



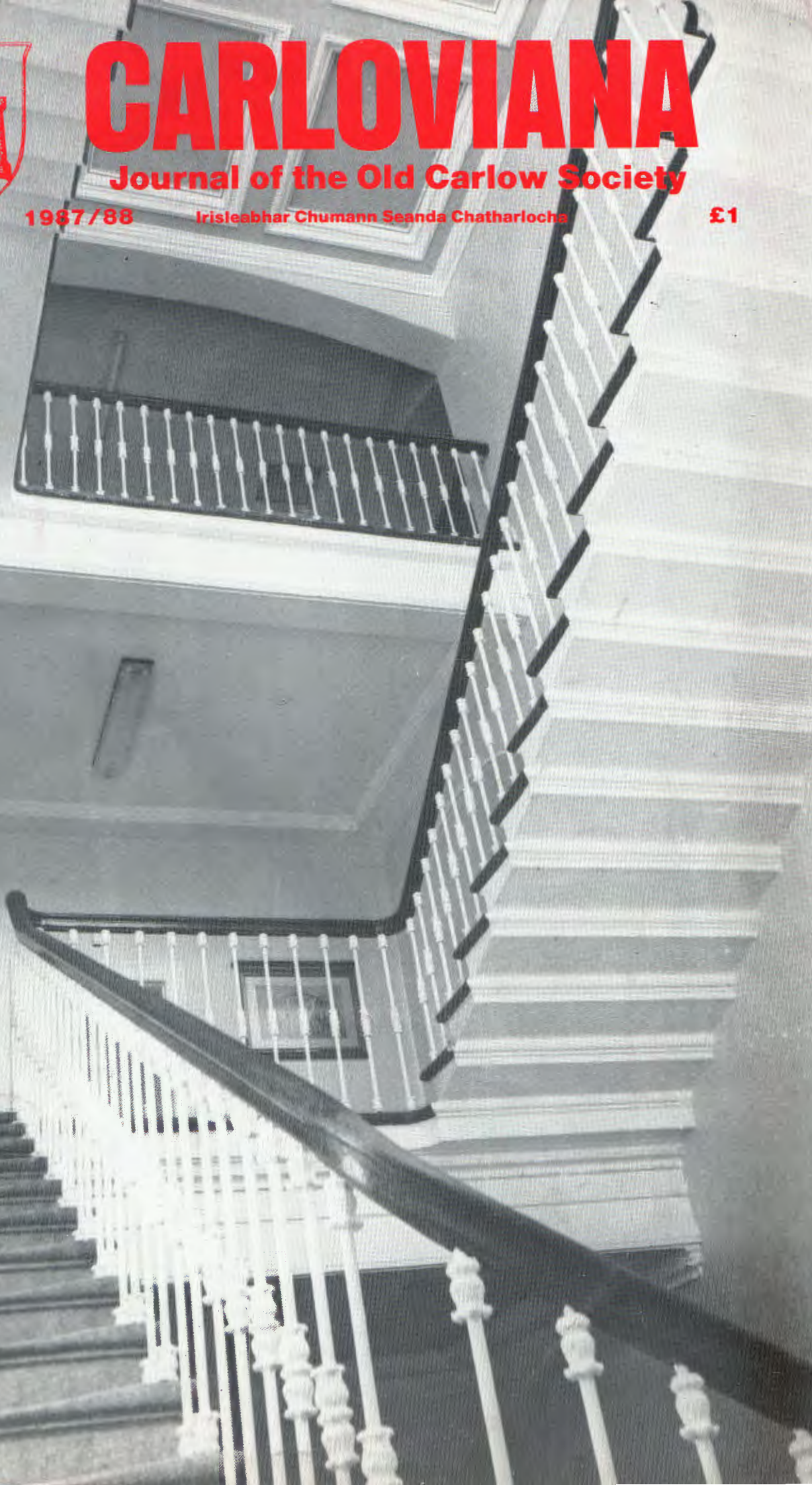
CARLOVIANA

Journal of the Old Carlow Society

1987/88

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Glasnost

GLASNOST is a newly-arrived word that has found its way into our language from Russia. It means openness, or publicity, freedom from criticism and freedom to criticise. Openness is freedom from obstruction or disguise or it can mean frankness, candour or mildness. It was introduced to us by Mikhail Gorbachev and indicates an ease in the dictatorial approval in affairs of the Soviet. More likely it is not complete freedom to criticise the system, nor does it grant the right to free expression of principles.

To us it coincides with neighbourliness, kindness, civility. Arbuthnot advised "Judge if this be neighbourly action". Would he have said the same of the British Government re the Diplock Courts? A contemporary review in the early 1900s observes 'Neighbourliness is forgotten and the action of the Samaritan has become one of those obsolete myths only useful to round off a period and fill the ears of persons who like to feel the sensations of piety'. Milton weighs in with "being neighbourly admitted . . . by the courtesy of England, to hold possessions in our province, a country better than their own". Shades of the Pharisees.

The approaches of Russia and America to each other on the matter of nuclear bombs seem to indicate a touch of Glasnost and give hope to the rest of the world. Easing of general strain is in the air, and perhaps Reagan and Gorbachev can, by goodwill and kindness, bring an era of peace to an unhappy world. Maybe the *Skibbereen Eagle* displayed far-sighted wisdom when it announced that it was keeping an eye on Russia.

Friendliness seems to be spreading and it is no coincidence that it arrives with world-wide financial crisis. If the poor are not grown too poor, and the rich are growing poor then the meeting of equals can occur with the absence of jealousy and greed. Lord Byron had vision of this when he opined "the land self-interest groans from shore to shore, for fear that plenty would attain the poor".

Not only is the extension of kindness and neighbourliness from world power to world power of importance, but is required from small nation to small nation, from parish to parish and is needed in each community. Divisions create hatred and lack of trust: promote jealousy and unhealthy rivalry. Such results are to be avoided where possible.

The meithiol was an old native habit in Ireland whereby neighbours collected together to assist in gathering the harvest, making hay, etc. it included all activities that could be shared to ease one's lot. Similar habits exist, in mainly rural areas and occupations in other parts of the world. Such practices are the very stuff of neighbourliness. Long may they last.

Glasnost should be fostered and encouraged to spread everywhere. Joy could be unconfined. The world would be a lovely place. Go dtiocfadh an lá seo go luath.

Beir Beannacht,
Eagarthóir,
Nov. 1987.

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

Cover Photograph: Stone Staircase At St. Patrick's College, Carlow. 1818. The Carlow Morning Post of May 28th, 1818, carries the following Notice, under the heading: To Stone Cutters: Proposals will be received by Mr. Cobden, on or before the first day of June, for the erecting of a stone stair case, to the College of Carlow, May 25, 1818. A fine cantilevered Stone Staircase leading from the ground floor of the inner hall at the North entrance to St. Patrick's College can be seen. The elegant balusters standing on the granite treads are of cast iron, and the hand rail is of mahogany. It is believed to be Cobden's work. See article Page 8.

Photo courtesy Miss Iona MacLeod.

From The Chair

By Veronica Crombie

AS one nostalgically looks back on the 41st year of the founding of the Old Carlow Society we feel justifiably proud our membership is increasing, and the growing interest in our historic past is very encouraging indeed. This, however is not to say that we should allow ourselves to become complacent. Far from it. As a nation we are not good at selling ourselves. One is tempted to ask if we have a complex about our past. Is the fact that we very often have to rush out and put a preservation order on an old ruins, or a fort or mound a cause for concern? Is this a sign that perhaps there are those amongst us who would prefer to forget our heritage? Let us look elsewhere for guidance.

In Norway, for example, artifacts have revealed that man was active in that country 9,000 years ago. In the Folk Museum near Oslo, old village homesteads, and farmsteads, as well as Viking ships, have been re-erected and preserved.

It is now well established that 3000-4000 years B.C. temples were being erected on the European mainland and European farmers were using advanced methods of cultivation. Copper and gold were widely used all over Europe.

In the Americas, the Incas, the Mayas and the Aztecs have left a rich treasury of artifacts. In North America the Museum in Plymouth re-creates living conditions as they were in 1627. The Pilgrim Hall and the History of the Boston Tea Party are reproduced down to the most minute detail.

Further inland we had Quichee, Burlington and Shelbourne, to mention just a few. In all cases, conservation and preservation of the historic past are the first priority.

This year Carlow has been more firmly established on the historical map by the publication of "Grange" by Mr. Jimmy O'Toole. It is easy to get a distorted picture of Co. Carlow, the second smallest county in Ireland, with its fertile plains and some of the finest agricul-

tural land in the country.

Mr. O'Toole has taken the valley lying between the Barrow and The Burrin, and proves that it was inhabited 2000-3000 B.C. His description of the development of this area down the centuries makes fascinating reading. He pinpoints what we have lost, as well as what we have retained. This concise and very readable book establishes Carlow as a county worthy of more than a passing glance by

the historian and the archaeologist.

History is a living thing. We make it every day whether it is good or bad. Don't let us make history unworthy of the name, by destroying or allowing to be destroyed what our ancestors have placed in our keeping. We will be remembered for our contribution to the Society in which we live. Let that contribution be worthy of remembrance.

Museum Report

By Alec Burns

ANOTHER good year of improvement and development can be summed up in the Annual Report by the Museum Committee.

The number of visitors is well up to the standard of former years; school groups are more numerous — it is good to watch the pupils with their copybooks taking notes and asking questions about the different objects on view. Sundays are still the favourite as the Visitors' Book shows names from all of the neighbouring counties, especially family groups out for the afternoon.

The Arles Banner of the Land League was hoisted in position early in the year; some of the exhibits have been improved and extended through the good efforts of the present caretaker Dr. Pat Jones who has given trojan service since his appointment early in the year.

We were favoured with a visit by the Russian Ambassador to this country when he visited the town as a result of an invitation from the Rotary Club.

He expressed his keen interest in some of the artifacts on view especially those dealing with the old methods of farming.

Retired Maj. Gen. James Lillis also paid a visit and was greatly interested in some of the photos which he had taken himself in

Duckett's Grove in 1921. He was amazed at their quality now after so many years and recalled the names of many of his associates all of whom had passed on since. He it was who took an inventory with the then British Army Commander of the Military in Carlow, of the contents of the Barrack to be handed over to the Provisional Government in June, 1922.

In connection with the Federation of Historical Societies Week, an exhibition of photos of many facets of life in Carlow from the early part of the century, industrial and otherwise proved to be very popular. It is hoped that more exhibitions of this type can be held at regular intervals.

While on a visit to St. Patrick's College recently, a PP from Northern Ireland happened to see our plaque to the memory of Val Vousden. He sent a letter to us intimating that he had a personal letter from Val of about 50 years ago, which he would like to donate to the Museum; this he has done along with the words of a monologue compiled by Val, which later was contained in his book of poems and monologues. It was "The Old School Reunion". The letter and monologue are now on exhibit in the case dealing with past amusement in the town.

The birth of democracy in Ireland

Review of Donal McCartney, *The Dawning of Democracy: Ireland 1800-1870*
(Helicon Ltd., £6.50)

READERS in this region and in the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in particular will find much of interest in the recent work of Professor Donal McCartney, head of the Department of Modern Irish History at U.C.D. As might be expected in the work of a historian who hails from this area the counties of Carlow, Laois, Kildare and Offaly figure prominently in his text.

Professor McCartney's thesis is that the period 1800-1870 witnessed the formative beginning of Irish democracy — by which we understand the concept of government by representatives of all the people. *Pari passu* with this rise of democracy was the decline of ascendancy, the retreat from public office of the privileged few who were immune to public opinion by virtue of hereditary title or landed wealth. Obviously this transfer of power did not take place without a long and bitterly contested struggle for no privileged class willingly cedes power and most especially not to the representatives of the impoverished masses.

Father James Maher, P.P.

That indomitable ecclesiastical warrior, Fr. James Maher, P.P. of Killeslin, who frequently battled with the conservative forces of the Bruens and the Kavanaghs in County Carlow, stated that 'the difference . . . between the aristocrat and a popular member of parliament is that the former is always for things as they are, the latter seeks a change for the better'. Carlow town or borough in the early nineteenth century was controlled by thirteen burgesses under the patronage of the earl of Charleville who between them elected an unopposed member of parliament according to the earl's wishes. The 1832 Reform Act increased the number of eligible voters to 278 and though

this was still a relatively small number it was sufficient to ensure that from then on the return of a member of parliament for the borough was contested.

The Act of Union in 1800 declared that the two kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland be forever united under the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The Union

Dr. Thomas McGrath recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on Bishop James Doyle in the Department of Modern Irish History at U.C.D.

was 'a marriage of convenience', writes Professor McCartney, moreover, 'The convenience was mainly Britain's'. This was a time when Britain was engaged in a dangerous war with France and as the author states 'If throughout history, Britain had always been too close for Ireland's comfort, Ireland, in time of war, was always too near for Britain's security'.

One of the primary purposes of the Union, which was achieved by a measure of patronage, bribery and corruption, unusual even then, was to protect the insecure Protestant ascendancy in Ireland for all time by integrating Ireland with Britain. Political integration never worked however, indeed it might be said that it was never really tried.

Perhaps because Irish history is such a controversial subject with ongoing disputes between revisionists (sometimes unfortunately more politically than historically motivated) and those a shade more sympathetic to the Irish national experience (occasionally, however, verging towards nationalist propagandists) historians have tended to treat possibly the most contentious theme of all — the religious issue — like an old war zone where some mines still lie waiting to explode in the face of

the unwary traveller in Irish history. But Professor McCartney concentrates on finding the heart of the matter and a major chapter is entitled 'The Question of Religion'. The Act of Union purported to copperfasten the privileged position of the Established church whose resources were vastly disproportionate to the number of its adherents. Of its disestablishment in 1869 the author writes: 'The age of ecclesiastical princes was over'.

In a useful account of the little researched period 1800-1823 he highlights the important fact that then (and periodically thereafter) Irish nationality was primarily defined in terms of the independence of the Irish Catholic Church vis-à-vis the state or for that matter a British influenced Papacy in Rome. It is well-stated that 'By the time that the Pope had pronounced in favour of allowing a veto to the crown in the appointment of Irish bishops, Catholicism and nationalism in Ireland had become so entwined that the ancient connection with Rome seemed to be less sacred in Irish eyes than that the Irish national church should be independent of England'. Professor McCartney comments that the accession of Bishop James Doyle of Kildare and Leighlin (J.K.L.) to the Catholic Association 'added a most powerful intellectual influence to the emancipation cause'.

Shrewd analysis and commentary

Professor McCartney's narrative is a clear and vigorous exposition of plain, unadorned, often brutal realities enlivened by a sharp, shrewd analysis and commentary. One of the great strengths of the book is the author's appreciation and understanding of what motivated the ordinary Irishman in the nineteenth century. No effort is made to smooth over realities which some might have found

unpalatable. For example, he writes: 'Violence was the only form of protest known to the poor and inarticulate in early nineteenth-century Ireland before O'Connell had imposed his leadership on the people, and extended his methods of passive resistance throughout the land. O'Connell's huge success in this respect, however, must not blind us to the fact that the most violent agrarian conspiracies persisted. It was almost as if the two went hand in hand: that the endemic violence made O'Connell proclaim his constitutional methods and his passive resistance message all the louder, and that the violent peasant protests took courage from the very success of O'Connell's campaigns against ascendancy and the government'.

Such has been the pace of change in the writing of modern Irish history that one of the best chapters in the book, that dealing with 'Secret Societies and Agrarianism' would have been inconceivable even less than twenty years ago. The author's handling of this complex issue is impressive. A host of shadowy rural agitators — Threshers, Caravats, Shanavests, Ribbonmen, Rockites, Terry Alts, Whitefeet, Blackfeet, etc., — are unearthed from their dark resting places among the Outrage papers in the State Paper Office and subjected to the clear light of historical scrutiny. Bishop Doyle's most rigorous pastoral letters were directed against the nefarious activities of the politically motivated Ribbonmen of north Kildare and the agrarian insurgency of the Whitefeet and Blackfeet of the Queen's County and the Castlecomer plateau.

Jostling to get hold of land

Until fairly recently the major theme of Irish land history was judged to be the predominance of the conflict between the wealthy landlord class secure behind their high demesne walls and the humble tenant in his roadside hovel. This simplistic and crude interpretation has now given ground to an appreciation that particularly in the pre-famine period the conflict was more usually between those who were one rung above another on the social ladder and who were jostling to

get and hold land. In 1845 over three quarters of all holdings were less than twenty acres in size. Broadly defined the conflict was between the landless labourer and the cottier on the one hand and the farmer and the middleman on the other though it could be between any combination of these. The conflict between landlords and tenants assumed much more importance in the second half of the nineteenth century when the latter became a much more socially cohesive group and issues of tenant-right eventually led to the land war.

