THE BOOK OF NEWRY

OLD NEWRY SOCIETY

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MICHAEL MCKEOWN

Acknowledgments

SINCE THE OLD NEWRY SOCIETY WAS FOUNDED, under the patronage of Bishop Francis G. Brooks DD, in May 1968, by noteworthy local historians such as John Bell, Paddy Crinion, Kevin Neary, Major G. Wilson Reside, Dr Padraic Quinn and Matt McAteer, it has held an annual winter season of lectures concerning every imaginable aspect of the detailed history of the area around Newry.

I am very proud to have produced this fine work which is published under the auspices of the Society. This is the first large scale publication which has been undertaken by the Society and involved many years of detailed research and the collection of images by many interested and talented persons.

The concept of this publication arises from the preparatory work undertaken by renowned local historian, Mr Irwin Major who prepared pen pictures of the extant buildings and monuments of the area along with biographical notes on the outstanding men and women who created and shaped our present.

Irwin Major, Anthony Russell and Eoin Magennis assisted me in weaving a tapestry of many diverse strands resulting in a history without a time-line and made thereby the more interesting. Billy McAlpine MBE who has photographed the buildings and places of this district for more than fifty years, has contributed numerous images to join with and be compared to the early postcard photography of Lawrence and Poulton. Many images have been supplied by Irwin Major from his lifelong collection of slides, Tommy O'Hanlon who allowed access to his extensive collection of Newry postcards and Dee Mulligan whose photographic work is printed here for the first time.

Others have contributed words, illustrations, advice and commentary. Among these are committee members: Gerry Murphy OBE, Padraic O'Donnell, Marie O'Donnell, Cathy Brooks, Brian McElherron, Francis Gallagher, Mary Sands, Violet Durkin, MBE and Chairperson Anne Smyth. Anthony Russell, Sister Perpetua McArdle of the Convent of Mercy, as well as Joe Canning and Dr Neill McGleenon of the Cardinal O'Fiaich Library and Archive contributed informed corrections and proof reading.

I am particularly indebted to Peter Makem who collaborated in the text of this book and to my son Colin McKeown who drove the process of publication to final completion. My thanks to everyone who assisted, and all those who agreed to be listed as Pre-Subscribers and made publication viable.

An especial word of gratitude to my wife Carmel Monaghan, who goaded me, fed me and loved me throughout the several years that I have been engaged on this project.

Michael McKeown
Newry, November 2008

Michael McKeown was born in 1946 in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. His working life, except for a three year stint as a primary school teacher, has been spent in developing innovative ideas into viable businesses. He established Expert Information Systems Plc, in 1983, and created a forerunner of the Internet.

He moved to Newry in 1995 where he started the accident management business Crash Services. In Newry he has taken a keen interest in the area and its history. He is a Committee Member of the Old Newry Society. He is Chairman of the Friends of Newry & Mourne Museum and a Trustee of the O'Fiaich Library & Archive, Armagh.

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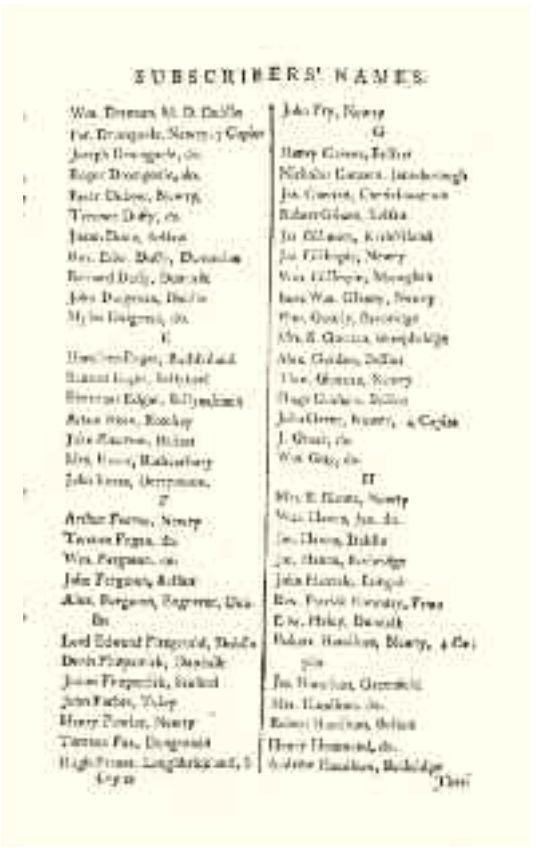
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Contents

Preface

IT IS NOW FORTY YEARS ON since a small group of local historians set out to relate stories about the Newry area. Following in the Seanchas tradition, few of the talks were written or published, thereby losing a great deal of our folklore and local knowledge. The Book of Newry is a major step in correcting that situation. The publishers are to be congratulated on this beautifully illustrated production. Within its pages you will find stories of people, buildings, places and circumstances involved in shaping the city we have today.

Henry Ford once said: "History is more or less bunk. We want to live in the present." Yet in this present day an insatiable desire to 'know our own place' exists in all of us. In this regard the pre-subscribers are to be commended for their confidence and support in making this book a reality. The quality of the text and photography makes this book a family heir-loom.

The stories ramble from the 19th century, then to the 6th and back to the 18th as each era of Newry's long history unfolds, bringing to life people who inhabited our hills and valleys in their search for a place to settle and develop.

Newry has had many names and nom de plumes: beginning with 'Ur Cinn Trá' - the Yew Tree at the Head of the Strand, where the Cistercian monks had their Abbey; 'Frontier Town' - in the no-mans-land between Gall and Gael; 'Commercial Town' - whose canal shadows the development of South East Ulster; 'Liberal Town' - devoid of a Royal School or an Irish Street.

The people and the places included in this book reflect all of those eras in simple words and results in a good read.

Gerry Murphy OBE
Newry, November 2008

Introduction

PEOPLE KNOW BY SOME INNER GUIDE where to stop and settle and end their wanderings, a sort of promised land in their heads that when they arrive they know they have reached their place of destiny, by the flowing river, a spring well, closeness to certain trees, a rise above a lough or an estuary. Whether a hundred or a thousand years old, our city, our village, our country area is a reflection of our identity. This urge to create and to contribute irrespective of position or of circumstance is the power of history. From the largest cities of the world downward, human habitation can be largely traced to spots and places that might be termed sacred or holy or profane.

Here in Newry, the Anglicisation of place names has largely wiped out any direct route into these early experiences. The names we now speak are abstract terms like that of Newry itself. Held within its English language limits it is inert and meaningless, a mere utterance. When it's known that the term is an Anglicisation of: 'an t-úir' (meaning: the Yew Tree), things begin to soften. Add to this 'Cinn Trá' (meaning: the Head of the Strand), and more is freed up and races back down the arteries of history into the middle of the fifth century to a specific tree planted at a certain place.

The native Irish monks who came here, long before the Cistercians who arrived in 1144, almost certainly settled on the same place as the Abbey and it must be asked how many sacred yew trees were planted in succession down the far centuries. And why were they planted in that particular spot and no other? An ancient altar? A prehistoric burial site? The Cistercians were the first shapers of Newry and though the original Abbey may be physically gone it still casts its shadow over the city. It can not be erased.

People do not live in isolation. They live and breathe in a built environment, while unobserved, a little part of their heritage slips quietly into oblivion. It is our purpose to record the history of some of the buildings and of the characters who peopled them, for the enlightenment of present and future generations. Some buildings, like the Bank of Ireland in Trevor Hill, were built strong and solid to inspire confidence in the Bank's customers while others like Dromantine House, were grand and decorative to reflect the wealth and power of the occupants.

This place called Newry and its hinterland is risen from many a crossroads. It grew from where a river and tidal waters touched. It emerged from where a hinterland stretched

down to the sea in the shelter of a great hollow carved out by the receding ice. Every stone was cut with human craft and energy and transported, set on a mortar bed and lined and plumbed. Our ancestors came with their trades and labour, to erect and to excavate, to reclaim land from the estuary, and to create buildings year by year, century after century. They made it happen, made it work and live, all the thousands whose names are only to be found on gravestones. They were no less noble in faculty than the surveyors, soldiers and politicians, bankers and architects, no lower in thought and imagination.

Across the skyline of Newry and district we observe in stone and brick the multiplicity of architectural styles and fine building. Then as now, they were created by those with wealth and power. They are symbols of status and vary in style according to the tastes of the time. As with art there are few satisfactory definitions of architecture. It is perhaps the creation of spiritual access, the sublimation of the forces and mass of nature. To achieve this sometimes involves major compromise. Nowhere is it easier to illustrate the combination of individual persons and distinct structures than by reference to the three great architects Duff, Barre, and Watson who practiced in Newry during the nineteenth century. Their achievements are detailed upon the tapestry which follows.

Pillars and pilasters, door and window forms, roof shapes, towers, spires and domes are all aspects of the insertion of the mystical into the physical, of making the innate come alive. Newry has many public heroes and personalities and many of these made a national impact. A place values people of integrity and achievement who have done things for the general benefit of all and among these are those who fulfil the great legends of literature, the wandering hero in search of their quest, a John Mitchel, a great maternal figure such as Jenny Mitchel, or those who have created the physical structure of the city, the merchants, industrialists and educators.

We reserve heroism for the people who change things, the great public figures and their deeds; yet, to live normally is heroic. And so it might be asked if Mitchel's wife is not at least an equally heroic figure as her husband. In this book we speak of the great public people of our history and the great ordinary people of our history. We speak of those who shaped the landscape with their ideas and those who made it happen with their hands. We work to understand the deepest drives that bring peoples to where they arrived and what makes their buildings and places rise out of the earth.

Peter Makem
Newry, November 2008

Opposite: Artistic impression of the Albert Memorial submitted to the General Committee by William J. Barre

William J. Barre
Architect, 1830-1867

WILLIAM J. BARRE, started his working life with a local builder, and in 1847 at the age of seventeen was articled as a pupil to Thomas Duff; the celebrated Newry architect. Duff died the following year and Barre finished his architectural training in Dublin in the office of Edward P. Gribbon. In 1850 he completed his studies and at the age of twenty-one set up his own business. He was architect of twenty-four churches of all denominations throughout Ireland including: Drumbanagher Church of Ireland and Belmont Presbyterian Church, Belfast. He entered and won competitions for many famous Ulster buildings notably: the Ulster Hall, the celebrated Albert Clock in Belfast, the Dawson Memorial in the Diamond, Monaghan and the Crozier Memorial in Banbridge.

Top: Provincial Bank, Royal Avenue, Belfast.
Bottom: Ulster Hall, Bedford St, Belfast.
Right: Barre's artistic impression of the Interior of the Ulster Hall
Opposite: Artistic impression of the Albert Memorial submitted to the General Committee by William J. Barre.

The Albert Clock Scandal

In 1865, four years after the death of Prince Albert (Queen Victoria's husband) it was decided to erect a memorial to his honour in Belfast. It was to be paid for by public subscription and so, in keeping with a convention of the time, an open competition was organised by a General Committee of Subscribers; who in turn formed a subcommittee with the remit of examining the designs and deciding on a winner. There were 76 entries for the design of "a clock not less than 90ft [27.4m] in height and the total cost including foundations not to exceed £1600". A first and second prize of £20 and £10 were offered. The winning design was awarded to William J. Barre, and in second place came Charles Lanyon; one of the most celebrated architects in Ulster to whom much of Victorian Belfast may be attributed.

Some serious skulduggery began when the designs were submitted to the General Committee; Charles Lanyon was present at the review meeting as a member of the General Committee. The Secretary of the General Committee deftly altered the word "awarded" to "recommended" to make it appear that the four finalists had not been placed in any order by the subcommittee but had been returned to the General Committee for final selection.

Lanyon was placed first and Barre second. This was Barre's second serious brush with Lanyon. A decade earlier in 1855 he entered the competition for the memorial to the 3rd Marquess of Londonderry; on Scrabo Hill outside Newtownards. It was his opportunity to acquire a high profile to match his youthful ambition. But although his design of an obelisk won the competition, the subscribers' committee gave the commission to Lanyon. Barre's biographer Durham Dunlop captures the frustration:

"Mark the scandalous artifice resorted to, the flagrant injustice practised. Mr Barre was tied down to Scrabo freestone, but no such conditions were imposed on the third rate competitor whose design was to be favoured. What was to cost only £2000 cost £3010 and the unfortunate contractor was ruined. With the same material, Mr Barre's design could have been built for £1600. Barre, unknown and unfriended was made the sport of an unfeeling and scandalous deception".

The case made its way into *The Belfast News Letter* where the superiority of Barre's design was detailed. The controversy and injustice was only ended when the Mayor of Belfast intervened and reinstated the decision of the subcommittee.

Riverside Presbyterian Church

"…the design of which leads us to anticipate that it shall be among the most beautiful edifices in town. It is certainly a suitable site, and so far the committee have reason to be thankful; but equally important is the fact that the members of the new congregation take a lively interest in the work, and large subscriptions have already been guaranteed. The church is intended to accommodate between 250 and 300 of a congregation. The style of architecture will be Lombardo-Venetian, and among its external attractions is a handsome steeple intended to be 90 feet high. The pews will be in the modern fashion, without doors, and the church will be heated by steam. The estimated cost is £1,700."

From The Newry Almanack (1866)

Barre's life was as short as it was filled with enterprise. He spent a day in long wet grass marking out the foundations for a villa in Downpatrick. He never recovered from the severe cold he contracted following this wetting on site. His doctors ordered him to the south of France to recover. Overcome by anxiety for his practice he cut short the prescribed six months to two. At the time of his death, aged only thirty-seven, he was engaged in no less than twelve major projects including: Edenderry Spinning Mill, Crumlin Road, Belfast; three churches in Dungannon, Moy, and Crossgar; and the Provincial Bank (now Tesco), Royal Avenue, Belfast.

He died on September 23rd 1867 and is buried in St Patrick's churchyard in Newry. Barre's first commission came, at the age of twenty-one, from the Non-Subscribing Presbyterians in Newry.

Above left: **The Venetian Tower sited between the Newry River and the Newry Canal.**

Above right: **Bessmount, near Monaghan, a fancifull creation of William J. Barre.**

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Below: List of citizens of Newry who donated to the building of the Non-Subscribing Church.

LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS

NEW UNITARIAN MEETING-HOUSE,

WILLIAM J. BARRE PRODUCED, according to his biographer, Durham Dunlop, a 'Gothic Gem' with a tower, a spire and pointed windows instead of the conventional barn-like structure of most Presbyterian Meeting Houses. It was built using local granite, in a style known as 'Geometric Decorated Gothic', and completed in 1853. The large gable window at the west end has five lights, with richly traceried heads and moulded mullions. It has been recognised ever since as one of the finest Presbyterian churches in Ulster because of its compact structure and aesthetic proportions.

Barre's revolutionary building was to inspire a new style for dissenting communities all over Ireland. Before their new church was built at Needham Place, now John Mitchel Place, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterians worshipped at the Old Meeting House Green, High St.

Above: Interior of the Non-Subscribing Church.

Old Meeting House Green

THE NON-SUBSCRIBING PRESBYTERIANS worshipped in a barn-like structure before they moved to the 'Gothic Gem' at John Mitchel Place. The ruins of their former meeting house, abandoned in 1854, surprisingly still stand in atmospheric majesty on the Old Green at High St. Its existence and location now obscured by the Convent of the Poor Clares. Access is gained through a narrow gateway that leads to a pair of roofless stone built gables. This building was erected by Scottish settler stock in the 1720s and was used for over a hundred years until the new building was erected in 1853.

In a corner of the Green is a decoratively moulded octagonal granite sundial resting on a square plinth of three granite steps. It has a circular bronze face set horizontally, the perimeter of which is incised with Roman numerals and some decoration. The sundial, made by Adams of London, was presented to the congregation in 1757 by Robert Wallace; one of Scotland's greatest Presbyterian Ministers. John Wesley preached here on several occasions and the open air pulpit he used remained on the Green for more than a hundred years. The outstanding preacher and leader of the local congregation was the Rev John Mitchel.

Poor Clares

Dr Kelly, Bishop of Dromore, invited the Poor Clares to come to Newry and on 2nd June 1830 Mother Mary Tracey arrived with four sisters. They were the first Nuns to have settled north of the Boyne since 1690.

A house, with its appendages, in High St was presented to the community by the Rev J. Gioler, of Rostrevor, and two months later the foundation stone of a new chapel and school had been laid. There was a very famous visitor to the school in 1839, in the shape of the Great Liberator, Daniel O'Connell. In the Visitors' Book, he appended the following remarks: "…noted is the neatness and cleanliness of the children, the superior style of their pronunciation and their thorough understanding of what they read". By 1857, a further extension was undertaken in the form of a dispensary/infirmary and an Infants' School. It was not until 1925 that the Sisters provided Secondary Education. This was the beginnings of the Sacred Heart School which now stands in Ashgrove, Damolly.

Opposite: **The Sundial, by Adams of London, was presented to the congregation in 1757.**


WESLEY'S PULPIT. NEWRY. 3083. W.L.

Rev John Mitchel
Pastor, 1781-1840

Opposite: **The Mitchel family plot and centre right: the open air pulpit from which John Wesley preached.**

THE REV JOHN MITCHEL was installed in 1823 as minister of the congregation which used the Old Meeting House. It was at a time of great upheaval and division within the Presbyterian Church. Believed to have been born in Newry in 1781, Rev John Mitchel was educated at the University of Glasgow and entered the ministry as a Presbyterian clergyman in 1810. His first congregation was near Dungiven in Co. Derry where he met and married Miss Mary Haslett.

The 1820s saw continuous strife among Presbyterians in Ulster. Rev Mitchel sided with the liberal views of Henry Montgomery which tended to continue the ideals of the United Irishmen. In fact his son John claimed that his father had once been a United Irishman. In the subsequent division which tore the Presbyterian Church apart, Mitchel led the majority of his people from the mainstream Presbyterian teaching into what was called the 'Remonstrant Synod of Ulster', also described as the 'Unitarians'. Mitchel and his followers became Non-Subscribers but being in the majority in Newry they remained in possession of the Meeting House in High St. Those who continued to subscribe to the General Synod established Sandys St Church in the town.

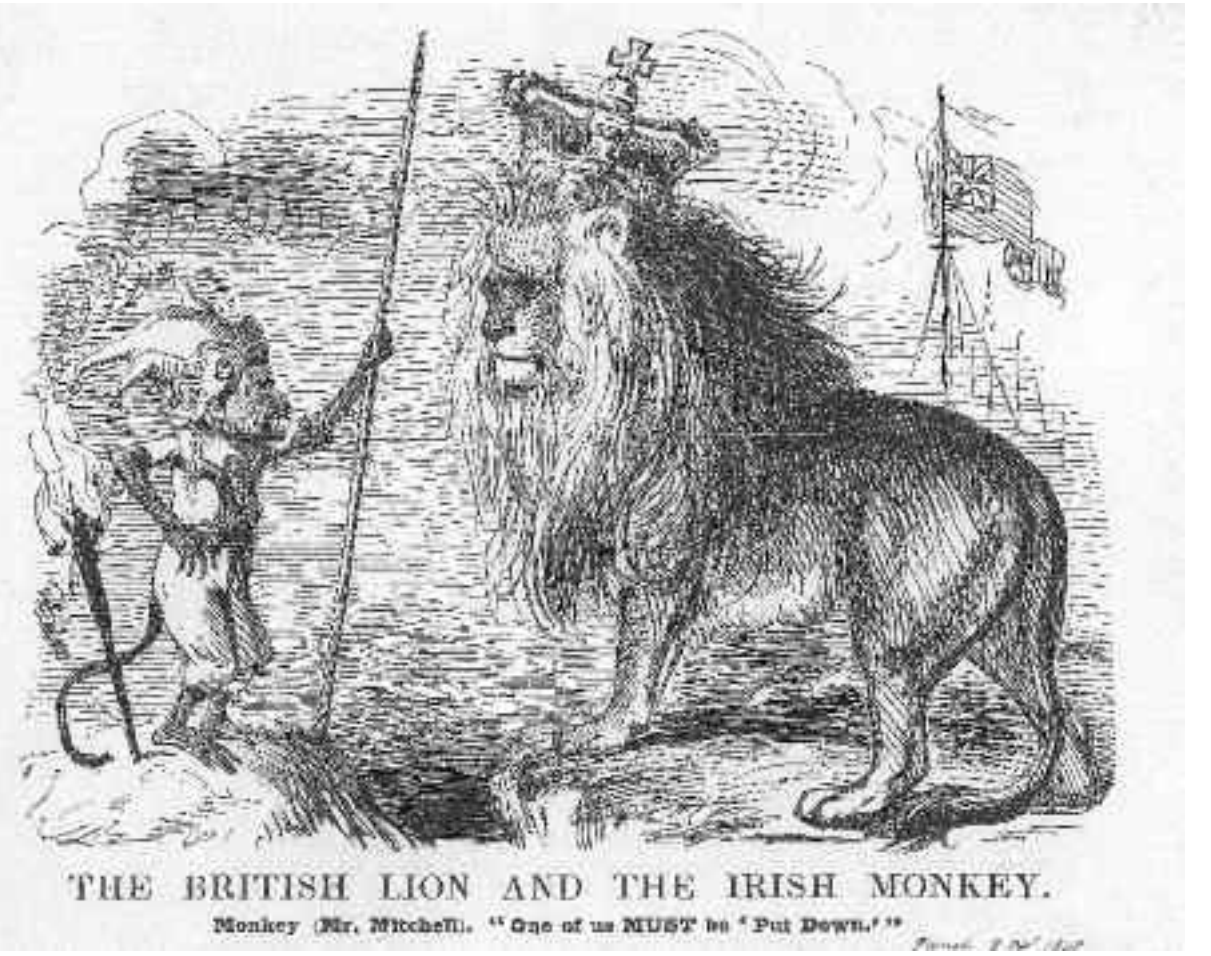
The Rev Mitchel was deeply involved in helping the poor and campaigned vigorously for the establishment of a Savings Bank in the town. His son John was the first secretary of the Newry Savings Bank. The Rev Mitchel, his wife Mary and their family of two sons and four daughters resided at Ivybrook Lodge. The house still stands on the Dromalane Road but has become subsumed in the larger extension to its rear and is known today as Dromalane House. The intertwining of these particular buildings is surprisingly analogous with the lives of the Mitchel children and their neighbours the Hill Irvines with whom they intermarried. After his death the Rev Mitchel's widow Mary travelled widely. When her younger son William Haslett Mitchel emigrated to New York to evade arrest; She joined William there with two of her daughters. She was in New York to greet John, Jenny and family when they arrived there triumphantly in 1853. She lived there for several years before coming back to live in London and finally returning to Newry where she died in 1865. Mary Mitchel is buried within the family grave in the Old Meeting House Green with her husband and her son John Mitchel; the Irish Patriot.

Top: **William Haslett Mitchel.**

Bottom: **Left of centre is Ivybrook Lodge home of the Rev Mitchel.**

John Mitchel
Patriot, 1815 – 1875

JOHN MITCHEL WAS BORN at Camnish near Dungiven, Co. Derry, on 3 November 1815. His family moved to Newry in 1824 where he attended Dr Henderson's school in Hill St, Newry. When he was just fifteen he entered Trinity College, Dublin to study Law. He graduated at the age of nineteen and became apprenticed in the office of John Quinn, Solicitor, of 8 Trevor Hill, Newry. He later joined the firm of Samuel Frazer as a partner; taking responsibility for the Banbridge office. He was often employed by Catholics in the legal proceedings arising out of Orange March affrays and he saw how cases were dealt with by Magistrates, many of whom were Orangemen themselves. This personal experience spurred his hatred of injustice and set him on his crusading interest in politics.



Right: Mitchel was characterised as an impudent monkey in this cartoon in Punch Magazine.

Opposite: A life size statue of John Mitchel stands at the entrance to St Colman's Park facing St Mary's Parish Church. Erected in April 1965, it was the first public statue in the town. It portrays the young Mitchel carrying a quill pen and a book.

A Moving Tale: Ireland to Tasmania

John Mitchel and his wife Jenny (nee Verner) set up the first of many homes in a cottage in Dromalane near his father's house. They moved to Banbridge when John began to practice as a solicitor. The Mitchels had four children while in Banbridge.

Upper Leeson St, Dublin was the next move when John was invited to be editor of *The Nation* newspaper. Jenny gave birth to another daughter and they moved to Ontario Terrace on the Grand Canal.

In 1848, when John was sentenced to 15 years transportation, their house was 'seised' and Jenny had to return to Newry with her children. In 1851 when her husband became a 'ticket-of-leave' man in Tasmania (he could move at will under certain limited restrictions), Jenny sailed 13,000 miles with her five children to meet him. The family 'settled' at Bothwell in Tasmania where another daughter was born in 1852.

He wrote a pamphlet addressed to the "Protestant farmers, labourers, and artisans of the North of Ireland" that exhorted them to overthrow English rule and to join with their Catholic neighbours in establishing a new state. Whilst still practising law, Mitchel began writing for *The Nation*: the newspaper of the Young Ireland movement. When its editor, Thomas Davis, died in 1845, Charles Gavan Duffy invited Mitchel to join the newspaper. His literary and intellectual gifts came to the fore with powerful descriptions of the potato famine. Mitchel was convinced that, though God had sent the potato blight, the British had used the Great Potato Famine as a means of reducing the native population of Ireland to a governable level and clearing the land for landlords to make larger farms.

In 1846, Mitchel and other Young Irelanders broke with the ageing Daniel O'Connell, rejecting the doctrine of 'moral force'. Mitchel could never be satisfied with being merely a member of any constricting organisation instead remaining always his own man; strong headed and strong-willed. He strove to be leader. He soon left *The Nation* and in February 1848 published the first issue of *The United Irishman*. His paper promoted armed insurrection as the only method of combating the evils afflicting Ireland as he saw them, and in May 1848 the inevitable happened when Mitchel was convicted of treason felony and sentenced to fourteen years' transportation to Van Diemen's Land (modern day Tasmania), off the southern coast of the Australian Mainland. He hoped the injustice of his trial and sentencing would provoke an insurrection throughout Ireland. A forlorn hope amongst a starving people and matters were confined to a skirmish at a cottage in Co. Tipperary. The London Times made ridicule of the entire uprising describing it as: 'The Battle of Widow McCormack's Cabbage Patch'.

Mitchel escaped to America in 1853, where he published his famous "Jail Journal": a detailed account of his banishment and escape. In one entry, he welcomes the Crimean War believing an Irish rebellion would only succeed if England was preoccupied elsewhere; a philosophy adopted later by the leaders of the 1916 rising. He believed the British Empire was an enemy of humanity and he admitted to "a diseased and monomaniacal hatred of Britain." Mitchel launched several newspapers in America. As editor of *The Richmond Examiner* he championed slavery, believing it to be beneficial to the Blacks, and claiming that they were better treated than the peasants in Ireland. In America he saw the industrialised Union States as occupying the same hypocritical position as Britain. In 1867, despite his support for the Confederacy he moved north and founded the *Irish Citizen* in New York, but angered Fenians by suggesting they should give allegiance to their new country. His anti-British speeches and articles were still eagerly consumed in Ireland where the agrarian revolts against Landlordism were in full swing.

A Moving Tale: Tasmania to America

The ever restless John Mitchel decided to make a break for it out of Tasmania, in 1853, disguised as a Jesuit priest. He sailed via Sydney and Tahiti to San Francisco. Jenny and her six children boarded the same ship and made the seven week voyage to America. In San Francisco they had a rapturous reception from the Irish who had rushed to that city in search of gold.

John, however, could not stay in this backwater of politics and yearned for New York. The interior of the country was still a place where Native Americans attacked white wagon trains and the only viable routes were by ship around Cape Horn, with its well known dangers, or across the Isthmus of Panama. They choose the latter. That journey with six young children involved traversing mountains with pack mules and native guides, boating across mosquito infested lakes and avoiding recapture by the British.

In New York they settled in Brooklyn. In 1856 John Mitchel decided he would try his hand at farming and the family moved to Knoxville, Tennessee. The venture flopped and within a year they had resettled in Richmond, Virginia. They moved again to Washington and then back to New York.

A Moving Tale: France to Ireland via America

By 1859 the Mitchels had taken up residence in Paris, France. Their two daughters converted to Catholicism and went to convent school and one became a nun there. Just two years after the Mitchels arrived in Paris the American Civil War broke out. John, with youngest son Willie, sailed for Richmond, Virginia to volunteer for the Confederate Army. When the war dragged on, and there was no likelihood of his imminent return, Jenny and her daughter sailed to be with John and the boys. Their ship was attacked and sunk by Yankee gun boats. They escaped with their hand luggage and their lives. After the war they moved yet again to New York where John was recruited by the Fenian movement to act as bursar. He was stationed once again in Paris, France. Jenny chose to remain in America. When John returned to claim the Tipperary seat in Parliament, in 1875, she had intended to follow him back to Ireland; but she was 3,000 miles away from Dromalane when he died.

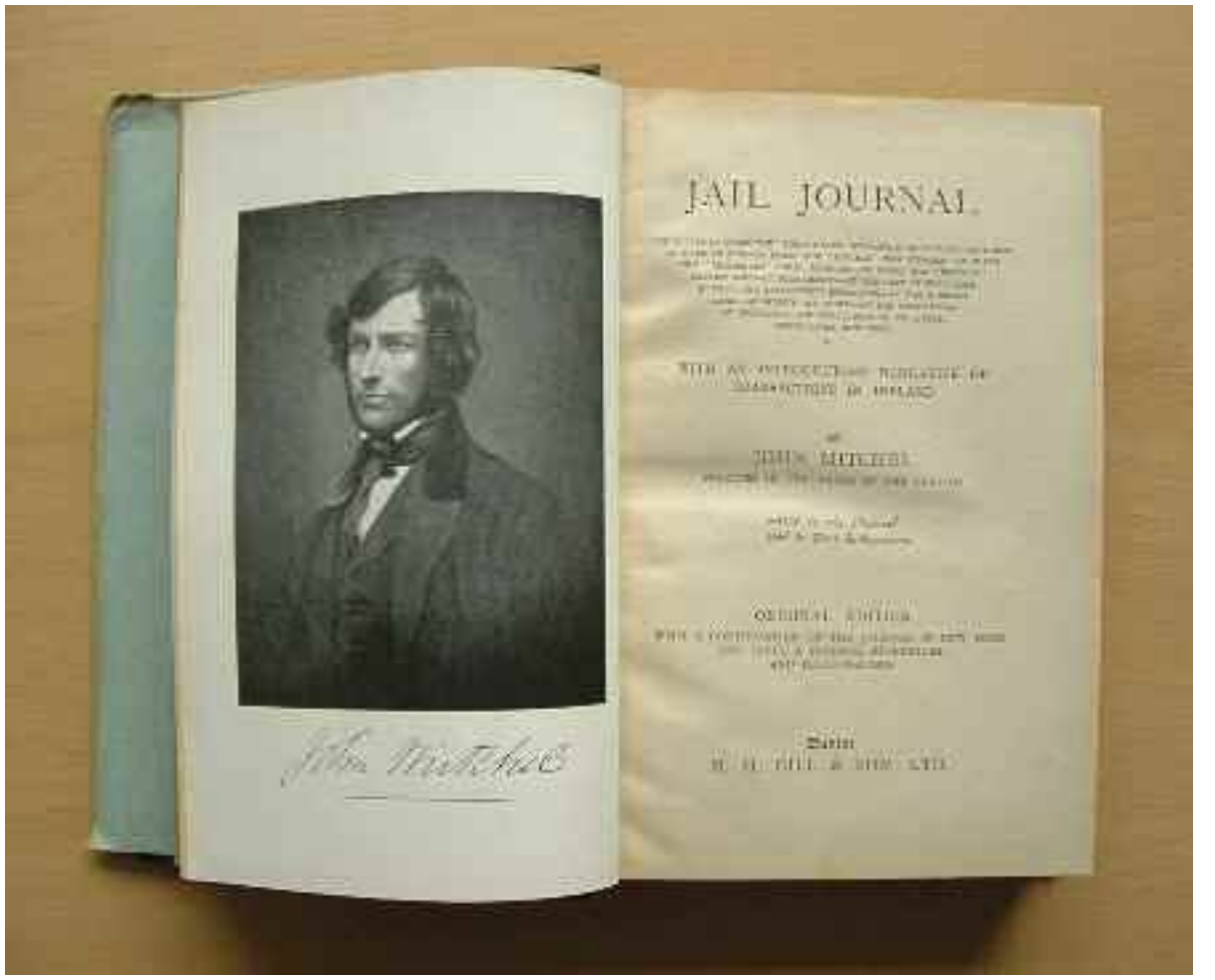
Left: Tens of thousands of this romaticised print were sold to Irish American admirers of John Mitchel.

Above: The daughters of John and Jenny Mitchel pictured at Dromolane House.

Family Tragedies

At the commencement of the American Civil War, Jenny and John Mitchel were living in Paris with their three daughters and the youngest son Willie. The two eldest daughters were attending the Sacre Coeur Convent School and were very happy there. So much so that the oldest girl Henrietta became a Catholic and decided to enter the Society of the Sacred Heart. The older sons John and James joined the Confederate Army. John was quickly promoted and became Commander of Fort Sumter. His younger brother Willie travelled to Virginia with his father; where they volunteered.

Jenny came to Newry for a short holiday, in May 1863, where she received the tragic news that her daughter Henrietta had died in the convent in Paris. Two months later, on 3rd July 1863, Willie was killed, in the famous Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg. His body was wrapped in a blanket by his comrades who pinned on a notice with the legend: 'W.H. Mitchel, son of the Irish Patriot'. Tragedy struck again, in July 1864, when their eldest son: 26 year old John, was killed on the battlements of Fort Sumter, the symbol of Confederate defiance. His final words were: "I willingly give my life for South Carolina; Oh that I could have died for Ireland." Three of the five Mitchell children had lost their lives within a thirteen month period.



In 1875, he was returned unopposed as MP for Tipperary, but was disqualified as a convicted felon. Returning to Ireland he was elected once again, but before he could be unseated he died at Dromalane House, the home of his sister Margaret and her husband Hill Irvine. Mitchel had been bedridden for several days since arriving back home in Dromalane. Early on 20th March 1875 his brother William was sitting on the bedside conversing when John said: "I feel better this morning; I think I will rise soon". With these last words he fell back and passed away.

John Mitchel was a genetic rebel. He rebelled against the British, against Daniel O'Connell, against his colleagues in Young Ireland, against his newspaper *The Nation*, against the Australian authorities, against the USA, against the Confederate States and finally against the Fenians. More than ten thousand attended his funeral in the rain on the route that led to the Old Meeting House Green in High St from Dromalane House. The remaining members of his own family were three thousand miles away in the United States of America. The death was notified by a telegram sent to his home in Brooklyn addressed to his wife Jenny (nee Verner).

Above right: **Mitchel's "Jail Journal" was a best seller in both America and Ireland.**

Jenny Verner
Wife and Mother, 1825-1899

THE LIFE OF JOHN MITCHEL who has given his name to John Mitchel Place in the centre of Newry City and to whom a fine statue stands in memorial was a saga of classical proportions. His journeys and his exploits took him around the globe and made him one of the best known persons on the planet. The fame and the notoriety were his alone. The privations of travel, the uncertain future, the incessant change of domicile, the financially precarious existence and the tragic death of sons and daughters were shared with the unsung heroine of the story, his wife Jenny Verner.

Their story is one of the great romances of 19th century Newry and of the world. They met in 1836 when he was twenty one years old, and she was a fifteen year old girl attending Miss Bryden's School for Girls in Marcus Square.

Jenny's biographer, Rebecca O'Conor, writes (in a style that would embarrass Mills and Boon):

> *"They were walking on opposite sides of the Clanrye River, a meander dividing Newry Borough. She was coming from her school, he from apprentice duties recently assumed with the lawyer John Henry Quinn. The small stream would not divide them for long. The moment her eyes met those of John Mitchel, for the first time, there was the shock of love so strong as to be a commitment. His Byronic carelessness emphasised to Jenny's susceptible heart the romance everybody knew he was living out."*

In 1836 during long furtive walks along the banks of the Clanrye, John Mitchel and Jenny Verner fell deeply in love. Jenny's family were planning to leave Newry but she did not want to part from her love. Mitchel, the lawyer, knew that the magistrates in Chester were issuing licenses in less time than elsewhere; so the young lovers made their plans to elope.

