Vol. 19, 2014

Federation of Local History Societies Conascadh na gCumann Staire Aitiula

Vol. 19, 2014

Federation of Local History Societies Conascadh na gCumann Staire Aitiula 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

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Editorial

In keeping with the spirit of the "Decade of Centenaries" the Federation played an important role this year through its member societies in remembering all those who fought and the many who died in the Great War. Many societies throughout the country made it part of their year's calendar of events and indeed the Federation made it part of their calendar year with its autumn seminar covering the subject of WWI. It is important that we all remember the significant role played by Irish men and women in that tragic event and recognise the contribution they made to defend freedom and help promote world peace.

It was also the year to remember Brian Boru and the Battle of Clontarf. Consequently we held our A.G.M. in Clontarf to mark one thousand years since that watershed event in the course of Irish history. We wish to thank the Clontarf and Raheny Historical Societies for being such wonderful hosts, for their great organisation of the event and for their hospitality and kindness on the day.

Our membership continues to grow and we now have over one hundred and forty affiliated members which speaks volumes for our dedicated committee through whose hard work this has been made possible.

We continue to work closely with our great friends and colleagues in the Federation for Ulster Local Studies with joint meetings and organised joint events taking place. This year's flagship event was a memorable visit together to Scotland where we managed to visit castles, cathedrals, boating, city sight seeing, Robbie Burns' birthplace, the magical New Lanark village and we even slipped in a "wee dram" of single malt at the quaint Glengoyne Distillery in the beautiful Campsie Hills.

Together with the Federation for Ulster Local Studies we commissioned and produced a collection of *Hidden Gems and Forgotten People* display panels. These will be available for exhibition and promotional purposes and we will be encouraging local societies to make use of them to promote the project and their own activities.

Still on the promotional front we are working on a new information leaflet to advertise and promote the Federation by highlighting our activities, services, what we stand for and what we can offer local societies.

As a consequence of our seminar on the use of social media we have established our own Facebook page which is attracting considerable attention and we encourage you all to visit it. Good communication continues to be the key in keeping the Federation alive, healthy and effective. We hope we are achieving this through our network of newsletters, e-mails, website, Facebook and, of course, our Local History Review.

We welcome any suggestions about how we can better satisfy your needs as members and encourage you to let us know how we can improve our service. Special thanks to our committee who during the year gave generously of their time and efforts.

I would like to thank all those who contributed articles and news for the review. Once again a very special thanks to the production team, J.J. Woods and Brendan Cullen for their dedication and hard work without which we would never have gone to print.

"Local History is your History" so promote it all you can.

Larry Breen, Hon Editor.

Arthur Young's A Tour in Ireland 1776-1779¹

Part Two

by Denis G. Marnane

Introduction

We think of late eighteenth century England, as a time of increasing industrialisation, of a world, in Wordsworth's phrase, increasingly 'out of tune' with nature. But, this was also a time when scientific farming made great advances and one of the high priests of this application of reason and learning to what historically was seen as unchanging tradition, was Arthur Young. In his mid-thirties, when he made his famous 'Tour', Young had previously travelled about England and written about agriculture, though, as is often the case, he was not himself, a very successful farmer. Better therefore at gathering and spreading ideas about agriculture, than doing the same with respect to dung. Arthur Young's first tour lasted from mid June to mid-October 1776, around 120 days and in the previous article, we travelled with him, from Dublin, through Leinster and around part of Ulster. We left him at the Farnham estate in County Cavan. It was 20 August 1776.



Strokestown House, Co. Roscommon

From Strokestown to Kiltartan

The following day, Young arrived at Strokestown in County Roscommon,

having passed 'through Longford, a cheerless country', then, as now, victim of an unenthusiastic press. The 'amazing quantity of bog' well, amazed Mr Young, who declared that Thomas Mahon, proprietor of Strokestown, had 5,000 acres of the stuff. As old as the century, Mahon lived to the fine age of eighty-one. Described by a contemporary source as 'an independent country gentleman', by the time of his death, in 1782, Mahon had been an MP for 42 years. In the year of Young's visit, Mahon's eye was fixed on getting a peerage, an honour managed by his son, at the time of the Act of Union.

Today, Strokestown is well known as an heritage property and famine museum. With regard to the Mahon family, the murder of Major Denis Mahon in 1847, is part of Famine history. He was a collateral descendant of Thomas Mahon, with whom Young engaged, giving the visitor, a great deal of factual information. Much of the land, from Athlone to Boyle, was given over to sheep and was let, on average, for twelve shillings an Irish acre. Young was intrigued by the scale of these enterprises, farms perhaps of 3,000 acres, stocking around two sheep to the acre; profit coming from lamb, sold in August, at twelve shillings and five pounds weight of wool, realizing one shilling per pound. Mixed with sheep were cattle.

Young both noted and was informed about population growth, which as yet, was moderate. They live,' he tells us, 'on potatoes and milk and butter.' Rent for a mud cabin cost as much as five guineas. However, the growth of trees probably interested him more, telling us that Mr Mahon's woods 'are all of his own planting', meaning of course that the actual work was done by a legion of anonymous peasants. Young was impressed; describing the mixture of ash, oak, English and French elm, beech, maple, spruce, Scotch and silver fir and larch, as 'the finest woods I ever saw'. High praise but Young can indicate more than one of something or somewhere, is the best.

While the Mahons arrived in Roscommon in the 1660s, Young mentioned two very different families, each with much deeper roots in the province but, obviously seen by him as antiquarian relics. The O'Conor Don family at Clonalis House: 'I was told as a certainty, that this family were here long before the coming of the Milesians.' The writer noted how, in spite of having come down in the world, 'the common people pay him the greatest respect and send him cattle etc upon various occasions. They consider him as the Prince of a people involved in one common ruin.' The second family was MacDermot of Coolavin in County Sligo and Young had gathered stories about that family's notions of grandeur, even though the so-called 'Prince of Coolavin' had, not above £100 a year, will not admit his children to sit down in his presence.'

After leaving Strokestown, Young visited the Church of Ireland bishop of

Elphin, Charles Dodgson, who was appointed the previous year, having been bishop of Ossory for ten years before that. The new bishop was one of that breed of Englishmen who found in the Church of Ireland, a fruitful source of promotion. Dodgson remained bishop of Elphin until his death in 1795. The name 'Charles Dodgson' probably sounds familiar. It was the real name of Lewis Carroll (*Alice in Wonderland*, etc.) and the bishop was the writer's great-grandfather. After such a short time in Roscommon, the bishop was not likely to be a very useful source of general information, and so, on 23 August, our traveller moved on to Lord Kingston's estate at Rockingham. Before Young arrived in Ireland, he obtained letters of introduction to various notables in Ireland, one of whom was Kingston, who however, was away, taking the waters.

In that great century of change, the seventeenth, the Kingston family pushed aside the traditional rulers, the McDermots and became one of Ireland's largest landowners, with huge estates, not only in Connacht but in Cork and Tipperary. Rockingham House was not built until several decades after Arthur Young's visit and the site is now part of Lough Key Forest Park. Young, usually more interested in the agricultural potential of a landscape, was struck by the beauty of the area, calling a view of the lake, 'one of the most delicious scenes I ever beheld'.

Soon however, it was back to business and he was waxing equally lyrically about the soil, 'very fine, rich, dry, yellow, sandy loam, the finest soil that I have seen in Ireland, (he had not yet been to Tipperary!) all grass and covered with very fine bullocks, cows and sheep'.

After dining at Boyle, Young 'took the road to Ballymote, crossed an immense mountainy bog, where I stopped and made enquiries'. After satisfying himself about the scale, his thoughts immediately turned to ways of improving the land, draining the bog and he makes comparisons with moorlands in the north of England. At Ballymote, he met the 'Hon. Mr Fitzmaurice', who had a great deal to say about the linen industry his family had promoted in the region. This enterprise was started twenty years earlier by Lord Shelburne, whose family name was Fitzmaurice and who for inheritance reasons, assumed the surname Petty. The Hon. Thomas Fitzmaurice was his younger son and aged thirty-four, when Young met him.

As happened elsewhere in the country, in an effort to promote industry among feckless catholics, protestant weavers were imported from the North and every effort made to promote industry, in what was a 'wild uncultivated region, without civility'. Shortly before Young arrived, considerable renewed investment was made, promoting a linen industry and at the time of the visit, ninety looms were working and apparently, there were great plans for turning Ballymote into a hub of industry. Young liked statistics and he provides enough figures to keep a tax man

happy (almost). Annual expenses ran to over £8,000 (over a half million euro); around 5,000 pieces of cloth were produced, allowing a small profit. Fitzmaurice had estates in Britain and established a factory in Wales, to process his Irish linen. He was an MP and died in 1793. His older brother, created Marquess of Lansdowne, was briefly prime minister. When Samuel Lewis described Ballymote, fifty years or so after Young's visit, all that great enterprise was just a memory.

On Sunday, 26 August, Arthur Young, still in Sligo, called on the Rt. Hon. Joshua Cooper at Markree Castle in Collooney, now an hotel and still owned by the Cooper family. Married to the heiress daughter of a previous bishop of Elphin, Cooper was a local MP, from the 1760s through to the '80s and he died in 1800. Interested in agriculture as a science and not just as a source of revenue, of course he was pleased to meet Young, who listened, genuinely interested and not just wearing his interested face. Pages of agrcultural data follow. If the fact that Mr Cooper improved his breed of cattle by means of a Lancashire bull, interests you, then access the information through Google Books.



Markree Castle, Collooney, Co. Sligo

The following day, Young reached Ballina in County Mayo, where the Church of Ireland bishop and his son, gave information about 'that vast wild and impenetrable tract of mountain and bog, the barony of Erris'. This *terra incognita* was apparently home to 896 families in 1765, information from the religious census, conducted by the Church of Ireland, a confessional head of family count and a boon for genealogists, except that it appears not to have survived for the diocese of Killala. There is not a tree in the whole barony of Erris; a man going out of it to pay his rent and his son with him, a lad of near twenty, when he came near Killala and saw a tree, "Lord, father!, what is that!"

Very different from the scary wilds of Erris was Lord Altamont's mansion at Westport and on his Lordship, Mr Young could confer no higher praise than that of 'improver'. John Browne, 1st earl of Altamont, died in early July 1776. He was in his late sixties. Arthur Young was there in late August, so presumably, the man whom he met was Peter, the 2nd earl, whose wife was Denis Kelly's daughter. While this may sound like he married, not just the girl next door, but that the door in question was that of a cottage; in reality, her father was an important figure in Jamaica and owner of a sugar plantation, which meant slaves. Much of Altamont's 'improving' work was about reclaiming mountain land and we are given details of seven 'experiments' undertaken to effect same. In summary, his Lordship's decided opinion was 'that the best method of breaking up heathy mountain land, is by manuring with limestock sand, to the thickness of an inch, which at present costs £1 11s. 6d per acre (around two euro)'.

On 1 September, Young was at Tuam, where, with his aim for the best, he dined with Archbishop Browne (different family to Altamont), who had enjoyed spells in four other sees, before reaching the pinnacle of Tuam in 1775. He died seven years later. Lunch finished, Young moved on to met Robert French of Monivea (spelling the name without the stuttering, lower case double 'F'). The village of Monivea was very much his creation. For many years an MP, representing local constituencies, French was a member of the RDS, from which society he was presented with a gold medal for his improving work, detailed in a long letter he sent to the society in 1769 and published in full by Young. Yes, you can hear a personalised drum being banged, and banged again. French was another of the many 'improving landlords' who thought that by promoting the linen industry, Ulster's industrial growth could be replicated. Ever a gentleman, in his will, he looked after his mistress and their children, whom he acknowledged.

On 3 September, Young moved on to Woodlawn, the estate of Frederick Trench, who was then fifty six years old and died in 1797. His son was created baron Ashtown in 1800, not coincidentally, the year of the Act of Union. 'Woodlawn is a seat improved entirely in the modern English taste,' commented Young, particularly taken by the location of the house. The house of course was subsequently much remodelled. In all his travels around the West of Ireland, the single continuous object of Young's interest was bogs and how to drain them and make the land useful. Trench was no different to the other 'improving' landlords, whom he met and Young was given a comprehensive account of work done on this estate. 'Average rent of the improved part of the county of Galway, 14s. an acre. About Woodlawn 14s. to 18s.' Frederick Trench had an interesting philosophy: 'if good land is let to the poor people, they are sure to destroy it; but give them heath, or what is bad, and they will make it good.' This is not as dismissive as it seems. Letting of good land

by middlemen, common at the period, was not in the best interest of the soil, with intensive division of holdings and over-cropping.

The following day, Young encountered further examples of progress brought over from England. Robert Gregory's Kiltartan was a wonderful example of miles and miles of dry stone walling but the visitor especially approved the employment of two English agents on the estate; one looked after all that walling and the accounts, a varied remit, while the other, from Norfolk, a place at the cutting edge of scientific agriculture, introduced the cultivation of turnips. What particularly pleased me, I saw some Irishmen hoeing (turnips); the Norfolk man had taught them and I was convinced in a moment, that these people would by practice soon attain a sufficient degree of perfection in it.'

From Dromoland to Passage East

Sir Lucius O'Brien of Dromoland died in 1795. The castle we see today, was the responsibility of his son, who like so many other landowners, succumbed to the lure of the Gothic. Sir Lucius provided Young with the kind of detailed agricultural information he so liked, about Clare. Average rent was five shillings (per Irish acre) but some land along the Shannon and Fergus to Limerick, let at twenty shillings an acre. Labour was paid for by access to land to grow potatoes and Roman Catholics generally worked 250 days in the year. Young was very struck by the cider orchards: I never beheld trees so loaded with apples as in Sir Lucius O'Brien's orchard; it amazed me that they did not break under the immense load which bowed down the branches.' O'Brien married a daughter of Robert French of Monivea. For many years, he represented various west of Ireland constituencies in the Irish parliament and the government considered him worth cultivating (which is a polite way of saying 'buying off'). For example, in 1787, he was given a government sinecure worth £1,500 p.a. Not a good public speaker: 'his elocution bad and his language neither correct nor elegant.'

On 8 September, Young arrived in Limerick and what he had to say about the city was very much connected to the Pery family. Edmund Sexton Pery, who died in 1806 at the great age of eighty-seven, was speaker of the Irish House of Commons and had a huge influence on the development of the city. Unlike that notorious modern visitor, who declared that the best view of Limerick was from the rear-view mirror, Arthur Young was very taken by the city, using phrases like; 'cheerful and agreeable' and a 'flourishing place'. Just as a modern visitor might measure the status of a city by reference to its traffic, Young tells his readers that around 1750, there were but four carriages about the city, three owned by clergymen. Now, there were 183 four-wheeled carriages and 115 two-wheeled. The exports from the port were beef, pork, butter,

hides and rape-seed. This last perhaps, being something of a surprise. Much of it was shipped to Holland and some to Norfolk.

Young writes one particular sentence about Limerick which demands to be quoted: Limerick must be a very gay place, but when the usual number of troops are in town, much more so.' Not surprisingly, Limerick's streets were crowded, not just the carriages but 'many sedan chairs and some hackney chaises (one horse power).' Making Limerick sound like Bath or Leamington, Young gushes that there were assemblies all year round, in a brand new assembly house, built for the purpose (no less) and plays and concerts were plentiful. It is clear by now that Mr Young did not linger and the following day, 9 September, he moved on to Castle Oliver, near Kilfinnane. The wonderfully named Silver Oliver was not at home, Young tells his readers that he promised to return when the boss was at home, and he did, on 7 October. To suit this narration, Young's visit is dealt with here.

The Olivers were yet another of those English families who won an Irish jackpot in the seventeenth century. It should be said that the present house, a private residence but open to the public, was built in the 1840s, in a style that perhaps fits more comfortably into a Walter Scot novel than the Limerick landscape. Silver Oliver was MP variously for Kilmallock, which seat the family controlled and he also held one of the more prestigous county seats. In the way of politics at the time, in return for supporting the government, he requested, but did not get, a peerage. Rather more unusual, he wanted a bishopric for his uncle. Oliver rode through some of his estate with Young and as the visitor was especially interested in the soil quality, in a nice touch, there was 'a man with a spade following to dig'; an equivalent perhaps of the footman toothpasting your brush. Our agricultural expert was almost giddy with excitement. I think upon the whole, it is the richest soil I ever saw.' And then, a reminder that some things do not change. A lot of profit was being made fattening livestock on land rented on advantageous leases. Young wanted some idea of the profit being made by these rich graziers, but he could fine none to admit, that he was making any money.

Arthur Young was very interested in the impact of the Palatines on the Oliver estate. These were protestant refugees from parts of Germany close to the French border, who fled to Britain in the early 1700s and thence to Ireland, where thanks to some Limerick landowners, Palatine families were, and are, notable, most obviously perhaps, Switzer. Oliver brought them to his estate in 1759 and settled them on marginal land, in very specific places, as agricultural shock troops, knowing that their hard work and thrift, could only benefit the region and of course, the estate. In one instance, settled near Seefin Mountain, land allocated to them was virgin, covered by oak forest, so no displacement of a local

population was involved. Young gives a figure of sixty six families or around 700 individuals. He was partial to Silver Oliver and oddly, for Young, this chapter includes a discussion about the pictures hanging on the walls of Castle Oliver. Perhaps a way of letting his readers know, that he got as far as seeing something of his host's domestic circumstances and that eyes, his and his host's, could be raised from the ground.

After failing to meet Oliver, that first time, in September, Young moved to Annesgrove, the seat of Richard Aldworth, at Castletownroche, between Mallow and Fermoy. As Richard Aldworth, for nearly forty years MP for Lismore, died aged eighty two, in April 1776, it was more likely that Young got his information from Aldworth's grandson, also Richard. The wife of the senior Richard has a peculiar claim to fame. She was a daughter of the 1st viscount Doneraile (surname St Leger) and the claim is that after being discovered eavesdropping on a Lodge meeting in Doneraile, she was the only woman to be admitted a Freemason. Aldworth took time to show his visitor the countryside, visiting Castle Hyde, then with an actual Hyde in residence. For Young, no finer compliment could be paid to his hosts, than to note that everything was more like what would be found in England, than was usually the case in Ireland, 'where so many fine places, want neatness' and where attention to detail was lacking.

Aldworth provided Young with an introduction to his next stop, Lord Doneraile's and yet again, the visitor is enthralled by details of his Lordship's improvements. From this account, Doneraile was a great agricultural experimenter. The Kerry cow is much the best for milking....' What's in a name? Doneraile, who died in 1787, was born St Leger Aldworth, his mother a daughter of the 1st viscount Doneraile, whose surname was St Leger. On his uncle's death in 1767, he inherited and changed his name to St Leger, become St Leger St Leger. (So good, they named him twice – sorry.) The title was revived for him in 1776, just a few weeks prior to Young's visit. 'A positive muleish man', as he was described, Doneraile Court, his residence and demesne, are now in the hands of the OPW. Incidentally, his Lordship's granary very impressed Mr Young. 'Not a mouse can possibly get into it.'

On our whirlwind tour, it's Sunday 15 September, so it must be Blarney Castle. St John Jeffreys, owner and promoter, was about to depart with his family for France and so had little time to deal with his inquisitive visitor. Jeffreys (a surname variously spelled), was forty-two in 1776 and would live four more years. His family purchased the property at the very beginning of the eighteenth century. Jeffreys' wife was a sister of the Lord Chancellor, one of the most influential figures in Ireland and so Jeffreys was in the way of picking up various plums, in return for which he was not always politically reliable. However, he did promote the economic interests of his region. Certainly, Young was full

of Blarney's role in the textile industry and mentioned thirteen mills, 'by an uncommon command of water'. On the following day, Young appears to have accompanied Jeffreys and his family. as they travelled to 'Cove' (Queenstown from 1849, when Queen Victoria arrived there on her first visit to Ireland), where they boarded a ship for Le Havre, on route to Paris. That part of Cork, Young found especially pleasing to the eye and his lavish praise should have encouraged boatloads of eager visitors from Britain. Not too carried away, very soon, Young was back to praising turnips.

One of the pleasures of Young's 'Tour' is the unexpected detail. Even to a reader familiar with the period, there is the repeated excuse to think: Who knew?' In Castlemartyr (now an hotel), where Young arrived on 17 September, the landlord Henry Boyle, 2nd earl of Shannon, was yet another host, only too willing, indeed anxious to talk of turnips and cabbages. An unexpected feature of Shannon's tillage farming was his use of bullocks rather than horses to pull his ploughs and not just that, but 'he imported the French method of drawing by the horns'. In fact, he met the expense of bringing over a French bullock, all the necessary French trappings and a chap, French of course, experienced in such matters. Young saw for himself, such animals at work, though his scepticism had to be overcome by the earl's enthusiasm. Reading between the lines, one suspects that Young found it all a bit crankish.

There was so much to see in Cork, that Arthur Young did not leave that county until 25 September, perhaps the longest period he spent in any one county. Taking the road to 'Nedeen' (Kenmare), he was overwhelmed by the landscape, his vocabulary reflecting this: 'dreary', 'horrid', grotesque', 'wretched', 'wildness', 'agitation' and 'suspense'. His host was Sir John Colthurst, who presumably was the second baronet, as the first had very recently died. (This family's link to Blarney did not come until after this time.) This part of Young's tour was serious travel and he tells his readers that 'Sir John was so obliging as to send half a dozen labourers with me, to help my chaise up a mountain side'. In 1787, poor Sir John was killed by Dominick Trant, in a duel. The latter accused the former of mixing with the Rightboys, an insult no gentleman could allow pass unchallenged. They met at Bray and both men managed to fire three shots at each other, both surviving. Honour should have been satisfied but Trant refused to retract. They had another go and Colthurst was killed.

Eventually, coming through all this romantic wilderness, Arthur Young arrived at Killarney, where he encountered the Herbert family, originally from Wales, but for a few centuries settled in Kerry and rich more from mining than from agriculture. Presumably, the 'Mr Herbert' whom he met, was Thomas, who died in 1779. The present Muckross House was

built just before the Great Famine. Later in that century, the family owned some 47,000 acres, part of which is now Killarney National Park. Even in the 1770s, when Young visited, Killarney was so well established on the tourist circuit, that he kept his oohs and aahs to a minimum. While the place was beautiful, accommodation was terrible and he could not understand why someone did not build a good hotel on the lake shore and hopefully, charge reasonable prices. Yes, I know, plus ca change etc. Very Wordsworthian, he rowed on the lake, managed to avoid any epiphanies and, true to form, was more interested in the commerical possibilities of the rock and timber. Innisfallen island, he did allow, was the most beautiful in Europe, or at least, did have that potential, if it was better maintained. On the whole, Young had mixed views about Kerry. Whatever the reasons, the state of the poor in that county, seemed worse than elsewhere.

Arthur Young did not depart Kerry until 5 October, when he moved into Limerick and experienced the restrained civility of Adair after the romantic excesses of the Kerry landscape. Mrs Quin, 'with a politeness, equalled only by her understanding' was his fount of knowledge. This was Windham Quin's wife, a Dawson from Monaghan. It was for their son that the Dunraven peerage was created, again in that bonanza year for baubles, 1800. 'Few places have so much wood about them as Adair,' wrote Young, but with respect to people, he was clear that imports were more useful than homegrown. He again explained about the Palatines, settled in the area, and exemplary in every way, especially their women. In making this contrast, Young makes clear the better living conditions of the *frauen* compared with the mná, while not taking this into account in judging their respective levels of industry.

On 9 October, Young travelled into Tipperary from East Limerick, and found that it was all bullocks and sheep. Bypassing Tipperary town, he headed for Thomastown, on the road to Cashel, seat of the Mathew family, where unfortunately, Mr Mathew (the peerage did not come until 1782) was not at home. The later 'castle', now in ruins, had not yet been got at by the architect Richard Morrison and, like so many buildings of the period, turned into a Gothic fantasy. The best compliment, Young could pay to the large demesne at Thomastown, was that I could hardly believe myself in Ireland'. There were some very extensive graziers in the region, farmers who rented huge tracts of land, especially for sheep. For example, Sam Alleyn, who lived at Golden, a small village beside that narrow and bent bridge over the Suir, leased 1,200 acres, keeping 2,000 sheep (the 2,000 fleeces were worth five shillings each), 'beside lambs'; and other livestock. There were larger 'farms'. Denis MacCarthy of Kilshane or Springhouse, a Roman Catholic family who survived the problems of the eighteenth century, in part, by having links to France,

rented 9,000 acres and stocked 9,000 sheep etc. Travel through this countryside today and not many sheep to be seen.

In Dundrum, Lord de Montalt (member of the locally, not well thought of, Maude family - too many evictions and too much evangelican protestantism), had 2,000 acres with 1,500 sheep, in his own hands. In this case, unlike the other examples cited, his Lordship owned this land. This Dundrum residence is now an hotel. Over the centuries. Tipperary attracted a host of visitors, the primary draw for most, the Rock of Cashel, about which pints of ink covered reams of paper. Arthur Young, with whom, the reader is by now familiar, does not surprise. The monument is dismissed as a rock with a ruin on it and this is not a summary of what he wrote. It is what he wrote. It would have been kinder had he passed by in silence. Clonmel, with its commerce, looking to the future, interested him, in a way that Cashel, its gaze on the past, did not. The key player in Clonmel was Stephen Moore of Barne, farmer, miller, baker, business man. The writer tells us that he was very disappointed to find Moore away but that, he met him sometime later in London and received from him, the information desired. Clearly, Young was relentless but it must have been wonderful for all these cuttingedge chaps, to have an enthusiastic pair of ears soaking in all that 'Look what I did. Am I not wonderful!!' Nothing lasts and in Clonmel, Moores were elbowed aside by the Bagwells.

Across the border, in Waterford, Young met Sir William Osborne of Newtown Anner. Then aged fifty-four (he died in 1783), Osborne (of the same family as the present British chancellor of the exchequer), was an MP but not a team player. With pride, he told his visitor how he had given a beggar (plus wife and six children) a few acres on the side of a mountain and some capital and how same had turned fruitful what was barren and that everyone gained and everyone was happy. The problem with this was , and continued to be, how would the results of the man's labour be shared out between him and his landlord? Also, in Waterford, Young visited Curraghmore, at Portlaw, 'one of the finest places in Ireland' and owned by George de la Poer Beresford, 2nd earl of Tyrone, who was created Marquess of Waterford in 1789. This house is still occupied by the family. Young was given a guided tour by his Lordship and visually of course, there was much to admire.

On 18 October, Arthur Young hoped to sail from Passage East in Waterford, but after a journey of some 1,500 miles, he and his horses were stuck, because the ship only sailed when there were enough passengers. He passed a 'beastly night' on board ship and as there was a delay of a day or so in sailing, Young was not one to waste time. He walked to the Bolton property at Ballycanvan and got Cornelius Bolton to show him something of the place, which he tells us, he again

visited two years later. Finally, on 20 October, not so much 'the wind being fair', he tells us but by then the ship had picked up a 'cargo of passengers', Mr Young set sail. It was not comfortable. Winds were such that the ship did not dock at Milford Haven until Tuesday morning, 22 October at one o'clock. He was back on the mainland. He had sailed from Hollyhead on 19 June.

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. *The Dictionary of Irish Biography*, published by the RIA and online, 9 vols., (2009) was used. More useful were the six volumes of the marvellous *History of the Irish Parliament*, 1692-1800, published by the Ulster Historical Foundation in 2002.

Boro Lodge and...Hill: The Mystery of Two Houses in One?



Boro Lodge, Ballymackessy, Clonroche, Co. Wexford

Previous to the publication of my article, "The House that Jack, Bryan or Jeremiah Built" in the Journal of the Wexford Historical Society 2002-03, there was a total consensus that the famous historian, the Rev. James Bentley Gordon, the second Rector of Killegney (near Clonroche) lived in the elegant mansion named Boro Hill, situate at Ballymackessy, Clonroche, Co. Wexford. The evidence to support this theory was compelling:on the Valentine Gill map of 1811, Rev. Gordon's residence is marked or sketched (with what realism I do not know) where the modern Boro Hill House is situated. I enter the caveat that Mr Harvey, the secretary to the Wexford Grand Jury, told a Parliamentary inquiry that this map was most incorrect but I do not think that it has placed Rev. Gordon's dwelling in the wrong place! There may have been a sub-conscious conviction amongst some students of the area that Rev. Gordon would have lived in a magnificent glebe house but the parish of Killegney had neither a glebe nor glebe house until 1827. Official records attest to this two-fold absence.

Thomas Jones, a Dublin school proprietor and master, the son-in-law of Rev. Gordon, wrote a short biography of him shortly after his demise.

The tone and content of the work is simply insufferable as Mr Jones, in high flown language, tediously recites the views of his father-in-law on the great issues of that era, implying an extraordinary greatness of intellect and acquaintance (albeit through incessant letter writing to them) with the most powerful figures in Great Britain. The ordinary biographical details of the Rev. Gordon's life are not alluded to!²

The second alleged proof that Rev. Gordon lived at Boro Hill comes at the end of Richard Musgrave's narrative of the ghastly sufferings of the Rev. Samuel Francis at the hands of a group of troglodyte rebels during the Rebellion of 1798:

At last one Bryan, a rebel captain, and a man of some humanity, feeling pity for his sufferings, went to the rebel camp and procured from General Roche, the priest, over whom he had great influence, a protection for him, which I give the reader:

A Protection for the Reverend Mr Francis:

It is ordered that no person or persons shall dare insult, abuse, injure or hurt the Reverend Mr Francis, his family, domestics, mansion-house. All who disobey these orders shall be taken by a guard, brought into camp, to be tried by court martial and punished according to their sentence.

Roche, Commander in chief of the United Republican army of the county of Wexford.³

Fr. Philip Roche ministered at Poulpeasty a few miles from Ballymackessy; he probably knew the Rev Francis, appointed as the first Rector of the newly established parish of Killegney on June 8th, 1797, and was therefore eager to save him from distress. Fr Roche's tended to find excuses to save the lives of captured loyalists — such is to his credit. Bryan, the rebel captain, also acted honourably. Rev. Francis, according to Musgrave, lived about a quarter of a mile from Fr Thomas Rogers' chapel at Ballymackessy. In 1798 mansion houses were scarce so one may confidently assume that the Rev. Gordon, when he became the second Rector on March 19th 1799, entered into the mansion-house vacated by Rev. Francis. The Rev. Gordon in his writing of the Rebellion corroborates Musgrave's account adding another detail that the powerful Fitzhenry family of Ballymackessy were present at Mass as Rev Francis was dragged in — they were mortified, extremely embarrassed.

Fr Roche in a protection notice for a man in Enniscorthy, according to an account of the Rebellion, used this format of words — "no man to molest this house, or its inhabitants, on pain of death." He did not use the word "mansion".

Circa 1814, William Shaw-Mason published his Statistical Account of a limited number of Church of Ireland parishes. Rev. James B. Gordon

wrote, on Killegney, a most controversial article; mesmerising to the present day! If he lived in a mansion, he seemed in denial of that as he asserted:

"There are no gentlemen's seats of any consequence in the union, except Castleboro, that of Robert Shapland Carew, Esq...." He also indicated that there was no glebe or glebe house in his union of parish. The general tenor of the account was to dismiss the Carew Estate as run-down, with fierce rents, horrible abodes and impoverished people. Mr Carew, usually regarded as a lenient and reforming landlord, was outraged and made representations to Mr Shaw-Mason to have a revised account published which Mr Mason promised to do but I cannot find it. The Rev. Atkinson, the distinguished travel writer in his "The Irish Tourist", 1812, indicated that Rev. Gordon's hostility to Mr Carew derived from the latter's ownership of the tithes on the Castleboro demesne of 500 acres. He outlined "those features [of the account]" which has "undergone distortion in the angry strokes of his apostolic pen."

In particular he referred to Rev. Gordon's accusation that Mr Carew charged him a rent of seven pounds for one acre of land, for the use of a poor school. Actually Mr Carew leased a farm of which the acre was a part, "at the very moderate rate of sixteen shillings an acre"; the tenant then, in turn, made "this profitable bargain" with Rev. Gordon. It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that Rev. Gordon was disingenuous, even deceitful, in his account of Killegney parish insofar as misinformation would reflect badly on Mr Carew.

John Hogan had leased land at Rathfylane, Knockmore and all of Ballymackessy — about 300 acres Irish measure — from Robert Carew of Castleboro; on March 25th, 1747, it was written in the Carew Ledgers (now extant in fragmentary quantity):

"Jack Hogan having run into arrears greatly I obliged him to surrender his lease."

Ballymackessy was leased to Bryan Fitzhenry on the 25th of March, 1746, for 31 years at a rent of £45.8 He was married to Mary King of the powerful Macmine family; he was, presumably, the Bryan Fitzhenry who had a lease of land from the notorious Richard Radford Rowe at Killegney (probably at Tominearly) and who was given a lease of Clohass (near Enniscorthy) by his father John Fitzhenry of Ballybrittas.9

On the 3rd of February, 1766, Bryan Fitzhenry and Luke Hegarty of Kilcoletrum, Co. Carlow (a rich family with military connections) made arrangements for the forthcoming marriage of Billy Fitzhenry and Kitty Hegarty. Bryan demised Ballymackessy to his son Bryan and in parallel to that Myhill King of Macmine demised one moiety of Courtnacuddy—about 500 acres in Plantation measure—to Billy, his nephew and the

other moiety to Billy's sister Mary. By that same agreement Luke Hegarty conferred on Kitty his daughter £200; I presume that was consumed in the transaction on Courtnacuddy. According to the deed Bryan gave Billy "the mansion house, household goods and furniture..." ¹⁰

Mr Carew allowed Bryan Fitzhenry a reduction of £15 for building, an amount hardly consistent with building the present Boro Hill mansion. The reference to "household goods and furniture" indicates that Bryan was living in it. It is unlikely that Jack Hogan built a mansion but the ancient Mackessy family, who left the townsland (named after them) in 1730, might have. They rose to stellar prominence in Waterford.

Billy (as Carew terms him in the ledgers) became estate agent to the Carews of Castleboro at about 22 years of age and according to his controversial son, Jeremiah, a special relationship existed ever after between the Carews and the Fitzhenrys of Ballymackessy. ¹¹ In his lifetime Billy acquired a series of new leases on the Carew estate. I do not know what either the Carews or Billy thought of Jeremiah's decision to serve as an officer in the rebel army in the 1798 Rebellion!

Jeremiah married Mary Catherine, the sister of John H. Colclough, the executed and grimly unfortunate leader in the Rebellion. The indications are that Jeremiah married her before the Rebellion but I am not certain. He could have built Boro Hill then but the title Boro Hill does not occur in any documents seen by me until 1818. Contemporary witnesses attested to the extraordinary power of the Fitzhenrys over the local peasantry.

The Rev. Gordon gives us one — apparently — incontestable fact: he wrote that he took a lease of the place where he resided from Jeremiah Fitzhenry. The significant aspect of the "place" leased is that it had a title: Boro Lodge. The Rev. Atkinson described it as a neat villa on the New Ross to Enniscorthy road (more inconclusive semantics!). It is difficult to avoid the deduction that Boro Lodge is the mansion mentioned in Bryan's deed of 1766 and the mansion protected by Fr Philip Roche. It is equally difficult to avoid thinking that one would not put a pretentious name on a humble abode, or even on an ordinary farmhouse — in that era, anyway. Rev. Gordon used the title Boro Lodge as in his letter to Lord Castlereagh — as usual condemning Mr Carew (father of the first Lord Carew)!

A thousand historians in an interminable seminar would not arrive at a coherent interpretation of the revolutionary career of Jeremiah Fitzhenry! He was a constant presence in the State Papers for about a decade after the Rebellion and was described by one of English officers as a determined rebel;¹⁴ the Rev. Gordon, in his writings presented him as a reluctant rebel, seeking to use his influence with the rebels to exercise

restraint over them. The caveat to enter in regard to Rev. Gordon's writings is that he sought (in opposition to Musgrave) to excise out any association of the more moderate Rebel leaders with insurrectionary excess. Fitzhenry seems to have received a pardon for his part in the Rebellion but later went to France. His third daughter Phyllis Elise was born in Paris on the 26th of May, 1802. He joined the French army and fought for Napoleon in the Irish Legion in the Peninsular Wars. In April 1811, he arrived at Wellington's headquarters and on the basis of a recommendation from Wellington to Lord Liverpool, the Prime Minister, he was granted a pardon and returned home to Ireland. The terse reports of this in contemporary newspapers imply a profound change of heart on Fitzhenry's part — this is a typical example:

"A Letter just arrived from an officer in Lord Wellington's army states that a Mr Fitzhenry, a native of Wexford and Colonel in the Irish Brigade, has come over to the English army and given most valuable information." This is inaccurate: Wellington wrote that he required Fitzhenry to give an account of his deeds during the 1798 Rebellion and assured him that if he were guilty of committing any atrocity in that time he (Wellington) would know of it and he would not be pardoned. While haunted by occasional queries as to how he kept his oath to Napoleon, the impression from studying that period is that Fitzhenry was feted as an outstanding patriot; John Corcoran the Enniscorthy attorney in homage to his patriotism would not take payment from him for legal services done for him. There is little doubt that Fitzhenry made a deal with Wellington, brokered by Fr Pat Curtis, the future Archbishop of Armagh, to lead a band of soldiers under his command into a prearranged ambush by the British forces.