Initiated resistance to tax payment

The father of the social revolutionary theorist and activist, James Fintan Lalor, was Pat Lalor, an extremely large Catholic farmer and middleman in Queen's County. In 1830-1831 he initiated resistance to the payment of tax to the Protestant minister, the tithe, in the county. In 1832 he displaced Sir Henry Parnell, a long-standing supporter of Catholic rights, as a member of parliament for the county. Lalor, unlike Parnell, supported Daniel O'Connell's repeal of the union agitation and was elected as a repealer. Yet despite these popular credentials, as Professor McCartney points out, Lalor's house and property were attacked by agrarian insurgents. These were generally the unemployed and most affected by downswings in the economy caused by bad weather, poor harvests, etc. They aimed to keep rents down and wages up so that their large families could subsist on potatoes grown on cheap conacre patches. This class and its culture was largely wiped out by the famine, the greatest social calamity in Irish history. The author's account of the ravages of the famine in the Kilrush Poor Law Union is a harrowing portrait of a desperate tragedy. Ironically the decimation of those at the bottom of the social scale furthered the speed of democratisation by strengthening the position of the rising bourgeoisie, the strong farmers and the Catholic church in post-famine Ireland. There is plenty of evidence to support the author's contention that the culture of advancing democracy in Ireland was in large measure

supplied by expanding Catholicism. In effect the fall of one religious establishment saw the rise of another.

A question raised is why did the Catholic church neglect the Irish language? Perhaps it was because a somewhat relaxed popular Catholicism expressed through venerable cultural, devotional and linguistic patterns was steadily eroded by, and replaced by, a new 'modernising' and 'respectable' Tridentine conformity articulated through English language catechetics and ultramontane practices. As far as Irish speaking culture was concerned the famine was followed by the "great silence". Professor McCartney's comments on the fate of the language might even be applied today. 'A generation of Irish people was being instilled with the lesson that cultural values should not be allowed to stand in the way of material progress' . . . 'Bilingualism was a middle class luxury, or dream, of later and more prosperous times which the struggling peasantry, small farmers and small shopkeepers in Ireland in the nineteenth century could not afford'.

O'Connell, Parnell and deValera

In the pantheon of modern Irish nationalist heroes, by popular acclaim, three men — O'Connell, Parnell and De Valera — stand pre-eminent. Arguably the greatest contribution to Irish democracy was made by the indefatigably 'tireless' and 'characteristically exuberant' O'Connell who not alone brought Catholics fully into parliamentary and constitutional politics but set the pattern and the agenda for almost a century of nationalist politics. This book offers an interesting assessment of O'Connell's profound historical legacy: 'O'Connell has been to Irish historiography what Napoleon is to the French. He is an argument without end. He has been, and remains, the touchstone of Irish political attitudes. When we catholicised him we were as a people pious and devotional. When we condemned his retreat from Clontarf and his moral force doctrine we were in militant nationalistic mood. When we wrote him off as a mere

politician and pragmatist we were in doctrinaire and idealistic mood. And what we omitted to say about him was as much tell-tale evidence against ourselves as what in fact we did say. O'Connell as a European figure introducing French revolutionary ideas of liberty and democracy without French revolutionary republicanism or force was noticeable by its almost total absence from the consideration given to O'Connell in a nationalist age'.

Hold their heads up proudly

O'Connell had a fine insight into the psychology of a down-trodden people. He regaled them with his scurrilous and vituperative attacks upon the great. McCartney suggests that what appeared to be the tactics of a gutter politician were used deliberately and relentlessly by O'Connell to build up the self-confidence of the people. He believed that if he treated the ascendancy 'as equals or even in ways as inferiors then the Catholics who had been treated so oppressively that they almost came to believe in their own inferiority, would learn to develop a self-respect and hold their heads up proudly and stand up to their oppressors'.

O'Connell's success in winning Catholic Emancipation in 1829 after a great struggle was the greatest achievement of incipient Irish democracy in the first half of the nineteenth century. Emancipation meant primarily the right of duly elected Catholics to take their seats as M.P.s in the House of Commons without being obliged to take unconscionable anti-Catholic oaths. The significance of the act was that it meant that Catholics could participate fully in the parliamentary process. It made constitutional Catholic politics possible and practicable.

Emancipation however was accompanied by a distinctly anti-democratic measure namely the disfranchisement of the forty-shilling freeholders. The number eligible to vote in the Irish county constituencies was reduced in 1829 from 216,000 to at most 37,000. Almost half-a-century was to pass before the franchise was broadened again to include more than 200,000. In the boroughs, as we have seen in the case of Carlow, the right to

vote was even more restricted. It was not until 1884 that the electorate was increased to 738,000 and it is hardly unrelated that the Parnell-led Parliamentary Party was returned with 85 Home Rulers in 1885. When the next major reform took place in 1918 (when among other measures women over thirty years of age were given the vote) and the electorate expanded from 0.7 million to 1.9 million, Sinn Féin contesting its first general election swept the polls. In all this the north went its own way both economically and politically. Professor McCartney sees Orangeism as a 'counter-revolutionary movement', entrenched, defensive, protecting the Protestant ascendancy and the status quo of the union. In the early nineteenth century Mountrath and Mountmillick were both Orange towns.

Foundation of Irish democracy

The foundation of Irish democracy was laid by Daniel O'Connell in the first half of the nineteenth century. Catholics could now sit in parliament. Some were given positions of responsibility in the bureaucracy and judiciary during the O'Connellite alliance with the whig government of 1835-41. The Boards of Guardians of the Poor Law Unions established in 1838 gave Catholics some experience of local government politics. The reform of the municipal corporations in 1840 'broke the absolute control of the Orange faction' over the administration of Irish cities and towns. Nonetheless tangible evidence of the increasing democratisation of Irish society took several generations to become apparent. For instance in the years between 1854 and 1879 the Catholic University (forerunner of U.C.D.) had an average yearly intake (excluding evening, affiliated and medical students) of only twenty-five.

Could neither read or write

On a more fundamental level, in 1841, fifty-three per cent of the population could neither read nor write. By 1891 the illiteracy figure had been reduced to sixteen per cent. The publication

of a myriad of inexpensive newspapers, journals and periodicals satisfied the burgeoning demand for literacy and information. The Young Irelanders' paper *The Nation* reached 250,000 weekly in the 1840s partly through the Repeal Association's public reading rooms. The Fenian paper *The Irish People* brought the concept of republicanism to the Catholic masses for the first time in the mid-1860s.

New primary school system

In 1833 just over 100,000 pupils were educated in the new primary school system. By 1860 despite the continuing impact of post-famine emigration, just over 800,000 were attending the national schools. But in 1871 in a population of 4.25 million Catholics only 12,000 (or three in every 1,000) were in second level education. In independent Ireland by 1944, according to Coolahan (*Irish Education: its history and structure, p.44*) 'there were about 20,800 pupils in the age range fourteen to sixteen enrolled in national schools, about 4,000 of them in "secondary tops" which were national schools offering the secondary school curriculum. Of the same age range only 16,400 were in secondary schools'. There was no great improvement until Donogh O'Malley's free secondary education scheme allowed a significant breakthrough into the benefits of education to many normally deprived of more than a basic primary schooling — but even this scheme is now subject to cutbacks. For all that, in 1987 no less than twelve per cent of Irish adults are officially classified as illiterate. Over one in ten cannot read this paper. Must not a genuinely democratic state put the opportunity of education within the reach of all its children?

But we can take heart from the lesson of Professor McCartney's book that unless individuals were prepared to make a stand, to struggle and to fight for liberty and justice no progress would have been made against the conservative forces of privilege, entrenched interest, and the status quo. Without the effort of the O'Connells and the Doyles the degree of democratisation which obtains in Irish society today would have been unthinkable.

Aerial photography, a window into the past

By Thomas Condit and Michael Gibbons

WHEN we think of the monuments and sites in County Carlow, we tend to conjure up pictures of castles, mottes and ringforts picturing in the mind's eye images of what these sites would have looked like at the height of their occupation. However, the sites which we can visit form only part of the archaeological record for Co. Carlow. Many sites have disappeared totally from the landscape because of agricultural improvements, road building, and industrial and housing developments at various times in the past. However, not all the sites which have been levelled are gone without trace. Air photography is by far the most productive method of discovering sites which would otherwise remain indiscernible on the ground. Of the 820 sites contained in the Sites and Monuments Record for Co. Carlow (Gibbons, 1986), 124 (approx. 15 per cent) of these sites were located by aerial photography. These 'new' sites range from previously unrecorded upstanding earthworks to levelled ringforts and barrow complexes.

The aerial photographic archive for Co. Carlow consists of two main types of photography, oblique and vertical. An oblique aerial photograph is one taken with the camera pointing between the horizontal and the near vertical. This method of photography can be relatively economical since sites can be photographed at the most opportune times of the year and when low sunlight is likely to highlight some of the more subtle features of a particular site. This is considered to be a subjective method of recording archaeological sites since only sites which are recognised in the course of a flight are recorded. Vertical photography (i.e. taken with the camera pointing straight down at the ground), on the other hand, is generally non-selective in that the entire landscape underneath the

camera is recorded. Few vertical photographs are taken specifically for archaeological purposes. Most vertical photography is taken for geological, engineering, or map-making purposes. The photographs generally overlap so that a three-dimensional image can be seen when viewed through a stereoscope, this is particularly useful in locating relief sites.

The oblique photographs for Co. Carlow come from the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography (CUCAP) who conducted a flying programme for all of Ireland over a period of ten years from 1963 to 1973. Because of the massive area covered, this flying programme is best seen as a

reconnaissance mission demonstrating the potential of further and more detailed flying programmes. Generally, the sites photographed are levelled sites which show as crop-marks. Very few of these sites would be discernible on the ground. The Geological Survey of Ireland's collection is the main source of vertical photography for the county. These are high altitude photographs (15,000 ft.) and were taken between 1973 and 1977. They are most useful in locating previously unrecognised upstanding archaeological sites (Condit and Gibbons, 1986, 8-9) along with many crop-mark sites which also appear on them to a lesser extent.

Sites which are difficult or



Plate 1: Friarstown (sites and monuments record no. 8:18, national grid ref. 28021 17642). The photograph shows the stump of castle surrounded by various enclosures showing as soil-marks. The darker lines are the darker fill of the ditches. The light coloured soil-marks immediately beside the ditches indicate the spread of bank material which would have originally been constructed of the up-cast from the ditches. The overall pattern suggests several phases of activity centred on the castle. The soil-marks could be interpreted as the remains of a ringwork, an earthen bawn, or a moated site with various annexes.

(By courtesy of CUCAP).

impossible to see on the ground manifest themselves in three principle ways on aerial photographs; as shadow-sites, soil-mark sites and crop-mark sites. Shadow-sites are low relief earthwork sites which, when photographed in low angled sunlight, are accentuated by the long shadows they cast. The shape and pattern of these low earthwork sites is usually very difficult or impossible to appreciate on the ground, but an aerial photograph taken in the right conditions can present the next best thing to a measured plan of such a site. Soil-mark sites are levelled sites which can be detected by variations in soil colour in a ploughed field (plate 1). For example, ditches or pits generally fill up with soil containing more organic matter which will contrast strongly with the surrounding ploughsoil. Since soil-mark sites appear in ploughed fields, the Spring or late Autumn months are the most opportune time to photograph them. The extent to which a soil-mark is visible will depend on the depth of ploughing. Crop-mark sites are recognisable by differences in growth caused by buried archaeological remains. They can be sometimes recognised at ground level but again aerial photography will highlight the shape or pattern of such sites (plate 2). There are two different kinds of crop-mark site, positive (where the crop grows taller) and negative (where the growth of the crop is stunted).

A number of factors are involved in the production of crop-marks. The climate at a particular time of year, the underlying geology and the type of crop. The majority of crop-marks are caused by plant stress which, in turn, is caused by Soil Moisture Deficit (SMD). SMD can be defined as the extent to which available moisture in the soil falls short of the amount necessary for optimum plant growth. Where man-made ditches have been cut into free-draining sub-soils, and are allowed to fill up again the backfill tends to retain moisture better than the surrounding sub-soil. Thus, in a dry Summer when the planted crops are starved of moisture the plants growing over backfilled ditches tend to grow higher and ripen later than the rest of the crop. This differential crop growth is visible from the air as variation

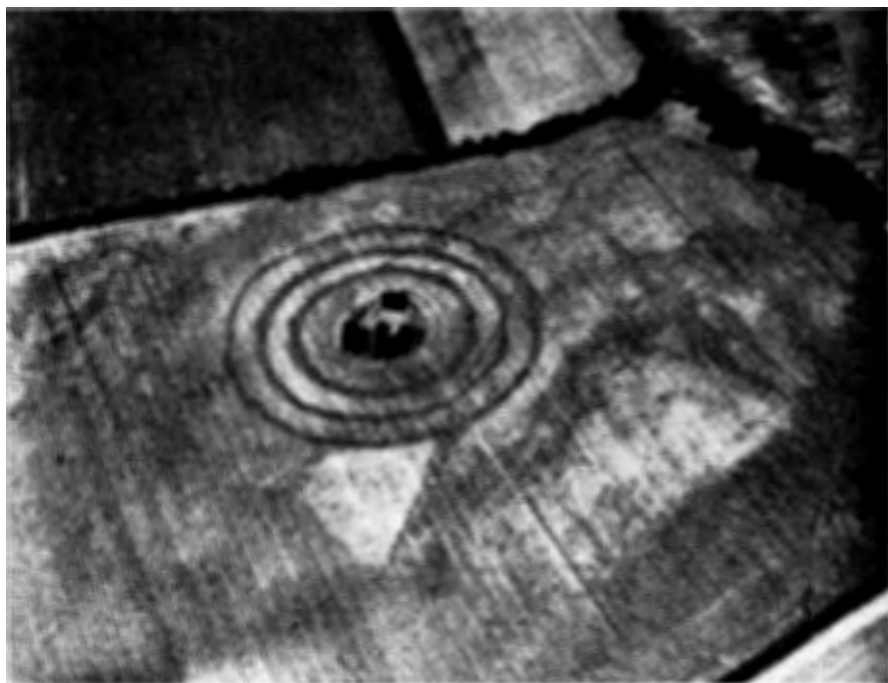


Plate 2: Fenniscourt (sites and monuments record no. 16:64, national grid ref. 26915 15927). This photograph shows a mound (approx. 25m. in diameter) surrounded by three circular ditches showing as crop-marks (overall diameter approx. 100m.). The site was originally designated as trivallate rath by Norman and St. Joseph (1969, 44-5). However, the absence of any entrance features and the fact that the three circular ditches are concentric (indicating that the ditches were most likely laid out before the construction of the mound) would suggest that the site is barrow. The site bears some similarity to the site excavated at Ashley Park, Co. Tipperary (Manning, 1985) which contained a Linkardstown-type burial.

(By courtesy of CUCAP).

in colour and relief. This is called a positive crop-mark. A negative crop-mark is caused when the plant roots encounter a barrier, such as a buried stone wall. The crop growth above such a feature is stunted, fails to reach the same height as the surrounding crop and is generally paler in colour due to parching.

As stated above, the underlying geology of an area is important with regard to the appearance of crop-marks. The free-draining limestone gravels along the River Barrow provide the sensitive conditions necessary for crop-mark development. In other districts where the soil is not as permeable crop-marks appear more sporadically and it would take an extreme drought to provide conditions to show crop-mark sites.

The final factor which effects the appearance of crop-marks is the type of crop growing over a particular site. Cereal crops such as barley and wheat are particularly sensitive to soil and moisture and are the most productive in reflecting crop-mark differences. Moreover, their growing season is most

likely to coincide with the dry conditions necessary to cause differential crop growth. Root-crops such as potatoes or turnips are unlikely to reflect buried sites in their growth. However, beet-crops (sugar-beet is a popular crop in Carlow) because of their deep penetrating roots and their sensitivity to soil differences are a good medium for the revelation of crop-marks. Even crops such as beans and even grass may also show crop-marks under favourable conditions.

Aerial photography is a method which can dramatically expand the archaeological record by bringing to light hidden and buried remains. The evidence from existing aerial photography for Co. Carlow hints at the great potential of further aerial research.

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Works By Thomas Alfred Cobden, Architect 1794 - 1842

By Iona MacLeod

THE following article covers some works done by Cobden in Carlow and District between 1818 and 1833.

"The excellence of every Art must consist in the complete accomplishment of its purpose".

This has been attained by Thomas Alfred Cobden, Architect in the Province of Leinster.

Where Cobden was born, married or under whose auspices he came to Carlow has not been ascertained. The earliest reference I have found to his having been in Ireland is contained in an advertisement which appeared in *The Carlow Morning Post* of May 28, 1818 addressed to Stonecutters, in which he requests that proposals for the erection of a stone staircase to St. Patrick's College, Carlow, be addressed to him before June 1st.

Resided in Chapel Lane

When in Carlow Cobden is believed to have resided in Chapel Lane, now College Street, and according to local tradition in the house now occupied by Mr. William Duggan, Solicitor, a house which would have been convenient for his Architectural work in and around Carlow.

In Pigotts Directory (1842) he is described under the Heading "Nobility, Gentry and Clergy, as Thomas Cobden Esq.

The Carlow Sentinel under date April 7th, 1832 carries the following Notice, under the heading "To Be Let: To be let or the interest sold the dwelling house and office in Chapel Lane lately occupied by Thomas A. Cobden which are furnished in the best manner, having large garden, coach house and stable, also a carpenter's workshop and saw pit in a yard fronting the lane with a large gate entrance so as not to interfere with the dwelling house or garden and would answer for an Architect or person requiring room".

Whether he stayed on living in Carlow after this date for some time, is not certain.

His letters to Bishop James Doyle, (J.K.L.), Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, (under whose auspices he built the Cathedral), were always courteous, very respectful and deferential. This eminent Catholic Prelate was recognised as an outstanding Ecclesiastic of his time. He was ecumenical in spiritual outlook, and a strong Nationalist.