Mitchel would go to Dublin on business and act normally. The next day he would double back with a carriage and wait for Jenny at the foot of the Dublin Road; not 300 yards from

Captain John C. Mitchel's Death

Sergeant Milton Leverett, stationed at Fort Sumter, writing to his mother on 23 July 1864:

"We have had a very sever loss in poor Capt. Mitchel… He had gone up on the parapet examining into the condition of things when the sentinel said 'Lookout' and told him he had better dodge. He said he wouldn't dodge any of their shells when the shell (a mortar shell) exploded and sent a large fragment right through his thigh and hip mutilating and mangling it horribly taking out the bone clear. He lived about four hours after that. I staid at his head and fanned him with a hat until he died, then helped to cut off some curls to send his mother, assisted in laying him out and dressing him in his full uniform placing him in his coffin putting a large flag we had over him and then sending him off by boat to Charleston. He said he wished to be buried in Magnolia Cemetery without any 'row' quietly as possibly. His last message to his mother was quite peculiar. Says he, 'Oh my poor mother when she hears this…' 'Percy (speaking of Percy Elliott his adjutant) you must write to my mother, tell her I died like a gentleman at my post fighting gallantly in the same cause as my poor brother Willie…"

From "The Leverett Letters, Correspondence of a South Carolina Family 1851-1868". (2000)
Edited by Frances Wallace Taylor, Catherine Taylor Matthews, and J. Tracy Power.

Right: The Verners lived in Queen Street, now Domnic Street, in the house on the right as tennants of Arthur Russell

The Dublin Evening Mail.

Extraordinary Elopement

"James Verner, Esq. of Ballybot, in the county of Armagh, near Newry, having discovered that his daughter, Miss Jane, aged fourteen years had eloped from his house, set on foot an immediate enquiry, and ascertained that she was induced to commit this brash act by a John Mitchel, a law student about twenty one years of age, son of a clergyman in his neighbourhood. He traced the fugitives to Dundalk, Drogheda and Dublin where he learned they had sailed for Liverpool. Having obtained a warrant, he proceeded to the last mentioned place, and ascertained that they had gone to Chester, in which city he overtook them, brought back his daughter and left Mr Mitchel in custody. Peace Officer McDonough of the Head - Police Office was immediately dispatched for the prisoner, with whom he arrived here last Saturday, and he was committed to Kilmainham Jail to abide his trial at the ensuing assizes in the county of Armagh."

From *Dublin Evening Mail*, 16th November, 1836

her home in Queen's St, (now Dominic St). An informer (a clerk in Quinn's office) told John's father, the Rev Mitchel, who in turn, told Jenny's father; James Verner. A watch was kept on Jenny and on Dublin Bridge but since the elopement was not intended until the following day nothing happened and the watch was withdrawn. The next day Jenny left the house by the front door and, depending upon which version you want to believe, the carriage took them to Warrenpoint beach where they rowed out to meet the Liverpool steamer.

The Dublin Mail of 16th November 1836 reported that they fled through Dundalk, Drogheda and Dublin and then to Chester. James Verner followed them there and caught up to 'Lieutenant and Miss Johnson' in lodgings. Jenny was sent to a secret location in the country. John was put in Kilmainham Jail until he was discharged on bail. The families were persuaded to drop their opposition and two months later, on 3rd February 1837, John Mitchel married Jenny Verner in the church at Drumcree, near Portadown.

Jenny shared the trials and travels of her husband throughout their lives together until his death in 1875. She lived on as 'John Mitchel's widow' for a further twenty four years in Brooklyn, New York where she carried on a printing business with her son James. Her days of following in the train of her spouse had ceased. She passed away at ten to twelve on December 31st 1899; ten minutes short of the new century.

John Martin
Politician, 1812 -1875

JOHN MARTIN WAS THE MOST GENUINE of all Irish patriotic figures in his era earning him the title: 'Honest' John Martin. He was a founder and early champion of Irish constitutional politics which led to the creation of the Irish Parliamentary Party and the emergence of Parnell. His life seemed to be inextricably linked with that of John Mitchel; one promoted the route of armed insurrection and the other constitutional politics, their friendship and mutual respect remained throughout life. While a pupil at Dr Henderson's classical school he met Mitchel and formed a friendship; both being afflicted by asthma and sharing the same initials.

John Martin was the son of Samuel and Jane (nee Harshaw) Martin and was born in Loughorne, Newry on the 8th September 1812 into this landed Presbyterian family. After receiving an Arts degree at Trinity College, Dublin in 1832 he abandoned his plan to study medicine when his uncle died and was forced to return to manage the family landholding. Mitchel was at Trinity at the same time studying Law. When Mitchel moved to Dublin to edit *The Nation*, John Martin also took up residence there and contributed to it. He was, like Mitchel, profoundly moved by the experience of the Great Potato Famine and followed Mitchel into the Repeal Association. On his joining Mitchel wrote to Gavan Duffy:

> *"If there be a single member who joined for the pure love of justice and of his native land, that one is John Martin."*

When Mitchel launched *The United Irishman* in February 1848 he was again aided by John Martin. In May 1848 when Mitchel was convicted Martin continued with his own anti-British journal: *The Irish Felon*. It was short lived. He too was convicted of treason and sentenced, on August 18th, 1848, to 10 years transportation. They met again in Van Diemen's Land where they were permitted to live together at Nant Cottage. Martin chose not to join Mitchel when the latter revoked his 'ticket of leave' and escaped. Instead he remained in Tasmania until he was granted a 'conditional pardon' in 1854 and left for Paris, eventually returning to Ireland on being granted a full pardon in 1856. His brother Robert and wife Millicent both died of Scarlet Fever in 1858 and he assumed guardianship of seven young children at Kilbroney House near Rostrevor.

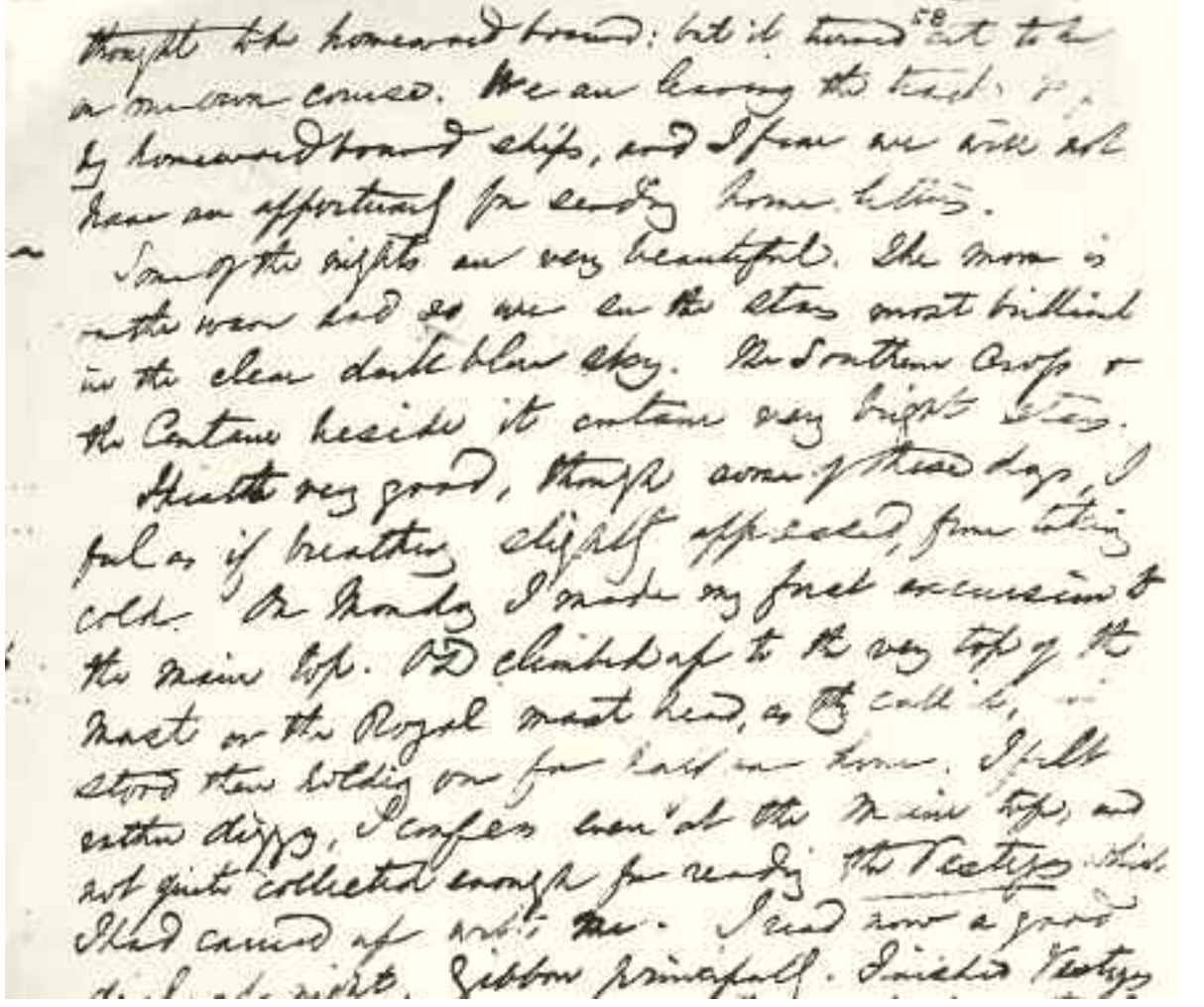
Wrestling with Mitchel in Van Diemen's Land

"We decided by toss-up that the room on the right hand (as one enters the hall door) is to be our sitting room. I prefer the other room for our bed-room because I hope it will be less likely to be infested with bugs, of which I am very apprehensive in this old wooden house and particularly in the room to the right which was till now 'King John's' bed-room. I have brought ½ an ounce of corrosive sublimate for the destruction of the various vermin, should they annoy us. After tea I lounged out in the paddock and smoked a pipe quite luxuriously in the lovely mild warm night...

Mitchel was rather silent and sullen because I was rather lively. He dozed on the old sofa while I smoked... Then we had a long row about the important question of who should sleep on the said sofa tonight—there being but one bed, viz my mattress… He was obstinate and cross, and would occupy it himself in spite of me. I proposed to abide by the solemn decision of toss-up. He would not consent. I persisted in appealing to the Court of Chance, and got a decision assigning the sofa to myself. He attempted repeatedly to force me out of the room; and in our struggles the old sofa was broken and chairs knocked down and ourselves considerably heated. He could not put me out and I would not try to force him out.

I undressed and proceeded to take the blankets and place myself on the sofa for rest. He plucked away the blankets and wrapped them round himself and stretched himself on it. I seated myself on a chair, in my shirt, and declared I would remain there till he consented to fair play. He spoke no more to me all night, except something to the effect that I 'was drunk'… After about an hour it grew chill and I put on my trousers and coat and leaning my head on the table fell into a tolerably comfortable sleep, considering the circumstances. …there was no good in persisting in my resistance to him in such a matter. I therefore returned to the other room and went to bed on the mattress…."

From the diary of John Martin dated 22nd September, 1850.



Top: **Nant Cottage, Bothwell, Tasmania home to John Martin & John Mitchel in their shared exile.**

Bottom: **Excerpt from the diary of John Martin.**

In 1859 he met up with his friend Mitchel in Paris. Seven years later they again met in Paris when Mitchel returned from the horrors of the American Civil War. Martin may have mentioned to Mitchel his thoughts about marrying his young sister Henrietta Mitchel; which event would take place in November 1868. In 1869 the newly wed Mr and Mrs Martin went to America and Canada and visited the Mitchels in New York.

In the January 1871 bye-election Martin was elected by a margin of 2–1 to the seat of Co. Meath in the British Parliament as the first Home Rule MP. This was an unusual victory for a Protestant in a Catholic constituency and a measure of the respect for 'Honest' John Martin. He was never comfortable in Parliament but spoke strongly for Home Rule for Ireland. John Martin refused to take a salary as Secretary of the Home Rule League believing that patriotic endeavours should not result in personal gain.

In 1875 Martin had the prospect of enjoying the company of Mitchel yet again when the latter was elected MP for Tipperary. Returning to Ireland Mitchel died at Dromalane, Newry, on 20th March 1875. John Martin took ill at the graveside of Mitchel whilst burying his lifelong friend. Coincidences had no end for John Martin died in the same Dromalane House nine days after Mitchel on the 29th March 1875. Both men had ended their lives without pecuniary legacy and indeed Martin and his wife Henrietta were then homeless; staying with her sister Mrs Hill Irvine at Dromalane House.

Above John Martin and John Mitchel, Paris, September, 1866.

Left: The renewed headstone of John Martin in the graveyard of St Bartholomew's Church of Ireland, Donnaghmore, Newry.

Dromalane House

One Good Turn Deserves Another

When John Mitchel was sentenced to transportation in 1848 and his wife Jenny decided to follow him half way across the globe, the whole family's journey was financed by her sister in-law: Margaret; wife of Hill Irvine (the founder of Dromalane Mill). Thirty one years later, in 1879, the mill had failed and Hill Irvine was dead. Margaret was an impoverished widow. By a reversal of fortune, Jenny had become comfortable; thanks to an endowment of $30,000 (raised for her by the worldwide friends of her husband John upon his death in 1875). When Margaret Irvine decided to emigrate to Australia it was Jenny who paid for the family's passage; precisely the same journey she had made with her own children, financed by Margaret Irvine, thirty one years earlier.

DROMALANE HOUSE, where both John Mitchel and John Martin died, had been built in 1866 by Hill Irvine; founder of Dromalane Mill. Hill Irvine's family were brewers and he became a successful landowner after beginning life as a shopkeeper. It was constructed to include Ivybrook Lodge (the existing structure on the site) where Hill Irvine's wife Margaret Mitchel, (John's sister), grew up. The joining of the dwellings is symbolic of the intertwining of these families. When the house was built it was surrounded by wooded gardens with pleasant walks. Much of these are now gone. It is often cited as a prime example of a late 19th century mill owner's house.

It is likely that Dromalane House was constructed simultaneously with the nearby Dromalane Mill. The same events which made such an impact on the Mitchel family, far away in the Confederate States, encouraged Hill Irvine to take advantage of the shortage of cotton caused by the American Civil War. The mill was in production by 1867 producing linen to fill the gap in the market.

Dromalane was among the first mills to move from water to steam power. It was designed by none other than William H. Mitchel, Hill Irvine's brother-in-law. The cost was estimated at over £30,000. Irvine and Mitchell were intent on promoting local industries and sourced

all the materials for the construction so that only the boilers had to be purchased from Rowan and Sons of Belfast. The contractor was naturally a local builder: Mr E. Campbell. At its peak the mill, convenient to both the canal and the railway, employed 400 people working 7,200 spindles. It was a highly successful enterprise for a number of years until the boom tailed off in the 1870s. The expensively built mill ran into financial troubles and Hill Irvine was bankrupted. The mill was taken over by the Bessbrook Spinning Company.

Dr Francis Crossle, a notable local historian recorded at the time:

> *"Tempted by the fortunes made in the linen trade during the time of the American Civil War he [Hill Irvine] resolved to embark a large amount of his capital in the erection of a factory. He was too late in the field and the speculation cost him the savings of a lifetime."*

Hill Irvine lost ownership of both the mill and the family home: Dromalane House. He died leaving his wife Margaret (nee Mitchel), with a young family, and no great means of support, his estate for probate being less than £300. She emigrated with her children to Australia. During World War II the house was used as a base for the US military and is now a centre for the Department of Health and Social Services. In 2003 the dilapidated mill building was carefully restored and converted into a retail and commercial centre as an adjunct to the Quays shopping complex. The Quays (with its sailing ship logo recalling the shipping history of the town) stands on the western side of the Albert Basin.

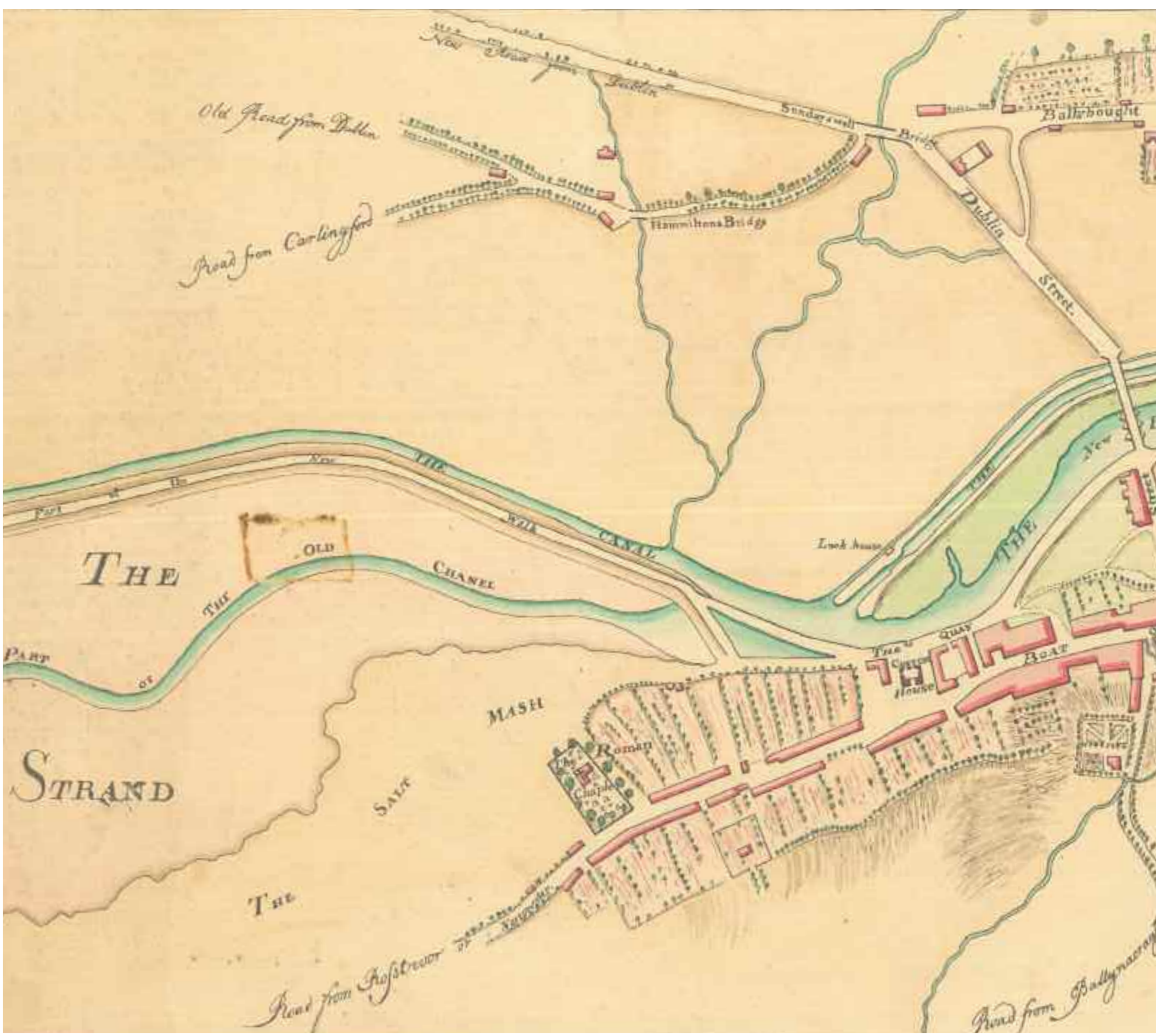
William 'Iceberg' Irvine (1858-1943)

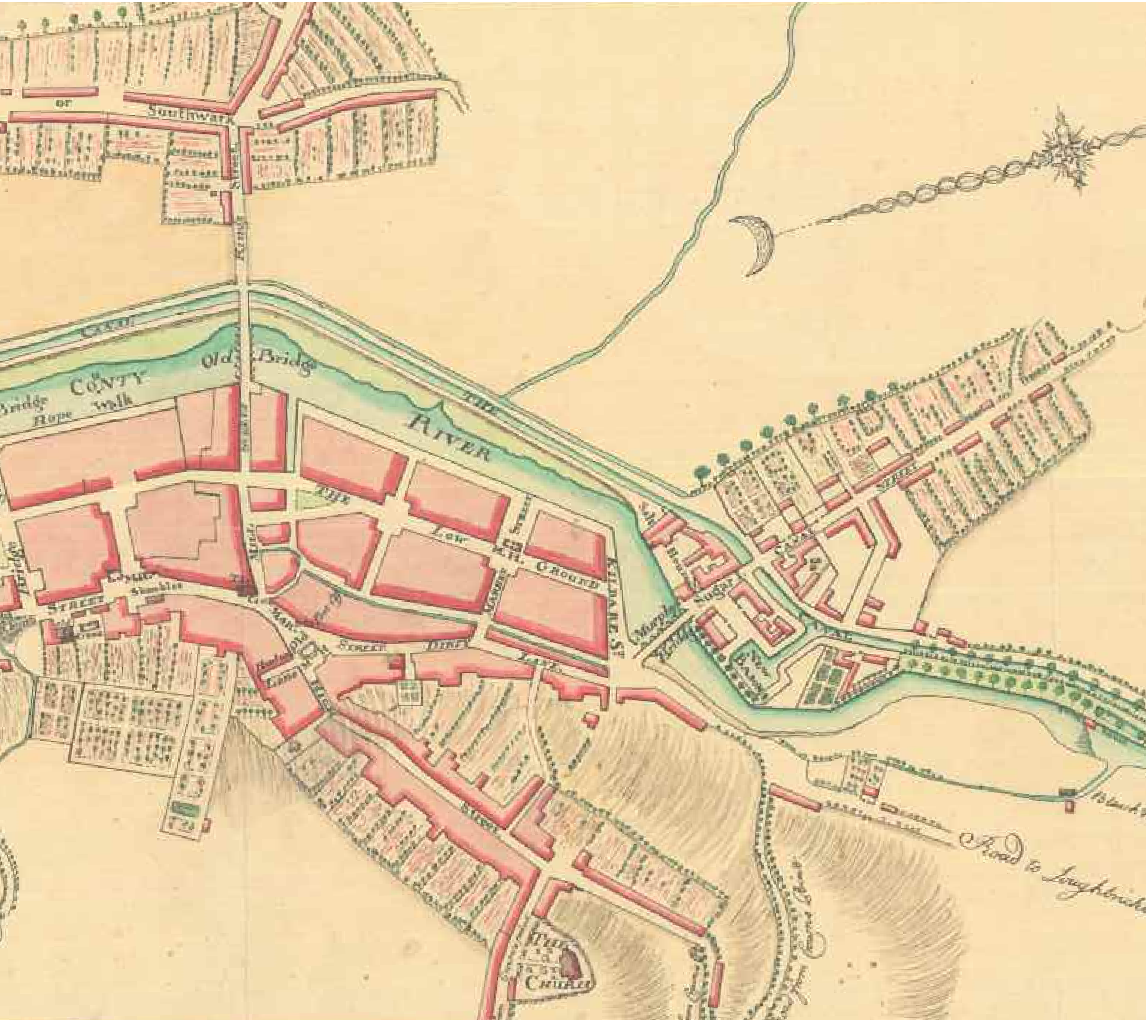
Among the Irvine children who emigrated to Australia with their mother Margaret was William Irvine. He had been educated in Armagh and then Dublin. After he emigrated to Australia he joined the staff of Geelong Grammar School. He read law at Melbourne University, gaining a masters degree in arts and law, and soon became a leading Melbourne barrister. He subsequently entered the Victoria State Parliament, becoming Attorney General and Prime Minister of the State of Victoria. He was considered a potential Prime Minister of Australia but because of his abrupt manner and hard-line conservatism he was unpopular in Parliament; where he was nick named 'Iceberg Irvine'.

In 1904 he made a return trip to Ireland where he was given a honourary doctorate at Trinity College. In a speech to his fellow Irishmen he declined to comment on the politics of the time but said: "I will always be proud to be a Newry man but my fortunes and my work are cast in Australia and to a large extent I belong to Australia."

Despite his cold personality, he became Attorney General in Joseph Cook's Australian Liberal Government of 1913 and was later appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Victoria, a position he held from 1918 until 1935 when he resigned all offices. In his declining years, which were mainly spent at his home 'Killeavey' (near Melbourne), he was in the poorest of health and eventually lost his power of speech. He died on 20th August 1943.

Right: **The restored Dromalane Mill in the Quays shopping complex now used as retail and commercial offices.**


Old Road from Dublin
Road from Carlingford
Hammitons Bridge
Sundays well
Bridge
Ballsbought
Dublin
Street.
THE
OLD
CHANEL
THE
PART
OF
THE
CANAL
Lock house
THE
Quay
BOAT
House
MASH
Roman
Chapel
STRAND
SALT
THE
Road from Rostrevor
Road from Ballymacarr


or
Southwark
Old Bridge
CONTY
Bridge
Rope walk
The River
Low
Ground
Kildare St
Street
Dirty
Lane
Shambles
Sugar
New Bank
Road to Loughbrick
Church

Albert Basin

THE ALBERT BASIN, named after Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, was built at the same time as the extension of the ship canal to Upper Fathom, between the years 1842-50. The ship canal, constructed in 1765, ran a length of 3 kilometres before it entered the tidal river at Lower Fathom, but as the river channel was prone to silting, large boats could not reach Newry. The canal was therefore extended by 2.5 kilometres to enter at a deeper section of the river at the place where the Victoria Lock now stands. Vessels up to 500 tons, instead of a previous maximum load of 120 tons, were now accomodated. The railway line was extended from Edward St to a siding along the west perimeter of the basin in 1855; through what is now the car park area of the Quays complex. This was a bustling maritime port full of ships and lined with gantries. The principal imports were timber and coal and the main exports were cattle and manufactured goods such as linen.

Up until the 1950s the Albert Basin was a very busy place. The coal boats, known as 'colliers', of Joseph Fisher and Sons Ltd discharged on the Quays side of the harbour, whilst on the other side the *M.V. Dundalk* loaded livestock for export to Liverpool. On the 'colliers', gangs of dockers literally dug out the coal into wooden tubs; which were hoisted by the ships' derricks (cranes) into waiting railway wagons.

The restrictions imposed by the ship canal system meant that there were coasters which were too large for the port to accommodate and a decision was made in the late 1960s to move ship handling facilities to Warrenpoint where a deep water berth was to be built. Forty years earlier the Albert Basin's future continuation as a commercial waterway had been threatened when a damaged culvert allowed the contents of the Basin to flow into the Clanrye River. Newry's future as a port was not helped when, in January 1968, a number of vessels were again trapped in the canal for several weeks after the *Saint William*, a Glasgow collier, wrecked the seaward gates of the Victoria Lock.

The Newry Reporter,
Down, Armagh and Louth Times.

Newry Canal Castrophe

There was much consternation in Newry during Sunday, when it became known that as a result of the collapse of a culvert, the sea-going canal was almost emptied and shipping held up. Newry's main waterway and the life-blood of the port's trade presented a very strange appearance to the crowds who very soon became aware of the very serious occurrence that had taken place. About five feet of water had escaped so that the canal was quite useless for navigation purposes. The "Aranchi" lying at the quay gave an immediate idea of the seriousness of the situation, as she lay, half heeled over on the near bank.

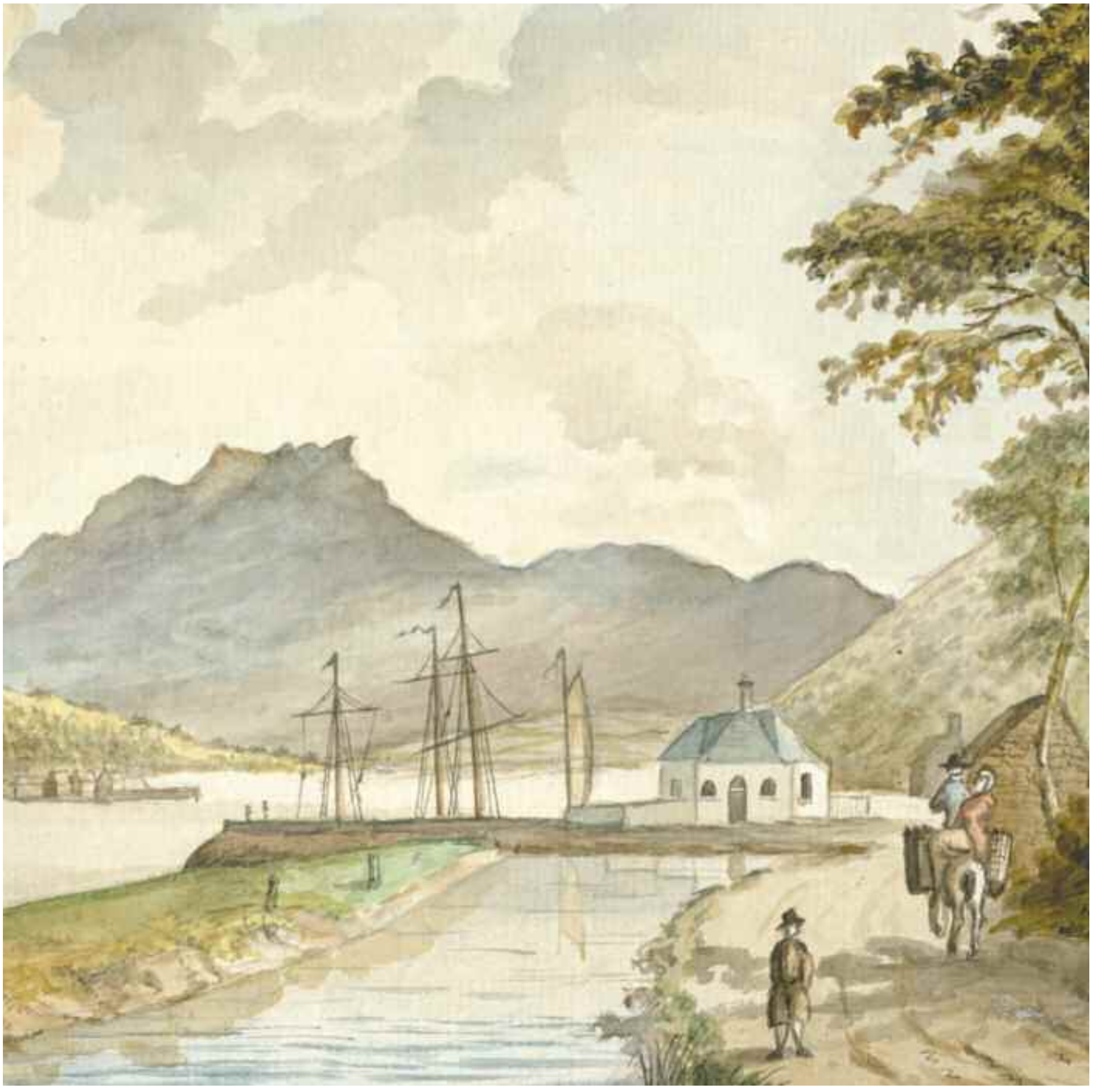
The Consequences.

The Harbour's workmen were engaged throughout the day-and at a late hour the leakage: was appreciably lessened. It is feared that the Harbour Board will have to tackle the problem at once and lay down a new culvert. The consequences of the present breakdown are serious, as all sailings to port are held up, and unless the present measures are effective over 200 dockers and carters will be thrown out of employment. Four vessels which arrived in Carlingford Lough on Sunday morning had to lie as anchor all day and may have to be diverted to Warrenpoint or Greenore.

From *The Newry Reporter*, Newry, 22nd October, 1928

Opposite: **The Albert Basin in the 1860's.**

Above: **In the foreground an inland canal barge laden with coals recently landed from the collier.**

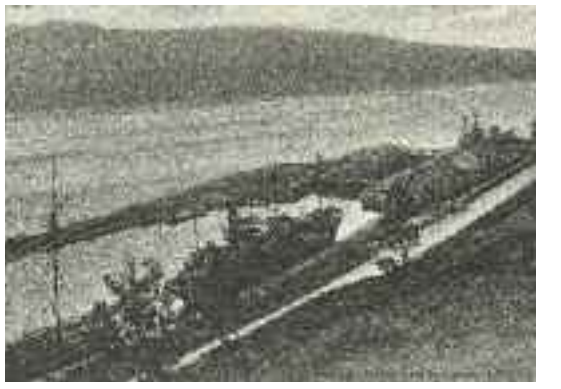


Victoria Lock

THE VICTORIA LOCK is the final junction linking the natural and the manmade waterway complex between Carlingford Lough and Lough Neagh. Constructed at the same time as the Albert Basin, it was built because of recurrent problems in the tidal Newry River in the vicinity of the previous sea lock at Lower Fathom. The lock is 220ft [67m] in length and 50ft [15.2m] wide. It was designed by Sir John Rennie and built in Carlingford limestone and granite by celebrated railway builder and civil engineer William Dargan.

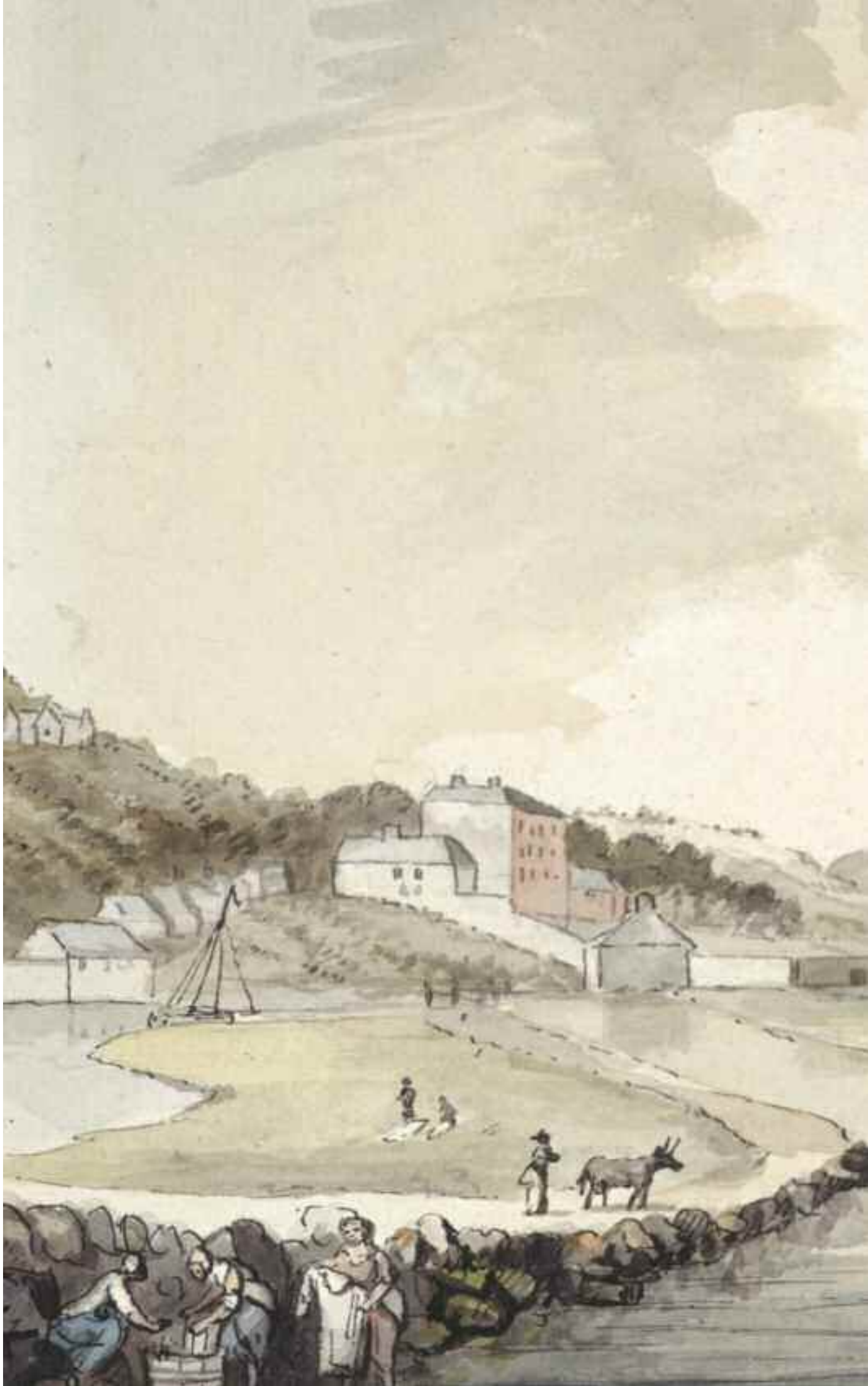
The Victoria Lock is a complex piece of engineering. Below the upper gates on the seaward side are four vertical sluice gates set into the bank, used to fill the chamber more rapidly and thereby reducing the delay for boats. There are also drainage culverts on each wall towards the bottom end of the chamber. Both sets of lock gates are slightly bulbous, hollow and sheeted with riveted metal. There is also an underground bypass channel on the landward side of the chamber associated with the early Twentieth Century pump house which raised water from the river to the canal at times of shortage.

The Newry Ship Canal ceased business on Tuesday 26th March 1974. On that date the *Anna Broere* sailed as far as the Burma Oil Depot on the Fathom Line to discharge a cargo of 650 tons of acetone. On the following day it exited the Victoria Locks and the commercial era of the famous waterway closed behind it.

