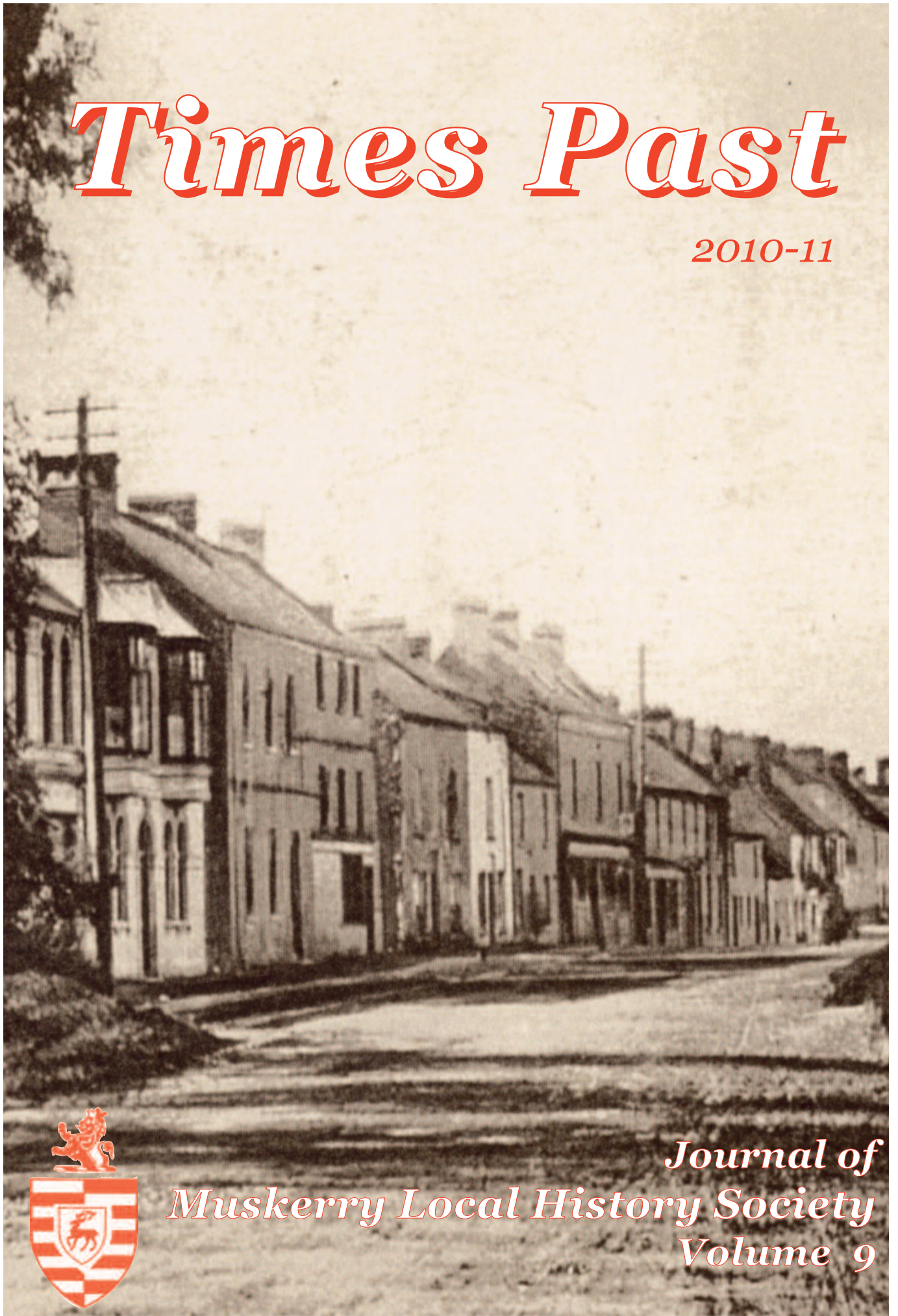
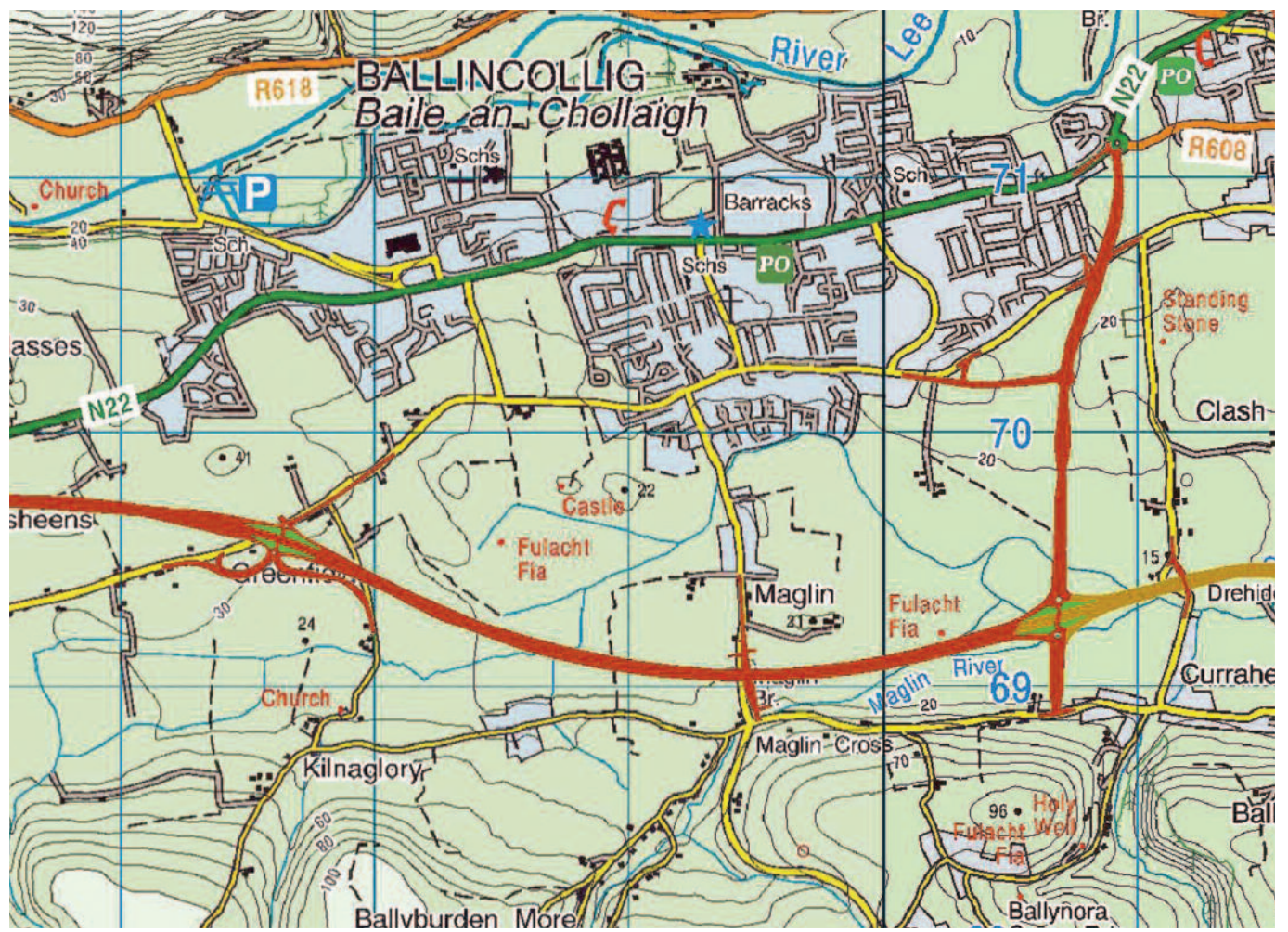


# *Times Past*

2010-11



*Journal of  
Muskerry Local History Society  
Volume 9*





# Muskerry Local History Society

## *Programme for 2010/2011 season*

September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (Saturday) *Field trip with Knockraha Historical Society* . Meet at Sarsfields GAA Club, Riverstown 2.30.

September 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 (Thursday) *Heritage Exhibition at Cork City Hall* 10 a.m to 7 p.m.

October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (Tuesday). Slide show presentation on *An Eventful Era in Cork history 1912 to 1922* (Tim O'Brien) 8.00

November 8<sup>th</sup> (Monday) *Muskerry Local History Society Journal launch* by Kieran McCarthy, Historian and Cork City Councillor, at Ballincollig Rugby Club 8 p.m.

November 16<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) *Gallipoli lecture and slide show* (John Mulcahy).

December 7<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) *Sinking of Lusitania and its effect on World War 1* (Paddy O'Sullivan talk and slide show).

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2011 (Tuesday) *Lighthouses on South West Coast of Ireland* (Talk/slide show by Gerald Butler - a third generation lighthouse keeper).

February 15<sup>th</sup> *Clonmult's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary*. Tom O'Neill recounts the biggest loss of Irish lives during the War of Independence.

March 15<sup>th</sup> *Upton Rail Station encounter February 1921*. (Donal O'Flynn).

April 19<sup>th</sup> *Talk on pisheógs* (Séamus Healy)

May 17<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday). *Field trip to a lighthouse* with Gerald Butler.

All lectures at **Ballincollig Rugby Club Hall** at 8 p.m. sharp.

Further information from Liam Hayes 087 7828546; Dermot O'Donovan 021 4873266 or Tim O'Brien 087 2940661.

Journal Of The  
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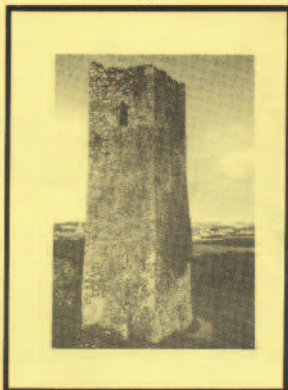
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1988-89

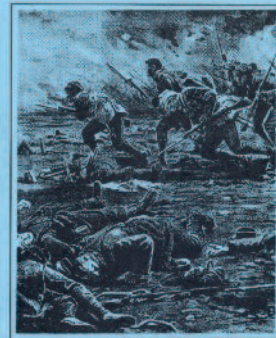
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# Times Past

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## Thanks

I would like to thank a very hard-working committee who helped produce this journal - Liam Hayes, Tim O'Brien and Dermot O'Donovan.

I would also like to thank the authors for their dedication - they have provided a wide range of articles from the early history of Ballincollig up to modern times.

Finally, I hope you will support our sponsors who have been very generous in these trying times.

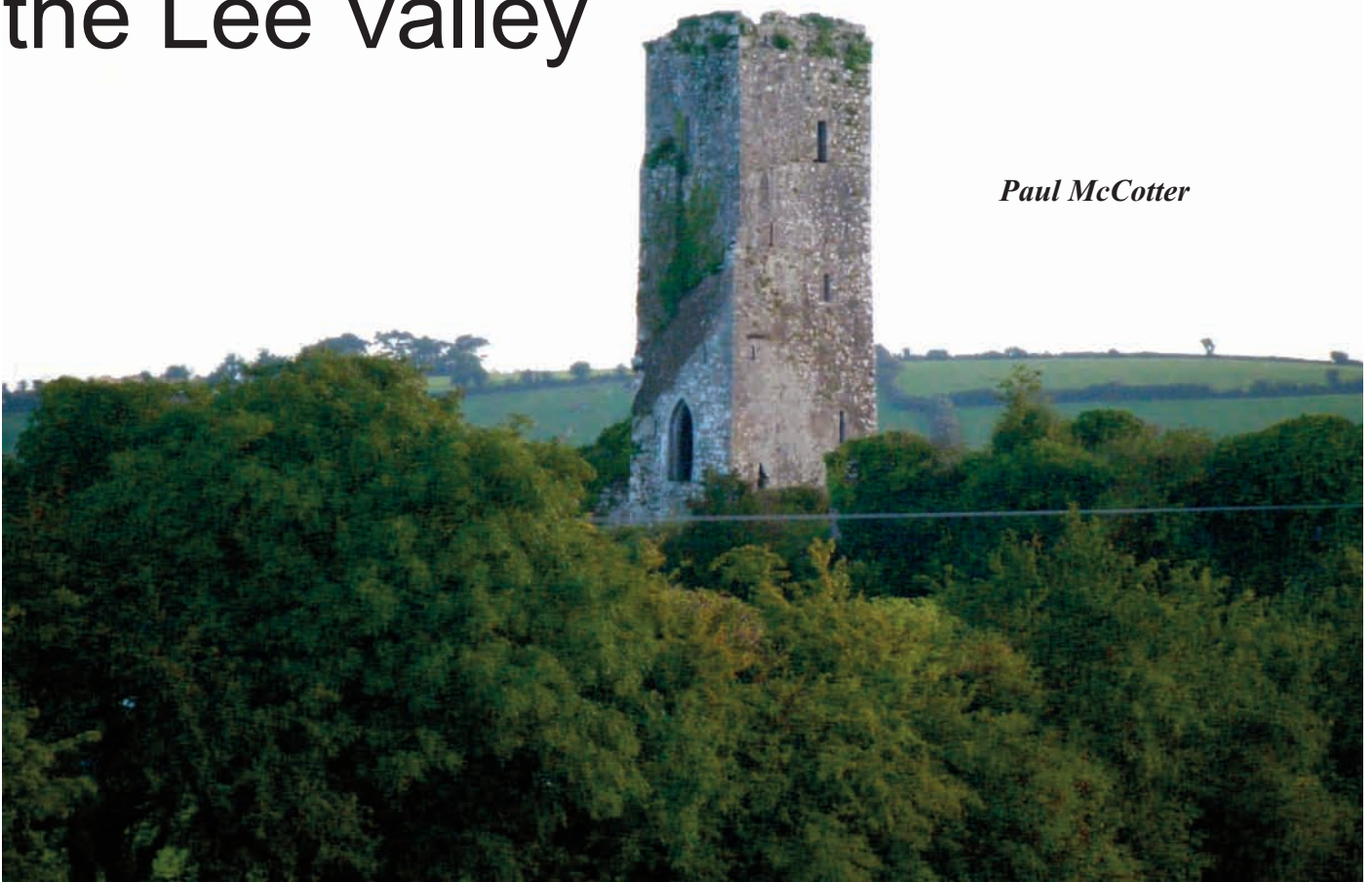
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# The Anglo-Normans in the Lee Valley

*Paul McCotter*



## Background

The Anglo-Norman settlement in the Lee Valley in the early 1200's was an international affair, as the new population was multi-ethnic in composition. The Norman elite were essentially Frenchmen while the bulk of the settlers, farmers, craftsmen and merchants, were mainly English, with many Welsh and some Flemings amongst them.

The Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland was merely one facet of an international cultural cum population explosion as the most technologically advanced nations of Europe, principally France, the Holy Roman Empire (Germany), Italy and England, all sharing a common feudal culture, extended their territories by colonial settlement at the expense of their less advanced neighbours. Germans were pushing east into Poland and Lithuania, Spaniards and Italians southwards against the Arabs, the French leading the Crusades, all at the same time as the Norman-led English were spreading into Scotland, Wales and Ireland. The culture brought into Ireland by these settlers was thus an international one.

## Feudal Society

Feudal society was hierarchical in structure. Within each territory the lord as the owner of all the land ('landlord') kept some for his own use while renting the bulk to various knights to hold of him by military service as freeholders. These in turn rented out their estates to the actual farmers of the land, some of whom would be their relatives, the farmers in turn employing many peasants or sub-letting some of their lands to tenants-at-will.

In the colonised parts of Ireland the population of all classes except the lowly peasant was composed mostly of Anglo-Normans; as the native Irish peasants comprised the bulk of the population however, the Celtic element remained at perhaps about 70% of the total in these areas.

Some of the most notable advances introduced by the Anglo-Normans into Ireland were towns and cities (previously limited to the Viking settlements on the coast), advanced fortress building techniques, the latest farming methods and, in church affairs, the parish unit.

## Cogan Settlement in the Lee Valley

The first Norman lord of the Lee Valley was Richard de Cogan, who was granted his territory in 1207, the lands under his nominal control extending from the Blackwater to the hills south of the Lee and from just west of Cork to the Cork-Kerry border. The Normans were interested only in the best land due to the difficulty of attracting settlers from England and Wales and, correspondingly, Cogan managed to colonise only the eastern half of the valley.

Here he built three fortresses, at Carrigrohane (the walls of which fell, blocking the Straight Road in 1989), Moreton (Castlebarrett near Mourne Abbey) and at Dundrinan (now Castlemore near Crookstown). Further west he seems to have built a castle at Macroom in order to exercise control over the McCarthys and the other native clans of the area.

Settlers occupied the valley westwards as far as around Kilmurray and Carrigadrohid and new towns grew up around the castles of Carrigrohane (St. Peter's church occupies the site of the old town church), Moreton, near Dundrinan, and at Ovens and Grenagh. Cogan founded an abbey for the order of Knights Hospitallers at Mourne Abbey and probably lived at Moreton nearby.

The town at Ovens was known as Athnowen after the ford where the bridge is today and its church was on the site of the now disused church by the quarry. The town at Grenagh must have lain around the churchyard there while that near Dundrinan, known as Moviddy, was exactly on the site of the present town of Crookstown, (founded in the early 1600's).

## Knights

Cogan retained lands at Carrigrohane, Dundrinan and Moreton for his own use and parcelled out the rest of the settlement to various knightly families. Burdons held much land south of Ballincollig, around Clogheen/Kerry Pike and at Grenagh (where they would soon be replaced by the Barretts); Rochfords at lower Waterfall east to Spur Hill, Rochfordstown still commemorating them; Goulds around Ballinora; Guines, the family who built Cloghroe castle, around Blarney and Inniscarra; Roches between Blarney/Whitechurch and west of Mourne Abbey; Walshes north of Dripsey; Russells around Coachford and at Russellhill south of Kilmuckree; and lastly the Cole family, after whom Ballincollig is named, who held extensive lands throughout the settlement and were one of the most powerful of these families.

Not surprisingly several knightly families were rel-

<b>The Structure of Feudal Society in general</b>	<b>The Structure of Feudal Society in Muskerry</b>
King of England	
Barons	= De Courcy
Lords	= De Cogan
Knights	= Colls, Cogans Rochfords Barretts, Burdons
Farmers	= Hundreds of families, mostly Anglo-Normans
Peasants	= Several hundred families, all Irish

atives of the Cogan lords. The most important of these had their court at Moyoly (Aglish), just west of Farran and held lands south of the Lee from Aglish eastwards to Ovens and north of the river around Berrings and Matehy. Other Cogan branches were found at Maglin/Old Abbey, upper Waterfall (these latter gave their name to Gogginshill), around Coachford, at Fergus and Shandon, and at Cloughphilip near Tower. About half of these knightly families, including the Cogans themselves who hailed from near Cardiff, were of immediate Welsh origin.

The lesser settler families bore surnames such as Bole, Proudfoot, Lissell, Snelling, Broun, Whyte, Fleming, Woodcock, Larcher, Walsh, Godrith, Stanton, St. John, Sherlock, Hewitt, Coyt, Canning, Lang, Lech, Sisk, Carter, Cotterick, Yvor, Lewelin, Leader, Bidel, Perrot, and Carpenter; many of these names are English, the rest Welsh. Few of them are found in East Muskerry today, illustrating well the extent of the fourteenth century destruction of the settlement.

## The History of the Settlement

The period of the actual settlement was probably between 1210 to about 1230, after which the best land was taken. After the Irish victory at the battle of Callan in 1261, the McCarthys destroyed the Cogan castles at Macroom, Dooniskey and Moyoly but Dundrinan (Castlemore near Crookstown) appears to have held.

Despite the loss of control of western Muskerry to the Irish, at this time the settlement was not affected. It was only in 1316-17, during a civil war between the Normans themselves, that the settlement suffered

serious damage at the hands of the Barrys and Roches who burned the towns of Ovens and Moviddy and again destroyed the castle of Moyoly.

In the late 1320's an even more serious war broke out between the Earl of Desmond and the government in which the former made extensive use of the McCarthys of Duhallow and other Irish clans. Under cover of this war Diarmaid McCarthy of Duhallow attacked the settlement, apparently taking its frontier fortress of Dundrinan soon after 1337, to sweep eastwards as far as Cloghroe, which he made his new fortress. This campaign must have been vicious as it resulted in the expulsion (slaughter?) of the bulk of the settlers.

### The Barretts

In 1352 a government army drove McCarthy from Cloghroe and some of the settlers returned, only to be further harassed by other Irish, requiring the sending of a second army in 1366. After this latter campaign the government, in the mistaken belief that the whole valley was bereft of settlers as a result of these wars, granted most of the old Cogan lordship to the Barretts of Grenagh (whose original castle was probably at Garrycloyne or nearby Newcastle). This grant ignored the presence of returned settlers as far west as Magooly north of the Lee, and at least as far as Aglish if not Dundrinan itself, south of the river.

The Barretts duly waged yet another war against the unfortunate settlers despite a legal verdict reversing their grant and government efforts against them, their chief targets being the Cogan held castles of Carrigrohane, Moreton and Moyoly, and the now Lombard held castle of Cloghroe. By the end of the century this campaign had resulted in the Barretts replacing the Cogans (of Aglish, who had earlier succeeded to the lordship upon the extinction of the mainline), as lords of what remained of the Anglo-Norman settlement.

It is hardly coincidence that the same Barretts had earlier been allied with McCarthy in Desmond's army of the 1340's. By about 1400 the Barrett territory extended north of the Lee westwards to about Dripsey and south of the river probably out to Kilcrea, if not further west. Many of these lands would soon fall to the McCarthys, whilst the new Barrett chief castle, Carrigrohane, would go to the Earls of Desmond, resulting in the purchase of Ballincollig castle from the Coles in 1468, which would henceforth be the Barretts new headquarters.

Apart from the Barretts themselves, who retained much of their lands until dispossessed in 1692, few

of the Old English families of East Muskerry survived the centuries. The Rochfords sold Rochfordstown in the 1620's while the Burdons managed to retain Knockburdon until dispossessed by Cromwell. Only one family of Cogans, those of Inishkenny near Waterfall, survived as landowners in the Lee Valley down to the 1650's.

Today the only common Norman period names in the Lee Valley are Barrett and Walsh, and it is interesting that in the sixteenth century several farming families of Walshes flourished, under the Barretts at Ballincollig and Inniscarra, and, surprisingly perhaps, under the McCarthys at Berrings (and perhaps Walshestown). This further testifies to the strength of the native Welsh element in the original settler population. Some Roches and Cogans and a few Burdons, Russells and Rochfords can also be found in the region today.

### Further Reading

Accounts of the period above can be found in K.W. Nicholls' excellent article on 'Lordship in Co Cork', in Buttimer and O'Flanagan's *Cork History and Society*, while Diarmuid O Murchadha's *Family Names of Co Cork* contains interesting pieces on the Barretts, Walshes and others.



# The Cole Family & the Placename 'Ballincollig'

*Paul McCotter demonstrates in this article that 'Ballincollig' is not the Town of the Boar but Coll's settlement or Coll's town*

## Early versions of 'Ballincollig'

The first historian to address the question of the meaning of the name 'Ballincollig', first recorded in its present form around 1570, was John Windele, who lived in the first half of the nineteenth century. He believed the name to mean 'place of echoes', after Kol, the Phoenician word for echo. (Royal Irish Academy MS 12-1-9, p. 182).

The Phoenicians were the ancient Lebanese and such unusual theories as Windele's were fashionable amongst antiquarians of the period, the science of history being in its infancy at the time.

Things had become little better by the 1870's, when Joyce published his volumes on Irish placenames. Joyce's methodology seems to have consisted of sitting in Dublin with a map and an Irish dictionary, playing with words. Toponymy, the study of placenames, has so far advanced since Joyce's pioneering days that his work is now considered most untrustworthy; nonetheless the long availability of Joyces books has led to many of his errors being accepted by the general public.

Joyce derived Ballincollig from *Baile an Chullaigh*, the settlement of the wild boar, but in doing so he clearly missed the connection that boars were animals of the wild found in woods and mountains and not on farms or settled country. At least one important Ballincollig sporting club has based its crest on Joyce, having a boar's head for its emblem.

Sanity finally began to prevail in relation to the meaning of the placename in the 1940's when the great local historian, John T. Collins, a nurse in Our Ladies Hospital, spotted Sarsfield's reference to the sale of Ballincollig by Robert Coll in 1468 in the Carew MSS, and rightly concluded that the name came from *Baile an Chollaigh*, Cole's settlement, a derivation accepted by all serious local historians since then. Little was known of this Cole family however, apart from the 1468 reference.

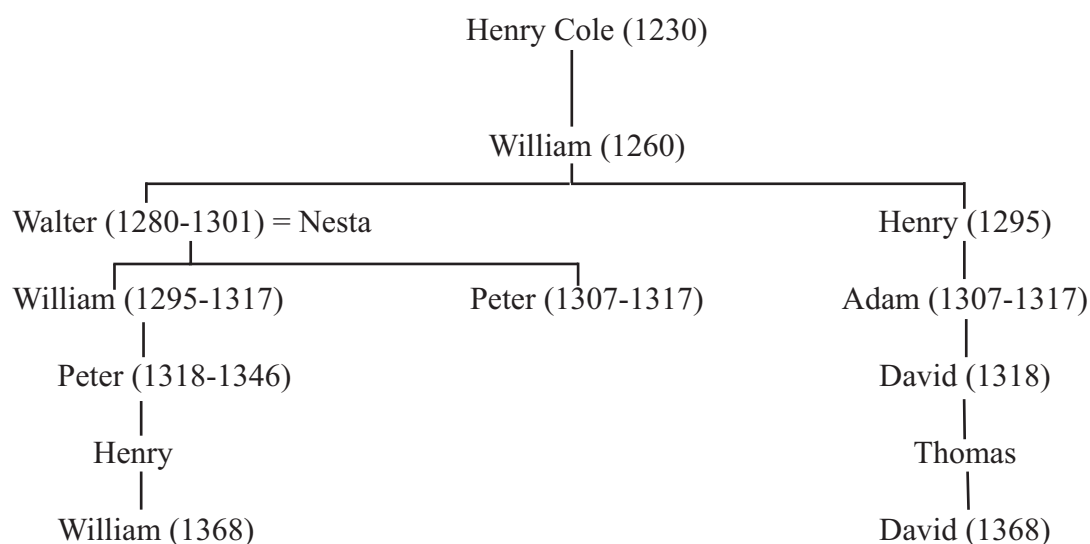
**John T. Collins  
...rightly concluded that the name came from *Baile an Chollaigh*, Cole's settlement, a derivation accepted by all serious local historians since then.**

While in Dublin researching a thesis some years ago I found numerous references to this Cole family in the Record Commissioners Calendars of Plea and Memoranda Rolls, in the National Archives, these being court records of the period 1260-1368. In those early times many routine legal procedures involving property transactions, especially unto the next generation, were resolved in civil court actions in order to make them binding. These records are a mine of genealogical detail and the accompanying family tree of the Coles is based on my notes from this source.

## The Origin of the Coles

The name Cole is of Anglo-Norman origin and is found in Pembrokeshire in the fourteenth century, suggesting that the family came to Muskerry with the Cogans from Wales in the early 1200's. The first Cole on record, Henry, is mentioned in a court case of 1301 by his grandson, Walter, and must have lived in the 1220's, and may have been the first Cole in Muskerry. Henry's son, William, was in dispute with the Cogans of Liskillea concerning lands near Dun-

## The Cole Family Tree



drinan in 1260 and is listed as a landowner in the Rathcooney area the following year. William was father to Walter who occurs in several cases between 1280-1301; he was dead by 1304 when his widow, Nesta, was suing their son, William, for her dower rights in all of Walter's lands.

This William was involved in various cases between the years 1295-1308, some concerning lands near Coachford and the water mill at Ovens, the latter involving his brother, Peter. He had a son also called Peter who had succeeded him by 1318 and who was still alive in 1346 when the government appointed him a Keeper of the Peace for Kenalbek, the Anglo-Norman barony south of the river Lee. (Originally Muskerry did not extend south of the river). This office was a little like that of sheriff in the Wild West and shows Peter as one of the leaders of the local community.

### Cole lands

The records mentioned above, particularly the plea of dower heard in 1304, enable us to get a clear picture of the lands held by the Coles, and shows the family to have held at least 9,000 acres (32 carucates) in the Lee Valley and to have probably been the leading non-Cogan family in the area. These lands were divided into several distinct fees as follows:

**BALLINCOLLIG:** a block of five ploughlands from Ballincollig westwards to Ovens in places called Carrignahathmel, Monany and Fithonalys, all now lost placenames; this block was called Corrys in 1368, yet another lost name. The latter reference indicates that these lands lay east of Ovens, making

the identification certain. These are probably the present townlands of Ballincollig, (the chief place of the family), Greenfield, Coolroe, Classes, Lisheens and Barnagore; Greenfield was earlier Maulacolligg, from Meall a' Chollaigh, Coles rise. The name Colyston occurs in 1301 in connection with the family, but this may be Ballincollie (Dublin Hill) rather than Ballincollig.

**CURRAHALY:** four plough lands and 100 acres of wood were held at Currahaly and Knocknagoul near Aherla, ('Corchaly and Cnocknegowill').

**KILCREA:** a wood at 'Cnocnethully', this place is probably Kilcollig, a sub-denomination of Kilcrea townland, which appears to derive from Coill a' Chollaigh, Coles wood.

