

béal átha'n zhaorthaioh

An Cumann Staire

Historical Society

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BALLINGEARY 1930s

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Editorial

Fáilte go dtí eagrán a sé de Iris an Chumann Staire. Tá súil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as.

This Journal contains articles on Art Ó Laoghaire, Keimaneigh Battle Monument, Inchigeela Lourdes Grotto, I.R.A activities in Ballingearry in the 1920's, using the Internet for Historical Research and many more. We also have a nice selection of songs written by Eddie Noonan, Inchigeela.

Ba mhaith leis an gCumann Staire míle buíochas a ghabháil le gach éinne a scríobh altanna, a thug eolas agus grianghrafanna dúinn agus le gach éinne a chabhraigh in aon slí chun an Iris seo a chur le chéile. Tá súil againn go leanfaidh an t-eolas ag teacht isteach i rith na bliana.

The Cumann Staire has completed two projects this year, (1) the putting in place of the Famine Pot in the centre of the village, (2) the erecting of the Keimaneigh Battle Monument. Ba mhaith leis an gCumann Staire buíochas a ghabháil le gach éinne a chabhraigh leis na tionscnaimh seo.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of the Journal and we would like to get in many more old stories, photos, songs etc. during the coming year.

Míle buíochas arís.

Chairman's Address

Thar cheann an Chumann Staire agus an foireann eagarthoireachta cuirim failte romhaibh go leir chuig an 6ú eagrán d'ár Iris.

Nuair a cuireadh an Chumann Staire mBeal Athan Ghaorthaidh ar bun sa bhliain 1991 níor cheap einne go mbeadh sé Iris agus dha leabhar grianghrafanna foilsithe tar eis ocht mbliain.

Le linn an treimse sinn ta a gcuid fein deanta ag alan duine chun aidhmeanna an chumann a bhaint amach. Ba mhaith linn ár mbuiochas a ghabháil dóibh go leir.

Le linn 1998 rinne an Chumann Staire dha rud a toileann tagairt speisialta. Ar bharr Cheim An Fhia idteannta Cumann Staire Bheanntairi cuireadh leach chuimhneachain ina sheasamh ag comoradh na daoine a fuair bas sa Cath sa bhliain 1822.

I lár mBeal Atha'n Ghaorthaidh ta an "Coolmountain Famine Pot" ina sheasamh faoi dheireadh. Mile buiochas le Dave Walden, Peter O Leary agus Maire Uí Leime agus gach einne eile a bhí pairteach.

The erection of the Coolmountain Famine Pot and the Plaque at Keimaneigh will hopefully act as a reminder to us all of those who died as a result of The Famine and Cath Ceim An Fhia and will act as a reminder of the circumstances which brought them about.

We have not published a Book of Photos this year but hope to bring one out for Christmas 1999. We would like to encourage everyone to please put names on their photos. Very often the oldest person in a house takes a large portion of their families history with them when they pass on. It is therefore very important that we name photos or collect songs and local history so that we're not left saying that "it's a pity we did'nt..."

The History Society is always interested in getting old documents or photos to add to our collection. Everything is returned once copied. You might think the item you have is irrelevant but it might complete another piece of information we have.

The O'Leary Clan Gathering 1999 will focus on Michael O Leary VC of Kilbarry who won a Victoria Cross in World War I. No matter what ones opinion is of their motivation, they fought under the impression that what they were doing was for the good of Ireland and should not be forgotten, just as we remember those who fought in 1916 and the War Of Independence. We would like to hear from people whose relatives from West Cork went to Europe at that time so that their story can be told. Mar focail scoir ba mhaith liom buiochas a ghabháil do gach einne a thug alt do eagrán seo.

If you wish to contribute to the Journal we will gladly publish what ever is sent to us. It need not relate specifically to Ballingearry or Inchigeela.

Ta suil againn go mbainfidh sibh taitneamh as an Iris.

Nollaig Shona agus Ath Bhliain faoi mhaise dhaoibh go leir sa bhaile agus thar lear.

Seán O Sullivan,
Currahy, Ballingearry
Co. Cork. (026) 47062
E-mail sosul@tinet.ie

Famine in Iveleary

In the decade which included the worst years of the Famine the population of the parish of Iveleary dropped by more than a quarter. The population of the entire parish in 1841 was 6,357 in 1,032 houses. By 1851 231 cabins had been vacated and the remaining population numbered 4,584.

When the Famine struck the parish it struck hard, and distress and hardship reached 'a most alarming pitch', reported the principal members of the Relief Committee, Fr. Holland P.P. and Rev. Sadleir in March 1847. They went on to add that 'famine and disease [was] making fearful havoc among our poor'. These two men, as representatives of the Relief Committee, were in regular communication with the Relief Commission and with newspapers, relating conditions in Iveleary and local efforts to provide food and work for the starving people. As early as October 1846, as the entire stock of potatoes belonging to the labouring class had already been consumed, they explained in detail the difficulties a labourer would have to earn sufficient to purchase *Indian meal*: 'A labourer at 8d per day and constant work could earn only sufficient to purchase two stone in the week which would be little more than adequate for the support of three adults, but at this season of the year, the labourer can scarcely reckon on more than four days employment'. This situation would only get worse with winter around the corner.

A regular stream of letters from the Committee to the Relief Commission graphically described the worsening conditions. They sought, begged is probably a better



word, additional funding from the British Relief Committee. Included in their requests were detailed lists of moneys collected locally, a grant being dependent on sums raised locally, and it appears that they were able fund-raisers. A list of donations survives, the second collection started October 1846, and over 200 farmers are named.

By February 1847 the Relief Committee wanted to establish in the district two, or more, soup kitchens, 'to supply soup for the entire of their poor. There are a large number of persons, widows and others, who have no persons in their families able to labour on the public works and who, in consequence, are in need of gratuitous relief.' They add 'numbers must perish if relief be not afforded'.

It is not clear if the soup kitchen established at Coolmountain House was a direct result of the efforts of the Relief Committee. It is generally considered that Dennis O'Leary, a land agent and occupier of Coolmountain House and farm,

ordered and imported a boiler and established a soup kitchen himself. This is not so unlikely as there was a small boiler in operation in the village of Inchigelagh in 'private hands', wholly independent of the Relief Committee and which the Committee were 'happy to bear testimony to the excellent manner in which it was conducted'.

Dennis O'Leary was in the employ of Lord Riversdale, an absentee landlord. Townlands that were known to be part of his duties were as far apart as Graigue and Coolmountain, and probably much of the territory in between. He was an Irish speaking Catholic, and came of the O'leary Breac branch of the O'Leary clan. Coolmountain House was a safe house, and harboured many men on the run for insurrection and rebellion. Amongst these lodgers were leaders of rebellion such as Mitchell, Stephens and Doheney. Apparently Dennis O'Leary was carrying on where his father before him left off. It is fair to assume that

Dennis O'Leary was a patriot and had a concern for the welfare of the people and his country.

The boiler that has been placed beside the bridge in Ballingearry is the Famine pot from Coolmountain House.

There were many individuals and organisations that attempted to relieve suffering in Ireland during the Famine years. Notably the Quakers who raised very large sums of money for famine relief in Britain and America and imported nearly 600 boilers from foundries in northern England to establish soup kitchens. These charitable, practical and non-sectarian people asked for nothing in return which compares very favourably with the miserable and outrageous attempts to proselytise by certain Protestant groups. There were many instances of aid being provided on condition that the recipient renounce their Catholicism. This led to the phrase 'taking the soup' and the word Souperism, which to this day is very emotive. It was a bitter issue at the time, the more so because it helped fuel the antagonism between Catholic and Protestant, at a period when laws against Catholics were being relaxed in Europe as well as in Ireland.

For those that need to be reassured, the Famine pot from Coolmountain House has no taint of Souperism, nor any other unwanted association with fraud or abuse of charity funds.

There are many recipes for soup but most kitchens had to rely on what was available. A Monsieur Alexis Soyer devised two economical recipes which he claimed were good and nourishing. His basic recipe was to two gallons of water

add two ounces of dripping, two onions and other vegetables, half a pound of (second quality) flour, half a pound of pearl barley, three ounces of salt and half an ounce of brown sugar. His 'luxury' soup included a quarter pound of beef to the above. Maize was used to thicken. As a member of the Irish Confederation said, 'I wish the man who proposed this greasy water, denominated soup, were obliged to live on a bowl of it per day for three months and be obliged, during that time, to walk from six to eight miles per day after working twelve hours.'

This article relies heavily on the book by Máire Mac Suibne, *Famine In Muskerry*, available in bookshops locally and well worth reading. I thank her for permission to use her words so freely. I would also like to thank Donal O'Mahoney for information on famine pots.

The Famine pot possibly came from the Coalbrookdale Foundry in Shropshire. It has a diameter over 4ft and a depth of 2ft 6ins. This gives a capacity of over 350litres. It is cast iron with an estimated weight of about 350kg. There are four stubs on the outside near the rim which were probably to take chains to hold it over a fire. Originally it may have had a lid.

Most of the stones used in the construction of the base of the structure in the village came from an old building in an area north of Ballingearry known as Cups (or Copse). There is a story that Donncha O Cuill, of this area, carried the corpse of his sixteen-year-old daughter in a cisean, a deep basket with shoulder straps, the seven miles to the family burial plot at Inchigelagh graveyard after

she had died from hunger.

The bent oak beams of the structure housing the pot symbolize the poorest of housing at the time of the famine, where people with nothing built shelters from branches and thatched them with reeds or straw. Thatching the structure in the village was an option, but it was decided that thatch could be damaged too easily. Old slate was the alternative. The structure was built over an extended period, creating endless speculation as to what it would finally look like; or indeed if it would ever be finished.

The Cumann Staire would like to thank the following for their assistance and support in this project:

Dairygold Coop Ltd. for giving permission to use the green outside the creamery.

Firebird Ltd, Ballymakeera, for the frame that supports the pot. The design and construction of this excellent frame was carried out by Brendan Twomey.

Les Carter for relinquishing possession of the pot in favour of the Cumann Staire, and without whose benevolence the project could never have happened.

Luc Racine for the design of the structure, selection of timber and workshop facilities for some awkward cutting of the main beams.

Udaras na Gealteachta for financial assistance in the form of a grant that paid for a significant proportion of the materials.

The CE scheme workers involved in the construction of the site.

Activities of Ballingearry IRA 1920-1921

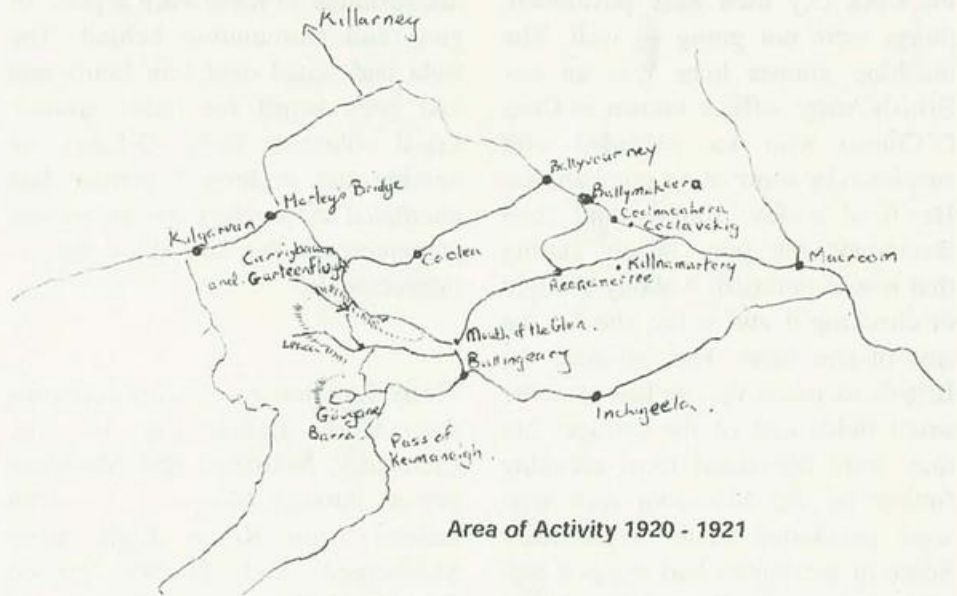
This account is of the activities of the Ballingearry Company of the I.R.A. in 1920 and '21 was written in 1933 by John P. and James D. Cronin, Bawnatoumple.

During the later months of 1920 the Black and Tans carried out a reign of terror, arson and beatings. Prisoners were ill treated in Macroom Castle where one was beaten to death. They murdered several people including James Lehane, Ballyvourney 15th October, Denny Mahony, Kilmichael 30th November, Jerh Casey (16 years) Renaniree 3rd January, 1921 and several in Dunmanway including Canon Magnor P.P. 15th December. Major Grant signed an order on 1st December stating that all men seen in Macroom and surrounding areas with their hands in their pockets would be shot.

Flying Column Formed

During the first week of January 1921 a Brigade Flying Column was formed. It consisted of most of the old Batt. Column, including the 12 Ballingearry men and 15 men from the 1st. Batt. Cork City under Dan Donovan (nicknamed Sandhow) and under the overall command of Sean Hegarty.

An old house at Ullanes, Ballymakeera was used as a training camp. It had been used as a stall for cattle but was cleaned and white-washed. The men slept on bags filled with straw on the floor. They underwent an intensive training course under Sean Murray, (ex sergeant major, Irish Guards). It included camouflage, advancing and retreating, etc. After five weeks training we moved to a new camp at Harringtons, Clountycarthey, Renaniree where we were joined by 24 men from the 7th Batt, (Macroom area) who had undergone a similar course in Clondrohid. We now numbered 62 men, armed with rifles, a few shotguns and revolvers and two Lewis machine guns.



Area of Activity 1920 - 1921

Before dawn next morning, Feb. 11th (St Abbeys Day) we took up ambush positions on the Gortnabinnia side of the Mouth of the Glen three miles north of Ballingearry on the road to Renaniree. We waited until night-fall and returned to camp. On that day the Tans raided Clondrohid and shot 16 year old Daniel O'Mahony. Before dawn next morning the Column moved out again, crossed the Sullane and took up positions at Coolnacahera near Coolavokig on the road between Macroom and Ballyvourney. Next day we were back at the Mouth of the Glen again. Four lorries came as far as Renaniree but turned back. We rotated between both sites for ten days but were in the wrong place on three occasions. It was now decided to concentrate on Coolavokig.

Ambush

On the morning of the 25th February the men had again taken their positions along a quarter mile stretch of the road. The two machine guns had been placed high on the rocks on the northern side, one at each end. Since Kilmichael, the Tans were very wary and usually travelled in large parties, four or five lorries with 10 to 14 men per lorry. They also carried civilian hostages. As dawn broke, eight lor-

ries and two cars carrying well over a hundred soldiers approached slowly from the east. They had armour mesh on some of the lorries and machine guns mounted on others. When they were only about half-way into the ambush position they slowed even more and soldiers began to jump from the lorries pulling the hostages with them. The four hostages were forced at gunpoint to walk slowly in front of the leading lorry, while some soldiers began to climb the rocks. The volunteers had no option but to open fire. The soldiers guarding the hostages were quickly shot and the hostages ran west the road and jumped the fence to the south and disappeared.

A fierce fight now raged as the Tans tried to break through to the west. They had recovered a machine gun from a lorry and opened fire with it. The men operating it were both wounded and the gun was abandoned on the roadside. Our western machine gunner worked well and prevented them recovering any more of the guns off the lorries. The volunteers at the western end now began to move forward and the Tans began to fall back. Their commander, Major Seafeld Grant stood by the fence trying to rally his men but he too was fatally wounded. The Tans now retreated further and took cover in the

acre plots of two cottages south of the road. The occupants, Twomeys and Cronins had left two weeks earlier.

However at the eastern end, where the Cork city men were positioned, things were not going so well. The machine gunner here was an ex-British Army officer known as Crux O'Conner who was regarded with suspicion by some of his companions. He fired a few rounds and then abandoned the gun, falsely stating that it was jammed. Nobody thought of checking it and it lay idle for the rest of the fight. This allowed the British to reach the shelter of some small fields east of the cottages but they were prevented from escaping further by the Macroom men who were positioned south of the road. Some of the lorries had stopped outside of the ambush position and the last lorry driver succeeded in reversing to safety and escaped back to Macroom to raise the alarm.

The Ballingear and Kilnamartyra men successfully crossed the road and with the Macroom men closed in on the soldiers in the acres who now retreated into the cottages. They broke loopholes in the wall but this was a disadvantage to them as we directed our fire into them. Wounded men lay on the roadside and in the acres. Some crawled to the doors and begged to be let in but were refused. We did not fire on these men. After a while the fire from the cottages was reduced to random shots and we felt that victory was near. If we could capture the western cottage the soldiers to the east could be out-flanked and would have to surrender. Plans were prepared to bomb the cottage. However the men had been so engrossed in the fight that a large convoy of reinforcements had arrived unnoticed. Hundreds of soldiers were dismounting and attempting to encircle the area. Some of the men were rushed east to stall them. Word now reached us that more troops were approaching from the west but were delayed by roadblocks. After fighting a stiff rearguard action for half an hour the column escaped

from the area without any casualties and quickly retreated north westwards. British casualties were 14 dead and 24 injured. We were bitterly disappointed to leave such a prize of guns and ammunition behind. The fight had lasted over four hours and had been heard for miles around. Local volunteer Denis O'Leary on hearing the prolonged gunfire had attempted to join the Column but was prevented by the arrival of the reinforcements.

Thirty four lorries of reinforcements from Cork, Ballincollig, Bandon, Clonakilty, Millstreet and Macroom passed through Macroom. Fourteen arrived from Kerry. Eight from Skibbereen and Bantry passed through Ballingear and four more came from Dunmanway, bringing over six hundred troops altogether. A plane circled overhead but failed to spot us as we moved quickly from the scene. British soldiers burned houses in the area, including the two cottages which had sheltered them. They shot cattle and fowl and used a donkey for bayonet practice. That evening they shot and badly wounded Jerh Lucey in Ballyvourney. The Macroom men now headed for Ballinagree. The Column divided into two groups, one headed west towards Coolea and the other towards Mullaghanish with orders to regroup in Kilgarvan. While this group were having tea in houses in Coomnacloch, Ballyvourney, four lorries of soldiers approached. They dismounted and advanced in a line across the fields. After a brief fight in which they suffered three more casualties they ran back to the lorries and quickly left the area. All volunteers reached safe houses in Kilgarvan that night. The Kilgarvan company had information that reinforcements and supplies for Kenmare were to pass through by train. The Column joined forces with them and lay in ambush at Morley's Bridge for six days before it was learned that they had arrived by sea from Castletownbere. The Column returned to Coolea. Two large cars had been commanded from

loyalists and were driven from Cork by Jim Grey (1st Batt.) and James D. Cronin (local company).