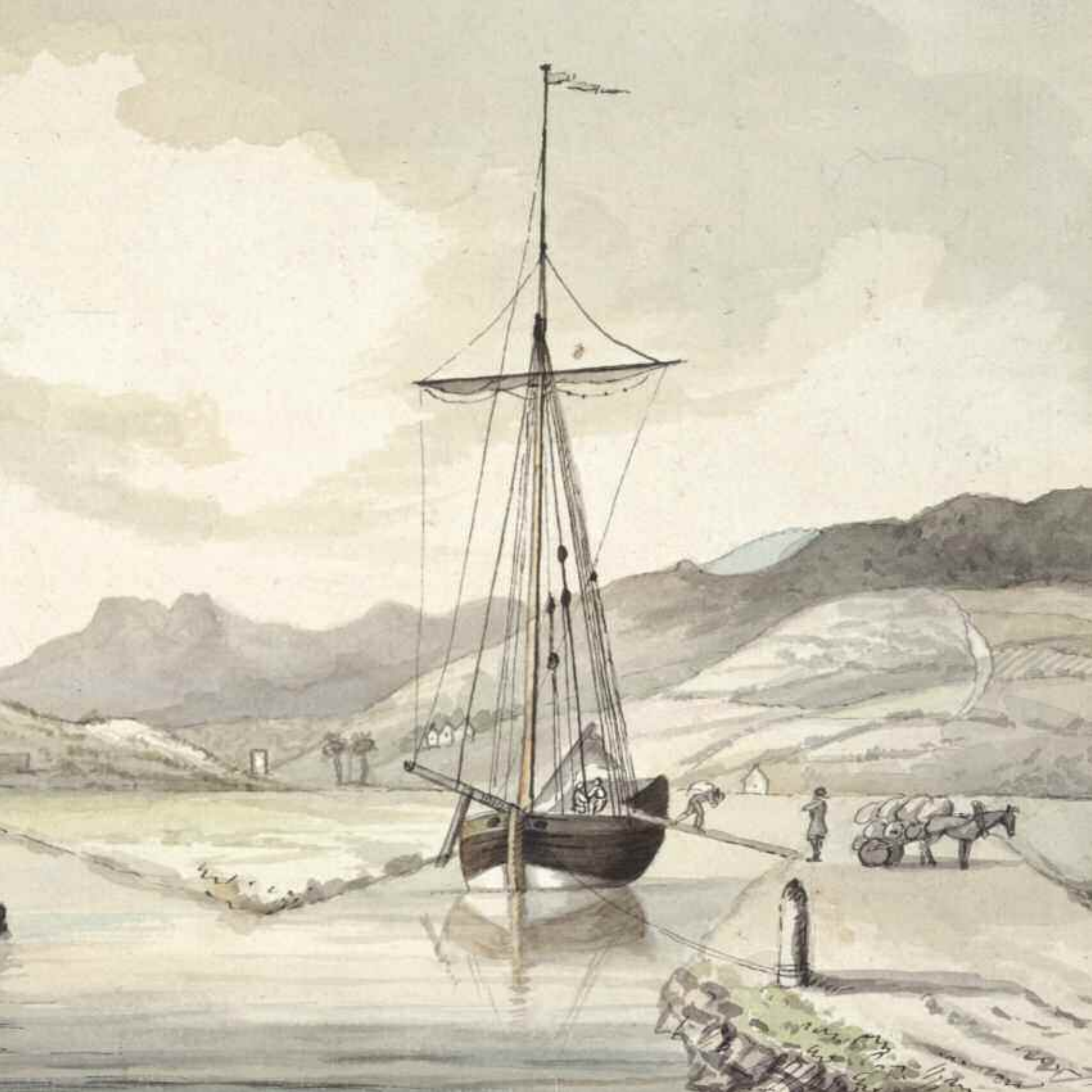


Opposite: Fathom, near Newry by John Nixon c.1750 - 1818, depicting the sea canal before the extension and erection of the Victoria Lock. In the left centre is the tiny penninsula of Greenisland.

Above: The Victoria Lock in the 1930's.



Opposite: The Collector's House and Canal near Newry by John Nixon c.1750 - 1818, includes the inlet of water, seen bottom left, where vessels could enter a pool and anchor at Boat St and the 'v' shaped 'Greenbank' seen bottom centre.The ubiquitous washerwomen appear at the water's edge.



Collector's House

Top: The Customs House.

Bottom: A map of Newry in 1761 showing The Customs House.

BEFORE THE BUILDING OF the manmade waterways and harbour on the Newry River, ships of many nations and all descriptions had sailed far up the estuary to the head of the tide: 'Cinn Trá'. Well up on the high ground on the County Down side of the river is the quaintly named Boat St. This was the berthing spot for small ships before the land in present day Kilmorey St was reclaimed from the sea. In the very mouth of the estuary is now the fully reclaimed sandy foreshore whose summer grass earned it the name, 'Greenbank.'

Armagh County Museum holds an 18th century painting by John Nixon entitled: "The Collector's House and Canal near Newry"; in which the house and the canal are evident. The house, which is now the Convent of Mercy in Home Avenue, was at that time the dwelling of the Collector of Customs (built by John Darley). His home was close to his place of work, for there once stood a fine Customs House along the river, at the site of the present day Old Gasworks Business Park, some 100 metres away.

John Nixon's painting depicts the rear of the Collector's House. At the time of its construction, any route along the present Warrenpoint Road would have been impossible because it was marshland. There was a thoroughfare between Chapel St and Kilmorey St which was known as the 'Collector's Open'. In that time the main road to Warrenpoint ran along the course of present day Boat St and Chapel St out by the old St Mary's Roman Catholic Church. The house is extremely well preserved by the Sisters of Mercy; it was purchased for them, in 1879, by a local spirit merchant; Thomas Fegan.

Thomas Fegan
Philanthropist, 1826-1906

THOMAS FEGAN UNDERSTOOD that the prosperity that the linen mills brought to Newry, in the later part of the 19th century, was an ill divided wealth. The plight of women and children in particular was such that Fegan, a spirit merchant from Lower North St, was moved to turn his attention to the relief of their misery. He had lost his wife early, at the age of twenty eight, and of their two sons: one died young and the other became a Jesuit priest at Clongowes Wood.

In 1879 Thomas Fegan bought the Collector's House from Mr Needham Thompson to provide a refuge for desolate women and orphans. The Bishop of Dromore, Dr Leahy, requested that the Sisters of Mercy run it and so they occupied the premises on 27th August of that year. Thomas Fegan continued to provide funding and in 1898, when it was clear that the existing building was too small for those seeking admission, he paid for a purpose built home in the grounds. The original refuge in the Collector's House became a convent for the Sisters. This home accommodated up to 80 women and 30 children, reflecting not only the worsening social conditions in the town but also the fear and stigma associated with the workhouse.

Thomas Fegan died in 1906. In his will he left money to Sarah Russell (Mother Emmanuel) or her successors for the upkeep of the home. Dr O'Neill, then Bishop of Dromore, speaking at his funeral described him as:

> *"…a simple unassuming kindly man, known to us all without prefix of any kind, as Tom Fegan. He dedicated his life to helping his fellow travellers on the path of life, especially the poor and the deprived, the old and the young".*

He is buried in the graveyard of St Mary's Old Chapel.

Top: The Home for the Elderly.

Bottom: Plaque which marks the donation of the Home by Thomas Fegan.

St Mary's Old Chapel

ST MARY'S, 'THE OLD CHAPEL', is the major symbol of the Catholic revival in Newry. There are no records of Catholic clergy ministering in Newry between 1642 and 1704. Throughout these years, the Mass Rock at Ballyholland and the altar in the `reilig' at Grinan were used for the celebration of Mass. At a General Sessions of the Peace held at Lurgan on l0th. July 1704, Patrick Donnelly, popularly known as the 'Bard of Armagh', who lived in hiding near Lislea, was registered as Parish Priest of Newry. He had been jailed twice on suspicion of being a bishop, but his accusers could not prove it. At the time of his death in 1719, it was considered unsafe for a bishop to live in Newry.

By 1747 there was a greater tolerance and Dr Anthony O'Garvey, who was Bishop of Dromore (1747-66), chose Newry as his mensal parish. Still fearing to live openly in Newry, he resided with his family at Aughnagon, close to Mayobridge. During his time a number of Mass Houses were constructed and he is considered responsible for the constitution of Newry as the episcopal parish within the diocese. In 1789 Bishop Matthew Lennon (1780-1801) erected St Mary's at a cost of £1,800 raised by public subscription. The 'Old Chapel' effectively served as a 'pro-Cathedral' for the diocese for forty years.

Towards the end of the 18th century, the Penal Laws were not strictly enforced around Newry and the building soon became inadequate for the large numbers of Catholics as evidenced by a Protestant sympathiser writing to *The Newry Telegraph*:

> *"Catholics have suffered the most extreme inconvenience for want of sufficient space in their present house of worship, now totally inadequate to contain their congregation of which at least one third is obliged to kneel outside the house, exposed to the inclemency of the weather."*

In 1954, the year of the Assumption proclamation, a statue of Our Lady at the side gate was erected by the local people. In 1956 a replica of Calvary was erected at the southern end of the cemetery. Since the time of Bishop Matthew Lennon, successive bishops have resided in various areas of the town: Chapel St (1780- 1801), 15-17 Boat St (1801-1825), a residence on the Northern side of Abbey Yard (1826-35), the 'Bishop's House' attached to Violet Hill College (1835-1900), 'Ardmaine' on the Fullerton Road (1902-1932) and since then in a new specially built residence on the Armagh Road.

Above: The tomb of the family of Bishop Anthony O'Garvey in St Mary's Cemetry.

Bishop's House

THE BISHOP'S HOUSE, in the grounds of St Colman's College, is one of the most impressive residences in Newry; surrounded by mature trees and set on an elevation off the Armagh Road. The two-storey house was built in 1932, in the late Tudor style of architecture, with a commanding view across the city toward the Carlingford Mountains. Externally the walls are of hammer dressed Newry granite while fine axed granite has been used for the door and window trimmings. A key feature of the building is the magnificently wrought granite mullions of the casement type windows.

The episcopal coat of arms, carved in Portland stone, is placed over the hall door which is flanked by buttressed granite walls terminating in the second storey with heavy granite

Above: **The episcopal coat of arms.**

coping and a finely wrought cross. Austrian oak has been used for the panelling in the wide entrance hall and the main stairway is also carved and moulded in oak. A feature of the fireplace in the bishop's study is a mitre carved in white marble. An oratory is situated on the first floor landing displaying a stained glass window with purples, crimsons and blues blended to give a dramatic effect throughout the room. It was created by Henry Clarke of Dublin.

The architect was John Robinson of Dublin who also designed the high altar and surroundings in Phoenix Park for the Eucharistic Congress in the same year; 1932. Dr Mulhern was the first bishop to occupy the house in 1935. He was followed in 1944 by Dr Eugene O'Doherty, Dr Francis Gerard Brooks in 1976 and the present Bishop Dr John McAreavey in 1999. The Bishops of Dromore had lived on this same site for the previous century in adjoining of the diocesan seminary of St Colman's College.

The Diocese of Dromore

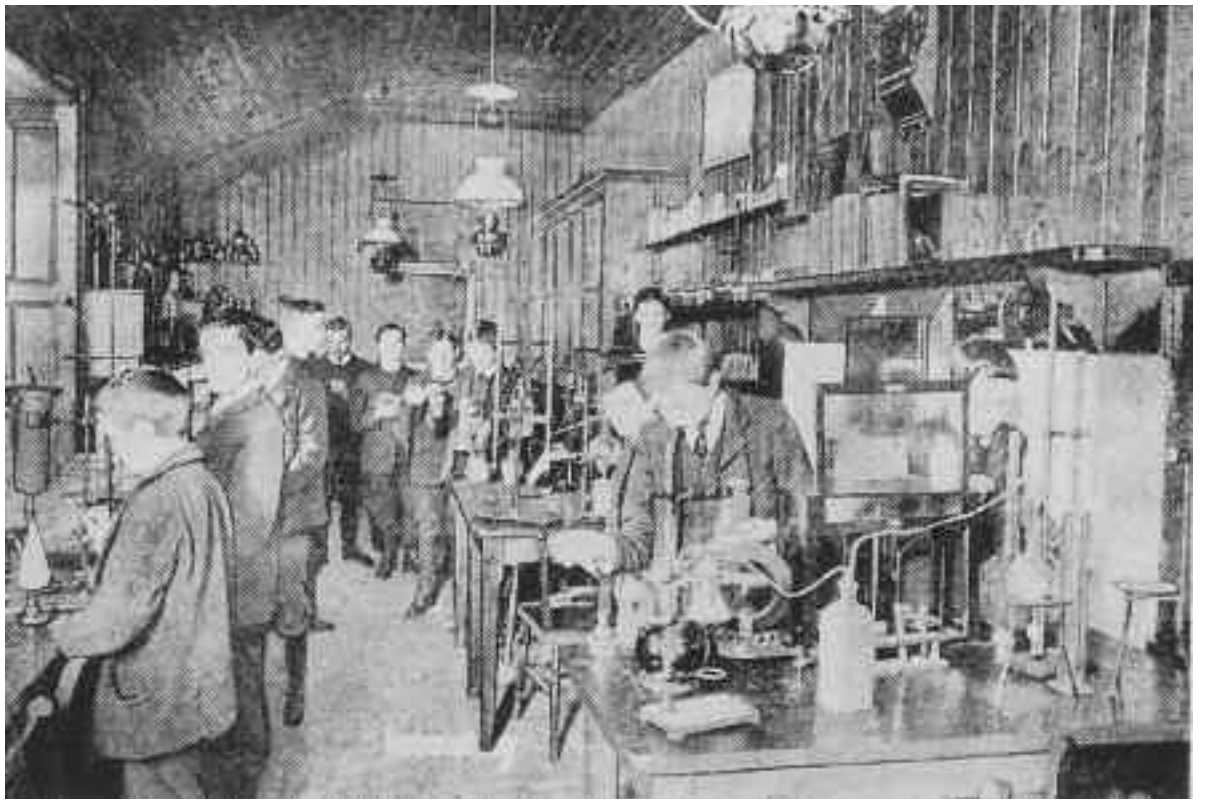
In the wake of St Patrick's mission, a monastery was established at Dromore in the early sixth century. Its founder is believed to be St Colman. The establishment of a Diocese of Dromore was a consequence of the reordering of the Irish Church by Rome in the twelfth century. The area that formed the diocese coincided closely with the medieval territories of the Gaelic Clan Magennis: Upper and Lower Iveagh (approximately south and west Co. Down). It also included a portion of O'Neill land, the part of Co. Armagh which lies east of the river Bann. For almost three hundred years, from the 1530s, Catholicism in Ireland suffered from the various political and religious upheavals that followed the Reformation. Monasteries and other religious centres were suppressed and Catholic Church property was widely confiscated by the State. This suppression effectively forced Catholic religious life and practice underground. Scattered throughout the diocese were Mass Rocks, where people secretly attended Mass. Significant population shifts during the Reformation era including the plantations of English and Scottish settlers, ensured a Protestant majority within the area. To this day Catholics form a minority in the northern and central parts of the diocese, while they find themselves the majority Church in the more southerly parishes. It is not surprising therefore, that Newry became the modern ecclesiastical seat of the diocese, being the key centre of the Catholic population.

Left: **The oratory stained glass window created by Henry Clarke of Dublin.**

St Colman's College

THE CREATION OF ST COLMAN'S COLLEGE at Violet Hill can be traced a decree, by the Irish Parliament, of 1792 which granted Catholics permission "… to publicly teach school… and to instruct youths in learning in any private popish school" on condition that the Oath of Allegiance was taken and permission granted by the Protestant bishop of the diocese. The bishop of Dromore Dr Edmund Derry (1801-1819) availed of the new concession and, under his supervision, Rev William McMullan, a priest of the Diocese of Down and Connor, conducted a seminary called 'The Newry School' at No.6 Hill St from March 1804.

This in turn was the inspiration for the Diocesan School of Dromore founded by Dr Hugh O'Kelly in 1823 in Lower William St and the oldest existing diocesan seminary in Ulster. Its objective was the training of candidates for the priesthood and the education of the sons of the Catholic middle-class. Fees ranged from twenty eight guineas per annum for boarders to one guinea per quarter for day students, with no holidays for any students. Dr Michael Blake purchased the land of Violet Hill, consisting of eighteen statute acres, on the 23rd. September 1834. Extra land was bought bit by bit and by the 30th December 1937, the College had almost fifty statute acres.



Below: Bishop Michael Blake who purchased the land at Violet Hill.

Right: Interior of the Science Laboratory which opened in 1901.

When Dr John Pius Leahy O.P. (1860-1890), succeeded Dr Blake as Bishop, the institution was renamed: "St Colman's Diocesan and Catholic Day School". The appointment of Rev Henry O'Neill as President (1869-1890) marked the beginning of a new era of advancement in the history of the seminary with large-scale extensions to the college buildings. The building from the front door to the college tower was completed in 1879. Henry O'Neill changed the name once more to "St Colman's Diocesan College" and recruited outstanding staff; including Michael Cusack, who later founded the Gaelic Athletic Association.

During the years 1958-1961, the wing to the east end of the College front was built. Further large extensions took place in 1972, 1994 and 2007 providing state-of-the-art facilities for the College. The older buildings are designed in the mode of Italian Revivalism; with pitched natural slated roofs, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, cast iron rainwater goods, and load bearing brick walls with stone dressings.

If that the origin of St Colman's is 'the Newry School' at No. 6 Hill St, founded in 1804, then this educational institution has been in existence for over two centuries. The young novice priests, who were educated at the diocesan seminary would say thheir first mass in the Cathedral of St Patrick and St Colman.

Cathedral of St Patrick and St Colman

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST PATRICK AND ST COLMAN does not stand on a height, like many other Cathedrals, but is built at sea level and among the people so that one may walk straight from Hill St into the centre aisle. The decision by Bishop Hugh O'Kelly (1820-1825) to build a cathedral in the centre of Newry marked the end of an age that had begun with the dissolution of the Cistercian monastery three centuries previously.

Newry was one of the first Roman Catholic cathedrals built in Ireland since the Reformation. It did not wait on the formalities of the 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act. The early move to build a cathedral was possible because of a religious tolerance in the town following an agreement that arose from an earlier Act of Parliament in 1811. This Act created a levy on Protestants and Catholics alike throughout the district to pay for the building of St Mary's Protestant Church. Catholics agreed to withdraw opposition to the levy on the understanding that the Protestant community would co-operate in the erection of the Catholic Cathedral in the near future. Many Protestants contributed substantially to the Cathedral building fund.

Opposite: **The Interior of the reordered Cathedral of 1992.**

Above: The Cathedral c.1900 before the large extension to the front was built by Bishop Henry O'Neill.

Below: The Baptismal Font.

It was constructed at the level of the tide of the Clanrye River on the swamp beside the Mill Race, known as 'Seymour's Green' which Bishop O'Kelly purchased from the Marquess of Downshire. The foundations were only arrived at through almost 30ft [9.1m] of tidal deposits and the ground was then piled with oak trunks to create stability. The foundation stone was laid by Dr O'Kelly on the 8th June 1825. The dedication ceremony of the Pro-Cathedral of St Patrick, the first ceremony of its kind in Ireland following the Roman Catholic Relief Act, was performed on the 6th May 1829 by Dr Curtis, Archbishop of Armagh.

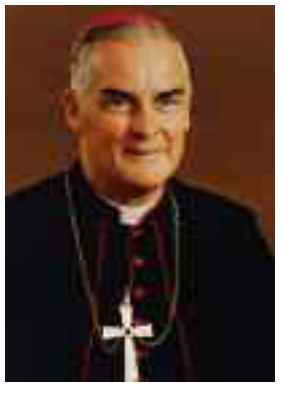
The cathedral of 1829 was merely the first phase of a building programme which extended over the next 100 years; depending on available finance. By 1836, it had cost

£8,000. Bishop Michael Blake decorated the interior in 1851 and his successor Dr John Pius Leahy O.P. purchased the massive bell. Between 1888 and 1890, the second phase of the building, costing £12,000, was completed by Bishop Thomas McGivern with the creation of two transepts, a new sacristy and a new porch built to the front. By 1890, the bell tower was practically complete with new joybells being installed in 1898. The High Altar was erected in 1891.

During the third phase (1904-1909) under Dr Henry O'Neill, the nave was extended 40ft [12.1m] towards the main street and an addition of 30ft [9.1m] to the rear made way for the new elevated sanctuary. Dr O'Neill was also responsible for the interior decoration of the Cathedral which exhibits some of the finest work of ecclesiastical art in Ireland. The mosaics and marbles were begun in 1904 and the stained glass windows in the sanctuary and side chapels were executed during the years 1908-1914. Dr O'Neill purchased the site which is now the Cathedral garden, when a large flour mill and print works, south of the Cathedral, was destroyed by fire in 1910.

In March 1919, the Pro-Cathedral was raised to the rank and dignity of a Cathedral. By the same decree, the name of St Colman was added to St Patrick. Dr Mulhern solemnly consecrated the building on Tuesday 21st. July 1925 exactly one hundred years after the foundation stone was laid. Following the directions of the Second Vatican Council Bishop Francis G. Brooks began a very challenging restoration programme under the supervision of Felix Forte, the Belfast architect. Referring to these changes, in his book: "The Cathedrals of Ireland" (1992), Peter Galloway wrote:

> *"The reordering at Newry has been performed with considerable thought, care and taste, and deserves warm congratulations. This is possibly the most successful reordering of a Roman Catholic cathedral in Ireland."*



The distinctive touch that ennobles Newry Cathedral as a unity from the outside is the delicate lace-like stonework on top of the tower, sensitised by the large windows just beneath. This balances the heaviness of the battlement structure that runs all around the main building and tops the two smaller front towers. Like its sister cathedral in Dundalk, started a decade later, it is modelled on King's College Chapel in Cambridge and Bath Abbey in Somerset. Both Dundalk and Newry cathedrals were designed by the Newry architect; Thomas J. Duff.

Top: **Wright's Mill, which housed the Newry Printing Works and other enterprises, burnt down in 1910.**

Middle: **Italian Mosaic of the Coat of Arms of Bishop Francis G. Brooks.**

Bottom: **Bishop Francis G. Brooks.**

Thomas J. Duff
Architect, 1792 - 1848

WHILST THOMAS J. DUFF WAS AN ARCHITECT who designed many buildings in his native Newry, where he practiced, he was also renowned for many public buildings in other towns and cities. With Thomas Jackson of Belfast he designed the 'Greek Revival'-styled Old Museum, which stands in College Square North, Belfast (1830–1), and the extensions to Hillsborough Castle (1830–40). The Pro-Cathedral of St Patrick in Dundalk and St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh are both creations of Thomas Duff. Early in his career he was also associated with the building of St Mary's Church of Ireland in John Mitchel Place.

Thomas Duff was one of the first Roman Catholics to train as an architect in the years before the Catholic Emancipation Act passed in 1829. He achieved the height of his profession but died at the age of 56, on the 10th May 1848, still in his prime, of apoplexy or stroke brought on by the early death of his only son aged fourteen and a daughter aged twenty-one. When Duff passed away his young apprentice William J. Barre was left without a master.

Duff lived in a time of development in Newry when many new buildings were being erected in response to the commercial growth of the town. Exemplary of this is his own design in 1840 of the Savings Bank, now the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre. But his work also coincided with the period of the Great Potato Famine and some of his major enterprises, including St Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh, were forced to stop when it was only above the level of the windows.

Among the public buildings in the Newry area which are attributed to Duff are: the Courthouse, Sandys St Presbyterian Church, St Peter's Church, Warrenpoint; and Star of the Sea, Rostrevor. Further afield he may be credited with the Roman Catholic churches in Ardee, Loughbrickland Hilltown and Annaclone, Presbyterian churches in Dundalk and Fisherwick, Belfast.

His private clients were the merchant classes who commissioned many of the large houses on the Downshire Road. He, himself, lived at 45 Downshire Road in the middle house of

Top: **The reconstructed Courthouse to Duff's exterior design with a modern extension.**

Opposite: **Newry Courthouse, 1843, built of stucco and granite construction is topped with a handsome domed cupola or lantern. It is generally recognised as Duff's finest classical work.**

Paternoster Row designed by him. He also assisted the Marquess of Downshire in completing the development of north Newry and designed additions to Hillsborough Castle. Another commission was Loughbrickland House for Downshire's agent. He designed the now destroyed Ravensdale Park for Lord Clermont, part of which is re-erected at Glassdrummond, Co Armagh. Trevor Corry, whose monument, also designed by Duff, stands in Sanys St, employed him to plan the Woodhouse, Rostrevor. His most outstanding landmark residence is that of the Hall family at Narrow Water Castle.

Top: Sandys St Presbyterian Church.
Middle: St Macartan's College, Monaghan.
Bottom: Newry Cathedral's Sister; St Patrick's, Dundalk.
Above: Duff's design for St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

Narrow Water Castle

NARROW WATER CASTLE is one of the great addresses of Ireland. It is the property of the Hall family. It is special in having three eras of architecture on one site; the rebuilt Norman castle of the 13th century, the Irish Long House in late 17th Century Queen Anne style, and the 19th Century Elizabethan Revival style mansion built between 1816 and 1837 to a design of the Newry architect Thomas J. Duff.

Narrow Water estate has been owned by the Hall family since 1670. The Hall are of English extraction from William Hall who came to Red Bog, Co. Antrim in 1640. His son Francis Hall purchased the Narrow Water estate for £1,500. The family built Mount Hall, an Irish long house (nowadays remodelled as apartments), on nearby rising ground in 1690. The house passed down the family line from father to son: Francis Hall, Roger Hall, Toby Hall and then to Savage Hall. In the late 1790's Savage Hall instructed a Newry surveyor to lay out, on his townland of Ringmacilroy, the town of Warrenpoint.

By 1820 the town and the estate were the property of Roger Hall who built the present castle. All the buildings are of local granite from a quarry on one of the Hall estates at

Top: **Roger Hall, who employed Thomas J. Duff to design the Castle**

Left: A map of 1819 showing the property at Narrow Water Estate. The map is part of the Reside Collection in Newry & Mourne Museum.

Mullaghglass, near Newry. At one time, the Halls had three estates (each consisting of about 2000 Irish acres): Narrow Water estate, another at Mullaghglass and a third at Feakle, Co. Clare.

After the death of Toby Hall in 1939 the estate passed into the control of trustees but remained occupied by the Hall family. During World War II the upper floors and basement of the house were used by British and American Troops as was the demesne. The house was vacated as a family residence in October 1999 and is presently used as a conference centre and for functions. Before the Halls built on this site they had lived in the 13th Century Narrow Water Keep.

An Idyllic Scene

"The house, upon its green lawn, is a noble and picturesque object; a dwelling-house, indeed, but on a scale not to take away the more important idea of a castle… the house is a splendid Elizabethan mansion of cut stone, ornamented with Italian turrets and battlements; and an octagonal battlemented tower at the western end…

By a gravelled walk… you ascend to a mound on the north west of the castle, which is crowned with seven gigantic oaks in a circle… From this spot you enjoy a prospect containing, according to many sober, unbiased, and competent authorities, perhaps more of the beautiful in nature and art than could be seen at one glance in any other part of Ireland.

Before you is Warrenpoint, with its windmill, church steeples, and pretty houses; beyond which is the Lough, reposing in the mighty embrace of mountains… To the left, the Mourne Mountains rising into the unclouded heavens—the heather bursting into all its crimson splendour… To the right, the rugged Foy and the other mountains of Carlingford, in their garments of green and azure; the river winding at your feet; behind you, the mountainous ridge of Fathom… "

From "A Picturesque Handbook to Carlingford Bay" (1846).

Opposite: The Queen styled house on the right is dwarfed by the Elizabethan Revival mansion.

Narrow Water Keep

Crossing Narrowwater

"One is almost imperceptibly led to the summit of a lofty mountain (the Flagstaff) overhanging the deep dark bay of Carlingford, and so awfully perpendicular that the boldest nerves recoil from the contemplated descent. Descending from the craggy steep, I made haste to cross the 'narrowed water's point'. The boats on this ferry though rudely formed, are safe, and not incommodious for the conveyance of man and horse. I found it difficult, however, to procure one, but that difficulty soon proceeded from a circumstance which was peculiarly favourable to my situation. The opposite side of the ferry was the estate of a gentleman [Roger Hall] of some notoriety…
He had arrived to the high distinction of captain-commandant of a yeomanry corps. Happily for my security, the captain and his corps were now at church.

Had not Providence favoured me at this critical moment, in all human probability I should not have survived to report the occurrence. The town of Newry lay some miles to my left; between the town and the ferry there was no passage, the intervening space being occupied by the river and canal. The religious rites of the day had terminated, when the next after me in succession, crossed the ferry. He had hardly pressed the shore, when he was rudely seized, suspended by the neck, and though life was not extinguished, he experienced all the terrors and pains of death. He had given no offence."

From "Personal Narrative of the 'Irish Rebellion' of 1798" (1828) by Charles Hamilton Teeling.

Opposite: The north west aspect of Fathom Mountain from the wall walk of Narrow Water Keep.

THE 13TH CENTURY Narrow Water Keep and its setting is one of the most recognisable, photographed, and painted scenes in Ireland. The view south east, with the peaks of Slieve Foye falling down to Carlingford Lough; or the view north west, of the Newry River flowing under the Flagstaff; are both equally dramatic. More properly called Narrow Water Old Tower House; it is built upon Duncarrig or 'the rock of the fort', and is one of many such structures along the Co. Down coast.

The present structure was erected in the early 1660s. It is a typical example of the tower houses erected throughout Ireland from the 13th until the early 17th century. The original castle was built by Hugh de Lacy but it was destroyed in the 16th century. This was rebuilt by John Sancky in 1570; only to be destroyed in the 1641 rebellion. The building, rectangular in plan and three stories high, comprises a series of superimposed chambers with stairs, closets and latrines skillfully contrived within the walls (which are 5ft [1.5m] thick in places). Corbelled out directly above the entrance into the tower is a 'machicolation'; from which stones and other missiles could be dropped on assailants attempting to force entry. There is a 'murder hole' on the first floor level above the entrance and a wall walk at roof level.

Above: 17th Century view of Narrow Water Keep.

Old illustrations show that the building was originally surrounded by the tide, and, before the railway track from Newry was constructed in 1849, there was a causeway linking it to the road.

Earliest records show that there had been a keep on this site since 1212, part of the Norman fortifications built in the area, to prevent attacks on Newry and south Down via the river. It was linked both militarily and strategically to King John's Castle Carlingford and to Greencastle.

Greencastle

GREENCASTLE, ON THE NORTH side of Carlingford Lough, was built by Hugh de Lacy during the 1230s to protect the southern approaches to the Earldom of Ulster. The castle consisted of a quadrilateral curtain wall with a D-shaped tower at each corner (all now in a very fragmentary state). A massive surrounding rock-cut ditch served as a quarry for the walls, and a dam in the east ditch may have been intended as a moat. The castle's main feature is a large rectangular block, originally a great hall, raised upon a basement. This was lit by windows on three sides and a dais at the east end for the high table, as indicated by the presence here of a high window, a small latrine and a fireplace. At the west end there was evidently a screen passage with two opposing doors, one giving access to the hall and the other the kitchens to the north. Steps led down to the dark basement store, which was later given cross-walls, vaults, gun loops and a new entrance.

Top: Interior of the castle.

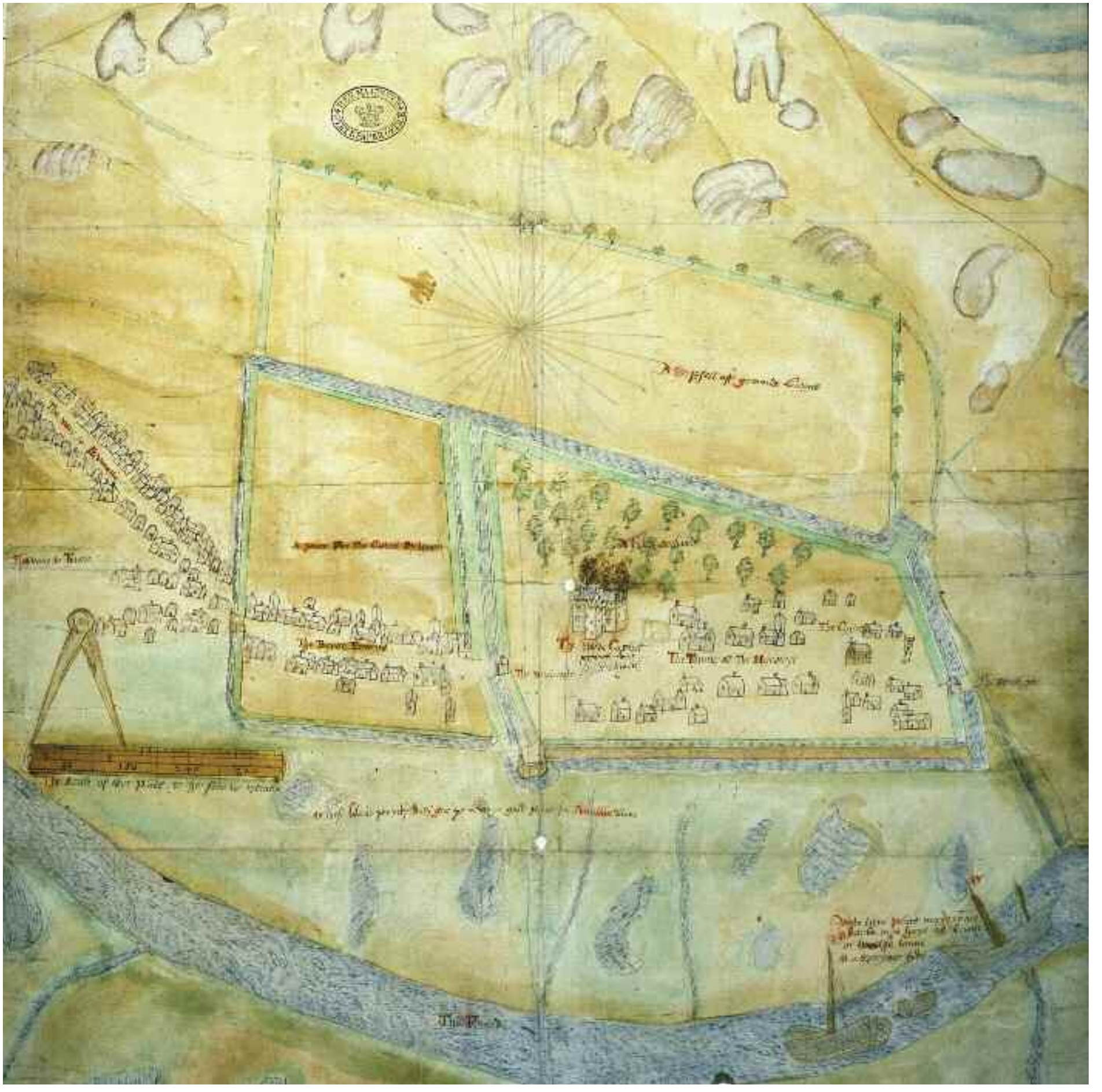
It was first attacked by the native Irish in 1260 and badly damaged. From 1280 to 1326 it became a residence for Richard de Burgh, the 'Red Earl' of Ulster, then the most powerful man in Ireland. His daughters were reared there including: Elizabeth; who in 1302 married Robert Bruce, King of Scotland. This did not prevent Edward Bruce sacking Greencastle in 1316. The proximity to the open sea and its distance from the lands of the native Irish clans of O'Hanlon and O'Neill made Greencastle a secure home for English settlers in the 16th century when Ulster was still a Gaelic dominated territory. One such family was that of the adventurer and soldier Nicholas Bagenal. He lived in Greencastle, at various times, whilst his home in Newry came under threat from the O'Neills and other native families.

