

# All Roads Lead to Tallaght

Patrick Healy

Ireland, which says that his 9000  
flowers died in one week on Sean Mh  
ta Edair, 'whence Taimhleacht muin  
rthallow.'

In the 10<sup>th</sup> century Bormac's Glossar  
word is explained as a plague that  
ts off the people during which they  
ed to go into the great plains that  
ight be in one place, because of the  
vrial in these plains by those who  
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e-historic interments mainly of the  
ony age, ... suggesting  
ss grave has so far been recorded



South Dublin Libraries



# All Roads Lead to Tallaght

by

PATRICK HEALY

South Dublin Libraries — June 2004

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

ORIGINAL TEXT CIRCA 1985

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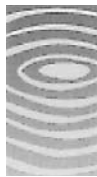
The Stone Logo represents a convergence of the social, economic and cultural growth of South Dublin County. It also represents the rich geography and heritage of the area.



The Crest or Coat of Arms of South Dublin County reflects the ancient history of the area, its geographic features and the work of the Council.

The motto "Ag seo ár gCúram – This we hold in Trust" is an admonition to value, to preserve and to develop the economic, social, environmental, cultural and heritage assets of the area.

**The Heritage Council**



**An Chomhairle Oidhreachta**

This publication has received support from the Heritage Council under the 2004 Publications Grant Scheme.



## *Introduction*

by

MAYOR MÁIRE ARDAGH

**P**ATRICK (Paddy) Healy who died on 11th December 2000 was a noted field archaeologist whose name was and is well known to everyone interested in the history and antiquities of Dublin and its hinterland. South Dublin County Council through the Local Studies Section of the County Library is extremely grateful to have been granted access by Patrick's brother Peter to many of his unpublished manuscript local histories of the greater Dublin area.

A founder member of Tallaght Historical Society, his quietness and humility was so great that it was only after his death, through reading his obituary notices, that members of the Society became fully aware of the calibre and range of his work as an archaeologist.

This year as we celebrate the first ten years work of South Dublin County Council, it is fitting that we should consider the rich history and heritage that is ours. This appositely titled book *All Roads Lead to Tallaght* is hopefully the first of a number of books based on the author's writings that will help to acquaint us or reacquaint us with aspects of our history and heritage. It is fitting that this, the first of these books concerns an area very dear to him that is steeped in history.

We are most grateful to the late Patrick Healy for the impressive body of work he has left us as exemplified in this book. We are indebted to Peter Healy who in the spirit of his brother, Patrick was so willingly to share this monumental work with us.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Máire Ardagh". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the Irish phrase.

May 2004

Mayor of South Dublin County

## *Acknowledgements*

**T**HIS book could not have been published without the assistance of a number of people. The greatest debt is certainly due to the late Patrick Healy for his meticulous research, informative writings and his important collection of slides and photographs which have formed this book.

Peter Healy has been most generous in permitting the use of his brother's writings, photographs and slides. This access was graciously facilitated and supported by a number of people most notably Michael Fewer and Con Manning. Michael Fewer also kindly permitted the use of some of his images in the book.

The picture of Patrick Healy kindly supplied by his brother Peter was taken by Una McDermott.

The professional design and layout of the book is due to John McAleer.

Thanks to the Irish Architectural Archive for permission to reproduce images in this book including one supplied to the Archive by Patrick Healy himself. Ann O'Clery kindly supplied pictures of the Glebe House, St. Maelruains. Newcomen's Survey of Tallaght in 1654 is reproduced by kind permission of the Representative Church Body Library. Brian MacCormaic, Tomás Maher, David Cotter, Liam Roche, Con Connor and Terenure College also kindly supplied images for use in the book.

Gill & Macmillan generously gave permission to reproduce images from *The Neighbourhood of Dublin* by Weston St. John Joyce and from *Malachi Horan Remembers*.

Rob Goodbody and The Irish Times kindly permitted the reproduction of *Paddy Healy — An Appreciation*.

The project was assisted by generous funding from the Heritage Council under the 2004 Publications Grant Scheme.

Fr. Hugh Fenning, Dominican Archivist assisted in providing details of Dominican Publications which Patrick Healy had used in his research and also gave permission to include images taken by Patrick Healy from these publications in this book. Thanks also to Fr. Chris O'Doherty, Missionaries of Africa for supplying a photograph of the gates of Cypress Grove for use in this book.

Blackrock Education Centre, formerly Blackrock Teachers' Centre has kindly given permission to use images from a filmstrip produced from photographs taken by Patrick Healy, by the late Leo Swan and by Michael Broderick.

Thanks to the Royal Irish Academy for permission to reproduce material from their collections in the book and to Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Librarian of the Royal Irish Academy for her assistance. Patrick Kelly assisted with references to articles from the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*.

Thanks to the trustees of the National Library of Ireland for permission to reproduce prints from their collections and to Joanna Finegan, curator of Prints and Drawings for her assistance.

Around 1985, Tallaght Historical Society planned to publish a history of Tallaght written by Patrick Healy. Four chapters of the manuscript which forms this book were originally typed by Patricia Moran of Tallaght Historical Society for the author. The work was not published at that stage. Tallaght Historical Society in the persons of Patricia Moran, Patricia O'Neill, Mary McNally and Peggy Quinn generously promoted the publication of this book. Thanks to them, the idea of publishing this book was kept alive. Tallaght Historical Society also kindly permitted the use of a number of images in this book.

If anyone's name has unwittingly been omitted, please accept an apology and a big thank you for your assistance.

*Thank you all — Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir*



## *Paddy Healy — An Appreciation*

**P**ADDY Healy, archaeologist, local historian and friend, has died after a long life devoted to Ireland's past. Through his work on archaeological excavations in Dublin city and elsewhere, his meticulous collection of information, his support of various societies and his encouragement to younger generations, his influence has been widespread and invaluable.

Born in Canada in 1916 of Irish emigrant parents, Paddy moved with his family to Dublin at the age of five. After schooling in Haddington Road and Marino, he studied building construction in Bolton Street College, where his subjects included land surveying and technical drawing; both were to prove important in his later career. After graduation he worked as a silkscreen printer in Modern Display Artists while he took night classes under Sean Keating at the National College of Art.

During the Emergency Paddy served in the Army, then worked as a painter and decorator for a time. An important change came in 1949 when he joined the staff of the Land Commission as a surveyor. After eight years he moved to the Forestry Division, again as a surveyor.

In 1952 he began to attend Professor Seán P. Ó Riordáin's lectures in archaeology in University College Dublin as an occasional student. He joined the UCD Archaeological Society, becoming its vice-president, and his contact with the college led him to work as part of Prof. Ó Riordáin's team on the excavation of the Rath of the Synods at Tara during his annual holidays. In 1967 he joined Breandán Ó Riordáin's team on the second excavation at High Street in Dublin. At this stage Paddy made a major decision to abandon the security of his job with the Forestry Division to work full-time on archaeological excavations. He went on to work on excavations at Winetavern Street in 1969, Christchurch Place between 1972 and 1979, and from 1976 in Fishamble Street.

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

When the work on the Wood Quay site became controversial, Paddy stood firmly on the side of archaeology. His quiet but determined manner was a great source of encouragement to his colleagues as he sat in on the site, and he was the author of a poem written about the controversy and sold to raise funds for the campaign.

During the 1970s Paddy Healy acted as a contract archaeologist providing advice and working on excavations. Most importantly, he provided lists of monuments and sites of archaeological interest in Co. Dublin in the mid-1970s to assist in the preparation of the county development plan and the action area plans which preceded the development of the western new towns of Tallaght, Lucan/Clondalkin and Blanchardstown.

Over the years he wrote papers and articles for a variety of publications, including several in which he described for the first time monuments and artefacts which he had discovered. Some of these were early grave slabs from the Rathdown area of south Dublin and north Wicklow and these became the topic of his MA thesis presented to NUI Galway under the supervision of Professor Etienne Rynne.

Paddy, in turn, was the subject of a publication when 29 colleagues and friends contributed papers in his honour for publication in a book, *Dublin and Beyond the Pale*, edited by Con Manning.

Among the organisations to benefit greatly from his membership were the Old Dublin Society, the Royal Society of Antiquaries, the Dublin Archaeological Society, Friends of Medieval Dublin, the Irish Architectural Archive and the Rathmichael Historical Society.

Paddy Healy was laid to rest on December 11th last in the cemetery at Mount Venus in the Dublin Mountains, close to historical and archaeological sites that he had investigated and overlooking the city which he had loved so much.

**R.G.**

*Irish Times Monday 21st of January 2001*

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CHAPTER I

*The Road to Tallaght*

**I**N former times the main road to Tallaght was by Dolphin's Barn, Crumlin, and Drimnagh, and thence by the Greenhills Road and Kilnamanagh. Although there appears to have been a passage of some sort along the Dodder, the main road through Templeogue and Balrothery, as we know it, was not constructed until the end of the 18th century. (see *map, page 10*). At that time also, no bridge existed on the Dodder higher up than Rathfarnham. The village of Templeogue was in a very isolated situation as the estates of Terenure and Bushy Park lay between it and the modern Terenure crossroads. The construction of the long and straight Templeogue Road through these estates in 1801 and the extension through Balrothery to Tallaght about the same time opened up a much more direct route to Tallaght village. This was at first a turnpike road with a gate near the Terenure end, the toll house being the tall building on the left hand side, built at an angle to the road so as to provide a view in both directions. This house was afterwards a police barracks and later served as a forge. To the left of Templeogue Road is a fine public park, part of the estate of Bushy Park, while on the right are lands belonging to Terenure College, run by the Carmelite Order.



The former toll-house on Templeogue Road, Terenure was built at an angle to the road so as to provide a view in both directions.

## **Terenure College and Bushy Park**

The lands of Terenure were granted to Hugo Barnewall in 1215 by King John. This family continued to reside here down to 1652 when their lands were confiscated by Cromwell and leased to Major Elliott. Terenure then contained a castle and six dwellings, one of which was a mill. The population was twenty. After the restoration Charles II granted Terenure, Kimmage and the Broads to Richard Talbot, Earl of Tyrconnel. In 1671 Major Joseph Deane, an officer in Cromwell's army, purchased these lands from Talbot for £4,000. He converted the castle into a mansion and his family held the property down to 1789 when much of the lands were sold to Abraham Wilkinson.

The Shaws were descended from William Shaw, a captain in King William's army, who fought at the Battle of the Boyne, and was granted lands in the counties Kilkenny and Cork. Robert Shaw came to Dublin and in 1785 leased Terenure House from Joseph Deane.



Petrie's drawing of Terenure House in 1829

Two years later Shaw rebuilt part of the house, now the front portion of Terenure College. The other great house, on the opposite side of the road, is Bushy Park. It was built by Arthur Bushe of Dangan, County Kilkenny, prior to 1700, and was at first named Bushe's House. It passed through

several owners and was purchased in 1772 by John Hobson who changed the name to Bushy Park. In 1791 this estate was purchased by Abraham Wilkinson who had already acquired much of the Terenure Estate. He added almost 100 acres to the residence and presented it along with £10,000 to his only child Maria on her marriage to Robert Shaw Jr. in 1796. The same year, on the death of his father, Shaw came into possession also of Terenure House. This he sold, about 1806 to Frederick Bourne, the proprietor of a stage coach business. Robert Shaw was created a baronet in 1821. The Bournes occupied Terenure House down to 1857 and during this period the estate was renowned for the magnificent landscaping and planting of the grounds and the extent and content of the glasshouses. Furthermore, the estate was thrown open to the public at the weekends.

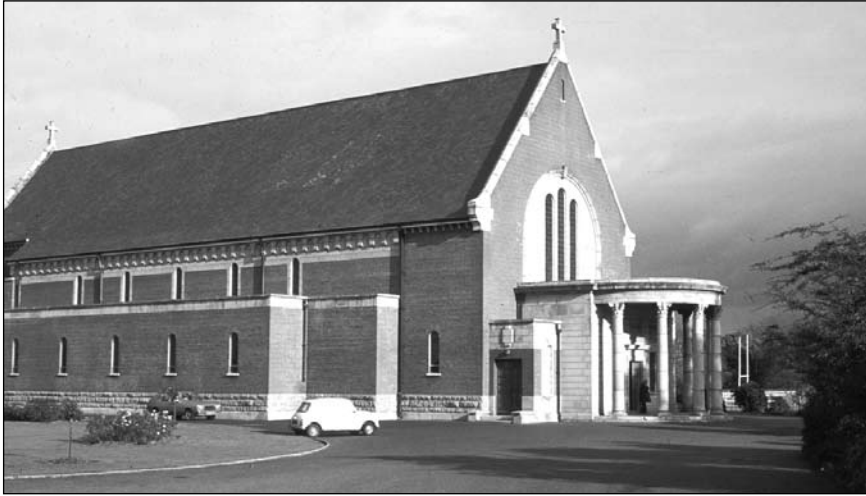
In 1860, the property was purchased by the Carmelite Order and opened as a secondary school for boys. From time to time extensions have been added and a fine church was built in 1958.



Aerial view of Terenure College. Terenure House is incorporated into the complex and can be seen towards the centre of the picture. Terenure College Church is to the right.

*Courtesy of Terenure College*

The Shaws continued to occupy Bushy Park. Sir Robert, the 4th Baronet died in 1895, and his son Frederick, who served in the British Army, died in 1927. His heir, Robert, who lived in Kenya, also served in the British Army throughout the two world wars. His sister, Mary Shaw, lived in Bushy Park down to 1951 when the estate was sold to the Corporation.



Terenure College Church was built in 1958 — *Patrick Healy*

Two years later the old house and part of the lands were purchased by the Order, Religious of Christian Education, and opened as a day secondary school for girls. A part of the estate was developed for housing and the remainder converted into a public park. This, fortunately, included the wooded area along the Dodder with its ponds and hexagonal shell house, as well as open areas for sports fields.



Bushy Park House in 1981 — *Courtesy of Michael Fewer*





Shell House Bushy Park — *Patrick Healy*

## **Fortfield**

Facing the entrance to Bushy Park House is Fortfield Road, so called from the great house named Fortfield, built in 1785 by Barry Yelverton, Viscount Avonmore. The house and grounds were decorated in a most lavish manner, regardless of expense. Yelverton died in 1805 and the estate passed through the ownership of Lord Clanmorris and Sir William McMahon from whom it was purchased in 1858 by the Rt. Hon. John Hatchell. The last of this family died in 1930 and four years later the house was demolished and the lands built on.



Fortfield House was demolished in 1934 — *Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive*

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Map of the north-eastern portion of Templeogue based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 maps of 1865.

## Hermann Goertz

Another house, a little further, on the same side, No 245 Templeogue Road, was associated with German espionage during the second world war years. The house, a modern one, was then named "Konstanz", and was owned by Mr. Stephen Held, a Dublin businessman. In April 1940 he made his way to Germany as an agent for the IRA. A month later a German officer, Dr. Hermann Goertz, arrived in Ireland by parachute, and having made contact with the IRA was placed for safety in Mr. Held's house. He was here for only a few weeks when, on 22 May, the house was raided by detectives. Goertz escaped through the back gardens and got away. In his room was found 20,000 American dollars, a German military cap and badges and documents giving details of Irish harbours and bridges, and distribution of the Defence Forces. Held was arrested and sentenced to five years in prison.



House of Mr Stephen Held, Templeogue Road in 1981 — *Patrick Healy*

remainder of the war. In September 1946 all the German internees were released, but were re-arrested the following April, for the purpose of deporting them to Germany. On May 23, when the final arrangements were made, Hermann Goertz took his own life by swallowing potassium cyanide. He was buried in Deansgrange cemetery, his coffin draped with the swastika flag.