Cobden travelled between Ireland and England as is shown by his letters to Dr. Doyle. The Seal on his letters to him on June 7th, 1822 and also on April 8th, 1831 presents a Winged Cherub which shows a refined and artistic mind, the Winged Cherub being symbolic of an Angelic being.

Between 1835 and 1839 his address cited in a Catalogue which listed some of his works was Grove Camberwell. A search in Camberwell Rate Books show that Thomas A. Cobden has been traced at Pembury Place, Camberwell Grove. He is also listed at this address each year from 1834 to 1840. His name appears in the Jury List for 1841-1842 (published in August 1841) he is described as 'Gentleman of Clapton Terrace'.

Thomas Alfred Cobden died of consumption at the early age of forty eight at No. 14 Clapton Terrace, on November 27th,

1842, *The Kilkenny Moderator* in their issue of December 3rd, 1842 carries the following Notice.

"Nov. 27th at his residence the Terrace, Upper Clapton, Thomas A. Cobden Esq. Late of Carlow, Ireland".

Cobden was married and had two sons and two daughters, Mrs. Cobden's name appears in a local Directory (England) for 1843 and again in the form of Mrs. Ann Cobden in 1845, but not in 1847.

Contributed to worthy causes

Cobden's personality would appear to be that of a courteous, kindly and generous person as has been shown by his contributions to Worthy Causes, as well as his assistance to the poor and those in need of help. He attended St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Carlow, the Tower and magnificent Spire which are amongst his important works, and also helped in administration of the Church. He was appointed a Church Warden (Vestry Book 1819-1912), on April 13th, 1830 and on April 14th, 1830 he was appointed an Applotter, and also on that date an Overseer. (I wish to acknowledge, my thanks, to Venerable Archdeacon Patten for permission to have access to the Vestry Books).

The Province of Leinster, and particularly County Carlow

Carlow Cathedral. Agreement signed by two plasterers, and signed by the Architect, Thomas A. Cobden,

To do the plastering, lathing, and enriched work of the Vestry, Tower and Porches for the sum of £438.7.6. Dated February 14. 1832.

Carlow. February 14, 1832.

"We agree to execute all the lathing plastering moulded and enriched work that may be directed to be done by Mr. Cobden the Architect and equally to his Plans and directions in the new Catholic Church of Carlow and to provide two labourers to attend the plasters during the progress of the work all of which including the plastering of the Vestry Tower Porches as well as every other description of plastering work that may be directed to be done from time to time in the interior of the Church Tower Porches and Vestry we agree to execute for the sum of £438.7.6

Edward Kinsella

John Kearney

Architect. Thos. A. Cobden.

By courtesy of His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. Patrick Lennon, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.



Interior of Carlow Cathedral. North Transept.

In the North Transept of the interior of the Cathedral is to be seen a detail of the ceiling which differs in design from that in the Nave, also the elegant pillars.

The Stations of The Cross, the work of the well known Artist, George Collie, placed between the lovely stained glass window, and the marble statue, erected to the memory of Bishop James Doyle (J.K.L.) executed by John Hogan, Ireland's famous Sculptor of the 19th Century, make a very spiritually impressive "ensemble".

Photo courtesy Miss Iona MacLeod.

owes much to Thomas Alfred Cobden for his Architectural achievements in the early 19th Century. He has shown by his expertise, energy and taste, a great dedication to the work which he accomplished in so short a time. He has left an Architectural Landmark in Leinster.

As the year 1987 is the fortieth anniversary of the first publication of *Carloviana* the Journal of The Old Carlow Society, in January 1947, I wish to pay tribute to the memory of Thomas Alfred Cobden who did so much to enhance the beauty of Carlow. He should be acclaimed and commemorated for leaving to posterity a heritage of Architectural Value. Some form of appropriate recognition should be made, this could take the form of a Plaque put on a prominent building or street, or a suitable sculpture commissioned, to represent Architectural Art, be placed in a prominent position in Carlow Town, it would be a gesture of appreciation and gratitude to a great Architect.

The following quotation from

a Ballad, "A Tour through the Vicinity of Carlow", which appeared in *The Carlow Sentinel* of September 6th, 1834, by H.S.I. is apt, it highlights the works done by Thomas Alfred Cobden.

Though imagination was
amply feasted
With views so dear to the
cultur'd mind
Yet approaching Carlow,
with pride we gaze on
Her splendid buildings of Art
refined".

Church of The Holy Cross, Killeshin

Cobden was present at the laying of the Foundation Stone for the new Catholic Church at Killeshin, of which he was the architect. On May 5th, 1819 he exhibited his Plans for its construction and delivered an address. *The Carlow Morning Post* of May 6th, 1819 carries the following notice. "Mr. Cobden the Architect now exhibited his Plans executed in a style evincing at once such a knowledge of his Art joined to a most particular acquaintance

with the branch of it which belongs to Religious Architecture as gave the most satisfaction to every person present."

The site chosen is near that of the old Parish Church which has formerly served the Catholics of the district. The Choir at the Ceremony consisted of the children of the area. At the conclusion some of those present proceeded to a Tent where Mass had been celebrated in the morning. There, Rev. Mr. McDonald on behalf of himself and Rev. Mr. Fitzgerald addressed those present. In his speech he paid tribute to the members of the other denominations for their generosity, support and co-operation. They had contributed towards the funds for building the Church. Rev. Mr. McDonald then requested the Rev. Mr. Stennot of Bridge Street Chapel, Dublin, to address the audience. In his speech he quoted from the words of Solomon's prayer at the Dedication. "For if Heaven and the Heaven of Heavens cannot contain thee how much less this house which I have built". (iii Atiag. Kings. Chap.8.V.27). "He

proceeded to show the origin of public worship by giving examples of Noah, Moses, Solomon, the Patriarchs and Prophets. He paid tribute to the work done by Rev. Mr. McDonald for his parish and emphasised the need of charity, toleration and understanding amongst all those of different religions.

The Ceremony concluded with a generous meal during which the Band of the Carlow Militia played Loyal Airs. Amongst those present were Mr. William Cooper, who gave the ground upon which the church was to be built. Colonel Rochfort, Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. Fishbourne, Capt. Herring, Mr. T. Houghton and Mr. Cuffe. Some ladies were also present at the function.

Intended to have a spire

It was originally intended to have a Spire added to the Catholic Church of Killeshin if finances were available, but his aspiration never materialised.

An interesting note in *The Carlow Morning Post* dated May 18th, 1820, relative to this from Mrs. Vigors of "Erindale", Carlow, addressed to Rev. Mr. McDonald on the possibility of erecting a Spire on the Church, shows her wish that this may be achieved.

"Mrs. Vigors compliments to the Rev. Mr. McDonald, she has been quite pleased with the elegant taste of his place of worship as it appeared this day. Mr. McDonald having represented that a Spire or Steeple should be erected when his funds would admit of such an ornamental and additional beauty. Mrs. Vigors begs leave to contribute £5.8.5 as a Lady's mite to so desirable an undertaking".

— Erindale, Wednesday evening, May 5, 1820.

Writing to the Proprietor of *The Carlow Morning Post* in the same issue, Rev. Mr. McDonald requests in the following words, that Mrs. Vigor's letter to him be published.

"Mr. McDonald requests the Proprietor of *The Carlow Morning Post* will insert the very handsome note that he had been honoured with from Mrs. Vigors accompanying her subscription". His address at this time was

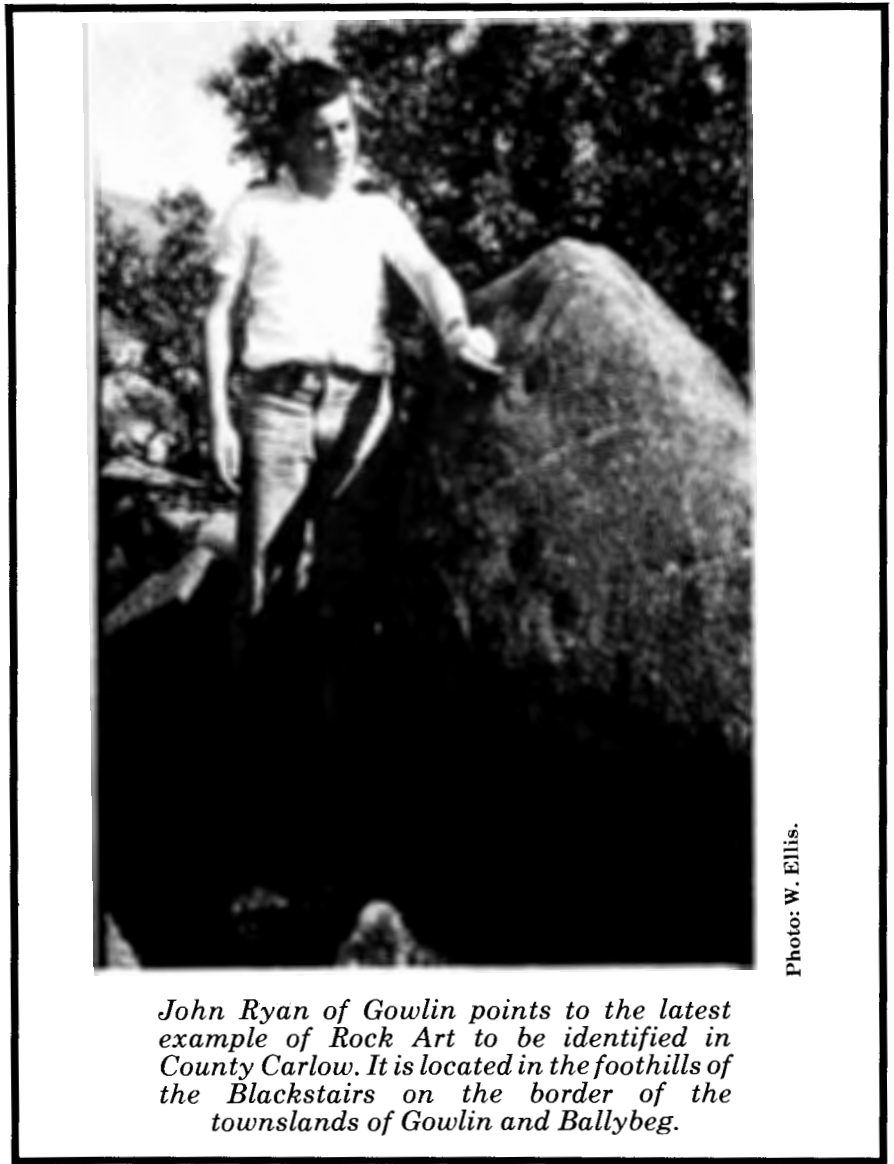


Photo: W. Ellis.

John Ryan of Gowlin points to the latest example of Rock Art to be identified in County Carlow. It is located in the foothills of the Blackstairs on the border of the townlands of Gowlin and Ballybeg.

Curragh. Dated May 16, 1820. The following are also a list of those who contributed towards the building of the Church:- in the words of Rev. Mr. McDonald.

Expression of gratitude

"The Rev. Mr. McDonald begs to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums in aid of the Chapel which is building at Killeshin and he is instructed by the Roman Catholic inhabitants to express their gratitude and respectful sense of the kindness and liberality of the respectable individuals to whom they are so deeply indebted. Sir Charles Coote £10. Thomas Cosby Esq., Governor of the Queens County-£10. Wm. Browne Esq. Custos Rotulorum of County Carlow £5. Nicholas Vigors Esq. £5. Wm. Cooper Esq. in addition to his former subscription £2.10. Anonymous per the Rev. Mr.

Fitzgerald, President of Carlow College £5.15.0. S. Walker Esq. being the amount of his Bill of Costs for the Deeds of conveyance of the land upon which the Chapel is built from W. Cooper Esq. to the Rt. Rev. Dr. Doyle and the other Trustees £5.6.8. Mrs. Vigors £5.8.5.

Good for Carlow

EDMOND D. Whelan an Irish-American traveller of the nineteenth century, describing his travels in Ireland, in the Chicago Western Catholic News had this to say of a visit to Carlow.

... I was not a little surprised at night when I found my surroundings lighted by electricity, bedrooms, coffee rooms, corridors and the rest. The streets, too, as well as the hotels and business houses, have the electric light which points out Carlow as one of the most up-to-date county towns in Ireland. Good for Carlow!...
—*Nationalist & Leinster Times, 1895.*

Gems of History

By Ina Doyle

Following the Treaty of Limerick (1691) and the flight of the Wild Geese many Irish men and women left their native shores in search of a fuller, more open religious observance than was possible at home. Among them were Mary and Honora Kavanagh of Borris House, lineally descended from the Kings of Leinster, and (maternally) from the Ormonde Butlers (grand-daughters of famed Lady Margaret Butler of Kilcash and The Gaelic Lament "Cad a dheanfaimid feasta gan adhmaid").

Mary Kavanagh, Sister Ursula in religion entered the Ursulines in Rue St. Jacques in France on the same day as her sister Honora entered the Carmelite Order of St. Denis in France.

Canon T. J. Walsh in his "Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters" states "The Ursuline and Presentation annalists mention a single incident that has retained a tenacious hold on Ursuline and Presentation traditions in Cork. The four founding Sisters of the Ursuline Order in Ireland, having received the blessing of their Archbishop, stopped off at the Convent of St. Denis on their way out of Paris in April 1771, one of the four was Sr. Ursula (Mary Kavanagh) of Borris, Co. Carlow". On the twenty third of January it fell to Mary Kavanagh then Reverend Mother Ursula, to give the Black Veil to Sr. Ambrose Curtin, since the Bishop of Cork, Mother Ursula's kinsman, failed to arrive for the ceremony.

Lucy, youngest of the Kavanagh sisters, also joined the Cork Ursulines along with her cousins Elizabeth and Anne Coppinger.

Honora Kavanagh, Sr. Stanislaus Koska, in religion received the Black Veil on December 29th, 1771, Feast of St. Thomas a Becket "her relative". Sr. Stanislaus had as a companion novice in France King Louis XV's youngest daughter Madame Louise Marie de France (Sr. Theresa in

religion), aunt of Marie Antoinette.

After the French Revolution according to the St. Denis Archives, Sr. Stanislaus returned to Borris House, where she lived as a religious, her family being opposed to her entry into an Irish convent. With the Rebellion of 1798 it must have seemed as though the French Revolution was catching up with her "Borris House was attacked to secure arms and ammunition", Rev. Patrick J. Kavanagh, *The Insurrection of 1798*. The Kavanagh ladies including Sr. Stanislaus took temporary refuge with their kinsfolk in Kilkenny and later returned to Borris House where Sr. Stanislaus died on June 7th, 1816. She was laid to rest with her ancestors, among them King Art Mac Murrough in St. Mullins.

Another religious vocation in family

However our Borris Carmelite had the consolation of another religious vocation in the family when a niece followed the example of her three aunts. This was another Honora (daughter of Thomas I, M.P. and his wife Lady Susanna Butler) who entered in the family book kept at Borris House as "a nun". Information verified by Mr. Andrew Kavanagh, present Chief of the name.

Sr. Stanislaus also witnessed religious changes in the Kavanagh Clan when her nephew (mentioned above) Thomas I Mac Murrough Kavanagh conformed to the

Established Church, however he remained close to the Catholic faith, his children were Catholic and he is buried in the Catholic plot in St. Mullins. Thomas I was M.P. for the City of Kilkenny in the last Irish Parliament at College Green and subsequently at Westminster as M.P. for the County of Carlow (Burkes Irish Family Records 1976). His son Thomas II married Elizabeth Butler (1st wife), all their children were Catholic. A white marble monument sacred to the memory of their daughter Wandersforde who died aged 14, may be seen on the wall of the Church of Ireland in St. Mullins. His mother Lady Elizabeth Kavanagh died two years later and was also buried in St. Mullins.

Thomas Kavanagh II M.P. re-married, his second wife was Harriette La Poer Trench, she immediately changed the family religion from Catholic to the Church of Ireland. This Kavanagh lady was mother of "The Incredible Mr. Kavanagh" and was responsible for creating and fostering a cottage industry in Borris, handmade Borris lace. She died on July 14th, 1883, aged 85 and is buried under the aisle of the Church of Ireland in St. Mullins.

It is almost three centuries since the signing of the Treaty of Limerick, and still our beautiful country remains divided and torn with religious and political differences, we witness in ever increasing numbers the flight of our young people, many of whom will be remembered like the above mentioned as gems in the history books of tomorrow.

1915 Food Prices

AVERAGE labourers wages were £1 weekly, this is what it could purchase: 2½ cwt. Coal, ½ lb. Butter, 2½ Loaves, 2 lb. Sugar, 3 lbs. Rice, 1½ lbs. Beef, ½ lb. Tea, ¾ pints Milk, 5 lbs. Potatoes, 9 oz. Chocolate, 4 Eggs, 5 lb. Cheese, 4¼ Bars of Soap, 6 Pairs Socks, 8 oz. Wool, 40 Cigarettes, 6 ½ Whiskeys, 40 Cigarettes, 5 ozs. Tobacco, 4 Bottles Ale.

Art Mac Murchú Caomhánach (1831 - 1889)

Le Séamus Ó Linnáin

NÍ Bhíonn tagairt dá laghad nins na leabhair staire do ábhar an ailt seo. Is mór an trua é mar scéal iontach thar na bearta isea scéal a bheatha. Sé tosach an scéil an chuid is iontaí.