It was commonly (and wrongly) assumed that Fitzhenry returned in 1811 to inherit his father's estate; old Billy died in December 1811 — but Mary, Jeremiah's sister, "was the devisee and sole legatee" of her father's will. 17 She intended to marry William Evans, a widower from Ballymacwilliamroe, Co. Carlow. In his will Billy directed that the Fitzhenry coat of arms should be joined to the Evans coat of arms and that after his marriage Mary's husband should be henceforth called Evans Fitzhenry.

I make the reasoned conjecture that Jeremiah, on his return home in 1811, initially lived by a lease at Tominearly (on the Radford Rowe estate), previously, held by his grandfather Bryan. The early years of the Evans Fitzhenry marriage were ill-starred as they incurred calamitous debts; notices in The Wexford Herald attest to this:

May 9th 1814

Patrick White, Plaintiff; William Evans Fitzhenry. To be sold by auction, by the sheriff of the County of Wexford, on the 23rd of May 1814 at the

house of John Rudd, Enniscorthy, the defendant's right title and interest in the lands of Moneytucker and Ballymackesy. Dated 11th May 1814. William Blacker, Sheriff." 18

The sale was postponed but then re-advertised to be sold in early June. 19

An even more bizarre sheriff's sale was advertised for November 30th 1814: John Rudd was plaintiff in an action against "all the chattel property in the possession of the late William Fitzhenry, at the time of his decease, consisting of a variety of stock and also a valuable interest in the lands of Ballymakesy...."²⁰

It was reported a short time later that the auction would not take place as "the amount of execution being satisfied." Billy had left major debts behind him. It was written later by a Rossdroit (near to Ballymackessy) man that conditions of near famine existed in this general locality — or barony of Bantry — from 1812 to 1818.

The identity of the persons resolving this imbroglio of weird liabilities are, presumably, indicated in a difficult to read entry in the Carew ledgers; the correct reading of the crucial entry of April 1815 is:

"William Fitzhenry Esquire Tenant for 41 years at the yearly rent of £120 from the 25th of March 1782.

April the 25th. This day settled accounts with Jeremiah Fitzhenry, Esquire,

Wm Evans Fitzhenry and his wife Mary Fitzhenry and I admit they have settled for all rents due to me for Ballymackessy to the 25th day of March 1814.

Lease expired & let to Mr Fitzhenry Mr Sweetman Sundries²³

Longfield in the Index to the Carew Ledger states "This day settled accounts with Wm Fitzhenry" but that is wrong.²⁴

The lease is leased to Mr Fitzhenry who must be Jeremiah Fitzhenry as William Evans Fitzhenry would have to be both described as Evans Fitzhenry and entered as co-tenant with Mary, his wife. One notes that Esquire is added to Jeremiah's name — Esquire denoted high prestige in that era.

Mr Sweetman was Laurence Sweetman son of the wealthy Mike Sweetman of Newbawn, and cousin of Jeremiah Fitzhenry. These two men (Sweetman and Jeremiah) were now the registered tenants (from Carew) of Ballymackessy. The Moneytucker fields, on the other side of the River Boro, were part of the Sweetman's lands in succeeding generations.

I think that "Sundries" in the above extract from the Carew ledgers indicates that William Evans Fitzhenry and Mary, his wife, retained an interest (presumably minimal) in the Ballymackessy lease; they made a couple of further rent payments and then — before 1818 — went to live in Ballymacwilliamroe, Co. Carlow. In February 1816 on the basis of this interest and of the leases of Raheen, Coolroe, Courtnacuddy (devised to Mary in Billy's will) they entered a further mortgage with "Launcelot Fisher an attorney from Dublin"²⁵: they owed him £300 for defending them in countless legal suits. I presume that several creditors were suing them. In February 1881 Jeremiah via credit from the Colclough bank paid off the debts of William and Mary Evans Fitzhenry and in return they grudgingly ceded Courtnacuddy to him, which he claimed as his inheritance under his mother's will. ²⁶ Her dowry bought it.

One of the Fitzhenry memorials in the Registry of Deeds has this astounding reference:

"The towns and lands of Ballymackessy including certain parts thereof therein mentioned to have been demised by Jeremiah Fitzhenry to his father the said William Fitzhenry."²⁷ It seems most probable that Jeremiah was made a sub-tenant by his father, maybe at the time of his nuptials to the young Colclough girl and Jeremiah may then in turn have leased Boro Lodge in Rev. Samuel Francis in 1797 and subsequently to Rev. James Gordon in 1799. The Carew ledgers do not allow for any possibility that Jeremiah could get this land off anybody else. He may have intended at the time — of demise of lands to his father — to live in France permanently.

On November 20th 1815 the ageing Rev. James Gordon, a myopic man, advertised for sale: "The House and land of Boro Lodge, five miles from Enniscorthy, on the road to [New] Ross. The house and offices are in good repair and the land, almost thirty acres, quite well improved. Proposals will be received by the Rev. James Gordon, orally at said house, or by letter post paid, directed to him at Enniscorthy." The advertisement indicated that four years of the lease remained from the next March (that is in 1816). As the vogue then was, the advertisement appeared over a long number of weeks. I have no details of any sale made of it but it is clear that this farm went into the latter day Boro Hill farm.

The reference to good repair in the advertisement strongly suggests that Boro Lodge was built a long time previously. Rev. Gordon does not actually describe it as a mansion in the advertisement although the title Boro Lodge may imply that.

One is operating with fragmentary and incomplete documentary evidence and on crucial issues making reasoned — albeit fairly informed — conjectures in some instances. The Carew ledger indicates that

Laurence Sweetman and Jeremiah Fitzhenry were effectively in a joint tenancy but the evolution was into two farms — that of Sweetman east of the New Ross/Enniscorthy road and Fitzhenry on the west side of that road. The indications (admittedly ambiguous) from deed of October 1876 are that the Boro Hill farm was not finally established, by Carew, as an independent tenancy until August 1833.²⁹ Jeremiah Fitzhenry registered for the franchise in 1829 on only his tenancy at Tominearly (presumably that held in days of yore by his grandfather Bryan).³⁰

In 1819 an Enniscorthy attorney, probably John Corcoran, wrote to Jeremiah Fitzhenry at Boro Hill in relation to trees sown by Rev. Gordon in 1806 and registered under the legislation that enabled a tenant to apply for compensation for trees planted at the expiration of the lease, if not renewed. This might — ambiguously — suggest that Rev. Gordon stayed on the Boro Lodge farm till his death on April 1819. The attorney referred to him as of Ballymackessy. On a basis of probability, I believe that Fitzhenry actually bought Boro Lodge at the time it was put up for sale.

Boro Lodge is like a star or meteor blazing in the sky (of extant documentation) for a transient spell of a few years and then is lost, no longer visible. Before the advent of Rev. Gordon to Killegney I can find no use of that title Boro Lodge as William Fitzhenry is variously referred as of Ballymackessy, or variants of that word. It is a fundamental law of physics that matter cannot disappear but it may change its state. If Jeremiah Fitzhenry bought Boro Lodge in 1816, he had a number of options: he could rent it to somebody else; he could leave it to go derelict; he could knock it and use the stones to build Boro Hill House but I suggest, as a matter of greater probability, that he opted to live in it. He may have modified, or even transformed, and gave it a new title, Boro Hill. The planting of trees, as done by Rev. Gordon, may have been part of a process of creating a miniature demesne: the later title of Boro Hill House certainly creates the effect of a demesne, albeit of limited size.

This extract from Legends of Mount Leinster by Patrick Kennedy, the famous writer, may describe the mansion demised by Bryan Fitzhenry to Billy Fitzhenry:

"I need not describe the fine old seat of the Fitzhenrys of Ballymackessy, with its groves and lawns reaching down to the Boro." The incline, the groves, lawns are the topography of Boro Lodge and Boro Hill.³² Mr Carew's plantation at Ballymackessy adjoined it: the title Lodge often denotes a lesser kind of mansion close to a Forest.

Larchfield House, near Killane and 5 miles from Enniscorthy, and an adjoining farm of 10 to 20 acres was advertised in May 1815; applicants were directed to contact "Mr Fitzhenry of Ballymackesy."³³ I strongly

suspect that Jeremiah was a beneficiary of this intended transaction. It would provide him with largesse to buy the residue of the lease of Boro Lodge and attached farm — and to either renovate Boro Lodge or for that matter build Boro Hill House. I am loath to write dogmatically on the issues of Boro Lodge and Boro Hill but I think that there is continuity between them.

- 1. A copy of Gill's map is in both Wexford Library and the Museum at Enniscorthy and of course at the National Library
- 2. The Joly Collection in The National Library, Kildare Street, Dublin; J9170.
- 3. Appendix No xxvi, I p 904 The Suffering of the Reverend Mr Francis in Bob Musgrave's account of the Rebellion. Wexford Library.
- 4. History of the Rebellion in Ireland. Workington. 1806; printed by G. W. Borrowdale, 1806. Accessible on line. This particular item on Fr Roche seems to have been taken from Musgrave
- 5. William Shaw-Mason's Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland published in 1814. Volume 1 IR 3141 m3 p 455 National Library.
- 6. Atkinson, The Irish Tourist, 1812; p 513 514. The National Library of Ireland.
- 7. Volume 2, p 45 of Carew Ledger, Mss 2/466/6. In The National Archives Dublin.
- 8. Volume 2, p 49 of Carew Ledger, Mss 2/466/6. In The National Archives Dublin.
- 9. Memorial in Registry of Deeds, 296 60 188, Henrietta Street, Dublin.
- 10. Memorial 355, 281, 239, 570, in the Registry of Deeds.
- 11. The Wexford Independent, August the 10th, 1839, the banquet at Robinson's lawn, Clonroche. Wexford Library.
- 12. Gordon, History of the Rebellion p.401, J+94107 g2, National Library.
- 13. The Correspondence of Lord Castlereagh, online and in The National Library.
- Letter of Archibald Jacob in the Outrage Papers in National Archives, 1020/49 (1801).
- 15. Jackson's Oxford Journal, June 15th 1811. Online: British Library; 19^{th} Century British Library Newspapers.
- 16. Dr Richard Madden's account of the United Irish; Memoir of Jeremiah Fitzhenry page 108 119, in The National Library.
- 17. Memorial 652 111 447 282 in the Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin.
- 18. In the Wexford Library.
- 19. The Wexford Herald, June 2nd 1814, in the Wexford Library.
- 20. The Wexford Herald, November 21st 1814, in the Wexford Library.
- 21. The Wexford Herald, December 21st 1814, in the Wexford Library.
- 22. The Dublin University Magazine; February 1870 page 234. It is online.
- 23. The Carew Ledger Book, IV, Page 15, in The National Archives, Dublin.
- 24. Ada Longfield's Index To The Carew Ledgers is in The National Library and I first accessed it in The Wexford Library.
- 25. Memorial 479 503 699 168 in The Registry of Deeds, Dublin.
- 26. Memorial 726 384 495 919 in The Registry of Deeds, Dublin.
- 27. Memorial 652 111 447 282 in the Registry of Deeds, Henrietta Street, Dublin.
- 28. The Wexford Herald, November 20th 1815, in the Wexford Library.
- 29. Memorial 1876 44 158 1264, in The Registry of Deeds, Dublin.
- 30. The Wexford Herald Wednesday April the 1st 1829 in the National Library.
- 31. 1A,4,56, Carew ledger. The file is in miscellaneous documents where I read it. The ledgers are in the National Archives in Bishop St. Dublin.
- 32. In Wexford Library and Online page 155.
- 33. The Wexford Herald, November 20th 1815, in the Wexford Library.

George Berkeley (1685-1753), Travels and Tar-Water

Some medical beast had revived Tar-water in those days as a fine medicine... A pint of this mixture... was poured down my throat while [she] held my head under her arm.

The *medical beast* Pip was alluding to, in *Great Expectations* (Charles Dickens, 1863), was none other than the philosopher George Berkeley, who was Bishop of Cloyne for 18 years (1734-1752).

This article, in the shape of *history-strips*, does not intend to explain Berkeley's philosophy or to relate all the events of his life. The main topic rotates around his manifold usage of *tar-water*, linked to his 3 years spent in America (1729-32).

Legendary stories and gross misinterpretations about the works of Berkeley have circulated along the centuries and the details of these history-strips are based on original texts (from himself and from his contemporaries) as well as on studies from previous and subsequent scholars.

Fluent in Hebrew, Latin and Greek (Plato was his favourite author), Berkeley kept writing all his life. He produced texts and treatises concerning philosophy, theology, religion, science, mathematics, economics, politics and social life.

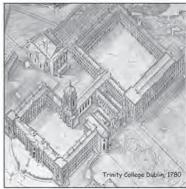
Here is just one extract from his *Principles of Human Knowledge* (number 35): *That the things I see with my eyes and touch with my hands do exist, I make not the least* question. What Berkeley denies is what ... *Philosophers call matter or corporeal substance*. Perception is the keyword and that notion is now well accepted in our societies.

George Berkeley was held in high esteem by many of his contemporaries. In England, he befriended Swift, Addison, Steele and Pope (who said of him "Every Virtue under Heaven"). In America, he became friend with the great educator Samuel Johnson (from Yale College, Connecticut) and kept a fruitful relationship with him afterwards.

GEORGE BERKELEY (1685-1753): TRAVELS and TAR-WATER

Born in 1685, in Dysart Castle, Kilkenny, Ireland, George Berkeley enrols at Trinity College (Dublin) in 1700, at the age of 15. Shortly after his graduation, he is admitted Fellow of the College in 1707.





In 1709, he is ordained deacon and writes his 'Theory of Vision'. The following year, at 25, he publishes 'Principles of Human knowledge'.







Jonathan Swift, also a Fellow of Trinity, was to become his mentor. In April 1713, he writes to his friend and confidante Stella: "That Mr Berkeley is a very ingenious man and great philosopher, and I have mentioned him to all the ministers, and have given them some of his writings; and I will favour him as much as I can."





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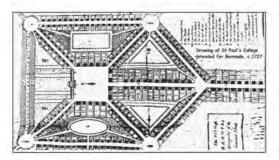
From 1713 onwards, George Berkeley travels in Europe (mostly France and Italy) as chaplain and secretary to aristocrats. Back in Ireland in 1721, he takes Holy Orders in the Church of Ireland and, in 1724, resigns his fellowship to become Dean of Derry.







As part of the Great Awakening of the 1720's, a religious movement in America, George Berkeley starts working on a visionary project, namely the establishment of a new college in Bermuda, for training missionaries to educate native Americans. He draws up the plans of St Paul's College and applies for a parliamentary grant.



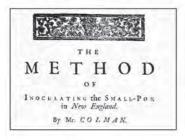


In 1728, he marries Anne Forster (from Dublin). The following year, having gathered subscriptions in England and Ireland, they move with a few followers to Rhode Island, America (a four-month crossing). One of them is John Smibert, who painted the 'Bermuda Group'.

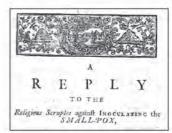




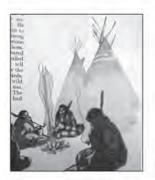
In those days, smallpox was decimating populations worldwide, almost on the scale of a plague. In 1722, Mr Colman of Boston, inspired by Asian practices, was advocating inoculation of smallpox as a preventive measure. This new technique raised human and religious controversies.





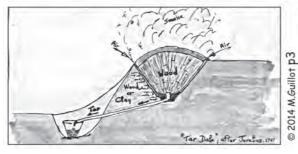


One day in Newport, RI, Berkeley hears the story of an Indian who seems to have been cured from smallpox by drinking pine tar-water, a panacea used by the Natives. He learns their tar dilution process.





The tar itself is obtained from pine wood, usually in a tar pit: chunks of wood are cooked slowly in a covered fire, where they become charcoal. The exuded sap (or resin) becomes tar and is collected in a bucket, through a pipe. Nordic Europe is an important source of tar.





In England, Chancellor Robert Walpole, sceptical about Berkeley's project, decides not to send the Dean any funds. In 1731, Berkeley returns to London, after donating his Newport plantation (Whitehall) and most of his library to Yale University, Connecticut.





In 1734, Queen Caroline (wife of King George II), who holds Dean Berkeley in high esteem, appoints him Bishop of Cloyne. He moves into the Bishop's Palace, built on an old Fitzgerald site in Cloyne (Ireland).





The new bishop, humanist and philosopher, has a genuine concern for the welfare of the poor in his diocese. He dreams of a panacea cure, accessible to all, and starts experimenting with pine tar-water.







Bishop Berkeley, in addition to taking care of the sick, develops employment in the local community. With the support of his wife, he establishes small domestic industries, such as farming and spinning. He commissions locally most of what he needs, including clothing.







To render the tar-water solution more palatable, he tries various pine tars (from America and Norway) and additives. He develops different processes, including the distillation of 'gum turpentine' (pine sap), which, like tar, is a known wound healer. He uses tar-water extensively, especially during the terrible winter of 1739-40.







In 1744, Bishop Berkeley publishes 'Siris', advocating tar-water as a cure, readily available (from Scots pines). He compares its potential side effects (nausea and rashes) to those of bleeding (weakening the body) and to the excessive use of distilled spirits. He links his observations to those of his learned predecessors.

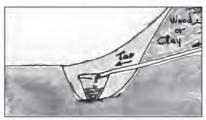






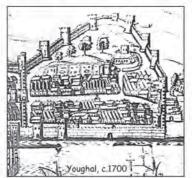
Both pine tar and resin have antiseptic properties. But tar is soluble in water, which gives it a major advantage over resin. This may justify the efforts of Berkeley to make adjustments to his universal remedy.

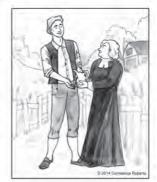




In 1752, young Cornelius McGrath from Tipperary is getting seawater treatment (a traditional cure) in Youghal. He is crippled and in great pain due to his growing quickly in a poor family. Bishop Berkeley is assisting him, feeding him properly and making him drink tar-water.







After a few months, Cornelius is able to stand and walk normally. He will reach a height of 7 ft. 5 in. A legend is born: thanks to his tarwater, Berkeley has created a giant! But, at 24, Cornelius dies of heart failure. His skeleton is preserved at TCD, in the Anatomy Dept.







Bishop George Berkeley dies in Oxford in 1753, leaving two children. He is buried there, in Christ Church. Not only is he remembered as a philosopher, but also as an idealist, a humanist and a man of integrity. He genuinely tried to improve poor people well-being, at a time when there was practically no medical or educational alternative for them.







In America, George Berkeley's efforts to educate left a lasting impression. Whitehall in Newport became a museum. The town hosting the famous College of California (San Francisco Bay) was renamed 'Berkeley' in 1866. That same College called 'Berkelium' a new chemical element they discovered in 1949. Starting with Yale, a number of libraries and other public places now bear the bishop's name.







In Cloyne Cathedral, a memorial to Bishop Berkeley was sculpted in 1890, made of alabaster (translucent gypsum). In 1985, an Irish stamp was designed for the tercentenary of his birth. Most Irish universities give a place of honour to the great philosopher, following the example of TCD, from where he graduated. Studies of Berkeley's philosophy are still undertaken worldwide.







Acknowledgements

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A History of Glasgow

This article represents the text of a lecture given to members of the History Federations of Ireland on the occasion of their visit to Scotland in June 2014 by Marie Davidson, Secretary of the Glasgow and West Scotland Branch of the Historical Association.



George Square, Glasgow

I would like to talk about aspects of Glasgow's history drawn to my attention since our Branch started to make a programme to introduce children to history in a new way. Since then we have worked out connections between local and national history we hope relevant to young people and the public to-day.

Before starting may I say that you really must see the finds from the Antonine Wall in the Hunterian Museum. The wall ran north of Glasgow, the bas reliefs, statues, ornaments and inscriptions are vigorous and suggest the vitality of the Romans' brief occupation.

The castle on Dumbarton Rock not Glasgow was the centre of the ancient British kingdom of Strathclyde. Many people in the area believe St. Patrick was born in Dumbarton. There is absolutely no evidence for this but it is a firm belief.

We first hear of Glasgow when it was a small settlement in Strathclyde. At that time St. Mungo arrived to teach and baptise by the Molendinar burn. We know that he was visited by St. Columba. And it is said that our saint gave Glasgow its motto, which is not "Let Glasgow flourish," but "Let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of the word." He also called Glasgow "The dear green place."

But thinking of your visit to Glasgow, I have to draw your attention to the fact that most of it has been destroyed. For example, the fine Renaissance buildings of Glasgow University near the cathedral were knocked down to make way for the Castle Street Railway Goods Yard, long gone and now a car park.

The Clyde made Glasgow and Glasgow made the Clyde' is true.

But this is 2014. Glasgow has been around for a long time. I'm not going to give you a potted history. There have really been three main phases of Glasgow's development:

Mediaeval to late mediaeval Eighteenth century Victorian nineteenth century

The 19th century demolished most of the mediaeval and the eighteenth century buildings. You are going to Stirling Castle tomorrow where you will see the fine renaissance addition by James 1V and therefore appreciate what Glasgow has lost. So we are going to look mainly at 19th century Glasgow, because the 19th century was the apotheosis of Glasgow.

St. Tomas Aquinas said, "Man cannot understand without images." Like St. Thomas, we are going to try to understand through images our local to national history. So what do we look at to appreciate this apotheosis? Firstly, there are the place names that have resonances with the past.

Secondly, we will move on to the George Square statues, which create a template of 19th century history.

Thirdly, the Necropolis, city of the dead, commemorates those who made Glasgow the second city of the Empire in wealth.

From the top of a double decker sight-seeing bus, you can see the names of streets called after people and places that have played an important part in Glasgow's more recent history. When you are in O'Connell Street in Dublin, everyone knows who the liberator was. Some of these street names are clearly surnames, others are places.

The heart of Glasgow has Glassford Street, Oswald Street, Buchanan Street, Tobago Street, Virginia Street, St. Vincent Street, Jamaica Street.

Why were streets named after these people? Because they were important. Why were they important? Because they were rich. Why were they rich?

Because they made fortunes from the tobacco trade in Virginia and sugar in the West Indies. At that time, Cork was equally prosperous trading with Virginia and the West Indies, but did not achieve the same lift off as Glasgow ('Why' is not relevant to speculate here). The West of Scotland owned much of Jamaica. Tobago and St. Vincent came from the French. I used to think St. Vincent was named after the battle.

The tobacco merchants were called the Tobacco Lords. They were famous for wearing red cloaks and strutting with gold topped canes along the Trongate. The Tobacco Lords lasted until the American War of Independence broke out in 1776, when many of them did not only lost their cloaks but also their shirts!



At school we were told that Glasgow had clean hands regarding slavery. As no slave ships sailed up the Clyde and no markets were held as in Bristol and Liverpool, the fruits of the slave trade were held at a decent remove. Nobody knows any more the names of the slave traders. Recent scholarship has uncovered the secret history of Glasgow's involvement in the slave trade and its abolition. Richard Oswald with two partners controlled Bunce Island on a river in Sierra Leone, where several thousand slaves were held for onward transmission — just like all the whisky bonds you'll see in the West of Scotland. He died the richest man Scotland had ever seen worth half a million pounds.

To-day the street names of these traders are their only memorial. For long, Glasgow did not acknowledge that the sugar and tobacco

plantations were run on slave labour. The traders expected their legacy to be the vast mansions from their profits. "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure dome decree." But what happened? Their descendants ran out of money, their houses fell down or were demolished. Only one remains the Cunninghame mansion, now the Museum of Modern Art, in front of which stands the statue of Wellington.

Another image from street names is of Glasgow as a city of the Union which saw itself later as the city of the Empire: Union Street, Hanover Street, North Frederick Street, West Regent Street, George Square, Queen Street.

Glasgow rejected Bonnie Prince Charlie when his Jacobite army occupied the city in 1745. The unionist and Hanoverian street names set the context for George Square, which links the old town in the east with the new town in the west. These street names celebrate Glasgow's

identification with the Union: Glasgow was Unionist and Hanoverian, but this enthusiasm morphed into enthusiasm for the British Empire.

The collection of 19th century statues in George Square all relate to each other in Glasgow's history and help us to understand the British Empire. The statues fall into four groups: monarchy and politicians, soldiers, writers and scientists.

Now it's dead white males time! Two years ago the council decided to remove the statues and revamp the Square. For a while it looked as if the people of Glasgow were to lose their history. At least this plan re-kindled an interest in the history of the 19th century statues that was about to be lost like the mansions of the Tobacco Lords. I was asked to speak to a Consultation Committee about the statues as part of Glasgow's heritage. Ostensibly, this was a process of democratic consultation, but I was only given three minutes to defend the twelve statues. I said that I was going to talk about only one person who - metaphorically speaking — had fallen of the radar of consciousness.

Lord Clyde: the inscription refers to him as a field marshal and peer of



the realm, now totally unknown to the public, arch-type of the dead white male - irrelevant today?

Born a stone's throw from George Square, the son of a carpenter living in John Street, his father was a McLiver, whose grandfather had been out in the 45' and forfeited his estates. The 45' was put down with great viciousness in Scotland. Fortunately, his mother's brother, a Campbell, got him a commission in the army. He got it under the name of Campbell, not McLiver — an unusual name that might have identified his Jacobite origins. Campbell's military career ran for more than fifty years, a history of the British Empire at its apogee. His statue with its tropical props of palm tree and pith helmet suggests he was revered as the saviour of India in the mutiny and for getting the women and children out of Lucknow when his highlanders

played "The Campbells are coming." And that's my three minutes!

Colin Campbell's military career ran from the Peninsular War to Balaclava and the Indian Mutiny. One reason we know so much about Colin Campbell, Lord Clyde, was that the Irishman William Howard Russell, first and greatest of war correspondents, was present to record his triumphs. We know how Campbell defended Balaclava from Russell's

account of 'the thin red line.' But in fact Russell wrote "that thin red streak tipped with a line of steel." Russell also covered the siege of Lucknow.

Campbell triumphed at Lucknow because of the vital intelligence brought by another Irishman Thomas Henry Kavanagh. In Lucknow, Kavanagh found himself left with four possibilities: death by the insurgents; death by starvation; death by disease. But if he survived these three he faced disgrace and dismissal from the East India Company for borrowing from an Indian moneylender. Kavanagh — with nothing to lose



— hit on the idea of disguising himself as an Indian and travelled by night to Campbell's lines with plans of the insurgents' dispositions and the best approach to attack the fort to get out the women and children. Probably, Campbell could not have succeeded with only 5,000 troops against an enemy of 60,000 without Kavanagh's plans. Kavanagh got the VC personally from Queen Victoria and a pension.

What do the 19th century statues of George Square reveal, when you are walking round the statues?

Most of the statues have resonances to the present day in small details.

- Wellington for his wellie boots
- Gladstone for his bag the original used to be held up by the Chancellor.
- Scott without whom we wouldn't be here: he created the tourist industry..
- Burns in his love poems, e.g. "My love is like a red red rose" created an appetite for romance hence chocolates and red roses on St. Valentine's Day.
- Peel for the Bobby on the beat and what do you call the Gardai?
- Watt when you switch on a light.
- Victoria for the Victorian Age and Victorian values.
- Albert for the Albert Hall.
- Graham for the loose change in your pockets: as Master of the Mint he withdrew the old copper coinage, substituting bronze—although we still talk about coppers.
- Thomas Campbell for his phrases that have come into our language, like "Full many a fathom deep"; "Spare woodman spare the beechen tree"; "Tomorrow let us do or die"; "Britannia rules the waves"; "Distance lends enchantment to the view."
- Colin Campbell of the 'thin red line', although nobody knows today what it means.

• Moore for the poem about his death which for the next one hundred and fifty years we all had to learn at school was written by an Irishman, Charles Wolfe.

The question is do the statues tell the truth? We all have preconceptions and see what we want to see.

When we walk round the statues, let's look at them like an archaeologist uncovering the truth. Is a statue's image true or false?

The answer is YES and NO.

The first 'No.' When we walk around Oswald's statue, we see the typical Victorian gent, top hat, cane, frock coat, etc. He is the only distinctively Victorian figure in the Square. Oswald's statue is positioned at the opposite corner to Peel, suggesting equivalence.

When we look at the statue again, we see from a closer look Oswald leaning on his malacca cane with the other hand delicately holding his frock coat over his embonpoint. The image of Oswald is not that of a great man like Albert or Wellington nearby.

We find out that it was Oswald's friends who insisted on him being placed at the other corner of the Square from Peel. So clearly, this is a work of propaganda. Also his friends commissioned a statue from Marocetti who had already been involved in the tomb of Napoleon at Les Invalides and created Wellington, Victoria and Albert nearby.

On Oswald's watch over twenty years as an MP after the Great Reform Act, the average age of a Glaswegian fell by five years, as did real wages. Oswald was constantly asked to sponsor factory legislation that Glasgow urgently needed. But he refused and did little for twenty years. Finally, he inherited his slave trading relative's, Richard Oswald's, Auchincruive Estate and fortune. Whilst Oswald became MP for Glasgow, only four per cent of the working class got the vote.

Oswald's friends could buy Marocetti's services as a sculptor, but they could not buy his integrity. Marocetti sculpted the man and his sculpture for Oswald's statue reflects what he saw an image of dapper deportment, not a great man.

The second 'No.' Victoria advancing on her horse, cleverly placed alongside Albert reining back, showing her precedence and the balance of power.

In fact, Albert took the important decisions and ruled through Victoria. For example,

Albert altered one of Palmerston's dispatches that could have led to war with America.

The third 'No.' Walking around Queen Victoria the image of her in her diaphanous dress with her long neck as in a Winterhalter portrait

appearing like Titania, the fairy Queen, is a romantic vision of the nineteenth century. But Victoria was no fairy queen!

Look at the wedding photograph of her and Albert — a true likeness.

Now for the first 'Yes' with a statue that overturns preconceptions. Watt whom everyone thinks of in connection with the steam power is sculpted by his friend Chantrey in the act of invention holding in his right hand a pair of dividers and in his left a pad with a drawing of a steam engine. Why? The dividers symbolise the accuracy of measurement that underpinned his inventive genius and the achievement of technical efficiency in thermodynamic engineering. For understanding the symbolism of the dividers, I am indebted to Professor Marsh, Professor of Engineering at the University of Glasgow.

The second 'Yes.' Burns' statue seen as sculpture in the round challenges the sentimental view of the poet. Burns is from the front a romantic poet, but look at his bowed back from toil on the land—you can see why he only lived till he was thirty six.

The sculpture's image echoes the two sides of Burns' poetic voice: the romantic and concern for the human condition in "A man's a man for aw that."

The third 'Yes.' The image of Campbell, Lord Clyde, is of a fighting soldier. At the time shown in his fighting togs — patrol jacket, corduroy breeches, no plumed hat, no dress uniform, no gongs — because that is what he was a fighting soldier for fifty years. Look at his slightly bowed legs. The newspapers criticised the statue for having the body of a younger man. But again thanks to William Howard Russell we have his description of Campbell in India before being made a field marshal and created a peer of the realm as having a "vigorous" youthful body — suggested in his alert look and energetic step forwards.

The fourth 'Yes.' Lastly Peel. At first sight from the front Peel's image is of a confident man, holding a piece of paper, perhaps a parliamentary order paper. But walking round Peel, we feel a sense of contradiction in the tension in his back. Why?

Research suggested that the front view is of the Peel who repealed the Corn Laws. But his enemies were on his own side behind him, ready to bring him down. Benjamin Disraeli was the leader of the pack!

Finally, the Necropolis. When I was a child looking at the green hill of the Necropolis rising above the cathedral, I thought of the hymn, "There is a green hill far away without the city walls." There were those who had streets named after them, those commemorated by statues, others got the freedom of the city. But for those who wished to buy a bit of immortality, merchants and manufacturers all new money could purchase a plot on the Necropolis.

The merchants memorials on the Necropolis take the form of temples in all styles: Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Moorish, Renaissance and Gothic.



The Necropolis, Glasgow

Collectively, the memorials on the Necropolis reflect the wealth acquired in Glasgow with objects from different civilisations. In 1832 the Anatomy Act was passed, taking away the fear of body snatching, making possible the Necropolis in 1833.

One statue on the Necropolis connects with the rest of Victorian Glasgow: it is that of Sir Charles Tennant sitting slumped looking ill. He looks like one of his workers who died as a result of the fumes and processes in his St. Rollox chemical works, the largest in the world at the time.

To conclude, the collection of nineteenth century statues in George Square mirrors an age that is still inspiring in Scotland to-day for its sheer energy and inventiveness — whether in Scots engineering, military feats, politics and literature. These images remind us of our past and give us reference points to start our researches to find out what happened and why.

I don't know what the future holds for Glasgow, but it is vital we hold on to our awareness of history.

The Role of Bread - Navan 1845-48

by Seán Condon

On 13 September 1845, the renowned botanist, Dr John Lindley, announced to his readers that *phytophthora infestans* (blight) had reached Ireland. At first the people of Meath could not accept that their prosperous county could be laid prostrate by the disease. On 27 September 1845, the editor of the *Meath Herald* denied that the disease was prevalent. On 11 October, the same editor was obliged to issue an apology – It is with deep felt regret, we feel obliged to state that the disease has set in'.

The editor then advised the Meath farmers not to be hasty in selling off their corn:

Our supplies are fast diminishing – it behoves the owners of corn, to be careful in parting with it until the actual state of the potato crop is fully known.



Fig 1 The Meath Herald - Meath's monitor of food prices 1846-7

The importance of corn was apparent to the editor of a small provincial newspaper. Corn and bread would become an essential part of the diet of the nation. For many it was unthinkable that they would eat their corn. It would be a desperate man who ate his rent'. Corn paid the rent. The Master of Navan Workhouse was also complacent. On 4 October, 1845, he proudly announced that they had dug 2012 lbs of sound potatoes and put them in storage. Slowly but surely the blight surrounded Navan Workhouse. On 18 October the Navan Board of Guardians was shocked out of its complacency when Mr John Kealy, bread contractor, wrote to the board stating that he wished to break his contract to supply bread. The unforeseen general failure of the potato crop and the rise in the cost of provisions had rendered it utterly impossible to fulfil his contract.

Kealy, a hard headed businessman, realised that the price of bread was precarious and that he was most likely to suffer losses on his contract .The board contacted the Poor Law Commissioners in Dublin for directions as to how to deal with Mr. Kealy, On 15 November 1845, the Commissioners in Dublin responded "that when the tender is sufficiently definite, it is sufficient to bind him under the Statute of

Frauds". They advised court action in the event of breach of contract. Relations between the two were never cordial from that day forward. John Kealy needed their money and the Board of Guardians needed his bread.



Fig 2 Navan Workhouse, today our Lady's Hospital

The board decided to apply the letter of the law to Kealy, leaving him with little option but to fulfil his contract. By February 1846, potatoes were no longer available to the Board of Guardians and bread would become a major part of the diet of the inmates. Navan Board of Guardians decided on a new dinner menu with bread as the main ingredient. On 18 February, 1846, Mr. Gerrard laid two menus before the board -'Meat Soup' and 'Vegetable Soup'. It was his proposal that each inmate should receive one pint of soup and two pounds of bread for dinner in lieu of potatoes. Children under nine years of age were to get half rations. Meat soup with bread was served on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. On the other three days the inmates received vegetable soup with bread. On 4 March 1846, there were 424 inmates in Navan Workhouse and 2012 lbs of bread were required. For the Navan Board of Guardians, the cost was a financial headache, bread prices were rising inexorably. As a cost-cutting measure the daily ration of bread was reduced to three-quarters of a pound at dinner. There seemed to be constant tension between Mr Kealy and Navan Board of Guardians over the price of his bread. On 15 April, 1846, their anger boiled over and they ordered the Secretary, Mr Lacy, to advertise publicly for a cheaper loaf of bread made from

'flour and Indian corn, samples to be sent to the clerk'. There is no record of samples having been sent to Mr Lacy. At the same meeting, further cost-cutting measures were introduced — meat soup was to be served on Sundays only, on the other six days dinner was to consist of buttermilk and bread.