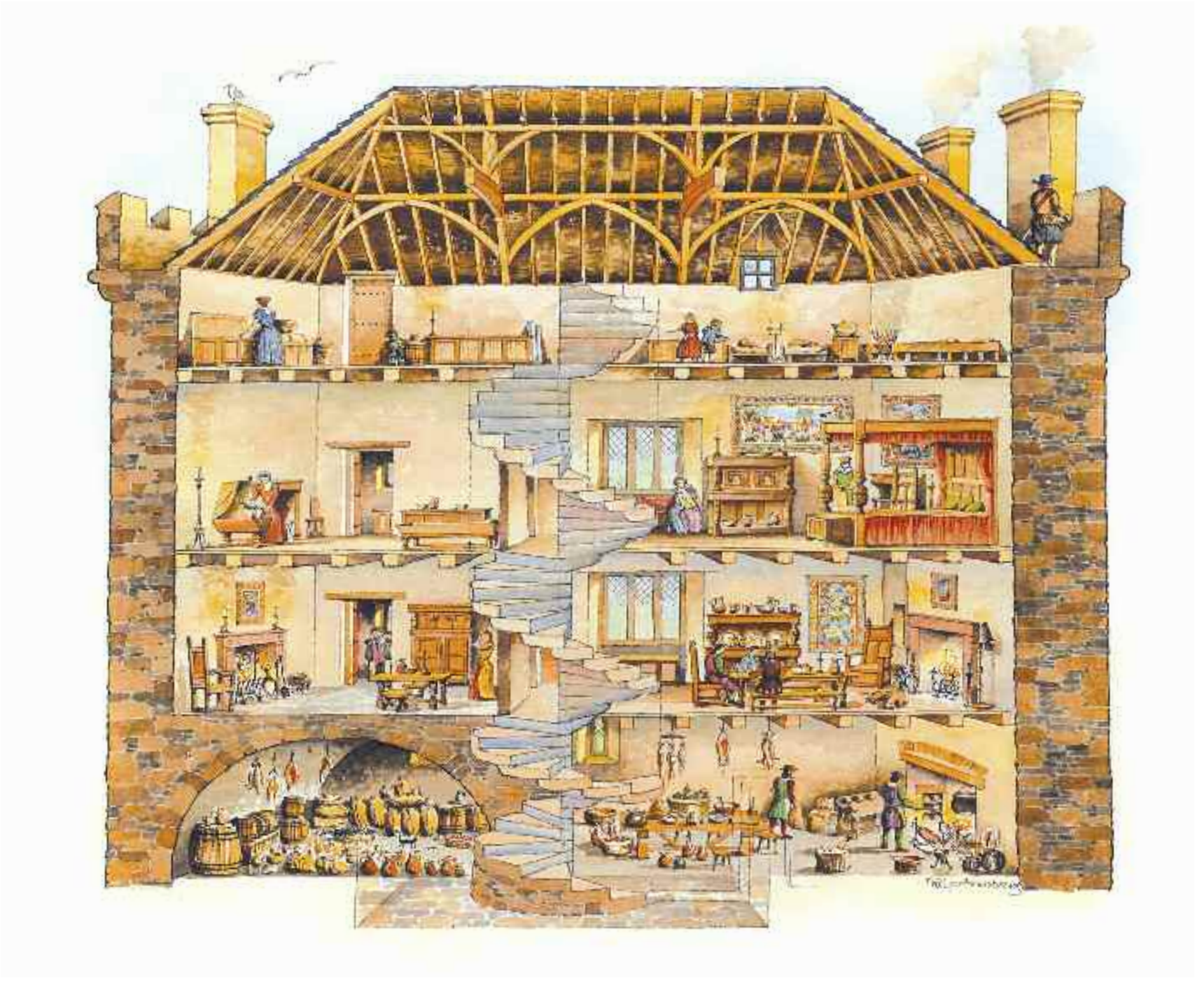
The Bagenals moved to Greencastle again, in 1574, when requested to vacate their home in Newry; to accommodate the Earl of Essex who had been sent to suppress rebellion in Ulster. Nicholas Bagenal appealed against being moved out citing:

> *"…my own poor state, charged now with a number of young, motherless children, and having no other place to shroud ourselves in … our absence would make my neighbours hold me for a stranger and so neither esteem of me or mine."*

The neighbours, of whom he spoke, were the citizens of his growing 'Towne of Newrye' where Bagenal's Castle dominated the surroundings.

Opposite: 16th Century map of Newry.





Bagenal's Castle

BAGENAL'S CASTLE, IN THE 'TOWNE OF NEWRY', was erected by Nicholas Bagenal. He fled to Ireland in 1539, during the reign of Henry VIII, to escape a criminal prosecution in England. Bagenal's Castle is probably the oldest building still standing in Newry. For more than a century its existence had been obscured by being incorporated within the premises of the Victoria Bakery. When the bakery ceased to operate in 1996, archaeologists were able to examine the site and to peel off the layers of industrialisation.

In 1550, the Cistercian Abbey which probably stood on this site was dissolved and its buildings and lands were granted to Bagenal by Edward VI. The Abbey of Newry was the third Cistercian Abbey to be built in Ireland after Mellifont Abbey and Bective Abbey. Cistercian Abbeys throughout Europe were built to an identical layout. The ruins of Mellifont are extant and give an idea of the scale of the Abbey at Newry. Newry's

The Cistercians

The opening lines of King Murtagh McLouglin's Charter of Endowment to the Cistercian Order of monks in 1157 declare: "To all his kings, princes, nobles, leaders, clergy and laity and to all and each of the Irish present and to come, greetings…"

When the Cistercians took up residence it marked the arrival of more than a religious order to Newry. It announced the historic beginnings of a town, a verifiable community, a definite place of activity. In a reversal of history, Newry was founded in the same way that Irish monks had founded establishments in Europe from the sixth century onwards. The coming of the Cistercians and the granting of the Charter by King Murtagh McLouglin was the result of the ecclesiastical trouble in Ireland at the time (often described as St Malachy's revenge on the Irish church). The twelfth century was a century of two different invasions for Newry. Twenty years after the Cistercians had arrived the Normans followed in their footsteps: the saints of France followed by the soldiers of France; and so it could be argued that Newry is a European creation.

Opposite: **The castle had a Kitchen and a hall on the first floor. The Great Chamber was located on the 2nd Floor with adjoining bedroom.**

Above: **Head and Horse, a carved stone from the remains of the Cistercian Abbey of Newry, thought to be a representation of King Murtagh McLoughlin.**


Newrye
Terlogh
PART OF
South

Left: A gallery of the Newry & Mourne Museum.

Naming of Newry

Across time Newry has gone by many names. A sixth century poem tells that Macleobha (King of Uladh) entertained the poets of 'Irebhar Chinn Trá' following their defeat at Druimceat in 574.

Also recorded is 'Iabhar Chinn Choiche Mhic Neachtain'; with the word 'iubhair' (evergreen) deriving from 'eo' - ever and 'bar' - top. In Cistercian records the names: 'Invorium', 'Neveracum', 'Monasterium Apud Taxcum', 'Cinntrachta', 'Monaster Ibhair', 'Viride Lignum' and 'Stagnum' all appear. St Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh, refers to it as: 'Monasterium Luracense'. In state papers of the 15th century it was referred to as 'the Newrie' and was even called the 'Bagenal'.

Cistercian Abbey was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Patrick and St Benedict. Its charter (the only one of its kind still in existence) bestowed on the monastery over 5,500 acres including: the townlands of Ballynacraig, Sheeptown, Carnmeen, Comglean, Castle Enigan, Crobane, Croreagh, Corcreeghy, Conlea, Greenan, Turmore, Carnacally, Ballyholland, Derryleckagh, Lisduff, Ryan and Benagh as well as lands in Co. Armagh and Co. Louth.

Unlike other such sites across Ireland, there is scant physical evidence for the existence of the monastery of Newry. Some believe that 'Bagenal's Castle' is in fact the house of the Abbot of Newry. What is undeniable is that the stone from the monastery and abbot's house was scavenged for the construction of Bagenal's buildings. Archaeologists refute the idea that Bagenal merely 'renovated' the abbot's house. They point to original drawings from a survey of the castle in 1568 that show a projecting stair turret and latrine turret embracing the elements of a 16th century defended house. Bagenal wrote to England, in 1575, seeking financial assistance to build new fortifications in Newry and mentions that he had already built a castle.

Some 16th century records speak of life in the castle and the town including a report of 1575 by Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy to Ireland, who commented:

> *"I found such good policy and order in the country where the Marshall [Nicholas Bagenal] dwelleth, his lands so well manure[sic], his tenants so well cherished and maintained, the town so well planted with inhabitants, and increased in beauty and building as he is much to be commended".*

Opposite: A map dated 1600 showing the area around Newry.

Victoria Bakery

The Victoria Bakery, which occupied the building now identified as Bagenal's Castle and the adjoining 19th Century warehouse, was established by the McCann family who originally came from the Boyne Valley. James McCann of Channonrock in Co. Louth built a new mill near Drogheda in 1767 and from this stemmed a milling and baking dynasty on the east coast in Dundalk, Navan, Trim, Kells, Balbriggan and Newry. Thomas and Matthew McCann, sons of James, arrived in Newry and founded the Victoria Bakery in 1837 in Castle St. In 1871 their nephew Arthur came from Dundalk to assist in the management of the bakery. He eventually assumed ownership and created the firm of Arthur McCann Ltd. He was a considerable innovator and introduced modern mechanised equipment into the bakery. Operations moved in 1894 from the original site across the road to the old Abbey site where it remained in operation for another hundred years.

It is probable that after an attack in the 1641 rebellion that the building went into decline so that by 1712 Nicholas Bagenal, the great grandson of Sir Nicholas, lived instead on Pall Mall in London. There is evidence, in a map of 1746, that the castle was restored for commercial purposes. The cellar and steps in the ground floor date from this period. A warehouse adjoining on the north side was added in the early 19th century and the complex became the home of the Victoria Bakery from 1893 for more than a hundred years.

The buildings of the castle and the warehouse now form Newry and Mourne Museum but are still designated as 'Bagenal's Castle' after Nicholas Bagenal.

Sir Nicholas Bagenal
Adventurer, 1509 -1591

NICHOLAS BAGENAL ARRIVED in Ireland in 1539; escaping from criminal prosecution in his native Staffordshire. His father was mayor of Newcastle under Lyme in Staffordshire. Nicholas fled after killing a man in a brawl. He took to the safety of Ulster; serving Conn O'Neill, 1st Earl of Tyrone, as a mercenary. Conn petitioned for a pardon for him and in 1545 it was granted: "for all murders and felonies". He was to shed his criminal past and become a wealthy and a powerful man.

In 1550, the Cistercian Abbey which stood in Newry was suppressed by order of the Crown and its buildings and extensive lands in Co. Down and Co. Louth were granted under lease to Bagenal by the boy King Edward VI; son of Henry VIII (who had broken from the Roman Catholic Church and had confiscated its possessions including Newry Abbey). Bagenal married Eleanor of Penrhyn; and subsequently became owner of considerable estates near Bangor in Wales. In 1588, the year of the Armada, when he bought the townlands of Derrybeg, Derramore, Ballinlare and Altnaveigh from the O'Hanlon clan he assumed control of both sides of the Clanrye River. The townland of Carneyhough, however, was reserved to Patrick Crilly. This townland later became the base of the new Newry (Hill St and Trevor Hill) that grew up around the river in the 18th and 19th centuries.

On the dissolution of the Abbey, the powers and privileges of the Lord Abbot were given to the Bagenals. By a Royal Patent of 1613, Arthur Bagenal, grandson of Nicholas, stood in all legal senses in place of the Abbot and was deemed therefore to be a 'Lay Abbot'. He had an exempt jurisdiction leaving him free from the interference of any bishop or other controller of the Protestant faith in Ireland. Nicholas Bagenal's general purpose in Ireland was to extend and strengthen English influence over the native Irish and in particular to impose the Protestant religion. In 1587 he built St Patrick's Parish Church at the top of High St in response to concerns from London at the slow progress toward a strong Protestant church in Ireland. He was the military chief of the English Army in Ireland and accordingly was involved in trying to curtail the activities of the native clans: the Magennises, the O'Hanlons and the O'Neills. He successfully held this rank until 1591 when he was succeeded by his eldest son Henry.

Sir Henry Bagenal
Marshal of Ireland, 1556-1598

HENRY BAGENAL WAS BORN IN 1556 at Greencastle on Carlingford Lough. At the age of 35, he inherited his father's properties in Staffordshire, Ireland and Wales. His long campaigns in Ireland kept him from adequately managing his vast properties. To protect his Staffordshire estate he sought Privy Council intervention to prevent encroachment by other landowners, and in Wales another neighbour was accused of defrauding him in a contract for the mining of coal.

From the viewpoint of the 21st century, the life, and fate of Henry Bagenal are inextricably entwined with Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone. O'Neill rode alongside him as a loyal subject of the Queen in 1593 to curb some of the excesses of the Maguires of Fermanagh. It is likely that O'Neill did so to protect his own nascent plans for rebellion. On a visit to Newry O'Neill met with Bagenal's youngest sister Mabel and asked for her hand in Marriage. It was refused and she was sent off to her sister's home near Dublin. O'Neill pursued and they eloped. It was a relationship that instigated Henry's deep resentment and hatred of the Earl of Tyrone.

It has been suggested, perhaps naively, that O'Neill would not have rebelled against the crown but for the greed of Bagenal in trying to take ownership over the lands occupied by the Irish clans of O'Hanlon and Magennis which lay convenient to Newry. A near contemporary source, quoted by historian C. P. Meehan, had this to say about Bagenal's avarice:

> *"He was in sooth, a greedy adventurer, restless, rapacious, unscrupulous; in a word, one who deemed it no sin or shame to aid in any process by which the rightful owner might be driven from his holding provided he got share of the spoil."*

Henry Bagenal lost his life near Blackwatertown, Co. Armagh on 15th August 1598 in the most crushing defeat ever suffered by an invading army in Ireland. This was the Battle of the Yellow Ford; where Bagenal's arch-enemy and brother-in-law, Hugh O'Neill, and the combined Gaelic chieftains of central and western Ulster repelled the superior force

Above: **Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone.**

of trained and well-armed English. On the field of battle O'Neill had proved superior to Henry. Bagenal lifted his visor to look around the battle field and was struck in the face by a musket ball. It is believed that his body was taken by his retreating forces and that he was buried at the Church of Ireland Cathedral in Armagh City.

After the Battle of the Yellow Ford the action of the 'Nine Years War' moved back again to the area of Newry and the defence of Ulster at the 'Gap of the North' in a narrow defile in the mountains of South Armagh, situated close to modern day Jonesborough, known as the Moyry Pass.

Mabel Bagenal (1570-1596)

Mabel Bagenal, in defiance of the wishes of her brother Henry Bagenal, married the Gaelic chieftain Hugh O'Neill Earl of Tyrone. O'Neill, at times supported the Crown forces, and so visited Newry and the home of the Bagenals. It was there he first saw Mabel Bagenal. He resolved to have her as his wife; some say for her beauty, others suggest that his intention was to align himself with the Bagenals, while cynics point to the substantial dowry of £1,000 stg.

To forestall the growing romance, Henry sent Mabel to Dublin to stay with her sister Lady Barnwell. But O'Neill went to Dublin and in his own words dealt so effectually with the gentlewoman that "we were trothed together and she received from me a chain of gold". He married her, he said, chiefly "to bring civility into my house and among the country people". O'Neill spent money, on her account, to add to the comforts of his Dungannon castle, by ordering furnishings directly from London. But the marriage (O'Neill's second of four) ended in childlessness, betrayal and Mabel's early death.

She quickly became disillusioned with life in O'Neill's Dungannon castle. Becoming a Catholic did not endear her to her brother Henry and he refused to pay her dowry. Henry reacted venomously to the marriage saying:

"I can not but accurse myself and fortune that my blood which is in my father and myself has often been spilled in repressing this rebellious race should now be mingled with so traitorous a stock and kindred."

He later offered the same £1000, at the Battle of the Yellow Ford, to any man that brought him O'Neill's head. Mabel was angered by O'Neill's infidelity and she eventually took her revenge by disclosing O'Neill's conspiratorial liaisons with other Gaelic chieftains to the Council of Ireland and proclaimed him a traitor. Mabel died, at the age of 26; it is said of a broken heart.

Above: **Mabel's Tower where according to legend Mabel 'died in misery'.**


Newry
Mc GENIS
Kilbronie
The Cruise
Carlingforde
Newtown
Coole
Cooly
Hantans
Kill
Cowney
Foghart
Baie of
Dundalke
Dundalke
LOVTH
Scala Milliarum

Moyry Castle

MOYRY CASTLE STANDS, SOUTH OF JONESBOROUGH, at a place regarded as the traditional entrance to the North of Ireland. The castle is a small tower built on top of an outcrop of rock on the southern rim of the Ring of Gullion where a break in the mountains allows a passageway given the title 'Gap of the North' or the 'Moyry Pass'.

After Hugh O'Neill had defeated the English army at the Battle of the Yellow Ford in 1598 he was able to secure the Pass for a few short years from the onslaught of superior forces. In 1601 the English forces broke through the Pass again and constructed Moyry Castle to ensure that neither O'Neill nor his allies the O'Hanlons could regain control of the area. The Pass through Moyry had been used since ancient times as 'Slighe Miodhluachra': the main road joining Tara to Dunseverick on the coast of Antrim. From Moyry the road ran through Kilnasaggart where a most remarkable pillar stone still stands.

Holding the Pass

"On September 20th 1600, Mountjoy's army reached the hill of Faughart, half a mile south of Moyry pass. A small advance was sent out by the English and discovered that O'Neill's army was not only in the pass, but that they had built formidable works across it. They obviously meant to stand and fight, rather than depend on their usual ambush tactics. Mountjoy was at first successful, driving O'Neill's men from their first two lines of barricades. But Mountjoy could see that they would never force the third that day, and he would not divide his force to hold his gains, so the English retreated to where they had started.

The English suffered 160 casualties during the battle, many of them coming as the Irish harassed them during their retreat. They claimed that Irish casualties had been higher but, with the English being on the attack during the entire fight, that is unlikely. Mountjoy had had enough of frontal assaults on the strong Irish defences and next tried a flank attack. On the 5th, he sent 3 regiments of foot and 100 horse to try the right flank of the Irish defences. They had to scale some high ground to get at the Irish line but did so and drove them back some distance before the Irish counterattacked and stopped their advance. All the English troops on the heights were soon back down. A simultaneous attack near the bottom of the heights had also failed.

The English had been in front of the pass for over two weeks now and were no closer to getting through it than they were on Sept. 20th. On the 9th October Mountjoy retreated south to Dundalk."

From www.thewildgeese.com by Joseph E. Gannon

Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone

Above: The eighth century inscription referring to Ternoc.

A SHORT DISTANCE FROM Moyry Castle is the 8ft [2.43m] high Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone, believed by some to be Ireland's oldest Christian stone monument. Others believe it may be more ancient than that. It is thought that there had once been an Ogham inscription on the pillar and since the name Kilnasaggart means the "Church of the Priests", it was removed by the Christian priests who did not want a pagan monument within the church grounds.

There are ten cross inscribed circles on the north face, another on the upper east side of the pillar and a Latin cross with a large cross inscribed circle on the south side. On the south-eastern face of the pillar is inscribed a dedication in Irish for Ternoc, believed to have been a Christian bishop. The inscription translates as: "This place did Ternoc son of Ceran bequeath under the protection of Peter the Apostle". The inscription at least can be dated to c.700 AD as Ternoc's death is recorded in the "Annals of the Four Masters" as 714 AD.

An article about the Kilnasaggart Stone by Reverend H. Reade in 1856 stated that two concentric circles of graves occupied a plot of about 50ft [15.2m] in diameter south of the stone, and that the stone itself stood on the outer edge of the outer circle. There is no trace of this particular layout today. Circular graveyards exist in other parts of Ireland and Britain and are held to be Druidic or pre Christian. It is likely that the Kilnasaggart Pillar Stone is more than two thousand years old.

No physical evidence remains of any buildings at Kilnasaggart but, across the plain of Meigh, on the slopes of Slieve Gullion two ancient churches still stand at Killeavy.

Killeavy Old Churches

KILLEAVY TRANSLATES FROM the Irish as 'Church of the Mountain' and that mountain is Ireland's mystical mountain Slieve Gullion. On this site are two derelict buildings one of which is believed to date from 518 AD. The later church was constructed in the 13th century and was at some time extended by 10 metres to meet the gable of the older church. Each church contains treasures of medieval architecture.

St Moninna had erected an earlier wooden church on this spot in 450 AD. Moninna was born in 432 AD, a daughter of Machta, King of the territory stretching from Louth to Armagh. According to tradition she was baptised and confirmed by St Patrick who predicted that Moninna's name would be remembered throughout time. She founded a number of convents in Scotland and England and also a convent in Faughart, Co. Louth. She later moved to a place near Begerin in Co. Wexford before coming to Killeavy where she died in the year 518 AD.

On the northern side of the cemetery at the Old Churches there is a very large granite stone measuring 7ft [2.1m] long by 5ft [1.5m] wide and about 1.5ft [45cm] thick. Tradition says that this is the grave of St Moninna. As St Patrick predicted, her name is remembered by the many pilgrims to this place who use the waters from her holy well on Slieve Gullion. It is said to provide cures, particularly for eye problems.

Augustinian Nuns had a convent on this site until the suppression of the monasteries in 1542 which gave the Cistercian Abbey of Newry to Nicholas Bagenal and similarly gave the extensive lands of the convent of Killeavy to Marmaduke Whitechurch. Succeeding generations of the Whitechurch family sold sections of the land to other 'planters' who where to make a lasting impression on the area by building fine homes on their holdings. Direct descendants of Whitechurch who developed on the slopes of Slieve Gullion were the Seavers of Heath Hall.

Top: **The shrine to St Monnina on the slopes of Slieve Gullion.**

Heath Hall

Captain Seaver's Men

"The fair country extending to the east and bounded by an inlet of the Irish sea, was occupied by a strong military force, while the lofty Slieve Gullion on the left, afforded a shelter, in its deep cavities and impossible rocks, to the houseless inhabitants whose cottages were only discernible by the smoking ruins. Winding round the base of the mountain, I perceived a band of licensed ruffians returning from one of their nocturnal excursions. Their captain (Seaver) was absent but his spirit rested with his companions. His mansion (Heath Hall) was on the inhospitable moor, but his residence was not more barren than his mind; its illumination was the blaze of the cottage, and the screech of his tortured victim was the only sound grateful to his ear: the plunder of the widow has not increased his wealth, for the curses of his countrymen have blasted what the blight of the mountain might have spared."

From "Personal Narrative of the 'Irish Rebellion' of 1798" by Charles Hamilton Teeling

NICHOLAS SEAVER, WHO MARRIED Marmaduke Whitechurch's daughter, was the first of his line to live in Killeavy and make their home at Heath Hall. The estate passed down the generations to the most notorious of his descendants: Jonathan Seaver; who lived there in the latter part of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Known as 'Seaver of the Bog'; he was Captain of the Killeavy Yeomanry and High Sheriff in the period of the 1798 Rebellion. Charles Hamilton Teeling in his book: "Personal Narrative of the 'Irish Rebellion' of 1798" reports that Captain Jonathan Seaver had a gruesome reputation for brutality.

Jonathan's eldest son Thomas emigrated to France in 1824. Although an Orangeman and a Yeomanry Captain; he changed his beliefs and came back to Ireland, in 1841, as a supporter of Daniel O'Connell's Repeal Movement. He was a landowner turned patriot in the mould of John Martin of Loughorne. He did not live to see the dramatic events of 1848 instead dying of typhus on 24th September 1847. His own son Thomas inherited Heath Hall and with it a mortgage of nearly £40,000 brought on by his father who had relieved the tenants of rental payments in the famine years. He sold the property to a Dr Kelly and emigrated to Australia. He did not fare any better there. His son Jonathan did make his fortune. In 1897, he bought Heath Hall from Dr Kelly and sent his father back to end his days in Killeavy. He employed his cousin Henry Seaver, a Belfast architect, to restore the building and to add the distinctive castellated tower. Jonathan had a sudden reverse in his fortune and when Thomas died, in September 1900, the house was sold yet again to Dr Kelly. Unfortunately the house was gutted by fire in 1976 and remains in that state. Over the centuries the Seaver/Whitechurch holding had subdivided to other branches of the family and to other families such as the Foxalls who built Killeavey Castle.

Opposite: **Jonathan Seaver, Captain of the Killeavy Yeomanry.**

Top: **Heath Hall c.1910.**

Killeavy Castle

KILLEAVY CASTLE IS SITUATED, at the foot of Slieve Gullion in the townland of Clonlum, within a mature planted demesne. The property now called 'Bell's Castle' is: a mid- 19th century, two-storey, 'Tudoresque' house. Towers were added to each corner at a later date. It is constructed in granite throughout; with the towers all square and similarly detailed, with the exception of the north west tower which is tall and circular and rises above the others. There is a medieval front door with heavy studding and a front terrace with Tudor style turrets and battlements.

Above the entrance door is the coat of arms of the Foxalls, who were founder partners of the Bank of Newry, bearing the motto: *Faire Sans Dire* (Do Without Saying). Formerly known as Killeavy Lodge it was renovated in 1836 by Powell Foxall who commissioned Dublin architect George Papworth to enlarge his modestly scaled farmhouse. Now falling into decay the building was once a picture postcard with elaborate cultivated gardens and a lake set against a backdrop of mountain shrubbery. Charles Brett author of "Buildings of Co. Armagh" (1999) says that Killeavey: "is a sort of scaled down version of Gosford Castle". An earlier writer in the "Picturesque Handbook to Carlingford Bay" (1846) deemed it to be "certainly one of the most beautiful rural paradises which adorn the rich plains of Armagh and Down." That same writer was also impressed with estate of the neighbouring landowner Chambre of Hawthorn Hill.

Top: **Coat of Arms.**

Bottom: **Medieval studded entrance door.**

Opposite: **Killeavy Castle, with it's elaborate gardens, lake and shrubbery.**

Hawthorn Hill

Attack on Landlord

"About 5 p.m. on Tuesday 20 January 1852 Hunt and Meredith Chambre were returning to their residence, Hawthorn Hill, in a side-car driven by a servant, David Cole. As they climbed Drumintee Hill two shots were fired at them from behind a stone wall. The first knocked off Meredith's hat, the second hit him in the neck and head. One eye was almost put out of his head.

Acting on the word of an informer, the police quickly arrested Francis Berry of Adavoyle. From the crime scene; evidence was gathered that was later to help convict Berry. This related to percussion caps found at the scene, a portion of torn newspaper – the match of which was found at his home – and distinctive stud marks in footprints that matched Berry's boots. At Newry Bridewell, Berry made the following statement:

'Well I will tell the truth whether I shall die or not. I was one and two more men from Cross or Glassdrummond. Said two men asked if I would show the mark, and I replied I would, but I would not go near as this man, Mr Chambre would know me. We waited. When we heard the car coming, the two men went on and took their places. I made the best of my speed home. I went better than two fields when I heard two shots. I don't know the men's names but I would know them if I would see them'.

Berry was found guilty of the attempted murder of Meredith Chambre and sentenced to death by hanging. The execution took place at Armagh Jail on 14 August 1852. Before his death he spoke to the crowds assembled to witness the execution: 'Pray for me for I was a great sinner. If you Roman Catholics were advised by your clergy, you would not see this sight today. Lord have mercy on my soul'."

From www.newryjournal.co.uk by John McCullagh

HAWTHORN HILL WAS BUILT C.1815 but the courtyard assumed its present form between 1861 and 1907. Hawthorn Hill was the seat of the Chambres, an English family of Norman descent who had "entered England in the train of William the Conqueror". It was Hunt Walsh Chambre who initiated the building of the mansion. He was a person of some stature as a Captain of the Armagh Yeomanry, a High Sheriff and a Magistrate.

It was described in the "Picturesque Handbook to Carlingford Bay" (1846) as:

> *"… the lovely seat of Hunt W. Chambres Esq. J.P. seated upon the eastern acclivity of Slieve Gullion… and surrounded by a wide green lawn studded with clumps of palms and other trees."*

There is no further description of the house which is unfortunate; for while the horticultural description holds good today little remains of the mansion. The Chambres

Top: Monument at Adavoyle to the memory of Francis Berry.
Left: Watercolour of Hawthorn Hill by by an unknown artist

fell foul of the militant 'Ribbon Men' of South Armagh and an attempt was made to assassinate two of them in 1852 when, in the wake of the famine, they were believed to have evicted a number of tenants to make way for pasture lands. During civil unrest in the 1920s the house was burnt down and was subsequently partially reconstructed.

In 1968, the Chambre family sold the estate to the Forestry Commission and the house was used until recently as its headquarters. The remaining courtyard buildings were developed to provide resources for the local community and tourists. They were opened to the public in 1995 and go under the title: Slieve Gullion Courtyard. The complex was taken over in 1999 by Clanrye Employment and Training Services, Newry. Many great landlords prospered but like Hawthorn Hill, some other large estates in the Newry area are no longer standing. An example to the north of the town on the way to Poyntzpass is was the Close family and their estate at Drumbanagher.

Top: Meredith Chambre, victim of the ambush displaying disfigurement to his left eye.

Drumbanagher House

DRUMBANAGHER HOUSE WHICH WAS the centrepiece of the Close estate is sadly no more. Only the stately portico stands to mark the entrance to the mansion designed by the renowned Scottish Architect, William Playfair. Playfair also designed Brownlow House in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. There is a family connection between the two mansions: Maxwell Close's wife Anna Elizabeth was also Lord Lurgan's sister. Both houses were constructed in Scottish sandstone and may have been built simultaneously between 1829 and 1837. Whereas Brownlow House was Tudor in design, Drumbanagher was Italianate. The portico is more properly described as a 'Port Cochère' - as it is wide enough to allow a horse and carriage through. Its purpose was to allow a sheltered arrival at the main door of the great house. The only decorations on the outside are the arms of the parent families Close and Maxwell.

The Close family gave £95,000 for the estate in 1818 when John Moore MP fell liable for the debts of the Bank of Newry. The construction of Drumbanagher House (c.1830) cost £80,000 indicating the extensive rental income that the Closes' derived from the tenants of their 9,000 acre estate. The Irish Land (Purchase) Acts 1885 and 1903 changed all that and the tenants were enabled to buy out the leases. In common with other landed families the Closes were gradually reduced in income and levied with taxes until there was insufficient revenue to sustain the fine mansion. Drumbanagher House was dismantled by another Maxwell Close in 1951. Writing in *The Belfast Telegraph*, in 1962, he said:

> *"No mortal could have afforded to keep the castle going. So I had it demolished. Death duties, upkeep and financial difficulties meant I just had to get rid of it...It was perfectly sound and in good order when it was demolished...Now it looks like a nuclear bomb hit it."*

The Scottish sandstone exterior went to build the Catholic church of St Colmcille at Knockaconey near Armagh City. Several branches of the Close family still live in the area of Drumbanagher within a couple of miles of another reminder of the age of landlordism at Dromantine.

The Tenants of Drumbanagher

"A meeting of the tenants on the estate of Major Close, J.P., Drumbanagher Castle, near Newry, Co. Armagh, was held on the evening of the 12th inst. in Poyntzpass, for the purpose of considering the question of the purchase of their holdings under the recent Land Act. A letter was read from the agent, Mr. H. S. Close, J.P., stating that Major Close would receive any representative deputation of tenants on a date which could be subsequently arranged, and he would himself then make known the terms on which he could enter into the question of sale. After discussion, Messrs. R. N. Savage and Heber A. Magennis were appointed to wait on Major Close and ascertain the terms upon which he would offer to sell his estate to the tenants. The following resolution was also adopted: 'That we hereby pledge ourselves to act in one united body in all dealings with our landlord regarding the purchase of our holdings, and we promise that none of us shall treat individually or behind the back of the others in regard to anything affecting the said sale'."

From *The Newry Reporter*, October, 1903

Opposite: **The Scottish sandstone portico large enough to allow passage of a coach and horses is the only remaing evidence of Drumbanagher House.**

Above: **Drumbanager as depicted by Newry artist P Byrne in 1846.**

Dromantine House

FIVE MILES NORTH OF NEWRY, in the drumlin acres of South Down, Dromantine House dominates the landscape. The Italian renaissance style building rises in all its classical dimensions surrounded by huge lawns, deciduous plantations and a picturesque man-made lake. The Mourne Mountains create the skyline to the east and the land on the west rises to Lissummon Fort. The lands of the Dromantine Estate had been owned since 1611 by the Magennises.

Dromantine was bought in 1741 by John Innes of Belfast. In 1808 Arthur Innes began building the present house and the lake was constructed two years later. The final additions and elaborate decorative rooms were not completed until 1865. The building is rich in plasterwork and ornamentation which helps compress its vast dimensions but the sense of weight and strength is undiminished. In 1922 Dromantine House was bought by Samuel McKeever and in 1926 the land and building was purchased by the Society of African Missions (SMA - Societas Missioni Africanis). In 1927 the first eleven of 587 priests were ordained. In the decade that followed, the two seminary wings, St Patrick's and St Brendan's were added. Dromantine closed as a Seminary in 1974 and since then has operated as a retreat and conference centre.

A major renovation programme was completed in 2001 which enhanced the internal and external grandness of the old building and modernised the SMA extensions of the 1930s. The grounds of the demesne are beautifully maintained. The Innes family, whose crypt is in the graveyard at Donaghmore, came to this beautiful place at a time when the countryside was being opened up by a new form of transport and one that was right on their doorstep making their lands even more valuable. That transport was by water on the Newry Inland Canal.

Top: **The restored drawing room.**
Bottom: **The ornamented plaster work in the drawing room.**

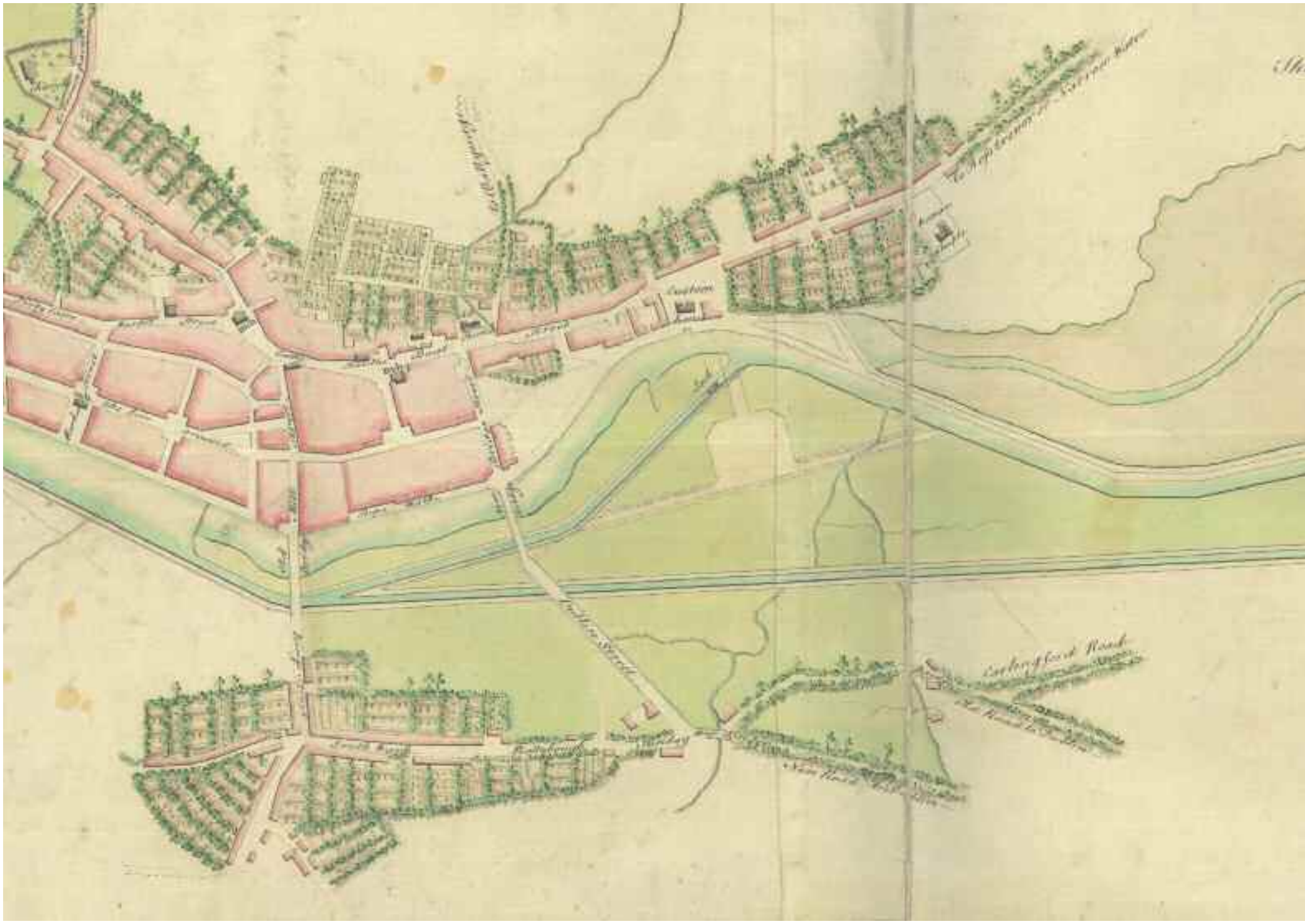
Inland Canal

Top: Merchants Quay early Twentieth Century.
Bottom: Merchants Quay early Twenty-first Century.