Carrigbawn Round-Up

On the 15th March the Column was ordered to move to Ballingear. The Lewis guns, ammunition, bedding and the officers were transported in the cars, while the men made their way on foot to Pats (Padraigs) Cronins house at Gurteenflugh. The local men hadn't been home since Christmas and they visited their families. It was late when they all reported back and it was only then they realised that Crux O'Connor was missing.

Under cover of darkness British troops had filled trenches on the Renaniree road and as dawn broke on the 16th March a large convoy moved into the area. The alarm was raised by Danny Leary, Bawnaneel, Ballingear who began to whistle loudly. Two local volunteers John J. Cronin (Gurteenakilla) and Con D. Cronin (Bawnatoumple) were alerted and began to run to warn the Column. John's route was blocked by troops at Gurteenowen and Con came under heavy fire at Carrignadoura, but escaped. The sound of the gunfire alerted the Column, who quickly moved east from the house and into a large cummer. Soldiers were already at Bán a Mháire Cross, but they waited there for other soldiers, whose arrival was delayed by road blocks at Currahy and Keimaneigh.

Pats and his sisters worked hard and successfully covered the two cars with loads of furze and bedding. As the Column moved upwards in the cummer soldiers appeared on the top of Leaca from the Kerry side. Scouts reported that troops were approaching on foot from Carrignadoura side and that troops were on the eastern side of the Meelin and on the Fuhirees road. An aeroplane began to fly low over the glen and we felt sure that he should have spotted us. The situation looked bad as we were almost surrounded. The Column numbered 37 men and since Coolavokig we were

very low in ammunition, around 14 rounds per man. It began to rain and a thick blanket of fog came down over the mountains. The Column moved quickly upward and westwards and formed a circle on the western end of Carrigbawn. The men lay in holes in the bog and covered themselves with fionán. The fog cleared briefly around 3p.m. and we could see soldiers all around, down in the valley, on top of Meelin and a long line extending northwards on Leaca. Thankfully the fog returned again and soon afterwards we heard the sound of lorries leaving. When darkness fell a scout was sent down and he reported back that all was clear. It became known as the **Carrigbawn Round-Up**. It is believed between 350 - 400 soldiers were involved.

It was now decided for safety sake to disband the Column and the men returned to their companies. Some of the Corkmen opted to stay in the area and were warmly welcomed by the locals. O'Connor was now regarded as a traitor and all companies were warned about him. On March 23rd. he led Black and Tans to a hideout at Clogheen near Cork City. Six volunteers were trapped there and after a fight in which they were all wounded, they surrendered. They were then brutally beaten and tortured to death when they refused to yield information. Three of these men had been members of the Column and had fought at Coolavokig. They were nailed to doors and had their tongues cut out. O'Connor was sentenced to death by the I.R.A. but survived a sniper attack in Cork. He was later seen boarding a ship in Cork under a false name. He was traced to New York and shot there almost a year later.

By the end of January the arms fund had reached £85. Ian McKenzie Kennedy (Scotty) was entrusted with the money and travelled to England at great risk to himself to purchase arms. He returned on March 24th with eleven new Webley .45 revolvers hidden in a crate of plough socks. An

underground foundry was constructed at Carrigbawn, Ballingearry to manufacture hand grenades and bombs. Local volunteers scoured the countryside for scrap metal, old pig troughs and plough boards etc. A year earlier Scotty had provided the "74/14/12" recipe for gunpowder to the officers. The charcoal was made near Glenflesk and the powder was manufactured in Ballyvourney. The bombs were then loaded at Brigade headquarters which had been moved from the city to Gurtyrahilly, Coolea before being delivered to companies in Cork and Kerry. Since the Coolavookig attack Black and Tan raids west of Macroom had ceased completely. When the Southern Division I.R.A. covering all of Munster was set up its headquarters were also at Gurtyrahilly. Officers included Liam Lynch and Liam Mellows. An officer training camp was set up in Cuam Rua, Gougane Barra. Volunteers from all over the county and elsewhere attended.

The local company was now stretched to the limit. A twenty four hour guard was kept on all roads leading to the area, Mouth of the Glen, Currahy, Pass of Keimaneigh, and Leaca Road. It involved a rota of sixteen every day. Food, workers and supplies had to be maintained at the training camp and at the bomb factory at Carrigbawn. Large numbers of dispatches had also to be delivered. Volunteers also had to check the identity of students at the Irish classes.

On April 9th the Column was mobilised again and joined the Kilgarvan men for an attack on Kilgarvan Barracks, only to find it had been abandoned a few hours earlier. They now lay in ambush at Loo Bridge for three days but withdrew when the site became too well known. Local man Jerh McCarthy (Upper Currahy, an uncle to the Lynch's) took part in Headford Ambush with No. 2 Kerry Brigade.

A Black and Tan named O'Carroll had begun supplying revolvers and

ammunition to the Macroom Company with a view to getting a pardon to return home to the west of Ireland. According to him the garrison had been reduced to around seventy five men as a result of the four ambushes and minor attacks and because of desertion. The Column mobilised again on May 15th and moved to Macroom. Under cover of darkness the men climbed over the walls and occupied the grounds of the castle. The Macroom men were then supposed to burn the house of a loyalist who entertained the officers. If the Tans went to his aid they were to be ambushed by them on the Coolehane road. Some of the Column were then to attack and hold the castle gate while the rest were to rush and bomb their way into the castle. However the Macroom men failed to burn the house and after waiting almost two hours, within two hundred feet of the castle the Column withdrew. It caused a lot of anger as the men involved had taken a great risk.

The Big Round-Up

During the first week of June 1921 we received reports of a big build up of troops in all the surrounding towns in Cork and Kerry and on June 5th hundreds of soldiers approached the area. The company worked hard all day and night removing all weapons and hiding bombs. The foundry in Carrigbawn was dismantled and hidden and all evidence of the training camp was removed. One of the Column's motorcars was also removed to Borlin. Officers from both headquarters were escorted to safe houses in Kerry and then most of the volunteers also left. That evening large columns of foot soldiers arrived in Ballingearry. Their Commanding Officer, Major Percival (later General) rode a white horse. He set up his headquarters in Jerry Connellys yard in Derryvaleen. By dawn they had closed all the roads. All Ballingearry, Coolea, Ballyvourney and the Cleadach valley were surrounded and searched. Two men were shot at Cleadach, while 84 year old Sean Jerh Kelleher was shot in

Ballyvourney, and Daniel O'Riordan was shot at Carrigahooka.

Horse drawn artillery guns were brought in and Shehy mountain was shelled for almost two days, killing two sheep. The searches lasted until June 10th but were a complete failure as not even one round of ammunition was captured. Newspaper accounts put the number of troops involved at between 10 and 15 thousand. As the searches moved south towards Dunmanway, Tom Barry's Column left their hiding place at Castledonovan and moved to Borlin and the over the mountains to Coom Rua and Gougane. They were warmly welcomed by the locals during their stay there. The search was known as The Big Round-Up.

On July 11th 1921 the Truce between the British and Irish forces was declared. Work had resumed at the Foundry in Carrigbawn and continued during the Truce. The Training Camp had also resumed at Coom Rua and courses on machine guns, mine laying and booby traps were given even though all these activities were in breach of the Truce. During some of this period, James D. Cronin, Gurteennakilla served as bodyguard and chauffeur to Mrs McSweeney, widow of the late Lord Mayor of Cork, Terence McSweeney. Most of the company attended the victory parades at Coolavookig and Macroom and the big parade in Cork City. Dan Sullivan and Tadg Callaghan were released from jail in March 1922, having served 18 months.

The Column was again mobilised in April 1922 and occupied Macroom Castle and parts of the town during the Officer's Crisis. Four British spies had been captured and executed in Macroom. Brigade Major Montgomery (later General) had halted the withdrawal of British troops and demanded a search of the town. On April 30th he led a large force of soldiers to the Square and demanded access to the Castle. However they found themselves surrounded and had

to withdraw. On May 4th they arrived again. This time the Column had taken positions at the eastern end of the town and after another tense confrontation Montgomery finally admitted defeat and returned to barracks.

(1) Jerry Connelly's house is now Partick and Kathleen Creedons, Derryvaleen

(2) On 16/12/1942 during World War II General Percival surrendered an

army of 65,000 soldiers and all of Malay and Singapore to the Japanese without a fight. Most of these men died in prisoner of war camps.

(3) General Montgomery (Monty) rose to the rank of Field Marshall and became one of the most famous Generals of World War Two.

Edited by Donal Cronin,
Bawnatoumple, Ballingearry
BALLINGEARY IRA

A Great Sportsman

by Seoirse Seartan

Dear to Uibh Laoghair is the sport of the chase,
The joy of the hunt is in the blood of the race,
Her fowlers and fishers in sportsmanlike style,
Always return with something worth while.

Prince of the tribe with a countryside fame,
Is Denis, the Blacksmith, of accurate aim,
With vision as sharp as the eagle's keen sight,
Every shot finds its mark on the ground or in flight.

The trail of the otter or badger he'll find,
And haunts of the fishes of every kind,
The woodcock and snipe to their coverts he'll trace,
And at call of the grouse you'll see joy on his face.

As the teal and the mallard are passing in flight,
To the reeds and the marshes for shelter by night,
He will tell you their numbers and which is the drake,
And know where to find them at dawn by the lake.

In the smithy he is expert as Vulcan of old,
The ring of his anvil like Angelous tolled,
And round him his neighbours delight in the tales,
Of his sporting adventures on mountains and dales.

By nature a fisherman, gentle and kind,
He leaves all disciples of Walton behind,
Though he shod many horses from Cork to Gougane,
He forged his best sets for the Capaillín Bán.

BALLINGEARY IRA PERSONNEL LIST 1921

The following list was compiled in 1934.

(Any further information on activities in the West Cork area during this period and on the individuals especially those whose addresses are missing would be welcome. Our thanks to Donal Cronin, Bawnateample and Derenel Murray, Douglas, Cork for the information)

D. COY., 8th BATT CORK I BRIGADE

List of Officers on 1st Critical Date

(1/4/1919, date of the formation of Irish Republican Army from the former Irish Volunteers)

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Cronin, John C. | Doirenalachan, Ballingear Captain | O'Leary, Jerh | Currahy |
| Cotter, James | Currahy, Ballingear 1st Lieutenant | O'Leary, Arthur | Currahy |
| O'Leary, Daniel T. | Gurteennakilla, Ballingear 2nd Lieutenant in charge of Company | O'Leary, Jerh. | Currahy |
| Lynch, John | Derragh, Ballingear Attached to Batt Staff | O'Leary, Timothy | Currahy |
| | | Lucey, Denis J. | Derryvaleen, Ballingear,. |
| | | Moynihan, Timothy | Milimorane, Ballingear |
| | | Riordan, Patrick | Derrayvaleen, Ballingear, |
| | | Lucey, John | U. S. A. |
| | | Creed, Peter | U. S. A. |
| | | Riordan, John | Gortnamona, Ballingear, |
| | | Sullivan, John, | Rathgaskig, Ballingear, |
| | | Cotter, Richard W. | Kilmore, Ballingear, |
| | | Callaghan, Jerry | Currahy, Ballingear, |
| | | Sullivan, Eugene | Currahy, Ballingear, |
| | | Kelleher James | Aharas, Ballinreary. |

List of Officers on 2nd Critical Date

(11/7/1921, Date of Truce in War Of Independence)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Cronin, John C. | Doirenalachan, Ballingear Captain |
| Cotter, James | Currahy, Ballingear 1st Lieutenant |
| Cronin, Cors | Gougane Barra, Ballingear 2nd Lieutenant in charge of ASU in Limerick |
| Lynch, John | Derragh, Ballingear yattached to Batt Staff |

No. 2 Section

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Cronin, John J | Gurteenakilia, Ballingear |
| Kelleher, Denis | Aharas, Ballingear, Cork. |
| Kelleher William | Dromcarra, Kilmichael, Cork |
| Kelleher, Neilus | Aharas, Ballingear, Cork. |
| Creed, Jeremiah | |
| Creed, Timothy | Aharas, Ballingear, Cork. |
| Twomey, John | Aharas, |
| Twomey, Timothy | Aharas, |
| Dineen, John | Aharas, |
| Creed, John | Aharas, |
| O'Leary, James | USA |
| Lehane, Daniel | Rathgaskig, Ballingear, ASU & I.R. Police |

List of Men.

No. 1 Section

| Name. | Address. |
|--------------------|--|
| O'Leary Daniel | Bananeel, Ballingear, Section Commander |
| McCarthy, Jack | Currahy |
| Moynihan, John | Currahy |
| Cotter, Cornelius | Currahy |
| O'Leary, Cornelius | U. S. A. |
| Twomey, Patrick | Currahy, Ballingear, O/C Signalling |
| Sullivan, Michael | Currahy |
| Buttiner, Timothy | Currahy |

| | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Lehane, Patrick | Rathgaskig, Ballingear, |
| Moynihan, John | Cahir, Ballingear, Cork |
| Lehane William | Cahir, Ballingear, Cork |
| Callaghan, John | Toames, Macroom, Cork |
| O'Shea, Jeremiah | Ballingear, Cork |
| | Div. Dispatches |
| O'Shea, Daniel | Ballingear, Cork ASU |
| Twomey, Timothy | J. P. O. Ballingear, Cork I/O |
| McCarthy, John | Bealick, Macroom |
| Corcoran, Daniel | Bealick, Macroom O/C I. R. Police |

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| Cronin, Cor | Bawnateample, | Callaghan, Jack | Rossalougha, Ballingearry |
| Cronin, John P | Bawnateample, Ballingearry I.R Police & ASU | Cronin, Denis | Gougane Barra |
| Cronin, Patrick J | Glenbanoo, Bantry ASU | Cronin, Denis | |
| Cronin James D | Bawnateample ASU I/O | Cronin, John | Garrynapeaka, Ballingearry |
| Riordan, Michael | Carrignadoura, Ballingearry | Creedon , Jerh | Coolavookig, Macroom |
| Cronin, Denis | Bawnateample, Ballingearry | Sweeney, John | Keimaneigh ASU |
| Creed, Jeramiah | Carrignadoura, Ballingearry | O' Sullivan, Denis | Keimaneigh N S |
| Lucey, Richard | Ovens | Callaghan, Cal | Inchimore, Ballingearry ASU |
| O'Leary, Patrick | 6, Victoria St. Dublin | Walsh, Jas. R | Toreenduff |
| | | McKensie-Kennedy, Ian | |
| | | Twomey, Liam | Toreenduff ASU |
| | | Cronin, Cors | Cahir, Ballingearry |
| | | Creed, John | USA |
| | | Cronin, John | Dromanallig, Ballingearry (Garda) |
| | | O'Leary, Jerh | (Garda) |
| | | Sweeney, Patrick | Ballingearry NS |
| | | O'Leary, James | Gortafludig, Ballingearry Dispatch Officer |
| | | O'Leary, Timothy | USA |
| | | Cronin, Richard | Clohina, Kilnamartyra |
| | | Cronin, Patrick | Rossalougha, Ballingearry |
| | | O'Connor, Thomas | USA |
| | | Moynihan, Denis | USA |
| | | Coughlan, John | USA |
| | | Green, Patrick | Ballinalee Co Longford |
| | | Holland, John | |
| | | Keohane, Michael | Cork |
| | | Twomey, John | Toreenduff, Ballingearry |
| | | Walsh, Richard | Toreenduff, Ballingearry Lyrenageeha, |
| | | Sweeney, Timothy | |
| | | Sweeney, Jerh | Gortafludig, Ballingearry |
| | | O'Sullivan, Dan | Inchibeg, Ballingearry |
| | | Callaghan, Timothy | Inchimore, Ballingearry |
| | | Callaghan, Jerh | Rossalougha, Ballingearry |
| | | Riordan, George | Carrignadoura, Ballingearry (USA) |
| | | Cronin, Neilus | Bawnanoulig, Ballingearry |
| | | Twomey, Richard | Toreenduff, Ballingearry |
| | | Twomey, Timothy | Lackabaun, Ballingearry |
| | | Harrington, Patrick | Ballingearry, |
| | | Lynch, John | Doireach, Renaree |
| | | Kelleher, Jerh | Aharas, Ballingearry |
| | | | |
| | | Abbreviations | |
| | | ASU | = Active Service Unit = Flying |
| | | Column | |
| | | I/O | = Intelligence Officer |
| | | I/R Police | = Sinn Fein Police |
| | | O/C | = Officer in Command |

No. 3 Section

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Murry, Patrick | Lyrenageeha, Ballingearry Section Commander |
| Moynihan, John P | Lackabawn, |
| Moynihan, Patrick | Lackabawn, |
| Twomey, John | Lackabawn |
| Cronin, Cors. | Keimaneigh |
| Cronin, Daniel | Ballymakeera, Co. Cork |
| Cronin, John | Toames, Macroom |
| Murry, Thomas | Cahirmackee, Kealkil, Bantry |
| O'Leary, John | Coomdorcha, Ballingearry |
| O'Leary, Jeremiah | Anahalla, Macroom |
| O'Leary, Cors. | Derreenabourky, B'geary |
| O Leary, Denis | Cahir, Ballingearry |
| O'Leary, Timothy | Gougane Barra |
| Hyde, Daniel | Scrahanmore, Ballingearry |
| McSweeney, Edmond (Ned) | Keimcorravooly, Ballingearry |
| O'Leary, James D | Bawnaneel (Aharas), Ballingearry |
| McSweeney, Denis | USA |
| Creedon, Michael | Kilmore, Ballingearry |
| McSweeney, Patrick | USA |
| Murphy, James | Carrignadoura, Ballingearry |
| Murphy, Patrick | Ballydavid, Cloyne, Co Cork |
| Twomey, Timothy | Cork City |
| McCarthy, Jerh | Currahy, Ballingearry ASU I/O |
| O'Leary, James | USA |
| Callaghan, Michael | Toames, Macroom |
| Murry, Denis | Lyrenageeha, Ballingearry |
| Sweeney, John | Keimaneigh, Ballingearry |
| Dineen, Michael | Aharas, Ballingearry |
| Cronin, John C | Doirenaleackan, Ballingearry ASU |
| Cotter, James | Currahy, Ballingearry ASU |
| O' Leary, Dan T | Gurteenakilla, Ballingearry ASU |

No. 4 Section

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Cronin, Corneilus | Gougane Barra, Ballingearry Section Commander & ASU |
| Callaghan, Timothy | Rossalougha, Ballingearry |

THE INTERNET - A NEW TOOL FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH

By Fr Jerry Cremin, Lissarda

This morning I got an e-mail message from a man in Indiana, USA, asking for detailed information about St. Gobnait. He visited Ballyvourneylast year and it was only when he had returned to the States that he became curious about our local saint. His curiosity led him to search the Internet but all he came up with was a brief biography of St. Gobnait. I hope to be able to help him, but the greater wonder is that he has found out anything at all already. Only five years ago, if somebody in Indiana wanted that specialised information it would have been impossible to find without combing many libraries and even then probably finding nothing on that side of the Atlantic.

