

# *The* DONEGAL ANNUAL



*Incorporating the Journal of the  
County Donegal Historical Society*

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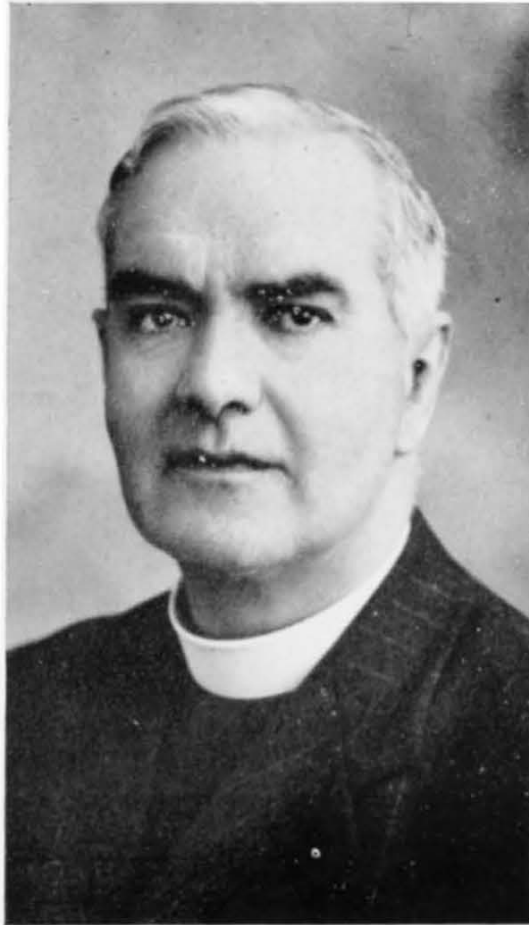


THE DONEGAL ANNUAL.

# *The County Donegal Historical Society.*

IRIS CUMANN SEANCAIS DUN NA nGALL

(FOUNDED AT LIFFORD ON 20th DECEMBER, 1946).



THE PRESIDENT, REV. J. H. BEWGLASS, THE MANSE,  
BALLINDRAIT.



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# PREFACE

Donegal is a maritime county, bounded on the North by the Atlantic, on the East and South by Lough Foyle and Counties Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Leitrim, and on the West by the Atlantic. Its greatest length, North-East and South-West, is 85 miles and greatest breadth, South-East, 41 miles. It comprises an area of 1,201,408 statute acres, and the coast is indented by numerous bays, of which the principal are Lough Swilly, Lough Foyle, Mulroy, Sheephaven, Teelin, Killybegs, Inver and Donegal Chief of the numerous islands lying off its coast are Innistrahul, North Arran and Tory. Much of the county is mountainous with large tracts of bog but there are great stretches of fertile agricultural land, most important of which is, perhaps, that in the Raphoe district known as the Laggan. Lakes and rivers are numerous but small. The subsoil is chiefly granite, mica-slate and limestone. The climate is moist. Potatoes, oats and flax are the chief crops. The population has grown from 218,334 in 1871 to 220,346 in 1951. Agriculture and fishing are principal sources of employment but there are many small, light industries. The manufacture of tweed (especially in the Western Gaeltacht area) and woollen goods, shirts and collars etc., gives much employment.

There are Urban District Councils at Buncrana, Bundoran and Letterkenny, Town Commissioners at Ballyshannon and a Harbour Board at Killybegs. The County contains the Raphoe Diocese and parts of those of Derry and Clogher consisting of 51 parishes. The towns and larger villages (in alphabetical order and with approximate population figures, where available, given in parenthesis) are Ardara (442), Ballintra, Ballindrait, Ballybofey (736), Ballyshannon (2,223), Bunbeg, Buncrana, (2,295), Bundoran (1,352), Burtonport, Carndonagh (660), Carrick, Carrigans, Carrigart, Castlefin, Clonmany, Convoy, Creeslough, Culdaff, Donegal (1,315), Dunfanaghy, Dungloe (593), Dunkineely, Falcarragh, Glencolumbkille, Glenties (360), Gortahork, Greencastle, Gweedore, Inver, Kilcar, Killybegs (631), Killygordon, Kilmacrennan, Laghey, Letterkenny (2,649); Lifford, Malin, Manorcunningham, Milford, Mountcharles (313); Moville (937); Narin and Portnoo, Newtowncunningham, Pettigo, (350); Portsalon, Ramelton (924); Raphoe, Rathmullan (402); St. Johnston and Stranorlar (462).

Politically the county is divided into two constituencies, which together send seven deputies to Dail Eireann. Representing the West constituency are Deputies Cormac Breslin, Bunbeg, (Leas Cean Comhairle), Joseph Brennan, Dunkineely (Fianna Fail); and P. O'Donnell, solicitor, Dungloe (Fine Gael). The East is represented by Deputies D. MacMenamin, B.L., Glenfin (Fine Gael); Neil Og Blaney, Rosnakill (Fianna Fail); W. W. Sheldon, Raphoe (Ind.); and Liam Cunningham, Burt (Fianna Fail). Mr. Michael Og MacFadden, for many years a Fine Gael deputy, is now a Senator.

# EDITORIAL

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## **"THE PAST IS PROLOGUE ....."**

**M**EMBERS and friends of the County Donegal Historical Society will, we hope, find in this, the first, issue of **The Donegal Annual** a wide variety of interesting articles, notes, and features in keeping with the aims and objects of our Society. For this reason we feel justified in maintaining continuity with our previous publications. **The Donegal Annual, 1951**, is therefore the first number of volume two of the Journal of the County Donegal Historical Society.

The decision to cater for a wider range of readers was taken by your Executive Committee after careful consideration of the vicissitudes which attended our first four publications. We were forced to conclude that, unless drastic changes were made, printing costs, attenuated sales, and precarious membership, would create a situation where our Journal would cease to be an Annual and become a sporadic publication. An analysis of these, unfavourable conditions showed that it is imperative for us to emphasise that no blame can be attached to our printers and publishers. Would that we could as readily exonerate other factors in the book trade? We have, therefore, no hesitation in calling attention to the arbitrary manner in which Journals, such as ours, are ignored, even to the extent of non-acknowledgment of review copies, by certain Literary Editors and Editors of the metropolitan and local press. Our treatment by a nation wide monopolistic book distribution firm was even worse and has caused us to take a very poor view of the fact that literature relating to the county is absent from the windows and counters of its bookstalls throughout Donegal. (Tourist and Development Associations please note !). With obstacles such as these the wonder is that we were able to dispose of so many of our Journals. For this we must thank the hard working agents of "The Derry Journal," and "The Donegal Democrat," ; and also the Editors of "Irish Historical Studies" whose reviews and notices brought us orders from as far away as New Zealand.

In fairness to all concerned we, too, must confess to faults and flaws. Healthy self-criticism has made it evident that the preservation and diffusion of our County's history could not be realised

by catering solely for a coterie ; however artistic its motives. It revealed that the science of history and archaeology, for its own sake, even in relation to County Donegal, could be best served in the **Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries**, **Irish Historical Studies** and **The Sword** of the Military History Society of Ireland. A study of public opinion throughout the county revealed that excessive zeal, on our part, for the preservation of relics and records of the pre-historic and historic past would not serve our wider aims and objects unless we established tangible links of continuity with the historic present and future. Our first four issues made no attempt to preserve these topics of to-day which may make the history of to-morrow. In this misconception of time, in relation to history, we were not alone since a very large section of the masses in County Donegal are under the impression that, as a community, they dropped out of the main current of Irish history with the Flight of the Earls and passed into a vacuum after the Battle of Scarrifhollis. This is reflected in the writings of most of our Gaelic and Anglo Irish authors and journalists. (Should we have said **projected from** instead of **reflected in** ?).

As matters stand it is our bounden duty to **repair** (before it is too late) a part, at least, of the yawning gap between seventeenth century and twentieth century County Donegal. As we are not reactionaries we do not advocate the **restoration** of such things as tribalism, which would be as futile as the attempts, being made, to resuscitate royalist Tara inside the walls of Viking and Anglo-Norman Dublin while much more powerful forces are transforming the once sedate, cultured, Anglo Irish capital into a shambles where economic expediency out-weighs every other aspect of life. Far be it from us to add to a **potpourri** which has left our people with a muddled sense of Nationalism. Our work on the gap is not concerned with governors and forms of government but with the governed and we deprecate the disappearance of ancient territorial loyalties through the flight from the land since with each disappearance the stabilising influence of a priceless accumulation of family lore passes into oblivion.

It would be perpetuation of our national weakness—self deception—were we to continue to read cause and effect of this very grave social problem in terms of religious, political or economic ills. The first great exodus began in the generation associated with the change over from Irish to English ; with its consequent break in tradition and **its lack of suitable local history books to replace it**. The so-called Great Famine and the Land War were coincidental—a fact not appreciated by those who do not know that famine and agrarian strife were two endemic diseases of eighteenth and early nineteenth century rural Ireland. Our strongest argument in support of this claim will be obvious to any person familiar with the root causes of the Presbyterian mass emigrations of the eighteenth century which occurred at a time when an ever increasing Celtic Catholic population (suffering even greater social disabilities) clung steadfastly to the soil. The

answer is that the community sense of the Celtic Catholics was then so deep rooted that it kept them on the land long after less stable communities had yielded to the pressure of religious, political and economic laws.

It is our duty, therefore, to rehabilitate and recultivate community sense and territorial loyalty in rural Ireland. We are fully aware of the many factors which weigh against it. We realise that the Cinema, the Radio and the Newspaper have an unsteady influence on our rural population through their glorification of material pleasure and economic advancement. Neither have we ignored the complex projected by fashionable Anglo Irish novelists whose distorted and exaggerated concepts of **parochialism** and **parish pump** politics have destroyed many an embryo parish council.

On our side, however, we still have the strong spiritual armament of a Christian Ireland (Catholic, Protestant, and Presbyterian). But our ability to foster sentiments needful to the stability, nay, to the continued existence, of rural Ireland, depends upon the goodwill and the co-operation of our clergy, our public authorities, our teachers, and our people. Sympathy without co-operation is not enough. One example of this should be sufficient. The practical application of the **Acts for the Preservation of National and Local Monuments** (1870—1931) shows that ultimately these laws depend on their acceptance by the common man. Doe Castle, a national monument, was raped within living memory by a countryside which had forgotten that its great keep was the foster home of Red Hugh O'Donnell and the landing place of the great Owen Roe O'Neill. This unnecessary act of vandalism would not have taken place if the clergy, teachers and people of that locality had retained or replanted their roots in the historic soil of Ireland.

If we can offer some extenuating circumstances for the treatment of our secular relics of the past we can find no explanation for the appalling neglect of our graveyards, and their attendant religious ruins. Their lichen covered tombstones of costly marbles and polished granites, set in a breeding ground for noxious weeds and rank grasses, have given, one foreign tourist, at least, the impression that we are a race of neo-Christianised barbarians. This particular visitor, an American, had to use jungle tactics when visiting Killodonnell Abbey, Temple Douglas and Bally MacSweeney last summer; and his trip to County Donegal was the finale to an exhaustive tour of the European homelands of his ancestors! These included Belgium and Bavaria—countries which pay an especial attention to family burial places on **All Souls' Day**. We were unable to enlighten this candid gentleman as to where responsibility for this neglect lay; but we were able to tell him that there was a Noxious Weeds' Act somewhere in our legal code and that there were salaried caretakers in charge of some Irish burial grounds.

It is very gratifying to place on record that the Donegal County Council is fully aware of the part it can play in the

rehabilitation of local loyalties and it may be said that nowhere is this more evident than in the Council Chamber at Lifford. The Council has already re-established a Sub-Committee under the National Monuments' Act of 1931 and if tangible results do not flow the fault will not lie on the Councillors. We take this opportunity of thanking them for the small but adequate token grant which they passed to the Sub-Committee and we can assure them that no member of the Donegal Historical Society, on their Sub-Committee, has any wish to add to the incidence of local taxation beyond the amount granted, namely £60. The greatest benefit which should flow from the Sub-Committee is that of our having representation on a statutory body which can treat, on terms of equality and recognition, with government departments, such as Board of Works, and with government sponsored organisations, such as the new Tourist Companies. Already we can claim some credit for making the Druid Stone Circle at Beltany a national monument and we are, at present, engaged upon a comprehensive survey of the historical and archaeological remains of the County.

We should like to pay tribute to the cordial relations which exist between our Society and the County Libraries' Committee. This is reflected in the many exhibitions which we arranged together throughout the County and the "Donegal collections of books, manuscripts and maps," to which constant additions are being made by purchase and donation. This good work was begun by Mr. MacIntyre and the enthusiasm of his successor, Mr. O'Connor, has now made the County Libraries a very vital factor in the cultural life of the County.

We should be guilty of a grave discourtesy were we to overlook the part played by the County Manager in the development of the Donegal Historical Society. From its inception he has taken the keenest interest in every aspect of its activities and found time, in the midst of his many onerous duties, to take office, as President of the Society, when the fruits of his wide and solidly founded administrative ability were most needed. Our Society is deeply indebted to Mr. MacLochlainn.

We also take this opportunity of acknowledging our very best thanks to the Council of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ireland, for allowing us to print reproductions of the food vessels found at Bunnymain. Our gratitude is also extended to authors of the many papers published in this, and previous publications of our Society. If the **Donegal Annual** meets with your approval then a large share of thanks must go to Mr. Cecil King of Ballyshannon, who has come to our aid as Honorary Business Manager of the **Annual**. Through his generosity we were able to complete the first volume of our publications. Through his intelligent co-operation the first number of our second volume is now in your hands. And finally may we be permitted to commend to our readers the advertisements which appear in our pages.

J. C. T. MacDONAGH, Hon. Editor.

# LIST OF MEMBERS

## Office-Holders and Executive Committee

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### **PRESIDENT 1951**

Rev. J. H. Bewglass, The Manse, Ballindrait.

### **VICE-PRESIDENTS :**

Very Rev. Hugh Canon Boyle, P.P., Rathmullen; Rev. Dr. Furey, MacDevitt Institute, Glenties; Very Rev. P. MacLoingsigh, P.P., Aghyaran, Castlederg; Capt. Eamon O'Boyle, Marlborough Road, Dublin.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE :**

Rev. R. H. Bewglass, Rev. Patrick Gallagher, Dr. S. P. Kerrigan, Cecil King, Andrew Lowry, J. C. T. MacDonagh, S. D. MacLochlainn, Liam MacMenamin, J. J. O'Connor. This Committee meets at 3.30 p.m. on the first Saturday of each quarter. January, April, July, September, and any member of the Society who wishes to attend their meeting in the County House, Lifford, will be welcomed by the Committee.

Joint Hon. Secretaries : Liam Mac Menamin, B.A., N.T., Labadish, Manorhamilton; J. J. O'Connor, County Librarian, Lifford; J. C. T. MacDonagh, Highfield House, Stranorlar, (Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Editor); Cecil King, "Donegal Democrat," Ballyshannon, (Hon. Business Manager).

### **PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE COUNTY DONEGAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

- 1947 Mr. Andrew Lowry, Agrey, Ballindrait, Lifford.
- 1948. Very Rev. T. Molloy, D.D., St. Peters, Dungloe.
- 1949. Capt. J. S. Hamillon, D.L., Brownhall, Ballintra.
- 1950. Mr. S. D. MacLochlainn, County Manager, Lifford.

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- Anderson, Mrs., Volt House, Raphoe.
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# MUSIC IN DONEGAL

(BY VERY REV. A. MacLOONE, B. A., B. C. L.)

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Oh, Native Music beyond comparing,  
The sweetest far on the ear that falls ;  
Thy gentle numbers the heart remembers,  
Thy strains enchain us in tender thralls.

SAMUEL LOVER.

A certain lecturer invariably commenced an address on music with the words : "Music is the universal language of the human race". How very true ! For music is universal not only in the sense that it can be made the vehicle for communicating our thoughts even to those who do not understand our language but also because music has manifested itself amongst men in every corner of the globe. Since the dawn of history man has been known to give utterance to his thoughts through the medium of music and song. The Psalms are really songs and the pages of the Old Testament contain numerous references to music, both vocal and instrumental. Six hundred years and more before the Christian Era the ancient Greeks foregathered at harvest festivals to sing songs in praise of their god Dionysus, the bountiful giver of food and wine. Nero fiddled while Rome burned. And at home the Druidic sacrifices were accompanied by weird incantations well calculated to drown the cries of the human victims. Thus down through the years, in every age and clime, the descendants of Adam have given vent to their feelings in terms of song.

Ireland was no exception to the rule. On the contrary. Music constitutes an integral part of our traditional civilisation. The musical genius of our forebears has left us in possession of a unique body of melody, much of which has come down to us from a remote past. The question naturally arises. How have our folk-songs and folk-music been transmitted ? We should recall that before the coming of St. Patrick the Druids in Ireland, and of course, in Donegal had a monopoly of the art of writing and refused to teach it to those who were not of the fold. Hence the unlettered musicians had, perforce, to memorise their musical compositions. In our early Bardic Schools the poets and harpers learned their craft so thoroughly that they needed no musical notation. Although the Monastic Schools introduced the art of

writing, the old Bardic Schools kept aloof from them and continued to transmit their lore by oral methods. It was only about the thirteenth century that the Bards, having learned to write, began to commit their compositions to paper. To us it seems extraordinary that oral tradition could have survived so long. Coleridge has said somewhere that "a fact once apprehended by the human mind is retained for ever". If people forget at times, it is because throngs of events crowd out the memory. But even then the right note of suggestion will bring to the surface things apparently forgotten.

The life of the Donegal peasant in bygone days was much less complicated than ours; memory had fewer guests to entertain. With the passage of time, unfortunately, circumstances arose in this country which not only impaired the memory, but dried up forever the springs of memory. Persecution first and then the awful famines of 1845 to 1847 did more than anything else to destroy Ireland's music; for the older people, repositories of the native lore, died in their tens of thousands before they had time to bequeath their literary treasures to the younger generations. But for the zealous labours of a few faithful recorders in the 18th and 19th centuries most of our Irish music would have been irretrievably lost by the famines. And we can never be grateful enough to pioneers like Burke, Thumoth, Edward Bunting and George Petrie who did so much to salvage for posterity the numerous and precious gems of melody which we now possess. And in this connection we must not forget to pay tribute to one, the anniversary of whose death we have celebrated this year, Thomas Moore, our national poet, eminent scholar and a lover of his country. However much some people may find fault with his methods of editing our traditional airs, they will agree that no man did more to make Irish music known and revered throughout the world.

**THE BARDIC SCHOOLS.** It may not seem to be within the scope of this article to refer to the famous Bardic Schools of Ireland; yet I feel that they must be mentioned, because although the study of song and music as such was not strictly within their province, the Bards truly laid the foundations on which much of our later music was built. And in any case, as we shall see, the Bardic Schools of Donegal were very famous.

It is unlikely that we shall ever discover the origin of these schools. "At what time they were founded we don't know," says Professor Bergin, "for the bardic order existed in pre-historic times." They were ancient when St. Patrick came to our shores. The school itself was a miniature university where the student learned not alone the intricacies of composing Irish verse but in committing to memory the history of his country and of his clan and of perfecting himself in the rules of grammar, syntax and elocution. The course of studies was long. It took seven years of training to turn out a fully-fledged File or Poet.

It is interesting to note that the offices of Ollamh or File and Bard were quite distinct. The File it was who composed the Dan (poem). The function of the Bard or Reacaire (as he was

called) was to recite the poet's compositions. And then the poems were chanted, not sung. The chant was done to the accompaniment of the Cruitire (Harper) who, we presume, either played an accompaniment he had already learned or improvised one to suit the sentiments expressed in the poem. The File and his retinue attached themselves to the prince of a clan, and such store did some of these princes set by the compositions of a famous poet that the sum of £600 is said to have been paid on one occasion for a single poem.

I have already said that Donegal was famous for its Bards. Few of us perhaps realise that the townland of Lettermacaward, on one side of the Gweebarra Bridge, derives its name from the best-known of the Bardic Clans, the Clan "Mac an Bháird" (son of the bard). There is a strong tradition, too, that there was a Bardic School in Glencolumcille. The Mac an Bháird poets attached themselves to the O'Donnells, princes of Tirconaill, and the most illustrious among them was Eoghan Ruadh Mac an Bháird who, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, was "the last Chief Ollamh to the O'Donnell in poetry". Eoghan accompanied the Earls of Tirconaill and Tireoghain to Rome in 1607. Two years afterwards he wrote the famous poem beginning with the words, **A Bhean a fuair Faill**, which was translated by Clarence Mangan and entitled "Oh woman of the piercing wail." The poem represents Nuala, sister of the O'Donnells, mourning alone over the graves of her two brothers, Rory and Cathbarr, in Rome.

The Bardic Schools flourished from the 13th to the 17th century. But after the battle of Kinsale and the flight of the Earls the main prop of the schools was broken. True it is that the poets continued to write in the bardic metre, and some of their finest poems kept appearing until 1650 or later. But with schools and patrons gone the output and quality were bound to decline.

**ERA OF SONGS**—And now began another era, Ré na n-Amhrán or the Era of the Songs. We saw that the Bards composed poems which were meant to be chanted to an accompaniment played on the harp. Now we come to a new type of poetry, the Amhrán or Song. In the bardic poems each line had a certain number of syllables and was constructed after the style of the ancient compositions such as the Odes of Pindar and Horace ; moreover, the verse had to conform to a very rigid pattern of assonances. In the Amhráin, strict metrical composition was sacrificed and the less exacting method adopted of constructing a line which depended for its rhythm not on fixed metrical standards but on stress of voice or on a fixed number of feet, regardless of syllables. The assonance, however, had to be observed. It is in this form that we have the best of our traditional Gaelic songs. With regard to the composition of these old songs it is interesting to note that the technique employed was the reverse of modern methods. Whereas, at present, the lyric appears first and then the musician composes a melody to suit the words, the lyric-writers of the 17th

and 18th centuries wrote their Gaelic poems to suit an already existing melody.

There is scarcely a county in Ireland which has not within the last 100 years contributed its quota of folklore and traditional music. But with the decay of Irish as a spoken language in so many counties a tremendous amount of oral tradition has perished. It is only natural that counties like Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, Cork and Waterford, where Fíor-Ghealtacht areas still exist, should yield a greater harvest of ancient music and song. Much has already been done to recover old manuscripts and to write down or record the music of the past. Much still remains to be done. One disheartening feature connected with Donegal music is our lack of manuscripts. The late Henry Morris, who worked so unselfishly all his life as a collector of traditional songs, lamented the fact that in all his travels through Donegal he came across only two manuscripts—one, a rather worthless composition, the other, written in Louvain. He accounts for this by the fact that, in the matter of Irish, Donegal and North Ulster generally and, in fact, Connaught too, became illiterate after the 17th century; while in South Ulster and Munster the literary cultivation of the language survived. The result is that numerous Donegal songs and tunes which might have been preserved, had there been scribes to deal with them, must have perished on the lips of the older generations. It is undoubtedly true, moreover, that songs as found in MSS are, both as to words and music, a fairly faithful reproduction of the original composition; whereas the versions transmitted by oral tradition have suffered considerably in the process. That is borne out by the fact that in Donegal alone we find several versions of a particular song with notable variations of words and melody. On the other hand the oral tradition has points in its favour. The manuscript while preserving the main features of the original melody may be but a poor reproduction of the 'viva vox'. Any listener who has heard traditional songs or music well rendered must realise that the melody is enriched with musical phrases, grace notes and elusive qualities that are almost impossible to reproduce in any known system of musical notation. Hence I do not think that we need altogether deplore the fact that our Donegal MSS have disappeared or that variations of the original songs have crept in. A variant of an air is not necessarily inferior to the prototype : what matters most is not that the air is "correct" but that it is good.

**Folklorists**—What Donegal lacks in manuscripts it makes up for in its wealth of oral tradition. Collectors of folklore, songs and music have been at work in this county for at least fifty years, yet despite their endeavours there are still many sources left untapped. In his two well-known books, *Céad de Cheoltaibh Uladh* and *Dhai Chéad de Cheoltaibh Uladh*, Henry Morris includes about 150 Gaelic songs he found in Donegal. From one old lady alone, Eibhlin Murray who lived near the Doon Well, he got the words and music of 60 songs (he includes 40 in his second book) and he tells us that,

even at that, her repertoire was not exhausted. The late Father L. Murray also published a collection of Ulster songs in which he included a number he discovered in Donegal, mainly in Rannafast. In the early months of 1945 the "Derry Journal" printed a series of unpublished traditional songs (in Gaelic) submitted by an anonymous contributor. These came mainly from the Teelin district. But the most systematic collection has been going on in Donegal over the last fifteen years or so under the aegis of the Coimisiún Béaloideasa Éireann (Irish Folklore Commission) Dublin which is presided over by Professor Seamus Delargy, a noted expert on folklore.

**Folklore Commission**—I am indebted to Mr. Padraig Byrne (Teelin) of the Folklore Commission for his kindness in sending me an interesting account of the records and activities of that body. The work of the members, I need hardly say, is not confined to Donegal; it ranges over the whole country. Hence the number of officials who are qualified and can be spared to do this highly specialised work in a given region is naturally very small. But the results are most gratifying. About 50 traditional songs have been recorded by Captain Danaher of the Irish Folklore Commission and Seamus Mac Aonghusa, a former staff member. The recordings were made on 12-inch and 16-inch gramophone discs from well-known singers in this county, a few of whom excelled themselves in the Oireachtas competitions for traditional singers and in Radio Éireann broadcasts. The singers in question were Aodh O Duibheannaigh, Rannafast. Seamus O h-Ighne, Glencolmcille, Conall O Domhnaill Rannafast; Citi Ni Ghallchobhair, Bunbeg; Eibhlin Nic Aoidh, Bealtine; Mrs. Mary McGee, Gweedore; Mrs. Sheila Gallagher, do.; Siobhan Ni Bhaoi, Duibhlinn Riabhach. In addition to the songs, over 100 pieces of traditional music played on the violin were recorded by the Commission officials already mentioned and by the B.B.C. This collection comprises selections of melodies, reels, jigs, hornpipes and set-dances played by the most expert of the few traditional violinists now remaining in the county. There are at least four of these who deserve mention. Two brothers, John and Michael Doherty, are from Glenfin. They excel in the rendering of Irish reels, of which they seem to have an endless store:—'The Donegal Reel', 'Rakish Paddy', 'Jackson's Reel', to quote but a few. Their creative art is evident from the variations which they introduce into several tunes, variations that seem to be quite original, as they are not found elsewhere. I have myself heard a record of John Doherty's playing of the "Irish Washerwoman" and it far surpasses the usual version of this tune. Frank Cassidy, Teelin, is the last remaining brother of a family well-known as traditional fiddlers. His brother John, lately deceased, was regarded as the best fiddler in Co. Donegal. He once manufactured a brass violin which is still in the possession of his brother, Frank. Outstanding among the numerous airs the Cassidys knew is the very old Irish Lament, "Tighearna Mhuigheo". Finally there is Neil

Boyle of Dungloe, Neil needs no introduction, for he has played at concerts, festivals and feiscanna not only in Donegal but in several other counties. He has also broadcast more than once from Radio Eireann, and has made numerous records which have been put on the commercial market and are finding their way even to the U.S.A.

In addition to the recordings, Seamus MacAonghusa collected and committed to manuscript 189 pieces of music, comprising airs, reels, jigs, hornpipes and set-dances, as well as the lyrics and melodies of folk-songs. Furthermore, Séan O hEochaidh, full-time collector for the Commission in Donegal, who is himself a native of Teelin and who has done yeoman service over the last 16 years or more, succeeded in rescuing a big number of lyrics which, at one time, were sung to various airs, many of which are still familiar. These poems were written down exactly as they existed in the memories of such renowned seanchaidhthe as Anna Nic a Luain from Na Cruacha, Glenties, Maire Ni Chormaic, Na Brochaighe and a number of others. Apart from the interesting sidelight on music and song in Donegal which these official records give, we can deduce from them the amount of valuable work that the Folklore Commission is doing throughout Ireland. And for anyone interested in our national lore I can think of no more useful way of spending his spare time in Dublin than to call at the Folklore Office in 82, St. Stephens Green where he will get a hearty welcome and where every facility for pursuing his research will be accorded him by a staff of genial and courteous officials.

**Themes of Songs**—And now about the subject-matter of Irish folk-songs. Where did our people find their themes? They had songs for every age, mood and state of life. It is usual to group the songs under the following heads :—

1. **Dánta Diadha or Sacred Poems.**—These were very common in this county. Henry Morris published a considerable number of Donegal Dánta. They deal with religious themes or embody a long series of prayers. In one, for example, the 15 concluding verses are devoted to an account of the life of Our Lord. Another treats of the Marriage Feast of Cana. A singer in Bealtaine, Gortahork, Nora Ni Ghallchobhair had a series of seven of these poems, each dedicated to a separate day of the week. Proinsias O hIghne, Teelin is said to have composed a Dán on the Crucifixion, as a result of which some special honour was conferred on him by the Pope.

2. **Love Songs.**—All over Ireland these are by far the most numerous. Typical of the finer type in Donegal are "Thios i dTeach a' Torraimh", "Brighid Og Ni Mhaille", and "An Cailin Gaedhealach". When the Irishman fell in love his eloquence knew no bounds, and the inamorata must have been swept off her feet by torrents of superlatives which find no parallel even in Hollywood film advertisements. The whiteness of her skin is like the snow on the mountains or the swan on Lough Erne or the lily in full bloom; her face is radiant as the sun and her eyes sparkle as the morning dew; her lips and cheeks are like the summer rose; her hair resplendent falls in flowery tresses or pearly ringlets; her voice is sweeter than

the music of the strings or the song of the cuckoo. And one poet, having said all that and much more besides, admits that he has described only a sixty-fourth part of her (we presume 100 per cent) physical grace and mental charm. (Part of this description is taken from Henry Morris's resumé of the love-song themes).