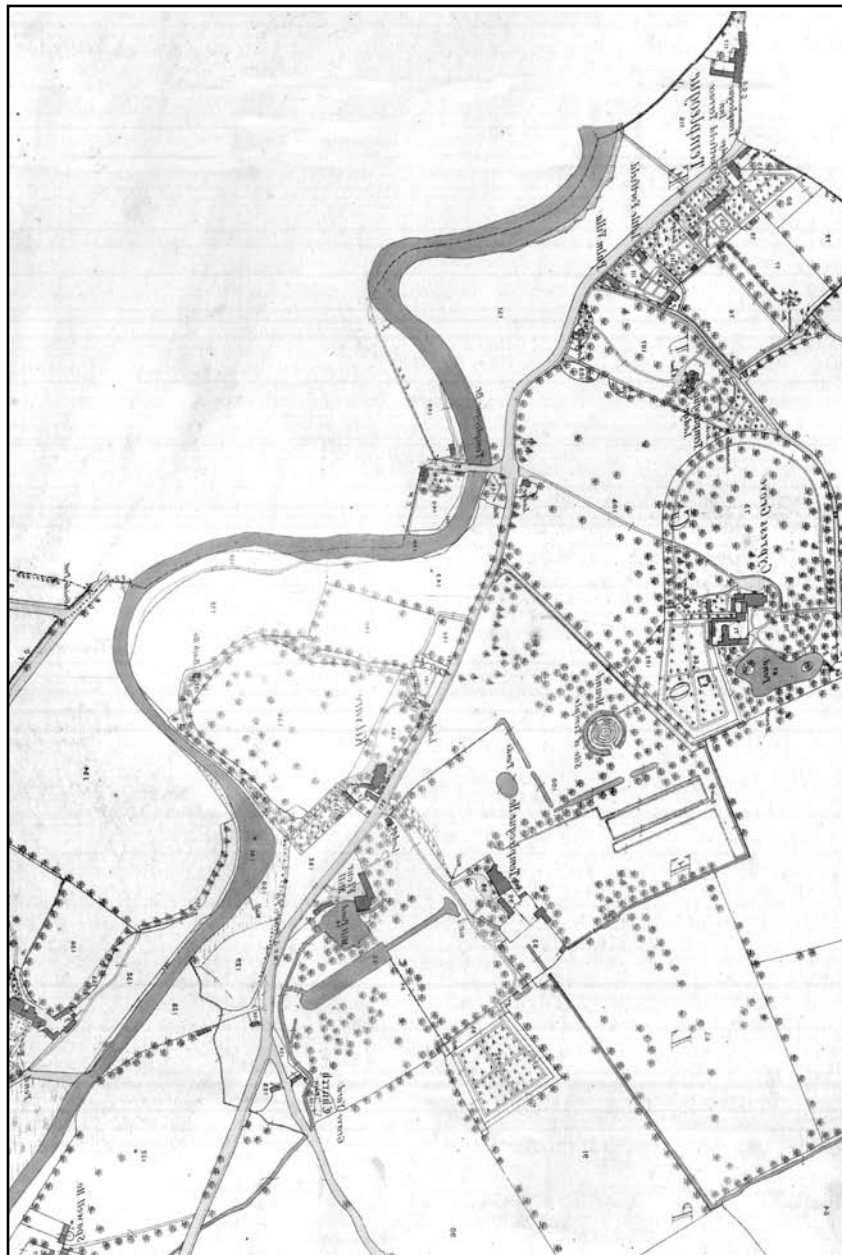
## Templeogue Village

Templeogue is mainly a centre of new houses and shops. The old village has almost disappeared, and most of the old terrace of slated cottages has been demolished, the few remaining ones being converted into workshops. Beside this terrace a passage leads down to an imaginatively laid out group of County Council houses forming a semi-circle on the bank of the Dodder. Many of the old detached houses around the village have been swept away; their extensive gardens attracting the attention of property developers. The massive entrance to Templeogue Lodge still survives, leading into a modern suburban garden. The Blessington Steam Tramway Depot formerly occupied the shopping area in front of the tennis courts.



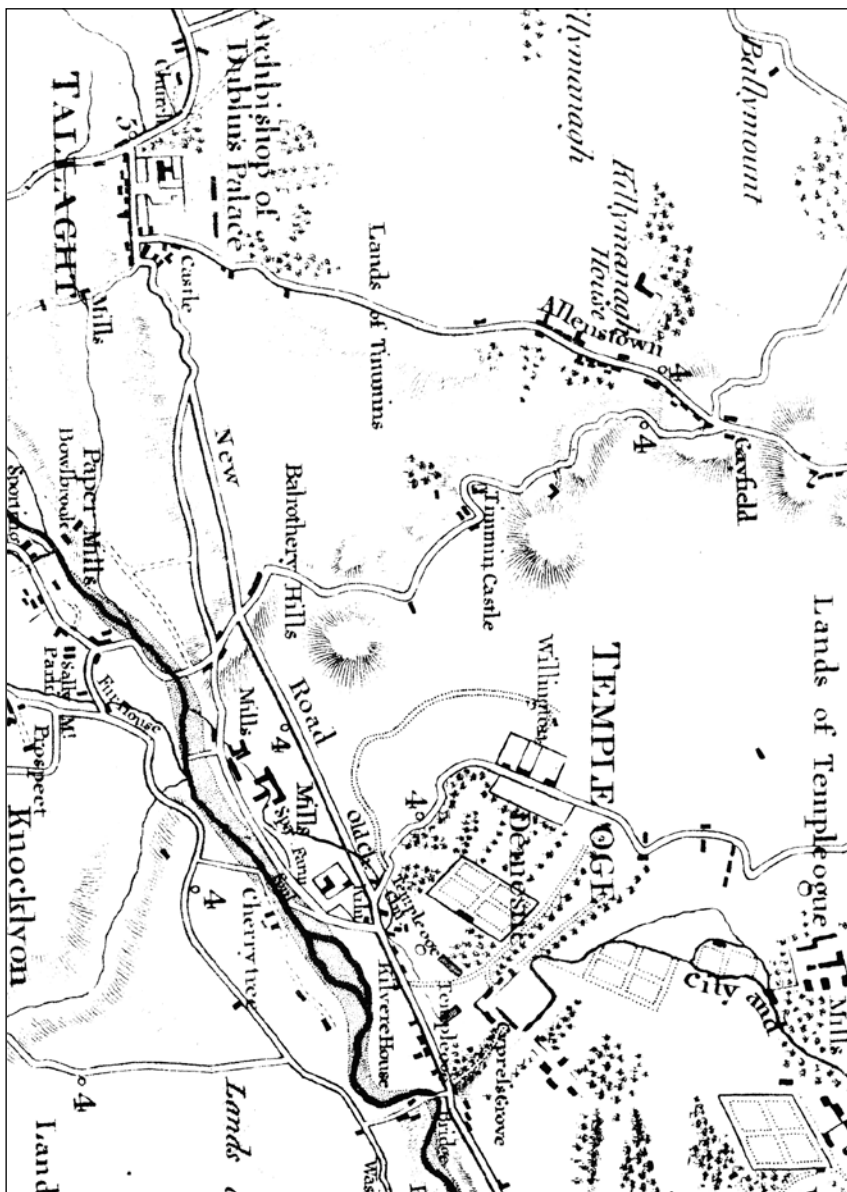
Entrance to Templeogue Lodge, Templeogue Village.

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Map of the south-western portion of Templeogue based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 maps of 1865.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Portion of Duncan's map of 1821 shows the passage along the Dodder and the New Road through Templeogue and Ballyroehy

## Templeogue Bridge

The bridge of Templeogue was first erected about the year 1800 under the direction of Mr. Birmingham of Delaford, details of which were recorded on an oval stone tablet let into the parapet. This had latterly become so weathered as to be undecipherable. The bridge was an attractive three-arched structure and below it the river passed over a series of steps which were constructed to prevent the foundations of the piers from being washed away. Before the bridge was built travellers wishing to cross the Dodder had to use a ford half a mile higher up the river.



Templeogue Bridge was erected about 1800. Before this travellers who wished to cross the Dodder used a ford half a mile higher up the river — *Patrick Healy*

On the Butterfield side of the bridge sheltered by a plantation was Bridge House, the home of the poet, Austin Clarke. After his death in 1974 there was a proposal to preserve the house and his library of 6,500 books as a memorial to the poet. Unfortunately long-term plans were in operation to demolish the house and widen the road. As a result both bridge and Bridge House were cleared away and a new bridge opened in 1985. This has been very properly named after Austin Clarke.

## Cypress Grove

Cypress Grove Road which faces the bridge occupies the site of a private avenue leading to the old house of that name. This house was built in the first half of the 18th century by a Mr. Paine, and later became the residence of Sir William Cooper, Master in Chancery and Member of Parliament who died here in 1761. It was next occupied by the Countess of Clanbrassil from whom it passed to her grandson Viscount Jocelyn. The house was later occupied by Orrs, who were merchants, Duffys who had calico print works at Ballsbridge, and Mr. Charles King. From 1908 to 1925 the house was occupied by Mr. G. H. Stepney who changed the name to "Alberta", but it was changed back to the original "Cypress Grove" by the next owner Patrick Walshe.



Gate to Cypress Grove House which stood at Templeogue Bridge.

*Courtesy of Fr. Chris O'Doherty, Missionaries of Africa.*

The house is now held by the Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) and is maintained in fine condition. Three of the original ancient cypress trees still stand east of the house and new planting along the boundary wall has appropriately been made with the same species.





Cypress Grove and lake drawn by Nora McGuinness R.H.A. on St. Patrick's Day, 1940.

## Templeogue House

The next old house on the same side is Templeogue House, now a training centre. The lands of Templeogue were occupied in the 14th century by the Harolds, but in the 16th Century passed to the Talbots who held them for about two centuries. The landowner of Templeogue had the duty of maintaining the City Watercourse which flowed within the townland for which he received a tribute of corn from mills using the water. In 1655 there was a castle here in repair, a tuck mill and a house out of repair, as well as a number of cottages. The population was forty and Theobald Harold was steward of the town. Henry Talbot was ordered to transplant to Connaught, but was later restored to his ancestral home at Templeogue.

In 1686 the lands were mortgaged for £3,000 to Sir Thomas Domville. Sir James Talbot supported the cause of James II in 1688 and was attainted, whereupon Sir Thomas Domville got possession of Templeogue. Domville erected a brick mansion on the site of the castle, incorporating the vaulted undercroft and two circular towers. It had an immense window across the front and a number of gables. His son, Sir Compton Domville,



laid out the grounds and used the City Watercourse which flowed through the garden as one of the main features. The course was in a direct line with the front door of the house and the water was made to flow over a series of steps, on each of which stood a

statue. A branch of the course was carried through a rustic Gothic arch so as to form an impressive cascade, and in one of the fields was a large earthen mound surmounted by a circular temple.



Top: Front view of Templeogue House — *Patrick Healy*.

Bottom: Rear view of Templeogue House from Ball's *History of the County Dublin*.

The Domvilles claimed the same rights over the Watercourse as was formerly held by the Talbots, and in addition to the tribute of corn from the mills received rents from the Chapter of St. Patrick's Cathedral and from the Earl of Meath who held the lands of St. Thomas Abbey. In 1738 Lord Santry, who was a nephew of Compton Domville was tried by the House of Lords for the murder of a servant at an inn during the Fair of Palmerston. The lords found him to be guilty but recommended mercy, and Sir Compton Domville used his influence by threatening that if the death sentence was carried out he would cut off the water supply from the city, which he could quite easily have done. Lord Santry was granted a reprieve and subsequently a full pardon.



Rustic Gothic Arch which stood over the Watercourse

In 1751 Sir Compton Domville inherited Santry Court, but continued to occupy Templeogue House until his death in 1768. His nephew Charles Pocklington inherited his property and took the name of Domville. He lived at Templeogue until 1780 when, the house being in a bad state of repair, he left it and moved to Santry, taking with him many ornamental features, including the circular temple. About 1820 the house was taken by a Mr. Gogerty who was permitted to cut down timber on condition that he repaired the house. This he did by demolishing it and building the existing structure into which he again incorporated the original medieval vaulted undercroft and the two circular towers. The house was occupied from 1842 to 1845 by Charles Lever, the novelist.



Doric Temple at Templeogue House drawn by Gabriel Beranger. The Temple was subsequently moved to Santry Court.

*By permission of the Royal Irish Academy © RIA*

In more recent years it was owned by the Columban Fathers and is now a training centre. The old house has been extended but the dry channel of the ancient City Watercourse still survives, in line with the front door and now planted along each side with mature trees. The rustic Gothic arch has also been preserved although it is many long years since any water cascaded down its mossy stones. The fields have been built on and the last traces of lakes and monuments cleared away. When the large mound upon which the temple stood was being removed in 1972, it was examined by an archaeologist from the National Museum in case it should prove to be an ancient burial mound, but no ancient features were found.



Charles Lever, the novelist who lived at Templeogue House from 1842 to 1845.  
from Fitzpatrick's *Life of Charles Lever*

### **Templeogue Mill**

Close to the house was Templeogue Mill the walls of which were demolished in 1985 to clear the ground for the new Tallaght bypass. A mill is mentioned here as far back as 1394 when William, heir to Robert Meones quit claim to all his right to a watermill on the waters of Doder in Taghmeloge. A mill is also shown at this location on the Down Survey map of 1647.



Templeogue Mill — *Courtesy of Tallght Historical Society*

This mill was operated by the Burkes early in the 19th century, but was subsequently burnt down and later rebuilt. It passed into the hands of J. C. Colville, and about 1879 to Wm. McConchy and Co. It had been lying derelict for many years.

### **Kilvare**

On the other side of the road to Templeogue House stands Kilvare, with its back to the road and facing towards the Dodder and the mountains. The river here forms a great loop which encloses the property on three sides. On Rocque's map of 1760 a house is shown here, but is not named. Mr. Geoffrey Foot, the brother of Lundy Foot of Orlagh, lived here in 1812. He built a massive wall along the bank of the Dodder to keep out floods. Archbishop Magee lived here next. In 1822 when the old Archbishop's Palace in Tallaght was sold, a number of fittings were said to have been transferred to Kilvare.



Kilvare in 1982 — *Courtesy of Michael Fewer*

The next occupier was John Sealy Townshend, Master in Chancery, followed by John E. Roche. In 1880 the house was taken by John McConchy, a miller, and probably a relation of the family who operated the mill opposite.

In 1922 Kilvare became Cheeverstown Convalescent Home for Little Children, and a few years ago changed to Cheeverstown House Rehabilitation Centre. The old house has been completely renovated and many workshops erected in the grounds.

### **Templeogue Ford**

Just beyond Kilvare, where there is now a roundabout, a steep byroad leads down to the Dodder. This is where the old ford crossed the river before the bridge was built in 1800. The Dodder was at that time very wide and shallow here, before the bed of the river was straightened and deepened by the Drainage Commissioners in 1846. According to W. St. J. Joyce there were stepping stones still in use down to 1912, but as the river is now flowing in a deep cutting a crossing here is no longer possible. On the other side of the river a narrow passage, now overgrown, leads out to Firhouse.



Spawell Bridge was opened in 2001 adjacent to the site of Templeogue Ford.

## Spawell

Adjoining the old ford is a tall and ancient looking house named Spawell. This name originated in the medicinal spring which was discovered in a nearby field early in the 18th century. In an advertisement which appeared in the Dublin Gazette on the 22nd April 1732 the proprietor of the Spa, Patrick Daniel of the Domville Arms and Three Tons at Templeogue, draws attention to the many amenities on offer, including a large room for ladies and gentlemen and a band of city music for dancing. The ceremonies started at 8 a.m. and continued all day. The spa was open from April to September.

A Master of Ceremonies was elected from among the gentlemen and rules drawn up to control the conduct of the visitors. Even a weekly newsletter of eight pages, called *The Templeogue Intelligencer*, was issued to keep up the interest of the fashionable patrons. For the benefit of those who were unable to attend in person the water could be supplied in the city at 2d. per bottle. This spa was frequented over a number of years down to about 1750 when the water lost its medicinal properties and no longer attracted patrons.



ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

Handcock, the historian, writing in 1876 says that the well which was then covered over was situated in a semi-circular hollow, the slopes of which had been planted with elm trees. Near the well was a great hawthorn surrounded by a stone seat, and the well itself was drained through an underground culvert into the Dodder. All these are now gone and the well is at present fitted with an automatic pump which draws up the water for use on the farm. The Domville Arms and Three Tons was then in use as a farmhouse, but cannot now be identified.



Spawell House — *Patrick Healy*

Spawell House was occupied by the Kiernans from the middle of the 19th century down to 1906 and has since been in the hands of the Kennedy family who maintain it in excellent condition. The old City Watercourse flows through the lands and passes under the road near the entrance to Spawell.