What is the Internet?

The story illustrates the uses and limitations of the Net. We can imagine the internet as a huge computer with unlimited storage space. Anybody can connect to that computer with their phone and copy anything they find there — text, pictures, sounds — into their own personal computer at home. In the same way, anybody can also add to the store of information by sending down copies of whatever knowledge they have themselves and which they may wish to share with the world. This is how it has come to pass that there are more pages of information on the Internet today than there are human beings on the planet.

There is no way of classifying the information on the Internet. As one would expect, Universities and such institutions are major contributors of serious research data. But most websites are compiled by amateurs and enthusiasts. With so many people running websites, you can be certain of finding something about absolutely every subject imaginable. The drawback is that the information available is almost always incomplete. Nevertheless, the Internet is fast becoming a universal reference library.

How to use the Internet

Using the Internet is surprisingly similar to using a library. You can use a library to pass a pleasant afternoon, aimlessly browsing and you can use a library to inform you on a particular subject. The same happens on the Net — sometimes you jump from page to page as the fancy takes you and sometimes you are ruthlessly homing in on one set of facts.

As a researcher, when you take down a particular book from a library shelf you are making that choice

for one of three reasons: it is a known TITLE; the library INDEX has led you to it; a REFERENCE in another text has pointed you to this book. In computer language these three would correspond to ADDRESS, SEARCH and HYPERLINK respectively.

The Address is the exact location on the Internet where particular information is found. People usually pass around addresses or read about addresses that they would find useful. Kilmurry exiles, for instance, get the address of our Parish Web Page from relatives at home and then they regularly look up that address to catch up with local news and events.

The Search facility allows you to put in search words and the computer will give the address of all the pages where those words occur. The word 'famine' will return stories of all sorts of famines in all sorts of places; 'Irish famine' leads you to a more specialised area. This is the way a huge percentage of information is found.

A Hyperlink is something peculiar to the Internet and a most useful facility. Any word or phrase in an Internet page can be made a hyperlink. What that means is that the phrase can appear on the computer screen in such a way that when it is clicked on by a mouse, the reader is taken to another website with further information about that subject.

The Future

Using the Internet for historical research in Ireland is not very productive at the moment because there is so little local information available on the Net. I look forward to the time when every historical and archaeological society has its own site. At the moment there are only about three such sites in the whole of Ireland. Mallow Archaeological and Historical Society is one such site. It has a listing of its Winter Lectures and Summer Outings. It also has a listing of the Contents of all the past issues of its Journal. There are links to 14 other Mallow sites and to 5 pages about Doneraile together with links to Cork County Council, map of county Cork, local accommodation etc., etc. You can even hear the tune 'The Rakes of Mallow' being played.

All this is an illustration of scope which could be covered by any Historical Society and a lesson about the need and urgency which exist for as much documentation as possible to be made available to the Internet. There is practically no limit to the amount of

space available, provided one doesn't go overboard with too many colour photographs. The cost, too, is minimal. At present the subscription for a year's use of the Internet costs only about £120 and this includes at least 5 Mb of space for a website and an e-mail address.

.. finally, some useful addresses

<http://www.ria.ie/>

<http://www.burrenarch.com/>

<http://www.iol.ie/~sec/sites.htm>

<http://www.kerna.ie/archaeology/excavations.html>

<http://www.ucc.ie/ucc/depts/archaeology>

<http://world.std.com/~ahern/mahs.htm>

<http://www.thecore.com/cgi-bin/ire-srch>

<http://vassun.vassar.edu/~sttaylor/>

<http://indigo.ie/~lissarda/index.html>

<http://indigo.ie/~adam/adam/index.htm>

<http://www.sleeping-giant.ie/inchigeela/>

Royal Irish Academy

Burren Archaeology Research Expedition

Brief Guide to Archaeological Sites:

Excavations Database:

Dept of Arch, UCC

Mallow Arch & Hist Soc

Townland Database

Famine Illustrations;

Killmurry Parish, Co. Cork

An excellent site by Adam Dawson, Doirenalacken, Ballingearry

Information on O' Leary Clan Gathering and Daniel Corkery

Summer School

Here is a challenge and an opportunity. Students of all disciplines have always lamented the difficulty, cost and delay in getting work published and disseminated. Today any document, regardless of value or lack of it, can be made available to the whole world as fast as it can be typed out.

We are Survivors

(for those born before 1945)

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, plastic, contact lenses, videos, and the Pill. We were born before radar, credit card, split atoms, laser beams, and ball-point pens, before dish washers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air-conditioners, drip-dry clothes and before man walked on the moon.

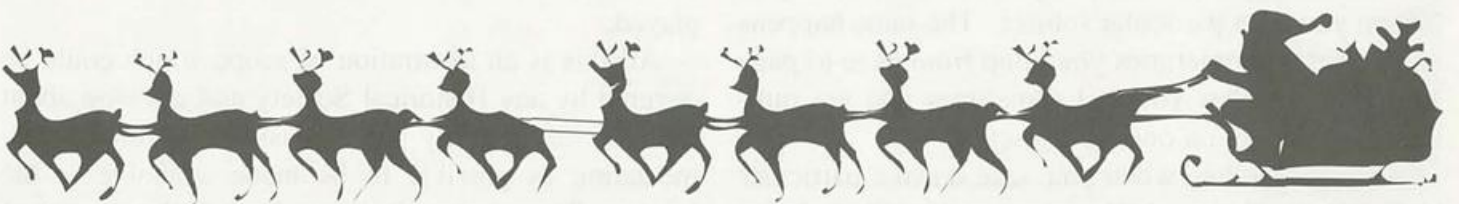
We got married first, and then lived together. We thought "fast food" was what you ate in Lent, a Big Mac was an over-sized raincoat, and crumpet we had for tea. We existed before house-husbands, computer dating, and when a meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins, and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before Day-Care centres, group homes, and disposable nappies. We never heard of F.M. radio, tape decks, electric typewriters, artificial hearts, word-processing, yogurt, or young men wearing ear-rings. For us time-sharing meant togetherness. A chip was a piece of wood, or fried potato. Hardware meant nuts

and bolts and soft-ware wasn't a word.

Before 1945 "Made in Japan" meant junk. The term "making out" referred to how you did in your exams, "stud" was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and "going all the way" meant staying on a double decker to the bus depot. Pizzas, McDonalds, and "instant Coffee" were unheard of. In our day, cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mown, coke was kept in the coal-house, a joint was a piece of meat you ate on Sunday, and pot was something you cooked in. Rock music was a fond mother's lullaby. A gay person was the life and soul of the party, and nothing else, while aids meant beauty treatments, or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch, when you think of the way the world has changed, and the adjustments we had to make. No wonder we are so confused and there is a generation gap today, - but by the Grace of God we have survived.

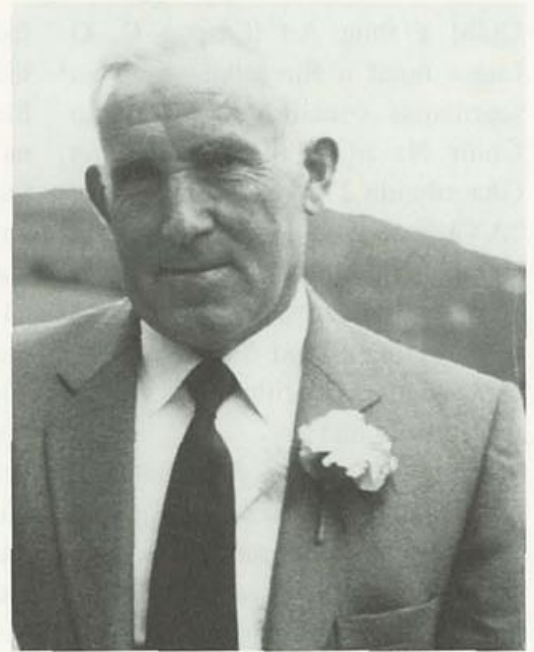


Diarmuid Ó Mathúna R.I.P.

Ar an 4ú lá de mhí Dheire Fómhair seo ghaibh tharainn, d'fhág Diarmuid slán ag an saol seo. Bhí cónaí air ar Dhrom an Allaigh agus ba ina thigh a bhí an dí-shealbhú cáiliúil sa bhliain 1906. Comóradh an ócáid thabachtach seo nuair a nocht an Ginearál Ó Maolcatha plaic ag ceann a thí. Is cuimhin liom an ócáid - lá fliuch tóirní.

Duine uasal ba ea Diarmuid ó smior go smúsach - fear ciúin, séimh, galánta le suim mhór aige sa chultúr agus in imeachtaí Gaelacha. Ba mhínic a aithris sé an giota aithriseoireachta atá san iris seo. Agus ba mhínic leis a ghlac sé páirt sa drámaíocht - bhí mórpháirt aige sa Bhunán Buí ach go háirithe.

Tá sé imithe uainn anois agus deinimid cómh bhrón ó chroí lena bhaintreach Máire, lena chlann agus lena dheirfiúracha. Bhí saol fada aige cois Laoi na screabh. Leaba i measc na Naomh go raibh agat a Dhiarmuid.



Donnchadh Ó Luasaigh, Baile an Chollaigh

Seo giota aithriseoireachta a chloistí go minic á aithris ag Diarmuid Ó Mathúna ag coirmeacha ceoil i mBéal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh timpeall leath chéad bliain ó shin.

1.

Ní fheadar i n'Éirinn cad é mar shaol é,
Ní thuigeann éinne é i gcóir ná i gceart,
Mar dá mbé an tincéir é nó an táilliúr aerach
Nó an bacach féinig - gheibheann siad bean.

2

Ní druincéir mé ná ropaire éithigh
Agus feall níor dheineas riamh ar neach;
Cé gur mór é m'éirim, its quite plain now
Gur lochtaí éigin a dhein mé a lot.

3

I dtús mo shaoil dom bhíos beagáinín aerach
Is ar na comharsain taobh liom ní bhfaghainn
aon bhlas
Is mo mháthair féinig ag rádh i naghá'n lae liom
That twas with the agent I should make a match.

4

Bhí Tadhg Ó hÉalaí ar an mbaile taobh liom
Chomh maith le h-aon fhear i gcáil is i rath;
He'd give me Mary agus deighleáil spré leí
Is ní raibh her equals sa pharóiste ar fad.

5

Ach nuair a bhí m'éirim ar iníon an agent
Ag Máire Ní Éalaí ní raibh aon tseans,
Agus Pádraig Ó Céirín chuir sé chugam le scéala -
I told him plainly gan teacht thar nais.

6

Blianta ina dhiaidh san bhí iníon eile ag hÉalaí,
Cé ná raibh sí in aon chor chomh maith le Moll;
Ach shíleas féinig nár mhór an sméid é
Dá bhfaighinn mar chéile í agus fortune maith.

7

Chuireas Father Brady ann le scéala
Is ní iarrfainn aon ní léi dubh nó geal
Ach bé a rádh go léir leis that I was getting grey now
Is ná tógfadh Kate mé dá mba liom Éire ar fad.

8

Anois táim im aonar is ag dul san aos leis,
Gan wife ná baby a réiteóch beart;
Ach tá iníon tincéara ná fuair fós éinne
And if she wont take me, I must stop!

Óráid an Easpaig 1965

Oráid a thug An tEaspag C. O Luasa nuair a fhreastail sé ag an searmanas oscailte de Seachtain Ghlór Na nGael i mBéal Áthan Ghaorthaidh 27ú Iúil 1965.

“A Cháirde uaisle. I dtosach báire, ba mhaith liom a rá gur cúis áthais dom - mar Easpog, mar Gael, agus mar leath-Bhéal Áthan an Ghaorthach - bheith anseo inniu i measc Gael na tíre.

“Is mó de ghlóire do náisiún a theanga dhúchais ná a soirse, ná fiú amháin a saibhreas saolta. Mo léan géar ní hí an teanga dhúchais a labhrann an chuid is mó do mhúintir na hÉireann anois ach teanga na nGall. Agus ní féidir linn a rá gur ‘sa Ghaeluinn atá glór na glóire na nGael anois’ - ach gur ‘inti ba chóir dóibh a bheith’, agus gurb í náire na nGael atá i dteanga na Sacsan”.

“Le mórán blian anois tá soirse ó smacht Shasana againne sna contaethe seo d’Eirinn. Ach nil aon tsaoirse againn ó Bhéarla Shasana. Is amhlaidh atá líon na gcainteoiri dúchais tar éis titim ó bhliain go bliain ó thainig rialtas dár gcuid féin i gcomhacht. Agus ar an gcuma céanna chuaigh “sprid” an phobail chun na Gaeluinne i laige in ionad dul i neart.

“Cad is cúis leis seo? Tá dhá phrómh-chúis leis, is dóigh liomsa. Ar dtúis is insan Ghaeltacht - níos mó ná áit ar bith eile den tuath atá líon na ndaoine tar éis titim ar

fad. Tá ceantair na Gaeltachta á bhánú le daichead bliain anuas. Le linn dúinn bheith ag iarraidh teanga na Gaeluinne a shábháil bhí faillí á thabhairt againn ins na daoine a bhí ag labhairt na teanga, fé mar ba rud é an teanga a bhí níos tabhachtaí ná na daoine a bhí á labhairt - nó fé mar ná beadh sí ag brath ortha in aon chor.

“Is é an dara cúis, dar liom, leis an scéal a bheith againn mar atá ná gur bhaineamar úsáid as slite chun na teanga a shábháil a bhí ró-thuathalach agus ró-shaolta. Bhaineamar triail as éigeantas nach raibh ár gcroí ann; agus ar an dtaobh eile bhí roinnt deontaisí agus postanna á thabhairt de bhárr na Gaeluinne agus níor chuimhníomar in aon chur gur fearr an “sprid” a bhí ann nuair nach raibh aon deontas ná aon phost le fáil aisti. Más í teanga tíre glóire na tíre agus anam na tíre chomh maith, is ar na nithe a bhaineann le cúrsaí glóire agus cúrsaí na hanam is ceart dúinn bheith ag brath chun dúthracht ar son na teanga dúchais a mhúscailt, agus ní ar aon spreagadh saolta.

“Is fíor nach féidir an Ghaeluinn a choiméad beo - gan trácht ar í a athbheochan - gan sonas áirithe saolta a bheith ag lucht a labhartha. Ach ní leor spreagadh saolta amháin chun an cath a bhuachaint, ná fiú amháin a chur chun cinn. Is cabhair é, ach sin uile. Cad tá á mholadh agam mar sin? So chéad

Extract from the “Corke Journal” 1757.

2nd.June: “Denis Hurley of Shanacrane in the Parish of Inchigeela bought a red cow lately from William and Thomas Trindle, is afraid she was not honestly come by. Will give cow to any person proving ownership on payment of expenses”. (found in the Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society. Vol. LXIX. No.210 July-December 1964).

áit molaim forbairt chomh mór sin a dhéanamh ar cheantair na Gaeltachta nach mbeidh ar duine ar bith a thagann ar an saol iontu dul lasmuigh díobh ag lorg slí bheatha ná ag lorg dul ar aghaidh sa tsaol. Déantar iomadú agus fairsingiú ar phobal na Gaeltachta, agus déantar na ceantair a leathnú. Chuige seo beidh gá againn le tionscail áirithe. Bíodh na tionscail sin bunaithe, áfach, ar acmhainn nádúrtha na gceantar féin, nar shampla, anseo i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh ar thorthaí na feirme agus ar obair adhmaid, in Oileán Cléire ar an iascaireacht.

Molaim ansin san dara áit luí ar an tairbhe spioradálta a ghabhann le labhairt na Gaeilge agus leis an gcultúr Gaelach. Ár dteanga dúchais í an Gaeilge, teanga a bhfuil saibhreas spioradáltachta ina litríocht agus ina gnath-bheannachtaí. Tá an teanga Gaeilge féin agus an Creideamh Críostaí in Éirinn fite fuaite ina chéile le míle go leith bliain...”

“Guím mo bheannacht ar obair na Seachtaine, ar Ghlór na nGael, agus a Chuspóirí.”

A ‘Luimneach’

Limericks are seldom found in the Irish language. In an article in the Holly Bough in 1991 Fr. James Good printed one he had penned in Ballingearry in the 40's.

It poked fun at Micheál O Cuill a teacher at Colaiste Na Mumhan.

Bhí Múinteoir í mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh

Nár mhaith leis in aon chor aon Bhéarla

Chuir sé stop le comhrá

Is go deimhin cúrsaí grá

Munar bhféidir linn caidreamh as Gaeilge.

A native of Kilmichael, Co. Cork, Jim Dromey is a retired member of An Garda Síochána. He served in several divisions and was Weights and Measures Sergeant in Tullamore, Co. Offaly. He still lives there. Jim has an abiding love of nature, fostered in him as a child by his parents while his strong regard for his native locality never waned. He has written some autobiographical material relating to his growing years in West Cork in the 1930s. Holidays is an extract.