While Navan Board of Guardians struggled with the rising price of bread, the Navan millers were not without blemish. They saw their chance to make large profits by manipulating the market. In 1846 they controlled the amounts of corn and flour released for sale. By their own admission, they hoarded large quantities of corn, meal and flour. In a secret letter sent to Dublin Castle they declared:

21 April, 1846.

The undersigned being persons long engaged in the milling and corn trade and having very large stores of corn meal and flour in the town of Navan, beg to appraise the magistrates that what occurred lately in our locality...from the demeanour and language of the large body of men who marched into the town on Monday last, we have well grounded apprehensions that unless a military force is stationed in Navan...some attempt will be made to plunder our mills and stores by evilly disposed people.

The Navan magistrates, being of the same socio-economic status, added their own letter of support:

We the undersigned magistrates beg to recommend the accompanied letter to the consideration of the government and add our testimony that we think there is ample ground for making such a request.

Thomas Rothwell J.P., Thomas Gerrard J.P., [P] Metge J.P. and Francis Murphy J.P., all signed the letter.

The plight of the millers of Navan was more important to Dublin Castle than the starving people. In an almost immediate reply, Dublin Castle stated that 'a detachment of the 48th Depot consisting of two officers and forty men will be stationed there [Navan] on Monday, 4 May '.

In fairness not all millers neglected the poor. James McCann of Kilcarne Mills ordered 'the sale of meal at much reduced prices to enable the employed labourer to sustain his family'. McCann's generosity was marked by bonfires in Kilcarne as a sign of appreciation.

The millers were not the only people to exploit the poor. The *Meath Herald* warned its readers about cheating bakers 'The public would do well to see that they are not imposed on by getting two pounds weight when they should be getting three.'

Other frauds mentioned by the *Meath Herald* included selling bread 'a mixture of bad potatoes (Farina) and Indian meal'. Even the Board of Guardians were the victims of sharp practice when it came to bread. At a meeting of the board, complaints were made about the quality of the brown bread. Finally, the newspaper warned merchants, both large and small, that it was going to keep a close eye on them.

The Board of Guardians of Navan Workhouse were not a heartless bunch. Despite their constant struggle with rising costs, at their meeting on 6 January 1847, they instructed the Master to give lodging and supper to the destitute poor for the night and also breakfast. They further authorised "to give a small portion of bread to starving poor persons who for want of room are refused admission."

With no competition and no potatoes, the prices of all corn products reached dizzy heights. By May 1847 grain prices had nearly doubled. On 2 June, 1847 new contracts were signed for bread by the Board of Guardians. Mr. Ed. Carroll was awarded the contract to supply white bread at 11 pence per loaf. Mr Kealy was awarded the contract for brown bread only at 10 pence per loaf. The financial cost to the Board of Guardians was enormous as there were now 583 inmates in the house. At their meeting on 9 June, 1847, their number had reached 596 and this required 2900 lbs of bread for the week. This placed a heavy financial burden on the ratepayers of Navan Union. On 26 June, 1846, help came to the hungry citizens of Navan from a most unlikely source. Sir Robert Peel succeeded in repealing the Corn Laws. Free trade in corn was now allowed. America was at last permitted to sell vast quantities of corn to Europe.

The price of corn did not come down immediately. Ships laden with corn sailed across the Atlantic with much needed foodstuffs. At Drogheda, the ships were forced to lie at anchor – the millers and corn merchants refused to deal with them until they had disposed of their high priced Irish produce. The *Drogheda Conservative Journal*, normally staunchly loyal to the Union, railed against this disgraceful conduct of the millers and merchants. While there is abundance to be had in America, which our millers will not import for fear of doing away with their 300 per cent blood money.'

Finally, in the summer of 1847, the "food" gates opened and American corn flooded the market. Flour prices collapsed in Navan. The *Meath Herald* was jubilant – 'Few will have pity for the vampires (merchants), as they had none for the famishing people.'

The repeal of the Corn Laws brought great relief to Navan Board of Guardians. Kealy and Carroll saw their prices slashed. Kealy, who had lost the contract for white bread, now only supplied brown bread to Navan Workhouse. The brown loaf fell to 5¾ pence. As if elated by the turn of events, on 22 December, 1847, the Board of Guardians decreed that the inmates should have a special treat on Christmas Day. They ordered a 170 lbs of beef for soup and an extra 657 lbs of bread, one pound for each inmate. Alas! it was but a mirage. 1848 brought further misery. The Gregory clause insisted that a person who sought relief, even of a temporary nature in Navan Workhouse, had to surrender his

land if it was greater than a quarter acre. This meant that he had no home to return to if he left the workhouse – thus they stayed in the workhouse and swelled the numbers that had to be maintained at the ratepayers' expense.

The *Meath Herald* played a major part in driving down the price of bread. It was determined to prevent exploitation of the poorest and weakest in Meath. The people of Meath should enjoy the benefits of the collapse of corn prices, not the merchants. True to its word, the paper began to publish the best value in bread available in Meath and Navan in 1847. Navan Public Bakery was deemed to provide the best value. This unusual bakery was run by a manager, Mr Campbell. It had no address apart from Navan. It is now possible to locate it in Bakery Lane through reference to "Primary Valuation of Tenements 1858". What was unusual about its marketing policy, the price of bread never changed – the weight of the bread changed. It had four different prices, the shilling loaf, the sixpenny loaf, threepenny loaf and the penny ha'penny roll. On 2 January, 1847 the pricing structure was as follows,

Cost	Weight
Shilling loaf	5 lbs – 12 ozs.
Sixpenny loaf	2 lbs - 14 ozs
Threepenny loaf	1 lb – 7 ozs
Penny ha'penny Roll	0 – 11 ozs

Table 1 The price of bread in Navan in January 1847.

While the bread was not free, the inhabitants of Navan were assured of at least some bread according to their means. When American corn flooded the Irish market, the true benefits of Navan Public Bakery became apparent.

By 18 December, 1847, the quantity of bread in each category had changed as shown in Table 2.

Cost	Weight
Shilling loaf	8 lbs - 0 ozs.
Sixpenny loaf	4 lbs – 0 ozs
Threepenny loaf	2 lbs - 0 ozs
Penny ha'penny Roll	1 lb – 0 ozs

Table 2 The price of bread in Navan in December 1847

Such quantities of bread ensured that most households were able to purchase some bread. A surprising feature of Navan Public Bakery was that there are no records of it supplying bread to the Board of Guardians between 1845 and 1847. When Navan Board of Guardians encouraged public tendering in the latter years Navan Public Bakery left it to the other bakers in Navan. Why such good value in bread and so low a public profile?

Who were the people behind this altruistic venture? Were they students of economics or very astute politicians who were aware that Sir Robert Peel wished to establish free trade with the United States long before it became a reality? They took a risk and the people of Navan were to benefit. Many years later in 1949, Seán Mac Na Midhe raised a wry smile when he recalled that there was a bakery in Bakery Lane, Navan, where so much bread was made that the bakers were obliged to knead the dough with their feet.



Fig 3 Bakery Lane Navan

While such an unhygienic practice would be frowned upon to-day, how was the best French wine produced? The great admirer of all things French in Navan was none other than Rev. Eugene O'Reilly, parish priest of St. Mary's. He built St Mary's Navan, on the style of the Paris Opera House 'Cercle Metropolitan'. Bakery Lane just happens to be adjacent to the church. A chance discovery of his will contained the

missing clues. On 17 December, 1851 he drew up his will and a bequest to his niece, Eliza Anne O'Reilly stated 'I also bequeath unto my said niece Eliza Anne O'Reilly all my shares in Navan Public Bakery.'

Who were the other secret shareholders who played such an important part in alleviating the suffering of the people of Navan?

From 1847 onwards bread was firmly established as part of the Irish diet. The Irish people had lost confidence in the potato. While not entirely banished from the table, it had lost its pre-eminence. Never again would the people of be held to ransom by the potato. Bread did not end the famine, but in Navan it played a vital part in alleviating the worst horrors of that terrible era.

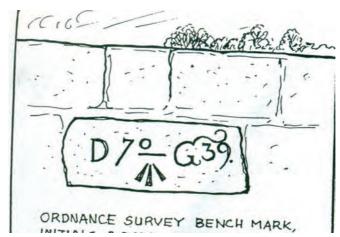


Fig 4 Lest we forget - Navan Workhouse Graveyard in the grounds of Our Lady's Hospital

Sapper's Mark at Ballyforan Bridge, Co. Roscommon

By Albert Siggins

Ballyforan Bridge over the river Suck, Co. Roscommon is a thirteen arch masonry bridge dividing the counties Roscommon and Galway. This handsome bridge, built about 1820, is a reminder of the fine engineering abilities of the workmen of the time still enabling heavy vehicular traffic to pass over this wide river. In the centre of the bridge is a carved stone set in the parapet showing the date 1839, a sapper's 'crow's foot' mark with datum line above, the figure seven(?) and zero, and the initials D and G (See sketch). It has all the signs of an Ordnance Survey datum level or benchmark carved and set in place on this 18th century bridge in the year 1839. Large landowners in the area in the mid 19th century were Nicholas D'Arcy and Gonville Ffrench whose initials may possibly form the D and G letters of the carving on the stone, may purely be in the realm of fanciful speculation, but the letters could very well mean something else, for example, lettering or notation connected with the instrumentation used in the levelling calculations. It is tempting to view the figure 7 and zero for a longitude bearing of seven degrees but the nearest place where this longitude bearing passes is east of Mullingar so it is back to the drawing board to find a solution, if such can be found.



One of the oldest professions is that of surveying which stretches back to before the building of the pyramids in the ancient world. The techniques and instruments used were already well perfected during Greek and Roman times. Much of the ingenious record of road making and town planning can still be seen in the archaeological record of Roman Britain. In Ireland little of surveying work for maps came on stream until countrywide maps were prepared during the reigns of Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, like those of John Goghe, John Norden and Boazio. William Petty began his Down Survey in the mid 17th century which laid the ground for a detailed map of the extent of townlands and placenames in the country. Nearly another two hundred years were to pass before the next major map surveying campaign began which was the 1st Ordnance Survey. In the meantime there were numerous estate surveys and military maps prepared for improving coastal defences in the Napoleonic period.

The largest mapping campaign ever undertaken in Ireland was that of the 1st Ordnance Survey undertaken in the years 1836 -40. The survey was set up under statute and organised by engineers in the military. Teams of sappers and miners criss-crossed the country using the latest surveying instruments like the theolodite and plane-table along with trigonometrical calculations worked out from fixed positions still seen today in the landscape as granite or concrete pillars sometimes fleetingly seen by the motorist when passing by for example at Rathallen near Tulsk or when hill walking as at Moydow, Kilmeane, near Knockcroghery.

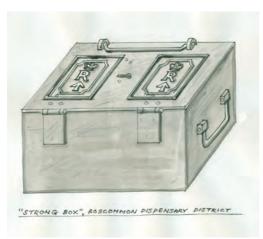
A frequently seen Ordnance Survey sign is the benchmark/sapper's mark or the British Broad Arrow colloquially known as a 'crow's foot' as seen at Ballyforan. These were carved into blocks of stone in walls, bridges and churches or anywhere the surveyors determined would be a permanent position unlikely to be disturbed. Good examples can be seen on the outer wall of King House, Boyle and St Coman's Church of Ireland, Roscommon town. Some are carved atop milestones such as one at Athlone, Co. Westmeath. The carved arrow has an horizontal line above which shows a relationship with the level of low water at springtide on 8th April, 1837 at Poolbeg Lighthouse, Dublin.

All the datums around the country relate to this level and the calculated levels were marked on the maps to show where ground rose or fell giving contours of the landscape. Since 1970 the Mean Sea Level is taken at Portmoor Pier, Malin Head, Co Donegal. The resultant product of maps produced run to many hundreds and were manufactured in folded linen-backed fine quality paper sheets packed in groups of about thirty in leather bound cases. The maps were later used to record information for the Griffith's Poor law Valuation and remain an invaluable resource for those seeking where people lived in the 1850s. The Ordnance Survey headquarters still have some of these finely produced copper map printing plates used to produce the positive images of the maps in their archives.

On the 1838 map showing Ballyforan Bridge levels nearby of 146, 150 and 152 feet above datum are marked so the seven and zero on the stone clearly do not belong to the datum measurements. Far more curious are the capital initial letters of D and G the meaning of which is uncertain; they could relate to one of the sapper or engineering team. It is possible too that the extra lettering may not be contemporaneous with the carving of the datum line with broad arrow and added at a later time.

The British Broad Arrow

The Office of Ordnance was created by Henry VIII in the 1540s and advanced to become the Board of Ordnance by 1597. During Henry's reign its duties were related to guns, stores and equipment to the King's Navy. The Board used the broad arrow to indicate equipment purchased from the King's finances and later to mark government property. The introduction of this mark is in part attributed to Henry Sidney, 1st Earl of Romney, who served as Master General of the Ordnance from 1693 to 1702, and since the pheon or broad arrow appears in the arms of the Sydney family it came to represent British Government property and was both a proof of quality made goods for home and in the colonies. It also factored as an impediment to loss of goods through pilfering. The arrow mark was found on weapons on Henry's flag- ship Mary Rose when it was raised from the waters of the Solent in the 1980s signifying its currency at this period.



Some authorities think that the broad arrow may go back to the actual arrowhead design, longbows and bowmen being a key part of the English army in the Middle Ages. It was also used in the English colonies of North America of the 18th century as a mark on trees selected for shipbuilding by the British Government. In the 19th century Commonwealth countries like Australia. Canada and India also used the mark to identify government

property. In Ireland before 1922 the mark can be found on varied items such as the tongs used in RIC barrack firegrates to the whistles used by the military and police. Lids of metal strong boxes used for valuable documents being transported through dispensary districts also had the broad arrow prominently displayed.

Even prisoners clothing in the 19th century had the arrow imprinted so it was both an offence to escape as well as taking the clothing. Maps of coastal defences prepared during the Napoleonic period have an imprinted stamp in red ink with the broad arrow and the initials B.O. (British Ordnance).



Field Works at Shannonbridge from date 1810. Note stamp with B.O. (British Ordnance) and broad arrow. Image courtesy PRO, Kew, London

Beginnings of the Ordnance Survey in Ireland

The Ordnance Survey was established in 1824 and initially was a military institution. In fact all staff were military up until the later 20th century when the first civilian employees were employed. The Office was created to carry out a survey of the country to update land valuations for taxation. The original survey of 6" to the mile was completed in 1846 under the direction of Lieut. Col. Thomas Colby and Capt Thomas Larcom. Capt Larcom had originally served as an officer in the Royal Engineers and was trained at the Woolwich Arsenal in London. His considerable business acumen saw the survey project through from field surveying to the printed six inch map, supervised and checked in a highly efficient manner. Ireland became the first country in the world to be mapped in such detail. During the survey many new scientific advances were employed in the survey practice. The impetus to advance technical improvements has advanced to the present time employing digital and satellite technology (GPS).



Benchmark at King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon (formerly military barracks)

In the early days some outstanding people worked in the Topographical Dept like John O'Donovan, Eugene O'Curry and George Petrie who left a valuable legacy in relation to research into placenames, archaeology and lexicography. The Office was originally housed in Mountjoy House, Phoenix Park and still serves as its headquarters today. The Ordnance Survey Ireland entity served as part of the civil service area of government until 2002 and then became a state body under the Ordnance Survey Ireland Act.

Under this Act, Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) continued its mainstream public service function of creating and maintaining the definitive mapping records of the State and has also assumed the commercial function assigned to it under the Act of developing its commercial and sales business. Responsibility for Ordnance Survey Ireland is, since 2008, with the Dept of Communications, Energy and Natural resources. At present the Ordnance Survey Ireland employ over 300 staff located in Dublin, Cork, Ennis, Kilkenny, Longford. Sligo and Tuam.

When the 1st Ordnance Survey of Ireland was completed costs rose to near £860,000, an enormous sum in those days. The mapping scheme produced numerous opportunities for employment for Irish people as skilled or semi-skilled field workers assisting the engineers. Also employed were clerks in the Memoirs project that was designed to illustrate and complement the maps by providing data on the social and productive work of the country.

Publications and computer map services

The most popular consumer publications are the Dublin City and

District Street Guide and the Complete Road Atlas of Ireland which it publishes with its counterpart in Northern Ireland. Also important are The Discovery Series of maps. For the historian O'Donovan's Letterbooks and Ordnance Survey namebooks produced in the 1840s are invaluable. For the digital age the service provided by the OSI combining modern mapping and historical mapping like the original 6" survey at the same computer screen scale are invaluable in tracing where there were dwellings and other domestic features now long gone from the landscape.

Benchmarks demise

In Great Britain the advent of new technologies has had an adverse affect on the preservation of benchmarks and other types of OS markers. Half a million generally were made between 1912 to 1956. These have been too expensive to maintain and have been steadily disappearing since the 1980s when the last resurvey was undertaken. Since the year 2000 they are not officially being conserved except the type known as the Fundamental Benchmark of which there are about 100. This type is composed of a bronze bolt set into bedrock in an underground chamber with a granite pillar above. Other types were the usual cut on stone variety; a projecting metal bracket set into the face of a building; flush bracket, a type cast in metal and set into the face of a wall or building and all were installed in the late 19th and 20th century. In 2000 the OS formally announced the abandonment of the traditional BMs in favour of Global Positioning Systems (GPS).

The Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE) in the UK recommend that BMs are not used as best practice by engineering firms. It appears that a similar recommendation obtains in the Republic of Ireland and this can only be to the detriment of these curious 200 year old map production engineering artifacts. The fear is that benchmarks will go the way of the old coach- road milestones many of the smaller ones disappearing as time goes on. This would indeed be a sad state of affairs for objects that have stood the test of time for so long.

The Great War — a Lot of People Died

by Padraig Yeates

Last month I wrote a fairly facetious letter to the *Irish Times* which upset a few people, but I was just trying to make a simple point in a way that might help us look at the interminable debate about the Great War in a new way. The letter said:

If we want to find anything positive out of the conjuncture of the Home Rule crisis and the outbreak of the First World War, we might recall that it took tens of thousands of adult Irish males willing to fight for, or against Home Rule and sent them overseas to kill foreigners instead of each other. The British War Office paid them for their services and gave money to their dependants, while we were spared the collateral damage of sectarian, tribal warfare.

Meanwhile the disarming of the Irish Volunteers after the Easter Rising in 1916 ensured that when war did eventually come to Ireland, from 1919 to 1924, it was on a much more limited scale than would otherwise have been the case.

Compared with other combatants in Europe we came off comparatively lightly. The absence of guns and people willing to use them was a blessing in disguise. As subsequent events proved, political violence could not cure the underlying social and economic maladies that beset Irish society north and south in subsequent decades.

I think anyone looking at events between 1912, the signing of the Ulster Convenant and 1925, the completion of the Boundary Commission's work, must be struck by how much the political superstructure, the leaders and political parties, had changed and how much the underlying realities of daily life had remained the same. Yes, quite a few people did manage to a lot of damage with relatively few guns but the only real change on the local scene was that work houses became county homes, and there were an awful lot fewer of them.

Ireland's primary role during the war was as a supplier of food, most of it unprocessed and on the hoof, to the British market. The British government introduced a number of important reforms that greatly improved the quality of life in this country, particularly for the working poor. Of course these were not introduced for our benefit but to win the war. Nevertheless we benefitted all the same.

One was the payment of separation money to the wives and other dependents of serving soldiers. These were quite generous and represented the greatest transfer of wealth to the Dublin tenements in the country's history. By 1918 the second largest source of income in the tenements, after labourers' wages was separation money which, after

1916, was also paid to unmarried mothers of servicemen's children. Another, even more important development, was the introduction of the Committee on Production system, which ensured union recognition. The rhetoric of Jim Larkin, the writings and martyrdom of James Connolly, the ideology of the syndicalist movement, the organising zeal of William O'Brian, James Everett and others all played a role in the development of the Irish labour movement but the greatest factor of all was the Committee on Production system. We all know about the great Dublin Lockout of 1913 but relatively few Irish people realise it was part of the 'Great Unrest', a great surge in industrial militancy in Britain between 1910 and 1914. When war came the Liberal government knew it could not fight Germany abroad and the Labour movement at home simultaneously so it introduced a system of industrial arbitration.

The scheme was restricted to war sensitive sectors such as shipyards, railways, munitions and engineering plants but these set benchmarks for the wider economy. In Ireland there were relatively few such industries and those that did exist were marginal to the British war effort. The one sector where Ireland did have an important role to play was in the provision of food. By 1917 the disturbed state of the country was having its effect and the British government established the Agricultural Wages Board. This was a system where farmers' organisations and workers' organisations could come together under a government appointed chairman to negotiate on pay and conditions. Agricultural labourers flocked to the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union and, within a couple of years, trade union membership on this island rose from 100,000 to 270,000 with the ITGWU accounting for half of the total.

Year	ITUC	ITGWU
1916	120,000	5,000
1917	150,000	25,000
1918	250,000	68,827
1919	270,000	102,419
1920	229,000	120,000
1921	196,000	69,560
1922	189,000	82,243
1923	183,000	89,000
1924	175,000	67,000
1932	95,000	14,123

In Britain, where there was a much larger industrial base, trade union membership still rose from four million to eight and growth was especially strong amongst women workers, many of them wives and mothers employed for the first time outside the home. This phenomenon was less widespread in Ireland. Nevertheless it did happen in sectors such as the railways and munitions. Indeed the munitions industry was almost exclusively female and women were found to be much more productive than their male counterparts. At the same time traditional Irish industries such as brewing and distilling were discouraged and, from 1916, many distilleries were forced to convert to industrial alcohol production. Companies such as Guinness and Jameson's encouraged employees to join the British Army not just out of a sense of patriotism, but because they had workforces surplus to requirements.

The war and the hardships it inflicted on the civilian population also bred political radicalism. But whereas it tended to be class based in Britain, in Ireland the central driving force outside of the North-East was nationalism. This was a common phenomenon we shared with much of Europe. In large urban based societies the vehicle of anti-war sentiment tended to be socialism or communism. In predominantly peasant societies, like Ireland, whose political and economic life had often been stifled by imperial governments, it was militant nationalism. Rather than regard ourselves as somehow unique we should realise we were part of a wider movement that created the many successor states to emerge from the break-up of the great European empires.

Britain dragged Ireland into a war not of its making, much as Finns, Czechs, Poles and other nationalities were by their imperial masters, because the European ruling elite was too incompetent to prevent mutual conflict or deal intelligently with the rising forces of socialism, nationalism and feminism. John Redmond, who was tied hand and foot to the Liberal alliance had no choice but to support the British war effort if he was to have any hope of securing Home Rule. He also believed genuinely in the British Empire and wanted Ireland to have a greater share in the benefits of imperial exploitation of the colonies. Unfortunately for him, when the war proved neither short, nor glorious, the Irish Party was blamed as much as the British for dragging us into this unmitigated disaster.

Which brings me back to my letter. I still believe the Great War saved us from a far worse bloodbath than the one we might have experienced in the revolutionary decade. Whether it would have cost the 35,000 Irish lives that were lost abroad, who can say? What we can be fairly sure of is that it would not only have cost the lives of several more thousand combatants than was the case in Ireland between 1916 and 1923, but multiples of those figures in terms of civilians killed; not to mention property destroyed.

I have conflicting views and emotions when I reflect on the Great War and on the Second World War. My grandfather served in the British army and so did my father, like countless other unskilled Dublin working class men of those generations. I myself was in the republican movement for

many years, hence having the honour of knowing Tomas MacGiolla. I was in Belfast in August 1971 when internment was introduced. I saw the same army in operation there and it was not a very edifying state, which is not to say they had an easy job. At least they didn't call in air strikes on the Lower Falls to save themselves casualties.

But of course the British army that served in Northern Ireland was not the army that fought in the Second World War, which was in turn very different from the army that fought the First World War. Institutions are deeply affected by the societies in which they exist. I grew up mainly in England and I have to say that in the aftermath of the Second World War very few people spoke about the First. It was almost as if it was such a terrible experience that everyone wanted to forget it. It was not until 1964, the fiftieth anniversary of its outbreak, that it regained a central place in British public consciousness. It was an honest attempt to look at the realities of modern warfare, less sanitised than before but the focus on the front line seemed to legitimise the irredeemable through the concept of heroic sacrifice. But I think we have to ask heroic sacrifice for what? The Hohenzollern, Tsarist, Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman and British empires that mobilised the vast majority of combatants no longer exist.

It is often said that the First World War was a war that should never have been fought and the Second World War, its poisoned legacy, was a war that had to be fought, and won, if European civilisation was to survive in however mutilated a form. The spirit of 1945 was very different from the spirit of 1914, and I would argue that the historic compromise between capital and labour that helped create 30 years of growth after 1945 and greater social equality than ever before in Europe might be more worthy of examination than the bloody carnage of 1914; but the tyranny of commemoration dictates otherwise.

In Ireland debate is further inhibited by the Peace Process, which means we are afraid to tell hard truths in case they offend the imagined pasts of others. Instead we often indulge sentimental but still potentially lethal mythologies.

The main lesson I draw from 1914 is that if you give a lot of people guns and convince them they have good reasons to use them, a lot of other people will die.

Historiography of Deel Castle, County Mayo

by D. Keenan

Dee1 Castle is tower house located upon eastern bank of the River approximately Deel 2km north of the shores of Lough Conn within the barony of Tyrawley. Deel Castle was formerly referred to as Newtown/Newton during the 15th and 16th centuries as highlighted on Browne's map of 1584. This tower house is the largest in the barony of Tyrawley and one of the largest in



Photo 1: Deel Castle from North-West

County Mayo. Therefore, it could be surmised that this structure was an important site in its day. Yet there is very little literature available within the public realm on Deel Castle. Therefore, this essay will explore the historiography associated with this structure and attempt to highlight its impressive history. The photo opposite highlights the present condition of Deel Castle. ¹

Background

Tower houses are a genre of castle construction, particularly common throughout Ireland. It is widely believed that tower house construction commenced in the 15th century and continued into the early 17th century. Contemporary historians estimate that there are approximately 3,000 such structures in Ireland with particular concentrations in Limerick, Cork, Galway and Tipperary. Consequently, tower house ruins are a familiar sight throughout the countryside. There is significant literature available on tower houses in the counties mentioned immediately above. However, there is limited literature available specifically dealing with the tower houses of County Mayo; this may be a function of the smaller quantum of tower houses contained therein, and their varying state of preservation and accessibility.

Tower houses were constructed by the upper echelons of Gaelic and Anglo-Norman society in Ireland during the 14th and 16th centuries, the labour for which rested on the customary duties of tenants to provide labour service to build and maintain the chief's residences.² Study has

demonstrated that tower houses were more numerous in areas of greater agricultural quality. Tower houses did have some defensive qualities, albeit limited. Tower houses were more suited to defence against 'petty plunderers' than a large mobile army. Therefore, tower houses functioned well in the disjointed Gaelic and Anglo-Norman society. The first element of defence associated with a tower house would have been a bawn wall, or stone enclosure. In addition, the bawn wall would also have been used to enclose livestock and prevent theft. If the bawn wall was breached, the next line of defence was within the tower house where the defenders closed the 'yett' (iron door) behind them. Effective tower houses had bartizans on the top corners and machicolations above the doorway. Two bartizans on opposing corners would suffice to defend the four walls of the structure. Deel Castle is a fine example of the combination of machicolation and bartizans in Mayo. The occupants defended the door of the tower house from the machicolation using missiles. If the door was breached the defenders retreated upstairs locking attackers within the lobby. The defenders then attacked via murder holes built into the ceiling of the lobby, one of which is also present at Deel Castle. One should also point out the base batter of the towers, which also acted as a defence mechanism causing missiles thrown from the machicolation to rebound towards attackers.

Following the end of the Nine Years' War, tower houses may have suffered a reduction in their functionality given the removal of tribal warfare and raiding and the acquisition of some by the Old English merchant families of Galway and beyond. The next major rising of 1641 was to fully remove the functionality of the tower houses and leave them largely as the ruins we witness today.

The primary objective of this report is to demonstrate, utilising historiography, that tower houses were some of the most important architectural features in County Mayo during their brief history and were highly prized by their occupants. To supplement this, the occupants of the structure have also been investigated and their contribution to political developments in County Mayo during the late 16th and early 17th centuries discussed.

Castle History and Occupants

Deel Castle was a seat for the Sliocht Ricaird sept of the Bourkes, one of the premier Anglo-Irish septs in Mayo during the 15th and 16th centuries. MacFhirbhisigh states that the Bourkes first settled in Tyrawley in the 15th century under the leadership of Richard O'Cuairsci Bourke. The Sliocht Ricaird Bourkes took their sept name from Richard O'Cuairsci. MacFhirbhisigh states that Richard O'Cuairsci took Tirawley by force from the Barretts, including the castles of Iniscoe, Crossmolina, Castlehill, Ballycastle and Ardnaree.³ As Newtown is not included in

this list, it seems certain that Deel Castle would have been constructed following Richard O'Cuairsci Bourke's death, most likely in the 16th century.

The earliest record of Newtown is found during the period between 1570 – 1574. Newtown Castle was recorded as being occupied by Richard FitzOliverus Bourke.⁴ Richard FitzOliverus was a highly important political figure during this period and in 1583 succeeded to the MacWilliamship title. His political importance is evident by the fact that he is recorded as attending the commissioning of Sir Nicholas Malby to the office of Lord President of the province of Connaught, prior to his reign as MacWilliam Íochtair.⁵

In order to succeed to the title MacWilliam Íochtair, the candidate had to be able to protect his sub-septs, their flocks and property. In undertaking this responsibility, the candidate would have had to have held a significant quantum of livestock and land, the key indicators of wealth in Ireland at the time. As such, this suggests the strength, power and standing of Richard FitzOliverus in County Mayo. Utilising the work undertaken by MacFhirbhisigh, it can be determined that Richard FitzOliverus Bourke was the son of Oliverus (Mac William Íochtair), grandson of John (also Mac William Íochtair), great-grandson of Richard O'Cuairsci (also Mac William Íochtair) of the Sliocht Ricaird of Tyrawley.⁶

Richard FitzOliverus Bourke eventually succeeded Richard An Iarainn Bourke who held the MacWilliamship title between 1580 – 1583. Richard An Iarainn was of the Sliocht Ulick Bourkes of Carra and Burrishoole and was for a period married to Grainne O'Malley. Prior to the reign of Richard An Iarainn, Richard FitzOliverus's own brother John held the title. As the standing MacWilliam Íochtair, Richard FitzOliverus attended the commissioning of Sir Richard Bingham as the Lord President of Connaught in 1585. During this period, Newtown was also included in Browne's map of County Mayo, mentioned earlier. On this map, Newtown is marked as 'MacWilliam's House' along with Kinlough and Ballyloughmask in the barony of Kilmaine. It is highly likely that Richard FitzOliverus took up residence in Ballyloughmask, the premier house of MacWilliam Íochtair, upon his chieftaincy. Consequently, Newtown was probably occupied by some minor members of the Sliocht Ricaird Bourkes during this period, perhaps his own sons or siblings.

It was Richard FitzOliverus, as MacWilliam Íochtair, who oversaw the establishment of the Composition of Connaught, and played a role in the negotiation of the terms of the Composition of Connacht for County Mayo and indeed the barony of Tyrawley. A number of the elite of County Mayo negotiated the terms of the Composition alongside Richard FitzOliverus, some of the more note worthy participants are as follows:

the Archbishop of Tuam; the bishop of Killala; numerous kinsmen of MacWilliam Íochtair based in the barony of Tyrawley; Richard Barrett alias MacPaddin chief of his name; Myly MacEvily, chief of his name; Edmond Bourke, tanist to MacWilliam Íochtair; William Bourke alias the Blind Abbott; Edmond Evagher MacJordan, alias MacJordan; Richard MacMorris, chief of his name; William Bourke of Shrule; Richard Oge Bourke of Cloonnagashel; Molaghlyn O'Malley, chief of his name; Teig Roe O'Malley of Cahernemart; Walter MacPhillipyne, chief of his name. As such, the leaders of each of the major septs played a role in overseeing the terms of the Composition.

Within the 'Compossicion Booke of Connought', Newtown Castle was also confirmed in the possession of Richard FitzOliverus in 1585. By this stage Richard FitzOliverus had been elevated to 'Sr Richard Burk of the Newtowne knight otherwise called MacWilliam Eighter' most likely due to his recent elevation to the chieftaincy of the Bourkes. The Compossicion Booke indicates that Sir Richard held some 10 quarters of land associated with Newtown Castle; 'said Sr Richard Burke knight, shall have hold possess and enjoy unto him and his heires and assignes the Castle of Newtowne in the Barony of Moyne aforesaid and 10 quarters of land' which were 'freely exonerated and discharged from this Compossicion ... by knights service, vizt by the 20th part of a knights fee'. The fact that Sir Richard held the 10 quarters surrounding Newtown free of the Composition is significant, as these lands were free of the Composition rent charges.

These exemptions were in recognition of Sir Richard's place of dignity. ¹¹ The exemption of charges on these lands, would have given Sir Richard an advantage over other landholders in attracting tenants and labourers to Newtown. This would have been in contrast to lands held by others where no exemptions were applied; the result being the Composition charge transferred onto the tenants in these cases. Sir Richard Bingham noted the effect of the Composition upon the lands of those where the rent charges did apply; 'the husbandman doth choose rather to dwell upon the great freedoms', thus creating waste lands throughout some areas of the county. ¹² As such, it is likely that a reasonably sized prosperous settlement would have developed about Newtown subsequent to the Composition. Deel Castle at this stage would have been at its peak in terms of prosperity and populace.

In addition to the subject structure and its associated lands, Sir Richard was also to receive within the Composition the 'Castles or manors of Balliloghmaske, Killagh and Ballinrobe as in the townes belonging to the same as a demaine to the said manors, freely exonerated and discharged of and from this Compossicion'. This grant was to be made by letters patent from her Matie to him, his heires and assignes'.¹³

Consequently, Richard FitzOliverus and his heirs became quite wealthy under the provisions of the Composition. With the Composition, Richard FitzOliverus Bourke also effectively submitted to English law, in particular in relation to succession and also the abolition of the MacWilliamship title. The Composition states 'the said Sr Richard Burk, think themselves more worthy of the English succession now devised by this Compossicion' effectively rejecting the previous methods of tanistry and election. ¹⁴

Prior to his death in 1585. Sir Richard Bourke is also recorded as having attended a session of parliament in April/June 1585. 15 Although Richard FitzOliverus only held the MacWilliamship for a short period of approximately two years, his actions had far reaching consequences. The death of Sir Richard Bourke effectively brought a legal and effective end to the MacWilliamship in the eyes of the Elizabethan government. It was Richard FitzOliverus' actions in accepting the Composition, in particular his acceptance of the abolition of the ancient position of MacWilliam lochtair, which largely contributed to the revolt of the Bourke septs in 1586. As a result of his agreement with the government, Richard's son and heir William effectively succeeded to the mensal castles, manors and lands that were typically associated with the ancient title of MacWilliam lochtair, Deel Castle now being added to this extensive inheritance. The other various senior Bourke septs appear to have been reluctant to accept the permanent acquisition of these lands and rights by William and his line, given his youth and lack of standing among the septs.

