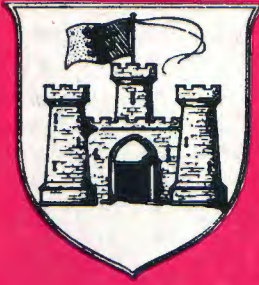


1946



# CARLOVIANA

Journal of the Old Carlow Society

Irisleabhar Chumann Seanda Chatharlocha

1986/87

£1.50



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# CARLOVIANA

1986/87

No. 34

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## Anno Quadragesimo 1986

PAX NOBIS is the message from Pope John Paul II and other church leaders from Assisi of Francis, in this International Year of Peace. It happens to be our society's fortieth presentation of Carloviana, our Ruby Anniversary. Hence this enlarged edition as a tribute to our surviving founding fathers, on the pragmatic grounds that many of them could not be expected to reach the Golden Anniversary which would be a more fitting mark for celebration.

So we join with leading churchmen in the hope and wish for peace in our own nation as well as in the world at large. These last forty years have been more or less peaceful: no further threats to the peace at large in the world, though there are some black spots and some danger in the nuclear wrangling between U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. Perhaps Yeats forecast this in "peace comes dropping slow." Mayhap, prayer and optimism will prevail. Peace can only be achieved by understanding.

Goethe declares that talent grows in peace, character in the current of affairs. This bodes well for our land. We have such a young and vibrant population: and as we are one of the heaviest taxed of nations there is very little fear of the ills that wealth brings. "Ill fares the land to hast'ning ills a prey where wealth accumulates and men decay". Perhaps the peace of God which passeth all understanding will come to our shores and spread once more as far afield as did our saints and scholars.

Peace, happiness and joy are simple aims that are most difficult to achieve. That stops us not from trying. Aim for the stars: "níl san tsaoghal acht ceó is ní maireann an sógh acht seal" seems to sum up our endeavours and indicates that money and happiness cannot be equated. Is fear a bheith sona ná saidhbhir. "Better be happy than rich". It may be that the Gael was never rich nor wealthy and so his philosophy is towards peace of mind.

Over the past forty years we have had the joy and pleasure of many grand minds and people who were a delight to know and listen to. Some have gone to their heavenly reward and are doubtlessly looking down on us from on high, seeing that our efforts are directed toward perpetuating their hopes and aims. Ní bheidh a leithéid aríst ann. May the light of Heaven shine on them and brighten up our lives. May we pursue their path. That, as Yeats said of Byzantium, is no country for old men; but a poet has had enough of meddling, if he can please an old man on a winter's night.

Go mbeidh suaimhneas Dé orainn go léir is go dtíochfaidh an síothcháin chugainn atá ghá lorg againn sar a thagann glóire Dé orainn 'sa bheathadh seo.

Eagarthóir, November 1986

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We acknowledge with grateful thanks the efforts of our contributors written and photographic. In especial we thank *The Nationalist & Leinster Times* for access to its files and allowing helpful extracts.

*We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance donated by the Bank of Ireland and Allied Irish Bank towards the production of this anniversary issue of Carloviana.*

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# From the Chair

By Veronica Crombie

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**I**T is a great occasion of joy for us, that this year, The Old Carlow Society celebrates its 40th Anniversary. By any standard in any organisation this is no mean feat. For a voluntary organisation it is a rare achievement and one which makes our members extremely proud.

We congratulate the founder members. We salute their foresight and determination, those who are still with us and those who have passed on, in their efforts to preserve the history of Carlow for posterity. For this we thank them most sincerely.

We also thank those who followed in their footsteps. Those who kept going when times were difficult. No progressive organisation could survive and make progress for forty years without its ups and downs. Good times and bad times are inevitable, when times are bad it's easy to despair. We congratulate the people who kept the flag flying when morale was low. These are the stayers, the people who have faith and hope, and their efforts have not been in vain.

## Bishops Keogh and Lennon

During our forty years we have had just two patrons of our society. Our first patron, Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Keogh, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin was with us from 1946 — 1967. Our present patron, Most Rev. Dr. Patrick Lennon, who succeeded Dr. Keogh, will, we hope and pray, be with us for many years to come.

Over the years our major ambition has been achieved, we have established the County Carlow Museum. A museum is an integral part of any historical society. We must preserve the artefacts if local history is to be kept alive. People have been extremely generous in presenting artefacts to our museum. These have come from various parts of the county, and we do appreciate their magnificent

generosity. It is our ambition to have the museum open to the general public as much as possible with a curator in attendance. We make a point of leading groups and school-children through the museum and explaining the various display units to them. We have had various exhibitions in the museum from time to time, such as a working model of Carlow Railway Station.

During the past year our Society has had many interesting and informative outings and lectures. Our most recent lecture, by Mr. Michael Gibbons, archaeologist, at present working with the Board of Works, was one which gave us a lot of food for thought. This lecture — The Archaeology of County Carlow — gave us a whole new slant on our surroundings. Co. Carlow was

one of the first counties surveyed and one of the best researched of all the counties. Mr. Gibbons has very kindly presented the Old Carlow Society with a map and text of all his findings.

I am saddened to report that within the last year we have lost some very valued and esteemed members, the most recent of whom was Miss Mary Theresa Kelly. Miss Kelly was one of the earliest members of the Old Carlow Society and remained one of its most stalwart supporters to the very end. Her contribution to the Society was invaluable and she will be sadly missed by all. May she now enjoy her eternal reward.

To all our readers, members and friends whether at home in Ireland or overseas, I wish a Holy and Happy Christmas and every blessing in the coming year.

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## Museum Report

By Alec Burns

---

**D**URING the past year, the Museum proved again to be one of the town's best amenities for visitors, despite the poor weather in the early Summer. It was a great haven for those who had travelled distances to both shelter from the inclement weather and to glean knowledge from the town's past history, and learn they did if their departing comments are to be truthful.

The general comment was on its compactness and general display. We had the advantage for the best part of the year of having our Caretaker Oliver Dooley with us which enabled the Museum to be open on 5 days during the week. This has unfortunately ceased as it was an AnCO project and could not be an indefinite appointment. We were very sorry to lose him as he was invaluable. The O.C.S. Committee will endeavour to get AnCO to make a replacement at the earliest opportunity in the New Year.

Acquisitions were on a very low scale during the year and although soundings were made in several quarters to have exhibitions, they were not successful. (We are more than hopeful of staging some during the coming year).

The Carlow ICA Federation, however, did use the premises to display the School entries for their local history competitions which was a huge success and a revelation to the many visitors who attended from all parts of the county, as they knew so little of the history of their area.

We hope the Federation will continue to organise this competition on a regular basis as it got such a great response from the schools.

During the coming year the O.C.S. hope to join with other local societies, The Little Theatre, Eige and Chamber of Commerce to have a Shaw Week as the Gurly family who all lived

■ Continued page 46

# How and why the Old Carlow Society started

By Liam D. Bergin

**F**ORTY years is a long time in anyone's life. Therefore it is not surprising that some of the founder-members of The Old Carlow Society are gone to their eternal home.

As I look at the list of first Committee members, I note that the Society's first patron, Bishop Keogh of Kildare and Leighlin, is one of these. And so also are our first Chairman, Monsignor Dr. William Miller V.F., all our 1946 vice-presidents, An t-Athair Peadar Mac Suibhne M.A., Archdeacon Ridgeway M.A. and Mr. Bernard O'Neill M.Sc.

Of the Committee in 1946 John Ellis, Edmund Boake and P. B. Tynan are gone to God.

The survivors are Miss Maureen Doyle, Miss Iona McLeod, Father P. J. Brophy P.P. and the writer.

Foundation of the Old Carlow Society was inspired by the Old Dublin Society. I had been a member of that worthy body and had experienced its work, its Civic Museum in South William Street, its Journal and the enthusiasm of its members.

It was through one of those members, who went on to found the Railway Record Society, Mr. Kevin Murray, that we got the stimulation to try to start an Old Carlow Society.

## Blacksmith tie with William Dargan

It began because of the famous Irish engineer and builder of the railways, William Dargan, who had apparently lived sometime in the country beyond Graiguecullen. Kevin Murray asked me if I could find out about Dargan's abode.

As a result of an appeal for information, which I published in *The Nationalist*, I had a visit from my very old friend, Paddy Brennan of the Forge in Graigue, one of the most famous blacksmiths and a character in these parts.

I knew Paddy since I used to come from Graiguecullen National School, that academy run by the two Fenelon brothers,



Liam D. Bergin

Master Dan, the principal, and his brother Master James. The new teacher was Sean O'Leary, our present Old Carlow Society Secretary.

Paddy Brennan told me that his father was introduced to William Dargan at Ballyhide when he was building the railways in these parts. Paddy Brennan's uncle went out to Ballyhide to put frost nails in the horse shoes of a Mr. Laferelle and Mr. William Dargan was there. Paddy Brennan's father was introduced to Dargan and subsequently shod horses for him. To quote Paddy Brennan in 1946: "Dargan put them all on their feet with 'whips' of money".

In 1946 the then Rev. Dr. Wm. Miller told me that Engineer Dargan was reputed to have built Cloneygowan House, Portarlinton with its most unusual dual-carriage avenue, a grand concept for any country house of the period.

Prompted by the success of the Old Dublin Society, I approached Father Brophy, then a professor in Carlow College, Bernard O'Neill, first Chief Executive Officer of Co. Carlow Vocational Education, John Ellis, Works Manager at *The Nationalist*, Aidan Murray N.T. and others, suggesting that we should emulate the Old Dublin Society

and start an Old Carlow Society.

They were all enthusiastic. We called a public meeting. Over sixty people attended, some of whom became pillars of the organisation. Fr. Brophy at that meeting said that Carlow's historic past demanded such a society, from the building of Carlow Castle by the Normans to its seizure by Silken Thomas, and Carlow's part in the Rebellions of 1641 and 1798.

Fr. Brophy was working then on a history of Tullow and said he was amazed at the amount of information he had gathered relative to Carlow town, and of the famous Bishop J.K.L., whose statue, sculpted by Hogan, is in Carlow Cathedral. The annals of Carlow College were a rich source for research.

The real history of Ireland would never be written until local history in its various aspects was researched and written. Carlow should also have a museum.

## Fifty first members listed

Several other speakers agreed and a provisional committee was formed. Subsequently rules were drawn up and at a meeting on 31st March 1946, the acting Secretary, Fr. Brophy, announced that there were then fifty members at 5/- each, (or 25 pence in today's coinage).

It was suggested that historic buildings, old maps, documents be listed and other information, both written and oral, collected or copied.

We were not letting the grass grow under our feet in the infant Society. For at the same meeting Venerable Archdeacon Ridgeway read a paper on the re-forestation of Carlow Parish in 1702. The re-forestation at that time was, he said, promoted by legislation of King William due to the scarcity of timber in the locality which was a result of the 1641 rebellion.

At the period covered by the paper the iron works were

increasing in number all over the country.

The Vestry Book at St. Mary's contained the record of the number and the nature of trees allocated, under the Act, to be planted in the townlands and holdings of the Carlow district.

Very Rev. Dr. Miller read a paper containing extracts from a manuscript of William Farrell dealing with several aspects of social life in Carlow, between 1780-1800.

The extracts paid particular attention to the great number and diversity of sports carried on during the author's lifetime and the schools he attended.

The author went through many hardships and ended his employment as gate-keeper of Carlow Mental Hospital.

William Farrell's manuscript, which recalled the 1798 Rebellion in Carlow, was subsequently edited and published in book form by Professor Roger McHugh of University College, Dublin.

When we started the Old Carlow Society at the public meeting on the 1st of April in Carlow Town Hall — an inauspicious date, one might say — we had three immediate objectives. The first was to have sufficient papers read and material at hand to produce a Journal as soon as possible.

## Famine in Carlow

That Fr. Brophy was able to edit the first volume and have it published by the 1st of January 1947 — within nine months of our foundation — was a credit to all concerned.

One of the first contributions to the Journal is indexed as "*The Famine in Carlow*" Thomas P. O'Neill (member), a native of Ballon, Co. Carlow. He was later to be co-author with Lord Longford of the definitive life of President de Valera. After a distinguished academic career he became Professor of History at University College Galway. He was an appropriate choice to open officially in 1983 the new County Carlow Museum in Carlow Town Hall.

We were slow after 1946 to get our second objective — the museum — started. We all realised in those far off days that a museum would need to be housed where it was accessible to the public and where there



Fr. J. Brophy



Aidan Murray

was a caretaker or warden. Some of us were inspired by the Kinsale Museum, assembled by a local priest, and the museum in Enniscorthy, founded by Fr. Joe Ransome, which we visited.

It is appropriate that I record the generous gesture of the Enniscorthy Museum in donating £100, together with some artifacts, to help found the County Carlow Museum.

Our eyes turned to various premises. We hoped to get room in some civic building, notably the Old Technical School in Dublin Street after the School moved to its new building on Kilkenny Road.

That was not to be. The premises were reconstructed as a Co. Library to replace the most inadequate old library building at Court Place. Thanks to the efforts of those too numerous to mention, the Society was able in 1972, twenty six years after its foundation, to obtain temporary premises in the Old Christian Brothers schools, College Street. It was a notable start.

Seven years later in 1979 the museum collection was removed to Carlow Town Hall. This is to the credit of those voluntary workers on the Museum Committee, chaired by Kevin Kennedy, notably assisted by Alec Burns, who is responsible for public access to the museum. Alec is an Old Carlow Committee member even since 1951 and an officer since 1954. He is one of the oldest and most practical members of the Society, not to speak, of course, of Paddy Purcell who gave his time and his craft to the project.

Others whose work must be mentioned and praised in connection with the museum are Seamus Murphy, Secretary and Trustee, James Westman, William Duggan, James Doyle, James Moran, William Ellis and the late Michael Dooley. The Society is indebted to local merchants who transported the artifacts from College Street to the Town Hall.

I think that it was an imaginative idea to include in the Carlow Museum reconstructions of old shops, a pub of long ago, a kitchen and a forge.

When the Society was founded, there was a great press in Carlow Town Hall Boardroom which housed what was called The Jackson Collection. Covered with the dust of many years, it was examined in the 1940s, at the request of the Society by the National Museum in the person of Miss Nell Prendergast who assessed and catalogued the contents.

## Journal's new format

A "new series" of the Old Carlow Society's Journal was issued in its present format in 1952. As editor, I introduced a new typographical style with more illustrations. In subsequent issues many photographs and drawings of historic interest were reproduced. The late Mr. Victor Hadden, succeeded me as editor and produced some memorable issues.

After six years since foundation I noted in The Journal that we could "hardly claim to have induced the younger generation to throw its characteristic enthusiasm into the absorbing work of preserving the story of the past". But, at least, we had tried to



reconstruct the social pattern of the years long since. We had attempted, with some success, to draw together the vanishing memories of older people, from which we might enrich the web of tradition.

We felt all along that by putting together various aspects of the history of the locality, even in bits and pieces, we might serve and stimulate future scholars. Real history cannot be truly fleshed out without social history. We had, and still have, a lot of social history to record.

When we started there were still many alive who had great recall back into the 19th century and there was much information which had been handed down in the oral tradition from generations gone by. But too many rich memories were and still are untapped for want of collecting their lore before they die.

## Our local and national identity

Ireland had, long before 1946, bodies of amateur historians in the archaeological societies, like those of Kildare and Kilkenny. The generations to come owe them a debt as they do to our amateur folklorists and collectors of Irish folk music. Much would have been lost to posterity but for the generous time and work given, with love for no reward, of countless freelance collectors down the years.

It is especially important nowadays that we learn and appreciate to the full our national identity, the qualities that have made us what we are, all that has contributed to the spirit of Ireland and her people.

That means knowing the "seed, breed and generation" of our past — the past invariably portends the future. Our youth must recognise that our foundations make us what we are and shall become.

In the forty years of the Old Carlow Society we have had far too few young people contributing to research in local history. We should make a serious and practical effort to involve the younger people in this important work. Researching local history can be as thrilling as any detective story and as engrossing.

For history is more than the testimony of dumb stones, kings' reigns, famous battles long ago.



*The late John Ellis*



*The late Bernard O'Neill*

These are but indicators along the roads of life and they present us with the headlines of a vast field of research and interpretation.

Our archaeologists are learned in such matters, the artifacts of long ago, the importance of what evidence is left behind and the delicate care with which historic sites must be treated if they are to yield up all of their evidence and treasure. Much of this testimony can be destroyed by careless people and much damage has already been done to Irish historic sites which contain the clues of Ireland's social history.

When we formed the Old Carlow Society it was at a watershed of our national and local development. We hoped to inspire and to harness in people a more widespread curiosity about history and life in Ireland. There is much still to be discovered.

In 1946 it was but a year since the end of World War II a period which, since Ireland opted to be

neutral, was euphemistically called "the emergency".

There was little affluence around then. From 1939 to 1945 we had been obliged to make do with our own resources. Cars had disappeared from the roads. Our main source of foreign news was from the radio. To assess that, one had to try to distill the truth from the propaganda and rumour. The story of loss of life and destruction all over the world must have inspired many Irish people to reflect on their good fortune and to cherish our roots.

Today it is not uncommon to find local museums in many towns. Heritage Societies have spread all over the country in recent years. Since 1946 traditional Irish music has undergone a renaissance (in modern parlance a 'born again' process) that even the most sanguine in 1946 could not have hoped for. In consequence, generations, unborn before the fifties, have learned to cherish a treasure in our Irish folk music, which is unique in Europe.

In this we have seen a most important element of our cultural birthright both conserved and enriched and developed with pride in spite of the meretricious attractions of a hedonistic age.

## What future has the past?

After forty years of endeavour, I hope that the Old Carlow Society will continue to contribute to the study and conservation of our culture and to promote more useful research into the social fabric of the past. This means, as the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy said in another context, that "the torch will be passed on". The generations since 1946 must accept it.

Let us remember that history should be the seamless garment of the past. Political, social, economic and intellectual history in their various manifestations do not exist separately. They are interwoven in a fabric that includes them all.

Whatever else it is history must at heart be story of the changing fortunes of men and human affairs. If we remember that headline in the Old Carlow Society's fortieth year and act upon it, we shall still be flourishing in the years to come.

# Many Happy Returns

By Fr. P. J. Brophy

**T**HE Old Carlow Society, in celebrating its fortieth birthday, can reflect on the fact of survival in a time of unparalleled change as an achievement to be proud of. Many of the founding members are still happily with us. We salute the memory of enthusiastic supporters Monsignor William Miller, Archdeacon Ridgeway, Victor Hadden, John Ellis, Thomas Hayden, Edward Boake among others.

Carlow itself has been making history during these forty years, transformed as it has been into a flourishing, bustling industrial centre and an ever more attractive shopping centre. It is interesting to recall that the Buchanan report commissioned as a blue-print for provincial development did not list Carlow as a growth area.

## An important market town

After the second world war Carlow was still an important market town with the bonus of the boot factory, the sugar factory, Corcoran's mineral water factory and the razor blade factory in Hanover. Thompson's was the oldest manufacturing factory in town and seemed to be destined for further expansion. Tullow and Dublin streets were the major shopping areas with many old Carlow families conducting businesses that had been part of the town's life for several generations. There was a charm and a sense of tradition in the shopfronts which is now only a memory as almost all the old shops have given way to the supermarket and the take-away, both more influenced by American models than Irish styles.

When the Old Carlow society was launched in the 1940s it was possible to take an old directory of Carlow in the 1840s and follow it house to house and identify former and present occupants. Today such a task presents

insuperable problems. Many of the old buildings have been demolished; the family grocer and the independent draper have been pushed out by the multiple store which offers comfort, convenience and variety under the same roof.

The industrial life of Carlow today is dominated by Braun, Lapple, the Sugar Company, and some smaller manufacturing units clustered around the industrial estate. The social life of Carlow has been transformed by TV. Two cinemas in the 1940s were thronged twice nightly. Dance-halls were frequented. Pubs have proved to be better survivors. The disco and the singing pub cater for youth and the not so young who are musically minded. Sport of all kinds is well catered for. Interest in games grows all the time and some Carlow athletes are well known at home and abroad.

The achievements of the Old Carlow society have been substantial as the volumes of the society's journal attest. It would be hard to evaluate the amount of pleasure and information associated with the meetings of the society and their regular summer outings. Carlovians have learned to read their own landscape, to look with appreciative eyes upon its monuments, to sense the richness of the past of the Barrow valley and to identify with it.

Carlow has become an important educational centre with fine new schools, the third level regional college, and a wide choice of post-primary school opportunities. The oldest seat of learning in the town is St.

Patrick's college which is no longer known to the Carlovians by the crocodiles of close on 200 students walking out of town on Wednesdays. Seminarians are not as plentiful as they used to be. Carmelite and Capuchin friars have established student houses in town to add to the variety of religious personnel and enrich an already venerable tradition. The Liturgy Institute, housed in a portion of the seminary buildings which served as a lay college up to the 1890s, brings to the town students from all over the world and is a resource centre for diocese and country.

## More research is needed

When the Old Carlow society was founded the ultimate aim in the minds of many active at its launch would have been the preparation of a history of the town. Nobody has yet undertaken that task. Much of the ground has been covered but more researchers under the guidance of university professors must publish studies on such topics as Carlow in 1798, the landlords of the Barrow valley, the progress of farming and industry, the effect of emigration. Valuable work has been done in indexing the parish registers, preserving memorials of the past in the Carlow museum, publishing a study of changes in Carlow house ownership. A director of a school of Carlow history is what we need most of all to channel youthful curiosity into fruitful areas of research.

Carlow, 8th November.

Last Thursday was sold in this market, a monstrous large eel, it weighed above 40 pounds, measured in length upwards of 6 feet 2 inches, and round the thickest part of the body 12 inches, with only one eye, and that placed in the back part of the head, with a spike 13 inches long growing out the forehead, resembling a large cannon.

*From Walkers Hibernian Magazine, 8th November 1788.*

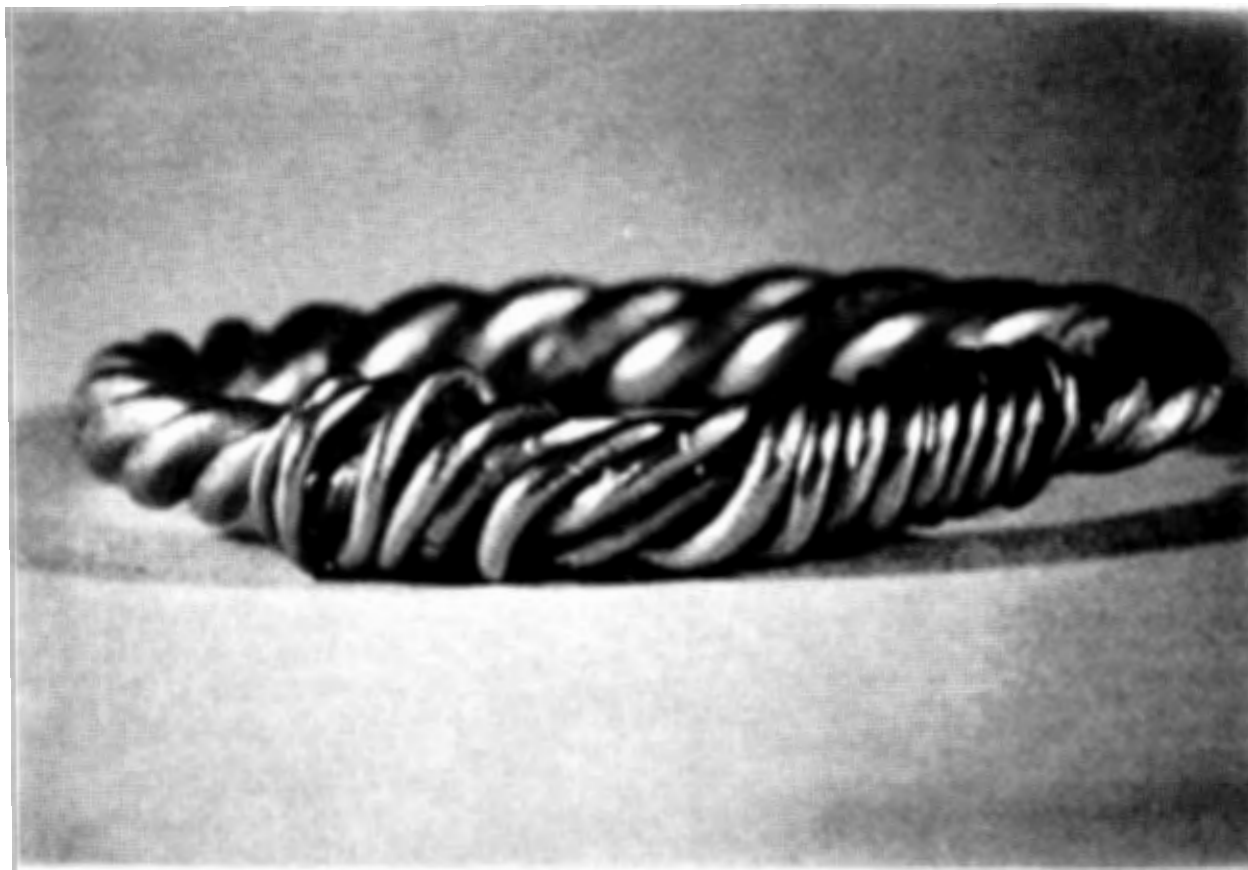


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# Ratheadon Viking Gold Bracelet

By Mary Kearney

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*Photo reproduced by permission of National Museum.*

**I**N January, 1846, my great grandfather, Patrick Kearney of Ratheadon, Co. Carlow received the sum of £50. 11s. from the Royal Irish Academy “for the purchase of a convoluted Gold Bracelet”. (It is noted that in the year April 1845 – April 1846 a total of £68. 19s. was paid out for antiquities, so that the Ratheadon bracelet represented a considerable portion of the annual budget. By today’s prices, it would be of the order of £20,000-£30,000).

My sister and I grew up with the story of the finding of the bracelet and that it was sold to the National Museum in Dublin. It seems it was found during digging of a field we called the Lock Field, and we often played there and made up stories of finding another “chunk of gold”.

The bracelet hung in the horse-stable for some time regarded as a piece of rusty metal, until a travelling salesman saw it and recognised it as gold after scraping it with his penknife. He was given a piece of the convoluted gold wire and he advised my great grandfather of its value.

We do not know how the museum was approached, or how the transaction took place, but I like to think the money received enabled my family to survive the famine and its aftermath.

When I finally visited the National Museum in 1972 and saw the bracelet the label stated *Viking bracelet found in Ratheadon, Co. Tipperary, about 1846*. I informed the museum authorities of the above facts regarding its finding by my great grandfather.

Subsequently, I entered into correspondence with them, and was supplied with photographs and the information regarding the purchase price. So please visit the “Ratheadon Bracelet” – the heaviest surviving Viking-period gold ornament in Ireland.

# Two Hillforts at Knockscur and Ballinkillin, Co. Carlow

By Thomas Condit and Michael Gibbons

## The Hillfort at Knockscur

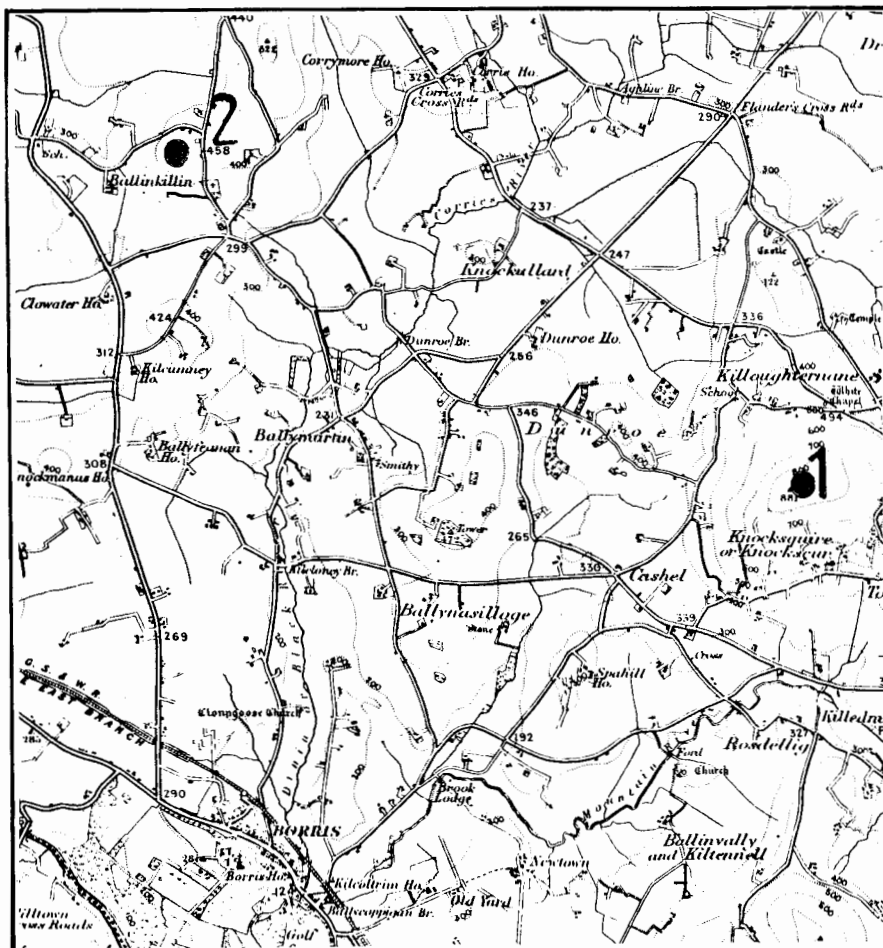
**T**HE site is located on a prominent hill  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-east of Borris. It straddles the boundary between two townlands, Knockquire and Knockscur (barony of Idrone East; O.S. six-inch sheet Carlow 19, 85.5cm from east and 9.3 cm from south; national grid reference 27747 15349; sites and monuments record no. CW 19:65). See figs. 1 and 2.