HOLIDAYS

By Jim Dromey, Tullamore

It was summer holiday time and thoughts of school were banished for a month. My parents decided to take my brother and me to our Aunt Minnie's place in Ballingearry, 10 miles from home, for a week or so.

We loved the notion of going to our aunt's house because we had heard glowing accounts of it from older members of the family. I was eight years old; my brother was two years older.

Full of glee we set out one morning with our parents in a tub trap. Fitted springs and rubber tyres, the trap glided smoothly drawn by Betsy the horse. We passed our school with its creaking gate and tall monkey tree. A man on a ladder was whitewashing the walls, how wonderful it was to pass by independently.

When we reached Inchigeelagh there was a fowl market in progress. We saw horse and donkey carts in which hens and ducks lay in straw, their legs tied together. Parked on the street were two touring buses. Those who alighted from them were being treated to humorous anecdotes by the popular Johnny Creedon of the post office and were in convulsions of laughter. As my father remarked: "Johnny could humour a poor man going to the gallows."

On our journey to Ballingearry there was a picturesque panorama around every bend. On our left several lakes were shimmering in the sun. The edges of the lakes were decorated with white and yellow lilies lying on the water. Blue heathery hills in the background were mirrored in the calm lake

waters. These are the waters of the River Lee and are guarded on one side by the hills and on the other by upland farms.

Reading

A fisherman sat on a rock reading a book. The line of the fishing-rod was stretched out into the water. Further on a lady with an easel was painting a picture of the lakes with their background of green woods and blue hills. On our right men and women were saving hay in the sloping fields. An elderly lady walked along the road with a turkey under her arm. Children were gathering flowers along the lakeside and cracking foxgloves or fairy thimbles as they are locally known.

We had almost reached Ballingearry when we parted company with the lakes. We stopped in the village and our father gave us money to buy minerals. In the shop people used Irish. They spoke very quickly and seemed to roll one word into the next. Sitting in the trap we drank and looked at the Irish names on the shops.

Our parents had decided to visit Gougane Barra, five miles from Ballingearry, to perform the rounds. My mother explained that it would be a quiet time for prayer, much more so than on the last Sunday in September, Gougane Sunday. On that day people flocked there on a pilgrimage, some walking down from the mountains, others travelling by carts, trap, bicycle and saddled horse.

Having turned right off the

Bantry road we travelled for about a mile into a most picturesque valley. From the lakeside two swans and some cygnets eyed us suspiciously. The lake was encircled by towering heather and myrtle-clad mountains from which several rivulets cascaded down.

Looking west along the valley, also guarded by the zone of black hills, the only sign of life we saw was a lone house. It looked like a grey rock in its obscurity, with a few fields overgrown with bushes, sally trees and tall rushes. We thought it was an isolated place to live.

Island

We crossed a causeway to a little island. While our parents performed the rounds my brother and I examined the ruined remains of an 18th century building-outer walls into which six monastic-type cells were built, and close by a more modern oratory, small and attractive. This was the site of St Finbarr's 6th century hermitage.

The pilgrimage was over. We returned from the island to where Betsy was tied in the shade. Father gave her a feed of oats while mother took flasks of tea and parcels of food from the trap. As we ate we could see the island with its ruined church and oratory, the lake and the sheep dotted mountains all around. When we had finished our picnic we said goodbye to Gougane Barra of many memories, sacred Gougane Barra which soothes the troubled mind and is conducive to contemplative thought.

Having returned to Ballingearry we travelled up a byroad to Aunt Minnie's house. There we were given a warm welcome especially by a black and white collie which kept following Minnie's husband, William, around the kitchen. "He all but goes to bed with me," William told my father.

While the older people chatted, my brother and I went out to have a look at our new surroundings. Nearby, Ronan's Mill was a hive of industry. Wheels were turned by the big belts and workmen were white with dust. Sacks of meal were filled from chutes and stacked nearby. Aunt Minnie warned us about the mill. "Once a cat went into one of those chutes chasing a rat and came out in the form of crushed oats," she said. The advice startled us and we kept away from the mill.

When our parents had left, Eileen, our 16-year-old cousin took us for a walk to the village. We saw young people there whom Eileen said were students at the Irish College. We met one of the students on the bridge. Eileen started talking to him and told us to go away and buy sweets in the village. Our parents had given us two shillings each and we were overjoyed at having so much money. Now we could buy NKM toffees and slabs of Mickey Mouse chocolate. Having paid a visit to the church we returned to the bridge. Eileen was still there with the student and told us to continue homewards, she would catch up on us. "He's a cousin of ours," she said when she rejoined us a few minutes later.

We told Aunt Minnie about the sweets and our visit to the church and I mentioned that Eileen had met her cousin at the bridge. "What cousin?" asked Minnie. Eileen blushed and her mother took her into the parlour. Next day Eileen seemed offended and wouldn't talk

to me although she remained friendly towards my brother. I asked him why she wouldn't talk to me. "A shut mouth catches no flies". That's what she told me to tell you", he said.

Aunt Minnie was a warm-hearted lady. Once I lost my balance when coming down stone steps from the loft with a container of newly-laid eggs. All the eggs were smashed but my aunt's only concern was for my well-being. "Don't worry about the eggs, the hens will lay again tomorrow", she said.

One day we went with the men of the house and his dog to round up the sheep for dipping. The dog set off up the mountain very quickly until he got above the sheep. He then eased them gently down the slope.

Sitting on a fence we watched the sheep being dipped. The dog herded them into a pen where two men dipped them, one at a time, into a prepared solution. One of the men, Mick, asked us if we would like to accompany him the next day when he went on horseback to collect his own sheep. Aunt Minnie gave permission and when Mick arrived next morning we were ready. He put us astride the grey horse's back and kept a hand on either side of us as he held the reins so that we wouldn't fall off. His dog followed. On the summit of the hill Mick told us we were now on the roof of the world. He showed us the long range of Kerry mountains to the west, Inchigeelagh Lakes like sheets of broken glass to the east, Shehy Mountains to the south and the towering mountains that support Gougane Barra.

Mick took the opportunity to examine the bank of cut turf and pointed out two hares careering through the heather, having been disturbed by the dog.

The following day we got a lift

in Ronan's lorry to Inchigeelagh to be met by our father. It was the end of our holiday. When we were leaving Ballingearry, Aunt Minnie gave each of us an apple and an orange. Eileen shook my hand. "I'm sorry," she said warmly, "I should have known better. You're only half my age".

Inchigeela Lakes

I know a winding road that leads
By Inchigeela Lakes;
There many an eye on beauty feeds,
Where lapping water breaks.

And from the lake-edge comes a song
Like breath of evening breeze,
That whispers melody among
The leafy elm trees.

Iveleary wrapped in scenery,
In song and story told,
Your mountains rich in greenery
Are lovely to behold.

The upland slopes are all alive
With lambkins at their play;
While in the peaceful valley thrive
Wild flowers in colours gay.

Soft, sun-kissed waves of Loch Allua,
By whose cool banks I lie,
Hold magic charms forever new
Beneath a sapphire sky.

Oh would that I could sketch those vales,
Where lakes in stillness sleep;
Or dwell beside such sunny dales
To watch the violets peep

Their heads to greet the passer-by,
And nod and smile in glee,
Some unseen by the traveller's eye
That lingers on the Lee.

And then reluctantly I leave
Calm Inchigeela Lakes,
That in my mind's eye I perceive
When memory awakes.

Jim Dromey, Tullamore

What's in a Name. 5.**The Souterrain**

The word "Souterrain" is derived from the French, and means "under the ground". In Archaeological talk Souterrain is used to refer to an underground tunnel or passage, found often within or near a Ring Fort, or other enclosure.

Although we don't know precisely what they were used for, it is usually assumed that they served as storage for food and valuables and/or a refuge for people under attack.

They are often high enough for a person to walk in, or crouch in, often have several chambers and interconnecting passages, and are sometimes elaborately constructed with cut stone walls or ceilings.

Dating is difficult in most cases, but at least some of them must have been constructed when the enclosure was built. Early Christian Enclosures often contain a Souterrain, but then so do earlier Iron Age Ringforts.

We have all heard stories of underground passages connecting up two Ringforts, but these usually are fictional, particularly around here where stone close to the surface makes this an impossible task.

A large number of Ringforts

This letter, written by the late Paddy Casey, Inchigeela, in which he corrects some statements made by Pádraig Ó Maidín, was printed in the Cork Examiner a number of years ago.

Letter to the Editor**Battle of Keimaneigh**

Sir - I regard the writings of Mr. Padraig Ó Maidín each day in the "Cork Examiner" as being most interesting and informative. In the majority of cases an item of Irish history is related which took place on that date many years ago. It is of course taken for granted that all such incidents related are true facts, but needless to say there is no such guarantee.

In the "Cork Examiner" of February 23rd last, the aftermath of the Battle of Keimaneigh was mentioned some of which was taken from a book written by Fr. O'Donoghue in 1931 about Máire Bhuidhe Ní Laoghaire, the author of "Cath Chéim an Fhia". In the book it was stated that the man who killed Lieutenant Smith (the English Officer) was a brother of Máire Bhuidhe, which was not so, as the man who killed Smith was Seamus Walsh who lived in a farm at Carrigbawn.

For many years the story was told of how Seamus Walsh came down the hill at the western end of the Pass of Keimaneigh as he knew the soldiers were after passing eastward at the time. Smith, who was walking at the rear of the soldiers, noticed him from a distance and returned westward to meet him. Instead of running away, as perhaps Smith expected to happen, Seamus Walsh confronted him and a hand to hand fight ensued which culminated in the death of Smith and Seamus escaped unhurt, but had to go on the run for some time.

He was married then for a considerable time and later a daughter of his married Patrick Lucey, a farmer at Coolagreenane near Inchigeela. Mrs Patrick Lucey died at the age of 101 years and during her lifetime took pride in relating the part played by her father at the Battle of Keimaneigh. She had four sons, one of whom was John O'Lucey of the firm of Lucey and O'Connell of Mulgrave Road, Cork, whose son, Christopher Lucey, gave his life for Irish freedom in 1920 when he was shot by the Tans.

P. J. Casey
Inchigeela, Co. Cork.

and other Enclosures in Uibh Laoghaire contain a Souterrain. It is so frequent that sometimes we discover that there was once a Rath in a field because we find the Souterrain. This happened for example in Kilmore where the finding of the Souterrain in Fionn Cotters field led to the discovery of the Early Christian Enclosure, and probably the site of the Great Church (Cill mor) of St. Ronan.

The Cork Survey lists 7 Souterrains in our Parish including Cahernacaha, Carrignadoura, Coolnacranagh, Derryleigh, Rathgaskeeg (Cashel), and Rathgaskeeg (Rath). There are also possible traces of a Souterrain at Dooneens, I expect some of our readers will be able to tell us of others which they know about but which were not spotted by the Survey.

Buíonn Píobairí Barra Naofa

Bunaíodh Buíonn Píobairí Barra Naofa i mBéal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh i 1928 agus tá sí fós beo agus ag dul i dtreise. Le seachtó bliain anuas, is beag tigh sa cheantar ná bhfuil píobaire nó drumadóir tagtha as chun cúpla bliain a chaitheamh ag seinnt sa bhanna.

Bíonn an Banna Ceoil i gcónaí ullamh chun fáilte a chur roimh fóirne peile go mbíonn craobh nó cluiche tábhachtach buaite acu. Bíonn an fháilte céanna curtha roimh gach gaiscíoch, foireann scoile, boladóir agus le déanaí, Pádraig Ó Cróinín ó Ros a'Locha a bhuaigh an chéad áit sa domhan le haghaidh bearradh caoirigh i gCo Loch Garman.

Nuair a tháinig Tadhg Ó Mongáin abhaile mar Easpag ar Los Angeles i 1945 agus mar Chairdinéal ar Los Angeles i 1973, bhí an Banna Ceoil ag seinnt roimhe agus é ag gabháil tríd an bhaile. Cuireadh an fháilte céanna roimh an Cairdinéal Tomás Ó Fiach nuair a thug sé cuairt ar Bhéal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh. Go



Ballingearry Pipe Band 1966

ndéana Dia trócaire ar an mbeirt acu.

Fé láthair tá suas le fiche ball sa Bhanna Ceoil. Bíonn orthu cleachtadh a dhéanamh go minic, go mór mhór nuair a bhíonn geallúintí acu le haghaidh cluichí, taispéantais, féiltí agus .rl Tá iarracht á dhéanamh fé láthair an culaith éide

agus na h-úirlisí a fheabhsú ach is tionscnamh an-chostasúil é seo agus beidh baill an bhanna ag iarraidh airgead a chur le chéile pé slí is féidir leo, chun an caighdeán árd atá tuillte ag Buíonn Píobairí Barra Naofa leis na blianta anuas a chaomhnú agus a thógaint isteach sa bhliain 2000.

Schools Manuscripts.

Cáit Ní Chróinín, Inse Beag, Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh. Rang a hOcht.

Conas Ciseán a Dhéanamh

11. 10. 1938.

Is beag tigh mór-thimpeall na h-áite seo atá gan ciseán nó dhó. Rud an-úsáideach iseadh an ciseán chun cabáiste nó prátaí nó móin do thabhairt isteach. Fadó do bheadh duine nó beirt as gach tig ábalta ar chiseán do dhéanamh ach anois níl ach beirt nó triúr as an ndúthaigh go léir ábalta ar cheann do dhéanamh. Baintear úsáid as málaí anois chun gach aon níd h a dhéanamh.

Chun ciseán do dhéanamh do chaithfá ocht gcinn déag de shlata fhada láidre do cur ina seasamh ar an dtalamh. Sáidhthe a ghlaodhtar ar na tslait sin. Deintear buinne an bhéil(rim-wale) annsan. Is deachra an buinne sin do dhéanamh ná aon chuid eile den chiseán.

Mura ndéanfá an buinne sin sa cheart do sgaoilfeadh sé nuair a thógfá an ciseán as an dtalamh. Má bhíonn na sáidhthe fada a ndóthain deineann siad cuid den ciseán i dteannta an buinne.

Do thosnófa ar bhuinte eile annsan agus do dhéanfadh na slata sin smuit eile den chiseán. Do thosnófa ar an dtrú buinne annsan agus do leanfá ort go dtí go mbeadh sé i n-am "buinte na tóna" do cur ann. D'iompófa na sáidhthe treasna annsan agus do chríochnóhadh na slata sin tóin an chiseáin. Annsan dhéanfá na sáidhthe do ghearradh timpeall dhá órlach ó bhuinte an bhéil.

Ní bheadh puinn maith ins an ciseán gan iomchair agus dá bhrígh sin deintear cinn do chur air. Fadó bhíodh súpán déanta de thuighe nó d'fhéar mar iomchair ag na daoine ach anois bíonn píosa de sheanmhála na ionad san.

Fuair eas an sgéal so ó Dhómnall Ó Suibhne, Doire an Lunaig.

The Oratory of St. Finbar

Entering the Oratory, the richness of the altar and the originality of design at once attract attention. It is made principally of St. Maximin creamy-toned marble from the Jura. The "mensa" or table slab, is made of blue Hainault limestone. The plinth is of red Namur marble, while the columns of the arcades are of richly veined red African marble from the quarries of Jugurtha, in Namibia. The panels are carved with "interlacs" or interlacing bands of serpentine and bird forms, relieved by gold background, such as exists in the sarcophagus in Cormac's Chapel, and as will be noticed in the churches of Ravenna, Lucca, and San Clemente in Rome. The gilt metal door of the Tabernacle is set with crystals, and is designed after an antique model of a cover of the Book of the Gospels. Three arcades on the front of the altar represent Our Lord in relief, in the attitude of blessing, and holding in his left hand the Book of Life, after a mosaic in Ravenna. On the right is St. Helena, in Byzantine regal costume, and holding the Cross and the Crown of Thorns, and on the left is St. John the Baptist. The pose and the

modelling of the statues and the delicacy of the interlacing are very effective. The six candlesticks and the lamp of the sanctuary are likewise of Celtic design: they are upheld by lizard forms, in allusion to a tradition which says that before St. Finbar's time a lizard like monster infested the locality. The altar rail, the sedilia, and the credence table are of "rose oak", and carved in Byzantine style. The flooring of the sanctuary is of mosaic tiling of early design, and in keeping with the style of the church.

The interior is lighted by eight stained glass windows, and their gracefulness of design, their richness of tone, their harmony of colour, make them the object of especial attention. Each window contains the figure of some saint connected with St. Finbar's life or the parish. In the two lights over the altar is a figure of the Blessed Virgin and Patrons, after the style of Murillo, and beside it is a figure of the saint himself, vested in the episcopal vestments of the time, bearing an early Irish pastoral staff in one hand, and blessing the people with the other. A

lambent flame above his head and a white doe in the background, a monster beneath his feet, refer to traditions of his life. St. Ita, the foundress of many schools and convents in Munster: St. Gobinetta of Ballyvourney, is represented with a hive of bees from a tradition that a swarm of bees defended her convent against the invading Norsemen; St. Eltin of Kinsale; St. Fachnan Bishop of Ross, who studied in St. Finbar's school, and succeeded him in that see; St. Colman, Bishop of Cloyne, who closed our saint's eyes in death; St. Brendan, the Navigator, is represented bearing a primitive ship, and was the saint who predicted the future greatness of Finbar, as is noticed in his Life. The vaulted ceiling will be decorated in strict harmony with the rest of the Oratory, and after the best specimens of Celtic and Byzantine that can be obtained at home and on the continent.

Extract from "Life of St. Finbar" by The Rev. C. M. O'Brien originally published in 1902.



Inchigeela - Two Centuries of Art

Our Parish is a place of great natural beauty. The West Cork Lake District

The earliest illustration of Uibh Laoghaire was a panorama, published in the 1770, of Carrignacurra Castle and the Sheehy Mountains..

This scene was again drawn by the newspaper illustrator, O'Mahony, in the 1840's. (O'Mahony was famous for his widely published scenes of the Great Famine).