Tosaíonn an scéal sa bhliain 1831 ar an 15ú Márta. Ar an lá sin rugadh Art Mac Murchú Caomhánach in áras na gCaomhánach i mBuiríos. Bhí ionadh agus alltacht ar an Dochtúir Boxwell nuair a chonaic sé an leanbh ós a chomhair. Bhí sé gan cosa gan lámha — ní raibh ach stompaí aige. Ach bhí sé d'ádh ar Art go raibh máthair chróga aige — Lady Harriet La Poer Trench, iníon Riocard, Iarla Clancarty. Bá í an dara beanchéile a bhí ag Tomás Ó Caomhánaigh, athair Airt. Nuair chonaic a mháthair é don chéad uair dúirt sí “Thank God he was born to me and not to someone else”.

Pé scéal é, d'fhás an leanbh suas go sláintiúil. Chaith an mháthair leis mar a chaith sí leis na páistí eile. Níor lig sí d'éinne tagairt a dhéanamh dá éagrúth. Mhol an Dr. Boxwell di féin mhúinín a chothú ann tré gan ligint dó bheith ag brath ar dhaoine eile. Nuair a tháinig tuiscin dó mhol sé don mháthair eolas a thabhairt dó ar Stair na gCaomhánach i dtreo go mbeadh sí brodúil as a oidhreacht. Rinne sí amhlaidh.

Nuair a bhí sé timpeall 2 bhliain d'aois bhí ar a chumas rudaí a tharraingt chuige lena stompaí agus dul ó áit go háit ar a thóin. Tugadh capaillín dó mar bhronntanas breithe nuair a bhí sé 2 bhliain d'aois. Thugadh an dochtúir timpeall an eastáit é. Taréis tamaill fuair a mháthair ciseán. Cuireadh an ciseán ar mhúin an chapail agus Art istigh sa chiseán. Theádh sé timpeall ansan ag marcaíocht ina aonar. Nuair a bhí Art 5 bliana d'aois fuair a athair bás. Bhí sé 69 mbliana d'aois.

Thug a Mháthair faoi oideachas a thabhairt dó. Péintéir maith ab ea í. Cheap sí gurbh fhearr péinteireacht a mhúineadh dó roimh léamh ná scríobh. Chuir sé an scuab idir na fiacla agus

d'éirigh thar barr leis. Sa tslí chéanna d'fhoghlaim sé scríobh. Nuair a bhí sé 9 mbliana d'aois bhí ealadha na scríbhneoir-eachta ar a thoil aige. Mhúin sí léamh dó freisin agus leag sí béim mhór ar an mBíobla. Nuair a bhí sé timpeall 9 mbliana d'aois bhí sé tugtha do chleasaíocht cosúil le gach buachaill óg, sláintiúil. Mar sin chuir a mháthair go dtí teach an Oirmhíneach Somhairl Greer, cúraideach Celbridge mar a raibh scoil. Bhí col ceathrar le Lady Harriet, an Coirnéal Ó Conghaile ina chónaí i Castletown, in aice le Celbridge. Bhí clann óg ag an gCoirnéal agus ag an Oirmhíneach Greer a bhí mar chomhlúadar aige. Chuire sé feabhas mór ar a chuid scríbhneoireachta agus scríobhadh sé abhaile go rialta. Faic a bhí sé ann fuair sé crúcaí a rinne obair na lámh. Theádh sé ag iascaireacht go minic.

Tugadh abhaile é agus é in aois 14 bliana. Thug a mháthair paiste beag talún dó ar an eastát chun eolas éigean a fháil ar bhainistíocht feirme. Choimeád sé cuntaisí e.g. “Dhíol mé cruithneacht ar £8 agus cheannaigh mé muca leis an aigeard”.

Fuair a mháthair múinteoir dó — an tOirmhíneach David Wood. Mhúin sé matamaitic, eolaíocht, tír-eolas, loingseoireacht dó. Chuir Art suim i mbádóireacht agus rinne sé staidéar ar shruthanna na farraige.

Taisteal

Bhí Art ag éirí mí-shuaimhneach sa bhaile. Mar sin, sa bhliain 1846 thug a mháthair ar thuras na Fraince chun Francís a fhoghlaim. Ina dhiaidh sin thug siad cuairt ar an Éigipt agus an Talamh Naofa. D'fhill siad abhaile go Buiríos sa bhliain 1848, bliain an Éirí Amach.

Chuaigh Art ansan chun tamall a chaitheamh le haintín leis ag Gairericín, láimh le Muilleann na hUamhan, Tiobrad Árann. Nuair a thárla an Éirí Amach liostáil sé mar

scabhta don Rialtas. Theádh sé timpeall ar chapall ag iarraidh dlí agus ord a choimeád. Is cosúil go mbíodh gnó eile idir lámha aige, freisin — bhíodh sé ar thóir na mban. Shocraigh a mháthair gurbh é a leas a thuilleadh taistil a dhéanamh ach níor inis sí do Art cén fáth! Pé scéal é, bhí sé sásta dul. Chuaigh a dheartháir, Tom agus an tOirmhíneach Wood leis.

Taisteal Arís

Chaith siad 5 bliana ag taisteal an uair seo. Thug siad cuairt ar chuid mhaith den Eoraip, an Meán-Oirthear agus an Ind. Is ioma eachtra iontach a tharla dóibh agus is minic a bhí siad i mbaol báis. Mar shampla bhí siad uair amháin, ag dul isteach go baile mór sa Pheirs nuair a bhailigh roinnt madraí ocracha timpeall ortha. D'ith ceann de na madraí sicín ar an sráid. Chuir muintir an bhaile an milleán ar Art agus a chompánaigh. Gabhadh iad agus cuireadh faoi ghlas iad i dteach i gcearnóg an bhaile. Thosaigh na daoine ag caitheamh uibheacha agus oráistí lofa leo. Is ortha a bhí an tAthas éaló ón áit sin!

Ag teacht chun deireadh 1849 d'ímigh Mr. Wood agus Tom to Tiflis agus fágadh Art leis féin i Tabriz. Chuir sé aithne ar Phrionsa na háite agus chaith sé an Nollaigh leis. Tháinig fiabhras ar Art agus cuireadh é san harem agus tháinig feabhas iontach air tar éis tamaill. Shroich siad an Ind, Eanáir, 1851. Chaith siad tamall ag fiach tíogar. An chéad tíogar a chonaic Art mharbhaigh sé e.

Tháinig deireadh leis an spórt nuair a d'éirigh Tom an-tinn leis an eitinn. Ar chomhairle dochtúra thug Wood ar thuras farragie chun na hAstráile é. Fuair Tom bás ar an turas in earrach na bliana 1852. In ionad fillleadh go dtí an Ind d'fhan Mr. Wood san Astráil agus fágadh Art ina aonar.

Bhí a chuid airgid imithe faoin am seo agus chuaigh sé ag lorg poist. Fuair sé post mar ghiolla turais timpeall Hyderabad agus

i gceann tamaillín ceann eile sa Roinn Suirbhé i Poona. Faid a bhí sé sa phost seo bhuaigh sé rás capaillíní.

Faoin am seo fuair sé scéala go raibh cúrsaí go dona maidir le hairgead i mBuiríos. Chuaigh sé abhaile agus shroich sé Buiríos ag deireadh 1853.

Art ina Thiarna Talún

Bhí fonn ar Art leas na dtionóntaithe a dhéanamh. Leag sé pleananna amach le haghaidh tithe nua do na daoine sa sráidbhaile. Niorbh fhada go raibh tithe nua ceann slinne ar dhá thaobh na príomh-sráide. Tá an chuid is mó aca ann fós.

Sa bhliain 1855 phós sé Francis Mary Forde Leathley, iníon Mhinistir Phrotastúnaigh. Bhí seisear clainne aca. Mhúin mathair Airt do mhuintir na háite conas lás a dhéanamh. Thug Art agus a bhean gach cabhair dóibh. Ba ghearr go raibh clú agus cáil ar an lás.

Chuir Art airgead ar fáil chun bóthar iarainn a thógáil ó

Mhuine Beag go Buiríos agus ar aghaidh go Ros Mhic Treoin. Is le hairgead Airt a tógadh an tarbhealach álainn ag bun na sráide.

Sa bhliain 1868 toghadh ina fheisire é i bPáirlimint Westminster. Thabhaigh sé le Páirtí na gCaomhach. Chuir sé i gcoinne Di-Bhonú Eaglais na hÉireann agus Polasaí an toirmisc ag Biggar, Parnell, etc. Bhí sé fial i gcónaí lena chuid airgid. Thug sé cead an séipéal príomháideach a bhí ag na Caomhánaigh a úsáid mar shéipéal paróiste agus thug sé £100 sa bliain don Mhinistir.

D'ainneoin a chuid dualgaisí sa bhaile agus sa Phairlimint théadh sé ar thuras farraige i luamh a bhí ceannaithe aige roimh ré Uair amháin agus é ag dul tré Loch Ness in Albain dúirt sé go bhfaca sé "a strange grey patch, interspersed with heaving of a black fish". Ní fheadar arbh é an "Loch Ness Monster" a chonaic sé.

In olltoghachán na bliana

1880 chaill Art a shuíochán sa Phairlimint. Parnellíteach a bhuaigh air. Bhí tinte cnámh i mBuiríos ag ceiliúradh na hocaíde. D'éirigh sé an-searbh dá bharr mar cheap sé go raibh na tionóntaithe mí-bhuíoch ar fad tar éis a raibh déanta aige ar a son.

Bás

Theip ar a shláinte sa bhliain 1886 de bharr diabetes agus lagar spride. Trí bliana ina dhiadh sin tháinig broncítis air. Fuair sé bás maidin lae Nollag, 1889 in aois 58 mbliana. Mar sin bhí deireadh le saol duine de na fir ba iontaí dar mhair riamh, dar liomsa. Nuair a chuirtear san áireamh na constaicí a bhí le sárú aige. Iascaire, Loingseoir, sealgaire, taistealaí cróga agus san am céanna scribhneoir litreacha, tiarna talún cineálta agus M.P. ab ea é cé nach raibh cosa ná lámh aige. Is ábhar bróid agus dóchais é do mhuintir Bhuiríos, do Cheatharloch agus don tír ar fad.



LETTER

Dear Editor,

I am sending you this photo not because I am in it myself on the extreme left but because of an incredible coincidence. It was taken at the launch of my book on the Dermot Mac Murrough adventures, for children (9-13) "Foster Son to a King" published by The Childrens Press, 90 Lower Baggot St., Dublin 2. The three to my side are all descendants of the major actors in the twelfth century drama of Dermot Mac Murrough and the Norman Landings of 1169 — and of course their ancestors are major characters (in both my books) of eight centuries ago. David Roche of Garrylough, Screen, Wexford, alongside me is the descendant

of the very first mercenary — Flemish — hired in 1167 by Dermot Mac Murrough — FitzGodebert de la Roche. You know of course Andrew Mac Murrough Kavanagh of Borris Castle who launched the book with a resounding speech, and on the extreme right is Nicholas Sweetman, nephew of the O Conor Don (the late S.J.), descendant of course of the last clearly recognised High King of Ireland, Rory Mor O Conor of Connaught.

It was the most amazing moment of my life, a moment of strange, unrecognisable emotion. Inside a second the group had split up, the photographer vanished into the

night and this is the one and only shot of that incredible instant in modern history, dare I say, an extraordinary, happy occasion after such centuries of strife. Of course I'm the descendant of one of Mac Murrough's hired mercenaries myself, a crowd who remained so loyal to the family of Mac Murrough that we were nicknamed by other Normans "The False Furlongs". (My grandfather by the way was John Kinsella of Cranemore, Kildavin, Co. Carlow).

Best wishes and kindest regards.

Nicholas Furlong,
Drimagh Lodge,
Wexford.

“ . . . To-day he holds an enviable reputation as a teacher and practitioner in his speciality . . . ”

- Gaelic American, 1915.

Dr. Joseph G. Byrne

Compiled by William Ellis

Joseph G.* Byrne was born in Bagenalstown in March, 1870, his father's name was Patrick and his mother's maiden name was Margaret O'Neill. He was the youngest of a family of seven, four boys and three girls. One of his brothers, George, became a priest and died P.P. of Graiguecullen in 1909.

From his youth Joseph displayed a fondness for study and took a keen interest in sports. At St. Patrick's College, Carlow he was awarded the medal for Arts and Philosophy, and in 1890 received his B.A. degree from the Royal University.

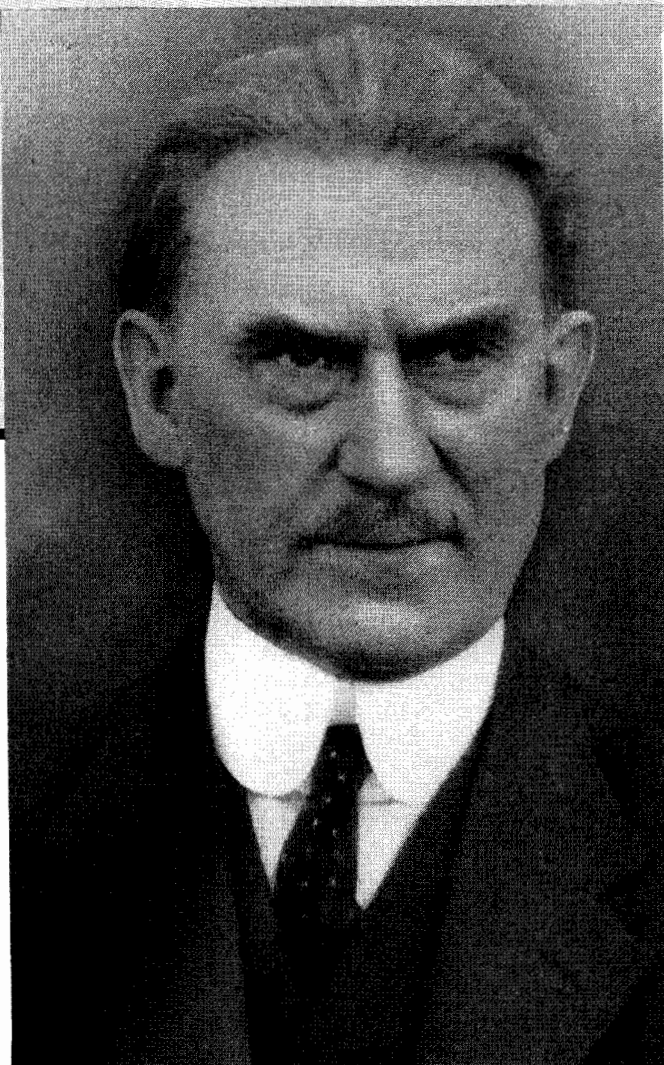
While a student he not only achieved high scholastic distinction, he also won fame on the athletic field. In track and field sports he was rated one of the best men of his day in Ireland, not only in special events but as an all-round performer.

In 1891 Joseph Byrne emigrated to New York to pursue his studies. He became a naturalized citizen of the U.S. in 1897. Even in the U.S. he continued his interest in sport. Handball had a special attraction for him, he regarded it as Ireland's only real national pastime. As a unifying element Joseph Byrne said handball was worthy of the support of all Irishmen at home and abroad, and indeed of all who can appreciate the merits of a clean, manly, athletic pastime. He played American football with Columbia's varsity team in the U.S. College League in 1894 and 1895.

Receiving his M.A. degree from the College of St. Francis Xavier in 1893, and graduating from Columbia University with a M.D. in 1895, Dr. Byrne went on to receive a LL.B. degree at the New York Law School in 1900. He was admitted to the Bar the same year.

Specializing in diseases of the nervous system, Dr. Byrne commenced practice in New York in 1898. His striving after knowledge was not satisfied by mere acquisition of degrees. On the contrary it increased, and after graduating in medicine he immediately began extensive

*The "G" in Dr. Byrne's name stands for Grandson, i.e. grandson of Byrne, he used it for his books.



Dr. Joseph G. Byrne.

Photo courtesy John Byrne.

research work. With slight facilities and little or no outside assistance or encouragement he persisted in his investigations, despite the handicap of a large

“Among the numerous works which have won him a wide reputation, may be mentioned especially his investigation into the cause and treatment of sea-sickness, in which he described the functions of the internal ear more satisfactorily than did even Barany, the famous Viennese, whose work on this subject was awarded the Nobel prize.”

The Ram.

general practice, until he won recognition.

In 1910, after competition, Columbia University awarded him the Alumni Association Prize of £125. In the same year the result of Dr. Byrne's investigations were published in a work entitled “The Physiology of the Semicircular Canals”,

which won immediate recognition from the leading medical authorities in the U.S. and abroad. This work alone was sufficient to establish a lasting international reputation for the Doctor in scientific medical circles. He was the author of many books and contributed a prodigious number of articles to medical journals.

Dr. Byrne accepted the Professorship of Diseases of the Nervous System at Fordham University in 1912 and was appointed dean of the University's medical school in 1918. Other positions he held were, president of the medical board of the Central and Neurological Hospital, Welfare Island, New York, and was a long time consultant to the City, Fordham, and Neurological Hospitals and a member of the advisory board of the New York Health Department.

In the Spanish-American War Dr. Byrne served as a captain in the Sixty-ninth Volunteers.