3. **The Goltraighe** was the name given to the songs of sorrow. These would include Laments, say, for someone who met a sudden death by drowning or other accident. They were very common in Donegal. A Kilcar song entitled "Nora Nic Giolla Chearr" is said to have been written in 1798, and it tells of the tragic death of Nora Carr who was killed by a boulder which rolled over a cliff on to the rocks where she was sitting. Another song, "Barrai na hArdai" is the tale of a dreadful drowning tragedy at Ards about 1790 in which a number of people lost their lives. The Goltraighe type also includes the famous "keen" or wailing song chanted by relatives at wakes and funerals. This keening can still be heard in districts of Donegal. It has no set form of words but is improvised by the mourners to suit a particular case.

4. **The Suantraighe or Lullaby.**—It is said that no other nation is as rich as ours in this type of music. The lullaby is not so common in Donegal as it is in other parts of Ireland, but numbers of lullabies have been found and recorded in the county. A famous and (probably ancient) melody, found in Connaught, is sung to the words "Seothin, seotho", the Gaelic equivalent of "Hush". An old tradition says that this most beautiful and haunting air was the one used by the Divine Mother to lull her Infant Child to sleep.

5. **Fairy Songs** and songs relating to preternatural happenings are frequently to be found in Donegal. The fairies were thought to be very active. Who has not heard of the wail of the Banshee (Fairy-woman), sent to warn someone of an impending calamity? The fairies went so far as to abduct people. An incident of the kind is related in a song called "Bhain Seachran-Sidhe damh mè i dtùs na hOiche" which was recorded in Glaiseach Beag, Glenfinn.

6. **Danta Tir-Ghradha** or Patriotic Songs were naturally numerous. The local example that most readily comes to mind is our famous rallying song "O'Donnell Abu". In a lecture given in Letterkenny during Civic Week by Mr. Eamon O Gallchobhair, the noted Dublin musician, he drew special attention to a Donegal marching tune "The March of the O'Donnells" which he regarded as one of the finest compositions of its kind.

**Amhrain Mòlta** (Songs of Praise) were composed about practically everything and anybody,—people, places, animals, boats, etc. A good example comes from Teelin and was recorded by Séan O hEochaidh. It is called "Cuach 's Anna", evidently the names of two boats, whose crews of local fishermen receive their due meed of praise. Another very well-known of this kind is "Sean Dùn na nGall" which was composed by Mr. Boyce of Fanad. It eulogises Donegal in no uncertain terms.

8. **Songs of local happenings** are to be found in abundance. Even up to very recently this type of composition appealed immens-

ly both to poets and audiences. David Hay of Carrigart wrote a ballad on the dreadful boating disaster off Aranmore some years ago. Many of us remember the incidents leading up to the event described in "Johnson's Motorcar". About fourteen years ago there appeared a very popular epic entitled "Sharks Beware," which recorded, in stately Iambic Heptameter and with a wealth of imaginative detail, the shooting of a shark in Dungloe Bay by two prominent Dungloe men, Mr. P. Gallagher (Paddy the Cope) and Mr. Kenny J. Brennan.

9. **The Geantraighe or Music of Joy and Laughter.**—This type covers all kinds of dance tunes, and, as we have seen, Donegal has a prolific store of these.

10. Then there are songs of famine, exile and emigration. An example of an emigration song is "Na Buachilli i n-Albain", found by H. Morris in the Gweebarra district. Even St. Columba wrote verses of longing: "There is a gray eye that looks back on Erin; it shall not see during its life the men of Erin and their wives".

11. Finally there were songs of work and play. The "Callin Deas Crùidhteach na mBò" is a well-known example. It is said that cows became so accustomed to these lilts that they refused to give milk unless their favourites songs were sung! The result was that girls with good voices got higher wages.

**Donegal Poets.**—Apart from the Mac an Bhaird Clan of Bardic School fame I have not mentioned many of the Donegal poets by name. The following are listed in some of the MSS; Eoghan Mòr MacGill, Antoine Mòr O Dochartaigh, Cormac Mac Seain and Philip Doyle. At the moment I cannot trace their district of origin. There are others whose names are familiar to Donegal people.

Conall Mac Daibhid, born in Meencargy, died in Glendowan, 120 years ago. One of his poems, "Malaidh Ghleann Domhair" tells how he came to spend his declining years with his married daughter in Glendowan where he felt like an exile.

Nabla Mac Daibhid, no relative of Conall. She was a native of Glenfinn and died well over 100 years ago. She married a man called Gallagher, and in a poem entitled "Muirntear Ghallchobhair agus Clann Daibhidh" she records a supposed argument between herself and her husband as to the relative merits of the two families.

Tadhg O Tiomanaidhe (Timoney, 1680-1750, was also a native of, and lived in, Glenfinn. A song of his, "Grainne Fhanad", is said to be in praise of his wife who was a native of Fanad.

Peadar Breathnach (Walsh), 1825-1870, was a tailor who lived in Meenagoland, between Finntown and Ballinamore. Peadar wrote quite a number of songs, one of which was recorded in Glenfinn by the Folklore Commission's recording unit. It is called "Srath na Bainrioghna" in which he pokes fun at the local women who are growing rich knitting garments for the Queen. As the yarn bore a trademark stamped with an image of Queen Victoria, the poet made it appear that the wool was sent direct from the Queen. Hence the title, the Queen's Yarn.

Sèamus O Doraidhin, Badhùin, Kilcar, 1780-1850. Sèamus was

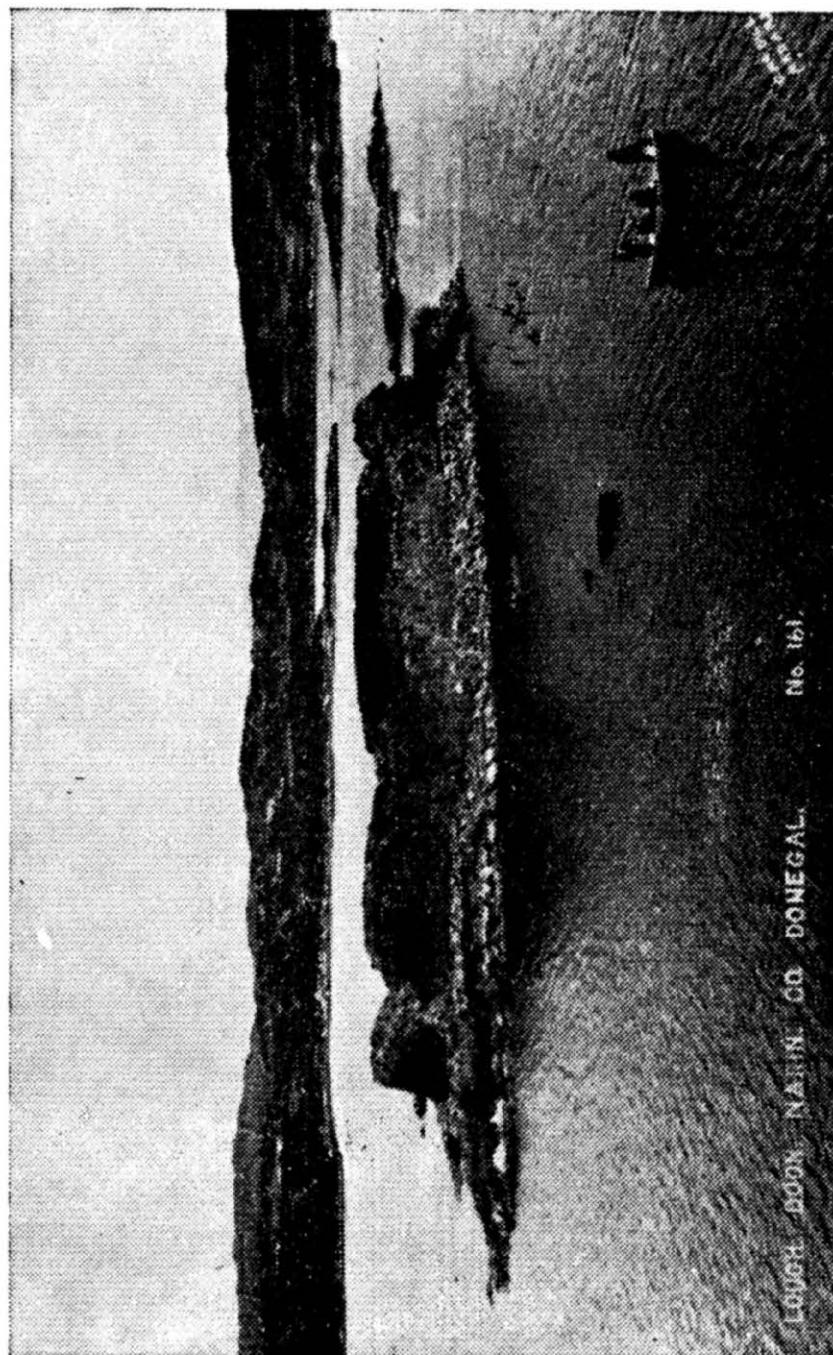
a farmer who knew no English and had no education. Yet he wrote a number of fine songs, many of which are known in Connaught where he spent some years.

What must have struck the reader, as it certainly struck me, in regard to our heritage of oral tradition, is the extraordinarily retentive memories of our singers and our seanchaidhe. They can sing a song of many verses, or tell a story that goes on for hours, without betraying the slightest lapse of memory. The modern song consists of two or three verses—yet, if you ask one of our younger generation to sing, they will probably tell you that he can never recall the words of more than a few lines of a song. Contrasted with this we have the experience of Henry Morris who took down 2,00 lines of songs from a famous singer, Conall Mac Cuinneagain of Cappagh, Teelin, who was then 80 years of age. And if we require proof of the wealth of native lore which until lately lay hidden in our midst, we have the word of Séan O hEochaidh of the Folklore Commission that in one district of Donegal, Na Cruacha, Glenties, he has just completed two years, working six days a week, in writing down and making gramophone records of a wide range of folklore, proverbs, prayers and poems. Yet the total population of that area is represented by only twenty-seven households ! And one final instance which must surely be a record. From one seanchaidhe alone, Niall Duffy, Gortahork, Sean has recorded 750 gramophone records and written down 1,500,000 words !

It is not easy, within the limits of a short article on music, to do more than touch the fringe of the subject. But from all that has been said it should be abundantly clear that we in Donegal have inherited from our ancestors a vast treasure of music and song. It is to be hoped that the light which I have tried to shed on the matter may serve to stimulate our modern musicians to seek inspiration from the past, and to encourage those who are interested in the folklore of Donegal to complete the splendid work which a small band of enthusiasts have begun; for it is only thus that we can fulfil an obvious duty, namely, to preserve and transmit to future generations of our kith and kin the heritage of a glorious past.

**Footnote :** Mr. Eamon O'Gallchobhair, to whom as an expert on music I have already referred, has something very interesting to say on Donegal traditional music. His theory is that music, just like speech, custom and manners, is conditioned by environment. And in support of that contention he instances the remarkable resemblance between Donegal and Kerry music. Both counties are facing the Atlantic at the extreme ends of the country ; they are mountainous and noted for their beautiful scenery; they are still strongholds of the Irish language and retain to a great extent the traditions of an ancient civilisation. But just as there are differences in speech and accent, there are differences in the music of both counties; but they are subtle dissimilarities; and for the expert musician these subtleties constitute a source of great pleasure.

Mr. O'Gallchobhair finds that Kerry music is more multi-



LOUGH DOON.



coloured ; it has more charm with, perhaps, a suggestion of effeminacy; its passionate intensity is nearer the surface, more easily discernible; in pattern it is more luxuriant. In Donegal the form is more geometrical and aesthetic with something of the rugged grandeur of our cliffs and mountains : In it is a harder core which serves to check the swelling surge of passion. In Kerry's lamentation the wound is deep, but always accompanying the sorrow is a suggestion of surprise that life's high-summer glory is gone. In Donegal the lamentation is no less fierce but the wound, if deep, is less apparent, and the note of surprise is absent: and one senses the logic of the hard-headed Northerner who recognises that winter cold and bleak must inevitably follow in the path of the loveliest summer.

To many of the mysteries of traditional music which plague musicologists Donegal music, he thinks, may provide a clue. The singularity of its idiom is well worth close study; and the "provincialism" of its accent should serve to endear it all the more to a world grown weary of cosmopolitanism.

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## A NINETEENTH CENTURY CHEMICAL WORKS AT RAMELTON

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"I observed in the Great Exhibition a case of chemical stuffs produced from Irish sea weed—viz. iodine, chloride of potassium, sulphate of potash and alkaline of kelp-salt, manufactured in the Ramelton Chemical Works by the exhibitor, Mr. John Ward. These works the first of the kind started in Ireland were established by Mr. Ward in March 1845 . . . to the town of Ramelton these Chemical Works have been of the greatest benefit by the number of workmen labourers employed in and around it, and the very considerable shipping trade, in vessels ranging from 50 to 120 tons, which the importation of manufactured stuff has been the means of bringing to Lough Swilly." (*Freeman's Journal*.—27th Sept., 1851). Who was John Ward and what became of his factory ?

# HISTORIC FORDS OF DONEGAL

(By Very Rev. T. Molloy, D.Ph.)

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"On learning the enemy's plan of campaign, **Caesar** led his army to the Thames in order to enter the territory of Cassivellaunus. The river is fordable at one point only, and even there with difficulty. At this point he found large enemy forces drawn up on the opposite bank. The bank was also fenced by sharp stakes fixed along the edge, and he was told by prisoners and deserters that similar ones were concealed in the river bed. He sent the cavalry across first, and then at once ordered the infantry to follow. But the infantry went with such speed and impetuosity, although they had only their heads above water, that they attacked at the same moment as the cavalry. The enemy was overpowered and fled from the river bank".

**THIS** echo from the classics is quoted merely to emphasise the great importance that was attached in olden times to fords. From the variety of names which we in this country used to describe different types of ford, a variety unparalleled in other languages, it is clear that fords entered largely into the day-to-day life of our ancestors.

**Ath** is the more general name for a ford. The older name of Dublin, **Eaile A'ha Cliath**, is an example. So is **Beal Atha Muice**, Swinford, where **Beal** indicates the approach. So in **Beal Atha Seannaigh** in our own county.

**Scairbh** indicates a river spread wide over a rough bottom, e.g., **Scariffhólis** between Conwal and New Mills.

**Fearsat** indicates a sandbank formed near the mouth of a river by the opposing currents of tide and stream. At low water these points formed a fairly safe passage across. Belfast is an example. And **Farsat More** down-stream from Letterkenny could, I believe, still be crossed at low water.

Where there was not a good natural ford it was often necessary, or at least it added considerably to the convenience of a river crossing, if trees, osiers or stones were fixed in the bed of a river. Thus we have **Ceis** or **Ceiseach** which indicates such a construction.

This was a kind of causeway made of wickerwork, sometimes of boughs of trees. Besides being laid across a small river such kishes or kishaghs were often thrown across marshes or bogs. The memory of this primitive compromise between a ford and a bridge is preserved in Casey Glebe. It may be worth recalling that the Four Masters under date 1483 tell us that the O'Donnell chief of that time constructed a **Ceasaigh Droichet** across the Blackwater in Tyrone for his army, and when they had crossed he let the Ceasaigh Droichet float down the stream.

**Carry and Clochan** are both used to indicate a place in a river made fordable by stepping-stones, naturally a favourite way of making a river fordable for human beings, though of no use for animals. The older Irish name for the place where I live is **Clochan Liath**, the Grey Stepping Stones. There is a short stream draining two fairly large lakes. The stepping stones were laid at a spot easily approachable from both sides. Gradually a small village grew up in the vicinity, and a fair which had been held formerly more to the west was transferred to this more accessible spot. Gradually the name of the place in which the fair was held originally supplanted the older name, **An Clochan Liath**.

Again on the road through Glentogher between Quigley's Point and Carndonagh a bridge now spans a mountain torrent where formerly a line of colossal stepping stones ran across the ford. The stones are used no longer, most of them have actually disappeared but the name remains.

Doochary derives its name from the black stepping stones just above the reach of tidal waters of the Gweebarra. A fair was at one time held here and the few houses which compose the hamlet clearly owe their origin to the ford where the river could be conveniently crossed.

And if I may be pardoned for a slight digression, further down the same river is Ballycurry, apparent evidence of an ancient cora or weir on the Gweebarra. Cf. Kincora beside Killaloe. On the flat patch beyond Ballycurry there is a ford at Ballynacarrick where a fair is held still on the twentieth of each month, a splendid example of the persistence of old customs.

It is not without interest to note that in that part of the Law Tract in the book of Ballymote that regulates the stipend of various kinds of craftsmen it is stated that the builder of a clochan is to be paid two cows for his labour.

In County Donegal there are few rivers whose fords are of any historical importance. In fact if we count the small tributaries with the main stream there are only four, the Erne, the Eske, the Finn and the Swilly; and we shall deal with them in that order.

The four mile stretch of stream from Lough Erne to Ballyshannon has been of importance from early times, from the **Ford of Caol Uisce** now **Caol na hEirne** where Lough Erne narrows itself near Castlecaldwell to the Ford of Ballyshannon which has disappeared, as have the equally famous Falls, sacrificed in our day to the exacting god of progress.

Two historical incidents will help us to appreciate the importance of the Ford at Ballyshannon, the route from the South and South East into the O'Donnell country. The Four Masters under A.D. 1419 give the following :—

“While O'Donnell and his forces remained in Tyrone, Brian O'Connor and the inhabitants of lower Connaught with many of the English at the bidding of O'Neill marched with a great army into Tir-Hugh,, destroyed the whole country from Ath-na-nGall to Ath Seannaigh, including its grass, corn and buildings and burned the enclosure of O'Donnell's fortified residence”.

This sample of the scorched earth policy in its very simplicity of statement emphasises the importance of fords. The marauders having apparently forced their way across the ford at Ballyshannon did not venture across the Eske.

The second incident is given as follows in Lewis's Topographical Dictionary :

“In 1597 the neighbourhood of Ballyshannon was the scene of the most important military operations of that period. An English force consisting of twenty-two regiments of infantry and ten of cavalry under the command of Sir Conyers Clifford, crossed the Erne by a ford, although vigorously opposed by O'Donnell's troops and succeeded in establishing their headquarters at the Monastery of Assaroe. Here they received heavy ordnance from Galway by sea, and laid close siege to the Castle of Ballyshannon, but met with an unexpectedly strong resistance and many of their best officers and men were killed or wounded. After continuing the siege for five days the English were compelled to make a precipitate retreat, closely pursued by O'Donnell and his allies, and being unable to cross the Erne at the ford by which they advanced, they tried another that was seldom attempted where many were killed or drowned, and thus one of the first expeditions into this long independent territory terminated disastrously”.

Perhaps someone from the Ballyshannon area will indicate more clearly where this second ford is situated, or was situated, for I presume it is now submerged in the first or lower of the two great dams that give power to the hydro-electric plant of the Electricity Supply Board.

The first of the above incidents refers to **Ath na-nGall**, the ford of the foreigners on the river Eske. The original Castle seems to have been on the north side of the stream or perhaps of the estuary opposite the Monastery. There was evidently sufficient opposition at this ford in 1419 to deter the raiders from attempting to cross it.

When we come to the Finn we go plump into legend, for at a

ford on the Deel, its tributary, we have a story about St. Patrick. The place is Murlog. When St. Patrick was attempting to cross the Deel at Murlog the axles of his chariot are broken again and again. "Be ye not amazed at this thing", said the saint, "for yonder land from this stream thither (i.e. Tirconnell) does not need that I should bless it. For a boy shall be born and his name will be Columbkille". After this the ford was long called the Ford of the Chariot—Ath-an-Carbaid. St. Eunan is said to have built a bridge over the river which Patrick had difficulty in crossing and that place became known as Droichead Adamnain, now Ballindrait.

Another story told of a ford on the Finn concerns the severed head of Sir Cahir O'Doherty. Sandy Ramsey was a Scots planter settled near Kilmacrennan on land given him by Rory O'Donnell, the Queen's O'Donnell. Ramsey's enclosure was attacked in his absence by Sir Cahir O'Doherty. His cattle were driven off, his wife and children slaughtered, his pleasant homestead by the Lennon left a heap of smoking ruins. This certainly was enough to rouse any man's ire. Sandy knew that five hundred marks were the reward offered by the Lord Deputy for Sir Cahir's head. He waited day by day in ambush but ready with his flint lock near the rock of Dun. His patience and his vengeful desires were rewarded. The ball passed through Sir Cahir's forehead and he lay lifeless. His followers, panic stricken, thinking there was an ambush, fled, deserting the lifeless body of their leader. The Scotchman soon severed the head from the body, and wrapping it in his plaid set off for Dublin. That night at one of the fords of the Finn he took shelter in a cabin inhabited by one Terence Gallagher. The Scotchman slept sound. Terence was up at break of day. He saw blood oozing through the plaid that served as his guest's pillow. He suspected that all was not right; so gently slitting the tartan plaid he saw the hair and head of a man. Drawing it out slowly and gently he recognised features well known to every man in Tirconnell. They were Sir Cahir's. Terence knew the money value of that head and, without scruple, started for Dublin to obtain the reward offered by the Government there. He was well across Tyrone by the time Sandy Ramsey awoke.

Strabane and Lifford owe their existence largely if not exclusively to the ford at the junction of the Mourne and the Finn, a ford long since replaced by a bridge at present the subject of some discussion between the County Councils of Tyrone and Donegal. It may at this point be of interest to recall the description of Lifford as given in Dowera's Narration dated 1600.

"The Liffer which hath some 80 houses set in a green plain upon the river side and compassed with an old ditch with three small bulwarks in form of a triangle. It is seated in the richest soil of all the North, the country about it champaign, and another green (whereon Strabane did stand) opposite against it, large and of a fair prospect".

Presumably Lifford was chosen as a county town because of

this juxtaposition, for there was a garrison at Strabane as well as at Lifford, and the King's judges and sheriff would have adequate protection there. It is doubtful if they would have had equal protection elsewhere in the land of the O'Donnells.

In the Jacobite wars of 1688, Strabane was garrisoned for the Williamites, but in April of that year it fell into the hands of the Jacobites and James II. arrived in person, and having passed the ford to Lifford proceeded to Derry. Having witnessed the slow, ineffectual siege he returned to the castle of Strabane. Presumably James was the only English king who stood on Tirconnell territory.

Finally we come to the Swilly. Whether it hurts our local pride or not we must accept the fact that under the Tudors the O'Donnells were only too ready to accept English overlordship. No doubt there was the underlying motive of securing support against their old opponents, the O'Neills. This fact gives us the back-ground for the battle that was fought at Farsetmore below Letterkenny. Shane O'Neill "The Proud", after his victory over the Antrim Scots at Glenshesk near Ballycastle on May 2nd 1565, turned against the O'Donnells, whose chief, Calvagh, he defeated and captured. Calvagh on his release for a second time acknowledged the English Queen, but he died that same year, 1566. The English Government determined to support Calvagh's brother, Hugh Duff, who succeeded Calvagh. Shane O'Neill again marched into Tirconnell and got across the Swilly at Farsetmore. He did not expect the hot reception he got. Before the day was over, Shane's troops were fleeing in confusion across the tricky ford where many who had survived the sword, perished in the tide.

Further up the river near Newmills there is another ford, Scariffholis. We find it referred to, in the Annals of the Four Masters, under the date "A.D. 1580. The son of O'Donnell (Caffer, the son of Magnus). Tanist of Tirconnell, a man of bounteous, munificent and truly hospitable character, and a man greatly in esteem with the distressed and learned of the North of Ireland, died in his own castle of Sgairb Sholas, on the 15th of October, and was interred at Donegal". It would appear that this ford was considered of sufficient importance to have a castle to defend it.

There was no O'Donnell by the ford of Scariffholis on that June day in 1651, when the blood-thirsty Coote pursued the remnants of the Ulster army, under Heber Mac Mahon sparing none. Even after the battle against all the conventions of civilised warfare, Coote ordered the murder of Owen Roe's only son, Henry, who had been taken prisoner. When Heber was taken he was hanged in Enniskillen.

These few incidents that link some of our Donegal fords with the history of our country are but one facet of the many-sided contacts between our fords and the life of the people. Many a story is told, for example, at cheerful firesides on winter nights about the inability of ghosts and demons to cross water. Some of this should be collected. Then sheebreens, forges? The Folklore Commission issues a most interesting questionnaire dealing with nearly every

conceivable aspect of folk lore. If each in his own district gets some information and consigns it to writing, it is astonishing how much valuable material could be collected and preserved. That such should be done is my hope as it would be my reward.

### **HISTORIAN**

He writes about the world at large . . . Some kingdom and its crown . . . A war that changed the map, or just . . . The story of his town . . . He gathers facts and rumours and . . . He sifts them one by one . . . And talks to people everywhere . . . To get his writing done . . . A document, a cornerstone . . . The marker on a grave . . . The Bible or some newsprint old . . . That someone thought to save . . . His words may not be perfect and . . . He may not want to swear . . . That it was just exactly as . . . He has recorded there . . . But he preserves the memories . . . Of years and years gone by . . . And as his pages take their place . . . The past will never die. (James J. Metcalfe's **Portraits** by kind permission of the Editor of the **Irish Independent**).

# MEMORIES OF THE TWIN TOWNS

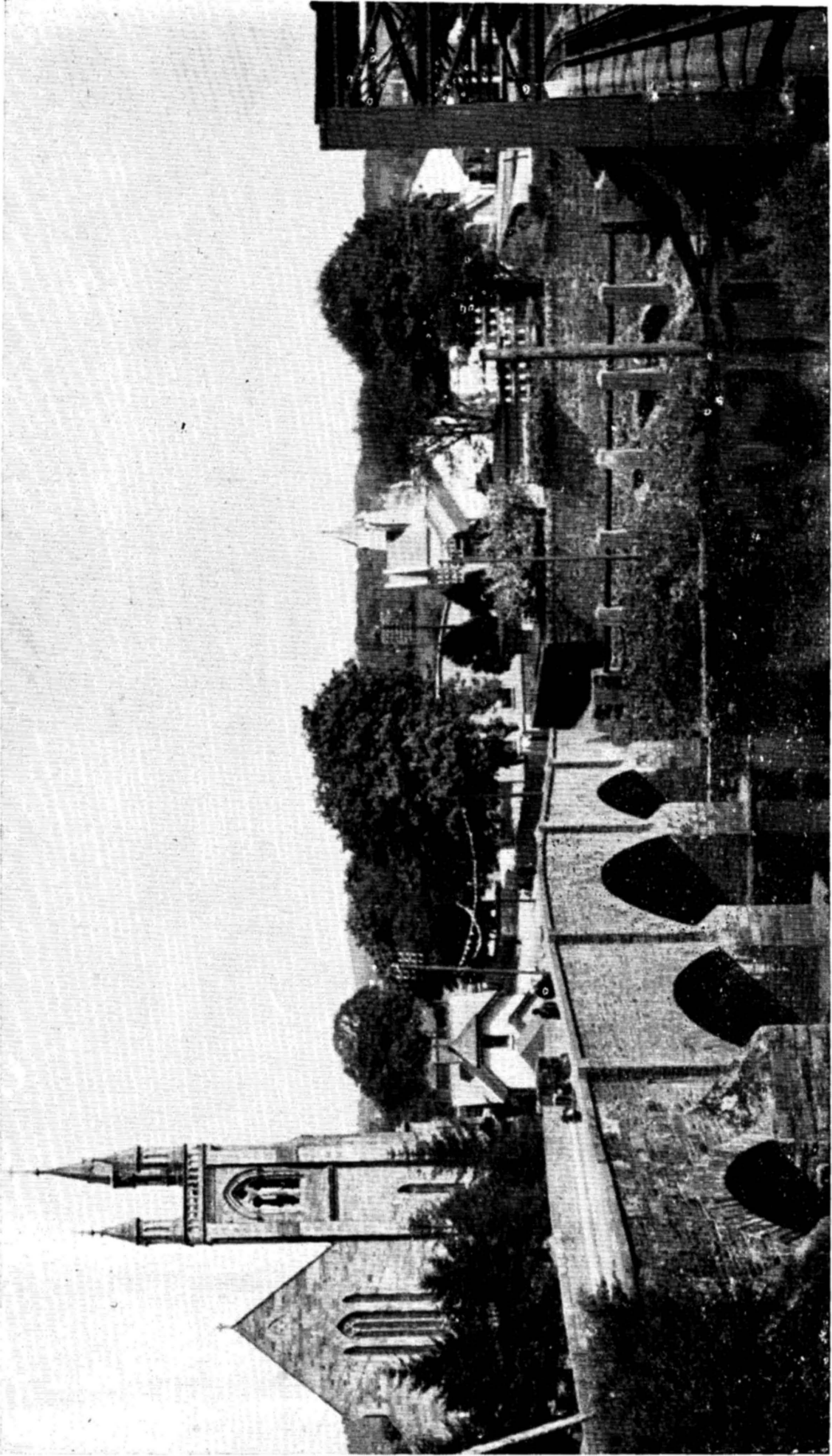
(BY DR. SARFIELD KERRIGAN).

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"Ballemafey for drinkin' tay, Stranorlar for drinkin' brandy,  
Killygordon is a nice wee town, and Castlefin's a dandy."

MY lecture starts with this strange jingle of doggerel, and my excuse is that those that don't know it or haven't heard of it, don't belong to either of the two towns. It doesn't make sense, if you like, any more than a child's nursery rhyme, but it was a people's simple, crude way of distinguishing their home towns long before Civic Weeks were heard of. There is a bit of history in it too. For brandy, which we know better in Ireland as its cousin, whiskey, literally, the water of life, being a fermented drink, is as old as civilisation ; while tea in this part of the country is not more than over a hundred years in common use. And though their names first appear in written record as far back as 1548, in a sort of portmanteau word, Strathbofey, Stranorlar is, as I shall show, by far the older town.