**ROOVES:** the nine plough lands at 'Rowys' must have included Rooves More and Beg, Mallagh, Loughleigh, Knockavullig and Rathonoane, perhaps the 'Rathnoad' of the Cole pleas.

**FARNANES AND KNOCKSHANAWEE:** four ploughlands and much woodland here, ('Fernan and Cnocksanwy'). 200 acres at 'Cnocardblacton', now part of Castlemore.

**COACHFORD:** the ploughland owned by the family in Magourney parish, the old parish around Coachford, must be the modern Coolacullig, from Cuil a' Chollaigh, Coles corner or hollow. The families' two plough lands at 'Drowey' is perhaps Dripsey.

**LOUGHANE WEST** is probably the location of the Coles' one and a half ploughlands at 'Clonerdown in Maghmakeer'. The latter is Matehy and the former

Clonerkin, the name of an obsolete parish now absorbed into Matehy civil parish. The old church of this parish is almost certainly to be identified with the church site in the burial ground in Loughane East townland, its lost parish being Matehy east of the Shournagh.

DUBLIN HILL/RATHCOONEY: the three ploughlands at 'Rathcone and Lysgorman' lay in the Dublin Hill to Rathcooney area, Lysgorman being perhaps the present Ballincollie townland, a name with the same derivation as our own Ballincollig.

### Junior branches

As illustrated in the pedigree, a junior branch of the family also existed, headed by an Adam Cole and later his son David; these were cousins to the main line. Adam held lands at Currahaly of William Cole in 1307 and David was claiming the watermill at Ovens from Peter Cole in 1333. These two lines must be the ancestors of the two lines mentioned in a court case of 1368, when Geoffrey de Cogan was prosecuting the Barretts for assault on him and his tenants. Geoffrey names his principal tenants in his manor of Oven ('Athnehowen') as William fitz Henry Cole and David fitz Waiter Cole, the former probably the grandson of Peter of 1346.

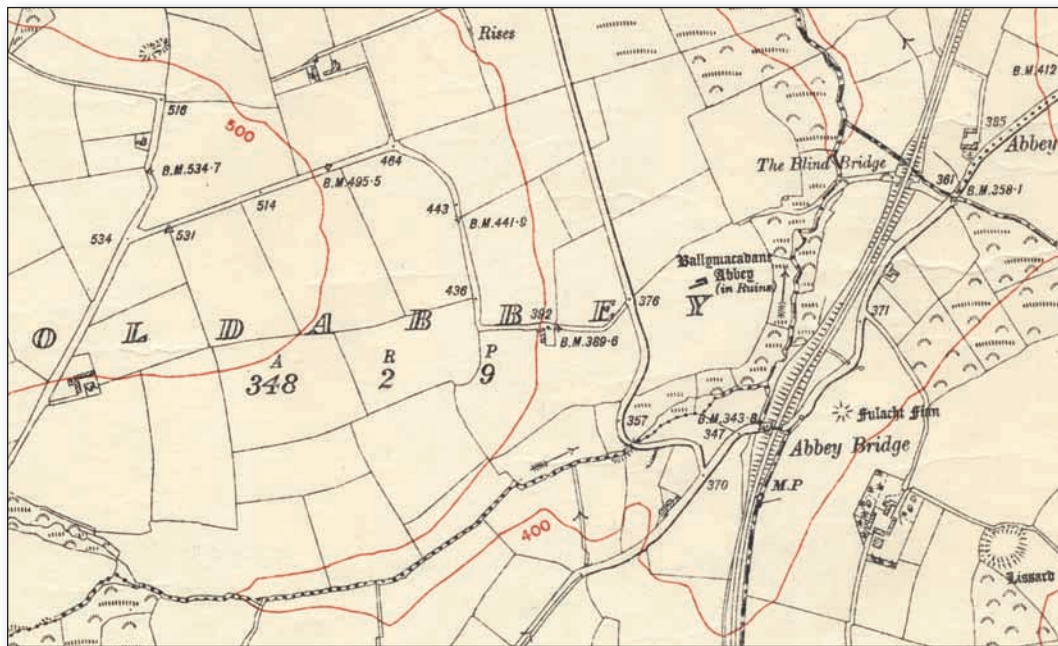
The five plough lands held by the family at this time show them left with just the area between Ovens and Ballincollig, the remainder of their lands by now overrun.



*Ballincollig Castle (right) associated with the Barrett's who took over from the Cole's: the keep (above) and an aerial view (below) of the castle*

# Ballymacadane Abbey, Old Abbey, Waterfall

Kevin Girvin



*“There is a temple in ruin stands  
Fashioned by long forgotten hands  
Two or three columns, or many a stone,  
Marble and granite with grass o’ergrown”  
Lord Byron, Siege of Corinth (St 18)*

Travelling from Ballincollig, through the parish of Ballinora, one will find the remains of an 15<sup>th</sup> century Abbey. Situated on land belonging to Mr Pat Dineen, to the east of the road that connects Jimmy the Tailors Cross with the Waterfall/Killeady Road, stands the ruins of Ballymacadane Abbey. Gothic in architectural style, Ballymacadane Abbey was built by Cormac ‘Laidir’ (the strong) Mac Carthaigh, Lord of Muskerry. The Abbey stands on a site overlooking a pastoral valley to the north-east. To the east of Ballymacadane is the Abbey Bridge over which the Great Southern Railway once travelled. The site is approximately 300 ft above sea level. Bally-

macadane Abbey is in a state of ruin and is heavily overgrown with ivy. An old whitethorn tree grows on its northern summit.

The fields surrounding Ballymacadane Abbey have seen large scale changes over the years. A study of the Ordnance Survey maps of 1830-1850 and 1935-1950, show that the fields adjacent to the site were once divided into small units. The Sites and Monuments survey of Ireland show similar divisions. However, the later Ordnance Survey Map (discovery series, No 87) show a change to the open pasture fields that now exist there. Cattle now graze happily in the fields surrounding the Abbey, often taking shelter against the elements within its walls.

## Founder

Cormac ‘Laidir’ MacCarthaigh was the ninth Lord of Muskerry. He was born in 1411, the son of Teige McCormac, Lord of Muskerry. He was married to Mary FitzMaurice, daughter of Edmond FitzMaurice, 9<sup>th</sup> Lord of Kerry. They had two children, a son,

Cormac 'Oge', b.1447, d.1537, and a daughter who was married to Donal MacFinghin MacCarthy, Lord of Carbery.

According to the *Annals of the Four Masters*, Cormac 'Laidir' was

*"a man who raised and revered the church and was the first founder of the Abbey of Kilcrea, a man who ordained that the Sabbath should be kept holy in his dominions as it ought to be, and he was succeeded by Eoghan, son of Teige"*.

He was in fact murdered by Eoghan, his brother, in 1494 at Carrignamuck Castle. Cormac 'Laidir' was buried at night in the middle of the choir at Kilcrea Abbey. The *Annals of the Four Masters* also inform us that the following inscription marked his burial place.

*'Hic Jacet Cormacus, fil, thadei, fil, Cormaci, fil,  
Dermidi Magni, Dnus de Musgraigh Flayn ac is-  
tius*

*Conventus, primus fundator'*

As well as being responsible for the foundation of Kilcrea Abbey for the Franciscan Observants in 1465, Cormac 'Laidir' also built five other churches in the region. He is also said to have built Blarney Castle in 1449\*, which became the stronghold of the Chieftains of his clan,. However, this is disputed by some historians. He also built Castles at Kilcrea and Carrignamuck in Dripsey.

## History

Ballymacadane Abbey was built for the Austine (Augustinian) nun's. The first Abbess was Honor Ni Carthaigh, a relative of Cormac 'laidir'. (Smith, 1750). The nun's presence in the Abbey appears to have been brief. During the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547), the Abbey became vested in the crown and the nuns were expelled. However, by 1577 the

\*Many correspondents name Cormac 'Laidir' as the builder of Blarney Castle. This view is based on the following stone inscription, allegedly seen in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; '*Cormach MacCarthy Fortis, Mi, Fieri, Fecit, AD.1446*', which translates as Cormac MacCarthy 'Laidir' (the strong) had me built. However, this is disputed by some historians.

Source: *Black's Picturesque Tourist of Ireland, (Edinburgh, 1857, P.151).*

nuns were back in occupation at Ballymacadane. During the reign of Elizabeth 1 (1558-1603), Ballymacadane was granted, "*among other lands, tenements etc to Sir Cormac MacTeige MacCarthy*". He again placed it in the hands of the nun's. Records show us that the Abbey was still in the possession of the nun's during the reign of James 1 (1603-1625).

At this stage all historical records cease and we must rely on local tradition. This tells us that Ballymacadane was still occupied by the nuns until the arrival of Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658). During Cromwell's invasion of Ireland (1649-1650), the abbey was partially destroyed by Colonel Phaire and a body of troopers.

The foundation date for the building is in some doubt. Mr J.P. Hayes (J.C.H.A.S, 1894), quoting a patent roll in the British Museum, gives the date as 1472. But, Dr. Charles Smith, the celebrated pioneering historian of Cork, writing in 1750, gives its foundation as 1450. However, it is thought by historians that both dates could be correct. Given the time gap between the two dates, the earlier one could be the actual foundation, while the latter date could have been an enlargement.

Local tradition tells us that the Abbey cemetery lay a little to the south-east of the southern wall. An anonymous writer ("m") in the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Arch. Soc (Vol. 3, No. 32, 1894)* seems to confirm this. The author of the article states; '*Almost within living memory, a very old dis-used graveyard adjoined the Abbey to the south, in which the religious were probably buried*'. However, J.P.Hayes (J.C.H.A.S, 1894) was of the opinion that the deceased religious of Ballymacadane were interred in the old cemetery at Corbally, situated about a mile from the abbey. The 1291 Rolls of Pope Nicholas IV (1288-92), (Brit. Museum, 6165) informs us that a church once stood on the grounds of that cemetery. No trace of this church now exists. At this period in time, it is impossible to say for certain which site was in fact the final resting place of the occupants of Ballymacadane Abbey.

## Architecture

All that remains of Ballymacadane Abbey to-day is the monastic church. It is oblong in shape, lying east and west. It measures eighty-nine feet by twenty-six feet, with walls varying from three feet to forty inches in thickness. Unfortunately, much of the Abbey is in ruins. Thirty feet of the north wall, forty

feet of the south wall and the entire western gable have collapsed.

A study of the northern wall reveals two doorways. The larger door is set in the middle of the wall and is in poor condition. Only the right hand segment of its fine cut stone head remains intact. The height of the door is seven feet six inches and the width four feet six inches. To take the great weight off the wall, a relieving arch, composed of two semi-circular courses of stone set on edge, was built over the doorway. This doorway was the main entrance to the building. The second door is situated to the east of the wall and is a fine example of the Irish-Gothic style of architecture. This door was the entry to the sacristy and is well preserved. It is five feet seven inches in height and three feet four inches wide.

Time has not been kind to Ballymacadane Abbey. When J. P. Hayes visited the site in 1894, the southern wall was intact except for “*an insignificant portion at the west end and a small rent in the middle*”. It also had two windows intact which gave light into the chancel or choir. The chancel would have measured twenty-nine feet by twenty feet.

Hayes also wrote that “*At the eastern end of this (south) wall there is a curious niche in the form of Norman arch, on the sides of which are carved the representations of two human heads, one of which has been considerably mutilated by the hand of some local vandal*”. By the time Charles J.F. MacCarthy visited the site in 1935, no trace of these decorations existed.

To-day some thirty feet in the middle of the south wall has disappeared, while the thirty eight feet that survives to the west of the building is in a perilous state. One feels that a strong storm could bring that portion down without much difficulty. No trace remains of the windows in the south wall.

The exterior of the eastern gable is twenty-six feet long, while the interior measures some twenty feet. It has a bay window in its centre, which is almost hidden from view by thick masses of ivy. No trace of the western gable remains.

In his book ‘*Castles of County Cork*’, James N Healy states that when Cormac ‘Laidir’ built the Abbey, he also constructed a castle to protect it. There is also evidence that the site at Ballymacadane also comprised other buildings, normally associated with medieval abbeys. These would have included a Chapter Room, dormitories, refectory, sacristy and other of-

fices. These would have adjoined the monastic church to the north. However, these buildings were completely destroyed by Cromwellian soldiers.

Walking amongst the ruins of Ballymacadane Abbey, one shudders at the thought that Oliver Cromwell’s army once marched through this same land, bringing havoc and destruction in their wake. What fear and terror must have been felt by the local inhabitants of the area at that time?

## Decay

In the period since J. P. Hayes (1894) and Charles J. F. MacCarthy (1935) surveyed the site, Ballymacadane Abbey has deteriorated greatly. The destruction of the Abbey started by Colonel Phaire and his troops during the 17<sup>th</sup> century has been continued by time and nature. Regretfully, at this rate of decay the entire structure will soon disappear and Ballymacadane Abbey will become but a memory found in journals and other publications.

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# The Waggetts of Kitsborough and some of the Houses and Families connected with them

*Mary M. O'Leary*



*Kitsborough House*

When Henry Inglis wrote about the travels he undertook throughout Ireland in the year 1834 he remarked on the Cork merchants' 'passion for country houses'. From the late eighteenth century, because of their proximity to Cork city and their picturesque location, the town lands of Mount Desert and Coolymurraghue attracted some of the wealthier classes who wished to live in the country convenient to the city.

With wooded slopes to their backs and the river Lee at their feet, six large houses with gate lodges, coach-houses and extensive out-offices formed part of the landscape of this part of Currykippane by the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were Millboro, Kitsborough, Prospect Hill (later called Ardnalee), Leemount, Rosanna and Mount Desert. The middle-

class merchants who occupied these houses over many generations formed a tightly knit group whose pattern of inter-marriage and business alliances kept their families prosperous and their properties intact.

## Construction

The dates of the construction of four of the houses are known. Millboro was built in 1768. The Rohu family, the furriers, were probably the best known of Millsboro's occupants in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Kitsborough was the next house to be built. It was constructed in 1785. The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw Kitsborough occupied by the Woods family for over thirty years and the Riordan family for fifty-five years. It is often referred to as 'the Bishop's house', a reference to Bishop Cornelius Lucey whose sister and her husband, Cornelius Riordan, bought Kitsborough in



*Ardnalee*



*Leemount*

1935. Because Mrs. Lucey, mother to Mrs. Riordan and the Bishop, came and lived at Kitsborough with the Riordans, the bishop regarded it as home from then onwards, thus the connection.

Ardnalee (originally known as Prospect Hill) dates from 1832. It was built by the Morgan family and that is why the roadway from the Lee Road up Currykippane as far as the junction which leads leftwards to Kerry Pike is called Morgan's Hill. The Daly family, the butter merchants, occupied this house in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Leemount was built in 1855 and was for many years the home of the Mahony family who owned Blarney Woollen Mills. From the 1960s to the mid-80s, Willie O'Brien and his family occupied Leemount.

It is not known when Rosanna was constructed but records of Eliza Holmes Webb's second marriage to William Waggett in 1741 show that she was the widow of John Webb of Rosanna, so the house at

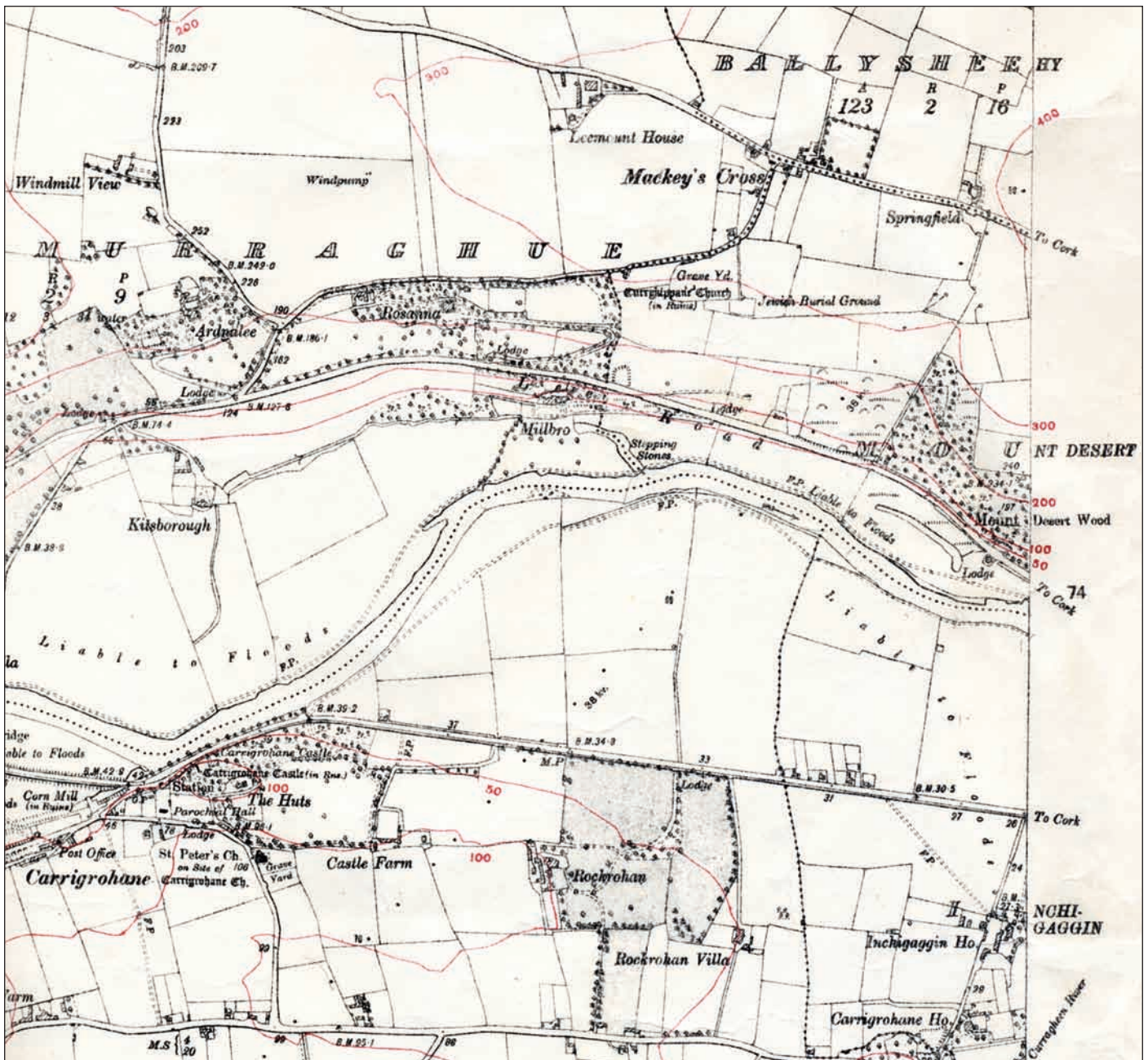
least predated 1741 by some years. It appears that the present house at Rosanna is at least the third dwelling built on the site.

The sixth house, Mount Desert, built by the Duncombe family, was described as 'an old panelled edifice dating from the reign of Elizabeth' in Hodges' book *Cork and County Cork in the Twentieth Century* which suggests that this was in fact the oldest of all the six houses.

#### The 18th century - heyday of the Big House

The three houses of Kitsborough, Rosanna and Mount Desert, and their occupants were inextricably linked through marriage and ownership over the generations. The Waggett family, who built Kitsborough, were English settlers. They are first recorded in this country in Dublin in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Richard Waggett was Mayor of Dublin in 1622. His cousin, also called Richard, was the first of the family to appear in County Cork when he leased some land from





his father-in-law at Buttevant. It is with this Richard Waggett's great-grandson, William Waggett, that the story of Kitsborough begins.

### William Waggett

William Waggett (1698-1775) came to Cork City and was apprenticed to Alderman Knapp who a member of the Committee of Merchants and of the City Corporation.

William Waggett's father would have known Alderman Knapp, since both had married into the Crofts family of Velvetstown near Buttevant. Knapp's Square, off Pope's Quay, is named after Alderman Knapp. In 1731, William Waggett completed his apprenticeship and became a Freeman of the city. He then set up his own business as a merchant and looked around for a suitable wife.

He married a widow, Eliza Webb (nee Holmes), whose first husband had been John Webb of

Rosanna, Lee Road. Eliza had a son, also called John, by her first marriage. He became an Alderman and served as Mayor of Cork in 1771.

Eliza had two further children after her marriage to William Waggett. They were Christopher (1742-1796) and Thomas (1744-1817). In due course they were apprenticed to their father and joined the family business, which was situated at Sand Quay (now Pope's Quay). To this day, Waggett's Lane, just off Pope's Quay, commemorates the connection.

The business prospered and, in 1760, William Waggett leased 80 acres of land at Coolymurragh adjacent to Rosanna. When William died, his eldest son Christopher continued the family business and inherited this parcel of land on which he decided to build a house which he called Kitsborough. The name is derived from 'Kit', a diminutive of Christopher and 'burg', the Anglo-Saxon for house.

Tradition has it that the building now called The

Coach House was built first. This building comprises two houses with an archway in the middle, and it is believed that housed the labourers and craftsmen as they worked on the 'big house'. A row of five one-roomed cottages was also built across the driveway from The Coach House. Farm workers lived in some of these dwellings until the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Kitsborough House was built after the style of Davis Ducarte and it is thought that either he or one of his associates designed it. Ducarte was responsible for the design of Kilshannig House near Fermoy, completed in 1766, and the Mayor's House at Grenville Place, Cork which dates from 1773. This building is now integrated into the facade of the Mercy Hospital. The facade of Kitsborough bore quite a resemblance to it.

An examination of the architect's drawings shows that the house gave an impression of grandeur greater than the reality. The living area was limited to a drawing room and dining room; the other 'big houses' in the locality had considerably more living space. A stone was inserted in the front wall of the house giving the date of completion as 1785.

The Webb family, headed by Eliza's son, Alderman John, and subsequently her grandson, from her first marriage, continued to occupy Rosanna while her son Christopher from her second marriage headed the household at Kitsborough. At some stage a pedestrian gateway was erected in the boundary wall of Rosanna at the junction of the road from Currykippane and the Lee Road to give ease of access. As a result of road widening some years ago the boundary wall was pushed back and the gateway was eliminated.

This was the corresponding gateway in the Kitsborough boundary wall on the Lee Road, just to the left of the Currykippane junction. This gate survived until a few years ago, when sadly it was stolen, but the opening can still be seen.



The name is derived from 'Kit', a diminutive of Christopher and 'burg', the Anglo-Saxon for house.

Other evidence of the connection between Rosanna and Kitsborough is in the distinctive design of the gates used in both houses.

The gates in Kitsborough have unusual curved snakehead handles and there is still a pedestrian gate set in an old wall at Rosanna with the same design. Apparently it was customary for each craftsman to have an individual signature such as these handles.

The Fitton family, who built Millboro in 1768, had an iron and flourmill on the site. The fact that the entrance gates of that house also have a snakehead handle suggests that perhaps the Millboro ironworks were the source of the gates for all three houses.

The Fittons moved their ironworks into the city and operated the Hive Ironworks on the site now occupied by the Labour Exchange. There is metal statue of a lion mounted on the pediment of that building. This lion was taken from the old Fitton building. The Fitton name is also commemorated in the name of a street in the city, Fitton Street East, at the back of the College of Commerce.

The millrace that was constructed for Fitton's mills at Millboro actually started on Kitsborough land. A channel, of which there is still some evidence, was cut in a wide arc on the north bank of the river Lee. The western end was on Kitsborough land from where water was diverted through approximately half a mile of a channel before it rejoined the Lee east of Millboro House.

The 1790's were a busy period in Christopher Waggett's life. The last of his six children was born the same year as Kitsborough was completed and in the following year, 1786, he served as Sheriff of Cork. His brother, Thomas, was also active in civic

life and like his stepbrother, Ald. John Webb, served a term as Mayor of the city, in Thomas' case in the year 1803. Another indicator of the status that the Waggetts had achieved in the business community is the apprenticeship, in 1788, to Christopher Waggett of

the son of a very prominent county family, Richard Longfield of Longueville House, Mallow.

The merchant community of Cork had prospered in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Cork was the seat of the Admiralty's victualling agent in Ireland and in certain years Cork's tonnage was in excess of that of Dublin. At least one contemporary observer referred to Cork as the 'slaughterhouse of Ireland.' Britain's American War and the Napoleonic campaigns in particular were a source of considerable financial gain for Cork merchants.

In 1796, eleven years after he built Kitsborough, Christopher Waggett died at Bath in England (a spa town and fashionable resort for the wealthy Irish at that time). While a tombstone at Shandon commemorates him, and says *'Here lies the body of Christopher Waggett'*, there is no actual record of his being buried there. The tombstone is now, sadly, vandalised but local historian Richard Henchion had fortunately catalogued the graveyard at Shandon before it reached its present state of neglect.

#### Another William Waggett

Christopher Waggett's eldest son, William, became a significant figure in his own right. In the year 1788, at the age of 17, William went to Trinity College to study law. When one considers that, over one hundred years later, the 1881 Census showed that over 30% of adults in County Cork were still illiterate, William Waggett was indeed from the privileged class.\* He was called to the Irish Bar in 1795.

Among William Waggett's contemporaries who practised in the recently built Four Courts were the sons of another Cork merchant. They were John Sheares, who was called to the Bar in 1789, and his brother Henry, who was admitted the following year. After his call to the Bar, William Waggett had stayed in Dublin practising as a Queen's Counsel. He would have been there during the 1798 Rebellion and the execution of his fellow Cork men, the Sheares brothers.

William, however, had chosen the path of conformity and was rewarded for his loyalty by being successful in the election for Recorder of Cork in 1808.

\*Initially he would have had to hire either a post-chaise or jaunting car to get to Dublin. It was during his second year in Dublin, 1789, that the first Mail Coach service was initiated between Dublin and Cork. The Royal Mail Coach set out for Dublin each evening at 6 o'clock. The fare was very expensive; for inside passengers it cost two guineas, outside passengers were half price. It took thirty-one hours to reach Dublin.

*'He was an eccentric genius, very enthusiastic and imaginative, with extraordinary powers of eloquence. He was totally devoid of vanity and without ambition.'*

The Recorder was the Law Advisor to the City Corporation and a Magistrate. He presided over a court similar to a present day District Court which tried misdemeanours and offences such as larceny. However, William did not return to Cork when he was elected. Instead he continued to practice as a lawyer in Dublin and on the Munster Circuit while a deputy exercised the Recorder's duty for him.

William returned to Cork and acted as Recorder personally when Mr. Wilmot, his deputy died in 1815. In doing so he gave up a very lucrative practice. By that time he was regarded as a leading man on the Circuit, appearing in cases both with and against Daniel O'Connell. Though not many people

now know the reason, the little hill from Bannow Bridge to the gates of Kitsborough is called Recorder's Hill, commemorating William Waggett's tenure as Recorder of Cork.

Since the deaths of her parents and the marriage of her siblings, William's sister, Ellen, had lived alone at Kitsborough, William now returned to his childhood home and lived there with her until his death in 1840.

D. Owen Madden in his *Revelations of Ireland*, published in 1848, says of William Waggett; *'He was an eccentric genius, very enthusiastic and imaginative, with extraordinary powers of eloquence. He was totally devoid of vanity and without ambition.'*

Indeed he was so unworldly that, when the Corporation, mindful of the drop in income he had taken by becoming Recorder, voted him the sum of £500 per annum in addition to his salary, he wrote to the Mayor refusing to accept the additional money and indicating that he considered it an honour to have been elected to the post of Recorder. Madden said of him;

*'He had become a dreamer and a hypochondriac ... He was skilled musician and was enraptured by melody. He led a very strange kind of life in a lonesome house, seated in a romantic spot on the banks of the Lee.'*

#### The 19th century - inter-marriage and politics

While William had been pursuing his legal career, two of his sisters had married. In 1803, one of them, Jane, at the age of eighteen, married Parker Dunscombe of Mount Desert, thus connecting a third 'big house' in the locality through marriage. In a previous generation the Dunscombe family, like the Waggetts, had also married with the Crofts of Buttevant.

The Dunscombes had been in Cork since 1596 and part of the centre of the city was known as Dunscombes Marsh as far back as 1670. The family bought Mount Desert, part of the Earl of Clancarty's estate in 1703. They, like the Waggetts, were loyal to the Crown. William Dunscombe, elder brother of Jane Waggett's husband, Parker, had served in British Army and, when the threat of rebellion was felt in the locality in the 1790's, had served as second Lieutenant of the mounted Yeomanry Corps raised in the locality to root out United Irishmen. Known as Barrett's Cavalry, because of its proximity to the Barony of Barrett's and the castle at Ballincollig, its captain was Edward Hoare of Carrigrohane Castle and it patrolled south as far as Carrigaline.

Over the central opening of the gates at Mount Desert was the crest of the Dunscombe family. On each side, over the small gates, were further examples of ironwork surmounted by a croppy pike. These captured croppy pikes were mounted over the entrance gates of Mount Desert as a warning to the population as to what their fate might be if they rebelled or harboured rebels.

In recent times the gateway to Mount Desert was widened and the side gates were removed. The Bon Secours sisters did not realise the significance of the ironwork over the side gates, but to their credit, immediately their attention was drawn to the history of the croppy pikes, they arranged for them to be remounted on the sidewalls.

Jane Waggett and Parker Dunscombe had two sons and a daughter. The daughter, Johanna, is the most interesting from the point of view of the history of the locality.