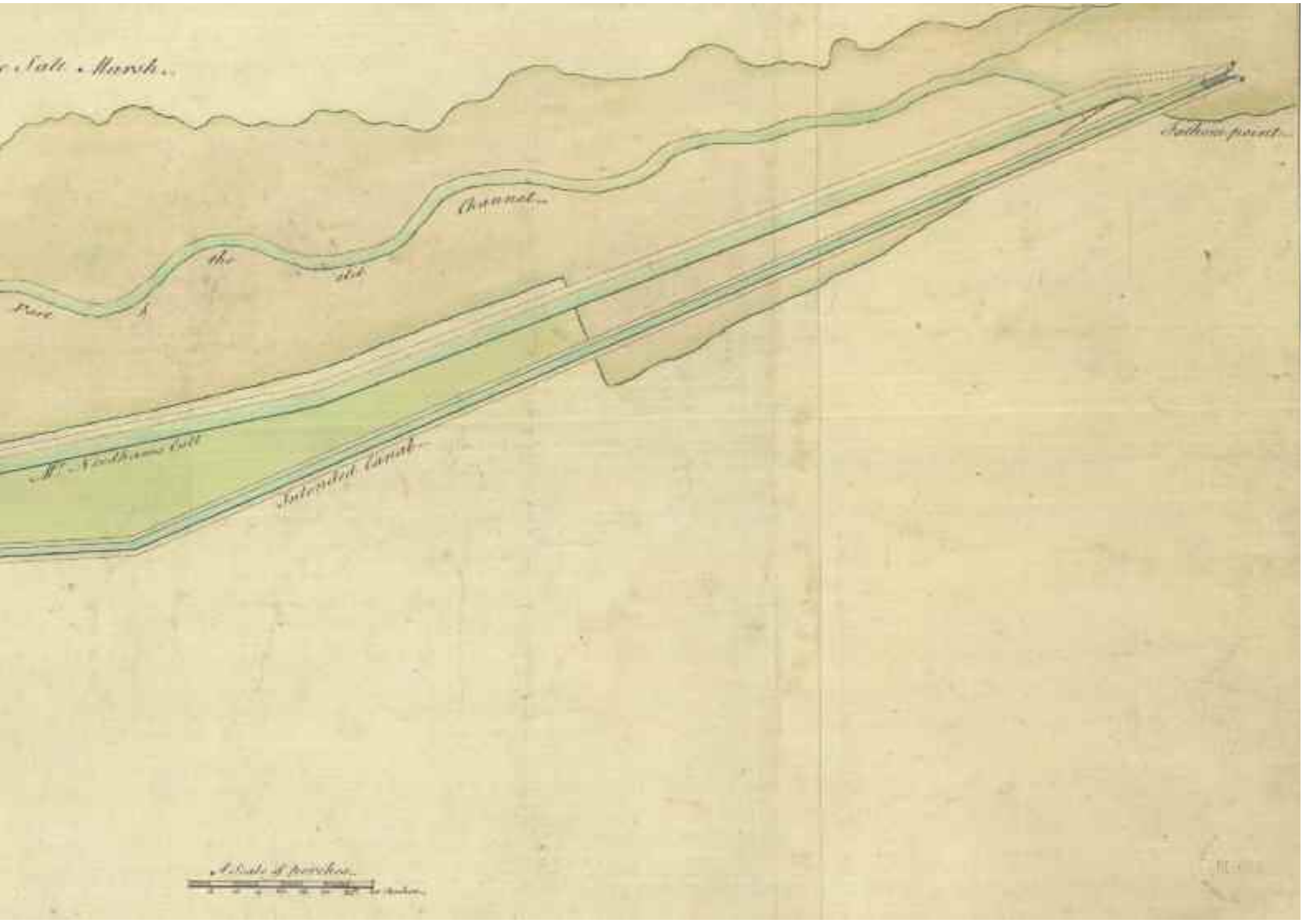
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE Newry Inland Canal opened up the waterways of South East Ulster. It marked a change from total dominance by the landowner to the rise in power and wealth of the merchant class; by creating a whole new hinterland for Newry and making it the fourth most important port in Ireland.

The survey for the Canal was commissioned in 1703 and its realisation was hastened in 1720 by the Irish Parliament's search for an alternative to imported British coal. It was believed, erroneously as it turned out, that coal lay in abundance around the shores of Lough Neagh. The cutting of the canal began in 1731 and was only completed in 1742 after several failures in the design and materials were rectified. It was scandalously over budget at a cost of £900,000.

It was still a remarkable achievement; passing through several bogs on its 18 miles passage through Poyntzpass, Scarva, Madden Bridge, and Knock Bridge to Whitecote Point, 2km south of Portadown where it joins the River Bann. By linking Carlingford Lough with Lough Neagh, the Canal had joined the Irish Sea and the Atlantic Ocean via the Upper and



A Plan of the Town of Newry, and Works of Navigation, 1760


Channel
Southern point
Intended Canal

Linen Hall Arch

The classical arch facing the Newry Canal was built in 1783 as part of a six-acre complex encompassing the White Linen Hall constructed by Newry merchants to develop the export of linen from the town. A similar venture in Belfast succeeded in taking the trade from Newry. Sometime before 1819, the complex was sold, at a quarter of its original £14,000 cost, to the British Army for use as barracks; with accommodation for over 1100 men. When it ceased to be used for military purposes the barracks were acquired, by Newry Urban Council, to be used as private dwellings. They paid only £1,200 and the councillors were delighted with themselves. Some were concerned about the influx of catholic voters into a predominately protestant electoral ward. In the end the Unionist councillors graciously supported the acquisition. The small inadequate dwellings suitable for army billets were replaced with modern housing in the 1960's. The Archway which is the only remaining evidence of the Linen Hall is note-worthy for its elaborate decoration. The structure is made of local granite and once formed the entrance to the Linen Hall. The decoration of the arch includes a spinning wheel, a harp and crown carved on the piers, with a Greek pattern worked on the cornice of the piers and on the pedimented top of the structure.

Above right: **The canal with the Linenhall barracks c.1880**

Lower Bann Rivers. The Government's need for cheap coal seemed to be realised from places like Coalisland when *The Cope of Lough Neagh* laden with Tyrone coal arrived in Dublin on 28th March 1742 to considerable fanfare. It was short lived as the 'inexhaustible supplies' of coal soon ran out. Newry still gained as it became the port of choice for the importation of coal through the Canal in the opposite direction.

Newry was the first summit level, wholly artificial major navigational canal in the British Isles. It is the oldest summit canal in the United Kingdom; pre-dating the more famous Bridgewater Canal by nearly thirty years. The canal created access to a new hinterland in the heart of Ulster. Increased trade swiftly followed; leading inevitably to the rise of the merchant class, and new status, wealth, prosperity, invention, homes and public buildings to match. Among the commodities carried in its active years were agricultural goods, tobacco, timber, iron goods, whiskey and oil products. With the growth of the railway network, the use of the Newry Inland Canal began to decline and the last known commercial journey occurred in 1936. Abandonment came in 1956. Many of the locks, reconstructed in the years 1801-1811, are still in excellent condition because they were constructed from local granite rather than the brick usual in Britain.

The Canal towpath is now a well maintained and popular walkway from Newry to Scarva and beyond and along its banks are still to be seen the many warehouses, manufactories and trading establishments constructed in the canal's 'Golden Age'. Outstanding in stature and position is Sands' Mill properly titled the Clanrye Mills.

Clanrye Mills

CLANRYE MILLS WAS ERECTED in 1873 for Sinclair and Sons to replace an earlier mill that had burnt down. The contractor was James O'Hare of Newry and the final cost was some £17,000. The mill appears to have been vacated by Sinclairs around 1886 and was taken over by Robert Sands. Sands was clearly an astute entrepreneur. When the Newry Printing and Lithographic Works (at 29 Hill St) was destroyed by fire in 1910, Sands purchased the *Newry Reporter* and provided modern machinery and equipment to re launch the title at the Clanrye Mills. He carried on the milling business and the publishing of the Reporter until his death in June, 1915. A consortium of his managers continued the business and bought the milling business from his estate. The Reporter title was bought by Edward Hodgett.

A fire gutted the Clanrye Mills in 1985 and it has been completely reconstructed internally. Clanrye Mills remains one of Ireland's finest and most satisfying brick constructions. It was part of a world wide return to the architectural possibilities of brick and a check on the dominance of Newry Granite as the natural construction agent in the district. Described as "an essay in red brick"; Clanrye Mills was intended to add a Venetian atmosphere to the Newry Canal as it flowed through the town. It was the creation of the Newry architect; William James Watson.

Top: **The Clanrye Mills in the 1930's.**
Bottom: **Detail of Clanrye Mills.**

William James Watson
Architect, 1844 -1911

WILLIAM J. WATSON WAS an architect of considerable eminence in Newry during the second half of the 19th century and the early Twentieth Century. He was the eldest son of William Watson of Aughavilla Lodge, Warrenpoint. Born in London in 1844, he received his early education at Potterton's School, Newry and subsequently was a pupil of W. Jeffrey Hoppins, F.R.I.B.A., diocesan architect of Hereford and Worcester. Watson's legacy is strongly felt in the number of his buildings which survive in this area. In addition to the Clanrye Mills, he designed Walker's Mill (which burnt down in 1907 adjacent to the Cathedral) and many public buildings in the Newry area. He designed the homes at 17, 19 and 21 Windsor Hill for the developer Alexander Whelan.

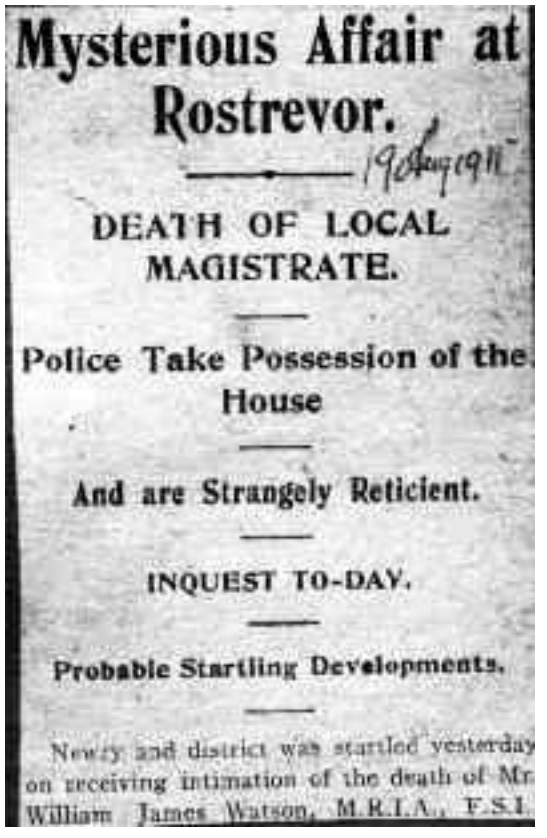
Top: Bessbrook Town Hall was built c.1887 for the Richardson Family and a community centre for their workers.

Bottom: Irwin, Martin and Nesbitt and Warehouse, The Mall built in Belfast brick.

Right: The former Great Northern Hotel, Rostrevor.

Above: The Great Northern Hotel, Warrenpoint; originally The 'Beach Hotel'. Watson added the gabled and turreted three-storey section facing the sea.

Left: The Glebe House, Windsor Avenue.



Mysterious Affair at Rostrevor.

19 Aug 1911

DEATH OF LOCAL MAGISTRATE.

Police Take Possession of the House

And are Strangely Reticient.

INQUEST TO-DAY.

Probable Startling Developments.

Newry and district was startled yesterday on receiving intimation of the death of Mr William James Watson, M.R.I.A., F.S.I.

Watson was more than architect. He was a leading civil engineer and had been involved in the design and construction of the London waterworks. He was a sportsman closely connected with hare coursing which helped build his business connections with prosperous property owners. He also served as a Magistrate in the local Court. He was a land agent for some of the same property owners and engaged in wider business activities.

At the height of his entrepreneurial career he was mainly resident in London where he floated a public company for the erection and managing of 'picture palaces' (cinemas). Many of his clients and friends in the Newry area had subscribed for shares. Watson was duped to part with the bulk of his personal investments by fraudsters and he fell into a despair compounded by throat cancer. He returned to his home at Benvenue, Rostrevor for respite. On the morning of Thursday 18th August 1911 he ended his own life by drinking dilute prussic acid. The inquest, held in his home, on the following morning returned a verdict of suicide whilst temporarily insane. During his lifetime, Watson's coloser collaborator and constructor of many of his designs had been the builder; Alexander Whelan.

Right: Masonic Hall and Intermediate School, Downshire Road.

Above: News report of Watson's death, Newry Reporter, 1911.

Opposite: The three-storey building for the Belfast Banking Company was erected in 1890. It is in the Gothic style of architecture with French chateau embellishments.

Whelan's Work

"With the firm of Mr. Alex Wheelan things have been very bright, the firm being literally overwhelmed with orders. On completion of the military contract at Armagh Mr. Wheelan received the highest commendation from General Leach VC on his expeditious and first rate manner of carrying out the work. Mr. Wheelan has on his hands, it may be added, Government contracts which will cover 3 years work! New class rooms in the Boy's and the Infant's departments of the Model School and a fine scullery for the Girl's School have been completed. This firm had also the work in connection with the Custom House, before notified.

Among the minor items entrusted to Mr. Wheelan during the year may be enumerated the restoration of Hawthorn Lodge, Killeavey, for Mr. Hunt W Chambres reseating and heating of Bessbrook Presbyterian Church; reseating of Tullyallen Church; restoration of Hockby Lodge for Lady Margaret Stronge; new shop and premises for Mr. Thomas Pearson, Bessbrook; extensive work for Doctor Robinson and for Mr. R Small and a new villa residence built by order of Mrs. Robert Foster.

Mr. Wheelan also got the contract for the rebuilding of Newry Workhouse in face of great outside competition. It may also be recorded that his tender was only about £11 over the architect's estimate. We venture to congratulate the ratepayers on their good fortune in having Mr. Wheelan as the builder and he has said that the work will be done in half the time the guardians talked about."

From *The Open Window*, Newry, 1901

Alexander Whelan
Builder, 1838–1910

ALEXANDER WHELAN WAS a self made man and among the largest contributors to the built environment both in Newry and other parts of Ireland. In 1854 at the age of fifteen he left his native townland of Divernagh, Bessbrook and emigrated to America where he trained as a carpenter and joiner. He visited the large American cities and learnt the latest techniques in construction. He put these to use upon his return to Newry where he set up as a contractor in 1866. His first building was the Manse at Kingsmill soon followed by a Presbyterian church in Bessbrook. His name was made by the age of 30 and he opened premises at Canal St where he remained until his death.

Right: 21 Windsor Hill, occupied by descendants of Alexander Wheelan until the 1960's.

Left: **Alexander Whelan built both the Belfast Banking Company and the Provincial Bank which faced it across Hill St.**

Among his many buildings in Newry were the Newry Markets, the General Post Office, the Northern Bank (Belfast Bank) and the home of Patrick Murphy in Marcus Sq. He developed much of Windsor Hill, Arthur St and Ardmaine on the Fullerton Road. He redeveloped much of Canal St, Sinclair St and Erskine St with working class dwellings. He did the same at Arthur St and Monk's View Terrace, Pound St. He was highly favoured by government bodies and was endorsed as a specialist military contractor. He spent two years in Armagh barracks building soldiers quarters. He did similar work in 1900 at Portobello barracks Dublin. He was also employed to construct ménages (horse training rings) at the Curragh Camp.

He was a man of great energy and civic spirit. In addition to being an active member of the Freemasons he was a devout worshipper at Sandys St Presbyterian Church, a member of the Newry Board of Guardians and the Town Commissioners. His health failed him in his 63rd year and he died at his home at No. 10, Canal St on Sunday 16th November 1902. He left an estate of more than £18,000. He was attended in his last days by his close friend and mentor in Freemasonry; Dr F.C. Crossle.

Whelan's Will

Alexander Wheelan died 16th November, 1902, leaving an estate valued at £20,425 5s and 5p. His will specified the following bequests:

To Elizabeth Bell (daughter):
Property given to her at time of wedding
2 houses in Canal Street

To Agnes Mary Coakley (daughter):
4 houses in Erskine St
3 houses in Catherine St
Her husband's business premises in Hill St
The Foundry, Canal St

To Florence Booth Wheelan (daughter):
17, 19, 21 Windsor Hill (occupied by Fosters, Duncans and Boyles)

To Sarah Russell Wheelan (daughter):
'Ardmaine' Fullerton Road (occupied by Roman Catholic Bishop O'Neill)
7 small houses in Pound Street

To Elizabeth Ann (wife):
£100
Whatever house she wants to live in
House in Canal St (occupied by Sinclair)
Rent of the Police Barrack, Canal St
Rent of the Baths, Canal St

To William Thomas, Alexander Henry, Robert Arthur and Richard George, (sons):
Cash, Stocks and Shares
Houses and café in Fullerton Road
Houses in Pound St
Dwelling House and yard at 24 Hill St
Dwelling House and premises at Canal Quay
Building sites & houses in Canal St and Erskine St
Building sites in Edward Street and Catherine St
Building sites in Sinclair St
Building sites on Windsor Hill
Houses in New St
Ongoing contracts in many parts of Ireland

Dr Francis Clements Crossle
Physician 1847 -1910

FRANCIS CROSSLE, A NOTED HISTORIAN, archaeologist, sportsman, and promoter of the Masonic Order, was born in Ballygawley on St Patrick's Day 1847. His father was from Tyrone and his mother was from Newry. He qualified as a doctor at Trinity College in 1871. He was appointed medical officer of Newry No. 2 Dispensary District; a post he continued to hold until 1899 when he retired to devote himself to private practice. In this capacity he gave evidence at inquests and many suspicious deaths. His dedication to the people of Newry saw him on the Board of Newry Workhouse.

Dr Crossle was a member of the Newry Cricket Club and Newry Harriers and one of the prime movers in the establishment of the Newry Free Library as chairman of the Library Committee. He donated several hundred valuable books from his own personal collection to library. During his studies Dr Crossle copied in his own hand the genealogical records and the histories of many of Newry's leading families. These are hosted by the Library Service in the Irish Studies Library and the Robinson Library; both at Armagh. According to his obituary in the *Newry Telegraph* of October 18th 1910:

> *"…he also found occasion to indulge in archaeological and antiquarian research in the counties of Down, Armagh and Louth and we believe several brochures on this subject came from his pen…"*

As a prominent Mason he was one of the first trustees of the new Masonic Hall on Downshire Road which was built and dedicated in 1887. It was designed and built by Brothers William Watson and Alexander Whelan respectively. He had a lodge named after him during his lifetime and was himself the worshipful master of Nelson Lodge XVIII, Newry. He wrote the histories of several lodges with which he was associated. He is buried in the churchyard of Jonesborough Parish Church. This notable all rounder resided most of his life with his wife, six sons and a daughter, in Trevor Hill, Newry.

Top: Prescription pad used by Francis Crossle.
Bottom: Crossle's funeral cortege in Kildare St.

Trevor Hill

NOT LONG AFTER NICHOLAS BAGENAL became possessed of the lands of the Abbey of Newry the townland of Carneyhough was granted to a native named Patrick Crilly. Carneyhough stretches from the present day Rathfriland Road to the land behind the Cathedral in a 'V' formation. Crilly's descendants sold the marshy riverside townland some two centuries later to the Hill family of Hillsborough, Co. Down.

Whilst the planning of Newry was undertaken by his father and grandfather; it was Arthur Hill, the 3rd Marquess of Downshire (1788 -1845), who began laying out the modern centre of Newry. With capital and foresight he set about developing Carneyhough. Hill St is clearly named after his family. Marcus Square and Cecil St are named for his uncle Cecil Marcus Hill, Margaret Square and Kildare St are for his grandmother who was Margaretta Fitzgerald daughter of the Earl of Kildare. His mother Mary was heir to Lord Sandys of Basingstoke in Hampshire and thereby the origin of

Top: **The Hill Monument, Hillsborough.**

Arthur Hill, (1788-1845)

"April 12. At Blesington, Co. Wicklow, in his 57th year, the Most Hon. Arthur Blondell Sandys Trumbull Hill, third Marquess of Downshire, Earl of Hillsborough and Viscount Kilwarlin, fourth Viscount Hillsborough and Baron Hill of Kilwarlin, Co. Down, all dignities in the peerage of Ireland ; also Earl of Hillsborough and Viscount Fairford, Co. Gloucester and Lord Harwich, Baron of Harwich in Essex K. P. ; Lord Lieutenant of Downshire, Colonel of the South Downshire militia, Hereditary Constable of Hillsborough Fort, Vice- President of the Royal Society of Dublin, and LL. D.

His Lordship was born Oct. 8, 1788, the eldest son of Arthur second Marquess of Downshire, by the Right Hon. Mary Baroness Sandys, only daughter of the Hon. Martin Sandys, and niece and heir of Edwin second Lord Sandys. He succeeded to the peerage whilst still in his minority, Sept. 7, 1801. He was educated at Eton. The Marquess voted in favour of Reform of Parliament. His Lordship generally enjoyed excellent health, and did not look his age. He was most moderate in his living, took abundant exercise, and his mind was constantly occupied in plans for the improvement of his numerous tenantry, by whom he was greatly beloved. To take their character of him, a better, more liberal, indulgent, and kind landlord did not exist. He died suddenly of apoplexy whilst visiting one of his tenants.

The Marquess of Downshire married, Oct. 25, 1811, Lady Maria Windsor, daughter of Other-Hickman fifth Earl of Plymouth. He was MP for Downshire in the present Parliament. The funeral of the late Marquess reached Newry at five o'clock in the evening of the 22d April. The hearse having stopped at St. Mary's church, the coffin was deposited for the night therein. The townsmen went in procession to meet the funeral on its approach to the town, each dressed in black, and wearing black crape pendant from the left arm, men of every grade in politics and religion joining in one common tribute of respect and gratitude to the memory of the revered and departed nobleman, who proved so sincere a friend to Newry. The following day the body was deposited in the family vault at Hillsborough."

From *The Gentleman's Magazine*, July, 1845

Sandys St. His wife Lady Maria Windsor gave us Windsor Hill. Downshire Road commemorates his aristocratic title and Arthur St was after his and his father's Christian name. Trevor Hill was named to honour his great-grandfather Viscount Hillsborough (1693 - 1742). The family resided at Hillsborough Castle until its sale to the Northern Ireland Government in 1924. Arthur Francis Nicholas Wills Ian Hill, 9th Marquess of Downshire born on 4th February 1959 became an Associate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1985.and lives at Clifton Castle, Ripon, Yorkshire, North Riding.

The sites in the Carneyhough townland were leased only to those vetted by the Hill family and building designs were approved by the family if in keeping with their aspiration for the area. The earliest example of a building in the Trevor Hill area that fulfilled those aspirations is the Bank of Ireland.

Opposite: **Arthur Hill, 3rd Marquess of Downshire by Richard Dighton.**

Top: **Trevor Hill, Newry c.1900.**

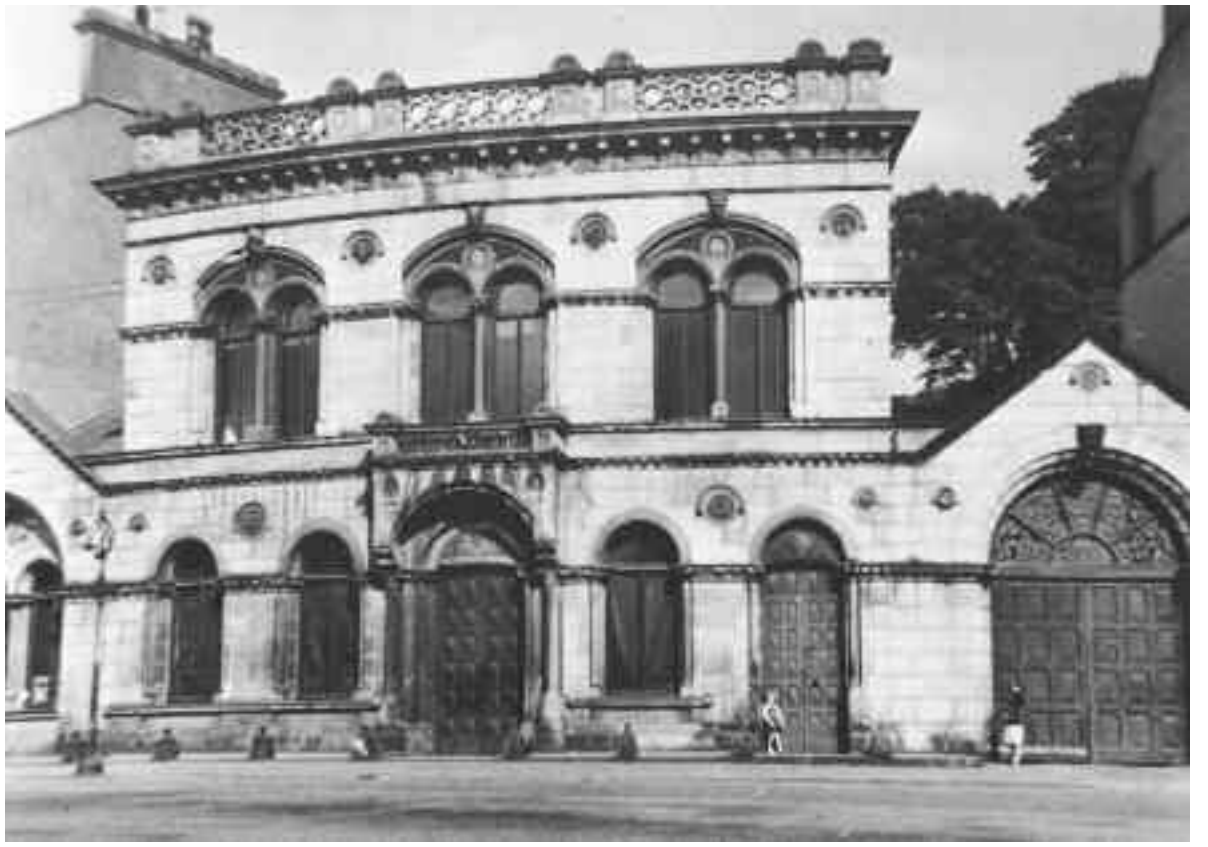
The Bank of Ireland in Trevor Hill was erected in 1826. It is one of the most dominant and opulent buildings in Newry, designed by Francis Johnson of Armagh; who also designed the Courthouse in Armagh. Newry Bank of Ireland has an 'identical twin' in the Crescent, Wexford. The Bank of Ireland may have planned to replicate the design throughout the whole of Ireland.

At the time, the Bank of Ireland had a monopoly on banking within a 50 mile radius of Dublin. This led to a restraint to the development of industry and trade. Through political pressure, and the adoption of the 'laissez-faire' doctrine of economics, other banks such as the Belfast Banking Co., Northern Bank and Provincial Bank were established.

The site of the Bank, opposite the Courthouse, had been a jail and it is presumed that from this jail leads an underground tunnel to the rear which to this day emerges on Gallows Hill. The Bank of Ireland is a three story structure of ashlar finish and square granite stones. A central flight of granite steps leads to an elaborate Georgian doorway. It is the oldest building in Newry still serving its original function. Along from the Bank of Ireland stands a line of buildings which were once the homes of merchants and professional men.

Above: The former Bank of Ireland on the Crescent, Wexford is a replica of the Bank of Ireland, Newry.

Right: Bank of Ireland, Trevor Hill, Newry.



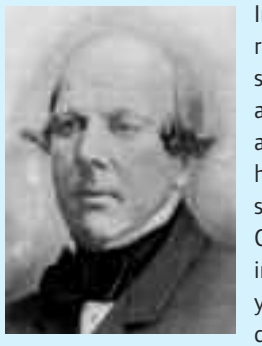
No.7 is noteworthy for the rear extension which houses an assembly room with a panelled dado bellow a modillioned cornice and a large octagonal lantern. The house was also used by the Belfast Banking Company. It was acquired by the Trustees of the Quinn Charity in the 1890s

The highly ornate St Colman's Hall at No.5 Trevor Hill was until 2004 the property of the Roman Catholic Parish of Newry. It was built in 1866, as warehouse and offices for Henry Thompson & Co. It was an elaborate statement of the wealth of the Thomson family. During the year of its construction (1866) *The Newry Almanack* said:

> *"… Thompson's Wine Stores, which will occupy an area of 118 feet from front to rear, and will cost upwards of £3,000. The building, will be 40 feet high, and have a granite front, with ornamental key-stones, the metal work being supplied by the Newry Foundry. There are 40 men employed daily at the work, which will be completed in April."*

The large house at No.4 Trevor Hill was once known as Waring's Castle. It was the home of Thomas Waring who was of the family from Waringstown Co. Down. Several members of his family were seneschals of the town. Seneschals were officials who had

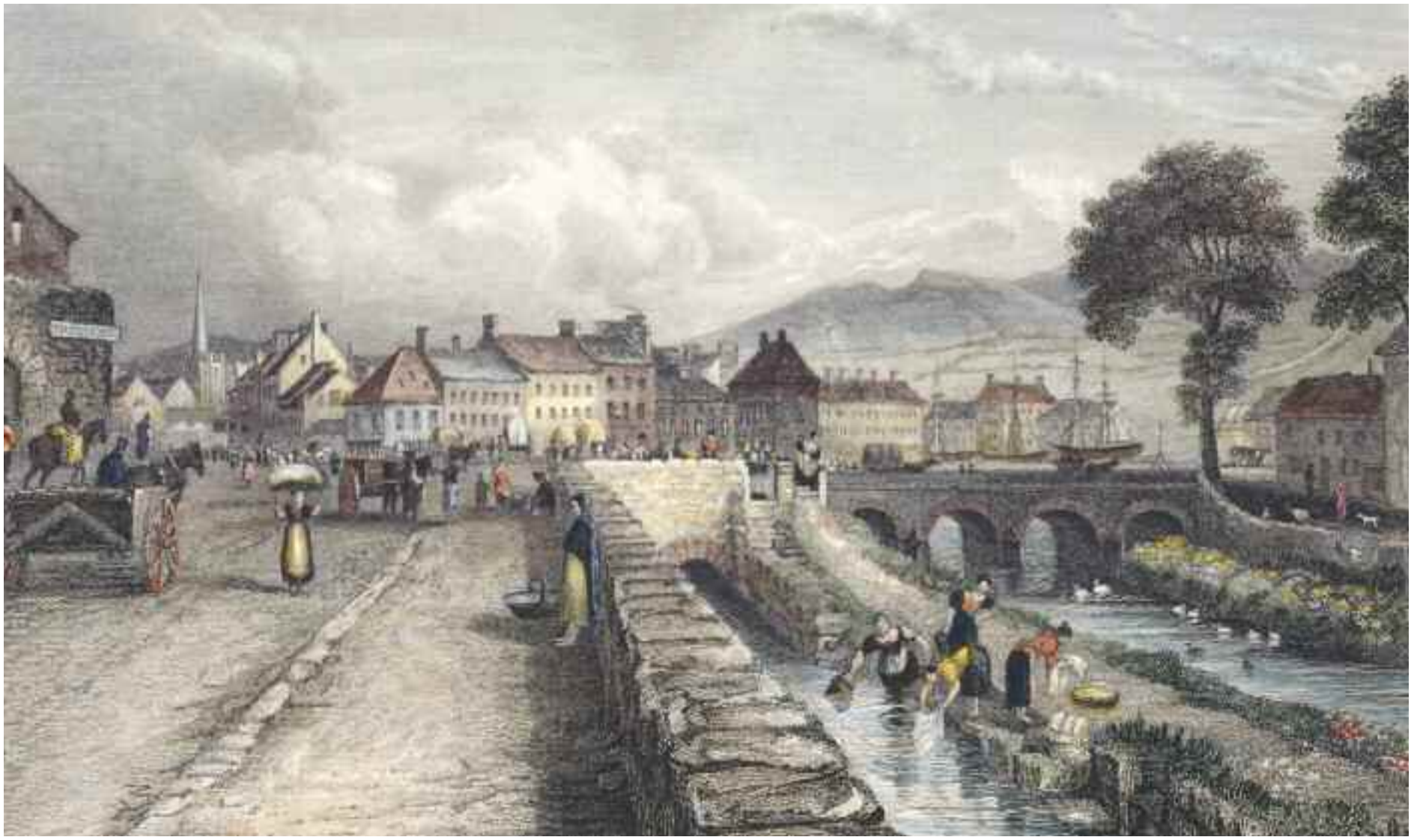
Henry Quinn (1811-1887)



In November 1887 the residents of Newry were stunned at the news of an enormous bequest by a native of the town who had left, aged of seventeen, for Capetown, South Africa in 1828. After twenty years of building contacts and a reputation, he moved to London and acted as agent for the largest exporters of Cape produce. He left half of his personal fortune of £300,000, to establish a Charitable Trust "…for the maintainence [sic] and support or benefit of such indigent persons, male or female, for the time being, residing within the district as shall have formerly lived in a better or superior class of life…"The composition of the Board, which operates to this day, was specified to be: three Non-subscribing Presbyterians, one Roman Catholic, one Presbyterian and one Church of Ireland Member. Henry Quinn attributed his success in life to advice given to him in his early life by the Rev John Mitchel. He had a portrait of the clergyman painted and it hung above the mantlepiece in his London office.

Above left: **The offices of Henry Thompson & Co, Wine & Spirit Merchants which later became St Colman's Hall.**

Above: **Boardroom of the Trustees of the Quinn Charity still in use at No 7 Trevor Hill.**



Above: **Washerwomen working in the 'Mill Race' which once flowed under Sugar Island Bridge.**

responsibility for the care of the citizens. In 1916 it became known as the Newry Club for Gentlemen.

The Northern Bank was built in 1923 to replace two separate buildings: Nos. 2 and 3 Trevor Hill; which had been originally constructed for the Belfast Banking Company in 1866. No. 2 was the Bank and No. 3 was the Manager's dwelling.

No. I Trevor Hill is one of the oldest houses in Newry. It was built between 1770 and 1775 by the merchant family of Thomson. The three-storey, five bay dwelling is faced with granite, with a coach entrance and arch on the southern end of the building. The arched central door-way is flanked by narrow square-topped windows typical of 17th and 18th century English architecture. This design is repeated in the Venetian window above the hall door.

An enduring feature in all images of Trevor Hill is the river bridge across to Sugar Island. A wooden footbridge was erected across the Newry River at this spot in the early 1700s. It was subsequently replaced with a 10-arch masonry structure named 'Mudda Murphy's bridge', after the erector of the old wooden bridge. It was noted by Bradshaw in 1820 that:

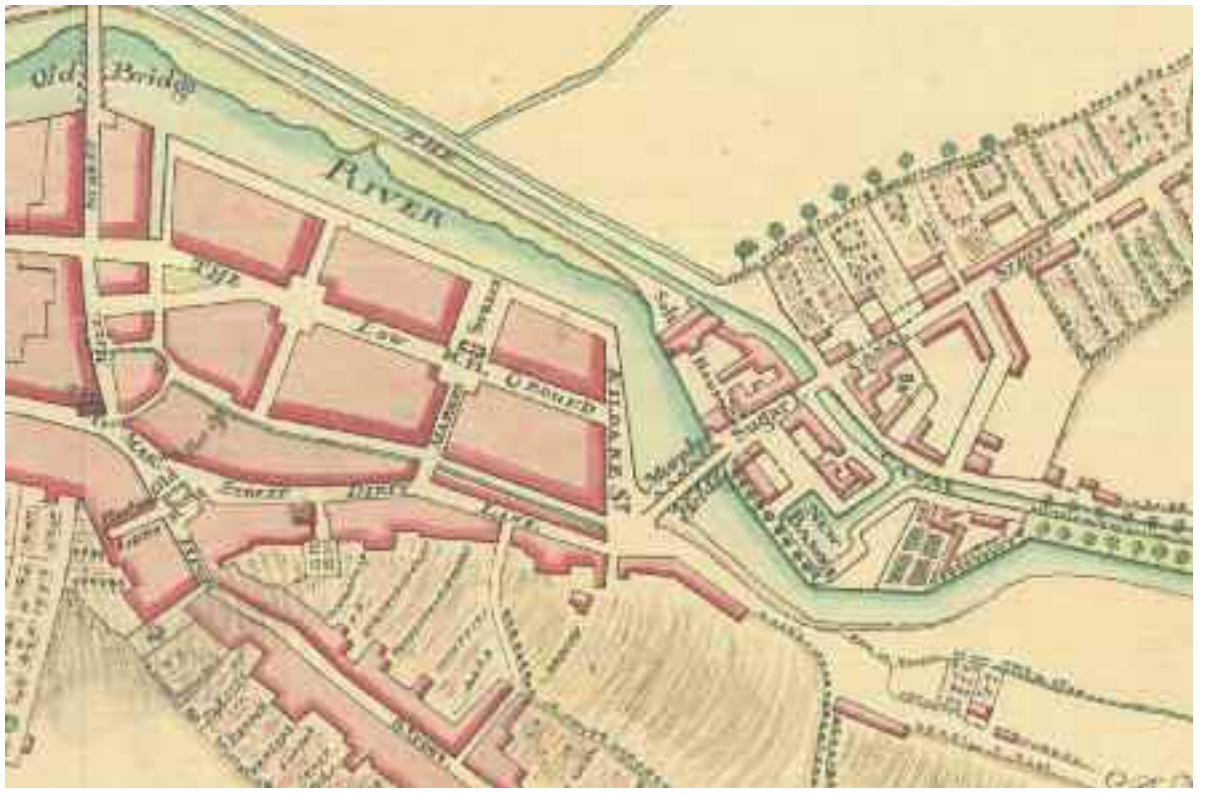
> *"It is a good bridge of five arches. Formerly these were ten arches; but five of them being of no use for venting the water, it was thought unnecessary to retain them."*

One of the five arches was over the 'Mill Race' which ran all the way up to the dam at Mill St which fed the flow to power a corn mill. The 'Mill Race', diverted part of the flow of the Clanrye, under Sugar Island Bridge, and into the culvert which ran along the side of the thoroughfare we know today as Water St. The water was then conducted to a reservoir to the rear of the present day cathedral. That area was known until the 1960's redevelopment as the 'Back of the Dam'. This dam fed the water mill which stood in Mill St. The water still makes its way under O'Hagan St to the Clanrye.