The site is located above the 800 ft contour line and is a hillfront of the univallate variety. It is sub-circular in plan and its dimensions are approx. 101m north to south and 112m east to west. The enclosure is dissected by two modern field fences, one running north to south and the other, forming the townland boundary, running approximately east to west. The section of the rampart in Killoughternane townland has been largely destroyed. However, a modern field fence follows the line of the rampart's outer face in this sector.

The wall which made up the enclosing rampart has disappeared to a great extent but its foundations are easily traceable on the ground. It consisted of an inner and outer facing of large stones filled with a rubble core. The original entrance appears to be at the west-south-west section of the enclosure. The entrance gap is 3.1m wide. The interior of the site shows signs of recent cultivation evidenced by lazybeds running north to south. Elsewhere there is intermittent rock outcrop, particularly in the central area. The site shows no definite surface evidence for occupation. However, on the hillslope adjoining there are several other sites and traces of old field fences which may or may not be contemporary with the hillfort itself.

## The Hillfort at Ballinkillin

The site is situated on a low hill about a quarter of a mile north-west of Ballinkillin



*Fig. 1: Map showing location of Knockscur Hillfort (No. 1) and Ballinkillin Hillfort (No. 2).*

*Based on the Ordnance Survey by permission of the Government. (Permit No. 4705).*

crossroads in Ballinkillin townland (barony of Idrone East; O.S. six-inch sheet, Carlow 19, 36.5cm from east and 36.2cm from south; national grid reference 27224 15625; sites and monuments record no. CW 19:27). The field in which the site is located is known locally as 'the cashel'. See figs. 1 and 3.

The hillfort is sub-circular in plan and its dimensions are approximately 267m north-west to south-east and 225m north-east to south-west. It is located above the 400ft contour and its ramparts consist of a double bank with intervening ditch. These are best preserved at west and south-east. Elsewhere the ramparts have been removed or defaced. The distance between

the outer and inner ramparts is approximately 13m and the maximum height of the outer bank is 1.6m. There are no indications of where the original entrance or entrances may have been. The interior of the site has been bulldozed leaving exposed a large section of granite bedrock. The bulldozing may also be responsible for the lack of occupation evidence surviving above ground. A stone field wall in the western portion of the site would seem to be modern.

## Comment

The discovery of two previously unrecognised hillforts in Carlow has for the first time identified important Iron Age settlement in the county. They

were discovered while analysing high-level vertical aerial photographs during the course of compiling a sites and monuments record.

The sites at Ballinkillin and on Knockscur are of great local and regional importance. Hillforts are the diagnostic site type of the Iron Age. They can be seen as standing earthworks in many parts of Ireland. They must, however, have formed only a small part of the Iron Age settlement pattern. The dispersed hamlets and single farmsteads of the period, which must have existed and in which the bulk of the population must have lived, have not as yet been positively identified in Ireland.

Hillforts vary considerably in size and form. Many are bounded only by a simple rampart as at Knockscur, others have multiple defences of great size as at Ballinkillin. Barry Raftery has divided Irish hillforts into three main classes:

CLASS 1: Simple, univallate sites of earth or stone, with or without an accompanying ditch.

CLASS 2: Sites with widely spaced, multivallate defences, (a) hilltop, (b) cliff-top.

CLASS III: Inland promontory forts.

The Carlow examples conform with his CLASS I and Class II(a).

What were they used for? The evidence from Ireland and abroad suggests a variety of uses. Their primary function would seem to have been defensive and they hint at an unstable, turbulent society. Some have little evidence of occupation at all, others would seem to have been occupied only occasionally. The larger sites such as Ballinkillin may have been major political and/or ritual centres and perhaps the nearest thing to towns that prehistoric society had. Others like the Knockscur example may have been local centres where only a few people lived on a permanent basis but which were used as a place of refuge and defence in times of danger. Some may have been the seats of local chieftains.

Owing to a lack of excavated examples the dating of these sites in Ireland is still problematic. They may range in date from as early as 700 B.C. to A.D. 400. Hillforts may have



Fig. 2: Knockscur Hillfort. Aerial photo by Thomas Byrne.

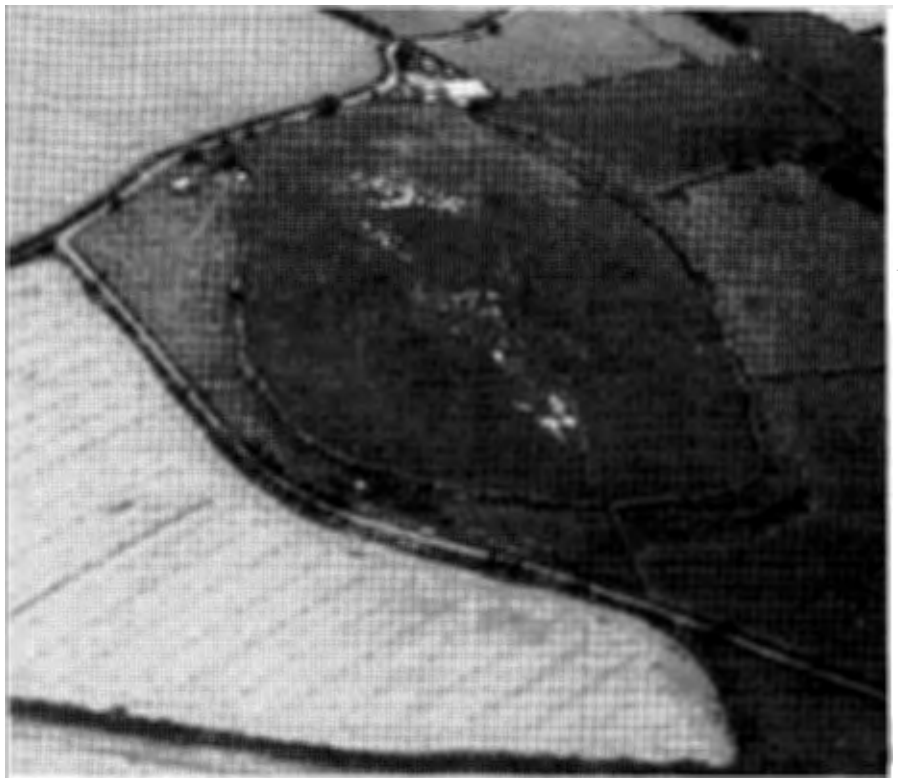


Fig. 3: Ballinkillin Hillfort. Aerial Photo by Michael Gibbons.

changed their form, size and function as political, social and economic changes took place. Perhaps they fell from fashion with the onset of the Early Christian period.

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On July 21, 1921 President Harding of the U.S.A. confirmed the appointment of the first woman judge to the District of Columbia Municipal Court. The woman was

# Judge Mary O'Toole of Hacketstown

Compiled by William Ellis

**M**ARY O'Toole, daughter of Nicholas and Bridget (O'Connor) O'Toole, was born at Scotland, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow on April 4, 1874. One of a family of eleven, five brothers and five sisters, she received her early education at the local National School. Mary O'Toole praised the teaching she had received in Hacketstown as more thorough than that provided in an equivalent school in the U.S.

Emigrating at the age of sixteen, she went to live with an aunt at Hornell, New York. She found work minding children at a doctor's house and spent her evenings studying stenography at a business school. Her employers occasionally gave her time off to attend lessons during the day, but they were doubtful if she would ever get a position as a stenographer. Unexpectedly her first opportunity came when a judge requested the school she attended to recommend a stenographer, being the best prepared, Mary was sent to his office and her work being satisfactory she was offered full time employment which she accepted.

Her good work attracted the attention of a Judge Monroe Wheeler who offered her a better salary to work in his office. It was through the encouragement of Judge Wheeler that Mary O'Toole became interested in the law. Whenever she had free time she would read a little Shakespeare or poetry. The Judge noticed this and said to her, 'that she was wasting her time', 'she should be reading law', Mary took his advice. Judge Wheeler always remained one of her best friends, when he retired he gave her his library of law books. (See box).

When Judge Wheeler encouraged Mary O'Toole to study law she was employed as official court reporter in Steuben County, New York at a salary of \$1,200, thought to be an outstanding sum at the time.

In 1905 she went to Washington to study at the



Mary O'Toole on her Graduation Day.

Photo Courtesy Peter O'Toole

Washington College of Law, and worked at a law office to support herself. Later she worked as a civil servant in the U.S. Forestry Service for three years. Graduating with a degree of Bachelor of Law in 1908, Miss O'Toole volunteered to go to San Francisco to open a Western Office for the Forestry Service.

Returning to New York in 1909, she worked with a law firm for four years. 1913 found Miss O'Toole back in Washington where she opened a law office of her own. On the occasion of her appointment as a Judge in 1921, one of the many congratulatory messages she received recalled the first case she had at court, when she defended a lady who was sued for breaking a lease and won the case. The opposing lawyer on that occasion, a Mr. Leo A. Rover, in his message said:— "I well remember your first active experience in court when I was the victim of your superior legal ability. It is to me then, most gratifying that President Harding now realises, as I have long since realised, your eminent fitness for a position requiring undoubted honesty, unquestioned integrity

## ONE GOOD TURN ...

The following anecdote was recounted by Judge O'Toole in the course of her "Washington Times" interview:—

"One reason for Judge Wheeler's interest in my success was because of a certain experience in the life of his revolutionary grandfather. Capt. Silas Wheeler who was captured by the British forces and imprisoned in Tralee. He and his companions were assisted in their escape, in order to get to Paris, by the Irish patriot, Henry Grattan, who was always glad of a chance for an Irishman to outwit the British. From Paris, Benjamin Franklin assisted Captain Silas Wheeler to get home to America. But before leaving Ireland Captain Wheeler said to Grattan, 'What can I do for you in return?'

And Henry Grattan replied with ready Irish wit. 'If you ever have a son name him for me'.

After his return Captain Wheeler married in good time and he did have a son whom he named Henry Grattan Wheeler, and thus 'Henry Grattan' became a family name of the Wheelers. So a decendent of Captain Silas Wheeler never misses an opportunity to do a good turn by the Irish, and Judge Wheeler found his chance when Miss Mary O'Toole became his stenographer".



*Aine O'Toole, great-grand niece, outside the house at Scotland, Hacketstown, where her famous predecessor was born. The house is now the home of Mr. Peter O'Toole and family. Peter is a nephew of the late Judge Mary O'Toole and he remembers her last visit to her old home in 1924.*

*Photo: W. Ellis*

and legal learning of a very high degree".

While a judge she devoted much of her time to the juvenile court. A lawyer described her judicial personality as quiet and easy-going, almost pleasant, but firm, when she made a ruling, it stuck.

Judge Mary O'Toole in her busy life did not confine her interest to law. She was one of the founding members of the Washington Women's City Club, becoming its first president. The Judge was very active in promoting women's rights. Some of the other organisations to which she belonged were: Washington branch of the American Association of University Women, The League of Women Voters, the Women's National Republican Club, the League of Republican Woman of the District\*, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Judge O'Toole was a trustee of the Community Drama Club of the District, and a member of the Catholic Actors' guild of America.

The legal organisations of which she was a member were:—

\*District of Columbia

the American Bar Association, the National Association of Women Lawyers and the Women's Bar Association of the District.

In the course of an interview, published in the Washington Times in 1922, Judge O'Toole related the following experience to the interviewer:— "When I returned to Washington to open my office I joined the Chamber of Commerce. Women had joined before but they didn't come to the meetings".

"I went to eight meetings alone. I begged the men to bring their wives, their sweethearts, but at first no one came. It was very hard for me to be the only woman there, but I had paid my dues, 20 dollars, and I said now I am going to try it out".

"At the following annual meeting I was elected Chairman of a sub-committee, and from then on women began to attend meetings". "Women have now revolutionised the Chamber, at the last meeting there were 400 men and 100 women".

In spite of her many commitments, Judge O'Toole still found time to pursue her

hobby, knitting for the Red Cross.

On the occasion of her retirement from the Bench, through ill-health in 1936, the following tribute appeared in a newspaper:—

"Judge Mary O'Toole was the first woman to become a Judge in the District and to her successor, she leaves a record for meritorious performance of duty, combined with the deep affection of the community, which will be hard to surpass".

"Her gallant recovery from serious illness suffered during her term, has been the source of great satisfaction to her many friends, who will not recognise, in her leaving the Bench, any break in the ties which have endeared her to Washington".

Judge Mary O'Toole's last years were dogged by ill health, and she died on the 24th July, 1954, after having spent the last fourteen of her eighty years in hospital.

Her last visit to her birthplace was in 1924.

Sources: *The Nationalist & Leinster Times, Washington - Past and Present, A History Vol. V, 1932; Who's Who in the Nation's Capitol, 1921-22 and 1930 edition; Newspaper cuttings from District of Columbia Public Library, Martin Luther King Memorial Library.*

# *Irish Place and Field Names in Co. Carlow*

Some Irish Place and Field names, collected, translated and explained by TOMMY CLARKE

<b>Name in Irish</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Townland</b>	
An Bearna Buidhe	The Barnabee	Dranagh	Yellow Gap
Garraigh Caol	Garrakeal	Dranagh	Narrow Garden/Narrow enclosed field
Cnoch Cluain Each	The Hill of Cloonagh		Hill of the Horse's Meadow
Mullán an bFiadh	Mullaunavee	Mullaunagown	Sloping field of the Deer. (In Co. Carlow Mullán is a sloping field: i.e. sloping down from a hill)
Taoidhin Bheag	Tianveg	Mullaunagown	Little Mill Pond
Cnoch an Mhacha	Knockavacka	Slieve Durda	Hill of the Cattle Field/Milking Place
Béitín	The Baiten	Ballybeg	Reclaimed land. Grass and weeds were collected into heaps and burned, ashes spread over ground as manure
Pollach	Pullock	Kilcoltrim	Land full of Hollows
Laitheach	Lattick	Ballinalour	A muddy/miry place
Lackeneallaig	Spahill		Hillside of the Cattle (old name of Spahill)
Pairc Leathan	Partlehan	Rosdillig	Broad Field
An Garraigh Scioból	The Gorryskibowl	Dranagh	Garden or enclosed field of the barn
Gort na Heornan	Gortnahorn	Dranagh	Barley field
Sean Garraig	Shanagarry	Ballyknock	Old garden (old in the sense that it had not been tilled a long time)
Loiscaighe	Laskees		Burned. Named from the practise of burning off weeds and undergrowth for tillage purposes.
Fear Breaga	Farjayga (local pronunciation)	Dranagh	Literally a false man. A name commonly applied to a Gallán or Standing Stone, from a distance the stone would appear to be a man
Cruach an Mhacha	Crookavocka	Marley	Stack of the cattle field/milking place
Cruach na hAbainn	Cruacnahabinn	Ballycinnigan	Mound of the river
Coart Óg	Coortogue	Kilcoltrim	Joint occupation of land. Perhaps a joint occupancy and tillage of land. Og=diminutive
Cruachín Eallaigh	Crickenelly	Kyle	Little hill of the cattle
Easca	Eascas	Dranagh	Sedgy Place/s (English plural added)
Tóchar	Tocher	Rahanna	A causeway, a raised road across a bog or marsh
Crann Mór	Crown More	Knockymullgorry	The Great Tree
Mullán Ruadh	The Mullaunroos	Mullaunagown	Sloping reddish field. Red from the colour of the vegetation, possibly heather
Gort na Pis	Gort na Pish		Field of the Pease/Vetch



Name in Irish	English	Townsland	
Cruach na Dógtha		Dranagh	Mound/Heap/Stack/Rick of the burnings
Gort an Stuaic	Gortastuck	Dranagh	Field of small hill
Garrhigh Lin	Garralin	Knockagarry	English Flax Garden
Cruitín	Cruiteen	Rathgeran	A hillock
Sliabh Ruadh	Sleerua	Rathgeran	Red Hill/Mountain
Feádán	Fidaun	Rathgeran	Streamlet
Móin na Gaoithe	Moonagee	Blackstairs	Windy/exposed bog
Stuaicín	Stookeen	Rathgeran	Little hill
Bán na Muice	Bawnamuck	Blackstairs	Lea field of the pigs
Móin Lom	Moonlom	Kilcoltrim	Bare Bog
Reilig	Relig	Rathgeran and Kilbranish	A cemetery
Bán	Bawnta	Ballyglisheen	Green fields
Sconnsa	Skunce	Walshestown	A drain. In this case a drain or crevice extending from summit to base of mountain which drains off flood water
Carrigbaun	White Rocks	Mount Leinster	
Móinfheár	Mooneyear	Mount Leinster	A meadow. (Aspirated F silent)
Carraigh Ruadh	Carrigrua	Mount Leinster	Red Rocks
Cnoch na Maoila	Knocknameela	Coonogue	Bare hill
Bán Óg	Bawnogue		Little lea field
Cnoch an Fhraoig	Knocknaree	Myshall	Hill of the heath. (Aspirated F silent, pronounced Raoigh)
Fearann Puill	Farranfoyle	Kilbranish	Land of the hollows
Locha	Lougha/Loca	Blackstairs	A sheep pen/fold
Carracháin	Curracaun	Kilcoltrim	Rough scabby land
Cúman (Diminutive of Cún)	Cummanafadra	Mount Leinster	Little valley/hollow of the prayer. Perhaps a secluded place where Mass was celebrated in Penal days
Leath Coill	Lahill	Kilcoltrim	Half wood
Buinne	Bunya	Cournellan	A place liable to flooding
Cnoch an Maighe	Knockamoy	Templepeter	Hill of the plain/level district
Móin on Bpoll or Móin na Bpuill	Bog of the Hollow or Bog of the (Bog) Holes	Kilcoltrim	

## Irish Place and Field Names in Co. Carlow - continued

Name in Irish	English	Townsland	
Móin Mhín	Moonveane	Crannagh	Level/smooth bog
Clochdha Stuaighaighe	Clocastucagh		Pointed/Pinnacled stone. In Co. Carlow the usual name for a grooved standing stone or Gallan
Staighre	Stirra		A terrace, a step. Na Staighre Dubh: The Blackstairs
Cúil Eallaigh	Cooleyalec Hill	Ballybeg	Corner/Angle of the cattle. Cool, Coole in Co. Carlow, its geographical situation is the rear or back of a hill
Milín	Meeleen	Kilcoltrim	Diminutive of Meall, a small hill
Riasc	Reask	Kilcoltrim	A marsh, low wet ground
Réidh Mullaigh	Revollack	Moanmore	Smooth/level height/summit
Ard na Buinne	Ardnaboinne	Tomard	Height of the rapid stream or height of the place liable to flooding
Easca Bháidhte	Askabawta		Literally a drowned sedgy place i.e. half covered with water

*My thanks to the following who supplied names: Darby Doyle, Leacan; Willie Hayes, Kilcoltrim; John Lawlor, Mullaunagown; Moses Murphy, Slievedurda; Tom and Michael O'Neill, Rathgeran; Morgan Byrne, Dranagh; Matty Ryan, Dranagh; Tommy Dobbs, Myshall; Mike O'Connell, Leacan.*



*A remarkable stone at Spahill has a crude representation of a human face, this stone was unearthed very near Ballynasilloge Cromlech.*

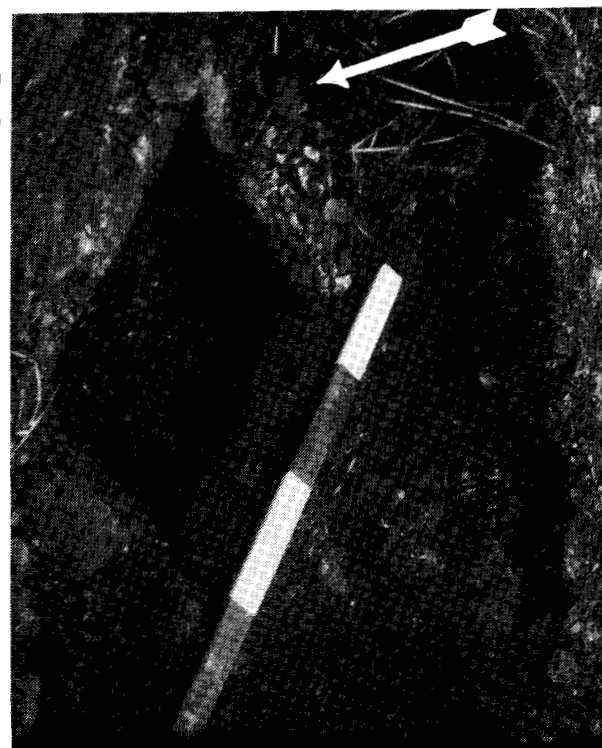
*Photos: W. Ellis.*

*This example of Rock Art is at Knockbrack, the stone has a large rayed and circled cupmark, together with what appears to be twelve small cupmarks.*



*In October 1986 an early Bronze Age burial cist was uncovered during ploughing operations on the farm of George Doran, Kilgraney. The cist was covered by a large granite capstone. Arrowed is portion of the food vessel.*

*Photo: W. Ellis.*



Martin Kavanagh (1838-1883)

## *A Carlow Emigrant to Australia*

By Brother P. J. Kavanagh

AS Australia prepares to celebrate its bicentenary in 1988 its people of European ancestry are becoming more "roots" conscious. Some 40% of them have Irish blood in their veins. Among these are the very numerous descendants of Martin Kavanagh of Monmore in the parish of Leighlin. Mrs. Kathy Siegmeier (née Kavanagh) of Springsure, Queensland, is a great-granddaughter of Martin and recently made contact with her Irish cousins. The families last corresponded about 1919. This article owes much to the information kindly supplied by Mrs. Siegmeier.

Tombstones in the Kavanagh burial ground at St. Lazerian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin, attest to the presence of Martin's family in the area since the early 1700s. His great-grandparents, John Kavanagh and Mary Dwyer were certainly living in Monmore in 1786. His grandfather, also a Martin Kavanagh married Mary Fitzpatrick. As far as can be ascertained only one son of Martin and Mary survived to adulthood, namely, Michael Kavanagh, father of Martin.

On 2nd June 1834 Michael Kavanagh married Mary Neil of neighbouring Banagagole. They had three children: John, baptized 11th Oct. 1835; Martin, our subject, baptized 10th June 1838; and Mary, baptized 6th May 1842<sup>1</sup>. John would remain on the family farm, Martin was destined for Australia and Mary for the U.S.A.

### **Famine Time**

The young Kavanaghs attended school in Banagagole. A John Kavanagh (no relation) conducted a school there very close to Hanlon's or Tim's Cross. Brennan's "Schools of Kildare and Leighlin" describes the school as it was in 1824, some twenty years before the Kavanaghs attended it:

"John Kavanagh. Roman Catholic. Pay School. Income (annual) £20. School house of

stone and clay; cost £5 (to build). Average attendance: Summer 1824 — Males 31, Females 20; Established Church 2, Roman Catholic 49."

Martin's brother John recalled in his old age how he had to turn back home one morning because a cross gander blocked his path! What luck! It was no small feat in those Famine times for Michael and Mary Kavanagh to put together the fees necessary

to educate their children. Attendance would have been intermittent, as the exigencies of a family farm permitted. Neither Martin or John became proficient spellers, but they acquired a well-rounded if somewhat formal letter-writing style and Martin's mastery of simple accounts no doubt contributed to his later advancement in Australia.

Martin was seven years of age



*Martin Kavanagh (1838-1883) and his wife Mary née Creagh (1845-1908) probably on the occasion of their marriage, 24th Jan. 1870.*

*(Photo courtesy of Mrs. Kathy Siegmeier (née Kavanagh), their great granddaughter).*



when the Great Famine struck. His older brother, John, recalled the details for later generations of the family. In 1845 when the blight began to stalk the land the Kavanagh's potatoe crop was in Páirc na bPis (the Vetch Field — many fields in the area still retain their Irish names) and was untouched. The 1846 crop however, failed completely. When the Government finally got round to supplying disease-free seed potatoes the people scooped the eye and a small portion of surrounding flesh out of them and ate the remainder. The diminished seedlings grew with great success<sup>2</sup>. The Kavanaghs were fortunate in that they had 36 statute acres and didn't have to depend entirely on the potatoe for sustenance. Many of their neighbours weren't so fortunate: On Jan, 3rd 1847 the Old Leighlin Ladies Relief Committee reported to Dublin Castle that "There are 400 able-bodied paupers in this district. Of these 175 only can be employed (on Government-sponsored relief works presumably). So there are 225 persons representing 1125 dependants without work or means of support and actually perishing from want."<sup>3</sup>

The Kavanagh's had no sooner got over the horrors of the famine than tragedy struck again. Martin's father, Michael, died suddenly in his late thirties leaving his widow to cope with three young children at such a miserable period of our history. Michael had spent a Saturday working in the Bottom Field. That night as he shaved and prepared for Sunday Mass he dropped dead.<sup>4</sup>

### Emigration continued apace

During the 1850s emigration from Ireland continued apace. People could no longer trust their lives to the potatoe and jobs were few in a land that had been scarcely touched by the Industrial Revolution. The system of sub-dividing farms among sons had to cease — a few acres were no longer viable. The Kavanagh farm had already been sub-divided in 1812 between Martin's grandfather and great uncle, Martin and Denis Kavanagh<sup>5</sup>. Martin's elder brother, John, was given the farm. Martin was left with the choice of remaining poor and unmarried in Ireland or of

seeking his fortunate and a family life overseas. About 1859 John married Mary Dooly of Ardough, Bilbao. Martin appears as sponsor for their eldest son, Michael, in April 1861 — the last written record we have of him until 1867<sup>6</sup>. By 1865 John and Mary had three children and it became all the more evident to Martin that emigration was the only solution if he was to make a go of life. He opted for Australia.

The traditional 'wake' was held for him the night before he left home. Peig Sayers says of emigration in those days "Ba chosúil leis an mbás é." It was like death. Few ever returned. Hence the 'wake'. Martin's was held in a thatched barn in the farmyard. During the night he developed a colic. His neighbour, James Hughes of Monmore, had a rather unorthodox cure. He held Martin upside down and the pain left him!<sup>7</sup>

### Three month journey

Sad farewells were made at the railway station in Muine Bheag next day as Martin departed to catch his boat, probably from Liverpool. All attempts to discover Martin's name on ships' lists have so far failed. Probably he was government-assisted. The journey, under sail, would have taken three months. An excellent description of the passage to Australia in the days of sail is contined in "*The Long Farewell*" by Don Charlwood (Penguin Books, 1981).

In 1867 when Martin next appears in records we find him on a sheep-station, called "Cullin-La-Ringo" (Aboriginal for "Lost and Found"), in the vicinity of Springsure, now the county town of the Shire of Bauhinia in Queensland<sup>8</sup>. The explorers Leichhardt and Mitchell had opened up this area in 1844-45. Settlers soon arrive and sheep-stations were established. In 1861 Horatio Spencer Wills acquired "Cullin-La-Ringo" station.

The town of Springsure (pop. 900) dates its foundation to 1859 and developed as a depot for carriers bringing wool to the coast and returning with supplies to the settlers. Folklore has it that the town got its name when a settler told his Irish

employee to bring his stock to drink at the spring. "Sure!" replied the Irishman, and a placename was born. Nowadays the area is renowned for its "Virgin Rock", a rock formation in the mountains said to resemble the Madonna and Child. Nowadays tillage has largely replaced the sheep farming of yesteryear.<sup>9</sup>

### Horatio Spencer Wills

Wills was the son of a ship's chandler in Sydney. Born in 1811 young Horatio spent his youth as a seaman on trading vessels and whalers. In the 1830s he settled as a grazier in his native Victoria and became an M.P. in the first Victorian Parliament. In 1852 his grazing enterprise collapsed when his workforce deserted him to join the gold rush. In 1859 he decided to make a new start in Queensland and acquired "Cullin-La-Ringo" station.<sup>10</sup>

In 1861 he set out by sea for Brisbane. From there he travelled overland with a party of twenty-five, including his son Tom, workmen and their wives and families. The Irish surnames Ling, Mahony, Manyon, Moore and Kenny appear among a list of his workforce. He bought sheep along the way and by the time he reached "Cullin-La-Ringo" on the Nogoia River early in October he had a flock of 10,000.