In 1823, at the age of twenty-one, she married a fifty-three year old widower, none other than Rev. John Webb from Rosanna. Rev. John Webb was Eliza Holmes grandson from her first marriage to John Webb Senior. Johanna, who was his second wife, was *Eliza Holmes great-granddaughter from her second marriage to William Waggett*.

William Waggett died in 1840. There were no male Waggett descendants and Kitsborough was left to his unmarried sister, Ellen. In 1842 she leased Kitsborough for 999 years to Rev. John Webb, husband of her niece, Johanna Dunscombe. Ellen died later that year.

A year later in 1843, Rev. John Webb died leaving his widow, Johanna, with two surviving children, John McDonnell Webb aged seventeen and Randal Thomas Webb aged ten.

The two houses, Rosanna and Kitsborough, continued in the ownership of the family. Both sons married. John McDonnell Webb, who had had an army career, married a widow, Comelia Martha Haslett, nee Burne in 1863. They went to live at The Hill, Douglas, which was another Webb property. The house was situated in the Rochestown/Garryduff area.

Meanwhile, the second son, Randal Thomas Webb, married Mary Hunter Dirom of Liverpool in 1865 and they resided at Kitsborough. Tragedy struck in 1874 when they lost their two surviving children to diphtheria. Their son, John, died at Kitsborough on January 27<sup>th</sup> aged four and a half, and two days later, their daughter, Maria, aged six, died at Rosanna. It would appear that Maria had been sent to her grandmother Webb's house in an attempt to prevent her falling victim to the highly contagious disease. Sadly, the attempt failed and both children died.

What happened to Kitsborough after the deaths of Randal's children? It appears that he and his wife left the house and it, or the land at least, was let. Kitsborough became embroiled in controversy during the Land War and the Webbs were the subject of adverse publicity.

#### The Land War

Edward Magner, tenant of the land and one of the houses at Kitsborough was evicted in 1885. The Lisgoold and Ovens Branches of the National League passed a resolution;

*'That we look upon the conduct of Mr. John Appelbe, Mt. Rivers, Aghabullogue, deputy road steward, in taking the farm at Kitsboro', nr. Cork, from which Mr. Edward Magner was evicted for non-payment of an unjust and exorbitant rent as gross and barefaced land-grabbing.'*

Appelbe had taken possession of the farm at a rent of £120 a year while Edward Magner had been paying £180.

The Kitsborough eviction was a focal point for the wider campaign of the National League. They organised an Indignation Meeting in September 1885 that was held on the opposite bank of the Lee, on what is now Richard Wood's farm. *The Cork Examiner* reported that those present included

*'Contingents from Aghabullogue, Ballinhassig, Inniscarra, Ovens etc. and those were considerably augmented by the crowds which came from Cork. The Blackpool Brass Band came with a great many of the last and increased the enthusiasm already existing by the playing of numerous national airs. The*

*The Kitsborough eviction was a focal point for the wider campaign of the National League.*

*Ovens deputation were accompanied by a piper and was headed by a cart, containing the effigy of a land grabber, drawn by six donkeys, ridden by little boys with green caps. This effigy was burnt amidst great cheering at the close of the meeting and the charred remains tumbled in the Lee, which at this place runs past the field where the meeting was held and divides it from the farm, which is alleged to have been grabbed. Several detectives were scattered amongst the crowd, and notes of the speeches were taken by a Government shorthand writer. A force of some twenty policemen were stationed some distance away but within view of the meeting.'*

Several members of Cork Corporation and others prominent in the National League addressed the Kitsborough meeting. The embarrassment caused by the whole affair was such that John McDonnell Webb felt obliged to write to the *Cork Examiner* to point out that he was not the Captain Webb mentioned in reports as having evicted Mr. Magner. Captain John McDonnell Webb, living only a few miles away in Douglas, was not willing to take the flak that should have been directed at his absentee brother, Randal.

The land agitation continued and the following year, 1886, four M.P.'s spoke at a monster meeting in Cloghroe. Dr. Charles Tanner, M.P. for Mid-Cork was joined on the platform by three other M.P.'s. Despite all the agitation and publicity, Edward Magner did not regain possession of Kitsborough, though happily, after several moves in the Ballincollig/ Ovens area, he benefited under the Land Acts and became a prosperous owner-occupier of a farm at Carriganarra in Ballincollig.

No more is known of Randal Webb until his death notice appeared in the *Cork Constitution* on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 1894

*Webb - on the 8<sup>th</sup> instant, suddenly at Aix-Ie-Bains, France, Randal T. Webb of Kitsborough, Cork.*

Under the terms of his father's will, Randal Webb, had only a life interest in Kitsborough and as he had no surviving children, the ownership then passed to Elizabeth Audriah McDonnell Webb, only child of his brother, John McDonnell Webb. Despite the threat of sanctions by the National League, the Appelbe family were still in occupation when Elizabeth McDonnell Webb inherited the property.

## Dr. Tanner

By the time of Elizabeth McDonnell Webb's inheritance of Kitsborough she was a married woman, so

strictly speaking she should be referred to her by her married name. In 1888, she had married Dr. Charles Tanner M.P., the very same man who had spoken from the platform at Cloghroe two years previously in support of the National League.

Dr. Tanner was a mass of contradictions. One of the motions passed at that meeting in 1886 in Cloghroe was

*'That we tender our sincere devotion to Ireland's tried and trusted leader, Charles Stewart Parnell, and his faithful followers, and proclaim to the world our unalterable determination not to relax our efforts until our Parliament in College Green is restored.'*

Then when the split in the Irish Parliamentary Party came in 1890-91, Tanner took the anti-Parnell side. Frank Callanan, in his book *The Parnell Split* describes Tanner as

*'A medical doctor who sat for Mid-Cork, he was by any reckoning the most unstable member of the Irish Party.'*

Elsewhere he was characterised as *'a madman - obstinate, vulgar, eccentric, violent in speech and action'*

A.M. Sullivan in his book, *The Last Serjeant*, relates that Parnell once informed a group of his colleagues that

*'that fellow Tanner is out there in the lobby declaring that he is about to commit suicide. Can none of you fellows persuade him to do it?'*

It would appear that the marriage between him and Elizabeth was not a happy or successful one. Dr. Tanner's desertion of Unionism was not the only surprise in store for his wife. In 1897 he converted to Catholicism. So, Elizabeth married a man from a similar background to herself, a Protestant Loyalist. After nine years of marriage, she found that her husband had abandoned those two fundamentals and he now espoused Catholicism and Home Rule. Four years later, in 1901, he died from consumption in the Great Western Hotel in Reading. His brother and sister organised his funeral and the extensive press reports make no mention of his wife. *The Cork Examiner* did record though that among the floral tributes was one 'From Elizabeth'.

## The end of the Waggetts

There were no children of the marriage and three years later, in 1904, Elizabeth married again. Her second husband was William Bennett Barrington, a bachelor, who at thirty-six was a year older than she was. He was a solicitor who practiced at 58, South Mall, Cork under the name of O'Kearney & Barrington.

ton. The couple went to live at Glanseskin, Douglas Road. The house and its entrance lodge still exist.

William Barrington died of nephritis (kidney failure), in the Pacific Hotel, Youghal on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 1928, aged 63. It would appear that he was staying there during court sessions and became fatally ill. It was another solicitor who was present when he died and his death certificate states that he had only been ill for four hours. Again there is no mention of Elizabeth in his death announcement; indeed his death certificate states that he was a bachelor. William Barrington was buried in Dublin. After that nothing is known about Elizabeth. She had sold Kitsborough in 1902, thus ending the direct link of six generations from William Waggett Snr. with the property.

Tantalizing scraps about the Waggett family turn up from time to time. Two or three years ago Sotheby's auctioned a Freedom Box that the Corporation of Cork had presented to the Marquis of Wellesley in 1822. William Waggett, Recorder, is one of the names engraved on the box. The ladies of Monkstown Golf Club annually compete for the Waggett Cup. It was presented to the club by Jane and Belinda Waggett, who were direct descendants of Christopher Waggett's brother, Thomas. They were twins, who were born in 1866 and who lived to be a ripe old age. They are still remembered by some people in Cobh where they lived all their lives. With their deaths, the last known direct link with the Waggett family was severed.

### The 20th century decline

The Dunscombe family remained at Mount Desert until the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The 1911 Census shows that George Dunscombe was head of the family. Also residing in the house were his mother, Harriet, his sister, Araminta, and her husband, Lt. Colonel Desmond Hartley, and five indoor servants. The changing political situation seems to have been the catalyst in the Dunscombes decision to sell Mount Desert some years later and the family emigrated to Canada.

The Murphy family bought Mount Desert and farmed there until failing health forced Mr. Murphy to retire from farming. Mount Desert was then sold to the Bon Secours nuns. They lived in it for a while, but then had the old house demolished and a new convent built.

After Joanna Webb died, Rosanna had a varied list of occupants. It is not possible to distinguish who were owners and who were tenants. D. F. Sullivan, head of a wine and tea-importing firm, was the owner in January 1939 when the house was destroyed by fire. A new house was built on the site.

Kitsborough came into the ownership of Richard Wood, father of John A Wood in 1903. To supplement the income from farming at Kitsborough, John A. Wood decided to make concrete blocks. The area of the farmyard where this enterprise began is still known as 'the block yard'. Thus began a business that expanded to become Cement Roadstone Group.

The Riordan family came into possession of Kitsborough in 1934. It remained in their ownership until it was sold in 1990.

At that stage the house was structurally beyond repair. It suffered from both dry rot and wet rot and the basement was subject to flooding. It was demolished and a new house built on the site. The cottages, which had, in latter years, been used as out-houses were also in poor condition and had to be demolished. The Coach-House building has been very successfully restored.

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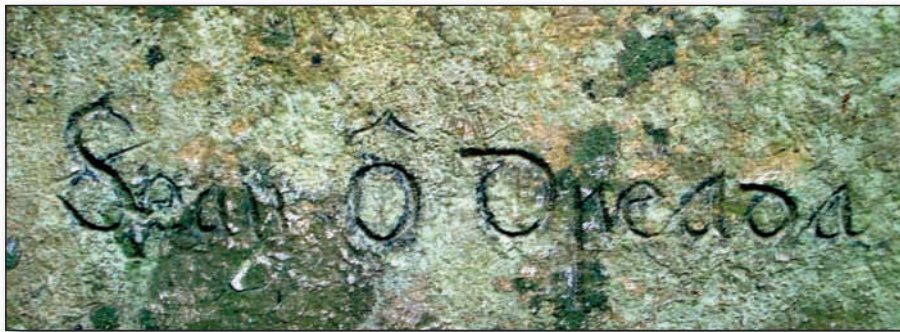
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# A 19<sup>th</sup> century Gaelic Inscription in Carrigrohanebeg

*Dermot O'Donovan*



## Introduction

Carrigrohanebeg cemetery is located at Leemount, on the left-hand side of the road near the junction for Inniscarra and Blarney. Within the graveyard lies the ruins of a rectangular church, the old parish church of Carrigrohanebeg, the west wall of which had already fallen by 1700. This graveyard contains the vault of the Fitton dynasty of Gawsworth House, a local Ascendancy family. However, it is not of that family we write, but of a learned Irish scribe from a bygone era, an example of whose work lies forgotten in this cemetery.

There is a headstone on the western end of this graveyard dedicated to the memory of Jeremiah O'Leary, Macroom who died in 1822. The headstone reads:

*"The Burial place of Jeremiah O'Leary & family, he departed this life on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1822 age 45 years"*.

A report of this death is recorded in Boyle's Freeholder of Wednesday 12 June 1822:

*"Mr Jeremiah O'Leary, grocer Patrick Street was suddenly called off by the inexorable messenger, on Sunday morning last"*<sup>1</sup>.

## Irish verse

There is one distinguishing feature on this headstone which marks it out from all others in this old

graveyard: it contains four lines of Irish verse, written in the learned Gaelic script of former times. The man who wrote the verse was not alone a talented stone carver, but also a renowned Gaelic scribe, poet, writer and copyist of old Irish manuscripts.

The Irish script is located at the base of the headstone and somewhat faded. The grave is overhung with tree branches, making it difficult to approach and study this rare public example of the work of this early nineteenth century Irish scribe. The verse/eulogy reads as follows<sup>2</sup>.

*Is mór do Ghradam a mharmuir leac ró niamhdhach,*

*Ó fuigbheadh marbh fú'd Seabhach na nórd siansach,*

*Do shliocht Lughadh na salm noch d'fhreagar do'n glór diadha'*

*Sa múraibh parathais radaim do chódh sgiamhach*

*Great is your glory O radiant marble tombstone,*

*Since was left dead beneath you, the pride of that prudent people,*

*The sliocht Lughadh na salm, who in answering God's call,*

*Ensured for himself a place in the heavenly mansions.*

The scribe's name was Seán or Eon Ó Dreada (John Draddy) 1771–1840. He was born in the townland of Meenoughter (Binn Uachtair) in the parish of Ardagh East Cork and came from a family of stone cutters/carvers. The Draddy's were one of the longest established families in that parish. The tithe returns of October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1827 show that a John Draddy in partnership with William Mansfield held 48 acres of land in the townland of Meenoughter.

### Inscriptions

Further examples of Seán Ó Dreada's headstone inscriptions can be found in the following churchyards<sup>3</sup>.

Donoughmore

Dún Bolg

Garrycloyne (illegible)

Killingly

Kilmurray North & South

Macroom

St Joseph's Cork

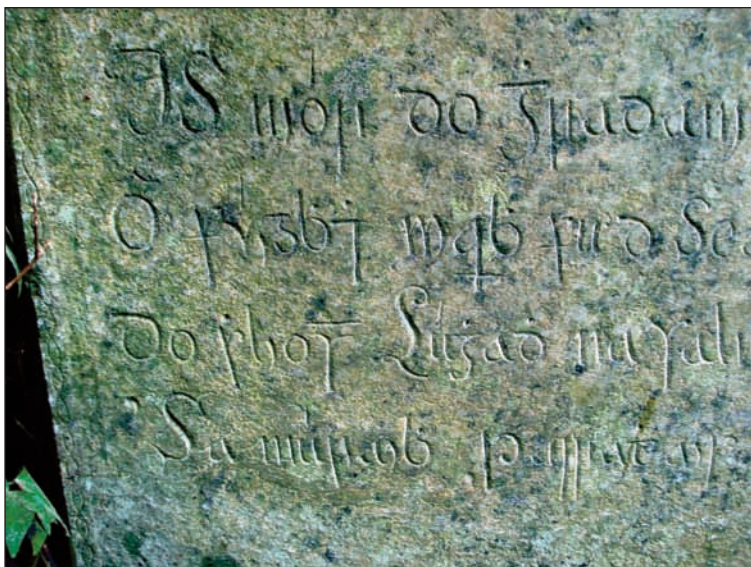
Tracton

This article is dedicated to the stone carver, scribe, copyist and poet, who wrote the Grave Lay or Epitaph (Feartlaoi) which we are fortunate to have in our parish. The Irish language verses carved by this scribe are a rarity and number only a handful among the thousands found in all the cemeteries of County Cork. Richard Henchion, the noted local historian, who has examined in excess of 6,500 monuments in over 100 burial grounds in the county estimates that there are not more than 10-15 headstones inscribed over the signature of this scribe.

In addition to Carrigrohanebeg, we will look at three additional examples of Ó Dreada's work, two from St. Joseph's cemetery, Cork and a third inscription from Dún Bolg cemetery. We will also examine one of his manuscripts and some of the material contained within its pages.

### A select band of scholars

Seán Ó Dreada was one of a select band of scholars who attained a mastery in the Irish and English language. They attained an expertise in the comprehension and knowledge of the ancient Gaelic stories, annals, sagas and all aspects of Gaelic poetry and prose. These local scribes could be classified as the Gaelic intelligentsia of that period, following as they did the profession of the poet, writer and scribe. The Gaelic literati even as late as the early nineteenth



*Inscription in Carrigrohanebeg cemetery*

century were still custodians of a manuscript tradition, despite the accessibility of the printing presses, and regarded themselves superior to the despised oral traditions of the lower classes<sup>4</sup>.

Undoubtedly one can feel sympathy for this literary under class as they studied and wrote outside the aegis of a civil government that was largely unsympathetic to their vocation. One of the pre-eminent aims of these copyists was the preservation of the Gaelic culture and the collection of old Irish language manuscripts, which were then held in low esteem even among their own peers; many were needlessly destroyed. Manuscripts were also lost in another manner; if the owner of a manuscript wished to obtain a copy from the original, it was to the scribe they turned for assistance; should he not be available, the likelihood was that the manuscript would eventually be lost.

From the second quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the great centre of scribal activity was in Munster; latterly the most active scribes were concentrated in the city of Cork and in the south of County Clare. Scribal work was a laborious solitary undertaking of transcription. At the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century there was little trace of the ancient scribal professional families, the scribes of the 17<sup>th</sup> century were mostly priests, the 18<sup>th</sup> century scribes were mostly schoolmasters<sup>5</sup>.

### Ó Dreada's work

Such was the nature of Seán Ó Dreada's work that he travelled all over Munster as a stone cutter/carver, and in his spare time he searched for and obtained Old Irish manuscripts. This he tells us in his own words in 1820 having collected material for a manuscript (LN G. 819).



*“Do thiomargas síos et suas ar fuaid na Mumhan maille ré morán trioblóide et saothair dá gcuir in eagar a chéile insa gcairt so”.*

*“I collected all over Munster with much trouble and effort, putting everything in order for this manuscript”<sup>6</sup>.*

He tells us in one of his manuscripts that he lived in Carrigtwohill about 1820, at the time that the Catholic Church was built. There is evidence to suggest that he may have been engaged in the building of this church. However he later lived on the Blarney road, Cork and it was in that house that he copied many of the manuscripts, which he had collected. He would then begin the task of copying: he again informs us, in his writings:

*“Thíos i gCorca, thuas staighre gan teannta boird na bínse, acht le luas láimhe agus le drochghléas”*

*(in Cork, upstairs without table or bench, only the steadiness of my hand and with bad equipment)<sup>7</sup>.*

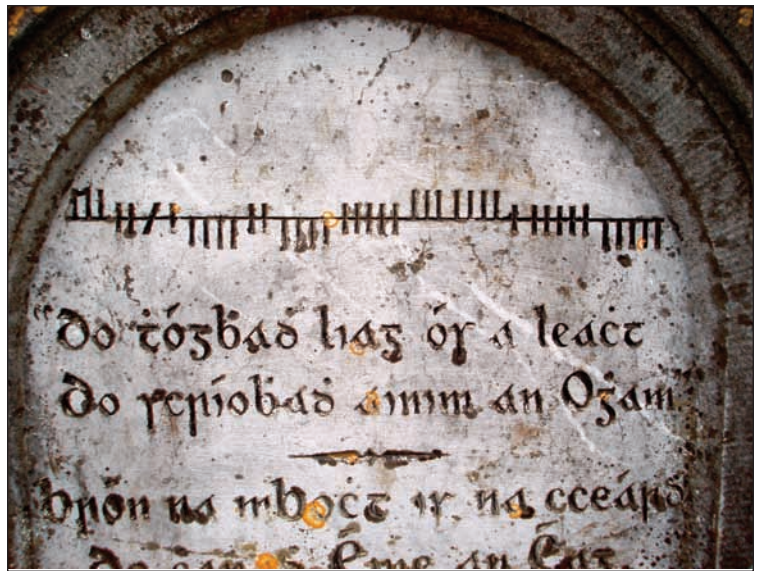
### Patrons

Seán Ó Dreada was one of ten or so Gaelic scholar/copyists that enjoyed the patronage of the Catholic bishop of Cork, John Murphy (1772 – 1847). Bishop Murphy who along with fellow Corkman, John Windele (1801– 1865), were two of the main patrons in Cork who were willing to pay scribes to add Irish material to their libraries. The latter was foremost among a number of talented gentlemen amateur antiquarians in the city. He amassed a collection of manuscripts which, along with his correspondence, are now in the possession of the Royal Irish Academy.

This incentive by the two men encouraged the scribes to look for suitable manuscripts for the libraries of their patrons and they unearthed a good deal of material in the process.

Bishop Murphy was an avowed bibliophile and his vast collection of books was said to number over 1,000. It was the largest collection ever formed in Ireland by a private individual. His collection was so large that, upon his death, it took over twelve months to dispose of the entire lot, in an auction at Sotheby’s London in 1847. The auction realised in excess of £4800.

The Irish items of the collection realised only £279 and one shilling. Keating’s “History of Ireland” along with some other items realised the small sum of six shillings. Fortunately the Irish manuscripts were bequeathed in Bishop Murphy’s will to Maynooth College in 1848 and thus were preserved



*Inscription in St Joseph’s cemetery*

for the Irish nation. It was acknowledged that the time was inopportune for this auction, there was a glut of books on the market and Ireland, drained by the famine, had no money to buy books<sup>8</sup>.

### Manuscript C164

There are a total of twenty-four extant manuscripts of Seán Ó Dreada’s writings. They contain a miscellany of subjects including poetry, religious material, lives of the saints, stories, Irish grammar and prose and stories from the Fenian cycle. It is proposed to examine one manuscript, C164, in particular, as an example of his overall output.

This Manuscript, part of the special collection, is housed in the Boole Library UCC. It contains 419 pages with an index at the end of the book. Page 3 is dedicated to friends and patrons of the writer including Bishop Murphy, “an tEasbog ionnraic Chorcaigh” (the honourable bishop of Cork). It also includes a greeting from Fr. Pól Ó Briain, the first president of Irish in Maynooth College who wrote to a group of scribes, founders of an organisation in Cork to promote the Irish Language:

*beannacht an athar Phóil Uí Bhriain Ó Árd Scoil Mháigh an Fhillith (Máigh Nuad) go coimhthionól Gaodhal Chorcaighe, Abhrán na bliaghna 1818.*

*Greetings of Fr. Paul O’Brien from High School Maynooth to the convention of Cork Gaels April 1818.*

Page 8 of C164 contains an introduction by Seán Ó Dreada of the book’s contents:

*Measgán Gaoidhilge ionna bhfuil beag thiom-súghadh tóghtha do*

*neithibh Tabhachdachadh Ó Fhilidhibh Dhears-*



Inscription in Dun Bolg cemetery

ghaithe

*Ar na dTiomarga air na scríobhadh le Seán Ó Dreada*

*Snoigheadóir cloiche ar mBóthar na Blárnan*

*Corcuidhe Sa mBliaghain d'aois Chríosa 1827*

*Sirim guidhe an léagthóradh*

*A miscellany of Irish which contains a small collection*

*of important items taken from illustrious poets,*

*gathered and transcribed by Seán Ó Dreada*

*Stone carver Blarney Road Cork,*

*In the year of Christ 1827*

*I beseech the prayers of the reader.*

In the same manuscript he imparts his blessing on three fellow Cork based scribes, Denis O'Flynn, Cormac Field and Michael Long in addition to Bishop John Murphy, a priest at the time of writing, hence "An tAthair".

*Cuirim na mílte beannacht*

*An tAthair Seán Ó Murchú*

*Donnchadh Ó Floinn a gCorcadh*

*Cormac Ó Fithghiolla a gCorcaigh*

*Micheál Ó Longáin a gCorcaigh*

The poetry copied by Seán Ó Dreada in this particular manuscript includes a collection of the works of the leading Munster poets of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The list of poets is too long and varied to fall within the compass of this study. There is however one poem of local interest; an elegy of twelve verses written in 1796 in honour of Sir Nicholas Conway Colthurst (1789-1829), Ardrum, Inniscarra entitled "Don Ridire Colthurst" (the honourable Colthurst).

The poet's name is not inserted but the poem follows the pattern of fulsome praises and a plethora of adjectival alliteration, usually awarded in former times to Gaelic chiefs, patrons or local nobility. It ends with the fervent hope that Sir Nicholas will remain forever in Ireland; (*go mairir go buan sa tír so*).

#### Further examples

Apart from the Irish writing in Carrigrohanebeg, two more examples of Seán Ó Dreada's Irish elegies can be seen in St Joseph's Cemetery, Cork. The first headstone is erected to the memory of Thomas Sheehan<sup>9</sup>.

Séamus Murphy in his book "Stone Mad" refers to this particular headstone through the words of an old stone cutter. "But as I was saying about Cracker Scannell, you remember the job erected to Sheehan of the Trades Council? That job was put up by subscription and it has an inscription in Irish, English an' Ogham, an, there was never nicer than its four fluted columns an, lovely carved capitals and the urn in the centre. And now it's all falling down for want of pointing". The same stone cutter warming to his subject on the prowess of the stone cutters of former years states "show me the man today who could cut letters like Ned Draddy, who did Long's headstone."

The Irish verse on Thomas Sheehan's gravestone is preceded by a symbolic line of Ogham<sup>10</sup>:

Lichen has disfigured part of the writing

*Do Thógbhadh liag ós a leacht*

*Do scríobhadh ainim an ogham*

*Brón na mbocht is na cceárd*

*Do sháradh Éire ar éag*

*Go bhfaig? suas dualgas árd*

*glóire a bhflathais Dé*  
*Aos xxxix bás xxix Márta*  
*A. D. Mdcccxxvi (1836)*

*A memorial was built over his grave*  
*In Ogham his name was inscribed*  
*Anguish of the poor and the trades*  
*By his death Ireland overcame*  
*May he....high esteem*  
*Glory in the kingdom of God*  
*Age 39 years died 29<sup>th</sup> March*  
*A D 1836*

The second Irish inscription in St. Joseph's Cemetery executed by Seán Ó Dreada is dedicated to a fellow Gaelic scribe, Cormac Ó Fichealla (Charles Field). Field, who died in 1831, was a teacher for over thirty years in the Catholic free school at Lancaster Quay Cork. Ó Dreada wrote a Gaelic quatrain and a following verse in English in honour of this fellow scribe. Curiously the surname is spelt "Feild" on the headstone.

*This is the burial place of Charles Field and family*  
*1830. He died 21<sup>st</sup> February 1831 aged 83 years.*

The Irish verse reads as follows:

*A dhuine atá fé bládh ag taisdeal an slíge*  
*Sirim go hárd san Ait-se m'anam do ghuidhe*  
*tráchtuidhe Gídh slainteach abhuinn lasa do ghnaoi*  
*Go mbeidhir se mar táim? tláth fá leacuibh a Dluíge.*

*Friend, in your prime travelling on life's journey*  
*pray fervently for my soul, I beseech you at this*  
*grave*

*reflect, however healthy the rosy sheen on your*  
*face,*

*that you will be, as I am, wan, neath this crumbling*  
*tombstone*

The English verse, which follows the Gaelic quatrain, lies at the base of the gravestone and is almost illegible.

Seán Ó Dreada also carved the headstone and Gaelic quatrain over the grave of one of the most learned of the Cork scribes, Donncha Ó Floinn, who died in October 1830 and is buried in Dún Bolg cemetery.

Donncha Ó Floinn intended to write his own epitaph and gave the reason in his manuscript (B 13 Maynooth College).

*"ionas nach rachadh m'ainm ná an gean thugas dom' chreideamh agus do theanga mo thíre gnách go grod amú."*

*(so that my name, or the love I gave to my faith and to the language of my own country would not be quickly forgotten).*

He subsequently relented: *"go mb'fhearr a fheart-laoi a léamh ar an lic féin"* (that he would like his epitaph to be read on his own gravestone). Due to the endeavours of his fellow scribe, Seán Ó Dreada, the gravestone to Donncha Ó Floinn remains to present times, a publicly written testament from our scribal past<sup>11</sup>.

At the top of the headstone are written the words:

*"Leachd Choimhne Dhonncaidh Úi Fhloinn d'éag*  
*an seachd lá do Oct 1830.*

The Irish script follows in two horizontal columns on the gravestone:

*Gach Criosduighe go leigheadh mo leachd*

*As Déanaig machtnamh ar mo ríocht*

*Sirim a ghuidhe sin air son Dé*

*M'anam do shaoradh ó gach locht*

*Mo thriall caide gíodh docht atá*

*Mo Chnámha críon sadh ciúiniais a lic*

*Mo chéadfá ar mhugha mo lámha gan treoir*

*As mo chloigean dá unfairt amesg cloch*

*Each Christian who has read my memorial*

*And reflects on my present state*

*I beseech that his prayer will free my soul,*

*For God's sake, from every blemish*

*However difficult is my tribulation*

*Now my withered bones are sadly still in the grave*

*My senses reeling, my hands aimless*

*And my skull wallowing in the midst of stone.*

*Sacred to the memory of Denis O'Flynn of Cork*

*Died October aged 70 years*

*Requiescat in pace.*

#### Death of Seán Ó Dreada

*The Cork Examiner* records the death of Seán Ó Dreada; *" On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1840 ultimo, at*

Evergreen, aged seventy years, Mr John Draddy, stone cutter, one of the most zealous, correct and indefatigable Irish copyists of the present day. For the last thirty years of his useful and meritorious life his leisure hours were mostly employed in rescuing from ruin and oblivion, by beautiful and correct transcripts, the various Irish Manuscripts, prose and verse, that he could possibly collect, or instructing through the medium of his native language his poorer brethren in the principles of religion and morality. Many tombstones in different parts of the county were epitaphed by him in the Irish characters, among which, that erected to the memory of the late Thomas Sheehan, in the cemetery of St. Joseph, is not the least conspicuous - he died as he lived, calmly resigned and confiding in the mercies of his Redeemer."<sup>15</sup>

### His Descendants

A son of Seán Ó Dreada kept an outfitter's shop in King Street (McCurtain Street) Cork in 1895 but other Draddy's kept the stone cutting tradition alive.

