the case, for the business that usually gave employment to his mills, has found its way to others, from whence he has now lost all hopes of its return, as he has been necessitated to suffer his mills to get into a ruinous state having nothing to do.[10]

This extract from the letter to Asgill , which predates that from Castlereagh to Marsden by several months, provides definitive proof of the nature of the information Ellis provided to the Crown. It also implies another treachery, in this instance by some member of the local populace, that allowed Ellis to avoid ambush and so escape with his life from what had now become a most inhospitable landscape. Is there only one corpse with a tail in the townland?

Perhaps Henry Ellis never again lived in Rockbrook House but was returned there upon his death with instruction as to the manner and place of his interment. It is clear he well knew the cost to others of his role as an informant for the suppression of rebellious organisation and activity, described by Castlereagh as having been *with effect*, must have been brutal. Perhaps this is why he chose, or was given, an inverted burial in the unconsecrated ground of his own farmland, just as the Christian apostle and saint, Peter, chose an inverted crucifixion so that he might not die in the same manner as his mentor whom he had betrayed.

The lack of any memorial stone or grave marker is mysterious. Perhaps one was destroyed generations ago by inhabitants of the locality or never erected in anticipation of such an act. It is possible that the bones of Henry Ellis may not lie in Wildfield townland at all and the enduring oral tradition of their presence, along with the symbolism of an inverted burial and a satanic tail, might better express a desire to keep the memory of his treachery alive in the popular mind. This tradition has been effective and enduring for over two centuries. Its purpose is not to lead us to the bones from a strange burial but to maintain a truth about the treacherous man to whom they belonged.

This oral tradition, – of a man buried upside down in his own field - seems to be a wonderfully simple construct. Although spare in detail, its extraordinary features are unforgettable. They immediately capture the imagination and curiosity of the listener as was their design. The additional embellishments, whether real or borrowed, are wonderful if contradictory superfluities that only heighten curiosity. They serve to artfully embed the story, both in the listener's imagination and in the fields where the events occurred, with fantastical devices of which a painter or novelist might be proud.

Thomas Carlyle famously described history as the distillation of rumour and it is precisely such a process that the legend of Ellis seems to exemplify. All the vapourous imagery of inverted burials, of human tails and corpses wrapped in armour have, after a life in the minds of several generations, finally condensed into the historical fact of a treachery and the partial truth of a life. Certainly, it is only a partial truth, particular to these fields, that this clouded distillation has preserved. Henry Ellis lived by his own moral compass and loyally according to the law of the land, to the order imposed upon them by both his creed and crown to which he considered himself a most obedient and very humble servant. It is, however, by a tail he is remembered.

1 Hogan, John (1867) 'The Topographical and Historical Illustrations of the County and City of Kilkenny' in *The Journal of the Kilkenny and South East of Ireland Archaeological Society, Vol.V1, 1867*. University Press. Dublin,1871. p109.

2 Hoyne, Thomas (1957) 'Henry Ellis' in *Old Kilkenny Review.Vol No 9*, Journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society. pp 7-10.

3 Tighe, William (1802) *Statistical Observations Relative to the County of Kilkenny made in the Years 1800-1801*. The Dublin Society, Dublin.

4 Grattan-Flood, W.H (1907) 'Thunder over Knockmealdown. The Story of Major Henry Eeles' in Maher, James, (ed) *Chief of the Comeraghs: A John O'Mahony Anthology Comprising the Comeraghs, Knockmealdowns, Slievenamon and Galtees in History, Folklore and Song*. Mullinahone. 1957, pp 226-230.

5 Swift, Johnathan (1726) *Gulliver's Travels*. Penguin English Library, 1978, p94.

6 Dowling, Dan (1983) 'South-east Kilkenny in 1798 and the Role of William Gaffney' in *Decies, (Journal of) Old Waterford Society, NoXX1V* pp15-19

7 Gaffney, Bridget N, (1898) Extract from letter published in New Ross Standard, 28th May. (courtesy Dan Dowling).

8 Tighe, William (1802) op cit. p 84.

9 Lord Castlereagh, (1802) letter to A Marsden. 21 April, The Rebellion Papers, ref no: 620/61/130, National Archives of Ireland; Dublin.

10 Ellis, Henry (1801) letter to Major General Sir Charles Asgill, 28 August, The Rebellion Papers, ref no: 620/59/45 National Archives of Ireland, Dublin.

The enterprises of the Sharkey sisters, Strokestown, and their persecution during the War of Independence

Edward J. Law

The American Committee for Relief in Ireland (ACRI) was set up in January 1921 to raise money throughout America. The funds were to be used for the relief of distress arising from the War of Independence being conducted against the British government by the Irish Republican Army following the declaration of an Irish Republic in January 1919. The American Red Cross had been approached to become involved in Irish relief, but declined to act. ACRI launched their fund-raising campaign on St Patrick's Day, 1921 and their success was impressive: they set a very ambitious national target of over $10 million and actually raised a little over $5 million.[1]

Recognising that the most efficient means of distributing relief was through an organisation based in Ireland the monies raised were remitted to Ireland for distribution by the Irish White Cross (IWC), a body which had been set up in December 1920, or soon after. The IWC though nominally an independent body was largely funded by ACRI; their total income to 31 August 1922, was £1,374,795, of which all but £164,168 came from ACRI;[2] there was in fact concern that ACRI were exploited by IWC which was dominated by individuals with links to Sinn Féin,[3] including Michael Collins. IWC incorporated a Reconstruction Commission which was responsible for distributing loans to individuals whose buildings had been destroyed by government forces in 1920 and 1921.

The document reproduced below is included in a collection of over 80 type-written carbon-copy letters and statements addressed mainly to ACRI.[4] Whilst the document itself is undated some of the letters in the collection are dated January or February 1922, and a handful of statements addressed to IWC are dated August 1921. This document must date from after June 1920 when Una Sharkey, who is described in it as Chairman of Strokestown District Council, was co-opted to the Council, and elected Chairman.[5] The fact that the sisters, with whom the document is concerned, were still in prison suggests that it was written prior to the cease fire or truce of 11 July 1921 which ended the War of Independence. Although the name of the addressee is not given it was almost certainly addressed to IWC.

Whilst the sisters are described throughout the statement as 'girls' they were in truth young women. Lena, or Helena as she was named in the 1901 census, would have been in her mid-twenties, and Una was older. The sisters had apparently been orphaned by 1911 when Lena and two sisters were living at Strokestown with their brother Thomas, a merchant, with three resident assistants. By the following year Una and Lena had commenced their business career by founding the Eire Og Library which, with their other enterprises, was to become the focus of persecution.

The interest of the statement lies as much in the information given on the business pursuits of the Sharkey sisters as on the persecution which they suffered. Whilst the descriptions in, and emotive language of, the document were probably chosen to maximise sympathy for the nationalist cause, we may suppose that the basic facts were correct. The Sharkey sisters are still remembered in Strokestown, where a plaque on their residence notes that they were leading members of Cumann na mBan during the War of Independence.

[Statement[6] of P A Sharkey]

CASE OF SHARKEY SISTERS

Una Sharkey,County Councillor,

Chairman of Strokestown District Council,

Chairman of Strokestown Poor Law Guardians.

Lena Sharkey,Co-Proprietor of the American Novelty Store,

The Eire Og Library and Irish Industries Depot,

Strokestown, Co. Roscommon.

At the time when the U.S.A. Delegates visited Ireland in connection with the placing of Ireland's case before the Peace Conference, an affidavit was requested of the facts concerning this case, and the writer thinks that such a document is now in the hands of one of the then delegates, Mr. Frank Walsh,[7] of Kansas City, New York. At that time they had been imprisoned for selling literature and Irish National Emblems which had been passed by the Censor. A local policeman constituting himself Censor of the Censor, and using his unchecked power of might and militarism to thus carry out petty jealousy and personal resentment. Again for the second time these girls were torn from their business which was thus left without anyone to guard or manage. The loss thus incurred was very great to them, and to add insult to injury one of the sisters was forced to rise from her sick bed, dress while a policeman remained at the open door of her room. He insisted on staying in the room, but she refused to dress until he retired. He then left the room,

but remained in the open doorway. The sick girl was then flung with her sister into a Military lorry and driven over 30 miles of heavy roads, imprisoned in a Criminal's condemned cell and kept there for days, until seeing that God sustained, she was given a better cell and political prisoner treatment. After their release from Sligo prison the Sharkey sisters were ordered by the Crown Forces to close their premises. These girls had visited America and had there made business connections which helped them to encourage direct trading, and this they did through the support of American goods in their store — "The American Novelty Store". To draw attention to this work, as well as to testify their devotion to the principles for which "Old glory" stands, they flew from the flag staff which they had erected over the store, the American and the Irish National flags. These flags were seized on several occasions, but the Sharkey sisters had a stock of them on hand and, even when the flags were seized by Military at 2 o'clock a.m., the girls had other new flags floating "still there" at 8 o'clock next that morning. They were forbidden and forcibly prevented from using their Store for mart purposes, and by erecting a new building behind the Store and making the Store an entrance or great hallway, they defeated the order while still keeping within the compass of their tyrants' persecuting decree.

Mr. P. J. Neilan, of Roscommon, who rented a law office on their premises was their solicitor, and Mr Timothy Heay (Healy) K.C., was their Counsel. Their case was refused a hearing, it was the rule of the Sword and Might was the dictator.

Enraged at seeing the brutal pretence at law defeated by two girls, the local District Inspector of Police, Mr. Nixon, now seized upon the entire property of Sharkey sisters. The precincts of the American Novelty Store and Eire Og Library was declared a "Military area" and for four hours soldiers and police dismantled the home and the Store, and removed in Military lorries the entire stock amounting to £3,450 worth of goods. The invoices, bills of lading and other documents proving the value were then available and offered by their Solicitor to the Courts where he tried to obtain a hearing for this abominable outrage on all law and justice. The D.I. in charge of this robbery admitted to Mr. Gaynor, another Solicitor, that he knew he had no authority or law for such an act, but that Military necessity and the stubborn insistence on their rights on the part of the Sharkey sisters left him no other course.

The Sharkey sisters having failed to obtain a hearing in what claimed to be Courts of Justice of their persecutors now settled down to suffer with fortitude their great loss. After leaving school at Dublin and visiting America — they being orphans — resolved to make their own way in the world, and amongst their own kith and kin. Being cultured and educated young Irish women, they saw the need of instruction for their

fellow-townsmen and the youth of the district in which they lived. To help in supplying the need, they courageously invested their entire fortune, — a very modest one — in wholesome and instructive books. This was the beginning of the Eire Og Library, which they ran since 1912, until it was broken up and destroyed by the Crown Forces. With the Lending Library went a book-selling newsagency and stationery business; and in addition to this they managed The Irish-Made-Goods Depot, in which were to be found a miscellaneous variety of Irish wares. Attached to this also was a Jewelery[8] and Tobacconist business, while they meantime carried on a light refreshment trade in connection with their Confectionery Department. They had learned from their visit to U.S.A. many business facts which they put to such successful use that their Store had become famous, not only in their district, but in all Roscommon and throughout Ireland. Commercial Travellers had given it as their verdict that Sharkey sisters' Store was the most tasty business-like and efficiently managed in all their travels, and this testimony may still be obtained from any of those travellers who knew the Sharkey sisters and saw them at work in their store.

In order to encourage local enterprise the Sharkey sisters installed on their premises a Knitting machine. Their purpose was to increase the Machinery as they advanced and by providing local employment help, as far as they could in steming (sic) the flow of female Emigrants from the district.

The Police Sergeant, who was the chief persecutor of these girls, conceived the idea that the Knitting Machine was some kind of a gun or bullet making apparatus, and, persistently annoying them as to its use, and receiving no information, he brought a Military Engineer on the scene to make an investigation. The Military Engineer enjoyed the joke as heartily as the owners of the Machine, and the stupid peeler was so incensed at his own stupidity and its discovery, that he vowed vengeance on the innocent victims of it all. This man took charge of the "Black & Tans" when they appeared in Strokestown, and acted appointer and setter in showing them the people whom they were to annoy. There are witnesses to prove that they saw Sergeant Cowley pointing out the Sharkey sisters to these minions of lawlessness, and very soon Sharkey sisters had a touch of their brutality. Again and again their shop was looted. Again and again their goods were taken away in quantities, musical instruments, watches and other jewellery, underwear, shirts, books, — anything that a British official fancied he took away, and on more than one occasion the tills and safe were rifled, and the money they contained was appropriated by the "guardians of law and order". When D.I. Nixon was carrying away the entire stock, he invited his favourites and friends among the bystanders to take anything they liked from the

jewelry cases, or other goods. Much of the valuable goods were thus given by the "legal highway robber" to those whom he thus encouraged to participate in his crime. Evidence of this fact is yet available.

The nation knew of this outrage upon every form of chivalry and justice, and a Testimonial of some hundred pounds or more was given to the Sharkey sisters; and when the Councils of Ireland were reforming, Una Sharkey — the older of the sisters, was elected Chairman of the District Council, Chairman of the Poor Law Guardians and County Councillor for Roscommon. With the Testimonial proceeds Sharkey sisters again re-stocked their store, and then re-organized and re-built their library by means of a prize ticket system. The people showed their appreciation by a support which enabled them to clear off almost all the old debts in which their imprisonment, robbery, and reduction to destitution had involved them.

The Cuman na mBan or Council of Irish Women is an organized effort of the women of Ireland to support the manhood of the Nation. The Misses Sharkey took their due share of duties, and at the time when the Society was outlawed one of the girls was the Representative for her province. Since the Society has been banned no one save those who are still members know or can know who are the officers in Command of the Association, for seeming officers may not be such, lest all officers might be thus imprisoned. The Military Authorities, however, arguing off pre-Proclamation conditions bring the girls to prison for charges which can only exist even in Military law — since the Proclamation. They have no evidence to prove anything even of these British-made crimes. Yet notwithstanding all this, Sharkey sisters were torn from their home for the third time and flung into horrible filthy cells in Longford Military Barrack.

As soon as the writer could get the opportunity he called to see his sisters, and was twice threatened with a bullet if he did not leave the gate. The visit was refused, as it had been refused to other relatives, for two weeks. The writer then addressed a letter to the Colonel in charge of the Military Barracks, and requested an interview and an explanation of such treatment of girls who had not even been brought up on a charge, to Mountjoy prison, and are in the "tomb of the living" at the present time. They have had no trial. There is no charge and only suspicion of their having had what is called by their Captors "The Republican Post Office" but their business is now again left without a protector or a manager. The Forces of the British Empire have helped themselves to their stock, and whatever remains of the £1000 of goods on the premises at the time of their thirs [third] arrest and imprisonment is now completely at the mercy of the "uniformed men" with the taking ways. Bills amounting to about £800 cannot be paid to their Creditors because they cannot sell

those goods or whatever remains of them. Thus are they again put in a wrong position with both their creditors and those customers who had relied on them for their Irish Industrial purchases. In order to terrorise them and to drive them from their home British officials threatened to burn their house unless they left the town. They refused to leave their own home and on more than one occasion these "Saviours of Civilization" pushed the barrel of a loaded revolver into the flesh of their temples. They did not fear death, but when the dark dreadful threat was made that they would be attacked at night, they did fear, and so for the past six months they left their own home each evening after business, and accepted the hospitality of their brother and his wife and young family, — feeling more secure at night and relieving the anxiety of us all. This brother has been now penalised for helping his own sisters, and has been for the past five weeks confined in durance most vile in the Military Camp at Strokestown. No charge has been made against him, and it is quite clear that the purpose of the whole persecution is an effort to smash his and the sisters' health and business and reduce the whole family to poverty and peonage.[9]

The landlord of the girls' house and (sic) now served them with a "Notice to Quit", and as he has already done the same to another tenant who was "on the run", and has taken possession of the man's house in his absence. An assistant from the store of my imprisoned brother and (sic) kept possession and business in some shape by opening the store each day for a short time. This defeats the mean-spirited combination that would otherwise seize on the house and thus at last succeed in driving these girls from Strokestown. The girl who is an assistant in my brother's Store cannot be well spared to his wife — his oldest of four children is only 8 years, and he cannot afford to pay another to take her place. I have mentioned all this because of the necessity of keeping some semblance of business going in order to preserve for the Sharkey sisters the rooftree they have so bravely tried to retain. I am personally unable to do anything effective, but have suggested to the Irish Development Association at Dublin (12 Molesworth St.) that they use the Store (with the Sharkey Sisters' sanction) as a distributing Centre, and I have asked them to bring the matter to your notice.