### The Wills Massacre

Horatio had lived in harmony with his Aboriginal neighbours in Victoria. Blacks and whites had got used to each other. Along the route to "Cullin-La-Ringo", however, he had been warned that the Queensland Aborigines were not yet used to whites and to keep them at a distance. He naively ignored this advice and allowed them free access to his camp. Two weeks after his arrival, on the afternoon of 17th Oct., the blacks attacked and killed 19 of the Wills party, including Horatio himself. Tom, his eldest son, and five others escaped — some hid and others were mercifully absent. This was the largest massacre of whites by blacks in Australian history.<sup>11</sup>

Tom Wills was now left with the job of building up the station. He had been to school in Rugby where he captained both the cricket and rugby teams. Later at Cambridge he captained the cricket team. When he returned to Victoria in 1857 he was asked to manage the State cricket team and in particular to prepare them for their annual matches against their arch-rivals, New South Wales. He soon experienced the need for another sport to keep his cricketers fit during the winter — some sport that would not cause injuries to his men. He and his cousin, Henry Harrison, came up with the Australian Football code, a first-cousin to our own G.A.A. code. They founded the Melbourne Football Club in 1858. Tom Wills was its first captain. When he accompanied his father to Queensland in 1861 Harrison remained in charge and became known as the Father of Australian Football.<sup>12</sup>

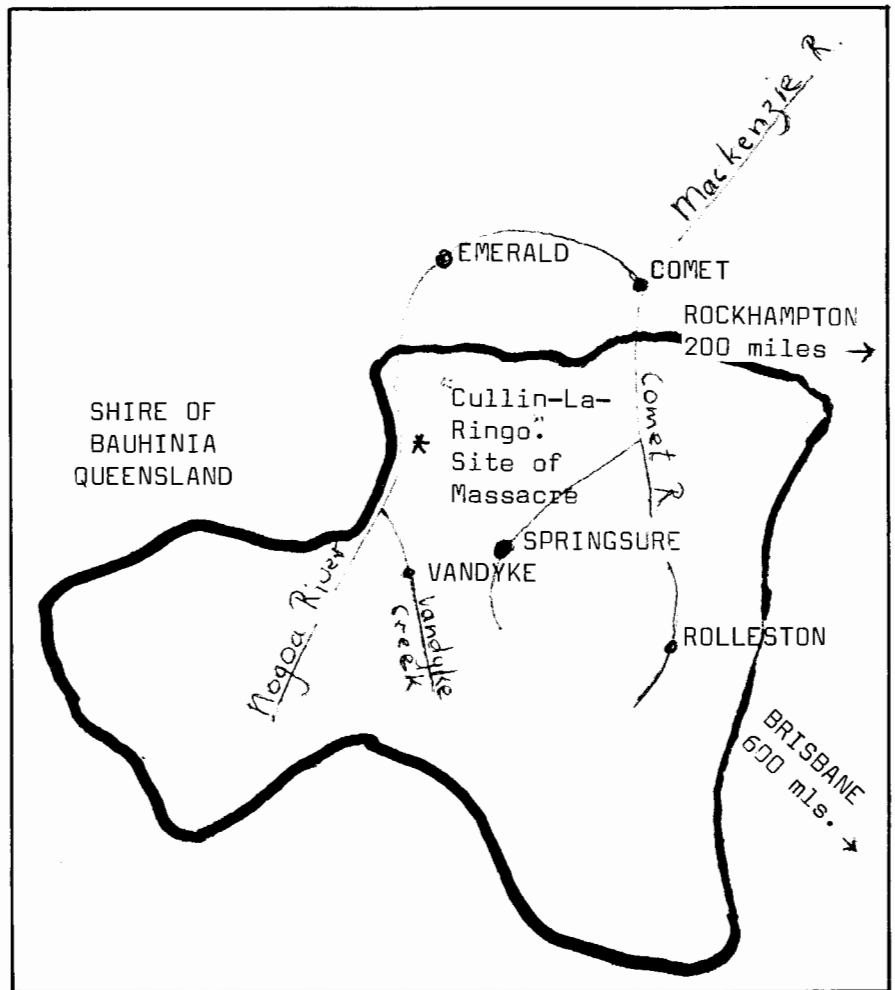
## Returned from Germany

About 1865 Tom's younger brothers, Cedric and Horace, returned from school in Bonn, Germany. Tom left "Cullin-La-Ringo" and by 1870 Cedric had taken over the running of the place.<sup>13</sup>

According to his death certificate Martin Kavanagh was in Queensland since 1865. Whether he went to work for the Wills immediately is uncertain. Brian Wills, a descendant of the original family, says that "The earliest record I have found of him in the Wills papers is in 1867 when he was with Cedric Wills droving 10,000 wethers from 'Cullin-La-Ringo' to the Victorian border."

In 1869 the area suffered from extreme rainfall and flash floods were a menace. It was probably at this time that Martin wrote home to Monmore telling John how he had been awakened one night by his dog barking to find the flood waters rising up around his bed.<sup>14</sup>

Letters from John would have brought sad news. Two of his five children died in infancy. His wife, Mary Dooly, died about 1872 after the birth of a little girl. Some years later Martin would have been overjoyed to hear of his brother's second marriage, to Julia (or Johanna) Brennan of



Cruttonclough, Coon, Co. Kilkenny.<sup>15</sup>

Martin married Mary Creagh on 24th Jan. 1870 in old Saint Joseph's Church, Rockhampton. The officiating clergyman, Rev. Patrick J. McGuinness, was Irish and obviously from the West for he made Martin spell 'Kavanagh' with a 'C' in the marriage register! Mary Creagh and her family had emigrated to Australia from Curraheen, County Limerick, about the same year that Martin left home. She was a servant in Rockhampton in 1870<sup>16</sup>. Later her family moved to "Whitefield Park" near Springsure. There the menfolk earned a living as carriers, plying between Springsure and Rolleston, the nearest railhead. The Creagh women did mixed farming at home and reared turkeys for the hotel trade.<sup>17</sup>

His marriage certificate describes Martin as a 'bushman'. About 1870 he became Cedric Wills 'overseer' or foreman and the two became firm friends. He and his wife settled into the overseer's cottage on "Cullin-La-Ringo".

Martin and Mary had six children: Michael Martin, born

1871; Patrick William John, born 1873; John, born 1875; Mary, born 1877; Catherine, born 1878; and Margaret Anne, born 1880.<sup>18</sup>

## Had great confidence

The Wills were quite impressed with the ability of their overseer and Cedric confided to his diary (date missing) "I have the greatest confidence in Martin Kavanagh's integrity and ability and I will leave him in charge while I am away from the station." On 20th Feb. 1875 Cedric was in Point Henry, Victoria and wired his brother Horace back home, "If you think Kavanagh able to take charge sack all spare hands after shearing and come down."<sup>19</sup>

Martin could turn his hand to many things and a great-grandson has inherited an ivory rule which belonged to him. His granddaughters, the Misses Sullivan, Springsure, have his account book from which the following entries (spelling uncorrected) are taken: (See Box next page).

In 1881 the Wills' property was advertised for sale but the sale wasn't proceeded with. The auction advertisement<sup>20</sup> gives an excellent idea of the type of place "Cullin-La-Ringo" was and of the activities of its inhabitants. "Cullin-La-Ringo" and "Telemon", and adjoining Wills' spread, consisted of over 61,000 acres carrying almost 64,000 sheep, 4,000 cattle and 285 horses. There were "dwelling houses, homestead, outoffices, outbuildings, overseer's cottage, men's huts, wool-shed, wool-room, wool-press, shearers' huts, stock and drafting yards, wash-pool with steaming sheds, etc." Martin Kavanagh must have been a very busy man indeed.

### Journey took twenty-one days

Distance was a problem for all concerned in the Bush. For Martin Kavanagh his parish church back home was so close that he could hear the church bell. Now his priest visited him on horseback on rare occasions. The nearest railway station was only three miles from Monmore. There was no rail connection to Springsure until 1886, some years after his death. The diary of Horace Wills details a horse ride to Brisbane in December 1866. The 558-mile journey took twenty-one days. Medical care and education were in their infancy. Martin's wife, Mary, and Mrs. Wills nursed each other in the confinements.<sup>21</sup> One needed a certain courage to survive in the outback.

On 4th Jan. 1882 Martin wrote to his bank manager and copied the letter onto the back page of his accounts book. By then he had a fixed deposit of £500 in the Bank of New South Wales. It must have seemed like a fortune to the emigrant of 17 years before. No doubt his aim was to purchase a property for himself

at some future date.<sup>22</sup> If so it was a case of man proposing . . . A little over a year later the family's dreams were shattered when Martin contracted typhoid fever and died on 26th April 1883. Doctor Symes, the local G.P., visited him on 22nd but medical science as then developed could do nothing for him.

He was buried in the station cemetery along with those massacred in 1861. In those days a priest visited Springsure on horseback very occasionally and none was available to conduct the funeral service.<sup>23</sup> Mary had a sandstone headstone surmounted by a Celtic cross erected over him. It read:

*Erected by his beloved wife in  
memory of Martin Kavanagh,  
who died 26th April 1883, aged  
43 years (recte 44).  
May he rest in peace.*

*A light is from our household  
gone  
A voice we loved is still  
A place is vacant on our hearth  
Which never can be filled*

*A loving father, true and kind  
He was to us in heart and mind  
A careful husband too as well  
While he on earth with us did  
dwell.*

In August 1873, when water from the new Fairbairn Dam was to flood the "Culling-La-Ringo" country Martin's grandchildren moved his tombstone to Springsure cemetery.

Cedric Wills commemorated Martin in verse:<sup>24</sup>

*In Memoriam  
of the late  
Martin Kavanagh  
Overseer*

*On Cullin-La-Ringo Station*

*One more is added to the litte  
Group  
Of Graves, down by the Willow-  
shaded Creek  
But darker than their shadow on  
the stream  
A cloud has fallen within one  
short, sad week.*

*For one who long was trusted,  
long beloved,  
Stricken in manhood's primelay  
down to die;  
And in the home once bright  
with happy smiles  
Are now the Widow's tear, the  
Orphan's cry.*

*For twenty years his busy life  
ne'er tired.  
Now he must quit the field his  
labours o'er  
For twenty years he guided and  
advised  
And now, his voice is hushed for  
evermore.*

*Calm be his sleep, while life  
flows on around.  
His sun has set, and toil gives  
place to rest.  
We would not wish him back to  
meet earth's trials  
And cares, no, not even she who  
loved him best.*

*May He who hears the ravens  
when they cry,  
Come near to bless even in the  
darkest hour;  
May He, who calls the fatherless  
His care,  
Be felt the Widow's shield, the  
Orphan's stay.*

### Co-executors of will

In fact Cedric himself acted as "the Widow's shield and Orphans' stay". He and Mary were co-executors of Martin's will and, until the children were old enough, Cedric looked after the Kavanagh's affairs. In July 1883 we find him writing to Doctor Symes: "When legally appointed (executors) we will send a cheque for amount of your a/c for professional attendance on the late Martin Kavanagh." Some days later he was in touch with the Colonial Mutual Provident Society, Brisbane, concerning a policy held by Martin.

On Jan 31st 1884, in a letter to a solicitor in Rockhampton, he summarised Mary Kavanagh's wordly assets: "Well as far as household furniture, etc., goes it would not be worth speaking of. The £500 Life Policy she may be obliged to make use of at some future date for support of herself and family as the stock — horses, cattle — would not be enough to support them, and the interest on the amount in the Bank of New South Wales would not be more than £36 per annum at 6% interest . . . Of course as long as the station remains in

		£	s	d
1879	Feb. 4 tins sardeens	0	6	0
	Aprl. 1 bag suggar 30 lbs.	0	12	6
	do. Gray Mair Duke & Bay Mair Julia, Princ	8	8	0
	May Cash on a/c tobaco, matches & other goods	5	0	0
1880	1 lb tobaco	0	7	0
118	1 box soap	1	12	6
	1 bag sugar 53 lbs. stamp	1	12	6
		0	0	2



the same hands, house rent, etc., is nothing; but if the station changes hands she may have to change her quarters also."

By 1886 Michael and Patrick, Martin's oldest sons, were old enough to go away to school. Cedric wrote to Rev. Brother Emelian, superior of the Marist Brothers' College in Sydney: "The two boys are the sons of our late Overseer, Martin Kavanagh. Their mother has lived here since the death of her husband and she and I were left Trustees of the Estate. They have just enough to live on and no more, but Mrs. Kavanagh, knowing it was their father's wish, would stint herself to let the boys have the benefit of sending them to a good school as here in the Bush there is no chance for Children. Would you kindly let us know what your terms are and what clothing, etc., you expect the boys to have — being so far also they could not very well get away home at Holiday Time — what is to be done in such cases? Also please say when the boys ought to be down."<sup>25</sup>

Michael and Patrick were accepted at the beginning of the 1887 school year. Michael got one year's schooling and Patrick two. John, the third boy also got



*Vandyke House where Mary Kavanagh and her family set up home about 1890. Photograph taken about 1903.*

two years schooling with the Marists.<sup>26</sup>

By the end of the 1880s the boys were old enough to help their mother and Mary Kavanagh selected a property of her own — "Van Dyke", on Van Dyke Creek southwest of Springsure. The boys worked the station for her. Her eldest daughter, Mary, entered the Sisters of Mercy as Sister Germaine in 1896 and worked in the Rockhampton area for over seventy years. The younger girls, Catherine and Margaret married John and Timothy Sullivan respectively, two brothers from Clonakilty who had emigrated to Queensland in 1881 and who had become extensive sheep farmers.<sup>27</sup>

### Continued to correspond

After Martin's death Mary continued to correspond with her brother-in-law, John Kavanagh of Monmore. Three of his letters to her survive.<sup>28</sup> He addresses her rather formally as "My Dear Sister" and when speaking to Mary of his wife refers to her as "Sister Johanna"! The letters are full of family and farming gossip. Here are some extracts (corrected):  
14th Nov 1903

"Well then I have to tell what I remember for the last sixty years and I have never seen as bad a prospect as we have on the present year. There was hardly one fine week in succession since the middle of August which made all crops very bad in their

produce . . . our vegetable crops, cabbages and turnips, have come to no perfection, all poisoned as the land became so cold, and as for the potatoe crop it is just as bad . . . May God in his mercy look to the poor."

20th July 1904

### Improvement in the colony

Mary had sent him photographs of her family. His wife had been ailing and "Father Coyle (P.P. Leighlin) used to call round to see her and he used to say 'Mrs. Kavanagh, you won't die this time,' and he used take great delight to look at the boys' and girls' photos . . . I was very glad to see in your letter the great improvement in the colony for the past year and also of the enlargement of your stock in cattle and pigs . . . Now I have the good tidings of letting you know that we had a very fine spring and summer and crops are looking very good . . ."  
18th Feb 1905

He had fallen off a ladder and apologises for not being able to write sooner. 'I had to be carried from the bed to the fire for a length of time . . . It was often Johanna spoke about having a letter written to you but I would not give consent until I would be on the improve . . . I never have seen as fine a winter, no frost or snow or much rain. We had some days during the winter just like the mild summer days. I am glad to know of you having so many cows and I must think butter making must be a profitable

**Springsure**

**ST. PATRICK'S**

**DAY**

**BALL**

FRIDAY, 15th MARCH  
9pm to 3am  
Hot Supper  
Music by:  
**COL FULLER**  
Admission \$15  
Phone: Springsure 220K

**RACES**

SATURDAY 16th  
MARCH  
5 race programme  
Commencing 1.30p.m.  
**PRIZE MONEY \$5,000**  
plus trophies  
Fashion awards

**B.B.Q. & DISCO**  
**AFTER RACES**  
**ADMISSION FREE**

*St. Patrick's Day activities, Springsure, 1983.*

# CARLOW CASTLE AND HER DAMASK WEAVER

THE December number of "Great Industries of Great Britain", published by Messrs Cassell, Petter and Galpin, contains the following very interesting account of Quin's celebrated tablecloth. We propose taking an early opportunity of referring at further length to the illustrious damask weaver, whose name and fame are inseparably associated with our town.

"Among the pioneers of the damask trade was James Quin, of Carlow, a man of considerable mechanical skill. He earned his livelihood as a weaver of fancy linens, as they were then known; and while engaged at his loom it occurred to him that it might be possible to embellish a table-cloth with a view of the old Castle of Carlow. The first step towards realising this idea was to make a

sketch of the building, and the next to mount his loom so as to produce the sketch in the cloth. As he did not wish the outside world to know what he was about, he resolved to seek only the assistance of his wife in carrying out his design.

Having instructed her in the operations at which she would be required to help, the work was proceeded with in profound secrecy. The fact that the door of Quin's house was now constantly closed, and the window of his workshop obscured with white-wash, had the effect of exciting the curiosity of his neighbours.

Soon extraordinary stories as to what was being enacted in the weaver's cottage became current, and it was ominously whispered that Quin and his wife were practising some black art. To such

a pitch were the minds of some members of the community stirred by the tongues of the gossips, that it was seriously proposed to make a descent upon Quin, and by drowning him in the river save the town from any risk of mischief likely to result from his being in league with the Evil One. Wiser heads counselled patience, feeling confident that Quin was worthily employed at some task that would bring honour to himself and the community. After encountering many difficulties in the course of his task, Quin was rewarded with success, and it was with no little feeling of pride that he unfolded to the gaze of his curious fellow-townsmen a six quarter tablecloth, having in its centre a finely executed view of Carlow Castle. The fame of the weaver soon got abroad, and people from even distant parts of the country flocked to Carlow to see what was generally regarded as a wonderful piece of work. The Irish Linen Board, which had been inaugurated a short time before, sent a special commissioner to Carlow to see the tablecloth, who spoke so highly of the work that the Board offered Quin an engagement as damask instructor. The terms of the engagement were set forth in the following resolution:

"That £20 be given James Quin for teaching eight young persons the mystery or trade of damask weaving, and that this Board will continue that allowance to him so long as they find he deserves the same". This was in 1712, and in the succeeding year a weaving school was built at Lurgan, over which Quin was appointed to preside. Here he constructed a loom embodying some improvements on the one by the aid of which he made himself famous, and received a special reward for his ingenuity. Under Quin's care there was reared a body of superior workmen, who, in turn, imparted their knowledge to others. Those who could work the damask-loom perfectly held an enviable position among the industrial classes.

## A Carlow Emigrant

*Continued*

business in Queensland. Butter making in Ireland is going to the bad. In Carlow where there used to be a couple of hundred firkins in the market several times in the year it has come to a couple of dozen firkins and the price is something about half what it used to be... I would like to know is Sister Germaine getting good health. Please remember me to her as I believe that some of her good prayers reached me... Now as I have to come to a close I and Sister Johanna and children join with fond love to you and all your family and I remain your ever loving brother (brother-in-law) John Kavanagh.

Mary Kavanagh died on 25th Sept. 1908 and was buried on "Van Dyke".<sup>29</sup>

Ten years later, towards the end of World War I, an Australian soldier cycled into John Kavanagh's yard in Monmore looking for "Uncle Johnny". He was George Kavanagh, son of Martin Kavanagh' eldest son, Michael Martin, on sick leave from the Australian unit in France. His Great Uncle "Johnny" cried tears of joy. George stayed for six weeks and gave old John a first hand account of what life

was like in the Bush. Some time later returning to Australia he wrote once to Monmore. Then all correspondence ceased.<sup>30</sup> Old John died in 1923. It wasn't until the "roots" phenomenon developed that the families again made contact and thanks to that this article was made possible.

1. Leighlin parish records.
2. Informant: John Kavanagh, Ballywilliamroe.
3. Relief Papers, Co. Carlow, Public Records Office.
4. Informant: The late Martin Kavanagh, Monmore. The exact date of Michael's death is unrecorded.
5. Registry of Deeds, 1812, Book 651, p.317. No. 449092/449892.
6. Leighlin parish records.
7. Informant: The late Michael Kavanagh, Monmore.
8. Wills Papers courtesy of Brian Wills, Springsure.
9. Springsure Centenary Booklet.
10. Dictionary of Australian Biography.
11. Springsure Centenary Booklet; Queensland Country Life, 26/9/1959, 26/7/1984.
12. Lawrie Kavanagh, greatgrandson of Martin, in "Courier Mail" newspaper, 1/2/1971.
13. Wills Papers.
14. A tradition recalled by the late Martin Kavanagh, Monmore.
15. Church and civil records.
16. Marriage certificate of Martin Kavanagh and Mary Creagh.
17. Springsure Centenary Booklet.
18. Civil records of Queensland.
19. Wills Papers.
20. Copy supplied by Mrs. K. Siegmeier.
21. Springsure Centenary Booklet; Diary of Horace Wills, 1866.
22. Informant: Miss Catherine Sullivan, Springsure, granddaughter of Martin Kavanagh.
23. Death certificate of Martin Kavanagh.
24. Copy supplied by Mrs. Kathy Siegmeier, Springsure.
25. Original letters in Wills Papers.
26. Informant: Brian Wills. Records of school fees paid appear in the Wills Papers.
27. Informant: Miss Catherine Sullivan.
28. Originals in the possession of Miss Catherine Sullivan.
29. Death certificate of Mary Kavanagh.
30. Informant: John Kavanagh, Ballywilliamroe.

*Carlow Sentinel, December 1878  
Contributed by James Moran.*

# Beauchamp Bagenal (1735-1802)

## His Portrait, His House, His Pistols

By John Bagenal

**M**Y grandfather, Philip Bagenal, (1850-1927) dedicated his private life to family genealogy and the history of the Bagenal family. In this he was much stimulated by his friendship with J. P. Prendergast (1808-1898), author of the *Cromwellian Settlement*<sup>1</sup> and later by an equally fruitful friendship with W. G. Strickland (1850-1928), well-known Director of the National Gallery of Ireland, (retired 1916) and author of *A Dictionary of Irish Painters*, (1914). Strickland himself was descended from Mary Bagenal (1709-1744) who was a half sister of the duellist MP, Beauchamp Bagenal and married Jarrard Strickland (1704-1791) as his first wife.

The researches of Prendergast and of Strickland greatly contributed to Philip Bagenal's knowledge of Bagenal family history but he did not write on the subject 'till near retirement from his post as Inspector of the local Government Board, Yorkshire.

### Opening chapters of family history

His first article was: "Sir Nicholas Bagenal Knight-Marshal" (read 27 January 1914) reprinted from *The Journal of the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, Part I, Vol. XLV, Series VI (Vol. V), 1st Quarter, March, 1915. This article formed the basis of the opening chapters of his family history: *Vicissitudes of An Anglo-Irish Family*, 1550-1800 (London, 1925). By this time my grandfathers health was failing — he was 75 — the result being that some errors occurred in the book mostly in the genealogical chart at the end. He was criticised by Strickland for not acknowledging the fact that his own grandmother Sarah (1771-1832) was illegitimate<sup>2</sup>. Sarah, daughter of Beauchamp Bagenal married, between 1785



Beauchamp Bagenal

and 1788, Colonel Philip Newton (d1833).

**Vicissitudes** brought together most of the sources of information then known about Beauchamp Bagenal; and they are extraordinary humorous and have been much quoted. I will refer later to these sources. But three ordinary matters of common interest were omitted in the book. First what did Beauchamp look like? There is no mention of a portrait in the book and only an oral tradition of reference to one in the family

*J. G. Bagenal, the author of this article, worked in McLysaght's Nursery in Mallow in the 1930's. He went to Kenya where he worked for the Department of Agriculture.*

to which I will return. Second, what did Dunleckney (his house) look like — I mean the old house which preceded the present one. Third, the question of duelling pistols. None were listed in the sale catalogue of Dunleckney in 1942 (commenced 23 March: John D. Palmer of Waterford), none were ever seen or heard of in the family by myself, and none referred to by Philip Bagenal in his papers. What happened to them?

We can now answer these three questions — the basis for this essay — for it is the ordinary things known about a man that brings him to life, so to speak, rather than the legendary and the extraordinary. Dunleckney tradition (in the 1930's when I visited it) had it that a portrait of old Beauchamp had existed in the house but had been burnt because his face (and presence) was so devilish. That was in the 19th century and the incendiary was probably Minnie Newtown (1842-1888) an evangelical spinster<sup>3</sup>. Even if this story is not true (there is no evidence that it is or is not) it tells us something of the moral view taken by Beauchamp Bagenal by (some) of his grand children and great grand children in the 19th century. Some hated him, some loved to hate him — others, mostly men, romanticised him. This leads me to the sententious comment that there is no better ancestor than a bad ancestor.

### Irish House of Commons

But there is another portrait. In 1780 Francis Wheatley composed the picture (oil on canvas, 64" x 85"): "The Irish House of Commons" depicting 148 individual portraits including Henry Grattan making a speech on the repeal of Poyning's Law. The picture is at Lotherton Hall, near Leeds and has been in possession of the Gascoigne family since the early 19th century (Francis Wheatley RA 1747-1801 — catalogue of 1965 exhibition). Sometime in the 1930s the acoustic architect, Hope Bagenal (1888-1979), my father, became interested in the picture as the only accurate view of the interior of the House of Commons as an auditorium, as it then was, not less than his interest in the portrait of his ancestor. He had the right hand side of the picture photographed. Beauchamp Bagenal (number 94 on the key) sits without a hat, third bench up, fourth man from



*Old Dunleckney*

the right. His face, and a formidable face it is, is in half-left profile. With prominent eye sockets, he looks straight before him, the expression stubborn not to say obdurate. He was in 1780 aged 55, and one is left with the strong impression that the face bears few marks of the ten commandments. The photograph shows with more clarity than the picture, the facial appearance of the MPs, recalling the historian Lecky's preoccupation with variations in facial appearance over the centuries. I note that, as such, it has scarcely been used by historians of the period.

### **Coloured sketch of house**

The *Morning Post* of 20 May, 1805, has it that "from the peculiar advantages afforded the artist the portraits of Members are allowed to be correct likenesses" (quoted in 1965 catalogue).

The house that Beauchamp Bagenal lived in, Dunleckney, was depicted by Captain Forbes Gordon<sup>4</sup> in a coloured sketch not long before part of the old house was demolished, or perhaps with

more probability the sketch was made of an earlier picture which has disappeared or possibly disintegrated. The sketch was photographed. I came across it in a scrap book of Bagenal/Newton family history compiled by Mrs. Richard Bagwell (d1937) wife of the historian and daughter of P. J. Newton (1819?-1895). The photo is reproduced here. It shows a plain stone building of two storeys and six or seven bays; no classical embellishments; front entrance with fan light which may or may not have been added at a later period. The roof is hipped at both ends and is given emphasis by identical chimney stacks at each end of the roof ridge, giving symmetry to the frontage. Behind and at right angle is a long lower range of buildings which appears to be much the same as the range of buildings behind the present house although the details are obscured by trees in the sketch. The front part of the house and the range to the rear form a T shape much the same as the present building.

The present Dunleckney Manor built in 19th century Tudor-Gothic style was designed by Daniel Robertson<sup>5</sup> and has

similar details to that architect's Carriglas Manor, near Longford. The oriel windows, slender polygonal turret and pronounced steep gables and tall Tudor chimneys are very similar. It must have been Daniel Robertson who proposed that the new Dunleckney be given the added and fictitious name of 'Manor'. *Vicissitudes* (p83) maintains that old Dunleckney was built by George Bagenal (d1625) and family tradition at Dunleckney had it that this house, or remains of it, were concealed within the far end of the long low range to the rear of the present Robertson designed house. But Philip Bagenal gives no evidence that George built the first Dunleckney. Furthermore the symmetrical fronted house shown in the sketch looks to my eyes as more likely to have been a stage two in the building history of Dunleckney, perhaps built in the late 17th century or early- to mid- 18th century. It was this stage two building which was demolished to make way for Robertson's romantic replacement. Thus, I would assert that the building history is much more complex than has hitherto been thought and the question of which Bagenal was



responsible for building the symmetrical front is of great interest. Was it Walter Bagenal (d1745), who laid out Bagenalstown, having married firstly Eleanor Barnwall — who brought with her considerable property? He might well have aspired to a better dwellinghouse.

But all is speculation. One thing is, I think, certain that the symmetrically fronted house shown in the sketch was the house that Beauchamp Bagenal dwelt in and had his tumultuous being. It was in this house that he opened casks of claret by shooting out the bung with a duelling pistol and it was from this house that he reviewed the Volunteers.

This brings me to the subject of duelling pistols and takes me back to the Strickland family mentioned above. In the 1942 catalogue of the Dunleckney sale there was no mention of pistols and there were certainly no duelling pistols at Benekerry in the 1930s. What had happened to them?

### Presented with duelling pistols

In 1985 my sister, Kate Havinden, while looking over Sizergh Castle, Cumbria, (home of the Stricklands) chanced on a notice saying that a brace of duelling pistols had been presented to Jarrard Strickland (1782-1844) by the celebrated duellist Beauchamp Bagenal on his going to the East India Company. The pistols were in fact locked away for safe keeping but I was shown them by a member of the family on a visit to Sizergh in October 1985. The pistols needed much cleaning and I gather this is now being done. The silver marks were then obscured. There was no makers name visible. The butts of the pistols were embellished in silver representing (aptly) an extremely angry looking face. The Jarrard Strickland, recipient of the pistols, was a grandson of the Jarrard Strickland who had married Mary Bagenal referred to above. In 1800 he was appointed a cadet in the East India Company Cavalry. He visited Ireland at the invitation of Beauchamp Bagenal and on being presented with the pistols



*Sarah Bagenal when newly married (miniature in possession of author).*

was advised characteristically: "Keep them, my boy, always on fullcock to defend the honour of your family and name". (Henry Hornyold-Strickland: *The Stricklands of Sizergh*).

This takes me back to Dunleckney and the strange fact, as evinced by the illustrated brochure and catalogue of the 1942 sale, that so few items have survived of the Beauchamp Bagenal period; no pistols, no volunteer uniform and very little Georgian furniture. The short answer is what Walter Newton (1790-1853), grandson of Beauchamp and also Walter's son P. J. Newton (1819?-1895) were both romantics and also pious. The former built the new Dunleckney and his son furnished and embellished the interior in the style (as he thought) suitable to the Tudor-Gothic exterior — as from the mid-Victorian standpoint. Georgian things were rejected, Jacobean and other heavy styles were preferred<sup>6</sup>. Consider number 126 in the catalogue of the sale, dining room furniture, "Superb Antique Sideboard of pearwood and oak, with shaped front and

shelf back supported by four finely carved female figures, the back enriched with panels in relief and two consoles. The frieze in Bacchanalian procession and supported by grotesque head consoles — 9' x 6'". The catalogue and photographs in it are worthy of a separate essay on the subject of the Newtons mid-Victorian taste. There are vivid photographs of the contents of drawingroom and library as they were in the time of Mrs. Blanch Vesey, the last owner. And I judge that these rooms had been little altered since P. J. Newton's day.