Earlier in that century the editor of *The Cork Freeholder* records a visit he made to Fitzgerald's Marble Yard near the South Terrace in 1833 to watch the progress of a group of young men carving and cutting stone for the new Court House in Washington St Cork. It had been said "that this work could not be done in our city for men could not be found capable of such work as is necessary for such an undertaking". Having observed the young stone cutters at work on the drawing prepared by R. Pain architect; "which they minutely followed, the editor is fulsome in his praise of their talent in the carving of the foliage, the volutes etc which were taking shape under their hands, The names of the four men were J.S.Purcell, Timothy Daly, Edmond Draddy and John Barry, every man a native of Cork".

Subsequently a trade dispute arose between the architect George Pain and the stone cutters. Two men, including Edmond Draddy, were found guilty of a misdemeanour during this dispute and were ordered to appear before the court from day to day to prevent any combination.<sup>12</sup>

Seán Ó Dreada left descendants who also followed the occupation of sculptor as is evident in this recollection of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa who introduces us to Mister Daniel Draddy whom he met in New York in 1854. We also note that the wife of Denis Draddy, a native of the parish of Glanmire Co. Cork died in New York on Sunday December 1862 aged 39 years.

"Mr David Draddy; this gentleman is a native of the city of Cork, and keeps an extensive marble establishment in 23rd Street near the East river. To see Mr Draddy is unquestionably to venerate him; his stature is noble and commanding; his language correct and positive; he is a mechanic of the highest grade, has a well-cultivated mind, he is great historian and writes the Irish language druidically, in a word he is an honour to his country".<sup>13</sup>

In 1927 a headstone was erected over the grave of the noted Irish scholar Risteárd Ó Foghludha (Richard Foley), who incidentally hailed from the same neighbourhood as Seán Ó Dreada, in the parish of Ardagh, East Cork. The inscription was entirely in the Irish language and characters by Murphy Brothers, Sculptors of Lincoln Place Dublin, sons of a daughter of a brother of Seán Ó Dreada.<sup>14</sup>

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5. Béaloideas, imleabhar 34, 1966, *Gaelic Folktales and Medieval Romances*.
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7. Ibid.
8. IBL (Irish Book Lover), Vols 3 & 7, 1912/1915.
9. Thomas Sheehan (1797 - 1836) born Dominick Street, Cork, became politically involved with the Catholic Association, and he became editor of the Cork Mercantile Chronicle, a liberal pro-Catholic newspaper. Later he became involved in radical politics and was a leading propagandist for Catholic Emancipation, municipal reform and for measures to alleviate the plight of the poor. He paid a key role in the establishment of the Cork Trades Association in 1832. He died of a fever at Dominick Street in 1836. Tim Cadogan & Jeremiah Kiely, *A Biographical Dictionary of Cork*, (Dublin 2006) p.306.
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# Agricultural Education in the 19th & 20th centuries with particular regard to *The Munster Institute*



*Liam Downey and Maura McLoughlin*

## Introduction

The Board of National Education, founded in 1831, was a landmark development in agricultural education in Ireland. It was centrally involved in addressing the major challenges facing Irish agriculture in the post-famine period (Section 1), in particular through the establishment of a countrywide system of agricultural education (Sections 2 and 3). This was one of the most remarkable developments of the post-famine period.

An important component of this development was the establishment in 1853 of the Munster Model Farm at Cork, from which the Munster Institute originated (Section 4). By the late 1800s, the system of agricultural education developed by the Board of National Education was virtually dismantled. It was not until the 1980s – a century later – that farmer training was again comprehensively pursued (Section 5).

## Section 1 - Perspective of Agriculture Post-Famine

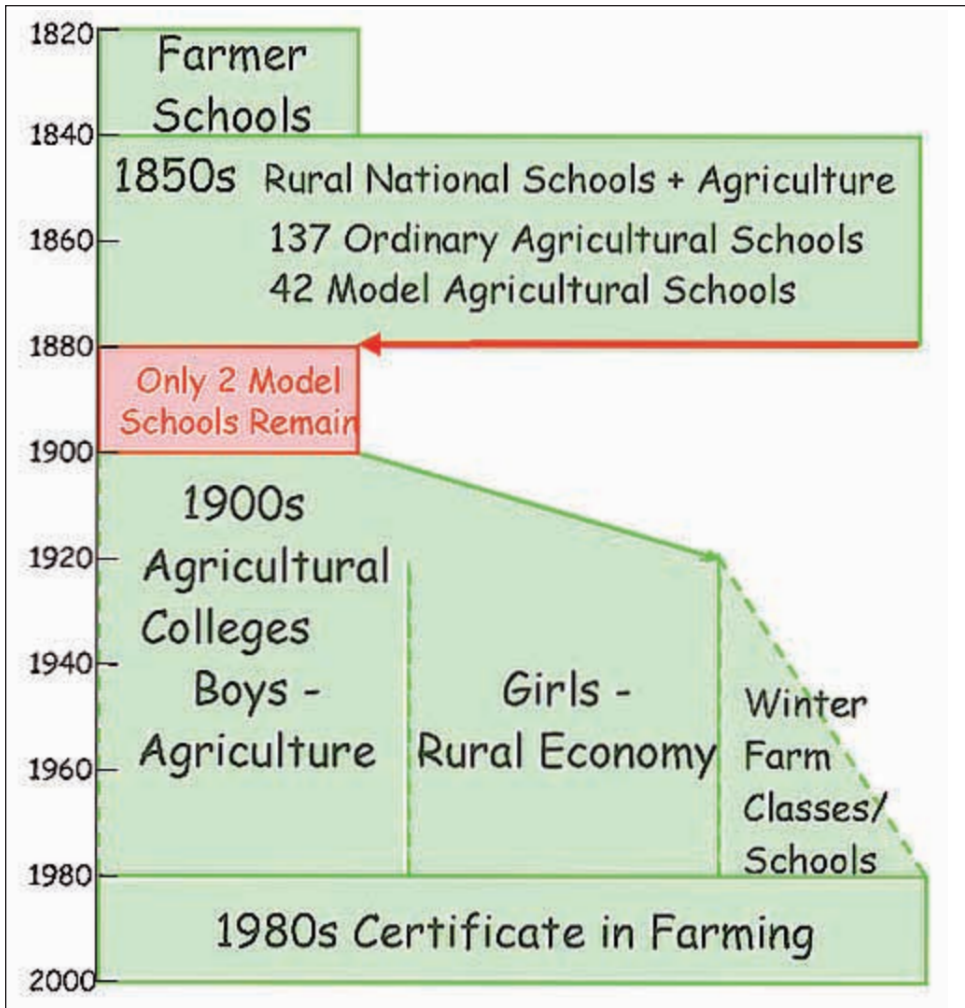
Among the daunting challenges facing Irish agriculture from the post-famine period was the enormous number of small farmers who had only

rudimentary education or none at all. Many were largely involved in subsistence farming<sup>1</sup>. Those with 20 or more acres may have had a horse, or just a donkey in the case of smaller farmers. Virtually all farms had poultry and most kept a few pigs. Apart from potatoes, the main crop was oats.

Farming made a remarkably rapid recovery from the famine<sup>2</sup>. In Cork, this was reflected in the dramatic increases during the 1850s in the prices of butter and store cattle. The making of butter and the rearing of young cattle were the main pillars of agriculture in Cork and Munster in the second half of the 1800s. On smaller farms (5-30 acres), cattle numbers rose relatively quickly during the 1850s and 1860s but from 1874, only very large farmers significantly increased their herd size.

The milk yield of Irish cows in the 1880s averaged around 400 to 450 gallons per annum. The relatively low yield seemed to be due to minimal winter feeding and possibly the increased use of beef-type bulls after 1800<sup>2</sup>. On a number of well-managed farms in Cork, cows fed in-house during the winter produced in excess of 600 gallons of milk per annum. At the Munster Dairy School (Section 4), average milk

**Figure 1 - Irish Agricultural Education, 1820-2000**



yield per cow was increased from 691 in 1884 to 743 in 1886. However, not all large farms in the county were well managed. The Earl of Mountcashel, who lived at Moore Park outside of Fermoy, left the management of his property almost entirely to his chief agent. He belatedly discovered in 1852 that he had been embezzled out of £24,000 and the agent had also gone off with his carriages, horses, plate, gold snuff boxes and trinkets<sup>2</sup>.

**Section 2 - Early Initiatives in Agricultural Education**

The first school in Ireland for the instruction of farmers was established in 1821 at Bannow, Co. Wexford, on 40 acres of land provided by the local landlord<sup>3,4</sup>. The Rector was Rev. William Hickey, a Cork graduate of Cambridge and Trinity College. The school was small and had both Catholic and Protestant pupils. It closed in

1827, when the Rector was transferred to another parish. A second farm school was set up at Abbeyleix, with sponsorship from the De Vesci family<sup>3</sup>.

The establishment in 1826 of Templemoyle Agricultural School in Co. Derry was a flagship development in agricultural education in Ireland<sup>5</sup>. It was a considerable agricultural institution established by a committee of Ulster gentry. The committee collected and subscribed substantial funds, which were expended on farm stock and buildings. From 50 to 70 agricultural pupils attended the school per annum. For nearly a quarter of a century, it was self-supporting. However, following the famine, it encountered financial difficulties, and in 1850 became the responsibility of the Board of National Education.

To provide a “great Agricultural College for Ireland”, the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland, shortly after its foundation in 1841, embarked upon the “... formation of an establishment of a collegiate nature in the form of an Agricultural School or College, on an extensive scale for the education of farmers’ sons ... so as to qualify them ...

**Box 1 – National Agricultural Education System**

- ♦ Over 7,000 national schools, with many in rural areas combining literary with agricultural education and for which a small garden was provided
- ♦ By 1858, 42 Model Agricultural Schools with farms and buildings for the agricultural instruction of farmers, teachers, agriculturalists and land stewards
- ♦ By 1874, 137 Ordinary Agricultural Schools, each with a small plot of land attached (typically about 2 statute acres); these were ordinary national schools with teachers who received extra payment for giving agricultural instruction<sup>3</sup>
- ♦ By the 1860s, 79 workhouses had established agricultural departments.

*Threshing in the  
Munster Institute*



*as practical farmers in different parts of the country*"<sup>6</sup>.

The Model Farm at Glasnevin (outlined below) had been established at the time. However, as it was intended for the training of teachers, the Society considered it to be inadequate to meet the educational needs of farmers' sons. A large farm (327 statute acres) was secured at Leopardstown, Co. Dublin, with a mansion and extensive farm buildings. A schoolroom, dining room and dormitory were fitted out to accommodate 50 pupils. A prospectus was published and the College was opened in January 1845. However, "*owing to untoward circumstances, this College had but a short existence*"<sup>6,7</sup>.

### Section 3 - Establishment of an Agricultural Education System

The Board of National Education had, as previously mentioned, developed a countrywide system of agricultural education in the mid-1800s<sup>3,4</sup>. The Board established national schools in virtually every parish in Ireland and, as indicated below, opened a Teacher Training College in Marlboro Street, Dublin. Almost concurrently, the Board embarked upon the development of a national system of agricultural instruction. In this regard, a number of major initiatives were undertaken by the Board<sup>3,4</sup>, notably

- ♦ the combination of literary and agricultural education in national schools

- ♦ establishment in 1838 of a Model Farm at Glasnevin, originally with the purpose of providing teachers-in-training at the College in Marlboro Street, Dublin, with a knowledge of agricultural principles and practices, so as to qualify them to teach agricultural science in rural schools

- ♦ development of Model Agricultural Schools, Ordinary Agricultural Schools, and Workhouse Agricultural Schools in many counties throughout the country.

As shown in Box 1, the development of a comprehensive system of agricultural instruction was well advanced by the mid-1800s.

The Ordinary Agricultural Schools were ordinary national schools with small plots of land attached, and teachers who received extra payment for giving agricultural instruction<sup>3</sup>.

The Model Agricultural Schools were more ambitious undertakings, a number of which were opened by landed proprietors. They had a Model Farm attached of about 10 acres (some much more) and substantial buildings, including residential accommodation. As stated in the Prospectus, the objective of the Model Agricultural Schools was to provide agricultural instruction for farmers in their neighbourhood, and also to educate and train young men destined for agricultural professions, as agricultural teachers, agriculturalists and land stewards<sup>3</sup>.

Each school had accommodation for resident agricultural pupils, but apart from Glasnevin, the numbers tended to be quite small.

In addition to ordinary literary education, the senior pupils of the Model Schools received agricultural instruction on the Model Farm. Instruction in agriculture was also given to day pupils of the local national school, with which the Model Farm was “connected”. The pupils received literary instruction from the schoolmaster and a course of lectures on agricultural science from the agriculturalist, combined with practical instruction on the Model Farm, in the operations of which they were required to assist.<sup>3</sup>

By 1858, 42 Model Agricultural Schools had been established<sup>3</sup>. They consisted of about equal numbers of schools under the exclusive management of the Board of National Education and of those under the management of local patrons. As previously mentioned, the latter were generally opened by private initiative, but they generally received supplementary grants from the Board of National Education.

In addition to general national-school education (including agriculture), the Model Agricultural Schools provided preparatory training for aspiring teachers, selected by examination of students attending the local national schools<sup>9</sup>. The prospective teachers spent about 6 months training in agriculture at the Model Schools before proceeding to the Teacher Training College in Marlboro Street, Dublin. Where a literary model school under the exclusive management of the Board of National Education, was established adjacent to the Model Farm, the literary pupils and their headmaster lived on the farm and pursued agricultural training along the lines prevailing at Glasnevin.

The Model Agricultural Schools seem to have varied appreciably in size. Two of them, namely the Model Farm at Glasnevin and the Munster Model Farm at Cork (Section 4), were developed into substantial national/provincial training centres.

### The Model Farm at Glasnevin

*The Model Farm at Glasnevin*, opened in 1838, was the first Model Agricultural School established by the Board of National Education<sup>3,4</sup>. It was originally established as an adjunct to the Teacher Training College in Marlboro Street, Dublin, with, as previously stated, the objective of providing instruction in agriculture for teachers being trained for rural national schools. By 1843, nearly 700 teachers-in-training had received some instruction in agriculture

at Glasnevin.

By the late 1840s, the Model Farm was enlarged to 128 statute acres, and the buildings were extended to accommodate about 100 agricultural students, which progressively became the mainstay of the institution. Between 1838 and 1866, 848 residential students were trained at Glasnevin, of which 22% were prospective farmers, 24% were trained for careers as land stewards, agents and gardeners, and 13% were teachers of agriculture and other subjects<sup>4</sup>.

Following transfer to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in 1900, the Model Farm at Glasnevin (or the Albert National Training Institution, as the name was changed to in 1852) assumed a position intermediate in education between rural agricultural schools and the three-year degree course at the College of Science<sup>8</sup>. When transferred with the College of Science to University College Dublin in the 1920s, Glasnevin became the headquarters of the Faculty of Agriculture, and subsequently the campus of Dublin City University<sup>4</sup>.

### The Munster Model Farm

*The Munster Model Farm at Cork* was opened in 1853 by the Board of National Education as a residential school for boys<sup>8</sup>. It was intended that it would ultimately provide courses similar to those at Glasnevin. Its development over the following century, leading to the establishment of the Munster Institute, is outlined in Section 4.

This extraordinary progress was achieved in little more than two decades. However, having “marched up the hill we were marched back down again” (Fig. 1). After 1858, the number of Model Agricultural Schools was severely reduced<sup>3</sup>. However, there was a steady increase in Ordinary Agricultural Schools up to 1874.

### Withdrawal from Agricultural Education

Almost from the outset, the system of agricultural education established by the Board of National Education was subjected to persistent hostilities from two powerful forces, both religious and political. The concept of integrated education, whereby Catholic and Protestant children and teachers-in-training received education together, and more particularly, the boarding and training of both religious denominations at the same centres, were anathema to many clergy, especially bishops<sup>9</sup>.

Further to this, the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Miscellaneous Expenditure as early as 1848 “expressed grave doubts as to the policy of



engrafting an agricultural department upon a national system of Primary Education”<sup>5</sup>. In the late 1850s, the Liverpool Financial Reform Association, which had many influential supporters amongst advanced “free traders,” questioned the whole system of agricultural education. In particular, it disputed the right of the state to train farmers and stewards at public cost.

The hostilities culminated in the establishment in 1868 of a Royal Commission upon Primary Education, under Lord Powis. In the 1870s, the Commission recommended “*That the position of provincial and district model agricultural schools should be reviewed ... and that their number should be reduced.*” A Departmental Committee, established in 1873/74 under W.H. Gladstone M.P., was appointed by the Treasury to investigate (along with other Irish Departments) the affairs of the Board of National Education. It reported that, apart from Glasnevin, “*there were in the other twenty agricultural schools but thirty-three resident pupils*”<sup>5</sup>.

Shortly afterwards, the Board of National Education started to dispose of the Agricultural Model Schools. Only two survived – the Model Farm in Glasnevin and the Munster Model Farm at Cork. Both remained under the control of the Board of National Education. However, as previously indicated, the number of Ordinary Agricultural Schools established by the Board continued to increase over the next 20 years. But, at the end of the century, it was finally decided that the primary school was not the place to teach farming. It was replaced by Nature Study, which continued to be taught up to 1934. Agricultural education was brought to a very low ebb at the close of the 1800s.

The two remaining training centres, namely the Albert National Training Institution (later the Albert College) at Glasnevin in Dublin and the Munster Model Farm at Cork, were bulwark establishments in the bleak landscape which characterised agricultural education by the latter part of the 1800s (Fig. 1). In conjunction with the College of Science in Dublin, they were crucial in the professional education of instructors and teachers until the establishment in the 1900s of the Faculty of Agriculture in UCD and the Faculty of Dairy Science in UCC. However, the relatively low proportion of farmers in receipt of proper vocational training in agriculture has constituted the most persistent inherent weakness of the education system, since instruction in farming was removed from primary education. This was a retrograde and costly action.



### New Beginning

The establishment of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction marked a new phase in the development of agricultural education (Fig. 1). Residential agricultural colleges for the training of boys were established at strategic locations throughout the 32 counties from the early decades of the century up to the early 1970s, when the most recent college was opened at Kildalton, Co. Kilkenny<sup>10</sup>.

Paralleling these developments, Rural Domestic Economy Schools were established for the training of rural girls, typically in domestic science subjects, as well as poultry keeping and butter making. A number of the graduates went on to the Munster Institute in Cork.

As well as the substantial expansion of residential colleges, young farmers received training at local centres (Fig. 1). An important development in this regard were the Winter Farm Schools, initiated in 1959<sup>10</sup>. These were intended to be part-time day courses provided over two years by county advisors with the assistance of the local vocational schools. During the initial ten years, the Winter Farm Schools were quite successful, attracting up to 600 young farmers per annum. Eventually, however, many of the courses were contracted to one year and were in-

creasingly provided at night.

The attendance at residential agricultural colleges was quite low up to the mid-1920s, with just 80 students per annum<sup>11</sup>. This gradually increased to 565 in 1967. However, no more than a quarter of the students returned to their farms. In the 1960s, when over 3,000 young men were entering farming every year, only a few hundred received formal agricultural training.

The impact of the winter agricultural classes was also limited and the attendances were seldom significant<sup>11</sup>. In the folklore associated with these classes is a story about an instructor in a border county who realised that the relatively large number of those at his classes was because they provided an alibi for young men suspected of smuggling. They could get a friend to answer the roll-call and have their names entered in the book, while they were otherwise engaged.

#### Section 4 - Cork Model Farm Schools

In the development of a countrywide system of agricultural education in the 1800s, the Board of National Education established a number of Model Schools in Cork<sup>9</sup>. The most prominent of these was attached to the Munster Model Farm at Cork, from which the Munster Institute developed, as further detailed below. Model Schools were also established at Anglesea Street in Cork City, and at Dunmanway, Farraghy and Glandore in County Cork<sup>3,9,12</sup>. As well as primary education, the schools provided preparatory teacher-training for prospective teachers. Some students from the Model School at Anglesea Street seem to have progressed to the Munster Model Farm at Cork.

*The Glandore School of Industry and Agriculture* was, as further detailed by Coombes<sup>12</sup>, opened in 1832, initially in a corn loft. It had, by 1834, 70 pupils in the day school and about 50 in the evening classes, including “many who had formerly passed their evening bowling or drinking at public houses.”

A new school, known as the Glandore National Schools of Industry was opened in 1835. An agricultural teacher was appointed in 1840 to take charge of a small farm of 6 acres and to teach a class in both farming and gardening, and also to conduct evening classes for farmers. In 1849, the model farm was increased to 30 acres, and new farm buildings, dormitories, dining rooms etc. were erected. During the 1850s, the school had about 12 boarders and seemed to be reaching its full potential. However, from

1874, the school of agriculture was abandoned. The building continued to be used as an ordinary primary school until 1966 – a span of 140 years – when the new Glandore schools were opened.

#### Munster Model Farm at Cork

The Board of National Education opened the Munster Model Farm at Cork, in 1853<sup>13,14</sup>. It was developed on land leased in the townland of Ballygaggin in the “Parish of St. Finbar’s” from the Duke of Devonshire. The Griffith Evaluation (November 1852) recorded 126 statute acres of farmland in Ballygaggin, containing houses, office and a forge. Practically all of Ballygaggin was the property of the Duke of Devonshire and the Board seems to have leased the entire townland.

The Munster Model Farm was a residential school for boys, and, as previously indicated, was intended ultimately to provide courses similar to those being given in the Glasnevin Model School in Dublin. However, because of the prevailing apathy towards agricultural education, it was not successful. Added to this, there was hostility (Section 3) to all forms of agricultural education in the 1870s. Funding for the Munster Model Farm was curtailed and there was a marked reduction in the number of pupils. It had virtually ceased to function in 1876.

With the retrenchment of agricultural education in the latter part of the 1800s (Fig. 1), the Board of National Education served notice on the Duke of Devonshire, the landlord of the Munster Model Farm at Cork<sup>14</sup>. However, the County of Cork Agricultural Committee, which comprised a number of prominent Munster dairy farmers and influential butter merchants, intervened and restructured the Munster Model Farm at Cork, as a real practical School of Agriculture<sup>14</sup>, as further detailed below.

#### Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute

The reconstituted institution was opened in 1880. In what seems to be the initial prospectus of the new institution, issued in 1881 by the Board of National Education, it was entitled the *Munster Agricultural and Dairy National School*. As stated in the Prospectus, “*The School is maintained by a grant from the Board of National Education, supplemented by local subscriptions.*” It goes on to state that “*A Local committee co-operate with the [Board] ... in watching over the interests of the School in collecting local funds and in applying these funds upon objects which they think best calculated to promote Agricultural Education in Munster.*”

A Committee was formed in 1880, including Dr. W.K. O’Sullivan, President of Queen’s College, Cork; Sir Richard Barter, whose dairies at Blarney had a world-wide reputation; and Mr. Ludlow A. Beamish, who had extensive knowledge of continental dairying<sup>14</sup>. While the school, as previously mentioned, received a grant from the Board of National Education, substantial funds were also provided by the Committee and their friends, as well as by the Duke of Devonshire.

As further detailed in the aforementioned Prospectus, the institution comprised two departments or schools, one concerned with agriculture and the other, dairy. *The Agricultural School* provided instruction for the *sons* of farmers and others in the science and practice of agriculture, with particular attention to dairy husbandry, including the winter feeding of dairy cows for the production of butter. Lectures were given in agriculture, chemistry, geology, diseases of farm animals and natural history, including the habits of parasites and insects which injure farm crops. The staff appointed to the school included an agricultural chemist and veterinary surgeon. The superintendent undertook an extensive study tour of dairying methods employed in a number of continental countries<sup>14</sup>. On the farm attached to the school, experiments were carried out which influenced the improvement and development of agriculture, especially in the south of Ireland.

*The Dairy School* trained the *daughters* of farmers and others in dairy management, including the feeding of milch cows, milk handling, and butter making. The staff appointed to the school were female instructors in dairying, butter and cheese making, poultry and domestic economy.

The outstanding feature of the new institution was its Dairy School – “*Its success had been phenomenal,*” according to the Chief Inspector of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction<sup>14</sup>. It was the first established Dairy School in the United Kingdom and, by 1888, over 500 pupils had received training at the school. Among its notable achievements were the

- ♦ production of high-quality milk and butter
- ♦ financial improvement of the Cork Butter Market
- ♦ provision of a system of itinerant instruction in dairying for farmers throughout Munster
- ♦ training of creamery managers and operatives
- ♦ supply of teachers for similar institutions estab-



*The shield of the Munster Dairy School*

lished in England and Scotland, and also in India

- ♦ the number of prizes won by pupils at Exhibitions in England and Ireland.

Reflecting presumably the success of the Dairy School and the importance of its work, the Munster Agricultural and Dairy School became in 1894 the *Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute*, as it is officially entitled in the extensive correspondence between the Governors and Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in the early 1900s (Box 2). The title was often abbreviated to *The Munster Dairy School*, as it seems to have become more commonly known. The shield of the Munster Dairy School, dated 1880, is held in the Agricultural Museum, Johnstown Castle, Teagasc, Co. Wexford.

In recognition of the importance of its work, the School was put on a more independent financial basis and the Governors obtained greatly increased powers<sup>14</sup>. These were embodied in what was termed a *Charter*, which, according to the Chief Inspector of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, may be summarised as “*Imparting a thorough ... knowledge of Agriculture and Dairying to the sons and daughters of the farming classes and to other persons ... in Agriculture, Forestry, Veterinary Science ....*” The inclusion of both sons and daughters of farmers in the Charter is noteworthy, especially in view of the subsequent events outlined below.

With such an extensive remit, the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute could have gone on to become what in today’s parlance is termed a Centre of Excellence. The institution had, however, reached its zenith – “it was marched back down the hill again.”

In accordance with the 1899 Agricultural and Tech-

## Box 2 – Centralised Control of the Munster Institute

The impasse which developed in the early years of the 1900s between the Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in regard to their respective responsibilities for the Munster Institute was in many ways inevitable.

As recorded in the 9th annual report presented in 1902 to the Board of Governors by its Honorary Secretary, Mr. Ludlow A. Beamish "... the Munster Dairy School ... owed its existence to the exertions of their predecessors, the Committee of School." The Governors endeavoured "to induce the Department to give them some actual part in the management of the school, with which their predecessors had been actively concerned during the past 23 years."

A letter was sent by Ludlow Beamish to Horace Plunkett on the 20th February 1902, seeking from the Department a "... statement as to what position the Governors of the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute will occupy with reference to the reorganised Munster Dairy School." In a wide-ranging response dated 11th March 1902, Plunkett pointed out that "... to preserve the position of the Governors under their Charter, and at the same time safeguard the statutory position of the Department, would set up a system of dual administration which would under the new conditions appear almost ludicrous." Further to this, he added "... that the exercise by the Governors of precisely the same functions as they have hitherto exercised is not now practicable." Having regard to the new conditions created by the legislation of 1898 and '99, he stated that "The Institute ... will no longer undertake itinerant instruction in Dairying. Though the training of Instructresses will continue at the School ... when trained [they] must be handed over to their re-

spective County Council Committees, appointed under the Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act. The courses of instruction will have to ... [have] due regard to the demands of the Counties for Dairying and Poultry Instructresses; and selection of the pupils for all these courses must obviously be under the Department's control."

Clearly, this strict interpretation of the legislation heralded a marked shift to the centralised control of the Munster Institute. This was further underlined in Plunkett's only concession to the Governors, "... that they could become advisory rather than executive ... acting as an advisory body ... [to] the Department in the large developments in agricultural education ..."

As noted in the aforementioned 1902 annual report, the Governors regretted "... that they had been compelled to sever their connection with the Munster Dairy School ... Unfortunately, they had been unable to obtain any better terms from the Department than the offer to allow them to fill the post of Advisory Committee to the Department." The stance taken by the Governors is clearly understandable. However, it may be noted that, in their correspondence with the Department, the Governors were more preoccupied with securing an executive responsibility in the reorganised Munster Dairy School than with the more fundamental concern pertaining to the much-reduced education remit of the new institution relative to its predecessors.

The Governors controlled certain funds derived from local subscriptions, which they decided to employ as prizes for the best-kept labourers cottagers and gardens in the Unions of Cork, Fermoy, Mallow, Midleton and Kinsale. A number of the Governors continued to meet well into the late 1900s. It would be interesting to have some insights into their deliberations.

nical Instruction Act, the Munster Dairy School and Agricultural Institute was transferred to the Department of Agriculture. Its name was changed to the Munster Institute.

### Munster Institute

Relative to its predecessor and in particular the Charter referred to above, the remit of the Munster Institute was severely curtailed. Instead of continuing the courses for women in dairying and domestic economy and for men in agriculture, the Department decided that the Albert College in Dublin would henceforth be devoted to the training of male students only<sup>14</sup>. The Munster Institute would be reserved for the training of women in butter making and domestic economy. Under the Department, the role of the Board of Governors was reduced to advisory only. As further detailed in Box 2, these changes led to friction and contentious correspon-

dence between the Governors and Horace Plunkett, Vice President of the Department of Agricultural and Technical Instruction.