Joseph Byrne as a young boy is seated in the front row, next to him are his brothers, John J. (seated third from right) who also emigrated to the U.S., next to him (with cap) is James William who had a grocery business in Market Square, Bagenalstown. The man at the end of the front row is Patrick Byrne, their father and Fr. George Byrne, Dr. Joseph's third brother is third from left of back row.

Photo courtesy John Byrne.

The Doctor also spent some time studying abroad, particularly in Paris and London. While attending the International Medical Congress in London in 1913 he received a degree from the English Royal College of Surgeons. At the International Physiological Congress held at Edinburgh, Scotland in 1923 he was awarded the William Harvey Gold Medallion.

The following tribute is taken from the *Gaelic American*, March, 1915:

"Today he holds an enviable reputation as a teacher and practitioner in his speciality, inside the profession he is known as a profound scholar, a persistent investigator, an original thinker and a moulder of medical opinion".

"The doctor is a fine type of Irish gentleman. The temperament of the race is finely interwoven in his character. In word and deed he reflects the high ideals and lofty sentiments of the Celt."

He is a profound admirer of his famous kinsman, Miles Byrne, who with Father John Murphy, led the Wexford Rebels in 1798, and who later on played a conspicuous part in the Emmet rising of 1803,

finally going into exile carrying with him Emmet's last official communication to the Irish leaders in France. Miles Byrne died in exile. When in Paris, Dr. Byrne never fails to visit his grave in Montmartre Cemetery, and pays tribute to one of Ireland's noblest sons."

Dr. Byrne's only son by his first wife died in Paris in 1922 where he was attending medical school.

Joseph G. Byrne died at his home in New York on May 13, 1945. His second wife predeceased him. in 1943.

In his Will Dr. Byrne stipulated that some of his estate be set aside to provide a memorial to his parents who are buried at Myshall. His intention was to provide vocational training for children in Myshall parish. After nearly forty years of litigation a fund was established.

Acknowledgement to John Byrne (nephew of Dr. Joseph), New York for information and photographs.

Further sources: *The Nationalist & Leinster Times*, April 10, 1915; *Gaelic American*, March 15, 1915; *The Ram*, Fordham University, February 14, 1918; *The New York Times*, May 14, 1945; *Who Was Who in America*, Vol. 2; The New York Public Library.



NOTEWORTHY ANNIVERSARY

A detail from the memorial stone which marks the last resting place of Bishop James O'Keefe at The Grange beside the River Barrow in Carlow. Bishop O'Keefe was responsible for building Saint Patrick's College, Carlow, the first anniversary to be held in Ireland after the relaxation of the Penal Laws.

Bishop O'Keefe died 200 years ago, on September 18, 1787.

Coolyhune Star Fort

By Ina Doyle

PART of the ancient barony of Ui-Chuinnsilagh lies between the River Barrow and the Blackstairs Mountains. It was, for centuries, the territory of the Kavanagh clan. Camden in his "State of Ireland" 1598, describes Carlow as "rich and tolerably wooded, in these parts live great numbers of Kavanagh's good soldiers, famous horsemen".

Until recently it was believed that this area had but one link with the ill-fated Henry VIII, the suppression of one of Ireland's largest and architecturally richest Cistercian Abbeys, at Duiske in Graignamanagh (now happily restored to much of its original splendour). Following a visit by the Kilkenny Archaeological Society and their research into Hilltop Sites, it was pointed out that the "Rath" of Coolyhune Hill played a significant role in the activities of this period.

Here on Coolyhune Hill (approximately 500 ft. above sea level) in the parish of St. Mullins in South Carlow can be seen a mediaeval "Star Fort" of exceptional interest, enriching the already generously endowed environment in the area.

Henry VIII's dispute with Rome over his attempted divorce from Catherine of Aragon raised the possibility of an invasion from the Continent, resulting in an immediate strengthening of coastal defences. The advent of gunpowder and the use of artillery necessitated a search for something different in design from the traditional type castle, which now presented a relatively easy target. The result was a low-profile angle bastion fortification manned by professional soldiers. While this design may have varied it continued in use for succeeding centuries.

These sixteenth and seventeenth century structures became known as "Star Forts" and are found in Ireland mainly in river estuaries and coastal areas. This new defensive proved to be as impregnable against artillery as the earlier castles had been before the arrival of gunpowder.

Unlike the masonry-built "Star Fort" at Kinsale, the

Coolyhune Fort is built of uncemented masonry, the walls are immensely thick measuring approx. six feet at the base narrowing to about four feet at the top to a maximum present height of eight feet. The interior area taken from the Ordnance Survey Sheet is given as .996 of an acre. While the surveyors did not indicate the entrance to the fort it is believed that the present opening is not the original, but should be located to the west. While the arrowhead projections were constructed to afford covering for gunfire at all angles, missing is evidence of embrasures through which cannon could be fired; however a singular feature of the fort is that it followed the contours of the hill giving rise to the belief that cannon was fired across the walls. A distinct feature associated with star forts was a surrounding trench or ditch, which was not possible at Coolyhune because of the rock outcrop on which it stands. In recent years diviners established that there is a considerable source of water underneath the fort.

Huge boulders in walls

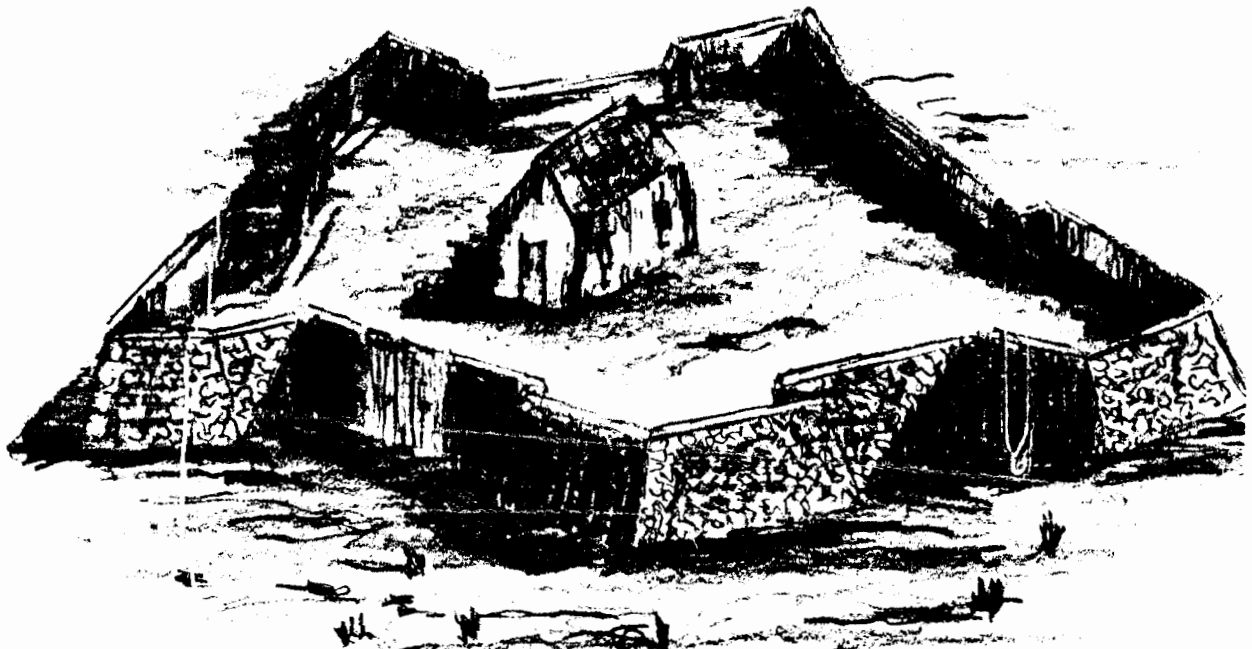
The fort itself shows little evidence of attack by artillery, the outer layer is almost intact and contains huge boulders giving strength to the walls. No evidence could be found of a ramp or other means whereby artillery could be moved into position or switched from place to place within the fort, depending on the direction from which the attack might come. Neither was there anything to suggest positions which the garrison could occupy to repel such an attack.

Situated about two miles north east of Graignamanagh, Coolyhune Fort affords the visitor a superb view across the beautiful countryside between the Mount Leinster range of mountains to the east and the Mount Brandon Hills and Coppengagh to the west, a view which enables one to appreciate the advantage and security it

could afford to a small garrison with local knowledge.

Within signalling distance of the passes across the mountain at "Scoulagh Gap", the White Mountain and Coppengagh Hills, the Barrow Valley warning of approaching armies from Wexford and elsewhere could be passed on and preparations made in good time. Could this have helped James Duke of Ormond in his success against the Confederate Army of Lord Mountgarrett and Preston in 1642. Dr. Comerford in his "History of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin" tells us: "On the 18th March 1642 a battle was fought at Ballybeg near St. Mullins. The English under James Marquis of Ormond on this march from Ross, were then encountered by Lord Mountgarrett and General Preston at the head of a well disciplined and well armed contingent of 3,000 horse and 10,000 foot. Ormond defeated the Confederate Generals and compelled them to save themselves and the remains of their army by a speedy retreat to Kilkenny. The night after this battle, Ormond's army encamped over against Graignamanagh (Meehan's History Confederation)". This townland of Ballybeg is approximately one mile distant to the east from Coolyhune Hill. Midway across the valley between Ballybeg and Graignamanagh was the town "Nova Ville" (Newtown) where artisans and craftsmen with their families resided during the construction of Duiske Abbey. Following the dissolution of the Abbey the residents of Nova Ville slowly moved away. In this way protection for the once important centre at Nova Ville or Newtown gradually became less important.

Coolyhune Hill can be seen quite clearly from the windows of Borris House. Its present owner Mr. Andrew Kavanagh when asked for information about Coolyhune Star Fort mentioned that some years ago when in London a friend asked if he was familiar with this unique monument so near his ancestral home. A comment by the present owner of the fort Mr. Doyle that on sale by the Kavanagh Estate



Coolyhune Star Ford - exterior view - building in centre no longer exists

to the Land Commission this particular monument was specifically excluded. It was not until the lifetime of his late father that the site was acquired and added to the Doyle family holding.

Fort of the Kinsellas?

Whatever its origin many questions are posed by this unusual monument. Was it erected in haste, if so, why? Was the construction overtaken by events? Was it a sham or folly erected to satisfy the whim of the local landlord? Could it have been the "Fort of the Kinsellas (location uncertain) mentioned in Seventeenth Century Fortifications" by Paul M. Kerrigan. Events may have overtaken the need for this fortification. We know that the anticipated invasion from the Continent never took place. One conclusion which can be drawn is that Coolyhune Star Fort probably was an out-post affording the minimum of accommodation to the garrison which was expected to withdraw or adopt delaying or harrying tactics with an approaching enemy while affording time and protection to the area. Everywhere in St. Mullins teems with history, but this star-shaped fort on Coolyhune merits a visit, and we are indebted to its owner Mr. Joseph Doyle for permission so generously given at all times.

The final question remains:—
How do we preserve this fort?

98. Commemoration Association.
St. Molings Branch.

All who Intend Travelling
To Kiltaly 98 Celebrations
To-day Sunday Aug 14th 1938
Are Requested To Be In Glynns
at 11.30^{am} old Time
With Bike Pike & Sash

SJA AZup Epre

Rúspóice

14/8/38

Old handbill notice contributed by Tomás Ó Brion, St. Mullins.

Drama at a Fair

By Alan Doran

THIS is a story of an extraordinary incident which made medical history in Leighlinbridge. The day and the setting was, as it had to be, the 14th of May "The Fair of Leighlin".

It was about the turn of the last century or perhaps a little way into this century and the Fair was in full blast with hundreds of people from all parts of the country milling around through the bellowing animals and spilling down from the Bawnogue into the streets; through the Booths and standings of the traders who were set up on every street and corner. There were children everywhere. The Schools were closed on that day and their joy added to the noise as they tasted and looked on the exotic fruits which would never be seen again, 'till the next Fair of Leighlin which was light years away in the mind of the child.

There were Buyers, Jobbers and Drovers, the Piper and the Ballad singer and the cry of the cheapjack rising above the din. And the strange mixture of smells, the suckling calves, the spilled porter, crushed orange peel and the high scent of the fruits from distant lands. All this was part of the Fair and a way of life now gone forever.

Huge plate of steak and onions

Lory Daly lived on the Ridge of Carlow about one quarter of a mile off the Castlecomer Leighlin road and towards Bawnree. He 'sold', probably had a few drinks and was ravenously hungry. He had the choice of a dozen eating houses. Big Tom Farrell lived in Chapel St., he was a Victualler and weighed 17 stones. He kept an eating house for the Fair day and his idea of a dinner was as ample as his weight. The strong middle aged Lory Daly made straight for Tom Farrells and sat down to a huge plate of steak and onions, with a big dish of potatoes in the middle of the table.

There were a few others sitting at the table and everything went well for a short while, 'till Lory began to choke on a huge piece of steak. At first the other diners began to splutter and laugh but Big Tom apprehended the situation quickly and cleared the table, lifted Lory along the length of the table and began to pound him on the back. The effort failed and he sent the girl in the kitchen scurrying for Doctor Scott who was doing duty at the dispensary in Church St. The other diners found themselves out on the street and soon the hulla-balloo was up 'Lory Daly is chokin' above in Big Tom Farrells' kitchen and a crowd soon gathered on the street outside.

Extraordinary long fingers

Nicholas Kehoe was a shoemaker who lived opposite Farrells shop he heard the uproar and came over to help. He was a good natured rogue, a great entertainer and a dangerous man with a pack of playing cards, possessing extraordinary long fingers, two of which were of equal length (at least that was what I was told). He shouted loudly "Don't worry Tom I'll doctor him" and thrust his long fingers down the unfortunate man's throat, gripped the meat which came up a little way but held fast and the Doctor Kehoe's fingers lost their grip. He tried a few more times and failed, then dashed across the street to wax his fingers to get a better grip but when he returned the real Doctor had arrived and he was left outside so we will never know what might have happened but at least he earned himself the nickname 'the Doctor Kehoe'.

Doctor Scott, who was doing duty in Leighlin at that time, was a man with a good clientele in Bagenalstown, and he could well have done without the call to attend this poor man from the hills whom he did not know. As soon as he entered the house he knew he was in trouble but there was no way out, no such thing

then as ringing up a Hospital or the fast well equipped ambulance with anaesthetists standing by. His fight for the man's life must begin and end here. And so the ageing Dr. Scott began his dreadful exhausting struggle.

Some relatives of Lory Daly came to the door, entered for a very short time, came out and jumped into a rubbertyred trap and swept away at great speed to Bagenalstown. Word passed through the waiting crowd 'They are gone to Church Road for Dr. Delaney'. Dr. Delaney was a rising star in Bagenalstown, a wild bright young man, a great Surgeon who was making inroads into Dr. Scott's rich clientele.

Inside the sweating Dr. Scott fought to get up the piece of steak but on each occasion that he brought it so far some obstruction seemed to expand and the forceps cut through the meat. At times he got a good grip of something hard but he lost his nerve for fear of what he might be tugging at or what might come up with the meat. He knew he was doing to loose his patient, the man was sinking fast, indeed news came out that the man was dead. Katie Brennan told the man in the adjoining yard that he had finished breathing.

At this point of the drama Dr. Delaney arrived at the door in his Gig, he threw off his cloak, took his black bag, smiled at the waiting crowd like a true performer and went inside.

Patient near to death

The sweating Dr. Scott was glad for once to see him, the patient was near to death. The conference was short and Dr. Delaney did not try any repetition of Scott's endeavours. He took a bottle from his bag, pured a little of the liquid on a pad and placed it on Daly's face; a strong overpowering sickly smell wafted through the whole house. They worked to get the man some inhalation and soon Lory's struggles ceased and he

Gaelic League Hall, Glynn



The only known person in above photograph now living is Mike Doyle, St. Mullins and New Ross. He is the boy on left of the Irish sign. The hall was built by locals, it was of felt and timber. It was reconstructed and kept intact until 1950s. It was demolished when the new Community Centre was constructed in 1984. Fr. Brennan is the priest; Master O'Donovan is the schoolmaster.

Photograph contributed by Larry Byrne, Bahana, St. Mullins.

settled back into a condition in which he would quickly die. Moving rapidly Dr. Delaney made an incision low down on the man's throat and punctured the windpipe and quickly inserted a tube. ("They" said it was a silver tube). A strange high weird sound came from the pipe and the people outside knew that the fight was not over. Some said it was like the sound of a Bellows before the tune was struck up. (The Bellows was a musical instrument, a poor relation of the Irish pipes, which was commonly used at dances at that time. It emitted high, wheezy sounds of limited notation).

Daly began to regain consciousness again. Dr. Delaney poured the chloroform on a pad and held it close to the

intake of the pipe and this time Lory fell into a deep sleep with the sonorous sound of the pipe breaking the silence of the house.

With conditions still anything but safe, though vastly improved, Dr. Delaney went into the second stage of the operation and soon an enormous chunk of steak was removed from Daly's throat.

The Ambulance arrived next at the door, a drab green four wheeled horsedrawn vehicle, which was at once high and low. High because the buxom nurse could stand full height between the two couches and low because of an ingenious crank in the axle which brought the floor near the ground. Lory Daly was carried out resting face down on a stretcher.