The fact that there are two different villages separated by a bridge has often struck strangers. To an Englishman, who once made this comment, my old friend George Magee told me that my father, an intelligent man whose name is yet well remembered here, answered with a slight shrug, "Sir, the Finn is the Rhine." It was, if you like, an exaggeration ; most epigrams are not too exact, but there was a lot of truth in it. Villages and towns bear a definite relationship with the country surrounding them, and it was almost inevitable that Stranorlar, being on the fringe of the rich valley of the Finn, would be chosen as a frontier post in the Plantation and be granted to Henry Clare in 1610 ; a few years later it passed to Peter Benson with 1,500 acres of the best land around ; on the usual condition that he would build a fortified bawn of stone and lime, settle it with 24 families, all British, who would take the Oath of Supremacy, and form a garrison to defend it from the natives. Thus Stranorlar started as a village of 10 houses with not an Irish family in it. Ballybofey, at that time, did not exist, as such ; in any case the Hinterlands stretching back to Barnes did not attract the planter. Stranorlar was a garrison town, when Lundy's army from Derry, trying to effect a junction with the Enniskillen forces in April, 1689, was beaten back at Cladyford, and met the Western Williamite forces under Lord Kingston at



THE BRIDGE THAT LINKS THE "TWIN TOWNS"— BALLYBOFEY AND STRANORLAR.  
ON THE LEFT IS SEEN THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY. (Photo by courtesy of Fogra Faite).



Stranorlar. It was the seat of a Yeomanry corps in the 18th and early 19th centuries, of which the name of the **Band Garden**, where their musicians played, is a survival. Its Protestant Church is built on an old Catholic foundation, with its graveyard still showing headstones going back to the 17th century. Its Presbyterian Church dates from 1709, while of the old Catholic Chapel built before Emancipation in the present Catholic graveyard there only remains a fragment, enough to support the headstone of Black Dean Hugh Kerrigan. Stranorlar always had all the apparatus of administration,—the military, the revenue police, the courthouse, the schools, the pound and the local centre for the union area from over 100 years ago was focused in the workhouse. It was the first centre of the railway system in Donegal. It had the well known classic school of Hugh Harron; and its local industries included tanners, hatmakers, flax-spinners, wheelwrights, farmers and carpenters. Ballybofey was of later development. It mainly started in the early 19th century, with the growth of the Bleach-greens in Knock, and Sir Edmund Hayes' Ironworks in Drumboe, of which the names now remain, and its distinctiveness is, one may say, racial.

Stranorlar conformed to the average Plantation town; Ballybofey was essentially the return of the native Irish who came back from the mountains, Donegal and Glenfinwards, and in that way the Finn was truly a Rhine.

For if you take an analysis of Ballybofey and compare it with Stranorlar you will find that about 95 per cent. of its people came either from the direction of Donegal or Glenfin, or the western part of the parish of Donaghmore (the Wards, Timoneys, O'Donnells, McNulty's, Glackins, McMenamins, Columes, McGlincheys, the Durnins, Mulrines, Magees, Meehans) and even those of planter origin (the Kees, Magees, McGonigles) who moved in from Cappry or Dobish remained there, and rarely, if ever, crossed the river.

Stranorlar, on the other hand, is peopled from its own side of the river, to the east along the valley, and a bit to the north. In its lay-out Stranorlar is wider and less huddled. I know both spots intimately, and I can't remember a "spout lane" in Stranorlar. And its people are different. In Stranorlar you had a lot of the quietness and conservatism of an East Ulster town. In Ballybofey—well, you generally hadn't! I remember this atmosphere being nicely described by Micky Harrahy, whom most of us remember. "In Stranorlar, Doctor, if you fell down in the street, the people might look at you from behind the curtains, but they'd never come out to lift you up. In Ballybofey, you'd have a crowd around you in a second." It was his way of describing the characteristics which are really of race, for Ballybofey has that Irish horizontal conception of the people which is so essentially Gaelic. In Stranorlar you were called by your christian name and surname — and usually there was a Mr. or Mrs. added. Ballybofey, being one big family, where everyone knew everybody else, generally dispensed with a title and usually with a surname. They used instead, a

handier form of recognition in a nickname. It was handier to speak of Peter Duckett or Paddy the Goose than of Mr. MacD. ; of John Dyah, Hugh-the-Stocka, Eddie-the-Black instead of Mr. McMenamin. The Kellys you knew from the Veela Grahs to Charlie "Bulls Run." Red John suggested cattle droving, and if you wanted a tradesman in a hurry you got him sooner by asking for Paddy Nahor. One could prolong the list far enough, and though I may seem to border on personalities, I make no apologies, for in Stranorlar too we had Jimmy the Quelve and "Bazaine" Bell, and my own father's 6 ft. 3" got him the name of Big Joe. And even for the greater reason that that system of naming was the oldest Gaelic link ; every Irish name was in ways a nickname, Hugh Roe was Red Hugh, Neil Garv, Neil the Fierce. And sometimes Ballybofey dispensed with the nicknames ; the Christian name was enough. When you heard of Henry and Jimmy, now, unfortunately, no longer with us, you knew it was Henry McNulty with his good humoured smile, and Hapsburg jaw, and Jimmy Magee whose name stood for Ballybofey everywhere—always helpful, kindly and friendly. As I once said if you were in a hole and your Guardian Angel forgot you, there was always Jimmy to fall back on—and nobody knew it better than I. And the tradition, I am glad to say, keeps alive yet, we still have a Vincent, Barney Joe and Tim ! \*

While Stranorlar was on the fringe of farming industry, flax mills, oatmills, tan yards, Ballybofey kept its tribal tradition of flocks and herds by dealing in cattle. You had whole families in it : the Bonars, McNallys, the McDermotts, McClenaghans and the McGranaghans—the last of whom we can all mention with some pride. And with it you had "Fleshers"—(I like that word as I detest butcher), the Crumlises and the Gordons. John Crumlish was one of the best judges of cattle in Ireland and might have been rich if he didn't keep half of Ballybofey in his kitchen ; the Gordons were honourable and straightforward. Nobody knew them better than I, and I take this chance of saying how pleased I was to know the luck that happened the family lately, and how much it was deserved. Ballybofey had its industries too—Roche's Chandlery which gave light long before electricity was known, and Sam Woods' Mills. It had its list of prosperous merchants, the Martins, the Toners, and later James McKelvey whose generosity put the spire on the Catholic Church. It had its monthly cattle fair, till a Joe Kerrigan annexed it to Stranorlar over 60 years ago. It liked its amusements ; it had its famous two day's races, it housed every circus that passed, it had its band always, it had its cricket club, possibly the best in the County through which I recall Paddy Crumlish, Hugh Reid and James O'Murphy. Strange it only broke into football for a short time under Bob Gamble. It had its "characters," Barney Ward, Nancey and Willie Glackin, and a group of interesting intellectuals, P. D. Gibbons, Willie

\* **Footnote :** The late Vincent P. McMullin, B. J. McDermott, Solicitors, and Timothy Meehan, Auctioneer.

Anderson and Hugh O'Donnell. In the fullness of time it was to have a police barrack. Stranorlar consoled itself for the transfer by saying Ballybofey needed it most. And that was somehow true, for Ballybofey always had a live militant nationalism. On at least two occasions Stranorlar had an Orange procession march through it; but Ballybofey gave it such a reception that the experiment wasn't repeated. If you hadn't a crowd to protest you always had Barney Ward and my good friend Mary Anne McAteer. And inevitably Ballybofey had its Nationalist demonstrations, Stranorlar had not. Once or twice a year Ballybofey had a visit from Drumkeen band with its green sashes and challenging banner "Give us our Parliament — or else !" As a mark of national duty it serenaded the police barrack three times with "The Peeler and the Goat." Sergeant Brooks one of the most efficient and independent of the R.I.C., I ever knew, did nothing—but waited his turn. It came at the end of the evening: Drumkeen, being the tougher Drumkeen of 50 years ago, got drunk, began to fight, and it ended up at next Court day, when the Sergeant got his own back.

I can't leave Ballybofey without recording many happy memories of the friendly families, of Mrs. Hannigan and Mrs. McGlinchey. But as my mission is, I understand to give this evening my reminiscences of both villages, and as I am tied to time, I must condense into 30 minutes what would easily drift into hours. I must, now that I have indicated Ballybofey in broader lines, speak of my natal Stranorlar. And, starting midstream, my first reminiscence is a strange one. It was, when momentarily absent from the school, looking at a mass of steel being raised on a derrick in the construction of the suspension bridge nearby. I heard something crash; I saw some people jumping into the water, and with the callousness of a lad of 8, went over to see two men extracted from under the mass of iron—one being dead. I remember a statement being taken from me though naturally I didn't appear at the inquest. Stranorlar school recalls many happy schooldays under Patrick Feeney, the one teacher I worshipped in my boyish way and he was the best of all my teachers. Across from the school yard was the tower of the Finn Valley station clock. I remember how I often looked at its hand reaching 3—and it was in keeping, now that we have crossed the Rhine, and come into a more conservative people, that it should and still have Lord Lifford's coat of arms beneath it. The same tradition was kept when a few yards onwards we saw the Hayes's Crest on the avenue gates. Going up the street one passed Anthony Meehan's, a typical English inn keeper, though Irish of the Irish; then the houses of Joe Farren and John Malee, both old soldier pensioners—beyond them that of Monsignor James McMenamin who christened me. He was genial, tactful, beloved and respected by everybody, and was to be succeeded by Monsignor McGlynn, probably the handsomest churchman in Ireland, who modelled himself, like most Irish priests trained in Paris under the Empire, on the famous French

Bishop Dupauloup. Then there was Johnny Diver, a carpenter "who never raised a son as good a workman as himself," and Charlie McCready, the bailiff whose uncle had fought at Waterloo. And next in series was the house of Hugh McGinty, who as a young man with his wife had spent years in France at railway construction, and who often boasted he had taken a holiday, with the other Irishmen to go to Chalons and give Marshal McMahon an Irish cheer the day he was made duke of Magenta by Napoleon. He helped my father to gather, in one day, £38 for the Irish ambulance to France in 1870. Opposite the house in which I was born, it was once the hotel, lived Charlie McKane, whose bluntness hid many of the kindlier points which all his people, whom I knew well in Killygordon, gave him. Down Chapel Lane lived Charles Kennedy, the mason, who built the schools, a handicraftsman, like whom there were few, whose wife helped to nurse us all when illness came, and who left a family honourable, and intelligent that I am proud to claim almost as foster brothers; along the Main Street lived James Maxwell, a good craftsman, who had an incessant feud against Sergeant Brooks. He was lame, and when he had a few drinks, he boasted to strangers that it was the result of a wound he had got in the Crimea. People, who knew him, unkindly remarked that, when he had taken more than his usual dose of gin, he generally got it at Waterloo! Going up the street there was the Queen's Arms Hotel, the stanchion of which, without the Arms, still remains. It belonged to Andrew Miller, brother-in-law of Frances Browne, the Blind Poetess of Donegal and it was to come into the hands of William Kee, one of the few who had crossed the Finn. But Ballybofey never gave a finer neighbour nor a more generous friend to the poor than Willie Kee. Opposite him lived James Boyle, a famous Attorney, born in Dungloe, brilliant, brainy, best described by his colleague William Wilson as having more brains in his boots than the others had in their heads. I can't omit the name of James Coyle, one of the most industrious straightforward men Stranorlar ever had, nor that of Tom Deery, a quiet dreamer, a great authority on history and the Scripture, who succeeded the Gunnings, who represented the result of successful trading for generations.

There were the private houses of the Cochranes and MacCauleys, and that of George McLaughlin, clerk of the union for many years, whose books never shewed a mistake or a blot, and whose helpful kindness officially and otherwise I have good reason to remember when I started practice over 30 years ago. Dr. Johnston's Corner introduces a name that neither I nor many others will ever forget. He ushered me into the world. He was my good friend, neighbour and helpful colleague for over 20 years; and an indefatigable worker in his profession for almost 60 years of strenuous service. And his corner leads us to a detour down Meetinghouse Lane (they were all lanes, not streets, 50 years ago) where James McMenamin (whom I saw injured at the bridge accident I mentioned) lived for long full years after; to the

Presbyterian Church rebuilt over 40 years ago on the site of the old Meeting-House of 1719, and to the Manse where lived for over 60 years of good service, the Rev. James Currie, a kindly well-wishing man, an ideal clergyman in a mixed community, who could make nothing but friends in his own congregation, or in those outside it.

Our road wends northwards past Lough Allan—a word always associated with religion, for there you had St. Brigid's Well and its famous Station. Onwards past Tircallen to the "Nursery." That place still has strange, living memories for me, being the camping-ground of the old Roumanian Gypsies, whom I loved to steal out to visit; and another foreign note, in its teams of draught oxen conveying the tree trunks to Stranorlar railway siding. And with the last place I link the memory of one man whom we used to see hewing wooden soles from the beech trunks in Stranorlar Market Yard. He was to start business in Ballybofey and join with it another form of mending souls. He brought a new denomination to Stranorlar but the people thought that the four churches in Stranorlar were enough, and were not interested in it. His adherents were simply spoken of as those who "followed the Clogman's followers." His name was John Lowry, and last year, anyhow, he was alive and well in the County and on the hinge of his 90th year. Tircallen brings the memory of a picturesque personality. Robert Bustard, a strong Imperialist and stronger Orangeman, whose love for sport, and for a native product, showed him unmistakeably Irish of the Irish. I should like to interest you in mentioning a souterrain near his house, as there is also one near Drumboe, but I must not stray too far.

And returning to Main Street, I must make mention of Bob Robinson, the smith, who with the justifiable pride of the old-time educated tradesman, wrote poetry and published it; but not for profit. And I must make special mention of one family, the MacNultys, the most respected and intelligent in the village. I can offer it no greater tribute than to say that a great part of my early education was due to what I heard discussed as a boy at Philip MacNulty's house. And Stranorlar, trailing off into the country from Hamilton's Row, would not be complete without mention of Paddy and Kitty McLaughlin's well known **pub**. Hamilton's Row would deserve a chapter in itself with its homely neighbourliness, so like Ballybofey in some of its characters. It gave us some famous warriors such as Ned Kane and Willie Crampsie, then 89 years of age, who used to sing an old song, "Barney's awa frae his warrin' and fightin';" William Ewing, Robert Kilpatrick and Sam McClay, Irish in every way, but the Scotch tinge of their names could only come from one side of the Finn.

The story of Ballybofey and Stranorlar would not be complete without the name of Dr. William Gregory, an original, kindly lovable man, the like of whom we shall rarely ever see again, and who will ever be remembered as long as kindness to God's poor will be remembered; or that of the Revd. James Crawford, the Episcopal

clergyman, genial, courteous and respected by everybody, whose Evangelism was not low enough, (though his Victorian beard did not suggest any approach to Rome), to please Lady Hayes. As the daughter of Lord Lifford, she thought herself entitled to interfere in spirituals, and failing to do so broke away from him and started a missionary effort of her own. Some of her converts made people ironically amused, and provoked a remark from one of her people that the Roman Church dealt best with women when they took religion too seriously, by shutting them in convents, and sending them down to attend the poor in slums.

The Workhouse, long since the County Home, its last official institution, recalls to me some of its inmates, Charley Slap and John O'Brien who died over 80, and began life as a soldier in the Bengal Light Cavalry before the Indian mutiny. Its official, Dan McNulty, who died over 90, was known throughout Ireland wherever there was a salmon. And a little distance away lived John Sweeney who was to prove his race by giving to Ireland a grandson, whom we are proud to know as an example of how a man can suffer quietly, without reward, hardships for his country and come smilingly through it all. \*

And at this stage Stranorlar ends, for half a mile onwards brings us into a different diocese, a different parish, and a kindlier people, of whom I have even warmer memories than of my native Stranorlar. I must cross the Finn at this level, and make mention of the late Henry Cochrane for whom I keep a deep and warm memory, born of earlier days when I was given plum cake when I brought cattle to Cochrane's Holm, and of later years in practice when every Christmas brought me a box of cigars sent with a letter of old world courtesy. And with him, returning to my starting place, I must couple the name of John Styles Johnston. To the people they were always Mr. Harry and Master Johnny. They were God's gentlemen, too generous and too kind to the people around, even to die very rich; but they have left a legacy of memory and affection, I am glad to think, greater than gold as an inheritance to those that follow them.

And now, my steps bring me to Dreenan Blind Arch with memories of the three small West Donegal Railway Engines, the "Alice," the "Lydia," and the "Blanche," which I appear to hear tugging and clanking up the gradient to Barnes as they did 50 years ago. I now must put the closure to my talk, leave room for those that follow me, thank you for your patience, and offer my thanks. I have given little, but it is the little tribute I gladly give to my friend, Mr. McDonagh, and my last word will end on a note of sincere congratulations for his truly wonderful and successful achievement of this week, the credit and inspiration of which is all his.

\* Sean MacCool. R.I.P.

# A DONEGAL FAMILY in GERMANY

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MANUSCRIPT 250 of the National Library of Ireland consists of 81 pages in octavo closely written in ink, described in the catalogue as the 'Diary of life in Germany and Switzerland during residence there by "Moll" Hamilton, a daughter of John and Mary Hamilton of St. Ernan's, Co. Donegal, Ireland,' and given to the National Library in 1913 by the Howard Memorial Library, New Orleans. This is an account, written shortly after the events recorded had taken place rather than an actual diary, covering the period from 6th December 1838 to the beginning of June 1840. On fol. 8v. it is stated that there was an earlier volume covering the Hamiltons' first sojourn at Neuwied. The present volume concludes with the Hamiltons returning to Neuwied (on Rhine) after their sojourns at Karlsruhe and Lausanne. The Hamiltons' residence in Co. Donegal is stated in the inscription on the tomb-stone of Isabell Hamilton, Moll's sister, at Karlsruhe, as recorded at the end of this diary.

From fol. 12r. we learn that the Hamiltons had with them in Germany their son, James, and four daughters. Isabell, born in 1826, died "in a foreign land" (as is stated on her tomb-stone) on 3rd May 1840. Moll, who was educated together with Isabell and in her diary repeatedly recognised her sister's superiority, was presumably the second; therefore, at the time when this diary was written she was scarcely more than thirteen. The hand of this manuscript, however, is that of an elderly person, and it is suggested that it was written by Miss Bagot, the governess of Bell and Moll Hamilton. Only the last page, perhaps, was written by Moll herself, in a stiff child's hand, paying tribute to the memory of her sister.

Bell Hamilton was buried at Karlsruhe side by side with "Rebecca McClearn, born at Raphoe in Ireland 1813, a faithful servant and beloved sister," who had died four days before the present diary opens, on the day when the Hamiltons moved into their new house at Karlsruhe. The inscription on that joint grave has been, and possibly still is, a record of a closely knit life of an Irish family.

When visiting Bell's grave, the Hamiltons passed by the grave of the husband and father of their best friends, Mrs. and Miss V. Struve. This was Johann Gustav V. Struve, who in 1817 had become Russian minister to the Karlsruhe court and had died there in 1828. Moll Hamilton referred to the great review held at Karlsruhe on the occasion of the visit of the son of the Emperor of

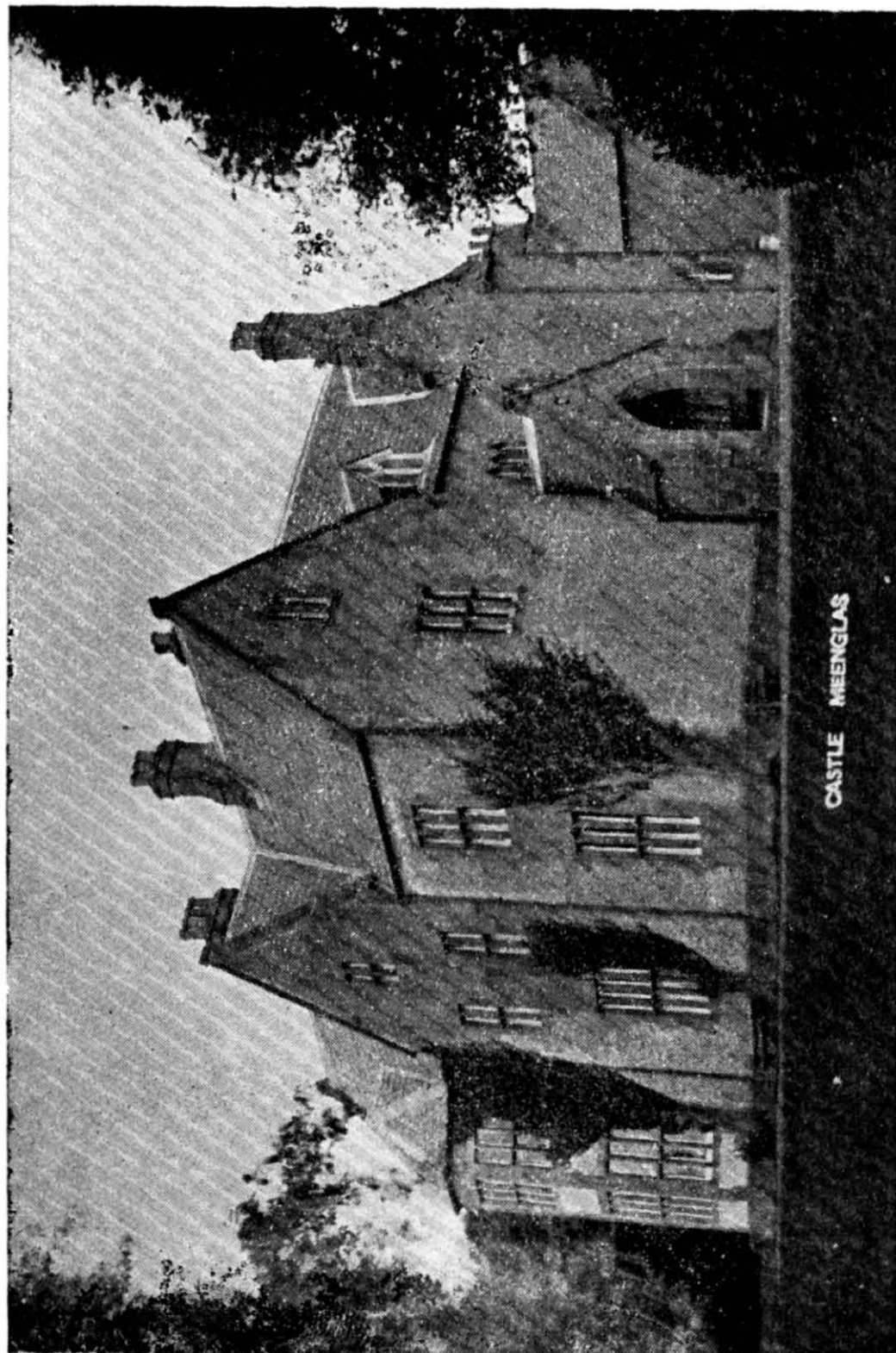
Russia in the spring of the year 1839, an event no doubt of special interest to the V. Struves.

Moll Hamilton's diary is a record of Continental life 110 years ago as seen through Irish eyes and of an Irish family's life on the Continent, especially of their efforts in learning the languages. It suffices to say that this diary contains accounts of Carlsruhe, Baden-Baden, Strassburgh, Freiburg, Basle and Switzerland in general, in particular Geneva and Lausanne, and finally of Heidelberg, Mayence and Neuwied. The detailed descriptions of Christmas and Easter in German families are particularly valuable and of historical interest, even to a German.

Regarding Mr. Hamilton's business on the Continent, Moll's diary informs us that "on the first Sunday 1839" he began to hold morning meetings. "At eleven many English and some Germans used to come to our rooms and we had little meetings like at Neuwied, but at Carlsruhe we only knew one or two English people". These were apparently religious meetings. At the end of her diary Moll tells us that on their return to Neuwied the Hamiltons stayed at the **Brudergemeinde** (Herrenhuthers) Inn and that they took lodgings with two Moravian ladies. The description, on her tombstone, of their servant Rebecca as "beloved sister" also points to some sectarian association. On Christmas 1839 Moll was given by her father (nothing but) "a nice German testament". Mr. Hamilton also gave English lessons to the Misses Struve, in exchange for the German lessons given to his ladies though, rather than for money. That the Hamiltons were well-to-do can be gauged from the fact that while bringing their own maid from Ireland, they engaged a German maid and later a second German maid whom they took with them to Switzerland. Moreover, they had a governess (presumably from Ireland) for their daughters and a tutor (one Lauterbach) for their son, who were also among the party on the journey through Switzerland. Thus it would appear that John Hamilton was a free-lance evangelist of independent means, who might be assigned a place in a history of English-speaking sectarian missions in Germany.

Towards the end of 1839, Mr. Hamilton considered taking his family to England "to put James to school, but we did not like this going so near home without getting home", the only note of attachment to Ireland struck in Moll's diary. On their journey to Lausanne, the Hamiltons called at Baden on their friends the Wellesleys, probably Henry Richard W., later British minister to the Frankfurt Confederation, who in 1833 had married Olivia Fitzgerald (D.N.B.). At Strassburg, they called on the Nesbitts and the Bohns, the latter perhaps, James Stuart B., the book-seller (D.N.B.).

While there are numerous English descriptions of the Rhineland and Switzerland at that time (including some by Irish-born authors), Moll Hamilton's diary is an interesting record of how thoroughly many of these visitors applied themselves to the learning of the German language. In conjunction with the records of the



CASTLE MEENGAS

LORD LIFFORD'S CASTLE AT MEENGLASS

(Pulled down circa 1948).

(Lord Lifford's Coat of Arms may be seen on the Stranorlar Station House).



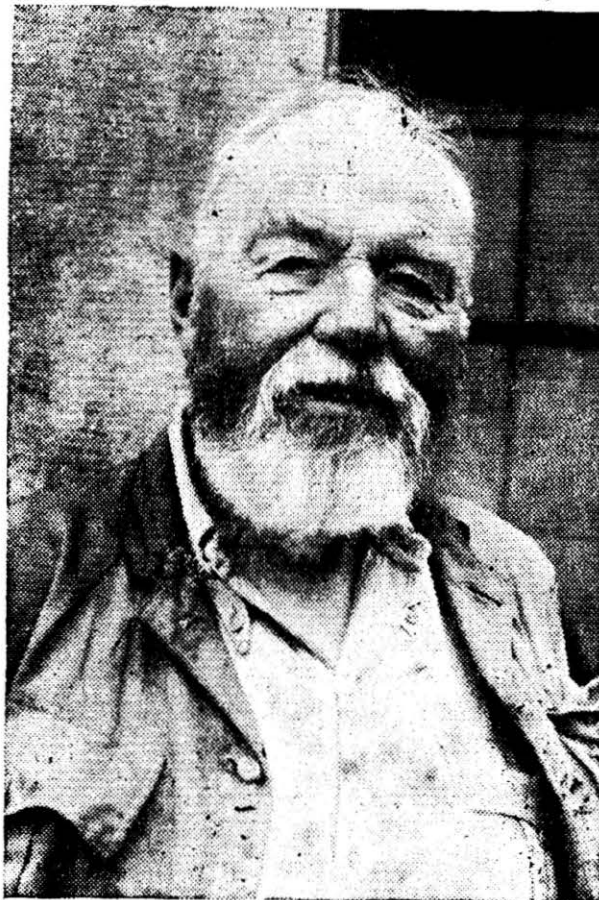
various young Irishmen who stayed for this purpose at Weimar, Moll Hamilton's diary is the counterpart of the extensive interest in German literature in Ireland between 1830 and 1850, most noticeable in the **Dublin University Magazine** and **The Nation**. The Hamiltons' example shows that this interest had spread outside Dublin and to the female sex. On their return to Ireland, the Hamiltons, from their blind admiration of everything German, must have been in their circle an important source of information on German life and German letters.

JOHN HENNIG.

My thanks are due to the Trustees of the National Library of Ireland for permitting me to publish this note.

( — For further particulars of the Hamiltons in Germany see "Sixty Years' Experience as an Irish Landlord—memories of John Hamilton D.L." edited with introduction by Rev. H. C. White. (London, Digby Long and Co.).

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Capt. J. S. Hamilton, Brownhall, now in his 86th year.  
A past president of the Donegal Historical Association.

# THE HISTORY OF THE DIOCESE OF RAPHOE

(Very Rev. Edward Canon Maguire, D.D.  
1855—1926)

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BY "KIT TAAFFE"

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Edward Maguire was born at Bonnyglen, Inver, in the year 1855 and was the fifth son of Hugh Maguire and Catherine O'Boyle. Three national schools were associated with his primary education, Keelogs, Croagh and Ballinamore, from which he passed into MacIntyre's Classical Academy at Ballyshannon. In January, 1874 he entered St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and on the 1st November, 1879, he was raised to the priesthood, at Letterkenny by the Most Reverend Dr. Logue, then Lord Bishop of Raphoe. Soon afterwards he became the first clerical president of the old seminary at Letterkenny and he held this post until 1883 when he was recalled to Maynooth as Professor of Rhetoric. In 1897 he returned to the diocese as Administrator of Gweedore and later Glenswilly. From 1902 to 1906 he was curate at Ardaghey from which place he returned to Letterkenny as the first President of the newly founded St. Eunan's College. In 1908 he was made a Canon of the diocese and, from 1910 to 1916, he was parish priest of Clondavaddog. His last appointment was the pastorship of Glencolumbkille where he died on the 5th July, 1926. The primary teachers of County Donegal have erected a monument over his grave which was unveiled by His Lordship, Most Reverend Dr. McNeely, in the presence of a large gathering.

Dr. Maguire's books include **A History of the Diocese of Raphoe**, 2 vols; **St. Adhamhan; St. Barron; Ballyshannon, Past and Present; Letterkenny Past and Present; Tacitus, Edited with Notes**. He was also a frequent contributor to local newspapers and periodicals and was associated with the **Craun Eithne Press**, founded by the late Cardinal O'Donnell; which, from 1910 to 1916, published a valuable series of penny booklets in the Irish language. Foremost of his published works is his **A History of the Diocese of Raphoe**, copies of which, unlike his lesser-known works, come on the market, from time to time. This work, alone, entitles Dr. Maguire to a place of honour as the pioneer of local historical studies in that part of County Donegal, which is coterminous with the

diocese of Raphoe. His work as a pioneer was, however, handicapped by his foolish reliance on a prodigious memory and a haphazard method of notetaking.