The newly created Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction was allocated £10,000 for the purchase and stocking of additional land and providing suitable buildings for the Munster Institute. New buildings were erected to accommodate extra pupils and increased staff. Also, the farm buildings and other facilities required for training purposes were extended and upgraded. Courses were provided for careers as county instructors, in poultry keeping and butter making, and also creamery staff and teachers. In 1902, when the Institute was entirely devoted to the training of young women, some 30 to 40 pupils attended each of the five terms. The majority were from County Cork, followed by Cavan, Limerick and Kerry.

### Box 3 – Milestones in the Development of the Munster Institute

From early 1900s	30-40 pupils per annum Two courses provided <i>Course 1:</i> Pupils directly from school (1 year) domestic and agricultural subjects <i>Course 2:</i> Pupils from Rural Domestic Economy Schools (6 months) to qualify for the Poultry Instructors course
1930s/40s	Dairy and poultry products predominant
1950s	Friesian cows and Texel sheep introduced and new strains of poultry
1960s	Diploma in Farm Home Management Poultry Husbandry course
1970s	Poultry Managers course New poultry houses and equipment

Despite repeated claims from the 1880s that an enlarged farm was required, the total area of the farm at the Munster Institute (126 statute acres) was the same as the area of land originally leased in the 1850s by the Board of National Education. The main function of the farm was to provide sufficient milk for the butter-making courses. About one third of the farm was devoted to crop cultivation, involving the following rotation: grain crops, potatoes and roots, grain, hay.

Some important milestones in the development of the Munster Institute are synopsised in Box 3, which is based on an article produced in 1980 by Maura Fennelly, former Director of the Institute<sup>15</sup>. This shows the key role played by the Munster Institute from the early 1900s and extending well into the latter half of the century, most notably in the early development of the poultry and butter industries. In 1910/11, Ireland was the biggest supplier of eggs to the British market<sup>16</sup>. Many farms had sizeable poultry flocks, which generated an appreciable proportion of household incomes. Even with the prominence of dairy co-operatives by 1914, most of

the butter was still made on farms. Instructors trained at the Munster Institute provided invaluable advice to farm families on poultry keeping and butter making. Graduates of the Munster Institute were also required in creameries and as teachers in the Rural Domestic Economy Colleges.

A pen picture of a *The Munster Institute in the Early 1960s* is presented in Box 4, based on the recollections of one of the authors of this article (Maura McLoughlin), who was at that time a student in the Institute.

Many who travel along the Model Farm Road, or indeed reside in the locality, must often have wondered what the *Model Farm* was and what it was used for. A perspective of the Munster Institute in the 1960s, as the Model Farm was formerly known, is outlined below.

The Institute at that time provided a two-year course for young women, leading to a Diploma entitled "*Instructor in Poultry Keeping and Butter Making.*" Around 14 pupils enrolled per annum in the course. They were from various counties, with many coming from farms. A daunting experience

## Box 4 - Pen Picture of the Munster Institute in the early 1960s

Arriving at the Munster Institute for the first time in the 1960s was a memorable experience. Travelling up the tree lined avenue there were birds on range and cows grazing in the surrounding fields and the magnificent stately building.

The Institute then provided a two-year course for young women leading to a Diploma entitled "Instructor in Poultry-Keeping and Butter-Making" awarded by The Department of Agriculture. Annually 14 pupils enrolled for the course coming mainly from a farming background and counties widely represented.

First impressions of life at the Institute were daunting from the poultry enterprises and scale of the flocks, the extensive facilities and indeed the student work programme. In the Plant Field - now the Business & Technology Park - were six Poultry Houses accommodating the progeny of the White Leghorn strains imported from U.S.A. in 1957 to improve egg production in the country.

In the farmyard precincts were caged birds in a converted stone building also Turkey Verandas and Straw yard. Breeding Pens with covered wire runs - a legacy from the Laying Test days which ceased in 1956 - extended over a large area bounded by Model Farm Road. All tasks were carried out manually as this was pre-technology and automated feed, water or egg collection. Growing stock ranged the land near the Pig Station in spring and summer. This enterprise necessitated high labour content by students particularly in rounding up the birds to secure them in the many Night Arks dotted around the field. The aforementioned area is now the site of the Boston Scientific Plant.

The Institute farm - Ballygaggin - continued west beyond the Pig Progeny Testing Station to the Curraheen River. Since the 1990s, developments in this area include dwelling houses, apartments, Bar & Bistro, health spa and other business units.

The Dairy herd consisted of 40 cows mainly Shorthorns

while building up a small herd of 12 Pedigree Friesians. Students on dairy duty operated the milking machines under supervision. Production of clean milk and learning the methods of butter-making and cheese-making were a crucial part of training.

The curriculum included lectures in Poultry, Dairying, General Agriculture and Science subjects thus providing the practical and scientific content of the course. The timetable did not vary greatly from the Dairy School era, early to rise, regular daily tasks, lectures and evening study was the norm. As a residential agricultural school, students enjoyed an abundance of good food from produce grown on the Institute farm.

The Munster Institute was the only centre in Ireland providing training for female instructors in Poultry-keeping and Dairying until 1913, when the Ulster Dairy School in Loughry, Co. Tyrone, entered upon such courses.

Highlights of a typical year at Munster Institute were annual visits to R.D.S. Spring Show in Dublin and Cork Summer Show in Ballintemple. Involvement in rural and local social activities was part of student life. Macra Na Feirme events were very popular and students eagerly participated at Macra "Field Evenings". Another important event in the calendar was the Annual debate with Cookstown College in Northern Ireland. These debates were much looked forward to by students at the Institute especially when they were "playing away from home" and had the opportunity to travel to Cookstown College.

The Munster Institute was a happy place for students and friendships formed there have lasted throughout their lives. The closing of the Institute in 1983 brought to an end Agricultural Education which had been carried out there for over 130 years.

The final chapter was on 31st January, 1984, when on the instruction of the Minister for Agriculture, the entire contents of the Munster Institute were offered for sale by Public Auction over 2 days.

for the majority of new students was the scale of the poultry flocks and extent of the facilities at the Munster Institute. These stretched from the poultry houses located in what was known as the plant field (now the Technology Park) to the caged birds in the converted stone building, past the hatchery and breeding pens (with White Wyandottes, Rhode Island Reds and L/Sussex), and on to the range near the Pig Station, which is now the location of Boston Scientific.

New strains of White Leghorns imported from USA were housed in the plant field with a view to improving egg production. Trap nesting and egg recording were crucial to a successful breeding programme.

This was a significant project and supply farms were able to purchase day-old chicks from the hatchery.

The tradition of the Munster Institute as a source of high-quality milk, butter and cheese was widely recognised. The herd then consisted of 40 cows, mainly Shorthorns, while building up a small herd of twelve Pedigree Friesians. In theory and daily practice, students were indoctrinated with the requirements essential for the production of safe, clean milk. Learning to make butter and cheese was a crucial part of the training.

The Munster Institute was the only centre in Ireland providing training for female instructors in poultry keeping and dairying until 1913, when the Ulster

Dairy School at Loughry, Co. Tyrone also entered upon such courses.

Highlights of a typical year at the Munster Institute were the annual visits to the RDS Spring Show in Dublin, and the Cork Show in Ballintemple. Another important event in the calendar was the annual debate with Cookstown College in Northern Ireland. These debates were very much looked forward to by the students at the Institute, especially when they were “playing away from home” and had to travel to Cookstown College in Loughry, Co. Tyrone.

## Closure

One hundred and thirty years after its original opening as the Munster Model Farm at Cork, the Munster Institute was closed in 1983. It may be of interest to recall briefly some of the events in the months leading up to the closure, concerning which one of the authors of this article (Liam Downey) has a first-hand knowledge, having become Director of ACOT in January 1983.

On arrival at the National Office on his very first day, the new director was informed by the Chairman of ACOT that they were both required at an immediate meeting in the Department of Agriculture. At the meeting, they were told that the Government had decided to terminate a number of training centres and advisory services. In particular, it had been decided to

- (i) close the Munster Institute
- (ii) abolish the Horticulture, Poultry and Farm Home Advisory Services and
- (iii) to discontinue the funding for the Rural Domestic Economy Colleges. “*The country was in a financial crisis and savings had to be made.*”

On returning from the Department to the ACOT National Office, they were met by representatives of the various staff unions, who understandably required an immediate meeting, in order to have it explained to them why the training centres and advisory services were being terminated, and more especially, to clarify the implications for the staff affected.

A few months later, ACOT was informed by the Department of Agriculture that much reduced Horticulture and Poultry Services could be retained, and that farm home advisors were to be retrained for a new Socio-Economic Advisory Service.

The Munster Institute was formally closed in July 1983. *The Cork Examiner* on the 5<sup>th</sup> July had a de-

tailed article on the event, with the headline “*Close to Nature or a Lament for the Model Farm.*” The article recorded that “... *the Government needs the money and it will sell the soul of the country to get it.*” Just what money it got, if any, by closing the Munster Institute is uncertain. The Industrial Development Authority acquired the Munster Institute property, apart from the main house and farming buildings, which were transferred to University College Cork. These were also subsequently acquired by the Industrial Development Authority in exchange with UCC for the Distillery Fields in Cork City.

## A major restructuring of ACOT’s services was undertaken during the early 1980s. The farm advisory service was re-organised on a more specialised basis, with each advisor having around 70 identified farmer clients with the resources and commitment to develop.

Section 5 - Farmer Training System Established in the 1980s

The most noteworthy feature of the restructured services was the new agricultural education programme (Fig. 1). The Certificate in Farming, or the “Green Cert” as it was often called, marked a new departure in farmer education. For the first time, young farmers had available to them a three-year vocational training programme comparable to the best available in Europe. They responded accordingly. Of the approximately 2000 young people entering farming each year at that time, the vast majority participated in the Certificate in Farming. This was a landmark, possibly exceeding what had been achieved in the 1850s (Section 3). It constituted real progress in providing what Horace Plunkett set out to develop in 1900, namely a “... *system of agricultural education [that] must precede any ... progress towards a high state of efficiency in ... our chief industry.*”

Over a century ago, Plunkett stressed that effective farmer education was an imperative to achieving the goals of *Better Farming, Better Business, Better Living.*

Farmer education is the cardinal and most persistent challenge still facing Ireland’s Agri-Food Industry today.

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# Ballincollig in 1901

Anne Donaldson

## Introduction

Ballincollig has welcomed a throughput of people with diverse skills, backgrounds and experiences since its earliest times. The nineteenth century British army men and their families had travelled widely and brought influences from all over the then British Isles as well as really faraway places such as India, Turkey, the Americas, South Africa and Australia. Gunpowder mills workers were less travelled but nonetheless brought a range of useful skills to the area.

## 1901 Census

The initial publication online of the 1901 census of Ireland seemed like a good time to look at a snapshot of the townland of Ballincollig – not to be confused with Ballincollig District Electoral District (D.E.D.). The DED included the townlands of Carrigrohane, Ballinora, Coolroe, Corbally, Ballinguilly, Ballyburdenmore, Ballyhark, Greenfield, Great island, (Inishmore), Kilnaglory, Knockburden, Windsor, Maglin, Ballyhark, Ravakeel, Ballyshoneen, Knockbogue, Curaheen and Ballincollig.

Ballincollig townland census seems to have commenced at Eastgate, wound northwards to the Gunpowder mills, then westward to Inishmore before returning eastwards through the village back to Eastgate. Fifty four houses are listed as Gunpowder mills property; one hundred and forty-two as mili-

tary related. House 119 was called the RIC Barracks while the next house, 120, was the military school. House 110 was the main military barracks building. The population for the townland was one thousand one hundred and forty-nine. The DED had a population of two thousand two hundred and fifty-three.

## Age

In 1901, in Ballincollig townland, the ages ranged up to 100 years, attained by Catherine Dinan, a widow woman who could speak English and Irish but couldn't read and write. She lived at 27.1 (in the Ranges), Ballincollig, apparently alone. The next oldest lady was the widow woman Hanora Corcoran who lived at house 23 with her widowed 35 year old daughter, a washerwoman by the name of Catherine Meade.

Catherine Dinan was also the oldest person in the DED of Ballincollig but Hanora was defeated in the DED by 88 year old Norah Leary of house 64 Carrigrohane who also couldn't read or write but could speak Irish and English. She lived with her 2 single sons who also spoke Irish and English and who worked as agricultural labourers, and her unmarried daughter and grandson. They lived in a first class house owned by Ellen Murphy.

The oldest male in Ballincollig townland, who lived in house 54 in the ranges, was 82 year old Edward Vass, from Co Kilkenny who lived with his 60 year

Form H.—Return of Military, R. I. Constabulary or Metropolitan Police, in Barracks—continued.										
Number	Initial Letters of Christian Name and of Surname		RANK	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE	WHERE BORN	IRISH <sup>and</sup> 119
	Christian Name	Surname								
242	J	W	De Prov. Sgt. Lanern	C of E.	Read & write	18	Labourer	not married	Wales	
243	W.	W.	do	C of E.	do	19	Labourer	not married	England	
244	A	W	do	C of E.	do	21	Clerk	not married	England	
245	E	R	do	R.C.	do	14	Scholar	not married	Co. Dublin	x
246	E	H	do	C of E.	do	15	Scholar	not married	England	✓

## Previous Trades and Professions of army men in Ballincollig barracks, 1901

accountant	1
farmer's son	5
news agent	1
agent	2
fireman	1
outfitter	1
artificial florist	1
fishmonger	1
painter	2
auctioneer	1
fitter	1
photographer	2
baker	3
footman	1
plasterer	2
barman	1
framework knitter	1
plateman	1
bedsteadmaker	1
french polisher	2
plumber	1
blacksmith	7
gardener	1
policeman	1
boat man	1
grocer	3
porter	3
boiler maker	1
groom	15
postman	1
bootmaker	1
gunmaker	1
private	3
brass ferrule maker	1
hairdresser	2
saddler	1
brewer	1
harnessmaker	1
seaman	3
bricklayer	5
hatter	1
servant	1
butcher	7
hosier	1
shoeing smith	3
butler	1
independent means	1
shoemaker	2
cabinet maker	1
instructor	1
steward	1
caretaker	1
Jockey	1
striker	1
carman	9
joiner	3
tailor	8
carpenter	2
journalist	1
tin worker	1

carter	4
labourer	56
tube worker	1
chemist	1
leather dresser	1
turner	1
clerk	26
linen hopper	1
valet	1
coach builder	1
machinist	1
warder	1
collarmaker	1
malster	1
warehouseman	1
collier	1
mason	2
woolturner	1
crane worker	1
mechanic	1
cricketer	1
mess waiter	1
draper	2
messenger	1
draughtsman	1
miller	1
drayman	1
miner	1
driver	1
moulder	2
electrician	1
musician	1
engine cleaner	1
engine driver	3
engine fitter	1
engineer	4
excavator	1
TOTAL	259

old wife, Mary, who also was born in Co Kilkenny, and 2 unmarried sons aged 30 and 34 years

### Where did they come from?

As would be expected, most people (606) give their place of birth as Cork without specifying which part of the county. At least 28 were Ballincollig born. Other Irish counties represented are; Dublin (13), Kerry (9), Limerick & Kilkenny (4), Antrim, Waterford & Tipperary (3), Meath (2), Donegal, Down, Kildare, King's County, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, Sligo, Tyrone, & Wexford (1).

Other countries represented include; England (304), Scotland (33), India (15), Wales (13), America (2), Australia (1) & others (107).

Of the three hundred and fifty-three married persons, two hundred and nineteen were males. There were fifty three widows and twenty one widowers. But the greatest numbers by far were the four hundred and eleven single males as against two hundred and eleven single women. Another one thousand one hundred and forty-nine are unspecified.

Unsurprisingly, seven hundred and nine persons declared as Roman Catholic. Fifty eight were Church of England; there were thirty-two Presbyterians; four Methodist and four Wesleyan; and one Lutheran and one Congregationalist. Eleven others were non specific.

## Occupations

Ballincollig railway station was then an important aspect of local life. A John Lyons, (30) and single is described as a railway labourer while Daniel Murphy (36) and married was a railway porter.

The post office, then as now, was on Main Street. Older Ballincollig residents will have fond memories of Miss O'Leary but how many of us realised that she was continuing a long tradition. While James Power from Kilkenny was postmaster, the O'Leary sisters, Mary & Margaret, were post office assistants. John O'Leary was a postman with Michael Reidy.

Local schools were both Roman Catholic parish schools and a military school. Teachers locally included Patrick Murphy, born in County Cork. There was also Kate Murphy, another national teacher, who was born in Ballincollig and married to Walter. Ethel Hibberd, from Kent, was an army schoolmistress and Augustus Craig from England was an army schoolmaster.

Keeping boarders was a common occurrence in those days. Elsie Sandes, a Kerry woman who was honorary superintendent of the soldier's home had two boarders – one of which at 21 was a student of theology, Thomas B Allworthy from Belfast. Another boarder was the Cork-born Church of Ireland single lady aged thirty-one, Constance Drought, who gave her occupation as 'Worker Amongst Soldiers'.

Swiss born, twenty-eight year old Marie Liechty, the sole Lutheran, was lady's maid to a Captain Eustace and Edith Maudslay. This C of E family lived in a twelve room house with their three daughters and three other servants. The house (67) was owned by Daniel Forde. House 58 was also a prominent household. Captain Frederick Thedman and his wife

had four servants – a cook, two domestics, and their coachman, Charles Oliver. Charles is one of four coachmen listed. It was obviously a situation of status as older members of the profession had their own servants at home. At least thirty-nine servants are recorded for the townland.

Other surprising and perhaps quirky occupations include the following. Catherine Evans, from Scotland, was a rubber worker. This trade was apparently one of the smelliest messiest trades about. JET, A, was a striker. This is a specific title given to the brawny blacksmith who actually wielded the hammer. A few photographers are listed – Jeannie Rawlin (gs?), a soldier's wife and B, AC and V, JC. B, BT, age 19 and single was a journalist. Where are these photos and reports now?

James Titchmarsh, from County Cork, was a gemsmith. D, JW was an artificial florist while forty-three year old Roman Catholic S, W gave cricketer as occupation. A single Kerryman, who was one of eight boarders in the home of retired cook, Margaret Hourigan, was a dancing instructor. Another of these boarders was fifty-seven year old married Dubliner, John Keating, whose occupation was that of acrobat.

## Army and gunpowder mills

The army and the gunpowder mills were obviously the dominant employers. The census lists the previous occupations of the single men who lived in the barracks. As could be expected many of the professions were redolent of the Victorian life style of hard physical labour and locally produced products. Experienced horse trades and wood working skills were also common. Not surprisingly the commonest occupation was labourer.

Other military personnel, usually married, lived in private houses usually the property of the military. Their former occupations are not given.

Despite its shortcomings, the 1901 census gives an insight into the social, cultural and work experiences of a lifestyle which has dramatically changed in one hundred years. Some outdated skills are lost. Other skills, which were then essentials of life, are now part of the crafts culture of our time. Our multicultural modern Ballincollig can identify with some of the isolation issues of living away from their home culture and family. It seems that 'blow-ins', like me, are not a new phenomenon but typical Ballincollig.

# The Story in the Postcard

*Dermot O'Donovan*

Michael Walsh was born in Chapel Lane East Ballincollig in 1867. He is a granduncle of our present treasurer, Dermot O'Donovan. He emigrated to the U.S. sometime in the 1880's and settled in 301 Van Brunt St. Brooklyn New York.

On November 18th 1905, Maggie, a family friend, sent a post card to Michael. It shows the Main Street in Ballincollig looking West. 'The Pike' is marked in ink at the Western end of the card. The note on the card reads:

*"From the dear homeland far across the sea. Do you recognise the figure at no. 2 door?"*

*Love to self and Lizzie from Maggie"*

For the record, the card took seven days to reach its destination.

## Post office

Using a magnifying glass, it is possible to discern the name 'Ballincollig' inscribed between the two upper bay windows of house no. 2. On either side of the front door the words 'Post Office' are printed. 'Post' on the left-hand side and 'Office' on the right side. This would suggest that the site of the original post office in Ballincollig was located at this address prior to 1901.

The census of that year shows that Patrick Murphy and his family resided in that house.

### *1901 Census*

*Patrick Murphy; principal teacher; widower; 50 years.*

*Anne Murphy; daughter; 26 years.*

*Maggie Murphy; daughter; 19 years*

*John Murphy; son; 15 years.*

The figure referred to by the sender, as standing at the door, is that of a male, partly hidden by the delivery horse. In all probability it is Patrick Murphy, principal of Ballincollig national school. Hence the significance of an emigrant, far across the sea, looking at his old schoolmaster, that is implied in the text of the post card; *'do you recognize the figure'*. Patrick Murphy was principal teacher in Ballincollig,

from 1875 to 1914, when his successor, James Cunningham replaced him.

The 'Lizzie' referred to in the card is Michael Walsh's wife. They had no family, and he never returned home, Michael Walsh and his wife are buried in a Catholic graveyard in Brooklyn.

## Who was Maggie?

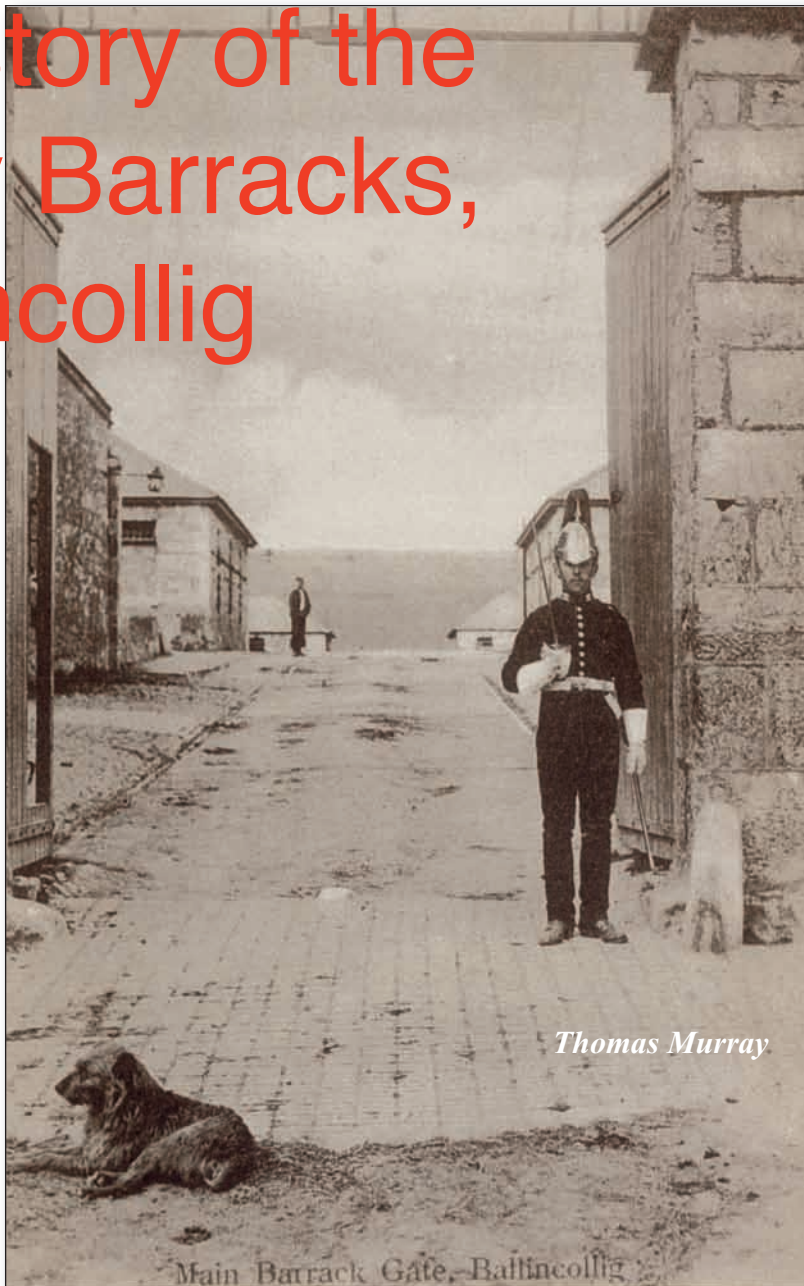
Who was Maggie, the sender of the post card? Obviously, someone with a good knowledge of the village and its inhabitants and a person who knew the Walsh family well enough to know the name of Michael's wife. She writes a good hand, practised in use of the pen. Having trawled through the census of 1901 and Ballincollig village in particular, there is one name, which might satisfy our curiosity i.e. a Ballincollig native and a practised writing hand.

This photograph shows Mrs Mary Lynch, standing at the door of her public house, Main Street, Ballincollig around the turn of the last century. Mrs Lynch was born in 1845 and is the maternal great grandmother of Pat and Kathleen Healy, present proprietors of Healy's Bar, East Gate Ballincollig. The public house was located at the West End of the village, where Down's supermarket presently stands. Mary Lynch was the wife of John Lynch, a cooper in the Royal Gunpowder Mills, Mary's occupation is shown in the 1901 census as 'Bar Attendant'.

Their son, Patrick Joseph, known locally as 'Joe Lynch', later purchased Neville's public house, better known as the West End Bar in later years. According to his daughter, the late Maureen Healy, he was the first publican in Ballincollig to break away from the tied Beamish pubs in the village and sell Guinness products. Guinness representatives had arrived in Ballincollig seeking business and without hesitation Joe Lynch became their first customer. He spent a number of years in business as a bar owner on the quays in Cork City, adjacent to the berthing place of the Innisfallen. Joe Lynch purchased Bartholomew Mahony's public house at the East Gate in 1932 and this public house is still in the family.



# A History of the Army Barracks, Ballincollig



## Introduction

The history of the buildings which were formerly known as Murphy Barracks Ballincollig cannot be considered without reference to the Ballincollig Gunpowder Mills which were essentially the reason why the barracks were built. The history of the period which influenced the story is also a factor to be considered in any study of the barracks.

Towards the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Charles Henry Leslie, a Cork merchant, decided to build a gunpowder mill in the area. Leslie chose a site on the south side of the river Lee to build his mill, which was built in 1794. It could hardly have been a more opportune time, as troubles loomed in Ireland and through the British Empire.

## Unrest

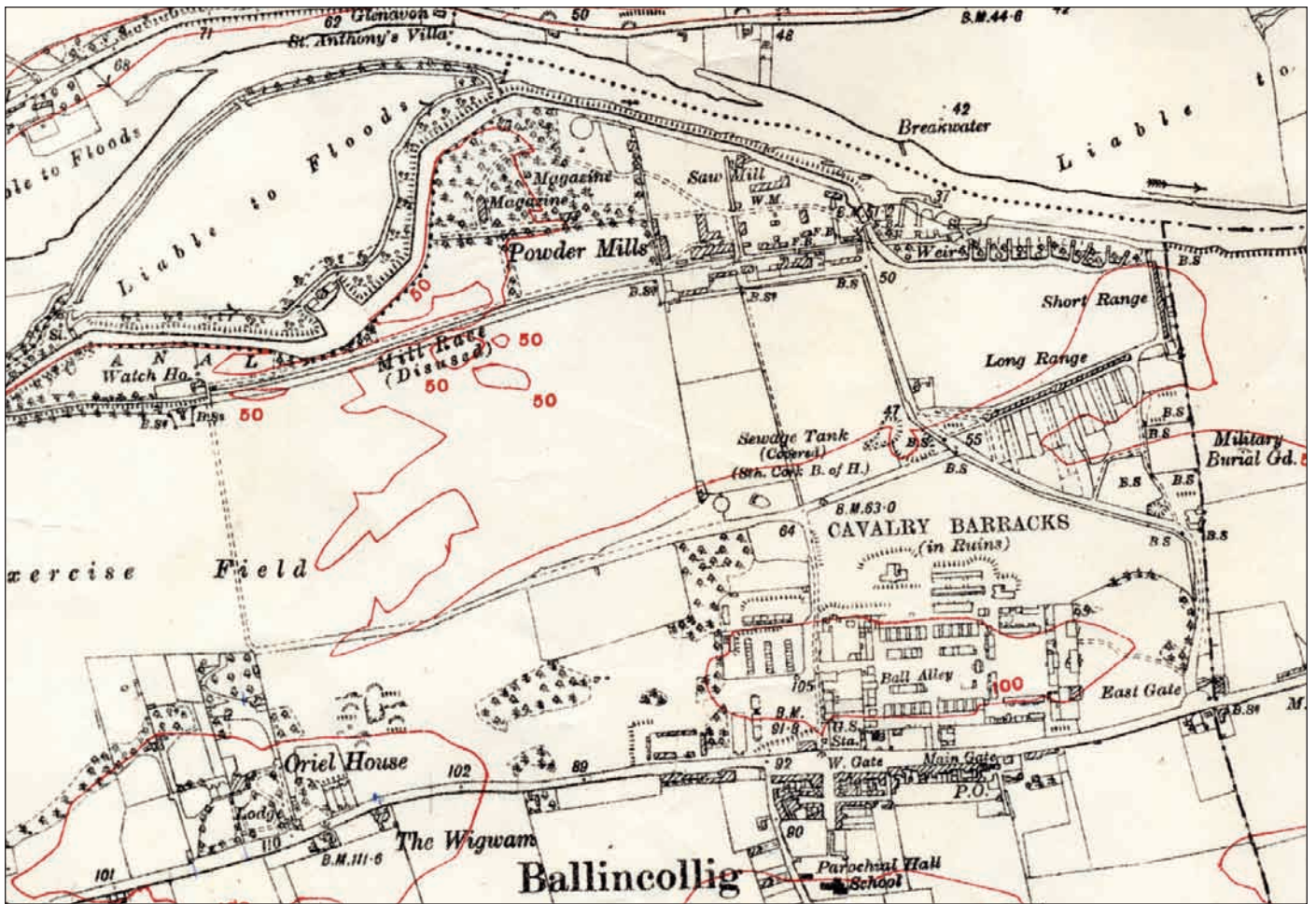
In 1791, the Society of United Irishmen had been

founded by Theobald Wolfe Tone. The society began as a debating group but as time went on and their demands were ignored, they felt a military solution was called for. (C.I.H. p. 239)

They requested military help from France which had been at war with Britain since 1793. This suited the French who had been examining the possibility of invading Britain through Ireland.