Just 50 yards from the Sugar Island Bridge another bridge, the Armaghdown Bridge, spans the Clanrye River. This bridge was built in 1891 in conjunction with the erection of the Town Hall.

Top: The Northern Bank at Trevor Hill c.1890.

Bottom: O'Hagan Bridge marks the point where the 'Mill Race' rejoins the Clanrye.



Left: A map of Newry in 1761 showing 'Mudda Murphy's Bridge' and the 'Low Ground' (now Hill St and the Mall).

City Hall

NEWRY TOWN HALL WAS BUILT, on the downstream side of the Armaghdown Bridge, spanning the counties of Armagh and Down. In March 1890 the Newry Town Commissioners announced an architectural competition for the design of a Town Hall. It was thought that this building would be an extension to the building on Bank Parade rather than a new building. As they had already decided to erect a new bridge across the river, to make a grand approach to the new edifice, the thought grew that a new building standing on the river would be both novel and serve as a symbol of uniting the two counties of Armagh and Down.

Fourteen designs were received, of which two were rejected as being too costly. Of the twelve remaining, only two proposed siting it across the river. William Batt, of Belfast, design was chosen even though it cost more and accommodated fewer people than set out in the design brief. To minimise the load on the bridge, the hall's sides and party walls were to rest over the abutments and piers rather than the arches. There was also to be a fire station at the rear, complete with a belfry for a hand-operated alarm bell.

The contract for the construction of the Bridge was won by David Mahood of Newry but the erection of the Town Hall went to Collen Brothers of Portadown with whom a most serious dispute arose. Collen Brothers objected to a clause in the contract which held them responsible for any subsidence of the bridge even though this was being constructed by Mahood. Messrs Collen withdrew from the contract. Collen's tender had been for £6,632, and the next lowest tender was for £6,850 by Messrs Dickson and Campbell. The third lowest was Mahood's, for £7,177. It was decided to re-advertise the contract. Only Mahood tendered again, at his original price, and so was awarded the contract. The final cost was in the region of £12,000. The building was opened by the Earl of Kilmorey in March 1894. The Town Commissioners had but a few yards removal from their previous location in the Assembly Rooms in what is now the Sean Hollywood Arts Centre.

City Status

During the current Queen's Golden Jubilee, 2003, celebrations marked the granting of City status to deserving towns through out Britain. The selection process of competitive presentations was successfully completed by a body comprising local government officials, professional, businesses and private citizens. The Charter was presented by Queen Elizabeth at Hillsborough Castle on 14th May 2002.

Opposite: The New Town Hall c.1900.

Top: H.M. Queen Elizabeth II passing the Charter and the Seal to Frank Feeley, Chairman of Newry & Mourne District Council.

Sean Hollywood Arts Centre

THE PLANS OF the Newry Town Commissioners might wellwould have led to the disappearance of the present day Arts Centre on Bank Parade. They proposed to knock down the building, known as the old Savings Bank, to provide a site for their new Town Hall. The architect of the original building, which has internally been remodelled, is reputed to have been Thomas Duff. In the upper floor of the premises were the Assembly Rooms which hosted variety entertainments including in September 1848 an evening with General 'Tom Thumb'. This use continued during the nineteenth century and in 1890 the Town Commissioners acquired it for what the editor of *The Newry Reporter* claimed was a quarter of its value. He made a very prophetic comment when he said " … there may be many amateur associations and clubs to which it may turn out useful…"


October 28, 1840. 179

SAVINGS BANK.

Newry, 14th Oct., 1840.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Business of this BANK will be REMOVED to the NEW BUILDING, BANK PLACE, Sugar Island, on the 1st Nov. next.

177 JAMES SHIELDS, Secretary.

LIMEPARK LODGE, NEAR CALEDON, COUNTY OF TYRONE.

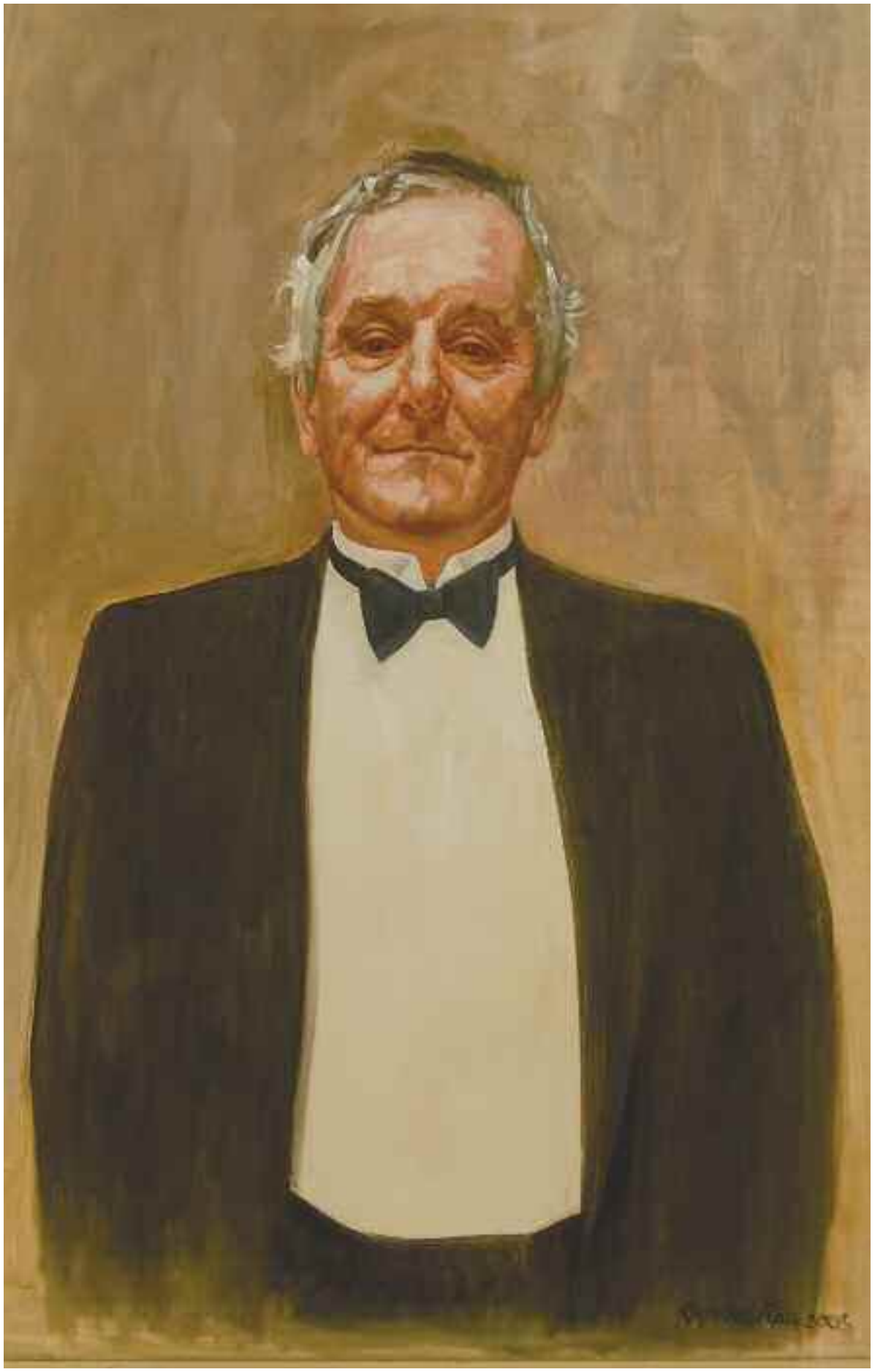
The building did find a new use when, in 1902, at a meeting of the Technical Education Committee in Newry Town Hall, it was resolved that the town should have a technical college and so Arthur McCann (Victoria Bakery), Henry Barcroft (Bessbrook Mill), and J.H. Russell were appointed to find suitable premises. They acquired the use of the Assembly rooms and the Municipal Technical College carried on at Bank Parade until 1981.

In 1980 Newry and Mourne Council rebuilt the structure, whilst preserving the Victorian frontage, and changed its use to an Arts Centre. On Friday 6th June 2003 it was renamed: 'The Sean Hollywood Arts Centre' by Mayor Frank Feeley.

The title of the street in which the Arts Centre stands arises from the existence of the Savings Bank which opened for business on 1st November 1840 at Bank Place. By the turn of the century this title had been replaced with Salt Parade due to the existence of a salt milling business on this edge of Sugar Island. Around 1906 it was given its present title of Bank Parade as a reminder of Newry's banking past. It was a past that was a painful reminder to those families who had, in 1816, been involved in the Newry Bank.

Top: Announcement of the Savings Bank's relocation in 1840.

Bottom: The building during its incarnation as the Municipal Technical College.



Sean Hollywood (1944-1998)

Named Newry's 'Man of the Century', in a poll, organised by the Newry and Mourne Millennium Company few people in modern times have possessed such a wide rage of cultural, sporting and intellectual abilities as Sean Hollywood. He was prominent in drama for almost thirty years notably with the Newpoint players, was head of the English Department at St Colman's College, a leader of the Civil Rights Movement and a Newry and Mourne Councillor.

Sean played hurling for his club, Shamrocks, represented Down and Ulster and was manager of the Down senior team for six years. He was also a considerable tennis player and briefly tried his hand at hockey and cricket with the odd foray into soccer. His passion was amateur drama, reaching a high point in the winning of the All-Ireland in 1992 with his production of 'Marat/Sade'.

Sean gave himself totally to his many causes, which in his eyes perhaps was the single cause of life itself. Always active, intense, self confident, open minded, intelligent, inspirational, full of opinions, and witty. He died suddenly at his home in High St in July 1998 at the age of 54. Such was his influence on the arts in Newry that there were no objections when it was proposed to name the Arts Centre at Bank Parade in his honour.

Newry Bank

IN 1804 THE PARTNERSHIP of Corry, Ogle and Co. opened a private bank in Newry which acted as agents for the Bank of Ireland who held a monopoly on banking within a fifty Irish mile radius of Dublin. Isaac Corry had been the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer before the Act of Union in 1800, and John Ogle was from a merchant family well established in the area and resident at Fathom Park on the Omeath Road. The Napoleonic wars were at their height and trade was booming due to the need to supply the British Army and its allies on the continent.

A second bank was established in 1807 in Canal St by political and business rivals. It involved Robert Macan, Meredith Foxall of Killeavy Lodge and John Moore MP of Drumbanagher, who had opposed Corry over the Act of Union. Moore, Macan and Foxall ran into difficulties when the Napoleonic Wars ended and by 1816 the bank had collapsed. Foxall of Killeavy had ensured that his personal fortune was not threatened. In 1836 his family at Killeavy Park had capacity to enlarge their country house to become Killeavy Castle. John Moore MP was forced to sell his estate at Drumbanagher despite vigorous appeals from his tenants to the Creditors of the Bank. The responsibility for the failure was placed entirely with Macan.

Robert Macan was the grandson of Robert McCann of Cloghogue who had been on the losing side at the Battle of the Boyne. His family had subsequently anglicised their name and aligned with the Protestant faith to retain ownership of some of their properties. In the investigation into the affairs of the Bank of Newry, it was found that Macan had held on to large pieces of land and properties that should have been transferred to various relatives arising out of family wills. He owned several townlands on the edge of Armagh City and several substantial properties in that city. It was further alleged that he had fraudulently cashed government bonds belonging to his wife and her family to keep the Bank solvent. He died in self imposed exile in Paris in 1820. Even after his death, his estate was pursued by the trustees of the Bank; amongst who was a man of completely opposite character; Trevor Corry.

Above: Fathom Park, Omeath Road.
Opposite: Bank notes issued by Newry Bank.


NEWRY BANK
Promise to pay the Bearer on Demand
the sum of One Pound Ster.
DUBLIN
ONE POUND


TWO
Promise to pay the Bearer on Demand
the Sum of TWO POUNDS Ster.
TWO POUNDS

Trevor Corry
Magistrate, 1780 - 1838

TREVOR CORRY IS IMMORTALISED in the fine monument which adorns the corner of Sandys St and Downshire Road. The monument designed in 1839 by the Newry Architect, Thomas J Duff, is mounted on six granite steps and consists of an obelisk of Newry Granite. It is dedicated on one side to: "Trevor Corry Esq. who performed the duties of magistrate for the town of Newry and the counties of Down and Armagh during a period of 35 years…" and continues on the other side to detail his character as:

> *"Endowed by nature with grace and elegance of person and with a generous but courageous spirit cultivated and refined by the study of polite literature, he combined the firmness and decision of the magistrate with the amiable qualities of the good subject, the faithful adviser, philanthropist and friend; tolerant in religion, calm in politics, charitable, sensitive, humane;,… confiding in the blissful promise of a glorious resurrection on the 22d July 1838 in the 58th year of his age he entered his rest."*

This paragon of virtue married Anne Hall, daughter of Savage Hall, of Narrow Water Castle in 1809. He was a Trustee of St Mary's Church of Ireland, Newry Turnpike, and the Bank of Newry. He was Deputy Lieutenant of Co. Down, an Agent for the Ross Estate and one of the founders of the Newry Gas Company.

Before the workhouse was established Trevor and his brother Smithson Corry distributed the interest on £2,000 left by his uncle Sir Trevor Corry to the poor of Newry. Sir Trevor was the English Consul in Danzig, now Gdansk in Poland, and a Baron of Poland. Through this connection with the Balkan states he and his trading family in Newry became wealthy and powerful. They lived in abbey Yard in the town.

Other good works included his building and financial support for a school at Derrycraw in the parish of Donaghmore. It was Trevor's cousin, as unpopular in some quarters as Trevor was loved in all, who made perhaps the greatest impact on the history of Ireland and more than any other individual for several centuries. His cousin was the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer; Isaac Corry.

Above: The Woodhouse, Rostrevor.
Opposite: The Corry monument.


CORRYS MONUMENT, NEWRY. 6366. W.L.

Isaac Corry
Politician, 1755 – 1813

ISAAC CORRY ENTERED THE Irish House of Commons in May 1776, at the age of twenty-one, to represent Newry; a position he 'inherited' from his father and which he held for thirty years. He is regarded as a saviour by Unionists, after he helped cement the Union of Britain and Ireland, and accordingly as a traitor by Nationalists. He was the most controversial Newry politician of any era. On being elected he attached himself to the 'Patriot Party'; which wanted more independence for Ireland and an end to the 'penal laws' against Catholics and Presbyterians.

Co-incident with his entry into parliament was the American Declaration of Independence and the war to free the United States from British rule. There was a fear that American ships might attack Irish ports and accordingly armed Volunteer groups were formed by civilians. Corry was Adjutant General of the Newry Volunteers. The Volunteer movement grew in numbers and armaments, as well as in its demands for more independence for Ireland. It appeared as if the Irish would follow the example of the Americans and wage their own War of Independence.

Isaac Corry was gradually turned from his Nationalist views by offers of high office. "Sketches of Irish Political Characters", published in 1799, said of him:

> *"No sooner was he seated in the House of Commons, that [sic] he became one of the most warm and animated members of the then opposition … …but such violence of patriotism could not last forever … …he was appointed to a post in the ordinance, of £1,000 per annum. He has in some respect [sic] abandoned the cause of the patriots for the smiles of a court and the emoluments of office…"*

Eventually he became Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer. It is said that the Act of Union binding Britain and Ireland was written in the main reception room in Derrymore House, Bessbrook, by Corry and his colleagues.

The story that the Chancellor's Road, leading from Camlough to Cloghogue on the Dublin Road, was built by Isaac Corry to escape the wrath of the Newry people may be partially true; for his coach was once stoned when passing through Newry. It is certain that the road was made by or for the Chancellor to save his horse drawn carriage climbing the Dublin Road from Dromalane to Cloghogue on the way to Dublin or the hill from Monaghan St to Bessbrook on the way back.

Isaac Corry also contributed to his unpopularity by the introduction of a 'Window Tax' which resulted in worsening the already unhygienic conditions of the Irish lower classes. This was particularly strange for when he constructed his own house he included a great number of large windows. That house is a national treasure and still stands at Derrymore, Bessbrook.

The Christian Brothers

On the 2nd February 1851 two Christian Brothers arrived in Newry in response to a call from the Bishop Michael Blake. They set up a school opposite St. Mary's Church in Chapel St. By 1865 'The Car Stands' building, designed by William J. Barre was opened and soon a third expansion of pupil numbers saw the Old Home Rule Hall, at the top of Hyde Park, being used.

It was in 1903 that he Brothers moved to Abbey House formerly the grand residence of the Corry family. Following the great flu of 1918, that closed all the schools, Chapel St. did not reopen as in that year the property next door to the Brother's residence in the Abbey House was adapted to use as a school. In 1937 the purpose built Abbey Public Elementary School was completed accommodating 800 boys.

Throughout their time in Newry the Christian Brothers offered education either free or for a small fee to thousands of boys. The Brothers did not exclude any student whose parents were unable to pay.

Following the 1947 Education Act, Grammar School education expanded and occupied the other buildings in the Abbey Yard which had once been the centre of the Corry business empire. Like the Corrys, the Brothers flourished in these environs and a new grammar school was built 1966 on the ground above the Primary School.

Above right: **"Possessing from nature a very pleasing exterior, Mr Corry loses not that advantage by a slovenly neglect of it, but on the instant impresses strangers with a favourable opinion of him" - "Sketches of Irish Political Characters" (1799).**

Above: **The Christian Brothers at Abbey Yard.**

Derrymore House

ISAAC CORRY BEGAN THE BUILDING of a thatched cottage at Derrymore, on land given to him by his father, almost as soon as he was elected Member for Newry in 1776. The house is in the form of a 'U' with the principal room in the building being at the base of the 'U'. This room is called the Treaty Room because tradition has it that the Act of Union between Ireland and England was drafted in it.

An advert in the Dublin Evening Post of January 1815 offering the house and lands for sale states;

> *"The house is built in the cottage style with eight bedrooms… The demesne is judiciously planted with 140,000 trees of various ages."*

As a victim of the Troubles the house was bombed on five separate occasions between 1972 and 1979. The custodian, Edmund Baillie, carried some of the bombs out of the house and into the garden. When interviewed in February 2000, he confirmed that because of the damage suffered to the structure most, if not all, of the timbers had been replaced and that some changes had been made to the interior. A re-thatching scheme, using water reed with wheat straw for the block ridge, was completed in 2003.

Derrymore House changed hands in 1810, 1828, 1859 and in 1952 when The National Trust received it as a gift from the Richardson family of Bessbrook. The Trust, repaired and restored the building. The Richardson family had acquired the entire estate of Derrymore, in 1859, when it was purchased by their great ancestor; John Grubb Richardson.

The Act of Union

It is reputed that The Act of Union was drafted in Derrymore House in Bessbrook. In 1800 the Act of Union was passed by both the Irish and British parliaments despite much opposition. It was signed by George III in August 1800 to become effective on 1st January 1801. It was intended to follow the Act of Union with other far reaching reforms including Catholic Emancipation; but George III refused to break his Coronation Oath to uphold the Anglican Church. The laws of Ireland excluded all non-Anglicans from membership of the Parliament; which was dominated by the Protestant Ascendancy. Over 90% of the Irish population belonged to other faiths; most notably the majority religion: Roman Catholicism.

Known as 'Grattan's Parliament', it had been given a measure of independence by the Constitution of 1782, after centuries of subordination to the British Parliament. The Irish members guarded their autonomy jealously. From the perspective of Great Britain the Act of Union was required because of the uncertainty that had followed the Irish Rebellion of 1798. There was much opposition and a proposal to unite the Parliaments, in 1799, was defeated in the Irish House of Commons by 109 votes against with 104 in favour. The final passage of the Act in 1801 was achieved, with a substantial majority of 158 to 115, in part through bribery; namely the awarding of peerages and honours to those critical of the Act. The Catholic Hierarchy were in favour of the Act because of the promise of Catholic Emancipation.

Opposite: **Derrymore House.**

John Grubb Richardson
Industrialist, 1815–1890

JOHN GRUBB RICHARDSON was born in 1815 into a Quaker family which had been involved with the linen industry since the 18th Century. His Quaker faith had nurtured in him an idealism to create a 'Model Village'. In this village there would be no drinking, gambling and as a consequence no need for policing. At the age of thirty the opportunity to materialise his dream came his way when the Nicholson family retired from their mill at Bessbrook, Co. Armagh.

Richardson bought the village of Bessbrook in 1845 and so began his great social experiment. He had the enlightened idea that if his workers were housed well, and had a reasonable standard of living, then they would be better operatives. Driven by his Quaker principles, he began a planned development of Bessbrook; laying out airy streets and squares, lined with substantial granite-built mill-worker's houses, each with its own garden. Attractive public buildings, such as the school and The Institute, designed by William J. Watson, were added. Granite Quarries were opened on the Richardson property and the stone was used in building the majority of the new industrial buildings and much of the village.

His idea of the 'Model Village' predates the building of Saltaire in Yorkshire in 1852 and Bournville by Cadbury near Birmingham in 1895. Richardson saw that excessive drinking was the great social evil of his day and so his village had no public house, no pawnshop and no policeman. The basic structure of Bessbrook is much the same today as it was originally conceived by Richardson. The following appeared in the English magazine *Meliora* in April 1867:

> *"It is the town of Bessbrook, Ireland, founded and built up chiefly by John Grubb Richardson, who is the sole proprietor, and, as such, under the English law, can prohibit the introduction and sale of intoxicating drinks. 'The Bessbrook Mills' employ 3,000 persons—all Irish. Liquor shops are not allowed within the limits of the town. One hotel is allowed, conducted on temperance principles. There is a temperance society, of*

Opposite: **Bessbrook Mill c.1860 by unknown artist.**
Top: **Terraced houses, Bessbrook model village.**
Bottom: **Quaker Meeting House, Bessbrook.**

which Mr. Richardson is president, and a large number of the workmen members. In addition to Sabbath worship, for which every facility is granted, there is a reading room, library, and excellent schools for week-day use.

There is no police, poorhouse or prison in the place, since ' there is no drunkenness; no quarrelling, though the inhabitants are all Irish; no theft; no crime;' in short, the operatives are models of sobriety and good order! By law, the constablery [sic] are found in all the towns of Ireland, but they are not found in Bessbrook, because they are not needed. Mr. Richardson alleges that so long as he keeps out the liquor shop, they can do without police; but so soon as the tap-room is introduced they will require the constablery [sic]. So prosperous are the people that nothing like an 'Irish cabin' is to be seen. Having no paupers and criminals, taxation is light."

Richardson had a 300 acre farm to the north of the village and maintained a fine herd of cattle to ensure fresh milk and dairy products for his workers and their families. He was offered a baronetcy by the Prime Minister, Mr. Gladstone, but wrote back simply saying that as a Quaker he had performed his charitable works without expectation of reward and therefore could not accept the honour. Richardson's business flourished and by 1860 he had constructed the greater part of the huge edifice that is Bessbrook Mill.

Bessbrook was not John Grubb Richardson's only interest. His father had left him with a large and valuable share in the family bleaching business in Lisburn, Richardson & Sons. He was also a large shareholder in Richardson, Son & Owden. He had a further Linen business at Moyallen, Gilford, Co Down where he kept a primary residence. He was a founding partner in the Inman Line of Transatlantic steamers but sold his share, on conscience as a Quaker, when its ships began carrying munitions to the Crimean War. He invested well and was generous to his family, settling £40,000 on each of his daughters as a wedding gift. As the owner of twelve townlands and his business assets his will was proved for probate purposes in 1890 at £226,000. He died on the 28th March that year in the same week as another Newry Mill owner but more modest magnate; Robert Dempster.

Bessbrook Mill

The first recorded development in the area of Bessbrook was the construction of a bawn by Sir Toby Caulfield in the early 17th century. In 1761 John Pollock built a small woollen mill and opened a bleach green. It was he who named the village Bessbrook after his wife Bess and the brook where he had made his home. In 1802 Joseph Nicholson built the first power flax mill in Ireland and it continued in operation until 1815 when it was destroyed by fire. Bessbrook Mill was the largest exporter of linen cloth in the period of the 'cotton famine' occasioned by the American Civil War.

The Rates Valuation office reported in 1867 that a new damask weaving factory was being built in Bessbrook. The factory was operational the following year with 80 new weaving looms and a 110 horse power steam engine. The mill as occupied by the Army, in the 1970's, was very much as it was completed a hundred years earlier.

The army cleared the structures in the centre of the complex between the weaving sheds and the south east section, along with most of the peripheral buildings to the east, south and south west, including the pre-1830s mill owner's dwelling next to the mill pond. The army left Bessbrook in summer 2007.

Opposite: The Woodhouse, Bessbrook (approx 1910-1920). Standing beside carriage, probably, Anne W. Richardson Seated in carriage, probably Anne's twin; S. Edith Williams. The sisters jointly owned The Woodhouse.

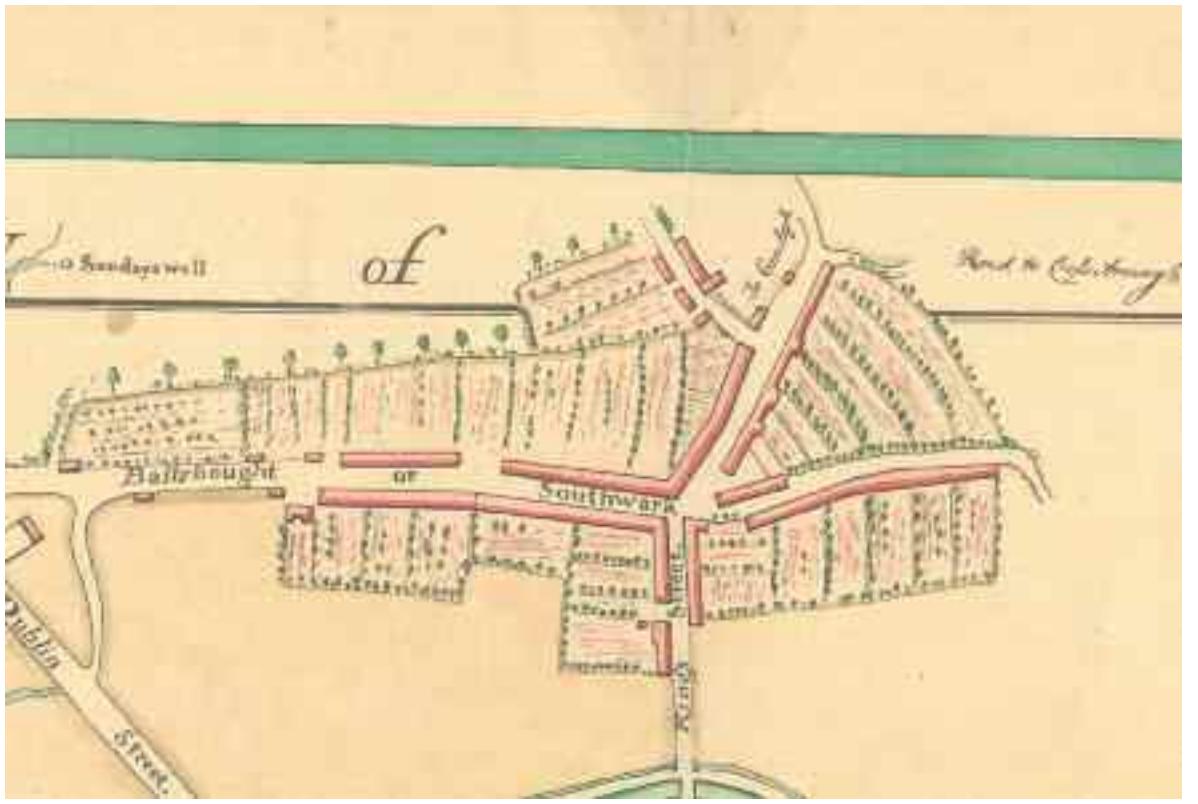

THE WOODHOUSE, OLDBROOK
WAR 2560

Robert Dempster
Mill Owner, 1817-1890

ROBERT DEMPSTER, WHO DIED in the same week as the great industrialist John Grubb Richardson, arrived in Newry from Forfar in Scotland, at the age of thirty-eight in 1855.

His reputation for fairness and open handedness was confirmed by a neighbour who on hearing of his death, said "Mr Dempster was a good and prosperous man. He loved to see others prosper as well." Whilst he resided at the 'The Abbey' on the Co Down side of the Clanrye River, he choose to erect his mill, the first spinning mill in Newry, on the Armagh side in the area known variously as 'Southwark' to the English and 'Baile Bocht' (poor town) to the Irish. The Mill covered the area from Cornmarket to Monaghan St; now occupied by the Newry Health Village. It employed over five hundred operatives making Dempster the biggest employer in the town.

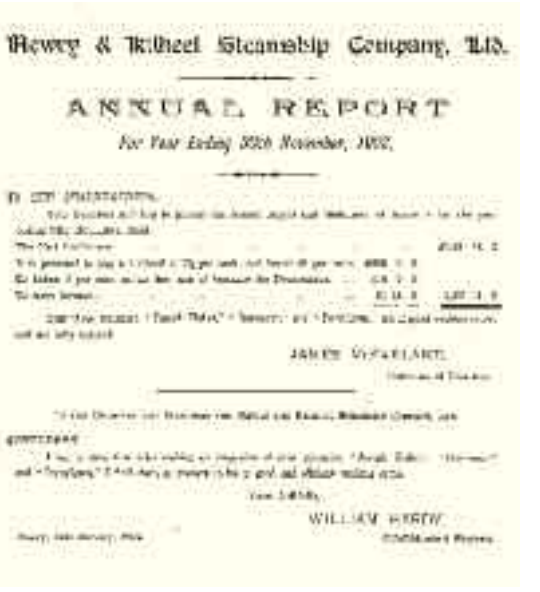
Right: Ballybot House built in 1864 by Robert Dempster as an addendum to his mill at Monaghan St.



In 1866, The Newry Almanack praised him:

> *"Some ten or eleven years ago, when Mr. Dempster came to Newry, the idlers in the streets were numerous. This gentleman immediately opened a spinning mill, which increasing trade obliged him to enlarge, and another [Ballybot House] was deemed indispensable, at a cost of £4,000. Large numbers of persons are in constant employment, from the child to the full grown adult. The wages now show an advance, equivalent to 70% per cent on what was at first paid, and more hands would be taken on if they could be had. In the mills are manufactured nothing but what is bought from Irish producers."*

He was on the committee that was responsible for making Newry Gas a publicly owned utility. He was a Director and a shareholder, along with Jospeh Fisher, in the Newry & Kilkeel Steamship Co which operated passenger services from the Albert Basin to Liverpool. As a mechanical engineer he excelled and he had warned the Board of Trade of faults he observed in the design of the Tay Railway Bridge, Dundee Scotland. He was ignored and in 1879 the one year old bridge collapsed plunging seventy nine passengers and crew to their death in the river below. Dempster was one of many entrepreneurs who shaped Newry Town in the 19th century. An earlier role model who inspired many of these entrepreneurs was Denis Caulfield.


Newry & Kilkeel Steamship Company, Ltd.

ANNUAL REPORT

For Year Ending 30th November, 1892.

Above right: A map of Newry in 1761 showing 'Southwark' and Ballybot.

Above left: Steamship Company documents.

Denis Caulfield
Merchant, 1768 -1819

IT IS SAID THAT DENIS CAULFIELD through his energy, acumen and personality, made Newry the trading port it was at the turn of the 18th Century. Denis Caulfield's wife predeceased him and as they had no children he left all to his two nephews: Denis Brady and Denis Maquire. Denis Brady was remarkable as the first Roman Catholic, in the north of Ireland, to be elected to the Westminster Parliament since the time of James II. He won the parliamentary seat for Newry by a majority of 28 votes as a Liberal candidate in 1835. Brady was interested in the Canal and was Chairman of the Newry Navigation Company. He helped traffic increase to Newry with the improvements on the navigation channel in Carlingford Lough and he worked to raise the financing for the Victoria Lock, the Albert Basin and the extension of the Sea Canal. Denis Maguire came to Newry, in 1816, from Fermanagh to manage a distillery for his uncle and like Denis Brady he was a politician. Failing several times to get a parliamentary seat, he served on the Newry Town Commissioners and was its first chairman in 1828.

Writing in 1856, Anthony Marmion, the author of "The Ancient and Modern History of the Maritime Ports of Ireland" said:

> *"Newry has produced some men of great mercantile capacity: among those who took the most prominent lead in commercial enterprise, and was most distinguished for his extensive knowledge of mercantile affairs, his sound judgment and superior intelligence, was the late Mr. Denis Caulfield: born in Newry, he early in life embarked in commercial pursuits, and from, 1790 to 1818, was one of the first merchants in Ireland. The extent of his transactions, his probity, his faithfulness in all his engagements, and the estimation in which he was held by foreign and English houses, tended materially to raise the town of Newry in the scale of commercial importance, and enabled himself to acquire a large property, which his nephews are now in the enjoyment of..."*

Top: Distillery House, Bridge St, Newry, now the St Vincent de Paul, was the home of Denis Maguire and Denis Brady.

Bottom: Caulfield's nephew, Denis Brady.

Left: Denis Caulfield bought Crown Mound Farm, Rathfriland Road, Newry from Lord Kilmorey in 1807. This map was prepared for his family and is in the Reside Collection of Newry & Mourne Museum.

Above: Caulfield's Distillery, Monaghan St, Newry.

The 'large property' which these two men were 'in the enjoyment of' is difficult at this distance to quantify but Bradshaw's "Directory of the Town of Newry" (1820) lists two distilleries at Bridge St and at Monaghan St. Caulfield also had lands in four counties: Armagh, Down, Monaghan and Louth. The pioneering work of building up the port of Newry by Denis Caulfield, in the first quarter of the nineteenth century paved the way for an equally enterprising merchant; Francis Carvill.

Francis Carvill
Merchant, 1800–1854

FRANCIS CARVILL WAS, ALONG with Caulfield, among the greatest self made entrepreneurs in the history of Newry. He came to Newry from Mourne and was in his day the largest employer and most extensive trader in the port. He owned saw mills and a spade factory on Merchants Quay where the Canal Court Hotel now stands. He was the first entrepreneur to introduce shipbuilding to Newry. His 'shipyard' was on the 'middlebank'; the space between the river and canal now used as a car park. The schooner *Mary Anne* was the first vessel built in his yard. He owned several vessels himself and some of these sailed between Warrenpoint and America. The Carvill Company acted as an emigration agent for those going to North America during the worst years of the Famine. His administrative office was at 9, Sugar Island.

There was hardly a major development in the town which Carvill was not involved in. *The Newry Examiner*, in 1844, reported:

> *"His persevering enterprise has contributed in an eminent degree to the commercial greatness of the prosperous town to which he does honour and his general liberality of hand and heart conduces to the comfort of the many who are engaged in the various branches of the great establishment over which he worthily presides"*.

He was a promoter and director of the Newry and Enniskillen Railway Company; which opened the port of Newry to the middle of Ulster and as far as the Atlantic port of Sligo. In 1850 it was Carvill who went to London to negotiate with the absentee landlord, the Marquess of Anglesey, for land rights to allow construction by the Newry and Carlingford Railway and Dock Company. His vision was to build the Greenore Sea Dock and to service it through Newry. He was a man of great civic spirit. He was one of the main fundraisers for the building and construction of the Convent of Mercy. There is no evidence of the continuance of neither the spade factory nor shipbuilding after Carvill's death, in 1854, but there were many successor firms in the shipping business most notably; Joseph Fisher.