### Portraits of the family

Family portraits of the Bagenal family and most of the Newton portraits were not included in the 1942 sale. Most of these ultimately came into the possession of the Bagwell family of Marlfield, Co. Tipperary (sold 1985) and now in England. Of these the following would have been in Beauchamp Bagenal's house. One, Walter Bagenal, his father, and designer of Bagenalstown. Two, Walter's first wife, Eleanor Barnwall, who came from Drimnagh Castle, Co. Dublin. Three, Walter's second wife, Elinor Beauchamp from Ballyloughan Castle, near Bagenalstown, she was Beauchamp Bagenal's mother. Four, Ann Bagenal (d1731) who married Sir Gervase Clifton Bart. Five, Margaret Bagenal (d1734); she married Sir John Hales Bart. Both Ann and Margaret were sisters of Walter Bagenal. Duplicates of these two portraits are with the Ryans of Inch, Co. Tipperary. There were also two other interesting portraits of Elizabethan children which Dunleckney tradition had it were of Sir Henry Bagenal (killed at the battle of The Yellow Ford 1598) and Mabel Bagenal (who eloped with Hugh O'Neill). Both these portraits (six and seven) have been unaccountably lost — their fate having eluded all my enquiries. However, photographs are in my possession.

Two further portraits, once at Dunleckney, are now in the Bagwell collection: Bartholomew Newton (d1780) of Benekerry and his wife Ann Bernard. These

were the parents of Col. Philip Newton (1769?-1833) who married, 1785 or '88, Sarah Bagenal; — they lived at Dunleckney from 1802 till their deaths in 1832/33, when the house passed to their elder son Walter Newton. I have in my possession two miniature portraits of these two, in the style of Cosway, showing them about the time of marriage — she with ringlets and ribbons in her hair — he in a magnificent (but unidentified) uniform — looking devastatingly handsome. The Bagwells also have a portrait of her in old age — showing much of her father's obduracy of character and something of his face.

### Duel with Bagenal Harvey

Thinking of Beauchamp Bagenal, his portrait, his house and his pistols led me to try to verify Ryan's<sup>7</sup> assertion that he had fought upwards of half a score of duels. There are but three — with the possibility of a fourth — all mentioned in *Vicissitudes*. First, there is the duel with de Blacquire, Chief Secretary, in 1773. This showed Bagenal at his most foolhardy and he seems to have come out of it badly but it did show him as reckless of his own interest and "show utter indifference to the world and its opinions" (the two letters giving different descriptions by Edmond Malone to his brother and also by Harcourt to Rochester are quoted by Froude).

Second, (in presumed sequence though no date is available) is the rather absurd duel with Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey (executed 1798) as described in Barrington's *Historic Memoirs of Ireland* and also mentioned by Froude. This is interesting as containing one of the few examples of Bagenal's words — other than his speeches in the House of Commons. To take the words from Barrington's mouth "Mr. Bagenal stood Harvey's fire, and immediately cried out to him, You damned young villain, you had like to have killed your godfather — yes, you dog, or your own father, for anything I know to the contrary. I only wanted to try if you were brave. Go to Dunleckney and order breakfast: I shall be home directly".



*Col. Philip Newton, her husband (miniature in possession of author).*

This passage is I think an instance of what Froude called Bagenal's 'Admirable Crichton' role to young men. Regarding Bagenal's relationship all we know as fact is that Harvey was a great nephew of Bagenal, and probably a godson (Harvey's grandmother Martha was a sister of Bagenal's mother, Elinor Beauchamp).

The last recorded duel that I know of is the one fought with a neighbour — no date — mentioned by O'Neill Daunt when Bagenal (he says) was aged 79. (Wrong, Bagenal died aged 67 in 1802 according to his tomb-stone). Even so he was old, it was probably in the 1790s, because he had to fight sitting in a chair: the chair was shattered by his opponents bullet — the opponent (unnamed) being wounded. The cause of the duel was footling. The neighbours pigs had got into Dunleckney garden — an example, in reverse, perhaps of the poet Frost's line that good fences make good neighbours. But the thought obtrudes that Bagenal made a ferocious neighbour and age did not stale his infinite passion for burning powder.

As to Bagenal's 'Admirable Crichton' role we may dwell on

the following much quoted passage from O'Neill Daunt — another example of a snatch of Bagenal's words:

"In truth my young friends, it behoves a youth entering the world to make a character of himself. Respect will only be accorded to character. I am not a quarrelsome person — I never was — I hate your mere duellist; but experience of the world tells me there are knotty points of which the only solution is the saw handle. Rest upon your pistols my boys. Occasions will arise in which the use of them is indispensable to character. A man, I repeat, must show his proofs — in this world courage will never be taken on trust. I protest to heaven, my dear young friend, that I advise you exactly as I would advise my own son."

Bagenal's 'Admirable Crichton' role and the fact that his teaching 'Rest upon your pistols my boys' was already going out of fashion by the time of his death led me to look for examples of people (who had been involved with him) naming their children after him. There are several interesting instances of this trend. The 5th Marquess of Lothian, a General in the Army, married to an Irish woman, was one of Bagenal's executors (the other was Henry Grattan). Lord Lothian named his second son, Charles Beauchamp (1775-1816) and Charles Beauchamp named his own third son, Beauchamp — a Captain in the 55th Foot (1806-1872). Viscount Clifden (James Agar) at Gowran, Co. Kilkenny named his second son Charles Bagenal (b1769).

### "Beauchamp" as a Christian name

Within the confines of the family I have made a rough assessment of the occurrence of 'Beauchamp' as a christian name and found twenty instances amongst descendants of the original Beauchamp Bagenal and connected families: the most vital example amongst the more distant connections being the frequency of the name in the descendants of Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey, the first<sup>8</sup>.

The literary references to Beauchamp Bagenal are now surprisingly numerous<sup>9</sup>. But no new sources, that I know of, have



Old part of Duncleckney with Robertson's chimneys superimposed.

been discovered since those (sources) were gathered up in *Vicissitudes*. The two sources most quarried are Sir Jonah Barrington's *Historic Memoirs of Ireland*, 2 Vols, 1835 ed, Vol. 2 p26, and O'Neill Daunt's: *Ireland and Her Agitators*, 1845, in the 1867 ed, p10. This account also occurs in O'Neill Daunts *Eighty Five Years of Irish History* 1818, 2 vols, see vol 1 p8. Mary Leadbeater in *The Leadbeaters Papers*, 1862, *Annals of Balitore*, 2 vols, see vol 1 p117 is referring to her diary of 1782. Arthur Young's *Tour in Ireland* ed. A. W. Hutton (1976-79) 2 vols, see Vol. 2, p115 for list of absentee land owners (Beauchamp Bagenal, £7,000 pa).

After this we find a series of authors who find in Beauchamp Bagenal, a legendary Anglo-Irishman, a local 'king', a ferocious duellist, an example of idiosyncratic individualism, or sheer eccentric — as shown under note 9.

Walter Newton was aged 12 when his grandfather Beauchamp Bagenal died in 1802: he was aged 42 when he inherited Dunleckney on his mother's death in 1832. Between times he had been educated at Eton and

Christ Church, Oxford: and he had married, 1817, Ann Jocelyn. She was one of the six well-known daughters of the Hon George Jocelyn and his wife Thomasine Cole Bowen. It may well have been that they found the old house very run down. In particular the dining room may still have born the bullet marks where Beauchamp Bagenal had opened his casks of claret by shooting out the bung with his duelling pistols. It is sheer speculation, but this may have been one of the reasons why Walter and Ann decided to

demolish part of the old house and rebuild. For this couple were Victorian in spirit — albeit early Victorian.

My father, a late Victorian, was intensely ethical minded towards life and his ancestry. I have always thought it ironic that he should have had not only one, but two, dissolute duellists amongst his great great grand parents looking down over the rim of the 18th Century — so to speak. Beauchamp Bagenal was, of course one; the other was the song-writer Edward (Pleasant Ned) Lysaght.

#### NOTES

1. Some Prendergast papers and his correspondence with Philip Bagenal, together with draft materials for a Prendergast autobiography with introduction by Philip Bagenal are in the King's Inn Library (Manuscript Sources for the History of Irish Civilisation under Bagenal, Philip, H.).
2. Evidence of Sarah Bagenal's illegitimate origin is in an unproved will of Beauchamp Bagenal in my possession.
3. Some Extracts from a Commonplace Book of Minnie Newton (privately printed).
4. The painter may have been Captain Arthur Forbes Gordon (1844-1930) who married, 1876 Adeline (d1879) daughter of P. J. Newton, as his second wife, — or he may have been a relative. To be noted that three other members of the Forbes family from near Aberdeen married into the Newton family. See chart at back of *Vicissitudes*, also *Burke's Peerage* under Sempill, Baron.
5. Daniel Robertson, architect, see Mark Bence-Jones. *Burke's Guide to Country Houses*, Vol 1, Ireland.
6. But Mrs. Richard Bagwell (nee Newton) left it on record that the dining room chairs at Dunleckney were in the house in Beauchamp Bagenal's time, with 'other treasures'. They are illustrated in the Cat as lot 167, 168, itimised Charles II.
7. John Ryan: *The History and Antiquities of the County Carlow* (Dublin, 1833).
8. Beauchamp Bagenal Harvey and the occurrence of 'Beauchamp' and 'Bagenal' as Christian names common in the Harvey family see *Burke's Irish Family Records* (1976).
9. The following contain references to Beauchamp Bagenal, *TP's Weekly*, March 29, 1907, "A Little Portrait Gallery" by E. V. Lucas, viii 'King Bagenal' p402. Daniel CorKerry: *The Hidden Ireland* (1925) p33. Constantia Maxwell: *Country & Town in Ireland Under the Georges* (London 1940) p22. *Alumni Cantabrigienes Part II* 1752 to, 1900, Vol 1. Contained a brief note on his life. Note: he was at Trinity Hall, not Trinity as stated in *Vicissitudes*. Terence De Vere White: *The Anglo-Irish* (London 1972) p74, quotes from Barrington & Leadbeater Papers. *Journal of The Old Carlow Society, Carlovian*, 1975, see T. F. O'Sullivan's "Barony of Idrone" p12. This condenses Bagenal family history and is expansive on Beauchamp Bagenal — drawing on the well-known sources. R. B. MacDowell: *Ireland in the Age of Imperialism and Revolution 1760-1801*. (Oxford 1979). Catherine Caulfield: *The Emperor of the USA and other Magnificent Eccentrics* (London 1982). Michael McConville: *Ascendancy to Oblivion, the Story of the Anglo-Irish*. (London — Melbourne — New York, 1986) pps 155, 156, 159-60.

# St. Mullins Pattern Day

Pat Doyle. St. Mullins Muintir na Tíre.

*There Pilgrims Pray each  
Pattern Day  
And drink from out the fountain  
They walk around the sacred  
ground  
Beneath the Blackstairs Mountain.*

**T**HOSE lines were by an unknown poet hundreds of years ago in relation to Pattern Day at St. Mullins. During St. Moling's time Pattern Day was held on June 17th which incidentally was also the date of his death in 697.

So, Pattern Day at St. Mullins which is now held on the Sunday before July 25 each year has an unbroken line of over twelve centuries.

Tradition relates that the Pattern Day was always kept as a holiday in the South Carlow Area, and no-one would attempt to work in St. Mullins on that day. It is said that one particular farmer put his men to work in the fields on Pattern Day, and his wife who was known locally as the "Ramshagh Rua" brought the dinner to them. St. Moling appeared to them as they sat in the field in a circle eating. The

farmer got afraid and ran away, but he only got as far as Drana when he was turned into a pillar of stone. The stone is still called "Stuckan-na-Drana". His wife took a different direction but the "passed out" at a spot now known as the kill of "Ramshagh". The workmen also paid the penalty of death for breaking the tradition.

Many strong links with the past have been honoured over the centuries by St. Mullins people both at home and abroad. To this day thousands visit this famous place of pilgrimage, and many have found the healing powers of St. Moling through the waters of the Blessed Well as a cure for many ailments including eye diseases. In the recent past a young woman from the US had gone blind and there was no medical hope of recovery. She came to St. Moling's Well, and had her sight completely restored by the time she got back to her home in the US. She returned later to offer her thanks to God and St. Moling. She asked for her name to be kept secret.

Headaches — For generations

families have taken part in the ritual of putting the head under the spout in the ruins where the water flows from the well to prevent headaches for the future. We know one man who has been cured of migraine. Toothache — It's a well-known fact that you can be cured of toothache by taking a "handful of clay from outside the graveyard gate, carry it to Fr. Kavanagh's grave in front of the Penal Altar, put the clay underneath his tomb, take some clay from underneath the tombstone, put it in your mouth, hold on to it till you reach the spout in St. Moling's Well, wash out the clay with the water and your toothache should be gone by then".

## Honouring the Great Men of the Past

Pattern Day at St. Mullins has in many ways helped to keep alive the old tradition of "remembering our dead". Each year the graves of the men who died at many of the Battles during the '98 Rebellion are



*Irish Press photograph of the 150th Anniversary pageant of the 1798 Rebellion held at St. Mullins in 1948 - Terry Dalton (Fr. John Murphy), Jack Kavanagh R.I.P. (The Croppy Boy), Tomás Ó Broin R.I.P. (General Cloney).*



specially marked with plaques. During this year's ceremonies at the Pattern an RTE television camera crew filmed the scenes at the '98 mens' graves as part of a documentary in co-operation with Australian Television.

In 1938 Pattern Day was celebrated with a special dramatic presentation honouring the '98 men and their leaders, and linking in a special item on Aileen Kavanagh better known as the heroine in the celebrated melody "Aileen Aroon". She is said to have lived at Poulmounty Castle, which is in St. Mullins Parish, and the song was used by her lover Carol Daly to "coax" her out of the castle on the eve of her wedding to another.

It is recorded that ten thousand people attended the '98 celebrations in St. Mullins on Pattern Day, July 25, 1898.

The man who started it all — St. Moling — has been described as a man of many parts. The man of self-help, he dug the mill race from Glynn river to his mill at St. Mullins over a mile long on his own; he ferried the pilgrims across the Barrow from the Co. Kilkenny in his home made raft; he helped to build his own monastery with the help of Gobbán the Wright better known as the "Gobbán Saor".



Other participants in pageant.

He is said to have brought Rye into Ireland as grist for his mill.

### The Spirit Lives On

St. Mullins Pattern Day has, no doubt, helped the spirit of self-help live on. For weeks before the annual event, invitations go out from the homesteads to relatives and friends far from our shores inviting them back for the pattern and reminding them that "the Green" looked as well as ever. Relatives of those buried in the graveyard tend the

graves; Stephen O'Neill will see that the grass is cut; Larry Byrne will ensure that the National Flag will fly on top of the Norman Motte; others will see that the stand will be erected for Mass. We regret Larry Blanche will not be there in 1987 to help. May he Rest in Peace. And so the scene will be set for the greatest day in the lives of thousands of people from all over Ireland who converge on this lovely village on the banks of the Barrow on a particular Sunday in July to celebrate the Festival of the Pattern.

## Cloch an Bhreathnaigh Kilgraney

**T**HIS is a very fine dolmen, situated in a beautiful glen, on the Kilgraney side of the stream, which separates Clonmoney from Kilgreaney. It was called Cloch an Bhreathnaigh locally, but in the ordnance survey letters it is called Cloch an Bhrónaigh.

The covering stone which weighs about 15 tons has been prised off its original horizontal position and is at an angle of about 45 degrees to the ground but still rests on some of the supporting original stones. Old people remember seeing it in its original position.

Almost a hundred years ago\*, a local man dreamt there was gold under this cloch. He told the local priest, a Father Nolan of his dream and his resolve to dig for the gold. Father Nolan tried to dissuade him from his resolve

but he would not listen to his advice.

He got some quarry men from Ballyellen to help him and in the dead of the night removed the covering stone a little, so as to get more room to dig under the Cloch. They came upon a flat stone and under this was a small stone enclosure like a box, in which they found a number of small stones shaped like bricks and one shaped like the head of a battle axe. They found no gold and so did not interfere with the box but covered it once more and departed.

Thirty years later another group of men once more dug here in the hope of finding gold. They only found the box as before (the ground was soft from the original digging). It still contained the axehead and other stones but they did not disturb

them. It was part of the original dream that one of any party taking gold from under the dolmen would loose his life.

That well known historians, Mr. Ed. O'Toole wrote an article on this dolmen for Bealoideas, many years ago.

\*The above account is taken from the notes of local historian Brother Luke Dunne who died in 1959.

IT is not generally known that a small corner of Co. Carlow is in the Archdiocese of Dublin, viz., the old parish of Kinneagh which embraces several townlands in Co. Carlow. This fact recalls that the boundaries of Irish dioceses seem anomalous, but the explanation is that the present dioceses are really unions of smaller dioceses prevalent in Ireland up to the tenth century of our era.

Nationalist & Leinster Times, 27/11/1920.

*The account of these 2 Pictures has come from South Africa, they were sent by one Charlie Hodges now 87 years of age, he was born in No. 13 Tullow Street, Carlow where his mother carried on a newsagency which was subsequently purchased by Mrs. Ruddock whose family is remembered by many Carlovians.*

*Charlie is very proud of his Carlow heritage, he has contributed short articles to "Carloviana", one on Alexander's Electric Light Works where he worked for several years before emigrating to S. Africa. His mother, a gentle old lady, was the last member of the Edwards family to reside in Carlow, one of that family compiled a Diary of "Social Life in Carlow 1800-'40" which was the basis of an article by Rev. P. J. Brophy (Carloviana Vol. 1 No. 2 1948).*

*Charlie even wrote to the Press a couple of years ago recalling seeing Halley's Comet from Burrin Bridge in 1909-10 giving an accurate description of it even though then only a mere boy of 10 years.*



## *The Tale of Two Pictures*

**T**HIS is not the Tale of Two Cities but the tale of two pictures. My great, great, great grand father and his wife lived in Killeggan 236 years ago, judging by their clothes, they must have been very well off. He was a Distiller and as cameras were not yet invented, the only way to get a picture was a painting or a crayon. Well these pictures were done in crayon and were out-standing. In 1770 AD he sent them to Londonderry for an exhibition there.

They must have remained with John Brisco until William Edwards inherited them through his wife, who must have been John Brisco's daughter. William Edwards was in Carlow and he must have had them for about 18 years before passing them onto George Edwards, his son. He was not an intelligent man and found it very hard to

manage his financial affairs very well, so it was possible he had the pictures for about 20 years and still remained in Carlow moving from one place to another.

Then Thomas Edwards, my grandfather, came on the scene and he seemed to have managed all the family problems very well including his father's which he took over. It seems he only had the pictures for about 18 years after a very short life with Lucy Marchant. The pictures were passed on to Charles Edwards, my uncle. He was a bachelor and had them until he died in 1901, which was 32 years. My mother Kate Edwards, who married Edward Hodges, remained in 13 Tullow Street until my mother passed away. A friend took them off the wall and sent them post haste to my brother Frank in Port Elizabeth, S.A. where he

lived at Sydenham, just outside the city. After 10 years he went to Pretoria where they hung on his lounge wall, in all 46 years. When he passed away the pictures went to Joan his daughter in Johannesburg and are still hanging there until they move again.

Two water coloured copies may be hanging somewhere in Philadelphia, America, which were painted by my mother, who did not want to part with the pictures, so to satisfy her mother Lucy Edwards, who had emigrated some years before, my mother Kate Edwards sent her paintings to America.

Well this is the story of two pictures which may still travel around in the near future and add to the 236 years already completed.



## ST. ANNE'S - ST. CLARE'S by Sean O'Leary

When Colonel Henry Bruen of Oak Park defeated Daniel O'Connell Junior, son of The Liberator, in the Parliamentary Election in 1841 (by a mere nine votes) his friends subscribed quite a considerable sum of money to make him a presentation to celebrate his victory. The Colonel decided that with the money he would build a church - St. Anne's - on the Athy Road opposite St. Dymphna's Hospital. The money subscribed was not sufficient for the building but he himself supplied the balance. He died before the Church was finished but his son, Henry, completed the work.

St. Anne's was a very beautiful building with a very graceful spire. However, owing to its proximity to St. Mary's the congregation was always very small and eventually for many years no Services were held there. In the 1920's it was sold to the Parish Priest of Graiguecullen who wished to re-erect it to replace St. Fiac's Church in Maryboro Street which had become too small for an increasing population. Accordingly it was transferred stone by stone to the west bank of the Barrow.

Fr. Fogarty, P.P. then began the work of erecting the New Church beside the Poor Clare Convent. Mr. Fred Thompson of Hanover Engineering Works was the contractor.

The foundation stone was laid by Most Rev. Dr. Cullen on Ascension Thursday 1928. The first Mass was celebrated in the new Church at 8 a.m. on Sunday, 13th October 1929 by Fr. Fogarty. At 11.00 a.m. on the same day it was solemnly dedicated by Most Rev. Dr. Cullen followed by High Mass, the celebrant of which was Right Rev. Monsignor Delaney of Rathvilly. The new Church was named St. Clare's Church.

Funds to defray some of the costs of a new Church had been accumulated over the years by the Mother Abbess of the Poor Clare Convent. In the 1920's many sporting, musical, dramatic and other events were held to raise money for the work. One big event was the Monster Bazaar in 1927. The various stalls were in the Concert Hall in the Town Hall and the Carnival Amusements were in the adjacent "Bank Field" (now a Car Park).

Above is a picture of the Organising Committee of that Bazaar:

Front Row (l. to r.): J. Dunphy, T. P. Igoe, J. D. McCarthy, Most Rev. Dr. Cullen, D. Fenlon, Fr. Fogarty, J. Bolger, J. Fenlon. Middle Row (l. to r.): P. Carbery, P. Governey, S. O'Leary, J. McEvoy, P. Comerford, M. Governey, -----, J. Oliver. Top Row (l. to r.): T. Fenlon, P. Tynan, R. McDonnell. Standing: E. Duggan, J. Williams, T. Murphy.

## Golf Club for Carlow and Athy

ON Thursday afternoon a meeting was held in the Club House, Carlow for the purpose of establishing a Golf Club for Carlow and Athy. It was organised by Dr. Brannan, Castledermot, and Mr. P. Lynch, Athy, who have been most energetic in their efforts for the introduction of a game which has become so popular of late years. Captain Duckett occupied the chair, and there were also present - Dr. Brannan, Dr. Broomfield, Messrs. P. A. Brown, E. S. Maffet, P. Lynch, D. J. McCarthy, P. D. Shackleton, R. Langran and Haines. It was

to form a club to be called "The Royal Leinster Golf Club", with grounds at Gotham, mid-way between Carlow and Maganey stations. The subscription was fixed at one guinea for gentlemen and 10s. 6d. for ladies.

It was resolved to ask Lord Walter Fitzgerald to become President. The selection of Vice-President was left over. Dr. Brannan was elected Hon. Sec., and Mr. R. J. Nicholson, National Bank, Carlow, Hon. Treasurer. The following were chosen to form the council - Messrs. Brown, Shackleton,

Maffet, John Hammond, M.P.; M. Governey, C.U.D.C.; Rev. J. Duggan, C.C., Athy; H. K. Toomey, Athy; P. Lynch, do.

The meeting guaranteed the sum of £40 to meet the initial expenses of laying out the ground, &c. The Hon. Sec. was empowered to obtain the services of a professional player to lay out the links. Intending members are requested to communicate, with Dr. F. Brannan, Kilkea Lodge, Castledermot, or P. Lynch, Esq., The Abbey, Athy.

Nationalist & Leinster Times,  
20/5/1899.

# Carlow Mechanics' Institute

Presented by the retiring committee, at a General Meeting,  
held on the 25th of October, 1853

THE Committee of the Carlow Mechanics' Institute appear with much gratification at the close of the first year of its existence to account to the Members for the trust reposed in them during that period.

The past year was probably the most trying which the Institute may ever have to pass through, as the starting of every society is generally its chief difficulty. But it has been the good fortune of your Committee to have had little to contend with beyond the ordinary trouble of moulding it into form, and in this their way was rendered comparatively easy by the cordial co-operation of all parties. The public mind was fully prepared for the establishment of such an institution, to supply the growing demand for knowledge and to encourage a spirit of harmony and good feeling among all classes, by presenting neutral ground where they might co-operate for the general good. Your Committee therefore were encouraged by the consciousness that the work in which they were engaged had the unanimous voice of public opinion in its favour, and these circumstances so pleasing and advantageous left very few obstacles to overcome.

Nothing can better attest the hold which the Institute has taken upon the public mind than the fact, that within the last year there has been received from the various sources of income the sum of £119 12s. 6d., of which £117 9s. 4d. has been expended, leaving the Institute free from debt and a balance in hands to its credit of £2 3s. 2d. Of the sum so subscribed, the donations from friends and life members amounted to £55 5s., the balance being composed of the ordinary subscriptions. The number of members for the past year were 183, paying yearly, half-yearly and quarterly.

Your Committee cannot look back at the formation of the Institute without feeling

grateful to those friends who came forward to assist in its early struggles, and whose timely aid contributed so largely to its success, and in recording the following donations they beg leave at the same time to tender their grateful acknowledgements to those who subscribed so liberally to its funds:—

	£	s.	d.
John Sadleir, Esq., M.P. ....	15	0	0
Edward Byrne, Esq. ....	5	0	0
Robert Andrews, Esq., LL.D., Q.C. ....	5	0	0
S. W. Haughton, Esq. ....	5	0	0
John Ball, Esq., M.P. ....	5	0	0
John Alexander, Esq., M.P. ....	5	0	0
Francis McDonagh, Esq., Q.C. ....	5	0	0
Thomas O'Meara, Esq., M.D. ....	1	0	0
Samuel Haughton, Esq. ....	1	0	0
J. H. Haughton, Esq. ....	1	0	0
Frederick Haughton, Esq. ....	1	0	0
James Haughton, Esq. ....	1	10	0
Sums under one pound .....	4	15	0
	£55 5 0		

After the formation of Rules, and the appointment of Sub-Committees, to superintend the different departments of the Institute, your Committee proceeded to the formation of a Library. In doing this they were most liberally supported by their fellow-townsmen, who from time to time contributed donations of valuable works. As the friends who thus assisted are too numerous to insert in this report, your Committee beg to refer to

the catalogue in which the books so presented and the names of the donors are set forth, and to return them their warmest thanks for their sympathy and support.

Besides donations of books a sum of £23 7s. has been appropriated from the funds of the Institute for the purchase of others, and the library now contains upwards of 400 volumes of the best standard works in every department of history, science, and general literature, a catalogue of which follows this report.

In addition to these the following periodicals were ordered for the past year at an expense of £10 11s. 11d. :—

- Dublin University Magazine.
- Blackwood's Magazine.
- Dublin Quarterly Review.
- Irish Quarterly Review.
- The Edinburgh Review.
- Dicken's Household Words.
- Duffy's Fireside Magazine.
- Hogg's Instructor.
- Mechanics' Magazine.
- Chamber's Journal.
- Family Herald.
- The Builder.
- Athenaeum.
- Eliza Cook's Journal.
- The Arizan.
- The Practical Mechanics' Journal.
- The Critic.

Thus a valuable library was formed, and the reading-room largely supplied with the best

## THE TREASURER OF CARLOW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE CONTRA.

Debtor.			Creditor.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To amount received for Donations .....	25	5 0	By cash paid paid for Books .....	25	19 9
" Subscriptions from Six Life Members .....	30	0 0	" do. Binding Books .....	0	7 3
" Ditto from Members, viz:—			" do. Periodicals .....	10	11 11
80 for 1 year .....	£40	0 0	" do. Newspapers .....	6	18 10
33 for ¾ year .....	12	7 6	" do. Furniture .....	13	5 1
32 for ½ year .....	8	0 0	" do. to News-room for Lectures .....	3	3 3
32 for ¼ year .....	4	0 0	" do. for Fitting up Lecture Room .....	7	10 0
		64 7 6	" do. Rent and Taxes .....	19	3 11
			" do. Fuel and Light .....	10	14 6
			" do. Librarian's Salary .....	9	13 4
			" do. Printing and Stationary .....	6	11 1
			" do. Petty Sundries .....	3	10 5
			" Balance on hands in Bank of Ireland .....	2	3 2
To Balance .....	£2	3 2			
					£119 12 6

Carlow, 30th September, 1853.

J. HANCOCK HAUGHTON, Treasurer.

We have examined the above Account, and found it correct.

THOMAS EDWARDS,  
LAWRENCE KELLY, Auditors.



periodicals of the day. The value of this department of the Institute is attested by the large numbers who attend the reading-rooms, and the increasing demand for books. In the course of the past year there have been lent from the library 3,578 volumes, a large proportion of which was of a solid or scientific character. A taste for reading and love of knowledge has been fostered, if not created, by the Institute; and it is most gratifying to witness the numbers of steady and thoughtful mechanics who regularly frequent the reading-rooms, many of whom but for this might seek for amusement in less innocent pursuits, and be exposed to the worst temptations. Your Committee were most anxious that no works of an unsuitable kind should find their way into the library, and, with that end in view, resolved that no book should be admitted unless it first received the sanction of the Library Committee, and subsequently that of the General Committee, so that every possible care has been taken that no publications but such as have a useful and moral tendency should be admitted.

Some time after the formation of the Institute a strong desire was manifested by a large proportion of the members that newspapers should be taken into the reading-rooms, but, as this was opposed to the original rules, a special meeting was convened to consider the subject, and a motion for their admission unanimously adopted. The following newspapers were ordered accordingly:—

The Times.  
 The Daily Express  
 The Daily Freeman.  
 The Illustrated London News.  
 Punch.  
 The Weekly Telegraph.  
 The Carlow Sentinel.

Some fears were at first entertained that the introduction of newspapers might lead to political discussions in the reading-rooms, and disturb the harmony and good feeling so generally prevailing; but your Committee are happy to say that no such results have followed their introduction, but, on the contrary, they have good reason to know that the step has contributed materially to the stability of the Institute.