If the bills due were covered and an allotment made to pay the wages of two young bright girls until the Sharkey sisters are themselves able to take charge:-

1. The employment given the girls would relieve unemployment just so much.
2. The Industrial drive would help others to employment directly and indirectly.

3. The girls' credit would be preserved by the allotment to cover bills due, and creditors would not be injured by the case.
4. The girls would find their old home still their own when they returned from prison and come out from this attempt at reducing them to penury and peonage.
5. There would be continuance of the effort for Direct Trading in so far as this unit was concerned.
6. Their brother in prison and themselves would be relieved of anxiety and mental pain because of the situation.
7. Mrs. McWhorte,[10] Chicago, and my brother Lowell[11] and others who are strongly supporting the White Cross[12] would feel pleased for Mrs. McWhorte is a dear friend of the family.

I have written this case at large because it is a sort of historic case, and because it is the only thing I can do to help those whom I dearly love.

In their house the Roscommon plans were laid, Count Plunkett, Countess Plunkett, Eamon de Valera, Harry Boland, and such made the Eire Og Library and American Novelty Stores their Headquarters when elections and other campaigns were on. Terence MacSwiney, a dear friend of theirs wrote them letters, now seized with their cheque books account and everything else of a documentary nature; and since I cannot do more, I feel it my duty — even if they were not my sisters, I should feel it so — to put the case into your hands.

P.A. Sharkey.

The signatory was Patrick A Sharkey, Roman Catholic priest, brother, as he notes, of Una and Lena. He too was an active nationalist, and friend of a number of the leaders of the 1916 rebellion. He promoted Gaelic games and the Irish language, but is perhaps best remembered for his book on the history of Roscommon, south Sligo and east Mayo *The Heart of Ireland*, published in 1927. Una Sharkey died in 1943 and Lena, who married Liam O'Doherty, lived until 1992.[13]

Acknowledgements.

I am grateful to the Council of Kilkenny Archaeological Society for access to the copy statement of P. A. Sharkey, and to Caitlín Browne of Roscommon County Library and Mike Lennon of Strokestown for information generously supplied.

1 http://archive.org/stream/irelandcommitt00amerrich#page/n5/mode/2up (Report of the American Committee for Relief In Ireland) accessed 19 July 2012.

2 http://archive.org/stream/reportofirishwhi00irisrich#page/n5/mode/2up (Irish White Cross report to 31.8.1922) accessed 19 July 2012.

3 F M Carroll, The American Committee for Relief in Ireland, 1920-22, in *Irish Historical Studies*, Vol 23, No 89 (May 1982), p 43.

4 Kilkenny Archaeological Society Library & Archive, D12 (12).

5 *Roscommon Herald*, 19 June 1920.

6 Efforts have been made to locate the original of which this document is a copy, without success. Any information from readers to lawe@eircom.net would be appreciated.

7 Francis Patrick Walsh (1864 – 1939) lawyer, Irish Nationalist.

8 The wording and spelling of the copy document has been followed, some of the errors may have been introduced by the typist.

9 Servitude due to debt.

10 Actually Mary F McWhorter of Chicago who had visited Ireland in 1920 and on her return to America was instrumental in founding the Celtic Cross Association of which she was President. [National Archives, Dublin, 97/9/32]

11 Probably in error for 'her brother Lowell'.

12 This mention is a strong indication that the case was addressed to that body.

13 The details in this paragraph are given by courtesy of Mike Lennon of Strokestown.

Sadly, Edward passed away shortly after submitting this article.

Colonel Fiach 'Luke' O'Toole, The Eleven Years' War & All That!

by Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh

In October 1641 the start of a violent rebellion broke out in Ireland when a plot to seize Dublin Castle was exposed and foiled. Ulster rebels led by Sir Phelim O'Neale seized Charlemont Fort in County Armagh. By the end of the year the rebellion had pushed southwards and military pressure forced the Catholic old English of the Pale to reluctantly join the Catholic gentry at war. As the conflict spread nationwide the Catholic gentry laid siege to many fortified towns in an attempt to seize control of the English administration that ruled Ireland and began to reverse the plantations of the 1620s/30s that had left many of the Wicklow's Catholic Clans in financial ruin and in many cases dispossessed. While sectarian division festered between the new Protestant settlers and the native Catholic Irish of Wicklow, events like the Civil War in England (1642–1651) were equally shaping the state of affairs in the wider Irish political landscape. Fearing expropriation and religious persecution, the Catholic Gentry and Old English supported King Charles I and the Royalists against the Parlimentarian New English Puritans and Scottish Covenanters. Law and order broke down and scores of civilians lost their lives in atrocious circumstances. In 1642 the Irish Catholic gentry along with the Catholic clergy assembled in Kilkenny Castle and drew up the Confederation of Kilkenny, which would serve as a *de facto* government of most of Ireland throughout the Confederate War (1642-48).

Upland Rebellion

The vicinity of Roundwood was then known as Leitrim (from the Irish Liath Droim meaning Grey Ridge), and lay in the territory of Fertir (Vartry). The O'Tooles, of Castlekevin, for some one hundred years previous had controlled much of the land in the territory of Fertir as well as Fercuallan, which encompassed the Glencree Valley, Powerscourt etc. The O'Toole clan, along with the O'Byrne and Kavanagh clans, would be to the forefront of the Eleven Years War in the county. Indeed, by 1647 one hundred and forty six O'Byrnes, twenty four O'Tooles and many others had been officially outlawed and stripped of their title to land by the Grand Jury. Local figures like 'Caher Mc Phealim of Laragh gent, Barnaby Toole of Castlekevin gent, Garald Oge Berne of Dromin gent, Brian Mc Callogh Berne of Knockadreight gent, Felim mc Art Berne of Ballinastoy gent, Mullmurey mc Walter Doyle of Ballinrush gent' all played a role in the rebellion, the subsequent Confederate War and guerrilla war carried out against Cromwell. Perhaps one of

the most prominent rebel leaders during the Confederate war years in Wicklow was Fiach 'Luke' O'Toole of Castlekevin (1584-1653).

With the outbreak of rebellion, Luke and his sons, some who were officers of rank, along with his cousin Brian Mc Phelim O' Byrne and others joined forces and went to war. As a result, they were successful in reversing much of the plantations within their territories. Perhaps Luke's intentions are somewhat evident from the statement of a Wexford farmer. Richard Cleybrook swore he heard Luke O'Toole say 'that he intended soon after to march to Killrothery (Kilruddery), and take it, and afterwards to come to Dublin and take the castle there, and that he would not leave an English man, nor an English woman in the Kingdom, but they should be banished, and that he would not leave any English beast alive nor any of the breed of them. He said also that he would have his own religion settled in this Kingdom, and that he would pull the Lord Parson's hat from his head'.

The O'Byrnes and O'Tooles of Wicklow revolted in November with a series of attacks on Protestant settler's houses. 'At the beginning of the rebellion Luke O'Toole was summoned by Hugh Mc Phelim Byrne, Lieutenant General of the running army for the Irish, to be at Ballingarny and join with others to give opposition to Sir Charles Coote'. Baile Ó gCearnaigh was a historic town land that is known in modern times as Newtown Mount Kennedy. The house at Ballingarney was the residence of Sir Robert Kennedy, MP for Kildare. Kennedy testified in 1643 that the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles had burned and demolished his home as well as other stately houses like Kilruderry and castles throughout Wicklow. His son Thomas Kennedy also testified that in 1641 Barnaby O'Toole, Brian Mc Callogh Byrne of Knockadreet and some 200 warlike men had took possession of the Kennedy house at Newtown and that they had with them a field piece (artillery). When Luke arrived he told Kennedy that 'the cause of his coming was to fight in the Catholique cause telling them that if he and his father would turn Catholiques that then he would depart'. However, Kennedy

would not be proselytised. His house was subsequently destroyed and the hanging of one, Nathaniel Schnapp, Kennedys servant, and John Leeson, a shepherd of Lord Meath, took place at Ballingarny.

As the war progressed the rebels besieged important local strongholds such as Knockrath Castle in the Clara Vale (1641) and laid waste to the Black Castle in Wicklow (1641&46) at which Colonel Luke O'Toole was commanding officer. In turn, the English administration responded and the first scorched earth policies were initiated in January 1642 when Sir William Parsons (MP for Wicklow & Lord Justice) and others entered Wicklow with an order 'to tarry in that country as long as possibly you can gain provision for your men. You are in journey to kill, slay and destroy all the rebels you can there find. You are in that country to destroy by fire and sword all the rebels' goods, houses and come, and to take all their cattle. You are to this purpose to do any other thing for his Majesties service that you in your judgement shall find fit'. Similarly, Sir Charles Coote and his troops on arriving at Wicklow Town and finding that rebels had fled the Black Castle came upon a Church filled with civilians seeking sanctuary. His soldiers set the church alight and while it burned to the ground those who tried to escape were shot. So began a war that would lay waste to much of Wicklow and Ireland over the following eleven years and what became known as the Confederate Wars. During the war period of 1641-51 victims of the rebellion began to make compensation claims for losses they incurred and gave evidence against rebels. Remarkably a compilation of these claims and eyewitness testimonies survived the passing of time in what are known as Books of Depositions. This invaluable collection provides us with a window into the local politics and warfare of which Luke O'Toole was central during that period. Indeed, many of the depositions would be used as evidence against Colonel Luke O'Toole during his trial many years later.

A Bloody Conflict Ends

It is estimated that between three and eight thousand civilians were killed during the 1641-42 Rebellion in Ireland. However, as news of atrocities committed during the rebellion filtered back to England the death toll figures were exaggerated to beyond 100,000 people killed. Propaganda and misinformation in the form of gruesome illustrations of massacres etc became rife in England and struck fear into the English public. Such representations, aswell as the ongoing Confederate War, fuelled Oliver Cromwell's desire to avenge the massacres with an invasion of Ireland. By the mid 1640s, the Confederate army held control of two thirds of Ireland, but it was not until the arrival of Cromwell in September 1649 that the tides began to turn. Apparently, before proceeding on his way to Wexford, Cromwell ordered his troops to level the old fortress of

Castlekevin. They positioned their cannon on the road opposite, and using their artillery almost levelled the old castle. Cromwell spent only three days in County Wicklow but ultimately his military success across the country would put an end to the Confederate Army and the Eleven Years war in 1652. Christopher O'Toole, Luke's son, stands out in this period for a daring act of bravado that would see one of 'Old Ironsides' prized war horses stolen while his New Model Army camped overnight at Killincarrig Castle on the 27th September 1649. Although a peace agreement was signed on 12th May 1652, the rebels once again took the hills as "tories" (a roving band of soldiers) and fighting continued against the Cromwellians in Wicklow beyond the summer of 1652. The following letter commissioning Luke O'Toole to gather and organise his army was used during his trial partly as a justification for his continued resistance.

'To Colonel Luke alias Pheagh O Tohill greeting in our Lord God everlasting,

Sir,

The pressing Calamities of this kingdom (wherewith the holy Catholique apostolique and Roman religion, his sacred Majesties Right, and the just liberties of us his loyal subjects are like to be trod under foot by a company of profane and mechanical Rebels made instruments of God's wrath to punish our sins) together with the confidence we have in your zeal, worth and wisdom to rescue those so dear pledges, invites us to call to your assistance, Giving you hereby full power and authority to levy lead and command a Regiment of foot and a Troop of horse praying you to contain the said Regiment and Troop as much as may be, from incurring Gods just anger, especially from oppressing the poor, swearing and stealing, Giving you to understand we are hereunto authorised by his Excellency the Lord: Lieutenant Marquesse of Ormond, as appeareth by his letter Dated at Loghriagh the first of last April; We also pray you with the consent of the Gentry there to choose among your selves in those parts a Commander in Chief, and that each Colonel may choose his own officers. We will not cease to pray his divine Majesty to encourage you to fight in his quarrel and bless your designes farewell. Given at Cavan the second of May 1650.

Signed; H Ardmuch, Fr Thomas Dublin, Eug Killmoren, Fr Edwardus Laghlenensis Episcopus, Fr Antonius Clonmacnosensis Episcopus, Walter B. Clunfert, James Dempsievic appo of Kildare'

The Trial of Luke O'Toole

After surrendering many leaders of the Confederate army were not granted the same terms as ordinary confederate soldiers. In an attempt to gain more favourable terms for his surrender, Luke O'Toole offered a horse and saddle to Lieutenant General Ludlow who was uninterested in bargaining and declined the offer but ensured that Luke would receive

a trial. Upon surrendering in late 1652, Luke O'Toole 'aged three score and fifteen years of thereabouts' was taken a number of times before a committee composed of members of the High Court (Commissioners for Administration) of Justice. He was prosecuted in relation to the Siege of Knockrath and for 'murders and massacres committed within the counties of Dublin & Wicklow since October 1641'. Amongst the charges of prosecution were the murders of one Cahill Cullen and Ann Byrne, a Vicars wife from Deansgrange, that occurred sometime earlier in 1651. Concerning the Siege of Joab Wards Castle at Knockrath in 1641, Luke O'Toole denied any involvement in an affair whereby a thousand armed men with a field piece and led by a party of O'Byrnes, including two of his sons, Donogh and Christopher, besieged the Castle and executed three English men. Something of a blame game then ensued whereby all those being prosecuted shrugged responsibilty onto the long dead Phelim Mc Redmond O'Byrne for leading the siege. Luke refuted the testemonies given by deponents and also denied any knowledge of or involvement in the taking of a Vicars wife from Deansgrange to Powerscourt (O'Toole also resided there) to be hanged.

Spies in the Ranks

The details of one particular incident can be drawn together from a number of eye witness testimonies given during O'Tooles trial. Seemingly, a Catholic named Cahill Cullen was apprehended at the English quarters in Connogh (Old Connagh, Bray) and brought to Castlekevin by 'men who were a party of Luke O'Tooles Regiment of which Cahill had formerly been a Spy and had been a means to cause several prayes (cattle) and goods taken from him by the English forces in the times of Colonel Crawford, Colonel Monke & Colonel Longs'. A Council of War was called by a section of the Wicklow Confederate force at the churchyard of Killdallagh in Seven Churches (Glendalough) in 1651.

Two of Luke's sons, Lieutenant Colonel Donogh O'Toole and Major Christopher O'Toole, were present along with 'some petty officers in all to the number of about seven'. These included Major Thomas Birn and Captain Robert Birn of Drummin. Before this Marshalls Court, Cahill Cullen was prosecuted and 'condemned for a Spy and for being a means of Robbing of the Country'. Cullen stood accused of stealing cows from Barnaby O'Toole's land near Rathfarnam. A private conversation took place between Luke and the Vicar General Edmond Reilly. The priest expressed that he had nothing to say against Cullen and pleaded that Luke do him no harm. Luke offered to spare Cahill's life if he agreed to take an oath to no longer spy against him and to do no more harm to him or his sons. But Cahill refused and was thus sentenced by the Marshalls Court to be hanged.

Execution at Castlekevin

The condemned was taken back to Castlekevin and kept prisoner for the space of one night. The following morning a messenger was sent Shane O'Cullen, a ploughman and servant to Luke, and he was called upon to serve as executioner to which he refused stating 'Cahill was his kinsman and that he would never hang any of his kindred'. The messenger rode back to Luke O'Toole and related to him O'Cullens reply, whereupon Luke sent him back a second time with an order to comply or he himself would be hanged! Fearing death, the servant O'Cullen unwillingly came with the messenger to his Master's house. Meanwhile, the condemned Cahill Cullen was guarded by three soldiers in a house nearby in Castlekevin. Luke commanded his soldiers to take the prisoner a mile distant from Castlekevin to the 'Lands of James Walsh of Shanganagh' (also noted as 'the lands of Mooney') within a mile of Castlekevin to where a great hawthorn bush stood. This they did, and Luke followed close after them on horseback but he rode a little beyond the main party and within a musket shot from the hawthorn bush, where he could observe the execution. In his company was a Friar, Didactis Byrne.

Cahill seeing there was no hope requested Shane O'Cullen ask Luke O'Toole, being of his own religion, to send him a priest and so give him two hours respite to confer with him for the good of his soul. Didacus Byrne was sent over to Cahill who conversed with him for a while but Luke O'Toole grew impatient with the execution being so long delayed, put spurs to his horse and came to the place of execution. Cahill cried out loud and 'desired for God's sake that he might have space to live until he might see his wife and children who were not far off and that he might be permitted to speak with them before his death'. Luke refused his pleas and in a great rage threatened Shane O'Cullen that he would be hanged if he did not immediately hang Cahill Cullen. Shane O'Cullen tied the rope around Cahill's neck and fastened the rope to the hawthorn bush. And so, Cahill was 'thereupon hanged upon a bush on the high way' until he was dead. Luke ordered that he should hang there for a month and commanded that O'Cullen then notify the wife and children of Cahill. Before his death, Cahill asked that his clothes (except for his breeches) be taken and given to the 'Priests boy' (servant), in response to which the boy's master, Luke O'Toole, apparently stopped him one year's wages.