Maguire could rarely restrain his subjectivity and some of his caustic remarks are full of cynical humour which will soon lose their topical flavour, and become meaningless, unless some of his fellow clergy of Raphoe undertake to annotate the history with fuller biographical notes! He can be exasperating too, when, without quoting his authorities, he emulated O'Hart's **Irish Pedigrees** with assertions such as that the O'Donnells of Ballyshannon migrated from the Rosses in the seventeenth century; that the nineteenth century Gallaghers of Ballinaglack were the lineal descendants of Sir Eoin O'Gallagher, etc. Unsubstantiated statements, such as these have allowed skeptics to discredit **A History of the Diocese of Raphoe** and thereby reduce its genealogical value to the level of that section of our Sunday national press which recently splashed its pages with the story of a mythical king of Arranmore, who was a direct descendant (sic) of Red Hugh O'Donnell. (Which of the Red Hughs?).

These imperfections are relatively unimportant when set against the magnitude of Maguire's **A History of the Diocese of Raphoe**. For this reason our remarks must not be interpreted, or used, as destructive criticism since they are offered as structural alterations to an edifice, which must always bear his name. The time factor, alone, leaves us in his debt since much of the traditional lore which he recorded would have been lost, forever, had he awaited **visionary opportunities**. Actuated by gratitude for his timely work and hailing him as the precursor of the County Donegal Historical Society we salute his memory; and, by way of tribute to it, offer the following additions, and corrections, to his **A History of the Diocese of Raphoe** :

**Parish of Raphoe**—"Rev John Campbell, P.P., Raphoe"—Subscription list Daniel Roderick O'Connor's "**History of Ireland**" dated November, 1798. That this list was prepared about the year 1796 is evident from the fact that it includes the name of Rev. William Hamilton, who was slain at Sharon Rectory, March 1797.

**Parish of Innishkeel**—"Rev. Patrick O'Coigley, R.C.D. of Raphoe (address) Innishkeel, Co. Donegal." (O'Connor op. cit.). The Dean to whom there is no reference in Maguire was one of some hundreds of Donegal people whose names were set out in **Faulkner's Journal**, December, 1799, under a petition from County Donegal for "an Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland." The Dean's name is given as "Rev. Patrick Coyle, R.C.D."—a misprint or a forgery? Was he a relative of the Rt. Rev. Dean George Quigley (O'Coigley) mentioned in Maguire vol. 1, p.p. 204, 483, 484?

**Parish of Templecrone**—"Rev. Connell O'Donnell, P.P., Templecrone," (O'Connor op. cit.). Compare this with Maguire vol. 1, 479, and vol. 11 p. 224.

**Parish of Killygarvan**—"Rev. John McElwee, P.P., Killygarvan" (Pro. Union Petition Dec. 1799, op. cit). See Maguire vol. 1, p.p. 323,

330 and vol. 11 p.p. 130, 143.

**Parish of Clondavaddog**—"Rev. James O'Friel, P.P., Clondavaddog (O'Connor op. cit.) not mentioned in Maguire and it upsets his remarks in vol. 1 p. 323. Letter addressed to Rev. James O'Friel of Rossnakill, sent to General Post Office, Dublin, by Mr. Alexander Nesbitt, merchant, Ramelton, with covering letter dated 4th August, 1800 (State Paper Office, Dublin Castle)" . . . Amongst the insolvent letters lately returned is one addressed to Rev. James O'Friel, Fanet, who died lately and left no near relatives . . ."

**Parish of Drumholm**—"Rev. James Gallagher, P.P., Drumholm," (O'Connor op. cit.) Not mentioned in Maguire and his dates for Very Rev. Owen Kelly, P.P., vol. 1, p. 414 should be 1803—1809. See vol. 11, p. 395.

**Parish of Clondahorky**—"Rev. Bernard Rodan, P.P., Clondahorky" (O'Connor op. cit.). See Maguire vol. 1, 314.

**Parish of Ardara**—"Rev. James Carr, P.P., Ardara" (O'Connor op. cit.). See Maguire vol. 11 p.p. 257, 383. He appears to have succeeded his brother, Rev. Philip Carr, P.P., of Kilcar. See Maguire vol. 11, 45.

**Parish of Kilcar**—"Rev. Phil Carr, P.P., Kilcar." (Pro Union Petition, December, 1799). See Maguire vol. 1 p.p. 479, 523; vol. 11 55.

**Parish of Glencolumbkille**—"Domnick Walls, R.C.C., of Glencolumbkille and Kilcar." (Pro. Union Petition op. cit.). Father Walls was the Dominican Friar mentioned by Maguire vol. 1, 461 and vol. 11, 117.

**Parish of Killybegs**—"Owen Raughter, Priest of Killybegs." (Pro. Union Petition op. cit.) Is this a misprint? Not mentioned by Maguire.

**Parish of Inver**—"Rev. Hugh Kerrigan, P.P., Inver," and "Rev. Neal Davin, C.C." (Pro Union Petition, Dec., 1799). For further remarks on Father Kerrigan ("Black Hugh" of tradition) see below.

**Parish of Stranorlar**—Succession list of Parish Priests for the eighteenth century (Maguire vol. 11, p. 92) compares very unfavourably with the following based *inter alia* on MacFliinn's report on Mss. of Irish interest in Vatican archives—"Analecta No. 16"—1737—Death of Very Rev. John O'Donnell, P.P., Stranorlar, circa 1745/68, 1746/7, Very Rev. Anthony McDevitt acting parish priest appointed parish priest of Stranorlar, 1750/1 by Most Rev. Anthony O'Donnell, O.F.M., (Bishop of Raphoe) under a Papal Bull. Sept. 1747—1751. Rt. Rev. Dean John Gallagher, on his return from overseas, appointed **Vicar administrator** "of a wing of the parish," while awaiting a parish of his own. He refused in 1751 to relinquish his claim to the whole parish of Stranorlar and "went into rebellion" against his Bishop. In this he had some support from the Primate a few of the Northern Bishops as well as that of a former Bishop of Raphoe—Most Rev. Dr. James O'Gallagher, Bishop of Kildare. The *Analecta* only contains the Franciscan side of the controversy which, we believe, arose when the Regulars sought to regain control of the diocese. This is, more or less, substantiated in

the next entry.

Very Rev. Dominick MacDevitt, O.F.M., parish priest, of Stranorlar, **for seventeen years** (1763-1782), forced to relinquish the parish when Most Rev. Dr. Coyle was raised to the See of Raphoe. Father MacDevitt's Christain name is given as John, by Maguire, vol. 11, p. 92 and for further biographical details see "**Irish Franciscan Relations with France.**" (Four Masters' Press, 1951).

The next parish priest may have been Very Rev. John Devenny. See Maguire, vol. 11, p.p 67/8. From the veiled hint contained therein it would appear that Father Devenny was moved from Stranorlar to Killymard upon representations being made to his Bishop that the Stranorlar parish priest was sympathetic toward the United Irishmen. The accusations followed him to Killymard and in 1798 he was arrested and lodged in Donegal Bridewell by Capt. Oakwood. (Urquart of the Loyal Essex Regiment) but was spared further indignities by his friend, Capt. Mountgomery, of Mountcharles, who secured his release. (Tradition found recorded in files of the "Derry Journal").

**Stranorlar 1798** (recte 1796), Rev. Francis O'Friel, P.P., Stranorlane" (O'Connor cp. cit.). Not mentioned by Maguire and may have been Most Rev. Dr. Anthony O'Donnell's "Dear Couzen", "Mr. Francis O'Friel of St. Isidores, 1751, whom his Lordship appointed as his agent in Rome in connection with the MacDevitt-O'Gallagher claims to the parish.

1799. Memorial of lease, Registry of Deeds, Henrietta St. Dublin. Book 529 p. 614. Lease from William Ramsay of Dooish (the father of the future Father William Ramsay of Glenfinn) to James Boyce and Michael Boyce, of the Park, (Dooish) meared by the lands of Abraham Flanagan "formerly in the possession of **Priest Carr**". There is no priest named Carr in Maguire's Stranorlar list for the eighteenth century !

In view of the foregoing it will seem that the Right Rev. Dean Hugh Kerrigan's associations with the Deanery of Raphoe and with the parish of Stranorlar date from the early years of the nineteenth century. This is confirmed by the inscription on the Dean's tombstone in Stranorlar graveyard quoted by Maguire vol., p. 527.

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#### **MOR-OBAIR AR LEITH :**

t-Athair E. J. Mullen, C.C., Eden-

Ta ar diol anois ins na siopai infagh, Glenties, an duine sin. Ni leabhar (agus muna bhfuil, ba gadh e a chur in aithne do aon choir go mbeadh) leabhar beag Ghael i nDun na nGall, agus "Mount Silver Looks Down" (a breis-eolais tosaigh do "A Hisluach 4/- o Domhnall O Cuinn, tory of the Diocese of Raphoe" Grionan, na Gleanntai). Mor le na uncal, sea a leabhar beag. obhair ar leith sea e, as ucht Ta idir clo-schibhinn Gaeilge gurbh e an duine ceadna a agus B'arla ins an Inneaill clo-scriobh, a chuir i gcló agus a bhuailte atha ag an Athair chuir i leabhar e, agus b'e An Mullins.

## JOHN McNAGHTEN—THE MAN WHO REFUSED TO BE *HALF-HANGED*

John McNaghten was the head of a Scottish family which came to Antrim in the late sixteenth century to act as sheneschals for their kinsmen the MacDonnells of Antrim. He was born in the year 1722 and when only six years old succeeded to his father's property. As a youth, at school in the Royal School, Raphoe, and afterwards at Trinity College, Dublin, he became so addicted to gambling that even as a young man he was forced to sell some and mortgage the rest of his estates. His first wife, a sister of Lady Masserene, died from shock on hearing of one of her husband's reckless deeds—an event which he deeply deplored. After this his affairs became so desperate that a few influential friends came to his aid. His brother-in-law, Lord Masserene, obtained for him the Collectorship of Taxes for the County of Coleraine and his sister's husband became his surety for £2,000, the amount of the bond required for that position. Within two years he had lost the post through embezzling £800 of public monies.

Andrew Knox of Prehen, near Derry, then took pity on McNaghten's plight and invited him to Prehen for a few weeks until another position could be found for him. While at Prehen he determined to marry Knox's heiress, a girl of fifteen years and in a very short time had induced the young lady to read the marriage service with him in the presence of a witness. He then claimed her as his bride; a claim which her father promptly had declared null and void by the Court of Delegates. Then in order to free his daughter from McNaghten's attentions Mr. Knox decided to move with his family to Dublin. McNaghten hearing of these plans arranged to ambush them *enroute* and to abduct his lady love. He then chose a spot on the Derry-Dublin road three miles from Strabane and with a servant and two tenants took up positions there. Knox feared something of this nature and well armed guards rode with the family coach. In the clash which followed McNaghten was wounded in the back and in a rage rushed towards the coach to shoot Mr. Knox. The daughter sensing what was being done threw her arms about her father and in shielding him received the full charge of gunshot in her side. She died in agony a few hours later. This tragic occurrence took place on the 10th November 1760.

Two hours after the attempted abduction McNaghten was captured, but only after a fierce struggle followed by attempted suicide. One of his tenants, Thomas Dunlap, was betrayed a few days afterwards and was lodged in Lifford gaol with his master. McNaghten's other associates, George McDougall and James

McCarrell, escaped. The prisoners were tried for murder at Lifford on the 11th of December 1760 and McNaghten's deportment and spirited defence won him unanimous sympathy from the people of the Lifford, Strabane district. Before being sentenced to death McNaghten implored the judges to spare Dunlop whom he described as "a poor simple fellow, his tenant, and not guilty of any crime." It was a fruitless plea and both were sentenced to be taken to the scene of their crime and hanged.

So great was McNaghten's popularity that no carpenter could be found to erect a gallows and Miss Knox's uncle and his friends had to provide one. The smith who was supposed, by law to knock the handcuffs from the condemned men only did so when compelled and a hangman had to be brought from as far away as the County Cavan. On the gallows McNaghten conducted himself with much dignity and courage and even assisted in settling the rope about his neck while at the same time declaring that the anticipation of death was worse than the reality. The rope snapped under the weight of his body and he was flung to the ground uninjured. The crowds roared in triumph and urged him to escape by making way for him in all directions. Instead he calmly reassended the ladder with the remarks that no one would ever have to point at him or speak of him as "half-hanged McNaghten." The rope did its deadly work the second time then served Dunlop likewise. Their bodies now lie in one grave behind the Church of Strabane. (Based on U.J.A. Vol. 8 (1860) and "Ireland Sixty Years Ago."

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## THE WYBRANT OLPHERT COLLECTION AT BALLYCONNELL HOUSE

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This collection of Irish antiquities was formed in the early nineteenth century from finds made at the Sandhill Settlements around Ballynass bay. It included upwards of fifty beautifully decorated bronze pins and broches some of which can be seen in the excellent drawings of them which were published in the U.J.A. July 1859 Vol. 4. In addition to flint, chert, and bronze objects the settlements yielded a number of coins of very diverse periods. One of them was a token coin which bore the inscription "John Elvin at ye Ferry," a boat surmounted by the date 1657, and on the other side the initials "J.E." and "of London Derrie." A writer in the above mentioned U.J.A. suggested that Elvin, an Alderman of Derry Corporation, was also the leasee or then owner of the ferry which was the only approach to the city from the east side down to the year 1790 "when the present wooden bridge was erected."

Incidentally the Olpherts were a Dutch family which came to County Donegal, through County Derry, in the early seventeenth century: "Grant of Naturalisation to Wybrant Olfertson and John Olfertson of Holland for a fine of 13/4 Irish."

# CRANNOGS OF TIRCONAILL

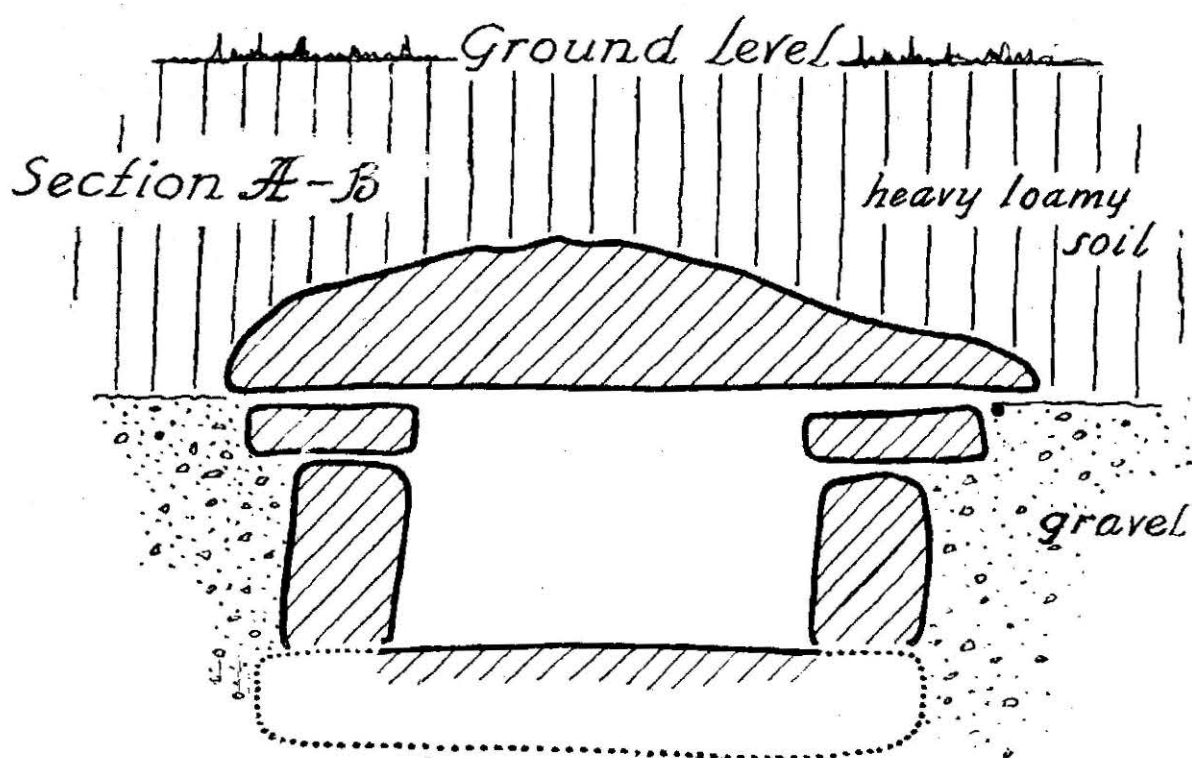
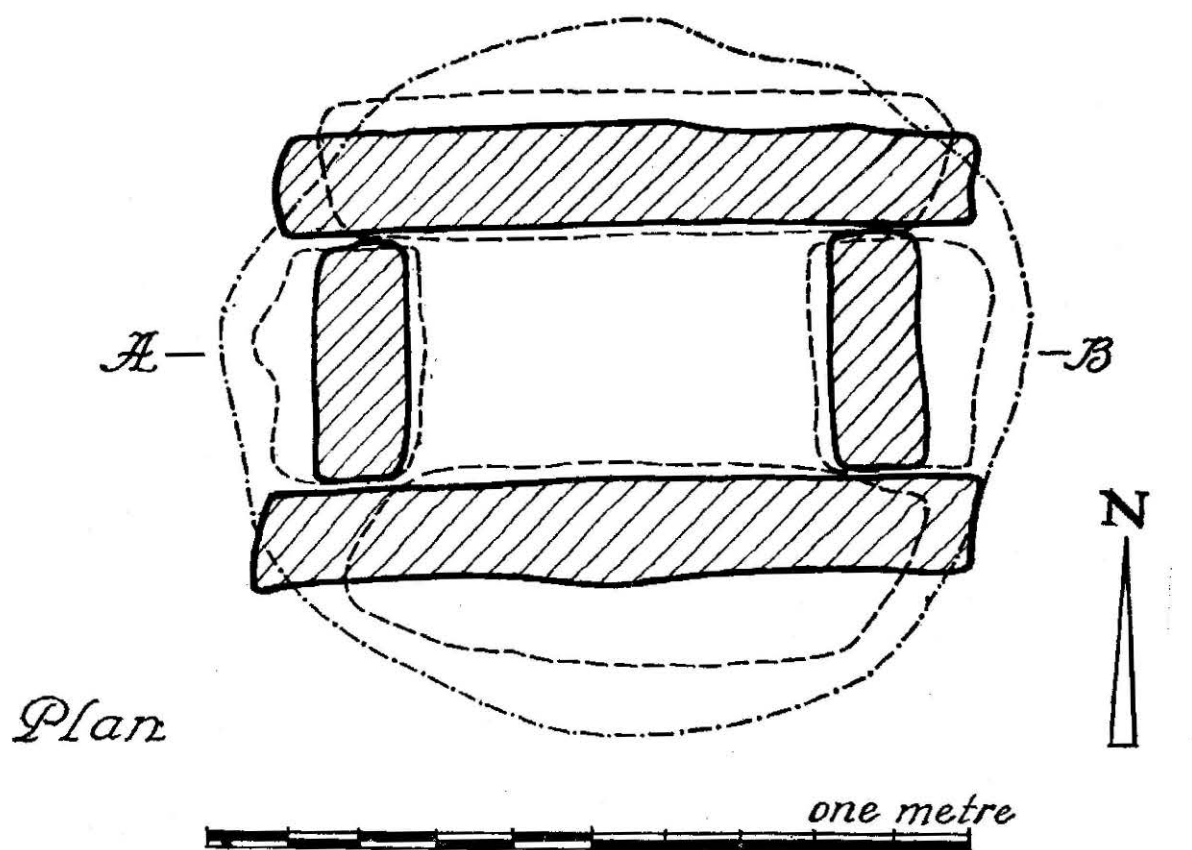
BY J. C. T. MacDONAGH, B. COMM.

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Colonel Wood-Martin's **'Lake Dwellings'**, published in 1886, is still a popular textbook on this aspect of ancient and mediaeval life in Ireland. In preparing his book the author drew largely on the fieldwork of his engraver, W. F. Wakeman, and on reports furnished to the Board of Works, from about 1852 onwards, by engineers engaged in drainage schemes. A paper, read by one of these engineers, Mulvanny, at a meeting of the members of the Royal Irish Academy, stimulated great interest in Irish Crannogs as it was accompanied by a large donation of objects found by him during the course of his work. Mulvanny's paper was followed by Wilde's **"Illustrated Catalogue of the Academy's Museum of Antiquities"** which gave an excellent account of artificial islands, known as Crannogs. Since County Donegal did not share in these nineteenth century drainage schemes, Wood-Martin's book has but scanty references to four crannogs in the county. Had he examined the **Annals** or O'Donovan's **Letters** he would have found that Tirconail chieftains, particularly in the western parts of the county, appear to have had a predilection for this type of fortification. Its numerous lakes, some of which are still almost inaccessible, no doubt, were responsible for this choice of habitation in a countryside which was particularly vulnerable by sea-raiders.

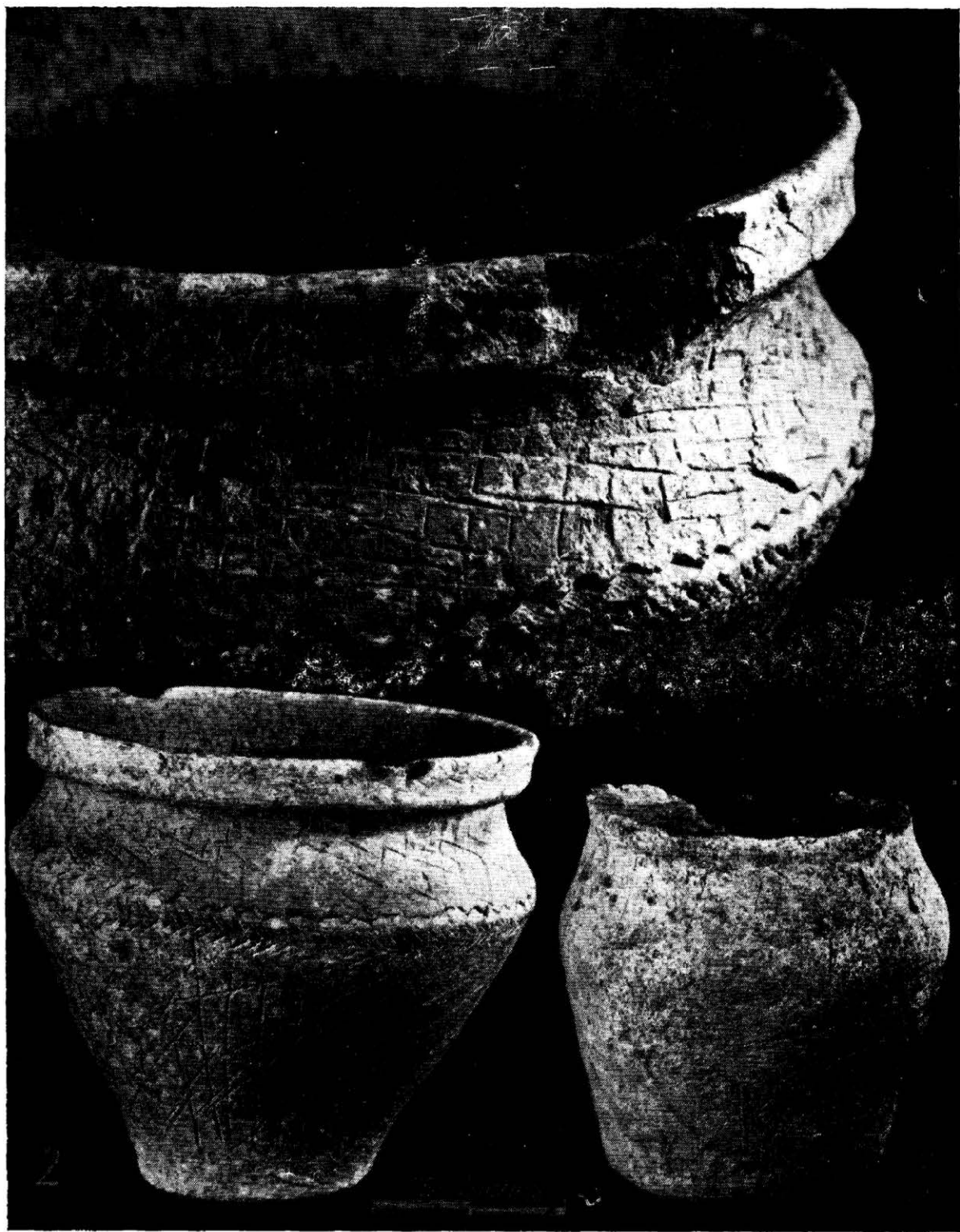
Of the four crannogs, mentioned by Wood-Martin, Crannogboy, Drimkelin, Lough Veigh and Mongavlin, the last, if ever it existed, must have been an island in Lough Foyle and, therefore does not come within the scientific terms of being an artificial lake dwelling erected from the bed of a lake. Were we allowed such freedom then we could claim that Innishamer, at the mouth of the Erne, is the oldest crannog in Ireland. We should, however, like to point out that the Crannog users of County Donegal, unlike those in other parts of Ireland rarely found it necessary to create artificial islands since nature had provided our lakes with a variety of islands and rocky outcrops. For this reason it is doubtful if any of our crannogs will furnish archaeologists with the stratified occupational layers which are a feature of the artificial island. If for this reason, too, our list includes places which do not satisfy the modern concept of a crannog it is because we have found them described as such in the **Annals of the Four Masters** and elsewhere. Our purpose, therefore, is not





PLAN OF BUNNYMAIN CIST IN WHICH WERE FOUND  
FOOD VESSELS SEEN OPPOSITE PAGE.

Find reported in Journal of Royal Society of Antiquaries  
(MacDonagh and Hartnett).



FOOD VESSELS FOUND AT BUNNYMAIN, BURNFOOT, CO.  
DONEGAL, NOW IN THE NATIONAL MUSEUM.



to set up records but to draw attention to the many neglected monuments of this nature throughout the county and to solicit information and details of those included or not included in this preliminary report on the Crannogs of County Donegal.

In order to stimulate an interest in this aspect of Donegal history may we remind our readers that, from earliest times down to the eclipse of the Celtic war lords, the Crannog was a very important habitation. This may be gleaned from a description of them which is very applicable to life in ancient and mediaeval Tirconail.

"As a general rule . . . crannogs were constructed at such a distance from the shore of a lake as to be inaccessible except by means of a boat ; there being no reason to believe that any kind of wooden bridge was ever employed for communicating with the land. A few of them were approached by moles or causeways. If we consider that until a few centuries ago these lakes were embosomed in dense forests (which have disappeared) ; that the country was intersected in all directions, especially in Ulster, by bogs and morasses, of which we still see remains; and that very few roads, deserving the name, existed in the whole country, we can readily see that these island fortresses must have been very difficult of access." (U.J.A. 1859 Vol. 7 pl83).

The following is our list of Tirconail crannogs, to date, and it includes the four mentioned by Woodmartin :—

**Inn's mic Conail** captured by Hugh Boy O'Donnell and Niall Garb's English allies in 1602. O'Donovan identified it as the O'Donnell fortress in Lough Eske. This, however, is disproved by an entry in the **Four Masters** which tells that later in the same year Earl Rory returned to Lough Eske, which was the only fortress left to him in Tirhugh. From its context with Innishamer it may be assumed that **Innis mic Conail** was somewhere in the Ballyshannon district. Was it the Abbey Island ?

**Island O'Donnell** (Lough Eske) which O'Donovan equated with **Innis mic Conail** has still the ruins of the fortress in which Hugh Roe O'Donnell imprisoned O'Connor Sligo.

**Illanmore Lake.** One of a group of four lakes in the Townawilly mountains, between Barnesmore and Lough Belshade. This district is very rich in archaeological remains and was associated with the outlawed septs of the "Gerranbar" down to their subjection by Hugh Roe O'Donnell.

**Lough Mourne.** Situated on the plateau overlooking Barnesmore, in the townland of **Cashelnavean** ; it is visible from the Derry-Sligo road and was called Loch Mulmourn in the Civil Survey (1656). Local tradition tells that St. Patrick visited the island.

**Mongavlin.** One of the crannogs mentioned by Wood-Martin. In 1588 Hugh, son of the Dean O'Gallagher, who was also a reputed son of Colvagh O'Donnell of Castlefin, was slain at the instigation of Indeendubh when "full of pride and arrogance" he called at

Mongavlin. It was Ineendubh's principal residence and from here she wrote the document which contributed so much to the downfall of her son-in-law Sir Niall Garbh O'Donnell. A survey of the principal fortifications of Tirconail, made in 1600, says "three miles above Cargan stands the fort of M'Gwyvelin, upon the River of Lough Foyle—O'Donnell's mother's chief residence." The ruins, there at present, date from Plantation times and may have been erected on the site of the older fortress around which was a mediaeval town. There is nothing to shew that it was a crannog and Wood-Martin must have confused it with **Crannog O'Lappain**.

**Crannog O'Lappain** in the lake now known as Portlough near Manorcunningham. See: **Annals of the Four Masters** year 1011; **Ordnance Survey of Derry** p. 207; U.J.A. No. 17 year 1857 p. 168; **Sketches of Erris and Tyrawley** p. 214; **History of the Diocese of Raphoe** Vol. 1 p. 62. This crannog re-appeared about the year 1832 when the level of the lake was lowered.

**Lough Veagh.** The cradle of the O'Donnell family. As late as 1608 the dense forests which guarded it were used as a protective screen by Sir Cahir O'Doherty and his followers. See also: **Annals of the Four Masters** years 1257, 1524, and 1540. Early in the last century a famous **potheen** maker had his still on this historic crannog.

**Sessaugh Lake**, near Dunfanaghy, "with its island, formerly a crannog, now a cabbage garden" (Harkin, **Scenery and Antiquities of North West Donegal** p. 46).