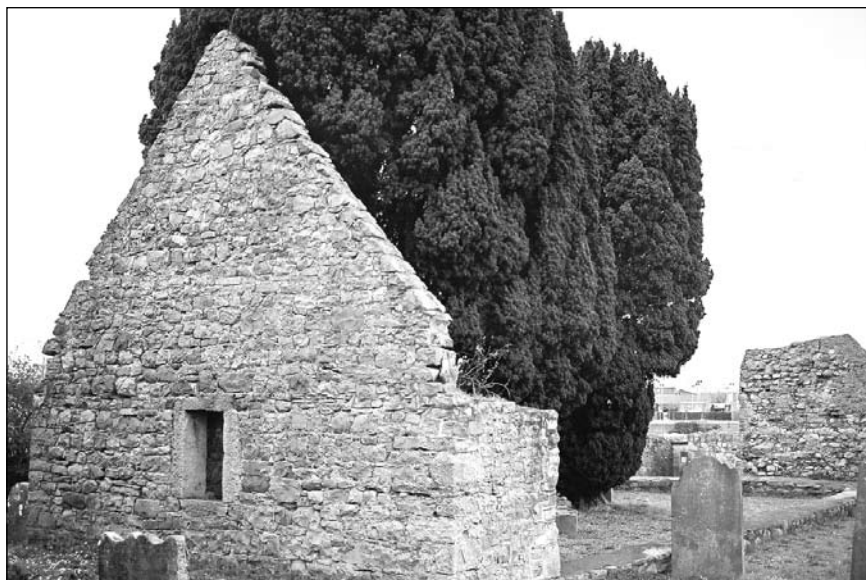
Bridge over the old City Watercourse in 1982 close to the entrance to Spawell. The remains of Templeogue Church and old burial ground are visible in the background.

*Patrick Healy*

### **Templeogue Church**

On the other side of the Spawell roundabout at the junction of Wellington Lane is the old burial ground of Templeogue containing the remains of a medieval church. This is the site of an early monastery which gave its name to the townland. A list of saints in the Book of Lecan includes Molcae tigi Molocal and in documents of the 13th century the name is written Tachmelog (St. Melog's house or church). No part of the church can be dated to the time of the original monastery but part of it may be earlier than the Norman Invasion. The church was reported in 1615 to be utterly in ruin.

The building measures externally 17.68 x 5.72 metres. It was formerly much overgrown with ivy but has been in recent years cleared of ivy and repaired by the County Council. The east gable is complete and contains a late splayed window. The north wall is about 50 cm high, uniform, and with no indication of a door opening. The south wall has a distinct kink about half way along with a buttress outside. The western end of this wall is about 3 m high. The west wall has a doorway about midway with steps



Templeogue Church



Cross incised slabs in Templeogue burial ground — *Patrick Healy*

leading up to it. This wall is about 1 metre high, but has a buttress built against it nearly 5 metres high which must have been erected before the wall fell. It is not at all certain that this doorway was original but a doorway in such a position would indicate an early date for this part of the church. There are three early cross-inscribed slabs in the burial ground, one of which is deeply sunk within the church.



Willington House

*Patrick Healy Collection, Irish Architectural Archive*

### **Wellington Lane**

Wellington Lane, or Wellington Road as it is now called, connects Templeogue with Crumlin. It is over a mile long and down to a few years ago there were only a few houses along its winding course. It has since been developed and is widened and built up on both sides. Unfortunately the old residences have disappeared in the process. Willington, which appears on Rocque's map of 1760 was at the bend in the road now occupied by St. MacDara's Community College. Orwell is also gone, but the name is retained in the streets which occupy the land. At the other end of the lane was Whitehall, also vanished, but commemorated in the name Whitehall Cross Roads.

## Bella Vista Mills

The next roundabout on the Tallaght bypass marks the site of the village of Balrothery. Here an ancient passage, Tymon Lane, linked together a number of medieval sites and crossed the Dodder by a ford below the City Weir. Adjoining were Bella Vista Mills, the uppermost on the City Watercourse. In 1719, in an Act of Parliament relating to the course they are referred to as Ashworth's new Paper Mills. Two years later Daniel Ashworth petitioned Parliament for protection for this industry.


In 1733 Thomas Slater presented a petition to the Irish House of Commons appealing for financial aid. In 1737 he again appealed and stated that he was the only white paper maker in Ireland. He had two mills at Templeogue and intended to build another one in the Dutch manner. He got £500. In 1751 he was noted as producing a greater amount of paper than any other mill in Ireland.



The engine house of Bella Vista Mills survives today — *Patrick Healy*

**A N  
A C T**  
FOR  
**Cleansing and Repairing**  
THE  
**Water-Course,**  
Leading from the River  
*Dodeer* to the City of *Dublin*; And  
to prevent the Diverting and Cor-  
rupting the Water therein.

---



The image is the Royal Coat of Arms of the Kingdom of Ireland. It features a central shield divided into four quarters, surrounded by a circular border with the Latin motto 'HONI SOIT QUI MALA PENSE'. The shield is supported by two lions rampant, one on each side. Above the shield is a crown, and behind it are two harps. Below the shield is a ribbon with the motto 'DIEV ET MONDROU'.

---

**D U B L I N :**  
Printed by *Andrew Crooke*, Printer to the  
King's Most Excellent Majesty, at the  
*King's-Arms* in *Copper-Alley*, 1719.

Title page of a 1719 Act of Parliament relating to the City Watercourse

*Courtesy of David Cotter*

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

About 1836 these mills were held by Joseph McDonnell whose brother John had a paper mill at Saggart. James McDonnell of Old Bawn Paper Mill and Sir Edward McDonnell of Killeen Paper Mill were both cousins. Joseph McDonnell installed a steam engine to supplement the water supply. The engine house, a high brick structure with tall windows, is a conspicuous landmark to the rear of the petrol station. This mill ceased production about 1876.



Bella Vista mill house survived until around 1965 — *Patrick Healy*

Joseph McDonnell occupied Bella Vista Mill House while he was operating the mill here. The Watercourse passed across the front of the house and was controlled by a sluice gate which turned the water into the mill pond when required. Facing the gateway to Bella Vista was a picturesque gate lodge beneath a line of pine trees. This was cleared away in 1982 to make way for the roundabout. The mill house, part of the mill and the dry mill pond survived down to about 1965.



Gate Lodge which faced the entrance to Bella Vista mill — *Patrick Healy*

### **Limekiln Well**

Beside the village of Balrothery was a slight elevation known as Limekiln Hill where there was formerly a blessed well called Limekiln Well. This was said to be a strong spring and it was reported in 1836 that it was being deepened in order to turn it into a neighbouring millpond. It is clear from this that it must have been drained into McDonnell's millpond at Bella Vista, and an examination of the dry bed of the millpond revealed that there was actually an underground culvert discharging a constant trickle of water into the pond. This could be traced on the surface of the ground to a point on the main road east of the entrance gate, where it crossed below the road and connected with a field drain beside the gate lodge. Two hundred yards further up this drain, a strong spring issued from under the bank. This spring was the source of the water supply and apparently was the Limekiln Well. The hill has now been quarried away for sand and the new road crosses the site of the well.



## The City Watercourse

Just beyond the new road to Firhouse a steep lane leads down to the Dodder and the City Weir. This old passage crossed the river below the weir and down to 1846 it was possible to drive across the ford. In that year however the Drainage Commissioners straightened and deepened the channel below Firhouse as a result of which there was a precipitous drop of twenty feet into the river bed. For many years after this the only way for pedestrians to cross during a flood was by the dangerous one of wading along the top of the weir, A plank bridge was next put up by subscription but was soon washed away, and a lattice bridge was erected about 1860. (*A replacement footbridge was opened by South Dublin County Council in 1995*). In normal states of the river almost all of the water was turned into the Watercourse. The City Weir and Watercourse



Lattice Bridge at the City Weir — Patrick Healy

date from the 13th century and were in actual use down to 1952. The initial needs of the citizens of Dublin were supplied by the Poddle River, which rose near Tallaght and flowed directly into the city. As the population of Dublin increased, additional supplies were required and in 1244 an enquiry was set up to decide where water could most conveniently be taken from its course and conducted to the city. It would

appear that the artificial watercourse was already in existence and belonged to the monks of St. Thomas' Abbey, so the city authorities decided to increase the flow of water into the course, and draw it off at a lower point to supply the needs of the citizens.



The City Weir at Firhouse

The weir across the Dodder turned nearly all of the water into the Watercourse. This was conveyed across the fields for a distance of nearly two miles to Kimmage where it joined the Poddle. The united streams flowed along the course of the Poddle to a place named Tongue Field at Mount Argus where the waters were divided by a wedge of masonry in the bed of the river which diverted one third into an artificial channel and conveyed it by Dolphin's Barn to the city cistern at James Street. The main stream continued to Harold's Cross where it was again divided and a branch taken off which flowed across Donore Avenue and Cork Street and eventually rejoined the main stream at New Row.

We are concerned here, only with the Watercourse from the City Weir to the Poddle, which was entirely within the townland of Templeogue. Initially the course was fitted with sluice gates which controlled the amount of water entering the course. When the new road across the Dodder to Firhouse was built in 1985 some of the sluice gates had to be moved nearer to the weir. The first mill served by the Watercourse was Bella Vista, already mentioned, below which the course flowed in a straight line for about half a mile to where it was crossed by the Tallaght Road at Spawell. It then crossed a field and passed under Wellington Lane and around the burial ground where it was divided, one branch serving Templeogue Mill and the other providing water for the gardens of Templeogue House. The reunited stream then turned westward where it is piped underground and then eastward again in a deep cutting which is still open, and which terminates in an underground culvert leading into a drain at the side of Orwell Shopping Centre.



Portion of the City Watercourse near Spawell House in 1982 — *Patrick Healy*

From here to the Mount Down Mills the ground was low-lying and the water was carried on a raised bank which is now cleared away. The Mount Down Mills was established as a woollen mill early in the 18th century, but an Act of Parliament passed in 1719 forbade the use of tuck mills (or woollen mills) on the City Watercourse so it was converted over to flour milling. It was operated by the Sharp family, but was taken over by the Cullens before the end of the 19th century.

In the High Court in 1952 Mr. Peter Cullen claimed £20,000 from Dublin Corporation on the grounds that they had interfered with his supply of water by lowering the crest of the City Weir. He had used the water to generate electricity and drive a saw mill and corn crusher but there was not sufficient water to do this. Mount Down Mills and Mill House were demolished about 1973 and this portion of the Watercourse filled in. The only relic to survive is the small stone bridge which carried the avenue over the Poddle, now standing at the end of Whitehall Park. *(April 2004: The bridge no longer survives and the Poddle is culverted in this area.)*

Just where the course joined the Poddle there was a cutlery mill. The name Millikin's Cutlery Mill appears in Malet's Report of 1844 but is not listed in the trade directory. Down to twenty years ago the City Watercourse was still complete and capable of carrying out its function as it had done for over seven centuries. This should have been preserved as an example of medieval engineering which could be equalled by few cities in the world.

### **Tymon Lane and Castle**

Tymon Lane, already mentioned, connects Balrothery with Greenhills. This is a very old road and communicated directly between the castles of Ballymount, Kilnamanagh, Tymon and Knocklyon. For the greater part of its length it follows a winding course along the crest of an esker or ridge of sandhills and on the summit of one of these stood, until 1960, the castle of Tymon, a landmark for miles around.

Tymon Castle was a typical 15th century tower house. It contained one vaulted chamber on the ground floor and two stories above. A square turret projected on the south west corner which contained a porch and winding stairs to the upper rooms. At the top of the turret was a projecting machicoulis with an aperture through which boiling water or other missiles could be dropped on anyone trying to force an entrance through the door below. One of the original narrow loops remained in the west wall of the ground floor and two others in the upper rooms.

In an inquisition dated 1547 the castle was stated to be ruinous, but at some later period it must have been repaired as alterations were carried out in which pieces of brick were used. It was probably at this time that the larger windows were broken through, and a second doorway introduced in the north wall. This is shown in Beranger's drawing made in 1763. When Austin Cooper visited here in 1779 he found the ground floor occupied by a poor family and the upper part open to the sky, but four years later, he says, it was waste and uninhabited.



This drawing of Tymon Castle by Beranger was drawn in 1763.

*Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland, 1958 TX 11*

During the '98 rising a party of rebels occupied a house in Ballymanna. They were attacked by a company of soldiers, who killed one and drove the remainder out. In their retreat the rebels carried the body of their comrade, but had to leave it in a field near Tymon Lane. The soldiers following found the body and hung it from the window of the castle where



Tymon Castle — *Patrick Healy*

it remained until it dropped asunder. Very fine drawings were made of this castle by Daniel Grose in 1791 and George Petrie in 1819 when the walls were in a comparatively good state of repair. By the end of the 19th century the greater part of the north, south and east walls had fallen, the stone vault was gone and the winding steps and inner wall of the staircase had disappeared from above the level of the vault. A gravel pit had also been opened below the west wall which threatened to undermine the foundations. It remained in this condition down to 1960 when the owner of the land declared that it was unsafe, and demolished it. The massive walls were thrown down into the gravel pit and the crest of the hill on which they had stood for so many centuries was pushed in on top with a bulldozer. It can truly be said that not a stone was left standing upon a stone.

To the south of the castle there was a little hill known as the Fairy Hill or Fairy Bank, now levelled and occupied by a football pitch. Nearby was the Fairy Well, a good spring of water, which is no longer visible. In the fields 250 metres west of the castle was a stone cross bearing the date 1879. This has been preserved at the side of the new Tymon North Road.



This stone cross bearing the date 1879 is now preserved at the side of Tymon North Road near the entrance to St. Aongus Estate.



Remains of Bolbrook paper mills — *Patrick Healy*

### **Bolbrook Paper Mill**

Less than half a mile beyond Balrothery a byroad on the left led to the remains of Bolbrook Paper Mill. This road was formerly linked up with the ford below the City Weir by a passage along the bank of the Dodder. On the other side of the Tallaght road it continued as a green lane and terminated at a rectangular field containing about an acre which was enclosed by a bank and deep water-filled ditch. A tradition existed in the 19th century that this was the site of a village and castle. Every vestige of this was swept away when the area was built on.

The Bolbrook Mill was operated by a mill-race taken from the Dodder at Kiltipper and supplemented by the stream from Tallaght. In 1760, Pierce Archibald, a carpenter, built a couple of vat mills here, and employed about 30, but two years later the whole place with house and offices was destroyed by fire at a loss of £2,000. They were soon rebuilt and a staff of 50 employed. The mill is marked on Rocque's map of 1760.

In Archer's survey of 1801 the owner is given as Widow Archibald. It was later let to J. Williamson whose name appears in Malet's report of 1844, and in the directories down to 1849. Five years later it was let by Anne Archibald to Messrs. Batter and Co. which was later changed to Batter and



## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

Boardman and subsequently to Thomas Boardman. In 1875 the name Adam Boardman appears and in 1893 Robert Boardman who occupied the mill down to 1904. Four years later it was described as vacant and dilapidated. The buildings were later used as a farm. This portion of Tallaght townland was formerly known as Newtown and this place was sometimes referred to as Newtown Mill. The site of the mill was on the open ground between the Tallaght bypass and the Dodder, now occupied by Bolbrook Estate.

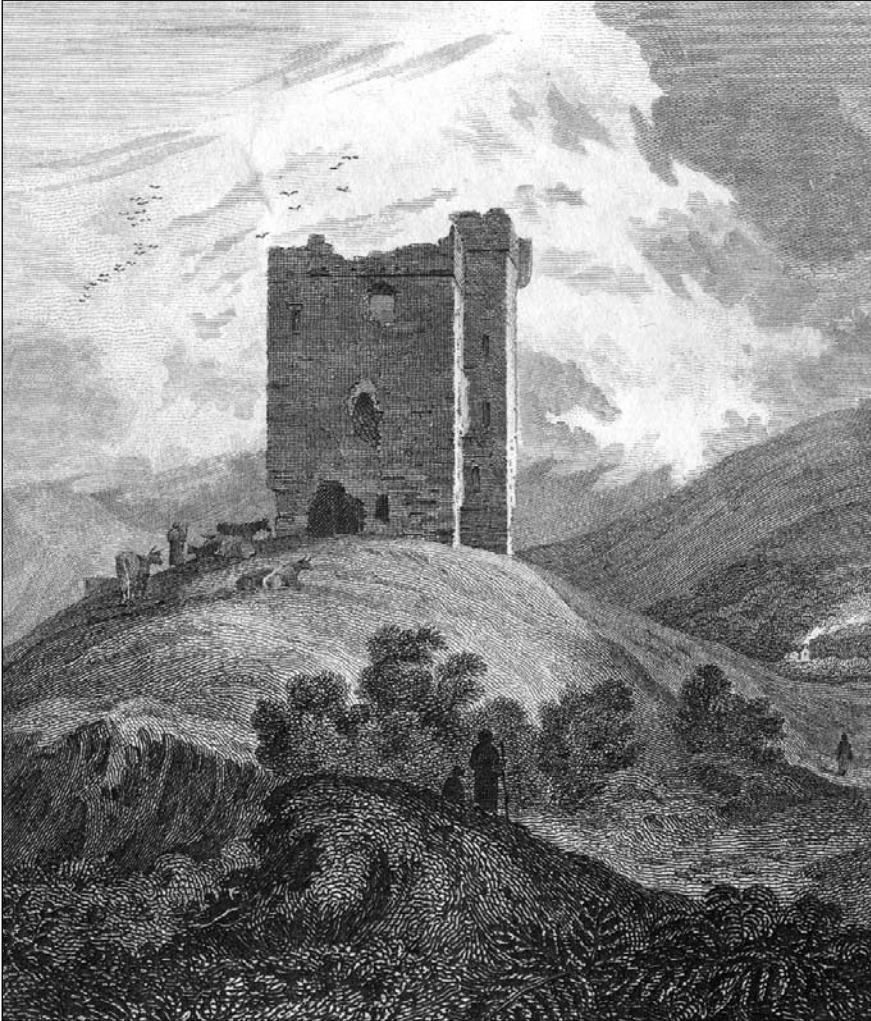
We are informed by Hancock that there was a holy well on the high ground between Tallaght and Balrothery. Many years before it had been destroyed by a farmer named Ledwich who was annoyed by the people entering his land to visit the well. He ordered his men to dump a load of manure into the well. When they refused he did it himself, but on his way home he was thrown from the cart and broke his leg. The well was at that time marked with an old thorn tree, but the site cannot now be identified, nor do we know the name of the patron saint.