Letter to the Vicar General

Reverend Edmund Reilly's testimony touches also on the hanging of one Anne Byrne at Glencree. A servant of the Vicar General claimed that he was at Glencree and had seen Anne Byrne who was under a tree with a withy (a long flexible willow twig) about her neck ready to be hanged. She asked his servant what was the cause she was hanged for

and he answered that 'Luke O'Toole said she was one Wilson a butchers whore and was a spy that gave Intelligence to the said butcher'. Luke O'Toole denied any knowledge of or part in the murder of Anne Byrne. Father Reilly, some months after hearing the murders apparently wrote a fairly damning letter to Luke O'Toole regarding the inconsiderate murders of Cullen & Byrne. Luke wrote a letter back in response…

'Reverend Father, I received your invective letter wherein I am accused by your Reverence for the death of Nan Byrne and Cahill Cullen to give your Reverence satisfaction I found out by several Intelligences that the said Nan Byrne directed the way for Walshon whereby he took away Edmond mc Teiges Cows the way that the said Walshon came with a party in night time unto Tirlagh Ultaghs quarter where William Walsh was killed Hugh mc Brackes wife was wounded, and found out that she was betraying my lodging unto the Enemy and whereas you accuse me of hanging Cahill Cullen inconsiderately. I tell you I hanged him by a verdict of a Counsel of War and upon his own Confession wherein he confessed before my face that as long as he lived I will do my uttermost endeavours for to destroy me and my children and therefore I pray that your Reverence may be pleased not to blame me for cutting of such branches that would tend to our destruction and that would deliver us unto the hands of our Enemy……

Your humble servant
Luke O'Toole,

Glancree this 7th of March 1651'

Reverend Reilly was himself put to trial for his involvement in the attack on the Black Castle in 1645 when someone recognised him as he gave evidence against O'Toole. He subsequently spent almost two years in prison and was banished from Ireland. However, by the time the dust settled in 1657, Reilly would go onto become the Primate Archbishop of Ireland. Overall, there is no doubt that the specifics of what did actually happen during those turbulent years and who was responsible for what will be the subject of speculation and interpretation by historians for many years to come.

Nonetheless, as Cromwell carved up newly confiscated lands amongst his soldiers, many Catholic rebels would either swing from the gallows, be sent to Connaught or flee to France and Spain. Luke O'Toole's heir Barnaby would flee to France and the testimonies relating to incidents that occurred during the early years of the rebellion would partly lead to Luke and his son Christopher being half hung and decapitated in 1653. As a warning statement to other rebels their severed heads were spiked upon St. Nicholas' Gate in Dublin. Colonel Fiach 'Luke' O'Toole would inevitably be "the last of his clan to ride at the head of a rebellious army".

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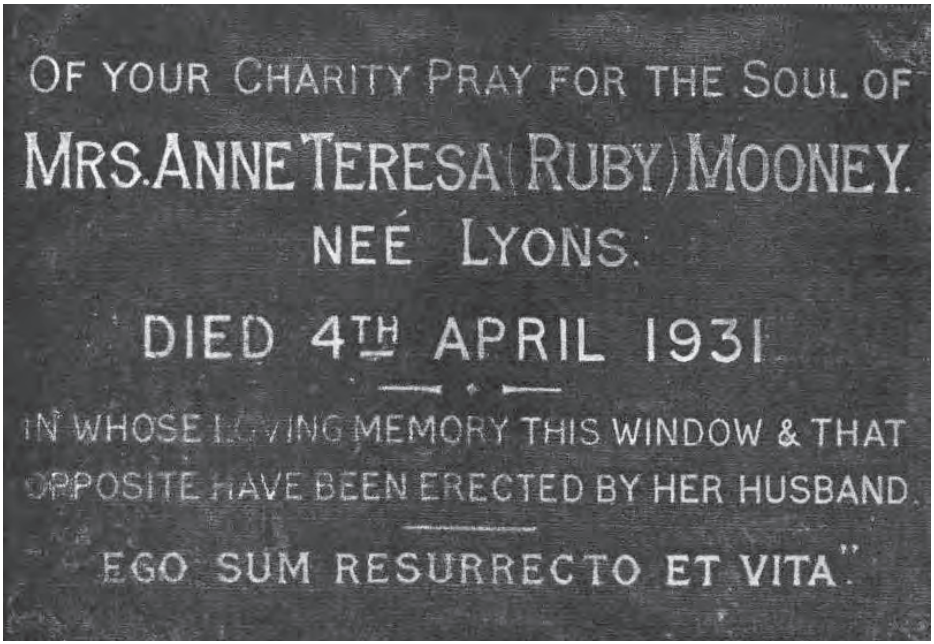
A Gift of Love

by Kitty Hughes



The discovery of this badly charred yet still legible plaque in the rubble of the Cathedral, some months after the great fire, intrigued everyone. A photo of the plaque was placed in the *Parish Review* seeking help to identify Ruby and the windows .The response to this photo led to a wonderful discovery. It was David Leahy who gave us the first lead when he located the Lyons family tombstone in Ballymacormack graveyard — it said *Ranchi*, *India* after the name 'Ruby' who died on the 4 April 1931.

Then Stella Fitzgerald said she knew Patricia Mooney, the daughter of Ruby Lyons of Cloncoose, very well as a young girl and also Ruby's sister Molly. She said Patricia was a lovely young girl and they played tennis together. Patricia went to school in Mount Anville in Dublin. So now we know that Anne Teresa (Ruby) was Ruby Lyons from Cloncoose, Longford, daughter of Patrick and Mary Elizabeth Lyons.

We discovered that Patrick, a native of Co. Westmeath, had spent many years in Argentina where he made out well and on return purchased the farm and residence in Cloncoose just two miles from Longford town. He married and raised four children the two girls and sons Patrick and Joseph.

Ruby met and fell in love with Herbert Mooney of Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin. Herbert worked in India for the India Forestry Service. They were married in St. Mel's Cathedral on the 6 September 1927. Afterwards they sailed to India. Stella recalled that they had two children, Patricia and Frank. She did not know where they were now but thought that Frank became a vet and possibly lived in Co Tipperary. Stella also recalled that Molly Lyons went on a visit to India and that she and Ruby and the two children were on a voyage home to visit Cloncoose in 1931 when Ruby became ill on board the ship. She was hospitalised in Marseilles, France, but sadly she died and was buried there. Molly took the two small children home to Cloncoose and she recalls that they had an Ayah, a children's nurse, with them, a very exotic figure in the Cloncoose and Longford of the 1930s. So now we knew the person named on the loving memorial plaque. One question remained! Which windows did it refer to? And also where are all the family now.

Among the maze of documents and data compiled and consulted following the great fire in St. Mel's Cathedral was a log book from The Abbey Stained Glass Company. It contained a transcript of part of the original order books of former stained glass companies, the Clarke, Earley and Mayer Studios, that had supplied the Cathedral windows. Fr. Tom Healy Adm., gave me this log book and turning the pages I discovered the following :

Our studios have the records from the Harry Clarke Studios and the original purchase orders read as follows:

Order Book 2 page 86 8th September 1932.

Order No 1737

H. F. Mooney Esq. 33 Fitzwilliam Place, Dublin.

St. Mel's Cathedral, Longford – Transept gables

Design, supply and fit two stained glass windows as per estimate 7th September 1932.

Both for the sum of £500-0-0.

The magnificent Harry Clarke Studio windows, so treasured as part of not only our diocesan heritage but of the nation's heritage, were a gift donated by Herbert F. Mooney to perpetuate the memory of his beloved young wife, Ruby. These stained glass windows fifteen feet high by five feet wide are of the highest artistic quality and the two most important windows in the Cathedral. What an extraordinary gift — and the little brass plaque placed alongside (and somehow displaced over the years) did not even bear the name of their generous donor.

So now to find the family of Ruby and Herbert. Stella Fitzgerald had said she thought that their son Frank had become a vet and may have lived in Tipperary. My brother-in-law John is a vet in Limerick so he might know. He didn't. But he suggested I ask the Veterinary Council and he gave me the phone number. I outlined the story of the cathedral windows and the reason for my query and the secretary was very helpful. She did discover one name Francis Morgan Mooney but sadly he was deceased. I asked if she had an address and she read it out; 'Cloncoose' … I didn't hear anything else ! I asked if this was the name of a house. Yes it would seem so. I couldn't believe it. He had called his home after his mother's townland in Longford. But there was no phone number.

Next step was the telephone directory enquiries but there was no phone number for that address in Co Tipperary. Back to John again and he suggested the regional Veterinary office in Co Tipperary where someone might remember Frank Mooney. And sure enough after telling my story again of the windows to a helpful secretary she said 'Oh, I know his wife, Kitty, she has moved to live in Tipperary town'. Kitty! She gave me her address but no phone number. However I was only one more phone call away. Telecom supplied the number and I dialled. The answering machine said to leave a message for Kitty. Not my strongest point these answering machines but I outlined my story of the windows and left my name and number.

About two hours later the phone rang and a lovely lilting voice said 'this is Kitty Mooney and I'm so excited about the news of the stained glass windows in St. Mel's Cathedral'. Kitty knew well the story of the windows. She told me that her husband Frank Mooney son of Ruby and Herbert had died almost twenty six years ago. They had copies of the windows framed at home in 'Cloncoose'. She said too that Frank's sister Patricia had died in the USA a few years ago. She also told me that his father, Herbert, had married again and that he had a daughter Jill who lived in Dublin. I had several lovely conversations with Kitty and I sent copies of the *Parish Review* to her and to her own family of three sons and two daughters and she sent them on to Jill.

Some weeks later I received a lovely letter from Jill and I quote the following from it:

I have the diary written by my father, Herbert, between the years 1916 and 1932 from which I gleaned the following — Herbert and Ruby were married in Longford on 6 September 1927. They went to India where Herbert worked for the Indian Forest Service. Their first born, Patricia was born in Ireland on the 24 April 1929. Her brother Frank was born in India on 30 September 1930. On the 19 March 1931 Ruby and her sister Molly, (who had been visiting them in India) , with the two children

then aged two years and six months, left India to return for a holiday in Ireland. Ruby became ill on the boat and was taken to hospital in Marseilles where she died on 4 April. She is buried in the cemetery of St. Louis in Marseilles.

The following is an extract from Herbert Mooney's Diary written on 18 August 1932:

I have left instructions with Miss Purser and Henry Clarke's to prepare design for two stained glass windows for erection in Longford Cathedral to perpetuate the loving memory of my darling wife Ruby. The subjects (1) St. Anne. (2) The Resurrection. The first is her patron saint. The belief and hope in the Resurrection was the thought that held me together during the dark days following her death. The text 'Ego sum resurrection et vita' will form an inscription. I wrote out this text in full as soon as I received the news that my darling was dead and read it many times to gain strength to endure life without her.

Jill enclosed with the letter this photo of Ruby and Herbert on their wedding day. It was probably taken at the family home in Cloncoose. Jill told me that Herbert died on 20 August 1964 in Dublin.

The family is very pleased that these beautiful windows have been rescued and restored awaiting reinstallation in St. Mel's Cathedral, together with the little plaque with its loving message sacred to the memory of Ruby and Herbert Mooney. And they hope to visit Longford with their families when St. Mel's Cathedral reopens.

My thanks to Kitty Mooney and to Jill Meghen, also Fr. Tom Healy, David Leahy, Stella Fitzgerald, Fr. Tom Murray and John Scollard who helped unfold this story from the ashes of St. Mel's Cathedral.

Kitty Hughes

Since this story unfolded sadly Mrs Kitty Mooney of 'Cloncoose', Tipperary Town passed away in June 2012. She was very delighted that I had made contact with her about the windows of St. Mel's Cathedral. May her soul rest in peace. *K. H.*

Celebrating Sir Edward Lovett Pearce

by Pat Sheridan

In April 2013 Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society held a series of events to honour Sir Edward Lovett Pearce who was born in 1699 and died in Stillorgan in 1733 aged 33 years.

Lovett Pearce was one of Ireland's greatest ever architects and was responsible for introducing Palladian Architecture to Ireland in the 1720s. He was only 22 years old when he took charge of the building of Castletown House in Celbridge for William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. The main façade of Castletown House was designed by Italian architect Allesandro Galilei. Lovett Pearce however added the colonnaded wings and many of the interior features.

During the eleven years of his architectural profession he designed many mansions and townhouses throughout Ireland and England. His works include Cashel Palace Co Tipperary, Bellamont Forest Co Cavan, Desart Court Co Carlow, Drumcondra House Co Dublin, Summerhill House Co Meath, Altidore Castle Co Wicklow, town houses in Henrietta Street in Dublin, Woodlands House Santry Co Dublin, Rathnally House Co Meath, Kilmore House Co Cavan, Christ Church Deanery Dublin, and of course his best known work, The Houses of Parliament in College Green in Dublin now the Bank of Ireland. He also built the wonderful Stillorgan Obelisk and Grotto both of which thankfully still stand as a legacy to his work.

The Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society spent a year preparing the week's celebrations, which started off with a talk on Pearce's life and works by Pat Sheridan in Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club. This was followed by a pictorial exhibition of his work in Stillorgan Library. The week ended with a major seminar in Stillorgan Park Hotel with lectures by Christine Casey on *Pearce and Palladio*, Eddie Mc Parland on *Pearce the Classicist* and James Howley on the *Ornamental Gardens of Sir Edward Lovett Pearce.*

The exhibition was in the library for eight weeks and then transferred to the Bank of Ireland in College Green. There is great interest in the exhibition with Castletown House putting it on display for Heritage week. Dunlaoghaire Rathdown Libraries will display it in a number of their Libraries during the coming year.

Edward Lovett Pearce died at his home in Stillorgan in December 1733 leaving a wife and four daughters.

At the time of his death Pearce presided over an entire community of Palladian architects, perpetuating his interpretation of Palladio's work throughout Ireland.

The Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society was set up by a group of enthusiasts in 2000 and hold regular talks in Kilmacud Crokes GAA Club in Stillorgan. The 2012 programme of talks were*; Letters of John Charles McQuade; Ernest Shackelton; A History of a Banking Crisis; Sir Edward Lovett Pearce; The Theatre Royal;_Lockout Dublin 2013; Fr Gleeson-WW1 Chaplain*; *Open night- 4 local historians give a short talk.*

The Weakfield "Eviction Slab"

by Albert Siggins

This carved stone is set low down in the outside boundary wall of Weakfield national school. Local people believe it to be a commemorative depiction of an eviction attempt that took place at a house not far away on the other side of the main road. This carved stone formed the lintel of the fireplace in the house and it appears that in the early 1950's the house had become a ruin leaving the stone in danger of being damaged or, even worse, lost forever to historic examination. Through the good offices of Fr Joe Kilmartin, P.P. and Miss Mary Fox, N.T. the lintel was saved and brought to the grounds of the school where it lay for some years. Eventually, in the early sixties, when the new school was being built, the lintel was inserted in the wall where it still stands today.

The stone measures 145 cm by 35 cm and is of limestone. Below a number of carved figures an inscription reads: "Patk Spallon built this cottage in 1814".

Starting from the left of the slab the scene is composed of what appears to be an old man, in profile, sitting and holding out his hand that grips a mug or wooden mether. His dress includes a high collar jacket showing pocket, and his boots are clearly shown. The next figure is a man standing erect with hand raised and finger pointing forward. His clothing includes a swallow-tail jacket showing 3 buttons. Next, a cat stands with tail raised and head towards observer beside a finely executed rendering of a house which has three windows, doorway and chimney. The house is of the full gable wall type, but a later crude attempt at making it a hip roof variety was made, thus spoiling the

original work. A dog stands on the other side of the house with his face towards observer. Further on a woman stands with her head raised, front of her body to observer, her left hand on her hip, her right hand raised and open hand in pointing fashion towards the house. She wears a long dress buttoned in the centre from top to bottom with about 15 buttons, and it is embellished with a pronounced neckline. The next figure is of another woman, in profile, somewhat similarly dressed, but she also wears a necklace. She is looking towards the house with outstretched arm and finger pointing towards animals and house.