There are many pictures of Gougane to Inchigeela represented in the catalogue of the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery, Cork City:

- 1815 "Interior of Ruin at Gougane," John Grogan;
- 1828 (and (1843) Views of Gougane Barra,
Henry John Noblett;
- 1831 "Gougane Barra," George Petrie;
- 1869 "Rain Near Inchigeela,"
Henry A. Hartland;
- 1879 "Inchigeela Street Scene," Daniel Melise;
- 1883 "A Mist On The Lakes, Inchigeela,"
Henry A. Hartland (shown at Cork Industrial
and Fine Arts Exhibition)

The famous art sculptor Richard Barter was born at Dromcarra in 1824. Several examples of his work are to be seen at the Cork Crawford Municipal Art Gallery.

During the latter part of the 19th Century, with improved transport, the area become popular with holidaying artists.

Hugh Charde, Director of the Cork Art School, exhibited several landscapes of Inchigeela.

The early decades of the 20th Century saw many artists at work in Inchigeela. Miss Scott a teacher in the Crawford School of Art told her Cork art students in the 1920s that if they could paint in Inchigeela, they could paint anywhere.

Fred Archer, Frank Hourihan, students of Miss Scott and members of the Royal Hibernian Academy, remember their student days spend in Inchigeela, residing at the "Lee Restaurant."

The proprietors of the Lee Restaurant were Peter Dan O Leary (a tailor) and his wife. The students were a dedicated group, often known as the "Inchigeela School." Daniel Corkery was among this group - in addition to his many projects, Corkery was a valuable member of the Crawford Select Committee. Much of the fine art collection assembled on display at the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery (Cork City) owes much to Corkery's direction.

During our Daniel Corkery Landscape Exhibition in 1996, we saw an interesting scene of a steam engine in use at Ballingearry.

The beautifully illustrated "Sweet Cork of Thee" and "Lovely Is The Lee," show Robert Gibbings excellent woodcut illustrations of the Uibh Laoghaire area.

A contemporary of Gibbings was Sheamus Murphy, whose stone masonry art is portrayed in St. Finbarr's statue at the Ballingearry churchyard and the Tailor and Ansty Buckley's headstone at Gougane Barra. Note the tweed pattern use to signify the tailor's trade.

In organizing the exhibition, "Inchigeela - Two Centuries of Art," sixteen professional artists were exhibited: Fred Archer; Frank Oliney; Hugh Charde; Frank Hourihan; Tadg Lehane; Siobhan O'Leary; Tim Goulding; Daniel Corkery; Geraldine Creedon; Liam Lavery; Eithne Ring; Joe and Sue Keys; Pascal Cadosch; Rene Moser (Switzerland); Malese Bernsdorf (Germany) and Jack Jeffries (Canada).

Each year, the Ballingearry show has a well supported arts and crafts competition at which are exhibited some of the best of our local talent. The three churches in our Parish provide excellent opportunities to display the remarkable needlework of our various artists. The main persons responsible for the work are Shelia (O Regan) Cronin, Inchigeela; the Lucy -Cronin Family, Gougane Barra; and Maura Riordan, Ballingearry.

All of us have admired the fine ironmongery shown in the gates that still can be found throughout the Parish. One example of the craft can be found on the Inchigeela Village Hall, executed to the design of Fitzgerald Smith, Architects, Cork City. The work was done by Con Manning, the last blacksmith to work in Inchigeela. Other members of the Manning

family supplied blacksmithing work in Ballingearry. The remaining blacksmith still working in the Parish is Danny O Leary of Keimaneigh.

Today we have art classes during the week in Inchigeela, under the dedicated instruction of Derek Mark. Forty students partake in an annual class exhibition. Other artists in the area include leatherworkers, graphic designers, basketweavers and other fine crafts people. What a fitting way to finish the story of artists working in Uibh Laoghaire for two centuries.

I am indebted to Peter Murray and Nuala Fenton of the Crawford Municipal Art Gallery; Ian McDonough, Arts Officer of the Cork County Council; Sarah Iremonger; Malese Bernsdorf; Siobhan O'Leary; Celene Coakley and Margaret Cronin for their help with the art exhibitions held in 1996 and 1998.



The Life and Times of Art O Laoghaire

By Peter O'Leary

1. The events of May 4th.1773.

Art O Laoire was 26, a Captain in the Hungarian Hussars, a Regiment of Empress Marie Therese's Army of Austro-Hungary. On that day in May he was seen in Carriganimma, crossing the footbridge over the River Foherish, and proceeding on horseback along the ridge on the West Bank. He was riding over a small green inch in the townland of Carrigonirtane when a single shot rang out, killing Art instantly. He was thrown to the ground and his horse ran off, returning eventually to Art's house in Rathleigh near Macroom.

Shortly before this, a contingent of soldiers, led by a local Magistrate, Abraham Morris from Hanover Hall, also near Macroom, had lined up along a ditch bordering the pound on the East side of the River. Morris gave the order to fire, and the first shot, which killed Art, came from the musket of a soldier called Green.

That the killing was Official Execution, or maybe Legalised Murder, is supported by three facts:

- a. Art had previously been declared an Outlaw under the provisions of the Penal Laws.
- b. The soldier Green was decorated for his "Gallantry".
- c. Morris himself elected to stand trial by his peers, the local Magistracy, and was found innocent of any crime by those Gentlemen.

In more recent years a small monument has been erected on the spot, which reads "ar an lathair seo a maraidh Art O Laoghaire ar an 4u Bealtaine 1773 ar dheis De go raibh se"

(On this spot, Art O Laoire was killed, 4th.May 1773. RIP)

2. The facts leading up to this incident.

Art was the son of Cornelius O Laoire, and grandson of Keadagh



Raleigh House

O Laoire who leased the Townland of Teergay in Uibh Laoghaire. These lands had been held for many generations by this branch of the O Laoire family. After Keadagh's death, in 1723, Teergay was sold to Dr.Edward Barry. Cornelius at some time prior to 1769 had taken the lease of Rathleigh House, a fine Georgian Farm House, where he lived with his family, including his son Art.

Art was born in 1746. We know nothing about his early life, but he was presumably well educated, and the family lived a comfortable life of Gentleman Farmers, despite the difficulties of doing so, since they were Catholics living during the Penal Times.His father must have been reasonably well off, since he would have had to purchase the commission in the Army for Art, as well as the cost of the journey to Austria. Cornelius acted as Land Agent for the Minhear family of Carrigaphooka, and the lease of Rathleigh House probably formed part of his deal with these Landlords.

These circumstances were uncommon, but not totally unknown. Many such households are described in Daniel Corkery's "Hidden Ireland". One other was that of the O'Connells of Derrynane in the depths of Co.

Kerry. It was one of those O'Connells, Eibhlin Dubh, who Art married. They had a romantic meeting in Macroom Town Square, fell in love, and eloped because of the hostility of the O'Connells, but were eventually married.

Colonel Daniel O'Connell writing to his brother, Maurice "Hunting Cap" O'Connell from France in 1773 says "I still foresaw that his violence and ungovernable temper would infallibly lead him into misfortune."

The O'Connells had made a virtue, and a good living, out of the smuggling trade. They did not want any official light cast on their activities, and to them, Art spelled Trouble. He was apparently a brash young man, proud of his lineage, and his status as an Officer. He certainly considered himself a Gentleman, and had doubts about the similar credentials of those who persecuted him.

When Art met Eibhlin in 1767 she was aged 23 and had been a widow since she was 15. She had been previously married to "old O'Connor of Firies", but he had died after six months of marriage. Eibhlin was the 5th of the 8 daughters of Daniel Mor O'Connell, who also had 5 sons and another 9 children who died young. She was

thus an Aunt of Daniel O'Connell the Liberator, who was born in 1775.

Art and Eibhlin were married 19th December 1767 and continued to live with his Father at Rathleigh House. It would seem that Art returned to Austria for further periods of service between 1767 and his death in 1773. Although we do not know his precise movements, he was home to conceive a second son Fiach in about 1700, and apparently Eibhlin was again pregnant at the time of his death.

There was a history of bad blood between Art and Morris, who was High Sheriff of County Cork in 1771. In that year we have a dramatic account of an encounter between the two men which took place at Hanover Hall on 13th July. This first notice was placed in the Cork Evening Post on 19th August by Art stating that he had been charged with different crimes, and was prepared to stand trial at the next Assizes in Cork. This was followed on 7th October by a claim against Art by Morris, outlining his charges against Art for the incident of the 13th July. Morris's fellow Magistrates in the Muskerry Constitutional Society in an advertisement 3 days later appear to have agreed with their colleague and judged Art in his absence. He was Outlawed, and a price of 20 guineas put on his head. On 19th October Art replied through the same Newspaper and defended himself vigorously from the charge, and suggests that judgement should be suspended until he has had a fair trial.

The later event which we have no written evidence for, was a claim against Art under the Penal Laws, which took place in 1773. The circumstances revolve around the fact that Art brought back with him from Austria, his fine brown steed, on which he rode around in full view of the general public. Morris demanded that Art sell him the horse for £5. The Penal Laws, amongst many other humiliating

clauses aimed at Catholics, stated that a Catholic may not own a horse of value more than £5, and any Protestant could demand its sale at this price. Art refused the sale, and struck Morris with his horse whip. He also challenged Morris to a duel, which was declined.

Morris clearly was using his position as Magistrate, and at one point High Sheriff, to further his act of revenge against his enemy. He had no difficulty in persuading his fellow Magistrates to support him in his vendetta, and once proclaimed as an outlaw, Art could then be shot at sight quite legally.

It is believed that on that May day in 1773, Art knew that Morris was on business in Millstreet, set off himself to intercept his enemy on his return, and may well have decided to kill Morris. It is also said that Art refreshed himself in the Inn in Carriganimma, bought drinks freely, and regaled his audience with tales of what he was going to do to Morris. Also that one of this audience slipped quietly away, rode towards Millstreet to warn Morris. Morris returned to Millstreet and collected the posse of soldiers who went with him to Carriganimma and set up the ambush. These are not proven facts but fit in well with what actually happened that day.

It is said that Art, a professional soldier, judged that he was out of range of the firing squad, and was in fact tormenting them. If that is so, he was sadly wrong. Measurement on the ground shows that he was killed by a musket shot at about 240 yards, so his judgement should have been correct. Perhaps the one shot was a rather unlucky fluke.

There is an interesting theory which throws some light on this unlucky fluke. According to Joe O'Leary of Carriganimma it is widely believed in that area that the first shot which hit Art in the neck, was in fact fired at much closer range, when he and his horse appeared in the view of the soldiers

immediately opposite them on the other side of the river, and close to the footbridge. This would be as he came around Joe's farm. The theory is that Art was mortally wounded but stayed in the saddle for another hundred yards, then fell from the horse at the point where the monument is now. He was then left by the soldiers to bleed to death at this spot. This is much more convincing, and means that the fatal musket shot was fired at a range of more like 100 yards. Still a difficult shot, but more possible.

3. The many Myths associated with the events.

These then are the bald facts. Way beyond these facts has arisen a wealth of Mythology about the details of the events. It is not proposed to go into these in any detail, but they are of great interest, and reveal the way that such Mythology is built up. There is a possibility that much of the Mythology is built up based on real fact, albeit somewhat glossed over the years of story telling.

Thus we learn that Art rode his horse to victory in a race on Dunisky Racecourse, beating Morris' horse, and thus provoking the demand for a sale at £5 by the thwarted loser. Another version is that Art, on his horse, took the brush at a meet of the Muskerry Hounds, with the same result.

It can clearly be read, between the lines, that Art was a show off. At these times when Catholics were forced to keep a low profile in order to survive, he was to be seen regularly in public, wearing a red military tunic, and a silver pomelled sword, and prancing around on a beautiful horse to the envy of the local squirearchy.

It is also probable that Morris was typical of his kind of Landlord at that time. Of low breeding, descended from a Cromwellian soldier, and elevated by circumstances to a position he was obviously not fit for.

4. The burial of Art.

Curiously, Art's body received three burials. Initially he was buried by Eibhlin in the Old Cemetery of Kilnamartra (Tuath na Dromann), ie. near to Dundareirke Castle. It was however the family wish that he be buried in Kilcrea Friary, although there is no evidence of this being in any sense the traditional family grave. At that time, burial in monastic ground was forbidden, so his body was removed to a temporary home in the field adjacent to the Friary. Then finally, when the Penal Laws had become non-effective, his final interment in Kilcrea Friary took place.

The stone over his tomb states "Lo Arthur Leary, Generous, Handsome, Brave, Slain in his bloom, Lies in this humble grave. Died May 4th 1773. Aged 26 years."

This part of the memorial can be seen to this day.

In 1949 John T. Collins reported seeing a further addition to this inscription, which was said to have been added by his grandson, GRP O'Leary.

"Having served the Empress Marie Therese as Captain of Hungarian Hussars, he returned home to be outlawed and treacherously shot by order of the British Government, his sole crime being that he refused to part with a favourite horse for the sum of five pounds." Mr. Collins adds "It is more than likely that the part indicting the British Government was not inserted until the penal laws had become a dim memory."

He also noted that the tomb at that time indicated that Art's son, Cornelius, and his grandson, GRP O'Leary, were also interred herein.

5. Subsequent Events.

Morris may have had his revenge, but that was not the end of the story.

A Coroners Inquest held on May 17th produced a verdict that Abraham Morris and the party of soldiers were guilty of the wilful

and wanton Murder of Arthur O Laoire.

Art's brother Cornelius decided to revenge his dead brother.

He rode into Cork City on the 7th July and up to Mr. Boyce's house in Hammonds Lane where Morris was lodging. He saw Morris at a window and fired three shots at him, wounding him. The shots were not fatal, but Morris only survived for two more years, dying in September 1775, believed to have been as a direct result of the wounding.

Cornelius meanwhile had taken passage to France, and from there to America, where he had a distinguished career.

The Magistrates were enraged by this attack. A Proclamation was issued on 26th. July against the Perpetrator, and large sums offered as a reward for bringing him to justice. But there were no acceptances. The bird had flown.

At a meeting of the Muskerry Constitutional Society held in Macroom on 2nd. August, further support for Morris was shown, and further rewards offered for the capture of Cornelius, but without avail.

On the 4th. September Morris submitted himself to trial by the local Magistrates. The O'Leary relatives were not represented, and the party of soldiers involved had conveniently been sent to the East India Colonies. The Cork Evening Post of 6th. September reported "Last Saturday September 4th. at Cork Abraham Morris was tried for the killing of Arthur O'Leary where he was honourably acquitted".

6. The Caoineadh. Eibhlin Dubh ni Chonnail.

The story of Art O Laoire would probably have been forgotten long ago, but for the Caoineadh which was composed over his body at the Wake, by Eibhlin Dubh. Keening the dead, was an old tradition, and the Keen itself followed a well established pattern. This was an oral tradition, but in many cases, as happened here, the Keen became

retold by Seanachies and others over the subsequent years. Whether it was improved on as time passed, we have no means of knowing, but the version which was finally put to print and became part of our culture, is regarded as a master piece of its genre, has been translated many times, and is largely responsible for the continuation of the legend of Art O Laoire.

7. What was it all about?

It is necessary, at this point, to consider the wider aspects of the Judicial Murder of Art O Laoire in 1773.

Was this, as it is often depicted, merely the petty revenge of a rather mean, pompous and self important member of the Protestant Ascendancy, over a member of the Catholic landowning class who showed a bit more spirit than most?

This view probably does not take full account of the situation of the time. This aspect is thoroughly dealt with by Professor Cullen of TCD in his article in Cork History and Society entitled "The Blackwater Catholics and County Cork Society and Politics in the 18th century". Anyone who really wants to understand this, and other similar incidents should read Professor Cullens article in full. I will only refer to a few points from that article which are most relevant.

These include.

a. The similarity between the Judicial Murders of James Cotter (1720), Morty og O Sullivan (1754), and Art O Laoire (1773).

b. A similar bloody campaign against recruiting officers for the Irish Brigade including the execution of Denis Dunne, Thomas Herlihy, and Denis McCarthy, Dillon MacNamara and the two Sheehy brothers plus three minor Catholic gentlemen, all in the period 1749-1766

c. The similar but less bloody driving out of the country of the Hennessys (1765) and the Springhouse McCarthys (1776).

d. A similar campaign against the Nagle families which resulted in all conforming to the Protestant religion.

e. The fact that all these took place in Co.Cork and South Co.Tipperary.

f. There was at this time a move throughout most of the Country towards a more reasonable treatment of Catholics, which eventually led to the Catholic Relief Acts of 1778 and 1793.

These, apart from a realisation that Catholics might be human beings also, was part of a Political movement headed by Burke, moving towards Emancipation, and gradually obtaining widespread support amongst the Protestant Ascendancy.

g. As usual in similar situations, this trend was strongly opposed by a gradually reducing but strong Political wing which was Conservative, Backward looking, Papist hating, Protestant supporting, and Land owning motivated. This was led in Parliament by Lord Shannon, and strongly supported in his home territory of Co.Cork.

Cullen is suggesting that Art's death was merely one of a number of events towards the later part of the 18th c. which were political, regressive, and the last kick, as it were of the Protestant landowning, anti-Papist rump, which had its centre in Co.Cork, and which was acting against the trend in the Country as a whole.

This is typical of the backlash in the final phases of an insupportable tyranny, and could be likened to similar situations in the North of Ireland in recent years

It is interesting to note that the Muskerry Constitutional Society was set up in July 1771, and consisted of about 50 Gentlemen, all Magistrates and/or Landowners in Co.Cork. Its first action was the indictment and outlawing of Art O Laoire in August 1771 on very dubious legal grounds. Cornelius was a Landlord like themselves, albeit a Catholic. His son Art had

publicly advertised that he was prepared to appear before the next Assizes to have the matters settled by Law. The rather arbitrary Outlawing, presumably based on the possibility that one of their Members had been humiliated by Art, meant that one of their Members, the Complainant in fact, was enabled to take the Law into his own hands, which he did in May 1773.

8. The genealogy of Art O Laoire.

A look at the Descent of Art O Laoire shows that he was a direct descendant of Conchobhar O Laoire of Mannen, who was Chieftain of Uibh Laoghaire up to 1572. The direct lineal descendant in 1773 was Denis O Laoire of Coomlagane near Millstreet, who was known in Millstreet as "O Leary." Art was 5th. cousin to Denis. This Denis was an even more substantial Land owner than Cornelius, and was a Magistrate. Ironically he appears on the list of Members of the Muskerry Constitutional Society at its formation in 1771, as does Tim O Laoire of Glasheen in Uibh Laoghaire.