Before the construction of the Tallaght bypass the road led directly into the village. It is now cut off at Balrothery and accessible at that point to pedestrians and cyclists only. Tymon Lane is now also closed to traffic. At the next roundabout however, a branch road leads into the village.



Tymon Lane in 1986. A large portion of Tymon Lane is now preserved within Tymon Park — *Patrick Healy*

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Tynon Castle as drawn by George Petrie in 1819

CHAPTER II

*The Old Road to Tallaght*

**The Green Hills**

**T**HE old road to Tallaght was by way of Dolphin's Barn, Crumlin Road and Walkinstown. Here the Greenhills Road commences along what was at one time a series of sandhills covered in fine green sward. This was for many years quarried away for building purposes, until, towards the end of the 19th century, the only part remaining was the ridge along which the road passes.

At Kilnamanagh the Greenhills road was crossed by Tymon Lane. The branch on the right leading to Ballymount was until recently, narrow and crooked, a sure sign of an ancient highway. The left hand branch, which was part of Tymon Lane, was altered about 1960 so that it came out nearer to the Cuckoo's Nest licenced premises. The reason for this alteration was that the lane at this point passed over the highest part of the Greenhills, and as the sand and gravel was removed, the lane remained with an almost vertical drop on both sides. This became so dangerous that a new section had to be laid out, level with the floor of the sandpit. It was not long until the disused portion of the road was demolished for the valuable material which lay beneath it. Down to the time when this road was altered, the ruin of an old residence named Palatine House stood at the junction. This house was formerly named Airmount and on Taylor's Map of 1816 it is named Gayfield.



Artist's impression of the Cuckoo's Nest as a coach inn *circa* 1760 — *Margaret Kennedy*

## Old Mile Stone

On the Dublin side of the crossroads is still to be seen an old milestone belonging to the time when this was the main road to Blessington. It is of granite and is triangular in cross-section with inscriptions on two faces. On one face is DUB 3 and on the other is BTON 14. This makes a total of 17 miles which is close to what was then believed to be the distance to Blessington in English miles. The earliest milestones were in Irish miles which were longer than English miles (Taylor and Skinner, 1778, give the proportion of Irish to English miles as 11 to 14). On the earliest road maps of County Dublin the milestones were all shown in Irish miles and the distance to Blessington as 14 Irish miles. This appears on Taylor and Skinner 1778, John Taylor 1816 and Duncan 1821. On these maps the 3 mile stone on the Green Hills Road is shown as a little north of Walkinstown roundabout, the 4 mile stone between Tymon Lane and Tallaght, and the 5 mile stone in Tallaght Village. Since the stone in question is in English miles, this 3 mile stone should have been well on the Dublin side of Walkinstown roundabout. There actually is a similar

one in this area which gives the distances as DUB 2, BTON 15. During the war years all fingerposts were taken down to confuse invaders. It is possible that these old milestones were also removed and were later put back in the wrong place.



The Greenhills Road Milestone referred to by the author could not be located in 2004. The milestone shown is located on the Dublin side of Blessington, is also triangular in section with inscriptions on two faces. DUB 16 (Dublin), CW 19 (Carlow).

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Portion of the map of the Road from Dublin to Tullow surveyed by Taylor and Skinner in 1777 showing the route along the Greenhills Road through Tallaght. The numbers along the road indicate the positions of Milestones.

On the northern side of the Cuckoo's Nest is the present entry to Tymon Lane, now closed to traffic. The new Southern Link road (M50) runs parallel to Tymon Lane, on the north east side, and the ground on both sides of the old lane has been converted into a delightful park, with plantations of trees, open grassy slopes and sports fields, with the Poddle River flowing through the middle of it.

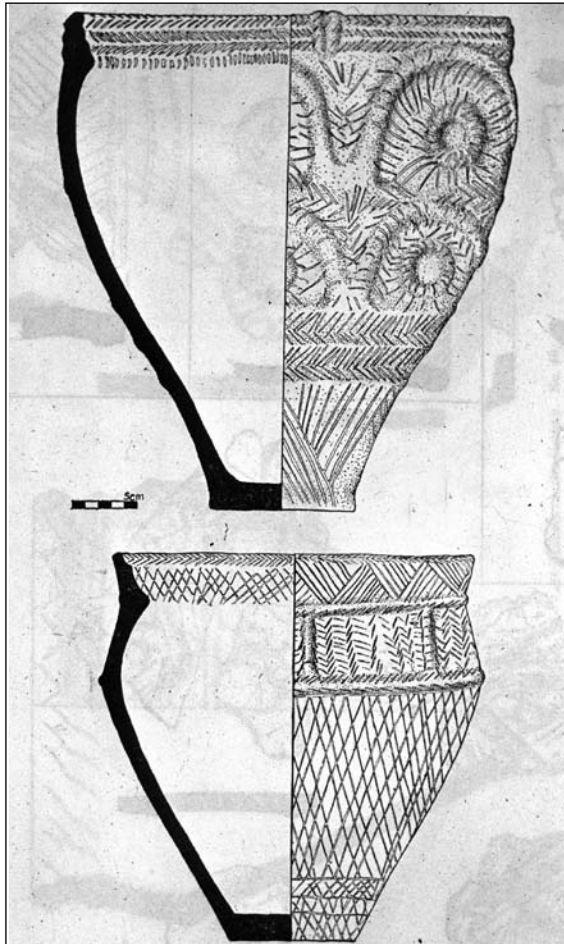


View across Tymon Park towards the Church of the Holy Spirit, Greenhills  
*Courtesy of Tom Crosbie*

### **Bronze Age Burials**

From time to time in the course of sand quarrying in this area prehistoric burials have been discovered. Unfortunately not many of them were reported to the National Museum, but a group which were found in the area between Greenhills and Tymon Castle have mostly found their way into the national collection. Some of these were found in 1892 of which one complete vessel was kept by the pit owner Laurence Dunn, and a broken one sold to a dealer from whom it was obtained by a Mr. Longfield and published along with part of a food vessel by the Royal Irish Academy. Some years later in 1898 a cist was discovered in the same area which contained an encrusted urn inverted over cremated bone and a

pigmy cup, along with a vase-shaped food vessel. Nearby was found two urns and a food vessel not enclosed by a cist, and also a cist containing an enlarged food vessel, cremated bone and a fragment of a bone pin. In the same area was found a human skeleton with a bowl-shaped food vessel. These burials belong to the Bronze Age and were in a flat cemetery, without any record of a mound or enclosure. They would date from about 1,500 to 1,000 BC.



Drawings of two urns found at Greenhills.  
*By permission of the Royal Irish Academy © RIA*





Kilnamanagh Castle — *Courtesy of Blackrock Education Centre*

## **Kilnamanagh**

Opposite to the Cuckoo's Nest was an old lane which formerly led through the townland of Kilnamanagh to Ballymount. This was closed off at the other end about the middle of the 19th century and latterly served only the fields through which it passed. The first farm on this lane was named Kilnamanagh Castle and included a small medieval castle among its buildings. When this site was visited by Eugene O'Curry in 1837 in connection with the Ordnance Survey he was able to identify the site as that of an early monastery. He was of the opinion that the castle was standing at the western end of the old church. There was a doorway from the castle into the church which was then stopped up, and the old oaken door was used in the kitchen. From the southeast angle of the castle, extending to the east was a line of offices, the back wall of which was built on the remains of ancient masonry. There were many lumps of porous grey stone around, particularly in the old burial ground. When Mr. Farrell, the owner's father came here in 1778 he attempted to make a kitchen garden here, but found it so full of human bones that he desisted. The whole place was enclosed by a wide and deep fosse, the greater part of which was open

and full of water. This was probably the same age as the castle. O'Curry also saw two fine wells and the sites of five more were pointed out which were then filled in.

This site has been identified as a monastery referred to in early documents as Cell Manach in Uib Dunchadha (The church of the monks in Uí Dhunchadha territory) and Cill na Manach na nEscrach (The church of the monks of the esker). There was a monastic school here under Eoghan, Lochan and Éanna and it was here that Saint Kevin was educated. This monastery was founded in the 6th century and is therefore much earlier than that of Tallaght. In the 17th century a building known as the Cell of Kilnamanagh existed here. In a description of Kilnamanagh written by Liam Ua Broin in 1944 he refers to the remains of the fosse and to St. Kevin's Well which commemorated this saint's association with the site. The well was in a small square enclosure below ground level and was approached by a flight of stone steps.



St. Kevin's well — *Courtesy of the Blackrock Education Centre*

He also recorded that human skeletons had been exposed about 1886 when a hay barn was being built, and again in 1940 when it was being re-floored. Human bones were also found about 1956 when a concrete path was laid across this area. The last remains of the fosse were filled up in 1959 and the ground levelled. In the process a great many stones were turned up and a large quantity of oyster shells. Similar shells were also found 200 metres northwest of the castle where the laneway crossed a stream at a place formerly known as the Clogherauns or stepping stones. Here an old tree fell in 1960 revealing a great mass of shells underneath. Oysters were an important part of the diet of the early monks and the shells are found at many monastic sites.

This farm had been occupied by the Farrell family since 1778 and passed to a nephew named Steen in 1947. He made certain alterations and having replaced the old oak door of the castle, he generously presented this fine specimen of medieval carpentry to the National Museum. It consists of two thicknesses of oak planks studded with heavy square-headed nails, and fitted with massive iron hinges.

In 1974 Kilnamanagh became the centre of a large housing development. Objections were made to the demolition of the castle and to the destruction of the monastic site, and a condition of the planning permission was that the castle and site would be made available for examination and excavation before construction of the houses should begin. In March 1976, however, the castle was levelled and all ancient features of the site destroyed.

When building began in the area around St. Kevin's well it was found that the ground was waterlogged from the many underground springs and was unsuitable for building. As a result the sites of numbers 37, 39, 41 and 43 Elmcastle Walk are still an open space. This has been made into a little park which includes the site of St. Kevin's Well.

It was only to be expected that the occupiers of houses built on such historic ground would find objects of interest in their gardens. In 1975 Mr. Moore found a Yeomanry sword dating back to 1790. It was made by Reids of Parliament Street, a firm which still operates from the same address. Many clay pipes from the 19th century were also found, and



The sites of 37, 39, 41 and 43 Elmcastle Walk are occupied by a small park which includes the site of St. Kevin's Well

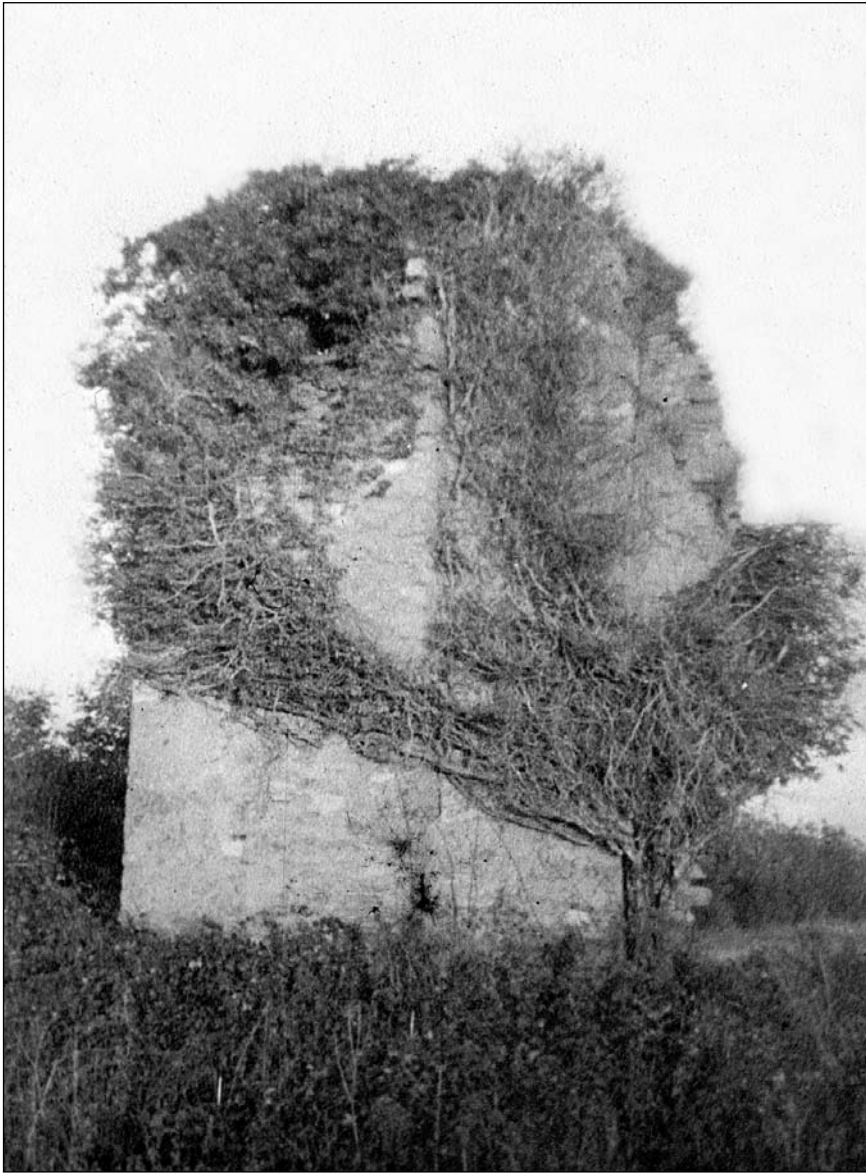
inevitably the bones of the many generations who had been laid to rest in this remote burial ground. It is quite inconceivable how any responsible public body could approve of development on such a hallowed site.

### **Hogshawe Castle**

In a field at the end of the lane 850 metres to the south west of Kilnamanagh Castle was a high masonry wall enveloped in ivy and known as Hogshawe or Egshawe Castle. This fragment contained a chimney breast and flue with two fireplaces and part of a curved wall. It was of good quality masonry, but much too light for a castle wall, and was probably the remains of a strong 17th century farmhouse or mansion. Hogshawe was believed to have been a Cromwellian soldier. This is shown on the 1843 O.S. map as a very large building and the last remains were still standing down to about 1965. The area is now built on.

The Greenhills Road continues for about a mile to Tallaght Village. Before reaching the village there is on the right an iron gate leading into the grounds of the Dominican Priory. This was, according to tradition, the original line of the road leading directly across towards the old church tower, but the evidence in support of this is not conclusive.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Copy photograph of Hogshawe or Egshawe Castle — *Patrick Healy*

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

CHAPTER III

*Tallaght Village*

**Early History**

The place name Tallaght is derived from the words *támh leacht*, meaning a plague burial place. There are a number of localities in the country bearing this name, but Tallaght in County Dublin is the one usually identified with the tradition of Parthalon, one of the early invaders of Ireland, which says that his 9,000 followers died in one week on Sean Mhagh Ealta Edair, whence *Taimhleacht Muintire Parthaloin*.

In the 10th century Cormac's Glossary, the word is explained as a plague that cuts off the people during which they used to go into great plains that they might be in one place, because of their burial in these plains by those whom the mortality did not carry off, for they would not bring them to churches. This sounds like organised isolation of those infected. The burials which have been found in the Tallaght area are all normal pre-historic interments, mainly of the Bronze Age, and nothing suggesting a mass grave has so far been recorded here.