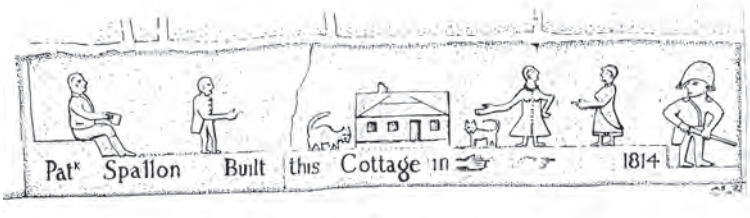
Both women appear to have caps on their heads. The last figure is of a soldier, apparently of high rank, in the process of drawing or replacing his sword in its scabbard. He is looking towards the other figures and his uniform includes cocked hat with tassels, doubled breasted jacket with epaulettes on the shoulders.

His legs are set a little lower down from the level of standing of the other figures, which looked like a corrective attempt by the mason to get the right proportion for the figure. Notable in the overall carving is the accurate detail of the early 19th century dress rendered by the mason.

To affect an eviction all humans and animals had to be removed from the premises.

Local tradition about the stone is that an eviction, on behalf of the landlord, assisted by the military was in progress at the house. Despite removing the dog and cat on several occasions and sealing all possible re-entry points to the house, they were unable to keep them out. The people, who probably comprise one family, are drawing this fact to the attention of the military. This amounted to a failed eviction attempt. It is believed by some locals that the military were frightened by this "supernatural event" and that the tenants were allowed to resume residence thanks to the dog and cat. Every detail of the carving is of outstanding workmanship.

This stone must have been the focus of great attention in the house down the years, commanding maximum attention from family and visitor alike and is a strong reminder of less happy days in Irish history. Great credit is due to the individuals involved, Fr Kilmartin and Miss Fox, for the relocating of this stone in the interests of preservation.



Riverstown Foot Beagles

by Mary Crowley

Founded in 1887, it is deemed to be the oldest club in Glanmire. It was in 1887 that a group of sportsmen in that area came together and formed a club for the hunting of the hare with small hounds. This club was destined to bring pleasure and fitness to countless followers during the course of its long existence.

It is a tribute to the stamina and endurance of the followers of those days that they thought little of walking miles hunting all day and then walking home to Glanmire or to Cork City at nightfall.

Founder names remembered are Dan O'Brien, Gerry Buckley, Jack and Denis Falvey and Denis and Paddy Daly. It is interesting to note that sons, grandsons and nephews of those original members have continued with the club to this day, a fact that augurs well for its continued existence in future years.

Nostalgic memories are talked of at various functions celebrating anniversaries of the establishment of the club. The members have fond memories of gatherings at Riverstown House Gate, Blossomgrove Gate, Glenmore Bridge, Carberytown, Ballinagoul and many others also. Men like Mick McGrath, Jimmy Buckley, Gerry Duggan, Dave Hegarty, Tommy Ronan, Pad Bailey, the Daly Brothers, Billy Flynn, Teddy Lambe and many others too numerous to mention have all etched themselves into hunt folklore. The names of many famous hounds so beloved of those huntsmen are also remembered ie: Countess, Lancer, Ringwood, Dauntless, Beauty, Bluebell, Minstrel, Charmer and many more. These names are still used in the present pack.

The club hunts every Sunday between October and April from noon. Any enthusiastic followers are always welcome.

LONG MAY IT CONTINUE

Time will wait for nobody.

by Brendan Matthews

On Monday, 8th May, 1916, a proposal was put before the House of Commons in London that, in view of the economy in fuel as a result of the Great War, the House would welcome a measure for the advancement of the clock time by one hour during the summer months and to put the clock back again by one hour at the end of September, which would give the workers 130 hours more daylight throughout the summer and every family, railway company, gas works, tramways, mills, etc., would save on lighting expenses.

Countries such as Germany, Austria and Holland had made this change already while France and Denmark were considering the same move.

During this period, the clock in Ireland was already 25 minutes behind English time and it had long being thought desirable to unify the times; however, owing to the recent 'uprising' in Ireland, the English believed that it was impossible to ascertain the opinion of the Irish government and the Irish people.

After a long debate, it was then proposed that the clock in Ireland should also be advanced by one hour for the summer months and that when October 1st came and the English clocks were put back by one hour, the clock in Ireland could then be put back only 35 minutes and that a bill to that effect could be passed before October.

It was then decided to move the clock forward in Ireland and England by one hour on Sunday 21st May 1916 at 2 a.m., as it would be the most convenient time for the railway companies. The plan was then set in motion to adjust the church and local authority clocks on this date and the assistance of the press was to be invoked to impress upon the whole nation that in their own interests the public would be well advised to alter their domestic timepieces.

The new time change duly came into operation on the 21st May and, it was reported that, 'the Tholsel clock in Drogheda was keeping the new time just as conscientiously as it kept the old, although there was some confusion about the town'.

Some of the churches in the town kept their Sunday morning services to the old time, resulting in parishioners running here and there for their Sunday Mass and being totally confused by others along the street, who forgot to put forward their clocks and watches.

At the Sunday evening Mass service in one of the churches, the congregation was reminded by the priest to make sure that all their clocks were advanced by one hour and forgetting, or being quite unaware of the fact that they had been advanced already, got a further move that

night on their patient timepieces, which resulted in a large number of workers turning up at the mills in the town on Monday morning at 4 o'clock (old time), two hours earlier than usual.

The Drogheda Independent newspaper also reported the words of one local whom they interviewed concerning the changes to the time; his response being:

'The dial of the clock tells us it's 6 o'clock, but we, being sleepy, feel inclined to tell it that it is a sanguinary liar and sink again into the arms of Morpheus. Then we remember; if the clock says so and it is in accordance with other clocks that must be the time and although we might, while in bed, feel inclined to kick at being coerced by the clock and fancy we had another grievance against the State, we eventually realise that the time which is not the time so to speak, is now the scheduled time and out we get.'

Sources used:

British House of Commons Minutes April & May 1916.
Drogheda Independent Newspaper. May 13th, 20th & 27th 1916.

Sir George Forbes,
Knight of Nova Scotia

by Doreen McHugh

The following account is from an inscription on a plaque in St. Paul's Church in Newtownforbes in County Longford.

To the memory of Sir George Forbes, Knight of Nova Scotia and Third Earl of Granard, who died June the 19th 1765 aged 80 and is here interred. He married in 1709 Mary, daughter of Sir William Stewart, who was created Viscount Mountjoy 1682, and relict of Phineas Preston of Ardsalab, a charitable and pious woman respected for her virtues and beloved for her amiable temper both by young and old. She died in London in the month of October 1758 aged 95 leaving three children, GEORGE, a Lieutenant General in the Army, JOHN, who became Admiral of the Fleet and General of the Marines and Lady Mary, who married JAMES IRVINE Esquire of Scotland.

Sir George Forbes was second son of Arthur, Second Earl of Granard who became Lord Forbes on the death of his older brother who was killed in the Battle of Blenheim in August 1704, he himself in the same month being warmly engaged in the sea fight near Malaga. In 1706, he was advanced to the Command of a ship of war; serving at the same time in the Fourth Troop of Horse Guards in which he rose to the rank

of Major. In 1710, then commanding the Garrison of seventy guns at Barcelona, he went a Volunteer and was wounded in the Battle of Villa Viciosit in Spain, and served at the next Campaign in the same Army. In 1718, he commanded as Lieutenant General in the island of Minorca then belonging to Great Britain, and in 1719, he was sent by George the first to Vienna, at the request of the Emperor, Charles the sixth, who knew him personally in Spain, to plan and create a navy for him in the Adriatic, and was appointed a Vice Admiral in the Imperial Service.

In 1727, he was called up by Writ of the House of Peers, and in 1728 made custodian Rotuiorum of the County of Westmeath and a Privy Councillor. In 1729 he was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, but did not go. In 1733, George, the second, named him his Envoy and Plenipotentiary to ANNE, Empress of Russia, with whom he concluded a very advantageous Treaty of Commerce. He became Earl of Granard by the death of his Father on August the 24th 1734; and in the same year was advanced to the Rank of Rear Admiral, and to that of Vice Admiral in 1735. In 1737, he rendered a signal Service to Ireland by regulating and fixing the just value of a Variety of Gold Coins at that time in circulation and in negotiating a standing contract with the Mint of England for the coinage of copper money.

In 1738, he was offered the Government of New York and with it the command of all the Ships of War stationed in the Coast of North America but declined both.

In 1739, he was appointed Governor of the Counties of Longford and Westmeath and in 1741 was returned member of the British Parliament for the Boroughs of Air Irvine and Co in Scotland as he had been before in 1727 for that of Queensborough in Kent. In 1742 he resigned his Rank in the Navy and in 1744 he retired from a Public Life to the greatest Privacy though not to indolence and inactivity for it may be truly said of him that 'He never was less alone; than when he was alone'.

Born with the Faculties of Body and Mind which qualify Mankind to promote the Good and happiness of Society, he constantly applied them to the Purpose; and in order to render his Talents more beneficial, he early disciplined his Mind, by the best Precepts and Examples of Morality; and his Body by Temperence, Exercise and an Abstinence from all manner of iperiliunities (impunities). Nor did he ever relax from these Habits during his Life. Indefatigable in the search after knowledge, his Pursuits were uniformly directed to the Attainment of it in those things which are most essentially connected with Public Utility. He was well acquainted with the State and interests of his own and foreign Nations, their Views, Strengths, Productions, and Resources; and understood Trade, Commerce, Finances and Agriculture as far as they conduce to the Welfare and Prosperity of different countries. He also studied

Natural History as a Philosopher; but as a Statesman contemplating the three Kingdoms; not merely as objects of Science but with a view to their Life and Importance in Trade and Manufactures, Sustenance and Service of Man.

He was a Seaman; Soldier and Statesman and had been tried in each of those Professions uniting the Study of their Principles with Practice and Experience, affiliated by different Observations, and Difernment and a clear and sound judgement. He had - a high spirit and an ardent and enterprising Courage which urged him in his Youth seek Glory by every becoming Means and to follow her at all hazards. Lifed to Courts he had acquired the good Breeding the Courtly and Address peculiar to them but without their Vices. His Education and his Fortune were solely his own work, for from the Age Fifteen he had no Protection except what his own Prudence and good Conduct procured him and which made him early noticed by Queen ANNE and successively distinguished by George the first and George the second.

As he possessed an extensive and general knowledge, he suited his conversation to full Ranks and conditions young and old, Men of Service, Mechanics and Husbandman was always singular entertaining and instructive. He reasoned profoundly and trifled agreeably to a lively imagination and just Memory he united a fine Vein of "Raillery" and polite and engaging Gallantry, which enabled him on all subjects to discourse pleasantly and apply happily.

He bore his Talents with great Modesty and never valued himself highly, except when he was called upon by Honor to do so. At the same time he admired Merit in others and always encouraged it by his Councel, his Protection and his Liberalities.

He revered the Religion as he did the Constitution of his Country, judging them both to be the most pure and wise of any and best calculated to secure and advance the Happiness of Mankind.

His Son, the Admiral inscribed this Marble to record the Merits of his Past and his own Pride and Felicity in being descended from them. His Admiration of his father made them strive through life to follow so excellent a Guide but

SEQUITUR PATREM NON PASSIBUS AEQUIS

(He follows his father, but not with equal steps).- translation not on monument.

May others succeed better and transmit his Virtues, with his Honors to their latest Posterity; esteeming the first valuable inheritance.

North/South

We continue to work closely with our colleagues in the Federation for Ulster Local Studies and this year has been no exception. The joint committee met on four occasions, two in Dublin and two in Belfast to discuss items of mutual interest and organise joint events.

We joined forces on our U.K. trip to Southern England. Based in Bristol we made visits to Bath, Salisbury, Stonehenge, Tetbury and Lacock Abbey including a most enjoyable boat trip in Bristol harbour.

Our joint exchange visit was to meet in Dublin and visit the National War Memorial and Gardens at Islandbridge. We all enjoyed a lovely dinner in the Hilton Hotel near Kilmainham before completing the day with trips to Arbour Hill Cemetery and the National Museum at Collins Barracks.

July saw representatives from both Federations meet President Michael D. Higgins at Aras an Uachterain to share an invitation with other community groups in recognition of the work done by the Federations in the community.

This year Derry City celebrated its status as the United Kingdom's first City of Culture. Both Federations shared a visit and tour of the City in October to join in the celebrations. This trip also included visits by the Federation of Local History Societies to the Ulster American Folk Park near Omagh and a visit to the ancient hill fort Grianan of Aileach in Donegal. The success of the weekend event was greatly assisted by the contributions from John Bradley, Walter Mc Farlane, Roy Hamilton and John Dooher from the Federation for Ulster Local Studies.

The Hidden Gems and Forgotten People Project continues to grow with input from both Federations. We plan to produce a selection of professionally mounted exhibits of some Hidden Gems and Forgotten People which can be used for exhibition purposes.

The co-operation, sharing, friendship and joint activities between both organisations have now become an integral part of both Federations yearly programmes. We look forward to many more years working together.

The Cloyne Literary and Historical Society

September 2013

For 36 years now, the Cloyne Literary and Historical Society has been exploring and raising awareness of local history (and history in general) in the Cloyne area, through lectures, outings, publications, guided tours, a mini-library and a book club.

About 12 years ago, we also started to interact with other local history societies, in the form of exchanges, visits, history hunts and exhibitions.

Between the publication of the first *Book of Cloyne* (1977, now out of print) and our most recent book *Gravestones Inscriptions of St John The Baptist Cemetery, Midleton* (2009, Richard Henchion), we published two other books: *The Pipe Roll of Cloyne* (1996, Paul McCotter & Kenneth Nicholls) and *The Gravestones Inscriptions of the Cathedral Cemetery of Cloyne* (1999, Richard Henchion).

We also published booklets, calendars, postcards and a historical map of Cloyne, which we shared with a large number of *historycoholics* (a new word, yet to appear in a dictionary).

Our monthly meetings have dealt with a wide variety of topics including

George Berkeley (Bishop of Cloyne), archaeology, genealogy, architecture, writers, prominent characters (local or national), old gardens, old industries (bricks, distilleries, mills, etc.), military history, castles and big houses, social life and customs, folklore and traditions, legends and myths, memorabilia sessions, traditional music, and more.

As part of the Heritage Week, with the support of the Kilkenny shop in Shanagarry, we hosted The William Penn Symposium; and our most recent event was a talk on lighthouses and the lives of lighthouse keepers on Ireland's south-west coast.

Our upcoming events will include an evening on the life and works of Jane Austen and a lecture in Ballymaloe House by a descendant of the Longfield family who were landlords in Cloyne. We will also take part in the annual exhibition of local history associations in the Cork City Hall.

We'll end up the year 2013 with a Christmas meal in Harty's Restaurant, our year-round sponsor.

Marie Guillot and Helen Duggan

Birr Historical Society

Meeting with Belgium Delegation – Unveiling of Leinster Regiment Memorial.

The Committee from Birr Historical Society which included Brian Kennedy, Bridget Sullivan, Jimmy Shortt and Teresa Ryan-Feehan, were delighted to make the acquaintance of the Belgium Delegation, Alderman Bart Ryde, Hans Jacques and Nick Soen during the recent celebrations surrounding the unveiling of the Leinster Regiment Memorial. They discussed the common heritage that exists between the two towns and the possibilities of twinning in the future.

On Saturday morning Brian Kennedy, President of Birr Historical

Society, and Father Tony Cahir, welcomed our Belgian visitors and the officers of the Leinster Regiment Association to St. Brendan 's Church. Brian gave a brief lecture on the history of the building with particular reference to the Michael Dunne, stained glass window memorial to the Leinster Regiment. This window is unique as it is the only memorial to a British Regiment in an Irish Roman Catholic Church. It was unveiled by Field Marshall Alexander of Tunis in 1963 and refers to all of the campaigns engaged in by the Leinster Regiment. Brian pointed out that it is fitting a window containing so many images of resurrection faces East to catch the early morning rising sun.

The visitors were also impressed to see the ebony processional cross from Crinkle Barracks which is still used at every funeral in St. Brendan's Church. Don Dixon, Chairman of the Leinster Regiment Association was particularly moved to see the spot in front of the High Altar where his grandparents were married when stationed at Crinkle Barracks. The Regimental Historian, Ian Lowe spoke of the minutes of the Association surrounding the erection of the window.