Above: Greenore Sea Dock.


FROM WARRENPOINT, FOR

ST. JOHN, N.B.

NOTICE

BURTHEN.

The Splendid Barque

LADY CAROLINE,

J. MALONEY, Commander,

To Sail on Friday, 4th June.

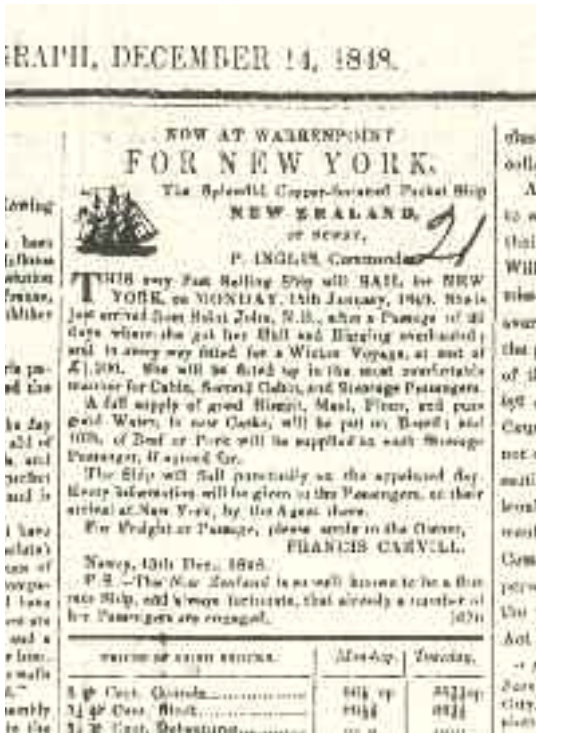
This fine Ship will be found in Bread-stuffs, Water, and Fuel, agreeably to Act of Parliament; and, as a large number of Passengers are now engaged, immediate application will be necessary to secure Berths.

Apply at the OFFICE of

FRANCIS CARVILL,
9, SUGAR-ISLAND.

Newry, 17th May, 1847.

R. ALLEN, PRINTER, NEWRY.


GRAPH, DECEMBER 14, 1848.

NOW AT WARRENPOINT

FOR NEW YORK.

The Splendid Copper-fastened Packet Ship

NEW ZEALAND,

of 800 T.

P. INGLIS, Commander.

THIS very Fast Sailing Ship will SAIL for NEW YORK, on MONDAY, 15th January, 1849. She is just arrived from Saint John, N.B., after a Passage of 33 days where she got her Hull and Rigging overhauled; and is every way fitted for a Winter Voyage, at rent of £1,500. She will be fitted up in the most comfortable manner for Cabin, Second Cabin, and Steerage Passengers.

A full supply of good Biscuit, Meal, Flour, and pure Spring Water, in new Casks, will be put on Board; and 100lbs. of Beef or Pork will be supplied to each Steerage Passenger, if agreed for.

The Ship will Sail punctually on the appointed day. Every Information will be given to the Passengers, on their arrival at New York, by the Agent there.

For Freight or Passage, please apply to the Owner,

FRANCIS CARVILL.

Newry, 13th Dec., 1848.

P.S.—The New Zealand is so well known to be a first-rate Ship, and always fortunate, that already a number of her Passengers are engaged. [illegible]

	Monday.	Tuesday.
3 per Cent. Consols	[illegible]	[illegible]
3½ per Cent. Stock	[illegible]	[illegible]
3½ per Cent. Reduced	[illegible]	[illegible]

Above right: Poster advertising for Carvill's sailings.

Above: Newspaper advertising for Carvill's sailings.

Joseph Fisher
Merchant, 1836 - 1900

IN 1852, JOSEPH FISHER, (aged sixteen) of Ballymartin, Kilkeel rowed out to the 'bar' at Greenore and took over the piloting of a ship into Newry and thus marked the beginning of a dynasty which was to become synonymous with shipping in Newry. In the early 1850's virtually all shipping was under sail and vessels from America, Great Britain, Scandinavia, and Russia sailed into the town. At the age of twenty four Joseph Fisher took his first steps towards owning ships when he raised sufficient funds from supporters in Newry to be a part-owner. He established a coal importing business on the side of the Albert Basin and by 1867 he had purchased his first vessel, the elderly brigantine, *Brothers*.

Fisher acquired his first steamer in 1882 and over the years, from a few small schooners and brigantines, he expanded his operation into one of the best-known steam collier fleets in Great Britain and Ireland. Initially named after townlands such as Clonallen and

Right: Joseph and Margaret Fisher with their family. Standing left to right: John (Solicitor - Fisher & Fisher), Joseph Junior (in family company), Francis (Director, J.S. Fisher Ltd). Seated left to right: Alexander (Solicitor - Fisher & Fisher), Fredrick (Royal Navy), James (Church of Scotland Minister), Bertie (Doctor), Netta (Youngest married Humphrey Fry).

Opposite: Coal importing at the Albert Basin.

Above left: The Albert Basin with 'collier' and coal train.

Above right: The S. S. Iveagh operated by the Dundalk and Newry Steam Packet Company.

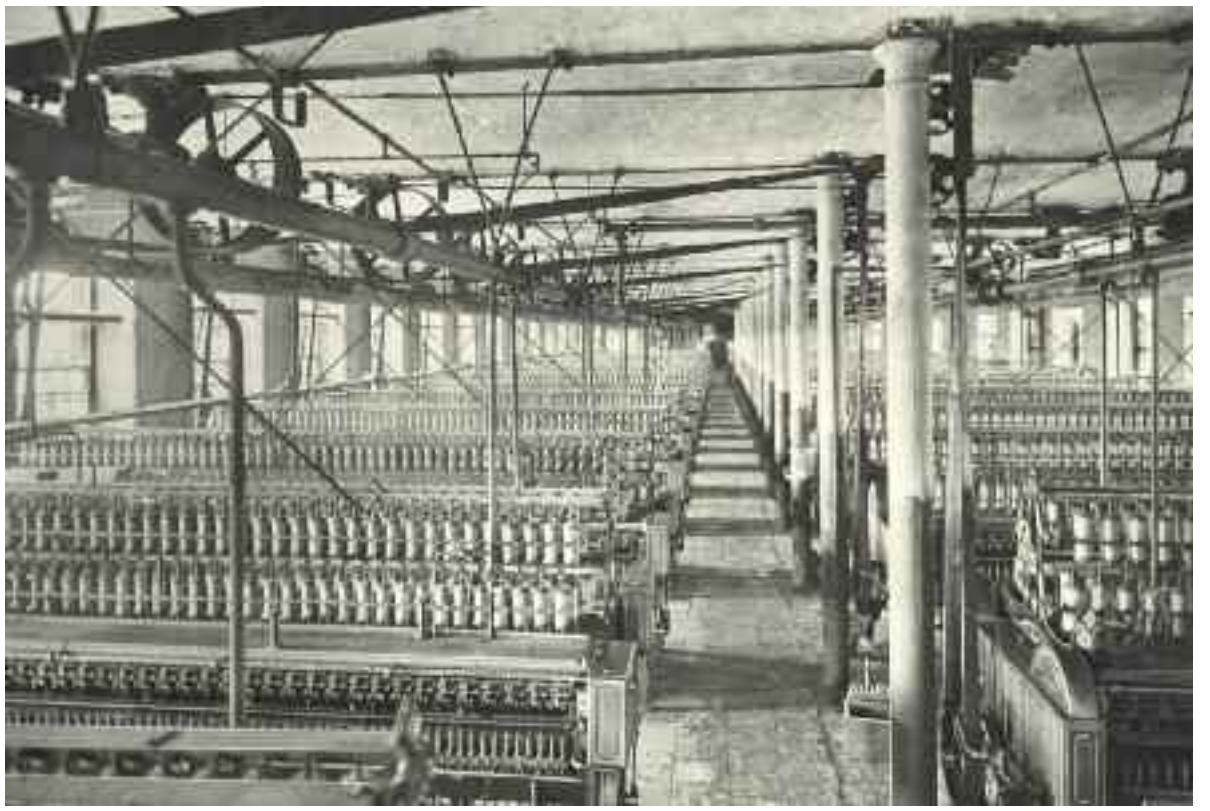
Dromore; the Fisher ships were later identifiable by being named after trees (both native and exotic) such as: Pine, Upas, Opepe and Karri. He set up several companies in Newry to finance the purchase of boats. These included such entities as The Frontier Town Steamship Co, Mercantile Steamship Co of Ulster, Carlingford Lough Steamship Co and the Newry & Kilkeel Steamship Co. Wealthy individuals such as John Grubb Richardson and Robert Dempster purchased shares and received annual dividends.

Coal was Fisher's business and he became the biggest importer into the port of Newry and the biggest customer of the Great Northern Railway Company. From Newry they distributed coal to merchants all over the midland counties of Ireland. The business was carried on by successive generations until taken over by Cawoods in October 1982. His sons set up the firm of Fisher & Fisher which still carries on business at John Mitchel Place. The family lived in a mansion, known as 'Rockville', overlooking their Albert Basin coal yards. In 1958 the site of the house was cleared and the Church of the Assumption, Dromalane erected thereon.

Joseph Fisher was a founder member of Newry Chamber of Commerce; which was set up in 1892. Another signatory to the Memorandum and Articles of Association and an equal driving force in the Chamber of Commerce was its President; Henry Barcroft.

Henry Barcroft
Inventor, 1839–1905

HENRY BARCROFT LIVED ON THE Dublin Road close to Dromolane in a residence known as 'The Glen' acquired in 1867. The property was developed in the 1960s and is now divided between the residential areas of The Glen and Barcroft Park. Barcroft was the Managing Director of the Bessbrook Spinning Mills Limited and married to Anna Richardson Malcolmson, niece of the illustrious John Grubb Richardson. Like Richardson he was a committed member of the Society of Friends (Quakers). Henry Barcroft was a world renowned inventor. A corner of his basement was fitted out as a mechanical engineering workshop. In 1869, he registered a worldwide patent for what was known as the 'Bessbrook Machine'. It changed the way in which damask linen was 'twilled' to produce the distinctive pattern of the Irish linen tablecloth. The 'Bessbrook', which effectively tripled the capacity of previous machines, was exported to all corners of the globe and added to his great wealth.



Bundoran Break

A measure of the wealth of the Barcroft family is found in a description of their holiday trip to Bundoran in the year 1877 related by Sir Joseph Barcroft's biographer. The journey from Edward St Station, Newry began at 8.00am and seven and a half hours later at 3.30pm they arrived in Bundoran. In the party there were: the parents; Henry and Anna Barcroft; four children; Sarah, Joseph, David and Mary; a guest, Miss Bransby, seven servants comprising a nurse and a nursery maid, a cook and a housemaid, and the coachman and his wife; a total of fourteen persons. These fourteen had thirty eight pieces of luggage. Most surprisingly they also took their own carriage which necessitated bringing their own mares; Maggie and Nellie, along with a ton of hay, oats and straw. All packed into three railway carriages.

Above: **Bundoran, Co Donegal, 20th July 1877. Left to right: Standing: Sarah Barcroft, John Barcroft, Anne Richardson, Florence Pike, Henry Barcroft, Helena Richardson, Edith Richardson. Seated: Laura Pim, Lucia Pim, Anna Barcroft, Anna Richardson. On the floor: Joseph Barcroft and Sarah Richardson Barcroft.**

Right: **Interior of spinning mill.**

The Bessbrook and Newry Tramway

"The purpose of the Bessbrook and Newry Tramway was to transport goods and workers between Newry (Edward St Terminus) and the Mill in Bessbrook. It was the second hydroelectric tramway built in Ireland and the first railway to use a central third rail. The total length of the line was 3 miles 50 yards with a maximum gradient of 1 in 50. It carried coal and flax from the wharves to the mills, as well as the downward traffic of manufactured goods, and was made possible by the abundant hydro-electric power available.

The contract for the construction of the line was quite unique. Rigorous conditions had to be met in the construction of the line. Ten trains were run in both directions each day, providing for 100 tons of minerals and goods. It also had to be capable of dealing with 200 tons in any single day, in addition to the passenger traffic. The electrical locomotive was required to draw a gross load of 18 tons on the up-journey, in addition to the weight of the car itself and a full complement of passengers, at an average speed of 6 miles per hour, and a load of 12 tons at an average speed of 9 miles per hour.

The speed limit was 10mph and the system worked satisfactorily. Whenever a goods wagon left the rails it could be unloaded and manhandled back on the rails by all able-bodied passengers. When running through the public roads in Newry the wagons were hauled by horse's shafts being fitted to the fore carriage. In later years tractors replaced horses for this purpose. The weight of each wagon was 23cwt and the load carried was 2 tons. The generating machinery was fixed at Millvale where there was a fall of 28ft [8.5m] in the Camlough stream and a guaranteed minimum flow of 3,000,000 gallons per day. The cost of the electrical equipment of the Bessbrook and Newry line was £2500."

Adapted from "Tramways: Their Construction and Working" (1894) by D. Kinnear Clark

His other great invention was an electric railway system which included a wagon that could run on iron tracks as well as on roadways (such as the cobbles which skirted the docksides of the Albert Basin). The secret lay in flangeless wheels, with concentric road tyres, which allowed smooth travel on the roadway. The engines were all powered by an electric turbine situated on the Camlough River at Millvale; near the Bessbrook end of the system. Everything about the tramway was innovative and indicative of the entrepreneurial spirit of Henry Barcroft. There were no overhead cables and no electrified rails at the seven places where the tramway crossed over roadways. Instead the engine tram and the guards van, at a length of 33ft [10m], were built so that one end of the carriage was always connected to the electrically charged track.

He had a passionate interest in ships and was a Director of the Dundalk and Newry Steam Packet Company. He had one of its liners named the *J*. He also invented an automated level crossing system using a hydraulic pump and wires which pulled gates open for the tram and then closed again when the last carriage went through.

All of this was developed by Henry Barcroft long before the introduction of electric mainlines or the London Underground. In addition to twenty daily journeys (during the working week) the tram operated a special Sunday service taking the Barcrofts to and from Bessbrook to attend the Quaker Meeting House. On these journeys from the terminus in Edward St Newry, the Bessbrook and Newry Tram passed under one of greatest pieces of railway engineering in Ireland: the Craigmore Viaduct.

Sir Joseph Barcroft (1872-1947)

Made in a similar mould to his father; Sir Joseph Barcroft was a great innovator and a world renowned scientist for his work involving the oxygenation of blood. He received his degree in Medicine and Science with First Class Honours from Cambridge University in 1896 and immediately began his studies of haemoglobin. He spent most of his life in dangerous research and in the course of his research he did not hesitate to use himself as a test subject. During the First World War he saved the Government over £1 million when he exposed himself to an atmosphere of poisonous prussic acid (hydrogen cyanide) gas. French Scientists had developed it as a response to the poison gas which the Germans used. Barcroft claimed it was harmless to humans but would still effect animals. He walked into a chamber filled with the gas and suffered no harm but a dog with him died.

On another occasion he remained for seven days in a glass chamber in order to calculate the minimum quantity of oxygen required for the survival of the human organism; research invaluable for the design of submarines. He also studied the physiology of oxygenation at extreme altitudes and for this purpose he organised expeditions to the peak of Tenerife in 1910 and to the Peruvian Andes in1922. From 1925 to 1937 he returned to Cambridge University as Professor of Physiology. His final research was into the breathing of unborn babies. In his seventies he was recalled by the Government, during World War II, to advise on chemical weapons. He died in 1947 and had last visited Newry in 1944 when he gave a lecture entitled: "A Newryman Speaks".

Above Left: **A carriage from Bessbrook tram.**

Opposite: **The Bessbrook tram.**

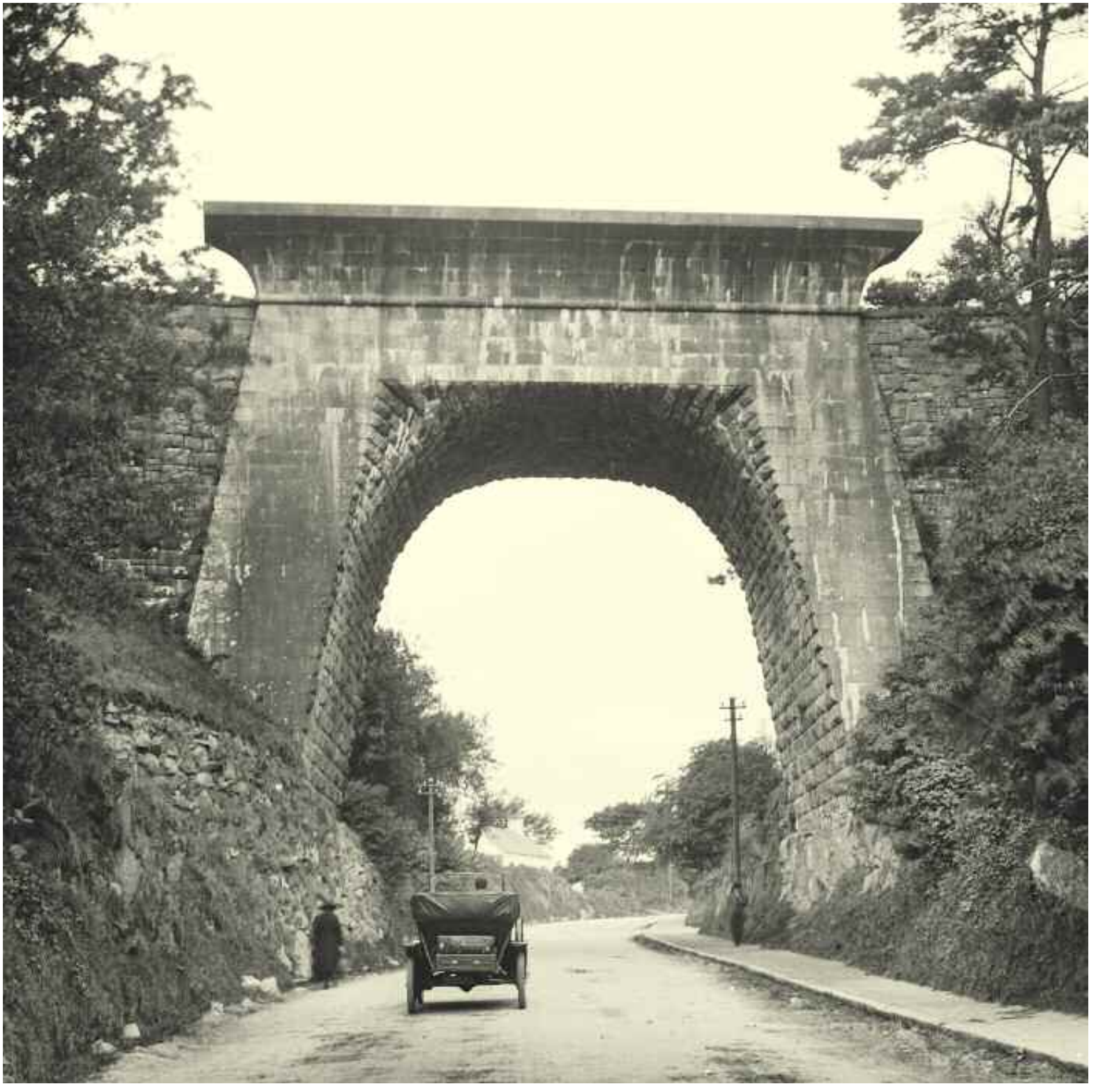
Craigmore Viaduct and Egyptian Arch

THE CRAIGMORE VADUCT and the Egyptian Arch were both designed by Sir John MacNeill for the Dublin and Belfast Junction Railway Company. The constructor was William Dargan the Civil Engineer and father of the Irish Railways. They are not only engineering marvels but a thing of beauty, painted and photographed numerous times since their completion in 1852. The Viaduct was recognised as one of the greatest engineering achievements of the age.

Crossing the Craigmore Valley on the North side of Newry presented a formidable structural problem. The valley is not merely long but deep and involved a crossing of greater dimensions than anything previously attempted in Ireland. It is 1400ft [427m] long and 150ft [43m] at its greatest height. It consists of 18 gradually curved arches each of a 60ft [18.3m] span and involved 120,000 tons [109,000 metric tonnes] of granite at an overall building cost of £50,000.

Opposite: **Craigmore Viaduct.**

Above: **A steam train on the 'bend' in the viaduct.**



Opposite: **The Egyptian Arch.**
Below: **Sir John MacNeill.**

From virtually any elevation in the surrounding countryside the Craigmore Viaduct appears as a straight run but it is in reality a gradual curve. The ingenuity of the design and the marvel of the construction is understood in this knowledge.

The Camlough River runs through the sixth arch from the south end. The viaduct also crosses the line of the Bessbrook – Newry Tramway and a former millrace to the Craigmore Weaving Company. Southbound trains crossing the viaduct then traverse the main Camlough Road across the Egyptian Arch

Sir John Mac Neill's design of the Egyptian Arch created for one of Ireland's most distinctive bridges. McNeill's design was based on the 'Pylon' or gateway to ancient Egyptian Temples. These gateways were normally 'flat topped' in their opening but in this case the design needed an arch to support the weight of the tracks and engines above. Careful examination reveals how this arching is achieved while displaying the flat square opening of the 'Pylon'. This feature makes the Egyptian Arch Bridge unique. In 2006 The Egyptian Arch was selected for the design of the rear side of the one pound coin to represent Northern Ireland. Egypt was to be the site of one of the most significant episodes in the life of the exceptional Kilkeel man; Francis Rawdon Chesney.

Francis Rawdon Chesney
Explorer, 1789 - 1872

FRANCIS RAWDON CHESNEY, who lived near Cranfield, had many great adventures in his very full life but his lasting memory is ensured by his proposal for a canal (through the Isthmus of Suez, Egypt) that drastically shortened the sea route to India. In the commercial and military minds of the world the notion of a canal through Suez had been obvious for hundreds of years but the reality was much more difficult than merely cutting through a neck of land. In 1829 Chesney surveyed a potential route and his report on the feasibility of the undertaking was the blueprint for that great construction.

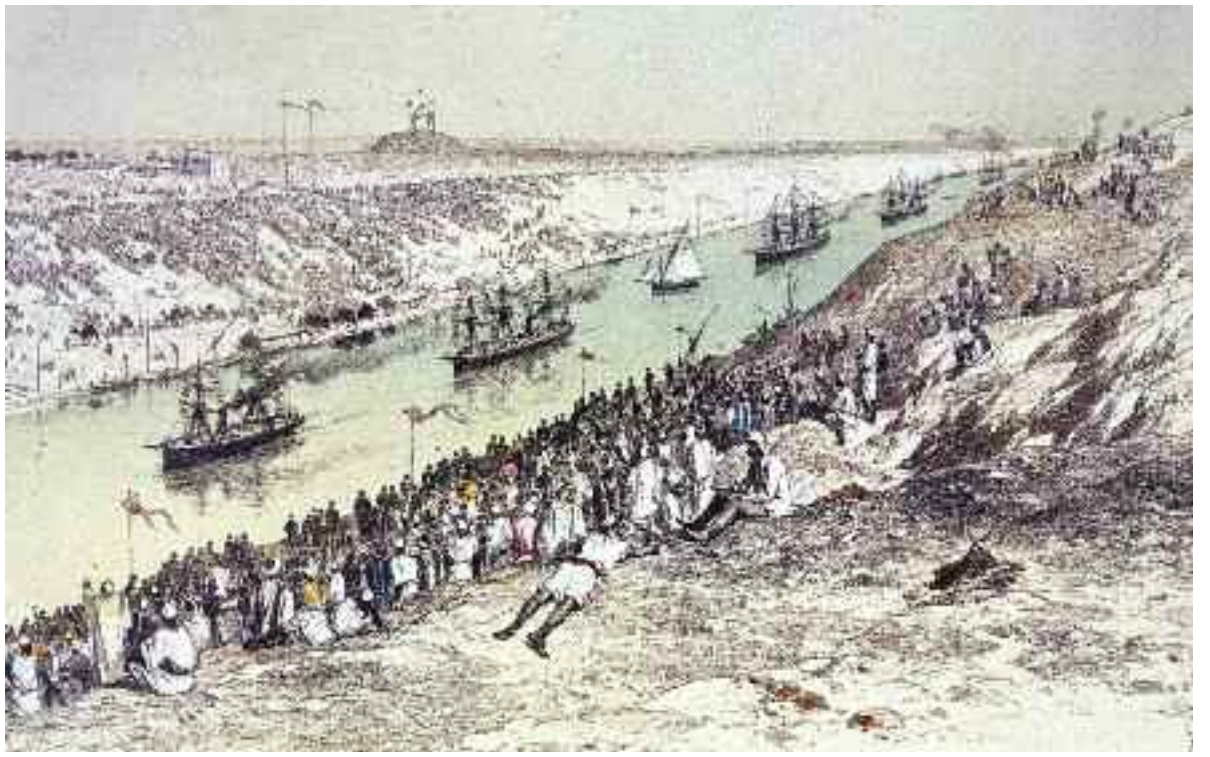
As a soldier Chesney eventually rose to the rank of General. Among his many adventures and travels was a military expedition to explore the Euphrates Valley with the idea of making a railway link between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. He was undoubtedly the government's leading expert on Middle Eastern affairs in the early Victorian era.

Right: **Packolet, home of Francis Rawdon Chesney.**

Haulbowline Lighthouse

Built on a rock off Cranfield Beach, at the entrance to Carlingford Lough, Haulbowline takes its name from the bank on which its stands: a Norse word meaning 'haunt of the eels'. Although a lighthouse had been operational on shore at Cranfield Point since 1803, its location was found to be ineffective in providing a safe passage for vessels. In 1817 a group of Newry merchants successfully requested that the Dublin Ballast Board create a new structure. The new lighthouse was established on the 1st September 1824 with a fixed white light. The cut stone tower structure which is 34m high and stands 32m above the high water mark. It is of ashlar granite with a bell-mouth splay at its foot to reduce the impact of wave action.

In 1965 Haulbowline became the first fully automatic major lighthouse off the Irish coast. The light currently flashes three times every ten seconds and a foghorn operates every thirty seconds when visibility is poor. The rock on which the tower is built is exposed only at Spring tides. It is specifically located inside the Bar: a shallow limestone rock 'cill' which crosses the mouth of Carlingford Lough and through which a channel has been cut to allow deep draught vessels to pass.

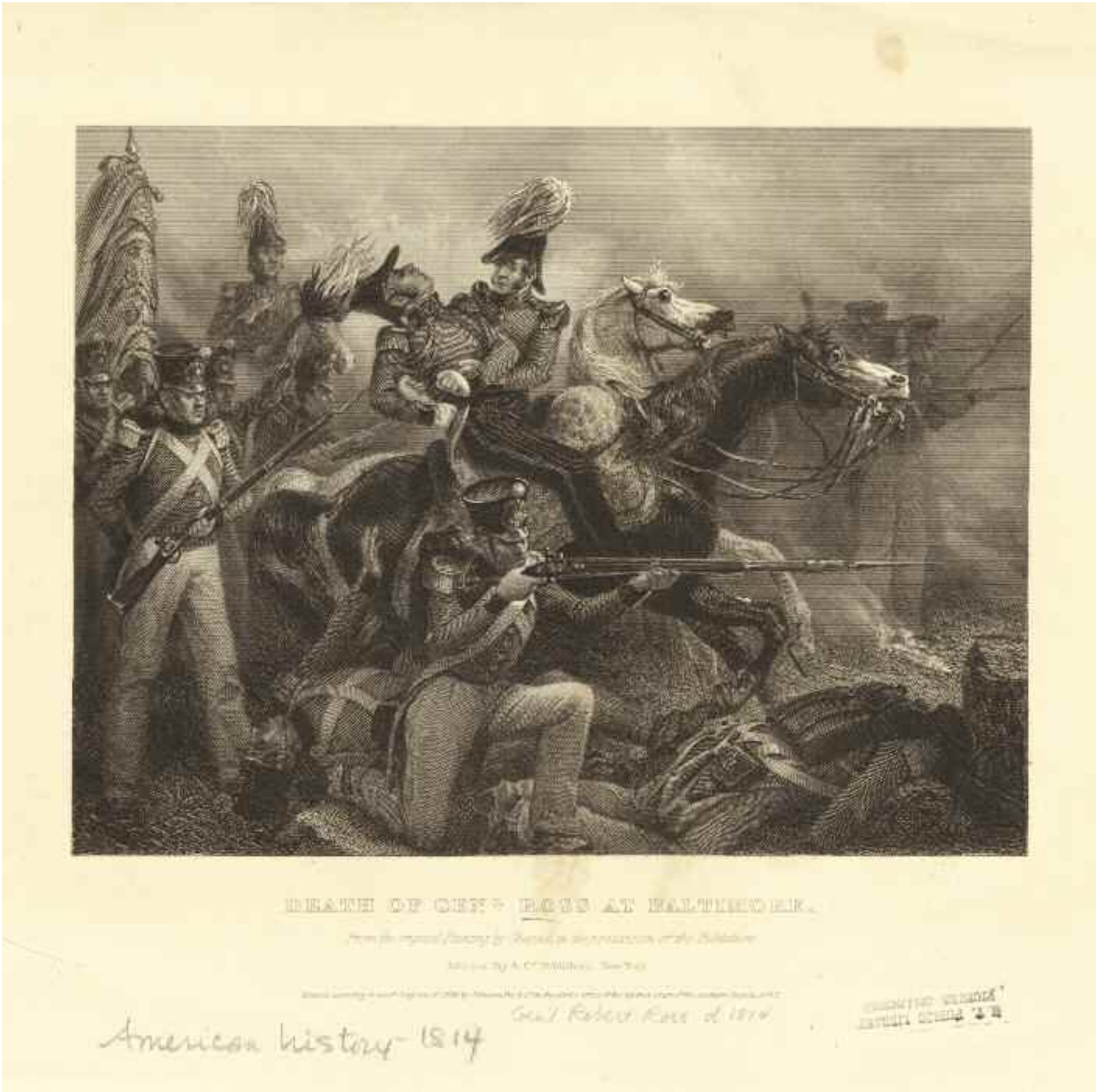


Rawdon's father, Alexander Chesney, was a Customs Officer who had lived in Carolina for many years during the American Revolution. He kept a diary which is still of enormous value to students of that period. He was loyal to Britain and soldiered in the defeated British colonial army before returning to Ireland where he served in the Mourne Yeomanry during the 1798 period and was a Customs Officer on the County Down coast. In 1822 he built a new family home: 'Packolet', at Corcreaghan, near Kilkeel; which still stands. He chose the name 'Packolet' in memory of a river in South Carolina on whose banks he had resided.

Francis Rawdon Chesney retired to Mourne to live out the rest of his long life in the house built by his father. Ever anxious to be advised of what was going on in the global empire of Britain he wrote to the Postmaster General in Dublin for assistance. The later to be famous novelist Anthony Trollope was dispatched to Packolet and not only did he agree to have two posts per day delivered to Chesney but he also established a Post Office at the entrance to 'Packolet' at Ballyardle crossroads which in that period was on the mail coach route to Dublin.

In 1854 he published, from Kilkeel, his memoirs of the Russian invasion of Turkey which he had helped to repel. He died at the age of 83 in 1872 and is buried in the graveyard connected to Christ Church, Kilkeel beneath a huge Celtic cross. General Francis Rawdon Chesney was not the only ranked military man from that area of the Mournes. In nearby Rostrevor stands a monument to another renowned soldier; Major General Robert Ross.

Above left: **The Suez Canal.**
Top: **Alexander Chesney.**
Bottom: **A map from Chesney's biography.**



DEATH OF GEN.L PIKE AT BALTIMORE.

American history- 1814

Major General Robert Ross
Soldier, 1766 - 1814

MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT ROSS was born in Rostrevor. He graduated from Trinity College Dublin and, at the age of 19, joined the British army. He rose steadily through the ranks seeing action in Spain, Egypt, Italy, and the Netherlands. He was wounded three times, two of which were severe. For his conspicuous gallantry, leadership, and heroism, he was awarded three Gold Medals, during the Napoleonic Wars, and he received the thanks of Parliament.

Robert Ross was a strict disciplinarian who drilled his men relentlessly. Nevertheless, he was very popular as he was always ready to share in their hardships and fight alongside them in the thick of battle, as evidenced by his three wounds. In 1812, Ross was promoted to Major General and sent to America to command an army of 4,500 men. His mission was to divert the attention of American forces from other theatres of the war by raiding the coast of North America.

He is best known for his runaway victory at the Battle of Bladensburg on 24th August 1814 for which he was awarded the title 'Ross of Bladensburg'. Never afraid to lead from the front, Ross had his horse shot out from under him while directing a charge on the American cannons. Later, on the same day he had a second horse shot from under him when he entered the small town of Washington, now as it was then, the capital city of the USA. Ross's men burned down all the public buildings including the White House. The President ran away in such haste that he left his dinner on the roasting spits. Ross's men ate it before setting fire to the building. By the 12th September 1814 Ross had moved his army on to attack the city of Baltimore but before the battle had properly begun he was hit in the chest by a sniper's bullet and died on the spot. The news of his death spread quickly, demoralising his own men and encouraging the defenders of Baltimore allowing them to push the British back to their ships.

Robert Ross's body was placed in a barrel of 129 gallons [586 litres] of rum in order to preserve it for the return to Ireland. In other places the war escalated and this good intention was permanently set aside. He was finally buried on 29 September, 1814, with full military honours at St Paul's Church in Halifax, Nova Scotia. His death denied him the

The Ross Monument

The Ross Monument was erected in 1826 to commemorate Major General Robert Ross. Since that time it has been a symbol for the area, appearing in illustrations, paintings, postcards and holiday snaps. The monument, costing £2,000 and paid for by subscriptions from Ross's comrades, is made of granite from quarries at Mullaghglass on the Armagh side of Newry. The design of the obelisk which stands on a pedestal 27.5ft/8.3m square is attributed to William Vitruvius Morrison, the 19th century Irish architect. Egyptian and classical motifs embellish the tablets on the pedestal celebrating Ross's military achievements. The railings at the entrance to the monument bear the 'fasces': a symbolic bundle of rods with an axe stuck in their midst. To the ancient Romans the fasces were a symbol representing power and authority.

Opposite: **Etching illustrating Ross's death.**

Sir John Ross (1848-1926)

Sir John Foster George Ross (Ross - Of - Bladensburg) K.G.B., K.C.V.O., who was born in Rostrevor (January 1848), married the Hon. Miss Blanche Amelia Skeffington: his first cousin and the youngest daughter of the 10th Viscount Massereene in 1870. He entered the army and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Coldstream Guards. From 1882 to 1885 he served on the staff of two Lords Lieutenants of Ireland and acted as secretary to two British Missions to the Vatican.

From 1901 to 1914 John Ross was Chief Commissioner of the Dublin Metropolitan Police. In retirement he resided in Rostrevor House. As an eminent horticulturist he made his collection of shrubs and trees of national importance. Sir John wrote: "The History of the Coldstream Guards 1815-1885". He was noted for his philanthropy, paramount of which was Newry General Hospital. Sir John Ross of Bladensburg died in 1926 and is buried in Rostrevor.

Above right: **The home of the Ross family still exists in the village of Rostrevor. After the death of Major General Robert Ross it was renamed: 'Bladensburg House' (in accordance with the title the family had been granted). By 1848 it was known as 'Topsy-Turvy' on account of the mixture of architectures employed. It was soon rechristened as: 'Rostrevor House'.**

Opposite: **Rostrevor Village.**

glory of celebrating his great victory in his family home in Rostrevor where he was mourned by his widow and his son David Ross. David Ross of Bladensburgh, resident at Greenpark Road, Rostrevor had a cousin also named David Ross who lived at 'The Lodge' in Kilbroney Park. This David was the proprietor of and may be accredited with the development of Rostrevor. The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland (1846), making comment on the village says:

> *"Under the fostering care of its owner, David Ross, Esq., the village has, within the last few years, grown to the magnitude and importance of a town; its natural beauties have been appreciated — it seems the very temple of health — and persons from all the northern and midland counties of Ireland have made it their place of residence — at least for a season."*

In this very same decade a very famous family who appreciated "its natural beauties" was being nurtured in nearby Killowen. In that family was a future Lord Chief Justice of England; Lord Charles Russell of Killowen.


CENTRAL HOTEL HUGHES
HOTEL

Charles Russell
Lord Killowen, 1832 – 1900

AMONG OTHER SIGNIFICANT RESIDENCES in the area of Rostrevor is 'Seafield' in Killowen. It was bought in the year 1838 by a Newry brewer by the name of Arthur Russell. Russell also owned a fine residence at 50 Queen St (now Dominic St). He and his wife Margaret produced the most remarkable brood of children who spent their formative years on the shores of Killowen.