Dr. Scott exchanged a few brief words with the others, then walked away with his coat and hat and perhaps he was like the 'Wedding Guest' a sadder and wiser man. But to his credit, he had kept the patient alive until the arrival of the younger and better equipped man.

Dr. Delaney chatted a little while at the door, then jumped into his Gig and sped away in the wake of the Ambulance on the way to the Cottage Hospital at Bagenalstown.

Lory Daly recovered and lived out his normal life span.

The piece of meat was preserved and kept in a jar in the old Dispensary in Leighlin for many years until the great and terrible events of this century obscured the wonder of such things.

Looking Back

By Alec Burns

A RECENT donation to the Museum included a copy of a 1934 Calendar and Year Book of the Cathedral Parish. Looking through the advertising columns I was struck by the number of businesses which have changed hands in the intervening years.

For instance, Duggan's of Dublin Street had a Stationer's shop at number 58 which sold everything in this category. The same business is carried on by Miss Hayes their successor. At number 59 they had a large grocery store with a Wine and Spirit business at the rear. This was a great meeting place for the proprietor's friends. Peter and Betty Gorman are the present owners.

Pat Donohue had a Paint and Wallpaper Shop in No. 38 and also was a Painting Contractor employing several tradesmen during the season. There does not seem to be any business being carried on there now. Frank McAnally was a Chemist in No. 44 and carried on a very successful business. He sold it to F. Corless who continues to serve all the pharmaceutical needs of his many customers. Murray's of Dublin St. prided themselves as the Premier Sweet Stores & Ice Cream Cafe. They had large stocks of high class confectionery and a variety of cigarettes and cigars. They are one of the few original stores still trading in the town.

Mineral waters and Guinness

Maggie Bolger, 11 Brown St. is another of the few businesses remaining from that time. She and her successors carry on a busy Wine & Spirit Lounge for their many friends.

Corcoran & Co. have their usual banner headlines for their Mineral Waters and also for their bottling of Guinness Stout, Irish Ales, Bass & Co. Pale Ales. They advertised as Whiskey Bonders & Wine Importers also. Annie McWey was a Family Grocer, Wine & Spirit Merchant at 9, Wellington Square in the

premises now occupied by the Leix Pharmacy. Her brother Thomas was a Corn & Wool Merchant in Haymarket. A machinery firm now occupies that site. Mr. M. Byrne had a Wine & Spirit Store on the Quay opposite the Boat Club. The late P. Losty carried on the same business for many years. M. Shanahan has renovated and extended the premises and he trades under the name of 'Amadeus' with a very successful Disco Bar.

Sweep ticket shares from 1/-

Foley's Lending Library & Stationery, Newsagency and Confectionery, was a great business house on the Bridge between Carlow and Graiguecullen. Sweeps Tickets and Shares could be had from 1/- (one shilling!) upwards. The McDonald family carry on the same business now. Harte of Castle Hill had a Fruit, Sweets and Cigarette business. This house is now occupied by the Curran family. Francis Kirk had a Family Grocery, Tea, Wine & Spirit business in No. 44 Castle St. The same business is being carried on by the present owner, Mr. Griffin.

John Brennan had a Pawnbroking, Leather & Shoe Business at Nos 1 & 2, Castle Street. Both businesses have died in the intervening years. Pawnbroking was a great help for poor people in hard times. In those days people of modest means repaired all of their family footwear and No. 1 was a great source of leather and grindery. There was a Pet Shop in these premises until recent times and Attic Conversions Co. are the new owners. Thomas Reddy was a Family Grocer & Provisions Merchant at No. 15, Castle St. Now in the possession of Mr. Cullen, it is a snooker-hall under the name 'Casablanca'.

Jack Walsh and his sister had a High Class Machine Bakery, Confectionery and a Flour Meal & Barn Store at Nos 5 and 6, Castle St. This was taken over

by William Dunny & Family who continue in the Bakery, Confectionery & Grocery business. John O'Neill was a Wine & Spirit Merchant at 9, Coal Market. It is sad to recall that the last member of his family died only recently. Jones Business Systems in Burrin Street is located where Annie Nolan had a Grocery, Confectionery and Provisions Shop.

The Carlow Cinema was located in Burrin Street on the site now occupied by the General Post Office. Part of Kennedy Avenue was occupied by the Cinema also. Their advertisement said, "You are always sure to see the best pictures and enjoy them in absolute comfort". Seats could be booked at No. 26, Tullow Street where the proprietor, Frank Slater, lived. He had a Fish Shop and Poultry Store there and "one was sure to obtain the very best quality by ordering in advance". It is now an Amusement Arcade although the Meighan family from Graiguecullen had continued with the Fish Shop for many years. T. Crotty & Sons have their Bakery & Confectionery where Frank ran a similar business for many years. Mrs. Crotty is the proprietor of "Creations", a Ladies' and Childrens' Boutique at 125, Tullow St. where Mrs. James Walsh had a Grocery & Confectionery business.

Formerly the Swan Hotel

Miss Phelan had a Millinery Shop at 74, Burrin St and this was continued by Mrs. McDermott. It was taken over by M/S Gillespie who sold the premises to the Nationwide Building Society. Katherine McDonnell ran a Family Grocery & Wine Merchants business in Haymarket until taken over some years ago by Ewings. In time they transferred across the Market to Collier's premises which was formerly the Swan Hotel. The new proprietor at McDonnell's renamed it "The Crow's Nest".

Mrs. Robert Gough carried on a Drapery, Millinery, Boot & Fancy Warehouse at 139, Tullow St. Her daughters sold the premises to George Good for his hardware business. Later he sold it to M/S Saxone for a Boot & Shoe store but he retained Gough's shop for the sale of Paints and Wallpaper supplies. Next door at No. 138, M. J. Graham had a small Drapery for Ladies and Children, also Millinery and Haberdashery. Eilis O'Neill is the current proprietor of a successful Confectionery, Stationery, Cards and Souvenir business.

Was Hosiery factory

Michael Molloy had probably the largest store along with Haddens in Tullow Street. They stocked everything in the Drapery & Footwear departments and had an extensive Hosiery factory. The 5-Star Supermarket and Woolworths traded at this location until it was purchased by M/S McLoughlin who reconstructed the premises into the present shopping arcade of Tullow Street House. Gerald Donnelly ran a High Class Grocery, Wholesale & Retail, Wine & Spirit business at Nos 8, 9 & 10 Tullow St. This area is occupied by Shaw's Drapery Store and they took over the adjacent General Drapery Store once run by Youngs and later Browns. Foley Bros. of 112, Tullow St. were Family Grocers and Wine & Spirits Merchants. It was called "The Old House". Aidan Lennon, the present owner carries on the Lounge Bar business. Mary Walsh had a most successful Bakery & Confectionery in the adjacent premises for many years. It is now occupied by Celtic Cleaners. Across the road at No. 40, James Hickey had a High Class Grocery, Tea, Wine & Spirits business. The Carlow Bakery Co. succeeded him for several years until it reverted back to the Wine & Spirit business.

Lawlers of "The Plough", Tullow St., had a High Class Victualling business along with their Family Grocery and Spirit Bar. Changes have taken place since the arrival of the Supermarket era. They now confine themselves to High Class lounges for Wine & Spirit customers.



Photo: W. Ellis.

Tullow Street shop front photographed in 1970s.

Miss M. T. Kelly carries on a Newspaper, Confectionery, General Stationers & Fancy Goods Warehouse business. This was started by her grandparents in Nos 57 & 58, Tullow St. another of the oldest premises under the one family name in the street.

Miss Maher had a Family Grocer & Confectionery shop at No. 92. A plaque to the memory of Pádraig Mac Gamhna is on the outside front wall. Charlie Byrne now occupies the premises.

Gerald Kehoe was close by in No. 101, now demolished. He sold Gramophones and Radios.

Tom Seeley had a Ladies' & Gents' Hairdressing Saloon at No. 50 across the road. A. Gannon now has a Meat & Bacon Shop there as previous owner Eugene Dooley did for many years.

Willie O'Neill & Sons had a large garage at Nos 55 & 56. He was an agent for leading makes of Bicycles and Motor Cars. Several shops occupy the space now including a Dry Cleaners and the Trustee Savings Bank.

John Foley had a General Provisions, Stationery, Fancy

Goods & Haberdashery Store and a Confectionery at No. 66, Tullow St. His son carries on with a Pharmaceutical business.

Michael Doyle, The Shamrock, Tullow St. was in business as a Family Grocer & Spirit Merchant. He sold Coal, Timber, Slates and Hardware requirements also. The latter business is continued by his grandson in an enlarged and most successful venture.

Saddler and harness maker

George Branagan was a Saddler & Harness Maker at No. 150. Sadly, that trade seems to have died out. Frank Tully runs a Sports Shop at this location.

Helena B. Nolan advertised as a "Merchant" at Court Place. She had a Grocery, Wine & Spirit Business. "The Irishman's" was its title and this is retained by her grandnephew, John Hargaden who runs a very successful Lounge Bar.

Annie Nolan had a Green-grocery & Confectionery business at No. 77, Tullow St. She had a "Pure New Milk

Depot" also. Sadly there is no business there at present.

Tynan's Hotel, Tullow St. advertised that it was unbeatable for its excellent cuisine and extensive Grillroom. It was renowned for its large Ballroom, Lounge and Supper Rooms, the largest in South Leinster. M. J. Dease, the proprietor's nephew, was the manager. It was replaced by the Ritz Cinema. This building was in poor condition but is now being renovated.

Patrick Molloy had a Bakery & Provisions Shop at 137, Tullow St. It is now occupied by M/S Tully Travel Agents. Close by, P. Colgan had a Stationery and Fancy Goods Warehouse in Nos 135 & 136 and was a branch of the Torch Library also. Allied Irish Finance now occupy No. 135. 'TOP GEAR' is at No. 136 which had been the residence of Gerald Kehoe who had a Radio & Television business there for many years.

Garage and service station

J. J. Wall had a Motor Garage and Service Station on the Kilkenny Road. This site was sold to the Texaco Oil Co. Several houses nearby were cleared by the Council many years ago.

The advertisement for Murphy's at 2, 3 & 4, Tullow St. said, "Don't fail to visit our House, it is noted for Value in every class of Drapery, Millinery & Piece Goods". M/S Melville carry on the same business in the premises.

Miss Hoey of 28 & 29, Tullow St. was a Stationer & Newsagent. Catholic Prayer Books and Irish-made Rosary Beads were a speciality. A. O'Brien has a Jewellery business there now.

James McDermott carried on a Family Grocery, Wine & Spirit Merchants and his descendants are still in the same business, another of the few families remaining at the same location over the years.

Brigid Kearney had a Flour Meal & Corn Stores in Coal Market. It is now occupied by Grég Fitzmaurice as a Bacon & Meat Store.

Mrs. King was a Grocer and Spirit Merchant at No. 27, Tullow St. Her son Jimmy carried on the business for many



Photo: W. Ellis.

Another shop front of the 1970s.

years until retirement. Jim Fogarty was his successor and carries on the Wine & Spirit business.

J. J. Dunphy was a Builder & Contractor at 52, Tullow St. Sanitary Work was a Speciality. He also had a Wine & Spirit business. M/S Archbold now continue the Wine & Spirit business with a Lounge & Ballroom titled 'El Ruedo', mainly Disco Dancing.

"The Cafe", No. 6, Tullow St., Proprietress — B. Dillon, was a Private Hotel, Restaurant and Soda Fountain with a Ladies' Hairdressing Saloon attached. T. McDonald runs a Men's Drapery Store now under the title of "Mac's".

Richard Byrne had a Motor & Cycle Works and Garage. He was also a Haulage Contractor at No. 80, Tullow St., now occupied by part of the L & N Stores and he had a Confectionery Shop at No. 39. Michael White, Pharmaceutical Chemist, is now the occupant.

"The talk of Carlow"

Tuomey's Bacon is "the talk of Carlow" according to their advt., also their Teas & Grocery. "Denny's" quality only stocked. Lennons Bar & Lounge now occupy the premises. They also have an Auctioneering business under the title, "Real Estate House".

William Purcell & Sons, 86, Tullow St., were Ironmongers, Coach Builders & Undertakers. Sadly the premises closed on the death of the owner and have

remained closed ever since.

Harry Mayer had a Motor Hackney business in 66, Tullow St. He was the husband of Bridie Hayden who had a very successful General Supply Shop for many years. The shop is now closed up.

"The Bishop Byrnes"

Patrick Byrne was a Tea, Wine & Spirit Merchant at no. 72. It was commonly known as "The Bishop Byrnes". He also sold Delicious Teas. M/s. Caulfield continue the licence trade there now.

John McEvoy was a Wine and Spirit Merchang at No. 66, he also sold Groceries and "Limerick Bacon & Hams" at lowest prices, M/s. "Cee Gees" have a successful Lounge Bar there at present.

M/s. E. J. Nolan had a renowned Chemist Shop at the corner of Tullow St. and Dublin St. They had a large clientele and were also fully qualified Opticians. It was known as the "Arcade Pharmacy". His son has an extensive photographic business supplying all amateur photographers needs there now.

Finally my own advertisement reveals the fact that Unisex Saloons are not an innovation of recent years. It states that I catered for both Ladies and Gents and that I held a Proficiency Certificate from the Gents Academy in London for my work, also that we were established in 1905. I retired from business last year for health reasons.

My Native Place

By Mrs. Mary Murphy

MY native place lies in the upper end of St. Mullins Parish and is over-looked by both Goolin Hill with its distinctive stone-built ditches, and further back by the high rising Blackstairs with its famous Cahir's Den. The exact meaning of Slievedurda is not known. Some historians take Slievedurda to mean "Sliabh dubh Arda", or the high black hill. However, the more likely meaning is Sliabh Durda or the Hill of Durda.

At the entrance to our lane is situated a rath, with the old lane passing in circular fashion behind it. When travelling along this lane in a vehicle the hollow engine sound suggests a cavern or cave beneath the ground, possibly burial chambers.

Of great historical interest is a Quern stone which was unearthed in 1938 by the people here while making a new road below the dwelling house. This type of stone was used from ancient times up to about 200 years ago for the purpose of grinding corn. As two quern stones were used to grind the corn its comrade lies quietly beneath the Slievedurda clay.

Also unearthed in the 1940's was a silver bank token coin, dated 1806. It was found on the site of stone cottages which disappeared during famine times and in years shortly after as emigration and death took their toll.

Ballybeg and Newtown are the adjoining townlands. Ballybeg on the Mount Leinster side and Newtown on the Borris side. There are three raths which I know of in Ballybeg each with its own distinctive design. The most interesting one had a huge mound of stones in the middle and is said to have been an ancient burial place. It is situated in a fairly recently planted forest but the place was always known as The Wood.

A large battle was fought in Ballybeg in 1643 between James Marquis of Ormonde and Lord Mt. Garrett. There was terrible bloodshed and loss of life in the battle, the bodies are said to be buried in one of these raths, a rath which does not conform to

the circular shape of the traditional Irish Rath. One of the fields on Lawlors land (near the site) is still called the Camp Field.

In this general vicinity between Ballybeg Lane and the Skeogh also existed a Hedge School. The pupils brought sods of turf with them for a fire, so there may have been a shelter or hut there. In famine times a lot of families left Ballybeg at the time according to folklore, and this trend could well have signalled the end of the Hedge School.

Four farms in Ballybeg are called Ballybeg Little or Ballybeg Stafford. Kavanagh of Borris, the local landlord sold this part of Ballybeg, along with Slievedurda to Lord Courtown (surname Stafford) and to this very day that sale is having its effects on Ballybeg Stafford, as the farms there have no mountain rights and lie outside the disadvantage area.

In the 1940's there were "great horse and pony races", in Ballybeg, which ran as the racing card says, "Over a Splendid Course, kindly given by Messrs. Ryan, Byrne and Jackman".

Newtown has also a lot to offer of historical interest. Two churches once stood in Kavanagh's field (known to this day as the Church Field) which have since disappeared with the exception of the Holy Water Font. A Mass path passed under our house and up to the Barrack Lane. People coming from Ballybeg passed under our house with the stepping-stones in the rock field existing to this very day. This later came to be used as a school path as Newtown School House was opened in 1829.

A new school was built in 1946 but the old school serves the local community as a Parish Hall. Many Rathes also exist in Newtown and tradition has it that there are three priests buried in one of Lennons fields facing Collyhune. Newtown was also the site of the local forge for generations, which was denoted on the old maps as "smythe".

Slievedurda is a small

townsland with only one family living there. There are two other farms, one belonging to Jackmans, Ballybeg, formerly owned by Callaghans about ninety years ago. One of the Callaghan family was Fr. Tom Prendergast's mother and Fr. Prendergast diligently visited the ruins of where his mother was reared on visits to the locality. The other farm belongs to Martin Farrell, Glencoumb, formerly owned by Jim Grennan. Jim worked as a butcher and general houseman in Knockbeg College when Fr. Tom Prendergast and Bishop Tom Kehoe was there. Jim was very friendly with the two young students and later when Tom Kehoe became Bishop he came to visit Jim Grennan.

Many of the places in Slievedurda bear Irish names including Gort na Mhaca — the road leading from Slievedurda bridge to the top of our lane.