The ordering of newspapers

## Rules of the Carlow Mechanics' Institute

I.—That this Association be entitled "The Carlow Mechanics' Institute," and consist of Patrons, Committee, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Care-taker.

II.—That the Institute be kept perfectly free from political topics and sectarian differences; and be closed in all its departments on the Sabbath.

III.—That it shall be the duty of the Committee to collect a Library and Museum, and employ competent persons to lecture upon the several sciences, &c.; and that the course of lectures shall be under the direction of the Committee; the programme to be hung up in the Public Rooms of the Institute.

IV.—That the Library shall be formed of books purchased with the funds of the Institute, or bestowed to it by individuals. So far as the funds are applied the books shall be principally scientific; but the Committee shall have power to purchase, in addition, such works on general literature, as seem well calculated to convey useful knowledge and instruction. Works of an acknowledged theological and political character, or such as have an immoral tendency, shall not be purchased or received into the rooms as donations.

V.—That discussions of a political or religious nature, or personal quarrels in the rooms of the Society, shall subject the parties engaging therein to admonition from the officer in charge of the room, or from any Member present; and, in the event of their being persisted in, or repeated, shall render them liable to be expelled by the Committee.

VI.—That smoking or disorderly conduct be subject to the same penalties as contained in Rule V.

VII.—That all property acquired by the Institution be considered exclusively devoted to the objects which it contemplates; and that Trustees be appointed in whom such property shall be vested.

VIII.—That in the event of the Institution being dissolved, the existing Committee at the time of such dissolution, shall be bound to return to the donor (if living), any books, models, and apparatus, which may have been bestowed for the benefit of the Institution. The BONA FIDE property of the Institute shall be disposed of for the benefit of any other Public Institution deemed worthy.

IX.—That Five Pounds in money, or Books to the current value of Eight Pounds, constitute a Member for life; and Ten Shillings per year, paid yearly, half-yearly, or quarterly, in advance, a Member of the Institute entitled to all its privileges. The quarterly days of payment to be on the first days of October, January, April and July in every year.

X.—That all money not immediately required for the working of the Institution be lodged by the Treasurer in the Bank of Ireland, but the Treasurer may retain in his hands a sum not exceeding Five Pounds to meet current expenses, and that no payment shall be audited to the Treasurer unless upon an order signed by the Chairman, Secretary, and one Member of the Committee.

XI.—That unappropriated funds be at the disposal of the Committee for the time being, for the recognised purposes of the Institute; but no expenditure shall be made, or contract entered into, exceeding the sum of twenty pounds, without the sanction of a general meeting of the Members, called for the purpose.

XII.—That on the last Tuesday in October in every year, a General Meeting of the Members shall be held, at which a Report of the Proceedings of the past year shall be read, Committee re-elected, or newly chosen, and accounts audited.

XIII.—That the Committee be chosen annually by Ballot, and consist of Twenty-four Members—five of whom form a quorum, and that on the election of the Committee they shall proceed as soon as possible to select a Treasurer and Secretary out of their body.

XIV.—That Balloting lists shall be printed, and ready for delivery to the Members, ten days previous to the election of the Committee, on which the Member shall mark the names of those he wishes to be elected.

XV.—That at the election of the Committee Scrutineers shall be appointed by the meeting, to superintend the Ballot box, (which must be that issued by the Institute), folded up; which they, in his presence, shall put into the Ballot box. Or in case the voter cannot conveniently attend the meeting, he may send his Ballot List marked with the names of those he wishes to be elected, in an envelope, sealed, endorsed, "Voting Paper for Committee," and with his name, to either the Secretary or Treasurer, who shall hand it to the Scrutineers of Ballot box, who shall open it and place the enclosure in the Ballot box.

XVI.—That, as soon as the Balloting is closed, the Scrutineers shall cast up the number of votes, and report the same in writing to the Chairman, who shall announce the result to the Members assembled; and if the suffrages of two or more candidates be equal, lots shall be prepared by the Secretary, and drawn by the Chairman.

XVII.—That every Member, on paying his subscription, shall receive from the Secretary a card of admission, which shall entitle him to the use of the Lectures, Library, Reading-room, and all other advantages.

XVIII.—That no Member shall be admitted either to the Rooms of the Institution, or any General or other Meeting of the Institution, unless he produce his card, if called upon to do so by any authorised person.

XIX.—That every proposition for altering the Rules must be in writing, and signed by at least ten members; it must be delivered to the Secretary at least one calendar month before the day on which the next General Meeting will be held; be immediately copied by him, and hung up in the Public Rooms of the Institute, and, if carried at the General Meeting, shall be incorporated with the rules.

XX.—That the following shall be the order of business observed at each Yearly General Meeting:—  
 First: A report shall be presented to the Meeting of the total amount of all money received since last annual meeting.

Secondly: Of the total of all money expended.

Thirdly: Of the balance on hands.

Fourthly: Of all donations whatever, of money, or other things, and the names of the donors.

Fifthly: The number of new members since last meeting.

Sixthly: Of the number of Persons who have ceased to pay their subscriptions.

Sevently: Of the total number of Members.

Eighthly: Of all other matters which the Committee may be desirous to communicate.

And the Secretary shall read the propositions (if any) for altering the rules; and the Meeting shall discuss, adopt, or reject all such propositions.

XXI.—That Special meetings of the Members of the Institute shall be held at any time, on the requisition, in writing, of one-third of the Committee, or one-third of the Members. Such requisition shall contain a statement of the objects of the intended meeting, and shall be sent fourteen days before the time of meeting to the Secretary, who shall give due notice thereof to the Members.

XXII.—That the Committee shall, at every meeting, receive from the Treasurer, a report of all the money which may have come into his hands since last meeting.

XXIII.—That the Committee shall meet regularly at least once in every month. The Members of the Committee to be duly summoned before the day of meeting; the summonses to contain a notice of any special business to be brought before the Committee.

XXIV.—That the Committee shall cause to be kept fair and accurate minutes of their transactions, in a book to be kept by the Secretary.

XXV.—That the alphabetical order be adopted in placing the names of members upon the Committee.

XXVI.—That the Committee be empowered to make by-laws, and to fill up vacancies that may occur in their body.

THOMAS RICHARDSON, Hon. Sec.

involved your Committee in an outlay not at first contemplated, and to meet this they have had under consideration the propriety of reducing the number of periodicals. After careful investigation they recommended that the following periodicals only should be ordered for the ensuing year:—

Irish Quarterly Review.  
Edinburgh Review.  
Dublin Review.  
University Magazine.  
Blackwood's Magazine.  
Household Words.  
Chamber's Journal.

With regard to newspapers they recommend that those already ordered should be continued, except the "Weekly Telegraph", instead of which "The Carlow Post" is to be taken, and in order that the reading-rooms should not be left without newspapers and periodicals during the alterations consequent upon a change of Committee, your Committee have ordered a supply for three months beyond their time of office, leaving it to their successors to make such further arrangements as they may think proper.

During the year the following lectures were delivered, which created much interest, and were well attended:—

Two Lectures on Animal Physiology  
— by Dr. White.  
Four Lectures on the Mathematics  
— Rev. John Powell.  
Two Lectures on Electricity  
— Rev. Denis Keane.

The following papers were also read monthly by members of the Institute, and were attended with beneficial results:—

Mental Development  
— by the Rev. John Powell.  
The Dignity of Labour  
— Mr. Thomas Richardson.  
Ventilation (Two Papers)  
— Dr. Chaplin.  
Ocean Steam Navigation  
— Mr. Benjamin Haughton.  
The Progress of Civilization  
— Mr. Thomas Richardson.  
Decimal Coinage  
— Mr. J. H. Haughton.  
Cromwell in Carlow  
— Mr. Robert Malcomson.  
The Round Towers of Ireland  
— Mr. J. H. Vickers.

Your Committee hope that during the coming winter many will come forward with Papers, and they would recommend this subject to the attention of the younger members as an excellent means, not only of communicating information to others, but of giving shape and

## CARLOW MECHANICS' INSTITUTE RULES AND REGULATIONS

For the management of the Library and Reading Room

- I.—That the Library be open each day (Sunday excepted) from Ten a.m., to Ten p.m., for the receiving and issuing of Books.
- II.—That any Member wanting a Book from the Library, shall produce his Admission Card for the inspection of the Librarian.
- III.—That proper books shall be kept for entering the Books taken out of, and returned to, the Library.
- IV.—That no Member shall have more than one volume at a time.
- V.—That two weeks be allowed for reading an Octavo volume, and under; three weeks for a Quarto, and four weeks for a Folio, including the days of delivery and return.
- VI.—That if a book be not returned on the day appointed, the Member shall pay a fine of One Penny for every day it shall be detained; and if kept above seven days, Four Pence a day; and if not returned within fourteen days, after the day fixed for its return, application shall be made to the Member for the same; and if it be not then returned, the Member shall pay the value thereof, or of the set to which it belongs.
- VII.—That if a Book be written in, or otherwise damaged, the Member in whose hands the Book was at the time shall pay the value of the Book, or replace the same at the discretion of the Committee; and the Librarian shall report every such case accordingly.
- VIII.—That all fines be paid to the Librarian within one week after being demanded; and in default thereof, the names of the Members incurring the same shall be hung up in the Institute, and they shall cease to be members.
- IX.—That a Member on returning a Book, may take same again out of the Library, if no application has been previously made.
- X.—That, for the purpose of enabling the Committee to ascertain the state of the Library, and the condition of the Books therein, the circulation of Books shall cease for one week in the year, viz.: during the week previous to the Yearly General Meeting in October; and that all Books must be returned into the Library before the above week; and that any Member detaining a Book after that time shall be fined One Shilling.
- XI.—That for the general convenience and accommodation of the Members, no dispute or discussion will be allowed in the Reading Room, as such conduct on the part of any of the members must necessarily distract the attention of others.
- XII.—That no Member shall be allowed to partake of any refreshments in the Reading Room.
- XIII.—That a book be provided for the purpose of affording the Members an opportunity of entering any remarks or suggestions which they may wish to submit to the consideration of the Board, relative to the conduct and management of the Reading Room; and that the said Book be laid before the Committee at their sitting.
- XIV.—That an Application Book be provided, to remain with the Librarian, in which it will be the duty of any Member wishing for a Book not then in the Library, to write an application for same, signed with his name; and such Book shall be given to such Member, and to others applying for same, in the order of time in which such applications shall be made.
- XV.—That no Periodical shall be lent until the subsequent number arrives; and when lent not to be retained beyond a week, except on Saturday evenings, when they may be borrowed at the close of the Institute, and returned before its opening on the following Monday morning.
- XVI.—That each Member shall be at liberty to introduce a Visitor to the Reading Room, provided his stay in town shall not exceed a month. A book to be kept, in which shall be written the Stranger's name, and that of the Member by whom he is introduced.
- XVII.—That the above Rules be copied, and hung up in the Reading Room of the Institute.

THOMAS RICHARDSON,  
Hon. Sec.

solidity to their own knowledge.

For the few occasions upon which the Assembly Rooms were hired for lectures an expense of £3 3s. 3d. was incurred, and it became manifest that this could not be continued for any length of time without seriously affecting the funds of the Institute. It therefore became necessary that a permanent Lecture-room should be procured to avoid the expense of hiring one. With this view three rooms of the present building were thrown into one, and the Institute has now the advantage of a comfortable lecture room, well furnished, and capable of accommodating 150 persons at the moderate expense of £7 10s.

A heavy outlay was of necessity incurred in starting the Institute, for furniture and gas fittings, and in fitting up the lecture-room, reading-room, and library, amounting to £23 18s. 4d; yet it will be seen on reference to the Treasurer's account that the

Institute is FREE from debt. The liberal donations referred to, contributed largely to this pleasing result. Such an expenditure cannot occur again, and the in-coming Committee will be free to appropriate this sum to the more immediate wants of the Institute. But, on the other hand, it must be borne in mind, that we cannot expect in future to draw so freely on the sympathy of those who have already subscribed so largely. Your Committee, therefore, appeal for support to those who have not yet come to their aid and whose rank and wealth should make them feel deeply in the success of an undertaking, having for its object the improvement and elevation of the working classes. They are aware that the peace and prosperity of the country must be based upon a moral and enlightened population, and that in aiding institutions of this nature, having these ends in

# The Wall Memorial Slab

Previous to the year 1641 a large portion of the land in the vicinity of Carlow was owned by the Wall family, however because of their complicity in the rebellion of that year most of their land was forfeited to the crown. The name is of Anglo Norman origin, and appears in ancient records as le Veale, Vale, Wale, until it became as it is to-day, Wall. In county Carlow the principal residence of the family was the (then) castle of Johnstown. This sculptured mural slab was found by Sir Charles Burton, about 1893, in the grounds of Pollacton House, and to preserve it he had it built into the garden wall. It had originally been set over the main entrance of Ballyfullard House (the ancient name of Pollerton). The Wall

Crest appears at the top of the slab, while underneath is a shield divided into two sections with the Wall coat of arms on the left, impaling those of Walsh on the right, and on either side of the shield are the figures 16 and 30 with an inscription below;

*Vllicke Wale Ivan Wailshe  
The Lorde Is My Streinhe*

Ulick Wall Joan Walsh The Lord is my Strength. The couple named on the stone are those referred to in the following Funeral Entry preserved in the Ulster King of Arms office.

"Ulick Wale, of Ballynakilly, (now Burton Hall) in the County of Catherlagh, three tymes Sheriff of the said County, 3rd. sonne of William Wale, late of Johnstown in the said County Esqr., eldest sonne and heire of

Edmond Wale of the same Esqr.

The said Ulick tooke to wife Joana, daughter of Henry Walsh, of Donlonvan, (Dunlavin) in the County of Wicklow, Gent. descended of the house of Carrigmaine, (Carrickmines) by whome there was issue 5 sonnes and 4 daughters, Viz. — Edward Wale, eldest sonne and heire of the said Ulick, married to Margaret, daughter of Patrick Sarsfield, of Tully, in the County of Kildare.

Richard Wale, 2nd. sonne, married to Mary, daughter of Maurice Fitzgerald of Kilrush, in the said County of Kildare, Gent. Gerald, 3rd. sonne, William, 4th. sonne, Michael, 5th. sonne, all as yet unmarried.

And the said Ulick had also other children by his said wife, both sonnes and daughters, who died young and unmarried. The said Ulick departed this Mortall life at Ballynakilly aforesaid, the 4th. day of February 1640, and was interred in the Chapell of Urghly (Urglin) the 9th. day of the same moneth. The truth of the premisses is testified by the subscription of the said Edward, eldest sonne of the said defunct, who hath returned this certificate unto my office to be recorded. Taken by me, Thomas Preston, Ulster King of Armes, the 18th. day of February, in the year of our Lorde, 1640.

The Wall coat of Arms; Argent, on a cross azure, voided of the field, five lions rampant.

The Walsh coat of Arms; Azure, a lion rampant argent, over all a fesse, per pale argent, and gules, charged with and annulet sable.

*Note: The Memorial is now in the County Carlow Museum.*

## Carlow Mechanics' Institute

*Continued*

view, they would be co-operating for the general good, and acting in accordance with the laws of social progress and improvement. Your Committee hope that the good example set by the friends already referred to will stir up others to emulate their liberality, and they are quite sure that in a town and county like this, numbering so many men of enlightened views and liberal dispositions, their appeal will not be made in vain.

Your Committee feel no ordinary pleasure in saying that they owe much to the members of the Institute for the great propriety with which they have at all times, and without any exception, conducted themselves, and for the cordial manner in which they have co-operated to carry out the views of the Committee. In no one instance have the wishes of the Committee been disregarded, nor has there occurred a single infringement of the rules requiring the interposition of their authority. Your Committee have special pleasure in recording these facts to the credit of the members of the Institute, as it not only bears evidence to the value in which

they hold it, but also of the high state of moral training in which the country is fast advancing.

Your Committee have equal pleasure in stating that the most complete unanimity prevails in the Institute nor has it at any time been interrupted beyond the legitimate exercise of free discussion.

It has, in fact, been seldom the lot of any undertaking to meet with such an immediate, cordial, and extensive support; and your Committee now deliver up the Institute to their successors with its affairs in a state of order and efficiency such as may bear comparison with most institutions of the kind, even with the advantages of a much longer existence. The attendance in the reading-rooms, the number of members, the demand for books, and the state of the funds, indicate what progress has been made in so short a time, and give an earnest of future success and extensive usefulness, under united and judicious management.

*The original copy of the "Annual Report (1853) of the Carlow Mechanics Institute" is in the National Library of Ireland, by whose courtesy we publish it here.*

MR. John Hammond, MP. chairman of Carlow Co. Council, speaking at Monday's, April 2nd, 1906, meeting of the council, said: "He understood that of late there was very heavy traffic in the shape of waggons carrying coal going over Graigue Bridge and it appeared to him that some danger might be caused to the bridge by putting it to a use it was never intended for, namely, the conveyance of coal in tremendous wagons from the collieries to Carlow. It would be desirable if the County Council would take into consideration the desirability of giving notice to parties not to bring such burden over Graigue Bridge. It was injurious to the bridge, and the older the bridge the greater the danger".

*Nationalist & Leinster Times, 7/4/1906.*

# LIFE ON THE CANAL

By Alec Burns

**T**HE death of Tom Anderson early this year removed one of the best known workers who had served the Grand Canal Co. for 50 years. Along with Tom Bolger, Graignamanagh they recorded events in their working life for me a couple of years ago while they sailed the River Barrow and Canal carrying merchandise to all the different towns served by the Canal Company.

Tom joined the Canal Co. in June 1979. He was a native of Robertstown, Co. Kildare, there was no other work available then, his father and grandfather had also worked on the Canal boats in their young days, Tom Bolger started work on 29th June, 1940. The wages then was only 25/- per week, when promotion to take charge of the engine came they rose to 33 shillings, also they had to give a hand assisting the boat in and out of the Locks and cooking the meals for the other 3 boatmen and when they arrived at the different towns where Cargo had to be unloaded all hands had to help to get discharged quickly and move on to the next town.

## Heavy sacks of meal

Some of the sacks of meal to be unloaded were as heavy as 24 stone (3 cwts). When you got used to carrying them across your shoulder, Tom said, the weight never bothered you as you soon got the knack of letting them fall from the deck to your shoulders and then a couple of steps to unload them.

The full weight for each boat was fixed at 50 tons provided the water was high, in summer time they couldn't take that weight as the water was too low, at times too they had to spread the cargo around the deck to allow them to pass under some low bridges.

Journeys from St. Mullins to James St. Harbour in Dublin would take 2 days and 1 night, they had red lamps to warn other boats during the night, the man

on duty had to be always on the lookout.

The week's work started at 12 o'clock on Sunday nights until 12 o'clock the following Saturday night, 6 days on duty always. Accidents were rare. Tom only remembered 2 or 3 fatal drownings. He fell in himself a few times but being a good swimmer he was able to make it to the bank. Tom Bolger remembered one worker who slipped in and was cut to pieces by the propellers, it was a ghastly sight he said.

During the economic war and 1939-45 war it was very difficult to get food as the ration cards would only be accepted in their home towns. One time they hadn't even a cup of tea, the Canal Manager gave him a note to his grocer (2 ozs. Tea, 2 onions, 1 oxo) was all he could get. They were all mad with hunger; potatoes and vegetables were the main supply down the country; it was a hard life at times — they were so hungry in Athlone once that they bought starch which was supposed to be cornflour, it was difficult to get rid of it.

Tom started at the early age of 11 yrs. some of the apprentices were 12 years, when a vacancy occurred they were transferred to that boat. Carrying casks of beer was hazardous as no matter how well it was watched some of the crew were able to slake their thirst at night when the skipper was asleep.

A couple of boats were lost around Limerick on the Shannon where the river is very wide and the waves which were very high could turn over the boats and the cargo would smother the crew. Of course if the boat was properly loaded (that is 30 tons in the hold and 20 on deck) then nothing would happen; some of the crew would sometimes leave more cargo on deck to make for easier unloading which could unbalance the boat if the river was high and waves were rough.

From 1919 to 1960 Tom only got 2 increases in wages, when Jim Larkin returned from America he started a union for

the boatmen but it was impossible to get any increase from the Canal Co., even by him, they hadn't much funds to pay extra to any of the men. Even though they had a strike for 2 months, it was of no use; they had to return to work. Some of the men got work on Hack Boats then; these boats were privately owned and licensed to carry cargo.

Even at Christmas they had no holidays not even a Christmas Box, only the same as Sunday, even during the summer. It was 1940 before they got them. Railways became more competitive then and the Canal Co. were not able to compete against them, that's why wages were so low.

## Traders could collect goods

Though the fact of the River usually passing through the centre of some of the towns, it meant that traders could collect their goods easily, railways were usually not as central, this fact helped the Canal business. Guinness was one of their best customers as their store was beside the canal, they had three boat loads every week for Carlow town and rural area.

There was no retirement age, you worked as long as you were able until Lloyd George brought in the Old Age Pensions Act. If any of the crew got sick they had to leave the boat and go home or to hospital as there was no pay of any kind for absence in sickness.

The Insurance stamp at that time was 8d. per week and on one occasion Tom was working at unloading a boat near the North Wall harbour at Ringsend when he got word that he was wanted at Head Office in James St., so he got the loan of 1/- from one of the other men to pay his ferry and tram fare up there. When he arrived he was told that in his previous weekly pay packet 7d. was only stopped for the Stamp and that he owed the Company 1d., Tom put his hand in his pocket and produced the 1d.





*Clashganny Lock on the Barrow.*

*Photo: W.Ellis*

which was accepted, now said Tom you owe me 8d. "for what" demanded the Clerk in charge, for Ferry and Tram return fare said Tom. It was paid but Tom was sure there was some red faces over the incident.

There was no protective clothing either to withstand rain or when, unloading dirty cargo, if clothes got wet you had to dry them on the side of the engine during the night.

The charge hand had to buy the provisions for the week including a bag of coal for the stove to cook the meals and divide the change equally among the crew. They always had good meals, some of course were better than others at cooking but no one was ever hungry. They slept in bunks which were comfortable enough, only in winter if you were on a boat that was built of steel, it would be very cold at one side.

A 10st. Bag of Coal cost 2/- then, it would last for 1 week for cooking the meals and heating.

Clean bedclothes would be supplied every time the boat docked in Dublin and if your clothes got soiled badly from your work they would also be cleaned. In Carlow if a strange boat had to dock overnight there was a large store across the river from the Canal Store, now the Rowing Club where hay and oats were stored for the horses also stables to pass the night. Overhead the men could prepare a meal for themselves and bunk down for the night. At many of the principal towns the same arrangements were there for both men and horses.

On the the journey from

Dublin to Shannon Harbour a distance of 62 miles, boats had to pass through 36 locks, 6 bridges and 30 tunnels, from Dublin to Lowtown 18 locks and a rise of 180 feet, passing by Ardnacrusha there was a fall of 160 feet, it was dangerous and hazardous as there was a strong fall of water always from the turbines which could turn the boat around the wrong way if you had not an experienced man at the helm, it only took 5 minutes to get through the lock which was one of the largest on the Canal and 7 to 10 minutes would bring the boat into Limerick, a distance of 3 miles, due to the strong flow of water, you actually flew in. Horses for the Canal were usually bought at the Castledermot Horse Fair.

Concluding his account of life on a Canal barge over the years Tom Anderson told me of a little poem that the compiled one Sunday afternoon when he had taken a walk around Killaloe, Co. Clare. He was resting by the roadside before returning to his boat when a nice young girl passed by; she attracted his attention somewhat and made such an impression on him that when he had taken his tea, he got so poetically inspired that he got notepaper and a pen and compiled the following:

I sat upon a mossy bank amid  
historic scenes  
Twas there I saw a lovely  
maid whose age was scarce  
eighteen  
Her hair was hanging down  
her back and with the breeze  
did blow

She was so graceful as the  
Swan that swims the lake  
below

The Rhododendrons in full  
bloom, the hawthorn white as  
snow

All mingled with the red and  
green that on the roadside  
grow

And being amazed as I did  
gaze on the beauty I had seen  
Between fields of emerald  
green. I watched the beauties  
of the lake beside me, from the  
wayside where I stood.

Big waves breaking on the  
beach as I trod through the  
wood

I watched that grand old river  
on its journey to the blue

It passed the noble fort of  
O'Brien and on to Killaloe

That night I watched the  
silvery moon shine on the  
dark brown water

And lively on the barren hill  
that pleasant lovely daughter

And love and still the corn  
mill as a boy I so well knew

When I walked between the  
laurels on the banks at  
Killaloe.

It had been my privilege  
unfortunately to have known  
Tom Anderson for only a couple  
of years before he died, during  
that period I was struck very  
forcibly by his great under-  
standing of his fellowman, his  
honesty and straight forward-  
ness, never a wrong word was  
uttered by him in fact he seemed  
of a class apart always. I hope he  
is now enjoying the eternal  
reward which he so richly  
deserves.

# “The Geological History of Carlow”

Lecture by C.R.ALDWELL to Old Carlow Society — 20 March 1975

**T**HANK you Mr. Chairman, good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. May I first of all say I am especially happy to have this chance of being back again with you in Carlow. During 1962 and 1963 I was involved here in the mapping of the glacial deposits of Co. Carlow and when it came the time for me to leave, our work done, I left with three abiding memories. One was the great beauty of your county. Whether it be of Mount Leinster or looking east across Carlow from The Ridge or of the Barrow at Milford. One takes for granted lovely scenery in Ireland but all too easily one thinks of the coastal counties and forgets those in the Midlands. The second thing I recall was being so impressed by the hard work of your people. Looking at Carlow today — at the well tilled fields for which the county is rightly famous, one could easily be forgiven for accepting this as a ready made gift of a bountiful Province. As a geologist, however, working on maps of over 100 years old, I was to see the contrast and the amazing changes that hard work had brought about in the time between the two surveys. And lastly there was the great friendliness I met with from people in both town and country. My visit tonight to talk with you about your county and its geological history is therefore a most welcome return for me.

## Tattered record of the past

Geology the science and study of our planet Earth is the most basic of all the Natural Sciences in its wide ranging control and influence of so much that affects our day to day lives. The landscape with which we are so familiar, the uses to which our land can be put, which in turn influences the types of farming, the factories, the industries and the whole fabric of our lives. All these things depend to a large extent on the geological make up

of a region. Geology works on both an enormous canvas and a vast time scale. The Earth is over 10,000 million years old. Some of the rocks around Mount Leinster formed over 400 million years ago. Our life spans are so short it is hard for us to easily grasp that in fact what seems so permanent as the Blackstairs or the Castlecomer Plateau were not always there and are being continually modified. It is just that geological changes are so relatively slow. We are used in every day life to birth and death in plants, animals and humans. In geology we call these deposition and erosion. An eternal balance between construction and destruction. We should remember then that what we see today is but a tattered record of what has taken place in geological time. Some deposits that were laid down have been stripped off without trace. The work of a geologist includes sticking the bits of evidence together in order to try and reconstruct an accurate picture of what has taken place.

## Converted to schists and slates

At the present day, as far as area is concerned, over half of Co. Carlow is formed of granite. This rock pushed its way up in a molten form some 380 m. years ago. It arose from deeper within the earth and forced its way into the overlying tightly folded shales and sandstones and converted them by heat and pressure into schists and slates. The remnants of these compact and compressed metamorphic rocks are to be seen to the north of Mount Leinster.

After the granite we have the Old Red Sandstone which includes bits of granite within it, showing that the granite is the older rock. Only a small patch of Old Red is to be seen in Co. Carlow near Bagenalstown, but it is thought to be present under

the limestone and the Coal Measure Plateau. The Old Red was laid down at a time when Ireland formed part of a large continent with a hot desert climate. In time the climate changed as did relative land and sea level which allowed the flooding of the lower parts of the Old Red continent by the sea. This sea came from the south and extended slowly northwards lapping against the sides of the Granite Upland, into the Midlands and laid down the limestones along the Barrow Valley around 250 million years ago. These rocks range from black earthy limestones, through magnesian limestones, to paler purer limestones near the top of this group of rocks.

## 3 million years a mere nothing

Lastly of the solid strata we have the Coal Measure rocks, made up of shales, sandstones and with occasional seams of coal. At their base are deep water marine shales. By degrees the sea became silted up and the deposits change in character through brackish water laid strata to rocks formed in fresh water. The conditions of the time would have been something like those at the present day mouth of the Amazon. A lowlying delta with swampy stretches supporting vegetation in time to be fossilised as coal. There followed great earth movements which folded the rocks and caused the lowlying Coal Measure rocks to be pushed up in places into highland positions. One such being the Castlecomer Plateau — a remnant of a once much more widely spread occurrence of Coal Measure rocks in Ireland. For the next 200 million years we have no representatives of the rocks which were laid down in Co. Carlow. They do exist in Northern Ireland and off our coasts. It seems probable that some at least were once present here but the process of erosion has removed them



*The Blackstairs, Co. Carlow.*

*Photo: W. Ellis*

without trace. Their presence may well have saved some of the softer rocks we have today which might have gone too had they been exposed to the surface all the time since their deposition. For example the rate of erosion of limestone in the west of Ireland today is estimated at 1 to 2 ft. per 6000 years. So a limestone hill the height of the Coalfield Plateau could go in 3 million years which is a mere nothing in the time scale of which we are talking.

The solid rocks for the most part are covered with a coating of overburden or unconsolidated deposits — clays, sands and gravels. These are made up of bits and pieces of the solid rocks of the area and, less often, fragments of rocks from outside the boundaries of Carlow. The origin of these deposits and the explanation of their distribution was a matter of mystification and argument among early geologists. The agent of their deposition we know now was ice and in the case of the sand and gravel — rivers and lakes within and around the edges of the ice sheets or glaciers.