**Port Lough** (not to be confused with the lake mentioned above) is a mile and a half, south west of Sessaugh Lake. According to O'Donovan the MacSweeneys had a castle on an island there. "Oilen na-dTuath (Port-an-oileh) was taken by MacSweeney na dTuaith i.e. Owen Og, son of Owen son of Donnell from the sons of Donnell son of Donagh MacSweeney, who were slain on this occasion" **Annals of the Four Masters** year 1583.

**Crannog na Duini**, in Ros Guill, parish of Meevagh. O'Donovan identified it as one of the two **Cashels** at the western end of the Downings range of hills (Letter from Dunfanaghy Sept. 1835) and in a note to his edition of the Annals, year 1603, he called it the "wooden house of Duni, now Downies of Downings." It is most unlikely that the word **Crannog** would be applied to a hill top **cashel** in mediaeval Ireland. Shifting sands have altered the topography of Rossguil from time to time. The Clement Estate maps of 1770, for instance, shew two lakes near the Rossapena Hotel and an island which is now part of the mainland separating the site of Lord Boyne's castle and gardens from Mulroy Bay. The earthen platform which surmounts the sandhill overlooking Carrigart parish church and the circle of stones and rubble on the sand dunes between Tranarossan Bay and Melmore are offered as alternatives to O'Donovan's location.

**Lough Birroque.** This lake lies south of the village of Portnoo and has the remains of a stone structure, on a rocky outcrop, near the shore of the lake. It was not a very large building and

appears to have been connected with the mainland by a mole.

**Lough Doon** or Loughadoon, in the townland of Lackagh is a few miles south east of Lough Birroque and one of the islands there is completely enclosed by a structure which was a perfect replica of the Grianan of Aileach. Within the last two years ivy has caused a section of the massive, unmortared stone rampart to crumble into the lake. (See **Annals of the Four Masters**, 1530)

**Kiltoorish Lake** has one of its islands the remains of an O'Boyle castle which figures very prominently in the **Annals of the Four Masters** and in the **State Papers** of the early seventeenth century. "On it is a gun said to have been recovered from one of the Armada ships which was lost on Trymore strand" (Harkin op.cit).

**Crannogbog**, now a townland on Loghross Bay, has a lake island on which the O'Boyles were reputed to have had one of their castles.

**Lough Anna**, situated near Silver Hill, to the south east of Glenties, has a very fine example of crannog with an outer lagoon or fosse protecting it.

**Drimkelin** in the parish of Inver was discovered in 1833 in a bog and was described as the most perfect primitive wooden dwelling yet brought to light (Wood-Martin). A model of the house was made by the Royal Irish Academy. The original was surrounded by a staked enclosure and the flooring of the house rested on hazel branches, covered with layers of fine sand. A paved causeway, over a foundation of hazel branches and logs led from the door of the house through the gateway of the stockade. See also Maguire **History of the Diocese of Raphoe** Vol. 1., p. 511.



KILBARRON CASTLE, HOME OF THE O'CLEARY'S.

# A DONEGAL NATURALIST OF THE EARLY 17th CENTURY

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"To Dr. Molineaux at his house is Dublin".

"DONEGALL THE 9th JUNE 1708".

"Sir",

"Altho I have delayed writing to you, yet I have not forgot my promise : I thought it better that the account I send you should be slow than lame, rather tedious when it comes, than imperfect.

I have made dilligent inquiry about Ratts in this Country; and find, that it is certain (there being no reason why the whole Country should deceive me in an affair of this nature, wherein they can have no interest to tell a lye) that there is a considerable tract of Land about Donegall wherein there is not one Ratt, tho' Ballyshannon, on the one hand and Killybegs on the other, the first ten and the latter 12 miles distant from it, have enough to send Colonies to adjacent Countries. This is the more strange because Donegall is a sea-port town, as well as the other two, tho' not near so much frequented by ships, but such as ships come to, even sometimes now, tho' formerly (as I am told) it had greater trade. I have seen one or two ships there, which might easily have left some ratts for breed, for they say generally ships have enough of that Cargo to spare. So that not-with-standing Donegal is not so much frequented with shipping, yet there has not been opportunities wanting for ratts to come thither from ships. for 'tis well known, that in time of the Wars, the Grayhound Man-of-War, which wanted not ratts (as is probable) lay sometimes in the river not above half a mile from Donegall which place they might safely goe to from the ship, which is customary to these animals. But it is not only the town of Donegall that is blessed with the absence of these vermin, the whole parish of Drumholm, and two or three more of the adjacent Parishes, partake of the same happiness, tho' they have this in common with other places, that they are alike pestered with mice. I was, at first, doubtfull whither or no Ballyshannon and Killybegs had ratts, but now I have got a particular account from Henry Caldwell Esqr., a considerable merchant, who is eldest son to Sir James Caldwell, that he has damages done him by ratts in his store-house at Killybegs, and an intelligent person told me, that a fortnight before this, at Killybegs, he was disturbed all night by ratts, and saw several in the morning, for they were so bold, that they ran about the bed,

and for demonstration that there are many at Ballyshannon Mr. Caldwell told me a very odd story viz : that the men who take care of a considerable salmon fishing which he farms from Lord Polliott, do prophesise whither there will be few or many Salmon caught that year, by the number of ratts they see upon a little Island in the river, where they make up their Fish. So if they see many ratts they expect many salmon, if few ratts they conclude they will take but a few fish. I do not mention this as if there was anything to be depended on as to the observation of the persons concerned in the fishing, tho they build much upon it, but I give it as an instance that there are ratts in abundance at Ballyshannon, tho they do not come within two or three miles of my house, which is not five or six at farthest from Ballyshannon.

As to the other story which you have heard, concerning some part of the Barony of Boylagh and Bannagh viz. Cattle cannot live there in summer, I find not great matter in it. It is sandy ground, as I am told, and I believe little grass grows there in a dry summer, and perhaps there may be unwholesome herbs amongst it, this makes the people drive off their cattle in summer, and by that means they have top grass in the Winter. I am apt to believe that all sandy ground is much of the same nature, for I observe that my own cattle do not much love to stay upon a sandy warren that is near their pasture. I suppose it is for the same reason that the cattle do not thrive in the Rosses (that is the name of the place) in summer. So I apprehend no great relation in the matter but if you think it of a more exact scrutiny, at any time I shall be ready to obey your commands.

This Sir is a tedious letter, but I choose rather to be impertinent than defective. Your most affect, and humble Servt",

"Tho Wadman"

## **ALTANNA GAEILGE SAN IRIS-LEABHAR SEO**

D'iarromar, ta ceithre bliana o shoin, frid na paipeiri uilig 'ga leamh i nDun na nGall, altanna stairiula o ughdair Gaelacha. B'e Niall O Domhnaill, stairidhe og eolach o na Rosai, an t-aon scriobhnoir a thug freagra ar an mor-cheist seo. O'n am ar scriobh se chugainn ta dha cheann da leabhra curtha i gclo ag "An club leabhar" agus mar mholadh da chuid oibre tarraigimid duais "guinea" ar an lear-mheas is bhfuil a thuilleadh le teacht?

fearr ar a leabhar ar na Rosai ach e bheith istigh againn roimh an aonadh la de Dheire Fomhair 1952.

## **SAOL (BIOGRAPHY) GAELACH, FILI, CEOLTOIRI AGUS SEANCAI DHUN NA nGALL**

Chuir Michéal Og Mac Faidin cuntas goirid ar shaol duine de fhi'li Gaelacha Dhun na nGall an lae indiu i mor-leabhar uimhir a h-aon den Iris-Leabhar seo. An

# IN FOREIGN FIELDS

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**I**n the musty registers of thousands of towns and villages all over Western Europe one finds cryptic and tantalizing traces of the passing of the Irish. It is difficult for us to reach beyond the faded illegible names to the men of flesh and blood who joked around the campfires of Don Juan or who strode the dusty roads of France in search of a living denied to them in their own land.

In the parish register of Blagnac, a little town not far from Toulouse in the South of France, I found under the date, October 1659, the record of the burial of two Irish soldiers ("Hirlandais"), B. Kcery (Carey?), and H. Callan. Who were they? No one can tell—now. What brought them there? Perhaps we may be allowed a guess.

In the half-century since the collapse of the old Gaelic civilization in 1603, and especially in the decade since Cromwell's smashing of the unstable Confederation, tens of thousands of Irishmen had been forced abroad either by military measures, or by the insecurity of land-tenure and grinding misery which followed a century of war and "plantation". In the two years following the terrible defeat of Scariffholis (1651), more than thirty thousand soldiers—about the same number as in the whole Cromwellian army—were "encouraged" to go abroad, a staggering figure when it is remembered that the total population had been reduced to about half a million \*

Some became vagrants, others wandering scholars (like the famous Donegalman, Nial O'Glacan, trained in the old-established medical school of the O'Duinnsleibhes at Kilmacrenan, who became professor of medicine in the University of Toulouse shortly before our two soldiers arrived in that town). But most followed the only trade they knew—that of the fighting man. Of these, some offered their services to the highest bidder, as was the unromantic but practical way of mercenaries of the time, but the majority entrusted their lives to the fatal and fickle Charles Stuart. In France, the courage and fighting ability of the Irish regiments became Charles' chief bargaining power and financial support.

In 1655, France allied herself with Charles' bitter enemy, Cromwell, in the war against Spain, so that Charles was forced to seek refuge behind the Spanish lines in Flanders. To ensure his welcome he persuaded four crack Irish regiments to change their allegiance, and in one case even to betray the fortress they held (St. Gerlain) to their new allies. \* However, many remained faithful to their

military loyalty to France, and soon Irishmen fought Irishmen for foreign kings as they have done so often in our history.

In 1657 Turenne, the French commander, attacked all along the Flemish borders, aided by strong Cromwellian forces. A few months later, in June 1658, Don Juan's Spanish—Irish-Walloon army was routed on the Downs before Dunkirk. Muskerry's regiment was destroyed almost to a man, and the Duke of York's and Bristol's were made prisoner. With this defeat the war was almost at an end, and Spain's short period of power was over. Worn down by the opposition of all Europe, by the alliances of His Most Christian Majesty of France with the forces of religious and political revolt, whether Dutch or Swedish, English or Turk, Spain was forced to make terms. When Mazarin once again demanded the hand of the infanta Maria-Teresa (together with the colossal dowry of half a million gold crowns) for his young—and exceedingly unwilling—master, Louis XIV, the Emperor Philip had no option but to yield.

Hence it was that in the summer of 1659, the whole French Court wended its way to Toulouse in preparation for the royal marriage in the little Basque church of St. Jean de Luz on the nearby Spanish border. The Queen-mother accompanied the reluctant king; with him went the household troops who remained quartered that winter all round Toulouse. Here our story comes back to Carey and Callan, quartered in Blagnac. They belonged to a Swiss battalion, which was almost certainly part of the Household Guard. It is not impossible that they had helped in the defeat of their fellow-country men at Dunkirk the previous year, since the king had risked his noble person in that battle.

According to a note inserted in the margin of the register by the Curé of the time, M. Delort, both Carey and Callan died by violence. Since the fighting was now over—and in any case there had never been any in this area—their deaths were probably due to some kind of dispute between the soldiers of different nationalities. \* This supposition is made more likely by the fact that a Swiss soldier of another company had died two or three days before.

A few months later the Stuart king was back on the throne of England. Many of the "Ensign-men" who had fought for his political interests abroad, returned to their native country in high hopes of justice. Charles rewarded them with his famous Declaration, but with little else. "My justice I must afford to you all, but my favour must be given to my Protestant subjects". While under the green fields of France many thousands were beyond the reach of his "justice" or his favours

Ernan McMullin, College of St. Anthony, Louvain.

\* I am indebted for this suggestion—as for his helpfulness in many other ways—to M. J.M. Suran, local historian of Blagnac.

\* 1. (Curtis : History of Ireland, 6th edn., p. 251).

\* 2. (O'Connor : Irish Brigades; Dublin, Duffy, 1855, p. 78).

\* 3. (One wonders whether any of Louis' Cromwellian allies were in the neighbourhood !)

# BOOK REVIEWS

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**Analecta Hibernica No. 18. "The O'Clery Book of Genealogies."**  
Edited by Seamus Prender, M.A., Dublin : Stationery Office (10/-)  
1951.

Except for the very important three page statutory report, of the Irish Manuscript Commission, the two hundred odd pages of **Analecta No. 18** are entirely devoted to Mr. Prender's editing of the Royal Irish Academy. Mss. 23. D. 17; known as "**The O'Clery Book of Genealogies.**" The mss. is believed to have been written by Cucogry O'Clery the last survivor of **The Four Masters**. He was driven to western Mayo by the Cromwellian wars and plantations and at his death, circa 1664, bequeathed a fine collection of Irish manuscripts to his sons. Early in the last century part of these manuscripts, which survived a disastrous fire, were lent to borrowers whose representatives sold them by public auction, after which they passed into the custody of the Royal Irish Academy. Mss. 23 D 17 was one of them.

Mr. Prender, who is now Lecturer in History at University College, Cork, was formerly an Assistant Librarian to the Academy. (Many of us have pleasant recollections of the kindness, and assistance received from him while working (there). He is an expert in the highly specialised work of reading and deciphering the various manuscripts in that great treasure house of Irish culture. Amongst the many, otherwise inaccessible, works which his scholarship has made available is "**The Census of Ireland 1659**"; a monumental work which also was published through the good offices of the Irish Manuscripts' Commission. His latest work continues to bear the imprint of good editing.

Cucogry O'Clery was one of the hereditary historians of Tir Conail and it was but natural for him to give much prominence to the survivors of the Celtic aristocracy of the North-West, particularly the Cinel Conail and their allied families. The only incongruous note in the format of his **Book of Genealogies** is the precedence given to the O'Neills over the O'Donnells. Beyond mentioning this noticeable admission in his **Introduction**. Mr. Prender refrained from further comment on an authority whose family was, for generations, the official historians to the O'Donnells. Such an admission by an earlier generation of O'Clerys would have been such rank heresy as to merit the vengeance of O'Donnell in the form of a speedy exile or a swift ending on the gallows.

But times had changed and the O'Donnells, like O'Clery, him-

self, were then dependant on the generosity and good will of the O'Neills of the Fews—the only Northern family to received substantial grants of land on being transplanted into Connacht. That these O'Neills did not fail them is evident from the fact that both the O'Clerys and the O'Donnells (and many other Northern families too!) obtained valuable leaseholds from the new Hy Niall lords of large tracts of land in Counties Leitrim and Mayo. In time the O'Donnells became successors in title (through inter-marriage, etc. etc.) and when their Newcastle, Castlebar, Newport stems and their allied branches re-emerged as landed gentry in the Eighteenth century (and the influence of the transplanted O'Neills disappeared) the pendulum of bardic effusion swung again in their favour. It is for this reason that we have always advised deeper critical research into all that John O'Donovan has written about the mid and late Seventeenth century O'Donnells of Leitrim and Mayo? They were well known to Cucogry O'Clery and yet he almost ignored them in his O'Donnell pedigrees!

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**The O'Clery Book Of Genealogies** is not the work of an altruistic nor idealistic historian. It is, however, the work of a conscientious professional whose services were in constant demand by those scions of the old Gaelic aristocracy who could afford to send their sons to continental colleges from whence they emerged as soldiers of fortune, clerics, doctors, lawyers and merchants. A pedigree drawn up by an O'Clery, endorsed with the signatures of one or two church dignitaries, opened the portals of preferment for many an exiled Irishman of the Seventeenth (and afterwards of the Eighteenth) century. For this reason any of the O'Clery pedigrees which are extended into the Seventeenth century are of great interest to local historians and as these include the O'Boyles, the O'Gallaghers, the O'Dohertys and several other West Ulster families, *Analecfa* No 18 is of particular interest to members of the County Donegal Historical Society. It is a well produced volume, of moderate price, and is worthy of the leather binding with which we always honour valued works of reference.

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**ARDARA, An Historical Record** and Tourist Guide to Ardara, Capital of the Donegal Highlands. (Ardara Development Association 1/-).

This little book (small and handy as every good guide book should be) is a credit to the Association which sponsored it. It is an excellently balanced work, obviously inspired by men who realise that as the family is the basic unit of society so also is territorial loyalty the pivot of true patriotism. While it would be invidious of us to single out any of the compilers for special mention we are proud to note that this delightful little book bears the imprint of some of the Historical Society's most cultured members.

J. C. Mc D.

Capt. J. S. Hamilton. (Donegal Democrat Ballyshannon 12/6).

'My Times and other Times' is a mine for those who will be anxious later on to reconstruct the history of troubled days, a time of change and unrest. Here is a man who lived in the heart of this period—the end of the era, the beginning of an era,—a landlord among tenants, a Protestant among Catholics, and yet in the midst of the confusion, the turbulence, even at times the bitterness, was able to possess his soul in peace. He gave of his best to the new regime as to the old, and was prepared to work with any man or any group who put the common good of the country above the pettiness of party. And, as those who read this book will discover, Captain Hamilton's contribution was always positive and fruitful.

It is well that such a book, partly autobiographical, partly historical, should have been written to preserve something of the atmosphere of an age that is dying. Who more fitting for the task than the genial master of Brownhall? For he does not look at his time as one of an audience sitting in the stalls but as an actor in the events which he describes or refers to. The temptation to quote is hard to resist and yet the effect would be little better than that produced by the old Greek, who, attempting to dispose of his villa, carried round a brick as a sample. To the reviewer personally the wise and wide outlook of the author is a specially notable characteristic.

Mr. Mac Donagh, Bank of Ireland, Ballybofey, in his graceful foreword pays a well-deserved tribute to the author.

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### ROS NUALA

Goide an ait do bhi an Ros agus cerbh i Nuala?

### MAC SUIBHNE BANNAGH

Ta dalladh foirgneamh (caisleán) le Clainn an Mac Suibhne seo i nDun na nGall theas. Teastuionn go gear eolas fa dtaobh doibh.

"EIRE OG"

### SEAN LEACHTAI

Ta i bhfus agus thall frid Dun na nGall leachtai i bhaineann le sagairt a mhair le linn na bpeindlithe. Ba cheart rud eicint a dheanamh ambail is ta deanta i gConntaethe eile in Eirinn chun na scribhinni ionnta do bhreacadh sios agus a bheith cinnte de go bhfuighidh na leachtai seo togha an aire agus nach leigfear i leig iad.

# APPROACH TO DONEGAL

By BENEDICT KIELY.

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THE best approach to any beautiful place should be a personal one, unaided by map or guide book, but coloured by memories and associations; and fortunate is the man whose earliest memories are tied up with some place which the world thinks beautiful and which the world's traffic has never managed to spoil. Hidden somewhere in that bland and not very fresh piece of philosophising are my own reasons for thinking that I own the county of Donegal—the way gipsies and tinkers and other wagon people own the world in spite of deeds to land, ground rents, trespass, traffic regulations, farmers' shot guns and cross dogs. Donegal was not my birth-place. A man can be born anywhere, and there are men to whom their birth-places mean less than nothing. It was my father's birth-place. That's much more important, for it means that Donegal was the first place I heard stories about, and that from the earliest days it stood for adventure and blue distance, for holiday and escape in the shape of everything from summer in the Rosses to rowdy excursions to Bundoran. One of the first pieces of poetry I ever learned, after **Lord Ullin's Daughter** and **The woman was old and feeble and grey**, appeared as an advertisement in a Tyrone newspaper. It was a resounding verse, and no mockery; and even if it was an advertisement it did not tamper with or inflate the truth:

**Bracing breezes, silvery sands,  
Booming breakers, lovely lands.  
Come to Bundoran!**

And long before rationing or the sugar train, or the raising in the Six Counties of the price of smokes and drink, the people responded to that invitation, crossed the Border in their thousands, and Bundoran never disappointed them; nor, indeed, did those who reached the then less frequented corners of the county, Rosstown-lagh, Carrick, Ballyliffin, Gortahork, Port na Blagh, Carrigart, Rossapenna, Moville, ever regret their journeys. For Donegal is everywhere lovely and the Donegal people always kind.

The idea that Donegal was a land of advantage grew naturally out of my father's stories. There were stories of men who made poteen, and the wild shindys that took place when the pungent white liquid was drunk, of the stiller, who leaped, keg in arm,

from a high cliff into the sea and swam to safety from the pursuing gaugers. There were stories of the resistance of Father MacFadden on behalf of the people threatened with eviction in stony Gweedore, and of the sullen men, as hard as their own rocks, circling around the police in the deep hollow at Derrybeg church. There was above all the story of the shooting of Lord Leitrim in Cratloe wood; of the tailor who escaped from prison—in a coffin, they said—and re-appeared afterwards as a bush-ranger in Australia; of my father's father straightening up from digging in his garden to listen to the news of my Lord's murder told to him over the garden wall by a ragged barefooted boy. He was the first man in that village to hear the news.

Later on Donegal came out of the shadows, ceased to be something out of any old mythology or a story told by the fire. There were, first of all, those childhood excursions to Bundoran, and two hours on a crowded excursion train could give concrete reality to a sprite from an Arabian tale. And then on Bundoran's long street or on the strand or on the cliff-walks there was the fact—confusing to a young mind—that one kept encountering faces from one's own Ulster town, familiar faces even if they were more than usually laughing and happy, more than normally bronzed by the advertised bracing breezes. The confusing and puzzling thing was that since Bundoran was in Donegal, and Donegal was part of one's own private mythology then how could people from the familiar prosaic town find their way there. The knowledge that other people were allowed into Donegal was one of the first painful processes of growing up.

But better still than the crowded trains to Bundoran were motor journeys to Creeslough and Carrigart: the finality of the big bridge between Lifford and Strabane, the thatched roof of Rossgier Inn, the first blue view of the Swilly and Letterkenny on the slope beyond, the cathedral and the steep streets of Letterkenny itself, the slow hill climb and then once over the ridge the mountainy country, Barnes Gap, and names that were musical then and are still music in my ears, or in any ears sensitive to the music that men put into the names of loved and lovely places: Kilmacrenan, Dunfanaghy, Doe Castle, and Creeslough, where the exile song (well-sung for American ears by James MacGettigan from Carrigart) remembered the men reaping the corn on the small fields about the circle of small, bright lakes.

Beyond that country the great bulk of Horn Head lay out over the sea. The roar of the sea through the arch of MacSwine's Gun had been part of my father's legends. And beyond Horn Head was the land that a few years was to reveal to me as the most wonderful part of Donegal with all due respect to such separate worlds as Doochary, Glengesh, Inishowen, Gweebarra, and that spot in the central mountains where the castle hangs over the lake like an image from a Gothic dream. For beyond Horn Head were Falcarragh,

Gortahork, Bloody Foreland, Bunbeg, Crolly, Minaleck, Rannafast; Annagry, and Errigal snow-white to the left, and Tory like a heavy-headed monster coming out of the sea, and the salt water whitening in surf around a hundred islands. There was a Gaelic college which has a bright place in the memories of many Ulster people. There were the kindest, softest-spoken people in the world. There were boats and fishing and tales of the sea, and the sand-eel strand which on the night of a full moon and an ebb'd spring tide was a fragile, diaphanous, black-and-silver fringe to the Continent of Europe.

Nowadays the knowledge that every one who has looked on Donegal thinks it beautiful brings pleasure and not puzzlement—a sign, I suppose, that we grow up and learn that nothing in the world is absolutely one's own.

I turn to the latest book published about Ulster and read: "Donegal is not only Ulster's most beautiful county but many people consider it the finest scenery in Ireland. I would place only one county before it, namely Kerry." Let me make the reservation that Donegal and Kerry are equally beautiful, with contrasting types of beauty: Donegal blonde, Kerry brunette; Donegal classical, Kerry romantic; Donegal blue with sharp edges, Kerry brown with blurred edges; or any other words you fancy that will emphasise their differences in colour and shape.

I go back more than a hundred years to read in his **Sketches In Donegal** what that bitter old scholar, Caesar Otway, wrote of the view from the top of Muckish.

And I think of all the men who have looked on Donegal and praised it in the intervening time, men who were born there and foreigners from other counties and other lands: W. H. Maxwell to whom also it was a land of wild adventure; Charles Lever, Dinah Mary Craik who wrote **John Halifax, Gentleman**; Seamus McManus, who visits Mountcharles every year; Forrest Reid, who sent some of the dreaming boys of his novels there; Allingham who wrote so nostalgically of Ballyshannon and the Erne; Patrick MacGill, who came from Donegal to work first in West Tyrone; Stephen Gwynn and A. E.; the priest who used the pseudonym of Paul Peppergrass when he wrote in **Shandy Maguire** the fine description of Barnesmore; the brothers Mac Grianna and the Irish writers that have come so plentifully from the barren and lovely western places; the late M. J. MacManus, who went there every year and who died there in a place that he considered the most beautiful in Ireland.

There are a few of the writers who have praised it in words, speaking for the many people who would have wished so to praise it, but lacked the power. Donegal absorbs all these praises, written or spoken or merely felt inarticulately; and like a fair woman who has the advantages also of wisdom and perpetual youth the place remains unspoiled and unchanged.

# A TOUR ROUND THE COUNTY

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## **BUNDORAN**

Bundoran, lying in the valley between the majestic Leitrim mountains and the Atlantic Ocean at the Southern end of Donegal, is one of Ireland's premier holiday resorts. The industry of catering for the thousands of tourists who flock there during the four months of the season is a full 12 month's occupation for the permanent residents; the other eight months being devoted to planning and preparing for the new season. The town is in the happy position that it has few unemployed and, so, little thought is given to the industrial (in the ordinary sense of the term) development of this area. Thus with energies concentrated on maintaining its place as the foremost Irish watering place it has not been left to nature—and nature has been bountiful—to do everything for Bundoran.

The water supply is excellent having been augmented in 1935 by the addition of a modern water tower (capacity 100,000 gallons) and an electrically driven filtration plant. Sanitation is perfect. The town is lighted by the E.S.B. and the public lights are so numerous and effective that the town is reputed to be one of the best-lighted in the Irish provinces. Local affairs are

directed by the county manager and the Urban District Council with a town clerk and a town surveyor. An energetic and progressive Tourist Development Association, on which are represented all the various interests of the community, takes care of those matters which are outside the scope of the local legislative authority (i.e. anything to do with promoting the claims of the town as a tourist centre, developing and expanding the town's private and public amenities and attractions, etc.). The Association works in harmonious co-operation with the District Council. Between them, these two bodies have done a vast amount to enhance the natural attractions of the resort.

As befitting a community depending on the tourist industry, hotels, guest house, cafes, restaurants, licensed premises, and amusement halls, of which there is great variety, are everything that could be expected in a first-class holiday, seaside town.

### **Amusements and Recreation—**

Under this heading are dancing, swimming, golf, tennis, cinema, and drama and variety, angling, boating, Gaelic football and walking. For the swimmers there are numerous natural pools, and an artificial swimming pool, as well as surf bathing on the beach

Diving boards and high platforms are provided at the Roguey pool. Every precaution has been taken for the swimmer's safety and a beach guard is constantly on duty. For tennis hard and grass courts are provided and nearby is a putting green. There is an 18 hole golf course which is up to championship standard. For angling see separate article, "The Ballyshannon Fishery District." Dancing is catered for in four modern halls and there is a fine modern cinema showing up-to-the-minute films. Drama and variety occupy two halls during the season. Along part of the promenade are the usual and ever popular (hobby horses, dodgems, etc.). Each year the sports committee of the Development Association promotes a carnival which, although it marks the official opening of the season, is one of the highlights of the summer.

**The Town, Churches, Buildings**—The town itself is a mixture of old-world loveliness and modern architectural grandeur, its many imposing public buildings contrasting oddly, but delightfully with neatly-kept relics of other days. The Church of the Immaculate Conception was dedicated in 1859 and the graceful spire was completed in 1910 by the late Most Rev. Dr. Mulhern, Bishop of Dromore, who was then parish priest. The splendid organ was provided by his Lordship in 1912. Christ Church is beautifully situated on Bundoran bridge. A magnificent organ was installed in 1907 and many other additions have been recently made. The Presbyterian Church had many improvements

carried out to it including a new spire in 1911. The Methodist Church, Summer Hill, was erected in memory of Rev. Graham Campbell, D.D., through the efforts of Rev. John Kerr, D.D.

The Convent of St. Louis, with schools was built in 1892. A beautiful grotto of Lourdes graces the grounds. The Sisters of St. Louis have a secondary school in the premises formerly known as the Sea View Hotel. St. Joseph's Orphanage — boys and girls' houses—are magnificent buildings erected from funds bequeathed by the late Miss Sarah Crudden, Newtownbutler, Co. Fermanagh.

**Setting and Historical Associations**—Not the least of the town's attractions are the bracing, health-giving air and the beautiful surroundings in which the town is set. In this setting walking—whether of the stroll or hike variety, is an unfailing pleasure.

Within easy reach of the town are many places of absorbing interest for the historian and antiquarian. From the town can be seen Dartry, Benmore, Benweeskin, Benbulbin, names which recall figures from the dim and distant past — Ossain, Foinn, Conal Gulban, the progenitor of the O'Donnell clan and forefather of the mighty princes of Tyrowen and Niall of the Nine Hostages. A short distance from Bundoran is Ahamlish, where St. Colmcille accepted the advice of St. Molaise of Innismurray, and became a voluntary exile from Erin. Near, too, are Rossinver and Rosscarbery where Spanish fugitives were sheltered when the ships of the Spanish Armada

were wrecked on this rock-bound coast.

Roguey presents many features of interest and around it may be seen fine examples of the first stages in the formation of earth pillars deeply eroded in boulder clay. In the Ballyshannon direction is found the ruins of Finner Church, which probably marks the site of the church of St. Neinnid, first Abbot of Inismacsaint and Archbishop of Domnach Mor Eitne. To the west of the town are the ruins of Dun Cairbrie and nearby Leag an Aifrinn (the hollow of the Mass) where Mass was celebrated during Penal Days. At Magheracar (the plain of the field of slaughter) there is a stream known as Srutan-na-Fola (the stream of blood) indicating that a sanguinary battle may have been fought here. An older name for the district is Cabhlach Dun (the Fort of the Fleet).