**The Monastery of Tallaght**

With the foundation of the monastery of Tallaght by St. Maelruain in the 8th century we have a more reliable record. The high standards set by the monks of the 6th century were not maintained by those who came after them. By the 8th century, land, wealth and prestige became predominating factors and monastic rules were greatly relaxed. In reaction to this a movement of spiritual reform began within the monasteries. This movement was known as the *Céli Dé*; it was especially active in the south and east, and the chief centres were the monasteries of Tallaght and Finglas, known as the "two eyes of Ireland".

The rules laid down by Maelruain regulating the daily life of his monks still survive in manuscript and show that they were in his time regarded as particularly strict. He would not permit the consumption of beer in his monastery but if a monk was on a long journey he would then be permitted to drink it. He was urged by Abbot Dublithir of Finglas to relax this rule on the three chief feasts, as was done at other monasteries, but insisted that the liquor which causes forgetfulness of God would not be drunk here.

St. Aengus, an Ulsterman, was one of the most illustrious of the Céli Dé and devoted himself to the religious life and great mortifications. Wherever he went, however, he was accompanied by a band of followers whose attentions distracted him from his devotions. He secretly withdrew and travelled to the monastery of Tallaght where he was not known, and enrolled as a lay brother. Here he laboured unknown for many years until his identity was discovered by Maelruain who then welcomed him with friendship and esteem. Together they composed the Martyrology of Tallaght and St. Aengus also wrote a calendar of saints known as the *Féilire of Aengus*.

He is said to have been inspired to write this by a visit to the burial ground where he had a vision of angels descending from heaven to a newly made grave. He enquired who was buried there and was told that an old man of the district who died recently was laid to rest at this spot. He was not in any way notorious, but every day he used to recite the names of as many saints as he could remember. St. Aengus said what a great achievement it would be to compile a calendar of all the saints and set to work to compose his great *Féilire of Aengus*.

St. Maelruain died in 792 and was buried in Tallaght. The importance of this foundation can be judged by the fact that in 806 the monks of Tallaght were able to prevent the holding of the Tailtin Games, because of some infringement of their rights. In 811 the monastery was devastated by the Vikings but the destruction was not permanent as the annals of the monastery continue to be recorded throughout the following centuries.



## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

After the Anglo-Norman invasion in 1179 Tallaght and its appurtenances were confirmed to the See of Dublin and became the property of the Archbishop. The complete disappearance of every trace of what must have been an extensive and well organised monastic settlement can only be accounted for by the subsequent history of the place, the erection and demolition of defensive walls and castles, and the incessant warfare and destruction which lasted for hundreds of years.



St. Maelruain's Church of Ireland,

### **The Anglo-Norman Period**

Throughout the greater part of the 13th century a state of comparative peace existed at Tallaght, but subsequently the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles commenced to take offensive action and were joined by many of the Archbishop's tenants. As a result the land was not tilled, nor the pastures stocked and the holdings were deserted and waste. In 1310 the bailiffs of Tallaght had a royal grant in aid of enclosing their town. No trace of these defensive walls survive nor have we any evidence of their exact location, except for the name of the Watergate Bridge which spans the stream on the Oldbawn Road. A survey of Tallaght made in 1654 and reproduced in Andrew's *Irish Maps*, shows the castle and its offices within a rectangular enclosure defended by what looks like a grass covered bank, but may be intended as a water filled fosse.

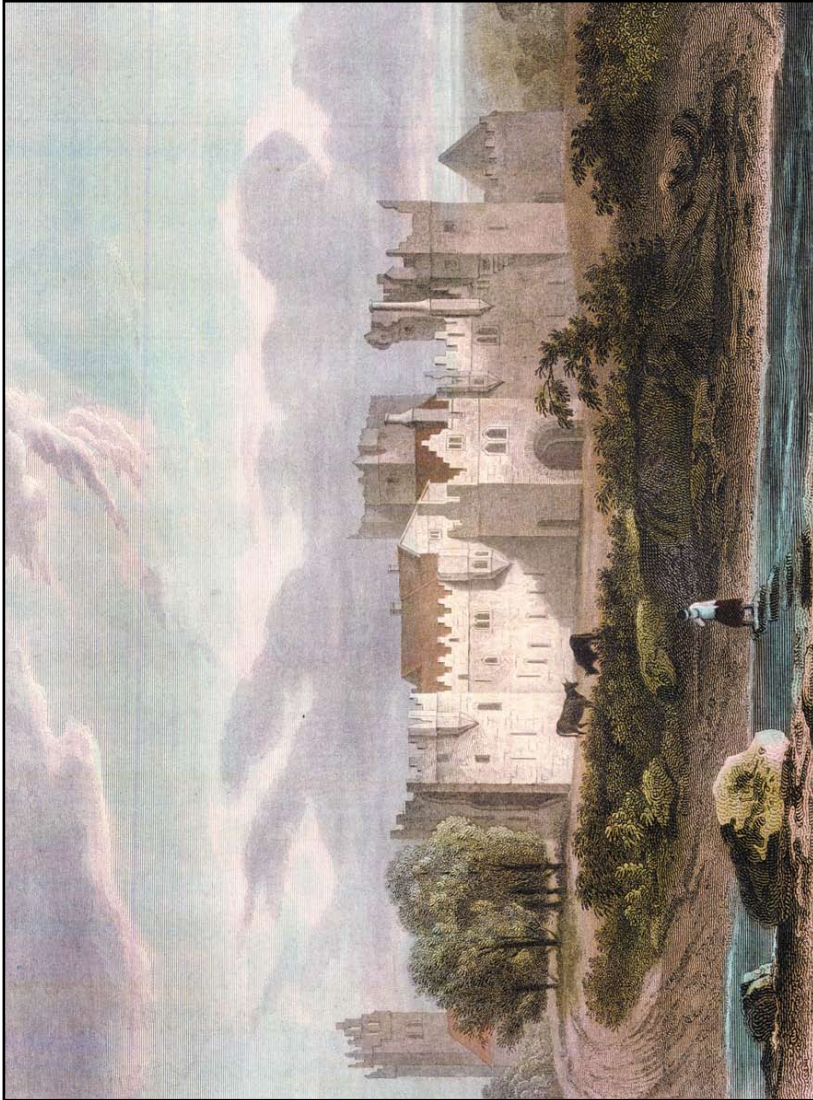
ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Portion of Newcomen's survey of Tallaght in 1654  
*Courtesy of the Representative Church Body Library, Churchtown.*

In 1324 the castle of Tallaght was commenced by Archbishop Alexander de Bicknor but several years later it was still unfinished and contained only a chamber for the Archbishop and a small room for the clergy. It was completed some time before 1349, but a century later was reported to be in need of repair.

A fine illustration of this castle was engraved in 1818 for Monck Mason's proposed history of Christ Church Cathedral. As the castle was demolished in 1729 there has been much speculation as to the origin of this view. Handcock was of the opinion that it was copied from a painted medallion which was part of the decoration of the palace, but it would now appear that it was based on the survey of 1654 already mentioned. The position of each tower and other features is exactly the same, although the engraver of the picture took artistic licence when filling in the architectural details. This picture is now in the possession of the Dominican Order.



View of the Archbishop's Palace at Tallaght engraved for William Monck Mason's proposed history of Christ Church Cathedral.

The frontier of the Pale extended from Tallaght to Merrion and along the coast as far as Dalkey. This was regularly guarded by soldiers placed at set stations, and watchmen were employed on the mountains to give warning of the approach of the enemy. In 1331 O'Toole of Imaile at the head of a numerous train of armed followers plundered the palace of Tallaght. In 1356 Walter Russell, constable of Tallaght, entered into a compact with one of the O'Tooles whereby the latter with forty hobblers, or horsemen, and forty armed foot was to defend the English marches. In 1378 Matthew, the son of Redmond de Bermingham, took his station here with 120 hobblers to resist the O'Byrnes, and in the same year John de Wade received £20 from the king's exchequer in compensation for two horses and other goods of his burned at Tallaght by the O'Nolans. In 1540 O'Toole invaded and devastated this and other royal manors.

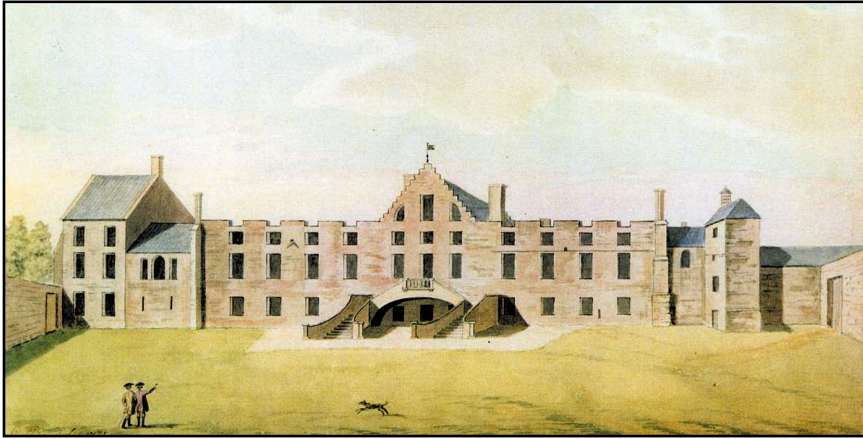
During the insurrection of 1641 the council directed that twelve musketeers should be sent to protect the Archbishop's house. The inhabitants of Tallaght sustained great losses of cattle owing to raids, and when the garrison sallied out to resist an attack they were surprised and routed with the loss of nine men and their commander Captain Brett.

### **The Palace of Tallaght**

During the latter half of the 17th century the castle was unoccupied and fell into disrepair. When Archbishop Hoadley replaced Archbishop King in 1729 he found it in ruins, which he demolished and built himself a palace at the cost of £2,500. Fifty years later Austin Cooper reported that it had been unoccupied since the time of Archbishop Hoadley. He described it as a patchwork, devoid of order or regularity. Adjoining it was a long range of stables, at the end of which was a tower of ancient appearance. The following year, in 1780, he found that the walls had been repaired and plastered and new windows put in by Archbishop Fowler.

Brewer, in his *Beauties of Ireland* (1826) described the palace as spacious, but long and narrow, and destitute of pretensions to architectural beauty. The interior contained many apartments of ample proportions, but none of them highly embellished. A drawing of this palace was made by Gabriel Beranger in 1771.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



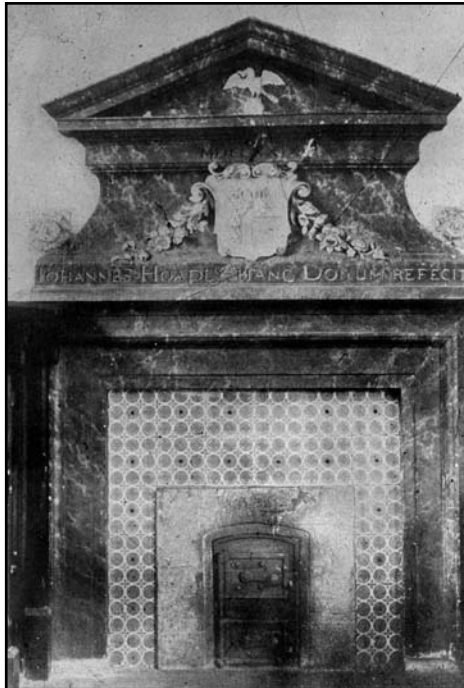
Beranger's 1771 drawing of the Archbishop's palace at Tallaght.  
*Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland, 1958 TX 3*

In 1821 an Act of Parliament was passed which stated that the building and offices on the demesne were then in such a state of decay as to be unfit for habitation, that a country residence for the Archbishop was unnecessary, and that the income of the See was inadequate to support the expenses of two establishments. The following year Archbishop McGee sold the demesne to Major Palmer, Inspector General of Prisons, who undertook to demolish the old palace, lest it should ever become a monastic institution. Major Palmer accordingly pulled it down, and occupied two years in removing the materials, with which he built his new mansion, Tallaght House, as well as a schoolhouse and several cottages and repaired the roads of the neighbourhood.

While Major Palmer was demolishing the palace his brother, Reverend Henry Palmer, Rector of Tubrid in County Waterford, salvaged the dining room chimney piece, which he re-erected in his parish church. This bore the Archbishop's arms impaled with a shield quarterly charged in the first quarter with a pelican; the date shown was 1729 and above was the crest, a dove perched on a ball with an olive branch in its beak. Underneath the coat of arms is the following inscription "Johannas Hoadby hanc domum refecit". Palmer later sold the estate to Sir John Lentaigne who disposed of it in 1856 to the Dominican Order.

Copy photograph of the dining room chimney piece from Tallaght palace which was removed to Tubrid, Co. Waterford and was erected in the parish church there. When visited in 2002, the church was unroofed with no trace of the chimney piece.

*Patrick Healy*



The only part of the palace that remained was a large, strong vault, formerly part of the kitchen, which lay below the Archbishop's dining room. This was later planted with trees and survived down to about 1882 when it had to be removed to make way for the new Priory church. According to the OS maps of 1843 and 1870 this vault was located on the grass plot west of the Priory church, and this agrees with the position of the palace as shown on the map of 1760.

### **Tallaght Castle**

The ancient tower which was noted by Austin Cooper in 1778 was spared when the palace was demolished, and was later incorporated in the Priory buildings, It contains a spiral stairs and was originally four stories high, hut is now reduced internally to two. A high brick built arch occupies one wall of the ground floor. This is shown in a drawing made by Gabriel Beranger in 1770, but is obviously an insertion and was probably done

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Beranger's drawing of Tallaght Castle in 1770. This building is now incorporated into St. Mary's Priory — *By permission of the Royal Irish Academy © RIA*

earlier in that century. It is now blocked up and contains a lancet window. The ceiling of this room is vaulted, but appears to be too pointed to be original, and as it is now plastered over it is not possible to examine it in detail. This is now used as a boiler room.

The chamber above is the students' oratory, very high and comprising at least two stories of the original castle. There are windows at two levels and a door half way up the wall leading from the spiral staircase onto a little balcony. The oratory is also vaulted and there may have been a small attic under the vault, as a narrow window now built up can be seen on the outside above the level of the oratory windows. Here again the original internal details are obscured by later plasterwork.

About 1835 this tower was repaired by Mr. Lentaigne who fitted up the rooms with antique furniture. He rebuilt the turret on the roof and incorporated in it all the old window stones he could find about the place. In repairing the staircase he found a head carved in stone which was



Tallaght Castle incorporated into the Priory buildings — *Patrick Healy*

firmly set in the wall with the back part outwards. The face was long with a low forehead and prominent eyes. The nose was broken off and the chin low and retiring. This was probably the remains of some 12th century Romanesque work.

Attached to the castle was a long building which appeared to be of contemporary date. This was used in the archbishop's time as a brewery and later on as a granary and stables. Under the Dominicans it was converted into a chapel and continued in use down to 1883 when the

fine new Priory church was built. It was later demolished, and the new wing connecting the Priory with the church was built on the site in 1901.

The earlier chapel appears in an old photograph taken about a century ago. At that time there was, between Tallaght House and the tower, a deep cutting known as the sunk fence, which was believed locally to be part of the rampart of the Pale. This was faced on both sides with stonework and was used as a passage for driving cattle from the farmyard to the pasture. It was crossed by a wooden footbridge down to about 1895 when it was filled in.

Sir John Lentaigne was interested in antiquities and he had accumulated in Tallaght House a varied collection of preserved birds, animals and insects from America and New South Wales, and also Chinese, Egyptian and Hindu idols and lamps and Indian military and domestic utensils. He also had a number of ancient Irish weapons and some interesting articles





Original Priory Church from *A Hundred Years of Tallaght*  
Courtesy of Fr Hugh Fenning

found from time to time about the grounds. These included a small brass coin or medal, having on one side an ecclesiastic holding a long staff in his right hand, with a Latin inscription around the margin and on the other side IVO in three or four places.

He also had a lead bulla of Pope Leo X found in 1835 when a field was being ploughed. He later presented this to the Dominican Fathers who preserve it in their archives. It is larger than an old penny and bears on one side the inscription "Leo Papa X" and on the other, two panels containing the heads of Saints Peter and Paul. This dates from the 16th century, and was attached to some Papal bull or document as a guarantee of its authenticity.

Lead Bulla of  
Pope Leo X,  
Pope from 1513  
AD to 1521 AD  
— *Patrick Healy*



### Tallaght House

Tallaght House was sold to the Dominicans in 1856 and served as the Priory until the new one was built in 1864. It was next used as a novitiate, then as a laundry and finally as a retreat house. In 1955 the new retreat house was built around the old house which was incorporated in such a way that it cannot now be recognised from the outside.