Regardless, William successfully succeeded to his father's estates



Photo 2: Deel Castle North Face

including Ballyloughmask, the castle of Newtown (Deel Castle) and the 10 quarters of land in Tyrawley on 16th March 1587.16 In addition to the above, William was entitled to rent from 15 towns in Kilmaine and rent from the lands 'of the Bourkes, Jonnyn, Clanemoiles, and Slight vic Tibbot, near the said castle, in all 60 quarters' in the barony of Kilmaine. 17 Furthermore, in Newtown, William was entitled to rent from the lands of the 'Barretts, Bourkes, Lynotes, Clanepaydin, Carrowes, Clanedonylles near the said castle' in the barony of Tyrawley.18

The very fact that William succeeded to the extensive lands and rents

through English law and primogeniture placed him firmly in alliance with the English administration. Through the grant of title, William had to 'maintain so many armed horsemen and footmen, as by the queens commissioners, shall be appointed for the defence of the province, and answer all hostings without the province'.¹⁹ Subsequently, William was placed on the opposing side to his Bourke kinsmen who campaigned for the restoration of the MacWilliamship title and the associated rental and proprietary entitlements. Indeed William had also to defend his position in relation to the lands of Ballyloughmask against the ambitious Theobold Bourke (Thibbott ne Long), son of Richard An Iarainn and leading member of the Sliocht Ulick Bourkes, who put forward a formal claim under tanist law in 1600.²⁰ Although the Nine Years' War was underway during the tenure of William at Newtown, there appears to be little record of his participation in this conflict apart from a pardon issued to him and his sons in 1599.²¹

William Bourke was succeeded by his son Captain Thomas Bourke in 1602.²² This would indicate that William Bourke died in or around the opening of the 17th century. Letters patent were received by Thomas Bourke confirming in him the power to 'keep a court leet and a court baron in Ballilomaske, Killagh, Ballynroba, and the Newtown'. 23 Thomas effectively received a patent from James I for the lands surrendered by Richard FitzOliverus Bourke under the Composition of Connaught making him one of the largest landowners in County Mayo. Interestingly, Captain Thomas Bourke was recorded as having served Elizabeth I at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, Sir George Carew describes Thomas stating 'he has served the Queen loyally and did good service at Kinsale, where I was an eye-witness of his bravery and 'deservings".²⁴ A number of additional entries / muster rolls in the State Papers indicate that Thomas Bourke was in command of 100 infantry at various periods and locations in the service of the Crown. For instance in November of 1602, Captain Thomas Bourke and 100 men were recorded stationed at Ballyshannon, the gateway into the territory of Red Hugh O'Donnell.²⁵

As such, it would appear that Thomas Bourke served the Crown for much of the Nine Years' War in opposition to the Gaelic confederacy led by Hugh O'Neill and O'Donnell. However, according to Sir Theobold Dillion, Thomas Bourke had two brothers with the rebels, indicating some division within his immediate family with regard to participation in this defining conflict.²⁶ This might suggest that Thomas Bourke's brothers may have supported Theobold Bourke, son of Walter Ciotach, the MacWilliam İochtair installed by O'Donnell. Both Captain Thomas Bourke and O'Donnell's MacWilliam were members of the Sliocht Ricaird of Tyrawley. However, it is not surprising that Thomas Bourke aided the crown during this period given the extensive lands and manors he came

to hold, that were formerly the mensal lands of MacWilliam Iochtair, granted to his father and grandfather by the Crown. Furthermore, O'Donnell's unwise choice of Theobold Bourke as MacWilliam Íochtair may have also had the effect of placing Thomas Bourke on the side of the Crown. Thomas Bourke alongside Thibbot ne Long Bourke were direct descendents of the last two officially recognised MacWilliam Íochtarach and perhaps had a better claim to the title than Theobold Bourke, son of Walter Ciotach. Using MacWilliam as his conduit in Mayo during the 1590s, O'Donnell sought to establish his overlordship over North Connaught. To this end O'Donnell also attempted to levy taxes in Tyrawley. It is likely O'Donnell attempted to do this in order to pay for his war machine, in particular his bonnaughts. Given that O'Donnell's MacWilliam Íochtair was originally based in Tyrawley and Thomas Bourke's opposition to the Gaelic confederacy, it is highly likely that Deel Castle fell victim at some point to raiding and attack from MacWilliam Jochtair and O'Donnell.

As such, Thomas Bourke demonstrated during the Nine Years' War that he was one individual who was willing to adapt and embrace the new order in favour of the Gaelicised one. To this end, the same Captain Thomas Bourke surrendered Ballyloughmask and Newtown in 1611 and was regranted the same in return for a knight's service becoming Sir Thomas Bourke. Thomas 1611, Sir Thomas along with Sir Theobold Bourke (Tibbot ne Long) received a pardon from James I. However, in this instance Sir Thomas is described as 'of Loughmaske'. Other gentlemen described as of Newtown who additionally received a pardon are as follows: Ulicke Bourke McRichard, John Bourke Fitz Moyler and Oliver Bourke. These gentlemen may have been brothers of Sir Thomas and this record may indicate that these gentlemen occupied Newtown as his tenants. The known siblings of Sir Thomas Bourke are shown in Figure 1 below.

Later on in 1613, Sir Thomas Bourke is recorded as a participant in the Irish parliament of the period and achieved a level of notoriety as a 'lord and recusant', being described as one of the principal disturbers of parliament. During this sitting of parliament, Bourke was recorded as one of those who were 'busy in maintaining Sir John Everard in the chair and resisting those that were placing the rightful Speaker in it'.29 Therefore, it is clear that Sir Thomas adhered to the Catholic party and played some role in the struggle and controversy of choosing a Speaker for parliament in 1613. This event involved Sir John Everard, a Catholic representative, who was forcibly placed by his supporters in the Speakers chair although Sir John Davies was entitled to the seat by majority vote. This controversy was in reality a reflection of the religious division in the House of Commons and an attempt to secure

a Protestant majority in particular. Shortly after this incident Sir John Everard and his supporters, presumably including Sir Thomas, left the House. However, Sir Thomas Bourke is mentioned again in the State Papers of 1634 in a list of citizens attending the Irish parliament.³⁰ During this period there were two seats available in parliament for the County of Mayo with an additional two for the borough of Castlebar. The very fact that Sir Tomas Bourke held one of these seats for an extensive period of time highlights his political and social importance within the county. Further on in 1635, Sir Thomas Bourke is once again recorded as holding Newtown Castle and extensive lands in the vicinity, in the Strafford Inquisition of County Mayo.³¹

Sir Thomas Bourke also features in the Books of Survey and Distribution for Mayo which provides a record of the proprietors of land prior to the rising of 1641 and the subsequent confiscations. This book provides the denomination of land according to the Down Survey and the names to whom the forfeited lands may have been conveyed. The Books of Survey and Distribution confirm Sir Thomas Bourke as the last occupant of Bourke lineage to have held Newtown Castle, following which it was confirmed in the ownership of Sir Arthur Gore by Charles II.³² This may suggest that Sir Thomas Bourke may have played some role in the rising; however it is likely that he was advanced in years by this stage having played a role in public life for over forty years. Sir Arthur Gore had served in the wars subsequent to 1641 in the parliamentarian army of Sir Charles Coote.³³ The known Bourke proprietors of Newtown/Deel Castle from the mid 16th century to the mid 17th century are shown in Figure 1 below.

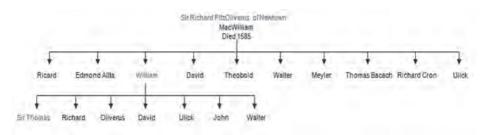


Figure 1: Bourke occupants of Deel Castle from 16th to 17th century.³⁴

In 1662, Arthur Gore officially received a grant of the lands of Newtown with the creation of the manor Castle Gore. On the 10th of April 1662, Arthur Gore was created 1st Baronet of Newtown Gore.³⁵ Sir Arthur Gore also represented Mayo as a Member of the Irish Parliament. The progeny of Sir Arthur Gore who may have resided or been born at or in the vicinity of Deel Castle are shown in Figure 2 below. However, the functionality of Deel Castle had well and truly waned by the time

of Arthur Gore's proprietorship. Indeed, Castle Gore was constructed nearby some time later.

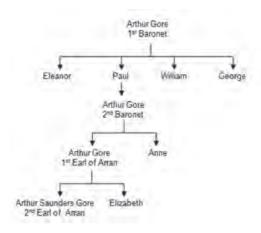


Figure 2: Progeny of Arthur Gore of Newtown.

Tower House Structure

The original Bourke towerhouse measures approximately 122.4m² in area at ground floor level and contained four floors. As such, Deel Castle is the largest tower house in the barony of Tyrawley and one of the bigger towers in County Mayo. This reinforces the theory that the occupying sept were of considerable importance and high social standing.



Photo 3: Staircase to Deel Castle

The towerhouse contains many defensive features such as arrow slits, parapets and bartizans and a machicolation above the entrance, some of which can be seen in Photo 2 above. In fact it is believed that the bartizans and wall walk are original to the structure. Attention should also be drawn to a loop hole at the entrance to the tower house. This loop may have been used to feed through a chain which would have held the yett in place. The yett, also a defensive feature, was an iron grill placed in front of the timber door, the purpose of which was to transfer the blows of a battering ram to the stone door frame. The presence of this loop is a significant indicator of the defensive functions of the tower house.



Photo 4: Entrance at Deel Castle

The possible chain loop in the doorway at Deel Castle is shown in Photo 4.

There is a spiral staircase located immediately to the left of the lobby and murder hole. The staircase provides access to the three upper floors and also to the wall walk and bartizans. The staircase is in good condition and access to the battlements is still possible, however the staircase has recently been gated in the interests of public safety. The spiral staircase and gates at ground floor level are shown in Photo 3.

Deel Castle in its current form contains the old Bourke tower house to the north and a modernised residential extension or fortified house to the south. The

nearby ruined manor house, Castle Gore is known to have been constructed circa 1791 by James Cuff. It is probable that the extension to Deel Castle was constructed by the Sir Arthur Gore or a member of his family during the period following the confiscations as a result of the 1641 rising. As there are defensive features on the extension such as the bartizan on the south western corner it is most likely that this extension was constructed during that period.

Conclusion on Deel Castle

There is little doubt that the original Bourke towerhouse of Deel Castle would have been a formidable and dominating structure during the 16th and early 17th centuries. It has been highlighted that Deel Castle was a considerable prize whose occupants contributed significantly to politics and society of County Mayo during the 16th and 17th century with a succession of associated individuals succeeding to the title of the MacWilliamship and a number of its custodians receiving knighthoods. Deel Castle contributed the last legally recognised MacWilliam Íochtair who effectively oversaw the acceptance of the Composition of Connaught and the abolition of the MacWilliamship title. Indeed, through this process, a number of additional structures and lands became associated with the Deel Castle estate by succession namely; Ballinrobe, Ballyloughmask and Kinlough, manors traditionally associated with the title MacWilliam Íochtair.

Furthermore, Sir Thomas Bourke was also a notable contributor to politics at a national level in the early 17th century, for instance

through his involvement in the controversy over the Speaker's chair in the House of Commons.

It is thus very clear that the Deel Castle tower house was of utmost importance in the 16th and 17th centuries during the period of Bourke occupancy. The abundance of sources and reference material available is a testament to this. Clearly tower houses continued to be prized as dwellings into the 17th century by both the old and new elite of the county and the structures which had been the site of the most prestigious families under the Gaelic order continued; to serve important functions even in the hands of newer settlers during the early Stuart and Cromwellian eras. This report has highlighted the rich heritage, importance and contribution of tower houses and indeed Deel Castle, to politics and society in Mayo in particular.

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- 3 Dubhaltach MacFhirbhisigh, *Leabhar Genealach: The Great Book of Irish Genealogies* edited by Nollaig O'Muraile (Dublin, 2004), Ref. 805.2, p. 121.
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- 13 The Compossicion, p. 106.
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- 17 Irish Fiants, No. 4978 (4330).
- 18 Irish Fiants, No. 4978 (4330).
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- 29 S.P.I.J, Vol. CCXXXII, No. 734, July 1613.
- 30 S.P.I.C, Vol. CCLIV, 14th July 1634.
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- 32 'The Irish and Anglo-Irish Landed Gentry When Cromwell Came To Ireland', John O'Hart
- 33 O'Dowd, Power, Politics & Land, p. 139.
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- 35 'A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain', Volume 1, John Burke

Tyrone Nationalists and Unionists — A Danger to the Empire 1912–14!

by Johnny Dooher

In this age of centenaries and commemorations the historians can be forced into working overtime to try to help make sense of what happened one hundred years ago and how it could or should be viewed at the present time. In the North we have moved on a little from the Covenant, the UVF and the Larne gun running and moved into looking at the impact of WWI.

In recent months the attention has moved to the leadership role of John Redmond during the War and the justification for the 1916 Rising. The topics are certainly raising debate and even the established historians are getting into the act of putting their views across in the newspapers. So far so good but how much of the controversy is being conducted in an effort to score points rather than convince by reasoned argument supported by adequate investigation.

There is a great danger of generalisations in discussing history through the media and too often the variations, the motivations and the complexities can be glossed over. Just as we need to know the backgrounds and ideals of the instigators we also need to look at how these ideals were transferred to some and not to others, to some places more so than others. The bigger picture is often made up of a myriad of smaller events and in different places. Let us take the North as an example of similarities and differences in this period, with emphasis on Tyrone as a case in point.

The general picture of the pre-1914 period is of the parliamentary struggle for Home Rule for Ireland and the organised opposition of Ulster Unionism against this programme of self government. Little attention has been paid to the opposition of unionists in other parts of Ireland to the Home Rule bill, though some recent studies have highlighted the strength of that feeling. Ulster had been the main focus of opposition to Irish self government since 1886, though the Irish Unionist Alliance had continued to use their links with British conservatives to try to prevent Home Rule.

The 1910 general election results had removed the veto of the House of Lords on Irish Home Rule and demonstrated convincingly that apart from some of the Ulster counties and the two parliamentary seats reserved for Trinity College, Dublin, the rest of the country supported nationalists of one sort or other, all committed to seeking some form of self government. That did not mean, of course, that there were no

unionists throughout southern Ireland and in places like South Dublin and Wicklow East unionist candidates put up strong showings in the 1910 election as they also did in East Donegal.

A number of southern unionists also had seats in the British parliament from English constituencies and they were well represented in the House of Lords. But for most people of a unionist disposition in the south of Ireland there was little they could do in Ireland to show their opposition to Home Rule and they have largely become part of the forgotten people in the history of the pre-war era. Recent studies have shown that they were deeply committed to the British war effort during the 1914-18 years and some historians have argued forcefully that there was considerable expulsion of former unionists from Munster in the aftermath of the Anglo Irish Treaty.

This is where local studies can be used to augment the general picture of near unanimity that is often used to describe movements and events.

Ulster Unionism and Home Rule

In Ulster things were different and that was widely highlighted. The Ulster Unionist Council and the Ulster Volunteer Force claimed to speak for unionists throughout the nine county province and insisted that Ulster would not accept Home Rule. Yet neither population figures nor election results supported that claim. In the nine counties of Ulster five had Catholic majorities in the 1911 census and others like Armagh and Derry/Londonderry had over 40% Catholic. In electoral terms there were 33 parliamentary constituencies in Ulster and 16 of these were won by nationalist or pro nationalist Liberal candidates in 1910; a by-election in Derry city in 1913 saw a Liberal victory, giving the overall nationalist seats as 17 against the 16 unionists.⁽¹⁾

So how was it that the unionist movement, in alliance with the British conservative party, could portray a campaign against Home Rule for Ireland as justifiable and necessary? Edward Carson was clear that he was using Ulster as a means of defeating Home Rule for Ireland as a whole and Ulster was the means rather than the end product. To fully understand the campaign against Home Rule waged in the years 1911-14 we need to try to look at the motivations of the different sections of the unionist alliance, just as we need to look at the different elements that made up the Home Rule cause.

What were the common interests that held the industrialists, shipyard workers and small farmers together in the anti Home Rule campaign and how was it managed by the leadership? How was it enough to bring Ireland — and possibly Britain — to the brink of civil war by 1914. Or was it all a big pretence, a bluff that would collapse when the time came to act? Looking back at that period from our own perspective we cannot

possibly understand the motivations and impulses without extensive investigation and deeply rooted empathy.

Tyrone and Home Rule

To get back to Tyrone: that county was at the centre of political bargaining by 1914 and so much so that HH Asquith, Liberal prime minister of the period, was seriously worried about its potential to weaken Britain's preparations for war with Germany. It had been fought over between unionists and nationalists since the emergence of Home Rule and elections there were fought with an intensity that was undreamed off elsewhere. There were four parliamentary constituencies in the county and all but one were marginal at election times.

Mid Tyrone was by far the most secure for nationalists and returned their candidate in all elections, bar one in 1910, when an aggrieved independent candidate divided the nationalist vote and allowed unionism to claim the representation for eleven months. A truce between the warring nationalist factions was arranged with the intervention of Bishop McHugh and Richard McGhee, a protestant Home Ruler from Co. Armagh, was easily elected as MP for the constituency in the December 1910 election.

In North Tyrone the margins at election times were very close and it was generally felt politic by the leaders of nationalist opinion — with the Catholic clergy playing a leading role — to field a middle of the road candidate, often an outsider and frequently a Protestant. In 1906, and again in 1907 at a by-election, there was the unusual spectacle of a Catholic unionist, Denis Henry K.C., later to be Lord Chief Justice in Northern Ireland, unsuccessfully contesting the seat against a Protestant lawyer, R. J. Barry while in 1911, at another by-election, caused by the promotion of Barry to a governmental position, Thomas W Russell, a Presbyterian and former unionist representative for South Tyrone, won the election as a Liberal-nationalist against local unionist factory owner E. C. Herdman. Much was made in the post election reports of the role of the clergy, both Catholic and Protestant, in persuading or forcing their co-religionists to vote for their respective candidates and it appears that a nationalist section of the electorate did not use their vote, in annoyance at a former unionist representative being forced upon the constituency as a friend of Home Rule. The local AOH had to be instructed to get their members out to vote for Russell or Home Rule might be in danger. (2)

T.M. Kettle in Tyrone 1906 -10

East Tyrone had also been very much a marginal constituency and local antagonisms necessitated the bringing in of outside candidates to contest the elections on behalf of the nationalist movement. Such

was the case in 1906 when the young Dublin barrister, T. M. Kettle, was pitched into a by-election to buttress the Home Rule cause. His selection must have been as much a surprise to Kettle as it was to the rest of the country when an unknown young Dubliner could be asked to represent the rural constituency of East Tyrone. The context, both local and national, is important in this decision and it appears that the early radicalism of Kettle may have been instrumental in his selection.

There were a number of IRB members in this area, and also some former ardent nationalists who were wary about the direction of the Home Rule party under Redmond, and their support could be crucial in a closely fought election. In the event the relatively unknown Kettle was elected by a margin of 18 votes, with substantial help from the AOH branches and he complained that he was immediately inundated with requests from constituents to support appointment to lucrative local government positions.

His position was not, however, without opposition and following a party fund raising trip to America where he incurred the hostility of John Devoy's organisation, Clan na Gael and their newspaper *Gaelic American*, he returned to East Tyrone and found that Bulmer Hobson had toured the constituency in his absence pointing out his failures with Irish Americans and seeking support for the fledgling Sinn Fein movement. Kettle, the young radical, found it somewhat difficult that his main support base locally was the well established AOH and cautioned against the danger of making the Irish question a mere sectarian headcount.⁽³⁾

In the event Kettle was very much a caretaker MP for East Tyrone and he seems to have accepted that his appointment in late 1909 as professor of national economics at the newly created University College Dublin would make his position as MP for East Tyrone difficult. He did, however, allow himself to be re-nominated for the constituency in the January 1910 general election, claiming in a letter to his friend Alice Stopford Green, that local leaders begged him to remain, claiming that if he left 'a half healed local division would be opened again and the seat would be lost to the enemies of Ireland."

In the ensuing election campaign Kettle attacked his opponent, Armar Saunderson, the son of a former Unionist leader, Colonel Saunderson, and asked the Protestants of East Tyrone to think for themselves as to who would best support their interests, claiming that under Home Rule all creeds and classes would be guaranteed equal rights and the minority would be granted all possible safeguards compatible with democracy and nationality. Shane Leslie, son of a Monaghan landowner, came to support Kettle's canvassing following his own defeat on a Home Rule platform in Derry City and helped the outgoing MP to increase his

majority by over 100 votes.

The biggest danger, however, had not been the strength of the unionist vote but the danger of a section of nationalists aligned with the emerging Sinn Fein movement voting for Kettle's opponent. Denis McCullough, the leading IRB figure in Ulster was persuaded to attend a local nationalist conference to seek a resolution of the difficulties and an agreement saw the AOH promising never again to boycott a Sinn Feiner. (5)

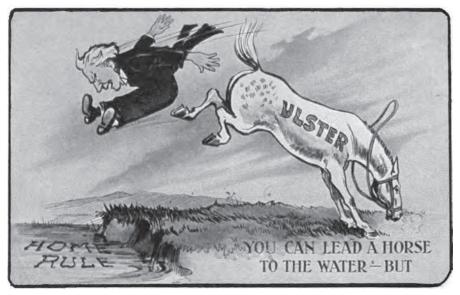
Kettle himself made reference to the difficulty in his post election speech when he paid tribute to the Lough Neagh fishermen in his constituency for ignoring the begrudgers and supporting his election while also advocating toleration of the right of people to hold to Sinn Fein views. But he continued to encounter opposition from within the constituency and his decision to retire from his position at the December 1910 general election was said to be influenced by continued problems with the Lough Neagh fishermen. (6) The fact that his successor was John Redmond's son, William Archer, may also have helped ease Kettle from his position in Tyrone and again demonstrated how far central control was a feature of political representation in that era, especially in an area where Unionism would benefit from intra-nationalist wrangling.

There is little evidence that Kettle at this stage saw the need for a rapprochement with Ulster Unionists and his public statements followed party policy and fully supported Joe Devlin's leadership of Ulster nationalism. He became embroiled in the Dublin social scene, in academic work and in supporting the emerging suffragette movement while also adopting a much more supportive role towards the interests of the Dublin poor; his was one of the few activist voices from the Home Rule side in favour of the workers in the 1913 Lockout and in condemnation of the employer tactics.

Clearly he kept in touch with what was happening in Tyrone and other parts of Ulster and was as outraged as most of nationalist Ireland was at the emergence of Carson's campaign of Ulster opposition to the 3rd Home Rule Bill of 1912. From the beginning this was much more than a political campaign and the threat of forcible opposition to any attempt to bring Ulster Protestant under a Home Rule dominated parliament was openly stated and secretly prepared for.

The massive Balmoral rally in April 1912, the September signing of the Ulster Solemn League and Covenant and the January 1913 public establishment of the Ulster Volunteer Force set out Ulster's stall on total opposition to Home Rule and put the pressure on the British government to deal with this extra-parliamentary movement that had the apparent full support of the British Conservative party. The image of the party of 'law and order' in full support of a revolutionary crusade

against the elected government of Britain and Ireland was something that the bewildered Liberal administration felt unable to deal with and their policy was essentially one of 'wait and see' in the well founded belief that the Home Rule Bill could not become law until 1914 because of the inbuilt Unionist majority in the House of Lords who still had the power to delay legislation for two years. In that sense much of the opposition and organisation in the years 1912 -1913 was seen by some as shadow boxing and propaganda — the big decisions would not be made until 1914.



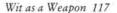
Nationalist dismissal of Unionist campaign 1912

In places like Tyrone the campaign against Home Rule was a little slower to develop, due in some measure to the numerical strength of nationalism in many areas. Redmond and the Home Rule leadership assured the nationalist organisations in the county and throughout Ulster that there was nothing to fear from the unionist campaign of hostility and preparedness against Home Rule. Public displays by nationalists were discouraged by the Home Rule leadership and even the AOH refrained from their twice yearly demonstrations at St Patrick's Day and Assumption Day.

The local nationalist press poured scorn on the growing unionist displays, ridiculing the militarist parades of the Unionist Clubs and the highly organised mass rallies in major population centres throughout Ulster in the years 1912–13. The *Strabane Chronicle* claimed in late September 1911, following a major unionist rally in Belfast, that the proposed opposition to Home Rule was 'clumsy and stupidly conceived;

it is impracticable, preposterous and childish'.

The public coming together of British and Irish Unionism at Balmoral in April 1912 was proclaimed as a demonstration of Ulster's determination to resist Home Rule but the local nationalist press in Tyrone dismissed it as 'unionism as a fighting force has seen its best days. It is indicative of anger and defeat, masking the bigoted hate and rowdy prejudice that is part and parcel of their inner self.' Sir Edward Carson visited Tyrone in early January 1913 as part of the mobilisation of unionist opposition to the Home Rule Bill and the nationalist *Ulster Herald* newspaper was scathing in its assessment of his campaign, calling his speech 'a combination of retraction, evasion, scolding and historical inaccuracies' and labelling his call for unionist support as 'vague and misty mouthings about the future, leaving sufficient loopholes to escape when the time comes to take action..... the whole thing is a game of bluff — braggard blustering bluff and no one knows it better than the man who is playing its principal part.'(7)





The Rejection of Partition

The establishment of the Ulster Volunteer Force in January 1913 and the proposal by Carson in parliament during the committee stage of the Home Rule Bill that Ulster should be excluded from the measure raised the pressure but such initiatives were rejected as impossible and unnecessary by the nationalist leadership in Tyrone and throughout Ireland. Richard McGhee, MP, had assured his constituents in Mid Tyrone in August 1912 that 'their cause was won and there was now little fighting required' while T. W. Russell in North Tyrone echoed that message proclaiming that 'all those threats about resistance and revolution are empty and nonsensical.'

Clearly, however, the tide was turning and the pressure of the unionist cause was worrying the government in Britain. Leading cabinet ministers like David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill were suggesting that some type of Exclusion or Partition should be offered to divide unionism and smooth the passage of the Home Rule Bill. By late 1913 such calls were being aired in the British Liberal press and Ulster nationalists had every reason to be alarmed. Richard McGhee spoke for his nationalist constituents when declaring 'there had been talk about conciliating Ulster but they would accept no Home Rule unless Ulster was put into it. Ulster was part of Ireland and they must have the province of Ulster included'. (UH Oct 1913)

There were, however, signs of a limited mellowing of nationalist opposition and the local press suggested in early November that something might be done to allay unionist fears — 'a provincial council, subordinate to the parliament in Dublin, would be acceptable but the placing of absolute power over the nine Ulster counties in the hands of the Unionist clubs is as impracticable and unthinkable as the Partition of the Irish Nation'. (UH Nov 1913).



Warlike words and gestures

There was little sign that the unionist leaders were impressed by any thawing of nationalist views and local leaders in Tyrone were adamant that 'the trained Tyrone volunteers will hold this county for the Provisional government and keep the Union Jack flying in mid Ulster'. Industrialist and leading UVF organiser in Tyrone, E. C. Herdman, was even more specific—'the time for speeches is past. We have got to justify our words with deeds'. (TC August 1913)

At this distance it is difficult to be certain whether the bellicose language of the local newspapers and the warlike speeches of the political leaders was an exact replication of popular opinion in Tyrone but there certainly seemed no meeting of minds. E. C. Herdman had advised potentially non-committed unionists in west Tyrone to ignore their nationalist customers when considering joining the unionist club movement; 'he did not think the Roman Catholic customers would be afraid to offend them, nor would the Roman Catholic tax collector forget to call with them if Home Rule was passed. (TC April 1913). Perhaps this was a counter to a speech by his brother in law, Captain Ambrose Richardo, at a UVF mobilisation at Omagh in February 1913 when he had emphasised that 'their quarrel was not with their Roman Catholic fellow-countrymen but with the government'. (TC Feb. 1913)

A UVF rally in Omagh in February 1914 heard further threats of unionist defiance but the nationalist press was still holding firm: 'Ulster is not unionist and Ulster is not opposed to Home Rule ... and a majority of its population is very strongly and determinedly in favour of self government. There will be no civil war; the character and calibre of the wooden gun men would stand little chance against real soldiers.' (UH. Feb 1914)

The problem was that these real soldiers might not choose to defend Home Rule and the Curragh Mutiny of March that year demonstrated that militarily the unionists had the superior hand and the support of much of the upper echelons of the British army. Who was going to help the Home Rule cause?

Options on settlement

The formation of the Irish Volunteers in Dublin in November 1913 had been a belated recognition by sections of nationalist opinion that Home Rule was under threat from British and Irish Unionism and a lukewarm British Liberalism. John Redmond distrusted the emergence of this new force and did his best to dissuade party activists from supporting it. By late March 1914 the Irish Volunteers had made only limited progress in Ulster, with local nationalist leaders still willing to follow the advice of Redmond and trust in the parliamentary increasing process. though with misgivings.

Some attention was paid to Carson's speech in parliament on 9th February



when he struck a seemingly moderate pose, calling on his 'nationalist fellow countrymen' to adopt a more sympathetic attitude to Ulster and its fears. (8) Asquith used this as his reasons for seeking Redmond's support for a measure of Exclusion from Home Rule for some of the Ulster counties. In the early part of March trusted party leaders had visited local meetings in the different Ulster counties informing them that Redmond had been in discussions with the government about an offer that would satisfy the British government and divide unionists; this was to offer those Ulster counties who voted in favour to opt out of Home Rule for a period of six years and to join up at the end of that time. Tyrone nationalists were easy to persuade.

The nationalist majority in the county, it was expected, would ensure that the O'Neill county, along with Fermanagh and Derry City would reject exclusion and stay with the rest of Ireland, leaving only a small rump that would be only too glad to rejoin the rest of Ireland following the years of self imposed exile. Local spokesmen could talk about their willingness to show their willingness to make concessions to unionism in the interests of a peaceful solution but were convinced that they would escape the possibility of being part of the excluded area. Carson, however, refused to play the government's game, rejecting the offer of temporary opt-out and insisting on total Ulster exclusion without a time limit. (9) He withdrew from parliament and returned to Ulster to oversee the mobilization of unionist opposition to this latest offer.

The Larne gun running on the night of the 26th April changed the situation considerably and encouraged unionist defiance. Redmond had used his influence with Bishop McHugh to persuade him to call off a planned anti-partition nationalist rally in Derry on 14th March, 1914, lest it lead to sectarian conflict and made use of the bishop again to force the cancellation of an Irish Volunteer parade in the city later that month. (10)

But the gun running suggested that unionism had rejected any concessions and was intent on forcing the partition of Ireland, including Tyrone and other nationalist majority areas and the result was a massive influx into the hitherto sluggish Irish volunteer force, with AOH and UIL leaders throwing their full support behind the militarisation campaign. And there was no doubt in most nationalist minds that this was an anti-unionist movement, putting pressure on government not to make further concessions but equally prepared to challenge the local UVF on who controlled Tyrone. IRB figures like Patrick McCartan and Eoin MacNeill could refer to the growing Irish volunteers in Tyrone as primarily a defence force that 'was certainly not intended to oppress their fellow countrymen who differed from them in religion and politics' but local leaders like solicitor. F. J. O'Connor and central volunteer

organiser, Colonel Maurice Moore, had little doubt that the purpose was to 'pledge ourselves to resist utterly the absurd claims for the exclusion of Tyrone, Fermanagh and Derry City, where the unionists are in a strong minority'. (UH June 1914) It was little wonder that many saw civil conflict as the only outcome.

The failure of negotiation

Despite Carson's rejection of county option in March the Liberal government continued with their Home Rule Bill and forced it through the House of Commons in June 1914, together with an Amending Bill providing for the temporary exclusion by county option of those counties that wished to remain outside Irish self government. Predictably the response from unionist Ulster was extremely hostile with the local



137. Ulster's determination to remain part of the Union of Great Britain and Ireland is summed up in the lines of this card, published by J. Johnson, Belfast.

press in Tyrone headlining their report 'no surrender'. The editorials were emphatic: 'under no circumstances can Ulster accept this cunningly devised scheme as a settlement. It would be better to fight and die now, rather than yield to the American dollar, because the real driving force behind Mr Redmond and Mr Asquith is the Fenian hatred of Britain and the loyalists of Ulster.' (TC June 1914)

And this was not just the view of the militarists. The Protestant Archbishop of Armagh. Crozier, it was claimed 'threw himself into the cause of the Protestant Province and the arming of the Unionist population without a backward glance' while his colleague, Bishop D'Arcy of Down and Connor diocese, when reflecting on the period a few years later claimed that 'we did

not doubt the outcome — such faith in the righteousness of the cause animated us — but we felt that whatever happened we were sharing in a most noble endeavour, that it was good to be there.' (11)

The 12th July celebrations in Pomeroy in 1914 should have been a sombre occasion but the speeches from the platform gave little hint of dismay or calls for compromise and the editor of the local newspaper

reported the main speakers still demanding what unionists termed 'the clean cut' of the exclusion of all of Ulster. A confidential circular from UVF headquarters in mid May of 1914 had warned of likely nationalist rejoicing at the passage of the Home Rule Act and had advised divisional commanders or regimental commanders to take whatever steps were necessary to maintain the peace and 'to prevent disloyal processions, burnings, bonfires or other provocative actions or displays taking place in unionist territory throughout their commands'. (12) Everything pointed towards an outbreak of widespread civil conflict.

A last ditch effort to arrive at a solution — or at least the appearance of an effort — was made in July 1914 with the King calling a conference of the parliamentary leaders at Buckingham Palace. A major factor in this was the imminent threat of a European conflict, with Austria already threatening to invade Serbia and Russia likely to support their fellow Slavs. There were essentially two issues to deal with — the area to be excluded from Home Rule and the time-limit, if any, of that exclusion.

It appears that none of the leaders really expected anything positive to come from the conference and the people from the areas most affected had no direct role in what was happening. Comments attributed to Asquith and Churchill in later years suggested that the 'muddy highways of Tyrone and Fermanagh' proved insoluble barriers to any agreement over what area might be excluded; the conference had got down to looking at partitioning counties as a possible option but two days of poring over maps did little to resolve the impasse.

The leaders went home and the situation appeared bleak in the affected counties. What would happen now? Could nationalists and unionists continue to live together in their local areas without some resolution of an issue that had dominated the province for the past two years? Two days later came the Bachelor Walk shootings in Dublin when Irish Volunteers were shot dead while trying to prevent a police seizure of guns smuggled in during broad daylight to Howth. To many nationalists this reeked of double standards when compared with the non-intervention by authorities at the time of the Larne gun running in April and the Tyrone nationalist press were vehement in their denunciation of government actions in Dublin. (UH 1st August 1914).

Certainly further concessions by Redmond on Home Rule would have been totally out of the question as far as Tyrone nationalists were concerned and government was facing into a European war with armed camps in Ulster rejecting any moderation of their demands for future administration

Temporary suspension

The impasse was solved largely by Redmond's declaration of moral

support for Britain in the declaration of war against Germany on August 3rd 1914 and his pledge to work with the UVF in defending Ireland from foreign invasion. The issue of Ireland could be postponed until the war in Europe was over and the government's decision to pass the Home Rule Act into law, together with a suspending act until the war was over and a pledge to reconsider Ulster's claims was enough to defuse the immediate problem and push the settlement of the nationalism versus unionism question off the agenda until a later date.

There were of course serious criticisms of government action; from Ulster unionists who felt let down by the passage of the Home Rule Act; and by the more advanced nationalists who felt Redmond could have held out for more specific guarantees over Home Rule from the British government who so desperately wanted a settled Ireland. By and large, however, most nationalists in Tyrone seemed content that the issue had been temporarily postponed and unionists could not be seen to jeopardise the War effort by niggardly criticisms of government policy.

While war in Europe intensified a peace of sorts descended over Tyrone and West Ulster. But it was an uneasy truce and certainly not a solution. What would happen when the expected short lived European conflict ended? How would the unresolved issue affect involvement and support for the War in Europe?

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- (3) J. B. Lyons The Enigma of Tom Kettle Ch. 5 (1983)
- (4) Kettle to Stopford Green in Lyons The Enigma P172
- (5) Fergal McCluskey The Irish Revolution 1912 -23: Tyrone (2014) P.35
- (6) Tyrone Constitution, 2 December 1910. This was the mainly unionist-read weekly newspaper in large parts of Tyrone in the period, with the editor being involved in the Unionist Clubs and later in the UVF. He volunteered in the War and died on the battlefield.
- (7) The Strabane Chronicle and the Ulster Herald newspapers were both strongly supportive of the Home Rule cause and were under the same management. By 1916 the editorial policy became highly critical of Redmond and the Irish Party, largely as a result of Redmond's support for Partition following the 1916 Rising
- (8) Paul Bew Ideology and the Irish Question (1994) P103
- (9) Bew Ideology, P104/105
- (10) John Redmond to Bishop McHugh, March 1910. Ref. Redmond Papers NLI 15,203
- (11) Marcus Tanner Ireland's Holy Wars (2001) p.274
- (12) UVF papers in Public Record Office NI. Ref PRONI D1327/4/8)

Taghmon War Participants 1914-1918

Remembering those who were lost in the first world war from Taghmon, Co. Wexford

(excerpt from Seamus and Joe Seery (1999), World War 1-The Wexford Casualties
Taghmon Historical Society, Vol 3.)



by Vera Power

While no exact figures are available, it can be estimated that at least 30 and possibly as high as 50 young men from Taghmon and district fought in the Great War. While a few had joined before the outbreak of war, the majority enlisted in 1914.