While touring the outside of the building, Brian pointed to the magnificent Celtic Cross erected by John O'Neill, in memory of his wife Ellen which was carved by Carroll Monumental Works, Seffin and mentioned that the same firm had sculptured the Leinster Regiment Memorial to be unveiled that evening. This is a remarkable achievement for the firm, as 130 years separate the two memorials.

The Belgian Delegation invited members of Birr Historical Society to visit them in Ledegem and tour the local historical sites including Birr Cross Roads. The Societies agreed to continue to exchange information as both countries prepare to commemorate the beginning of World War I in August 1914.

Birr Workhouse Conference

6 and 7 September, 2013

Notes on Conference

Reverend Irene Morrow Lauded During Birr Workhouse Conference

The work and energy of the outgoing President of Birr Historical Society, Rev. Irene Morrow, was recognised during the Birr Workhouse Conference weekend.

Recognition of the Work and Contribution of Rev. Irene Morrow, Outgoing President to Birr Historical Society.

On behalf of the members and committee of Birr Historical Society, Teresa Ryan-Feehan, made a surprise announcement to the audience in recognition of the outgoing President Rev. Irene Morrow who is retiring

after many years service to the Historical Society. Teresa introduced the in-coming President, Mr. Brian Kennedy who is a native of Birr. Brian is a teacher of History and English in Birr Community School.

Brian paid tribute to the work of Birr Historical Society. Rev. Irene Morrow followed in the footsteps of the late Joe Shortt, the late Brian McGurk. Brian mentioned the highlights of Rev. Irene Morrow's Presidency which included the making of the Mac Regol Facsimile.

He then called on committee member Teresa Ryan-Feehan to present Rev. Irene with a representation of two pages from her beloved Mac Regol Gospels and Secretary Anne Ward followed with a presentation bouquet of flowers.

On Friday evening Rev. Morrow opened the conference and welcomed all visitors to Birr.

On Saturday 7th September, Local Historian, Paddy Heaney recalled stories he had heard from old people in the Slieve Blooms about people dying of hunger in the area

A speech by Mrs. Bridget Sullivan on Saturday afternoon about the Emigrant Girls Luggage Box was illustrated by a replica trunk which was made by her son Derek. Sister Ann Hannon spoke about the work of the Sisters of Mercy who nursed the sick in their Mater Infirmary between 1881 and 1921.

Tommy Lyndon, recalled memories of himself and his siblings growing up in the Workhouse.

Saturday 7th September, 2013 Laying the Wreath at the famine Cemetery in Memory of Those Known Only To God.

At the end of the conference a large number of people gathered in the Famine Cemetery at the back of the Workhouse. Sister Ann Hannon, a member of the Sisters of Mercy Order, lead the prayer service. Chairman of Birr Town Council, John Carroll and Anna Kavanagh of the Scurragh Residents Association laid a simple wreath at the High Cross to commemorate the 4000 or more people who are buried in the cemetery in mass graves.

Rathmichael Historical Society

2012 – 2013 Report

The Rathmichael Historical Society is based in Shankill, Co. Dublin and holds its indoor meetings on the 1st Wednesday of the month (October to March) in Rathmichael National school located at the Dublin Road end of Stonebridge Road.

During August each year the Society holds a weeklong Summer Series

of Evening Lectures on Archaeology in Rathmichael National School.

On Wednesday October 3rd with a special evening to mark the Society's 40th anniversary. Society President Rob Goodbody presented a lecture " 40 Years of the Rathmichael Historical Society : 1972 to 2012 " in which he told the history of the Society over these 40 years, and Pól Ó Duibhir gave a talk on " Ballybrack and 1798 ". As a young local historian, it was to this Society that Pól gave one of his first lectures on local history – and on Ballybrack, his native place, and a place on which he has done and continues to do a huge amount of research.

On Wednesday November 7th, Society President Rob Goodbody presented the November lecture of the Society on ' Martello Towers ', those unique defensive structures which date back to the era of the Napoleonic Wars and can be seen along the coastline from Bray, Co.Wicklow, to Malahide, Co. Dublin, and at other Irish coastline locations.

Guest speaker for the December 5th meeting was Edmond O'Donovan at which he presented his lecture ' The Duibh linn(ers') Tale ' in which he spoke about the lives of the unnamed dead buried in the church of St. Michael le Pole near what may have been the site of the early Christian monastery of Duibh Linn.

The Society opened its Spring 2013 programme with the holding of its AGM, chaired by its president Rob Goodbody, starting the second year of his three-year term of office at which the reports of the outgoing committee were adopted.

Guest speaker for the Wednesday February 6th meeting was Ms. Kathleen Villiers-Tuthhill who presented her lecture ' Colony of Strangers - the founding and early history of Clifden.

John Montague was the guest speaker for the Wednesday March 6th talk at which he presented his lecture *'Rocque's Map of Dublin.*

The Society's annual weekend outing in April was to Roscommon, a Saturday half-day outing in May had to be cancelled due to circumstances outside the control of the Society, and visits on July 24th and July 26th to Lambay Island as the visiting party had to be divided into two groups.

Speakers and their subjects for the week-long 39th Summer Series of Evening Lectures on the theme of " Ireland from the pre to post-Roman World " held in Rathmichael National School, Shankill, were -

Monday August 12th Dr. Elizabeth O'Brien, Mapping Death Project — *Contacts between Ireland and Britain in the Iron Age / Early Medieval period, as revealed by the Irish burial record.*

Tuesday August 13th Dr. Jacqueline Cahill Wilson, LIARI Project Director, The Discovery Programme - *The Late Iron Age and Roman Ireland Project: preliminary findings and future research.*

Wednesday August 14th The Leo Swan Memorial Lecture — Mr. Cormac Burke, Editor Ulster Journal of Archaeology — *Corporeal Relics, Tents and Shrines in Medieval Ireland.*

Thursday August 15th Mr. Ian Doyle**,** Head of Conservation, The Heritage Council - *Dalkey Island in the Early Medieval Period: connections and boundaries.*

Friday August 16th Mr. Nick Maxwell, Wordwell Ltd. — *Archaeology Ireland Magazine, 25 years, 100 issues.*

Bray Cualann Historical Society

The Local History Society for Bray, Co. Wicklow and North Wicklow

2012– 2013 Report

January 2013

The Society opened its Spring 2013 Programme on Thursday 17 January with its AGM at which the reports of the outgoing committee were adopted by the meeting and a committee consisting of Colm McCormack, Brian White, James Scannell, May Harte, Jim Lynch, Nancy Mahony, Sybil Connolly and Eva Sutton elected for 2013. The AGM concluded with a short presentation, *Hidden Secrets of Bray*, presented by Chairperson Brian White.

February 2013 At the first committee of the incoming committee on 2 February, elected to fill the officer posts of the Society were–

Hon. President	Colm McCormack
Chairperson	Brian White
Vice-Chairperson	James Scannell
Hon. Secretary	May Harte
Hon. Treasurer	Jim Lynch
Membership Secretary	Nancy Mahony
Hon. P.R.O.	James Scannell

Michael Corcoran from the Transport Museum Society of Ireland, Howth, Co. Dublin, and author of *Through Streets Broad and Narrow* was the guest speaker for the Thursday 21 February meeting at which he presented his wide ranging lecture *Buses to Bray* recalling the various operators who provided bus services to Bray and the surrounding area, the routes covered the types of vehicles used, and the personnel who served on them and screened some very unique images including those of Scraggs buses, Murphy buses, and Doyle's of Roundwood – St. Kevin's Bus Service.

March 2013 Ms. Honor O Brolchain was the guest speaker for the Thursday 21 March meeting at which she presented her lecture *The Plunkett Family and their role in Irish history.*

April 2013 On Wednesday 3 April, James Scannell, Society Vice-Chairperson and PRO, presented a lecture in Bray Library at 11.30 a.m. *Easter in Bray 100 Years Ago (1913)* which recalled the many events taking place in Bray that over that Easter.

Guest speaker for the Thursday 18 April meeting was maritime historian Cormac Lowth at which he presented his lecture on *The McCombies of Monkstown — The life and times of a local hero and his family.*

May 2013 On Thursday 16 May the Society paid an 8 p.m. evening visit to Christ Church Church of Ireland, which is celebrating its 150th anniversary , during which members received a special lecture *150 Years of Christ Church Bray* from Sarah Greene and Bruce Chandler followed by a guided tour of the Church interior.

The following Sunday the Society concluded its Spring 2013 Programme with its annual one-day outing which this year took place to Huntington Castle and Gardens near Carnew, and Borris House.

The month's activities for the Bray Cualann Historical concluded on Wednesday, 29 May when Society Vice-Chairpserson and PRO James Scannell presented a special 11.30 a.m. Bealtaine talk *From Town Commissioners in 1898 to Urban District Councilors in 1899* in Bray Library.

June 2013 On Saturday 8 June Society Chairperson Brian White brought the members of the Foxrock Local History Club on a guided afternoon walking tour of Enniskerry Village, Co. Wicklow.

August 2013 The Society provided three events for Heritage Week. On Saturday August 17th Society Vice-Chairperson and PRO James Scannell gave an afternoon talk in Bray Library on *That Was the Week that Was in Bray 100 Years Ago – August 17th to August 25th 1913* and an evening talk in Ballywaltrim Library, Bray, on Wednesday August 21st on *That Was the Week that Was in County Wicklow 100 Years Ago – August 17th to August 25th 1913.* On Saturday August 24th Society Chairperson Brian White led an afternoon walking tour of St. Peter's Cemetery, Little Bray.

Autumn 2013 Programme All the below meetings take place in the Bray Chamber of Commerce House, 10 Prince of Wales Terrace., Quinsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, at 8 p.m. All welcome to attend – contribution €4 per lecture.

Thursday September 19th *The Neolithic Period in Ireland* – Prof. Jerry Mulligan

Thursday October 17th *Here Lieth the 18th Century Headstones of County Wicklow* – Chris Corlett

Thursday November 21st *William Dargan – An Honourable Life 1799 -1867: Looking at the life of the railway engineer William Dargan* – Fergus Mulligan.

Old Drogheda Society

Activities November 2012- 2013

Drogheda Museum, Millmount. Local History Courses 2012-2013. Six Weeks by 90 minutes

The Know Your Drogheda. Local History Course. Brendan Matthews held two local history courses since the last AGM.

Drogheda Museum, Millmount. Transition Year Programme. Post primary schools in the area take part in the programme which includes a visit to the Museum, Martello Tower and Library. Take part in a walking tour of Drogheda's historic past and then teams of ten pupils take part in a table quiz based on what they have seen and learnt. The winner receives the Corcoran and Garry Perpetual Trophy.

Drogheda Museum Millmount Lectures

"Massacre & Mythology: The 1641 Rebellion in Ireland" by Dr Eamon Darcy — November 7th

"The Far Side: The Uniting of the two towns of Drogheda" by Brendan Matthews — December 5th

"Lambay: Looking out from an island in the Irish Sea" by Gabriel Cooney — March 27th

"New Light On The Drogheda Fenians" by Brendan Matthews. — July 10th.

"The Search for Amhairgin — Looking deep into Millmount's Past" by Kevin Barton and Conor Brady — August 22nd

Old Drogheda Society Lectures in Drogheda Tourist Office

"In The Great Dismal Swamp — John Boyle O'Reilly, "The Fenians and Photography" by Liam Kelly, "Thomas Flinn- Drogheda Fenian Leader" and "The Radical Political Thought of John Boyle O'Reilly" .

Drogheda Museum Millmount — Exhibitions "Family History from the Sea" October 17th — November 30th. The exhibition was launched by David Snook of www.irishmariners.ie and featured photos and sea

records from his collection of Mariner's Cards from the early 20th Century.

Drogheda Museum Millmount — Open Days

Traditional Day — May 6th, in association with Drogheda Arts Festival. Free performance by the internationally renowned Macnas Theatre Company

"The Col Leonard Banner Trail" July 7th**.**

"The Gathering Festival Party in Millmount" July 14th.

"Drogheda Walled Towns Day" August 18th.

Culture Night. As part of Culture Night the museum opened from 5.30pm – 8.30 p.m. Free of charge.

Drogheda Museum Ghosts of Drogheda Walking Tour, 2012. Friday, October 26th, 2012 & Friday, October 25th, 2013. Participants were introduced to characters from Drogheda's past from Oliver Cromwell, Hugh De Lacy, Francis Ledwidge.

John Boyle O'Reilly Autumn School, 2013. Sunday, September 29th, in the Governor's House, Millmount. Theme "The 1913 Lock Out". The Lecturers were: Prof. Marilyn Silverman**,** Mary Muldowney, Michael Pierse, Tommy McKearney and Brendan Matthews.

Old Drogheda Society Journal No 19 will be published in December 2013

Drogheda Museum Millmount and Old Drogheda Society Away Trips. Visits were made to Rokeby Hall & Linn Duachaill, Annagassan, Historic Balbriggan, the Irish Jewish Museum, Pearse Museum and Drimnagh Castle, and the Annual Day Away was to Derry.

Drogheda Museum Millmount Steam Train Run Sunday, August 11th. In association with the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, 520 people attended

Bookstall in Drogheda Town Centre Shopping Centre. We have a two day sale of books newly published and secondhand plus copies of old newspapers surplus to requirements each December in the Drogheda Town Centre . Thanks to Mr. Tommy Williamson, the center manager and to the volunteers who manned the stall.

The Old Dublin Society

2012 – 2013 Report

Papers read to the Society during February & March 2013 in Dublin City Library and Archive included:

Wednesday February 6th *"Decent and Artistic Homes" – Housing Dublin's citizens in the 20th Century* **—**Dr. Ruth MacManus
Wednesday February 13th *History of HM Coastguard Service in Britain and Ireland* — John Holohan
Wednesday February 20th *Aspects of Mount Jerome Cemetery* — Henry Fairbrother
Wednesday February 27th *Members' Night*
Wednesday March 6th *Remembering Jammets: "The only French restaurant in Dublin* — Christopher Sands
Wednesday March 13th *The Jubilee Nurses in Dublin* — Elizabeth Prendergast
Wednesday March 20th *The Loss of the MV Princess Victoria in January 1953* — James Scannell
Wednesday March 27th *Richard Turner's Victorian Conservatories* — Stephen Kane
During renovation work of the City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin, (former meeting place of the Society), by the Irish Georgian Society which has a 30-year lease on the building from Dublin City Council, several unopened boxes of the *Dublin Historical Record*, dating from 1953 and published to mark An Tóstal, were discovered in the course of this work and forwarded to the Society.
Copies of this An Tóstal issue of the Dublin Historical Record can be ordered at the post paid price of €7.50 from the Hon. Librarian, The Old Dublin Society, c/o Royal Dublin Society Library, The Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.
On Saturday May 11th James Scannell represented the Society at the 9th Local History Society Group Day organised and hosted by Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, at which he presented his paper *Salvation from a Small Ship — The December 1943 Bay of Biscay rescue of German sailors by the MV Kerlogue.*
John Holohan organised the summer 2013 programme which included the following events:

Thursday May 16th Visit to Christ Church Church of Ireland, Church Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, as the guests of the Bray Cualann Historical Society for an illustrated presentation at 8 p.m. by Sarah Greene and Bruce Chandler covering *150 Years of Christ Church Bra* followed by a tour of its interior.

Wednesday June 26th Afternoon visit to Marino Crescent, birthplace of Bram Stoker, author of *Dracula,* and walk to historic places along the Malahide Road.

Wednesday July 10th Afternoon visit to historic buildings in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin including Shackleton Exhibition (admission charge), Coastguard Station and Yacht Clubs.

Wednesday August 28th Afternoon visit to City Assembly House, 58 South William Street, Dublin 2, now Irish Georgian Society H.Q. and visit to an OPW building guided by Stephen Kane who gave the Richard Turner lecture to our Society

The Autumn 2013 programme prepared by Programme Secretary Bryan MacMahon, which will take place in Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, at 6.30 p.m. on the Wednesdays of October and November, is as follows –

Wednesday October 2nd Opening Night, Presentation of the Society's Medal & Short Talk — *Dublin Day by Day* — Ken Finlay-

Wednesday October 9th *Dublin and the Crimean War, 1854-56: the city at the heart of it all* - Paul Huddie

Wednesday October 16th *William Watson's Clontarf Nursery (1880-1920*) - Bernardine Ruddy

Wednesday October 23rd *The 1913 Lockout: Why an Injury to One became a Concern for All* — Pádraig Yeates

Wednesday October 30th *The Brabazons of Dublin & Wicklow* - Brian White

Wednesday November 6th *The founding of the Irish Volunteers at Dublin's Rotunda Hall, 25 November 1913* — Frank Whearity

Wednesday November 13th *An Entertainment for the Duke* - Máirghéad Ní Mhurchadha

Wednesday November 20th *Lusk Convict Prison, 1856 – 1886* - Rory McKenna

Wednesday Novembers 27th Annual General Meeting & Short Talk *A Dublin Day: August 31, 1913* — James Scannell

Launch of Journal "Coiseanna"

On Wednesday 17th April 2013, the second volume of Clane Local History Group's annual journal "Coiseanna" was launched by Mr. Des Marron, the Mayor of Clane, in a crowded GAA Centre, Clane. This year's volume runs to 124 pages and contains an extensive variety of articles on notable people, places and events in Clane's long and distinguished history.