The eldest son, Charles Russell, was one of the great Irishmen of the Victorian age. He never forgot the lessons he learnt in Killowen. He was a fearless sailor; who exhausted the nerve of his companions in later life by sailing in the most strenuous of winds. He was a devout Catholic; repeating prayers in the last hours of his life that he had heard at his mother's knee. He was an avid player of card games; he always carried a pack of cards to pass the thousands of miles he travelled in his professional career as England's leading barrister. In later life he often told stories of Killowen to his family and friends to illustrate points and particularly to explain his dedication to the cause of the underprivileged Irish peasants. His early fame as an advocate came by virtue of defending Catholics in the Glens of Antrim who were receiving rough justice at the hands of Protestant magistrates.

Despite the concerns of his family, he turned his back on the security that was coming to him in practice as a Belfast Solicitor and moved to England to face a very uncertain future. With no great advantages of birth or privilege, this Newry man ascended to the highest reaches of the English judiciary and also to ministerial level in the United Kingdom Government by sheer will and intellectual force. He eventually became Lord Chief Justice of England; the first Catholic to be appointed since the Reformation. He began his successful career as an English barrister by concentrating on what is known as the 'Northern Circuit'. He was aided by introductions from his uncle, who was the President of Maynooth College, to wealthy Irishmen who had prospered in the cities of Liverpool and Manchester. The rest of his success was due to his unceasing energy and his skill in cross examination of witnesses. His fees were substantial: averaging £5,000 a year from 1862-1872, £10,000 in the next decade, £15,000 in the third, and in 1894 his last year of practice, reached £25,000. He owned several racehorses and lived in a stately mansion at Tadworth near Epsom.

Opposite: **Charles Russell while practising as a barrister.**

Above left: Russell's home of Tadworth, near Epsom.
Above Right: The bust of Russell in Newry City Hall.
Opposite: Russell working in his study.

Russell pursued a great parliamentary role as well as the life of a lord. Unlike other Irish political figures of the time he remained a member of the British Liberal Party; believing that he could achieve more inside government than out. He advocated a devolved local government structure for Ireland that would have avoided partition and provided space and time for the integration of the pro-Unionist and pro-Nationalist areas. He was clearly a century ahead of his time. The Catholic Encyclopædia says of Lord Charles Russell:

> *"His knowledge of law, business and human character, a flexible and often passionate eloquence which derived its force from intense earnestness rather than oratorical device, marvellous dexterity in extracting the truth from witnesses and a manifest honesty of purpose, gave him a power over judge and jury which made him universally regarded as the first advocate of his age."*

He appeared in many high profile trials but most famously in the defence of Charles Stewart Parnell, accused by forged letters of promoting violence in Ireland. His destruction of the forger Piggott by cunning cross-examination remains a folk tale to this day. Whilst serving in the Gladstone cabinet as Attorney General of the United Kingdom, he represented Britain in the Bering Sea Arbitration of 1893. His speech against the

United States lasted eleven days. It was in that same year that Russell was appointed Lord Chief Justice of England. He revisited the United States in 1896 as the guest of the American Bar Association and delivered a notable address on arbitration. He was warmly received throughout the States.

In 1900, he took ill suddenly and died in London a few weeks later after being given the last rites of the Catholic Church. He was survived by his widow Lady Ellen, daughter of Dr Mulholland of Belfast, whom he had married in 1858, and by five sons and four daughters. The other members of his family obtained less fame in their own time but it is clear that like him they had an intensity of purpose and an inexhaustible source of energy. Notably their marks upon the world and upon the Newry area have long outlasted their illustrious brother.

Russell encounters Mitchel

"The only time I ever recollect seeing John Mitchel was when the railway from Dublin reached no further north than Drogheda, we were both going to Dublin, and both got on the coach together on the Ballybot side of the town, close to Turner's Glen. He was a man not easily forgotten, and his conversation and appearance made a deep impression upon the little lad, his fellow traveller that day. I well recollect his dark, straight hair, almost whiskerless face, and sallow, colourless, bloodless complexion, which, combined with a certain sharpness of feature and nobility of brow, gave him a peculiarly intellectual appearance, with a look almost of the ascetic. The square character of his jaw and the firmness of his mouth conveyed the notion of a resolute, not to say obstinate man, a notion which was not removed by the look of his dark grey eyes, which seemed full of dreams and melancholy.

I still think him the most brilliant journalistic writer I have ever known. He had not, perhaps, the breadth of Frederick Lucas, nor the wide information of Gavan Duffy, nor the tender, pathetic imagination of Thomas Davis; but his style was more terse, vigorous, and to the point than theirs, and was wholly free from affectation of scholarship foreign to the matter in hand. Occasionally in a sentence he could condense a world of argument. One instance occurs to me. In one of a series of letters addressed to the Orangemen of the North, he is pointing out to them why they should be in the van of the national movement, as their fathers had been in 1782 and 1798, and he is meeting an objection supposed to be made by an Orangeman then, and certainly frequently made for him since, namely, that to join with the Irish Papists would be to join the children of anti-Christ, and so on. Each July 12th celebration makes us familiar with this kind of thing. John Mitchel did not proceed gravely to argue that, after all, the evidence was not quite conclusive that the Pope was really anti- Christ, and that, at all events, all Irishmen, even Irish Papists, were bound up with the weal or woe of their country. He did none of these things. In the language of the now defunct special pleader, he put in a plea of confession and avoidance. He wrote a single line: 'The Pope may be anti-Christ, but, Orangemen of the North, he serves no writs of ejectment in Ulster'."

From "The life of Lord Russell of Killowen" (1901)
by Barry O'Brien

The Russell Sisters:
Elizabeth Russell, Sister Aquin, 1827-1876
Catherine Russell, Sister Baptist, 1829 -1898
Sarah Russell, Sister Emmanuel, 1831 -1902

THE MATRIARCH OF THE FAMOUS Russell family was Margaret Mullen of Belfast (1791-1867). At the age of 17 she married John Hamill, a wealthy Belfast merchant. They had six children, three sons and three daughters but she was widowed at the age of 29.

Five years later on 12th January 1825, she married Arthur Russell from Killough and they settled in Ballybot, Newry. Their next door neighbours and tenants were the Verners whose daughter Jenny had married John Mitchel. Mrs Russell bore six more children: four daughters and two sons. One of her daughters, Mary, died of a fever at the age of twelve on the night of Queen Victoria's coronation when Newry was lit up in celebration. The Russells had to explain that their house was not lit because they were in mourning. The other children were: Elizabeth, Catherine, Sarah, Charles, and Matthew.

Opposite: In 1857 Mother Baptist Russell, who had an eye for real estate, purchased a prime site in the city of Sacramento; the state capital of California. Her judgement was endorsed when the state vested the land from the Mercy Order to build the State Capitol Buildings. In 2006, the Senate gave space at the entrance of the Senate for this tableau commemorating the work of Mother Baptist.

Below left: The Big Stone, Cloughmore, Rostrevor.

Visiting the Big Stone

"Some old man, who returned to Ireland, after all his friends and relatives were dead, was asked why he had done so... 'I came back to see the mountains'. Katherine Russell, when she was just getting ready to leave her home and friends, bade good-bye to the mountains. Her last summer, 1848, was of course spent as usual in dear old Killowen, and when on the point of returning to Newry to make the last preparations for her flight, she arranged with her youngest sister and youngest brother to rise very early one bright morning in August; so early that the three had climbed Slieve Ban, and had run along the topmost ridge, in the keen, crisp, bracing mountain air, which the sun had not yet had time to warm, till they were near enough to Rostrevor to hear the church clock strike six down below, and they said the morning Angelus near to the Big Stone."

From "The Three Sisters of Lord Russell of Killowen and Their Convent Life" by Rev Matthew Russell (1912)

The family moved 1838 to 'Seaview', Killowen on the shores of Carlingford Lough. They employed a governess, Margaret O'Connor, who taught English, Maths, French, Natural Philosophy, Botany, Astronomy, Art, Music and Geography. Moreover, each girl had to take turns, a month at a time, in running the house and had charge of the keys; a training in responsibility that was to manifest itself in later life. In the famine years Mrs Russell and her 16 year old daughter Catherine became active members of the Ladies' Society set up to relieve distress. Catherine decided to become a nun and she joined the Mercy Sisters in Kinsale; taking the name Sister Baptist. There was no Mercy Convent in Newry at that time.

Six thousand miles away in California the gold rush was in full surge. When gold was discovered in 1848 the population of San Francisco was 300. Six years later it was 44,000. The Archbishop of San Francisco, DrAlemany, realising he needed help to cope with the influx, sent Fr Hugh Gallagher to Ireland to recruit nuns, brothers and priests to relieve the awful conditions of sickness, violence and vice. Twenty nine sisters from Kinsale volunteered; almost the entire community. The superior selected eight and appointed the twenty-five year old Sister Baptist Russell to lead them.

Californian Gold

Eight nuns under the supervision of Mother Baptist Russell left Kinsale on September 8th 1854 and they arrived in San Francisco on December 8th exactly three months after they had left Kinsale.

Mother Baptist rented a house and began visiting the poor and the sick in their hovels. Public health was non existent and inside San Francisco's only hospital conditions were appalling with overcrowding, filth, untrained nurses and a lack of proper equipment. The policy was to rent out the care of the sick to the highest bidder. Mother Baptist submitted a bid but it was rejected. An outbreak of cholera in 1855 changed all that. The civil authorities had no experience in dealing with it whereas the Sisters of Mercy had and for six weeks they gave twenty-four hour service rotating day and night shifts. Public opinion changed quickly.

When the Government decided to build a new hospital in the reorganising of the health system they put the old County Hospital up for sale. Mother Baptist borrowed $14,000, bought it and made a contract with the Government on running costs. She dismissed the entire nursing staff and gave the hospital a 'thorough scrubbing'. Then the Government reneged on their financial obligations and Mother Baptist was forced to close it down with its 140 patients.

She held onto the building, renamed it St Marys, and successfully appealed to prominent Catholics to support a Catholic hospital on the West. Now with a free hand, she appointed the best doctors and the hospital became a leader in orthopaedic surgeries and a training centre for new doctors. Mother Baptist built a new St Mary's on Runcorn Hill at a cost of $120,000 in 1861 and requested from her mother that her inheritance be used to buy specialised hospital equipment.

In 1853 Elizabeth also entered the Mercy convent in Kinsale. She returned to Newry in 1855 with other sisters and established the convent in Canal St in what was known as 'Ogle's House'.

Taking the name Sister Aquin, she was the first Mercy nun to be professed in Newry. In the first few years in Newry the Order established a House of Mercy for destitute women whom they trained for employment, a school for over twelve year olds, a night school for mill workers, a sewing and lace school, a laundry and an orphanage. The building in Canal St became too small and they built a new convent in Catherine St. Sister Aquin was made Novice Mistress and was later sent to Rostrevor to establish a convent and school there. The initial school in Rostrevor was held in a cow shed while the building was being erected. The strain of ongoing fund raising and travelling eventually broke Aquin's health and she died in Rostrevor in 1876 at the age of fourty-nine.

A third sister, Sarah, joined the Newry convent in 1858 and took the name Sister Emmanuel. In common with her sibling sisters she displayed energy and leadership and she was sent to Lurgan where she opened a day and evening school for mill workers and an orphanage. In 1870 she was elected superior of the Convent in Newry and remained in office until her death in 1902. Under her direction a convent and school were opened in Warrenpoint in 1888 and the following year in Bessbrook.

Meanwhile Sister Baptist continued monumental and long lasting work in California until her death on August 6th 1898 after a short illness. *The San Francisco Bulletin* described her as: "the best known charitable worker on the West Coast"; while *The Chronicle* eulogised:

> *"No dead sovereign ever had prouder burial than Mary Baptist whose life of self denial and good works crowned her in a city's memory. The great crowd, swelled to such immense proportions when the graveyard was reached, that the utmost efforts of a band of police men were hardly sufficient to hold it in restraint!"*

A publication entitled: "Makers of California" included her on a list of ninety distinguished names; the only woman to be so honoured. Mother Emmanuel passed away on her 71st birthday in 1902. One of her last acts was to approve the plans for a new convent chapel funded largely by Lady Russell the widow of her brother. That chapel was completed and named Emmanuel Chapel in her memory. It remains the pride of the Sisters of Mercy in Catherine St, Newry.

More Sense in a little Finger

Mother Emmanuel went to Lurgan in 1866 to establish the Mercy community there. At that time Edward St Lurgan was a flashpoint of regular sectarian conflict. Fr McConville, the Parish Priest, employed great ingenuity in planning the Convent. He assembled the strongest youths of the Parish and asked each to throw a stone as far as they could onto the site. He then instructed the architect to place the convent building beyond the range of the furthest stone. The next 12th July the theory was tested by a mob of enraged protestant protesters who failed to break a single window. This wise patriarch was so impressed by Mother Emmanuel's ingenuity and organising abilities that he declared:

"There is more sense in Mother Emmanuel's wee finger than there is in the Jesuit (her brother), the lawyer (Lord Chief Justice Russell), and the President (her uncle, the President of Maynooth) all together".

Above: **The Convent in Edward St, Lurgan.**

Opposite: **Statue of Mother Baptist, Sacremento.**

Convent of Mercy

THE SISTERS OF MERCY CAME to Newry in 1855 when local gentlemen organised a weekly collection to enable them to buy Ogle's House in Canal St as a temporary convent. The foundation stone of the present convent was laid in 1860. The architect was a Mr Burke and the builder was a man called Byrne of Newry. The four-storey building cost £4,000 and had a frontage of 101ft [30.7m]. It is in the Italian style and was constructed of local granite. The convent was opened on 27th August 1862 to accommodate between forty and sixty sisters.

A chapel and choir were included in the original plans for the Convent in 1860 but lack of funds delayed the scheme for forty years. The convent chapel which is of Romanesque architecture is another of the hidden treasures of Newry. It is called the Emmanuel Chapel after Mother Emmanuel Russell. It was officially blessed and opened on July 20th 1901 with High Mass celebrated by Bishop Henry O Neill. Fr Matthew Russell SJ a brother of the Russell sisters preached the sermon.

Apart from giving three daughters and their dowries to the Order, the Russell family gave generously to the convent over many years and Lady Russell gave £2,000 towards the chapel fund. Her gift met less than half of the final expenditure; which totalled £4,883, 2s and 10d (some eight hundred pounds more than the expenditure on the convent building 40 years earlier). Despite the generosity of local people, the problem of debt was only resolved when Lady Russell gave another £1000.

The chapel was designed by John Brown and built by Denis Neary, both Newrymen. Material of the highest quality was used in the construction of the chapel: from the Newry granite exterior (which matches the convent building), to the woodwork, mosaics and stained glass windows. The centre piece is a Carrara marble altar which cost £412. Two polished red granite pillars separate the sanctuary from the nave and on the mosaic floor of the sanctuary is the image of the pelican feeding her young. On either side of the nave stands a row of French polished stalls made from Australian Oak which replaced an earlier set. The stained glass windows are immensely rich in colour. They light up from east to west, following the sun, compelling the visitor on a journey through the story of Christ's birth, death and resurrection. The inscription on the sanctuary reads: *Nomen Ejus Emmanuel Vocabitur* (His name shall be called Emmanuel).

Opposite: The Emmanuel Chapel.
Top: The Convent as it was in the 1930's.
Bottom: The Convent as it is today.


EMMANUEL

St Mary's Parish Church

Opposite: Interior of St Mary's Parish Church.

NEWRY IS WELL ENDOWED in stained glass and dressed granite stone. The church of St Mary's Church of Ireland in the busy thoroughfare of John Mitchel Place has a splendid 'East Window' which is in the west end of the building. In the lower half of the window there are scenes from the parable of the Good Samaritan. In the upper half of the window is the Ascension. There are also illustrations on the upper glass of the Abbot of Newry, St Patrick, the Four Archangels and the emblems of the Four Evangelists.

The idea of erecting a new church in Newry formed in 1780 and in 1811 the Vestry approved a bill to change the site of the parish church, citing increased congregation, problems of access and the ruinous state of St Patrick's. Eight years later St Mary's was completed. St Mary's is built in the Gothic style and was consecrated on the 25th August 1819. The church, tower and steeple are built of Newry dressed granite stone, with internal dressing of Bath limestone. On the tower, underneath the clock, is a sculpture of a mitred abbot in his alb, sitting in a chair, with one hand raised in blessing and flanked

Frontier Sentinel

Rev Dean Swanzy

Among all sections of the community, and by none more than his congregation at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Newry, deep sorrow was expressed when it became known on Sunday morning last that, Very Rev Henry Biddall Swanzy, M.R.I.A., Dean of Dromore was the victim of a street accident in London on the previous night, and that he had passed away at St. Mary Abbott's Hospital a few hours after admission.

Dean Swanzy was a highly cultured gentleman, he was noted for his ability and zeal as a Churchman, while his benevolence was unbounded, and many poor people have lost in him a warm friend. Perhaps it was through this circumstance and the influence of the late Dr F. C. Crossle - a celebrated investigator and chronicler of family history - that Dean Swanzy developed the taste for genealogy that he exhibited in a high degree, and his signal interest in Newry history during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. An extremely patient worker, he was a fund of information on many matters of the ecclesiastical and general historical interest, and was always willing to help anybody who sought his help or advice, in that connection. He was also prominent in the Masonic and Orange Orders.

As a pulpit orator and public speaker, his utterances were always marked with culture and precision, and he had the power to move the hearts of all connected with him in clerical and other affairs.

From *Frontier Sentinel*, Newry, 26th November 1932

Right: Stained Glass window, St Mary's Parish Church.
Bottom: The Coat of Arms on the wall of St Mary's Parish Church.

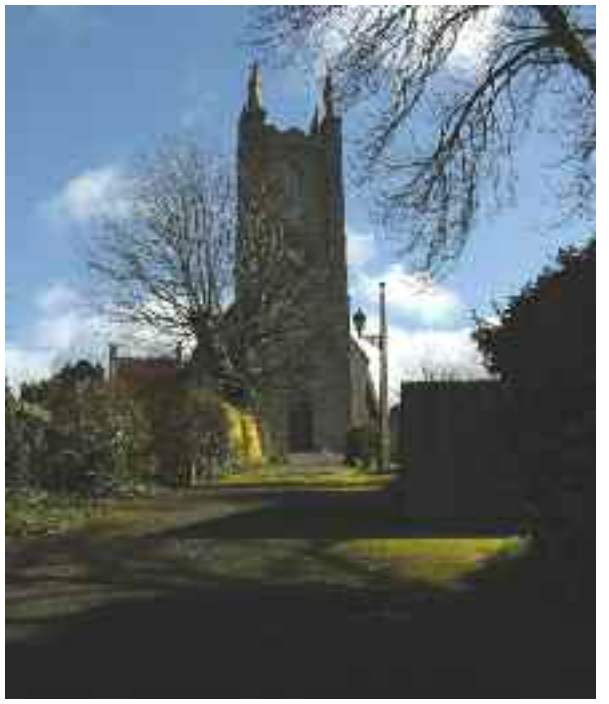
by two yews. This represents the Arms of the Exempt Jurisdiction of Newry and Mourne with Lord Kilmorey as the Lay Abbot.

The architect and builder of the church was Patrick O'Farrell of Blackwater, with the assistance of the Newry architect, Thomas Duff. The building, which can seat a congregation of 850, cost £12,566 plus £2,410 for the site and other expenses. The foundation stone was laid in 1810. It was necessary to raise finance through bequests, public subscriptions and a local tax on both Protestants and Catholics, before work could start. Because of further financial difficulties, it was 1819 before it was completed and consecrated by the Lord Primate, William Stewart. The clock, a gift from the Earl of Kilmorey, was made by Edward Smith of Dublin and installed in 1827.

The west end of the church was entirely rebuilt in 1886 by Messrs Collen Brothers (Portadown) to designs by Thomas Drew (who later designed St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast and was a pupil of Charles Lanyon). This entailed lengthening the existing chancel and flanking rooms to create the present vestry and organ chamber. The spire was rebuilt in 1993, following lightning damage. The monuments, of which there are over thirty, include one to the Right Honourable Isaac Corry Chancellor of the Exchequer in the old Irish Parliament.

St Mary's was built with the intention of replacing the old parish church of St Patrick's had fallen into disrepair.

St Patrick's Church



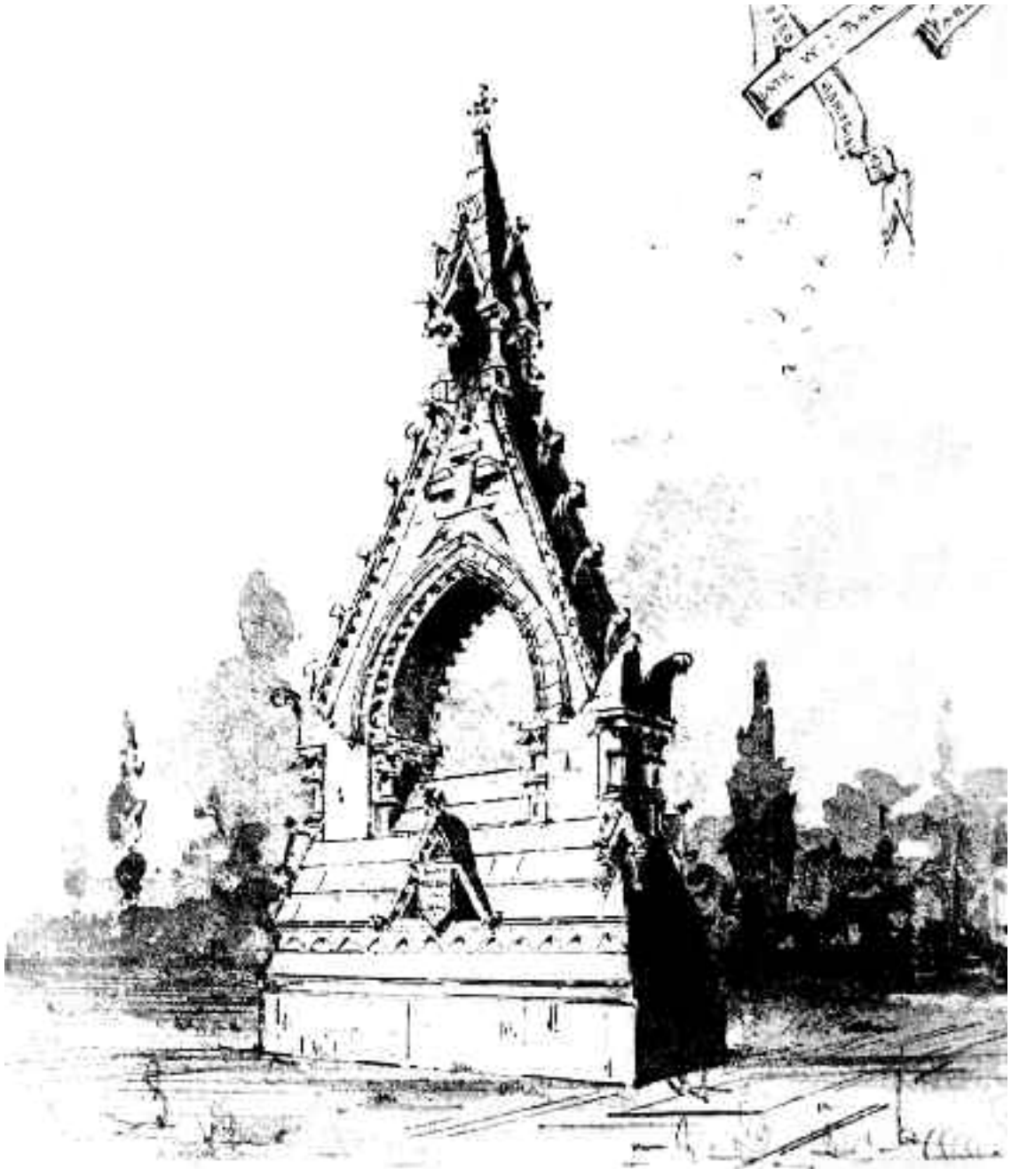
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH MIGHT WELL be called the 'Westminster Abbey' of Newry for it is the place where many of the prominent citizens of the Anglican tradition over the past four hundred years have been buried. Built by Nicholas Bagenal, Marshall of the Army in Ireland, this was the first and the oldest post-reformation church in Ireland. It is closely identified with the ecclesiastical, political and military heroes of the Established Church and much of the history of Newry from the 16th century is to be found in the graveyard and the walls of this building.

Above: An illustration of the seal of 'Exempt Jurisdiction of Newry and Mourne'.

St Patrick's is within the 'Exempt Jurisdiction of Newry and Mourne': an area where the clergy and churches were outside the control of any diocese or bishop. This unusual situation arose through the Charter of Endowment from King Murtagh McLouglin in 1157 which made the Abbot of Newry a 'Mitred Bishop' and gave him sole power over the lands of the abbey. By a Patent of King James I in 1613, Arthur Bagenal became a 'Lay Abbott' and assumed the powers of that office including the running of a Manor Court, granting probates of wills and licences of marriage. This arrangement only ended in 1966 when the Kilmorey family, heirs of the Bagenals, relinquished their entitlements.

St Patrick's was almost destroyed by fire in the Rising of 1641 and not fully restored. It continued in this ruinous state until after the Restoration of the Monarchy when one half was repaired. At the end of the 17th century at the time of the Williamite Wars only the tower and steeple remained along with the damaged walls. In 1729 the walls were raised another two metres to make room for a gallery and a roof put on the building.

When St Mary's church became available closer to the town in 1820, St Patrick's again fell into disuse and was in a state of ruin until 1829 when it was repaired at a cost of £600



Opposite: William J. Barre's monument in the graveyard of St Patrick's.

Above: Barre's own design for his family's monument.

raised by voluntary subscriptions and gifts. An Act of Parliament was then obtained to endow the church.

At the time of the Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1869 St Patrick's was re-roofed with two transepts and a vestry added and it became a separate parish with its own boundaries. In 1886 a new chancel was completed and new choir stalls, pews, organ and heating system installed. The last major renovations took place in 2004 culminating in eight days of celebratory events in November of that year. Much of the history of Newry from the 16th century is to be found in the graveyard of St Patrick's and amid it all is the self designed monument of the architect William J. Barre.

Old Newry Society: 1968 - 2008

ON WEDNESDAY 29TH MAY 1968 a meeting took place in the Newry Town Hall and the minutes recorded:

> *"Mr John Bell, President of the Abbey Christian Brothers Past Pupils Union, raised the question of forming a society for the purpose of gathering and preserving interesting items of Newry's Past."*

The Society's first speaker was the well known historian; Mr Brian Traynor, from the Public Records Office, Belfast. His topic was 'Sources for Local History' and this was the first of many presentations organised by the Old Newry Society to develop an awareness in local people for their rich and shared heritage. It is a common history that the whole community in Newry can claim ownership of and this mutual interest is reflected in the wide membership of the Old Newry Society itself.

Its first chairman was Mr Kevin P. Neary and the vice-chair was Dr Padraig Quinn. The honorary secretary was Mr P.A Crinion and the honorary treasurer was Mr Matt McAteer. Other well known people became committee members: Miss Una McClafferty, Mrs Nora Cooper, Rev John McAnuff, Rev R.S Peters, Rev William McMillan, Major G. Wilson Reside, Mr Eugene Boyle, Mr J. Bell, Mr Jim Mc Art, Mr Sean McAteer, Mr Sean Canavan, Mr B. O Hare, Dr G.G. Fitzimmons and Mr Ciaran McAteer. The society was to have many meeting places down the years: the Newry Town Hall, Boulevard Hotel, Abbey Primary School, Major Reside's Office, the Newry Non Subscribing Church Hall, Community Centre, Credit Union Building (Lower Catherine St), Ardmore Hotel, Bagenal's Castle/Newry Museum and the Sean Holywood Arts Centre.

It is interesting that one of the Old Newry Society's first activities was to record, photograph and campaign to protect the historic buildings of Newry. At a meeting of the committee held on 9th June 1971, Major Reside proposed that the Society might submit to the Ministry of Development, some criticism of the Newry Town Plan. One of the main objectives of the Old Newry Society was to contribute towards the establishment of a museum for the town and this ambition was realised with a museum housed in the Sean Holywood Arts Centre and eventually at Bagenal's Castle. Throughout the years the Society played a vital part in the arts and cultural development Newry and district. It participated in the Canal Festival by organising tours to historic sites in Newry such as

The Committee

1. Violet Durkin OBE
2. Cathy Brooks
3. Hugh Brooks
4. Anthony Russell
5. Padraig O'Donnell
6. Brian McElherron
7. Marie O'Donnell
8. Francis Gallagher
9. Gerry Murphy OBE
10. Irwin Major
11. Michael McKeown
12. Anne Smyth
13. Mary Sands

Top: Members book 1974

Right: Violet Durkin OBE and Anne Smyth

Opposite: William McAlpine MBE

the grave of John Mitchel. A magazine called the *Old Newry Journal* was published and lectures were organised, all of which gave the festival added depth and quality.

There have been many learned and community minded people that have served on the Old Newry Committee and a particular mention must be given to Violet Durkin who was elected Chairperson on 25th April, 1989 and Violet lent her own valuable knowledge to meetings. The late William Murdock was a founding member of the society and an evening was organised in his memory on 20th October, 1992. Matt McAteer gave a commentary, supported by slides with valuable contributions from the audience about William and the service he gave to develop our knowledge of Newry's history. A video of Matt's presentation was presented to Mrs Martha Murdock.

On 16th February, 1993, the Rev Des Porter shared his research into the life of Newry philanthropist Henry Quinn: 'No Mean Citizen' and Irwin Major gave a presentation on the history of the Church of Ireland at Newry. Hugh Brooks revealed his in-depth research on the workhouse at Newry and in 1996 Mr Gerry Murphy delivered a lecture on: 'Baking in Newry since 1837: McCann's Bakery'. One of the most popular history evenings was Professor Art Cosgrove's presentation on the colourful 'Marriage Practices of Late Medieval Ireland.'

William McAlpine has been synonomous with photographic images of Newry for the past fifty years. Much of this book is illustrated by his work.

William spent his working life in the printing trade with W&S Magowan. He was awarded an MBE for his services to scouting. He was held in the highest by his employer, Mr William Magowan; Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II; as he still is by the members of The Old Newry Society and the general public of the City

Today the Old Newry Society continues its good work and tribute must be paid to our President, Anne Smyth; Michael McKeown and historian Anthony Russell. Michael's original and creative interpretation of The Flight of the Earls was a delight and Anthony Russell's musical evenings with Gerry Doherty and the Glee Singers have a cherished place in our memories.

The publication of the Book of Newry is an apt marker of our 40th anniversary and we hope that in the years to come new members of the Society will continue to shine a light upon the wonderful and dramatic history of Newry.

Francis Gallagher
Secretary to Old Newry Society
Newry, November 2008.

Additional Thanks

DURING THE ALMOST THREE YEARS of work on "The Book of Newry" I was joined at various times by writers, researchers, historians, enthusiasts, photographers, publishers, designers, friends and colleagues. I was also assisted by various members of the Old Newry Society who provided books and images from their personal collections as well as others who provided access to premises, photographs, and publications.

I would like to express my special thanks to: Vinko Kalcic, Wesley Johnston and staff at April Skies, the staff of, my own business, Crash Services, Seamus McKenna, Jenny at Narrow Water Castle, Robin Linsley, John Chambre, Rev Norman Hutton, Keith Batt, Marshal McConnell (Grand Master Francis Crossle Lodge, Newry), Joe E. Gannon, John McCullagh, Phillip Allingham, Ron Murray (ROSA, Crossmaglen), Bishop F.G. Brooks, Ross Chapman, Sean Patterson, Maud Hamill, Gerard McGivern (Newry and Mourne Council), Tom Cunningham (Belfast), Sister Perpetua McArdle, William Hanna, Byron Shriver, Rev Michael Barry, Suzan Ballard (U.S.A.), Adrian Murdoch, John McClimond and Fr Noel O'Leary SMA, Helen Castle, Chris George, George Bellows, Dee Mulligan and Richard Brown.

Among the very helpful staff at libraries and archives we note:

Kieran McConville	O'Fiaich Library & Archive, Armagh
Noreen Cunningham	Newry & Mourne Museum, Newry
Ken Abraham	Newry & Mourne Museum, Newry
Mary McVeigh	Irish Studies Library, Armagh
Denise Hegarty	Irish Studies Library, Armagh
Catherine Gartland	Irish Studies Library, Armagh
All the Staff	Newry Branch Library, Newry
Trevor Hall	Linen Museum, Lisburn
Mary Bradley	Irish & Local Studies Library, Ballynahinch
Gemma Ward	Irish & Local Studies Library, Ballynahinch
Johanna Murray	National Library of Australia, Canberra
Michael St John McAlister	British Library, London
Melissa Atkinson	National Portrait Gallery, London
Helen Trompeteler	National Portrait Gallery, London
Michelle Ashmore	Ulster Museum, Cultra
George Wright	Ulster Museum, Cultra
Colette O'Daly	National library of Ireland, Dublin
Adanma Yisa	Reigate Borough Archives, Surrey
Gavin McMahon	Public Records Office, Belfast
Colum O'Riordan	Irish Architectural Archive, Dublin
Rita Harkin	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, Belfast

Internet Resources

DURING THE RESEARCH FOR *The Book of Newry* [www.thebookofnewry.com] the most exciting aspect was the discovery of materials, particularly images, found through browsing the Internet. We have been able to access the text and images of many rare books through www.books.google.com and www.openlibrary.org. On these sites it is possible to search for references to Newry or to historic characters and events and to see copies of original books held in libraries as far away as Ottawa, Sidney and San Francisco. We have uncovered maps, which we believe may have lain heretofore undiscovered by local historians, in repositories around the world. Many newspapers including the *Brooklyn Eagle* and the *New York Times* allow free online access to their entire archive and reproduce the precise cuttings.

The following websites may prove beneficial to those interested in their own historical research.

Ulster Biography	www.ulsterbiography.co.uk
Public Records Office of Northern Ireland	www.proni.gov.uk
Newry & Mourne Museum	www.bagenalscastle.com
O'Fiaich Library & Archive Armagh	www.ofiaich.ie
Library of Congress, Washington	www.loc.gov
South Carolina Irish Memorial	www.scimf.org
John McCullagh's Newry Journal	www.newryjournal.co.uk
The Flight of the Earls	www.thewildgeese.com
Cistercian History	www.mellifontabbey.com
Newry's Maritime History	www.thequays.co.uk/history
National Archives London	www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Royal Irish Academy	www.ria.ie
British History OnLine	www.british-history.ac.uk
British Library London	www.bl.uk
Northern Ireland Libraries	www.ni-libraries.net
National Library of Ireland	www.nli.ie
World Catalogue of Libraries & Museums	www.worldcat.org
New York Public Library	www.nypl.org
National Portrait Gallery London	www.npg.org.uk
Library of Congress Washington	www.loc.gov
Wellcome Foundation Image Collection	www.wellcome.ac.uk
Environment & Heritage Service Belfast	www.ehsni.gov.uk
New York Times	www.nytimes.com
The Times, London	www.timesonline.co.uk
Irish Origins Genealogical Database	www.irishorigins.com
Fusiliers Museum Lancashire	www.fusiliersmuseum-lancashire.org.uk

Other places named Newry around the world:

Newry, Victoria, Australia
37° 55′ 0″ S 146° 53′ 0″ E
Location: 219 km (136 mi) E of Melbourne

Newry, Ontario, Canada
43°39 25 N 81°01 39 W
Newry is located on the intersection of
County Roads 72 and 164 in Perth County, Ontario.

Newry, Maine, United States
44°30 11 N 70°50 7 W
Population at the 2000 census was 344.
On June 15, 1805, Bostwick Plantation was renamed by settlers that had come from Newry in Northern Ireland.

Newry, Pennsylvania, United States
40°23 36 N 78°26 06 W
During the late 1700s, Patrick Cassidy, a native of Newry, Ireland and a soldier in the American Revolutionary War, purchased a parcel of land in Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania.

Newry, South Carolina, United States
34°43 33 N 82°54 25 W
Captain William Courtenay (1831-1908) served in Robert E. Lee's Army in the Civil War. Courtenay and a group of investors formed the Courtenay Manufacturing Company in 1893 with an initial capitalization of $134,500.
The company purchased 350 acres [1.4 km] of land along the Little River in Oconee County on June 1, 1893. The company dammed the Little River to power the mill constructed on the site. It is traditionally believed that Courtenay named the village after his ancestral home of Newry, Northern Ireland.

Newry, Minnesota, United States
43°47 38 N 93°6 36 W
For every 100 females there were 106.6 males.