Finally, in 1796 a French fleet sailed for Ireland, intending to land at Bantry. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, the fleet never landed and was dispersed. This setback did not deter the United Irishmen who continued with their plans, and in 1798 the Rebellion broke out. It was mainly centred on the Belfast area and in Leinster. In May and June of that year the Rebellion was forcefully put down.

In August 1798 a month after the rebellion was over



the French finally arrived. But “too little, too late”. A small French fleet under General Hubert landed at Killala and after an early victory at Castlebar was forced to surrender to Lord Cornwallis, the Viceroy at Ballinamuck. A short while later another fleet under Bompert, set sail towards the North of Ireland, but was intercepted by a superior British Squadron off Lough Swilly and most of the ships captured (CIH 245).

This background of unrest and threat of invasion meant that there was a huge demand for gunpowder and as the Ballincollig Mill was one of only three that supplied government requirements, they had a vested interest in its continued production and security. While the Gunpowder Mill was a civilian endeavour, the government provided a military guard for security which came from Cork.

### Changing ownership of powder mills

The continuation of the war with France and Robert Emmett’s abortive rebellion of 1803 meant there was a need of continued security. In 1805 the Government through the Board of Ordinance, a civilian establishment which could be described in modern terms as a Military procurement agency (JBCS 86 p 7), purchased the Ballincollig Powder Mills. Furthermore it was decided that it should have its own garrison. Land was rented from Charles Leslie (MA)

and work commenced on what was called the Artillery Barracks, which was completed in 1811. The Barracks was initially occupied by the 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Btys RA, commanded by Capt. A. Wall. (MH).

In 1815 the British defeated Napoleon at Waterloo, and the big demand for gunpowder disappeared. Production ceased and Ballincollig powder mills were closed. The barracks however, continued to operate and in 1833 the mill premises which had fallen into disrepair was purchased, after much negotiation, by Tobin’s of Liverpool.

Tobin’s were merchants who traded with Africa, and they wanted gunpowder for this trade. They were involved in trade of what might be described as ordinary, such as palm oil, but they were also involved in some dubious enterprises such as slave trading and privateering.

The purchase of the mills was not completed easily. One would have expected the board of ordinance to be delighted to be rid of the dilapidated site, but instead, they put several obstacles in Tobin’s way during the purchase negotiations.

George Kelleher (p. 45) tells us that they tried to insist on a right of way for army horses through the property to the river. Tobin agreed that he would allow horses through but would not formally give



the right of way. Tobin also had difficulty in obtaining certain tools and equipment which were necessary in the powder making process and which had been moved to the barracks for safekeeping. Finally on the 3 April 1833, Tobin's became the new owners.

Tobin's relationship with the garrison was not easy; George Kelleher p. 47 says that Tobin had difficulties over the frequency with which the horses were watered. Also plans were drawn up to pump water from the river to the barracks but these plans may not have been serious as the board of ordinance were negotiating with the Poor Law Commissioners for the sale of the Barracks in 1839. However these plans came to nothing. The Barracks continued to function and in fact a high pressure water system was built to supply the barracks in 1892.

### Dangers

Uncertainties regarding the continued existence of the barracks appear to have arisen around the time of the Fenian Rising. According to George Kelleher p. 63, the commander of Forces in Ireland Sir Hugh Henry Rose felt that in the troubled times, the Powder Mills were storing too much powder. This he felt was a temptation to the Fenian's to either attempt to capture the stores or alternatively to blow them up. Either course of action posed a danger to the garrison. There were talks of withdrawing the garrison but again all the talk came to nothing and the garrison

remained. It was almost as if the garrison had a continued existence of its own, apart from the Mills.

Army routine saw to it that units garrisoning the barracks were regularly changed. This tour of duty would have been regarded as a "cushy number" although there were occasional flurries of excitement. The Cork Examiner of 31 July 1843 reported that on 29 July 1843 a troop of Dragoon guards had a narrow escape, when an explosion rocked the area where they had been parading a few minutes earlier. Two mill employees were killed in the incident. Again the Cork Examiner of 16 April 1847 reported that the Military was called to help contain a fire at the Cooperage. Their efforts to prevent the fire spreading to the adjoining powder stores were successful. (JBCS 1986 p.11)

If there was no excitement to be had, the soldiers did their best to drum it up themselves. For example in 1814, the 7<sup>th</sup> Battery who had been the original garrison were back again and distinguished themselves by having a famous riot on Christmas night. Their commanding officer, Major Evilly, was praised in the Edinburgh Register for his control of the situation (MH).

### Body snatchers

In 1884 in another example of induced excitement or perhaps drink induced bravado, the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars, who were on garrison duty went 'over the top' and



brought ignominy on themselves. Lady Colthurst, one of the family that owned Blarney Castle, had died and was buried in the family vault at Inniscarra; it was believed that her jewels were buried with her. Some NCOs drinking at the Inniscarra Bar decided that their need of any buried wealth was greater than hers and they were caught digging her up. It was an enormous slur on the regiment, which was transferred to India. Several officers retired and from then on the 11<sup>th</sup> Hussars were known as the “Body Snatchers” (MH).

### Religious services

The Barracks like all such military establishments was intended to be a self contained unit. In 1813 a military cemetery was opened and in 1814 a church (Church of Ireland) was built. There is a description of the barracks in Lewis Topographical Directory of Ireland 1837, which describes the church thus; ‘*On the western side is a hospital and neat church in which Divine service is regularly performed by the resident chaplain*’. Until 1897 a number of part time clergy men officiated at the barracks (JBSC 1984 p. 27). From then until 1905 Ballincollig had a full time ACF (Army Chaplain to the Forces).

Among those were Reverends Cooper, Stitt, Wells, and Filery. From 1905 onward the Rector of Carrigrohane, Rev Edward Gibbys, ministered to the barracks. Normal Sunday Services were held, together with baptisms and burial services. Unusually weddings were held at Carrigrohane and as would be expected special services were also held at appropriate times such as the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. A memorial service was also held for the wounded and dead of the Boer War 1899–1902. Services were also held to commemorate the declaration of World War 1 as well as a service of thanksgiving for victory when the war ended in November 1918. Attendance at service varied, this was due to a variety of reasons, not least who was giving the service (JBSC 1984 p. 27).

In further description of the Barracks, Lewis goes on to say ‘the buildings contain accommodation for 18 officers, 242 Non Commissioned officers and men. It has space for eight batteries of artillery (Though at present only one is stationed there comprising 95 men and 44 horses)’. Lewis also tells us that ‘included in the establishment is a school, a granary, a grocers shop, a recreational establishment and a canteen.’ Farmers in the locality brought supplies of food such as potatoes and vegetables to the barracks for sale and many a supplier did very well from these transactions

### Duties

As well as being a garrison to the Gunpowder Mills, Ballincollig was used as a rest station for troops returning from overseas and as a preparation for those going abroad. Unlike other garrisons, troops stationed in Ballincollig appear to have been kept very much to their garrison duties, and did not appear to be greatly involved in the law and order practices, which were unusual in the Ireland of that era, and despite the establishment of the first professional police force in 1822 and its reorganisation on a countrywide basis in 1836, the army retained a vital role in law enforcement.

This appears to be a situation with which the army was not comfortable. Major General G.C. Mundy of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Foot, when stationed in Cork in 1834, remarked in a letter to his father, ‘I have no patience playing police in this unsociable country’ (MHI p. 358).

It appeared that the army view and civilian rule view differed. The civilian view was that the army was available as and when required to carry out the bidding of the state. In 1824 Major General Sir Charles Doyle, commander of the Southern district, was warned by the assistant military secretary at Kilmainham, ‘magistrates are generally very ready to transfer the duties of the police to the military, if it is possible’ (MHI p. 358). The army felt itself unsuitable for those duties. There was certain validity in this view as the army could only arrest somebody committing an offence while the police could arrest someone on suspicion. This led to joint army/police patrols to solve that problem.

Regular patrols through particular areas were seen to act as a deterrent and as a response to disorder. The Chief Secretary, Francis Leveson Gower, offered the opinion in 1829 ‘that the only possible advantage to be gained from patrolling, was proof it afforded of the intention of the Government to do its utmost’ (MHI p. 366). However in November 1830 Sir John Byng, Commander of the forces, writing to the lord lieutenant, Lord Anglesey, commented that disturbances in Tipperary had been remedied by frequent nightly patrols of military and police united and an occasional and extensive search for arms (MHI p. 366/7). There is, however, one recorded incident where elements of the garrison were used in a law and order situation.

### Land dispute

After the famine, rents fell into arrears, with many tenants, and one method used by landlords to com-

pensate them against the loss was to seize the crops. However, there was a legal ban on crop seizures on Sundays. This of course led to the harvesting of the crops on that day and taking the grain away from the hands of the landlord.

In 1849 at the widow Callaghan's farm in Ballincollig, Sir George Colthurst arrived on the scene on a Sunday and cut the corn and stored it. Incensed by this disregard for the law by the landlord, 300 local people arrived and having driven off the guard, proceeded to draw away the grain. The police were called and they arrived with the local magistrate, Mr Tobin. The police were repulsed and finally two troops of Lancers and 50 infantry from the barracks were called out. They intercepted the grain at Knockavilla and in the ensuing struggle shots were fired, some people were wounded, and 20 people were arrested (BB).

Yet apart from this incident, the only problem the Ballincollig garrison seems to have had was how to survive the change from an artillery Barracks to a Cavalry Barracks, which occurred in 1866.

The role of the officer was in fact very comfortable. He had his own mess, his own quarters with batman and his own horse, stable and groom. 'When he moved he does so with great pageantry and splendour' (MH). He also had hunting, shooting and fishing and he was backed by a huge empire and tradition (MH). And if life was so pleasant for the officer, how was it for his men? As usual things were not so good. In a report in 1859 the barrack and hospital commissioners said:

*'There is a school room adjoining the stables and the smell from the litter pervades it to such an extent that it is necessary to close the windows and diminish the light and ventilation in order to escape the nuisance.'* Also *'all shops require ventilation'* and *'there is a deficiency of space for 104 men.'*

The commissioners report went on to criticise the sanitary arrangements, to suggest that the layout of the hospital led to overcrowding. Commenting on the lack of accommodation for married soldiers, the report said that because of this 'some wives were accommodated in soldiers rooms at the barracks and some in the adjacent village where they were wretchedly accommodated and there was much disease among the children' (MH).

The contents of the report were taken seriously, and the suggested improvements were carried out. Married quarters for 68 families were constructed and were in use up to 1921. Soldiers played a variety of

sports and their recreational time was spent in Cork. To go there they travelled by train on the Macroom–Cork Railway or the quaintly named Muskerry Tram.

Records exist which show the regiments which served in Ballincollig up to 1907. After this, information is difficult to clarify as there was rapid change/amalgamation of units due to both the Great War and the 1916 Rebellion. In 1914 the Great War commenced and there was a huge recruitment drive. There was also a great emphasis on recruitment to an 'Irish Regiment'. The 'local' regiment was the Royal Munster Fusiliers but as their depot was in Tralee, Ballincollig Barracks gets little mention. However, it is felt that in excess of 10,000 men enlisted in the Cork recruiting area.

### War of Independence

In November 1918 the Armistice was declared and the Great War ended. However at home pressure against British rule was increasing. Eventually on 21 January 1919, the war of independence commenced, the first shots being fired by Dan Breen at Soloheadbeg Co. Tipperary. At this time the garrison of Ballincollig was provided by the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Manchester Regiment. Unlike the situation which had previously existed where the garrison stayed within the barracks, soldiers from Ballincollig appear to have been involved in operations against the IRA

On 28 January 1921, a column of British troops left Ballincollig for Dripsey village where they had been told by a local landowner, Mrs Lindsay, that an IRA ambush was being planned. In the ensuing struggle 8 members of the IRA were captured (5 were wounded). Two civilians were also captured. They were all brought to Ballincollig from where they were transferred to the military detention barracks in Cork. They were tried and six were sentenced to death by a military court. In the meantime Mrs Lindsay and her chauffeur had been abducted by the IRA and held hostage against the death sentences.

All to no avail as on the 28 February 1921 the executions were carried out and on the 9 March Mrs Lindsay and her chauffeur were killed by their captors (TB 1982).

A detachment of 200 men from the Manchester Regiment stationed at Ballincollig barracks were also involved in the Crossbarry ambush in March 1921, where the British forces suffered a significant defeat at the hands of Tom Barry's Flying column (TB 1985).

*Patrols during the  
Emergency*



The war of independence continued with attack and counter attack, atrocity and reprisal until 9 July 1921 when the truce was signed. Sinn Fein negotiated a treaty with the British but the treaty conditions divided Sinn Fein. The Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed on the 6 December 1921. The treaty was approved by the Dail on 6 January 1922 and British troops began to withdraw from Ireland and Irish troops took over (CIH p. 325). In the process, Ballincollig barracks was handed over to an Irish Garrison.

### Civil War

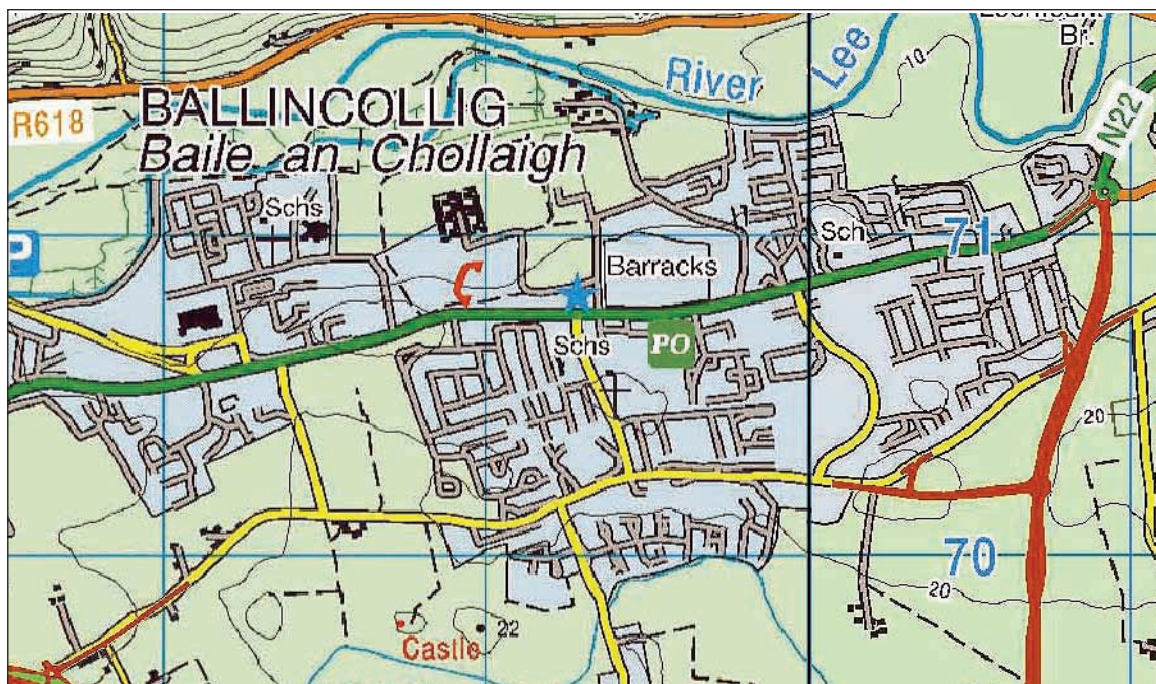
Any hope that peace had arrived appeared uncertain following the refusal of the anti-treaty side to accept the situation and their forces occupied the Four Courts in April 1922 (CW p. 103). The new Government, anxious to gain control, attacked the Four Courts on 28 June 1922 and thus the civil war started. In what became a very bitter campaign, the army set out to establish control of the country. In the campaign they encountered stiff resistance in the South. In August 1922 government forces came ashore at Youghal and Passage West. Having secured Cork City, they proceeded inland. The Irregulars retreating before them, burning Ballincollig barracks on the retreat.

A first hand account of the destruction is given in an article in the Cork Examiner on the 15 August 1922; *'approaching the Village one still finds that peculiar odour exuded by smoking debris. And at one point one observes a small column of smoke from some block not yet completely gutted – nearly*

*all the roofs have fallen in. One especially regrettable feature was the destruction of a block of 'pretty' married quarters – in one part of the grounds a row of gaunt fire charred trees bear testimony to the intensity with which a neighbouring block burned.'* Earlier in the article the writer remarks on the 'carelessness' of the retreating defenders whose desire to destroy the fortifications nearly led to the destruction of the Village Main Street .

'When the irregulars were evacuating the barracks, they had to leave behind a large quantity of either petrol or oil. Either deliberately or accidentally this was spilled on the passage inside the main gate. It flowed in a regular stream along the passage and onto the street. It followed the course of a little water channel to the other side of the road and were it not for the efforts of the residents of the village, this would have carried a train of fire to the houses. Were it not that the people noticed the danger in time a great part of the village would also be in ruins. A black trail marks the ground where the inflammable liquid ran.'

The reporter goes on to bemoan the fact that 'carts were being loaded with everything that could, by any stretch of the imagination be used for some purpose. Gates, doorways, and window frames being taken away in broad daylight.' He finally comments that poor people could be forgiven for 'taking half burned timber or cooking utensils but poor people do not usually possess strong well fed horses or large farm carts.'



With the ending of the Civil War, the country began to settle down and life returned to normal. There were many calls on the finances of the new state and Ballincollig barracks was not rebuilt. The village returned to peace. The barracks were in ruins and records show that in fact the army leased 127 acres of ground to one T. O'Brien of Ballincollig for grazing, at a rent of £350 (MA).

### The Emergency

When the Second World War broke out in Europe in 1939, Eamon DeValera declared Ireland's neutrality. Being neutral, increased the risk of invasion from either of the combatants, so the strength of the army was increased, and many new military locations were opened. At the beginning of the war the strength of the army was 7,000 which was increased to 16,000 by January 1940, and to 40,000 by June of that year. A small military post was opened in Ballincollig.

There was some excitement here on a February night in 1940, when a sentry discharged 2 shots at what he suspected was an intruder. On looking in to the military report of the incident (MA), there are some suggestions that it was cows in the vicinity, another suggestion was that it might have been poachers. Finally, a senior officer commented that there were people going around the country testing the readiness of garrisons and that if he came to Ballincollig again 'he would not come so close.' No further action was taken.

As the war (or as it was referred to in Ireland, The Emergency) progressed the garrison in Ballincollig grew and the necessary accommodation was pro-

vided. According to official military statistics, there were 49 men, a detachment of the 31 infantry battalion in residence on 1 September 1941. In December 1942 this number had risen to 580. In April 1943 the number had risen yet again to 830. There is also a varying of the numbers. In April 1945 the number stationed was 740. In June 1945, 378 and in December 1945, 414. Although this may have more to do with the fact that a field artillery regiment took over from an infantry battalion in June 1945 (MA).

With the ending of the war in 1945 the army's requirements in terms of numbers was greatly reduced. However while many bases and posts were closed, a garrison was maintained at Ballincollig. The requirements of a peacetime army differ greatly from its active service role. As time pass the more normal worries and needs asserted themselves. And if proof be needed of this, the following is illuminating. It also illustrates Government 'holding action' tactics.

In reply to a Dail Question raised by Cork T.D's, Jack Lynch and Pa McGrath, regarding the erection of houses for married soldiers at Ballincollig, the minister for defence, Sean McEoin – himself a former chief of staff of the defence forces – stated 'the matter is under active consideration' (MA).

The army now became involved in what is regarded by many as its most important contribution on the world stage when an Irish Infantry Battalion became the first Defense Force Unit to serve Overseas. The 32 Infantry Battalion travelled to the Congo in an effort to maintain peace there. It was here also at Niemba that the Irish suffered their first casualties.

Peace keeping forces are made up entirely of vol-

unteers and the officers and men who have been based in Ballincollig have been to the fore in the many locations where our forces patrol.

Ballincollig Barracks was now named Leo Murphy Barracks. Leo Murphy was a former O.C. of the 3rd Battalion 1st Cork Brigade during the war of independence. He was killed in action at Waterfall near Ballincollig on 22 June 1921. His Webley .455 revolver which was displayed in the Officers Mess at the Barracks, serves to remind us of a long gone and turbulent era.

Towards the end of 1990s, the most fundamental change of all was about to befall the Barracks. At the time the Barracks was home to the officers and men of the 1st Field Artillery Regiment and the 8th FCA Field Artillery Regiment. The garrison numbered no more than 200 soldiers. All personnel lived off barracks as there was no accommodation on the post.

### Barracks closes

In 1994 The Government commissioned a report from Price Waterhouse on the future of the Irish Defence Forces. When published, the report suggested wide ranging changes including a complete re-organisation of the Defence Forces. Following much discussion, the Government approved on 15 July 1998 a programme of evacuation and sale of 6 Barracks. Both Ballincollig and Fermoy were among the barracks to close and, for the Ballincollig based regiments, Collins Barracks Cork became their new home.

Ballincollig Barracks on 150 acres of land was sold and was purchased by O'Flynn Construction, a property development company.

On 28 September 1998 there was a formal standing down parade, and Col Cormac Lawlor, the last commanding Officer of the barracks, led the garrison through the gates for the last time.

Today the site formerly occupied by the Barracks, houses a mixed development of Office, Commercial, and Residential property together with a large shopping centre. Some of the old stone buildings have been very successfully maintained as part of the new development. Another reminder of the history of the area is a 25 Pounder Artillery Piece which is displayed in a prominent position in the new development. This piece was formerly displayed at the Main Gate of the Barracks.

There was a time when the main danger to Ballincollig Barracks was perceived to come from a man with a gun. As we have seen it's main danger

actually came from a management consultant with a pen. Is this a strange and bizarre proof of the pen being mightier than the sword?

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# Ballincollig's contribution to 125 years of G.A.A. History

*Aubert Twomey*

## Introduction

Many events have taken place this year marking the 125 years of existence of G.A.A. and the Ballincollig Club was not found wanting in this regard.\* It was important that Ballincollig were seen to celebrate this special period in the History of Cumann Luth Chleas Gael as they are a club that have been a vibrant unit of the organisation for most of its existence. It is fair to say that those who have been entrusted with the management of the Ballincollig G.A.A. have always courageously and diligently endeavoured to live up to the expected requirements of the organisation down the years.

Ballincollig has given great players to Cork teams, has given exceptional administrators to various units of the association and has provided good referees for the control of our games over the years. At all times the various people who managed the club have ensured that the facilities have kept pace with what is expected relative to the era.

Ballincollig has also been the host club for many big games, sometimes having taken on the task at very short notice. Those important events have been staged with maximum efficiency, further displaying the ingenuity of G.A.A. members to respond positively to particular challenges.

The ingenuity of Ballincollig G.A.A. members has been well tested over the years when ancillary events other than the promotion of games were organised in the desire to raise necessary finance to promote the games effectively and also to make an impact on

the life of the community, thus ensuring that the status of Cumann Luth Chleas Gael Ballincollig is enhanced.

Our national games will always be the centrepiece however and the vehicle for a great contribution to the cultural social and economic development of our communities and our country. The most important factor in all of this is the club and our club, Ballincollig, was and hopefully still is an important contributor to that development.

## A prairie fire

The G.A.A. when it was founded in 1884 swept through the country like a prairie fire, with clubs being formed as the nationalist community answered the call. The parish of Ballincollig appeared an unlikely place for the formation of a unit of the G.A.A., as it was inevitable that many of the citizens because of the major British involvement in the life of the community saw themselves as loyal servants of the Crown. The nationalist community in the parish answered the call in no uncertain fashion, however, and a club was formed promptly.

The fact that hurling was played in Ballincollig before the advent of the G.A.A. helped the founders of the club significantly and there are records of the men of the parish participating in a hurling game called Goaling which was intensively contested by groups playing from corner to corner.

Hurling had clearly taken a foothold and those participating were glad to see the game being promoted on an organised basis. It was consequently as a Hurling Club that Ballincollig affiliated to the infant Cork County Board in 1886.

There were natural teething problems in the early years of the association with games very much organised on a trial and error basis with all teams par-

\* *This talk was given by Aubert Twomey to Muskerry Local History Society in 2009 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the G.A.A.*

ticipating in the same competitions and there were 21 players on each team. Gaelic games were gaining a foothold throughout the country, however, and the overall organisation was improving.

Teams were reduced to 17 players in 1902 thus ensuring a more open brand of hurling and football, and even though Ballincollig participated on a regular basis in hurling during this period they failed to record any significant victories. Tournaments were organised on a regular basis and Ballincollig's first victory of note was in the Bride Valley senior hurling tournament 1895 when they comprehensively defeated St. Finbarrs, and records show that enthusiasm for hurling in Ballincollig increased as the twentieth century commenced.

### Ballincollig involvement

Senior and Junior teams were entered in the 1901 county championships when the seniors unfortunately suffered a first round defeat at the hands of Redmonds. The Juniors fared better winning two rounds by overcoming Carrigtwohill and Dungourney before bowing out at hands of Blackrock.

The desire of Ballincollig to work for the overall promotion of G.A.A. in the county comes to the forefront in 1902 with the election of Tom Forde to the G.P.C. of the County Board and that trend continues to the present day with the Club always big enough to see the broad picture. Tom Forde was a member of a famous clan of builders who were responsible for the erection of military forts, churches, and schools throughout the province of Munster in the 19th century. Older people will remember Forde's headquarters in the Square where the Lee Travel Agency now have their offices.

### Decline and resurgence

During the end of 1902, however, the Ballincollig Club faced problems with regard to fielding teams and this appears to have been caused by the final demise of the Powder Mills, which at one time gave employment to 500 people. The unemployment following the Mills closure forced many to emigrate with the consequent unavailability of players.

The arrival of Rev. Daniel O Donovan C.C. to the parish later in the decade led to a huge revival in club fortunes as his enthusiasm was infectious and a team took part in the new intermediate hurling championship in 1909. Ballincollig also played a major role in the formation of the Mid Cork Senior Hurling League with Fr. O Donovan as president and Tom Long as secretary. The special Mid-Cork senior hurl-

ing championship was organised between the leading teams in the area and Ballincollig captured that championship in 1909, thus recording the Club's first major success since their formation in 1886. It was a milestone in the history of the Club and the photograph of the winning team holds pride of place in our pavilion and also in many households in the parish.

Most of the winning team were still involved in 1912 when the Club really established their hurling tradition by capturing their first ever Intermediate hurling County title. The status of the Club was further enhanced when Nealie Hallihan one of a trio of outstanding hurling brothers led Cork to Junior All-Ireland hurling glory, also in 1912. Ballincollig were now respected as a major hurling force and they were facing the future with a good degree of confidence.

1913 saw teams reduced to 15 a side and Ballincollig entered the Senior Hurling Championship in a hopeful mood. The displays in the Senior Hurling Championship for a few years were disappointing so the remaining years of the decade were not exciting, but a County title victory sustains a Club for a significant period.

### Further organisation

The organisation of the G.A.A. as a whole continued to improve and Ballincollig played a huge role in that improvement. The formation of Divisional Boards in 1925 was a very effective organisational decision and these boards have stood the test of time. The formation of Divisional Boards was the brainchild of Jimmy Long, a former Ballincollig Club secretary, who was now a member of the newly formed Ballinora Club, where he was employed as a national teacher. Ballincollig club were very involved in the new Muskerry Divisional Board and a number of their members served as officers in the early years. Christy Hurley who was a station master at Ballincollig was chairman of the Board for a brief period in 1925. Jack Crowley, despite the fact that he was a club player and club runaí, served as chairman of the Muskerry Board in 1928 and 1929 and he also held the position of Vice-Chairman in 1933 and 1934.

In the playing arena in the new Muskerry Division, Ballincollig proved to be a formidable force in the initial years of the Mid Cork Junior hurling championship. The club's top team was intermediate so their second choice team contested the Junior hurling grade and they made an immediate impact. The Divisional Junior championship's commenced in 1925



*Ballincollig, Cork County Intermediate Champions 1939*



*Ballincollig, Cork Senior Hurling Finalists, 1941-1942*



and Ballincollig captured the title in 1927.

That team subsequently went on to capture a county title and in 1927 Ballincollig Club made a decision to field a team in Junior Football for the first time. To the amazement of all concerned that Junior football team confounded the pundits and defied all the traditional barometers when victories over traditional football clubs like Bantry (who for some unknown reason were competing in Muskerry), Clondrohid and Kilmurry in the final, gave Ballincollig a sensational Mid-Cork title, and it was the first step in establishing Ballincollig as the most versatile club in Muskerry. The same players lined out with teams in both hurling and football clearly putting paid to the convoluted idea that is often expounded by some people that should be fielding separate teams for each code. Clearly you put your best team on the field to represent your club in both codes. You win some and you lose some and move on to the best of your ability.