In this year of the Gathering there is an emphasis on the lrish Diaspora with two articles on lrish emigration in the 19th century. Ciaran Reilly writes about famine emigrants from the Clane area and Mary Lee Dunne of Maine, USA, tells the story of her ancestors who emigrated from

Derrymullen, Allenwood, to the USA, also at the time of the Famine.

The magnificent interior of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels is beautifully described by Carita O'Leary. Other articles include: "Clane Schools in the 1820s" by Una Heffernan; "Past sporting heroes both boxing" by John Noonan and "GAA footballers" by Michael Clifford and "Clane's first Garda Sergeant, James Finn" also by John Noonan. Jim Heffernan has written two fine articles on Elizabeth Griffith, 18th century actress and novelist and on Col. Edward Wogan who gave Cromwell a run for his money.

An article on the Pale by Brendan Cullen tells the story of how local people walked the rampart from Clane to Clongowes in the 19th and 20th centuries. The same author also has an article on Daniel O'Connell's close connection with Clongowes Wood College gleaned from letters Mrs. O'Connell wrote to her son Danny, who was a student in the college in the 1830s. The Miscellany section is well supplied with interesting and humourous articles by Richard Sullivan, Ciaran Reilly, John Noonan and Brendan Cullen.

Clane Local History Group would like to thank the huge crowd who attended the launch in the GAA Centre; the GAA authorities for the use of their premises and the shopkeepers in Clane who are kind enough to sell the journal for us. "Coiseanna" costs only €5 per copy and can be purchased at the following outlets in the village: The Parish Shop; Marron's Chemist; Hughes' Chemist; Given's Optician; Country Blossoms; Clancy's Chemist. The journal makes an ideal present for those Clane people who have had to emigrate in recent years.

Clane group: John Noonan, Jim Heffernan, Una Heffernan and Brendan Cullen.

Iniskeen Seminar, December 1, 2012

The normally quiet village of Iniskeen, Co. Monaghan came alive with a great buzz of activity at the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in the heart of the village on Saturday, December 1, when local historians from all over the island gathered to celebrate local history with a seminar entitled "Local History Ireland".

The seminar which was organised jointly by the Federation of Local History Societies and the Federation for Ulster Local Studies attracted a large audience of eighty people who were not disappointed by a series of lectures designed to whet the appetite of any one interested in local history and their community. The location was well chosen and proved a poignant reminder of the great Patrick Kavanagh who had been both born and laid to rest in the village where he grew up. The Centre which had been previously the Catholic Church echoed with many stories during the day which I am sure would have intrigued and captured the attention of Iniskeen's most famous son.

Delegates had travelled from all over the country representing many local history groups from counties Kildare, Meath, Dublin, Roscommon, Westmeath, Offaly, Leitrim, Louth, Longford, Monaghan, Cavan, Tyrone, Antrim, Armagh, Down, Derry and even as far away as Ballincollig in Co. Cork.

The impressive programme covered a wide range of local history and related topics. The morning sessions were chaired by Roddy Hegarty, Chairman FULS. The Keynote address delivered by Professor Raymond Gillespie, NUI, Maynooth, proved to be a most thought-provoking, interesting, entertaining and informative presentation.

Dr. Gillespie, in his own inimitable way, explained how one could identify and extract the hidden history which is not always obvious but which does more often than not lie behind the stories of ordinary people in ordinary places, thereby explaining the reasons for many local customs. What often appeared at first glance to be unusual was on closer scrutiny perfectly explainable. This was followed by a most interesting talk on the subject of a project developed by the two Federations called "Hidden Gems & Forgotten People."

Larry Breen of the FLHS and Pat Devlin of FULS outlined how the project started and its development over the last few years. They illustrated this with examples of Hidden Gems & Forgotten People which had been submitted and were now on display on the Hidden Gems website www.hidden-gems.eu.

Representatives from six history societies spread across the whole island made a presentation and each shared one of their hidden gems

with the audience. These were John Hulme, Carrickfergus & District Historical Society; Betty Quinn, Old Drogheda Society; Padraig Laffan, Foxrock History Club; Maud Hamill, Abbey Historical Society; Roderick MacConnail, Ballicollig Heritage Association, and Liam Devlin, Ulster History circle.

The purpose of the project was to draw attention to and to celebrate some of the lesser known but interesting places and buildings on our island; those often overlooked in tourist brochures or guided tours, and of the many interesting and often inspiring individuals not known outside their own locality whose stories are untold or forgotten.

A new promotional leaflet on the Hidden Gems & Forgotten People Project was then officially launched by Irish Times Journalist Frank McNally, himself a Monaghan man. The promotion is designed to widen participation in the project and extend it to the public in general and not only local historians. Frank said that on browsing through the project website he had been very impressed by the stories it told and jokingly remarked that it looked like a great potential source for his newspaper column. He said he was proud to launch the promotion and wished the federations every success with the project.

The afternoon sessions, chaired by Frank Taaffe, Chairman of the FLHS, began with an absorbing presentation on the subject of "Researching & Preserving Local History and Archives." Roddy Hegarty, Director of the Cardinal O'Fiaich Library & Archive, spoke on how to establish a framework for capturing and keeping local history. Roddy basically broke the approach down to two basic functions namely, what is being researched and who is the audience. He cleverly and clearly built his approach on the where, when, why, who and what questions which he then proceeded to answer. Again the talk left the audience with a lot to think about.

The concluding sessions were on the topic of Oral History and Folklore. Ida Milne of Oral History Network Ireland gave a very informative lecture on the guidelines and methodologies of oral history recording, archiving and preserving. She explained the many pitfalls of recording people, the importance of sensitivity and to be aware of the legal obligations that must be adhered to. Ida's talk was complimented by Eamon Thornton from Millmount Museum who presented some practical and real examples of oral history recordings in a most striking and unique style.

Eamon spoke very personally and passionately about his own experiences in oral history recording and the satisfaction he got from being involved in the process. There then followed a plenary session of questions and answers with the speakers panel which proved to be lively, interesting and entertaining.

Great credit to all the speakers who provided a real "feast of local history" on the day. Special thanks to the Patrick Kavanagh Centre and all their staff for providing a great facility matched with excellent service and to the catering company who provided excellent food and refreshments.

Minutes of the AGM in Waterford

Dated 25th May 2013

Location: Dooley's Hotel, Waterford City.

The Waterford Archeological and Historical Society proved excellent hosts for the 2013 AGM over the weekend of 24th to 26th May.

Following dinner on Friday night delegates were held spellbound by a wonderful lecture on the history of the city with impeccable delivery by local historian Julian Walton.

AGM:

The Chairman Frank Taaffe welcomed delegates and introduced the Mayor Cll. Jim Darcy who officially opened proceedings by welcoming members to the oldest city in Ireland, 1,100 years old in 2014. He praised the federation for its good work mentioning the value of including individual members as well as societies. He also spoke of the importance of maintaining the link with the Northern Federation. The chairman thanked the mayor and made reference to Richard the Lion Hearted in whose time the power of the mayor would have been equal to that of a King.

Waterford Society Chairman Sonny Condon welcomed delegates to the oldest city with the young heart and outlined the walking tour arranged for Sunday morning.

The minutes of the 2012 AGM were read by Hon. Secretary Betty Quinn and were adopted on the proposal of Michael Gaynor and seconded by Larry Breen.

Chairman's Address:

Before the chairman delivered his address (copy appended) he thanked Sonny Condon for his contribution and mentioned the fact that Waterford was one of the founding members of the Federation, together with Kilkenny, Laois and Wexford. The membership now stands in excess of 120.

Hon. Secretary's report was read by Betty Quinn.

Hon. Treasurer, Mairead Byrne, delivered the Treasurers report. A brief discussion arose as to the best way of paying membership. Fr.Sean

O'Doherty proposed a standing order, Larry Breen reminded the members that according to the constitution, fees should be paid in January of each year; he proposed circulating members with application forms in November with a view to having all fees paid by the end of January the following year. This was agreed and adopted on the proposal of Richard Ryan and seconded by Marie Guillot.

Election of Officers:

The President: Fr.Sean O Doherty was returned by consensus. The chairman Frank Taaffe announced his decision to step down.

Chairman :Richard Ryan was elected on the proposal of Larry Breen and seconded by Betty Quinn.

Vice Chairman: Martina Griffin was elected on the proposal of Richard Ryan and seconded by Mairead Byrne.

Hon. Secretary: Betty Quinn was elected on the proposal of Frank Taaffe and seconded by Brendan Cullen.

Hon. Treasurer: Mairead Byrne was elected on the proposal of Frank Taaffe and seconded by Richard Ryan.

PRO and Membership Secretary :Larry Breen was elected on the proposal of Frank Taaffe and seconded by Fr. Sean O Doherty.

The current committee members were returned namely,

Joe Williams, Clondalkin
Kay Lonergan, Clontarf
Eugene Jordan, Galway
P.J. Lynn, North Mayo
Michael Gaynor, Dundalk
John Bradshaw, Tipperary
Richard Farrelly, Navan
Padraig Laffan, Foxrock
Peter Nevin, Maynooth

Three new members were elected, South KIlkenny – Eddie Synnott, on the proposal of Fr.Sean O Doherty and seconded by Marie Guillot; James Dockery, Roscommon, on the proposal of Martina Griffin and seconded by Richard Ryan and Michael Maher, Waterford, on the proposal of Frank Taaffe and seconded by Aidan Clarke.

Committee Meeting: The next committee meeting was agreed to be held in the Teachers Club in Parnell Sq.Dublin on the 6th July 2013.

A.O.B.

A discussion arose re effective publicity for society events. The PRO encouraged members to send notices of all their events to him as the federation was a repository for distribution. It was also suggested that

member's events could be a showcase for information on the "Hidden Gems" project.

Individual Research: Society members should be aware of and try to encourage individual research material to be passed through societies.

Upcoming Commemoration: In the light of the upcoming commemorations, e.g., 2013 Lockout, 2016 Rising, etc., many associated buildings, e.g. Spike Island Jail in Cork, have fallen into a state of disrepair, a question arose as to who was responsible for their upkeep. In the present climate Co. Councils are strapped for funding. It was suggested the Federation might contact councils and perhaps suggest a FÁS scheme to kick start a cleanup.

Abolition of Borough Councils:

The question of the abolition of councils came up for discussion. It was noted that many of those councils held important Archival materials, possibly languishing in cellars, the question was asked, what can the Federation do? It was agreed that the Secretary would write to the relevant councils enquiring if they were the custodians of any archival material or artefacts, e.g. sword or mace, etc. It was also agreed that Heritage Officers in relevant counties should be copied. A suggestion was also made for the maintenance of a database for local history societies of sites at risk, particularly those not listed. There is a role for local history societies to look at their County development plans, a reference was made to the project "Our Own Place" the purpose of which was to protect buildings that had fallen into disrepair.

Youth and Societies:

A concern among some members was the demise of older members without replacements, one society will shortly fold due to the relocation of its leading member. This discussion led on to the Federation Project – "Local History in Local Schools". Many members had great difficulty in trying to introduce teachers to local history, despite every effort being made including provision of material, offering full programming and even getting into schools, talking to students and offering the benefit of societies' historical knowledge to progress students with their chosen history topic for Leaving Cert., very little was achieved. The introduction of Oral History also proved problematic, recording equipment supplied by societies often getting damaged. A further suggestion to encourage youth to join societies was to extend their websites to include facebook and blogging, the social media tools that appeal to youth. One delegate suggested concentrating on national schools, his website "Curious Ireland" has supplied over 200 photographs with maps to schools showing heritage sites in their area. The question was asked as to how can the Federation assist societies to develop their websites and

embrace new technology. It was agreed a workshop would be beneficial, the Autumn Seminar may be a platform to launch this event.

Society Spake:

Michael Maher from our host society kicked off by mentioning its foundation in the 1950's. Their lectures occur from September to May, outings are in the summer months. Their Journal "Decies" is annually produced in November.

Eddie Synnott of South Kilkenny spoke of a slot their society have on local radio where they interview transition year students asking them to relate something unique about their parish.

Richard Ryan of Rathmichael spoke of their forthcoming trip to Lambay Island and their series of summer evening lectures from 12 - 16 August.

Martina Griffin of Moate spoke of revamping their Museum with Leader Funding and also advised of the availability of adult education grants towards the cost of running lectures, IT classes, etc.

Brendan Cullen of Clane spoke of their society's heritage presentation in the local library and their oral history recording of older people in the village.

Pat O'Neill of Carlow reported on their event for Heritage Week – a presentation on the history of 800 year old Carlow Castle.

Bernadine Rudy of Old Dublin Society spoke of their upcoming 80th anniversary in 2014 and their summer outings to local areas.

James Dockery of Roscommon spoke of their society's involvement in the local museum and their difficulty in keeping it open, he also reported on their weekly half hour history slot on local radio.

Peter Connell of Navan reported on the production of their society's first journal – *Navan Its People and Its Past* and on the wonderful presentation of old photographs in the local Library.

Aiden Clarke of Westport spoke of their plans for Heritage Week involving events relating to Granuaile, he also mentioned the advantage of Westport being designated a Tourism Heritage Town.

Marie Guillott of Cloyne spoke of their various activities including their participation in the "Celebrating Cork Past Exhibition" also their history hunt for Heritage Week.

Jenny Webb of Ballincollig spoke of the closure of the visitor centre by Cork Co. Council and her concern for the artifacts.

Mairead Byrne of Rathcoffey spoke of their society's fund raising events, e.g. flower show at Christmas and their Fashion Show.

John Fletcher of Ormond reported on their society's focus on the preservation of old buildings, Nenagh Castle being a priority.

Eugene Jordan of Galway reported on the digitization of their annual journal which is now on sale on jstor.

Dennis Marnane of Tipperary reported on the close relationship of their society with the County Library who help with the administration of their journal.

Michael Gaynor of Dundalk spoke of their upcoming jubilee in 2014 and their society's purchasing on ebay of artifacts and memorabilia relating to the history of Dundalk.

Frank Taaffe of Athy spoke about their society's involvement in running the Heritage Centre and on reaching Interim Standards on the Heritage council's accreditation and standards programme. He also mentioned their Shackleton weekend event in October.

Betty Quinn of Old Drogheda Society spoke of the delight of their society in achieving full accreditation for Drogheda Museum on the standards programme, she also mentioned their upcoming Gathering event – The Return of the Fenians.

O' Connell Monster Meetings:

Vincent Ruddy who is pursuing a PhD on O'Connell Monster Meetings appealed for any information society members may have on such meetings locally.

Journal:

Pro Larry Breen appealed for articles for the forthcoming journal.

Conclusion:

Larry Breen thanked delegates for attending and Waterford Society for hosting, and outlined the afternoon programme and the walking tour on Sunday.

This ended the business of the meeting

Betty Quinn

Hon. Secretary

Chairman's Address to Federation A.G.M., May 2013

Over the next few years we will witness the centenary celebrations of many important events in Irish History. The Government has established an advisory group to "inform the development and delivery of the commemorative programme for the period 2012 to 2016". The notable events for the remainder of that period include :-

- Dublin Lockout – August 1913
- Foundation of the Irish Volunteers – November 1913
- Start of First World War – August 1914
- Easter Rising – April 1916.

As outgoing chairman of the Federation of Local History Societies, I am anxious that local History Societies throughout Ireland take the opportunity to participate in commemorating and celebrating those events which formed part of the formative years of our country.

The Government's advisory committee has indicated that the commemorations should be measured and reflective while been informed by a full acknowledgement of the complexity of historical events and their legacy and of the multiple identities and traditions which are part of the Irish historical experience.

As Federation members, we must share the advisory committees desire that commemorative events reflect or explore history with integrity and that the particular arrangements for each commemorative event should acknowledge the different traditions, without recriminations, of our shared history.