There is no substance in the belief that he was of the Ballymurphy O Laoire family. This family came from Kileen in Co.Kerry where they were tenants of Lord Kenmare. One Cornelius O Laoire of Ballymurphy, d.1743, was also buried in Kilcrea. Cornelius father of Art was still alive in 1769. Just because he was buried in the same cemetery does not make him a relative.

9. The family descended from Art.

The chart "Descendants of Art O Laoire" brings us down to the present time. Eibhlin Dubh had two children at the time of Art's death, and was pregnant. This third child does not seem to have survived, and we have no knowledge of Fiach and his subsequent history.

Their first son Cornelius was born August 25th 1768, and sent to

Paris for education 1789-91. He became a Captain in the Gardes Francais. Married 1. Rebecca Gentleman. 2. Mary Purcell 1814. 3. Hanna Purcell 1831 at Gretna Green. He trained as a Barrister. Lived in Cork City from 1814 to 1817, then at Dromore House, Duhallow. Died August 20th 1846.

It was claimed by O'Neill Daunt that Cornelius was brought up as a Protestant, and Fiach as a Catholic, and this was a not uncommon method of retaining land in the family. "That man's son was the father of two fine boys, he brought up one of them a Protestant and the other a Catholic. The poor children early showed the belligerent spirit of religious hostility. They were always squabbling. The Catholic brother would say "we'll get Emancipation in spite of you" "No, you rascal, " the Protestant brother would answer, "We'll keep our foot upon your necks".

Cornelius presided at a meeting of Roman Catholics held in the South Parish Chapel in 1814, so may have reverted to Catholicism by that date.

Cornelius and Mary produced three sons, Cornelius Ferdinand Purcell born October 6th 1815, Goodwin Richard Purcell born March 19th 1817, and Arthur (date unknown).

It is a curious fact that when Cornelius wrote a short account of his life in a family bible at Manch House, he failed to mention his first wife Rebecca, or his third son Arthur. The account was written in Paris in October 1827. There must remain some doubt as to the authenticity of these two members of the family, although it is possible that Arthur was born after this date. Mary died in January 1830.

CFP O Leary was baptised, confirmed and brought up as a Protestant. He was sent to Paris in 1825 to be educated. He returned to Ireland, and was called to the Bar where he took the special oath proscribed for Catholics.

In 1843 he assisted Daniel O

Connell in his campaign for Reform, and attended one of the Monster Meetings.

The only record we have of him practising as a Barrister was in a case of Sullivan v. Healey, in Bantry in 1845. In the course of this case he described himself as "a good Catholic".

He died, still only 31 and unmarried, in 1846 at Dromore.

The second son, GRP O Leary was also sent to Paris for education at the age of 5. He must have been a precocious child, because he matriculated for TCD at 13 and graduated at 16! He then spent many years attending Universities in different parts of Europe, acquiring several languages, and a clutch of degrees in Medicine. In 1857 he

was appointed Professor of Materia Medica at Queens College, Cork. He married Helena Sugrue in 1849, and they had no children. He died in 1876 at the home of his brother in law at Chatsworth, and his body was brought back to Kilcrea Abbey, where he was buried in the same tomb as his grandfather, Art O Laoire.

He was a member of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society, and apparently required the members to address him and his wife as "The O Leary and Madame O'Leary", a title to which he had no good claim.

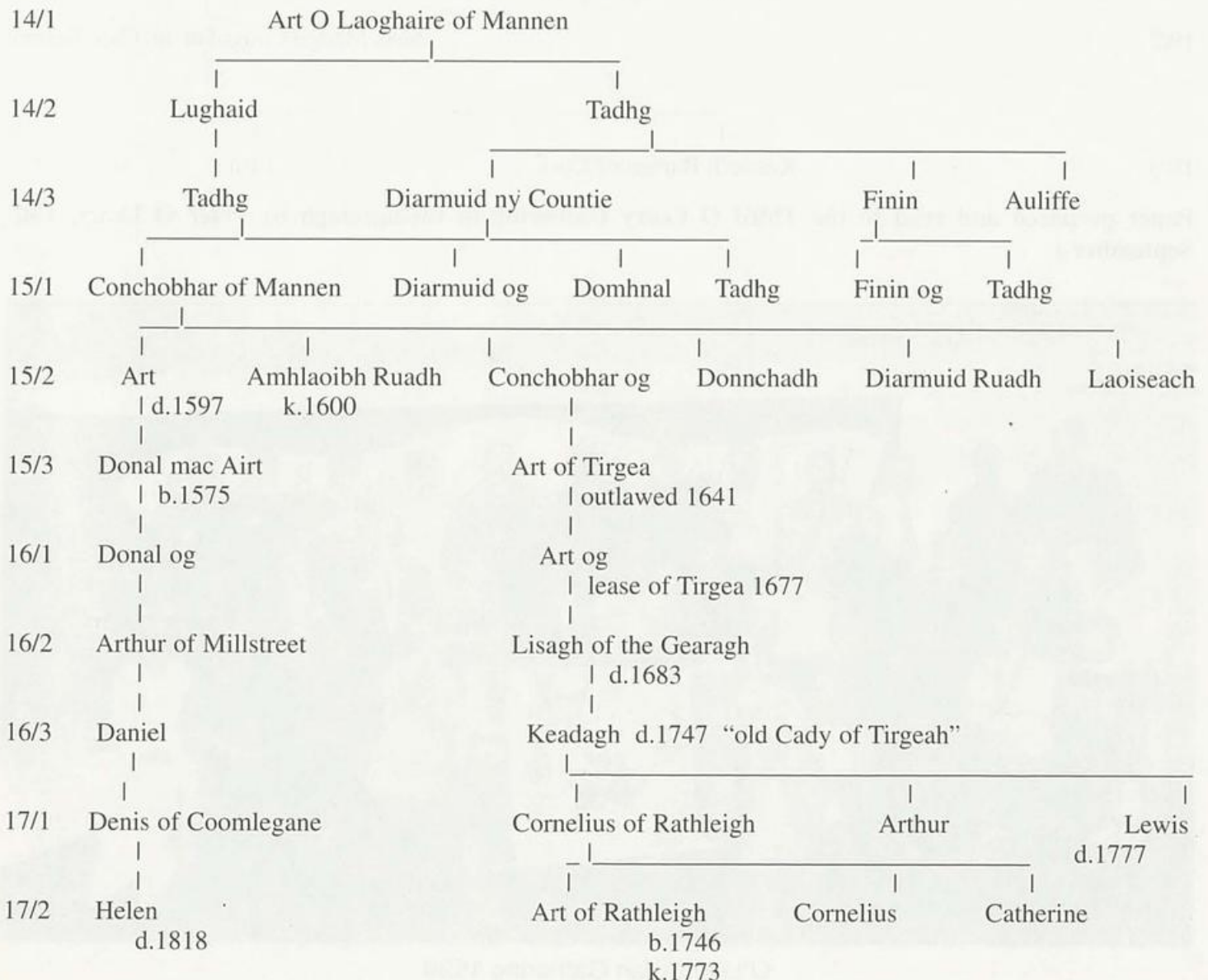
He did however have another claim to fame. When Prussia and Austria united to attack Denmark, he wrote to the King of Denmark

offering to bring to his service 100 Irishmen, mounted and accoutred at their own expense. This offer was not taken up, but O Leary was awarded the Order of Danneborg, the only other possessor in the UK being the Prince of Wales.

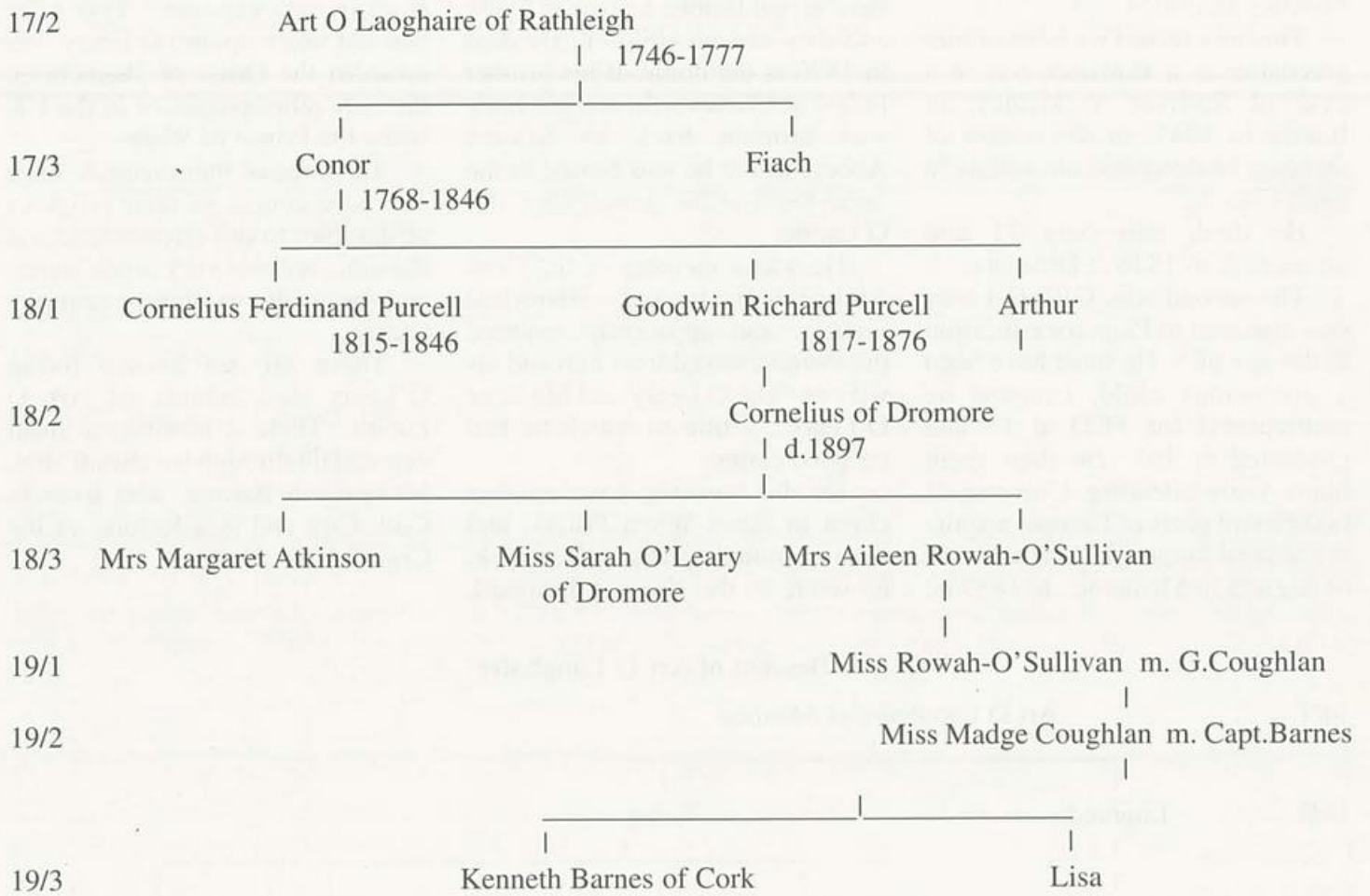
The three of them seem to have steered a course in their religious affiliations, to suit circumstances at the time, without very much worry, and probably to their pecuniary benefit.

There are no known living O'Leary descendants of Art O Laoire. There is however a lineal descendant through the distaff side, Mr. Kenneth Barnes, who lives in Cork City and is a lecturer at the Crawford Institute.

The Descent of Art O Laoghaire.



The Descendants of Art O Laoghaire.



Paper prepared and read to the Third O Leary Gathering in Inchigeelagh by Peter O Leary, 13th September 1



O'Leary Clan Gathering 1998

Third Annual O'Leary Clan Gathering

September 1998

Once again, the O'Leary Clan held their annual Gathering in their Irish home of Inchigeelagh in County Cork. Old and new friends came from all over the world for the weekend of 11th. to 13th. September 1998, as previously centred on Creedon's Hotel.

The theme this year was Art O'Leary, "the Outlaw", since this is the 225th. anniversary of his death at the hands of the military, instigated by one Abraham Morris, of Hanover Hall. Art was a colourful character, and his untimely death at the age of 26 led to the composing of the beautiful Keen by his wife, Eileen ni Connell. This piece of Irish poetry had been studied in depth at the recent Summer School, and at the Clan Gathering we concentrated on the Historical events.

On the Friday evening there was a Reception and welcoming speeches from the Committee. This was followed by Refreshments and entertainment, with traditional music and airs and songs led by our resident pianist, John Hamilton.

On Saturday we set off early on a bus tour to see the various sites associated with Art. Starting with Carrignanamma we walked across the fields to inspect the leacht set up at the spot where he was shot. This was the work of our colleagues in Carrignanamma, and they have also contributed a fine memorial plaque in Irish to

commemorate his death. We were given a rousing talk on the topic at the site by Joe O'Leary, whose farm is close to this monument.

Then we went on to Rathleigh House the beautiful Georgian home of Art and his family near Macroom.

We were given a good reception there and shown round by the present owner, Eddie Vaughan, who also talked to us on the features of this lovely house, still well cared for and in excellent condition although about 250 years old.

Our next stop was in Macroom in the Square in the centre of town, where Art and Eileen first met and fell in love. The town hall is on the same location, but has been rebuilt since those days.

After this our tour took us to Kilcrea Friary, where Art is buried. His tomb is well preserved, and the headstone has been recently restored by Duchas and is easily read. One of Art's sons and a grandson are also buried in this tomb. At this point we were joined by John Sheehan who is currently the President of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society, who gave us an inspiring talk of the history of the Friary and its associations with the McCarthy and O'Leary families. We also had the pleasure of meeting Lady Elizabeth O'Connell, who is related to Eileen by marriage, and to the last of the O'Leary chieftains.

That evening we were given a slide show by John Sheehan covering many of the topics of the afternoon, and including old photographs of the Friary and the adjoining Castle at Kilcrea.

The rest of the evening passed very pleasantly also, with a Group Photograph, a sumptuous Dinner, and traditional music provided by the well known uilleann piper Diarmuid Grainger supported by his musical trio with airs and songs.

On Sunday, the fit and able went on a conducted tour of the village on foot, and were given a historical talk by our host, Joe Creedon. We then convened to hear Peter O'Leary on the topic "The Life and Times of Art O'Leary". This talk covered the history of the events of 1773, the background of the Penal Times, and the subsequent history of his descendants.

After lunch we held the final Clan meeting, and then held our usual outside Mass in the Old Cemetery presided over by Fr.Dan Crowley from Boston. Then we all went home, physically exhausted but mentally refreshed.

Now we are all looking forward to September 10th-12th 1999 when our theme will be Michael O Leary from Kilbarry, Inchigeela who won a Victoria Cross in World War I.

Brief Notes From Our Past

Formation of the Inchigeela Volunteers

Those who were masters of Inchigeela in the 18th Century developed a class of patriotism of their own and the Inchigeela Volunteers were formed on June 1st 1779. Their uniform was a blue jacket edged with buff, waistcoat and breeches. Jasper Masters, of Carrignacurra Castle was their commandant, Boyle of Boylesgrove and Barry of Carrignageela or Kilbarry were subordinate officers. Their purpose was to maintain law and order and incidentally to maintain themselves in possession of their estates. When the Volunteer system ceased they became Yeomanry officers and kept the local people in terror of their lives through those periods of insurrectionary movements in 1798 and 1803.

A description of the three castles written early in the last Century describes Carricknacurra as built on an elevated rock on the south side of the Lee, a mile east of Inchigeela. Carrignageela was destroyed in 1822 and its materials used in the erection of a new residence. It stood on the north slope of Kilbarry and looked down on the valley of the Toon River. The third castle was eastward and looked down on the Lee where it makes a bend to the north for two or three miles at right angles to its ordinary course.

1822 Events in Muskerry

I need not here describe the conflicts which took place in this parish during the Whiteboy Insurrection of 1822. They have been well described by Maire Bui Ni Laoghaire. The gentlemen of the district, aided by troops from Cork and Bantry, rounded up all likely suspects and they were tried by a special Commission of Judges who sat at Cork in the Spring of 1822. Fourteen men were charged with having fired at Robert Hedges, Syre of Macroom Castle and Richard Ashe. Evidence went to show that on January 24th the mail coach was

stopped at Tuatha na Dromann Pike, (near Kilnamartyra) about five miles west of Macroom by Whiteboys who smashed the coach to atoms. Robert Hedges Syre and the Rifle brigade from Macroom rounded up the district and brought in two dead Whiteboys and 21 prisoners. Ten were found guilty.

Another conflict took place at Deshure. One man was killed and 29 prisoners brought to Cork. All but three were found guilty. Some sentences were reduced to transportation for life.

On February 28th 1822, Daniel Murphy, Patrick Lehane, Thomas Goggin and Cors. Murphy were hanged. The gallows were set up on the side of a steep hill at Carriganimmy. At Deshure, on March 1st Daniel Cronin, Denis Murphy, Timothy Hallahan, Richard Drummy and Edward Ring were executed. The latter had taken part in the Battle of Keimaneigh. (He is mistakenly called Edward Brien on the plaque at Deshure) The gallows were set up at Deshure Cross. Drummy spoke from the platform before his execution. Fr. McSweeney of Bandon spoke in Irish to the people. Father Thomas R. England in English. After all the executions the bodies were conveyed back to the Cork County Gaol and interred in a huge pit inside the gate, called the Croppy Hole, where they molder forgotten.