### Golden Era

We are now reaching a period that will always be remembered as the Golden era of the Ballincollig G.A.A. The Club enjoyed an unprecedented run of success in the period from 1927 to 1943 and also had players lining out with Cork teams on a regular basis and winning all Ireland medals in a variety of grades. Ballincollig Club teams were victorious at adult and Minor level and the future was bright. The work of school masters, Tim Desmond and Eugene O'Callaghan, in preparing a very talented under 15 Sciath na Scoil team in 1924 and steering that team to outright victory in their relevant competition, ensured that a very talented group of hurlers came on stream.

Particularly significant was the fact that a future icon in the Ballincollig G.A.A. scene, Billy Murphy (long puck) made his first appearance. Billy lived next door to the playing field where the older boys who were who captained by his brother Chris, trained for their Sciath na Scoil campaign. The school masters, Desmond and O'Callaghan, were fascinated by his striking ability and they struggled

### Cork County Intermediate Champions 1939

**Back row:** C Murphy, J Kavanagh, F Murphy, D Lynch, J Radley, D O'Mahony, S Burrows, E Murphy  
**Middle row:** M Coughlan, M O'Connor, G O'Connor, W Murphy (Capt.), M O'Connor, W Murphy  
**Front row:** F Kavanagh, M Kavanagh, D McCarthy

with their consciences as they tried to decide whether or not to include him on team as he was at that time only nine years old. With misgivings they selected him at corner forward, so he commenced his playing career on a winning note. That all conquering Sciath na Scoil team had some very familiar names in its ranks and the following 15 lined out in final;

Chris Murphy (capt) John O'Neill, John Sheehan, John Murphy, Joe O'Shea, Jim Sisk, John Sisk, Mossie McCarthy, Tim O'Donovan, Dan Dan O'Mahony, Denny Twomey, Jody Fitton, John James O Shea, Connie Radley, and Billy Murphy.

Ballincollig's exciting Junior Hurling County Championship victory in 1927 was followed by the Clubs second Intermediate Hurling Title victory in 1929 and the versatility of the club was emphasised in 1933 when the first ever Junior Football County Title came to the Club. Hurling was centre stage the following year when Intermediate Title number three came to Ballincollig and that team retained their title in 1935. Thus increasing the club's total of Intermediate Hurling County Championships to 4. In 1939, a final victory over neighbours and fellow parishioners Ballinora, made it an impressive five Intermediate Hurling titles in a very short period of time and the decade for Ballincollig ended on a very successful note.

The new decade, saw a second Junior Football County title coming to the Club and as a result of same Ballincollig were in the happy position of participating in the Cork Senior County Championship in both Hurling and Football in 1941. An exceptional effort was made at that stage to capture the blue riband of Cork Hurling but Ballincollig had to endure three County Final defeats so it was a case of, so near and yet so far for a great group of players.

### Contribution to Cork county

It was a period that saw Ballincollig making a huge contribution to the progress of Cork teams with players capturing Senior All Ireland Medals for the first time. On the Inter County front however, it was at Junior Level that Ballincollig first increased their All-Ireland Medals tally and Dan Lynch emulated the earlier feat of Nealie Hallihan when he led Cork to All Ireland Junior Hurling glory in 1940. Ballincollig also held a member of the Selection Committee with Gerald O'Connor being a member of the Cork management team that steered Cork to All-Ireland success. Having players on a County Team that captures a Senior Hurling title is some-

thing really special for a club.

However, 1941 was the year that Billy (Long Puck) Murphy began to establish himself as one of the really greats of Cork Hurling. His All-Ireland Medal victory in 1941 made amends for the heartbreaking one point defeat suffered by himself and his colleagues in 1939 at the hands of Kilkenny. The adage that nothing succeeds like success was borne out subsequently when he was a leading figure on the team that held the All Ireland Title for an additional three years.

Another Ballincollig player, Dan McCarthy, known to his friends as Danno, was also part of the All-Ireland winning team of 1941, while Paddy Healy joined Billy Murphy on the winning team of 1944. Billy and Paddy were again on the team in 1946 when Cork regained the Senior Title, so Ballincollig Club can be proud of their contribution to the Leesiders Golden Years.

Billy (Long Puck) Murphy could not be kept out of the honours list throughout that period when he was a regular on the Munster Railway Cup Team and he won eight Railway Cup Medals which was achieved at a time when there was huge competition for places. He had the distinction of captaining Munster to victory in 1948. On the club scene however, the glory days were over, so a group of great players finished their careers without the coveted Senior Hurling County Medal and the fortunes of the Club nose-dived.

The contribution of Ballincollig to the overall workings of the G.A.A. continued to be significant and one member, Francie O'Sullivan, received special recognition at a Muskerry convention on the 12 December, 1943 when he was elected Vice President of the Muskerry Board. Francie, who had been a dynamic Chairman of the Ballincollig Club, was also a reliable County Board delegate for the Muskerry division and the Divisional Board as a consequence displayed their appreciation of same. Another former Club Officer Ted Goulding got involved at Divisional Board Officership Level when he was elected the first Registrar of the Muskerry Board in 1945 and he continued in that position the following year. Billy Murphy decided to get involved in the administration side of the G.A.A. shortly after his Inter County career had concluded and he was elected Registrar of the Muskerry Board in 1950. He continued in that position until 1954.

#### Club hall

On the games front, in the latter half of the nineteen

forties, Ballincollig was finding it hard to secure outright Championship success despite the best efforts of all involved. But there was always a desire to improve the club's standing locally and the ambitious people managing Ballincollig's affairs felt that time was ripe for the erection of a new Club Hall. The Club's finances were sound and as the conditions of the Club Room in the old School Yard were deteriorating, the members decided to build. Dances in the old Club Room, which was commonly known as the Sweat Box, were profitable so a new hall appeared to be a sensible investment. A site was acquired in Poulavone and the Hall was speedily erected by voluntary labour.

Unfortunately it proved to be a failure financially. The successful period in the Sweat Box was during the War Years as there were large numbers of soldiers in the local Barracks, who had joined during the Emergency. When the new hall opened, however, a fresh bloom of peace was descending on war torn Europe and many who were in the Army Barracks returned to civilian life and their own parishes. They now had other places to socialise, so the numbers attending the local dance were reduced. The hard working Committee who now managed the Ballincollig G.A.A. were unable to operate the Hall as a profit-making venture and the building eventually proved to be a liability.

Ballincollig at that stage was also finding it hard to secure success on the field of play, so it was a trying time for the small dedicated group that made up the Committee who were trying their best to turn the fortunes of the Club around. The records show that a long dance held on the 23rd Oct 1951, yielded a meagre profit of 8 old pennies, at a time when bills were being received from the Performing Rights Society, the Cork County Council, the Munster & Leinster Bank, the E.S.B. and the Revenue Commissioners, so it certainly required dedication to be a promoter of Ballincollig G.A.A. at that particular time.

An occasional victory at under-age level during the early fifties was some boost to club morale and the club continued to have representation on Cork teams, with Paddy Healy regaining his place on the Senior Hurling Team for the 1952 Munster Final. Cork needed him to halt Tipperary's march to four All Ireland Titles in a row.

#### Revival again

Cork were successful in that regard but problems at Ballincollig Club level continued and in 1954 they



*Intermediate County Hurling Champions 1967*

**Intermediate County Hurling Champions 1967**

**Back row:** F Shanahan (committee), J Fitton (selection committee), T Horgan (committee), P Harrington (Chairman), L Baker, (Selection Committee), D O'Donoghue (treasurer), J Shanahan (Committee), P Healy (Vice-chairman)  
**Middle row:** S Barry-Murphy, G O'Regan, N Coomey, J Fitton, A Madden, J Sweeney, J Sheehan, M Madden, D Barry-Murphy, M Buckley  
**Front row:** A Twomey, P J O'Mahony, D Forde, J Sheehy, B Fitton (Capt.), D Buckley, T Dwyer, M Murphy, D Fitton  
**Inset:** J Holmes

**Intermediate Hurling Champions 1999**

**Back Row (L to R):** T Sheehan, G O'Connell, S O'Keefe, R Doherty, M O'Brien, D Carroll, E Dineen, P O'Toole, D Spillane, M Spillane, A Lucey  
**Middle Row (L to R):** J Sexton (selector), P O'Mahony, D Keane, G Irish, C Noonan, L Barry, B Kelly, C McCarthy, E O'Leary, P McCarthy, J Miskella, D Murphy (selector)  
**Front Row:** F Kelly, A Beale, D Beale, D Twomey, F Daly (manager), D Murpohy (Capt.) J McCarthy (coach), T O'Leary, P Twomey, J Dwyer, C Dwyer  
**Inset:** B Gleeson, J O'Neill



*Intermediate Hurling Champions 1999*

reached an all time low. There were not enough members at an A.G.M. to go ahead with the Election of Officers and no adult team took the field for Ballincollig throughout the year. That unsatisfactory situation could not be allowed to continue and a trio that could be fairly described as Ballincollig's most dedicated servants, Jack Harrington, Frank Shanahan and Leslie Baker decided that enough was enough. They put the wheels in motion to turn the situation around.

An A.G.M. was held in the Old School on January 16 1955 and it was well attended so the re-organisation of the club was put in motion. A decision was made to sell the hall, which was now a liability, and the elected officers were clearly determined to ensure that the fortunes on the playing fields would improve. A definite youth promotion policy was undertaken and a very intense internal Under-15 Hurling League brought all promising young hurlers to the forefront. The aforementioned, M/S Harrington, Shanahan and Baker, having previously given their time selflessly during the trying years, now played their part in steering the club to a plateau of unparalleled success at under-age level, relative to the size of Ballincollig.

At that particular time, from 1955 to 1963 Ballincollig were winning under-age championships in Muskerry on a regular basis and hopes were naturally high for a return to a significant degree of success at adult level. Those hopes were realised when a Junior Hurling County Title was secured in 1963 and an Intermediate Title followed in 1967. The club also re-established itself as a formidable force in adult football with Divisional Junior titles being captured in 1964 and 1966. So for Ballincollig it was a very exciting time.

## Muskerry

The Muskerry Juvenile Board, were formed in 1961 and the Club played their part in its formation, with Leslie Baker serving the Board as Chairman for most of the decade. Leslie also had the distinction of refereeing a Senior Football County Final in 1960. He epitomised the desire by Ballincollig G.A.A. members to play their part in the promotion of the Association at every level. At Muskerry Juvenile Board Level a number of others from the Club served the Board as Officers over the years with Jimmy Greene, Jim O'Reilly and Donie O'Regan, all holding positions.

Another Ballincollig man, the late Con O'Sullivan, had the distinction of being the first President of the

Muskerry Juvenile Board. Con's standing in Juvenile G.A.A. circles was enormous bearing in mind, that in the nineteen seventies he was elected to the G.P.C. of the Juvenile County Board. Con continued as president of the Muskerry Juvenile Board until his death in 1994 and his replacement was also from Ballincollig; Leslie Baker was the second President of that body.

## Growing town and club

Returning to the sixties on the playing front, it was the decade that the overall attitude to the G.A.A. changed, as the new Ireland of that era adopted a different attitude to life. The modern Irish State began to enjoy material prosperity and this affluent state of affairs was reflected in a high standard of living, better working conditions and greater opportunities for leisure. The motor car replaced the hired bus as the principal means of travel and those owning a car for the first time began to go elsewhere, than to a G.A.A. match at week-ends. Ballincollig parish also underwent a major change with the building of large residential estates commencing and in a short space of time the population of Ballincollig soared from 2,000 to 10,000.

The number of players available to the club increased and in 1975 a dynamic Juvenile Section was put in place to capitalise on all of the talent at the clubs disposal. No adult County Title came to Ballincollig in the 1970's but it was a decade of huge achievement. The Club secured a licence from the County council in 1976 to use the field on the eastern side of the road to the regular playing field as a playing area. In 1977 permission was obtained from the Department of Defence to develop portion of the lands in the recreation field.

A major victory on the field of play was needed however and that eagerly awaited success manifested itself in 1981 when the club's Junior Football Team were impressive County Championship winners. That victory was the boost that was needed and as confidence was renewed every effort was made to improve the club's facilities. The ingenuity of the G.A.A. members again came to the forefront when, in 1982, 'The Belle of Ballincollig Festival' proved to be an outstanding success, both as a social event and a finance raising project.

## Pitches

A major breakthrough regarding improving playing facilities was reached when the Cork County Council agreed to sell seven acres for £70,000. The Club held a Special Meeting on the 15th November 1982



### Intermediate Football County Champions 1994

**Front row:** (L to R); T Hayes, P Coomey, N Murray, F Keohane, E Long, D Kelly, D Bourke, (Capt.), K O Mahony, G O'Donovan, T O'Reilly, T Dorgan (assistant trainer)

**Back Row** (L to R): B Barry (trainer and selector), M Lordan, A McCarthy, C O'Toole (selector), L O'Toole, T Coomey, P O'Mahony, M Quealy (selector), D Long, P O'Toole, C O'Connell, J Ring, J Kelly, D Hegarty, F Smyth, G McCullagh, G Glavin.

and it was agreed to accept the offer. Following same, it was all systems go, as members enthusiastically got involved in fund raising for our own field and our own pavilion.

The club are particularly grateful to the part played by former G.A.A. President, the late Con Murphy, in the acquisition of the playing field from Cork County Council. Con subsequently deservedly had the honour of officially opening the Club Pavilion on the 15 May 1987 and the excellent Club Field in 1989. They have both been fully utilised in the intervening period.

The club had the distinction of hosting three major games when Pairc Ui Chaoimh became unplayable. The Cork Senior All-Ireland winning football team of 1990 had a National League Game against Donegal and Ballincollig was the replacement venue. The fixture went ahead without a hitch. A similar situation prevailed for the Intermediate County Hurling Final of 1992. Bishopstown and Cloyne were the contestants and the fixture was staged to everybody's satisfaction. In 1996 Cloyne were involved in another Intermediate County Hurling Final when Newtownshandrum were their opponents and again everybody who attended were happy with the arrangements.

Organisation of events has clearly never posed

problems for the club but the games cannot be neglected and significant victories have been secured during the period from 1982 to the present time. Divisional Titles at both Adult and Under Age Level were captured on a regular basis but County Title Victories really set the pulse racing. Three heart-breaking narrow County Final Defeats at Intermediate Football Level had to be endured in the years 1988, 1991 and 1993 but the tide eventually turned.

### Success

In 1994 a final victory over Clyda Rovers gave Ballincollig a historic first ever Intermediate County Football Title. In Hurling, a great Under 21 County success in 1996 meant that Ballincollig are the only Club in Muskerry with a Hurling County Title in that age group.

In 1999 an exciting Intermediate County Hurling success brought Ballincollig's total of Titles at that level to Seven. The Minor (A) County Hurling Title victory in 2203 was another boost to Hurling by an enthusiastic group of players, some of whom have graduated effectively to Intermediate competition while 2009 saw Ballincollig finally reaching the holy grail at under 21 Football Level. We continued to produce players for Cork teams and a third player from Ballincollig captained Cork to All-Ireland success in 1997 when Dan Murphy had the distinction

of leading Cork to their 100th All Ireland Title when the Cork Under-21 Hurling Team defeated Galway in the final.

Dan was again captain in 1998 when Cork were again successful and, for good measure, he won a Senior All-Ireland Medal in 1999.

The Club also provided additional Cork selectors who steered teams to All-Ireland victories. Gerald O'Connor's involvement with the Cork Junior All Ireland winning team of 1940 has previously been referred to and following same Paddy Healy was a selector on the first Cork Team to win an Intermediate Hurling all Ireland in 1965. The following year in 1966 Billy (Long Puck) Murphy was a member of the Selection Committee that steered Cork to an exciting Senior All Ireland Hurling victory.

In more recent times Billy Barry was a selector when Cork won the Minor Football All-Ireland title in the year 2000, as the club continued to promote the G.A.A. at every level. Members of the club have continued to gain special recognition for their contribution to the community with Billy Fitton being selected as Ballincollig Personality of the Year during Community Radio Ballincollig in September 1983. Liam O'Riordan was chosen as G.A.A. Administrator of the Year by the County Juvenile G.A.A. Board in 1985 and in more recent times John Purcell was selected as Cork Person of the Month.

There has been no letting up by the Central Committee at ensuring that the playing facilities meet the requirements of the present day and it was satisfying that all three fields formerly the property of the Department of Defence became the property of the club in 2007. Obtaining full control of playing fields 2, 3 and 4 for a figure of €50,000 was a very good bargain and all concerned deserve the highest commendation for bringing the deal to fruition. The erection of flood lighting on Pitch Two was a further milestone in the enhancing of the club's facilities and the official opening of the Hurling Alley by the Chairmen of the Munster Council, Jimmy O'Gorman, was a fitting event in the Celebration of the 125 years, of Cumann Luth Chleas Gael.

### All-Ireland success

The achievements of the club continue to be satisfying and this year saw two more All-Ireland Medals coming to the Club, when Noel Galvin and Liam Jennings were prominent figures in Cork's Under 21 Football victory. To date 60 All-Ireland Medals have come to Ballincollig and success was recorded in every grade with the exception of Senior Football,

until this year.

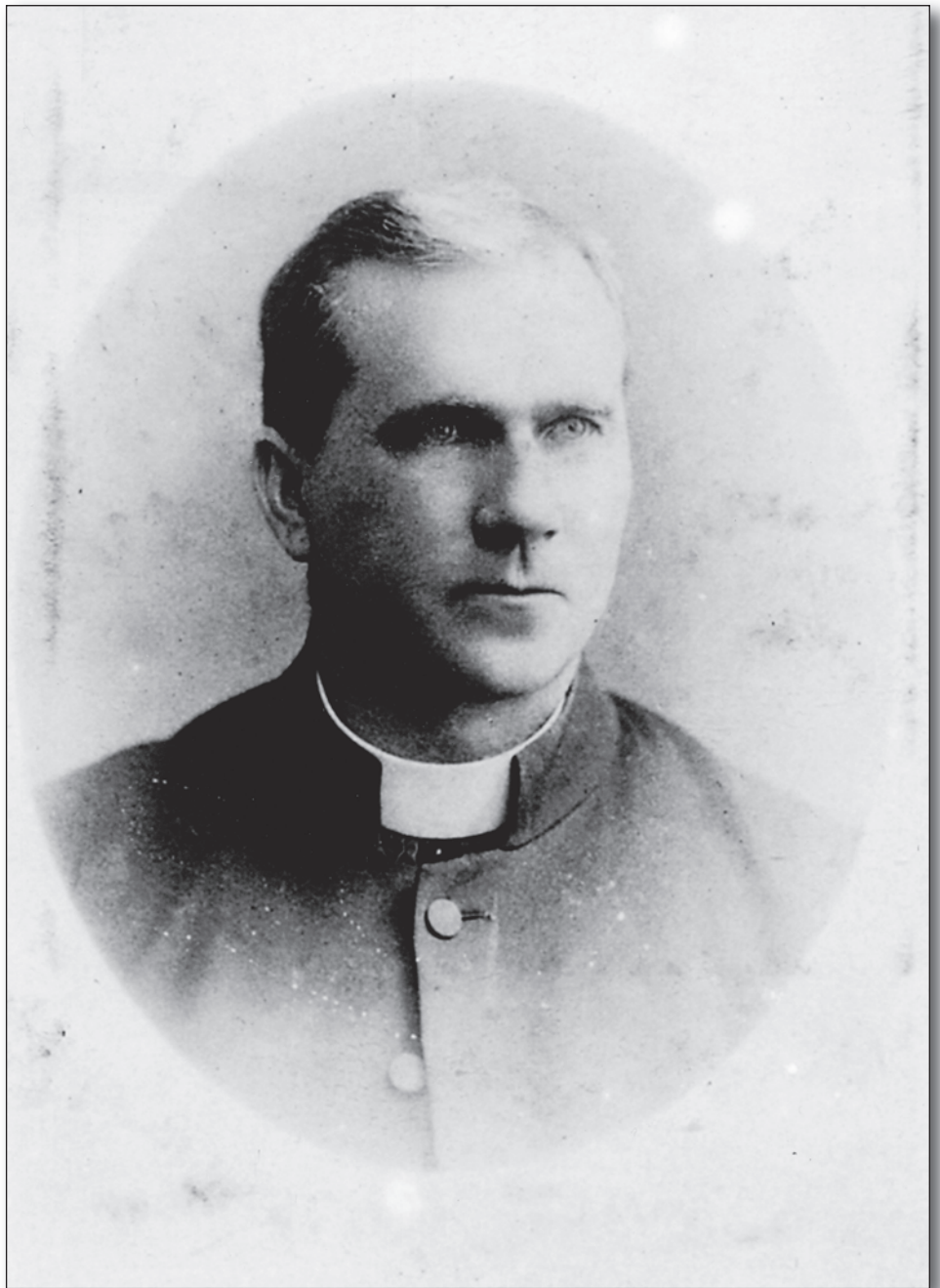
Ballincollig came close at that level with Pdraig O'Mahony being a prominent figure in the team that lost narrowly to Meath in 1999. In 2009 another disappointment had to be endured when John Miskella and Patrick Kelly were huge figures on the team that qualified for the All-Ireland Final in style. Unfortunately Kerry had the edge on Cork in the Final so Ballincollig had wait for an All-Ireland Senior Football medal winner until this year.

The club was honoured by the success of Patrick Kelly and John Miskella in the 2010 All-Ireland final against Down. This was another milestone in the history of the club.

As 125 Years of the G.A.A. is drawing to a close there are outstanding performances on the field, the facilities are excellent and the club continues to play its part in the overall working of the association. It is significant that a club that had a member holding the Position of Chairman of the Muskerry Divisional Board in 1925, when the Division was formed, also has a member as Chairman, in the person of Frank McCarthy.

Ballincollig can be justifiably proud of the part it has played in the enhancement of the G.A.A. during the Association's 125 years in existence and hopefully the best is yet to come.

# The Life & Death of Canon Magner



*Neil O'Mahony*

## Introduction

Thomas Magner was born on 15 October, 1850, at Knockanemore, Ovens on what was then known as the Coach Road. His parents were John Magner and Catherine Murphy who farmed 68 acres and reared a large family. His brothers, John and Edward, continued farming there during their lifetimes. The old homestead still stands, though unoccupied for over 50 years.

Young Thomas attended Ovens Primary School and continued his education at the Diocesan Seminary - then known as St. Vincents on St. Patrick's Hill. From there he graduated to the Irish College in Paris, where he excelled at Mathematics and Theology. He was ordained in 1876, continuing a family tradition. His uncle, William Magner, was ordained in 1850 and died suddenly in 1854 while saying Mass at

Knocknavilla. His brother, Patrick Magner, born 30 April, 1848, was ordained in 1873 at Maynooth. He served as Chaplain to St. Patrick's Hospital 1873-76 c.c. Innishannon 1876-1880, and c.c. Dunmanway 1880-1886 where he died aged only 38 years on August 21st, 1886. The vocation surfaced again in subsequent generations with a relative Fr. John Ambrose (1893-1956) who served in the Diocese of Ross, and a grand-nephew, Fr. John Hegarty (1909-1970) who was c.c. in Ballincollig from 1957 to 1969.

## A priest

Following his ordination, Fr. Tom served as Chaplain to the Carmelites in 1876-77, Chaplain Bon Secours in 1877-78, Chaplain to Little Sisters of the Poor in 1878-79, Chaplain to the North Presentation Convent 1879-83 whilst also serving as Professor of Mathematics at the Diocesan Seminary, by then

known as St. Finbarr's at Patrick's Hill. (It did not move to Farranferris until 1887).

His next posting was c.c. in Kinsale from 1883-86, c.c. in Bandon from 1886-93, c.c. in the North Cathedral from 1893-1907 and p.p. Dunmanway from 1907 to 1920 where he was appointed as a Canon of the Diocesan Chapter.

Canon Magner was an extremely popular and well loved priest, not alone in Dunmanway, but also in Kinsale, Bandon, and the Cathedral Parish, where his commonsense and gentle, kind and inoffensive character, endeared him to everybody.

### War of Independence

Late 1920 saw troubled times in Ireland, and in Cork in particular. In June of that year, a new force of the British Army known as the Auxiliaries were posted to Ireland to augment the RIC and Black and Tans. They were practically all experienced soldiers, veterans of the 1914-18 War. They were highly paid, and mobilised for the expressed purpose of grinding the Irish 'Rebels' into submission. A fact often overlooked is that the resistance had the support of a native government elected with a massive mandate in the 1918 General Election.

The Auxiliaries reign of terror in West Cork led directly to the Kilmichael Ambush on 28 November, 1920, and in Cork City to an ambush on 'K' Company Auxiliaries at Dillons Cross on 11 December. This was followed by the well documented burning of Cork City when an out-of-control army devastated the City Centre and City Hall.

### Threat

In the aftermath of the mayhem in Cork, 'K Company' were moved to Dunmanway by order of General Strickland, and billeted at the Workhouse. During the previous month a written message had been sent to Canon Magner

*'You are hereby requested to toll the bell of your chapel between the hour of 11 a.m. and 11.05 a.m on the 11th of November in memory of 'Our Glorious Dead'. This act will be appreciated by the Black and Tans. If not.....'*

Canon Magner did not comply. The British forces made it known that they were going to 'sort out the people of Dunmanway and especially the fellow with the Red Buttons who refused to toll the bell on Armistice Day.'

On Wednesday, 15 December, 1920 Canon Magner went out to take the air and read his Breviary. Having

walked about 1 mile east from the Church, in the townland of Ballyhalwick, he met up with a man who was having a problem with his car. This was Patrick Sarsfield Brady from Ballylickey, a Resident Magistrate, who was en route from Bantry to Bandon Barracks on some official business.

Canon Magner enquired if he was alright and Mr. Brady said he needed a little help to push the car. Just then, a 22 year old local farmer's son, Tadgh O'Crowley from Behigullane, passed by on a bicycle and the Canon asked if he would help Mr. Brady.

As they were attempting to launch the car, 2 Crossley Tenders, each containing about 15 Auxiliaries, passed by going in the Cork direction. The first, under the command of a District Inspector, continued on. The second lorry, commanded by Cadet Sergeant Vernon Hart, came to a halt and Hart got out and shouted at Mr. Brady, 'Who are you?' Brady replied that he was a Resident Magistrate on official business. Hart shouted, 'I don't care. I am going to shoot you - have you any papers?' 'Yes, I have', replied Mr. Brady.

### Death

Then Hart pushed him aside and approached Tadgh O'Crowley and asked him his name and searched his pockets. He then took out his revolver and proceeded to beat Tadgh O'Crowley around the face with it and then shot him dead.

Two of the other Cadets dismounted from the Tender and walked in Hart's direction but he waved the gun at them, ordering them back on the lorry.

He then knocked off Canon Magner's hat and made him kneel on the road with arms outstretched, and while standing over him, fired two shots through the head - the first wounding him and the second killing him.

He then went through the Canon's pockets scattering his belongings on the road. The bodies were left inside the roadside fence.

The District Inspector realising that the second tender was not following them turned back to see what was wrong. When the other Cadets informed him of what had happened, he arrested Hart and had him placed in the Guardroom at the Workhouse.

Apparently, the two Tenders were on their way to Cork City to attend the funeral of Cadet Spencer Chapman, a member of 'K' Company, who had died as a result of wounds received in the Dillons Cross Ambush. Hart, who knew him well, said to his colleagues before leaving Dunmanway, 'something



*ought to be done for Chapman. I would like to see Ireland swept with fire, and I would like to lead the boys'.*

Resident Magistrate Brady and a local man, James Nyhan, raised the alarm. Fr. Carmody, the Senior Curate, cycled out and found the bodies. A lorry with some Auxiliaries arrived on the scene and took the bodies back to the Workhouse. Later on Wednesday evening they were released to the Curates and taken to the Church. Bishop Coholan was informed and the funeral was arranged for Friday 17 December, 1920.

### Funeral

At the Bishop's request, the Cork/Bandon Railway laid on a special train to transport mourners to Dunmanway. The attendance was the largest ever seen in the town. The mourners included 116 priests as well as a number of clergy of other denominations and representatives of the local businesses, many of whom were non-Catholic. His native Ovens and the other parishes where he had ministered were well represented. After the High Mass, Canon Magner was buried in Dunmanway Churchyard, on the left of the main pathway to the Church, and Tadhg O'Crowley close by.

In December, a Military Inquiry, rather than an Inquest, was held at Dunmanway Police Barracks. Evidence of the killings was given by Cadet Milward, one of the Auxiliaries, under Hart's command. Medical evidence was given by Dr. O'Callaghan, Dunmanway and Dr. Nyhan of Johnstown.

### Court martial

As a result, a Court martial charging Cadet Hart with the murder of Canon Magner and Tadhg O'Crowley was opened at Victoria Barracks, Cork, on 21 December, 1920. It was adjourned as the counsel for the defence had just been assigned to the case.

The Court martial resumed on 5 January, 1921. Evidence was heard from the District Inspector, in charge of 'K' Company, and from two Auxiliary Cadets from Hart's lorry and from Resident Magistrate Brady - all of which left no doubt as to what happened on 15 December, 1920. Then the defence paraded 4 medical experts, all of whom were attached to the Military or British Government. All four agreed that, while Hart was now recovering and fit to stand trial, he was insane at the time of the shootings. This rang very hollow as the exact same defence had been used at the Court martial of Capt. Bowen Colthurst for the murder of well known pacifist, Francis Sheehy Skeffington in 1916.