The upcoming centenary events present an opportunity for local societies and local historians to engage in historical research at local level. That research should result in the production of worthwhile publications dealing with the local experiences of national events. Publications, exhibitions and lectures present themselves as the means whereby local history societies can become actively involved in bringing national commemorations to a local audience and so bring local history to a wider audience. It is an important function of the Federation and local history societies generally to popularise local history and by localising national events to make the nation's history more meaningful and understandable to a wider audience.

I would urge local history societies to seize the opportunity presented by the national programme of commemoration to bring local history to a wider audience within their own communities.

The Federation has in recent years extended its range of activities and these will be dealt with in the Honorary Secretary's Report. Two projects which are of great importance are the Hidden Gems and the Local History in Schools Projects.

The Hidden Gems and Forgotten People is an ongoing cross border project which has been managed by Larry Breen on behalf of our Federation and by John Hulme on behalf of the Ulster Federation. Both Larry and John have put in a huge effort into the project which is now up on the Federation's website. It's a project which should reawaken within local communities an appreciation of their history and an understanding of the importance of recovering the events and people of the past.

While the Hidden Gems Project might seem a vehicle for spreading the importance of local history research amongst the adult population, the Local History in Schools project is specifically geared towards school children. This is a project undertaken by a Federation sub committee headed by Padraic Laffan and promises to be an important part of the Federation's input to the teaching of local history in schools.

The Federation continues to seek ways and means of promoting the cause of local history as does its sister organisation the Ulster Federation for Local studies and both organisations, I am happy to say, continue to cooperate in joint projects and shared outings for the benefit of the member societies.

As this is my last address as Chairman of the Federation I want to take the opportunity of thanking the officers and members of the Federation committee for their work over the last two years. I want to thank especially JJ Woods and Larry Breen for their excellent work in producing the Federation's Journal and the quarterly newsletter and may I also express thanks to Larry for his superb work over the years and especially for getting our website up and running and his excellent arrangements for the overseas trips which have proved most informative and enjoyable.

My thanks to you all for your participation in the continuing work of the Federation which, given the upcoming centenary events puts the Federation in the frontline of local history research and the promotion of local history.

Federation Visit Bath-Wiltshire and the South Cotswolds

It was a very early start for most of our group not least of all George and Bridgeen Rutherford who had travelled from Derry in the early hours of Monday morning to join the group in Dublin. Such was the measure of the enthusiasm of the merry band of local historians who had travelled from all corners of the country to meet in Rosslare for what was to be a memorable journey to the south of England. We had a marvellous turnout with people from fifteen counties representing twenty four different Historical/Archaeological societies.

Counties represented were, Kildare, Laois, Mayo, Meath, Dublin, Tipperary, Derry, Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Westmeath, Louth, Clare, Wicklow and Kilkenny.

Societies represented were, Strabane, Westport, Carrickfergus, Naas, Durrow, Rathcoffey, Clontarf, Navan, Tipperary, Knocklyon, Athy, Foxrock, Rathmichael, Raheny, Mullingar, Banbridge, Drogheda, Fassadinin, Kilkenny, Clare, Rathdangan, Clondalkin, New Buildings and West Belfast.

We had an eventful first day with the Fishguard ferry being cancelled, having to take the Irish Ferries boat to Pembroke instead and experienced some "rocking and rolling" on the crossing. However we managed to recover and after our journey through the Welsh country side we managed to reach our hotel in Bristol a little weary but safe and sound.

Tuesday: After breakfast on Tuesday morning we left early and picked up our guide, Alison Levy, in the beautiful city of Bath on our way into the ancient county of Wiltshire. This was our first glimpse of Bath and it was resplendent in the early morning sunshine making our planned visit to the city on Wednesday all the more exciting. We travelled south skirting along the Salisbury Plains, a unique landscape and not geographically unlike our own Curragh of Kildare. Like the Curragh, the area was and still is used by the army for manoeuvres and other military activities. Our guide pointed out some army barracks which had been significant during and after the war. Stonehenge was beckoning and we were not to be disappointed. This ancient monument is simple in design but sitting alone on the bleak plains is awe inspiring against the horizon and proved to be a special experience for all of us. The self guided tour was most informative and interesting. Even after 5000 years its true meaning is still a matter of conjecture – is it religious, an astronomical clock or a bronze age burial ground ? – you can take your pick. !

Then it was on to the mediaeval City of Salisbury passing "Old Sarum" which lies impressively just outside the city. The story goes that when

deciding to build Salisbury Cathedral it was to be on the spot where an arrow would land after it had been released from "Old Sarum". The arrow struck a white deer which struggled to the spot where the cathedral is now built. We then explored the area around the Cathedral called the "Close" and we were expertly guided by Alison around many of the interesting buildings and made familiar with their history and significance. It was exceptional to see so many different designs of buildings and the variety of architecture displayed. One building was the former home of British Prime Minister, Sir Edward Heath and we also saw his grave later in the Cathedral where he lies buried. Alison also showed us other interesting aspects of the city as we had a walk around. We then all dispersed for lunch and I have to say that I managed to stumble on a tasty local ale called "Badger's Tangle Foot" which helped to "wet" my appetite. After lunch we all gravitated to the Cathedral for our guided tour. The Gothic Cathedral surrounded by the verdant green parkland presented a wonderful picture with its unique tall spire (the tallest in the U.K.) reaching up to the heavens. Built 800 years ago it presents an impressive vista inside and we were fortunate to have the services of some excellent guides. It is a place where the ancient meets the modern with the presence of the William Pye designed sculptured flowing water font.

We managed to see the world's oldest working clock and were privileged to view the best preserved copy of the Magna Carta housed in the astonishing Cathedral Chapter House. Again with the lovely weather the Cathedral and its cloisters presented a beautiful sight in the afternoon sunshine. After all that feast of architecture and history we spent the remaining hour or so exploring the remainder of the city centre. Reluctantly we finally left Salisbury for the comfort and safety of our temporary home in the Bristol Hotel.

Wednesday: Wednesday morning, we were all up bright and early with the exciting prospect of visiting Bath. We were met in the city by our two guides for the day, Val and Cheryl, who turned out to be a revelation in the best sense of the word. The guided walking tour of the city was excellent with our two guides not only showing their great depth of knowledge with regard to the city's history but who delivered it with a passion, warmth and sincerity that touched all of us. On our travels around the Crescent, the Circus, the Roman Baths, Queen's Square, the Assembly Rooms, Sally Lunn's, the Jane Austen Centre and much more we learned from Val and Cheryl so much about the social life and fabric of this unique city down through the ages. The morning concluded with a visit and guided tour of the famous Bath Abbey. Again accompanied by our excellent guides we learned of the history associated with this building which has been a site of Christian worship

for over 1000 years. The imposing west front and its beautiful stained glass windows were a sight to behold. We then stopped for lunch after which all were let loose to explore what they could of this most beautiful city. An extraordinary feature of the city, which in fact Jane Austen herself did not like remarking it was too white, is the brightness of the stone in the buildings. It is a beautiful light cream and radiates a great colour and warmth when lighted by the sun shining on it. We all spent the afternoon exploring Bath in our own special way but regardless of what we did we all agreed it was indeed a unique and beautiful city.

Thursday: Our plan on Thursday was essentially to explore the Southern Cotswolds but before we headed up north in that direction we took an opportunity to taste a little bit of the flavour of our adopted City of Bristol. Our guide from Tuesday, Alison, rejoined the group and gave us a most interesting walking tour of part of the City Centre around the floating harbour area. This also included some of the older streets and a visit to the Market House where we heard the story of how the saying "paying on the nail" came into use. Although now a modern European City it is also a historic port with a spectacular 1,000 year old history. Waiting for us alongside the Quay was our boat for the tour of Bristol Harbour which was appreciated by all. We had an excellent captain who elucidated eloquently on the history of the port through the years as we glided over the waters of the river Avon on our way around the harbour. We had the added excitement of having a harbour bridge opened especially to allow us further up river and much to the delight of all. On our way back to the quayside we were able to have some particularly stunning views of Brunel's SS Great Britain as she sat in dry dock. This was the first great Steam Ship Ocean Liner and a tribute to the great engineer. As we headed north in the direction of the Cotswolds we were able to have a good view of another of Brunel's engineering triumphs, the Bristol Suspension Bridge.

We now were heading into quintessential English Countryside as our destination was the little village of Tetbury. This Elizabethan market town was a little gem and the group enjoyed roaming around its quaint streets with the splendid pillared Market House in the centre and searching for lunch in one of its traditional Pubs or Ale Houses. Myself and a few others managed to have a lovely lunch in the "Snooty Fox". After lunch it was on the road again to visit Lacock Abbey. Here we had booked a self guided tour of the Abbey, a former Nunnery founded in 1232 with its Cloisters, Chapter House and Sacristy still in evidence. It was a fascinating place, not least the Tudor House that had been constructed within part of the Abbey and lived in until a few years ago. The tour through the older parts of the Abbey and the more recent Tudor House proved most interesting. It was here that the first photographic

negative was discovered by Henry Talbot Fox and we managed to see the Fox Talbot Photographic Museum during our visit. Lacock Village, which is under the care of the National Trust, was another Gem. A beautiful little village which was the setting of Meryton in the BBC TV adaption of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice. We then headed back to Bristol in the evening sunshine after another great day.

All good things must come to an end and on Friday morning bright and early we left Bristol to catch our ferry crossing at Fishguard. However our historical interludes were not finished yet and as we travelled back through the Welsh countryside we had two most interesting talks by two members of the group. Maire Downey told us all about the Bristol trade links with Ireland and Rose Love talked about the history and origins of the Celts.

As we said last year this was a wonderful trip which will not only be remembered for the wealth and variety of the history we encountered but by the warmth, friendship and hospitality of all the people in our group and also those we had the pleasure to meet on our memorable journey.

FLHS and FULS Representatives meet President Michael D. Higgins at Áras An Uachtaráin

Representatives from both the FLHS and the FULS were present at a special garden party on July 2nd 2013 in Áras an Uachtaráin, Phoenix Park, Dublin at the invitation of President Michael D Higgins. The FLHS was represented by Dick Ryan, Martina Griffin, Frank Taaffe and Larry Breen and the FULS was represented by Roddy Hegarty, John Dooher, Doreen Mc Bride and John Hulme.

After the group met the president and his wife, Sabina, they were free to explore the beautiful gardens and also attend the musical entertainment provided for the guests. There was another opportunity to meet the president informally in the gardens outside after the official group welcomes were over. Refreshments were served during the course of the afternoon and the president delivered a welcome speech to all attendees in the garden marquee. During that speech the president acknowledged the important contribution made by local history societies throughout the island.

A memorable day concluded with a most interesting guided tour of the many rooms in the Áras – a most beautiful building.

It was a great privilege to be invited along with other voluntary and community groups to a very special occasion and again exemplifies the close relationship and friendship existing between both Federations.

History Festival Ireland 2013

Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th June

The second "History Festival Ireland" was held at the atmospheric venue of Duckett's Grove near Carlow and proved to be a big success following on last year's inaugural event in Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow.

The programme was extensive and included presentations from many eminent people including, historians, broadcasters, writers, journalists and commentators.

Included in the programme was a presentation delivered on behalf of the Federation of Local History Societies by two of our own members namely, Padraig Laffan from Foxrock History Club and Pat O'Neill from Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society.

Padraig talked about "the message and the media" and presented a practical working model for making presentations emphasising the importance of narrative in the talk and sharing many tips based on his own personal experience in making presentations over many years. Padraig stressed the importance of support to the text through visual aids and outlined many innovative techniques for enhancing the impact of pictures in any presentation. Pat O'Neill talked about how his own society, Carlow Historical & Archaeological Society approached the question of publishing and publications and the use of modern electronic media aids.

There were other talks given by some representatives of federation member societies. Bryan MacMahon of Kilmacud/Stillorgan Local History Society gave an excellent talk on the Irish Balloonist, Richard Crosby. A fascinating story about a most remarkable man and delivered by Bryan in a most interesting and infectious way.

Ida Milne a member of Celbridge Historical Society and representing the Oral History Network Ireland told the story of Dr Patricia Horne an Irish doctor who had spent many years working with the disadvantaged in Nigeria during the 1950s. The remarkable story although at times quite disturbing told of the primitive conditions and severe hardships endured by the local community and herself for that matter but how

they were able to rise above all that by the humanity, friendship and warmth of the people she met.

It was good to meet with some of our fellow federation members during the course of the day which included Larry Breen, Anne Breen, JJ Woods, Susan Woods, Fidelma O'Brien Naas, Ida Milne Celbridge, Mary Mackey Ui Cinsealaigh, Bryan Mac Mahon Kilmacud, John Griffin, Martina Griffin Moate, Dick Ryan, Helen Ryan Rathmichael.

Federations Meet in Derry City

Weekend of 11th.Oct – Sunday 13th Oct. 2013

The Autumn field trip took the Federation north to the ancient city of Derry for a weekend during which both Federations joined together for a memorable tour of the city in this its year as the U.K. City of Culture.

Forty eight FLHS members from fifteen societies and representing eight counties travelled north on the Friday morning stopping at the Ulster American Folk Park for a visit. On a beautiful sunny afternoon the group were welcomed by three great friends from the FULS namely John Bradley, Walter Mc Farlane and Johnny Dooher. After lunch in the restaurant and courtesy of John Bradley and Walter Mc Farlane the visitors were given a personal conducted tour of the Folk Park. All were captivated by the story of the Mellor family, their subsequent emigration to the United States and the depiction in the park of life as it was then in both the old and new world. Many thanks to John, Walter and Johnny for the personal touch and for making it such an interesting visit.

After dinner in the Tower Hotel we were treated to a most interesting and adsorbing talk by Roy Hamilton from the FULS. Roy interspersed the history of Derry with the history of the river Foyle in a most informative and interesting way. It was a most entertaining lecture delivered in Roy's very own inimitable style.

Saturday saw the coming together of both Federations when the FLHS was joined by twenty six members of the FULS representing societies from around Ulster. The day commenced with a walking tour of the City Walls by award winning guide Martin McCrossan. Martin, again in his own unique way, presented a fascinating, thought provoking and interesting history of the City from the walk around the walls.

Our next stop was St. Columb's Cathedral where we were cordially received by the Dean of the Cathedral, William Morton. After an excellent video on the history of the Cathedral and the story of some of the Cathedral's unique silverware Dean Morton gave a virtuoso performance on the beautifully restored Church Organ, including a

rendition of the "Derry Air". Martin McCrossan then led the group on a tour of the Bogside which included the Bloody Sunday Memorial, Free Derry Corner, the H-Block Memorial and the Wall Murals. It was then back to the Apprentice Boys' Centre on the walls where we were given a most interesting and informative tour of the building by excellent guides.

It was now time to eat and a chance for everybody to relax and sit down together as a whole group in the Tower hotel. We were now seventy four strong and it was a credit to the guides who had managed to do an excellent job around the city with such a large group. During the dinner Dick Ryan of the FLHS and Johnny Dooher of the FULS complimented the Federations for maintaining and developing the close friendship and co-operation that existed between the groups. Joint ventures, sharing a common interest and working together had now become an integral part of the relationship.

The Guildhall beckoned and after dinner the group were afforded an official welcome by the Deputy Mayor, Gary Middleton. With everyone seated in the Council Chamber, the deputy Mayor extended a warm welcome to the visitors and wished them every success with the remainder of our stay. Dick Ryan responded on behalf of the group thanking the Deputy Mayor for his kind invitation and hospitality and expressed how much we were all enjoying the attractions of the city.

Larry Breen and Johnny Dooher on behalf of both Federations presented the Deputy Mayor with history publications as a token of appreciation. The Deputy Mayor then presented Larry and Johnny with plaques illustrating the city Coat of Arms. The visit to the Guildhall finished with a tour of the building and a excellent presentation on the history and significance of the stained glass windows in the Main Hall.

The day concluded with a walk across the Peace Bridge and a guided tour of the Ebrington Centre in the Waterside. We then sadly bade farewell to all our friends in the FULS with whom we had shared and enjoyed a memorable day.

Sunday morning and the group were on their way into Donegal to visit the ring fort "Grianan of Aileach". Situated eight hundred feet high on the summit of Greenan it presented an impressive sight in the morning sunlight. The view across Lough Foyle and Lough Swilly was stunning. We were met by local guide Dessie McCullion, an expert on the site, who presented a fascinating story on the history and significance of this ancient fort.

The happy band then made their way homewards with a stop at the Silver Birch hotel in Omagh for an excellent lunch and then onwards to Dublin and Naas after a weekend to remember.