St. Mary's Priory from the air. The new Retreat House which was built around Tallaght House is towards the top right — *Courtesy of Brian MacCormaic*

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Tallaght House became St. Joseph's, the first Priory and is now incorporated into the Retreat House — *Courtesy of Tallaght Historical Society*

During the construction work an underground passage was discovered which was followed for some distance by Reverend Jordan Kavanagh, but he was forced to return because of the soft mud which lay deep on the floor. It has not since been properly investigated and the entrance is now unfortunately covered up.

A tradition was recorded by Hancock that an underground passage existed between the palace and the parish church and that over a hundred years ago it was opened and a man went some way into it, and found an old sword, so decayed, that it fell to pieces in his hand. About 1935 it was noticed that a portion of the boundary wall opposite to the then Garda Barracks (*now Fanagans Funeral Directors*) was cracking and subsiding. In 1954 a patch of ground inside this wall caved in, but the cavity was just filled up and no attempt made to investigate the cause. This was within a few yards of the Father Tom Burke Memorial.

## **The Priory Grounds**

The grounds of the Priory, the old Palace gardens, still retain many features from the historic past. They were formerly watered by a small stream or millrace which flowed just inside the front boundary wall and supplied the many ponds which at one time existed in the gardens. As a result of development in the area this millrace has now been diverted and the water-course in the Priory grounds is now dry. One of the ponds lay to the east of the entrance gate where there is now a weed grown hollow. The field lying to the north of this pond had been noted for the number of old foundations which lay buried under the surface, including a brick culvert which formerly conveyed water into a pond beside the Greenhills Road. According to old maps no building has occupied this site for over two centuries. This field is now converted into a carpark. To the north of the carpark was the pond beside the Greenhills road. It was long and narrow and was used by the community as a swimming pool, but having become dried up it was filled in and used for agriculture.

To the west of the entrance and about fifteen yards upstream from it there was the foundation of a small square building beneath which the stream passed. This was a bath house erected by Archbishop Fowler in 1778. It was later altered by Mr. Lentaigne, in the process of which his men found a large granite stone with a hole through it. This hole is narrower at the ends and in the middle, somewhat like an hour-glass, but is now screw-threaded as stated by O'Curry. Beside the hole is a round hollow. This may have been the base of the cross which, according to Dalton, stood on the green at the top of the street and the shaft of which was also found built into the bath house. Handcock states that some fragments of this cross were lying along with the base beside the avenue in the walled garden, but no memory or knowledge of such fragments now exists. In 1905 Lord Walter Fitzgerald also failed to find these stones.

Another stone was found in clearing out the fosse. It is an irregular block of conglomerate in which is a bowl-shaped hollow or bullaun ten inches wide and six inches deep. Bullaun stones are often found at early monastic sites. Both of these stones now lie beside the "Friar's Walk", a raised avenue planted each side with yew trees. At the northern end of the walk is a low mound known as the Bishop's Seat, now surmounted by a Calvary



Bullaun stone — *Courtesy of Blackrock Education Centre*

group. Behind this mound was, until about 1955, a number of huge bones, the remains of a whale which was taken on the Mayo coast in 1840. The skeleton was brought here at great expense by Mr. Lentaigne who assembled it in his garden. The vertebrae, which were nearly two feet in diameter, were strung on iron bars, the ends of which were embedded in huge millstones which he brought from the old Corkagh gun powder mills at Clondalkin. These bones were later removed to the farmyard, and eventually taken to the refuse dump. There are at present beside the handball alley three great mill stones which are almost certainly those taken from Corkagh Mills.

At the other end of the Friar's Walk is a low lying hollow through which the millrace passed. There was formerly a sluice gate here to form a pond, but this being drained away in 1901 the spot became a wilderness of marshy scrub until 1932 when the energy of the Brothers converted it into a rock garden. Here can be seen many cut stones from the old palace incorporated in the rockery and built into the retaining walls of the millrace.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Millstones most likely from Corkagh Mills — *Patrick Healy*

Beside the rock garden there was a small mill wheel which was used down to 1950 for the purpose of pumping the domestic water supply up to a tank on top of the tower. The mill wheel was designed and erected in 1880 by Brother John Perkins who had formerly worked as an engineer in Old Bawn Paper Mills.



Copy photograph of cut stones from Tallaght Palace — *Patrick Healy*

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

To the north of the Priory is a huge old walnut tree known as St. Maelruain's Tree. Down to about 1797 the main trunk was standing five feet high where it divided into two large boughs, but at that time it split down the middle, and the branches have since rested on the ground. It still flourishes, however, and bears fruit.



St Maelruain's tree — *Patrick Healy*

According to tradition, the main street of Tallaght formerly ran to the north of the castle from the corner opposite to the church across to the Greenhills Road. This area is now farmland belonging to the Priory, and it was noticed by those who tilled the plot, that a great many stones were being turned up. An investigation by Father Hugh Fenning, then a student, exposed the remains of a paved road twelve feet wide across the middle of the field and leading towards the old gateway on the Greenhills Road. This alteration must have been carried out at a very early period as Rocque's map of 1760 shows the main street as at present and lined with houses, which would not suggest a recent change. The old map of 1654 already mentioned, while it does not show the roads, does show houses on the south side of the castle while there are none on the north side. It is possible that this may have been a private road belonging to the Archbishop's estate.

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

One of the most valued possessions of the Dominicans of Tallaght is an old banner or pennant which dates from the time of the Confederation of Kilkenny. This bears the image of the Blessed Virgin enclosed by a rosary beads. It was not one of the regimental banners which were listed and described by Luke Wadding in 1643, but probably belonged to the Black Abbey, the Dominican house in Kilkenny. It was found over a century ago, said to have been hidden in a chimney in Kilkenny, and given to Father Meehan who handed it over to the Dominicans of Kilkenny. It was brought to Tallaght about 1870 and has remained there ever since, except for a brief return to Kilkenny in 1930 for the occasion of the visit of the Papal Nuncio, Rev. Paschal Robinson, OFM, and another short sojourn in Cavan for the Owen Roe O'Neill commemoration.

Another interesting item is a small holy water font which is beside the entrance from the Priory into the church. This was found at the site of the Chapter House of Christ Church Cathedral and was given to Fr. Jordan Powell by whom it was left in Tallaght.



Copy photograph of a small Holy Water font from the site of the Chapter House of Christ Church Cathedral.

*Patrick Healy*



### **Bancroft's Castle**

At the eastern end of the village and partly on the site *formerly* occupied by the Irish Permanent Building Society was Bancroft's Castle. This was a small structure 18 feet by 28 feet, with a stone vault over the ground floor and walls only one story high above the vault. There does not appear to have been the usual spiral stone stairway leading to the upper room, but a large opening at the eastern end of the vault may have been left to accommodate a wooden staircase. The doorway was in the west wall with a window above it, and another doorway, later blocked up, was in the north wall. In 1950, when the house and shop were built, the eastern half of the castle was demolished, and the section which remained stood for a number of years as a striking illustration of the technique employed in the construction of these great vaults. This portion was then taken down and only the west wall with the doorway left to define the boundary of the plot. This wall survived down to 1977 when the shopping centre was built and the last fragment of Bancroft's Castle was cleared away. This castle is shown on the map of 1654 and may have served as a flanking tower in the walls of the town.



Bancroft's Castle ruin — *Patrick Healy*

### **The Archbishop's Corn Mill**

Beside the site of the castle is a culvert under the road which conveyed the millrace from the Priory grounds southward towards the Dodder. This course lay along the side of William's Supermarket. (*now, Kingsbury Furniture and Carpets, formerly Iceland*). About a hundred yards downstream from the road the water passed between two high narrow walls which marked the site of the Archbishop's corn mill. This was described by O'Curry in 1837 as the smallest and oldest he ever saw with two pairs of stones capable of grinding about four barrels of wheat per day. This section of the watercourse was piped underground about 1982.

The mill was operated by an overshot wheel five feet in diameter and two feet nine inches wide, and the fall of the water was eleven feet. Archer's survey of 1801 gives the name of the miller as Newman, and the Dublin Directories give the name of Michael Mahon down to 1849. It does not appear to have been in operation after this, and was in ruins in 1871. This mill-stream was conveyed across the fields to Bolbrook Paper Mill where on account of its purity it was used in the manufacture of paper.

### **The Battle of Tallaght**

On the same side, and facing the Greenhills Road, was the old constabulary barracks, a single story building with protective bars on the windows. It stood a short way back from the road on the site now occupied by the Ulster Bank and Demesne Auctioneers (*now, Ulster Bank and Tom Maher Auctioneers Ltd.*) This was the scene of the engagement known as the "Battle of Tallaght" which occurred during the Fenian rising on 5th March 1867. On that night, which had been fixed for the rising, the Fenians were moving out to the appointed place on Tallaght Hill. The large number of armed men alarmed the police in Tallaght who sent warning to the nearest barracks. There were fourteen constables and a head constable under Sub-inspector Burke at Tallaght, and they took up a position outside the barracks where they commanded the roads from both Greenhills and Templeogue.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



The former R.I.C. Barracks at Tallaght — *Patrick Healy*

The first body of armed men came from Greenhills and, when they came under police fire, retreated. Next a party came from Templeogue, and were also dispersed. After a while a more disciplined body came by the same road, but after shots had been exchanged, also retreated leaving some casualties behind.



The Fenian Insurrection: conflict with the police under Sub-Inspector Burke at Tallaght near Dublin — *From The Illustrated London News*

An old Fenian who died in 1946 left a stirring account of this engagement. It was bitterly cold and had been snowing heavily, and the Fenians suffered much from the severity of the weather. After they had been scattered by police fire, he got into the Priory grounds and hid in the old tower for several days, after which he escaped back to Dublin disguised as a lay brother.

A vivid and moving memento of this period was found in 1963 when some children were burning an old, dead tree stump near the badminton club in Terenure. They found that it was hollow, and inside was a skeleton with a sword-bayonet and a water-bottle. The water-bottle and shreds of clothing fell to pieces, but the weapon was obtained by Mr. Valentine McDonagh of Whitehall Road. This was obviously the remains of one of the Fenians who must have taken refuge there after the battle of Tallaght, and either died of wounds or was frozen to death.

### **Tallaght Church**

At the western end of the main street was the small triangular green where the cross of Tallaght stood in former times, and a short distance further on is the old graveyard. Funerals going to this burial ground used to pass left-handed around the spot where the cross stood. The parish church of the Church of Ireland was built in 1829 and replaced an earlier one to which the existing tower belonged. When the foundations of the old church were being dug up, an older foundation was found underneath it composed of large rough stones. The tower is four stories high and is provided with a spiral staircase. The ground floor serves as a vestry and is connected through a porch with the new church. An external stairs gives access to the first floor and the spiral stairway to the floors above. The third floor has a vaulted stone ceiling above which is the flat roof and a small turret.

The entrance to the old church was through the tower against which it was built. It had a centre aisle with large square pews, and a pulpit half way along. About 1820, on removing the wainscot of a pew, there was discovered a cavity in the wall containing a chalice of glass and human skulls.



A print of the old Church — *Courtesy of Tallaght Historical Society*

In 1662 the churchwardens were granted a sum of £100 in compensation for damage done by Captain Alland who had been stationed there with his troops in 1651. He stripped off the roof of the church and used the timber slates and pews for his own house. He also used the paving stones which had cost £300 to pave the entry to his kitchen, and fed his horses from the font. In front of the tower is the ancient font, a large basin of granite, 168cm x 168cm x 60cm deep. It was raised up on stone blocks in 1890. Underneath is a brick vault, one of a number which were beneath the floor of the old church. This was probably the font from which Captain Alland fed his horses.

The burial ground was formerly enclosed by a bank and fosse. A wall was built around it in 1810 but the ancient curved bank still survives along the southwest side. The fosse is almost filled in.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



St Melruain's losset — *Patrick Healy*



Aerial view of St Maelruain's with the ancient curved bank on the southwest side.  
*Courtesy of the Blackrock Education Centre*

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

South of the font is a small ancient cross set in a pedestal which is firmly fixed in a circular granite base resembling a mill stone. This pedestal and base were formerly known as Moll Rooney's loaf and griddle and the font was called Moll Rooney's losset. An annual pattern was held here from the time of St. Maelruain in 792 down to 1874 when it had degenerated into an occasion for drinking and brawling, and was discontinued through the influence of the clergy. At that time the pattern was devoid of any religious tradition and the people were under the impression that Moll Rooney was a female saint.



Moll Rooney's loaf and griddle  
*Patrick Healy*

There are a great many tombstones in the graveyard dating mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries, and some even from the 17th century. One of these commemorates Colonel John Talbot of Belgard who sat in the Parliament of James II and took part in many important military engagements. The slab bears a coat of arms and crest and is inscribed

HERE LIETH THE BODY OF  
THE HON. COLL. JOHN TOLBOT  
OF BELGARD WHO DYED YE 10  
OF SEPR 1697 IN YE 63 YEAR  
OF HIS AGE  
IN RI

## The Glebe House

The old glebe house which was demolished in 1825 stood to the west of the church. In 1743 Rev. Mr. Jones expended £52.14.8 on improvements at the glebe and in 1787 a further £110.9.10 was spent. This building appears on Taylor's map of 1816 as well as another adjoining building which may be the new vestry-room erected in 1806 north of the church and adjoining the minister's garden. A holy well near the glebe house was covered over and piped to a pump in the glebe house kitchen. In 1791 Mr. Cochrane, the Vicar, had an auction and many of the old people who remembered the well, took the opportunity of attending the auction in order to get a drink of the miraculous water. Not a trace of either glebe house or well can now be seen, but about the middle of the 19th century the incumbent noticed a hole in the ground, and on investigation found that it was the roof of the old well which had fallen in.

The new glebe house was built on the other side of the Belgard Road and was known as St. Maelruain's. While it was unoccupied in 1983 it was so vandalised that it was reduced to a burned-out shell and had to be demolished in January 1984.



Glebe House (St. Maelruain's) Tallaght — *Courtesy of Ann O'Clery*



CHAPTER IV

## *Oldbawn Road and Killinardan*

At the upper end of the main street of Tallaght, the Oldbawn Road branches to the left and crosses immediately the Tallaght Bypass Road. Before the construction of this new road a small bridge named Watergate Bridge stood here and apparently marked the site of one of the medieval gates of the town. The bridge is now swept away and the course of the stream straightened out to form the boundary of the new road.

### **Old Bawn House**

The most important residence on this road was Oldbawn House which stood three-quarters of a mile south of Tallaght, where its gaunt ivy covered ruins were to be seen down to 1976. It lay to the west of and about five hundred yards back from the road.

This house was built in 1635 by Archdeacon William Bulkely, son of the Archbishop of Dublin. During the insurrection of 1641 the house was extensively damaged with its offices, garden and orchard, and cattle, horses and sheep driven off. The Bulkelys' claimed the entire cost of the house amounting to £3,000.

Archdeacon Bulkely died in 1671 and was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Bulkely. He died in 1685 and the place passed to his son who bore the same name. The second Sir Richard resided mostly in England, and Oldbawn was occupied by the Hon. William Worth, who married as his third wife the widow of the first Sir Richard, and as his fourth, the widow of the second Sir Richard. On his death in 1721 the estate passed



Ruins of Oldbawn House — *Patrick Healy*

to a son of his second wife, who took the name of Tynte from his mother's family. He married a grand daughter of Sir Richard Bulkley senior. It continued in the Tynte family down to the end of the century.

This house was built at a time when the normal residence for a gentleman in such a remote district was a fortified castle with narrow windows and flanking towers, and the optimism of the Bulkleys in erecting a many windowed mansion was not justified by subsequent events. It was, however, enclosed by a wide fosse and probably provided with a drawbridge. A broad avenue led to the county road, and to the south of the house was a large pleasure garden laid out with walks and ponds and avenues of trees. This survived in a very neglected state down to the early years of the last century.

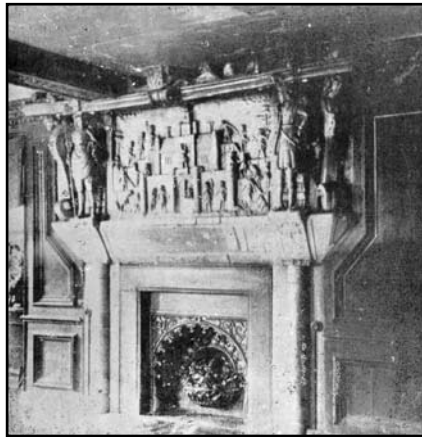
The house was of a typical late Tudor plan, shaped like an H, the centre portion being occupied by the hall. The south wing originally contained a parlour in the front and a sitting room in the back. The staircase to the upper rooms was in between. The north wing contained the kitchen in the rear, identified by the great fireplace, and a room of unknown use in the

front. In between was the buttery and stairs to the cellarage. At some early period the stairs to the upper rooms were moved back into the sitting room, which was converted into a kitchen, and an annex was built in between the two wings at the back.