Lance Corporal M. J. (Mike) Martin, 3rd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, from Taghmon, appealed to his contemporaries in a letter to Sergeant Donohoe of the Recruiting Staff for Wexford - 'to place to one side the football and the play-book, and take up the sword, to play a man's part in this great fight in the cause of liberty and justice. They will not regret it, I can assure them, and when afterwards they are asked what they did in the Great War they can answer with pride - I have played a man's part, I did my bit', he wrote.

Mike Martin would be horrified to read the views of today's historians concerning the utter carnage of the Great War. There was nothing glorious about the participation of the largely innocent and uninformed recruits in what Professor Joe Lee has called 'the most frightening exhibition of mass slaughter in history'. 'The saving grace for the human race is that nobody planned it that way. Had the generals and politicians – and what about all those laughing faces in the trains in August 1914 taking the soldiers towards the front, as if they were day-trippers to a sporting event – known what they were doing, they would indeed be guilty men.

Stupidity, or at least myopia, is the justification for the sustained mass slaughter'.

Those who did enlist in the British Army faced a dangerous and uncertain future. Many ended up in the trenches of Northern France. Adam Monaghan, who enlisted with his three brothers in 1914, described life in the trenches in his poem 'Tommy in The Trenches'.

When I came here to France, the truth I tell
The bullets were flying and the shrapnel as well;
And as for the trenches, they were a fine sight
We stood to our waists in cold water all night.
When later our officer took a walk around.
He made all the complaints that could then be found.
'Go to the advance trench and stand to all night
For remember my boys you came here to fight.'

When out of the trenches to billets, we go
We all march along quiet steady and slow.
And should 'Kaiser Billy' get up to his tricks.
We've the men in the trenches with their bayonets fixed
I am sure the 'old war lord' is nearly fed up.
He's afraid of the contract he made with 'Miss Krupp;'
He knows it's impossible for him to win,
For Kitchener means to take over Berlin

The Frenchman to us is a friend staunch and true,
He tries very hard to make us 'parlez vous'
And although to poor Tommy the language is new.
We are getting on well and say 'oui' or 'un peu'
We dine in the trenches at 'Hotel de mud'
And when dinner is served it fair stirs up your blood
The music is classic, it sounds very well,
Its the whistling and bursting of 'Allemandes' shell.

Sometimes to a farmhouse we dodge by the way
And say 'Donnez moi un tasse du cafe au lait'
We go everyday for 'du lait' in a can
And they charge us a franc for 'un pied du pain'.
Now as bomb thrower, I wanted to be
I wished for some easy staff job don't you see?
I am there on the staff and there's no need to shout,
For we're ready the minute it comes to 'turn out'.

The bomb throwers work when attacks they should come Up right in the front on the heels of the 'Hun' He starts throwing bombs without any delay. And for the bold Infantry makes clear the way.

We have our brave General Succeed to please; We've practised with 'Hales' and with 'W.D's' With 'jam tins' and 'brush mobs' and gas pipes as well, When we get near the Germans they'll think they're in Hell.

I hear very soon we'll be going on leave
It'll be a quiet a treat to forget 'Bully Beef'
And as for our biscuits- they're so very hard
I've sent home a couple to pave our backyard,
When this terrible war comes to an end
To beg Belgium's pardon the Kaiser will bend
The whole British Empire has proved itself true
And stood by the allies to see the thing through.

Attitude In Taghmon

There was considerable support for the war effort in Taghmon. While the educated and Anglo-Irish classes usually supplied the officers, those who joined up, on a whim, as a result of intensive recruitment were in the majority and were usually from the socially deprived classes. As a result they enjoyed the unusual status of being regular income earners and this made an enormous difference to the standard of living of their families. A report in 'The Free Press' describes how 'Taghmon renders substantial assistance to the Wexford Soldiers and Sailors Comfort Fund'. It gives details of donations to the fund by 90 local people and included such items as rolls of butter, sacks of potatoes, chickens, cigarettes, bottles of wine, knitted socks and cushions provided by the Mercy Convent, Wexford.

In 1917, the year after the Easter Rebellion and the executions which followed, support among the local populace seems, on the surface at least, not to have waned. 'The Free Press' of February 24th describes a visit to Taghmon by the Irish Guards band -

'On Friday last the pipes and drums of the Irish Guards visited Taghmon, where they were made most welcome by all assembled for the local fair, and delighted the audience by their fine playing of jigs and reels.'

They were touring Ireland in the interests of recruiting.

(The reality of course was that the large numbers of recruits from the area widened the growing chasm between two distinct groups – those who supported the status quo and those who wanted change. The aftermath of the Easter Rebellion of 1916 had made a huge impression and, in Taghmon, a number of families had become involved in the Gaelic League and the growth of Irish Nationalism and Irish identity. These activities, which would see a number of Taghmon men and women take up arms

on the Republican side in the War of Independence, conflicted greatly with those who supported the Redmond line 'to fight for the freedom of small nations'. The Parles, the Creanes, the Williams's, the Boggans of Growtown, Paddy Monaghan of Tottenham Green, the Ryans of Tomcoole and a small number of other local families became active in the fight for independence and a few other locals sympathised with the ideals of republicanism. Their attitudes did not meet with the general approval of the majority of the population of the area and particularly not with the Rev. Wm. Fortune P.P. who was known to refuse Holy Communion to those he suspected of Republican activities.)

Notes On Some Taghmon Victims

Sergeant John Cooper, 7571 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment, died on the 14th May 1915 at the battle of Ypres (now Ieper). The eldest son of John and Mary Cooper Taghmon, he was a veteran of the Boer war and had served in the army for 17 years. After the war his grave was among those the army grave service were unable to trace and he is therefore commemorated by name on Panel 33 of the Ypres (Menin Gate) Memorial Gate, Belgium.



Private Michael Cooper, 2273 6th Battalion Royal Irish Regiment. A younger brother of John he was a keen hurler and footballer with the Taghmon G.A.A. club and he died of wounds in France. He had won the Military Cross for his bravery on the field of battle some months before his death . Obituaries in the local press spoke of the sadness of his parents and fellow club members. Private Cooper died on the 14th August 1917 and is buried in Plot 5, Row D, Grave 1 Brandhoek New Military Cemetery, Belgium.







Patrick Cardiff



John Cardiff

Private Patrick Cardiff 4380 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment volunteered for active service after the outbreak of hostilities in 1914. Patrick had left his employment with Mr. Thomas Rennicks at Coolaw after he enlisted. In early October his widowed mother was informed that he was missing in action. She was later informed that he had been killed. Aged only 22, the 'Free Press' newspaper reported that much regret was felt in the village at his demise. His brother, John, volunteered for active service after leaving the employment of Mr. John Winters, Ballintartan,



Committee 2014: (Back) L. Breen, Richard Farrelly, Martina Griffin, Dick Ryan, Canon Sean O'Doherty, Frank Taaffe, Eddie Sinnott, Jim Dockery, Ida Milne. Front: Josephine Byrne, Betty Quinn, Eugene Jordan, Kay Lonergan, John Bradshaw.

AGM, Clontarf, 2014



Social Media Seminar, Athlone, November 2013



At Edinburgh Castle, June 2014



At St. Mungo's Cathedral, Glasgow, June 2014



At Robbie Burns Museum, June, 2014

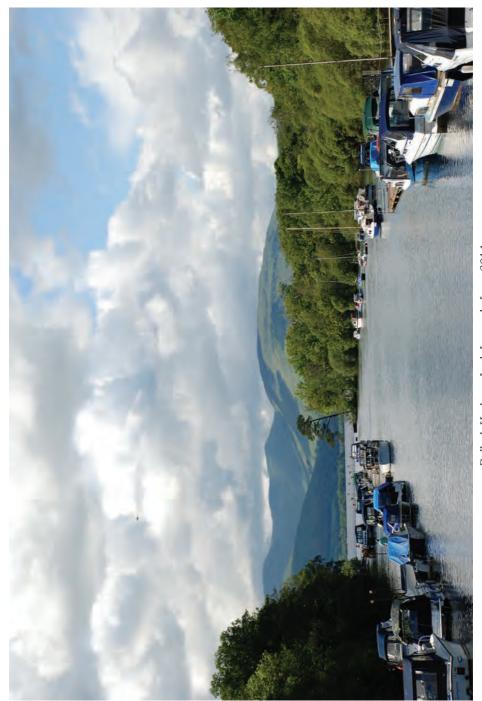
Boat Trip on Loch Lomond, June 2014



Cork Celebrates the Past Exhibition, 2014.



At the Robbie Burns Cottage, June, 2014.



Ballock Harbour, Loch Lomond, June, 2014.



2014 AGM in Clasac Cultural Centre, Clontarf. Johnny Dooher, Jim McAllister, Kay Lonergan, Cllr. Jane Horgan-Jones, Dick Ryan.



AGM, Clontarf. Martina Griffin, Betty Quinn, Dick Ryan, Mairead Byrne, Larry Breen



Some of the attendance at the joint WWI Seminar, October, 2014



North/South Committee Meeting, Morning Star, Belfast, July 2014



Some of the attendance at the Moate Museum Interpretation Project, 2014



Frank Taaffe, Martina Griffin and Luke Clogher at the Moate Museum Interpretation Project, 2014



Dancing at Cork Celebrates the Past, 2014



FLHS Stand at Cork Celebrates the Past, 2014



Culzean Castle, Ayreshire, June 2014



Roslyn Chapel, Scotland, June 2014



After dinner presentation to Marie Davidson and her husband, Richard. Also in photo Johnny Dooher, Larry Breen and Canon Sean O'Doherty.



Enjoying diner in the Glynhill Hotel, Renfrew, 2014



Fountain, Glasgow Green, June 2014



Glasgow Green, June 2014



Group visit to Glengoyne Distillery, June 2014



Distilling Room, Glengoyne Distillery, June 2014



Glengoyne Distillery, nestling in the Dumgoyne Hills



Selection of barrels, Glengoyne Distillery, June 2014



Heads in the King's Inner Hall, Sterling Castle, 2014



Originals of the Heads in the King's Inner Hall, Sterling Castle, 2014



Sterling Castle, Scotland, June 2014



Damian Moore, Larry Breen, Moira and Padraig Laffan at Sterling Castle, 2014



View over the New Lanark Mills complex, June 2014



Mill Race, New Lanark, Scotland, June 2014



Spinning Mules at New Lanark, Scotland, June 2014



Enjoying a break from sightseeing at New Lanark Mills. George and Bridgeen Rutherford.

Doreen and George McBride, Susan and J. J. Woods



Courtyard in Edinburgh Castle, Scotland, June 2014



View from the ramparts of Stirling Castle, Scotland, June 2014

joining the 4th Battalion Leinster Regiment. The third brother to see active service, Thomas, joined the Scottish Borderers. He had been in the employment of Mr. Thomas Kendrick, at Coolaw, and when his two brothers volunteered he crossed to Scotland where he was engaged for some time on war work. Private Patrick Cardiff Grave Reference Panel 11 and 12 le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

Private Patrick Condon 2281 2nd Battalion Royal Irish Regiment. On April 13th, 1918 Mrs. Alice Condon, Taghmon was informed that her 25 year old son had died of wounds on Good Friday, 29th March 1918. He had been seriously wounded a few days previously. He had been wounded three times during the war and had received the parchment certificate for gallant conduct and devotion to duty. His brother, Private John Condon, was taken prisoner during the battle of Mons. On his return home, John became a well-known cattle drover and was one of the most familiar figures at the famous Taghmon cattle fair.

The drovers all were out in force, there was Foley from the town And Josie and John Condon knew Leinster up and down, They walked the roads of Ireland through counties, one by one, And they drove them in their thousands from the Fairday in Taghmon.

Private Condon Grave Reference V111. D. 23. Wimereux Communal Cemetery, Pas de Calais, France.

Lance Corporal James Dooley 9075 Irish Guards was killed in action in France on the 9th October 1917. He is buried in Grave V111. F.7. Artillery Wood Cemetery, Boezinge, Belgium.

Corporal Edward Furlong 15932 38th Brigade Ammunition Col. Royal Field Artillery son of John and Anastasia Furlong, Taghmon, and husband of Elizabeth Furlong, 48, Slievekeale, Waterford. Corporal Furlong was killed in action on the 30th July 1915, aged 41 years. He served in China in 1900 and in the South African Campaign. He is buried in Grave Reference I. G. 3. Poperinge New Military Cemetery, Belgium.

Private Michael Gaynor 3062, 2nd Battalion South Lancashire Regiment, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gaynor, Furlongstown, Taghmon. Private Gaynor was killed in action in France on September 3rd 1916. He was a brother of Mrs. Kehoe, Shelmalier Commons, Cleariestown and a close relative of Mr. Peter Gaynor who lives at Ballintartan, Taghmon. Private Gaynor is commemorated on Special Memorial 16. Blighty Valley Cemetery, Authuile Wood, Somme, France.

Private Patrick Hogan 10589 1st Battalion Irish Guards son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hogan, Stream Street, Taghmon. Private Hogan died of wounds in France on the 10th October 1917. Age 19 years. He is buried in Grave Reference V111. C. 40. Mendinghem Military Cemetery, Belgium.

John Ulick Joyce Son of Mr. John Evans Joyce, Clerk of the Petty

Sessions for Taghmon, lost his life when the battleship H. M. S. Bulwark, on which he served, was blown up at Shearness. Three more of his brothers also joined. Theobald Joyce was invalided from the South African Police at the close of the Boer war and joined the staff of the Royal Naval Ordnance, Portsmouth. Charles Joyce joined the Royal Marine Artillery and served on the H. M. S. Suffolk. Walter Joyce was on active service in the Dardanelles with the Portsmouth Battalion Royal Marine Brigade.

Private Thomas Leigh, of the Royal Irish Regiment, a native of Taghmon, died at Bristol on March 10th, 1915 from injuries received while on active service. He was interred after Requiem Mass at Anne's Vale Cemetery, Bristol with full military honours.







Henry Monaghan



James Monaghan

Lance Corporal Thomas Monaghan 3186 "D" Coy 6th Battalion Royal



Munster Fusiliers was killed in action at Gallipoli on 9th October 1915. Age 28 years. Three of his brothers also enlisted. Adam, who was working in Wales at the outbreak of war, joined the Wiltshire Regiment. He was a talented young man and composed poems about happenings in his native district. When he went to the firing line he wrote a poem entitled 'Tommy in the Trenches'. James was engaged at his

trade in Manchester when war was declared.

He rejoined his regiment, in which he had some years previously served in India. He served his apprenticeship with Mr. L O'Grady of High St, Wexford. Henry, prior to joining the very important unit, the Army Service Corps, was employed by Mr. Ryan, Tomcoole, Taghmon.

Private Edward Murphy 17235 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, son of Patrick and Catherine Murphy, Barmoney, was killed at the battle of St. Eloi on the 14th March, 1915, age 21 years. Private Murphy was the first Taghmon casualty, and is commemorated on the le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France, Panel 2.



Lieutenant Pemberton Pigott 1st Battalion Royal Irish Regiment killed in action on 24th June, 1915, age 21 years. He was a Grandson of Captain Pemberton Pigott of Slevoy Castle. Lieutenant Piggott is commemorated in the Houplines Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Plot 3. Row A. Grave 27.

Private John Rossiter 6786 Royal Irish Regiment transferred to (390341) 361 1st Coy. Base Depot, Labour Corps. He died in France on the 27th March 1918, Private Rossiter Grave Reference Panel 94, Pozieres Memorial, Somme France.

Private John Francis Rothwell 5624 7th Battalion South Irish Horse died on the 21st March 1918 in France. Age 24 years. Son of Matthias and Sarah Rothwell, Growtown, Taghmon. Private Rothwell Grave Reference is Panel 6 Pozieres Memorial Somme France.

Conclusion

In the years after independence, the tens of thousands of Irishmen who fought and died in the 'Great War' were considered by many to have been at best, misguided and at worst, traitors to their country. To support the actions of those who had enlisted, in the climate of the new Free State was, at the time, 'politically incorrect'

Now, however things are changing and this is reflected in the words of President McAleese, speaking at the inauguration of the Messines Peace Tower in Belgium.

Those whom we commemorate here were doubly tragic. They fell victim to a war against oppression in Europe. Their memory too fell victim to a war for independence at home in Ireland.

Ireland has changed dramatically in recent years. It is now a modern, confident and outward looking society with respect and understanding for different traditions and cultures on this island. It is in this climate that it has been possible to remember and understand why so many men were prepared to leave these shores and fight on foreign fields. President McAleese quoted the words of Sean Lemass from about 30 years ago, during her speech

In later years it was common - and I was also guilty in this respect - to question the motives of those who joined the new British armies at the outbreak of the war, but it must in their honour and in fairness to their memory, be said, that they were motivated by the highest purpose.

Acknowledgements

President Mary McAleese's speech at Messines, Belgium, Wednesday 11th November 1998 – courtesy of Aras an Uachtaran

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Ireland's Memorial Records 1914 - 1918

The Free Press 1914 - 1918

The Gilbert Library, Dublin

Paddy Donovan, Bob Cudmore, Peter Gaynor, Phil Doyle, Hilary Murphy, Leo Jones, Padge Reck, Tom Williams.

Special thanks to Leslie Boxwell for all his help in research and recordings.

References and Notes

- 1. The numbers quoted concerning Irish participants in the First World War are continually subject to gross inaccuracy. The leading authority on the subject is Professor David Fitzpatrick of Trinity College, Dublin. He gives the total number of male Irish participants as 206,000. He concludes that 'about 30,000 died'. Statistics of the Irish dead numbering 'more than 50,000' (The Irish Times), 'upwards of 35,000 (The London Times) and '55,000' (The Daily Telegraph) are therefore inaccurate.
- 2. Mike Martin's letter appeared in The Free Press on 4th March 1916.
- 3. Joe Lee is Professor of History at U.C.C. and he made the comments in an article in *The Sunday Tribune* on Feb 21 1999.
- 4. From an unpublished article by Tom Williams concerning the political divisions in the Taghmon district during the years before and after The War of Independence.
- 5. See article in this journal *Reviving and Fostering Gaelic Games (1915-1927) Part 11* by Paddy O'Reilly
- 6. From A Fairday in Taghmon by Tom Williams

The Harry Clarke Stained-glass Windows of St Mary's Church, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo

By Averil Staunton.

Fr. Peter Conway was responsible for negotiating the procurement of the site on Market Street (now Main Street) from the local landlord Colonel



Nesbit Knox and his wife Jane (nee Cuff) and starting the building of St. Mary's Church, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo, in 1849; Ballinrobe being the oldest town in South Mayo. The Church was officially opened in 1863 as during the famine years, construction was delayed due to the paucity of finance and the death of its first architect Richard Pierce (1801-1854). Pierce had been greatly influenced by Augustus W. Pugin (1812-1852) for whom he was clerk of works.

After many alterations to the fabric of the building Msgr. Edward D'Alton PP (served 1911-1941) added a Mortuary Chapel in 1912 (now the Blessed Sacrament Chapel) designed by William Henry Byrne. Joshua Clarke created two double light windows for this chapel.

Msgr. D'Alton extended the church with the addition of aisles on either side to accommodate the increasing population in 1924 and was responsible for inviting Joshua's son Harry Clarke to create windows for inclusion here.

The first two double light windows, on the south side inserted in 1924 representing the Life of Christ were quickly followed by two further windows representing the Life of Mary. On the north side, four more double light Harry Clarke windows were commissioned and installed in 1925 representing early Irish Saints, Fursey, Fechín, Coleman, Brendan, Gormgail, Keiran, Enda and Jarlath. Most of the windows were donated by the priests and members of the local community. Harry Clarke

visited Ballinrobe in December 1925 to see the installed windows.

In 1987, anticipating celebrations for the centenary of the Harry Clarke' birth in 1889, Msgr. Tom Shannon PP commissioned the Abbey Stained-glass Company to survey and repair all the nineteen Clarke windows.

For the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's, in 2013, the current PP, Canon Conal Eustace had extensive repairs and conservation work carried out to the fabric of the building. One result was the redesign of the organ gallery enabling the large west window Harry Clarke installed in 1930 to be seen in all its glory. Saints Brigid, Patrick and Colmcille feature in this beautiful window.

There are 19 Harry Clarke panels in St. Mary's, part of our national heritage, and the greatest collection in the Tuam Diocese, if not the rest of Ireland. We are fortunate to have the original signed Harry Clarke designs for eight of the windows and there is a book titled *Harry Clarke's Liquid Light* available locally and a free explanatory leaflet in the church itself.

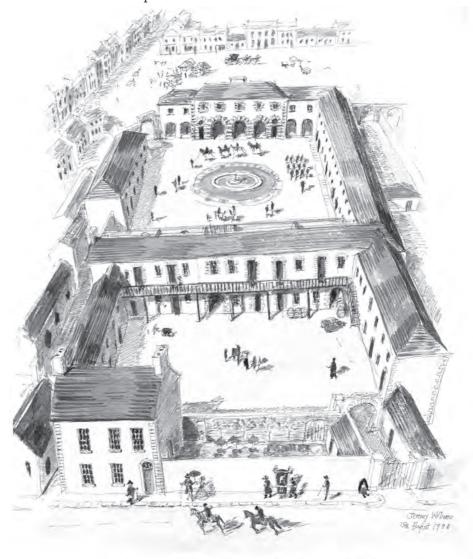
These beautiful windows come alive with an amazing range of jewel-like colours of scarlet, orange, magenta, purple, yellow, blue, emerald and crimson. They are made up in three parts, with the main centre panels consisting of elegant elongated figures placed on beautifully designed plinths with their names on scrolls close by, together with their symbol high above. Below in their predella, a story from the saints' lives unfolds.

Do bring binoculars to enjoy all aspects of these magnificent windows and for further details see our website www.historicalballinrobe.com

Ballina's Amazing Heartbeat

by Terry Reilly

The very colourful and atmospheric re-enactment of General Humbert's march through Ballina recently, 216 years after the French landing at Kilcummin, provided a unique insight into our past and the struggle to break free from occupation.



Colonel King's House Ballina 1798

In the replaying of such stirring events in the centre of the town—landmarked here and there by buildings which stood sentinel as the French made their dramatic entry on their way to the Races of Castlebar—we get a sense of the determination and hope the local pikemen entertained as they marched proudly and defiantly behind the French to Ballinamuck where many of them died.

Perhaps nowhere captured the mood better than the old military barracks, built in the 1700s, and headquarters of the North Mayo Militia from 1793. The local militia — 300 strong — was not at home when the French called. They were most likely attending to 'security matters' in and around Wexford at that time.

The militia was made up of men and boys from the area, mostly Catholics, under big landlords with impressive military records. They were the first Catholics armed. Their job was to protect Irish shores from invaders, notably the French. Many of the men who joined the militia — and there was no shortage of takers — subsequently joined the British army of the time, funnelling into the Connaught Rangers who fought in the Peninsular and others battles on the continent, including Waterloo, eventually the Boer War and finally WW1 in which over 1,100 Mayomen lost their lives, over 200 of those hailing from within an 11 mile radius of the town.

The significance and potential of the Ballina military barracks has largely gone unnoticed as the years have receded since it was effectively closed in the 1860s amidst protests from locals who were losing was what in effect akin to the closing of a large factory today. The permanent NMM staff left in 1889.

During the *In Humbert's Footsteps* weekend commemoration — the brainchild of Steve Dunford who has dusted the cobwebs from a significant part of our history, pumped life back into the memory and branded it in a way that has real local resonance — the old Military Barracks came alive. But how many actually appreciate the magnificent asset we have in Ballina in the old barracks? How many realise its historical and international significance.

Let me explain. Whereas on the recent re-enactment of Gereral Humbert's march through Ballina the flags of the French, the British and the green of Erin go Bragh hung around the well-preserved quadrangular square, it takes no great stretch of the imagination to visualise the flags of the United States, Canada, Australia, perhaps Mexico, and others, flying side by side.

The United States? Yes, for wasn't William Joyce Sewell (1835 to 1901), one of the heroes of the American Civil War familiar with the barracks. It was from Ballina he emigrated to the US while today the remains of

members of his family lie in St Michael's graveyard in Ardnaree. See *Amazing Mayo Stories*.

Canada? Have you forgotten that Edward Whelan (1824-1867), one of the Fathers of the Canadian Confederation, was born in Ballina, his father being a soldier based here. Newspaperman, orator, politician, reformer, his contribution to Canada is still commemorated. See *Amazing Mayo Stories*.



Australia? Jog that memory. Have you heard of the Wallace brother and sister, William Vincent (1812-1856) and Eliza (1820-1878)? Shame on you if you haven't. They were the children of the bandmaster of the North Mayo Militia, Spencer Wallace of Killala. Though born in Waterford (while the North Mayo Militia were based there) William Vincent grew up and learned his music in Ballina, and went on to become the rock star of the mid-19th century, touring the world with his music, and being



acclaimed in the US, Mexico, Australia and Britain. Eliza, born and baptised in Ballina, toured extensively and became a diva in Australia where she trained young singers who went on to become the core of the next generation of opera singers. Spencer Wallace, the father, and those who followed him as bandmaster to the excellent North Mayo Militia band, gave Ballina much of its musical heritage, a heritage that flourished in the early 1900s when the town had not one but three bands at the same time. The Mechanics, The Foresters and the celebrated Hibernians. See Amazing Mayo Stories.

Mexico? Well, apart from the aforementioned Wallace, who was the Patrick Dalton, one of the slain San Patricio heroes in the Mexican war against the Americans over the annexation of Texas (1847)? He is recorded as being from Ballina — perhaps another association with the Military barracks? The search continues to explore a tantalising link!

Oh, and I've almost forgotten the Scottish link! Well, there are many, but it's hard to beat a man called William Burke (1792-1827) who left for Scotland in 1818, and became one half of the infamous Burke and Hare bodysnatching partnership in Edinburgh. Apprehended and strung up

in 1829, Burke had arrived in Ballina from Tyrone with the Donegal militia as an officer's servant, later married a women from the locality and fathered several children before falling out with his father-in-law over a piece of land and absconding to find more lucrative if grisly work in Scotland.

So next time you pass through the Military Barracks dally, ponder and evaluate for a minute. Can you see a restored complex buzzing with activity? Hear a band playing again within the square's walls (under the baton of a modern day Wallace)? Sit at a coffee shop and drink in the information boards (initially) that tell of Whelan, Sewell, Burke, the Wallaces, even San Patricio Dalton. And learn of the men of the North Mayo Militia who subsequently travelled the world as part of the army of the British Empire.

Then there are our forgotten orphan girls who were sent to Canada and Australia in the 19th century, some of whom were undoubtedly daughters of soldiers billeted in the Military barracks. Yes, and casting your imaginative eye forward, explore the quaint creative units, the information centre, see how soldiers lived. And visit, too, the little enterprise hubs and workshops for young people in say programme language coding as an investment in future returns. The possibilities are endless — and doable.

So please see the Military Barracks in a new light. Project its development to the day when it will pay rich dividends for the entire community, complementing the Jackie Clarke Collection, the Mary Robinson Centre, the Salmon Interpretative Centre, the Greenway past the abbeys of Rosserk and Moyne right into historic Killala which is another vital piece in the cultural/historical/tourism mix that needs to be grasped and developed. Time moves on. Opportunities are being lost.

'Ballina's Amazing Heartbeat' deserves to be much more than a car park. The recently abolished Town Council had hoped to encourage a private-public partnership to realise its potential, still does, and is fortunate to have people in authority who would surely like to hear from interested parties. It wouldn't take enormous money to achieve its potential: the research work is done, international memorabilia sources would surely be forthcoming, the goodwill is there. And in events like the *In Humbert's Footsteps* (last year's National Gathering overall winner after re-enactments in Killala and Castlebar), the Ballina Salmon Festival, the Clarke and Robinson initiatives, etc. Ballina has shown it has the will and the resilience.

So what groups, organisations and individuals will pick up the challenge and make Ballina truly the Cultural Capital of Mayo with *Ballina*'s *Amazing Heartbeat* at its core?

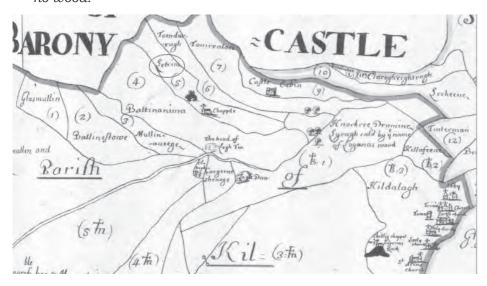
Terry Reilly's new book, *Ballina — One Town Three Wars & More (1880-1923)* was officially launched in Ballina Library on 24 July, 2014.

Roundwood Through the Centuries

by Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh and Martin Timmons

In understanding the development of Roundwood as a village, it is important first to place its development in the wider historical context. Roundwood can be described as a planned village as evidenced by its linear Main Street and triangular fair green, both of which are the hallmarks of a 17th century settlement. Some early references relating to the general Roundwood area or "the lands and territories of the Farrtree" occur in the early years of the seventeenth century with the confiscation of lands from Luke O'Toole of Castlekevin, the local centre of power, and the granting of them to Sir John Coke. Letters written in 1636 provide an interesting glimpse of settlement in the area and its potential for development by the new settlers.

Castlekevin, the town where the castle doth stand. This hath a goodly wood but no great timbers, but very fine young oaks, Tomalan (Tomrelan), a pretty wood, no timber. Tomdarragh and Balincor, a goodly wood, no timber. Rahin, a very small village, no wood. Baltoman (Baltinamina), Carrickro and Bolelin (Balislam?), the largest town in the Vartries, a very good wood by where runeth the great river (Avonmore). Leitrim, joining to the river Vartry, a very pretty wood, no timber. Molenabige and Bolincas, a town, hath no wood. Balhinto (Balinastoe), where Mr. Masterson doth dwell. He is a friend of Mr. Tooles mother, he hath this and the above town. The town hath no wood. Glasmolin, joining to the Powerscourt Manor, no wood.



What stands out from this letter, aside from the insightful account of settlement and woodland locally, is the reference to settlement in the Vartry area being located in the Baltinamina region. Liam Price speculated that prior to the development of Togher or Roundwood a village in the area of Baltinanima was perhaps more established. The fact that the primary road or highway, the Old Long Hill, continued from Annacarter southwards via Sliman, along the higher ground of Ballinafuinseog and would have intersected Baltinanima, coupled with the number of houses within the area evident on the Hearth Money Rolls (1688), further support the theory of a concentrated settlement in that area. In the same 1636 Letter written by Coke a reference to establishing a town locally follows, between Tomolan and Tomdarragh is the best place to set the town. There is a very fair Civate in the bawn of Castlekevin which will serve to dwell in until the town is built, and very secure.

The Ascendancy, Old Maps and the Lay of the Land

In his post-Reformation report of 1630 Bishop Buckley stated that there were no Protestants in Derralossary parish and that the church was out of repair. It was not until the final defeat of the Irish clans after the 1641 Rebellion, and the subsequent Cromwellian confiscations, that a period of expansion by the new ascendancy took place in the latter part of the 17th century. Most of the villages in Ireland date from this period. A period of increased development occurred in Wicklow from the latter half of the 17th century owing to the timber and iron industries. Many settlements were based around these industries and it is likely the settlement at Baltinamina may reflect this given the abundance of woodland in the area at that time. On the lower ground, closer to the river, the presence of new settlement being established in the vicinity of Roundwood Park would have seen increased development of surrounding land and subsequently investment in local infrastructure. Roundwood village started to take shape around this time primarily under the influence of the Temple family of Roundwood Park. The year 1669 saw John Temple, previously Master of the Rolls for Ireland in 1641, and his brother William Temple, a patron of Jonathan Swift, granted lands in Roundwood by Letters Patent of Charles II. Although granted the land the Temples remained absentee landlords, relying on agents to look after their interests. In 1682 the Temples were recorded as leasing out the lands of Mullinaveigue and Ballinrush, while in 1713 John Temple, then residing in Westminister, granted a lease of lands and woods at "Ballynacor" to Thomas and William Hatton. The first known reference to the name Roundwood appears in 1688 in the Heart Money Rolls which was the first survey taken after the Cromwellian Confiscations. The Rolls for Roundwood (including Coolharbour,

Diamond Hill, Oldtown) list the following inhabitants; *David Price, Peter Creighill, Hugh Vaughan, Wm. Fleming, Con. Oneyle, Daniel Lappin, Teig Farrell, John Shipton*, all of which had one or more hearths in their homes and some of whose surnames are still recognisable family names in the area.

The changing place names and boundaries that present in the cartographic record give, in some sense, a timeline of change in the area. The Down Survey maps, surveyed by Sir William Petty between 1654-6, are possibly the most important early visual images of the new County of Wicklow (created in 1606) and some of the first maps with any significant detail. The early baronial divisions of the county are clearly represented. Accompanying the Petty Maps are notes known as terriers relating to the barony of Ballinacor which give a short account on the area as a whole...

The quality of the soyle is generally mountainous boggy and woody in many places impasable. There is little arable or good land except in some of the Glinns. The most remarkable place in this Barony is Killdalagh upon which there stand seaven churches though ruined, and one upon a high rocke to which the papists were wont to go in pilgrimage whence the rock on which it stands is called Pilgrimshill. There is likewise in the said parish of Killdalagh (Glendalough) a garrison at Castle Cabine (Castlekevin) there indeed well placed in the midst of the Barony.

In Petty's Down Survey map of the Ballinacor area circa 1656, and subsequent atlas published in 1685, Roundwood is featured. However, at this time in history the general area where the village currently stands was known as Leitrim and the Vartry River was then recorded as Leitrim flu (flow) both which can be seen in Fig 1. From this map it seems that Baltinanima may then have included Toghermore, Carrigroe, Raheen and part of Roundwood Townland. Price speculates that the western part of Roundwood Townland presently known as Oldtown may have then been part of Baltinanima. In modern times, Roundwood village now takes in part of four townlands, that is, Roundwood, Toghermore, Togher Beg and Ashtown. This is best understood with reference to local public houses; Vartry House and Byrne and Woods are in Roundwood Townland, Tochar House is in Toghermore, the Coach House is in Togher Beg, and the Roundwood Inn is situated in Ashtown.

Eighteenth Century Roundwood; Whats in a Name?

By 1701 we find Derralossary Church once again in operation, this time as an Anglican place of worship, with William Hopkinson being listed a rector in that year and a chalice was presented to Derralossary by Mary Temple, a daughter-in-law of William Temple. The oldest headstone

inscription recorded in Derralossary churchyard relates to a Thomas Freeman, a family name that resided in Tomdarragh, who died in 1715. A deed granting the rights of Roundwood Fair was issued in 1713 indicating that by this time Roundwood had become important enough have its own fair. Given that this is the first known legal document relating to commercial activity in Roundwood it has recently being used as the official dating for Roundwood village. In 1760, according to Nevilles Map, it seems the Fair was being held behind Roundwood Church.

Around the year 1720, Roundwood Park House was in existence as



a tower house with the estate being managed by land agents John Hatch and Samuel McCracken who were cousins. One of the earliest references to the Togher name first recorded in a townland map of 1727 and is spelt Tougher. This sketched map shows the current main street dissecting what is now Toghermore and Togher Beg. Similarly, a map drawn in 1731 by Henry Roe has possibly the first reference to the spelling Tochar. Roundwood Park is depicted as a two

storey building in contrast to Diamond Hill which is shown as two single storey houses.

Prior to the building of the main street both townlands were part of Togher which stretched from the Vartry River in the east up to Baltinanima and Carrigroe towards the west. Togher appears on Jacob Nevill's map of 1760 and in a deed of 1789 the name Big Togher is recorded. The village itself came to be referred to as Togher in Irish which was changed by officialdom to An Tochar in the mid 20th century. In 1737 a Charter School was built in Roundwood on a site provided by the Temples and in an area that by 1760 was named Templestown an area close to what is now known as Oldtown and Roundwood is marked as lying on the higher ground towards Mill Road. In 1739 a deed refers to all that part of Roundwood where the old town stands, indicating that a new town

was then in existence. This reference again indicating the emergence of Roundwood as a distinct village.

One particular document from the Hatch Papers provides a valuable historical insight into the area and general lay of the land in 1778 – entitled "An Account of the contents of the demesne of Roundwood taken



by computation" which includes names of fields in close vicinity of Roundwood Park.