Society Members of the Federation

If there are corrections or additions to be made to the following list please advise
Larry Breen, 8 The Paddocks, Naas, Co. Kildare. Tel. (045) 897445
e-mail: info@localhistory.ie

Co. Carlow

Carlow Historical Society, Deirdre Kearney, Ardmore, Browneshill Road, Carlow, Co. Carlow

Tullowphelim Historical Society, John Keogh, EMA Dept., IT Carlow, Kilkenny Road, Carlow, Co. Carlow.

Co. Cavan

Belturbet Historical Society, Ann Byrne, Greeny, Belturbert, Co. Cavan.

Co. Clare

Clare Archaeological and Historical Society, Mary Kearns, Ballycarroll, Barefield, Ennis, Co. Clare.

Kilrush and Districk Historical Society, Paul O'Brien, Fort Road, Cappa, Kilrush, Co. Clare.

North Clare Historical Society, Maura O'Loughlin, Carrowmanagh, Kilshanny, Co. Clare

Co. Cork

Ballincollig Heritage Association, Rod McConaill, 2 Aylsbury Court, Ballincollig, Co. Cork

Ballygarvan and District Local History Society, Thomas F. Ryan, 'Bawnmore', Sli Na Habhann, Ballygarvan, Co. Cork

Beara Historical Society, Fachtna O'Donovan, Draum South, Castletownbere, Co. Cork

Blackpool Historical Society, Noirin Lynch, 90 Gt. William O'Brien Street, Blackpool, Cork City, Co. Cork

Blarney History Society, Richard Bolster, Knockane, Donoughmore, Co. Cork

Carrigtwohill and District Historical Society, Oliver Sheehan, Ballinbrittig, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

Coachford History Society, Anthony Greene, Peake, Coachford, Co. Cork

Cork South Parish Historical Society, Pat Leger, 30 St. Finbar's Park, Glasheen Road, Cork, Co. Cork.

Dunmanway Historical Society, Norma Wilson, Bantry Road, Dunmanway, Co. Cork

Glanmire Heritage Society, Marie Lynch, c/o Community Centre, Riverstown, Glanmire, Co. Cork

Great Island Historical Society, John Hennessy, 25 Belmont Place, Cobh, Co. Cork

History, Heritage and Tourism Group, Stephanie Hartnett, 30 Blackwater Drive, Mallow, Co. Cork

Kilmeen-Castleventry Historical Society, Dan O'Leary, Caherkirky, Rossmore, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Kinsale Heritage Company, Dermot Ryan, Winter's Hill, Kinsale, Co. Cork

Kinsale History Society, Dermot Ryan, Winter's Hill, Kinsale, Co. Cork

Mallow Field Club, Michael Reidy, Knockbarry, Buttevant, Co. Cork

Skibbereen and District Historical Society, Liz Threapleton, Coornishal, Skibbereen, Co. Cork

Whitegate and Aghada Historical Society, Joan Rockley, East Ferry, Midleton, Co. Cork

Cannovee Historical and Archaeological Society, Nora O'Leary, Kilcondy, Crookstown, Co. Cork

Cloyne Literary and Historical Society, Marie Guillot, Kilcrone House, Cloyne, Co. Cork

Co. Dublin

Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society, Anna Scudds, 7 Northumberland Park, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin

Irish Genealogical Research Society, E. Rowland, 12 Cranagh Road, Rathfarnham,

Dublin 14
Loughshinny and Rush Historical Society, M. McCann Moore, Don Bosco, Harbour Rd., Rush, Co. Dublin
Mills and Milllers of Ireland, Stephanie Bourke, 67 Hampton Green, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin
Mount Merrion Historical Society, Tom Ryan, 60 Redesdale Road, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin
Old Dublin Society, Barry Farrell, 99 Ramleh Park, Milltown Road, Dublin 6.
Rathmichael Historical Society, Richard Ryan, 6 Hillcourt Road, Glenageary, Co. Dublin
Ballsbridge, Donnybrook and Sandyford Hist. Soc., Gail Wolfe, Pembroke Library, Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
Clondalkin History Society, Josephine Byrne, 64 Floraville Ave., Clondalkin, Dublin 22
Clontarf Historical Society, Kay Lonergan, 142 Vernon Ave., Clontarf, Dublin 3
Foxrock History Club, Dorothy Donnelly, Harwood, Torquay Rd., Foxrock, Dublin 18
Howth Peninsula Heritage Society, Sean O'Brien, 36 Shielmartin Drive, Sutton, Dublin 13
Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland, Ron Cox, Dept. of Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering, Trinity College, Dublin 2.
Irish Family History Society, Mary Beglan, c/o 13 St. Assam's Drive, Raheny, Dublin 5.
Kilmacud – Stillorgan Local History Society, Clive O'Connor, 9 Marsham Court, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin
Knocklyon History Society, Aoife O'Tierney, 15 Knocklyon Grove, Templeogue, Dublin 16
Raheny Heritage Society, Brian Wray, 101 Collins Park, Donnycarney, Dublin 9
Rathcoole Heritage Society, Brona uí Loing, 137 Cnoc na Coillte, Rathcuil, Contae Atha Cliath.
Rathfarnham Historical Society, Vera Bannigan, 1 Aranleigh Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14

Co. Galway

Fohenagh Local History Society, Frank Gavin, Pallas, Caltra, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Galway Archaeological and Historical Society, Eugene Jordan, An Chorrbhuaile, Bearna, Co. Galway
Kiltartan Gregory Cultural Society, Rena McAllen, Kiltartan Cross, Gort, Co. Galway
Old Galway Society, Elizabeth Byrnes, Merville by The Bridge, Oranmore, Co. Galway
Western Archaeology and Historical Society, Maresa Wrey, 5 St. Mary's Park, Tailor's Hill, Galway
Williamstown Heritage Society, Patrick Patterson, Islands, Williamstown, Co. Galway

Co. Kerry

Castleisland & District Culture and Heritage Society, Maggie Prenderville, Cordal West, Castleisland, Co. Kerry
Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society, Maureen Hanifin, Kerry County Library, Moyderwell, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Co. Kildare

Athy Museum Society, Eithne Wall, Chanterlands, Athy, Co. Kildare
Ballymore Eustace History Society, Margaret Pearse, 2334 St. Brigid's Park, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare
Celbridge Historical society, Nuala Walker, 6 Elm Park, Celbridge, Co. Kildare.
Cill Dara Historical Society, Joe Connelly, Tullywest, Kildare, Co. Kildare
Clane Local History Group, Una Heffernan, Liosan, Millicent Road, Clane, Co. Kildare
Kildare Archaeological Society, Mrs. E. Connelly, Newington House, Christianstown, Newbridge, Co. Kildare
Kill Local History Group, Brian McCabe, Ivy Cottages, Johnstown, Co. Kildare
Maynooth Local History Group, Rita Edwards, 20 The Arches, Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Monasterevin Historical Society, Barry C. Walsh, Ballyfarson, Monasterevin, Co. Kildare

Naas Local History Group, Rose McCabe, 23 St. Gabriel's Place, Naas, Co. Kildare
Rathcoffey History Group, Mairead Byrne, 135 Dara Court, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Saint Mochua History Society, Carmel Darcy, Sycamaore Lodge, Coill Dubh, Naas, Co. Kildare
Trees Rotterveel, 260 Ryevale Lawns, Leixlip, Co. Kildare.

Co. Kilkenny

Conahy Heritage Society, Eileen Gunner, Lisnafunchion, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny.
Fassadinin Historical Society, Margaret O'Neill, Skehana, Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny
Graiguenamanagh Historical Society, David Flynn, Barrowfield, Tinnahinch, Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny.
Historical Tours of Kilkenny, Pat Tynan, Ballyda, Danesfort, Co. Kilkenny
Kilkenny Archaeological Society, Andrew Lewis, c/o Rothe House, Parliament Street, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny
South Kilkenny Historical Society, Eddie Synnott, Weatherstown, Glenmore, via Mullinavat Post Office, Co. Kilkenny
Tullaherin Heritage Society, Joan Healy, Newtown, Bishops Lough, Bennettsbridge, Co. Kilkenny

Co. Laois

Laois Heritage Society, Mary Lalor, The Heath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Co. Leitrim

Carrick-on-Shannon and District Historical Society, Mary C. Dolan, Historical Centre, Market Yard, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim

Co. Limerick

Castleconnell Historical Society, Anne Murphy, Gouig, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.
Glin Historical Society, Rosemary Daly, Glin, Co. Limerick
Irish Palatine Association, Lorna Shier, Prospect House, Foynes, Co. Limerick
Knockfierna Heritage Society, Marion Hanley, Ballinoe, Ballingarry, Co. Limerick
Lough Gur and District Historical Society, Joan Dempsey, Camas, Bruff, Co. Limerick
Mungret Heritage Society, Deirdre Broderick, Corbally, Mungret, Co. Limerick
Thomond Archaeological Society, Mary Kenehan, 51 Rhebogue Meadows, Dublin Rd., Limerick, Co. Limerick

Co. Longford

Longford Historical Society, Doreen McHugh, Brianstown, Longford, Co. Longford

Co. Louth

An Lu Cuimhni Society, Anthony Sutherland, 17 Hawthorn Terrace, The Twenties, Drogheda, Co. Louth.
Annagassan and District Historical Scoiety, Luke Torris, Wyanstown, Togher, Dunleer, Co. Louth
Dundalk Railway Heritage Society, Davy McArdle, 2 Dunmor Avenue, Dundalk, Co. Louth.
Dunleer and District Historical Society, Muriel Sheils, Grattanstown, Dunleer, Co. Louth
Louth Archaeological and Historical Society, Seamus Bellew, 27 Stamanaran, Blackrock, Dundalk, Co. Louth
Old Drogheda Society, Eamon Thornton, Millmount Museum, Drogheda, Co. Louth
Old Dundalk Society, Stephen O'Donnell, 5 Avondale Park, Avenue Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Co. Mayo

Achill Historical and Archaeological Society, Paddy Lineen, Achill Sound, Westport, Co. Mayo.
Ballinrobe Archaeological and Historical Society, Averil Staunton, Spring Vale, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo.
Mayo North Heritage / Research Centre, P. J. Lynn, Enniscoe, Castlehill, Balla, Co.

Mayo
North Mayo-West Sligo Heritage Group, Paddy Tuffy, Church View House, Lacken, Enniscrone P.O., Co. Mayo.
Terry Reilly, Killala Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Westport Historical Society, Bronach Joyce, Clew Bay Heritage Centre, Westport, Co. Mayo

Co. Meath
Ashbourne Historical Society, Ann Kavanagh, 55 Bourne View, Ashbourne, Co. Meath
Meath Archaeological and Historical Society, Oliver Ward, Spiddal, Nobber, Co. Meath
Navan and District History Society, Ethna Cantwell, Windtown, Navan, Co. Meath
Rathfraigh Historical Society, Nicola Dowling, 187 Kilcarn Court, Navan, Co. Meath
Slane History and Archaeology Society, Ms. Sheila Crehan, Woodview, Slane, Co. Meath
St. Ultan's Historical Society, Tom Wall, Mullaghmore, Boyerstown, Navan, Co. Meath

Co. Offaly
Birr Historical Society, Anne Ward, Woodlands Cottage, Birr, Co. Offaly
Offaly Heritage Centre Ltd., Michael Byrne, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Co. Roscommon
Co. Roscommon Historical and Arch. Society, Albert Siggens, Castlestrange, Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon
Tisrara Heritage Society, Rev. Francis Beirne, Tisrara, Four Roads, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon

Co. Sligo
Ballymote Heritage Group, John Coleman, O'Connell Street, Ballymote, Co. Sligo.
Sligo Field Club, Jim Foran, 13 Bawn Owl, Kevinstown, Sligo, Co. Sligo.

Co. Tipperary
Boherlahan/Dualla Historical Journal Society, Mr. T. A. Ryan, Ballinree House, Ballinree, Boherlahan, Co. Tipperary
Borrisoleigh Historical Society, Delia ryan, 5 St. Bridget's Villas, Borrisoleigh, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
Cahir Historical and Social Society, Sheila Collins, c/o Commercial House, Cahir, Co. Tipperary.
Clonmel and District Historical Society, Michael Dolan, 36 Rosemount Park, Rosegreen, Cashel, Co. Tipperary
Fethard Historical Society, Mary Hanrahan, Rathcoole, Fethard, Co. Tipperary
Kilbarron-Terryglass Historical Society, Colum Hardy, Shanakill, Ballinderry, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Mary Alice O'Connor, c/o Tipperary Excel Centre, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary.
Ormonde Historical Society, Martin McLoughlin, Ballylogan, Ballycommon, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Tipperary Clans Heritage Society, John Bradshaw, Goats' Lane, Bansha Rd., Tipperary, Co. Tipperary
Tipperary County Historical Society, Dr. Denis G. Marnane, 20 Main Street, Tipperary, Co. Tipperary

Co. Waterford
Portlaw Heritage Centre, Ger Crotty, c/o Malcomson Square, Portlaw, Co. Waterford.
Waterford Archaeological and Historical Society, Michael Maher, 26 Kenure Court, Powerscourt, Waterford, Co. Waterford

Co Westmeath

Moate Historical Society, Patricia McDowell, 4 Cois na Labhainn, Station Road, Moate, Co. Westmeath

Westmeath Archaeological and Heritage Society, Mrs. Rosemary Cassidy, Slanemore, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Co. Wexford

Bannow Historical Society, Dermot McCarthy, Skiathos, Sea View, Forth Mountain, Wexford, Co. Wexford.

North Wexford Historical Society, Granu Dwyer, Mount Alexander, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Taghmon Historical Society, Nuala Carroll, 12 Castle Court, Taghmon, Co. Wexford

Ui Cinsealaigh Historical Society, Mary J. Mackey, Ballypreacus, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Co. Wicklow

Blessington History Society, Jim Corley, Crosschapel, Blessington, Co. Wicklow

Bray Cualann Historical Society, May Harte, Royston, Westfield Park, Bray, Co. Wicklow

Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society, Aileen Short, 'Brookfield', Glen Rd., Delgany, Co. Wicklow

Rathdangan Historical Society, Kathleen Cullen, Killamoat, Rathdangan, Kiltegan, Co. Wicklow

Roundwood & District Historical & Folklore Society, Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh, 75 Ashwood, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow

West Wicklow Historical Society, Donal McDonnell, Coolnarrig, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.

Wicklow Historical Society, Stan J. O'Reilly, 1 The Bank, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow

Jim Rees, 3 Meadows Lane, Arklow, Co. Wicklow.

2014 — Dates for Your Diary

A.G.M Clontarf Castle – Saturday May 10th 2014

The 2014 A.G.M. will be held in Clontarf Castle as this is the year celebrating one thousand years since the Battle of Clontarf. This year we will revert to a one day event including a keynote address , the business of the A,G,M., the Society Spake and then followed by lunch. There will be a visit in the afternoon to a place of interest.

U.K.Visit – Scotland – Monday 2nd June to Friday 6th June 2014

We plan to make our U.K. visit to Scotland in 2014. It will be return ferry from Belfast to Cairnryan, coach for five days, four nights B&B in 4* Hotel in Glasgow and four evening meals. The coach will start at Dublin. Glasgow will be our base and we will tour the area with possible visits to Stirling Castle, Culzean Castle, Boat on Loch Lomond, Walking Tour of Edinburg, Edinburg Castle, Glasgow sights, Roslyn, New Lanark and much more. Full programme still to be decided.

Spring & Autumn Seminars

We plan to hold both these seminars as part of our lecture programme.

For further details contact: Larry Breen at info@localhistory.ie

Federation of Local History Societies

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Society _____

Secretary _____

Address _____

_____

_____

Telephone No._____ Mobile:_____

e-mail: _____

Other Contact Phone _____

Number of members in Society _____*Fee €_____

*Membership fee per annum:

Individual:	€ 5
less than 25 members:	€15
26 to 50 members:	€25
50+ members:	€40

Cheques should be made payable to:

The Federation of Local History Societies,
c/o Mairead Byrne, 135 Dara Court, Celbridge, Co. Kildare
Email - maireadccbyrne@gmail.com

Note: This form may be downloaded from the Federation Web Site, www.localhistory.ie

Only fully paid-up members of the Federation are covered under the discounted Group Insurance Scheme provided by Alan B. Kidd & Co. Ltd, E6 Nutgrove Office Park, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14.

Tel. No. 01 207 9400 E-mail info@kiddinsurances.ie

The Federation sends a list of paid-up members to the insurers.

Renewal notices have now been issued.

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