Some Landowners in 1852

We'll pass on another thirty years, and find out from Griffith's Poor Law Valuation List in 1852 who held Inchigeela. At Cappanaclar Rev. Jeremiah Holland, PP held 180 acres from Jasper Pyne, and at Carrignacurra 18 acres. At Dooneens (Robert Emmet's farm) John and Cornelius Lucey held 757 acres from Robert Adams who was their landlord. At Garrnapeaka Patrick Healy, James Moynihan and Jerh Mahoney were tenants to James Browne. At

Coornarahilly Williarn Sannell, John Kelleher, Tim Kearney and Edmund Ring held their lands from John Orpen. At Garryantornora, Patrick OLeary held 248 acre from Jasper Pyne. At Tureenduff, James Walsh held 437 acres from James Minhear. At Terranassig, Sylvester Cotter and Robert Wiseman held from Louis Gollock. At Tureenalour, John Cronin from Jasper Pyne. At Agheris, Denis Lucey and C. Cronin from Wmn. S Hoare. The Rev. Jeremiah Holland held from Thomas Barters the chapel-yard and national school. Carrignaneelagh was held by Nicholas Barry. The head landlords were Henry Hatchell and Thomas Leader. Derryvane was held by James O Leary from Thomas Barters. At Glasheen, Richard O'Leary held lands in fee and had a tenant, Michael Goggin. Rev. James White was Protestant Rector and held church, graveyard and demesne lands in free. Dromcarra was in the Court of Chancery. Devonshire Hawkes resided in the mansion house which replaced the old castle. Con, John and Denis Cronin held Gurteenakilla with Richard Townsend as landlord. At Terrgay, where old Keadach O'Leary lived (he who had fought in the KingJames wars) now lived Edward Woods and the land-lord was Thomas Clarke. These are only few samples from the original Poor Law Valuation Lists. The later history of the district is similar to the rest of Ireland. Agitation against the land lord system forced Mr. Gladstone and the Liberal Party in the British Parliament to take away the power of fixing rent from the landlord of tenure so long as the tenant paid his rent. The Wyndham Act of 1903 gave the tenant his land on payment of a terminal annuity. Thus ownership of the land passed back to the descendants of those who had stayed at home in 1690 instead of going to France and Spain

Extracted from an article by John T Collins from SOUTHERN STAR, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1961

The Battle of Keimaneigh Monument

Anyone passing through the Pass of Keimaneigh between Ballygeary and Kealkil recently will have noticed the new Monument. As you travel West towards Kealkil it stands beside the road in a small cutting to your left as you approach the top of the hill.

This Monument is the joint effort of the Ballygeary Historical Society and the Bantry Historical Society, and the members of both Organisations have been working for several years to bring it to fruition.

We are very indebted to Pat Twomey of Curraglass Townland in Bantry who has provided the land on permanent loan.

The site is particularly relevant in that it lies where the old road parts company from the new road. The new tarmacked road is of course what we now think of as the Bantry Road. It did not exist at the time of the battle in 1822, but was built soon after, about 1830, as a result of the battle and the difficulties which the Authorities had in bringing troops up to the Pass. This new road was built by James Barry the notorious landlord from Kilbarry House. You can see the line of the old road rising steeply from you up the hill towards Doughill Mountain on your left. From this point the old road can be traced right the way through to Tooreendubh where it drops down into the valley of the River Lee again.

The Cork County Council team under Gearoid Hayes have cut a crescent shape into the piece of land, and erected the plaque on a large irregular shaped slab of local old red sandstone.

The plaque is inscribed as follows:

"I gcuimhne na bhfear a cailleadh i gCath Cheim an Fhia in Eanáir na bliana 1822.

Mícheál Ó Cathasaigh, Barra Ó Laoire,
Amhlaoibh Ó Loinsigh, (Buachaillí Bána Áitiúla).

Seán mac Gabhann (Fórsaí na nGall).

Crocadh Éamonn Ó Rinn i Márta 1822.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha."

"To commemorate those who died at and after the Battle of Keimaneigh, January 1822. Michael Casey, Barry O'Leary, Auliffe Lynch, Edward Ring (local Whiteboys)

John Smith (Crown Forces)

May they rest in peace."

It will be seen that the plaque commemorates the three local men who were killed during the battle, together with the English soldier Smith, who was also killed. Another man, Edward Ring was captured, tried at Cork Assizes, condemned to death, and hanged at Deshure with five others from other parts of the County.

Although described as Whiteboys on the plaque, it is more accurate, historically, to call them Rockites, the name they used themselves.

The story of the Battle of Keimaneigh was described in detail in Journal No.1.

Briefly, it was a protest against the Tithe system, High Rents, Eviction at will and the other abuses inflicted on tenant farmers by the Landlords. The young men who gathered above Keimaneigh that January in 1822 in appalling weather, were a small but important part of the general movement throughout the Country to rid us of tyranny, and we should not forget them and their contribution.



Cath Chéim an Fhia (Scéal John Smith)

le Tadhg Ó Suibhne

Um an dtaca seo is dócha go bhfuil gach éinne tar éis an chloch mór a fheiscint thuas ag barr an Chéama, an chloch leis an dá leac air. Tá pictiúir de i dteannta an ailt seo. Tá sé scríofa ar an leac seo gur maraíodh triúr des na Buachaillí Bána agus saighdiúir amháin. John Smith ab ainm don saighdiúir seo agus bhí scéal ana shuimiúil ag baint leis. Chun an scéal a thuiscint i gceart níor mhiste cur síos ar cé a bhí páirteach ann. Is dócha go raibh aithne ag gach éinne ar Shéamus Walsh ó Túirín Dubh, bhuel Ritchie ab ainm d'athair Shéamuis, agus Séamus Mór ab ainm do shean-athair Ritchie.

Bhí Séamus Mór mar chaptaoin nó mar cheannaire de shaghas éigin ar na Buachaillí Bána áitiúla agus bhí easpa arm agus armlón orthu. Do mheasadar an cheist sin a réiteach le cuaird a thabhairt ar thig Thighearna Beantraí agus airm agus rí. a thógaint "saor in aisce" mar a déarfá. Do dheineadar san agus d'éirigh maith go leor leo, ach bhí eagla orthu go mbeadh tuairim ag múintir Bheantraí gur anseo go Béal Átha'n Ghaorthaidh a thiocfadh na h-airm. Mar sin do shocraíodar le Buachaillí Bána Bheantraí dá bhfeicidís na saighdiúirí ag fágaint Beantraí go raghadh an duine ba ghiorra don tsráid in áirde ar chnocán agus go ligfeadh sé liú as. Ansan dhéan-fadh an Buachaill Bán ba ghiorra dó san an rud céanna ar a chnocán féin, agus mar sin leo go dtí go shroichfeadh an liú Uibh Laoghaire. Níos an scéil do leanadar leis an liú go dtí gur shroich sé Carraig an Ime. B'shin é "an liú gur leath i bhfad i gcéin" atá san amhrán..

Do shroich na saighdiúirí an dúthaigh seo i bhfad níos tapúla ná mar a cheap na Buachaillí Bána a thoirfidís mar do bhíodar ar muin capaill agus dheineadar díreach fé dhéin tigh Cheallacháin thuas i gCloch Bharrach. Bhí sé beartaithe acu an tigh a dhó agus fear an tigh a losgadh ina bheathaidh. Do theip san orthu mar bhí na Buachaillí Bána ag bailiú le chéile taobh thuas díobh, timpeall Túirín na nÉan agus mar sin siar agus bhí eagla ar na saighdiúirí dul níos sia soir. Do dhruideadar siar i dtreo an Chéama agus bhí an dá dream ag caitheamh le na chéile fan na h-aimsire. Bhí scáth na gclathach ag na Buachaillí Bána agus dá bhrí san ní raibh ag éirí go maith leis na saighdiúirí.

Fé dheire d'fhág duine des na saighdiúirí a chárde agus mheas sé go bhféadfadh sé teacht aniar aduaidh ar na Buachaillí Bána. Níor éirigh leis áfach, mar bhí Séamus Mór Breathnach ag feitheamh leis, agus bhí coimhlint cruaidh eatarthu. I ndeire na dála do mhairbh Séamus an saighdiúir - b'shin é John Smith.

Níor fhan na saighdiúirí eile i bhfad timpeall na háite ina dhiaidh san, d'imíodar leo thar nais go Beantraí. Le titim na hoíche do bhailigh na Buachaillí Bána le chéile agus do chuireadar Smith i bpoll portaigh taobh thiar den Túirín Dubh, ar an dtaobh theas den bóthar. Sin é an chúis go dtugtar Droichidín Smith ar an ndroichead beag atá thiar ansan fé láthair.

Bhí buachaill aimsire ó thigh na mBúrcach ag faire ar na Buachaillí Bána nuair a chuireadar Smith sa phort agus bhí eagla orthu go ndéanfadh sé spiar-racht orthu. Mar sin do thánadar le chéile oíche eile chun an corp a aistriú go dtí áit éigin eile. Bhí an oíche ana dhorcha agus theip glan orthu an poll ceart a aimsiú. Fé dheire chaitheadar dul siar go tigh na mBuarcach agus an garsún a thógaint as a leaba. Fuair an garsún an áit ceart gan aon trioblóid in aon chor. Do thógadar leo an corp ó thuaidh trasna an chnoic go dtí Muing na Biorraí. Do bhaineadar a chuid éadaigh go léir de agus chuireadar lom nocht isteach i bpoll portaigh é tar éis súpán a cheangal dá mhuinéal agus cloch ar an súpán chun an corp a choiméad ag tón poill. Ach do réir deabhraimh d'ith na heascúin an súpán agus do phreab an corp go barr an uisce i gceann cúpla lá. Duine des na Buachaillí

Bána ó Ghort a'Phludaigh a chabhraigh le Séamus Mór chun an corp a chur sa pholl a fuair amach go raibh an corp tagtha go barr uisce. Is amhlaidh a bhí garsún óg aige chun aire a thabhairt dos na ba agus bhíodh gabhar bán leis na ba i gcónaí. Tráthnóna amháin níor tháinig an gabhar abhaile, agus chuaigh an garsún á lorg. Chonaic sé an corp bán sa pholl portaigh agus cheap sé gurbh é an gabhar é agus d'inis sé do fhear an tigh é. Thuig sé sin go maith gurbh é corp an tsaigndiúra a bhí sa pholl.

D'éirigh sé le breacadh an lae agus bhí beartaithe aige dul go dtí an muing chun an corp a chur fé uisce, i dtreo is ná éireodh sé go brách arís, ach is amhlaidh a bhí an clós lán de shaighdiúirí.

Bhí an spiaire tar éis a chuid droch oibre a dhéanamh go héifeachtach. Tadhg Bréidí ab ainm don spiaire seo agus bhí sé pósta le h-infon Máire Bhuidhe Ní Laoghaire, dhein sé teangmháil leis an mBarrach Mór i gCill Barra, agus thug an Barrach mála cruithneachtan dó mar bhreib i dtaobh a chuid scéalaíochta. Pé scéal é bhí an t-eolas go léir ag na saighdiúirí agus nuair a tháinig an Barrach Mór féin lá ar na mhárach, ní bheadh sé sásta éinne eile a fháil chun an corp a thógaint as a' bpoll ach na Búrcaigh, beirt clainne le Máire Bhuidhe. Bhí cómhra acu, ach do chaith mná na h-áite bailíní a thabhairt dóibh. Do thógadar John Smith leo agus do chuireadar thoir i reilg Inse Geimhleach é agus tá sé ann fós D'éalaigh Séamus Mór go Sasana agus bhí sé ar a theithe ar feadh blianta fada ach sin scéal eile ar fad.



Jerry Cotter and his Hackney

-A man who touched many hearts

-Anna-Marie O' Sullivan

Nowadays every household has the essential commodity of a car, some may even have two or three however turning back the clock about 50 or 60 years ago this was not the case.

A village in West Cork or any part of rural Ireland were lucky if one or two cars were owned locally by residents

At that time you wouldn't have the choice of various brand names and styles you would have had to make do with the old reliable Cork manufactured Ford Model T which is probably one of the most fondly remembered cars of all time.

For a small village in West Cork, namely Ballingearry, the older generation did indeed have fond memories of the old model T. They were one of the few villages in the area to have their very own registered hackney service, which was owned by Mr. Jerimiah (Jerry) Cotter in the village.

Fr. Browne

Jerry was born in 1914. He lived a very exciting and carefree childhood with fond memories of growing up in Ballingearry

One of his fondest is the day that Fr. Browne, the well known photographer visited the area. On this particular day Fr. Browne took many photos depicting the lives of people living in rural Ireland in that period of time. After a quick chat with Fr. Browne, Jerry was asked to stand for a photo. The year was 1925 and Jerry was 11 years of age. The picture was to become a classic and was entitled "Taking his first photo". The photo was seen in exhibitions all over Ireland in 1995/96 and is also included in the book "Father Browne's Photography".



First Car

Jerry then made the "Local headlines" "and gossip when he purchased his first car in 1932 at the tender age of 18 years. The car was bought from C.A.B. Motors Co. Ltd., Copely St. Cork for the princely sum £50.

In the same year he registered the car for hackney and towards the end of the year he received his plate and badge in Bandon. His badge number was 2868

From the very beginning Jerry had to get accustomed to late night and early morning calls from everyone from locals to doctors and Gardai. This was because Jerry was the only hackney service in the area.

Jerry was on 24 hour call by the

Southern Health Board taking Doctors to patients, and patients to clinics and hospitals. Many a night he had to combat dreadful weather conditions, such as heavy snow, dense fog and floods to get his passengers to their required destination.

It was once quoted by local man Mr. Tim McCarthy "That Gerry was there for nearly every child in the parish". Tim said that "He was there when they were Born, Christened, when they received their Holy Communion, Confirmation and their Wedding Day, What a record!!!!!!"

He did indeed attend many weddings and funerals and he also had many a story to tell about his days as the local hackney driver.

One particular story that a lot of people would remember is the night that he was travelling to a dance in Ballinjourney with an overloaded car, as he approached the outskirts of the village he was stopped by the local guard.

As he rolled down the window of the car, it was quiet visible to the guard that Jerry was well over loaded with over six in the car. The guard shone in his flashlight and then said to him "I think you have one too many there Mr. Cotter" To which he replied in a confident and devious tone "Which one Guard" What could the Guard say, he cautioned him and left him drive on.

In his busiest period in the 1940s, He often had a number of trips in one day. A lot of his days consisted of a funeral in the morning, A clinic appointment in the afternoon and maybe taking someone to the bus station in Macroom in the evening. During this Time he was also on call 24 hours for anybody who needed him from the locals to mid-wifery, Doctors and the Gardai

When the "Feile Dramaiochta Na Mumhan" was held annually in Ballingearry he was used to collect those who would be judging the plays He would collect them in Cork from the train station and he would also drive them around locally during their stay. He became very friendly with all of the judges and one particular friend he made was Seamus Healy who is better known as father to Shay Healy TV presenter and songwriter. Because of the period of time, there was a shortage of cars being used by the Gardai so as I have mentioned before Jerry was on call for them. His car was their only mode of transport

He was often called upon to drive the Gardai to poitin raids on local farms and to Court Cases in Macroom and in Cork. When the

rationing of the petrol was introduced, He was issued with extra petrol to enable him to continue service to both the Gardai, Southern Heath Board and the public.

Sick Call

Another story he recalls is the day he received a call from the local priest to drive him to a sick call. They were to call to a house in the Southern Glen area where one of the children was ill with meningitis.

As Jerry was unfamiliar with the area they asked a local boy to show them the way and they explained to him that they were visiting the house for a sick call.

When they had finished with their visit, they waited for the young helpful boy to sit in again to which he refused they asked him again and he refused claiming he "didn't want to catch the disease". He then proceeded to run after the car all the ways down the road, until he reached his home. according to Jerry "He was so fit he could have run for Ireland"

Jerry explains that this particular story depicts the fear the people of that time towards illness.

Many stories could be told about Jerry's hackney days fond memories relived and many a laugh could be shared. Speaking to many most recalled similar type tales however one close friend of Jerry's had a few extra.

One he told was the night that Jerry was taking a car load to a local dance as they drove on trying to make time, someone remarked that the cat seemed to be travelling funny, "Maybe it was a puncture" "One of the passengers questioned Jerry

The passengers kept asking Jerry, what was wrong so to relax them

he decided to stop the car and check the tyres. He proceeded around the car inspecting each Tyre, Then he calmly cat in and started up the car

As he looked back at his passengers he was questioned once again about the suspected puncture

Jerry turned around & in his calm and convincing tone answered his concerned patrons with the comment "Its OK.....its only a little air coming out of one of the wheels and then he continued to drive on to their destination.

Sean also had the story about the time Jerry picked up a passenger who spoke the whole journey about the books he had read and how educated he was. He went on to ask Jerry what book he had read recently to which Jerry answered without hesitation. "The Far East"

An additional story told by Sean was the night that Jerry was again travelling to Ballyjourney. He had just fitted new v8 tyres to the car and they had been working out perfectly.

However as the people started to fill in to the car, (and Jerry was overloaded again) the back mud guard started rubbing against the big wheel, everytime they took a turn.

Nobody let alone Jerry suspected anything was wrong until one of the passengers ("Lisa Dans") coat started to take fire from the heat of the tyres rubbing of it. this was one journey Jerry would prefer to forget !!!!!!!

Finally I would like to say to Jerry or Dada as we know him, "Is that we all love listening to your stories and we hope we will recall many more in the future with you."

The Lourdes Grotto at Rossmore, Inchigeela, Co. Cork

About September, 1943, John O'Leary, Rossmore, asked Dermot Kelleher to paint in colour, an 18" white statue of Our Lady, which he had. (Dermot had previously painted the statues in the church yard in colour).

While Dermot was painting the statue, John told him that his daughter, Lena, had said on a number of occasions that the stream, and waterfall, at Rossmore, would be a nice place for a statue of the Blessed Virgin.

On a fine Sunday evening, at the end of May, 1944, Dermot and Connie O'Leary went for a walk out the Macroom Road. When they reached the stream at Rossmore Dermot told Connie what John O'Leary had said the previous year, and they agreed it was a suitable place for a 'Lourdes Grotto'.

Connie said "Come on up, and we will ask John Oldham for permission.

When asked, John Oldham said "Take as much land as you want there".

They then called to John O'Leary, and told him they would erect the Grotto at the stream. He gave them the first £2.00 towards the cost, and the next door neighbour, Jeremiah O'Leary, gave £2.00 also.

The Parish Priest and Curate had no objection, though the Curate, Fr. O'Driscoll, suggested they should put the Grotto at Keimeens.



Grotto at Rossmore 1943

Contributions of £1 .00 each were received from 25 persons, including Donnchadh O Leary, N.T., J. O'Sullivan, (Hotel), Cors. Creedon, (Hotel), William Kelleher, Denis J. O'Leary, Agnes McSweeney, N.T., May Twohig, N.T., Finbar O'Leary, Paddy Casey, Seamus O'Leary, N.T., John Creedon, Dan Cotter, Sergeant Smyth, Mrs. Ronan (Ballingeary), Dan Jack O'Sullivan, Andrew Brophy, Eugene Corcoran, and a number of others.