These local fieldnames which the surveyor notes are all situated on the left hand side of the Great Road and include the following names - Slang Meadow and Rabbit Borough Hill. First Bogg Field, the bushy fields, Cows pasture, Blackford Meadow, Turry(?) field, Brick Field, Wheat field. Other names on this document give an insight into land use in the village vicinity, Brewhouse Meadow, Coppice, Quarry Meadow, Bottoms Well Field, Upper Big Field, Acorn Field, Burk's field and Old Avenue, Pigeonhouse Field, Cluster Meadow, Manwaring's Meadow.

In the same year, 1778, the publication of Taylor and Skinner's Maps of the Roads of Ireland saw all of the major roads emanating from Dublin presented on a fold out map of the country in what was essentially Ireland's first Road Map. The map entitled Road from Dublin to Powerscourt and Rathdrum is most significant and gives a few important insights regarding Roundwood. If we follow the Old Long Hill southwards we first observe Whitehall, the house

of Whitmore Esq. in Glasnamullen, passing the road for seven Churches at Annacarter and moving onto Fairview the residence of Andrew Price Esq. At this point before reaching the Village a long since extinguished road linking the Old Long Hill road and the road to Newtown is visible in an area close to what would nowadays be the Upper Resevoir Dam. The only feature in the village is that of an Inn situated where Byrne and

Woods currently stands, while there is an absence of any church, the presence of Roundwood Park, residence of Hatch Esq, is clearly defined.

By the time the Ordnance Survey is undertaken in 1837, not only are townland boundaries clearly defined, the shape of modern Roundwood (Togher) Village has been well established with many significant details recorded such as the Chapel, the Police Station, Pounds and the presence of a new lower road to Annamoe via Raheen built in the 1820's.

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John Hinde — The Man Who Transformed Colour Picture Postcards

by James Scannell

Up to the early 1950s most picture postcards were printed in black and white while those in colour were either tinted versions of black and white cards or full colour using the printing processes of the day which meant that the viewer was merely looking at a standard colour printed picture which tended to have flat colour tones. Numerous companies produced colour picture postcards in this format but one man, John Hinde, had a totally different idea of how colour picture postcards should be produced. He went on to revolutionise the way in which colour picture postcards were produced and in appearance, and who, with a select group of photographers, working to formats he laid down for image composition, just like Lawrence had done the previous century, photographed Ireland in the 1950s and 60s that equal those of the Lawrence a century earlier, with this work of releasing new images by John Hinde Ltd., continuing at the present time.

John Hinde was born in 1916 in the village of Street, Somerset, England, the great grandson of James Clarke, founder of Clarke's Shoes. During his childhood he sustained a leg injury after which a severe infection set it which resulted in him being confined to bed for over nearly a decade. Nursed intensively by his mother, he developed a fascination and interest for colour photography which was in its infancy. During this period he acquired his knowledge of composition from the pages of The Amateur Photographer magazine. At the age of 11 he bought a mail order pin-hole camera from Modern Boy which came complete with several plates and chemicals to process them. He set the camera up on the garden lawn and took a photograph of the family home after which he took the exposed plate indoors and developed it under the stairs. This action ignited his intense interest in photography. His interest in photography was further assisted by the local chemist, Mr. Pickering, a keen amateur photographer who was experimenting with colour photography and with whom he discussed photography and the production of colour prints for hours on end. At the age of 16 Hinde produced his first colour print which he later described as a ghastly result and worked tirelessly to perfect working with the laborious tricolour carbro process which took up to two days to produce a single high quality image.

Tricolor carbro quickly became the most popular printing process for professionals in the 1920s replacing the three-colour Carbon and Ratdex systems. At the Royal Photographic Society's Exhibition of Colour Photography in 1931, 90% of the color prints were made using the Autotype Carbro Process. Interestingly, most photo-mechanical printing in England during that period made use of hand-coloured prints while in America carbros were the rule. This later changed with the introduction of the Vivex process. In America, despite its complexity and high cost, tri-carbro was the process par excellence for the advertising industry until the 1950s when it was displaced by the easier and less expensive Kodak Dye Transfer process.

In the 1930s colour photography was in its infancy and upwards of 400 processes were available for those interested in working in colour but all were extremely time and labour consuming and required an extremely high degree of patience. Those using colour in Britain at that time was limited to a handful of pictorial photographers who exhibited their impressionistic works at the annual Royal Photographic Society exhibition or by commercial photographers who used it in advertising features. By the time World War II broke out, 99% of colour prints in Britain were being produced by one company, Colour Photographs Ltd, but it ceased trading at the outbreak of the war leaving colour photography back to where it stood at the start of the 1930s.

During the 1930's Hinde's dedication and patience paid off as he emerged as one of the early pioneers of colour photography, having learned various techniques from Frank Newens, one of the masters of colour photography in the 1930s who taught Hinde to make carbro prints at the Reimann School in 1937. Hinde himself investigated continental methods of colour photograph reproduction during a 1939 summer trip to Germany. Hinde already had determined that the future for colour photography lay on the ability of individual photographers to master the entire process from composition to the most difficult, printing. Hinde had already started up his own very successful company in London but the outbreak of World War II and ensuing restrictions placed on the use of chemicals and paper for advertising purposes brought this commercial venture to a standstill. At this point in time Hinde had become one of the most important promoters of colour photography in Britain but due to the war then in progress, few took notice in him or were prepared to invest in the future of the new medium of colour photography.

Though his physical disability exempted him on medical grounds for military service, Hinde became known as a leading colour photographer and recorded many images of wartime Britain in colour. He became involved in producing colour photographs for books such as *Citizens in War* (1945) and *Exmoor Village* (1947) and a series of books for Adprint for which he started working for in 1941 called *Britain in Picture*. This enabled him to push colour photography to its limits.

An active member of the Royal Photographic Society, he gave eagerly awaited keynote lectures on the latest developments in colour photography and was known for making carbro prints. Hinde also produced advertising copy for the family firm of Clarke's Shoes and for the mass circulation magazine *Illustrated* which used full colour cover features on a variety of subjects.

By 1944 Hinde had acquired the necessary technical skills to produce high quality colour prints but lacked a sense of direction and then went off on a tangent following a circus visit to take a series of black and white and colour pictures for his book British Circus Life and became addicted to circus life. In 1947 Hinde was commissioned to photograph Ricoh's circus, subsequently published as Ricoh's Circus (1948) and was so fascinated by those that worked in it that he ceased working as a photographer and became a circus manager for this circus, then later for Bertram Mills, and finally for Chipperfields. It was during his time with Ricoh's that he met Jutte, a trapeze artist, whom he subsequently married. His work with the various circuses spurred him to start his own circus but realising that these were too numerous in Britain, decided to focus on Ireland where he had a very enjoyable visit with Ricoh's. In 1955 he formed The John Hinde Show which lasted one only season as the year he choose to tour Ireland was one the wettest Irish summers on record, drew very few attendances, and folded.

Hinde returned to photography and began working on an idea which he always had – the production of a colour picture postcard to such a standard that the viewer would be left with the impression that they were looking at a high quality colour picture rather than a mere colour print. In November 1956, with his wife Jutta, Hinde moved into a house known as The Studio in Dalkey, Co.Dublin, 8 miles south of Dublin, where he installed his photographic darkrooms and offset printing machine on the ground floor. During the summer of that year Hinde had taken his first series of *Views of Ireland* images, and with the assistance of Jutta, worked on their subsequent production, critically examining every stage of the production process during which it emerged that there had to be synchronisation and complete co-operation between all stages of production which was dependent on an initial high quality image.

Hinde believed that a high quality colour picture card required two distinct elements. This required two steps – firstly a high quality original colour image to work from and secondly a very high standard of reproduction. After 18 months working in Dalkey, Hinde, with the support and assistance of his wife, perfected the process which was to revolutionise colour picture postcards. Part of the process involved introducing bright colours into his cards, a process that was being discouraged by art experts in magazines. This technique of bright

foreground colours and the manipulation of other colour tones such as skies and sunsets became the John Hinde look for his picture postcards.

Hinde realised that audiences familiar with seeing black and white picture postcards cards did not just want to see some colour tinting – what they wanted was a colour photograph. To Hinde this meant red pullovers, foreground lupins, overhanging rhododendrons, ochre cottages, azure Mediterranean skies – even in County Donegal, golden beaches, yellow cars and blood orange sunsets over Dublin Bay. Put simply, by manipulating his images and the colours in them he was merely responsible for adapting what was already becoming an accepted style in colour photography for consumption by a mass public.

Hinde's first postcards were giant postcards, i.e. double the size of the standard sized ones and were best sellers but he still needed finance to get the operation off the ground. Numerous applications for State enterprise grants were turned down but he was eventually directed to the eminent solicitor Arthur Cox to whom he showed a selection of his cards and was told by him these were the type of images that the country needed to make itself known all over the world. What Cox did or who he spoke to after that Hinde never found out but shortly after this visit, doors opened and enterprise grants were made available to him which made it possible for him to set up his commercial printing presses and warehouse in Cabinteely, Co. Dublin. It was based there until 1992 when it relocated to a purpose built facility in the nearby Sandyford Industrial Estate. In 2002 it moved to Bray, Co. Wicklow, where the company was based until 2013, when it relocated to Mentec House in Dun Laoghaire Industrial Estate, Pottery Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where it is currently located. Hinde later recalled that the value of his postcards was probably as important as anything that Bord Fáilte (Irish Tourist Board), now Fáilte Ireland – National Tourism Development Authority, was doing at that time in attracting tourists to the country as he had the right product for the right time.

Hinde's first series of *Views of Ireland* cards were an international success and after establishing the company that still bears his name, John Hinde Ltd., he employed three photographers, Elmar Ludwig, Edmund Nägele, and David Noble. They travelled around Ireland taking high quality original images working from templates provided by Hinde, who then ensured that they were reproduced to the highest standard possible just as William Lawrence 80 years earlier also set down image templates for his photographers to follow.

An early coup for Hinde was an invitation from Eastman Kodak to produce their two main publicity items – show cards for display in chemist shop windows, and calendars which were translated into 24 languages and sent to photographers all over the world. Another success

for the company was the production of cards for sale in Butlin's Holiday Camps in Britain. In 2002 a collection of these images were published in the book *Our True Intent Is All For Your Delight - The John Hinde Butlin's Photographs*.

By the early 1960s Hinde was producing over 300 images of Ireland as cards and was also moving into new markets in the U.K., Europe and the U.S.A. By 1965 Hinde had ceased engaging in day-to-day photography himself and entrusted this work to the above trio of photographers. A year later his was one of the largest postcard companies in the world with this success emphasised with the opening of The John Hinde Ltd., 10th anniversary exhibition, by Taoiseach Sean Lemass. In a 1966 interview Hinde said *Using the medium of colour photography I wish to emphasise the beautiful aspects of the world in which we live and present these images in a style which would enable them to be instantly understood and appreciated by a mass audience.*

In 1972 Hinde sold his company, which stills prints postcards and calendars, and retired to the South of France where he concentrated on landscape painting. His postcard work was honoured in 1993 with a retrospective exhibition in the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin. In an interview Hinde said *My mission with colour photography was to make it a life enhancing medium.* Hinde admitted that some of his images had been modified but justified this on the grounds that when a beautiful scene off the west of Ireland was photographed, it would come out practically a monochrome one so they set out to create visually the impression one thought they had.

John Hinde died in the Dordogne, France in 1998.

In 2012 John Hinde Ltd. published a selection his early views in a 128-page book John Hinde – Nostalgic Ireland – Classic Postcards of Ireland from the John Hinde Archive and featured on the cover was the iconic image of John Hinde's 'Two children collecting turf on a Connemara bog with a donkey' featuring a ginger haired boy, Paddy Lydon, and his younger sister Mary, an image that went all around the globe and encouraged millions to visit Connemara. In April 2013 the Irish Times announced the death of Paddy Lyndon earlier that month aged 65 in Galway. One of 5 children, he never married, and had stayed at home while his sister in the post card moved to England. Overall this book provides the reader with a unique view of Ireland as it was in 1950s and 60s, recalling images of fashion, people, and modes of transport from an era long gone but captured in time forever through this selection of colour picture postcards.

Unlike Lawrence, the John Hinde Company has continually updated its images with the result that one can trace the changes over time in

various locations through the cards published down over the years — the changing views of O'Connell Street, Dublin, taken in various decades is an example of this.

John Hinde's legacy is that he revolutionised the way in which colour picture cards were produced, bringing them from a mere flat colour print to high quality glossy print embracing colour manipulation. The company that bears his name holds a massive archive of colour images of Ireland, Britain and other locations, that have recorded changes in various places down through the decades, and are as priceless as the Lawrence images.

About 20 years ago this Federation, jointly with the Federation for Ulster Local Studies, re-photographed the Lawrence images showing the changes that had taken place in the original locations a century later. Assuming that both organisations will be in existence at the end of this century, it might be a worthwhile project at that time to re-record those scenes using whatever technology will be available.

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Raymochy Abbey

by Leonard Roarty

Saint Patrick founded the Abbey at Raymochy. He installed Brughach as it first bishop. Raymochy gets its name from a Milesian prince Ith who was killed here during the Milesian invasion of Ireland 1000 BC. Raymochy in English means the fort of the plain of Ith. Conal, Eoghan and Enda, the three sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages, were given kingdoms in the 5th century by their father. Raymochy bordered their kingdoms. The boundary between Cenel Conaill and Cenel Eoghan was the Keenaghan burn. Raymochy became the assembly point and market place of the three kingdoms. Raymochy was an important pagan settlement. Saint Patrick converted the pagans there to Christianity. Thus it was at Raymochy that Christianity first came to the Lagan.

Sea levels and tides were much higher in the 5th century and the abbey would have been built on the water's edge. It was used for Catholic worship until the suppression of the monasteries in 1536 AD.

Brugach the first bishop of Raymochy was an outstanding figure in the ecclesiastical history of Tirconaill. A line of bishops, successors to Brugach, continued at Raymochy until at least 731. As it was the seat of the bishop it would have been under the Celtic Christian Monastic system, the ecclesiastical headquarters of the region. Saint Colmcille as a young boy, then unable to read, completed the recitation of a long psalm in the abbey. This was regarded as a miracle. There was an abbot, Saint Ciaran of Raymochy, who died c.783 AD.

By 817 the episcopal seat had moved to the church at Raphoe, thus giving Raphoe its name to the diocese.

From the eight to the twelfth century the Columban federation of monasteries, ruled by the arch-abbot of Iona, controlled Raymochy and many monasteries throughout Ireland. The reforming synod of Rathbrasail, 1111 AD changed the church from a monastic to a diocesan and parish based church. The synod was radical and far reaching in the many changes it brought about in the administration, control, and power in the Catholic Church, particularly in relation to the monasteries. Sean Ua Gaireadain, who became the first bishop of Raphoe under the new order, carried out vigorous reforms c.1150 AD in Raymochy and the other diocesan monasteries, changing them from monastic to parish based churches.

The activities of the monastics and the patronages of the chieftains over the centuries epitomized the role Raymochy Abbey played in the religious and secular lives of the Clans. It would have been part of Ireland's Golden Age. when the country was going through a period of religious fulfilment and prosperity. Ireland was then a monastic and scholarly land during the Golden Age period between the sixth to eighth centuries. Monastics played an important part in all aspects of Irish Society from the sixth century to their suppression in 1536 by King Henry VIII of England. However Raymochy was not suppressed until the Treaty of Mellifont in 1603. Although primarily involved in the religious and cultural life of the people, the monks cultivated the land and reared cattle. They were also influential in the economy and politics of the country.

The Abbey would have been under the protection, patronage (tithe of clan income) and support of the clan chieftains. The O'Cannon clan were chieftains of Tir Conaill in early medieval times and later, from the fourteenth century the O'Donnell clan (Medieval period sixth to fifteenth century). .

Parish Priests of Raymochy from 1400 included the following: 1400, Mallan O Doherty; 1411, Clement O'Friel (died 1423); 1412, Niall OKane; 1416, Clement O'Friel, Cornelius MacMenamin O Donnell; 1600, Ferdomnach Glacken.

Following the suppression of the monasteries in 1536, Raymochy Abbey was further affected by the Plantation of Ulster (1609) and the penal laws (late seventeenth to late eighteenth centuries). The penal laws witnessed the persecution of Catholics and suppression of the Catholic faith. By 1731 there was only one priest (bishop Gallagher) officiating in the field at a Mass Rock at Drumoghill.

The substantial remains of the Abbey that can be seen today reflect the alterations made when it was converted for Protestant worship c.1622. The most impressive remaining feature is the Planters' Gothic E. Window. There are three lights of double Y-tracery mullions in a round-headed arch. The mullions are irregular octagons in sections and of sandstone. Members of the Established Church worshipped in Raymochy Abbey for 180 years from 1622 to 1792. Rectors included William Paton (1622); James Fleming (1665); Nathaniel Foy (1684); Moses Davis (1691); John Obins (1745); William Jephson (1782) and John Waller (1791).

Scottish Planters brought Presbyterianism to the Laggan. In the 1640s the Scottish Presbyterian Church sent two ministers to Donegal to set up churches and supply ministers. In 1644 these ministers addressed an overflow public meeting in the Abbey where all Protestants worshipped together. (until 1646)

As a result of this meeting the Presbyterians decided to set up a church of their own in Manorcunningham (First Ray) which was opened in 1646, with the Rev. Hugh Cunningham as its first minister.

Many Presbyterian families continued to bury in the Abbey graveyard and indeed some do to this day. Protestants interred include Mildred

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King (47), 1776; Charles Teaz (54), 1775; Oliver Leitch, 1775; Robyn Wilson (67), 1798; Rev. Nathaniel Patterson Rogers (76), 1883; Very. Rev. Arthur Barrett, Rev John Browne, 1st Ray (47), 1851; Rev. Robert McMorris 1st Ray (73), 1903.

During the Penal Days up until Catholic Emancipation in 1829, Catholics were prohibited from interring their dead in the graveyard. Catholics interred after 1829 included families not driven out at the plantation but remained as servants. Catholic graves are located on the western side of the graveyard with no pre-1829 burials. Interred include. William Gallagher (b 1780), Alexander Gallagher, Ray (b 1828), William Gallagher (b 1839), Charles Gallagher, Ray (b 1863), Dan McElwaine, Corkey, (b 1848), Francis Gallagher (d 1877), his wife Nancy (d 1887), B. Gallagher (d1851), John Gallagher, Patrick Gillen, Corkey, (62) 1932, James Devenney (d 1957), Charles Flood (73) 1933, Christopher Murray (75) 1845.

The Peer and the Plasterer

by Jim Lacey

The scene is the interior of a cosy cottage in what was then rural Castleknock. Two men are seated at a table. Scattered on the surface of the table are pens, pencils, jotters and heavy bound books.

The elder person is Bryan Guinness, Lord Moyne, born 27th October, 1905, educated at Eaton and Christchurch College, Oxford, vice chairman of Guinness's brewery, Governor of the National Gallery.

Leaning across the table, his index finger marking the pages of a book of Robert Browning's poems, is a flame haired Tommy Bracken, former Private in the 5th Infantry Battalion, a formidable athlete in his day, now employed as a plasterer or "at the building" as he would put it. An animated discussion is taking place concerning the omission of the first syllable of the iambus in lines 3 and 7 of *Pippas Song*.

Two men from totally disparate backgrounds united in a common love – the art of poetry.

Bryan Guinness comes from a classical background in poetry, however, his love of traditional Irish rhyme led him to write the following poem in 1936:

The Pretty Girl Milking the Cows

She was pale as lily
And as red as a rose:
And her hair was as black
As the wings of the crows.
The morning has spangled
The cobwebs of silk:
And there gleamed on her fingers
The pearls of the milk.
My pony impatiently
Bore me away:
But I carried her with me
All the bright day.

Tommy, on the other hand, came from an ancient Bardic tradition. He put the news of the day into rhyme. He wrote of football and hurling matches, of Stephen Roche winning the Tour de France and, echoing his own love of running, he penned a tribute to Noel Carroll on his win at the White City. He wrote of emigrants and navvies and of the helicopter escape from Mountjoy Prison but his favourite topic was his beloved Arkle, possibly the best racehorse ever. In his poem *Farewell Arkle* he finishes:

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But never again on a racecourse if for centuries we wait
Will we see or equal Bold Arkle the Great
So from all of us who loved you so well
We'll remember you always, Arkle . . . - farewell.

On a Friday night Tommy would hop the bus into town and go from pub to pub selling his latest poem or ballad run off earlier in the day on a Roneo Gestetner. Many's the time with pint in one hand and sixpence in the other I would purchase one of Tommy's renditions from the Bard himself. Our very own Zozimus from the Sandpits in Castleknock.

Tommy had a distant relative, Thomas Bracken, who wrote, among other poems, the New Zealand national anthem. Thomas Bracken was born in Clonee, Co. Meath in 1943 and emigrated at a young age. However, it appears someone read Clonee as Clones and perpetuated the myth that Thomas Bracken was a native of Clones, Co. Monaghan, to the extent that a plaque was erected in his honour on the Public Library in the town.

Unfortunately, Tommy is no longer with us. What a poem he would give us on that! Tommy passed away at the relatively young age of 48 in November, 1991. His friend and fellow poet Lord Moyne died the following year.

Tommy's last poem written a couple of days before his very sudden death has an air of premonition:

Neither Glad nor Sorry.

I am neither glad nor sorry
That my day is done
What a fool I'd be
To say I've won
But then again
When I count the cost
I gave my all – there's nothing lost.

Tommy's sister Katie still lives in that cosy cottage surrounded with Tommy's treasures – his poetry and the memories of debate between Plasterer and Peer.

The Olde Countess of Desmond

by Kieran Groeger

One of the endearing and enduring legends of the Tudor times celebrates the amazing longevity of Katherine Fitzgerald, usually called the "Olde Countess". There are many legends about her — some so absurd that they are laughable, some so possible that you would have to consider them as likely.

We will begin by outlining some of the legends and later critically analyse them. Briefly the legend tells us that Katherine Fitzgerald was born in 1464 in Dromana House on the river Blackwater, that she was the daughter of Sir John Fitzgerald and that she married her cousin Thomas, the third son of Thomas, the eight Earl of Desmond. Many of the Fitzgeralds had nicknames — Silken Thomas, Gearoid the Great, Young Garrett etc. Katherine's husband was known as "Baldy Tom".

We are told her husband died in 1530 and that she lived the rest of her life at Inchiquin Castle, a few miles outside of Youghal. Inchiquin is a rare, round tower house castle, badly damaged by Oliver Cromwell but still reasonably intact today.

She walked regularly to Youghal, the nearest market town and where she also had a town house. Sometimes she was accompanied by her daughter. After the Desmond rebellion her land was declared forfeit to the crown but she successfully petitioned for the right to remain in Inchiquin until her death.

Another legend tells us that Walter Raleigh gave her a present of a cherry tree (which ultimately would have fatal consequences for her!) as, again we are told she met her death when she slipped while climbing a cherry tree.

She is supposed to have grown three sets of teeth.

Her husband, the previously mentioned Baldy Tom, was very jealous of his youthful wife and was said to have dragged unwelcome visitors up to the battlements of the castle and thrown them off it with a rope attached to their neck!

She is said to have walked to London, wheeling her infirm daughter in front of her to petition the Queen for a pension.

She is said to have argued with William Shakespeare on one of his visits to Youghal about his portrayal of Richard III, she said she knew Richard personally, that he danced at her wedding and that he most certainly was not a hunchback.

Is there any truth in all of this?

There are several books which mention her life, which even question her life and it is easy to demolish some of the myths. Some but not all! Richard Sainthill wrote "The Old Countess of Desmond: an Inquiry". This was written in 1861. This was written to respond to another analysis by Reverend Arthur Blennerhasset Rowan — his book "The Old Countess of Desmond, Her Identity, Her Portraiture, Her Descent", written in 1860. Both have been reprinted. "Eleanor Countess of Desmond" by Anne Chambers gives a chapter to Katherine Fitzgerald.

It is hard to be precise about anything involving Katherine Fitzgerald — references are scanty. Walter Raleigh mentions her in his History of the World — he says "I myself knew the old Countess of Desmond, of Inchiquin, in Munster who lived in the year 1589, and many years since, who was married in Edward IV's time...." Edward died in 1483. So Raleigh accepted the story of her marriage before 1484. There are also a few letters from Raleigh in which he offers her land for sale — at one price with her still living and a different price after her death, which in his letters he felt had to be soon given her great age.

Richard Sainthill in his fine examination of the legend says that the legal basis for her having the land dates back to the time of King Edward and that — probably — people understood that the marriage occurred then. She might have been very happy to encourage that story and embellished it with details of life before she was even born — details about King Edward, about King Richard III and his hunchback. Such little gems of knowledge add verisimilitude to a good story.

There is a discussion about her in the Irish Parliament when an attempted land transfer was blocked. This failed deed is probably the only known document to have her signature on it.

She died sometime before 1607. Fynes Morrison visited Youghal in 1613 and was told she died some years previously. Sir Robert Sydney says she damaged her thigh in the fall from the tree "soe falling down, she hurt her thighe, which brought her a fever, and that brought death". And that's it! So the rest is reading between very vague lines and trying to understand the story.

OK! When did she marry? Something is wrong with the marriage story — her husband was married to Sile McCarthy first and was probably married to her until 1505 when a "settlement of land" is made to her in her maiden name — indicating a separation or divorce in that year. So 1505 is the earliest possible date for the second marriage and it could have been later but had to be before 1530.

At what age did she marry? If we could reason that out perhaps the rest would fall into place. If she was born in 1464 ... then she is getting married at over 40 years of age which is highly improbable for those days. It is much more likely that she was a teenager in 1505. If we can live with that — she would have lived to a very ripe old age for those

days — well over a hundred years — perhaps as much as one hundred and fifteen. Not more, sorry!

Did she walk to London? Most unlikely! There was a Countess of Desmond in London in 1588, an impoverished Countess begging the Queen for financial assistance but this was Eleanor, Countess of Desmond, wife of Garrett Fitzgerald. In the court conversations about her, possibly the two countesses were confused. Eleanor was granted a pension. There is no reference to a similar pension for Katherine.

How about the three sets of teeth? Well, that is possible — there is a condition called "hyperdontia" in which people have a third set of teeth but what is much more likely is that as she grew older the stumps of older teeth appeared through receding gums. New teeth!

Climbing the Cherry Tree? Walter Raleigh did introduce the Azane cherry tree to Youghal where it still grows wild. If you ever see the olive trees in France or Spain — people bring steps to them (sort of like the steps to an aircraft) and mount the steps to get the olives. They do not actually climb the trees. Possibly something similar was in use for the cherry tree and that she slipped, broke the hip and died.

Her memories of Richard III? Probably just an acquired memory. Who knows? Her claim to her land was based on a legal document dating back to the time of Edward IV so perhaps some confusion developed between her actual birth date and the date of the document. People certainly believed that because the legal document was based on the era of King Edward IV then she had to have been born during his reign. She probably played along! Very feisty lady!

Is it possible that she lived to be over a hundred years in those days? Yes it is! Eleanor, Countess of Desmond, was born in 1545 and died on the 26th of November 1638 — around 94 years if you do the maths. Significantly she was never referred to as the Olde Countess but Katherine was. So it is very likely she was much older than the 94 years Eleanor enjoyed. Probably at least ten years older.

When did she die? We do not know — sometime before 1607, usually said to be 1604. If she was alive after 1604 there would be references in Boyle's documents about her. Boyle documented his leases very carefully. Raleigh simply says she lived for many years after he met her in Youghal. But she does not feature in Boyle's documents.

Are any of the portraits really her? There are several portraits which allegedly depict her but this is most unlikely. If you had to pick one, the one in Dromana Castle, celebrating 800 years of the Fitzgerald family in 2015, is probably your best bet!

Excerpt From: Kieran Groeger. "Youghal Heritage Trail." Kieran Groeger, 2013. iBooks. https://itun.es/ie/6Y9QO.1

A Walk Through Georgian Birr

by Brian T. Kennedy

"The heart of an Irishman is nothing but his imagination", so wrote the great playwright G. B. Shaw. To take a walk through Georgian Birr you must similarly allow your imagination take you by the hand and lead you back to a more graceful era. This walk is the classic one any Birr person should know by heart.



The tour should commence at the Theatre and Arts Centre on Oxmantown Mall. Built as a Church of Ireland hall in 1888, it is mock Tudor in design and contemporary based on German Gothic designs of Casandra Countess of Rosse. Oxmantown Mall as we know it today was called

Oxmantown Place and technically it is only the 'Inner Mall' or gravel walk that is Oxmantown Mall. The street was developed by the 2nd Earl to link the Castle Gate with St. Brendan's C. of I. built in 1815 and consecrated in 1816. Both the gate and church are the work of local architect John Johnson. The church was extended in 1876 to the design of the celebrated architect Sir Thomas Drew.

On the Northern corner is Brendan House, originally called Oxmantown House. This fine building housed the Presentation Brother's College from 1952 to 1979.



Mary Ward

At the corner of the Mall closest to the Square is the scene of the world's first motoring tragedy. On August 31st, 1869, Mary Ward was thrown from a steam carriage built by her cousins Richard Clare Parsons and Charles Algernon Parsons (the future steam turbine pioneer).

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Directly across the road is a house (Higgins's) built in 1810 and the location of the former R.I.C. Barracks, prior to moving to Emmet Square.

Then proceeding down the former Cumberland St. (Emmet St.) you observe on the left a Veterinarian Yard built in 1902.

Our next stop is at the Methodist (Wesleyan Church) built in 1820 to replace a former Methodist Chapel, in Church Street. Interestingly the adjoining Manse was once occupied by the Presbyterian Minister, while the Methodist Minister lived in the house currently 'The Stables' on the Mall.

The Midland Mineral Water Gates with their twin arches are noteworthy as they are a good surviving example of a goods inward and exit gate.

Across the road is the site of the *Midland Tribune* Printing works of 1881, prior to amalgamation with the *King's County Chronicle* and move across the road, to the present 'Hamilton House'. Just north of this building is the former home of Birr's celebrated historian, Thomas Lawlor Cooke. Today it comprises two residences but in Cooke's day was one house.

We are now in Emmet Square, renamed from Cumberland Square in 1922. Laid out by Sir William Parsons in the 1740's it is the proof that Birr is a planned town, as all of its original main streets radiate out from this central point. The houses from Murphy's to Cumberland House date from the 1760's. There are similar dates for the former 'Square News', the building to its right and Jim Cashen's office. The Garda Station and Bank of Ireland were replaced in the early 1970's and the Post Office dates from 1903. The former King's Co. and Ormond Club (Enright's) is another building which adds greatly to the Square's colourful story.

Dooley's Hotel at the centre of Birr life since 1747 is a unique part of Birr's history. An old coaching inn it was infamously burned down by members of the Galway Blazers' Hunt (hence their name). The Free Masons also based themselves here until they built their own hall in The Green in 1912. The occasion when the celebrated Dame Nellie Melba sang from its window to her fans on the Square is commemorated in the name of the adjacent Nite Club.

The central Doric Column was erected in 1746 under the guidance of Sir William Parsons and his architect Samuel Chearnley. It commemorated the victory of William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, over Charles Edward Stuart (Bonnie Prince Charlie) at the Battle of Culloden (April 16th 1746). This win for the House of Hanover ended the Catholic Stuart's claim to the throne for good. There was no connection in this battle to Birr. All we can do is speculate it offered a clear message of who ruled over them to Birr's population, in case they developed other ideas.

We then move to John's Place (more commonly known as John's Mall). Named after John Cleare Parsons, son of the 2nd Earl of Rosse, the street

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contains Birr's only Classical Building, John's Hall. The nearby Crimean Cannon was captured from the Russians, at the Siege of Sevastopol in 1855 and presented to the people of Birr in 1858.

In front of John's Hall is John Henry Foley's Statue of the 3rd Earl of Rosse, builder of the world's largest telescope

in 1845. He was so popular that the money collected for the statue exceeded the required amount and was enough to provide the adjoining ornamental plots.

The spider's web pattern of the Parochial House fan light is notable. Prior to the purchase of this house in 1872 the P.P. leased a house further up the street (Houlihan's). It was here that Bishop Kennedy, of Killaloe died in 1860.

Proceeding onto Wilmer Road, called after Mary Wilmer Field, famous photographer and wife of the 3rd Earl of Rosse. We first encounter the former St. John's Convent, designed by no less than A. W. Pugin. Built in 1847 to house the Mercy Sisters established by Ven. Catherine McAuley in Birr, in 1840. It served as a convent until 1996. Today it houses the Civic Offices and Library.





We conclude at St. Brendan's R.C. Church, built to the designs of Bernard Mullins, also architect of Crinkle Barracks and John's Hall. The foundation stone was laid in 1817 and it opened in 1824. Designed in cruciform shape its sanctuary window installed in 1842 is the oldest in Killaloe Diocese. The Leinster Regiment Memorial Window is the only one of its kind in an Irish Catholic Church.

Pte Thomas Devine, 1st Battalion Connaught Rangers

by Hugh Farrell

Thomas Devine was the second son of Thomas Devine and Anna McNally. Thomas senior was a shoemaker and a former soldier. Thomas junior was born on February 22nd 1894. He followed the example of his father in joining the British army. He enlisted in the Connaught Rangers on 2nd January, 1912 and served with distinction until 15th July, 1915. He was discharged from the army due to injuries and gas inhalation, which left him with a speech impediment for the rest of his life.

His war service was very good and he earned the Mons Star, British War Medal and Victory Medal. The Mons Star was awarded to the soldiers of the expeditionary force that held up the German advance in the early days of the war, from 5th August, 1914 to November 23rd, 1914, in all 378,000 were awarded, many men from Longford were recipients of this medal. Those soldiers that were awarded it became known as "The old Contemptibles". After Wilhelm II reportedly issued an order in August 1914 to "exterminate the treacherous English and walk over General French's contemptible little army", those men that held up the German advance gloried in the name.

In October 1918 he joined the Royal Air Force at Middlesbrough and in November 1919 he reenlisted in the Connaught Rangers. Soon after the war Thomas was posted to India and on the 28th of June, 1920, he took part in the Mutiny, which started at Wellington barracks, Jullundur. This was a protest against the conduct of British troops in Ireland, especially the Auxiliaries or the Black and Tans as they became widely known.

Nineteen men were sentenced to death for their part in the mutiny amongst them Thomas Devine. Only one was executed however this was James Joseph Daly from Tyrrellspass Co. Westmeath who also has a strong Longford connection. Thomas and the others were sentenced to penal servitude for life. He spent some time in Dagshai Prison, Solon, India, before being returned to Portland and then Maidstone in England. He was released after two and a half years and returned to Longford.0

In 1936 he was awarded a pension and gratuity by the Irish government but when they tried to contact him they discovered he was with Eoin O'Duffy's brigade, fighting in the Spanish Civil war. In 1940 he joined the Irish army and served with B Company, 17th Battalion, in Finner Co. Donegal. He was discharged on compassionate grounds on 8th December, 1943. He died at Harbour Row, Longford, in 1964 and is interred in Ballymacormack Cemetery, Longford.

Aughnacliffe Dolman Colmcille, County Longford

by Hugh Farrell

The earliest people to arrive in Ireland seem to have been initially reluctant to stray inland. Neolithic man is believed not to have arrived in Longford until the fourth millennium BC.

The remarkable Dolmens at Aughnacliffe and Cleenrath, 8 km North of Ballinalee on the western shores of Lough Gowna, are the most conspicuous monument surviving in Longford from this area. The larger Dolmen at Aughnacliffe, consisting of a huge block of stone (3m by 2m) resting on a monolith (2m high), and two smaller blocks of 1m each superimposed on the other, is regarded as one of the finest specimens of this sort of monument in the country.



Proof that prehistoric man came to Longford some 5,500 years ago is in the megalithic tombs at Aughnacliffe and Cleenrath. This area is one of rare natural beauty, the views from Aughnacliffe, Crott Hill and the surrounding area is breathtaking and well worth a visit.

North/South

The shared interest in local history on the island of Ireland is exemplified by the regular meetings of the sub-committee representing both Federations. The committee met on four occasions this year and as is now standard procedure two were held in Belfast and two were in Dublin. The purpose of these meetings is to plan joint events, exchange ideas, share experiences and generally help promote the involvement of people in the local history of their own areas and communities.

Our joint trip to Scotland this year was a resounding success and again offered members from both groups the opportunity to meet again with many "old" friends and meet new ones along the way.



The *Hidden Gems & Forgotten People* project continues to engage us in pursuing a common goal. We have produced a set of display panels representing contributions from the whole island and our plan is to utilise these to good effect in promoting the project. We hope to hold official launches of the display panels both in the North and in the South before the end of 2014.