Hart, who was born in Lancashire in 1884, and spent some time fruit farming in Tasmania before joining the British Army in 1914, was found guilty but insane. He was to be confined in a Criminal Lunatic Asylum during the 'pleasure of the Lord Lieutenant'. There is no further trace of him in any records either here or in Britain.

### Memorial

A Committee was formed to erect suitable memorials. They raised a large amount of funds and, in June 1924, a Celtic Cross of Irish limestone inscribed in Irish and English was erected at Ballyhalwick.

In July 1924, a Celtic Cross was erected on Tadhg O'Crowley's grave and a large impressive memorial completed on Canon Magner's grave site.

The brutal murder of Canon Magner, allied to the killing of Fr. Michael Griffin in Galway and Fr. James O'Callaghan in Cork City, generated revulsion, not alone in Ireland, but in Britain and U.S.A. In this instance the British Authorities were unable to hide behind the often used propaganda that these atrocities were committed by Irishmen, disguised as British soldiers. It also galvanised the support of the Irish people for the Independent Struggle and led, eventually, to the Truce in July, 1921.

# Jeremiah O'Herlihy

*Donal O'Flynn*

Known as 'Big Jer', he was the son of John and Mrs O'Herlihy who lived in the cottage where Crowley's lived in later years. He worked for Allens of Clashanure.

## Ambush

Not long after joining the Volunteers, Jer was promoted to Lieutenant. The I.R.A. were preparing for an ambush by the Chetwynd Viaduct on the Cork to Bandon road. Their target was a convoy of British lorries travelling from Bandon to Cork. The ambush was planned for 5 October, 1920. The Column had a tree partly cut ready to knock across the road in front of the British convoy. The British were informed of the I.R.A.'s plans by a spy called Chambers from Ballinora.

After the ambush Chambers was arrested he was held prisoner in a local farmyard he escaped around some reeks of corn. Chambers had been a big landowner in the locality. One of the guards guarding Chambers was George Williams, his mother was the caretaker of the graveyard in Ballinora. Frank Dinneen and his son Sean now live where Chambers had his farm. There you had a tucking mill for washing the blankets from the Army Barracks. Chambers was never heard of again.

As the I.R.A. prepared for the ambush word went around that they were surrounded by the British. Shooting started approximately 11.30 to 12.00. To a prepared plan the I.R.A. men made off towards Ashgrove, Togher, where they were to meet up at Harry Wood's farm at Castlewhite. He came out to tend his cattle, and found Jer lying face down in the mud.

## Death

It transpired that Jer had dumped his weapons and some time later was stopped and questioned by the British. They knew he was not tending cattle as he told them but that he was a member of the ambushing party. They said to him to run away as it was not a right place to be. When Jer had run a number of yards towards where Mary Lehane's house now stands they shot him.

When the same party of British soldiers came on Jer, he was unconscious. They mocked and laughed about his wound, and thinking he was dead they left him. The shooting was witnessed across the valley by Paddy Barry who worked at Young's. That day he was scouring a ditch and saw Jer talking to the soldiers. When Jer left the soldiers he ran. One of the soldiers got down on one knee and took aim. Jer was seen to stumble, fall and crawl to a fence. Later he crawled away towards Harry Wood's house. On seeing him Harry Woods took him into his

house and washed and dressed his wounds. He then sent for a priest and doctor.

Due to British Army activity in the locality the priest and doctor had to come across the fields to tend to Jer. When all was quiet in the locality an ambulance came and took Jer to hospital. He died of septic poisoning about a week later.

Three members of the attacking party were wounded. Three others not wounded were subsequently arrested. One of the Volunteers was lucky. A tree had fallen over a small stream that ran nearby and one of the volunteers hid under it and the British walked over it on numerous occasions without detecting him.

There were no military casualties.

Other casualties that morning included a Mr. Joseph Lynch of 5 Cornmarket St. Cork who was driving a pony and trap with some friends beyond the Viaduct when the shooting started, and a bullet just missed his head. The pony had been hit in the hip and two bullets were found embedded in the trap.

British reports on the ambush stated: Today a patrol of 20 soldiers surprised about 60 civilians preparing an ambush on the Cork Bandon road. On seeing the patrol they fled but one civilian was killed. Several shot guns, a quantity of ammunition, 10 bicycles, steel helmets and equipment were abandoned by the civilians in the flight.

Note: Before he was shot, Jer called to Buckley's house for a drink of water. In their roundup of the area the British Army did not enter Buckley's house. If Jer had stayed in Buckley's he would have been safe.

No stone marks his grave in Clondrohid graveyard where he was buried with full military honours. Local women are reputed to have smuggled guns hidden in their clothing through Macroom for the firing party.

A monument to Jer O'Herlihy's memory now stands on the side road at the Bandon side of the Viaduct on the Cork-Bandon road.

Some local men took part in this engagement they included Michael O'Regan, Tim Herlihy, Leo Murphy, Jack Herlihy, John Horgan, James Foley. Tim Herlihy was in charge.

# They missed the train and lost their lives

*Donal O'Flynn*

## Introduction

Thomas Henry Hornibrook came to Ballygroman in February 1895. He had a son Samuel and a daughter Matilda. Thomas Henry Hornibrook was born 1844. He farmed at Ballygroman Upper, a J.P. and a pillar of the Church of Ireland. He was a big man known as 'Big Tom'.

On account of his strict demeanour, some accounts would say he was not a very popular person. Others found him to be a good neighbour and he would always lend his expertise especially with farm animals. He was a Church Warden at St Mary's Athnowen and played the Church Organ on a regular basis. On his farm he employed two workmen, a maid in the house plus two local women to milk the cows, morning and evening. He had a great interest in astronomy and horse racing, in particular point to point racing. One of his better horses was called Koorbinroh (Hornibrook) backwards.

## Attacks

From press reports of the time right up to April 1922, it would seem that the Hornibrooks were maliciously injured on their property on numerous occasions.

Hornibrooks crops were destroyed and his cattle injured. His farm implements were broken or stolen; his motorcar was badly disabled. He was from time to time severely boycotted. No person would trash his corn, which, in consequence rotted in the haggard. During that period of time he received from the County Court decrees for various sums of money by way of compensation.

On the 25 April 1922 Thomas Henry Hornibrook aged 78, his son, Samuel, aged 45 and son-in-law, Herbert Woods, went by pony and trap to catch the train to Cork from Killumney station. On reaching Twomey's forge they saw the train cross over the bridge by Dennehy's. Realising they would not reach the station before the train departed for Cork they turned back intending to travel the day after instead.

## Incident at Hornibrooks

That night at about 2.30 in the morning Michael O'Neill, Stephen O'Neill, Charlie O'Donoghue and Michael Hurley called to Mr Hornibrooks house on official I.R.A. business. At the inquest into Michael O'Neill's death held in Bandon, Stephen O'Neill, his brother, stated that they knocked at the door. "A person came to the window: and a man's voice asked: 'Who is there?' The deceased who was in charge of our party, said: 'Please open the door as I want to see Mr. Hornibrook on business.' The window was shut, and we waited to have the door opened for about a quarter of an hour, and as it was not opened the deceased knocked again. One of the Hornibrook's again opened the window, and we again asked him to open the window as we wanted to see him on business, and we further added that if he did not open the door we would force the door, We heard the party above call out 'Sam'. As the door was not opened, after waiting about another quarter of an hour, the deceased lifted up the left hand window of the dwelling house, which seemed to be unfastened."

"The deceased then got through the window, and I and Charlie O'Donoghue got in after him, We found ourselves in a dining room: there was no light, but deceased had an electric torch. Deceased went into the hall from the dining room and proceeded to go upstairs, we all following. A shot rang out. The deceased turned and came down the stairs, making for the dining room again, where he fell on the floor having exclaimed I am shot. Charlie O'Donoghue took the deceased out through the window, he was quiet unconscious. Though the deceased had a torch I did not see who fired the shot. When we got outside we took the deceased down the avenue and I went for a priest. When the priest arrived the deceased was dead shot in the chest."

Charlie O'Donoghue: "I have heard the evidence of Stephen O'Neill taken on oath before Corner Horgan this the 27th April 1922. I was present on the occasion and I confirm the statement which he has made and agree in every detail."

## Shot

Meanwhile, Thomas Hornibrook, his son, Samuel, and Herbert Woods were court-martialed in a nearby farmer's yard. Later they were taken to 'The College' in Scarrif and held there for some time before being brought east and shot, Thomas Hornibrook being defiant until the last.

## Funeral

Michael O'Neill's body was washed and prepared by two local women, Jane Twomey and Mary Lynch before being removed to Bandon Church on Wednesday evening. There it lay in state constantly attended by a guard of honour of the I.R.A., throngs of people visited the Church to pray for his eternal reward.

"Requiem Mass was celebrated on Thursday and Friday morning before a large congregation for his eternal welfare. On Friday all business was suspended in Bandon, all shops and business places were closed and at o'clock the funeral cortege started for Kilbrittain. The coffin wrapped in the tricolour, was borne on the shoulders of his brother officers and followed by thousands of Volunteers in military formation. The Irish Volunteer Pipe Band, Bandon also took part in the funeral procession playing the 'Dead March'."

Subsequently all the moveables in Ballygroman House were looted and all the cattle, horses, stock, implements, carts, etc. on the lands were looted and carried away. Hearing what was happening to the house and farm, a local Commandant of the I.R.A. went to the house on Sunday and stopped people removing anything from the house and lands. The house was then set on fire.

Note: Herbert Woods was an ex British army Officer and a champion boxer.

'The College' was a house used to keep prisoners under guard.

# Skillang the runner

*Seamus Healy*

## Athlete

This is the story of Tim Herlihy, the famous athlete from Ovens. Tim was born at Walshestown, Ovens in 1893. He was better known as 'Skillang' after a famous racehorse.

Tim, with his brothers Jer, Andy and John grew up in times a lot tougher than to-day, no T.V., no discos or nightclubs. They made their own amusement along with other local young men, their neighbours. They played hurling, fished and poached salmon and made the most of life.

They took a special interest in running and jumping and got interested in attending local sports meetings. Soon Tim's prowess as a runner of great potential was recognised. His first big win was the Cork County five mile Cross Country Championship at Glanmire in 1914. He gained his place on the Cork County Senior cross country team which won the All-Ireland Championship in 1914 and 1915.

At this time he had got employment on the farm of Mr. Kyrie Allen of Clashenure. Mr. Allen took an interest in Tim's progress and used to pace him on horseback when training on Allen's big fields. He won the half-mile Championship of Ireland in 1916 and 1917. He won the 440 yards Championship in 1917 and again in 1918. Then his country called.

## Volunteers

When a Company of the Irish Volunteers was formed at Srelane, Tim was one of the first to join. On the expansion of the Volunteers, further Companies were formed at Killumney and Balinora and so the Third Battalion, First Cork Brigade was formed. Tim became Battalion O.C. Two more companies were formed at Farann and Aherla.

At this point the R.I.C. took an interest in his activities. In the early summer of 1921 a big round-up took place in the Srelane area. Tim, his brother Jer, his friend and comrade, Tim Healy, and another man who was not a member of the Volunteers were arrested and taken to Ballincollig Barracks. They were to be court-martialed the following morning but be-

cause of the signing of the truce the day before, the courtmartial did not take place. So their lives were saved as court-martials usually meant execution. They were taken to Cork Barracks (now Collins Barracks), and kept in the notorious 'Cage' for a short time. Then they were transferred to Spike Island. They were on Spike during the famous escape and were on hunger strike for a while. They took part in the attempt to destroy the prison by burning. They were then taken to Maryborough, (now Portlaoise), where they were kept until the end of hostilities.



## Eire Og

After the Troubles, Tim gave up running but played hurling with Bride Valley. When the new club Eire Og was formed, Tim was involved but could not play on the County winning team of 1928 because of a broken leg. He later went to live in Cork city and took up employment in the new Ford factory where he worked until his retirement. In later years he followed bowl-playing and loved to play cards. He died in 1986 and was laid to rest in his native Ovens.

He inspired the composition of a ballad by the late Jeremiah Long of Greenfield which I give hereunder.

By the side of the famed Holy Wells boys  
Where the pilgrim has oft' bent the knee  
Our hero Skillang saw the light boys  
In sweet Walshestown by the Lee.  
Then heres to our gallant Skillang boys.  
The pride of the parish is he.  
For the fleetest young runner in Ireland

Is our own darling Tim from the Lee.  
His childhood and boyhood passed quietly  
And little we thought we would see,  
The day the four corners of Ireland  
Would ring with the name Herlihy  
Picked men from the four shores of Erin  
Came to test this young man from the Lee.  
In the quarter, the half and cross-country.  
But never an equal had he.  
The hardest of all was at Mallow  
Where he met that young Tip man named Ryan.  
They all thought that Ryan was peerless  
But they reckoned without Herlihy  
O well may our country be proud  
Of men such as Tim Herlihy  
For she need not despair of her freedom  
While she nurtures such gallants as he.  
Then heres to our gallant Skillang boys.  
The pride of our parish is he  
The fleetest young runner in Ireland  
Is our own darling Tim from the Lee.

*St Peter's Church, Carrigrohane*



*Herbert Calvert*

The first mention of the parish occurs in the taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1291. Little is known about the early building other than the chancel of the building was repaired in 1615. The next reference to a church is one being built in 1628 accommodating about 70 persons. During the incumbency of Revd. Henry Hodder LI. D. (1826-1865) the present church was built. The building consisted of chancel, West End and tower, with spire covered in slate. Incorporated into this building is a portion of the 1628 church – the north wall from the entrance door to the chancel. Later, during the incumbency of the Revd. R. S. Gregg (1865–1873), the annexe to the body of the church was built and also the vestry. This section is to the plans of by Wm. Burges Esq, architect of St. Finbarre's Cathedral in 1866-1867. In 1896-97, a cut stone spire replaced one of timber and slate at a cost of £280.

Entering the church, your eye is immediately drawn to the fine stained glass window in the sanctuary. It is erected to commemorate one Arthur Lionel Tobin, whose father was one time owner of the Gunpowder Mills in Ballincollig. The window was executed by Henry Holiday (1893 –1927) and W. G. Saunders. It is probably the only window resulting from their

brief collaboration, two of the major figures in stained glass art. The main panels depict Temperance, Fortitude and Justice. Looking around the interior, adjacent to the vestry door is a memorial to Julia, wife of G. Dolmage. This tablet was removed from the garrison church in Ballincollig following its closure in 1922.

On the West End is a memorial to John A. Wood. It is a painting of the *Resurrection* by Patrick Pye. The pulpit, communion rail and lectern were installed in 1907 and were made in oak by Messrs. Vits, Ghent, Belgium. The parish sold the old rectory at Minister's cross in 1989. The church was re-roofed and re-decorated in the summer of 2000.

*I wish to acknowledge my thanks to Patsy Devoy, office secretary at Carrigrohane Church of Ireland, for her cooperation and help in the publishing of this article. Our thanks also to the author Herbert Calvert.*

*Dermot O'Donovan*

# Inniscarra Glebe House

*Liam Hayes*

Built in 1812 at a cost of £3,092,6.2 where of £1384.2.4  $\frac{3}{4}$  was granted by way of loan and £92-6-1 $\frac{1}{4}$  in that of gift by the Board of First Fruits and the residue of £1,615-7-8  $\frac{1}{2}$ d was supplied out of the private funds of the builders, George De La Poer Beresford. In 1832, £926-1-0 of the loan remained outstanding and as a charge on the benefice and was being repaid by annual instalments of £48.14.9.

Rev. Geo Beresford was the second son of the first Lord Decies Archbishop of Tuam. From 1799 to 1826 he was Pastor of Inniscarra, being replaced in the latter year by his eldest son, William De La Poer Beresford who held the benefice until 1856 when he was deprived by sentence imposed by the Archbishop of Dublin and transported for life.

In 1848 to 1850 Rev Francis O Connor held 16 acres 3 roods and 35 perches. Valued House 28 pounds + Buildings 40 pounds, total 68 pounds. He also had water which flowed of 3 acres 3 roods and 30 perches. The property was under the control of Ecclesiastical Commission. Mr John Scanlon occupied the gate lodge.

A Dublin man Wm. Gabbett succeeded. He was residing in the Glebe House in 1860 when a report states both it and the church were in good order. At that date the incumbent had 16  $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of Glebe in his own use and 11 acres let. Gabbett resigned and retired in 1872 being the last clergyman to occupy the house. Sometime after this the Representative Church body sold both house and land, but to whom I do not know.

In 1875 however Major Richard Beare Tooker J.P. Cork City was in residence.

In Guys Almanac of 1871 Major Richard Beare Tooker of Inniscarra House is on list of Magistrates for City.

There is a record of a Philip Buchanan Walsh, a retired officer of H.M.S.. Consular Service being in residence in 1886 – 1893.

In 1893 a Miss Jane Aughmuty lived there.

Major Tooker was attached to the Royal Cork City Artillery Militia whose headquarters at the time were on Infirmary Road. He had resided on Mardyke Walk before going to Inniscarra.

Major Tooker died on Jan 4th 1877 at Fort Lisle Queenstown leaving £800. In his will he is described as “formerly of Inniscarra House”, Ardrum.

The Tooker Family was residing near Rathcooney in 1642 and a will made by a John Tooker of that parish in that year was in the possession of Major Tooker of Inniscarra House.

Major Tooker married Frances, one of 7 daughters of Rev. Robert Longfield of the Castlemary family. He himself had five sons and five daughters.

In 1901 Census of 31 March, John Penrose Hawkes, a Private Gentleman lived with his wife Sara and daughter Alice aged 2 years and son John Penrose aged 1 year. Also there was 1 house servant, one Child maid and one outdoor Servant.

In 1911 Census there seems to be nobody in residence yet T.G. Hawkes is listed as Landowner. There are two outdoor Servants registered on property, with T.G.Hawkes as Landowner.

In 1912 Guys Almanac T.G. Hawkes is resident in Inniscarra House.

In 1916 Miss A. Hawkes was the occupier.

In 1918 Dr. E.H. Robinson, MD.

Dr. Edward Hartley Robinson had married on Feb 3 1916 at Christ Church, Conning New York Miss Alice Hawke’s younger daughter of T.G. Hawkes of Inniscarra House and Conning New York.

In 1933 a Mr. S. Haynes was in residence.

William Haynes and son, Fishing Tackle Makers and Agents had premises at 63 Patrick Street Cork.

In 1940 Charles Orr lived there.

Charles Orr was a freemason and he was a stone mason by profession. It was he who built and pointed the estate wall by the roadside. He was a keen gardener.

In 1947 Reginald D.W. Roper Snr. retired to Inniscarra House. He was a member of a family Accountancy firm in Bermingham who became a builder developer. He was keen fisherman and sportsman. He specialised in Pig Breeding and introduced Pedigree Landrace and Large White pigs to Ireland and was involved with Dept. of Agriculture Schemes to improve quality breeding in Irish Pig Herds.

He died suddenly in 1964 and his family still occupy Inniscarra House.





# The Hoares of Carrigrohane Castle

*From M. Jesse Hoare, The Road to Glenanore, Howard Baker London 1975*

My father's family first came to Ireland in 1649 with the "land grabbers": Cromwell and his doughty Ironsides. For their services these services these early ancestors received large grants of land in Cork, Kerry and Kilkenny, not an acre of which now remains in the Hoare family's possession.

In 1771, Clotilda Wallis married my great-great-grandfather, Edward, bringing Carrigrohane Castle and its large estate with her. Clotilda had other assets, including cash, which her husband quickly squandered. She is said to haunt the castle, wandering around the upper regions, tapping a cane with a gold crested top.

Undoubtedly Sir Edward Hoare was a "bad hat". Once, when evicting some tenants from a portion of land in Carrigrohane, a man fired a loaded blunderbuss at him, but the weapon misfired, so it was a case of "the devil looking after his own". Eventually in mysterious circumstances Edward and Clotilda fled to Bristol where they died.

Clotilda had three sons; the eldest died abroad, a bankrupt, the next became an Admiral of the Royal Navy, and the youngest, my ancestor, was an Anglican (Church of Ireland) clergyman, who purchased property in a north Cork village called Castletownroche.

Every generation of the Hoares was prodigiously quarrelsome. My great grandfather, the Reverend Thomas Hoare was no exception.

Bitter feuds raged between him and his elder brother. These feuds appeared to be mainly due to money gained by the sale of land.

After Thomas's sons married their animosity reached its height. By this time the property at Carrigrohane had gradually dwindled to about twenty five or thirty acres. In 1846 the castle, in a ruinous condition, came into Mr. McSwiney's possession. Following typically Irish bargaining, my grandfather bought the remnants of the estate, so it returned to the Hoare family again.

Thomas's two sons lived in stylish homes less than forty miles apart. Yet they were not even on speaking terms. The Castletownroche Hoares did not consider my grandfather's second wife (Mary Elizabeth Gamble) good enough, being only a merchant's daughter. She outlived her spouse. In old age she became extremely arrogant, when she travelled by train she carried a handkerchief soaked in eau de Cologne. This she held dramatically before her nose if anyone dared to share her carriage.

She had four sons and a daughter. The youngest son was my father. When he was a young man, they quarrelled so

bitterly that he refused to have anything more to do with her. My mother, Emily Helen, was one of the Helens of Dublin. My mother, Emily Helen, was educated at Alexandra College Dublin and gained her degree in mathematics. She was regarded as the "Bluestocking" of the family. I was born in 1917, my mother was then in her forties and hoping for a son. I was the youngest of five children.

My father, Edward Wallis Hoare F.R.C.V.S., killed himself just before my third birthday. He had an extensive veterinary practice as well as lecturing at University College Cork. He also wrote articles for particular journals, he also wrote books on veterinary science one of which "Veterinary Therapeutics" is now in its third edition.

Eventually Castle was occupied by my father's only sister, Eliza, and another brother, Henry, they were an eccentric pair and were seldom on speaking terms. She was tall and gaunt, with a pale cadaverous face; invariably dressed in black, she wore a masculine coat with a high crowned hat set squarely on white hair. She adored horses and spent most of her time in the stables. She loathed motor vehicles and if a car happened to pass the front gates when she was nearby, she rushed out towards the car waving her arms and shouting "dirty roadhogs, get away from here, you dirty roadhog" as she yelled she danced with rage, shaking her fist. Some of the startled drivers even shook their fists in return. My mother was always extremely embarrassed, we children shrieked with laughter at Aunt Eliza's hysterical display.

Her brother, Henry, was also tall thin and pale, his pet passions were flowers and music, which he played in his garden hut surrounded by stacks of records and his ancient gramophone.

In 1932 uncle Henry and aunt Eliza died within a short time of one another, my mother uprooted herself and brought us to live there. Shortly after our arrival at the castle the rector, Canon Gibbings, father of Robert, who wrote so many entertaining and beautifully illustrated books, like "Lovely is the Lee and Sweet Cork of Thee".

He describes his father thus: "rich or poor, Protestant or Catholic alike, loved him".

# George D. Kelleher

*Ted Kelleher  
Andrew Kelleher*

George was born in February 1946 he was the fifth son of Sean and Johanna Kelleher at Fort Andrew, Inniscarra overlooking Ballincollig and a full view of the Powder Mills which years later defined George's life.

Though christened Dermot George, he was called George and always signed himself as George D Kelleher. Therein lies a family story. Though christened Dermot after his Uncle Diarmuid, Uncle Diarmuid in his youth was nick named "George" by his father. On the way to the church, would it be Dermot or George? and it ended as Dermot George, not withstanding according to custom he should have been named Con after an uncle on his mother's side.

## Reading

From an early age George was an avid reader, a common interest he had with his cousin, 'Drew, Andrew, son of Uncle Diarmuid. 'Drew was the same age as George give or take a few months. Every year from about the age of six Drew would spend a month or so at Fort Andrew, time was spent by both, reading, rambling through the wood land and trips to the river. Sadly Drew died aged at 10/11 years. Such was the age gap between George and his brothers (9-10)yrs he was almost an 'only child'.

After attending Ballincollig National School he went as his brothers did to "Pres", then on to Leaving Cert and an Arts course in UCC. His reading material was quite different from that seen in the household up to this time; History of the pre- and post-1916 era with emphasis on the Labour movement, with Connelly and Larkin holding a special focus for him. During his college years, at first Hegel and subsequently Marx and his political and economic theories were his reading interests. While still in college he continued exploring the powder mills from the Inniscarra Bridge down to the factory site, located close to the GAA grounds. One summer during his university period arising from his archeology course he experimented at home making charcoal, results unknown.

## Politics

Meanwhile during these years he was developing a distinc-



tive political outlook, he eschewed the Fine Gael family background and joined the Labour Party. In the 60s he spent a period in Limerick which was supposed to be for some sort of communications course. However it seems that more time was spent with Jim Kemmy and his organisation.

In 1971/72 he returned to his parents home joined the Labour Party, becoming Hon. Secretary in the local Inniscarra branch. He also interested himself in Trade Unionism. He immediately set about changing ways about mainly candidate selection and canvassing. Canvassing by the Party was limited and hit and miss in that not all houses were being canvassed at election time. This he found strange and unacceptable given that PR preference system gave chances to everybody so that 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, can sometimes be as useful as a number one and a local popular candidate can attract useful high preference transfers from other parties. He canvassed against Common Market entry, at the same time as his brother Ted canvassed

pro-entry as an IFA activist.

There was no ill feeling or sense of filial disharmony on either side and it must be said he accepted the result and canvassed for the FG/Labour General Election campaign which followed not too long afterwards. In time things in the Labour Party became difficult for him. After an incident at a subsequent Labour Party Conference held in Wexford, he ended his interest in politics.

Arising from an interest in the Trade Union movement he undertook a campaign to assert the right of a number of young female employees in a retail chain of stationery shops (Read and Write), with a view to applying for a position in the trade union sector, which particular group I can't recall. In any event the posting he had in mind went to someone else, with political ambitions and with subsequent limited success. A few years later when George died, at his removal a woman in her late twenties offered her condolences on his untimely death and his help to her and her friends which (Ted) took to be his involvement in the Read and Write incident.

### Powder Mills

Life for George after politics centred on a very intense campaign to have the property leased out to the Dept. of Defence from I.C.I (Imperial Chemical Industries) which included the entire area that was once the Powder Mill enterprise. His campaign was by letters to various newspapers, The Cork Examiner, Southern Star and Corkman and also as a member of the Monuments Committee of Cork Co. Council. His passionate campaign was long and difficult. His membership of the Monuments Committee was stormy and eventful, ending in his expulsion at the behest of the then Co. Manager, though it has to be said, it had the support of those Councilors who had no interest whatever in the provision of recreational areas despite the imminent expansion of Ballincollig as a satellite town.

Thus ended his campaign but his life took another turn. I have to stress at this stage it was only after his decease that his siblings had knowledge of this part of his life which was spent in England. He took up employment with London Transport which financed his researches into the Gunpowder Industry in England and other places in Europe, Africa and China. The aim was to publish a history of the Gunpowder and explosives industry with a study of the social, economic and political fallout in Europe, Ireland and England. His (George) aim was to obtain a degree Masters or Doctorate in the new independent studies of Industrial Archaeology.

There was an interesting difference towards military research between Ireland and England during the late 1980s. In Ireland there was a total ban on independent researchers into anything to do with things military, whereas in England when George asked for permission to read papers in Windsor Castle as a follow up from other sources, not only did he get permission, he was given access to every paper and documents he requested. He was also given a military car and driver every day to and from his flat in East London.

### Health

His efforts took a severe toll on his health but such was his commitment to the project, he postponed a necessary heart by-



pass for two years, something also unknown to his siblings. When he finally did go to the Mater Hospital his priorities were two suitcases of books and documents to research the life and times of D. D. Sheehan M.P., just one plastic bag containing a change of pyjamas and two shirts. Any suggestion by his mother and brother Ted if he needed company to the hospital (Mater) was firmly refused. He had the operation but died one week later having suffered a stroke during the operation, much to his mother's inconsolable grief, which was partly assuaged when U.C.C. awarded a posthumous degree (Masters) thanks to the good offices of Prof. Michael Mortell, President of UCC. This brought closure for her as she was closely involved with his project.

### Legacy

His legacy is the development of the Regional Park by Cork Co. Council; the final accolade and public recognition of his efforts was the erection of a plaque to George by the Muskerry Local History Society with the cooperation and kind permission of Cork Co. Council and unveiled by his old school friend and classmate, Brian Birmingham, then Lord Mayor, assisted by Derry Canty, County Mayor. Much thanks and appreciation from the Kelleher family to Mary O'Leary and Liam Hayes for their part in remembering George.

This ends the story of George in the family context. There are many others who were more involved in his researches to name a few, Nora Lynch, the late Tim Sheehan, MI Mulcahy, Tim Cramer and Richard T Cooke

Nora and George shared much information on local history and had many rugged exchanges. Tim Sheehan had a long association in local news and history. MI (Mull) Mulcahy, Cork Co. Council, and Richard T Cooke and also others here and England. Some who are still with us would gladly share their memories. There were many others in England, especially in Waltham Abbey on the Hertfordshire/Essex border which has a large heritage centre, the site of an old Powder Mill.