Towards the Mt. Leinster side of Slievedurda lies a vast expanse of low lying bog where in times gone by each family had its own turf bank, and these were used extensively especially during the war years. Surrounded by hills on all sides (Slievedurda, Goolin, Tinne-carrig) the bog was full of treacherous swamps and shakes with many cattle and horses being lost, some without trace. In the last ten years most of the bog was planted and it is now covered by a beautiful and lush young evergreen forest.

Close by that is the remains of the old Railway Line (Great Southern and Western Railway) which opened in the mid 19th Century and ran for over one hundred years, closing down in 1964 and many of the sleepers and Railway gates are still in daily use on the local farms. A piece down from Slievedurda Bridge where the railway ran is a milestone which read 79½ miles to Dublin.

Realising that I have just skimmed the historical surface I bring this short account to an end but at the same time acknowledging that the few facts jotted down make me part of and proud of My Native Place.

The Parish Of Clonegal

By William White

LONG before the historians or the peoples they wrote about, came to the valley in the shadow of the Blackstairs mountains, the waters of the sea washed the Irish shore near where the village of Clonegal now stands.

A geological upheaval saw the seas roll back and the range of the Wicklow foot-hills, down to the Gibbet Hill rise to cover one of the most western Faults in Europe.

Tremors have been felt along this fault in the 70's and 80's down the coast as far as Enniscorthy. This Fault is said to run from Norway and Sweden under the North Sea, the Scottish mountains, the North Channel, Mountains of Mourne, and the Wicklow mountains, to just north of Enniscorthy.

What is now the parish of Clonegal comprises the ancient parishes of Moyacomb and Barragh. Magh-da-chon, "The plain of the two Hounds" covered the region from the foot of the mountains (Blackstairs) in the South-east, to Balisland, and northward through Orchard to Ardattin, then westward to Kilbride and Barragh.

Meadow of the stranger

This district is stated in O'Huidrin's Topographical Poem as being the ancestral patrimony of O'Neill of Leinster. The Four Masters also refer to it in their mention of the "Battle of Rath-Edair, (Hill of Howth), between the men of Munster and the men of Leinster". In their account of the battle, they name among the defeated Leinstermen, "Ua Neill of Magh-da-chon". This reference is in A.D. 1087. Earlier we find that, Cernach, Lord of Ui Bairche and Magh-Da-Con died in 856 A.D.

The name of the village of Clonegal is "Cluain nanGall" or meadow of the stranger. Its origin is probably derived from one of two buildings which added to the beauty of the valley, the Abbey of Doune, or as the townland is called to this day Abbeydown. This was the site of

an Augustinian Abbey, said to have been founded by the Danes, who although they generally set up their settlements along the coast, sometimes followed the rivers many miles inland. They were referred to by the native Irish as the Gaul, or strangers, thus, Meadow of the Stranger.

Some hold that it could be a misspelling of the word Gaul for the Irish for Meeting, and that the real meaning is "Meadow of the Meeting" or where the rivers Slaney and Derry meet.

"Labba na Shee"

How far back into history we can trace life in the valley of Clonegal is hard to define but a grave in the townland of Moylisha is known as "Labba na Shee", the bed or grave of the fairies. This is taken to refer to one of the first races of people, or as they were often spoken of, the fairies of ancient Irish history, The Tuatha-de-Danaan. The Tuatha-de-Danaan, were a timid people and, when the more warlike Milesians came to our shores, they shrank into the deeper forests and eventually went under-ground. It is said that they were the original fairies, only appearing for fleeting moments, thus giving rise to the many stories of their strange doings throughout the pages of Irish folklore.

Other traces of ancient times are to be found in the shape of the remains of the oratory of Ard Briton, in the townland of Orchard, and a place on Newry Hill where the ancient Irish judges sat to give judgment. It is known as Rath-na-Doran. The Dorans were the Brehons, the hereditary judges of Leinster.

Clonegal is situated on the banks of the River Derry (River of Oak) about one and a half miles from where it joins the Slaney at "Youngs Bridge". The district between the Blackstairs and the Wicklow mountains was a wooded region in the 1500's. It was also the section of the country in which the clan of Kavanagh ruled, from the

castles of Clohamon, Clonmullen and Clonogan. Queen Elizabeth's forces captured three castles in the district in 1588. This region was known as the "Leveroch", and was given by Royal Order to the Netterville family, who sold it to the Esmond family about 1615. Clonogan Castle was just outside Clonegal on the Tullow Road. The building is known for years as Huntington Castle and now once more called Clonegal Castle was turned into a fortress in 1625, taking five years to complete. It was sold to the Leslie family of Limerick, but was purchased by Alexander Durdin in 1780.

The Esmond's had called Huntington after the town of Huntington in Lincolnshire in England, where the family came from. The Durdin family later intermarried with the Esmond's, and a great-grand-daughter of Alexander Durdin, Helen, married Herbert Robertson, and their descendants are still in possession. The Castle is built over a well, 17 feet from crown to bottom, which is still in use. The well is said to be pre-Christian. The original walls of the castle are six feet thick at the bottom. On the southern side of the castle, along the lower lawn, runs the "New Walk". This walk is about 600 years old, and is thought to be part of the cloisters of an ancient abbey, the ruins of which are in the castle grounds.

Flour and Woollen Mills

The beauty that is the valley of Clonegal to-day, with its wooded slopes and fertile fields, its well kept homes and peaceful aspect, its gently flowing rivers, give little indication of the turbulent past of the village.

The Northern Pass into Wexford was through the valley of Clonegal and in the 17th century the village was the scene of much activity. Business houses, large Cattle and Sheep fairs, Flour and Woollen Mills, a tanyard and one of the sweetest distilleries in Leinster gave it an air of importance all its own.



Photo: W. Ellis.

Huntington Castle, Clonegal.

It was into this valley that the Cromwellian forces marched after the capture of Tullow Castle in 1650. It was in this valley that the hill clans of the Kavanaghs, the O'Tooles, and the O'Byrnes determined to make a stand against this tyrant who put all who crossed his path to the sword. The clans mustered in the village of Clonegal, and planned to attack the Cromwellian forces, under Colonels Reynolds and Hewson, in the street of the village. The clansmen were probably commanded by Donal Kavanagh, the last of the chiefs of Clonmullen.

“Orchard of the Bards”

The forces of Cromwell marched into the valley by the old road. This was through “Orchard of the Bards”, and over Monaughrim Hill. The river Derry flows through Clonegal, and where the bridge now stands was but a ford at the time. This ford was to see the deaths of many brave clansmen before the day was out. The mountain men had waited until the enemy were in the street of the village before they attacked, but the element of surprise was not enough, and they were cut down by deadly musket fire. Some tried to escape across the ford but were slaughtered in the water. Others escaped to Kilcarrig wood, which

was surrounded, and all who were caught put to the sword. It was probably because of this attack that the surrounding castles were garrisoned so strongly and the name of Kavanagh ordered to be erased from the valley for all time. The memory of this battle is recalled in a stanza by Fleming, one of the last of the “Bards of Orchard”.

*The Sun of thy glory forever is set,
Ill-fated Hibernia in darkness profound,
With the blood of thy heroes
Kilcarrig is wet,
Desolation and death roam at large all around,
The streams of old Derry which silver were called
By the sweet bards of Orchard in happier days,
Are tainted with murders and crimson'd with gore,
Choked up with carnage and stopped in their ways.*

Fleming was a teacher of local history as well as a poet, and had a number of pupils who attended his residence. The site of his home is still known as “The schoolhouse field”.

The Kildavin road, as it is called, runs parallel to the Derry for a little over a mile in a south-westerly direction from Clonegal. It then crosses the Slaney just south of where the

rivers meet and leads on to Kildavin.

As one approaches the village we pass the Spellman Park on the left of the road. This park is named after the late Cardinal Spellman of New York, whose ancestors came from Kilbride, and are buried in the grounds of St. Lazernan's church, Kildavin. The Cardinal also built the Spellman Hall in Kildavin Village.

Kildavin, like Clonegal, once was a busy little village. A mill at Ballypierce, just outside the village, gave good employment, it also boasted a corn store, wool store, forge, post office and shops. The R.C. church of St. Lazerian, and the Church of Ireland church of St. Paul adorn the village with magnificent splendour.

Spellman Park

Kildavin derives its name from “Cill” meaning church, and Duban, a priest and pilgrim of the 5th or beginning of the 6th century. Another version of the name is that it is from the Irish, “Cill Da Abhainn” or church of the two rivers. It is strong in sporting activities with the Spellman Park as the hub. Kildavin boasts a strong G.A.A. club, Camogie club, Basketball and Tennis clubs. The I.C.A.

guild is one of the most efficient in the county. A Pitch and Putt club was formed some years ago and has a large membership.

From Kildavin, westward along the road to Myshall stands the ruins of the old church of Barragh. The gable ends and one side wall are standing to this day. The dimensions of the church are 78 feet long by 21 feet wide. The name of the church and the townland are supposed to be of ecclesiastical origin and derived from St. Barragh who had the church built. A burial-ground is to be found a short distance from the church. The headstones can still be read with care, and two unmarked stones are said to be those of priests. One was a Fr. Bryan Cuirick P.P. of Barragh in 1704, and the other a Fr. Thomas Dempsey. Other inscriptions can be read, and one such states that "Here lyeth the body of Margaret Neale alias Dempsey, died on 6 day of February 1727 aged 29 years". About 1650 Cromwellian soldiers attacked the church, firing cannon from the Cranemore road. They then searched the church for valuables but found nothing. The monks who were aware of the impending attack had escaped with the Chalices, Monstrance and other valuables, including the Golden Tabernacle door which they concealed in the vicinity of the church. They have never been found.

Missionary church

Barragh church, is supposed to have been founded by St. Barragh of whom it is hard to find any account except in the History of St. Finian of Clonard. St. Finian on his return from a mission in Wales founded a monastery in Aghold, Co. Wicklow. From there he went to many places including the territory of Barragh over which the chieftain Dermot ruled. Here he erected his missionary church.

Some distance North of the church of Barragh is a Blessed Well, known as the Cronavane Well. This well is actually the third of three wells in what was probably the site of a monastery of Barragh. Like so many other Blessed Wells in Ireland the Cronevane well was once the place of great devotion. Many years ago a Pattern used to be

held there but has been discontinued since 1798. Efforts are now being made by some local people to have the well restored. This Monastery was once the home of students from other lands who came to study in the peace and tranquility that was Barragh. The well is still visited by those suffering from limb pains and sore eyes.

Clonmullin Castle: The castle of Clonmullin, home of the O'Cavanagh clan, is perhaps better known as the home of Ellen Kavanagh, the "Aileen Aroon" of the Poet whose romantic story is told by hartstonge, in "Minstrelsy Of Erin". This story of romance, from so long ago, could well be turned into a best seller to-day. The love, the family opposition, the secret agents, the secret of the song, the daring of O'Daly, the plan and the final escape and marriage are the making of a real life drama.

Stronger than ever

It was under the leadership of the O'Cavanagh's that the hill clans mustered in Clonegal in 1650. All traces of the Castle have long since disappeared and nothing now remains to tell us where the home of this warlike clan who once ruled in splendour was. It is said that the stones of Clonmullin went to build "The Chase" near Bunclody. Despite Cromwell's order "That the name of Cavanagh should be erased from the valley and never more be heard from the Nine Stones to the Wicklow border" the Kavanagh's are now back stronger than ever from Mt. Leinster to the Wicklow Mountains.

A Pat. Roll, June 13th. 4 & 5 Phillip and Mary, records the pardon of Arte McMoriertaghe Kavanaghe, otherwise called Arte Boye, of Clanmullen, in the county of Carlow, gent.

So the Kavanagh's are legal holders of their lands once more.

The visitor to the Parish of Clonegal will find much to interest him. Approaching along the main road from Carlow his first view of this beautiful valley will be from the top of Boggan Hill in Kilbride. To his right rises the wooded slopes of Sherwood, in front the long run to the foothills of Mount Leinster and the fertile fields of Wexford, and

to his left, the fall to the Slaney and then the rise to Monaughrim and the old road from Tullow. It was from this part of the parish that the ancestors of the late Cardinal Spellman of New York came.

Staying with the main road we reach Kildavin and head on to Bunclody through the lovely Slaney Valley, the surpassing beauty of which inspired the late Senator Patrick Kehoe to pen the words of that lovely song "Slaney Valley". Few indeed are the beauty spots to match the view of the Slaney as it winds through Drumderry and enters the county made famous in '98, "Wexford, lovely Wexford, Fairest land of all to me, With the Slaney gently flowing From Bunclody to the sea".

To approach Clonegal from the North-West, or over the old road from Tullow our first view of the valley is breath-taking. Away to the left the Wicklow Mountains rise in magnificent splendour. To the right the purple clad Blackstairs reach to the sky, and the silver ribbon that is the Slaney weaves it's way through the valley and the myriad shades that are equalled no-where else in Leinster. From here we can see Ballyredmond Wood, said by many to be the Black Wood referred to in history as the last meeting place of Ard Ri and Diarmuid McMurragh before the latter went to seek the aid of the Normans.

Huntington Castle

Far to the left are the slopes of Aghold, where St. Fiac had his monastery, and nearer, the spires of the church of St. Fiac in Clonegal. The turrets of Huntington Castle can be picked out in a loop of the Derry at Clonegal, with the Spire of St. Brigid's Church keeping a watching brief over the village.

Just beyond Clonegal is Ballinastraw Hill, on top of which was one of the garrison houses left by the Cromwellians. On the far left we can pick out Newry Hill, where lived the mother of Bagenal Harvey the '98 leader. When Harvey was captured on the Saltee Islands he surrendered his sword to the Officer in charge of the Yeomen, and a young captain asked for it. He was none other than Ralph James Harvey's own brother-in-



Tommy Dobbs, Kevin Kennedy and Willie White viewing the Bullaun Stone which is beside the avenue leading to Huntington Castle. It is known locally as the "Wart Stone".

law. He brought the sword back to Newry where it was kept for many years. The sword was given to another brother-in-law, named Donohoe who kept it safe, and it remained in the family for generations. The sword passed on to Thomas Donohoe's grandson, Richard Murphy of Coolruss, who with the consent of the family presented it to the Wexford museum on permanent loan.

The Watch House

The river Derry forms the boundary between Wexford and Carlow, and divides the village of Clonegal in two. The part of the village in Wexford is known as The Watch House. The name comes from the fact that when the 1798 Rising commenced a hut was built at the Water House cross which was manned by Yeomen or soldiers day and night. A person bringing an animal to the fair of Carnew had to get a permit at the Watch House cross, and if he failed to sell he had to get another permit from the Yeomen in Carnew to bring the animal home.

In the avenue leading from the village to Huntington Castle

stands the tallest Lime tree in Ireland, and in the field on the left as we approach the castle is a stone known as the "Wart Stone". This stone is also pre-Christian.

The Grapevine in the conservatory at the castle is said to be taken from the great vine at Hampton Court which is supposed to have been planted by King Henry VIII.

Among the original features still surviving in the castle are the old kitchen fire-place, large enough to roast an ox, the iron gate at the front door, and probably the door itself.

Clonegal has many other places and buildings of interest like the Wool Store and Corn Mill that is now a Supermarket. The old Rectory where Bid Doolin, better known as Biddy the Pointer, pointed out the insurgents to John Derenzy and

the Yeomen, the Hanging arch. The house in High St. that was first a convent, then a curate's residence and now a beautiful home. The list of the members of the Church of Ireland who organised and subscribed to, the building of the present R.C. St. Brigid's Church, (they included John Derenzy), and many other facts that make Clonegal one of the most interesting villages in the country.

In recent times it is better known for its annual Village Fair on the last Sunday of July. It's sports clubs, its high standing in the Tidy Towns competition, and hospitality to all.

To learn the whole story of this village and parish would take the stranger a long time. We feel it would be time well spent, for after all Cluain na nGall is "The Meadow of the Stranger".

Ducketts' Grove To Graiguecullen

The organ at St. Clare's Church, Graiguecullen was overhauled by Mr. Alex Chestnutt of the Chestnutt organ building firm of Waterford in 1941. The organ was bought by the late Father Bolger at Ducketts' Auction before St. Clares Church was completed and he kept it as an intended gift.

The organ was built by Telford and Telford over 100 years ago.

Nationalist & Leinster Times, May 24, 1941.

Secretary's Report

IN 1946 when the Old Carlow Society was founded many people said it would only last a few months. However, time has proved that these prophets of doom were mistaken for in 1987 the Society is still flourishing and is one of the leading organisations in Carlow. Great credit is due to that small band of enthusiasts who decided to have a historical society in Carlow and to all those down the years who continued the work of these pioneers and built up the Society to its present strong position. Today the membership includes people from all walks of life not only in Carlow town and county but from all over Ireland and overseas. The Journal "Carloviana" is read with interest all over the world and applications for membership are continually coming from far and near.

All our activities this year were most successful. The Summer outings attracted large numbers and were enjoyed by all who were fortunate to secure seats. Luckily all the outings were blessed with lovely fine weather. The enlarged edition of Carloviana, celebrating our 40th anniversary, received the highest encomiums and was eagerly bought up. The Museum, too, attracted large numbers of visitors, all of whom praised the layout and variety of the exhibits.

Talks

The first lecture of the Winter Session entitled "The Archaeology of Co. Carlow" was given on Thursday 16th October, 1986 by Mr. Michael Gibbons of the Board of Works who was in charge of the group who had spent the previous six months photographing and recording historical sites in Co. Carlow. The lecture and especially the aerial photographs were most interesting. This lecture had an overflow audience.