The house contained four stories, the upper one being in the attic. The walls were of masonry with brick dressings and the tall chimneys were also of brick. The windows were originally fitted with diamond paned casements, later replaced by double hung sashes. The massive granite porch of the front entrance, with pillars of alternating square and circular blocks, appears to have been slightly later than the house..

The most interesting internal feature was the parlour mantlepiece, now in the National Museum, which bears the date 1635. It is executed in modelled stucco and depicts the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem. The figures represented as working on the building have each a weapon in one hand and a tool or implement in the other. At each side is a large figure in 17th century costume, one with a sword and spear and the other with a trumpet, and at each angle outside there is a console crowned with a female head. On the sloping front of the mantle shelf are grotesque faces representing the four winds.

This room was panelled and the ceiling was divided by great beams. The beams in the hall and in the chamber above were decorated with carving. The stairs were of oak, as appears to have been all the woodwork, internal and external. The adjoining 18th century farm yard buildings had a curved gable at the centre, crowned by a light cupola with a clock beneath, which were the dates 1721 and 1447.



Mantlepiece of Oldbawn House which was transferred to the National Museum.  
From Ball's *History of the County Dublin*.

Some time shortly before 1800, Oldbawn House was taken by Mr. Joseph McDonnell who built an extensive paper mill on an adjoining site. The north wing of the old house was completely gutted of internal features from ground floor to attic and incorporated into the mill. The windows were broken into large vertical openings and fitted with latticework to admit plenty of air for drying out the paper.

The McDonnell family occupied the rest of the house and continued to operate the mill down to about 1878 when it had to close down due to foreign competition. Several of the Dublin newspapers were supplied from here. Down to this period the house was in good condition, the rooms were furnished with antique furniture and there were oil paintings on the walls. According to a report made by Mr. Harold Leask in 1907 the oak timbering in the roof was still sound except where the slates had been damaged. Five years later the roof was stripped off and the floors and internal fittings were removed. The parlour mantelpiece and the stairs went to the National Museum and some of the panelling to Dublin Castle. The only parts left standing were the walls of the south wing, a part of the centre hall and one chimney. Extensive ruins also existed of the out offices and of the paper mill built by McDonnells. In 1976, when the area was being developed, all that remained was demolished and cleared away. Firhouse Road West now crosses the site of Oldbawn House near to where there is a grove of trees on the adjoining football grounds.

### **Kiltipper Parchment Mill**

The millrace which supplied the Oldbawn Mills was taken from the Dodder at Kiltipper or Diana as it was sometimes called. This race was in existence before the middle of the 18th century and was probably much earlier, as there is a large watermill shown at Oldbawn on the Down Survey map of 1655. The uppermost mill on this race was a parchment mill at Kiltipper. In the Cobbe Estate rentals of about 1816 this was described as a farmhouse and good slated skinn mill held by George Johnston, and a note is added that it was since burned down. It was in ruins in 1837. Some slight remains still exist on a high bank, over the Dodder with the track of the millrace adjoining. Even allowing for the fact that the

bed of the river has been deepened considerably in the last two centuries it is difficult to see how the water from the Dodder was raised to this height and there may be something in the suggestion made by Handcock that when this mill was operating the water was taken from the Bailymaice or Ballinascorney streams.

## **Glenville**

The weir which drew off the water of the Dodder was a little below Friarstown and was described by Handcock as made up of stones and sods, requiring renewal after every flood. This millrace was led along a high bank above the Dodder and passed below Kiltipper House to Glenville where it passed under the road to Oldbawn. Glenville was built by a Mr. Wildridge who altered the course of the millrace about the beginning of the 19th century and turned it through part of Kiltipper, for which McDonnell had to compensate the tenant of that farm. The house built by Mr. Wildridge, which was then called Glynville, is now used as an out office, a new residence having been built beside the road.



Glenville

## Haarlem Mills

After passing through Oldbawn Mills the millrace turned north and then east and passed below the Oldbawn Road to Haarlem Mills. In 1776 these mills were operated by Haarlem and Company, calico printers, who had here one of the most celebrated bleach greens in Ireland. In 1836 there were four mills here, the first, a flour mill, was operated by McCrackens down to 1863 and then by Thomas and John Neill. This mill was burned down in 1887. Next there were two mills close together, one a woollen mill and the other a flour mill. These were operated by Manus Neill and later passed to Thomas and John Neill. These were idle from about 1886.



Haarlem Mills — *Courtesy of Blackrock Education Centre*

The next mill was down near the Dodder. In Malet's report of 1844 it is named Neill's Woollen Mills, but a few years later it is described as a flour mill. In 1879 it was also held by Thomas and John Neill, and was closed down before the end of the century. The race was then carried along beside the river to Bolbrook Mills already mentioned. Before the development of this area it was a very interesting exercise to follow the course of this

millrace. The Dodder which had been constantly changing its course throughout the last two centuries had cut away portions of the millrace which ran close to it, and it may be due to this that all the mills closed down about the year 1887.

### **Bawnville**

Next to Neills Mills and nearer to Oldbawn Bridge was a picturesque old house named Bawnville. This was occupied in the latter part of the 19th century by James Walter Furlong who was on the sporting staff of the Irish Independent. His two daughters, Mary and Alice, made a reputation for themselves as poets. Mary was a nurse and died of typhoid in 1898 while nursing in County Roscommon. Alice Furlong was a singer as well as a poet and she only started writing poetry in 1893. This house, as well as the remains of the mills, millrace and millhouses were all cleared away in 1974.



Bawnville — *Patrick Healy*

### **St. Bridget's Chapel**

One of the chapels subject to Tallaght was known as St. Bridget's and was said to have been close to the Dodder. According to D'Alton the stones of the chapel were used to build a factory. O'Curry, in 1837 was shown a holy well called the chapel well near the Dodder. It had been filled in by a Mr. O'Neill about sixteen years earlier, on which account it moved to the other side of the field. It cured headaches and indigestion and contained a blessed trout up to the time of its desecration. He was also shown an old burying ground near it, but it was then only a flat meadow. This would appear to be the site of St. Bridget's Church and the reference to Mr. O'Neill would fix the location as somewhere near the Haarlem Mills. There was only one well to be found on the land along the bank of the Dodder and that was a strong spring in a pointed field 300 yards downstream from Oldbawn Bridge. This was on land formerly belonging to Haarlem Mills the property of the Neill family and was therefore in all probability the Chapel Well and the site of St. Bridget's Church. The field was very narrow here and the well could easily have changed from one side to the other. All these features have disappeared in the landscaping of the Dodder banks.

### **Oldbawn Bridge**

The Oldbawn Road crosses the Dodder at Oldbawn Bridge beside which is the Kiltipper Road leading to Killinarden. Before the bridge was built all traffic had to use a ford about 500 yards higher up the river and approached by a passage beside Glenville. About the year 1800 a man named Murphy was swept away with his horse and cart when trying to cross the ford in the dark during a flood. Shortly after this the bridge was built at Oldbawn and linked up with the road to Tallaght. The ford, however, appears to have continued in use for many years as the connecting road from the new bridge to Glenville was not made until the middle of the 19th century.

The bridge, which was a three-arched structure suffered as a result of the frequent floods which undermined the foundations and it had to be replaced about 1840 by a bridge of one span only. In due course the foundations of this bridge were also exposed and about 1880 a substantial





Old Bawn Bridge

dam was built below the bridge to prevent further erosion. In the nineteen twenties the County Council built a concrete by-pass, a tank and other works to operate a crushing plant but according to local information it was not working for very long. The tank, however, is availed of by local youths as a swimming place in warm weather. The name Oldbawn first appears in the Tallaght tithe list of 1547 and implies that there was an old enclosure existing here at that time. It has been suggested by Liam Price that the original name of this area was Lissekylle or Lisnekill which appears first in a grant of 1218 and in later documents but is omitted from the tithe list of 1547.

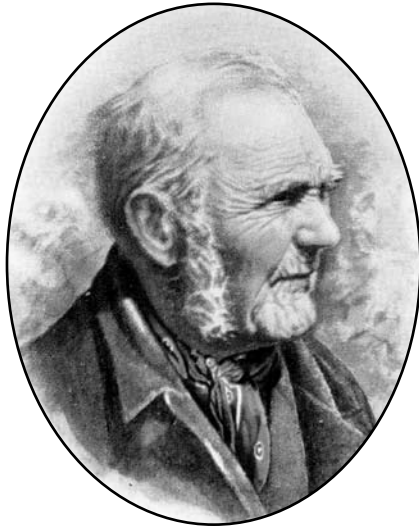
## **Kiltipper Road**

This road starts beside Oldbawn Bridge and passes Glenville where there is now an extensive putting green. A short distance further on, in a field beside the playing pitches of the Post Office Social Club, there is a stone cross bearing the date 1867. This is one of a number of such crosses erected in this parish about the middle of the 19th century as a protection against cattle plague. The cross, which is about six feet high, is neatly cut and is secured in a socketed base. Further on a steep byroad on the left leads up towards Tallaght Hill. This is in the townland of Ballymana, and the extensive ruins of Ballymana House were, until recent years, to be seen a short way up this road. Ballymana is referred to as Ballymanagh on Taylor's map of 1816 and on Duncan's map of 1821 and in the Bulkely Estate deeds as Boleynamanagh alias Boghercullen. The former name means "the summer milking place of the monks" and the latter would suggest that the old Slighe Cualann, one of the five roads leading from Tara, must have passed this way. Near the top of this road in the corner of a field on the right hand side there is an old burial place, an irregular raised area about sixteen yards across. Nothing is known of its history. This byroad is closed at its upper end by an iron gate.

The Kiltipper Road continues into the townland of Killinardan. In a field to the left of the road there was a small ring fort, which was destroyed about the middle of the 19th century. A short distance further on is a crossroads where the Killinardan Road comes up from Jobstown and climbs to the top of Tallaght Hill. This road is very steep and ascends for about a mile to where it is closed by a gate. It continues however as a green road and links up with a road leading down to Ballinascorney Gap.

The highest farm on this road, a short distance below the gate, was the home of Malachi Horan who recorded so much of the folklore of this area. Malachi was born here in 1847, the year of the famine, and spent his long life of almost a century working this mountain holding. In his old age he was visited regularly by his friend Dr. George A. Little to whom he related a vast store of memories, folklore and anecdotes going back to the rising of '98. Dr. Little has provided us with a valuable record of this in his book *Malachi Horan Remembers*, published in 1943.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Malachi Horan and his cottage — *Courtesy of Gill and Macmillan*

### **Knockanvinidee**

From the gate at the top of this road a prominent green hillock can be seen some distance to the south west. This is Knockanvinidee, described by O'Curry in 1837 as a pointed mound with stones appearing through the earth on its top and around it. He called it Cnocan a bhimda, but on Duncan's map of 1821 it is named Carrigreen a Vindee. While the actual hillock appears to be a natural feature it was almost certainly used as a prehistoric burial place, but its subsequent use as a gravel pit has removed any evidence of sepulchral usage. A short way to the west along this ridge is a very fine circle of stones enclosing the end of the ridge. There are sixteen stones surviving, and the outside diameter of the circle is 17 metres. On the north side of the green mound there was a group of standing stones, but they have all been displaced in the course of gravel digging.

On the lower part of Killinardan Road just below the crossroads there was formerly a holy well known as St. Paul's Well. It was in a field on the east side of the road, but the area is now tilled and the well has been covered over. O'Curry in 1837 refers to this well, and says that the old church of Killinardan was also here. The old graveyard was then distinguishable although the place had been under cultivation for many years.

Lower down, nearer to the Blessington Road, was Killinardan House, an old farm with extensive outbuildings now replaced by terraces of new houses. The next townland to the west is Kiltalown, formerly recorded as Killowan. There was an old church here which was mentioned also by O'Curry in 1837. Not a vestige then survived, the foundations having been torn up fifteen years earlier for the purpose of building by a Mr. Carpenter of Dublin. Unfortunately, O'Curry did not record exactly where this church stood, but since the house built by Mr. Carpenter, Kiltalown House, is still standing it was probably somewhere close to it. Both the Killinardan Road and the continuation of the Kiltipper Road lead down to the Blessington Road, the latter joining it opposite to Kiltalown House.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Kiltalown House

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

CHAPTER V

*The Western Section*

The road from Tallaght to Brittas has seen many changes in the last two centuries. Down to the end of the 18th century, the main road was across the side of Tallaght Hill by Mount Seskin, a very stiff climb for the coach horses of the period. Early in the following century a new road was laid out to improve the gradient. This followed the present road to Saggart as far as Boherboy. It then ran parallel to, but below, the present main road and into the bottom of the Slade of Saggart, where it crossed the Cammock River by a four arched bridge known as Downshire Bridge, which still survives, and then along the west side of the Slade to Brittas following approximately the line of the present road on the western side of the glen. This is shown on Taylor's map of 1816 and is named "New Road to avoid the Hill".



Downshire Bridge — *Courtesy of Liam Roche*

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This road fell into disuse when the present main road was laid out by Alexander Nimmo in 1827. Parts of it, including the bridge are in private hands, some parts are still in use and other parts have disappeared altogether. Nimmo's road was parallel to the above one it replaced and kept to the east side of the stream. Much of this is outside the parish of Tallaght but the original road by Mount Seskin was mainly within the parish boundary.

### **Belgard**

On leaving Tallaght the first junction on the right, the Belgard Road, leads to Newlands Cross and Clondalkin. Belgard belonged to the See of Dublin and was held by a branch of the Talbot family who occupied Belgard Castle, then an important fortress on the frontier of the Pale. Richard Talbot, later Duke of Tyrconnel was born here. In 1626 Belgard came into the possession of Adam Talbot who was described as one of the chief Roman Catholics of the district.



Belgard Castle



His son John took an active part in the rising of 1641 and in support of the Stuarts he followed King Charles into exile. He distinguished himself in the wars in Flanders, until by the Act of Settlement he was restored to a small part of his estate including Belgard Castle which he repaired and beautified. He later served as a Colonel in the army of James II and raised a regiment of cavalry which he led into battle at the Boyne and Aughrim. After the Treaty of Limerick he was allowed to return to Belgard where he died in 1697 aged 73. He was buried in Tallaght where his tombstone still survives in a very broken condition.

John Talbot had three daughters, one of whom, Catherine married Colonel Thomas Dillon, who then occupied Belgard. The Dillons continued to reside here down to the end of the 18th century and were responsible for building the Georgian house which now occupies the site of the castle. One medieval tower survives incorporated into the house. This was described by Austin Cooper in 1772 as a small high square tower with a house and other improvements.

In 1788 the house was leased to Francis Cruise and about the middle of the following century it was bought by Dr. Evory Kennedy, President of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland and passed through his daughters to the Lawrence family, who sold it in 1910 to the Maudes. The Maudes disposed of it in 1962 and after a few years as a novitiate for a missionary order it became the headquarters of the Cement Roadstone Company and both house and grounds are now maintained to a standard which is a great credit to that company.

### **Whitehall**

On the other side of the Belgard Road opposite to the grounds of Belgard Castle is the road leading to Ballymount Great. The first house on this road, Whitehall, was long associated with the Tynan Family and with the name of Katharine Tynan Hinkson. The Tynans were dairy farmers and had a shop in North Earl Street in the city. Katharine was one of twelve children and when she showed a talent for literature she received every

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Front entrance of Whitehall, once the home of Katharine Tynan  
*Courtesy of Tallaght Historical Society*

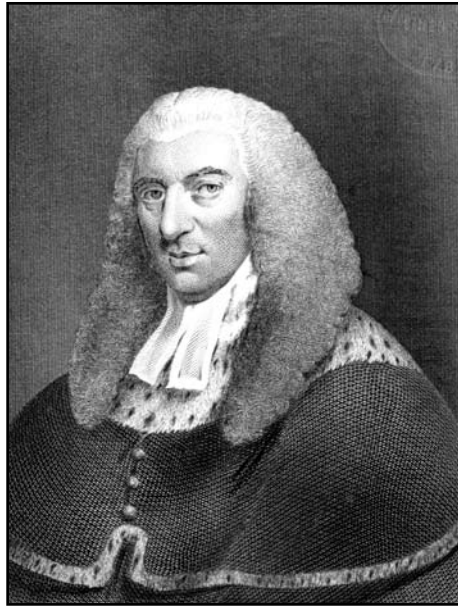


encouragement. She devoted most of her time to writing and had many literary friends who used to visit Whitehall every Sunday. These included Wilfred and Alice Meynell, W. B. Yeats, George Russell (AE), the Sigersons and the Piatts. Anna MacManus (Ethna Carbery) and Yeats used to stay here for long periods. At the side of the Belgard Road and facing down Ballymount Road is a large celtic cross erected in memory of Andrew Cullen Tynan.