**Public Services**— The post office faces Chapel Road and is open on week days from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Banking facilities are provided by some of the major banks. Situated on the main road from Sligo to Derry Bundoran is well served by road transport (G.N.R. and Erne Bus Service). The railway station is the terminus of the branch which connects, at Bundoran Junction, with the line to Enniskillen and Omagh.

### BALLYSHANNON

Four miles from Bundoran lies Ballyshannon (Beal Atha Seanaigh—the mouth of the Ford of Seanaigh) one of the largest towns in the county. Beautifully situated on the steeply rising

banks of the River Erne it is set in a region of charming scenery and contains much of interest.

The civic affairs of the town are administered by the county manager and the Town Commissioners assisted by the town surveyor and town clerk. Primarily a market and fair town, of recent years much thought has been devoted to its industrial development as a rather high pool of male unemployed is available. A voluntary body, the Industrial Development Association, is endeavouring to interest industrialists in the facilities offered in the town.

Half a mile upriver from the town is situated the massive dam of the Cathleen Falls hydroelectric power station, just completed and put into commission (1952), which holds back the waters of a great artificial lake (1,000 acres in extent). Some two miles above that again is the smaller dam of the Cliff hydroelectric station, completed last year. In the construction of these two stations, under the general description of the Erne scheme, millions of pounds were spent by the E.S.B. to cope with the country's ever-expanding demand for electrical power. The scheme is a monument to the genius of native enterprise and ability as the works, apart from the installation of some of the machinery undertaken by the manufacturers, was wholly that of Irish engineers. The scheme took six years to complete.

There is a good water supply in the town and the sewerage system is satisfactory. Recently completed housing schemes (local authority, E.S.B. and some

private enterprise) have done much to alleviate the problem of housing shortage which, as in so many places to-day, had attained serious proportions.

**Industrial History**—Created a Borough by Royal Charter in 1613 the town was for many years a prosperous centre, its main industries being distilling, brewing, tanning, soap making, tobacco manufacture and flour and saw milling. At the beginning of the nineteenth century there was direct shipping between Ballyshannon and many foreign ports. To-day, of these industries there remains only saw milling and some grain milling. However, in these days of the nation's reviving trade Ballyshannon seems destined to play a part in the future. Present industries include a hosiery factory, a canning factory, a bakery, a printing and publishing house, a tweed factory (in its infancy at the time of writing), a laundry, fishing and, as mentioned above, a saw mills and grain mill. On the second Monday of each month is held the fair which is attended by dealers from over a wide area. The weekly market, however, is but a shadow of what it formerly was. In this connection an outstanding annual event is the holding of the harvest fair (on 16th September) which, tradition says, was established by Partholan said to be a contemporary of the patriarch, Abraham. The town produces two newspapers, "The Donegal Democrat" and "The Donegal Vindicator." The town is a shopping centre for an extensive and fairly prosperous hinterland and three banking

companies have branches in it, housed in buildings which, architecturally, grace the main thoroughfare.

**Churches, Schools, Public Buildings** — There are four churches in the town—St. Patrick's, Chapel St.; and St. Joseph's, The Rock, serving the Catholic population. On the Mall are the Methodist and Presbyterian churches and at Church Avenue (Mullinashea) is St. Annes, an ancient pile standing on a historic site, serving the Church of Ireland congregation. There are two secondary schools, one for girls—conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, whose beautiful convent and schools are in College St.—and one for boys conducted by the Brothers of the De La Salle Order in a fine airy building at The Rock.

In addition to the district hospital at the Rock where there is a clinic with the services of eminent consultant specialists available, the town has another fine hospital—The Sheil Hospital, built at a cost of over £6,000 and some years ago improved by funds from the Hospitals' Trust. A first-class institution it has facilities for major operations far beyond those usually found in provincial centres.

**Amusements and Sports**— For angling and fishing generally see separate article. Swimming (there is a progressive swimming and life saving club in the town) and golfing may be had at Bundoran (4 miles), or Rossnowlagh (5 miles) and the Erne Swimming Club has provided facilities (diving boards, platform, etc.) at Creevy pier, (3 miles) where they hold an annual gala

at which Connacht championships are decided. Recreational facilities in the town include cinema, dancing, concerts, drama, table tennis, Gaelic football and handball. Rough shooting is within easy reach.

**Places of Interest**—Inis Saim-er, an island, lies in the estuary below where the beautiful Assaroe Falls were before they were removed for the construction of the tail race of the hydro-electric scheme. Here, says tradition, Partholan, about 1500 B.C., landed from Scythia to make the first colonisation of Ireland. It is named after Saim-er, Partholan's Queen's favourite dog, which was slain by Partholan in a fit of rage. At one time a prince of Tir Chonaill had a cranog dwelling here. Flaherty O'Muldoary, founder of Assaroe Abbey, died here in 1197.

The beautiful, rounded knoll on the north side of the town, Mullinashea, on which stands St. Anne's Church and adjoining graveyard was the site of a royal palace in early times. Aodh Rua (Red Hugh), father of the famous Queen Macha, was buried here over 300 years B.C. having been accidentally drowned at Assaroe Falls. Conall Gulban resided here when St. Patrick visited the palace.

Three hundred yards upstream from the town bridge is Sean-ach's Ford (from which the town gets its name). It was the principal crossing of the Erne before the building of bridges.

O'Donnell's Castle, built by Niall Garbh in 1423 to command the ford occupied the now built-up ground north of the Market

Yard. It was the scene of a siege and disastrous defeat of the English by Red Hugh O'Donnell, in 1597. It was probably finally demolished in 1720.

The meagre ruins of the famous Cistercian Abbey, Abbey Assaroe—founded, according to the Four Masters, by Flaherty O'Muldoary in 1184—are one mile north-west of the town. Many of the stones have been preserved by being built into the wall of the Abbey graveyard adjoining. The Abbey was finally evacuated by the monks in 1650. About 50 yards away, on the bank of the Abbey river is a grotto-like cave ("Catsby") in which Mass was celebrated in Penal Days.

**Famous Ballyshannon People**—The town is perhaps best known to the world as the birth-place of William Allingham, poet. A commemorative tablet marks the house in The Mall, where he was born. The bridge is named after him and also bears a commemorative plaque. Besides Allingham, Ballyshannon can boast of being the birth-town of other people who attained to positions of note in various spheres. They include Speaker Connolly, speaker of the Irish House of Commons; Marion Crawford of literary fame; Archbishop Kane, late Rector of the Catholic University of Washington; Robert Campbell, director of the East India Company; and Elizabeth Dixon, mother of Mary Goodwin, poet and historian.

**Transport**—The town is served by the G.N.R. rail and road services, the Co. Donegal Railways, and the Erne Road Bus Service.

## **BELLEEK**

While not in County Donegal it lies almost "on" the Border in County Fermanagh, four miles from Ballyshannon) Belleek is a village of great interest for it is here that the world-famous Belleek pottery is made and the factory which turns out this exquisitely beautiful Parian ware, may be inspected by visitors. At the entrance to the town may be seen "The Battery," constructed during the Williamite wars. (It has not of course been in use for many years).

## **ROSSNOWLAGH**

(Ros nGabhlach : The Forked Headland)

Beautifully situated on the coast north of Ballyshannon, Rosstown is a delectable little seaside resort with one of the finest strands in Ireland behind which is a magnificent expanse of green sward rimmed with gently-rising hills. The splendid, sandy two miles long beach affords safe bathing for swimmers and non-swimmers alike. A sporting nine-hole golf course gives a good variety of play. There is a permanent population of approximately 100 and the area is an annual mecca for many discerning visitors and temporary residents who enjoy the quiet refinement of the place. The post office transacts postal, telegraph and telephone business and public transport is by the C.D.R. with summer road service by G.N.R. buses. There are three churches, Catholic, (Franciscan Abbey), Church of Ireland and Presbyterian. The area abounds in places of interest and the scenery, as varied as it is

pretty, helps to make the various walks in the district exceedingly pleasant.

The Franciscan Abbey was, up until June of this year, situated in a temporary building and a beautifully decorated Nissen hut was used as a church. However, the new church, a magnificent structure, was opened and blessed on 29th June by his Lordship Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe. The ceremony was attended by his Excellency the President of Ireland. Beside the new church work is proceeding apace on the completion of the interior of the new Abbey buildings to house the congregation. Although the present foundation dates only from the mid-forties the Order's connection with the area is hundreds of years old, the Order having had to flee from the district in Penal days. A magnificent Calvary has been erected on the hill top beside the the new buildings and makes an imposing landmark seawards and inland.

This beautiful little seaside resort has been and is still sadly neglected by public authorities in regard to coastal erosion, sanitation, public conveniences, telephonic communications, and water supply. This is not fair or just to the thousands of visitors who flock there nor to the enterprising young people who are striving to develop it and who give such excellent service, under strained conditions, to an ever-increasing influx of visitors.

Two miles south-west of Rosstown may be seen the remaining fragments of the once extensive Kilbarron Castle, built probably in the 13th or 14th cen-

tury by the Ó'Sgingins, hereditary historians of Tir Chonaill. The property passed by marriage to the O'Clery family and Michael O'Clery, chief of the Four Masters, was born there about 1580.

Two miles north of Rosstown on the main road is the old church of Kilbarron. The original Church of St. Barron was founded about A.D. 545, but the present ruin dates probably from the 13th or 14th century.

### BALLINTRA

Seven miles along the main Ballyshannon-Donegal road lies Ballintra (Baile an tSratha, the Town of the Ho'm) nestling in a valley surrounded by low rounded hills denoting to the geologist that it is typical "drumlin" country. There are three churches. St. Brigid's Catholic Church was built in 1845. It has been much improved in recent years by renovation to the ceiling and walls of the sanctuary and the fitting of new windows to the entire building with the exception of the tower.

The present Protestant Church was built in 1793 and the tower was added in 1804. The Methodist Church dates from 1897 and replaces an older and smaller one, now the meeting place of the local badminton club, immediately behind it.

A much-needed new hall was added to the village in 1937. Here the bi-monthly District Court sits and dances and parochial concerts are held.

The coast is two miles away at Murvagh, where the waters of Donegal Bay flow in on a long

stretch of beautiful strand. On the inland side of Ballintra to the south and east are numerous lakes of much interest to the angler. "The Pullans," a short distance from the village, is a well-known beauty spot. There is an underground river of petrifying qualities and several large caves. The surrounding woods contain many grand old trees. The residence in the grounds, Brownhall, has been occupied by the Hamiltons since 1697. The river (the Blackwater), which flows through the demense forms a pretty waterfall in a leafy hollow at Aghadullagh old mill, 300 yards east of the village. Close by the river courses at the bottom of a remarkable chasm, 60 ft. deep.

**Antiquities** — Ard Fothadh (also McGonigle's Fort), is a remarkable ancient fort lying 2 miles from Ballintra. A sepulchre discovered is believed to be the burial place of Hugh Mac Airmire a 6th century high king of Ireland. Drumholme Church of which only the east wall is still standing is situated at the base of Mullinacross Hill, 2 miles from the village. Rath Cunga (now known as Racoo) half a mile south of Ballintra, is the site of a monastery founded by St. Patrick about the year 440. On the west slope of Lurgan Carn (492 ft.) three miles from Ballintra, are the remains of a wedge-shaped megalithic tomb. There is an extensive view from the top of the hill. Another megalithic tomb may be seen in Ballymagroarty Scotch townland, one mile from the village.

## PETTIGO

Seventeen miles from Ballyshannon, on the Bundoran-Enniskillen G.N.R. line lies Pettigo, (Paite Gobha : The Place of the Smith's Horse), well known as the gate-way to the famous Lough Derg, pilgrimage centre. Nestling in a hollow between wooded hills near the Northern shore of Lough Erne, it is a good angling centre. Part of the town is in the Six Counties, the narrow R. Termon running through it coinciding with the Border. As well as angling there is good shooting to be had in the neighbourhood, but no free shooting. There are four churches—St. Mary's Catholic Church; the Church of Ireland; the Presbyterian and the Methodist. The post office at Mill St. transacts all postal business and there are two bank branches opening on Mondays and fair days. Places of interest are—Castle Magrath,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town, the ruin of a 16th century fortress; the Rectory. Aughnahoo where John Kell's Ingram, author of the famous poem "Who Fears to Speak of '98" was born in 1823. Templecarn graveyard, 3 miles north of the town, in which is a well-preserved Mass shelter used in Penal times; a cairn and megalithic tomb at the foot of Kinnago in the Tamlacht townland, 3 miles north from the town. Half a mile away is an interesting dolmen and nearby what is believed to be a very ancient graveyard.

## LOUGH DERG

Lough Derg (Loch Dearg—The Red Lake) is known the world over as a place of pilgrimage. To the Irish people this romantic

lake has been known and cherished for over 1500 years, and its history has been a succession of romantic and frequently tragic events. The lake is dotted with islands the principal of which is Station Island or St. Patrick's Purgatory, half a mile from the mainland shore. It is on this island the pilgrimage is made. Less than an acre in extent, the greater part of it is occupied by buildings pertaining to the pilgrimage including the beautiful Church of St. Patrick, a splendid modern edifice in Romanesque style. It has been raised to the dignity of a minor basilica, an honour which has never been accorded to any other church in these islands. Visitors are not allowed on the island during the pilgrimage season (which lasts from 1st June to 15th August) except as pilgrims. The greatest and most important of Irish pilgrimages it is the most vigorous in all Christendom. The Lough lies  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Pettigo and there is a regular ferry service between Island and mainland.

## DONEGAL TOWN

Donegal Town (Dun na nGal—The Fortress of the Foreigner), on the River Eske, at the head of Donegal Bay is a busy and prosperous town, marketing centre for a wide stretch of agricultural land. Possessed of many attractions it is also a tourist centre for a district rich in historical associations and beautiful scenery. The town presents a pleasing appearance. Radiating from the triangular Diamond are three main roads, one to Derry, one to Sligo and one to West Donegal. It is well served by transport—

the C.D.R. (rail) and G.N.R. (road lines). The post office transacts all postal business and there are three Banks. It has a large number of well-stocked shops, lighted by electricity and has a good water supply and sewerage system. There is splendid hotel accommodation. A knitting factory was established in 1900 and this has been replaced by a shirt factory which gives employment to a large number of girls. There is a weekly market and a monthly fair. A sea port town, cargoes of coal are frequently discharged in the harbour. The sea is safe for bathing and boating.

**Sport and Amusements**—Angling facilities are first-class the principal waters being Lough Eske and the River Eske both of which are preserved. Fishing for sea trout is good. The rivers Ballintra and Stream hold sea trout and salmon after a flood. There is an extensive moorland for shooting, 4 miles from the town (grouse and occasionally pheasant). Good wild duck shooting may be had (free) on Lough Eske. There is a progressive Gaelic football club and a "flapper" horse racing meeting is held annually. The Four Masters' Social Club Rooms, recently erected, cater for all kinds of indoor recreation. There is also a cinema and dances and concerts are held frequently.

**Churches** — There are four churches. The Four Masters' Memorial Church of St. Patrick (Catholic). the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Church. The first named is a beautiful edifice which was opened on 17th March

1935, to replace the century-old Church of St. Patrick.

**Historical Associations and Antiquities** — The dismantled Abbey of the Franciscans, founded in 1474 by Nuala, wife of Red Hugh O'Donnell, lies a quarter of a mile south of the town. Within its walls were written the famous Annals of the Four Masters. Then there is the old castle ruins on the site of which was once the O'Donnell castle which, history has it, was set on fire at the time it was vacated by Red Hugh O'Donnell. It was subsequently re-built by Sir Basil Brook in 1609. In the Diamond is a memorial erected to the memory of the Four Masters. Here also is a French anchor, a link with '98 and outside the house of Mr. John McGowan, Tirconaill St., is a massive chain, a relic of the same period as it belonged to the French frigate which anchored in Donegal Bay during that time. Aodh Ruadh O'Donnell, Lord of Tirconaill, was buried in the church in the Franciscan Abbey, and his wife, Lady Finuala O'Donnell, it is stated spent her long widowhood in a little house specially built at her request in the shadow of the Monastery, she having laid aside the rich attire of a princess for the lowly habit of St. Francis.

### THE TWIN TOWNS

The passer-by might well be forgiven for casting a cold eye on the twin-towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar, (lying 18 miles from Donegal town) cradled in the valley of the Finn, ringed on the south and west by the Cruacha Gorma, and lying barely above the level of the sea, but a closer acquaintance with their warm-

heated people coupled with a keener appreciation of the historical and literary associations of the district, and an introduction to its scenic attractions, would convince him that it is far from being devoid of interest.

The Finn Valley boasts of few industries except those for which God intended it — agriculture and its subsidiaries. Its inland position with consequent high transport costs militates against the establishment of concerns requiring imported materials. True, it has some textile factories which wax and wane as fortunes vary, and it neighbours Convoy whose famous Woollen Mills are a land mark, but as long as men live they must eat and while it fosters agriculture it can never fail.

Stranorlar, the headquarters of the Donegal Railways, is the seat of all the Parish Churches, of which Ballybofey does not boast a single edifice. The Catholic Church stands as solid and firm as it was when erected over 95 years ago, and its altar piece is an object of admiration of every visitor. The National Schools, erected in 1888, are becoming too small for the school population despite major extension works in 1928. A Technical School, erected in 1939, is commodious, attractive, and useful, providing for pupils for miles around and imparting instruction which has enabled many of those who passed through its portals to engage in responsible, secure, and well-paid occupations.

Who of the older generation has not heard of Isaac Butt, the father of Home Rule, that pure-souled patriot who rejected the highest judicial post in Ireland

within the competency of the British Government to confer, rather than betray his fatherland? His bones are in the Episcopalian Churchyard, on the outskirts of Stranorlar, under his favourite tree, which was his daily haunt as a boy living with his father, the Rector, in the adjoining Rectory, now, alas totally demolished.

Stranorlar too, boasts of having been the birthplace of the blind poetess, Frances Browne, whose "Songs of Our Land" will ever thrill an Irish heart. The house where she was reputed to have been born has been occupied for a life-time by Mr. Francis Thompson, himself a remarkable craftsman, whose work in wood-turning with home-made tools and machinery is so ingenious, that he was taken specially to the Royal Dublin Society Spring Show to demonstrate it.

Before the establishment of St. Eunan's College, the business premises in Stranorlar now owned by Mrs. Annie Sieyes was the "Latin School", which was attended in their student days by many distinguished ecclesiastics, including Father McFadden, of Gweedore fame.

Ballybofey is the business centre, whose main street does not hold a single house in which some business is not conducted. Some of the most modern and well-stocked drapery establishments in the county are located there.

Ballybofey and Stranorlar dwellers are sports lovers and many outdoor games are promoted and supported, including Gaelic football, soccer, tennis, cricket, handball, and the twin-

towns' team can always make a

good showing against whatever opponents they encounter. Indoor games, such as badminton, billiards, and darts are also well supported. There is a flourishing bridge club for card lovers. Two excellent hotels, and a number of guest houses and cafes cater for the tourist trade.

Ballybofey and Stranorlar have had electric light since 1922, due to the enterprise of the late Henry McNulty. A modern water supply, with Lough Mourne as the source, was completed in 1930, and a sewerage scheme (due to the efforts of the late Dr. Sean O Deagha, Donegal's first County Medical Officer) in 1934. Public and private building has been undertaken on a fairly extensive scale within the past two years.

The Finn Valley offers pastoral scenery that it would be hard to rival, and the view from the Railway Bridge between Ballybofey and Stranorlar must gladden the heart of even the most fastidious. There are delightful panoramas along the Finn, where the pleasure seeker and the fisherman alike, can drink deep of the cup of nature's beauty. For those who prefer more rugged paths, the Barnes Mountains; with their lakes and valleys are ever beckoning, and, in the Glenfin direction, the Salmon Leap at Cloghan is well worth seeing. The Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour in Glenfin, built twenty-five years ago, is unique in its magnificent surroundings, and must leave an impression on the mind of the visitor that time could never dim.

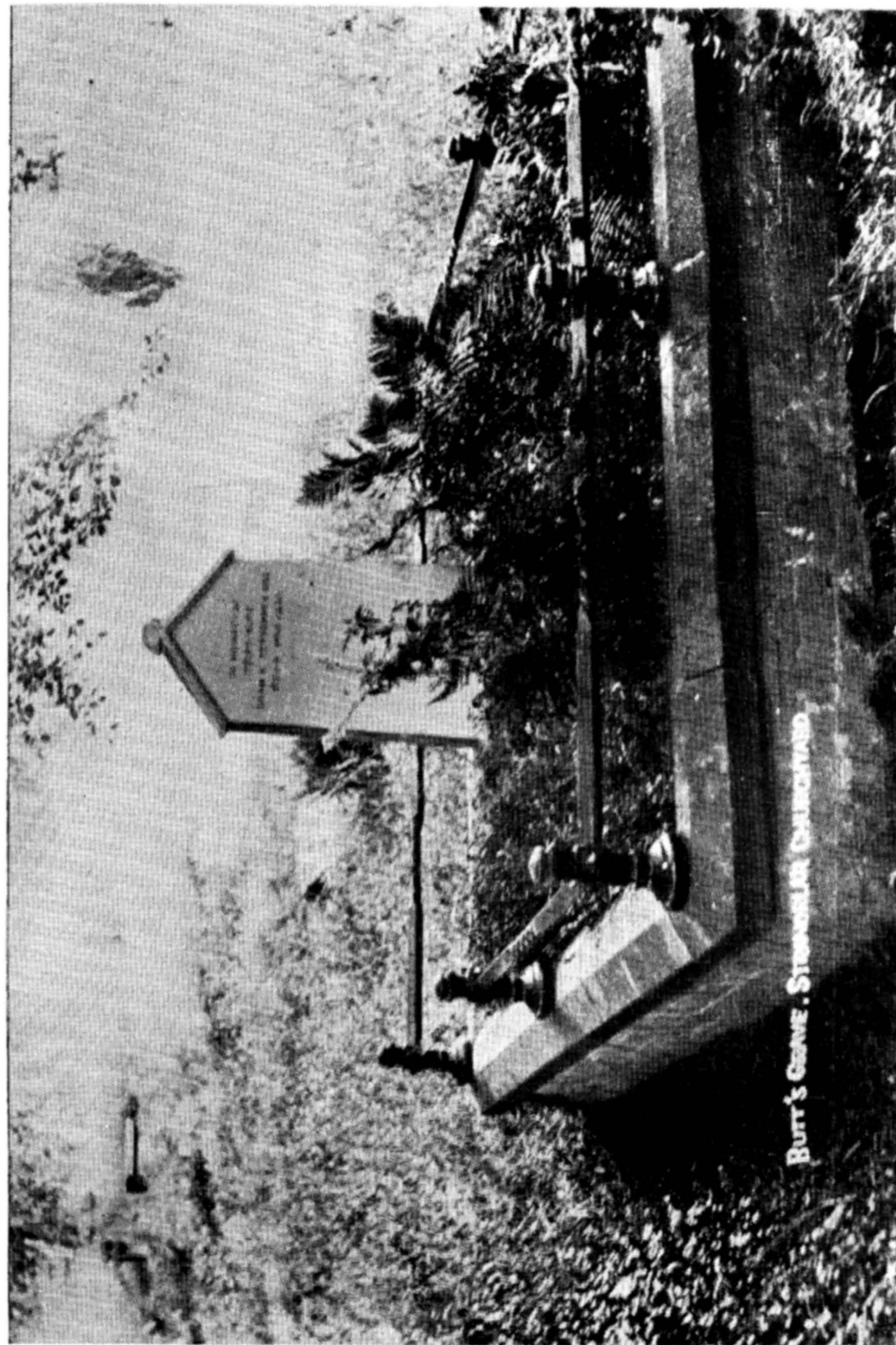
### INISHOWEN

Inishowen (Inis Eoghain : Owen's Island), is a triangular

peninsula extending between Loughs Swilly and Foyle, tapering towards Malin Head the most northerly point in Ireland. Coastal views everywhere are fine with some striking cliff scenery and a number of splendid bathing beaches. The peninsula combines all the attractions of Donegal with a charm and atmosphere all its own. The chief town is

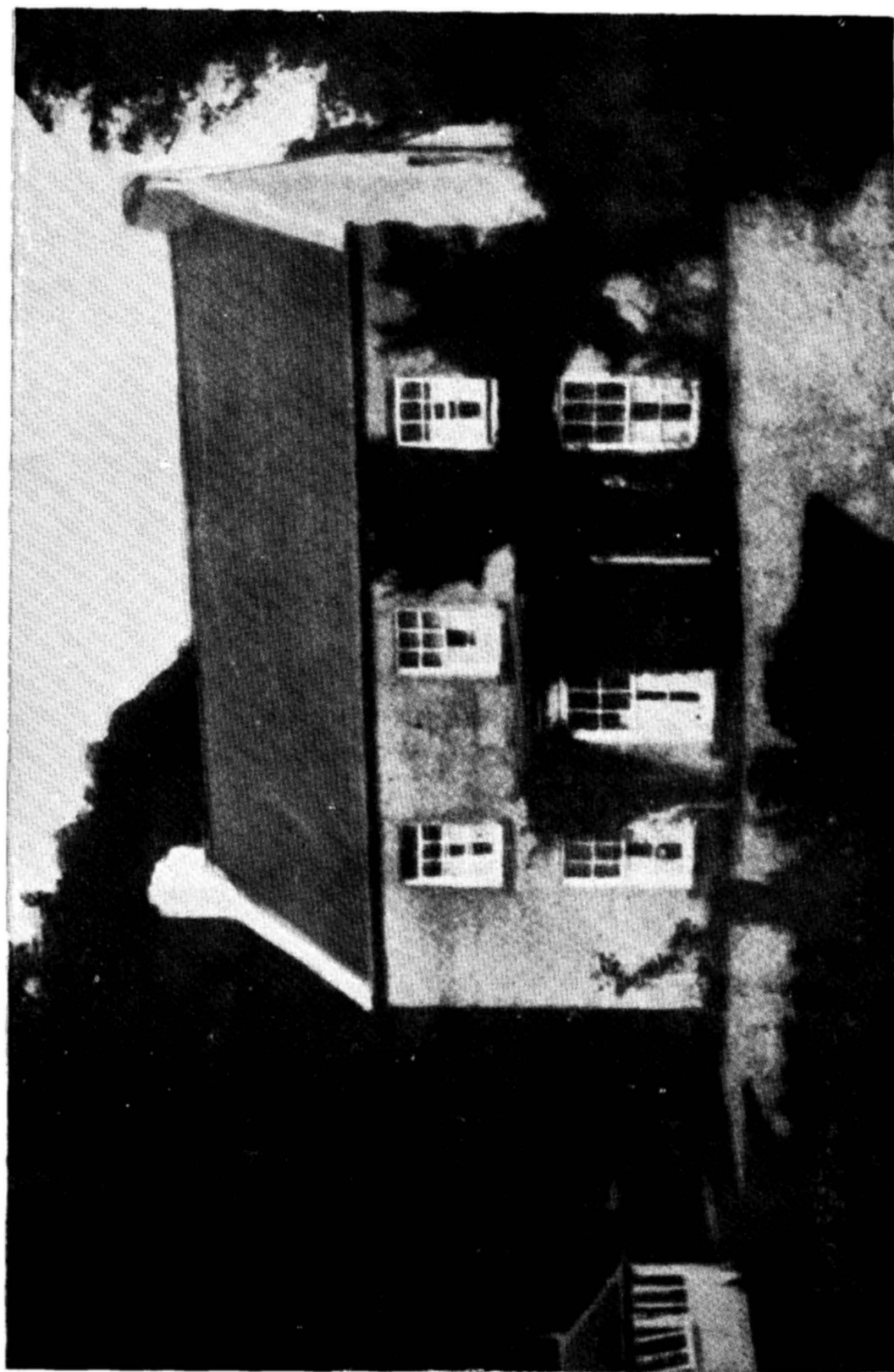
### BUNCRANA

Buncrana (Bun Crannaighe—The Mouth of the River Crana) is a popular seaside town beautifully situated on the eastern shore of Lough Swilly between the mouths of the Crana and Owenkillew Rivers. It has a mild climate and excellent facilities for recreation and amusement. There is a selection of sandy beaches on either side of the town for bathing, all perfectly safe. Along the "front" is a ten-acre recreation park and a strand is set aside for children. Bathing boxes have been provided and there are diving boards and a water chute. The town is administered by an Urban Council working in conjunction with the Co. Manager. The town's growth has been very fast in recent years when during the emergency the tendency accelerated considerably. In 1861 the population was 685 and to-day it is 2,295. The development of the town has been accompanied by a corresponding growth in trade and business. There is a monthly fair and a market is held twice weekly. Shirt-making and milling are local industries which give much employment. Other flourishing local industries in-



BUTT'S LAST RESTING PLACE—AT STRANORLAR.





THE GLEBE, CLOGHAN, BIRTH PLACE OF ISAAC BUTT.



clude a snuff and tobacco factory, a hosiery factory, a saw mill and a printing establishment. The town possesses a main drainage system serving every part of the town and the water supply, drawn from a high-lying catchment area was, in 1918 augmented by the construction of about five miles of pipe line to Lough Doo, a vast natural reservoir, some 17 acres in extent and containing a storage reserve of seven months for a town of 3,000 inhabitants. Very extensive harbour improvements carried out by the Board of Works and the Harbour Commissioners give a berthing frontage extending to 1,031 feet to accommodate some 50 steam drifters, stem on. There is a military camp and a short distance away are the powerful forts of Dunree and Leenan, erected in 1891 to command the entrance to the lough. They were formerly reserved under the Treaty, but are now manned by the Irish Army.

In the town are two banks and the post office transacts all business. The Catholic Church, St. Marys, Cockhill, lies some distance outside the town. In addition to this the Catholic population is served by the beautiful Oratory of St. Mary, erected in 1929. There is frequent road bus service with Derry (L. and L.S.R.) and there are also road services with Carndonagh with connections to all parts of the peninsula. The railway is now little used.