On 20th November, William Ellis gave a talk entitled "Out-of-the-Way Places in Co. Carlow". Billy has spent his leisure hours travelling around the county with his camera. Hence his series of coloured slides and his accompanying talk were quite fascinating. He certainly showed us what interesting

places are to be found throughout the county by anyone who takes the trouble to look for them.

On 11th December, Dr. Patrick Jones took us to the celebrated Burren District of Co. Clare from which he had just returned after some months of research work there. His talk was most instructive as he detailed the rock formation and plant life of that unique district.

Mr. Seamus Murphy was to have given a talk entitled "Gleanings of Carlow from Old Leases" on 15th January but due to the snow it had to be postponed until the 19th February. It was well worth waiting for as we learned an amount about the people and houses in Carlow a hundred or more years ago. These old Leases should be carefully preserved and diligently studied because they contain a wealth of information about The Old Town of Ceatharloch.

The final lecture of the season entitled "1798 in Carlow" was given on Thursday 19th March by Dr. Kevin Whelan, Assistant Librarian in the National Library in Dublin. Dr. Whelan dealt with aspects of that Rising which are not generally known and especially the great link between Carlow and Wexford in those eventful days. It was quite obvious that the lecturer had made a comprehensive study of that period of Irish History.

A.G.M.

The A.G.M. was held on Thursday 23rd April, 1987.

Chairperson, Mrs. Veronica Crombie in her address said she was very pleased with the attendance at the meeting. She was also glad that the Summer Outings were so successful and that the Winter lectures were so well attended. She stressed that it was most important to keep history in the forefront. History was the basis of the Society and it should be the object of every member to collect and record every scrap of history local and otherwise. Mrs. Crombie said that the Russian Ambassador visited the Museum recently and was really delighted with the various exhibits. Coming from Russia where there are most

elaborate museums in Leningrad and Moscow this was very high praise. He was so pleased that he said at a future date he would bring his wife to see our Museum. Chairperson thanked the Secretary, Treasurer and Editor for their services during the year. She said they were most co-operative. Concluding Mrs. Crombie said people should not allow their names to go forward for election to the Committee unless they were prepared to attend all Committee Meetings.

Secretary, S. O'Leary gave a detailed account of the year's activities for which he was complimented.

Treasurer, Mrs. M. Fenlon explained the various items on the Balance Sheet and was congratulated on the sound financial position of the Society.

Editor, Tomás MacGabhann said that although the cost of production of Carloviana was very high he hoped, as the sales were quite good, that they would break even. He said it had been possible to produce an enlarged edition for our 40th anniversary due to the fact that generous contributions were received from the Bank of Ireland and the Allied Irish Bank and that 102 firms took advertising space in the Journal. He hoped that it might be possible to have a similar edition in 1987.

Chairman of the Museum Committee, Alec Burns, reported that very many new exhibits were received during the year and the number of visitors was most gratifying especially school groups from all over the county. Mr. S. Murphy suggested that the exhibits should be changed around regularly to maintain the interest of the public.

Various suggestions were made for the Summer Outings and it was left to the incoming Committee to decide the venues.

The Officers and Committee elected for 1987-88 appear on another page.

Outings

Swords: On Sunday 14th June was had a full day outing to the Fingal Area of North Co. Dublin. In Swords, Mr. J. Scally, a noted local historian, gave an interesting account of the town

down the years. He conducted us to the remains of the old Castle, the Round Tower and adjacent Church. From there we went on to Newbridge House which has recently been acquired and renovated by Dublin County Council. The grounds and the building are most attractive. A most efficient lady conducted us through the various rooms and gave an account of the former owners of the mansion. Most impressive was a wonderful collection of vintage coaches, cars and machinery in buildings surrounding the spacious yard. It was delightful to see so many city families enjoying themselves on the well-kept lawns in the glorious sunshine.

In the evening the party had High Tea in the Grove Hotel in the beautiful seaside resort of Malahide.

The Burren: There was a full-day outing to the Burren District of North Clare on Sunday 19th July. On the outward journey a stop for morning coffee was made at the West Park Hotel in the charming town of Portumna. In Kilfenora we visited the well-preserved remains of the Cathedral and the beautiful High Cross in the adjacent graveyard. We then went to the Interpretive Centre where a guide explained the various models and exhibits pertaining to the Burren Area and where we enjoyed a very informative video on that district. We then proceeded via the famous Corkscrew Road to the unique Burren. We were extremely fortunate to have with us, Dr. Patrick Jones of Carlow who had recently returned from several months' research work in that district. He explained in detail the geological formations and flora of that really astounding part of North Clare. From there we went on through Corofin and Gort to have High Tea in the West Park Hotel in Portumna. The opinion of all was that the Burren Outing was most enjoyable and instructive.

Lismore/Carrick-on-Suir: On Sunday afternoon 9th August we went via Clonmel and The Vee Road to Lismore Castle delightfully situated on the River Blackwater. On the coach Dr. Jones had given the history of the Castle and so we were free to admire its magnificent architecture, and beautiful gardens. Unfortunately we could not go into the castle as it was occupied at the time. From

Lismore we proceeded to the Ormond Castle in Carrick-on-Suir. A very efficient student from University College Cork gave the history of that formidable fortress of the Butlers. We were very impressed how well the building had been preserved and made accessible for visitors. On the homeward journey we had tea in the Grand Inn in Nine-Mile-House.

Powerscourt: On the afternoon of 13th September we visited delightful Powerscourt situated amid the lovely mountains of Wicklow. We were charmed with the beautiful grounds with its picturesque lake and the view of the lovely countryside stretching off to the Sugar Loaf Mountain. Of course, we regretted that the beautiful mansion had been destroyed by fire in 1974. Many of our members were pleased to get plants in the very elaborate greenhouses. From the mansion we proceeded to the awe-inspiring waterfall some miles distant. We were fortunate that there was a huge amount of water pouring down the towering precipice. It was a wonderful sight.

Museum

The Museum continues to attract hundreds of visitors including very many school-groups. One distinguished visitor was the Russian Ambassador who was accompanied by the Chairman, Members and Officials of the Urban Council. We were fortunate to procure under the Social Employment Scheme, Dr. Patrick Jones of Staplestown Road, as Caretaker of the Museum who has proved to be most efficient and completely devoted to his duties.

Exhibition

The contribution of the O.C.S. to the local History Week 1987 was an Exhibition in the Museum of old photographs of Carlow. There was a fine selection of pictures kindly supplied by very many people. The Exhibition from 10th to 17th October was visited by hundreds of people who were interested to see what Carlow looked like in past years.

Carloviana

An enlarged edition of "Carloviana" was produced in December 1986 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the

founding of the Society. It contained particularly interesting articles and as a result had a ready sale and received encomiums from all quarters. Editor, Tomás MacGaghann certainly deserves to be highly complimented on such a fine production.

Obituary

Regrettably four of our members passed to their Eternal Reward during the year.

On 30th November Lazarian Little of Strawhall who for many years was a very faithful member passed away.

Miss Nan Shaw of J.K.L. Avenue, a member of a very old family who formerly lived in Bridewell Lane, died in February.

On the 10th March, Miss Eileen Treacy of College Street, who always took a great interest in the activities of the O.C.S. passed away after a rather long illness patiently borne.

On the 20th March, Mrs. May O'Shea of St. Patrick's Avenue left us. May was a regularly attender at our lectures and rarely missed an outing. Her beautiful singing voice enlivened many an outing. May she now be singing in the Celestial Choir.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh an ceathrar acu.

Thanks

In conclusion I should like to thank Mrs. M. Jordan, St. Mary's Park, Alec Burns, College Street and James Moran, Burrin Street who kindly distribute circulars in their areas and *The Nationalist & Leinster Times* who always give excellent publicity to the Old Carlow Society.

Sean O'Leary,
12th October, 1987.

Town of Carlow to be let

ALL the houses, and several very desirable lots of building ground on the Castle Hill, in the town of Carlow, as lately in the possession of Doctor Myddleton, building material will be given gratis — and the tenants can take advantage of a limekiln on the premises. It will be let in lots most convenient to the bidders.

This ground is beautifully situated for corn stores, and would prove eligible for a Market House, for which sufficient room will be given for a very trifling consideration — A lease of Lives Renewable for ever, can be had.

Application to be made to John F. Cornwall, Esq., Myshall Lodge, or to, Mr. Pat Curran, Carlow.

- Advt. Carlow Morning Post, 1818.

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*Work in progress at the Clashganny Mills
project.*

Clashganny Library

The project of developing the old mill at Clashganny, Borris as a centre of learning for disabled people is a very laudable one. It will not be the first time the mill was used for educational purposes, as the following report shows:

In the 1830s a brother of Sir Samuel Ferguson, poet and antiquary, owned Clashganny Mills, one of the many fine small-flour mills that flourished on the River Barrow from Athy to St. Mullins.

Mr. Ferguson of Clashganny seeing the type of young men who came to his mill on business decided to start a library for their benefit. It is presumed that he consulted his brother about the choice of books. Sir Samuel Ferguson was author of *The Rays of the Western Gael*; *Hibernian Nights*, one of the tales in the latter is entitled *The Captive Of Killeshin*.

Young men from Graignamanagh found their way along the bank of the Barrow to avail of the library service. Eventually starting a library of their own which was called "Graignamanagh Reading Society".

Nationalist & Leinster Times, March 1941.

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Carlow
Museum*

Town Hall, Carlow

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every Sunday during Winter*

View the wide range of exhibits

From The Chair

By Veronica Crombie

AS one nostalgically looks back on the 41st year of the founding of the Old Carlow Society we feel justifiably proud our membership is increasing, and the growing interest in our historic past is very encouraging indeed. This, however is not to say that we should allow ourselves to become complacent. Far from it. As a nation we are not good at selling ourselves. One is tempted to ask if we have a complex about our past. Is the fact that we very often have to rush out and put a preservation order on an old ruins, or a fort or mound a cause for concern? Is this a sign that perhaps there are those amongst us who would prefer to forget our heritage? Let us look elsewhere for guidance.

In Norway, for example, artifacts have revealed that man was active in that country 9,000 years ago. In the Folk Museum near Oslo, old village homesteads, and farmsteads, as well as Viking ships, have been re-erected and preserved.

It is now well established that 3000-4000 years B.C. temples were being erected on the European mainland and European farmers were using advanced methods of cultivation. Copper and gold were widely used all over Europe.

In the Americas, the Incas, the Mayas and the Aztecs have left a rich treasury of artifacts. In North America the Museum in Plymouth re-creates living conditions as they were in 1627. The Pilgrim Hall and the History of the Boston Tea Party are reproduced down to the most minute detail.

Further inland we had Quichee, Burlington and Shelbourne, to mention just a few. In all cases, conservation and preservation of the historic past are the first priority.

This year Carlow has been more firmly established on the historical map by the publication of "Grange" by Mr. Jimmy O'Toole. It is easy to get a distorted picture of Co. Carlow, the second smallest county in Ireland, with its fertile plains and some of the finest agricul-

tural land in the country.

Mr. O'Toole has taken the valley lying between the Barrow and The Burrin, and proves that it was inhabited 2000-3000 B.C. His description of the development of this area down the centuries makes fascinating reading. He pinpoints what we have lost, as well as what we have retained. This concise and very readable book establishes Carlow as a county worthy of more than a passing glance by

the historian and the archaeologist.

History is a living thing. We make it every day whether it is good or bad. Don't let us make history unworthy of the name, by destroying or allowing to be destroyed what our ancestors have placed in our keeping. We will be remembered for our contribution to the Society in which we live. Let that contribution be worthy of remembrance.

Museum Report

By Alec Burns

ANOTHER good year of improvement and development can be summed up in the Annual Report by the Museum Committee.

The number of visitors is well up to the standard of former years; school groups are more numerous — it is good to watch the pupils with their copybooks taking notes and asking questions about the different objects on view. Sundays are still the favourite as the Visitors' Book shows names from all of the neighbouring counties, especially family groups out for the afternoon.

The Arles Banner of the Land League was hoisted in position early in the year; some of the exhibits have been improved and extended through the good efforts of the present caretaker Dr. Pat Jones who has given trojan service since his appointment early in the year.

We were favoured with a visit by the Russian Ambassador to this country when he visited the town as a result of an invitation from the Rotary Club.

He expressed his keen interest in some of the artifacts on view especially those dealing with the old methods of farming.

Retired Maj. Gen. James Lillis also paid a visit and was greatly interested in some of the photos which he had taken himself in

Duckett's Grove in 1921. He was amazed at their quality now after so many years and recalled the names of many of his associates all of whom had passed on since. He it was who took an inventory with the then British Army Commander of the Military in Carlow, of the contents of the Barrack to be handed over to the Provisional Government in June, 1922.

In connection with the Federation of Historical Societies Week, an exhibition of photos of many facets of life in Carlow from the early part of the century, industrial and otherwise proved to be very popular. It is hoped that more exhibitions of this type can be held at regular intervals.

While on a visit to St. Patrick's College recently, a PP from Northern Ireland happened to see our plaque to the memory of Val Vousden. He sent a letter to us intimating that he had a personal letter from Val of about 50 years ago, which he would like to donate to the Museum; this he has done along with the words of a monologue compiled by Val, which later was contained in his book of poems and monologues. It was "The Old School Reunion". The letter and monologue are now on exhibit in the case dealing with past amusement in the town.

The birth of democracy in Ireland

Review of Donal McCartney, *The Dawning of Democracy: Ireland 1800-1870*
(Helicon Ltd., £6.50)

READERS in this region and in the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin in particular will find much of interest in the recent work of Professor Donal McCartney, head of the Department of Modern Irish History at U.C.D. As might be expected in the work of a historian who hails from this area the counties of Carlow, Laois, Kildare and Offaly figure prominently in his text.

Professor McCartney's thesis is that the period 1800-1870 witnessed the formative beginning of Irish democracy — by which we understand the concept of government by representatives of all the people. *Pari passu* with this rise of democracy was the decline of ascendancy, the retreat from public office of the privileged few who were immune to public opinion by virtue of hereditary title or landed wealth. Obviously this transfer of power did not take place without a long and bitterly contested struggle for no privileged class willingly cedes power and most especially not to the representatives of the impoverished masses.

Father James Maher, P.P.

That indomitable ecclesiastical warrior, Fr. James Maher, P.P. of Killeslin, who frequently battled with the conservative forces of the Bruens and the Kavanaghs in County Carlow, stated that 'the difference . . . between the aristocrat and a popular member of parliament is that the former is always for things as they are, the latter seeks a change for the better'. Carlow town or borough in the early nineteenth century was controlled by thirteen burgesses under the patronage of the earl of Charleville who between them elected an unopposed member of parliament according to the earl's wishes. The 1832 Reform Act increased the number of eligible voters to 278 and though

this was still a relatively small number it was sufficient to ensure that from then on the return of a member of parliament for the borough was contested.

The Act of Union in 1800 declared that the two kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland be forever united under the name of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. The Union

Dr. Thomas McGrath recently completed a Ph.D. thesis on Bishop James Doyle in the Department of Modern Irish History at U.C.D.

was 'a marriage of convenience', writes Professor McCartney, moreover, 'The convenience was mainly Britain's'. This was a time when Britain was engaged in a dangerous war with France and as the author states 'If throughout history, Britain had always been too close for Ireland's comfort, Ireland, in time of war, was always too near for Britain's security'.

One of the primary purposes of the Union, which was achieved by a measure of patronage, bribery and corruption, unusual even then, was to protect the insecure Protestant ascendancy in Ireland for all time by integrating Ireland with Britain. Political integration never worked however, indeed it might be said that it was never really tried.

Perhaps because Irish history is such a controversial subject with ongoing disputes between revisionists (sometimes unfortunately more politically than historically motivated) and those a shade more sympathetic to the Irish national experience (occasionally, however, verging towards nationalist propagandists) historians have tended to treat possibly the most contentious theme of all — the religious issue — like an old war zone where some mines still lie waiting to explode in the face of

the unwary traveller in Irish history. But Professor McCartney concentrates on finding the heart of the matter and a major chapter is entitled 'The Question of Religion'. The Act of Union purported to copperfasten the privileged position of the Established church whose resources were vastly disproportionate to the number of its adherents. Of its disestablishment in 1869 the author writes: 'The age of ecclesiastical princes was over'.

In a useful account of the little researched period 1800-1823 he highlights the important fact that then (and periodically thereafter) Irish nationality was primarily defined in terms of the independence of the Irish Catholic Church vis-à-vis the state or for that matter a British influenced Papacy in Rome. It is well-stated that 'By the time that the Pope had pronounced in favour of allowing a veto to the crown in the appointment of Irish bishops, Catholicism and nationalism in Ireland had become so entwined that the ancient connection with Rome seemed to be less sacred in Irish eyes than that the Irish national church should be independent of England'. Professor McCartney comments that the accession of Bishop James Doyle of Kildare and Leighlin (J.K.L.) to the Catholic Association 'added a most powerful intellectual influence to the emancipation cause'.

Shrewd analysis and commentary

Professor McCartney's narrative is a clear and vigorous exposition of plain, unadorned, often brutal realities enlivened by a sharp, shrewd analysis and commentary. One of the great strengths of the book is the author's appreciation and understanding of what motivated the ordinary Irishman in the nineteenth century. No effort is made to smooth over realities which some might have found