Celtic cross erected in memory of  
Andrew Cullen Tynan.



Katharine Tynan in 1887 from an oil painting by John Butler Yeats in the Hugh Lane Municipal Gallery of Modern Art, Dublin.



Lord Kilwarden

*From Maxwell's History of the Irish rebellion  
in 1798; with memoirs of the Union and  
Emmett's insurrection in 1803*

## **Newlands**

Next to Belgard Castle is Newlands Estate, now a golf links. A house was built here about 1660 by Sir John Cole who had served in the army of the Parliament, but later supported the monarchy. About 1782, Arthur Wolfe, then a King's Council came to live here. On his elevation to the Bench, he was created Viscount Kilwarden and in 1798 he was appointed Chief Justice. At the time of the Emmet rising, he was travelling by coach from Newlands to Dublin Castle when he had the misfortune to drive into a party of rebels in Thomas Street, where he was piked to death. The house was later occupied by the Right Hon. George Ponsonby, Chancellor of Ireland, and again by Lord O'Brien of Kilfenora, better known as Pether the Packer.

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

Newlands Golf Club started playing here in 1925, having been founded a few years earlier as the Robinhood Golf Club. The old house was occupied as the club house down to 1982 when a new premises was opened. Regrettably, the old house was then demolished.



Newlands — From Ball's *History of the County Dublin*

The house was of two stories with single story wings. It had an Ionic porch and balustraded parapet. In a description published in 1959, Mr. D. F. Moore writes "The interior is enriched by the rarest and most beautiful of Bossi mantlepieces and the ceilings are decorated with exquisite plaster work which has been attributed to Bartholomew Cramillion, the Frenchman responsible for the noted plasterwork of the Rotunda Chapel."

A feature which never failed to attract attention was a small monument erected in the grounds behind the house by Lady Kilwarden to the memory of her pet canary. This was toppled to the ground about thirty years ago. It bore the inscription:

*His music floats him to the skys  
Dick chants his song and dies  
August 1792*

## Jobstown

Returning once more to the Blessington Road and following the old route into Jobstown there is nothing of interest as most of the old houses have been demolished. Bathampton Cottage, Airfield, Brookfield House and Whitestown House have all been cleared away, while Fettercairn House, further to the north survives as St. Mark's Youth Club and family centre.

Beyond the new Tallaght bypass is the old Jobstown Inn, in former times a thatched tavern, but now much modernised. There was formerly a castle on the lands of Jobstown which was occupied by the Fitzwilliam family. They are first mentioned here in 1326 and continued to reside in the castle down to the 17th century. In 1664 Gerald Archbold came into possession. The castle was then reported to be in good repair and was rated as containing two hearths. About twenty years later the lands passed to the Whitshed family who retained them throughout the 18th century. The castle is long demolished and even its site is forgotten.



Fettercairn House in the early 1970s — *Courtesy of Tallaght Historical Society*

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Jobstown in 1904 — *Courtesy of Gill and Macmillan*

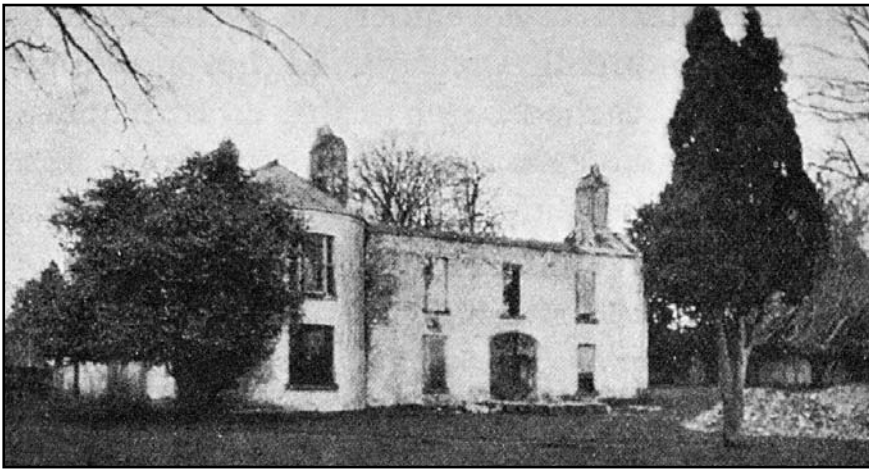
The famous war correspondent, William Howard Russell was born in 1820 at a house named Lilyvale in Jobstown. He became a journalist with the London Times and reported on Daniel O’Connell’s repeal campaign and on the famine. On the outbreak of the Crimean War, he became the first war correspondent and was later knighted for his work.



William Howard Russell  
From Atkins’ *The life of Sir William Howard Russell*  
*C.V.O, L.L.D the first special correspondent*

## Mount Seskin Road

Beyond the Jobstown Inn, the road rises steeply and passes on the right Kiltalown House, already mentioned. At the top of the hill on the left is the junction to Mount Seskin, the original coach road to Blessington. A short way up this road is a large farm house on the right where an old road now closed led down to the Embankment. This byroad passed an old house named Johnville, formerly occupied by the Roe family whose famous distillery stood in Thomas Street. During their occupation, the gardens which sloped up the hill, and through which a stream flowed, were well maintained and were planted with lines of trees, but they are now wild and neglected. About the middle of the 19th century a Dr. Luther took the house and developed it as a sort of Turkish Baths, but it did not last very long. Slight remains of the house survive as well as a number of outhouses all enclosed by a high wall.



*Johnville in 1905 — Courtesy of Gill and Macmillan*

Between this byroad and the Mount Seskin Road there is a holy well known as Tobar Moling. It is a strong spring rising in a marshy hollow in the hillside, and is now used for domestic purposes. Eugene O'Curry recorded in 1837 that there was formerly an old burial ground near it of which the site was at that time scarcely known. He was also informed that there was another well nearby known as the Piper's Well, and that this



ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

townland of Corbally was formerly an important manor, having a jail, Marshelsea and pound, and he was shown a field known as the Claish Field where a great number of inhabitants of Corbally were buried in a common grave during a great plague which raged some centuries before.

Further along the Mount Seskin road can be seen the derelict remains of the de Selby quarry works which were active many years ago, when the stone from the quarries was transported by overhead cable car to the main road below. *(The quarry is now owned by Roadstone Dublin Ltd. and currently supplies stone for the LUAS works).*



de Selby Quarry in 2004

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There is a well kept Lourdes grotto beside the road which bears the following inscription:

*This grotto was erected by  
the late Mrs. de Selby  
(nee O Malley)  
founder of these quarries  
and by late Mr. Tierney  
her faithful collaborator  
May they rest in peace*

This is said to have been erected by Mrs. de Selby in memory of her uncle who obtained great relief from his ailments after making a pilgrimage to Lourdes.



Lourdes Grotto

## ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT

On the summit of the hill directly above the quarries in the townland of Lugmore, there is a well preserved cist grave, now lying open with the cover stones lying beside it. According to Malachi Horan this was known as Kenny's stone from a man named Kenny who found an urn full of gold in it. Graves of this class belong to the early or middle Bronze Age and would date from about 1,500 B.C. to 2,000 B.C.. A few metres from the cist is a ring barrow cut across from its townland boundary and the part lying in Corbally townland destroyed. This would have belonged to about the same period.



Cist Grave Lugmore — *Courtesy of Tomás Maher*

After passing the quarries the road crosses a small stream and in a field on the west side of the stream about 200 metres from the road and still in the townland of Corbally, there is a low earthworks 18 metres square, enclosed by a bank of soil 2 metres thick and 50 cms high on which is a lone thorn tree. The entrance is not obvious. It may have been a mud walled house.

About half a mile further on there is a junction on the right, leading towards Verschoyle's Hill. About 100 metres down this side road is an old passage, now closed, leading through the Crooksling Sanatorium to the Blessington Road. In the second field on the right of this passage is a large ring barrow 27 metres in diameter. It is at the higher end of the field. There was also a ring barrow on the summit of Verschoyle's Hill which was unfortunately ploughed out when the hill was planted with trees about 30 years ago. The name recorded for this in 1837 was Lurnaree, (Láthair na Ríogh, Grave of the Kings) and it was described as being 40 yards in circumference, enclosing a smaller circle. There is another ring barrow 170 metres past this junction on the right hand side of the road. It is 20 metres in outside diameter and is now barely visible. On the opposite side of the road is a low mound 18 metres in diameter and only about 50 cms high.

### **Mount Seskin**

A short way further is the site of Mount Seskin House, the remains of which were demolished around 1987. The house is shown on Rocque's map of 1760 although it is not named. On both Taylor's Map (1816) and Duncan's map (1821), this area is named Moanseskin, but on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map in 1837 both house and townland are



Mount Seskin House in 1906 — *Courtesy of Gill and Macmillan*

named Mount Seskin. The property was held for the last two centuries by the Lynam family but the house was unoccupied since it was extensively damaged during the troubles. It was a large plain farmhouse with extensive outoffices and had a belfry on one gable for calling in the workers from the more remote parts of the farm. A draw well in the farmyard supplied the establishment with water. In 1977 the farm was let for tillage and about a square mile of grassland was ploughed for the first time in living memory. A number of ancient features were damaged including two ring barrows which were 300 metres east of the house. One of these had been cut in two by a boundary wall, and when they were ploughed over it could be seen that the enclosing sides were of yellow sub soil, while the area in the centre was composed of small stones. A mound near there was also levelled. The avenue which runs southward behind the house passed several mounds, some of which have been removed but one survives on a slight summit, although ploughed over, it is still well defined 15 metres in diameter and 80cms high.

On the hillside west of the Mount Seskin road there is a fine standing stone in the townland of Raheen. There are a number of shallow cup marks cut in it. About 500 metres south of this was a cairn of stones on a low summit. This is now gone.

Raheen Standing Stone  
*Courtesy of Con Connor*

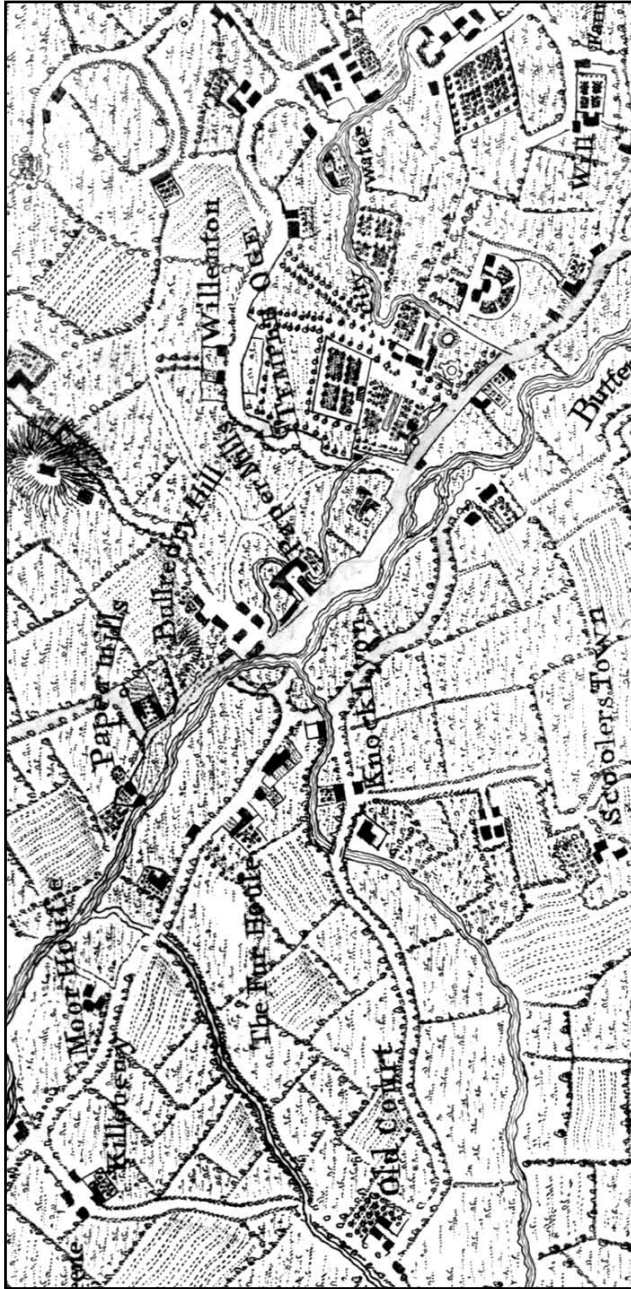


Appendix 1 — Additional Maps



Portion of Petty's Map of County Dublin, 1685.

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Templeogue from Rocque's Map of 1760

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TALLAGHT



Tallaght from Rocque's Map of 1760



## Appendix 2 — Bibliography

*A general bibliography mentioned by Patrick Healy in the text of this book could not be located amongst his papers. The assumed bibliography of works consulted is detailed below. In most cases the latest or most accessible editions of a source have been listed, especially where an edition of the source is held in the Local Studies Collection at the County Library in Tallaght.*

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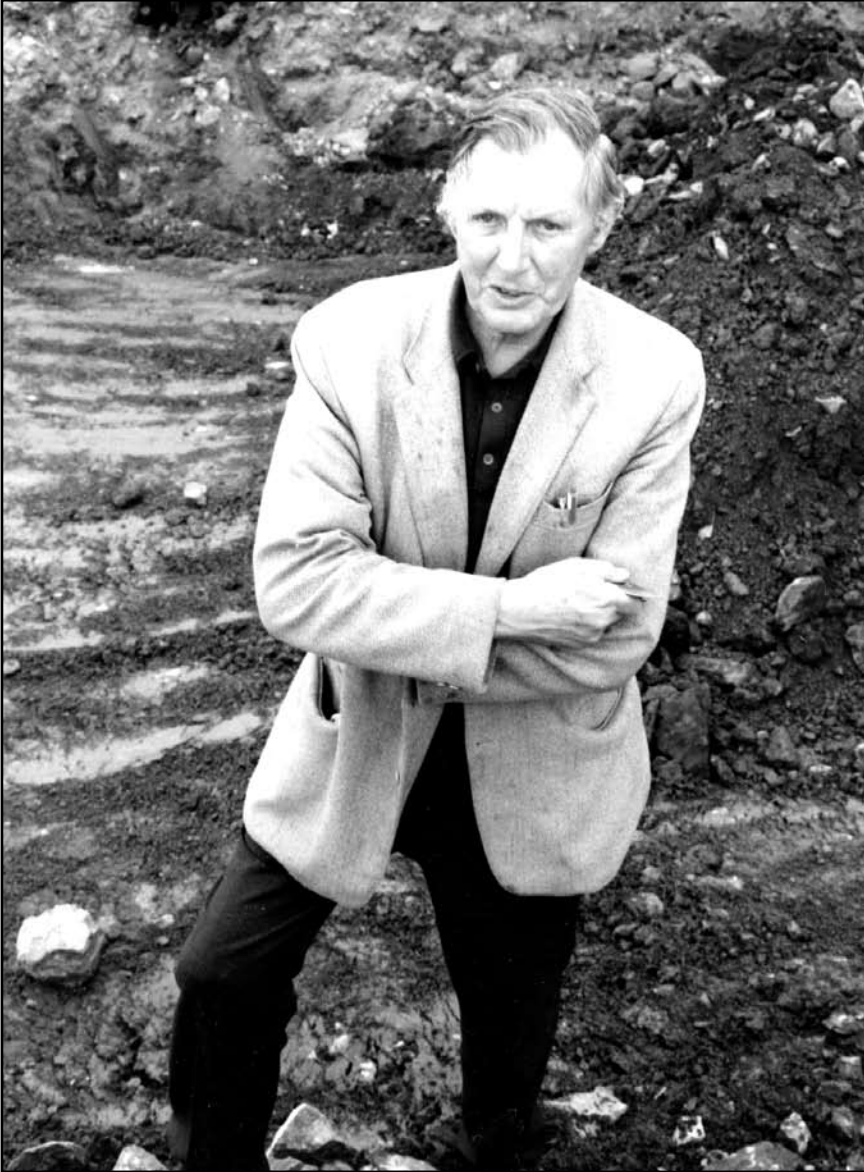
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**Appendix 3 — Patrick Healy on Con Colbert Road**



*Courtesy of Peter Healy, photographer Una McDermott.*

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