**Sports and Amusements** — Recreational pursuits are exceptionally well catered for. There is a municipal golf course (9 holes) and —at Lisfannon, near Fahan

—an excellent 18-hole course (North-West Golf Club). The river Crana affords good fishing for salmon and sea trout and the River Mill contains small trout. Adjacent lakes—Mintiagh, Fad and Namin also provide good sport. Rowing and sailing are available on Lough Swilly and there are two hard courts for tennis. There is a cinema and two dance halls and indoor recreation at the Parochial Hall. There is also a handball alley. Grouse, woodcock and snipe are found in the neighbourhood.

**Places of Interest** — The keep of the ancient castle of the O'Dohertys (built 1430) is in a good state of preservation. Nearby is the modern Buncrana Castle, built by Sir John Vaughan in 1717. It is said it was to here Wolf Tone was brought on disembarking from the captured French battleship "La Hoch," in 1798. Father Hegarty's Rock, 2 miles north of the town, is called after a priest, who was said to have been martyred at the spot in Penal times. His grave is nearby. A Bronze-Age burial cairn may be seen at Crocahaisil, one mile north of the town. Near it are the remains of a stone circle. At Gransha, south of the town, is a dolmen. A short distance up the Castle River may be seen the old Druminderry Bridge, the scene of the last fatal duel recorded in Ireland. It was fought in the year 1810. Grianan of Aileach, the most interesting relic of antiquity in Ulster is 10 miles from Buncrana. This unique, circular stone fort occupies the summit of Greenan Mountain (802 feet) and, according to the Four Masters was built circa

1700 B.C. It was at one time the residence of the O'Neills, Kings of Ulster and its status as a royal seat was apparently known to Ptolemy in the second century. The fort was restored in 1870.

**Fahan** — Four miles south of Buncrana, is a favourite seaside retreat of Derry residents. Only a few traces remain of the Abbey founded by St. Mura in the 7th century.

**Clonmany and Ballyliffin** are attractive villages, the latter a secluded seaside resort with an excellent two miles long strand, at the northern end of which stand the ruins of Carrickabrahey Castle, an ancient stronghold of the MacFaulls and later of the O'Dohertys. Comfortable hotels in both places.

### CARNDONAGH

Carndonagh, which could be described as the "hub" of Inishowen, is a thriving market town two miles from the head of Trawbreagh Bay. A shirt-making industry and an alcohol factory give considerable employment. The granite-built church of the Sacred Heart, Romanesque in line, was dedicated in October 1945, and is an impressive landmark. There are also churches for the Church of Ireland and Presbyterian congregations. There are two banks and a post office. About a mile out on the Buncrana road is the famous Donagh Cross (or St. Patrick's Cross) probably the oldest low-relief cross standing in Ireland. There are interesting monuments in the nearby graveyard and other antiquities include a remarkable souterrain at Collin.

**Culdaff**, six miles from Carn-

donagh, is a secluded little seaside village with an excellent bathing beach. A few miles north a range of cliffs rises to nearly 800 feet. There are many interesting antiquities, both of Christian and pre-historic origin.

**Malin Head**—Four miles north of Carndonagh is the village of Malin and eight miles further on is Malin Head, the most northerly point of Ireland. The sandhills at Lagg are among the largest on the Donegal coast.

### MOVILLE

Moville (Bun an Phobail — Lower part of the Parish) on the western shore of Lough Foyle, is a popular holiday resort, especially with the residents of Counties Derry and Tyrone. It is 20 miles from Derry City. There is a charming variety of scenery in the immediate vicinity, and the town is well equipped with excellent hotels and guest houses. Markets are held weekly and fairs monthly. Two banks have permanent branches there and there are frequent road bus services with Derry with a connection to Carndonagh. There are four churches—Catholic (St. Mary's, over 100 years old), Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist. Sporting and recreational facilities include bathing, golf (at Greencastle), boating, dancing, tennis, angling and cinema. An annual regatta is held.

**Greencastle**, (Caislean Nua Inse Eoghain—Inishowen's New Castle), is a tiny seaside village and holiday resort, three miles from Moville situated at the entrance to Lough Foyle. There are ruins of an old Castle built

in 1305 by Richard de Burgo, the "Red Earl" of Ulster. The castle saw much strife during three centuries. There is a 9-hole golf course and an excellent bathing beach. The entire district contains many items of historical interest.

### LIFFORD

Lifford is the county town of Donegal and as such is the seat of the County Council meetings. It is situated on the western bank of the Foyle, which first takes its name at the meeting of the Mourne and Finn rivers a few yards above Lifford bridge. It is eleven miles from Derry City and half a mile from the junction station (Strabane) of the G.N.R. and C.D.R. Situated at Lifford is, as well as the County Council offices, the headquarters of the county library. Prior endowed schools consist of primary, secondary and commercial departments. The offices of the County Registrar and undersheriff are also situated here. The town, though small, is a flourishing business centre. The Catholic Clonleigh parish church is at Murlog and the Presbyterian church at Ballindrait. In the town is the Clonleigh (Church of Ireland) Parish Church.

### LETTERKENNY

Letterkenny, (Leitir Ceanainn — The Hillside of the O'Canons) on rising ground overlooking Lough Swilly is a rapidly expanding township, with an ever increasing tempo of commercial activity. It has, in recent years, forged steadily forward to leading place amongst the towns of Donegal. Ecclesiastical capital of the Raphoe Diocese, and main

nerve-centre of public administration in the county, it now claims to be Donegal's capital.

It's present importance as a business and distributing centre dates back, some thirty years ago, to the establishment of the land Customs frontier, which diverted to the Cathedral Town a big volume of the trade which previously went to Derry City.

The town's advance in the industrial sphere has been noteworthy. Flourishing industries of the moment include a hosiery factory; two foundries; a confectionery factory; a mineral waters firm; bacon-curing; three major bakeries, and a variety of milling plants.

The considerable employment provided benefits mainly female workers; openings for men have been few, since the termination of the housing schemes recently sponsored by the Urban and County Councils. A Town Development Association, set up to explore the possibility of securing a major industry that would absorb the many workless men in the town and district, has been energetically applying itself to the problem, for many months past.

About the middle of March, Messrs Nestles, Ltd., of London, concluded an agreement for the acquisition of a site, half a mile from Letterkenny, on which it was proposed to build a milk products factory, and on 2nd June the new factory went into operation. It gives promise of a big employment potential, when in full production.

Farmers all over East Donegal supply the milk. Later, the manufacture of tins for the firm's products, will also be started on

the same site.

Large-scale building projects, already well ahead of the blueprint stage, and expected to start shortly, include the erection of a new county hospital, in the environs of the town, and a new post office, for which an ideal site has been purchased.

In the matter of housing, Letterkenny has a commendable record. At present, the local authority owns well over two hundred houses, more than half of which have been erected in comparatively recent times. Ard O'Donnell, the scene of the Council's biggest building push, now boasts of over a hundred excellently-kept dwellings, and forms the main part of "Greater Letterkenny".

Similarly, at Oldtown, (now renamed Ros Suiligh) a new scheme of forty houses, erected under a direct labour scheme by the County Council, have recently been tenanted. In recent years, the lovely pastoral setting of this area, where the first attempt was made to erect a town on the banks of the Swilly, became badly disfigured through the enforced continued occupation of houses, long since unsuitable as dwellings. The Oldtown scheme was the answer to the grave slum problem at this end of the town.

The gravity of Letterkenny's one-time housing problem may be gauged from the fact that, notwithstanding the huge arrears that have been cleared off, there is still an insufficiency of housing. The Urban Council, determined to wipe out every slum, relieve the present serious overcrowding and provide a decent home for every family, has acquired extra land, just outside

the town boundary, for yet another housing scheme. This rather extraordinary step was rendered unavoidable, when all available ground, acquired in the urban district for the purpose had been used up.

**Sports and Amusements**—In the social and cultural domains, the Cathedral town has attractions in plenty. During the winter months, it fairly buzzes with activity, to cater for all tastes. Amateur drama is in the ascendant, pivoted mainly by the Vocational Players, the robust brain-child of the directing forces of the Vocational School, partnered by stage devotees from outside.

A Pantomime Society, founded less than two years ago, has now got into its stride, and presented two annual shows, which easily beat all attendance records for any attraction in the town. Both offerings were a triumph of enthusiastic co-ordinated effort on the part of a group of over seventy.

Supplemental attractions include bridge, table tennis, golf, badminton, tennis, Gaelic, soccer, and rugby football clubs, cricket, and a boxing club with fully equipped gymnasium.

Students of Irish language and Irish dancing are catered for by a craobh of the Gaelic League, which also promotes drama through the medium.

#### **CHURCHES, SCHOOLS ETC.**

St. Eunan's Cathedral is a magnificent pile in the modern style, remarkable for bold innovations. Dedicated in 1901 the building occupied ten years and cost approximately £300,000. In the grounds is a statue of Cardinal O'Donnell



A FINE VIEW OF THE FAMED GLENGESH MOUNTAIN PASS (ARDARA).



(1856-1927) who was bishop of this Diocese from 1888-1923. Other churches are those of the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian congregations.

No town in Donegal is better served in educational facilities. St. Eunan's College, opened in 1906, and built by Cardinal O'Donnell, has been enlarged more than once to meet the needs of an ever increasing student body. Last year, a beautiful new church, costing over £40,000, was erected in the College grounds, for the use of the staff and students. The Community of Loreto have a secondary boarding school attached to their convent, with a full complement of students.

A new Vocational school has full classrooms for courses in commerce, wood-work, engineering, domestic economy, needlecraft and rural science.

The town is Divisional Headquarters for the Garda Síochána, the Dept. of Inland Revenue, Co. Vocational Authority, Dept. of Public Works and Land Commission. Additional public offices include those of Social Welfare, Customs and Excise and Pensions Investigations.

There are four banks and three hospitals.

Donegal County Council has indicated agreement, in principle, to a request from the Urban Council for an extension of the urban boundary, and plans are well advanced for the settlement of the revised limits. The town's latter-day expansion has necessitated a liberal enlargement of the urban district.

**Transport** — The C.D.R. (rail) from Strabane and the L. & L.S.R. (road buses) from Derry.

**Historical Associations.** — The district is rich in historical associations, and the town commemorates in its name the ancient rulers of Tirchonaill, the O'Cannons. Godfrey O'Donnell secured the chieftainship by slaying the last chief of the O'Cannons in 1248.

Points of interest include — Scariffholis, about two miles west of the town was an important ford on the River Swilly in ancient times. Irish forces under the patriot bishop Heber MacMahon were disastrously defeated here in 1650 by the Cromwellian general. Sir Charles Coote. Lough Swilly into which on an October morning in 1798 sailed the French battleship, "Hoche," with Wolf Tone and 300 Frenchmen to aid the United Irishmen. The ship was captured and Tone was arrested and taken to Letterkenny with the others. He was identified while at breakfast in Hegarty's Hotel. Conwal cemetery, a few miles west of the town contains the remains of an ancient church and many graves of great antiquity. It is the burial place of Godfrey O'Donnell (1258 A.D.). The Dun of Conwal is said to be the stronghold of the O'Cannons. Nearby is a conspicuous monolith. Conwal Parish Church, an ancient church. Several notable people were buried in the adjoining graveyard, including the celebrated raparee, Redmond O'Hanlon, and his seven sons.

**Cathmullan** — Popular seaside resort on Lake of Shadows. Has well preserved remains of 15th century Carmelite Friary. The pier, which is capable of providing facilities for the large

est ships afloat, is shortly to be reconstructed at a cost of £60,000.

**Ramelton** — Thriving market town in centre of thriving agricultural district. Nearby Killydonnell has a 16th century Franciscan church. The Lennon, which flows through the town, is reputed to be one of the finest rivers in the county, for the rod fisherman. Salmon and sea trout are usually in plentiful supply.

**Carrigart** — Progressive tourist centre with many attractions for cross-Channel visitors. These include an 18-hole golf course, game shooting, and boating trips in Mulroy Bay. Four large hotels. Energetic local Development Association. The country around has many antiquities of archaeological and historical interest.

**Downings** — Sea-fishing village with a magnificent beach.

**Milford** — Favourite tourist rendezvous. Excellent fishing. Bakery and flour mills provide much local employment.

**Kilmacrenan** — Salmon fishing in Lennon. St. Columba founded an Abbey here. It has also the remains of a 15th century Franciscan Friary.

**Churchill** — Birthplace of St. Columba, at Gartan. Unrivalled shooting and fishing. Glenveagh estate is the only deer preserve in Co. Donegal.

**Creeslough** — Lake fishing. Three miles away, is the Capuchin Friary, at Ard Mhuire. Doe Castle, MacSweeney's stronghold, half an hour's walk away. Sand from Muckish mountain is exported for glass-making.

## **Portnablagh, Marblehill and Dunfanaghy —**

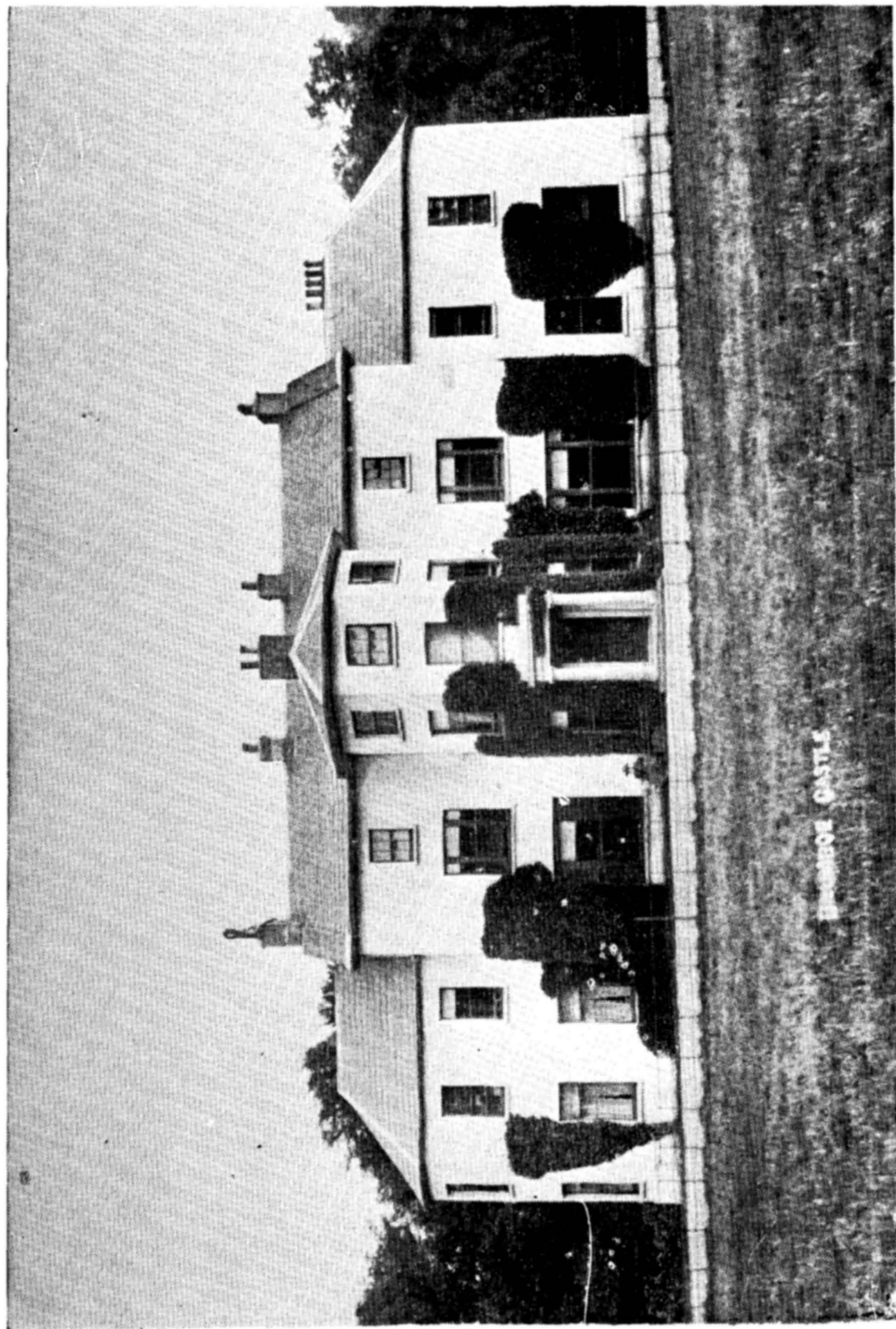
Summer mecca of cross-Channel tourists. Dunfanaghy has a branch of the Irish Countrywomen's Association. Five first-class hotels in the district.

**Falcarragh** — Only Donegal home of Franciscan Community of nuns. Ballyconnell Convent, of the Loreto Order, runs an approved secondary college for girls going on for the teaching profession. A knitting factory, recently enlarged, employs a large number of girls.

## **DUNGLOE**

Known as the capital of the Rosses, Dungloe (An Cloichan Liath—The Grey Stepping Stones), is a thriving little town of approximately 600 population. A market and fair town for the Rosses, it is a tourist centre, especially for anglers. That it is a good business town is shown by the fact that two banks have branches there. There are two Churches, Catholic (St. Peters) and Church of Ireland. The post office transacts all postal business. It is the headquarters of the Templecrone Co-operative Society Ltd., a prosperous and internationally known business founded by Mr. P. Gallagher, better known all over the world as Paddy the Cope, pioneer of the co-operative movement in Ireland.

There is much in the district to interest the sightseer. On the coast is a geological curiosity in the form of a remarkable landscape known locally as the "Tal-  
amh Briste" (Broken Earth). Not far off is the headland of Croghy where there are fine cliffs and



DRUMBOE CASTLE, STRANORLAR (pulled down circa 1945).

Seat of the Basil, and afterwards, of the Hayes family.



interesting caves. The Head is 800 feet high and from it a comprehensive view may be had of the Rosses district and the broken coast with the islands of Aran, Rutland and others. Beneath the head is Maghera Bay with a perfect strand for bathing. On the peninsula, north of Maghera village is the ancient church of Templecrone. The district around Lough Anure has many items of interest for the geologist as there is abundant evidence of glacial action. Colaishte Mhuire, Loughanure, is a Gaelic College in which courses are held during the summer months.

**Burtonport**— Five miles from Dungloe, Burtonport is an important centre for herring fishing off this coast. It has a fine harbour and herring curing station gives a large amount of employment in the season. There is a nine hole golf course. Kincasslagh, five miles north, is a fishing station of note. At Rann na Feirste is St. Brigid's Irish College. Crolly, on the Gweedore river, is a small village in which an extensive toy-making industry is carried on.

**Gweedore and Dunlewy** — A district noted for angling and beautiful scenery. Errigal (2,466 ft.) the highest mountain in Donegal, is a beautiful cone of white quartzite. It is a noted "climb."

### **BUNBEG**

Bunbeg (An Bun Beag — The small river-mouth), has a population of only 50, but it is the centre of a thickly populated district. There are two churches (Catholic and Church of Ire-

land), a post office and two bank sub-offices. It is noted as a holiday resort.

### **GLENTIES**

Glenties, (Na Gleanntai— The Glens) with a population of 360 is a thriving business town. Though small it has a busy hosiery and glove-making industry. There are two churches — Catholic (St. Conaills) and Church of Ireland, a post office and two bank branches. Situated where two glens converge and at the confluence of the rivers Owenea and Stracashel it is a centre for anglers. Several nearby lakes afford good trout fishing.

### **ARDARA**

Ardara (Ard a'Ratha — The Height of the Rath), is one of the most attractive resorts in Donegal, situated as it is in a deep valley where the Owentocker flows into Loughros More Bay. A long peninsula, extending from the town separates the two bays of Loughros More and Loughros Beg. The town is an important centre for the manufacture of Donegal homespun tweeds and many girls are engaged also in other crafts such as making hand-knit garments, hosiery and hand-embroidery. There are excellent opportunities for angling in the rivers and lakes of the district. There are three churches, Catholic (Church of the Holy Family), Church of Ireland and Methodist. The post office transacts all postal business and there is a bank branch.

**Narin-Portnoo**—Six miles from Ardara is Narin a delightful little village with a good bathing strand and a 9 hole golf

course. Adjoining it is Portnoo.

**Glencolumbkille** (Glean Cholmcille—St. Colmcille's Glen) as its name implies has close associations with the Saint who had his holy retreat here. Many houses dot the slope of this beautiful glen. The surroundings are peaceful and picturesque. There is a tenacious tradition that "Bonnie Prince Charlie" spent some time here.

**Kilcar** (Cill Chartha — St. Carthach's Church) a picturesque village where, as well as in the homesteads of the district, hand embroidery, weaving, knitting and other cottage industries are carried on.

**Carrick** (An Charraig — The Rock) three miles west of Kilcar is starting place for the ascent of the remarkable Slieve League (1,972) and as centre from which to explore magnificent mountain and coastal scenery.

### KILLYBEGS

**Killybegs** (Na Cella Beaga — The Little Churches) stands on a fine natural harbour and has all the advantages and potentialities of a first-class port. The Harbour Commissioners, an energetic body, have done much to improve the natural facilities and to encourage trade through the port. Recently it was announced that it was to be the site of a new fish meal factory. The Irish Sea Fisheries Association have an extensive ice manufacturing plant there and, naturally, fishing is a major industry, there being a number of modern sea-going craft engaged. The boat-yard is equipped to fit out quite large vessels and do repairs. Fish curing is also an important industry. Most important industry

however is the making of the Donegal carpets. Carpets made here in recent years include one for St. James's Palace, London, one for the South African Parliament House in Capetown, others for the Irish Embassy in London, etc.

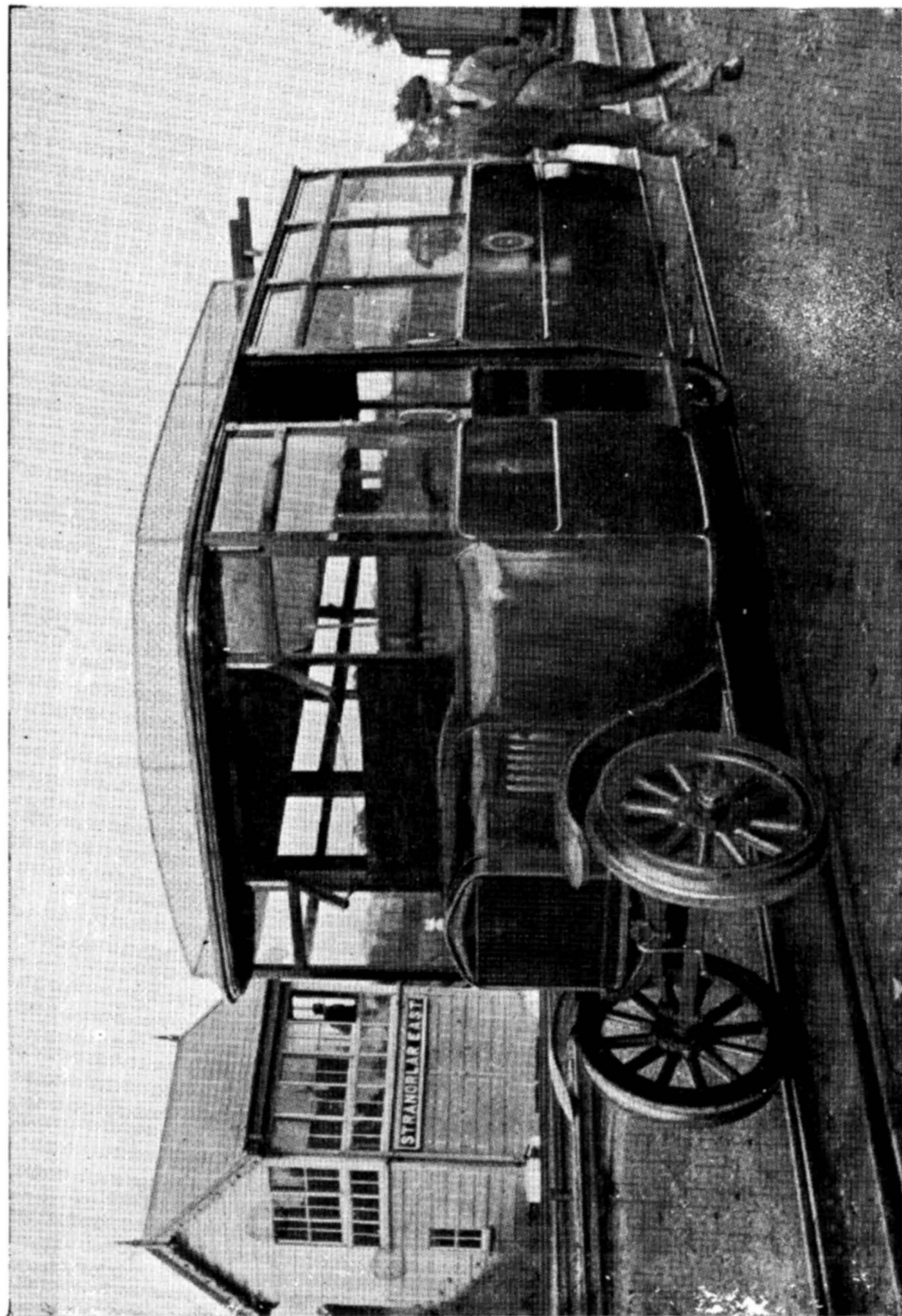
There are two churches—Catholic (St. Mary's) and Church of Ireland, a post office and two bank branches. A remarkable old carved slab in the wall inside St. Mary's Church is believed to commemorate Niall Mor Mac Suibhne of Banagh. There are only two of its kind in Ireland, the other being at Creeslough.

The old industrial school was recently considerably renovated and converted into a T.B. Sanatorium and now plays an important part in the country's fight against this scourge.

Killybegs is a convenient centre from which to tour the beautiful south-west corner of the county, and is, itself, a tourist resort in the vicinity of which are many places of interest and charming scenery.

**Dunkineely** (Dun Ceannfhaolaidh—Kineely's Fort) a village on the long, narrow strip of land terminating in St. John's Point, which juts out between Inver Bay and Mac Swyne's Bay. One and a half miles away are the remains of the old castle of the Mac Swynes of Banagh. Good rough shooting is available locally.

**Inver** (Inbhear Naile — St. Naul's Estuary) a fishing village with excellent sandy beach safe for bathing. The site of the church built here by St. Naiel in the 6th century is now occupied by the ruin of a comparatively modern church. In the adjoining



Ireland's first rail bus—Introduced on the County Donegal Railways more than two decades ago. A petrol engine, it was succeeded by the Diesel Car, also introduced into Ireland for the first time by this company.



graveyard is the grave of Thomas Nesbitt, inventor of the gun-harpoon for whaling, who was born near Inver in 1730.

**Mountcharles** (Tanatallon)—(Tamhnach A' t-Salainn — The Green Field of the Salt) with a population of 313 is a pleasant, restful holiday centre. There are two churches—Catholic (Church of the Sacred Heart) and Church of Ireland; three bank sub-branches and post office. It is finely situated on a steeply rising hill from the summit of which

there are splendid views of Donegal Bay and the lovely scenery on every side. There is a good sandy beach within a mile of the town. There is angling available in near-by lakes and the town is noted for its hand-embroidery work and the famous Mountcharles freestone, so much in demand for building and monumental work, is quarried near-by. The whole district is identified with the writings of Seamus MacManus who was born here.

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## STORM BOUND TORY ISLAND

"I beheld an unparalleled scene of misery and wretchedness amongst the inhabitants which was increased by an unexampled gale in July last when the sea broke over the island, destroyed all their crops and rendered their fresh water undrinkable."

(Sir Charles Giesecke—Year 1826).

"In the month of August last a strange and unforeseen storm set in from the north west which drove the sea in immense waves over the whole flat part of the island; the waves even beat over the highest cliffs; all their corn was destroyed, their potatoes washed out of the ground and all their springs of fresh water filled up."

(Rev. C. Ottaway.—Year 1839).

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### OIDEACHAS I gCONNDA DHUN NA nGALL SAN OCHTADH AOIS DEAG

Duirt Hannraoi O Muiris (nach maireann) uair nach raibh ar eolas aige ach dha lamh-scriobhinn Gaeilge de bhunadh Dun na nGall, agus uaigh sin. b'e a thuairim nach raibh de dhaonradh i nDun na nGall san ochtadh aois deag ach clan ain-eolach. Nior smaoinigh se sin, na na daoine a luadhann a scriobhnoir-

eacht, gur taistil go foir-leathan in Eirinn an t-Athair Daniel Deware, (scolaire Gaelach o Alban ag deire na h-ochtadh aoise deag) agus go bhfuil o na pheann go bhfuair se an miniu ba leire ar "Gaelic Prosody agus Syntax" o aodhaire caorach i gceanntar Gweebara i bhfoisceacht do Letter-mac-a-ward. Ta geargadh le eolas nios doimhne ar an abhar seo.

"MAC."

**THE O'DONNELLS OF  
GLASSAGH and  
BALLINAMORE**  
Vol. 1 No. 2 p.p. 194/196

Brownhall,  
Ballintra,  
Co. Donegal.

Dear Sir,

I am surprised that you allowed the author of the above article to create a fantastic legend in his description of the 18th Century O'Donnells of Glassagh. I am more than surprised that you, who are so conversant with the devolution of property in the Finn Valley, did not draw attention to the fact that Lord Mountcashel and the Styles family of Cloghan Lodge were the 17th, 18th and 19th century landlords of Glassagh; and that my

family, in the early 18th century, acquired the Fintown-Ballinamore property from the Nesbitts of Tully O'Donnell, who in 1672 purchased their lands from the original patentee — Murray of Broughton. (See pp 122-23 of my own autobiography "My Times and Other Times.") If some member of the Historical Society will furnish me with reasonable translations of the Gaelic poems referred to by Mr. O'Cochlainn then I should, from family Estate documents etc., be able to give a more rational picture of these people than the fables paraded, as history, by the author of the above article.

Yours truly,

JOHN S. HAMILTON, D.L.  
To the Honorary Editor,  
County Donegal Historical  
Society.