The period which we call the Ice Age stretches back close on 1 million years. Within it the climate swung through phases both hotter and colder than we have today. In fact there seems to have been at least three main phases of severe cold during this time with probably sub phases within the major ones. As far as Ireland is concerned the last cold snap which may have been a factor in the extinction of the Great Irish Elk among other fauna, was about 9,000 years ago.

The conditions of the Ice Age could be likened to Greenland or Antarctica today. At the maximum of the cold an ice cap of up to 10,000 ft. high is estimated to have existed in central Ireland near Athlone. The first major Glaciation for which there is fairly satisfactory evidence in Carlow is called the Saale — to use European terminology. This came from the north and overrode everything up to an altitude of about 1200 ft. Local simultaneous mountain glaciers in the east of the County were confined to their own vicinities by the great force of ice from the north. The debris of this glaciation has been much weathered and leached in the intervening time and reworked and submerged by later events on the lower ground. However, it appears to have been the source of at least some of the overburden in the south and east of the county and the higher parts of the Coalfield Plateau.

### **Final legacy of dying ice**

After a period of warmer weather, colder conditions returned again. The next glaciation called the Weichsel was less extensive than the Saale, but because of its recent age has left relatively fresh and unweathered deposits. This glaciation started with ice forming on the mountains with some outflow of material towards the east. The main movement came from the north west. Across from the Midlands a vast sheet of ice extended south-east into Carlow. By the

time it entered Carlow it had lost much of its momentum and erosive power. It thus could proceed just a few miles across the granite picking up only some loose and rotted rock. In the north it failed to reach the Wicklow glaciers and was divided from them by a series of large lakes into which melt water fed from the receding ice sheets. In the south it mingled with the ice from Mt. Leinster so that the material of the two merge gradually from one to the other.

As the Ice Age waned and the ice melted it left behind partly water sorted sands and gravels alternating with clay and unwashed glacier debris. In places as a final legacy the dying ice bequeathed a last sticky mixture of watery clay and stones to be seen today as a clay layer on top of the sand and gravel. On the steeper slopes material slid down under gravity leaving what we call soliflucted deposits.

With the exception of the 9000 B.C. cold spell the weather has continued warmer. The countryside at first resembled Northern Canada or Finland. Lots of lakes, tundra and heaths, giving way to forest and grass land. A wet period about 3000 B.C. caused peat growth. By degrees the rivers have reorganised the drainage and many of the lakes are gone.

Now to some of the more distinctive features of the Carlow landscape and how we believe they formed.

**TORRS:** On the top of the Blackstairs we have boulders often in odd clusters. These owe

their origin to deep weathering of the rock some millions of years ago during warm climatic times. The softer rotted material has been eroded away leaving the more resistant spines as TORRS. Granite is especially suited to TORR formation.

**CORRIES:** On the higher parts of Mt. Leinster are etched great arm chair shaped steep sloped hill side features called Corries or Cirques. They have a steep back and sides, a basin, and often a rise of ground in front. There is usually an absence of rock debris within the Corrie. Corries were hollowed out by active glaciers which were able to remove the rock debris subsequently. They are a most distinctive feature of glaciated regions.

**ESKERS:** are long ridges of gravel. They are the remains of a river which flowed within stagnant ice. There is a fine example of one to the east of Bagenalstown. Close to the same Esker is the Scalp, a great cutting in the granite at least 40 ft. deep through which in more active times the river cut its way as it flowed southwards towards the Barrow east of Borris. Both features are thus the remains of the ice age drainage pattern required to remove the vast quantities of water as the ice melted and are long since disused.

**THE SOILS:** The most important practical products of the glaciers are of course our soils. I don't propose to go into detail on this subject but just to indicate some of the main consequences of the glacial action in Carlow. The first thing to note is the carriage of the limestone eastwards for up to 8 miles beyond the actual limestone rock boundary. The resulting mixture of the light granite soil with the limestone produced a highly fertile soil good for tillage. Soils derived from granite alone are light and acid and in the south-east of the county, the change from soils derived from just granite to those with a schist constituent produces a marked change for the better. The soils of the Coal Measure Plateau are of soliflucted local origin, mostly shale and therefore impervious, acid and poorly drained.

**MINERAL DEPOSITS:** Sand and gravel for building

and other purposes and limestone mainly for ground limestone are worked at a number of places in the county. However, the two most significant minerals of this locality are coal and spodumene and I propose to deal with these in some detail.

**COAL:** The Leinster Coalfield has been renowned for many centuries as a source of high grade anthracite. Most of the coal occurred within Cos. Kilkenny and Laois, just touching into Co. Carlow at The Ridge and Rossmore. At this time most of the best coal has been taken and what is left is either thin in seam or small in a real extent. However, the present energy crisis has caused ourselves like many European countries to look closely at all possible sources of energy. Whilst the increased cost of oil has in some cases transformed the uneconomic into economic operations.

At Rossmore a small patch of coal of 12" thickness of some 1/2 million tons reserves has survived as an isolated pocket of the No. 2 Castlecomer seam. The present economic conditions however make it a small but useful contributor to energy needs.

**SPODUMENE** is a mineral of the rare element Lithium. Its composition is  $\text{Li Al Si}_2 \text{O}_6$  and is got in coarse granite usually near its margin. It has been known for many years to occur in the Leinster granite at Killiney, Co. Dublin but a relatively large quantity was found within the last 10 years in Co. Carlow. You probably know that energy can be produced by splitting an atom of Uranium. And that once this reaction is started it continues until all the Uranium is used up. It is true that a quite small piece of Uranium can produce a lot of energy but it is a rare mineral and like coal and oil comes to an end.

The sun however makes energy a different way by fusing two elements of Hydrogen to form Helium — again with the release of a vast amount of energy. The sun however has a great bulk to enable this reaction to occur. We do not. It has been found that a small quantity of Lithium allows us to overcome the bulk problem. The technologically advanced

countries are working overtime to produce a fusion furnace to cope with the 5 million °C temperature involved in such a reaction. It is expected to be in existence before the end of the century. When this time comes, Ireland will be self sufficient in Lithium for several hundred years.

It is true that what I have just said is still in the future — to some perhaps science fiction. To those who think so I would just say what of the atom bomb, what of the moon rockets — were they not also apparently fantastic say 20 years before they came to pass, yet now we accept them.

When we were invited, by President Childers to visit Aras an Uachtaráin to meet him we thought long and hard as to what would be a suitable gift to bear to a man of President Childers exceptionally wide range of interests. Eventually we decided that of all the Irish mineral discoveries — the most fitting would be a piece of Co. Carlow — sample of spodumene with all its implications for the future. And President Childers was most delighted with it and it reclined for a time at least on the sideboard in Aras an Uachtaráin.

While this might be a very suitable moment for me to stop I must beg your attention for a few more moments to deal with one more subject especially dear to my own heart — underground water. This is a natural resource only fairly recently utilised on a large scale worldwide and still to be seriously explored for in Ireland. To many of us in Ireland the idea of water actually being in short supply is probably hard to credit. Yet as we develop we both use more and more and pollute more and more water. As a result our huge traditional reserves of surface water are fast becoming eroded at both ends. Carlow is especially favoured with underground water. The deep valley of the Barrow has both excellent collection grounds on the granite and Coal Measure Plateau but also the necessary gravels and limestone rocks to act as reservoirs for tens of millions of gallons of ground water. A tiny fraction of this has been tapped so far — just enough to give an idea of what is there. In time this may also prove of more importance than we now think.



# Ceatharlach - Ré nua na Gaeilge

Cynthia Ní Murchú

Is mór an difríocht atá ann idir saol an lae inniu agus an saol a bhí ann na blianta ó shoin. Annalód b'iomaí duine nach ndeachaigh ar scoil in aon chor nó má chuaigh ba chuib 'scoláire bocht' i scoil fóidín a ndeachaigh sé ... 'ar thaobh na gréine de Shliabh na mBan b'fhéidir'.

Tithe dhá-sheomra a bhíodh ann agus scrath anuas orthu mar dhion. Chonaíodh daoine mar aon le muca, sicíní, agus asal sa bhothán i dteannta a chéile gan cur isteach nó amach ar a chéile.

Saol na mbainíní, saol an bhréidín agus saol na mbróga domhnaigh a bhíodh ann fadó. D'ítí bia simplí nádúrtha. Bhíodh muintir na hÉireann ag braith ar na prátaí ar fad geall leis. Ní bhíodh tae ag na daoine bochta ach amháin ar Lá Nollag agus ní fheicidís ansin go ceann bliana arís é. Mar a dúirt créatúr amháin 'dá bhfaighfimis ár ndóthain tae an Lá san ba dhóigh linn go mairfimis go brách.'

B'shin aimsir na spridí, tráth na bpúcaí agus an t-am a bhíodh na daoine maithe ann go flúirseach. B'shin aimsir na Gaeilge chomh maith nuair a bhíodh an teanga beo ar bhéal na ndaoine agus nuair nach raibh an Béarla ach ag corrdúine. Sea, is mór an difríocht idir saol na linne seo agus an cineál saol a bhí ann fadó. Inniu téann gach páiste ar scoil; is iomaí teach nua-aimseartha atá le feiceáil; tá ré 'na denims, na baggy's agus na paisleys' i réim chomh maith leis an 'hamburger and pizza'. Is beag duine a chreideann i spridí, púcaí nó daoine maithe a thuilleadh. Is rudaí áiféiseacha iad, ró-simplí do aigne sofaisticiúil aibí na fichiú aoise.

Maidir leis an Gaeilge — is cinnte nach bhfuil sí beo i mbéal gach duine sa tír seo inniu. Tháinig mór-athraithe uirthi díreach cosúil le gnéithe eile an tsaoil ach is dóigh liom go bhfuil ré nua sroichte ag an nGaeilge faoi láthair. Léirítear méon ar leith, fealsúnacht ar leith, tréithe daonna ar leith i ngach uile teanga. Agus ré nua na Gaeilge i réim anois is léir go



*Cynthia Ní Murchú is a final year student teacher in Carysfort Training College. In this essay she compares and contrasts the lifestyle in the Ireland of long ago with that of the eighties with particular reference to Carlow where the Irish language has entered a new era of popularity.*

dtuigeann daoine má tá Gaeilge acu go dtuigfidh siad meon, fealsúnacht agus tréithe a gcomh-Ghael níos fearr.

Ós rud é go bhfuilimid páirteach sa Comhphobal Eorpach le teangacha agus cultúir éagsúla ag brú ar imeachtaí na tíre seo gach uile lá tuigeann muintir na hÉireann tábhacht na Gaeilge i leith ar n-ionannú mar chine agus mar thír ar leith.

## Tuiscint Pobal Cheatharlaigh

Is léir go bhfuil tuiscint fé leith ag muintir Cheatharlaigh ar thábhacht na Gaeilge agus ar an gcultúr a théann léi. An é toisc go raibh ár mbaile mar chuid den Pháil, tráth a raibh an Ghaeilge in umar na haimleise?

Feictear tuiscint nua na nGael i leith na Gaeilge i muintir Cheatharlaigh in a lán gnéithe. Is iomaí eagrais agus cumann ag saothrú sa bhaile chun aird an phobail ar ár gcultúr, ar ár n-

oidhreacht agus dar ndoigh ar ar dteanga féin. Spreagtar daoine chun Gaeilge a labhairt agus chun bheith pairteach in imeachtaí cultúrtha an bhaile. Cothaítear bród agus mórtas i measc pobal Cheatharlaigh as a mBaile Gaelach féin.

I measc na nEagrais agus na Cumainn Gaelacha atá ag saothrú i gCeatharlach tá Glór na nGael, Éigse Cheatharlach, Coláiste na bhFiann, Déagóirí na Dolmaine, Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

Eagraítear imeachtaí gaelacha ilghnéitheacha i rith na bliana; Éigse, Feis, Coirmeacha Cheoil, Seisiúin agus Céilithe, Aonach na Nollag, Díospóireachtaí agus Ranganna Oíche, Oícheanta Cheoil, Turasanna, Cursaí agus Coláistí Samhraidh trí Ghaeilge.

## Páistí agus an Ghaeilge

Ní foláir an teanga a choiméad beo don chéad ghlún eile agus chuige san tá an réamhscoil agus an bhunscoil — Naíonra Cheatharlach agus Gaelscoil Cheatharlach — ag saothrú don todhchaí. Bá iomlán sa teanga mar phrionsabal leis na chur chuige cumarsáide anseo sa tsli is go mbaineann an Ghaeilge go nádúrtha leis an bpáiste — lena saol, lena nábhar suime agus lena gcuid riachtanas féin. Toradh an pholaise seo na páistí dhátheangacha.

## Agus na Déagóirí...

Tuigeann déagóirí Cheatharlacha go maith gur féidir le daoine óga gnáthshaol na fichiú aoise a chaitheamh trí Ghaeilge. Gur féidir an Ghaeilge a thabhairt amach ón seomra ranga agus í a chur i bhfeidhm i gcúrsaí spóirt, i gcéol, ar Aifreann an Domhnaigh, ina gcuid caitheamh aimsire. An teanga ina theanga bheo díreach mar ba chóir cosúil le gach teanga eile.

Ní féidir a shéanadh ach oiread ach go bhfuil deis ag daoine fásta an bhaile seo blas a

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# The Late Mary Teresa Kelly

**T**HE Old Carlow Society lost a grand old lady, a great historian and a devoted member when Mary Teresa Kelly of Pollerton Big, Carlow passed peacefully to her Eternal Reward in St. Brigid's Nursing Home, Carlow, on Tuesday, 23rd September in her 85th year.

Mary Teresa joined the Old Carlow Society shortly after its foundation in 1946 and retained her membership and interest in the Society's activities right up to her death. With the late Victor Hadden she was for a period joint editor of "Carloviana"; for very many years she was joint secretary with her life-long friend, Mona Fenlon; for a long period she was vice-chairperson, and in 1980 she was, despite her protestations, elected chairperson.

She gave many interesting lectures especially in the early days of the Society. Down the years she contributed numerous articles dealing with Old Carlow for "Carloviana". These articles were most detailed and showed clearly what a marvellous memory she had and how meticulously she had prepared them. Many of them have been recently enjoyed by present-day readers as they have been serialised in the "Carlow Advertiser".

She will be sorely missed in the O.C.S. for she was a veritable mine of information as regards local history. When any question arose about the old days in Carlow it was automatically referred to Mary Teresa who, without fail, gave a correct and minute explanation. It will be impossible to replace her, as she was really an encyclopedia of knowledge as regards this area.

However, local history was not her only forte. Being like her brothers Noel and Al, an inveterate and retentive reader, she could discuss almost any subject. We can recall how for many years her brother Al, knew all the answers at numerous local and national Question Times. As regards Mary Teresa and her brothers Goldsmith's "Still the wonder grew ———" was very apt.



Mary Teresa was particularly interested in the Society's Summer outings as she had an insatiable love for historic buildings and sites. Even when a resident of St. Brigid's she went on these outings and despite failing health really enjoyed them. Mary Teresa will certainly be missed by all of us.

It was not alone in the O.C.S. that Mary Teresa shone. Coming from a farming stock it was not surprising that on its inception she became a member of the Countrywomen's Association. She was a founder member of the Graiguecullen Guild of which she was Treasurer for many years. She later joined the Carlow Town and Tinryland Guilds. In all three her craft demonstrations and her talks were much enjoyed by her fellow members.

As she attended Confederation Meetings, A.G.M.'s and Conferences in various centres she was well-known and highly respected all over Ireland. At her Requiem Mass, concelebrated by Very Rev. John Fingleton, Adm. and her cousin Rev. Sean Swayne of the Liturgical Centre, St. Patrick's College, large numbers of I.C.A. members from Co. Carlow and other counties attended. A group of 16 members from different areas formed a Guard of Honour at her funeral, testifying how well the deceased was respected and appreciated.

Besides being an active member of the O.C.S. and I.C.A. she was also a member of the

Soroptomists and was equally engrossed in the activities of that Society.

Mary Teresa was educated in St. Leo's College, Carlow where she was a really outstanding student. The nuns had visions of a brilliant University for her. However, her services were required on the home farm and so she spent her whole life in Carlow. Twenty-five years ago she was one of the founders of St. Leo's Past Pupils' Union and was its first President. She maintained a keen interest in the affairs of the Union all down the years.

It was indeed remarkable and fitting that on Mercy Day at the Mass in the Cathedral in the presence of 600 St. Leo students, their parents and teachers, her coffin rested in front of the High Altar. To the very end Mary Teresa was with her beloved Alma Mater. **S. O'L.**

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fháil ar an saol gaelach sin a bhfuil páistí agus déagóirí ag baint an méid sin taithneamh as . . . Ranganna Oíche dóibh siúd atá ag iarraidh cur lena gcuid Gaeilge féin agus ar ndóigh dóthain imeachtaí chun an teanga a chur 'ag obair'.

## Tús maith

Is cinnte go bhfuil tús nua le ré na hathbheóchana i leith na teanga anseo i mBaile Ceatharlach . . . tús nua . . . tús maith. Cinnte níl an teanga beo i mbéal chuile dhuine mar a bhí fadó in Éirinn ach tá meon gaelach ag fás i measc na ndaoine agus ré na tuisceana i réim. Féachann na daoine ar an nGaeilge mar an t-acastóir i roth. Fásann gneithe eile den chultúr agus den saol on dteanga mar a fhasann na spócaí ón acastóir. Dá mbrisfí cúpla spóca den roth ní dhéanfaí mórán damáiste ach dá mbrisfí an t-acastóir thitfeadh an roth as a chéile. Tuigtear méad an dushlán chun an roth luachmhar seo a chaomhnú agus a choiméad ag gluaiseacht ag an am céanna.

An bhfuil an cumas, an spéis, an misneach ag muintir Cheatharlaigh tabhairt faoin dushlán seo. Tá mé cinnte go bhfuil.

# History of St. Mary's Parish Church

By Harry Fennell

**W**HEN writing a history or paper like this, with so much material available, it is difficult to decide what to include when one is dealing with a period of over three hundred years. It must of necessity be brief, so I shall try to condense it by giving the most interesting items as I find them.

The Parish of St. Mary's has in its possession the oldest Vestry Books in Ireland. The Minute Books commence in 1669 and are complete to the present day. The Registers of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths are complete from 1695. These books are full of information of very great interest.

The present Church of St. Mary's is the third on the same site. Dean Andrews of Limerick was consecrated Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, on 11th May, 1635, by Launcelot, Archbishop of Dublin. He writes of the state of the Churches in Ireland at this time as being in a most deplorable condition, the Cathedrals in many places destroyed, the Parish Churches unroofed, ruined or unrepaired, the houses left desolate during the wars and confusion of former times. It was about this time that the first of these three Churches was built. It was much smaller than the present one, and was roofed with shingles, this roof seems to have given a lot of worry as they were constantly paying for repairs to it.

## Western Wall of Catherlough

The site was ideally situated on an eminence overlooking the beautiful Norman Castle, which was at this time in perfect condition and garrisoned, also the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey a few hundred yards away outside the Town Wall. It may be of interest at this stage to mention this Western Wall of Catherlough. In the year 1361 Edward III appointed his son Lionel, Duke of Clarence, Lord Lieutenant of the County of

Catherlough. Lionel moved the Exchequer to Catherlough and expended a sum of £500 on the building of the Town Wall, portion of this wall was unearthed when digging the foundations for the present Provincial Bank, it ran from somewhere near St. Brigid's Hospital to the river Burrin. The Church was dedicated to St. Comgall, the Celtic Saint.

## Sum of £21-18-0 was still due

At a Vestry Meeting held on the 20th July, 1669, it was pointed out to the members that "a sum of £21-18-0 was still due to Thomas Herbadge for ye building and erecting ye Church at ye first." It was decided that the above sum be apportioned on the Union of Catherlough Parishes, also that ye Churchwardens of each Parish shall take two or three of ye ablest sons in their respective Parishes to aid in the collection of same.

In August, 1669 the Parishes of Urglin, Clonmulsh, Killeshin, Sletty, Shrule, Monksgrange, and Painstown were united to Catherlough, Catherlough being the Mother Parish to control the rent.

On 9th October, 1684, Killeshin was given permission to build a gallery in their Church, situated up in the Killeshin Hills.

There was a famous vine growing underneath glass, probably the Church Porch. There are numerous references to this vine, it was known as the Church vine. The following entry dated June 12th, 1685 (275 years ago) appears in the Minute Book. The Vine in the Hotbed Frame requires to have three inches more of fresh mould carefully spread all over the bed in such a manner that the vine will receive no hurt by misplacing, twisting or breaking them, to do with care, let one person hold the branches at one side, rising as many together as convenient, while another

spreads the mould the thickness prescribed, pressing it down with a hand, then give about 3 o'clock a pot of water each side, give great air from 7 o'clock till 3 o'clock by rising the sashes seven inches high. If these questions are attended to, no harm will come to them for close confinement. (An unusual entry in a Church Minute Book).

In the year 1686 an interesting item is, the distribution of Christmas benevolence, Widow Jonson 6d., Old Rose 3d., Mark Kelly 2d., Modagh 2d., Grizzle Evans 2d., Connel Doolan 2d., David Moore 2d., Blind Nicholas 3d., Darby 4d., Babbery 3d., the Bellman 1/6, Parishioners in the Jail 4/-. These are only a few of a lengthy list, it shows the value of money at that time.

In 1698 a Town Clock was erected in the Belfry, George Acton, Parish Clerk was allowed 12/- per annum for his care and trouble in looking after the clock.

## Raising the Churchyard wall

The first entry for the 18th Century is as follows: on the 11th day of November, 1700, that the sum of £16 be allotted for raising the Churchyard wall, from the French man's house to the Church 6ft. high. The late Archdeacon Ridgeway thought that this French man must have been the Reverend Benjamin Dallion who died in 1709. His tomb is in the extreme South West corner of the Churchyard, lying North and South, instead of East and West, as all tombs do. He was a Huguenot refugee. The house referred to is known as Miss Kearney's, now in the possession of Mr. Farrell.

On 14th July, 1701, it was agreed to build a gallery in the Church, one and thirty feet long, rising upwards to the West end, the money to be raised by subscriptions. The Vestry at this time performed all the functions of Local Government in the Parish, under its control, they were responsible for afforestation.

On 14th day of October, 1702, they sent out an order to all the Parishes, to plant a certain number of trees, each holding to plant according to its acreage. I will mention just a few: Little Pollardstown 6, Gallows Hill Farm 10, Mortarstown 12, Crossneen 8.

In 1705 a family named Paull was given permission to build a Burial Vault inside the Church, in their ancient Burial place, this latter sentence supports the tradition that this place was the town Burial Ground, before these Churches were built. The Doyne family also built a Vault in the Church, they erected a polished marble Tablet with the printing in gold letters.

### **'Figures altered and defaced'**

The Treasurers in 1708 got themselves into a spot of trouble, the Auditors reported "we find the figures altered and defaced in many places, so we cannot certify them as correct," so we see that embezzlement is not entirely a modern evil.

In 1711 the following were appointed to represent the Parishes:

Catherlough: John Brown, Phillip Bernard, Patrick Wall, Matthew Humprey, Richard Scolly and Thomas Conyers.

Killeshin: Joseph Rouselle, Mark Quigley, Henry Carter, Wm. Hunt.

Sletty: Robert Best, Charles Byrne.

Shrulle: Colm Bryan.

Monksgrange: Nicholas Warren.

Clodagh: Thomas Bunbury, John Russell.

Painstown: Arundel Best.

The following items appear in the Parish accounts for the year 1715, paid to the Coroner £1-6-0 for holding two inquests on the bodies of Darby and Edward Byrne, who were "drowned" in ye Barrow while sliding. The Parish Clerk's spelling and pronunciation was not his strong point.

In the expenses 1722 we find the following entry, paid £1-16-0 for having 105 yards between Mr. Somer's house and Burrin Bridge, and for improving the water gap for cattle and horses in Water Lane, also one half-penny for putting a hook on the North Churchyard gate.

July 18th, 1726, the Right

Reverend Hosiah Hort, Lord Bishop of Ferns and Leighlin, presided at a Vestry Meeting. It was proposed by his Lordship, and passed unanimously that the Parish Church being in a decayed condition, should be pulled down and rebuilt forthwith. His Lordship stated that he already had voluntary subscriptions amounting to £389 for this purpose. It was six years before it was finished in 1732. There was great difficulty in raising enough money to complete the job.

There is only one name in the list for the purchase of pews in the new Church that I am familiar with, Mr. Joseph Fishbourne paid £1-16-0 for No. 36. The Fishbourne family is well known in Killeshin Parish.

This second Church must not have been of a very imposing appearance judging by the following extract from the *Post Chaise Companion* in 1786: "There is also in Carlow the ruins of a very fine Abbey, built about 634, whose founder was buried there, near it is a Protestant Church, this is small and only of indifferent structure." This is the Church referred to by Dean Swift, after a visit to Carlow, when he penned these lines "Poor Town, proud people, high Church, and low steeple."

### **Great road to be repaired**

At the Easter Vestry in 1736 a man with a peculiar name of Achilles Columbine was elected as Churchwarden.

At a Meeting held on the 5th October, 1736, the following Resolution was passed: "We, the Ministers and Churchwardens of the Parish duly assembled to present the great road leading from the town of Graigue to the Ford of Monesure in the Queen's Co. to be repaired by the inhabitants of that Parish, in six days' labour." This is the present Castlecomer road, the Ford was on the little river beyond The Laurels in the townland of Monure. Mr. J. Hammon and Mr. R. Scolly were appointed overseers for the repairing of the road from Carlow to Clogrennane Castle. Mr. Thomas Cooper and Mr. George Houselle, overseers of that part of the Highway leading from Graigue to Killeshin.

The first time the town was referred to as Carlow was in 1721, previous to that it was Catherlough, the City of the Lakes. The Vestry was responsible for all roads in the Parishes under its control.

There was a man named Jacob Coleman on the Vestry in 1732, when the second Church was built, he was an ancestor of Mr. Bennie Coleman of Dublin Street. This is the oldest family living in the Parish.

In the year 1765 the name Deighton first appeared, Henry Deighton, after whom the Parish Hall is named, was a descendant of his, he was Rector's Churchwarden that year.

A Meeting held on 8th May, 1784, resolved: "That we bind ourselves by voluntary subscriptions to light the town of Carlow, and provide lamps for said purpose," Signed John Falkiner, D.D., Rector.

### **Illicit spirits manufactured**

June 9th, 1744, Thomas Allen was engaged to lay an earthenware floor two inches and a half thick, throughout the whole Church and entrance, to be made of lime, sand, collum, and blood, to be finished 1st August.

In 1746 a man named John Clarke was appointed at a salary of £5, to discover in the Parish where the large amount of illicit spirits was being manufactured, and to bring the guilty persons to justice. (They were making a drop of poteen on the quiet).

The register of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths is interesting, though very difficult to sort out, as the entries are all mixed up together, without any semblance of order. I shall give you the most interesting ones down the centuries. As Carlow was a Garrison town the records contain many names of soldiers and their families, who were married, baptised or died here. They mostly belonged to Cavalry Regiments, Dragoons, Lancers, and Hussars. When going over the burial records for the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, one is struck by the number of children who died under the age of two years, you come across hundreds who only survived a few days, infantile mortality was very high in those days. The following are some of



the entries which caught my eye:  
December 15th, 1746, buried Tillet, a poor traveller.

1788, September 9th, died the 8th at 1 o'clock in the morning, Captain Jocelyn-Davidson, Esq., aged 78 years, and was taken at so early an hour as 1 o'clock in the morning to be interred beneath the Cedars in the Burial Field at Old Derrig. This is the private burial ground of the Thomas family, late of Belmont, Carlow. This man must have been a relative of that family, as the late Captain Thomas was named Jocelyn Henry Watkins Thomas. I could never find out why the burial took place at such an unearthly hour. Old residents in this district told me that all the funerals to this Graveyard were at night time. Was it some superstition or perhaps some legal clause in Old Deeds?

There are two very pathetic entries in the year 1787, buried Sir Richard Moore Baronet, he died the 29th ulto. in Carlow Jail, for debt, aged 86.

There is recorded the death of a lady aged 37 years, and the statement is added that she died of a broken heart. After her name is inserted in brackets, see 8th Feby., 1777. On turning back I found the date referred to her was her marriage day. It looks like a case of domestic unhappiness.

## Died while playing cards

1777 died Edwardina Alborina Barbarina, youngest daughter of Edward and Eleanor Ramsfork, aged one year. (Surely a case of Ina for short).

1801, Nov. 17th, died suddenly, whilst at cards at 12 o'clock at night, Mrs. Anne Mitchell.

The following entry appears in the Marriage Register, May 17th, 1780: The Reverend John Falkiner, D.D., Rector of Carlow, was married to Miss Galbraith, eldest daughter of Samuel Galbraith, Esq., of Old Derrig, by the Reverend R. Hobart, Rector of Sletty and Shrule. All those people are buried in the Castle Hill graveyard.

This is how the following entry reads: 15th Sept., 1791, buried Miss Anne Brown of Browne's Hill, aged 30 years "so I was informed." (The Parish Clerk must have doubted her age).

An interesting entry appeared in the baptisms, dated 7th April, 1833, baptised this day, 8 children for Samuel and Sarah Handcock Haughton. When I read this, I thought that this puts the Dione quins in the shade, but on closer examination, I found they were all of different ages. This was about the time that this great Quaker family joined the Church of Ireland.

## Insulted by an enraged mob

On 2nd May, 1783, died Mr. Henry Woddle, Merchant, who acquired a large fortune by his dealing, which he bequeathed to several Dublin Hospitals. When he was being buried, in Carlow Graveyard, his remains were several times insulted by an enraged mob on the way to the place of interment, on account of his not considering the poor of that Parish where he made so much money. They laid his coffin down on the street several times, as the cortege approached the Graveyard.