Dermot and Connie purchased the statues from Mr. Bernardi, Paul St., Cork, for £27-10-0 (£27.50), and Timmy Johnny (O'Sullivan) brought them out in his lorry, on top of a load of pollard, with Dermot sitting up on the pollard also.

Danny Sullivan, the mason, was engaged to erect them, to lay out the ground plant some trees and

shrubs, and erect a wooden paling and gate in front. The final cost was £37.00, with Connie and Dermot putting in the balance.

Two years later, they asked the C.Y.M.S. committee to take on the care of Grotto, and it was the C.Y.M.S. who got the concrete railings, and iron gate erected and a box put there for contributions towards the upkeep.

In 1954, the new P.P., Fr O'Neill, requested, and took possession of the Key, saying "That Grotto out in Rossmore, was blessed by the Bishop, and any money put into the box there, should go into parish funds."

Down the years, the Grotto has become a place of devotion to Our Lady, and in the late 1980s a number of apparitions were reported there.

Carrignacurra Castle - A Description

Carrignacurra Castle is built on a rock outcrop on the south bank of the River Lee about one mile east of Inchigeelagh. It stands four storeys high and has the appearance of a square tower house. However, it is not a regular rectangle as the walls are of different lengths, (north wall 37ft, south wall 38ft, east wall 27ft, west wall 25ft). Only two corners are square, the NE and the SW. The NW corner is obtuse while the SE is acute, possibly to aid defence of the castle, as a "redan" (a hollow triangular projection like a buttress) built on the SE corner, enabled the occupants within to guard the south and east walls; on the NW corner a "bartizan" (a rectangular projection from the wall at high level for a short way either side of the corner) allowed the occupants to protect the north and west walls. Further protection was provided on the east wall by a "machicoulis" (a small square projection from the wall at high level) from which missiles could be dropped onto anyone attacking the entrance doorway below. There were also battlements (now missing) on top of the walls, which stand about 50ft high from the ground floor level (the ground drops away on the north and west faces). The walls have a base batter (an outward splay at the bottom) which, as well as giving greater strength to the walls, enabled missiles dropped from the battlements to bounce off the wall onto the attackers. The stones at the base of all four corners have been knocked out (probably in an attempt to weaken the structure so it would fall). A gable, 15ft high, stands on the east wall (the west gable having fallen), and a large rectangular chimney stack, 15ft high, stands west of centre of the north wall. . The castle is entered at ground level by a doorway (entirely robbed of its stone surround) in the east wall. The lobby gives access to a small guard room on the left and a main chamber straight on (approx

23ft 6in x 17ft) which has a small narrow window in the west wall. This ground floor chamber would probably have been used for stores or even to house livestock. On the right of the lobby is a spiral staircase, which gives access to the first, second and third floors.



Over the entrance lobby is a guard room (approx 12ft x 5ft 6in) with a "murder hole" in the floor through which a defender could fire missiles at anyone who had forced entry through the main door. In the east wall is a small angled window (surrounds missing) to enable a defender to fire on anyone attacking the east side of the redan, access to which is gained from this guard room through a short passage. Inside this small wedge shaped space are three narrow slit windows ("gun loops"), one covering the south wall, one the east wall and one in the point of the spur. Adjacent to the guard room doorway is the doorway to the main chamber (23ff 6in x 17ff). This would have had a timber floor (now missing) supported by four large corbels in the north and south walls. There are four narrow windows, one in the centre of the north wall, one in the centre of the

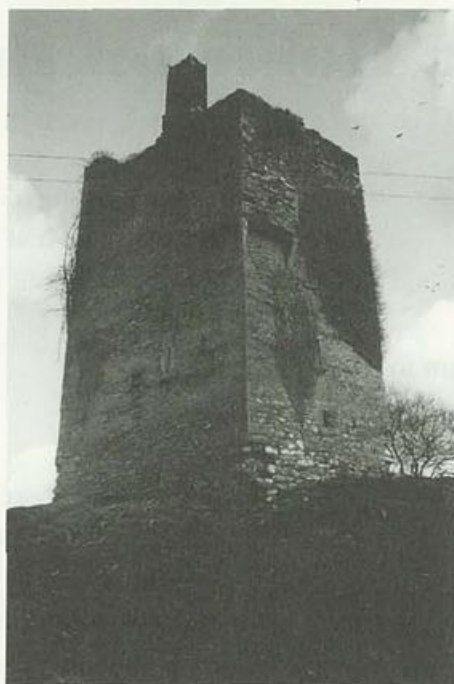
west wall, one at the west end of the south wall, and one (surrounds missing) at the east end of the south wall set at an angle to enable a defender to protect the south wall of the redan. This first floor chamber would probably have been a store room and/or living area for the family entourage.

Above is the second floor main chamber (23ft 6in x 17ft), which again would have had a timber floor supported by corbels. This room has a pointed vault ceiling and the impression left in the mortar by the wicker work used to form the vault can clearly be seen. The room has only one narrow window in the west wall, and a wall cupboard. On the north wall is a fireplace, but much of it is missing and only the side jambs remain. This second floor chamber would probably have been the kitchen and/or living area for the family entourage. There is some evidence that there may be a secret chamber within the east wall. Next to the doorway to the main chamber is another doorway to a passage set within the thickness of the north wall. Part way along on the right is the "garderobe" (toilet) followed by seven steps going up to a short passage that leads into the bartizan. There is a small window in the north wall over these steps, which are situated behind the fireplace (the back of which is missing). In this draughty room, which projects over the NW corner of the castle, there are five gun loops in the walls and two long openings in the floor, which enable the north and west walls, including the corner, to be defended.

In the main third floor chamber (29ft x 15ft 6in) the floor is solid, being over the vaulted ceiling below, but any finish of stone or wood is missing. There are three windows, a narrow one to the east end of the south wall; the second, at the west end of the south wall, was probably a wider window but is missing along with much of the

surround, and it has a recess underneath with a stone seat on each side. The third window is on the north wall to the west end, and is in the same condition as the one on the opposite but without the seats. In the centre of the north wall is a fireplace. The lintel and some of the wall above are missing, as is the left-hand side, revealing the flue from the fireplace on the second floor. In the west wall are two small cupboards and in the east wall one small cupboard and a large recess that was possibly a large cupboard. To the right of the fireplace on the north wall is a short passage leading to a "slop stone" (an opening in the wall for disposing of dirty water). To the right of this a doorway leads up a flight of stairs to the NE corner providing access to the attic room and the wall walk (battlements). This third floor chamber would have been the principal living room of the chief and his family.

Not much remains of the attic room. The doorway is directly over the third floor doorway. Ten holes in the north and south walls would



have housed wooden beams to carry the floor. The east gable still stands and has a small window; the west gable has gone but there is evidence in the form of two side jambs of there having been a fireplace on this wall. On the south side of the chimney stack on the north wall are the remains of some roof stones indicating a gable roof

coming off at a right angle to the main gable roof running west to east. It may have been covered in stone slates or thatch. This attic room would probably have been the sleeping quarters for the chief and his family. Access to the "alure" (wall walk) is via a doorway at the top of the stairs on the NE corner. This opens onto the north wall facing west and provides an almost unobstructed route around the top of the walls, as the gable ends and chimney stack rise on the inner side of the walls. The walkway proceeds anti-clockwise around the walls and on reaching the centre of the east wall it rises (approx 4ft) up steps to a turret above the stairs in the NE corner. The parapet walls, usually crenellated, are missing.

Several features within the construction indicate that the castle was built in the 16th century; these are the redan, gun loops and built-in fireplaces.

Rodney O'Leary
Bristol
September 1996

No E.U. Grant Aid Here

Tom O'Leary, Clonakilty

Poor Law Valuations were a contentious issue with the hard pressed tenant farmer of the 19th century. The following document, dated March 20th 1871, written by Edward Spring, makes an interesting plea for a more realistic and perhaps more humane valuation on behalf of one Michael Sullivan. No address is given but he is quite obviously Spring's tenant. Spring writes from "Inchigeela Glebe" East of the village, to "- Scanlon Esq".

The style and language are awkward but typical of the period. A transcript of the text follows:

"Inchigeela Glebe. March 20 / 71

Dear Sir-

Bearer Michael Sullivan is tenant of mine here. He is dissatisfied with his Poor Law Valuation and wishes that you, if you can, should rectify matters for him. He tells me his present valuation is a mere private arrangement he was party to about eight years before

I came here. I of course, was not party to it, but I think him valued high, as other places go.

The last time I had the pleasure of seeing you here, your visit I believe had reference to merely revising between myself and another to whom I had let a short time before. Should you come out this time, I shall be glad to see you, and if you can let me know in time beforehand, I will not be out of the way. Since you were here, I have made other lettings, which need your attention.

Very faithfully yours,
Edward Spring

Scanlan Esq"

The matter of revaluation may have been a matter of basic survival for Michael Sullivan, his family and the other unnamed "lettings", but no account of whether his valuation was reduced survives

My Old Home on the Hill

(The air of "The Bantry Lament")

Verse 1.

I have travelled far neath a foreign star and
 many an ocean wide.
 Far from the home where I used to roam in
 blissful youth's delight,
 But where ever I stray in this world today
 fond memories linger still,
 As I sigh tonight for the turf fire bright in
 my old home on the hill.

Verse 2.

Around those hills I often strayed in the days
 long long ago.
 To hear the mill and the anvils ring when
 the gentle breeze did blow.
 Or gaze way o'er to old Rossmore, Gurteen
 and sweet Derryleigh,
 Or to see the cloud rise over Dous and the
 slopes of Keamaneigh.

Verse 3.

The mass rock too I could plainly view in
 the glen way down below,
 Where in bygone times no bells did chime
 in fear of a foreign foe.
 There mass was celebrated to the Lord
 they would give praise,
 As they knelt in prayer in the morning air
 in dark and penal days.

Verse 4.

With the bar and net and our dogs all set a hunting
 we would go.
 By Delaney's Lake the hare would break
 where mountain brush did grow.
 Through Barr-na-Mo where wild winds blow

he'd vanish o'er the nil.

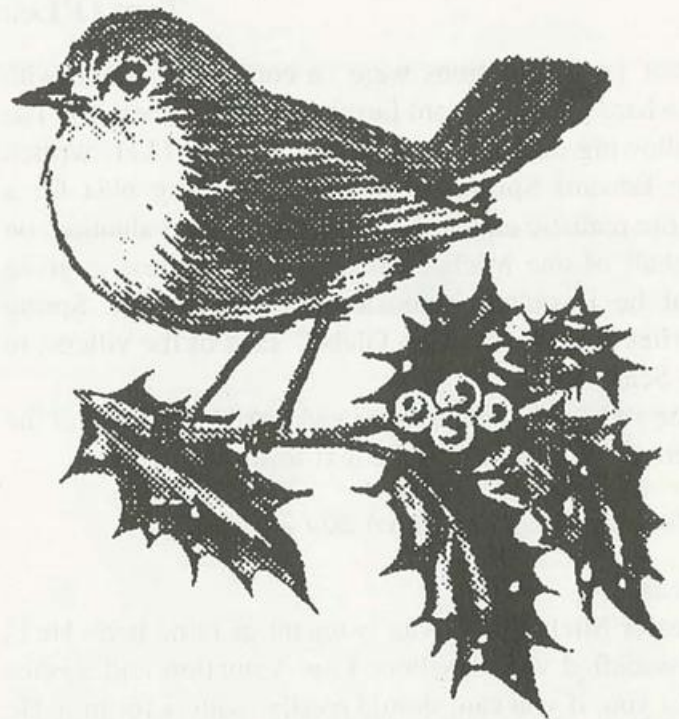
There we'd rest a while in the evening time
 near my old home on the hill.

Verse 5.

No more I'll see the hill and stream where
 grouse and wood cock nest.
 My parents they have passed away to reap
 their eternal rest.
 No children play in the long summer's day,
 the swinging rope now still.
 O tonight no light and no fire burns bright
 in my old home on the hill.

* * * * *

Written by: Eddie Noonan.



The Lakes Of Lough Allua

(pronounced A-lu)

Verse 1

Farewell to lovely Lough Allua where once
I used to stray,
To cast a line when youth was mine all on
a Summers Day,
The birds sang sweet as if to greet that lake
with its waters blue,
And echoed through the mountains round
the Lakes Lough Allua.

Verse 2

On those green banks I often sat in times that
long have past,
With lads I knew and lassies too we played
upon the grass,
The curlews cry neath a cloudless sky now
miles away from you,
Yet recollection brings me back to the lakes
of Lough Allua.

Verse 3

When on my pillow I recline in a
foreign land to rest,
The thoughts of Lough Allu's green banks
still throb within my breast,
With our boat we rowed round the old cranog
the wild duck nests to see,
As the golden glow of the setting sun
declined o'er Keimaneigh.

Verse 4

The village school that I once knew it still
appears in view,
As beautiful and clear to me as when
I bid adieu,
The old sawmill and the anvils ring in dreams
I hear it still,
As I made my way without a care to my home
upon the hill.

Verse 5

These last few lines, I now conclude and
bid a long farewell,
May heavens beams shine bright on you
that on those banks do dwell,
May happiness forever reign and God's
own blessing too,
When first I drew the breath of life by
the Lakes of Lough Allua.

Written By: Eddie Noonan



Jim Kearney, Cooleen

(air of "The Bould Tady Quill")

Verse 1

Come and sit by the fire and keep yourself warm
and a story that's true I will tell it to you.
Of a man who'll converse in fine conversation and
has an old gra for the old mountain-dew.
He has travelled this country to brew his fine whiskey
from the banks of the Lee to the shores
of Dunchaoin.
The broad plains of Limerick and the
high hills of Wicklow his name I will tell you
Jim Kearney, Cooleen.

Verse 2

With his dog and his gun like a hare he would
run and the woodcock and pheasant would
fall by the score.
O'er mountain and valley the grey deer
would rally as the mighty Jim Kearney
would leave a loud roar.
From the lakes of Teergay, Kenmare and Killarney
to the high and bleak hills
over lonely Gougane.
Sure he is no stranger to famed Inchigeela,
Mushera Mountain or sweet Leaca-Bawn

Verse 3

All over this land with a trowel in his hand some
high and fine houses he has built
from the ground.
From the coast of West Cork to the streets of
Kanturk his work of renown can
be seen all around
Like trades-men of old sure he could uphold
with the greatest stone mason you ever did see
No master designer of the highest degree
could baffle this expert who lives by the Lee

Verse 4

Now many's the time when he in his prime
would dance and sing songs from
dark until dawn.

With a voice so enchanting like a lark in the morning,
the sweet notes would ring out
from here to Grianan.
His eyes they would glow as the verses would
flow with the Pride of Black Water or the
Maid Of Gurteen
And of all the great singers and bards of this
Island there is none can compare with
Jim Kearney, Cooleen.

Verse 5

Many years have now passed since the days
of his youth with the crack and ghost
stories I will never forget.
Of times so undaunting with neighbours
most charming and Kearney's
hot punch was the finest you'd get.
And now to conclude and finish my story
of a man who's well known for
his famous *poiteen*
May his songs never die or his glass never
dry so here's a long life to
Jim Kearney, Cooleen.

Written By: Eddie Noonan



The Groves of Kilmore

Verse 1

The green fields are gleaming neath the
sun's golden rays,
As my thoughts wander back o'er the
wild rolling waves,
Back o'er the foam to a far distant shore,
To the place of my childhood by the
groves of Kilmore.

Verse 2

In my young days I remember before
I did roam,
We fished in the river that flowed near
my home,
We played in the valley where the wild rose
did grow,
As we rambled around by the groves of Kilmore.

Verse 3

By the old mill I strolled with my
blue eye'd cailin,
Where we told our love stories as we walked
by the stream,
The soft beam of moonlight did shine through
her hair,
O'er shadowed by mountains in the clear
summer air.

Verse 4

When long days were over and winter
drew nigh,
The snow flakes would fall from a dark
and grey sky,
To the tone of sweet music we danced round
the floor,
In my home far away by the groves of Kilmore.

Verse 5

I still see the old folk by the fire
burning bright,
And the delph on the dresser it glowing
in the light,
They talk of old times and of
days long ago,
As they sit in the corner that
I used to know.

Verse 6

Though far away over the western sea,
My loved one is calling and waiting for me,
Oh my heart's in your mountains and the
one I adore,
I'll return one day to the groves of Kilmore.

Written by Eddie Noonan



Creedons from Brockton, Massachusetts at the Creedon Gathering in Inchigeela, 1998

Scoil na mBuachaillí 1954



Back Row: Left to Right - Finbarr Moyrighan, Dán Linn, Donal Lucey, Derryvaleen; Pádraig Hyde, Sreathán Mór; Diarmuid Ó'Mahony, Carrignadourra; Jerry Cronin, Goirtín na Coille; Florrie Kelleher, Aharas;

Seamus Lucey, Derryvaleen; Conchur Hyde; Denis McCarthy, Carrignadoura; Finbarr Creed, Goirtín na Coille; Finbarr O'Leary, Currally; Donncha O'Laoire, Gabhr.

Third Row: Left to Right - Donncha M. O'Luasaigh, Drom an Aillig; Eoin Riordan; Sean Twomey; Tírin Dúbh; John Kelleher, Aharas; Val Vaughan, Currally; Dan Dineen, Aharas; Donal Healy, Goirtín na Coille; Sean Hyde, Sreathán Mór; Willie Twomey, Leaca Bán; Johnny Twomey, Leaca Bán.

Sitting: Left to right - Diarmuid Kelleher, Aharas; Amhlaoibh Ó Luasaigh, Drom an Aillig; Paddy McCarthy, Carrignadoura; Con Cotter, Currally; Jerry O'Leary, Inchinossig; Mrs Bridget O'Mahony; Mr. Mathias Ó Luasaigh; Sean Riordan, Derryvaleen; Michael Corkery; Jerry Corkery.

On Ground: Left to right - Flann Keane; Peadar J. P. Cronin, An Choill Mhór; Denis J. P. Cronin, An Choill Mhór; Christy O'Leary, Inchinossig; Paudie Kelleher, Aharas; Diarmuid Ó Mordha; Donal Cronin, Bawnatoumple.