Currently we are working together on organising next year's U.K. trip which will be to the beautiful counties of Devon & Cornwall and promises to be something special.

Another possibility is to repeat a trip we did a few years ago to the European Parliament in Brussels and also spend some time exploring the area. There is the possibility that we could combine the European Parliament visit with visits to the battle fields of Belgium and France. This would be an M.E.P sponsored and grant aided trip. It would be nice to revisit all our good friends in the Irish College in the beautiful city of Leuven where we stayed last time and who looked after us so well.

Unfortunately we did not manage to organise our intended joint visit to Northern Ireland this year but we would hope to revisit that next year with a joint visit to the Ulster Folk Park, Cultra and the Somme Centre, Newtownards.

We would like to extend our thanks to Liam Devlin, F.U.L.S. for organising a visit to Áras an Uachtaráin which was attended by members from both federations.

We are all proud of the success of our joint endeavours and look forward to continuing to share that success in the year ahead.

Ashbourne Historical Society 2013

Much of the last two years for our Society has been devoted to work for our planned Heritage Trail. As we look to our 20th Anniversary in 2014 we hope to see this work come to fruition with the erection and unveiling of an Information Board describing the Heritage Trail and the story of Ashbourne. A booklet to support the information on the board will also be published. This marks the culmination of Phase 1 of the Heritage Trail Project, which is co-funded by Meath Partnership and the Society. Phase 2, which will see the placing of plaques and information boards at fifteen sites on the trail, will commence next year. Hopefully this project will be of interest and benefit to the wider community.

We have been engaged in other community-based activities during the year. These included a guided walk around the town to coincide with the Trad-Ash Festival; support for publication of a local map and guide by the New Retailers Group; a submission to support a local Resident's group in Pride of Place Competition and participation in a Community Craft and Trade Fair.

Within the group we meet each month with occasional guest speakers. Otherwise the meetings are informal with often rich and varied exchanges of views and information. One of the most interesting meetings in 2013 was a *Show and Tell* session where members brought along items of historical interest. These varied from a sword, to letters, to part of an old wireless. Definitely something to do again in the future!

Our two most recent guest speakers were local and internationally renowned artist Tom Ryan, who brought along some of his work and also Jack Irwin who spoke about William Johnson, *the most famous Meathman in colonial America*. Our summer outing in 2013 was a very

interesting visit to Emo Court and the Rock of Dunamase in Laois.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the second lecture in our Decade of Centenaries Lecture Series. We were privileged to have historian Pádraig Yeates to deliver a talk on The Lockout to an audience of over 60.

Thanks to the information forwarded by the Federation many of our members have attended talks hosted by other societies and groups.

We look forward to 2014, to our 20th anniversary, to the unveiling of Phase 1 of our Heritage Trail, to the next lecture in the Decade of Centenaries Series and to planning a commemoration of the Battle of Ashbourne, which took place in Easter Week 1916 and was the only major engagement that took place outside of Dublin.

Athy Museum Society

Athy Museum Society had a busy year making arrangements for the 2014 Shackleton Autumn School which this year marks the centenary of the *Endurance expedition* to the Antarctic. The Autumn School, now in its 14th year, celebrates the achievements of Ernest Shackleton who was born in Kilkea just a few miles from the South Kildare town of Athy.

The Society is also involved in the running of Athy's Heritage Centre located in the early 18th century Town Hall in the centre of the town. It is home to the only permanent exhibition anywhere in the world devoted to the Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton. Highlights of that exhibition include a sledge and man harness from one of Shackleton's expeditions, a 15 ft. model of Shackleton's ship, 'Endurance', unique Shackleton family photographs and an audio visual display featuring Frank Hurley's film footage of the 'Endurance' expedition.

Last year's Shackleton Autumn School was opened by the Australian Ambassador to Ireland, Dr. Ruth Adler who was pleasantly surprised to find that the mother of Joseph Lyons, the first Labour Prime Minister of Australia, was from Russellstown, Athy.

Athy Museum Society organised a number of lectures during the year, with particular emphasis on World War I. That war resulted in the death of 122 local Athy men who had enlisted in the English army. Encourage by local civic and church leaders, those men and their comrades who survived the war, enlisted in their hundreds at a time when Home Rule was secured. The changes in political attitudes following the execution of the 1916 Rebellion leaders left the returning soldiers marginalised and largely forgotten by their townspeople.

Athy Museum Society has successfully sought over recent years to commemorate these men and this year in addition to the World War lectures we also organised a month long World War I exhibition in the Heritage Centre.

The Centre organises each year a literary competition for school children under the title of the *Cecil Day Lewis Award* which recalls the English poet laureate born in Ballintubbert, just three miles on the County Laois side of Athy. The 2014 competition proved to be extremely successful.

The Society also uses the Heritage Centre for art exhibitions and held a motoring exhibition titled *A Century of Motoring* which told the story of the 1902 Arrol Johnston motor car and the two County Kildare men, 'Ring' McCulloch from Athy and his cousin George Maxwell from Castlekeeley, Naas, the men behind the development of the Westfield Auto Car Company in Scotland. The Arrol Johnston car is permanently exhibited in the Heritage Centre as part of the 1903 Gordon Bennett Race exhibition.

The Heritage Centre was the venue for a medieval festival under the title Clontarf to $Athy-a\ long\ bloody\ walk$ organised by the South Kildare Medieval Committee in co-operation with Athy Museum Society and with the backing of the Irish Walled Towns Network.

The Society is currently involved with the local history department of Kildare County Council in compiling a comprehensive list of men from the County of Kildare who died in World War I. The results will be published in book form in 2015.

The Society's Chairman, Frank Taaffe, contributes a weekly article *Eye* on the Past to the Kildare Nationalist newspaper, which series of articles is now in its 21st year.

Ballinrobe Archaeological & Historical Society

This year Ballinrobe Archaeological & Historical Society has assisted in the publication of two books. The first is *Ballinrobe - A Visual History* and the second *Harry Clarke's Liquid Light — Stained-glass windows of St. Mary's Church, Ballinrobe, Co. Mayo"*

We have also been responsible for the Ballinrobe Pop-up Museum: see more at http://www.historicalballinrobe.com/page.aspx?id=374&path=0p4p

Our aim is to bring people's attention to the wonderful history and heritage of the area. Our free *Ballinrobe Heritage Walk* leaflet, which includes information on 30 sites around the town, has been very popular with the local community and visitors alike. We up-loaded a free app on Everytrail. See:

http://www.everytrail.com/guide/ballinrobe-co-mayo-town-heritage-walk for people to download to their phones and do the tour. As you can see we have had a great response and everybody can avail of this free service which is owned by Tripadvisor.

Birr Historical Society

2014 was a great year for Birr Historical Society. Our new venue at The Family Resource Centre proved a popular one and membership has increased steadily. We had an average of 40 to 50 members attending our monthly meetings throughout the year. We concluded 2013 with Local Memories from Theo Dillon, Paddy Duffy, Tony and Mary McLoughlin. This was a great night of reminiscences and many members present also contributed their recollections of Birr in times past. In December over 20 members attended a most sociable dinner in Dooly's Hotel.

We began 2014 with a talk given by Patrick and Anna Lord and Lady Oxmantown. They covered the Rosse family's links with China, particularly the connection of Patrick's late grand-uncle the Hon. Desmond with Asia. They then regaled the audience with their own life stories. All present were given a unique perspective on life in China from Anna a Chinese native and Patrick who has travelled there extensively on business. The Historical Society wish them every happiness and success in their lives at Birr Castle.

February saw Seán Hogan, a native of Puckane and celebrated author, visit to speak on 'The Black and Tans in North Tipperary' and the Troubles' in our neighbouring region. His research put a human face on these events, as he recalled actions that happened so close to our own locality.

Local History teacher Patricia Shelly spoke to us in March on the story of Mrs Legg and the infamous '19th Century Siege of Birr'. Patricia's well researched evidence gave a great understanding of this period of local history.

In April noted Offaly historian Michael Byrne, secretary of Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society, addressed us on Great War studies in Offaly. His talk was an excellent introduction to the centenary of the commencement of World War I. There were many references to life in Birr at the time, the role of Pals Battalions from the town and the impact of war on the area.

In May we had Historical Society member Margaret Hogan speak on The Third Earl of Rosse'. Margaret revealed much information on his role in the 'Great Famine' and the startling fact that Birr Poor Law Union gave relief to as many as 27,000 people in one day. This gave a new perspective on the Earl, as most people just associate him with the 'Leviathan Telescope' and astronomical discoveries.

May also saw our A.G.M. and marked the retirement of long serving Secretary Anne Ward, who contributed greatly to the society during her years in that role. The following officers were elected:

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President Brian Kennedy, Hon. Secretary Jimmy Shortt, Hon. Treasurer Bridget Sullivan, P.R.O. Teresa Ryan-Feehan. Committee: Sr. Anne Hannon, Margaret Hogan, Rev. Irene Morrow, Jack Ryan, Brian Pey and Anne Ward.

We held our annual tour on July 19th and this year we travelled to the neighbouring village of Lorrha. Margaret Hogan kindly stepped in as guide, as the local society were unavailable on the day. Unfortunately we suffered the first major downpour in what had been a glorious summer to that point. Our tour had to be curtailed following trips to the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Churches. We then retired to Maher's for tea before returning home. Although a shorter tour than planned it was none the less a very enjoyable social occasion.



Contributors to The World War 1 Commemoration Front: Teresa Ryan-Feehan, Deputy Marcella Corcoran-Kennedy T.D. Back: Lord Rosse, Ray Hayden, Bridget Sullivan, Jimmy Shortt and Brian Kennedy.

The undoubted highlight of the year was our Commemoration of the Commencement of World War I on Monday, August 4th. Over 100 people packed the resource Centre to hear presentations from Brian Kennedy, Teresa Ryan-Feehan, Jimmy Shortt and Lord Rosse. Bridget Sullivan helped the smooth flow of the event in the role of Master of Ceremonies. The evening also included an Act of Remembrance for the 50,000 Irish war dead and, in particular the 100 from Birr, who died as a result of the Great War. During this section Ray Hayden read from The Book of

Wisdom' and The Earl of Rosse delivered the Exhortation, followed by a minute's silence.

The Historical Society were delighted by the generous response from all present to the evening. It was great that we, as Birr Historical Society, were able to lead the town's commemoration of one of the most significant events in world history. It was also good that all of the contributors came from within our own ranks, making it a uniquely Birr event.

For Heritage Week Margaret Hogan and Brian Kennedy led a walk of Georgian Birr on August 23rd. It was a most enjoyable evening with a large attendance of locals and visitors. The walk extended from Oxmantown Mall to St. Brendan's R.C. Church.

Another popular event during August occurred when the Historical Society hosted Prof. Gerard Corcoran's talks on Genetic Genealogy.

September saw the start of another year of lectures and commenced with a Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of World War II, with a look at the social history of the war by Brian Kennedy.

Birr Historical Society meets on the third Monday of every month (From September to May) at 8.00 p.m. in The Resource Centre, Costcutter's Car-park. New members are always welcome. If you have an interest in history, why not come along?

Further information can be obtained from any member of the committee listed above or The Birr Historical Society web site.

Blanchardstown-Castleknock History Society

Blanchardstown-Castleknock History Society are a group of individuals with a love of history who came together in 2009. Since then we have organised talks and outings, and been involved with the Fingal Heritage Network.

Our AGM and review of the previous year takes place at the end of January.

February 2014: Brenda King organised a talk on the Guinness Family (Guinness Philanthropy). Talk by Eibhlin Roche

March 2014: Excursion to the Dublin City Gallery — The Hugh Lane Art Gallery, located in Charlemont House, Parnell Square North, Dublin 1. Talk on the History of Charlemont House (circa 1763), City residence of James Caulfield, 4th Viscount Charlemont and 1st Earl of Charlemont. Followed by an introduction to the life and times of Hugh Lane — best known for establishing Dublin's Municipal Gallery of Modern Art in 1908 (the first known public gallery of modern art in the world). By Jim Lacev

April 2014: Talk on Luke White, 1752-1824, by Aingeal McMorrow.

May 2014: Excursion to the Dublin Castle.

June: Guided tour of St Patrick's Cathedral led by Albert Fenton. Fingal Heritage Network organised "Culture Night" in Swords when Aingeal McMorrow sang "The Boys from the County Armagh" along with an extra verse written by her mother Margaret (Duffy) Harvey from Armagh.

July 2014: Guided tour of the Pearse Museum. The July talk was "Memorials Associated with Easter 1916" by Ray Bateson.

August 2014: Guided tour of Castletown House. Heritage Week talk "Memories of The Blanchardstown Area, From 1940 to Present Day" by Jim Fay. Talk on Tommy Bracken and his poem of the race horse Arkle. The Fingal Heritage Network organised a social event in Malahide, "Fingal in 10 items" when Jim Lacey spoke on Tommy Bracken and his poem of the race horse Arkle.

September 2014: Interactive instructions on researching your family tree by Genealogist Frank O'Connor.

October: Tour of the grounds of Abbottstown House and Ancient Caeveen cemetery by Jim Lacey. Talk about the Barony of Castleknock along with a few tales of the strange incidents which litter the history of the area, e.g. the White lady of Castleknock Collage, by Lim Lacey.

Bray Cualann Historical Society 2013 – 2014 Report

by James Scannell

The Society provided three events for Heritage Week. 2013 On Saturday August 17th Society Vice-Chairperson and PRO James Scannell gave an afternoon talk in Bray Library on "The Week in Bray: August 17th to August 25th 1913" and an evening talk in Ballywaltrim Library, Bray, on Wednesday August 21st on "The Week in County Wicklow: 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.

Professor Jerry Mulligan opened the Autumn programme of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, on Thursday September 19th with his lecture "The Land of Forest and Farms: Life in Early Neolithic Ireland" at 8 pm in Bray Chamber of House, 10 Prince of Wales Tce., Quinsboro Road, Bray. Archaeologist Chris Corlett, at the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, presented his lecture "Here Lieth the 18th Century Headstones of County Wicklow" on Thursday October 20th, followed by Fergus Mulligan on Thursday November 21st with "William Dargan – An Honourable Life 1799 – 1867".

On Tuesday December 17th, James Scannell, presented a seasonal lecture "Christmas in Bray 100 Years Ago – 1913" in Bray Library.

On Thursday January 16th the Society opened its Spring 2014 programme with its AGM followed by three short presentations On Thursday February 20th Alan Carthy presented his lecture on "TB in Ireland and Sanatoriums" while Ray McGovern was the guest presenter for the March 20th meeting for his lecture on "The Pugin Family: The Great Church Architects". On Wednesday April 16th James Scannell presented a free lecture in Bray Library at 11.30 a.m. recalling "Easter in Bray 100 Years Ago (1914)" and was the presenter for the April 24th meeting recalling "Saving the drowning Sailors - The December 1943 MV Kerlogue Bay of Biscay Rescue". The Thursday May 15th meeting was held in Bray Methodist Church, Florence Road, Bray, to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Methodist Church in Bray for a special talk by Rev. Dudley A. Levistone Cooney, Methodist Historian, "A History of Methodism in Bray & North Wicklow". The Society Summer Outing took place on Sunday May 18th to the Arigina Coal Mine, Carrick-on-Shannon, and King's House, Boyle, and was the final event before the Society went on summer break.

On Saturday August 23rd Brian White led the inaugural "St. Paul's Graveyard Trail" walking tour at 3 p.m. in St. Paul's Church, Main Street, Bray, repeated at 11 a.m. the following Wednesday. On Tuesday, August 27th, he presented his lecture "The Shamrock Fund of World War One" at 7 p.m. in Bray Library. On Wednesday, August 27th, James Scannell presented his lecture "The Week in Co. Wicklow: August 23rd to August 31st 1914" at 6.45 p.m. in Ballywaltrim Library, Bray. Bray Library was the venue for the Thursday, August 28th, 7 p.m. lecture by Brian White covering "The Brabazons of Dublin & Wicklow" and the Saturday August 30th 3 p.m. lecture by James Scannell recalling "The Week in Bray: August 23rd to August 31st, 1914". On Saturday September 6th James Scannell presented his lecture "County Wicklow's Reaction to the Outbreak of World War One" at 11.30 a.m. in Bray Library.

On Friday September 12th the death took place of the Society's President Colm McCormack following a sudden illness. Colm served Bray Cualann Historical Society in a number of positions since its formation in 1977.

On Thursday, September 18th the Society opened its Autumn programme in the Bray Chamber of Commerce House, with a lecture by historian and author Michael Seery entitled "Back to School: education in County Wicklow".

Helen Litton presented her lecture "Commdt Edward Daly: The Man after Whom Bray Railway Station is Named". On Thursday, November 20th Conor Doyle, Dublin, will present his lecture "The Theatre Royal,

Dublin" and James Scannell a 35-minute lecture "Christmas in Bray 100 Years Ago (1914)" at 11.30 a.m. on December 19th in Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray.

Carrick-on-Shannon & District Historical Society 2014 Events

All Events are held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in The Bush Hotel, 8.30 pm, unless otherwise noted

January 22: Michael Comyns, Herald-at-Arms, Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland: *The Science of Heraldry/Heraldry in Ireland* (illustrated) **February 19:** Aidan O'Hara, Author, former RTÉ broadcaster: *Women in the Era of the American Civil War: An Irish Angle* (illustrated)

March 19: Farrell McElgunn, Former Senator, History Teacher and Gaelic speaker: *An Teach Aoidh* — *Houses of Hospitality in Medieval Ireland*, with local examples

April 12/13: Society Team: Annual Church Gate Collection

April 16: Dominic Rooney, Historian: *The Life & Times of Sir Frederick Hamilton (1590-1847)*

May 21: Fr. Tomás Flynn, Historian: *The Life & Times of Thomas J. Devine (1862-1941) and the North Roscommon Bye-Election*

June 18: Oliver Fallon, Researcher and Connaught Rangers Association: World War One — The Connaught Rangers and links with Carrick and Leitrim.

July 4: (Friday), 7.30pm Outing. Hosts Christy and Noreen Kelleher: Annual Visit to Tumna Monastic Site for Feast of St. Éadín (Tumna, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Roscommon

August No lecture

September 17: Mary Guckian, Writer & Poet Literary Heritage: Kate Cullen Mitchell (1832-1913) of Manorhamilton and Sligo

October 22: *Note New Date.* Frank Whitney, *Port House — A History of Port* (a townland between Carrick-on-Shannon and Leitrim Village) covering the early Christian period, medieval times, the Cromwellian period and the 20th century.

November 19: Paul Clements, Travel, Heritage & Wildlife Writer: *Richard Hayward* (1892-1964) – Presentation and a film on one of Ireland's best loved figures who was a singer, actor, and travel book writer very fond of Carrick-on-Shannon and its environs.

December 3: Society's AGM and Christmas Social

Clontarf Historical Society and Raheny Heritage Society Update

Clontarf Historical Society and Raheny Heritage Society both had a very busy year in 2014 commemorating the Millennium of the Battle of Clontarf. Both societies were active members of the Clontarf 2014 Committee which co-ordinated the various events taking place in Clontarf in 2014.

Many of the events in Clontarf were organised jointly by the Clontarf Historical Society & Raheny Heritage Society. The first event was a half day seminar held in November 2013 which was the launching pad for a series of Exploratory Lectures entitled "Battle of Clontarf – where it all ended!" that ran from January to May. These lectures were very well attended with over nine hundred people attending over the six months.



Collette Gill, Kay Lonergan, Ivan Erskin, Minister Richard Bruton, Douglas Appleyard, Elaine Mulvenny

A big day for both societies was the official launch of the Battle of Clontarf Heritage Trail in March 2014. The launch of the Heritage Trail was a culmination of fifteen months work by the two societies. The trail creates a focal point for the Battle of Clontarf in Clontarf. The Heritage Trail now forms part of a National Brian Boru trail comprising Killaloe, Cashel, Clontarf and Armagh. We hope that many of you will

visit Clontarf in the future to enjoy our new trail.

At the end of March the societies organised a special Battle of Clontarf community exhibition in St Anthony's Hall Clontarf. The exhibition featured displays and demonstrations by groups from East Wall to Raheny including demonstrations by "Ivan the Viking" and a vast collection of old photographs from around the area. Of great interest was the changing face of Dublin Bay from the 1650s as seen by a series of maps from the Brown collection.

Dublin City Council organised the flagship free event over the Easter weekend in St. Anne's Park, with Battle of Clontarf battle re-enactment and a medieval village. This event attracted over 40,000 people to the area and more than 500 Vikings descended on St. Anne's Park. It was the largest ever living history battle re-enactment in Ireland. Clontarf Historical Society and Raheny Heritage Society ran a stand in the park for the weekend.

The societies also ran three Schools Competitions in conjunction with primary schools in Clontarf and Raheny and invited schools in Dublin 3, Dublin 5 and outside Dublin. The competitions included projects, art and creative writing. The winning entries from the schools project competition were on display at the historical exhibition. There were ninety- six pieces of art exhibited at Clontarf Castle on Easter Monday. The winning entries from the creative writing competition will be published later this year in a commemorative book. The winners of the Art Competition were entered into a competition in San Jose USA which is a sister city with Dublin City Council. We have recently been informed that one of our entries was selected and their artwork has been reproduced on a prominent door in downtown San Jose.

The Clontarf Historical Society was delighted to host the Federation of Local History societies in Clontarf in May this year for their AGM.

All in all it has been a very successful and busy year with Clontarf Historical Society doubling its membership and Raheny Heritage Society also seeing a significant increase. For further information check out our websites:

www.clontarfhistorical.com

www.rahenyheritage.com

Cloyne Literary and Historical Society, Co. Cork

It all started on a gloomy wet winter night in Cloyne. The Cloyne Literary and Historical Society were gathering in Harty's, their yearlong sponsor, when the guest of the night arrived. Richard Wood was soaked but cheerful and delivered his illustrated presentation on 18th century

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paintings to a captivated audience. It was history of course, but history at its best, learned through artistic compositions.

Following that memorable night, a deal was struck between the two parties, whereby the Society could come and visit Rockrohan House in spring.

On the day, a line of cars of Cloyne Society members passed through the gates of the house, under a vigorous wash from the heavens. They drove up the gentle slope while admiring the great Irish landscape, quite similar to what they had already appreciated in the paintings.

While the visitors were shaking off the droplets of rain from their clothes in the hall, Richard started with snippets of the house history (initially built circa 1730, with later additions), which immediately triggered a first round of questions from his attentive audience.

He subsequently led the group to many a room, downstairs and upstairs, explaining with infinite patience the particularities of this print or that painting; bringing their attention to a collage of shells, or to a set of plates displayed on a wall; emphasising the variety of fabrics throughout the house.

All that accompanied by numerous period anecdotes, giving life not only to the objects and images, but to the place itself.

The library books were a big attraction too and the visitors could not refrain from flipping through some of them and comparing their findings. There was something for everyone everywhere.

When the host told his guests that it was tea time, that was the icing on the cake (literally): the setting of the dining room (or was it the drawing room?) had an authentic (and unexpected) period flavour: several round tables were set, covered with white laced cloth and assorted accessories, surrounded by period chairs.

The bubbly party sat around the room with delight and the notion of time became irrelevant.

So irrelevant in fact, that the final part of the visit (a guided tour of Rockrohan Gardens) was skipped by a few, given the late hour of the day. While the sun remained hidden, the rain had subsided, so that, after a short stop at the conservatory and a thorough study of the pergola, the outing ended in flowery and green surroundings.

There is a new member in Cloyne Literary and Historical Society: Richard Wood was elected 'Honorary Member' within a month from that visit.

Marie Guillot

Dun Laoghaire Historical Society 2013 – 2014 Report

The Society opened its 2013-2014 programme of monthly lectures on Wednesday, September 18th, 2013, with a lecture by Andy Mooney on "The Chester & Holyhead Railway and its connection with Dun Laoghaire". This was followed by the Society's 3-day overseas trip to Chester and its environs from Friday, September 20th to Sunday, September 22nd.

On Wednesday, October 16th, Rob Goodbody presented a lecture on "The Old Roads of Killiney and Ballybrack" followed on Wednesday, November 20th, by Society member Colin Scudds with his presentation "Rashers, Revolution, and Royalty – Kingstown/Dun Laoghaire in the Early 20th Century", based on "Strumpet City", One City, One Book, 2013.

On Wednesday, December 11th, the Society held its very popular annual "Collectors/Treasure Night" to which members brought along artefacts and spoke about them for 5 minutes while collectors also had the opportunity to talk about the material they were collecting and had. The evening concluded with refreshments and the formal launch of the 23rd edition of the Society's Journal.

Michael Lee, great-grandson of businessman and local public representative Edward Lee, opened the 2014 Spring programme on Wednesday, January 15th, with his lecture "Edward Lee, the Model Employer", followed on Wednesday, February 19th, by Tom Conlon with his illustrated presentation "A Pictorial History of Marine Road, Seafront and Railway areas of Dun Laoghaire" and on Wednesday, March 19th, by Peter Pearson who provided the Society with a "Portrait of an Edwardian Town".

The AGM of the Society was held on Wednesday, April 16th, and concluded with a presentation by Cormac Lowth covering "The Sketches of Mathew Kendrick", a set of recently discovered watercolours. A second event was the Saturday, April 26th, half-day outing to the Casino Marino and the Pigeon House. Indoor meetings concluded on Wednesday May 21st with a presentation from John Gibson on "The History of the Presbyterian Church, Yorke Road."

On Wednesday, June 11th, Society member Colin Scudds led an evening Historical Walk of Northumberland Avenue and Corrig Park, Dun Laoghaire. The annual outing on Saturday July 12th was to Athlone and its environs and included a visit to the Kilbeggan (Locke's) Distillery Museum. For Heritage Week Colin Scudds was the presenter

for the Wednesday, August 27th, Heritage Week Lecture and Exhibition "Things from the past in the Attic", which looked at objects of everyday use around the house, in the Kingston Hotel.

Conor Doyle opened the Autumn 2014 programme of indoor lectures in the Kingston Hotel on September 21st with "Memories of the Theatre Royal, Dublin". On Friday, September 26th, this year's overseas trip was to York and its environs, returning on Monday September 29th. In October Professor Tadgh O'Keefe looked at "The Castles of South County Dublin" while on November 19th Professor Colm Lennon will recall "The Battle of Clontarf in Irish History and Legend" followed on Wednesday, December 10th, by Annual "Collectors/Treasurer Night" and launch of Journal No. 24.

Dunleer & District Historical Society

The Dunleer & District Historical Society started 2014 with a quick pace celebrating our second full year in operation since our foundation in 2012.

The Society has continued our previous years' work on collecting, digitising and collating the kindly received contributions of the local community and other local history groups and now possess a significant quantity of restored vintage photographs of the mid-Louth area for exhibition.

The Society has also continued work on the organisation of primary source documentation received, some dating from the 1760s. While a considerable level of work remains to be done through research, all of this valuable collection to date has been digitally captured while the originals were deposited in Louth County Archives for safe keeping.

Late last year the Society launched our newly designed website, www. midlouthhistory.com which permits the display of images and videos as well as increasing our online storage space. This year the group was able to finish the secure Members side of the website packed with our digitised archives. More work is required on the public end side of the website which we hope to complete by the end of the current Society year.

The Society Facebook account, www.facebook.com/midlouthhistory has gone from strength to strength within which we have 660 Followers. We hope to be able to integrate the Facebook account onto our website in the future.

As with the previous year, the Society put together a number of events which we collectively call 'Dunleer & District Heritage Week'. Our event has been scheduled to coincide with National Heritage Week since 2013. This is our third year of running this event and the Society is happy to

report an increasing level of attendance by the membership and the local community. We were also able to link in with other historical interest organisations such as 'The Irish Military War Museum' who were able to help us bring a certain real uniqueness to one of our lectures 'Mid-Louth and the 1916 Rising'.

Support has continued this year from our corporate and local business supporters who have been very generous and have so far allowed the Society to provide all of our lectures and events admission free.

The Society, in the closing stages of the year is organising a 'Night of Musical Heritage' on Thursday, October 16th. Again this event could not have been possible without the generosity of Dunleer Parish who have supported our endeavours since the Societies foundation.

The Irish Labour History Society

The Irish Labour History Society is a non party-political organisation that helps promote knowledge of Irish labour and social history since being founded in 1973.

This is primarily achieved through:

- 1. Maintaining an extensive archive and library of the Irish working class and its organisations in our leased premises in Beggars Bush, Dublin 4.
- 2. Publishing a variety of labour history publications, including our annual journal *Saothar*.
- 3. Organising a wide range of events and activities, including history conferences.

The Irish Labour History Society had a very busy past twelve months, with the centenary of the Dublin Lockout of 1913/14 particularly contributing towards a large increase in correspondence, research queries and labour history events throughout 2013 and 2014. Many members of the Society were also involved in the pleasing number of conferences, exhibitions and other events with a labour history theme that took place in this period.

The 2013 Annual Conference of the Society was organised as a one day event, held in Beggars Bush on Saturday, 2nd November, 2013. The theme of the conference was unsurprisingly the 1913 Dublin Lockout. All speakers presenting papers of a very high standard on this theme. The conference attracted a very high attendance throughout the day.

The 2014 Annual Conference "We Serve Neither King Nor Kaiser" is focusing on the 1914-1918 period and takes place in our premises in Beggars Bush on Saturday 1st November. The latest edition of our journal *Saothar* (Volume 38) was published and circulated to members in early 2014, while the Society also published a book marking '100

Years of Liberty Hall' in April 2014. *Saothar* 39 is due to be circulated to members of the Society in early 2015.

The Society assisted the National Museum in staging their '1913 Lockout' Exhibition by temporarily loaning a Workers' Union of Ireland Larkin banner for the duration of the exhibition. We also assisted the 'Dublin Divided: September 1913' exhibition in the Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin by temporarily loaning two Harry Kernoff works from our collections for the duration of the exhibition.

Images from the ILHS Collections were used in An Post stamps produced during the past year.

ILHS President Brendan Byrne was Project Manager of the successful 1913 Lockout Tapestry Project that involved groups from throughout Ireland.

Refurbishment and improvement works were undertaken to some of the rooms to the premises in Beggars Bush, while the archives continued to be made available to researchers.

The Society intends to organise many history events for our members throughout 2015.

Further information on the Society, our publications and our activities is available on our website:

www.irishlabourhistorysociety.com or by emailing: secretary@irishlabourhistorysociety.com

Co. Louth Archæological and Historical Society

The Society held three lectures in the spring, these were 'Aspects of Cooley in the eighteenth century – part two' by Michael O'Hanlon at Bush; 'Doing a Field Names Project – A rewarding experience' by Joan Mullen (Meath Field Names Project Co-ordinator) at Drogheda; 'The Battle of Clontarf 1014' by Professor Sean Duffy (TCD) at Dundalk.

The Society's summer excursion programme commenced with a visit to Monasterboice, Paddock (wedge tomb) and Cartanstown (bee boles) led by Philip King and Dr Conor Brady. The all-day excursion took place on 28 June and included visits to Brownlow House, also known as Lurgan Castle; Mount Stewart House and Gardens and to McConville's scutching mill at Dromore. The Society visited Collon House (home of the Fosters) on 8 July. The final outing, led by Paul Gosling, visited the Grange Irish area on the Cooley peninsula. Included on this trip was a court tomb, bee boles and other sites of folk life and archaeological interest.

The Louth Field Names Project under the auspices of the Society, Co Louth IFA and County Louth Library Services recorded field names in about two-thirds of the townlands in the county. The project which is Leader funded, commenced with the appointment of a trainer. The initial training of the volunteers, who were to record the field names, was completed in 2012. Since September of last year (2013), the Project co-ordinator, Dr Eve Campbell has worked with the volunteers and she has collated and compiled the database of field names. The project is nearing completion and a book and interactive website is due to be launched in November.

Now in its second century, the Society's Journal (2013, Vol 28, No. 1) was distributed during the year.

Moate Museum – An Interpretation Project

Moate museum has been the subject of an interesting interpretation project over the last year. The museum is located in a particularly fascinating setting – the old town courthouse and gaol and it is host to a vast array of interesting artefacts and exhibits laid out in a logical basis. For instance, there are various rooms housing items relating to specific aspects of Moate's rich natural and cultural heritage e.g. a farming room, a kitchen and a dairy. Residents of the town and its hinterland have been very generous over the years in donating items and artefacts to the museum for display. The items, in varying degrees, all provide clues as to how our predecessors lived over the last century in the Moate area and they provide snapshots of a rich and varied lifestyle over the years.



What perhaps was missing prior to the project commencing was a strong explanatory commentary for the museum visitor to read and digest during his or her visit. Whilst the museum generally opens only at specific times or for specific events such as Heritage Week each August, and whilst visitors are generally accompanied by a member

of the energetic Moate Museum and Historical Society, it was felt that the museum was lacking in interpretation that could be provided by informative information panels. Also, the Museum may have been a victim of its own success in the receipt of display items with the result that there was some clutter.

Ireland Unwrapped, a heritage development consultancy and Matthew Parkes, Museum Curator, were contracted by the Moate Museum and Historical Society to assist in providing informative and interesting interpretation for the museum and to assist in improving the appearance and order of the museum. Their work was funded by Westmeath Community Development under the Rural Development (LEADER) programme 2007 – 2013 and they were ably assisted by various members of the Moate Museum and Historical Society.

Matthew and Ireland Unwrapped's Enda Gallagher set about an initial evaluation of the artefacts of the museum and a prioritisation of display items. Their work involved the rearrangement of display items, decluttering where necessary, a general improvement in the appearance of rooms and producing information panels to provide informative comment on the museum artefacts. They were careful to produce panels that are very clear to read from distance and not to have too much text. The use of imagery in the panels makes them interesting and colourful, particularly in those panels where they have been able to source photos of the display items at work e.g. butter-churning or ploughing.

Matthew and Enda also felt it was important to undertake what was a very time-consuming but important inventory in the museum and they have provided the Society with a comprehensive photographed and named catalogue of all items in the downstairs part of the museum. The catalogue framework can now be extended to cover the upstairs items by Society members.

Initial reaction to the newly interpreted museum during Heritage Week has been very positive and all involved are happy with the outcome. Further information is available from the Society or Enda at www. irelandunwrapped.ie.

Old Drogheda Society

Lectures.

January: 'Who Fears to Wear the Red Hand Badge' an illustrated lecture by Francis Devine on the Great Dublin Lockout of 2013

February: 'A Trip Down Memory Lane' by Des Clinton, a photographic presentation of days gone by in Drogheda.

March: I Was a Boy in Belsen' by Tomi Reichental, a survivors account of the Holocaust.

April: 'Medieval Drogheda' by Dr. Pat Dargan, an illustrated lecture exploring the foundation and development of the Norman town of Drogheda.

April 24th Celebration of the Golden jubilee of the Old Drogheda Society in the Westcourt Hotel in Drogheda.

September: 'Dean Anthony Cogan' by Mary McDonnell, a lecture on the life and times of Dean Anthony Cogan 1826-1872, author of the monumental work 'Dioceses of Meath Ancient and Modern'

Outings:

June: A visit to Collon House, home of Anthony Foster, father of John 'Speaker' Foster, last speaker of the Irish House of Commons.

Barmeath Castle and Gardens Co. Louth, a 15th century castle, home of the Bellew family for over 400 years .Beautiful gardens created by Thomas Wright.

July: Dardistown Castle, a large 15th century Manor House in Co. Meath. (photo included)

August: Annual Day Away, visiting Carlow Co. Museum, Carlow Military Museum, Carlow Cathedral and Duckett's Grove.

October: John Boyle Autumn School. Theme: World WAR I.

The Old Dublin Society

The Society commenced its Autumn 2013 programme of lectures in Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 –144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, on Wednesday, October 3rd, with the Annual Opening Night ceremony and Reception, attended by the Lord Mayor of Dublin. Ken Finlay gave a short talk — *Dublin Day by Day*.

Papers read to the Society during the weekly Wednesday October and November meetings included - Dublin and the Crimean War, 1854-56: the city at the heart of it all - Paul Huddie; William Watson's Clontarf Nursery (1880-1920) - Bernardine Ruddy; The 1913 Lockout: Why an injury to One became a Concern for All - Pádraig Yeates; The Brabazons of Dublin & Wicklow - Brian White; The founding of the Irish Volunteers at Dublin's Rotunda Hall, 25 November 1913 - Frank Whearity; An Entertainment for the Duke - Máighréad Ní Mhurchadha; Lusk Convict Prison, 1856 -1886 - Rory McKenna; Annual General Meeting at which Ms.Bernardine Ruddy was re-elected President. The AGM concluded with a short talk by James Scannell recalling - A Dublin Day - August 31st 1913.