In 1778 a Mr. K. Scragg's name appears on the Vestry list. This man and his brother had a private School on the corner of Brown Street and College Street, called Scragg's Academy. He also owned a row of two-roomed thatched houses in Potato Market area. It was known as Scragg's Alley.

Also on the Vestry list in the same year was a Mr. Charles Lance, he was Rector's Churchwarden, this man was another Huguenot refugee, he was a Brass and Copper Plate worker, he had his premises in Centaur Street.

The quaint way in which the Parish Clerk wrote the entries in the old books is sometimes very amusing. One entry states that a member of the Fitzmaurice family pinched someone's seat. It is corrected on the next page, where it states he purchased it. The seats all had to be bought, the front ones were the most expensive. In another entry it stated that a Mr. Humphrey sold half of his seat for £1.

At a Vestry Meeting on December 6th, 1827, it was resolved that an application be made to the Board of First Fruits to ascertain if they would advance money for building a new Church in this Parish, the present one being condemned.

December 27th: resolved that the Parish do advertise for plans and estimates for building a South wall, widening, roofing the Church, and erecting a new spire. The North wall and most of the East wall were incorporated in the new building. It was passed unanimously at a Meeting held in January, 1828, that the plans of Thomas Cobden be selected pursuant to his estimate. The Church was re-modelled, widened, a new South wall built, roofed, and a new spire erected in the year 1832. The Contractor was given the old roof for himself. He was a lucky man, for when the shingles were removed he discovered it was lined with sheet copper, a very valuable material at this time. When the Steeplejacks had the spire built they had a platform on top with the large cross ready to be placed onto its socket. Colonel Bruen of Oak Park offered to go up and perform the laying ceremony. They took him up in a basket attached to pulleys. He laid the cross all right, but they had to blindfold him to get him down safely.

## Patients afflicted with cholera

At a Meeting held in 1832 the following resolution was passed: "That the thanks of the Parish are justly due and are hereby given to William Fishbourne, Esq., for his kindness in giving the Barn situated on the Tullow Road as a Hospital for the reception of patients afflicted with cholera."

Resolved also: "That the thanks of the Vestry be given to Thomas Edward Byrne, and James Porter, Esq., Surgeons, for their readiness to afford professional assistance when required, also Mr. John Maher for carrying patients to this Hospital."

Some famous men attended Divine Service in these Churches, notably Dean Swift, who visited the second Church, and stayed with the Rector in the Vicarage, which was the present Public House "Ewings" on the corner of Haymarket. Sir John French also attended Divine Service in the present Church, soon after he returned from the Boer War when Military Manoeuvres were held in the

■ Continued next page

# Rutland National School The Christmas Tree Party

By H. V. Boake

A tradition says that the Christmas Tree was invented by Martin Luther. He got the idea when one frosty night he was out looking up at the stars through the branches of a Norway Spruce.

Another German, Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria brought the Christmas Tree to England, where the idea soon became popular, and in a short time, became just as popular in Ireland, so that nowadays the brightly lit and decorated Christmas Tree is almost everywhere, including our churches, the star on top reminding us of Bethlehem, and if the idea was really Martin Luther's, saying to ourselves, "Well it has a right to be there".

Those of us who learnt the three Rs at Rutland National School probably saw our first Christmas Tree there, reaching up to the ceiling, and decorated and hung with presents, and lit not with electric bulbs, but with tiny candles clamped to the branches.

Our host, as Gay Byrne might say, or more correctly our hostess, was Mrs. Browne-Clayton, and second in command was the teacher, Miss Alice Bloomer, and the Rector, Canon J. C. Nelson.

Usually the manager of a



National School was the parish priest, be he R.C. or C. of I. but in this case for some unknown reason, Mrs. Brown-Clayton, wife of Brigadier Brown-Clayton, of Browne's Hill was the manager. She did her duty well, visiting the school regularly, and seeing to our wants. She walked in without knocking as was her right. We stood up somewhat falling over ourselves, so sudden was her entry. She made a bee line for the teacher's chair beside the fire, and if the teacher happened to be in it, she had to be out of it quickly, otherwise Mrs. Brown-Clayton would probably have ended up on her lap. She listened to the teaching for a while, and then stood up suddenly, tall and gaunt and dark, beside our rather diminutive teacher, said a few words to her, and then with a swish of tweeds made for the door, we again having to do another half tumble to be upstanding again. It was woe betide the pupil nearest the door who had not caught the glare from Alice to get the door open in time.

A copy of the "Christian Science Monitor" was left on the chair. This was found amongst the fire lighting material next morning, and I would say unread. Mrs. Brown-Clayton belonged to this sect.

We all owed a debt to Mrs. Brown-Clayton. She kept the school in repair and kept a roaring fire going in the school room for about 20 to 25 pupils, all at her own expense.

She provided the highlight of the year too, the Christmas Tree party. The school room was then less than half the size of the present hall, and the tree stood in one corner, decorated and lit and laden. We had never seen anything like it before. We were rooted to the ground, but after a while crept a little nearer, to see if we could see our names inscribed on anything, but this was never successful.

The presents were mostly in a large box over which the Rector stood guard while we feasted on everything sweet, sticky and curranty. Eventually we saw the great moment was coming near, and we made a last effort to stuff down another bun, before Mrs. B.C. reached into the box. In the ensuing silence she called out a name. Half paralysed with fright and excitement, the owner of the name advanced.

## Valuable presents

All sorts of things came out of that box, all good valuable presents. The girls maybe were wishing for dolls, but there was one sort of present looked forward to by the boys. The older boys always got Barber pen knives. They were best quality and razor sharp. The speculation was, "Would I be regarded as old enough and would I get one?" Eventually I did, and likewise some others.

It was with difficulty we opened the shining blades. A simple bump or push could have meant blood all over the place, and that with the shouting, bursting of balloons, and banging of crackers, would have made the schoolroom more like a battlefield than a Christmas Tree Party. Perhaps it was always the rector's timely calling of three cheers for Mrs. B.C. that saved us.

We cheered heartily for our manager. We were men, ... we owned a Barber penknife.

Our Christmas was made.

Contributed by A. Dawson.

## ■ History of St. Mary's — Continued from previous page

vicinity of Carlow. He was, of course, afterwards Lord French, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces at the beginning of the 1914-18 War. In Archdeacon Ridgeway's time the Reverend Canon Hannay, the famous Novelist, who wrote under the nom-de-plume of George A. Birmingham, preached a remarkable sermon at a Harvest Festival Service. I myself heard him, and remember his text. It was, "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun doth his successive journeys run," the first two lines of that well-known hymn.

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# The Christian Brothers in Borris 1865 - 1878

By Breda Brady

It is not widely known that the Christian Brothers had an establishment in Borris from 1865 to 1878, and that one of the community — Brother Stephen McNamara is interred there — as the Parish Priest of the time, Fr. Patrick Carey requested that the remains be left there, as he considered him to be a saint.

Prior to 1864 the people of Borris were expecting an establishment of the Christian Brothers. The Parish Priests as well as the bishop were anxious that they should come. However, it was not until 1864 that definite signs of their coming became apparent. The Parish Priest of the time, Rev. Patrick Carey (a relative of Cardinal Cullen) wrote to the superior general asking him to hasten the advent of the Brothers to Borris. He wrote "It is now four years since the Rev. Father Geohan applied for Christian Brothers. The late P.P. and Vicar-General left £1,800 for the establishment of Christian Brothers in the parish and one of my curates who died twelve months ago left nearly £300 for the same purpose. You see, then, we have all that is necessary to establish a school for the Brothers. Do not let our children be lost or run wild. At the very farthest, I will expect the Brothers at the beginning of the new year. In charity strain a point to save our children".

The late P.P. referred to was Very Rev. Christopher Doyle P.P. of Borris from 1836 to 1859. The curate referred to was Rev. Michael O'Connell.

## Inspected house and grounds

The Superior General of the order directed Brother Ambrose Treacy, the then Director of the house in Carlow, and Bro. Matthew Redington, a member of the Carlow community to visit Borris and inspect the houses and grounds which were being made available. Fr. Carey warmly welcomed them. He

showed them the residence intended for the Brothers (it is now the O'Leary residence), the school (now the old school) and told them he was willing to make any improvements they desired. Afterwards he wrote to Brother Ambrose to inform him that "Mr. Kavanagh the landlord has refused to give a lease. I think it would not be prudent to lay out money on buildings without it. I have consulted the bishop and have not yet heard from him. Mr. Kavanagh will never put on a higher rent than the present, neither will he dispossess his tenants. Still, he is mortal and those who come after him might not acknowledge the agreement between Mr. Kavanagh and me". He concluded by saying he would carry out all the prescribed alterations in the school-room.

## 120 boys enrolled in school

Later that year the Brother Superior visited Borris. The question of the lease was sorted out and Fr. Carey was assured the Brothers would be in Borris by the following Easter. In a letter to the Brother Superior Fr. Carey made the following suggestion. "A friend of mine from Maryborough, Queen's County, has told me that one of your Brothers, a Mr. Horan (Brother Austin Horan) was about to be removed from that place. If you would allow me to give a suggestion I wish you could send him here; he is just the man would answer". Brother Austin did not go to Borris but at Easter 1865 Brothers Regis Clarke, as Director and Dominic Sinnott, with a lay Brother arrived. On the 24th April 1865 the school was opened. 120 boys enrolled. The school then went on its way doing its work. The one major event in the year was the public examination. The people assembled to witness it as also did Mr. McMurrough Kavanagh.

However, financial difficulties

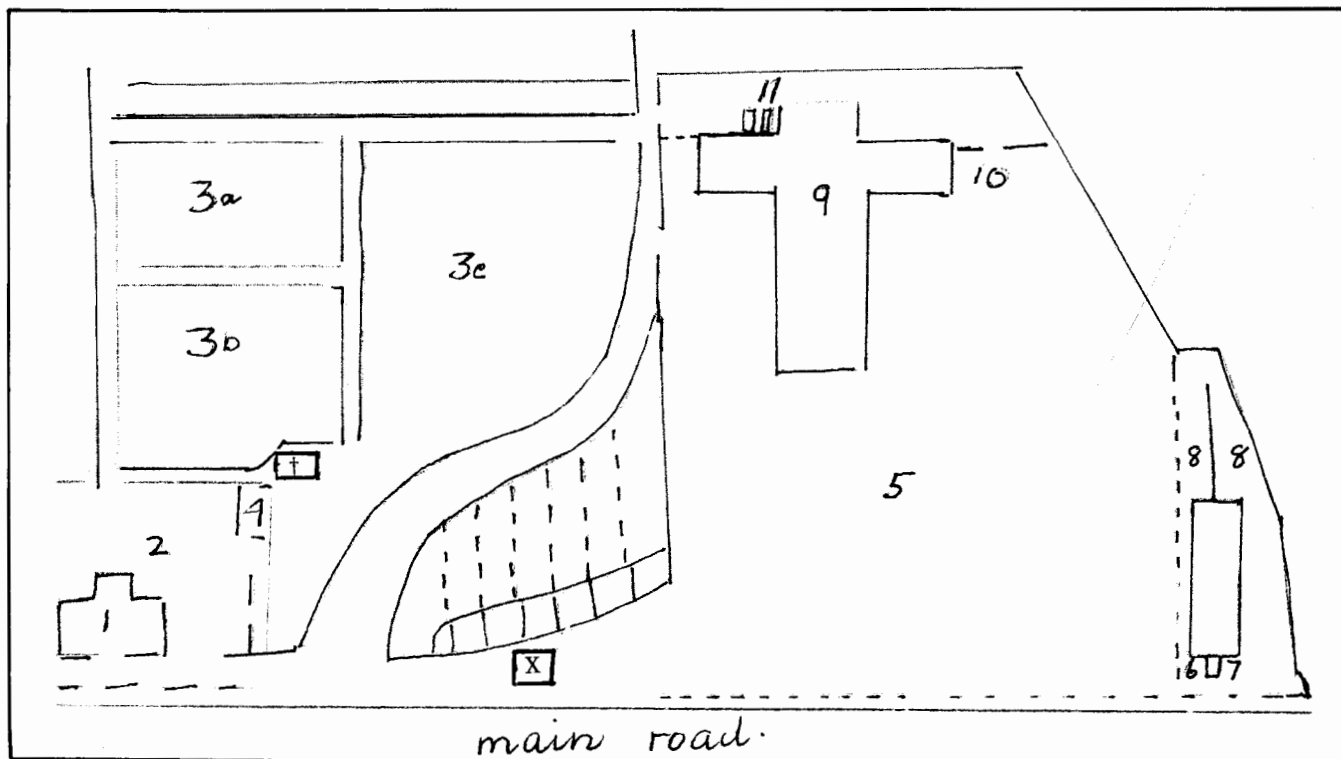
appeared as time went on. The dividends available were barely sufficient at the time of the introduction of the Brothers into the Parish. After a few years they grew less. The P.P. Fr. Carey was unable to supplement them by collection or otherwise. The Brother superior eventually had to withdraw the Brothers in 1878.

## Building erected over grave

One very esteemed member of the community died during their stay in Borris. He was Brother Stephen McNamara, a native of Urlingford. He succeeded Brother Regis Clarke as Director in November 1865. He died on March 12th 1867 at the age of thirty one. Many people were impressed by his holiness. Members of his community in Richmond St., Dublin and Limerick where he had served before coming to Borris were also edified by his piety and regularity. On leaving Borris the Brother Superior wished to have the remains of Brother McNamara transferred from the small plot in the garden, where he was interred, to the cemetery of one of their neighbouring houses. The P.P. would not part with them. He said "If ever there was a saint, Brother Stephen McNamara was one". He himself had the remains removed the year the Brothers left to a spot quite close to the sacristy in the church grounds. Some years later an addition was being made to the sacristy. As this addition would extend over Brother McNamara's burial place the P.P. decided to transfer the remains to another part of the grounds. When the coffin was taken up, he had it opened. The remains were incorrupt so he would not disturb them. The building was erected over the grave. There is a plaque to the memory of this holy Brother in the sacristy of the Sacred Heart Church in Borris.

During their thirteen years in

## Plan of the buildings occupied by the Brothers



1. House formerly occupied by the Brothers.
2. Yard attached to the house
- 3 (a, b, c) Garden attached to the house (now PP's residence).
4. Stable.
5. Church Grounds.
- 6, 7. Entrance to girls' and boys' schools (now the old school).
8. Playgrounds.

9. Catholic Church — the present R.C. Church.
10. Entrance to sacristy.
11. Grave of Bro. Stephen McNamara where his remains were deposited on being removed from † in 1878.
- X. Row of cottages (not there now).

Borris the Brothers attracted some fine young men into their community. James Whitty (1848-1930) of Milltown on the Kilkenny side of the Barrow and grand uncle to the present James Whitty joined the order on Dec. 9th 1865. He became known as Brother Joseph Calasanctius. Later he was Superior in Kilkenny and Thurles and became Superior General in 1905. Many schools were opened during his term as Superior General including Tullamore and sixteen in Australia.

John Kavanagh (1849 — 1911) entered the Novitiate of the

Christian Brothers on August 3rd 1867. He was a grand uncle of Michael Kavanagh, Ballyroughan and Brother Caomhánach, Phibsborough. He took the name Cyprian. He taught in Carlow, Enniscorthy, Clonmel, Waterford, Lismore and Doon. He became Director in Dingle and Westport.

Two brothers Paul Dalton (1851 — 1908) and Luke Dalton (1857 — 1929) also joined the Christian Brothers. They were born in Ballyine and were grand uncles of Michael Dalton.

James Burgess (1857 — 1934)

entered the Novitiate of the Christian Brothers on August 18th 1875. He was a native of Coolnamara. He became known as Bro. Adrian. He ministered in Artane, Manchester, London, Carlow and Gibraltar. Later he became superior in Synge St. and Limerick. He did trojan work in Synge St. He purchased 6 houses and had them fitted up as classrooms.

Much could be written about the labours of these five Christian Brothers. It suffices to say they were a credit to their communities wherever they served.

### Museum Report - continued from page 2

here were closely connected with him and he was the landlord who presented the Old Assembly rooms in Dublin St. to house the first Technical School here. A remark he made during his only inspection of the premises was that it would be a model observatory. Due to the roof being in such a bad state, however he went one better by getting a law passed through the Dail enabling him to pass on any rents from his other properties in town to be used solely by the

UDC for the encouragement of Art (in any form) in the town, many Societies did avail of it until a later law was passed allowing grants to be made for the same purpose from the Rates.

The O.C.S. hope to exhibit the majority of his deeds, leases and other legal documents connected with the family property during that week.

The most important exhibit which came in at the close of the year was the original hand-

printing press of the "Nationalist & Leinster Times". We were very glad to be in a position to receive and exhibit such an important historical object.

Due to some structural improvements by the U.D.C. our entrance door is now in a more restricted form, it is only a small complaint however, which we will get used to. The main thing is that the Museum will continue to be what we set out to provide, one of the best amenities which any town would be proud to have.



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# P. J. McCall

Poet and Balladeer

and his father

# John McCall

Writer and Historian

By E. McDonald

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**I**N The townland of Killalongford, Clonmore in the north-east corner of Co. Carlow on the Wicklow border, John McCall was born on the 16th August 1822 into a family which can be traced to the year 1606 when Riocaird MacCatmaoil fled from Kinel Farry in the Co. Tyrone and settled in Killalongford, this is recorded on the family monument in Clonmore Cemetery. John and his six brothers and one sister were the seventh generation descended from Riocaird and in endeavouring to trace the McCall family tree we find there are six already born of the fifteenth generation, so it can be understood, the tree has spread quite wide.

From early boyhood John showed a love of the folklore and stories of the area of Clonmore. The amount and the simple quality of his writing and recording of local and in later life, national happenings and activities are an example of the priceless value of keeping a record of the past. Without people like McCall our history would be very vague. In his own handwritten manuscripts he describes his early school days as follows — I can recollect when there was no schoolhouse in Clonmore and old Pheilim Byrne with nowhere to teach the humble rustics but in the women's aisle of the quaint old parochial chapel and after he had dismissed them for dinner, at noon they were obliged to re-assemble at one and remain at their studies again until 5 o'clock in the evening, it was in White's his successor's time that the present schoolhouse was built. This teacher was a professor of the violin on a small scale and often when he had dismissed the more unruly of his pupils the remainder were treated to a grand set-to on the floor to the sounds of exhilarating music. White was succeeded by a man called Doran who very often imbibed too freely of the neighbouring mountain dew and, his ire being constantly raised, threshed bad and good boys alike indiscriminately. The

next teacher was Moses Loyde whom I recollect ordering his citogued son's left hand to be enclosed in a sort of steel case so that the youngster would only use his right hand; the next teacher was named Anderson who was the amorous youth who displayed a liking for the older female pupils. My last preceptor in Clonmore school was the astute Charlie McHugh who also was the proprietor of a generous assorted shop convenient, and I, being the one of his most advanced scholars, he repeatedly left me in charge of the school while he went and attended to the more lucrative job of looking after his customers. So that gives us an idea of what his schooldays were like.

## Two establishments in Dublin

John describes in his writings how he left home to work with his first cousin Mortimer Byrne who was son of Michael Byrne of Bellshill, Clonmore and had two establishments in Dublin, one at 31 Wexford St. and another in Camden St. He was 17 years old then in December 1839. He worked in Mortimer's Grocery & Spirit shops for 6 years then he went to Beatty in Middle Abbey St. Around this time he received what must have been a big setback, he had saved £14 which he invested in Cuffe St. Bank, which went burst, after a long time he got back £7. John worked in several business houses until March 3rd 1856 when he bought a grocery and spirits business at 25 Patrick St. where he carried on a thriving business. In 1859 John married Eliza Mary Newport from Rathangan in South Co. Wexford: of this marriage there were three sons but only one survived childhood; we are told John was a model husband and father and his home was always open to receive friends and everyone was shown hospitality. The McCall premises was a home from home for all the carters from Clonmore and elsewhere; these people used build

log wheeled carts, travel to Dublin with their produce, leave the cart behind and ride home the horses. Patrick St. was the haunt of musicians, singers and storytellers so we can imagine the crack. John McCall loved every minute of it.

John McCall settled intimately into the life of his adopted city, politically he was regarded as a strong nationalist, in his early days he worked for the repeal movement. He was elected as Nationalist representative of the Wood Quay Ward as a poor law guardian in the South Dublin Union in 1880 with an outstanding turnout of 1498 votes.

John's literary talent was a natural follow on from his early interest in the ordinary people of his native Clonmore. Their simple way of life, their love of music, the local lore, the fireside gossip, the various occupations and trades of the families endeavouring to eke out a living in the locality. He possessed an instinctive urge to preserve information; how lucky we are to have a readymade record of our heritage and tradition, folklore and history. We are indebted to John McCall for what he left for posterity and all gratis. His "address to Clonmore" is a perfect example.

## Contributed articles

He was still in his teens when he contributed several articles to the Dublin Journal of Temperance, Science and Literature in 1842 and 1843 and in 1844 he said he indited a few poetical items for The Argus Magazine published by Patrick O'Donohoe, 44 Garden Lane. In 1847 a story of his appeared in the Irish National Guard published by John McCormack, Christ Church Place.

Subsequently a serial of his called Dermott McMurrrough's Dream was published by his brother's paper The Catholic Advocate. In 1851 he indited a humorous sketch — The Fair of Shillelagh for the Belfast People's Journal. The Dublin Commercial

Journal and Family Herald carried regular articles for years. He corresponded at different times to the London Gentleman's Journal, to the Budget and the The Family Herald, Young Folks and many others, and latterly to the Penny Dispatch and The Freeman's Journal.

Among the stories published by The Dublin Journal — The Fatal Elopement, A local legend of Clonmore Castle, The Card Players, Henry Braddle, A true story of Ballyshane, Matthew Byrne's Wake and The Castle of Clonmore.

## History of Clonmore

The Fatal Elopement was copied by some American Journals and was reproduced in The Dublin Standard in 1883 without any acknowledgement as to the source of its origin.

In addition to all these lighthearted contributions, he composed works of a permanent nature. In 1862 he published for Private Circulation, The Antiquities and History of Cluain Mór Meadhoc, now Clonmore in the County Carlow, a 32 page pamphlet. Patrick Kennedy who wrote the Bank of the Boro, Legends of Leinster etc. reviewed this publication in The Ward — this closely printed pamphlet is only procurable by begging or by stealing.

Kennedy goes on to state the writer of this booklet can be looked on as a literary curiosity. Its author quits his native village, sits down to the cares and drudgery of this old city, visits library, consults archaeologists and books, prints the results of his researches and neither receives nor expects one penny of his outlay. A labour of love.

John McCall's interest in Almanacs was interesting. He collected all the different publications intending to publish a review of the lot but the collection got so large it got out of hand so he gave the lot to his friend Edward Evans. In 1897 Evans published under the title Histocial and Bibliographical Accounts of Almanacs, Directorys etc. etc. published in Ireland from the sixteenth century. He never referred to John McCall good, bad or indifferent, after all.

In 1976 Carrig Books published a facsimile edition of the original with an introduction by Dr. Thomas Wall of six pages which

does fair justice to John McCall.

McCall's work on Irish Almanacs written in neat hand is now in the Manuscript Section of the National Library M.SS 7953-4.

Evans had a small shop in Corn Market, Dublin. He died aged 70 on 23rd February 1901.

John was editor of Purdon's Ladies and Farmers and Mathematical Almanac till 1876. He commenced editing of Old Moore's Almanac in 1874 and continued in that capacity until he died in 1902; in fact he had the 1902 edition nearly complete. He also edited Nugent's Moore's Almanac from 1866 until 1878 so he had 3 almanacs to contend with at the one time.

Between 1892 and 1898 John McCall published in serial form in the Irish Emerald the lives and history of many of the poets of former and present years. One of these was Matthew Francis Hughes who wrote under the name of Conencensious and was a Fenian and who had contributed to The Nation and to The Irishman but poor Hughes ended his days in poverty and John McCall often helped him out and eventually Hughes died on 7th March 1895 in the Dublin Union. Shortly after, John McCall had a

headstone or monument erected over his grave in Glasnevin at his own expense.

Those who met McCall, we are told, were always impressed by his natural and unassuming manner. His ability was widely known to a large circle of those in Branches of Historical research. He frequently corresponded with Canon O'Hanlon (whose history of Laois is being reprinted) and many others. He was recognised as being the greatest source of information on the 19th century literature and journals of Dublin.

## Preserved items of literary value

John McCall died on January 18th 1902 aged 81. He was always very keen that old books and journals should be preserved, all records, dates, items of every kind of literary value — in fact he presented a huge consignment after being duplicated to the Royal Irish Academy.

An example of enthusiasm, industry and eagerness to preserve the simple way of life which spurned selfishness, greed, spite, and encouraged neighbourliness and love of the land of our roots.

## P. J. McCall

Patrick Joseph McCall was born in 25 Patrick St., Dublin on March 6th 1861 the only surviving son of John McCall.

His first term at school was at the Christian Brothers School, Synge St., and then at St. Joseph's Monastery, Harold's Cross. He completed his education at Catholic University High School, Lower Leeson St., Dublin. He gained a Certificate of Merit in his first year Intermediate Exam in 1879.

He grew up in the midst of song and story and all the oral tradition of the Liberties.

## Holidays in Co. Wexford

Each summer P. J. accompanied his mother and father on holidays in Rathangan, Co. Wexford. His father's holidays were often very short on account of business calls back home in Dublin. But P.J. loved the country life among the neat thatched homes, the windmills, the castles, and the peaceful, rugged beaches of The Cull.

From his early days P. J. McCall showed a literary talent inherited from his father: he contributed to all the regular magazines — The Nation, Young Ireland, The Shan Ban Bocht and a lot of others often under the pen name of "Cavellus".

His first volume of poems "Irish Noiníns" translations from the Gaelic of poems and ballads was published in 1894. In 1899 "Songs of Erin" was compiled. That volume was described as being racy of the soil and unmistakably Irish.

His third book of songs and ballads "Pulse of the Bards" was published in 1904. They were described as a pleasure that comes from good song, with lilt in it and heart in it.

"Irish Fireside Songs" appeared in 1911. Contains historical ballads, love songs and translations from Gaelic.

"The Fenian Nights Entertainments", a number of legends told at Wexford Firesides contains

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# THE PARISH OF KILLABBAN

By John Byrne

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**T**HE present Parish of Arles was known in olden times as the Parish of Killabban and in fact the district is still referred to as the Parish of Killabban in most legal documents. Until very recently the local Protestant Rector was known officially as the Rector of Killabban.

Killabban is derived from the Gaelic 'Cill Abbáin' or the Church of Abban.

St. Abban was the founder of a monastery at the site where the old abbey ruins now stand in the townland of Killabban. Those ruins are situated almost in the centre of the townland (they are said to date back to the early sixth century) and are one of the greatest examples of Medieval Architecture, and it is a great pity that they have not been better attended to and preserved.

## Follower of St. Fiachre

St. Abban himself was a follower of St. Fiachre (St. Fiac's successor, Fiacre, was his son) who had his monastery in Sleaty which is between Knockbeg College and Graiguecullen. Historians tell us that he founded his monastery at Killabban sometime earlier than 575 AD. In the eighth and ninth century the present townland of Killabban was referred to by historians as the town and city of the same name. However the only surviving link between now and that far off age of Saints and Scholars is the ruins of the Abbey.

When the community at the monastery in Killabban was flourishing Abban sent one of his monks, St. Evin, to establish a monastery where Monasterevin town now stands, while he himself went and established another monastery at Adams-town in the Co. Wexford.

Every Catholic church in this area from St. Abban's time through the various ages and troubles have been called the church of St. Abban down to the present Church of St. Abban at Killeen. This present church is

built but a very short distance outside the boundary of the townland of Killabban.

Legend tells us that when St. Abban died the monks of Adamstown and those of Killabban decided to fight a battle on the borders of Co. Carlow and Co. Kilkenny near Graignamanagh and the winners would then bury his body in their own monastery. The battle never took place as a monk from Graignamanagh got two coffins, put the Saint's body in one and a weight in the other to have them of equal weight. Having sealed the coffins he gave one to each group and sent them home to bury their coffin and in this way neither group would know which one had the actual body.

There are many other historical links with the past around the area. There are the ruins of the Castles at Shrule and Grange which are said to have been linked by an underground tunnel. These date back to pre-Norman times.

There are many old graveyards also bearing witness to our historical past. Some of those graveyards such as Shrule and Grange are no longer used. Others are only used when some member of the very old locals pass away. Killabban and Tankardstown would be in this category.

## Emigration a problem

Like every other area in Ireland this parish lost a lot of its sons and daughters to emigration. The most notable family involved to our own knowledge are the Grace families of Gracefield and Sheffield. The Grace family's burial vault stands beside the present parish church at Arles.

One of the Grace family emigrated to America in the early eighteen hundreds and founded the fruit firm that we know today as the WR Grace Corporation.

We have all read about the Penal Days and the Penal Laws

in Ireland when every priest had a price on his head.

At that time Mass could not be celebrated nor any Catholic religious services held. Mass was celebrated in secret, away in the most remote places. There is one such place which to this day is masked by a 'Massbush'. It is situated in a field owned by Miss O'Gorman, the third field on the left side of the road as one travels from Cullenagh Cross to Ballylinan.

## Limestone quarries

The building now used by the local community as a Recreation Hall was used as a National School from the year it was built — 1847 (the year of the Great Famine) — until 1949 when the present school in Killeen was built. The building erected in 1847 stands beside the ruins of St. Abban's Abbey.

The farm land in this parish is considered to be about the best in Leinster. This is not surprising as it has a considerable mass of limestone underneath. Evidence of these deposits of limestone can be seen by the number of disused limestone quarries to be found in the area. Limestone from those quarries was used in the making of roads and erection of building in the whole county of Laois.

In keeping with the historical background of the parish the present inhabitants are noted for their dedication to the preservation of their heritage and to the progressive and intelligent utilisation of their resources, particularly their farm land to provide for themselves and families.

At the time of the Great Famine a 'soup kitchen' was in existence at Ballinagar House now owned by Mrs. Moran, where meals provided for the *poor of the area at that time*. The remnants of the huge pots used in cooking at that time in the soup kitchen were still to be seen at Ballinagar until recently.

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# Another Forty Year Old!

The following article under the title "Up and Coming Carlow Group" appeared in a compendium of items and information about amateur drama published about thirty years ago by Harper's Ltd., College Green, Dublin and printed at Herald Works, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

It was given to me some years ago without a cover, so I suspect the title may be the same as the opening words in the foreword "Curtain Call!"

Besides articles on groups from all over the country, the book also contains contributions by Gabriel Fallon, Lennox Robinson, Michael Ó hAodha and Ria Mooney *inter alia*.

Source: Seamus O'Rourke

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## Master dramatist G.B.S. helps cut their losses *Up-and-Coming Carlow Group*

**C**ARLOW Little Theatre Society was launched in 1945. The membership was 30; it now stands at 200.

The Society had no funds, no premises in which to rehearse, no suitable hall in which to stage its productions. The annual subscription was fixed at 5/-, to ensure that nobody wishing to join would be debarred from membership on the grounds of a restrictive fee. It was found, however, that it would be impossible to develop on such a slight income, and members decided to raise the subscription to 10/-, at which figure it now stands.

A room in the old Christian Brother School was made available through the kindness of Very Rev. D. B. Kennedy, Adm., and Rev. N. Cullen, C.C., Graiguecullen, allowed the members the use of St. Fiac's Hall at production times to accustom the Players to actual stage conditions.

The ideal before the Society from the start was to acquire premises of its own, and ultimately to build its own Little Theatre. In 1951, the Society acquired a house in Brown Street, which had deteriorated from a Georgian town house to be a tenement, and had at last been condemned as unfit for human habitation. A Bank overdraft of £150 was secured and the Society entered occupation.

Working parties of members were formed. Floors were repaired, windows fitted, walls made sound, ceilings replastered, the premises wired for electricity.

The work is still going on, and the premises are now as cosy a

little Club as any Society could wish to have. Every night, members can be found there, rehearsing, reading scripts, helping on the renovations, or merely sitting around relaxing in the pleasant atmosphere of good fellowship which has been such a feature of the Society since the start.

Since its inception, the Society has produced at least one three-act play each year and several one-act plays each season. It encourages impromptu readings of sketches to accustom members without stage experience to the "feel" of acting, and encourages members to produce one-act plays, with the dual purpose of discovering new acting talent, and new producers.

These plays are produced in public and are seen by an invited audience of members and their friends. No charge is made for admission, and audiences of 300 or more are the norm.

Among its productions to date are "Shadow and Substance", "Gaslight", "Juno and the Paycock", "The Rugged Path", "The Whip Hand", "Home is the Hero", "Pygmalion", "Arsenic and Old Lace".

For its Tostal production this year, Myles na Gopaleen's play, "Faustus Kelly", was chosen.

A turning point in the Society's development was the coming of Miss Ria Mooney a few years ago to advise the members on production and acting technique.

She gave a completely new orientation to their methods and aims. They admit frankly that anything they know of acting and production they have learned from this dynamic and gracious lady.

Although she has very little spare time from her duties as producer at the Abbey Theatre, she always spares a weekend to come down to advise, criticise, and mould the caste into a smooth-moving team, before each play is staged.

Besides the invaluable aid given by Miss Mooney, the Society has arranged lectures to its members by Walter Macken, Ronald Ibbs, Brendan Smith, Gabriel Fallon, Anew McMaster, Maurice O'Brien, D. D. Franks.

In co-operation with the Carlow Arts Council and Carlow Vocational Education Committee, the Society arranged two R.D.S. Lectures by Roger McHugh on the Theatre in 1953/'54. These were open to the public, and drew large audiences.

Besides presenting their plays in Carlow, where they drew overflow audiences to the Coliseum Cinema, the members have toured to Athy, Tullow and Bagenalstown, where they have been given enthusiastic receptions. Members have also co-operated with Macra na Feirme in supplying Adjudicators for the Macra Drama Competitions.

A real Theatre to act in was provided last year when the Town Hall was completely modernised and Carlow can now boast as well-equipped Auditorium as any in Ireland.

The Society still hankers for its own Little Theatre, however, where it can experiment to its heart's content. To this end, it has purchased over a hundred tip-up seats, it has a stage lighting set built by the electrically-minded among the members which is equal to anything available in any professional Theatre; and it has



a wide range of stage equipment, including sets designed on the most up-to-date principles

Carlow is fortunate in the fact that G.B.S., in memory of his family associations with the town, left some property to the U.D.C., the income of which was to be used for projects of public benefit which could not be financed out of the rates.

Two years ago, the County Manager invited the various cultural bodies in the town to form an Arts Council to advise him on the spending of these funds. In the event of a loss, the Little Theatre Society may now apply for a grant from this Civic Fund, and this gives a degree of independence not enjoyed by many similar societies.

The Society has thus come, in less than ten years, from a state of obscurity and uncertainty, to be one of the most active, progressive, and prosperous in the country. It is a source of pride to the people of Carlow, and is regarded as one of the greatest cultural assets of this lively and

go-ahead town.

Much of this success is due to the vital core of pioneers who have given so freely of their time, energy, and ability to make it the success it now is. They, in their turn, have avoided the mistake of allowing the Society to degenerate into the preserve of a coterie or of any particular section of the community.

The Society is truly democratic, having among its members a true cross-section of all the elements interested in Drama, whether as performers or patrons.

It has produced actors and actresses of outstanding ability, but they have no desire to monopolise the productions. Each play sees some new talent being introduced, and in this way the growth of its acting potential is ensured.

Nor is the creative element ignored. Two members have written One-Act-Plays which the Society intend to produce. There is besides, a sizeable library on the Drama in the Society's

premises, which members may consult.

The Committee consists of six members elected annually, and three Trustees elected for life. The present Committee is: President: W. L. Duggan, Esq., (Trustee); Vice-President: Terence Moran, Esq., (Trustee); Hon. Secretary: Miss Joan Flynn, N.T.; Hon. Treasurer: Thomas Timmins, Esq.

Committee: Mrs. Greta Maher, Miss Kay O'Connor, N.T.; Leo Murphy, Esq., (Trustee); Martin O'Hanlon, Esq.; Michael Flynn, Esq.

The Society, in memory of Shaw's association with the town (to which he also donated the Technical School building) produced his "Pygmalion" as their Tostal offering last Easter.

The old Sage looks quizzically down from his portrait in the Society's Common Room, and if he were alive would feel, no doubt, that he had been able to help the people of this thriving Midland Town in a work dear to his heart.

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## *The McCalls - continued from page 48*

local phrases, words of Fort and Bargy.

P. J. also attributed much of his success to his membership of the "Pan Celtic Society" founded in Dublin on 1st March 1888. He contributed several papers such as "Leinster Localisms" and in "The Shadows of St. Patricks" which was re-published in 1976 with an introduction by Dr. Thomas Wall. He also contributed an interesting paper on "Irish Mumming Plays" also "Irish Folklore Riddles".

On March 26th 1899 P. J. gave a lecture entitled "In the Shadows of Christ Church"; "Irish Street Ballads" was another subject for a paper to the society.

He was a founder member of the Gaelic League on 4th August 1893 which elected Dr. Douglas Hyde as President. P.J. married Miss Margaret Furlong on October 3 1900. They had no family. His wife's sister Alice Furlong was a gifted poetess and storywriter. Margaret fitted in perfectly with the McCall environment in Patrick St. It continued to be an open house for historians, musicians, artists and scholars.

P. J. was persuaded by friends to enter public life. And in 1896 he was elected councillor for

Wood Quay Ward and continued as such for 15 years. There was great banter and friendly arguments between himself and his father. His father, as member of the Board of Guardians, complaining that the Corporation was stingy with money to help the poor and the son saying the Guardians were spend-thrifts and spending the money foolishly.

The Corporation Election of 1902 was interesting one of the candidates opposing P. J. was James Connolly, one of the 1916 leaders. He was representing the Irish labourers of Dublin and The Irish Socialist Republican Party.

McCall had a resounding victory — 1,425 to 341 for Connolly.

Even after his father's death P. J. and his wife continued their annual holidays in Rathangan. Life would not be complete without a holiday in the countryside — daily he would take his fiddle and eatables and journey down to the quiet beach of The Cull and read, play and compose poems and ballads. He always mixed in with the people during their daily chores — the threshings, their journeys to the mill, met them at the pumps for water.

He often visited Killalongford, especially in his early years. Hence some of his ballads are of local interest "Down by Seskin Glen", "Old Peadar Carthy from Clonmore". "The Dance at Marley" is another poem of Carlow, also "Follow me up to Carlow".

P.J. retired from business in 25 Patrick St. in 1918 to a house in Sutton but his health failed and he died March 5th 1919. His wife Margaret died in 1944.

We are proud of P. J. McCall and men like him who have portrayed the true Irish qualities. One remarkable thing about P. J. in everything he composed — it was about something he knew; everything was fact. There was nothing imaginary or make-believe. Each one is a story — a mine of history compacted into each ballad.

We are roused each time we hear one of his stirring songs and it helps us realise the sacrifices and suffering of

The brave sons who died

For the cause of long down trodden man.

P. J. is remembered in Rathangan, Co. Wexford with an annual Eigse where a granite memorial is at the cottage where he spent all his holidays.

# Secretary's Report

**I**N its 40th year, the Old Carlow Society is still going strong. Although we regrettably lost some valuable members owing to death during the year, our membership is very satisfactory as quite a good number of new members joined. We had a particularly fine series of lectures which were well attended. Our Summer outings attracted huge numbers. Mr. and Mrs. Holden are to be congratulated on fitting in people who were anxious to go on the outings. All those who went expressed themselves very pleased with the various places we visited. We were very happy with the ready sales we got for "Carloviana". Many people look forward to the publication of the journal to send to their friends abroad.

We are very anxious to establish a youth section of the OCS. It is most important that the work of the Society is carried on into future years and it is the youth of today who will have to shoulder that responsibility. The entries to the ICA Heritage Competition showed what excellent work young people can do in the field of local history. So, it is up to us to bring them together in our Society.

## Talks

The first talk of the Winter session entitled "An examination of some place names in Co. Carlow" was given by Mr. Seamus Murphy on October 24, 1985. In his talk, Mr. Murphy showed the connection between the old Irish names of places with some physical feature, building, or person in that area. A visit to these places will show how suitable these place-names were. From the Anglised forms it is often very difficult to recognise the old name.

On November 21, Mr. W. L. Duggan gave a talk on Carlow Rowing Club. Mr. Duggan had a life-long connection with the CRC and was for very many years its president. In his talk, he traced the history of the club from its foundation in 1859. He dealt especially with noted members of the club down the years and outstanding successes in regattas in Ireland and overseas. As an old member, he said he was delighted that in 1986 there was such a large membership and that the present youth of Carlow were so

enthusiastic and were winning fame for themselves and the club at home and abroad.

On December 12, Mr. William Ellis gave a most interesting talk on that famous Leighlinbridge man, Cardinal Moran. He detailed the Cardinal's career when he was Bishop of Ossory and the tributes paid to him on leaving Kilkenny for Australia. There, Cardinal Moran became a national figure and did wonderful work for the religious and secular welfare of the inhabitants of his adopted country. At the same time he continued to take a deep interest in affairs back home in Ireland. The talk was interspersed with a fine selection of slides. After the talk on Cardinal Moran, Mr. Ellis showed a number of slides which he, himself, took of well-known and lesser known places throughout Co. Carlow. All present were impressed with the photographic excellence of the slides.

On February 20, 1986, Mr. William White gave a really delightful talk on his native Clonegal. His listeners were amazed at the amount of information he had accumulated about that area. He dealt with the history of the district and the social life of its people. Mr. White said that it was a pity more was not done to develop such places as Clonegal and other districts in South Carlow as tourist attractions as they compared favourably with Killarney, Wicklow, Connemara and other more publicised areas.

The March lecture had to be unavoidably postponed to April 10 when Mr. David Johnson, Inspector of National Monuments with the Board of Works, gave a most interesting talk entitled "Irish Castles". An expert in his subject, Mr. Johnson gave a really wonderful description of castles in all parts of Ireland. With a particularly fine series of slides he showed the development of castles from the earliest times and drew attention to characteristics in various buildings. His talk was an educational treat as he compared and contrasted castles in various areas and at different periods. His talk was a delightful finale to a particularly fine series of Winter lectures.

## A.G.M.

The a.g.m. was held on Thursday, May 1.

As Chairperson, Mrs. Veronica Crombie was on a visit to the USA. Vice-Chairman Alec Burns presided. In his address Mr. Burns paid tribute to Eire Og Football Club who had produced the journal "Friends and Neighbours". He said it showed what an amount of local information can be collected by a group of young people. The same was evident from the Heritage Exhibition organised for schools by the I.C.A. Mr. Burns said it would be a good thing if all those young people were organised to form a youth section of the Old Carlow Society.

Tributes were paid to the Treasurer, Mrs. Mona Fenlon, on the very satisfactory financial position of the Society and to the Editor, Mr. Tomás MacGabhann on the excellence of the 33rd edition of "Carloviana".

Suggestions for the Summer outings were discussed and arrangements were left to the incoming Committee.

The Officers and Committee elected for 1986-'87 appear on another page.

## Outings

**Tullow:** On Thursday evening, May 22, we had an enjoyable outing to Tullow. First to be visited was the Museum, which has recently been opened. We were agreeably surprised at the number of interesting artefacts that have already been assembled. We were particularly interested in the exhibits dealing with Fr. John Murphy, executed in Tullow in 1798. The Tullowphelim Historical Society are to be congratulated on their Museum.

Next, we went to St. Columba's Church of Ireland where Mr. W. Patton gave a most interesting history of a very beautiful building.

Finally, the site of the ancient monastery was visited. Mr. Pat Darcy gave an account of the old Abbey, remains of which have almost disappeared.

**Turlough Hill:** On Sunday, June 8, we had an afternoon outing to the ESB Pumped Storage Scheme at Turlough Hill, Co. Wicklow. We marvelled at the

amount of work that must have been required to construct such a wonderful project. It was certainly a great engineering feat.

The Official guide and the working model of the Scheme helped us to understand how the intricate scheme functioned. We left Turlough Hill feeling proud of our engineers.

We later visited Avondale House, the residence of the great patriot, Charles Stewart Parnell. The various exhibits were most interesting and the beautiful grounds are delightful.

**Waterford:** On Sunday, June 22, we had a full day outing to Co. Waterford. In Waterford city, Mr. Noel Cassidy of the Old Waterford Society was an excellent guide. We visited Reginald's Tower and all the historic buildings in that part of the city. In Tramore, we were met by Mr. Patrick Kennedy of Dungarvan, who gave a most interesting account of all the places along the Coast Road to Dungarvan. There, we visited the wonderful Shell House. We were intrigued how artistically the various shells were used in the garden and on all the beautiful articles in the house. Our next stop was in Lismore where we visited the lovely Church of Ireland Cathedral. The Rector very kindly gave us the history of the building.

Passing by the magnificent Lismore Castle, we travelled on through the beautiful countryside to the Cistercian Monastery at Mount Mellary. Driving there was rather difficult as large numbers of people had come to a grotto near Mount Mellary where it was reported a statue was seen to move. We were very impressed with the peace and quietness of the monastery and to see and hear the monks at their evening prayers. All regretted that there was not more time to spend in that hallowed spot. From Mellary we journeyed on via the celebrated Vee Route to Clonmel where we had high tea in the Hotel Minella. On our homeward journey we regretted that we could not stop at the old home of Brother Ignatius Rice in Callan.

**Castletown House:** On the afternoon of Sunday, July 13, we went to Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. We were all pleased with the imposing mansion. An excellent guide conducted the party around the various rooms. Unfortunately, heavy rain prevented us from exploring the well-kept and spacious grounds.

**Mullingar:** On Sunday afternoon, August 10, we went to Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. Mr. Dick Hogan, Vice-Chairman of Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society and Editor of Topic Newspapers acted as our guide. He first showed us over the magnificent Belvedere House, delightfully overlooking Lough Ennel. He gave a fascinating account of how the mansion was built and of the people who were connected with it down the years.

Next, we visited the imposing Cathedral of Christ The King, in a very prominent position in the centre of the town. It is well worth seeing. An unusual feature of the building is a lovely Museum where artefacts pertaining to the new Cathedral and the building which preceded it, were tastefully displayed. From the Cathedral we went to Mullingar Museum. It is very spacious and all the exhibits are nicely arranged in the various categories.

**Sleaty:** An outing was arranged for Sunday, August 24, to Sleaty, Killabban and Athy. Unfortunately, there were other attractions on that day and the bookings were so small the outing had, regrettably, to be cancelled.

**Kilmainham:** The final outing of the season was to Kilmainham, Dublin. First, we visited the historic Kilmainham Jail. An excellent guide took the party to the various cells where famous patriots were imprisoned, and to the yards where the Invincibles and the Men of 1916 were executed. On our tour of the prison, he pointed out the various precautions that were taken to ensure that no prisoner could escape and how dreadful it must have been with no heat or light in the cells. We were particularly interested in the Museum. Those who arranged the various exhibits deserve to be congratulated. Finally, we saw the Chapel which was most impressive.

From the Jail we went to The Royal Hospital which has recently been opened after a thorough renovation. It is a really wonderful building and will be a fine setting for future functions. All our members enjoyed the description of the various sections of the building given by a most efficient guide. They also enjoyed the musical and dancing items given by very talented groups. The only regret was that we had not more time in Kilmainham.

## Museum

The Museum continued to attract hundreds of visitors. It was particularly pleasing the number of school groups from Carlow and the whole county who visited the Museum. These young people delighted in telling where they had seen similar artefacts as those they saw in the Museum. Many of them, too, were very interested as they had mini museums in their own schools. We are glad that the Museum idea is spreading. We were fortunate to secure the services of Mr. Oliver Dooley, St. Killian's Crescent, under the Social Employment Scheme. He took a real interest in the Museum and kept it in immaculate condition.

## Exhibition

The Irish Countrywomen's Association in connection with their 75th Anniversary, organised a competition for schools entitled "Our Heritage". There were two sections — under 15 years and under 18. There was a marvellous response. There were 45 entries and they were of an extremely high standard. The adjudicators (three members of the OCS) had great difficulty in deciding the winners. The presentation of awards took place in the Museum on May 3 before a representative audience, including His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Lennon. All the entries were on display in the Museum for the following week and were much admired.

## Carloviana

The 33rd edition of Carloviana was much appreciated by the reading public and as a result was bought up very quickly. It was in great demand, especially at Christmas, to be sent to Carlovians in all parts of the world.

The Editor, Tomás MacGabhann, deserves to be congratulated on such an excellent production.

## Obituary

The Great Reaper claimed many of our members during the year. On December 3 Bernard Crombie of Pembroke passed to his Eternal Reward. He was a valued member who rarely missed a lecture or an outing.

On March 6 we were shocked at the sudden death of Mary Coughlan, Montgomery Street. She was a most energetic member, especially on flag days and similar activities.

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# Officers and Members of the Old Carlow Society 1986/87

## President

His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Patrick Lennon, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.

## Life Vice-Presidents

Mr. Liam D. Bergin.  
Mr. Alec Burns.

## Chairperson

Mrs. Veronica Crombie.

## Vice-Chairman

Alec Burns.

## Secretary

Sean O'Leary.

## Treasurer

Mrs. Mona Fenlon.

## Editor

Tomas MacGabhann.

## COMMITTEE

Miss D. Coughlan, Mrs. M. Holden, Miss I. MacLeod, Mrs. P. Maddock, Mrs. E. Maguire, Mrs. J. O'Neill, Messrs. P. Darcy, H. Dolan, M. Holden, E. McDonald, M. Murphy, S. Murphy.

## Delegates to the Historical Advisory Committee of Carlow County Council

Alec Burns, William Ellis.

## Museum Committee

A. Burns, Miss D. Coughlan, P. Darcy, J. Moran, S. Murphy.

## MEMBERS

Alcock, Noel, 46 Staunton Avenue, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
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Brady, Mrs. B., Beann Ard, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Brennan, Michael & Mrs., 2 Burrin Road, Carlow.  
Brennan, Mrs., St. Lazerian's, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
Brennan, Mrs., Kilcoltrim, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Brooks, W. & Mrs., "Highfield", Dublin Road, Carlow.  
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Burns, Alec, College Street, Carlow.  
Burns, C. & J., "Malasha", Killeshin Road, Carlow.  
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Byrne, Rev. J., St. Patrick's College, Carlow.  
Byrne, Larry, Bahanna, St. Mullins, Co. Carlow.  
Byrne, Mrs. Mary, Friary Lane, Castledermot Road, Carlow.

Carr, Pius & Jo, Crossneen, Carlow.  
Coen, Mrs. S., 16, Braganza, Carlow.  
Connolly, Mrs. T., Ballyfoyle, Maganey, Co. Kildare.  
Conroy, Mrs., St. Mary's Park, Carlow.  
Corcoran, Mrs. B., 132 J.K.L. Avenue, Carlow.  
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Darcy, Pat, Newtown, Ardattin, Co. Carlow.  
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Dolan, Hugh, 35 Oakley Park, Tullow Road, Carlow.  
Dooley, Anthony & Phil, 63 Highfield, Carlow.  
Dooley Family, 14 St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow.  
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Doran, Peter, Rathana, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Doyle, P. M., Newtown, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
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Doyle, Mrs. Kathleen, The Green, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.  
Doyle, Kevin, 54 Dereen Heights, Tullow Road, Carlow.  
Doyle, Miss Nellie, Granby Row, Carlow.  
Doyle, Peadar & Ita, Maryboro Street, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
Doyle, Thomas, Courtnellan, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
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Ellis, William, Burrin Street, Carlow.

Farrer, Noel, Dunroe, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
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Fennell, Mrs. Eileen, Chapelstown, Carlow.  
FitzGerald, George, Hanover, Carlow.  
FitzMaurice, Mrs. B., Laurel Lodge, Carlow.  
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Harding, Rev. B., St. John's, Kilkenny.  
Haughney, Eamon, Pollerton Road, Carlow.  
Hayden, Miss Margaret, Old Leighlin, Co. Carlow.  
Healy, Pat, Pollerton Castle, Carlow.  
Healy, R., College Street, Carlow.  
Herriot, Miss Kathleen, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.  
Hickey, Miss Helen, Bolton Hill, Moone, Co. Kildare.  
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Horohan, Mrs. M., Coolanowle, Ballickmoyler, Carlow.  
Howard, Rev. Bro., C.B.S. Athy, Co. Kildare.

Jordan, Mrs. M., St. Mary's Park, Carlow.  
Jordan, Mrs., 9 Roncalli Place, Carlow.

Kavanagh, Peter, Main Street, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Kean, Mrs. Ethel, John Street, Carlow.  
Kearney, Misses A. & M., Green Road, Carlow.  
Keating, William & Mrs., McGamhna Road, Carlow.  
Kennedy, Kevin & Mrs., 6 Oakley Park, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
Keyes, Miss B., 178 Duggan Avenue, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

Lennon, Mrs. M., Tullow Street, Carlow.  
Lillis, Major General James, 2 Wynberg Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.  
Lillis, T. J. & Mrs., Lumclone House, Fenagh, Co. Carlow.  
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McDonald, Edward, Clonmore, Hacketstown, Co. Carlow.  
McDonnell, Mrs. Carmel, "Barnagree", Tullow Road, Carlow.  
McKenna, Mrs. E., 205 Fr. Maher Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
McLoughlin, Mrs. Alice, "Melrose", Tramore, Co. Waterford.  
MacLeod, Miss Iona, Braganza, Carlow.  
MacSuibhne, Rev. Sean, Liturgical Institute, St. Patrick's College, Carlow.  
Maddock, Patrick & Mrs., 173 Fr. Maher Road, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
Maguire, Mrs. E., Dublin Road, Carlow.  
Minchin, Mrs. Margaret, Coolnacuppogue, Corries, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.  
Monahan, Michael, 4 St. Fiacca's Terrace, Graiguecullen, Carlow.  
Monahan, Patrick, Tullowbeg, Tullow, Co. Carlow.  
Moran, James, Burrin Street, Carlow.  
Mulhall, Miss Mary, Elm Cottage, Chapelstown, Carlow.  
Mulvey, Mrs. Kathleen Caldwell Ave., Middle Village 11379 New York, U.S.A.  
Murphy, Moses, "Slievedurda", Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Murphy, Miss Nora, 10 Woodlawns, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Murphy, Ms. Rose, Kennedy Street, Carlow.  
Murphy, Seamus & Mrs., Pollerton Little, Carlow.  
Murphy, Simon, Ballybeg, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Murray, Aidan & Madge, 25 Dublin Street, Carlow.

Nevin, Martin, Leighlinbridge, Co. Carlow.  
Nolan, Mrs. Brendan, Burrin Street, Carlow.  
Nolan, Miss Chrissie, Burrin Street, Carlow.



# Secretary's Report

■ Continued from Page 53

On July 27 a devoted member, Peter Gaffney of Green Road, met his death in a tragic accident at the Railway Station.

On September 23 the Grand Old Lady of the Society, Mary Teresa Kelly of The Stream, passed away. A member almost since its inception, she held every position in the Society and was a recognised authority on the history of Carlow.

In addition to the above, two people — Sr. Benedict, Brigidine Convent, Tullow; and Mrs. Connie Kelly, New Oak Estate, both died unexpectedly. Although not

members, they scarcely ever missed an outing.

I bhFlaitheas Dé go raibh siad uile.

## Thanks

In conclusion, I should like to thank our sponsors who made it possible to produce this enlarged edition of "Carloviana" to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Old Carlow Society. A sincere word of thanks also to those good people who distributed circulars for me throughout the year and to *The Nationalist* who at all times give excellent publicity to the activities of the OCS.

October 11, 1986

Seán O'Leary.

## "Bullets"

Sir,

As your truly useful paper has been the means of suppressing fraud and vice of various kinds in this neighbourhood, I beg leave to turn your attention to the practice of playing "bullets" on the public roads leading to this town, which has existed for a length of time, to the great danger and annoyance of passengers. I expect the Magistracy would long e'er this have interfered and put a stop to it, as there is an Act of Parliament against such amusements.

An Inhabitant.

Carlow Morning Post 13/8/1818

## Members — continued

Nolan, J. J., 27 East Court Street, Iowa City, U.S.A.  
Nolan, Mrs. K., 32 Kernanstown, Bennekerry, Co. Carlow.  
Nolan, Martin, Ballyfoyle, Dunmore, Co. Kilkenny.

O'Broin, An tAthair Breandán, Coláiste an Cnoic Bhig, Ceatharloch.

O'Connell, Michael, Lacken, Borris, Co. Carlow.

O'Connor, Mrs. E., Borris, Co. Carlow.

O'Dea, P. & Mrs., Killeslin Road, Carlow.

O'Hara, Mrs. Ann, Frederick Avenue, Carlow.

O'Keeffe, Mrs. M. St. Killian's Crescent, Carlow.

O'Leary, Angela, "Arus na Greine", Montgomery Street, Carlow.

O'Leary, John F., 9 Brown Street, Carlow.

O'Leary, Maria, "Arus na Greine", Montgomery Street, Carlow.

O'Leary, Paula, "Arus na Greine", Montgomery Street, Carlow.

O'Leary, Maria, "Arus na Greine", Montgomery Street, Carlow.

Oliver, Miss B., Dublin Street, Carlow.

Oliver, James & Mrs., "Carraig Rua", Kilkenny Road, Carlow.

Olvier, Richard J., 1024 Fox River Drive, De Pere, Wis. 54115.

Oliver, Sr., Presentation Convent, Carlow.

O'Meara, David, Little Sark, Ansford, Castle Cary, Somerset BA7 7PD, England.

O'Neill, John & Mrs., "Broomvilla", Ardattin, Co. Carlow.

O'Neill, Miss Mary, 167 Colclough Avenue, Graiguecullen, Carlow.

O'Shea, Rev. P., Geashill, Offaly.

Patterson, Mrs. Kathleen, Mountain View, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Piggot, D., Essex, England.  
Proctor, Ms. Mary, Clonmore, Killeslin, Carlow.  
Purcell, Michael, Kennedy Street, Carlow.

Ratusky, Mrs. M., Montgomery Street, Carlow.

Redmond, Mrs. C., "Silverdale", Crossneen, Carlow.

Redmond, Thomas J. & Family, Bullock Park, Carlow.

Rice, Mrs. M., Borris, Co. Carlow.

Rositer, Mrs., 6 Roncalli Avenue, Carlow.

Shaughnessy, Miss Breda, Railway Terrace, Borris, Co. Carlow.  
Sheehan, Miss Eileen, 119 Upperfield Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, England.

Sheehan, Richard, Box 353M Morristown, New Jersey 07960 U.S.A.

Slater, Val, 39 Sycamore Road, Rathnapish, Carlow.

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Smyth, Thomas, Sleaty, Carlow.

Treacy, Miss Eileen, College Street, Carlow.

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Walsh, Philip, 115 Lakelands, Naas, Co. Kildare.

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Murphy, Miss Mary, Knockymulgurry, Ballymurphy, Carlow.

O'Connell, Miss Maureen, Lacken House, Borris, Co. Carlow.

Tyrell, Miss Patricia, Main St., Borris, Co. Carlow.

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