Papers read to the Society during the weekly February & March 2014 meetings in Dublin City Library and Archive included - *The Battle of Clontarf, 1014, in Irish History and Legend* - Colm Lennon; *Ancient and Holy Wells of Dublin* - Gary Branigan; *St. Patrick, Animal Gangs and Blueshirts: Anti-Communism in 1930s Dublin* -Donal Fallon; *Members' Night; The Life and Work of Edward Lovett Pearce, architect* - Pat Sheridan;

Marie Elizabeth Hayes – A Dublin Doctor and Missionary - Joan Sharkey; Dublin after dark: glimpses of life in an early modern city - Maighréad Ní Mhurchadha; William Dargan, 1799 – 1867: An Honourable Life - Fergus Mulligan.

The Summer 2014 programme which included the following events – Visit to the Methodist Church, Florence Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow in May for a celebration of 150 Years of Methodism in the town at which Rev. D.A. Levistone Cooney gave a talk '150 Years of Methodism in Bray'. In June visits took place to The Casino and to St. Patrick's Church of Ireland, Harbour Road, Dalkey; to Howth Castle in July, the Bailey Lighthouse in August and to Visit to St. Werburgh's Church, Castle Street, Dublin 2, and Revenue Museum (Dublin Castle and Green Street Courthouse.

The October/November 2014 weekly programme began on October 1st with the Opening Night and a screening of a 1938 film about Kilmainham Goal, followed by Dublin 1843 – O'Connell's Repeal Meetings - Vincent Ruddy; Botany in print: botanical books and their readers in 18th century Dublin - Máire Kennedy; Roman Catholic Churches in 19th century Dublin: the contribution of patrons and architects - Brendan Grimes; Methodists from the Free State to the Republic - Rev. Dudley A. Levistone Cooney; Swift and Dublin: controversial Dean, patriot Drapier and inventor of micro-credit - Brendan Twomey; The Dublin Fusiliers: who were they and where did they come from? - Tom Burke; Robert Tressell, Dubliner: author of The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists - Bryan MacMahon; The 'Rothsay Castle' shipwreck, 1831: the Rathmines connection - Séamas Ó Maitiú, followed by the AGM that night.

Rathmichael Historical Society, Shankill, Co.Dublin

The Society started the year 2014 with its AGM which was followed by Rob Goodbody's fascinating talk on a former IRA freedom fighter who subsequently became one of Ireland's best Foreign Ministers and who was also an inventor and entrepreneur. It was on the latter aspect that Rob concentrated in a talk entitled *Frank Aiken's Mill*.

Stephen Harrison spoke to us on *The Irish Viking Graves Project* in February and, because of the year that was in it, we had a talk from Colm Lennon on *The Battle of Clontarf* in March. This was an appropriate introduction to our away weekend in April. Also in April, Patricia Butler gave us a new slant on our neighbouring county with a talk on *Wicklow through the Artists' Eye*.

This year our weekend away had a record attendance and was based in Ennis, from which we visited some of the many antiquities of Co. Clare. After visiting Brian Boru's inauguration site near Ennis, we also visited his church in Tuamgraney and his two bases in Killaloe. (Bru Boru is spectacular). We would like to express our thanks to the Clare Archaeological and Historical Society who provided immense help in planning and implementing this weekend.

Our Summer outings included visits to Fore, Co. Westmeath; the early 18th century Glebe House in Newcastle, Co. Dublin and Dr. Steevens' Hospital (including the beautiful Worth Library) in Dublin.

The 40th Summer Lecture Series in August had a strong archaeological theme with talks on excavations at Trim Castle, Dundrum Castle (carried out a few years ago by the Society itself) and the Black Abbey. The annual Leo Swan memorial lecture was presented appropriately by the archivist of Leo Swan's aerial photographic collection, Katherine Daly. Dr. Linda Doran whetted our interest in Carlow with a lecture entitled, *Controlling the Carlow Corridor during the Middle Ages* and we now plan to have our away weekend in Carlow in 2015.

George Eogan started the Winter lecture programme with a wonderful talk on *The Great Stone Tombs of the Boyne Valley*. At the November meeting, the RIA will launch the next in its Historic Town Atlas series on *Dublin 1756-1847*. This will be presented by Rob Goodbody. The final lecture of the year will be presented by Dr. Colin Ireland on *7th Century Leinster and the Wider World*. This will include information on the connections between Dalkey Island and the Roman Empire.

Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Society

Our society has ever been as busy gathering, recording and disseminating information relating to the history and folklore of Roundwood and the Wicklow uplands generally. At the Society's Annual General Meeting the following people were elected to our Committee; Christy Plunkett (Chairperson), Derek Nielson (Vice Chairperson) Monica Farrell, (Secretary), Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh (PRO) Dennis Scanlon (Treasurer) with Derek Nielson nominated as Journal Editor and Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh as Webmaster.

Throughout this year the Society hosted a mix of interesting historic lectures including;

- Historical Travels through Upland Wicklow by local historian, Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh
- Griffiths Valuation by local historian, Joan Kavanagh

- Wicklow and The Trade Union Movement in 1913 by labour historian, Francie Devine
- New Thoughts on Glendalough by archaeologist, Chris Corlett
- The Early History of Photography by photographer, Eve Holmes
- Education in County Wicklow by local historian, Michael Seery
- Farewell to The Glen, Likewise Delgany Songs and music of County Wicklow from the Irish Traditional Music Archive by ITMA Librarian Grace Toland
- 1914 Sleepwalking into War by historian, Julian Walton
- Brian Boru and The Battle of Clontarf by academic and historian, Dr Sean Duffy

The Society also hosted a number of successful outings including a trip to various historical sites in County Carlow and a popular heritage week event "A Guided Tour of Glendasan Lead Mines" which was co-hosted with Wicklow Uplands Council and led by Dr Sharron Schwartz of the Glens of Lead Mining Heritage Project. This year we are delighted to publish our 25th Annual Historical Journal which will be launched by Filmmaker, John Boorman.

For more details on upcoming Roundwood Historical Society events please see our website roundwoodhistoricalsociety.com or our Facebook page.

Skerries Historical Society

Skerries Historical Society first published a collection of research papers in 1998 under the title *Time & Tide*. We are lucky to have a rich archive of material going back to foundation of the Society in 1948 complemented by current monthly presentations. *Time & Tide*, volume 9, will be launched at our October 2014 AGM and like its predecessors contains papers from different eras on a mix of Skerries-related themes.

We have for many years held our monthly committee and ordinary meetings in the convivial environs of the Bus Bar, Skerries. Research topics continue to emerge, spontaneously and with encouragement. In the recent past we reviewed the full archive of papers to identify missing themes and can offer suggestions to people interested in taking on a topic.

Our work as a committee revolves around research and programme planning; archive conservation, membership, website and publications. We have worked on several occasions with our Tidy Towns group in the creation of heritage itineraries and notice boards. During Heritage Week this year, we collaborated with the Skerries Community Association to present a talk and mount an exhibition of photographs marking the centenary of the opening of St Patrick's National Schools Skerries in August 1914.

South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society (SEGAHS)

Established in 1999, the South East Galway Archaeological & Historical Society (SEGAHS) is a voluntary group highlighting the richness of the heritage of south and east Galway. The goals of SEGAHS are to: (i) encourage research in the fields of history, archaeology, genealogy, and folklore; (ii) exchange information among members and interested parties; (iii) facilitate the publication of historical information; and (iv) develop support networks with like-minded individuals and groups.

The society has completed its first year in its new home at the Irish Workhouse Centre (Portumna) in what has been an exceptional period for the society. In addition to continuing to host five or six lectures each year, in April SEGAHS hosted the 'Aughty Gathering' with the Aughty Group from Co Clare joining in a day of a celebration. Special guests were the Lorrha Dorrha Historical Society from Tipperary (who are hosting our next field trip), and the keynote speaker was Paul Gosling.

The efforts at publicising events have been successful and the profile of the society has risen over the course of the year. Three additional SEGAHS newsletters have also been published in the last year and they have all been made freely available at clonfert.org/download. htm. In addition, both a contents and an index has been completed for newsletters 6-15 and same has been provided to the local libraries and institutions.

The society remains active on social media, specifically at facebook.com/SEGAHS where content is provided in the form of newspaper articles, rare prints, and early photographs. The page is also used as a vehicle to engage with fellow societies and boasts almost one thousand followers. The society can also be engaged with on twitter @SEGAHSIreland.

Looking forward to 2015, in addition to existing projects and 'staple' events, the work done to commemorate the Great War will be built upon. The society will also be making plans for the major 1916 events the following year. It will be important for the society to continue to grow its membership and its profile within the region and beyond.

Youghal's 12th Annual History Conference

It was the 12th annual conference for Youghal Celebrates History this year and it attracted record numbers, over ninety delegates and some were accompanied by family members to make a weekend of it! The town was buzzing. Each year the group takes a theme and looks at various

aspects of that theme. This year the spotlight was on the Quakers and people came from far and near to see how the Quakers contributed to the history of Ireland. Most people remember their life saving work during the Great Famine when they set up Soup Kitchens, redeemed pawned equipment and gave it back to destitute fishermen and tradesmen to allow them keep working, and lots more. Quakers were great business people and Ireland still has names like Bewley, Goodbody, Cadbury. Quakers were great patrons of the arts and the Art Gallery in Cork has a Penrose Collection named after Cooper Penrose.

There was a special focus on one Youghal family, the Fishers, and that provided an opportunity for the clan to gather. One of the Fishers founded a newspaper — the Munster Express which still retains family involvement, another (Anna Haslam) became a leading figure in the Irish Suffragette movement.

There was also the story of the shadowy involvement of the Quakers in the trial of James Cotter of Carrigtwohill.

The weekend started with a walk around historic Youghal with local expert David Kelly showing the sites associated with the Quaker businesses in town, specially the quays — Grubb's Quay, Landy's Quay, Harvey's Dock and the mills. etc.

Later that evening there was an entertainment in Tynte's Castle, performed by local group Harmony under the able direction of Finbarr Hannon. It was called "Lady Tynte meets William Penn" and was especially written for the occasion by Kieran Groeger. All day Saturday there were lectures on a variety of aspects of Quaker history in Ireland.

On Sunday the Quakers held a "meeting" to let people experience their way of doing things. No ministers, no priests, no sermons, no readings — just quiet meditation.

This was followed by a field trip to Ballymaloe and Shanagarry where the Allen family was highlighted and thanked for their hospitality. Penn's castle and house in Shanagarry can be seen but is not open to the public.

People were delighted with the events organised and there were many compliments for the hardworking committee. Next year the spotlight will be on the Fitzgerald family taking in Dromana House, Inchiquin Castle and lots, lots more!

Minutes of the AGM of the Federation of Local History Societies.

Date: 10th May 2014.

Venue: Clasac Irish Cultural Centre Clontarf Dublin. Delegates were welcomed by Kay Lonergan of the Clontarf Society who introduced the Dublin Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Jane Horgan-Jones. Jane commended the Federation for choosing Clontarf for the venue and congratulated both the Clontarf and the Raheny societies for amalgamating and working so diligently together to promote the large programme of events arranged to commemorate the 1000 anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf. She mentioned the rich heritage of the area including St. Anne's Park (second largest in Ireland) where a wonderful re-enactment of the Battle took place with thousands of visitors. The Casino at Marino is also a great asset, where the famous painting of the battle by Hugh Frazer was on display. The most obvious legacy of the celebrations is the 3 km Battle of Clontarf Heritage Trail on the seafront promenade.

Chairman Dick Ryan welcomed delegates and paid special thanks to John Dooher of the Federation of Ulster Local Studies for travelling the distance to attend.

Apologies: Padraig Laffan and Dermott Ryan

Minutes: The Minutes of the AGM Waterford 25th May 2013 were taken as read.

Matters Arising:

- (1) **Effective Publicity:** Arising from the encouragement of the PRO there is a marked increase in members sending notice of their events for distribution on line.
- **(2) Abolition of Borough Councils:** The Chairman has written to the Co. Managers Association for circulation to all Co. Managers, seeking their co-operation in pursuing a course of action designed to ensure that records, artefacts etc. held by councils are secured.
- **(3) Local History for Younger Audience:** Arising from the very successful Social Media Seminar a Facebook page has been added to the website which is getting a very interesting response.

Chairman's Address: The Chairman expressed his pleasure at being in Clontarf in the Millennium year of the Battle and congratulated both the Clontarf and the Raheny Societies for their organisation of so many events and their choice of the wonderful venue of the Clasac for the AGM. He expressed his thanks to Larry Breen for his wonderful work as

PRO and for maintaining strong links with the FULS. The Hidden Gems links between the two Federations is very important for getting down to the real roots of local history.

Insurance: The Chairman encouraged members to check their insurance certificates from Alan B. Kidd and Co., Ltd., as he discovered their society outings and field trips were no longer covered.

Decade of Commemoration 2012-2022: The Chairman attended a consultation meeting hosted by the Government appointed Expert Advisory Group on commemorations. Subsequently a meeting was held with personnel from the Department of Arts Heritage and The Gaeltacht to further discuss the role of local history societies in the commemorations. While the Government is implementing a small number of events e.g. an exhibition in the GPO and a Local History School Essay Project, it is left to Local Authorities, community groups and Local History Societies to organise events in their own areas .A number of websites are provided to assist research. If difficulty is found in locating a suitable venue for events the Dept. will try to secure one and will also loan large Styrofoam photographs to provide background. If a small amount of money is required for travel expenses or for a keynote speaker the Dept. will supply same. Applications should be made through the Federation.

Local History Review No. 18: The Chairman expressed thanks to Larry Breen and the production team especially JJ Woods for their wonderful work in the layout and printing of such an excellent journal. Thanks were also expressed to Kay Lonergan for organising the AGM and to Eugene Jordan and Michael Gaynor for their contribution to the Social Media Seminar. Thanks also to Betty Quinn, Hon. Secretary, and Mairead Byrne, Hon. Tresurer, and to the general committee for their excellent attendance at meetings during the last year. Thanks also went to O'Neills supermarket for sponsoring the morning tea and coffee.

Secretary's Report: Copy Appended.

Treasurer's Report: Mairead Byrne delivered the Treasurer's Report, copy appended.

The Chairman proposed to change the financial year (previously from AGM to AGM) to 30th June – 31st December. This was agreed by consensus, it was also agreed to produce the accounts for the previous year for comparison purposes. The treasurer thanked Larry for securing the Prize Bond certificates in the Federation's name.

FULS: John Dooher commended the officers of each Federation for all the hard work done to maintain the links. The *Hidden Gems Project* is a good example of the shared common aspects of our local history. The forthcoming WWI Seminar is an opportunity to look at the ideologies

and legacies of our shared history, it will be challenging but should help to understand the diversity of our history. Regarding the relevance of local history to youth, it may be an opportunity for the joint committee to look at the possibility of devising a Local Study Project to get young people enthused. John's final comments to delegates were to be aware of the introduction of the post codes as it could spell disaster for local identity.

School Roll Books: A concern was expressed regarding the disappearance of school roll books, the question was asked if there was a statuary obligation to keep and preserve roll books and what action the Federation can take to insure that roll books are kept in proper archives. It was noted some schools were digitising roll books which is good practise. A suggestion was made that both Federations should consider undertaking a National Programme for the digitisation of all roll books for which funding should be sought. A suggestion was also made that roll books should be kept in local libraries.

Oral History: A discussion arose regarding the development of oral history. It was noted that the oral history network is holding a conference in September in Kilkenny, also Dublin City Council have commenced a new course on oral history.

Election of Officers:

President: Canon Sean O'Doherty was returned by consensus.

Chairman: Dick Ryan was elected on the proposal of Frank Taaffe, seconded by Larry Breen.

Vice Chairman: Martina Griffin was elected on the proposal of Helen Ryan, seconded by Josephine Byrne.

Hon. Secretary: Betty Quinn was elected on the proposal of Frank Taaffe, seconded by Ann Cusack.

Hon. Treasurer: Mairead Byrne was elected on the proposal of Michael Gaynor seconded by Larry Breen.

PRO: Larry Breen was elected on the proposal of Ann Cusack, seconded by Brendan Cullen.

General Committee: The current committee members were returned with the exception of Joe Williams of Clondalkin who stepped down in favour of Josephine Byrne. Ida Milne of Celbridge was elected on the proposal of Larry Breen, seconded by Frank Taaffe.

AOB: Condolences were expressed on behalf of the Federation on the deaths of Kevin Hall (Chairman) and Seamus Reale both of whom so generously hosted the AGM in Waterford last year.

Upcoming Events: Three upcoming history festivals are noted,

Carlow - 7-8 June

Dublin - 26th September - 3rd October. Various venues.

Greystones - 26th September - 28th October.

The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Clare Society for assisting his Society (Rathmichael) with their very enjoyable week-end away, an example of the ethos that exists between member Societies.

Society Spake, chaired by Larry Breen:

Larry expressed his thanks to Kay Lonergan for her assistance in the organisation of the AGM, he also offered his personal condolences on the death of the two Waterford members. He encouraged members to submit articles for the Hidden Gems Project and the journal.

Brendan Cullen — Clane, spoke of their 3rd journal 'Coiseanna' in April also their usual series of lectures from September until May.

Frank Taaffe — **Athy**, spoke of their Shackleton Autum School and their WWI Seminar in October and their management of the Athy Heritage Centre and their hosting of a group of students from Stanford University in California.

Ida Milne — **Celbridge**, spoke of their Society founded in 2002 going from strength to strength. She mentioned their recent lecture on the John Charles McQuaid papers.

Brona Ni Loing — **Rathcoole**, spoke of their societies efforts in trying to attract younger members, they currently have 5 members and conduct walks concentrating on any old buildings in the area.

Kay Lonergan — **Clontarf**, spoke of the explosion of events during the Millennium year and of their amalgamation with Raheny to progress events. She mentioned their involvement in the production of the wonderful Heritage Trail on the promenade.

Ciaran Groegar — **Youghal,** indicated they were a small group who organised a once a year event, this year is a conference on the Quakers. They undertake the training of the local tour guides and have produced an ipad book and an iphone which alerts the visitors when they pass important historical sites, all free.

Betty Quinn — **Old Drogheda Society,** mentioned their double celebration, the Golden jubilee of the Society and the 40th anniversary of the opening of Drogheda Museum at Millmount. She also spoke of the challenges of engaging schools even though they have the advantage of a museum. She is now bringing the Museum out to National schools by transporting artefacts to various classes.

Richard Farrely — **Navan** has the same idea where he has visited a school where his grandchildren are pupils. He finds the intimacy of the classroom conducive to passing on historical knowledge in an informal and passionate way. Navan Society is 6 years old with seventy members and has produced 2 journals. During Heritage Week they conducted a tour of the village of Kilmessan with 50 people. Richard also spoke of an archival treasure left by his grandfather which is a great source of social history.

Cannon Sean O'Doherty — Durrow, mentioned he is a member of 5 societies and a founder member of the Federation. He is very pleased with the continuing links with the FULS.

Josephine Byrne — **Clondalkin**, her society has 14 members and are involved with likeminded groups *e.g.* The Round Tower group, Their main focus is on the main attraction in their area which is the Round Tower, one of the best preserved in Ireland, She spoke of the plans for restoring the lands around the Tower and creating a monastic garden. They conduct tours of the village and their annual outing is to Trim.

John Dooher — **FULS**, spoke of their upcoming Preservation Seminar in Armagh which will also look at WWI and the Irish Volunteers in Tyrone.

Beatrice Payet — **Waterford**, thanked the Federation for their kind words of sympathy on the loss of two very valued members. They have 200 members and hold lectures on Friday nights in the Winter months. They have 4 local outings and 1 coach trip away. This year Waterford is celebrating 1100. Waterford Institute of Technology has a room dedicated to Local History which acts as a repository for archival material which the society has managed to save, including a unique collection of journals rescued from Christchurch Cathedral.

Michael Gaynor — **Old Dundalk Society,** founded in 1964, they have 180 members, hold lectures in the Winter months and outings in the Summer. Their Society is financially secure and can afford to purchase artefacts relevant to Dundalk if they come up for sale. They have also funded the preservation of books relating to the workhouse and the preservation of an AOH flag. To celebrate their upcoming Golden Jubilee they are having a 9crt. gold coin minted which can be sold for further funds.

Bronach Joyce — Westport. Their society has been running the Clew Bay Heritage Centre since 1991 on a voluntary basis. They also provide genealogy research for the area. Their society were given roll books from the local schools to copy. The centre, housed in a 250 year old building suffered some storm damage and has been closed but is due to open again in June. They conduct town walks and organise school programmes.

John Long — **Fethard**, spoke of Fethard being the gem of walled towns. Their Society is 25 years old. They hold an annual book fair on the 2nd Sunday in February which raises around €2500. The Co. Council have erected blue plaques and produced excellent promotional leaflets. They hold a Medieval Festival in June with support from the Co. Council and local businesses.

Carmel Darcy — **Timahoe Co. Kildare,** Their Society is 20 years old, with 40 members and is associated with Clane society. They hold monthly meetings and have two trips per year. They are presently compiling a data base of 1916 letters.

Martina Griffin — **Moate** .Their Society manage Moate Museum on a voluntary basis which they open on request. They hold 6 lectures per year, one of which is the Jeremiah Sheehan lecture held in September.

Joan Sharkey — Raheny, mentioned their very busy year with the Millennium celebrations and their involvement in the production of the Heritage Trail. In conjunction with local business people they secured funding to erect blue plaques on important heritage sites.

Betty Fitzgerald — **Knocklyon.** Their Society has 60 members, their chairperson Aoife Tierney is a tour de force, they hold monthly meetings and have one trip away annually.

Dick Ryan — **Rathmichael.** They have 75 members, hold lectures in Winter and have one Summer outing. On the 3rd week in August they hold a series of lectures on practical themes. They try to get notice of their activities on' Whats On' in the Irish Times.

Mairead Byrne — **Rathcoffey**. Their Society was established 8 years ago. Last year their main activity was the launch of a CD which recorded interviews with local residents on their recollections of the 1950's.

James Dockery — **Roscommon.** They hold 8 lectures annually, and run an annual tour with mini local tours during Heritage Week. They are very involved in oral history and have 92 recordings on 10 DVD's. The centenary addition of their journal has sold out.

Conclusion: Larry thanked delegates for attending, Brendan Cullen for assisting with registration and outlined the afternoon programme which included lunch and a guided walk of the new Heritage Trail.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Betty Quinn on behalf of the Federation.

Chairman's Address to AGM, 10th May 2014

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen.

I would like to start by expressing my pleasure at being here in the very historic locality of Clontarf in this, the 1000th year since the famous battle. We have had a marvelous few months of commemorative lectures, seminars and battle reenactments and for those I would like to thank the Clontarf Historical Society, the Raheny Heritage Society and Comhaltas Ceoltoiri na hEireann , who are our hosts here today.

The purpose of a Chairman's statement is to account to you, the members, for what we are doing and also to discuss how we in the Federation can stay relevant to the needs of the member societies.

So, what were the things we did?

The Secretary will talk about the events organised during the year - the visits to Bath, Derry, Áras an Uachtaráin and Islandbridge/Arbour Hill - all jointly with the Federation of Ulster Local Studies. That North/South theme is now very strong in our ethos and I would like to thank Larry Breen for pushing that.

Apart from these visits/trips, we pursued the following issues:

- Hidden Gems and Forgotten People: ongoing project. Display placards being prepared. Thanks to Larry Breen and FULS.
- Social media workshop attended by over forty people in Athlone. Many thanks to Eugene Jordan and Michael Gaynor.
- Abolition of County Councils: representations made regarding the importance of looking after records and artifacts belonging to abolished councils.
- Successful negotiations with our insurance broker to re-instate cover for trips and outings which had been dropped when the policy was renewed this year.
- Circulation of society events to all member societies so that we can all see what everybody is doing. Thanks to Larry Breen for this ongoing work.
- Discussions with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht regarding financial and other assistance to member societies organising events during the decade of commemorations.

And the things we did not succeed in finishing?:

- Local History in Schools project: more time needed.
- County History project in conjunction with the Library Service of Ireland: it is difficult to get volunteers to write histories of their

counties for this project. Some have been completed and efforts will continue to complete the job.

One of the challenges we face as a Federation is to try to stay relevant to the needs of the members. Examples of this are the Social Media workshop where the need was identified at last year's AGM, the insurance issue which potentially affected all member societies and the discussions regarding the decade of commemorations which could be of benefit to many societies. But are there others? Please let me know.

With regard to future events, we hope to organise a joint visit to the Fermanagh area later in the year and a visit to Galway with the Royal Society of Antiquaries early in 2015. In addition there will be a seminar on World War I in Dundalk on 11th October which is being organised in conjunction with FULS.

I want to conclude by thanking a number of people for a lot of work throughout the year. The Federation's annual journal, Local History Review, is a really professional job with very high production standards. This is entirely due to J. J. Woods, Brendan Cullen and Larry Breen.

Once again I would like to thank Eugene Jordan and Michael Gaynor for their work in organising a very successful workshop on using social media. I would like to thank Kay Lonergan, Larry, Comhaltas and O'Neill's Supermarket for together organising this AGM and finally Betty Quinn, Mairead Byrne and all the committee members for their support to me during the year.

Thank you.

Social Media Seminar

Friday, November 8th, 2014 — Sheraton Hotel, Athlone

The Federation held its first ever seminar on the subject of social media. The event, held in the Shearaton Hotel, Athlone, was very well attended by society members. Forty people attended representing fifteen different historical/archaeological societies from all around the country. There were representatives from Roscommon, Rathcoffey, Clane, Naas, Kocklyon, Rathmichael, Westport, Raheny, Ballinrobe, Timahoe, Foxrock, Carlow, Moate, Galway, Dundalk and also from the Irish Family History Society in Dublin.

The event proved to be a great success with the programme co-ordinators, Eugene Jordan from the Galway Archaeological & Historical Society and Michael Gaynor from the Old Dundalk Society introducing the group of attendees to the whole world of Facebook and Twitter. It proved to be a most interesting, educational and thought provoking experience leaving everyone with much food for thought.

As a result of this the Federation has now set up its own Facebook page

which is proving to be a big success with much activity on the page. We encourage all you Facebook devotees and others to visit the page and make good use of the facility.

Federation Visit To Scotland

A happy band of fifty historians from all over the island met at Belfast Ferry in eager anticipation of our adventure this year to "Bonnie Scotland". As in previous years we had a great turn out with representatives from eleven counties and eighteen historical societies.

Counties represented were Dublin, Kildare, Meath, Kilkenny, Laois, Roscommon, Tyrone, Antrim, Derry/Londonderry, Down and Limerick. Societies present were from Clane, Naas, Tipperary, Rathcoffey, Roscommon, Knocklyon, Rathmichael, Strabane, Carrickfergus, New Buildings, Antrim, Ormonde, West Tyrone, Navan, Foxrock, Fassadinin, Durrow and Lecale.

Monday

After a very smooth crossing from Belfast to Cairnryan we made our way up the Ayreshire coast stopping at Culzean Castle for a short break on our way to Glasgow. This original fortified house has been turned into a mansion of sumptuous proportions and elegance by architect Robert Adam. Although we did not have time to go inside the castle we did see the magnificent building with its impressive grounds and gardens. We arrived safely at our hotel, the Glynhill, in Glasgow and were treated to a most interesting and thought provoking after dinner talk by Marie Davidson assisted by her husband Richard. Marie from the Historical Association, Glasgow Branch talked about the many Statues which adorn George Square in the city centre.

Tuesday

It was what we would call a soft day when we set off for Sterling on our way to visit Sterling Castle. We were not disappointed. A favoured residence of the Kings and Queens of Scotland it turned out to be a building restored to its renaissance magnificence with stunning views of the surrounding countryside and some very friendly guides. One particular feature was the remarkable sculptures decorating the outside walls of James's V's Palace.

Our next stop was the quaint Glengoyne distillery set in the most beautiful countryside of the Campsie Hills. Friendly guides with infectious personalities and a "wee dram" of their single malt proved a winning combination. Because of the local geography the whiskey is distilled in the lowlands and matured in the highlands as the distillery is divided by the through road. The last leg of our journey took us to the southern shore of Loch Lomond at the picturesque little town of Balloch. Sweeney's cruiser, the Astina, awaited us and took us on a memorable cruise in the early evening sunshine beyond stately homes and the magnificent Ben Lomond – Scotland's most southerly Munro. On our inward journey we passed the ruins of Lennox Castle, a place frequented by Mary Queen of Scots, and so ended a magical day.

Wednesday

On a somewhat wet morning we headed for the city of Edinburgh in a light hearted mood regardless of the weather. We were met by our guide Ann Edgar who proved to be a real gem. She took us on a coach tour of this beautiful city and through the old and new towns accompanied by some great commentary.

Highlights like the Palace of Holyrood House, the Scottish Parliament, the Museum of Childhood, the National Museum of Scotland, the Caledonian Hotel, the National Gallery and many more come to mind. After an overview of the castle from our guide we were left to explore the castle ourselves where within its walls is said to be contained the history of Scotland. Dominating the city skyline as it has done for over 800 years it lived up to its reputation as the country's most visited attraction. Home to the Scottish Crown Jewels and the fabled stone of destiny it was bewildering in its sights and attractions including the Governor's House, Scottish National War Memorial, the Great Hall, the Prison Vaults, St. Margaret's Chapel and much more. Some people spent the afternoon exploring the city and some made the journey outside the City to visit Rosslyn Chapel. The Chapel proved to be something very special with its extraordinary carvings and such fine detail. Built in 1446, it would be hard to find another building with such a variety of styles and subjects under one roof.

Thursday

The day started a little wet but did improve along the way. We were joined by another guide, Allan Stephen, for our tour of Glasgow. Our first stop was at St. Mungo's Cathedral where we were able to explore this impressive building and some of the surroundings including the oldest house in Glasgow, the Provand's Lordship. Although we did not get to visit it we did manage to catch a view of Glasgow's unique Necropolis, the resting place of many of Glasgow's rich and good from bygone days. Another stop was at the famous Glasgow Green for a photo shoot of the fountain and other notable buildings.

Our guide, Allan, conducted us on a coach tour of the whole city including views of the Riverside Transport Museum, The Kelvin Grove Area, the Exhibition Centre, the Science Centre and a drive along Sauchiehall Street among many other attractions. We arrived back at George's Square and a welcome break for lunch. After lunch we travelled south to the unique Cotton Village of New Lanark now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The brainchild of Robert Owen it presented a fascinating story of social history which was way ahead of its time.

The village has been beautifully restored to its former glory with an abundance of impressive buildings housing the history of the cotton industry and the social life of the community of that time. Set in picturesque countryside it also presented some stunning views including river and waterfalls.

Friday

We left Glasgow in the morning on our journey back home and not without a certain degree of nostalgia about our visit. It was a lovely sunny morning as we travelled to the ferry at Cairnryan but not before we made a final pilgrimage to the birthplace of one of Scotland's most famous sons, Robbie Burns. The birthplace cottage and museum provide a fitting tribute to this remarkable man and are set in beautiful grounds and gardens. We enjoyed the visit which included a fine restaurant, shops and an impressive monument to the writer.

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

Federations of Ireland — Joint Autumn Seminar

The Federation Autumn Seminar was a joint event organised by both the FLHS and the FULS. The venue was the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Dundalk, Co. Louth and attracted delegates from all over the country. The topic in keeping with the centenary year 2014 was on the subject of WW1. The theme of the conference was to examine the impact on communities and the people of the island of Ireland and their responses on wartime hardships.

The large audience of local historians who had travelled from around the country both north and south were not disappointed and were treated to a most interesting, entertaining and thought provoking series of lectures covering all shades of opinions and issues affecting Ireland during that dreadful period.

Professor Brian Walker, Q.U.B., gave the keynote address with an excellent overview of the northern perspective and how it affected and what it meant for the people of the north.

Padraig Yeates, historian and journalist, talked about the impact the period had on the people of Dublin with a fascinating insight into the whole social fabric of the city at that time.

Quincy Dougan, from Armagh, gave a unique presentation on the subject of "militant Irish anti-home rule" in the rest of Ireland outside Ulster during the period 1914-18. His talk generated a lot of interest in a subject hitherto unknown to most of the audience.

Dr. Donal Hall from County Louth presented his talk on the experiences that local people in the county had in war time County Louth, again providing much new and original information.

The last talk given by Des Marnane from County Tipperary proved a fitting end to the seminar talks when he entertained a captive audience with a most lively, informative, interesting and humorous presentation based on the well known song of the time, "It's a long way to Tipperary".

The formal talks were brought to a most fitting end when all joined in for a rendition of "It's a long way to Tipperary".

There was a final session of questions and answers from the floor to the panel of speakers.

Special thanks to the organisers Frank Taaffe and John Dooher and also to Michael Gaynor for all his help locally.

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

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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. Virginia and District Historical Society, Mary Whelan, Kells Road, Virginia, 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, Mark Cronin, Blackpool Community Centre, 90 Gt. William O'Brien Street, Blackpool, Cork City, Co. Cork

Blarney History Society, Richard Bolster, Knockane, Donoughmore, Co. Cork Cannovee Historical and Archaeological Society, Nora O'Leary, Kilcondy, Crookstown, Co. Cork

Carrigtwohill and District Historical Society, Oliver Sheehan, Ballinbrittig, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork.

Cloyne Literary and Historical Society, Marie Guillot, Kilcrone House, Cloyne, Co. Cork Coachford History Society, Anthony Greene, Peake, Coachford, Co. Cork

Cork Decorative Fine Arts Society, Marian O'Driscoll, 9 Beechwood Court, Newtown, Cobh, Co. Cork.

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Kilmeen-Castleventry Historical Society, Dan O'Leary, Caherkirky, Rossmore, Clonakilty, Co. Cork

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Whitegate and Aghada Historical Society, Joan Rockley, East Ferry, Midleton, Co. Cork Youghal Celebrates History, Breeda Phillips, St. Mary's Collegiate Church, Youghal, Co. Cork.

Co. Donegal

Raymochy Parishes Historical Society, William Lindsay, Lurgy, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal.

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Rathcoole Heritage Society, Brona uí Loing, 137 Cnoc na Coillte, Rathcuil, Contae Atha Cliath.

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Co. Kerry

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Co. Kildare

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Co. Kilkenny

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Co. Laois

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Co. Leitrim

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Co. Limerick

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Co. Mayo

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Co. Offaly

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Co. Roscommon

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Co. Sligo

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Co. Tipperary

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Mary Alice O'Connor, c/o Tipperary Excel Centre, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary.

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Co Westmeath

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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, Philip Jones, Alaya, Barnadown Upper, Gorey, Co. Wexford

Taghmon Historical Society, Vera Power, Newtown, 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.

2015 – Dates For Your Diary

U.K. Visit - Devon/Cornwall. Sunday, 12th April to Thursday, 16th April, 2015

We plan to visit Devon and Cornwall in the beautiful South-West of England. Journey will start at Dublin, ferry Rosslare to Fishguard return, coach for five days, four nights B&B and four evening meals in hotel in Plymouth. Full programme and details to follow but we would be looking at possible visits to Exeter, Dartmoor, Padstow, Penzance, St Ives, St Michael's Mount, the Eden Project, Lanhydrock House and more. Full details to follow.

A.G.M. Kinsale Co. Cork. Friday, 8th May - Sunday, 10th May 2015

The 2015 A.G.M. will be held in the beautiful and picturesque town of Kinsale in County Cork. It will be hosted by the Kinsale Historical Society and we will have the opportunity to share in the local commemoration events on the 150th. anniversary of the sinking of the Lusitania. We will stay in the Trident Hotel in Kinsale and the weekend package will include two nights B&B, two evening meals, A.G.M. , lectures and historical tours. Full details to follow.

Spring and Autumn Seminars

We will be holding these seminars as part of our lecture programme.

European Parliament - Battlefields Belgium/France

We are looking at a possible EU part funded trip to the European Parliament in Brussels including visits to battlefields in Belgium and France. Our base would be the Irish College in the beautiful and historic city of Leuven. Possible date would be sometime in August. Tentative and further details to follow.

Federation of Local History Societies

Membership Application/Renewal Form

Society		
Secretary		
Address		
Telephone No	Mobile	::
e-mail:		
Other Contact Phon	e	
Number of members	s in Society *Membership fee per ann	
	Individual: less than 25 members: 26 to 50 members: 50+ members:	€15 €25
Ch	eques should be made pay	yable 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.