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**Franciscan Friary, Ross Nuala**, Guardian, Rev. Fr. Camillus, O.F.M.

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Iskaheen and Upper Moville—Very Rev. M. Smyth, P.P., Quigley's Point; Rev. M. Conway, C.C., do.; Rev. T. O'Doherty, C.C., Muff.

Donagh—Rev. J. Bonner, P.P., Carndonagh; Rev. B. Chapman, C.C., do.; Rev. P. McGoldrick, C.C., do.

Moville, Lower—Rev. D. L. McLaughlin, P.P., Moville; Rev. W. Rafferty, C.C., do.; Rev. H. O'Kane, C.C., do.

### **EAST DONEGAL.**

Clonleigh and Camus (Strabane) Partly in Donegal—Rev. A. Gillespie, C.C., Murlog, Lifford.

Donaghmore—Rev. P. J. McHugh, P.P., St. Joseph's, Killygordon; Rev. J. McKee, C.C., do.; Rev. M. Douglas, C.C., Ballybofey; Rev. J. Lecky, C.C., Castlefin.

Urney — Rev. J. McGilligan, C.C., Donnyloop, Castlefin,

**Religious Orders** — Loretto Convent and schools, Letterkenny. Sisters of Mercy — Convent, schools and hospitals, Ballyshan-non; hospitals at Glenties and

Donegal and County Home, Stranorlar. Convent and schools, Buncrana and Carndonagh.

De La Salle Order, Ballyshannon.

Presentation Brothers, Letterkenny.

St. Louis Convent and schools, Bundoran.

Sisters of Nazareth, Novitiate, Fahan.

Loretto Convent, Letterkenny.

Sisters of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Falcarragh. (Head House, Glasgow).

### **DIOCESE OF CLOGHER**

Innismacsaint — (Bundoran and Ballyshannon)—

McQuaide, Very Rev. P. Canon, P.P., Bundoran; Finnegan, Rev. P., C.C., do.; McElroy, Rev. M., C.C., Ballyshannon.

Templecarn (Belleek and Pettigo) — Dempsey, Rev. P., P.P., Belleek; Brennan, Rev. J., C.C., Pettigo; Slowey, Rev. A., C.C., Belleek.

St. Joseph's Orphanage, Bundoran—Chaplain, Rev. F. Little,

## ***Church of Ireland***

Bishop of Derry and Raphoe—The Right Rev. R. McNeil Boyd, M.C., D.D., Derry.

Raphoe clergy of the Derry and Raphoe Diocesan Council—Rev. L. W. Crooks, Rev. Canon A. R. S. Munro, The Dean of Raphoe, Rev. N. E. Garstin, Rev. Canon J. E. Doyle, Rev. S. A. Cave, Rev. Canon J. G. Harvey.

Supplementals—Rev. Canon R. J. Ryan, Rev. B. T. Humphreys.

Raphoe Lay—W. A. W. Sheldon, Esq., T.D., M. M. Andrews, Esq., W. J. Collins, Esq., Captain R. W. George, M.B.E., A. S. Donaldson, Esq., S. Oliver, Esq., H. McCloughan, Esq., G. Starrett, Esq., Charles Barr, Esq., J. Patterson, Esq., Commander B. R. Stewart, C. T. Ball, Esq., Charles McKemey, Esq., B. Barton, Esq., C. H. McGhee, Esq.

Supplementals — Thomas Kee, Esq., A. J. Kilpatrick, Esq., Major Lyons, Lieutenant-Colonel Kellie.

Hon. Secretaries of the Council are :— The Archdeacon of Derry, The Archdeacon of Raphoe, Rev. Canon D. Kelly, S. W. Toms, Esq., and Major T. A. McClintock, M.R.C.V.S.

### **DERRY DIOCESE (In Donegal)**

Clergy — Benefice of Donagh, Clonmany and Cloncha (Union) Abercrombie, L.H.L., M.A., Carnodonagh. Benefice of Donaghmore and Monellan (Union) Gick, A.G., B.A., Bishop's Curate in charge, Castlefin.

Benefice of Fahan Lower and Desertegnev (Union). Devlin, R.E., M.A., Buncrana.

Benefice of Fahan, upper and Inch (union), Dickson, G. W., M.A., D.D., Canon R. D., Fahan.

Benefice of Gleneely and culladuff (union), Sloane, I. R., B.A., Gleneely.

Moville Upper, Young, E. J., B.A., Moville, Bishop's Curate in Charge.

Moville Lower, Johnston, F., St G., M.A., Moville.

Muff, Davey, W. E., M.A., Muff

### **DIOCESE OF RAPHOE**

(Includes greater Part of Co Donegal)

Rural Deans — Boyleagh, Rev. John Porter, M.A.; Kilmacrennan East, Rev. Canon J. E. Doyle, Kilmacrennan West, Rev. Canon J. G. Harvey, B.A.; Raphoe, Rev. J. Dunlop, M.A.; Tirbrough, Rev. Canon R. J. Ryan, B.A.

Diocesan Synod and Council (same as for Derry)—Hon. Secs. Ven. Archdeacon T. Baird, B.D.; Rev. Canon Macourt, M.A.; Lt.-Col. J. P. Gilbraith, O.B.E., H.M.L., Archdeacon of Raphoe, Major T. A. McClintock, Assist. Sec., Mr. P. Coll, Diocesan Office, Derry.

Diocesan Nominators — Ven. Archdeacon C. J. Homan, M.A.;

Rev. Canon Munro, M.A.; Major T. A. McClintock.

Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of St. Eunan, Raphoe.

Dean—Very Rev. J. H. Beattie, B.D. Archdeacon, Ven. C. J. Homan, M.A. Canons, Rev. A. R. S. Munro, B.A.; Rev. J. G. Harvey; Rev. R. J. Ryan, B.A.; Rev. John E. Doyle.

Benefices and Clergy — All Saints and Burt, Doherty, W., Newtowncunningham.

Ardara and Glenties — Lea, J. I., B.A., Ardara.

Clonahorkey, Graham, M., M.A., Ballymore.

Clondevaddock, MacDonald, G. A., B.D., Bishop's Curate in Charge, Tamney.

Convoy, Northridge, A. H. H., M.A., Convoys.

Conwall, Aghanunshin and Lack (union), Crooks, L. W., B.A., Letterkeny.

Do., Chambers, G. W., B.A., Curate, Letterkeny.

Donegal, Cave, S. A., B.A., Donegal.

Drumholm and Rossnowlagh, Garstin, N. E., M.A., Ballintra.

Dunfanaghy, Raymunterdoney and Tullaghbegley, Humpreys, B. T., M.A., Dunfanaghy.

Gartan and Kilmacrennan (union), Harvey, J. G., B.A., B.D., Canon Churchill, Letterkeny.

Glencolumbkille, McQuade, W. M.A., Bishop's Curate in Charge, Glencolumbkille.

Gweedore, Dunlewey and Templecrone (union), Watson, John, B.A., Bunbeg.

Inniskeel and Lettermacaward, Good, J. F., B.A., Inniskeel, Lifford (union).

Inver and Mountcharles, Munro, A. R., B.A., Canon, Inver.

Kilbarron, Kermode, J. H., B.A., Ballyshannon.

Killaghtee, vacant. Bishop's Curate In Charge, Dunkineely.

Killea, Kelly, D., B.A., Canon (in charge), Carrigans.

Killybegs and Kilcar (union) Porter, John, M.A., R.D., Killybegs.

Killgarvan and Glenalla (un-

ion), Doyle, J. E., B.D., Canon Rathmullan.

Killymard, Ryan, R. J., B.A., (in charge). Canon, Lough Eske, Donegal.

Kilteevock, Fennell, H. J., B.A., Welchtown.

Laghey, Sheldon, J. G., M.A., Laghey, Bishop's Curate in Charge.

Lough Eske, Ryan, R. J., B.A., B.D., Canon, Lough Eske.

Mevagh, Lovell, E. W., O'M., B.A., Carrigart.

Raphoe and Raymochy (union) Homan, C. J., M.A., Archd., Raphoe.

Stranorlar and Meenglan (union), Dunlop, J., M.A., R.D., Stranorlar.

Taughboyne, Beattie, J. K., M.A., B.D., Dean, Churchtown, Lifford.

Tullyaughnish and Milford (union), Tarleton, D. R., M.A., Ramelton.

### **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

(Donegal congregations of Derry Presbytery) — Buncrana, N. Farquhar Orr, B.A., B.D., Buncrana.

Burt, Robert J. Wray, B.A., Speenogue, Co. Donegal.

Carndonagh, R. H. Boyd, B.A., Carndonagh.

Crossroads, G. F. McQuitty, G.A., M.C., Bogay, Co. Donegal.

Fahan and Inch, John Brewster, B.A., Porthallintrae.

Do., T. J. Holmes, B.A., Inch. Greenbank, G. C. Graham, M.A., Quigley's Point, Moville.

Knowhead, W. A. Barker, B.A., Muff.

Malin, Wm. McKinney, B.A., Malin.

Monreagh, Wm. G. Robinson, B.A., LL.D., Carrigans.

Do., S. M. McSparran, B.A., Col., Bogay, Co. Donegal.

Moville, John Armstrong, M.A., Moville.

### **DONEGAL CONGREGATIONS OF DONEGAL PRESBYTERY**

Ballyshannon, Chas. Marshall, M.A., Ballyshannon.

Donegal, V. H. Ryan, B.L., Donegal.

Stranorlar, C. M. Eadie, B.A., Stranorlar.

#### **LETTERKENNY PRESBYTERY**

Dunfanaghy, Andrew Hollinger, M.A., Mod., Ballymore.

Fannet and Rathmullan, James Edgar, B.A., Holywood, Co. Down.

Do., S. Wesley Thompson, B.A., Col. Kerrykeel.

Kilmacrennan Trenta, Geoffrey Allen, B.A., Clerk, Kilmacrennan.

Letterkenny, Ross Millar, G.A., M.C., Letterkenny.

Trinity Church, Letterkenny, J. C. Pedlow, B.A., B.D., Col., Letterkenny.

Milford and Carrigart, W. H. T. Fulton, B.A., Milford.

Ramelton 1st., A. E. Scott, B.A., B.D., Ramelton.

Do., 2nd., R. Hume, M.A., Ramelton.

Ray 1st and 2nd., R. S. M. Kennedy, B.A., Manorcunningham.

#### **RAPHOE PRESBYTERY**

Ballindrait and Ballylennon, J. H. Bewglass, B.A., Clerk, Ballindrait.

Carnove and Alt, R. G. Doherty, B.A., Raphoe.

Convoy, A. J. Eakin, B.A., Convoy.

Donoughmore, John Sproule, B.A., LL.B., Castlefin.

Newtowncunningham, S. J. Parker, B.A., Newtowncunningham.

Raphoe, W. F. Shepherd, B.A., B.D., Raphoe.

St. Johnston, F. A. O'Hara, B.A., Mod., St. Johnston.

#### **REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD OF IRELAND**

Milford, Rev. S. W. Lynas, B.A.

Stranorlar and Convoy, Norman McCune, B.A., Stranorlar.

#### **METHODIST CHURCH**

Ballintra (including Ballyshannon and Bundoran), J. B. Turner.

Pettigo, Robert A. Parkhill. Donegal, James Johnston.

Dunkineely, A. B. Allen, Supernumerary, Thomas M. Edwards, Ardara, R. A. Knowles.

Moville and Inishowen, Wm. Callender.

#### **THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF IRELAND**

St. Johnston and Castlefin, Mr. John Stewart.

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## **GARDA SIOCHANA**

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#### **DONEGAL DIVISION**

(46 STATIONS)

**Divisional Officer** :— Chief Superintendent Alexr. Louis O'Neill, Letterkenny.

**District Officers** :— Superintendents T. A. Kelly, Letterkenny; William Leen, Clogher; Thos. Noonan, Ballyshannon; M. Jackson, Buncrana; T. J. Martin, Killybegs; J. J. Murphy, Milford.

#### **LETTERKENNY DISTRICT**

**STATION - SERGT. IN CHARGE**

Letterkenny, McDaid, D.  
Carrigans, Barr, H.  
Castlefin, Garvin, P. J.  
Convoy, McGill, W. H. A.  
Lifford, Brennan, T.  
Newtowncunningham, Boylan, L.  
Ramelton, Brunner, H. J.  
Raphoe, Fitzpatrick, F.  
Rathmullan, Flanagan, P.

### **BUNCRANA DISTRICT**

Buncrana, Ginty D.  
Burnfoot, Sullivan, M.  
Carndonagh, Meehan, P.  
Carrowkeel, McInerney, P.  
Clonmany, Crowley, L.  
Culdaff, McCormack, D.J.  
Malin, Pender, D.  
Moville, Logue, J.  
Muff, Dowling, P.

### **BALLYSHANNON DISTRICT**

Ballyshannon, Flynn, P.  
Ballintra, McEntee, T.  
Ballybofey, Melican, M. J.  
Bundoran, Gilmartin, M.  
Donegal, Hughes, M. J.  
Pettigo, McCabe, P.

### **CLOGHER DISTRICT**

(An Clochar)  
Clogher, O Cathain, P.  
Ailt An Chorrain,  
(Burtonport) O'Rabhartaigh, P.  
Ath na g-Coire  
(Annagry) Baroid, P.  
Brocach  
(Brocach) O'Conchubhair, T.  
Bun Beag  
(Bunbeg) O'Labhraidh, P. S.  
Dubh-Choradh  
(Doochary) Solan, D. S.  
Teampall Chroin  
(Dungloe) Mac Carthaigh, M.

### **MILFORD DISTRICT**

(Baile N. n-Galloglach)  
Milford, O'Maolchraoibhe, T.  
Carraig Airt,  
(Carrickart) O'Dubhthaigh, S.  
Ceathramha Chaol,  
(Kerrykeel) MacAodhagain, P.  
Cill mhic n-Eanain,

(Kilmacrennan) O'Grianna, M.  
Craosloch  
(Creeshlough) O'Reighill, T.  
Dun Fheannachaidh  
(Dunfanaghy) Feirteir, M.  
Fal Carrach  
(Falcarragh) Mac Domhnaill, A.  
Min a Labain  
(Churchill) Proinsias, P.

### **KILLYBEGS DISTRICT**

(Cealla Beaga)  
Killybegs, Toranta, M.  
Ard a' Ratha  
(Ardara) MacEoin, T.  
Carraig  
(Carrick) Floid, F.  
Dun Cheannfhaolaidh  
(Dunkineely) Mac Aoidh, E.  
Gleann Choluim Cille  
(Glencolumbkille) O'Braoghill, S.  
Na Gleanntai  
(Glenties) O'Morain, S.P.  
Tamhnach an t-Salainn  
(Mountcharles) O'Muineachain, S

The County has two divisions for the administration of law in Summary and Civil courts. Mr. Sean D. O'Hanrahan officiates in the Southern portion and in part of North Leitrim, while the Northern Division has Mr. R. O'hUadhaigh as District Justice.

Letterkenny, Donegal, and Ballyshannon are circuit Court towns, while the High Court on Circuit holds a sitting in Letterkenny twice yearly.

# PIGOT'S DIRECTORY 1824.

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**LIFFORD** . . . . Under the patronage of the Earl of Erne and before the Union sent two members to the Irish Parliament. The County Infirmary is much too small for the County. In the reign of Chas. 1 it was a barrack for a troop of horse; it was purchased from the government by Richard Cowan Esq., and afterwards sold to the county for the present purpose. A new gaol, now building is expected to be finished in the early part of 1825; it will be a spacious semi circular edifice, and will add much to the beauty of the town; the courthouse is adjacent. . . . In the reign of Jas. 11 Sir Richard Hansard Bart of Lincolnshire bequeathed £50 p. a., and a house for the education of the poor of the parish. Lifford is remarkable for the vigorous resistance made by Capt. Hamil, with a small body of men against a detachment of Jas. 11's army previous to the seige of Derry . . . .pop. 400.

**Post Office** at Strabane.

## GENTRY

|                   |                 |                     |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| John Chambers     | Geo. Knox, Esq. | Wm. M. Spence, Esq. |
| Andrew Clarke     | Rev. Wm. Knox,  | Mrs. Stevenson.     |
| Rev. Robt. Foster |                 | Rector              |
|                   | Mrs. Spence     |                     |

## PROFESSIONS

|                                       |                             |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Irwin Aiken, land surveyor.           | Sarah Risk.                 |
| Richard Chambers, attorney.           | Paul Scanlen.               |
| Adam Gillespie, surgeon to Infirmary. | Pat Scanlen.                |
|                                       | Jos. Sherkey, parish clerk. |
| Gabriel Montgomery, land surveyor.    | John Sherkey.               |
|                                       | Jos. Sherkey.               |

## LINEN MERCHANT

Wm. Chambers.

## SALT MANUFACTURERS

John Moohan.

## PUBLICANS AND CO.

Andrew Clements.

**RAFHOE** . . . .made an episcopal see by St. Eunan about the middle of the sixth century. In the eleventh century the cathedral was erected on the ruins of the church of St. Eunan, and in 1636 Bishop Leslie, aided by the government, built the palace, or rather

castle which is a handsome structure and commands an extensive view of the neighbouring country. In the rebellion of 1641 this palace withstood a long and vigorous siege. A round tower stood here and a monastery founded by St. Columb. The Royal school founded by Chas. 1 . . . . a magnificent diocesan library attached to it. The munificent Bishop Foster founded an asylum here for four poor clergymen's widows, which is under the direction of the Bishop for the time being and produces £50 p. a., to each. . . . Pop. 1,000.

**Post Office** Mr. Samuel Kerr, (post-master) open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. The Derry mail coach goes through Strabane daily.

### GENTRY AND CLERGY

|                                   |                           |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Rev. Richard Alliot, D.D., Rector | Rev. Jas. Irwin, School   | H.M. Major Thos. Palmer, Yeomanry |
| Rt. Rev. Dr. Wm. Bissett.         | Rev. John Kelly, P.P.     | Rev. Wm. Ramsey                   |
| Wm. Bissett, Esq.                 | Miss Leghton              | Rev. Geo. Stewart                 |
| Miss Charlton                     | Mrs. Major                | Jas. Taylor Esq.                  |
| Rev. Wm. Dickie, Car-             | —McCausland, Esq.         | Rev. Jas. Taylor                  |
|                                   | none. Robt. Montgomery,   | Rev. John Usher                   |
| Rev. W. G. Fenwick,               | Esq. Convoy.              | (Archdeacon)                      |
|                                   | Palace Rev. Chas. Nesbitt | Rev. John Wray,                   |
| Alex Huey Esq.                    |                           | Convoy                            |

### PROFESSIONAL GENTLEMEN

|                                       |                                |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| John Laird, proctor.                  | Wm. Wilson, Solicitor, Shenes- |
| Wm. McLaw, Apothecary.                | chal and Registrar to Con-     |
| Jas. Roulston, surgeon to Dispensary. | sistorial Court.               |

### SHOP-KEEPERS AND TRADERS

|                                     |                                  |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| John Baird, tailor.                 | Ben Lindsey, grocer.             |
| John Barclay, Innkeeper.            | Isabella Logan, milliner.        |
| Chas. Boyle, Boot and Shoe maker.   | Moses McConnell, Linen merchant. |
| Samuel Carson, merchant.            | Robt. Mills, Publican.           |
| Timothy Conley, grocer.             | Ardon Thompson, tanner.          |
| Robt. Duffy, Mercht.                | Alex Walker, parish clerk.       |
| Wm. Galbraith, grocer and publican. | John Wallace, linen merchant.    |
| Wm. Gallagher, baker.               | Jas. Witherow, tanner.           |
| Robt. Green, publican.              | Alex Wray, Innkeeper.            |
| Robt. Johnston, leather seller.     | Alex Wray, saddler.              |
|                                     | Wm. Wray, whitesmith.            |

**DONEGAL** . . . . a short distance is a famous spa, said to possess all the qualities of the Harrowgate waters . . . . Previous to the Union it was a borough and sent two members to the Irish Parliament. Donegal possesses one of the finest inns in the province and as no cramage or tolls are charged, it will, in all probability soon have a food market. The market house is a convenient building

over which are held sessions for the recovery of debts four times a year. . . . Population about 800.

Post Master: Anthony Diver Esq. Office hours 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

### GENTRY AND CLERGY

|                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Murray Babbington, Bonyglen.     | Rev. Alex Montgomery, Inver.      |
| Capt. Crawford, Donegal Militia. | Mrs. Montgomery, Cloverhill.      |
| John H. Diver, M.B.              | Richard O'Doherty, Coroner to     |
| Geo. Donlevy.                    | the County Res. Derry.            |
| Pat Donlevy.                     | John Tobin.                       |
| Capt. Emerson, Lough Eske.       | Rev. Jos. Walsh, Rector.          |
| Rev. Jos. Irwin, Bowgreen.       | Capt. John Wray, Chief Constable. |
| Haslett Irwin, Kilmacredin.      |                                   |

### SHOPKEEPERS AND TRADERS

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| John Anderson, grocer.              | Andrew Halmon, par. clerk.                                |
| Chas. Bates, publican.              | Acheson Holmes, publican.                                 |
| Jermiah Boyce, publican.            | Wm. Knoud, publican.                                      |
| Cath Cannon, woollen draper.        | John McCormick, baker.                                    |
| Joseph Carr, grocer.                | Wm. McDonagh, woollen draper.                             |
| Owen Cassidy, publican.             | Jas. McIntyre, baker and publican.                        |
| David Crawford, brewer, Spamount.   | Wm. Monaghan, publican.                                   |
| Jas. Crawford, tanner and chandler. | Hugh Mulreaney, grocer, ironmonger and salt manufacturer. |
| Rob Cursaden, grocer.               | Mrs. Thompson, publican.                                  |
| Chas. Dillon, head Inn and hotel.   | Mrs. Walker, millstone importer.                          |
| Denis Gallagher, publican.          | Mrs. Walker, draper.                                      |

### Stamp Office.

Miss Kincaid, distributor.

No Coach nearer than Strabane 24 miles distant.

**BALLYSHANNON** . . . . Here are two fine barracks, and over the river is a good stone bridge of fourteen arches . . . . a good pier protects the shipping in the harbour, and a canal communicating with Lough Erne would soon render this a town of considerable commerce. At present it has a good market on Friday for corn and general purposes and fairs are held on 4th April, the 7th June, the 10th of Sept. and the 9th November. Population near 7,000.

**Post Office** John Britton Esq. (post-master). The Dublin mail arrives from Enniskillen every morning. Office hours from seven in the morning till eleven at night.

No Coaches from this town; the nearest regular Coach is the Sligo mail, which runs to Dublin daily. Cars may be hired for conveyance of goods to any part of Ireland.

(Pigot "Directory" 1824).

# Ballyshannon 1824.

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## NOBILITY, GENTRY AND CLERGY

- Allingham, Christian, esq.  
Allingham, Edward, Willybrook.  
Allingham, Edward, Bundoran.  
Allingham, Lieut. John (Half Pay) Dragoons.  
Atkinson John, J.P., Castle St.  
Atkinson, T. John, Cavangarden.  
Ball, Rev. Robt., Menvagh.  
Bloomfield, Major, Castlecaldwell.  
Bandon, Rev. Jas., Cottage.  
Caldwell, Sir John, Castlecaldwell.  
Caldwell, Fitzmaurice, Trynte Lodge.  
Connolly, Terence, Mount Prospect.  
Connolly, Wm., Mount Prospect.  
Crawford, David, Provost and Barrack Master, Castle St.  
Crawford, John (junior) Castle St.  
Crawford, Thos. William, Surgeon (Donegal Regiment), Main Street.  
Cullen, Caincross, Fairview.  
Cullen, William, Danby.  
Cummins, Rev. John,  
Dickson, Rev. Jas., Lodge.  
Dunbar, Major, Garrison House,  
Dundass, Henry, Roscor.  
Ellis, Robt. N. Main St.  
Forbes, Jas., Danby.  
Frederick, John, Fort William.  
Frederick, Mrs., Camlin.  
Hamilton, Alex, Cockstown.  
Hamilton, John, Brownhall.  
Johnston, George, Laputa.  
Johnston, Robert, Oakfield.  
Johnston, Robert, Brookhill.  
Jones, Capt. John, Donegal Militia.  
Lipsett, Joseph, Main St.  
McIntire, Andrew, Main St.  
Magee, Rev. Joseph, P.C.  
Miller, John, Balliatra.  
Montgomery, John, Ashbrook.  
Murray, Richard, Surgeon R.N. (Half Pay).  
Mash, Rev. Herbert M., Fairview.  
O'Neill, John, Park Hill.  
Parkenham, Rev. Robert, Kildoney.  
Rankin, Lieutenant, Cottagegrove.  
Reynolds, Lieut. Robert, (Half Pay) Donegal Militia.  
Shiel, Simon, Wardstown.  
Shiel, Simon, College Lane.  
Thornley, Capt. (Half Pay), Park Lane.  
Thornley, James, Tho. Enley.  
Tighe, Richard.  
Urquart, Capt. D. (Half Pay 84th Reg.), Park Lane.  
Waldron, Mrs., Bundoran.  
Warren, Rev. Robert, Main St.

## ATTORNEYS

- Carson, William, Master in Chancery.  
Crawford, Andrew, Castle St.  
Crawford, Samuel.  
Henderson, Geo.  
Johnston, Geo. Laputa.  
Lipsett, Thomas (Master in Chancery).

**PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS**

Crawford, Thomas William, Surgeon to Donegal Regiment, Main St.  
 Ivers, D. C., Castle St.  
 Kelly, Edward, M.D., do.  
 Shiel, Simon, M.D., College Lane.

**APOTHECARIES**

Bryan — (and Surgeon) R.N., (Half Pay), Castle St.  
 Ivers, D.C., (Market St.).  
 Lee, Richard, do.  
 Thompson, Wm., do.

**ACADEMIES**

Dogherty, Isabella (ladies boarding school), Park Lane.  
 Tracey, Edward, (gent's boarding), Main St.

**AUCTIONEERS**

Munds, Robert, Purt.

**BAKERS**

Erskin, Wm., (and flour dealer), Castle St.  
 Green, John, Main St.  
 Hervey, Patk., Purt.  
 Irwin, Jas. (and Confectioner), Main Street.  
 Johnston, John, Market St.  
 Kenny, Robert, do.  
 McGowan, Patrick, Back St.

**BOOT and SHOE MAKERS**

Daly, Edward, Main St.  
 Gibson, Thomas, do.  
 Gill, John, do.

**BREWERS**

Kelly, Peter, Market Street.

**GROCERS**

Bird, Richard (and seedsman) Main Street.  
 Brady, John, do.  
 Byng, Ann, Market St.  
 Feely, John, Market St.  
 Ferguson, John, Purt.  
 Gallagher, Jas., do.

Green, John, Main St.  
 Keenhan, John, Purt.  
 McGloin, Jas., Main St.  
 McGuire, Bryan, Back St.  
 O'Donnell, Jas., Purt.  
 Scott, John, Main St.  
 Stephens, Wm., Back St.

**HABERDASHERS**

McCartney, Ann, Main St.  
 Lipsett, Michael, do.

**INNS AND HOTELS**

Cassidy, Michael (licensed to let jaunting cars and post chaises) Bridge-foot.

Boyle, Philip, Main St.  
 Browne, James, do.

**LEATHER SELLERS**

Brady, John, Main St.  
 Ferguson, John, Purt.  
 Munday, Francis, Back St.

**LINEN and WOOLLEN DRAPERS**

Beatty, William, Main St.  
 Davis Jas., do.  
 Feely, Maurice, Back St.  
 Johnston, Mary, Main St.  
 Lipsett, Michael, do.  
 O'Neill, Arthur (linen only), do.  
 Scott, John, do.

**MERCHANTS**

Allingham, Wm., Park Lane.  
 Crawford, Robert, Main St.  
 Green, John, do.  
 McGowan, James, Purt.

**PAINTERS AND GLAZIERS**

Daly, John, Back St.  
 McAllin, Thomas, Purt.  
 Nelson, Robert, Market St.

**PUBLICANS**

Bil', William, Market St.  
 Boyle, Con., do.  
 Connolly, John, do.  
 Donaugher, Hugh, do.  
 Hall, Harris, do.

Keenhan, James, Purt.  
McAucely, John, Back St.  
McCabe, Chas., Purt.  
O'Donnell, Jas., do.  
Ward, Michael, Back St.

#### **SADDLER AND HARNESS- MAKER**

Dundass, Hugh, Main St.

#### **SALT WORKS**

Allingham, C. T., Portnason.  
Crawford, Robert, Main St.

#### **TAILORS**

Boyle, James, Main St.  
Browne, James, do.  
Mulligan, Edward, Purt.

#### **TALLOW CHANDLERS AND SOAP BOILERS**

Kelly, Edward, Castle Street.

#### **TANNERS**

Alingham, Edward, Willybrooke.  
Allingham, William, Park Lane.  
Green, John, Main St.

#### **WATCH MAKER**

Kenny, Robert, Castle St.

#### **WINE MERCHANTS**

Alingham, William, Park Lane.  
Kelly, Edward, Castle St.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Ashfield, James, gun maker,  
Bridge.  
Green, Francis, cabinet maker,  
Main St.  
Macartney, Anne, calico dealer,  
Main Street.

#### **CUSTOM HOUSE**

John Seeley, Esq., collector.  
J. D. Tornley, Esq., pro-collector.  
Matthew Davis, Esq., port sur-  
veyor.  
Massaw Foster, Esq., coast sur-  
veyor.  
Edward Browne, Esq., port sur-  
veyor of Rutland.

#### **STAMPS OFFICE**

Mr. John Scott, sub-distributor.

#### **LINEN MARKET**

Robert Caughran, Esq., inspector.  
Mr. Stewart, stamper.



## **OUR COVER DESIGN**

The County Donegal Historical Society offered a prize of 3 guineas for a cover design for The Annual. The prize-winning design is the work of Miss Mary Rose MacDonald, 23-years-old student of the Cork School of Art.

# THE YEARS IN RETROSPECT

## Features of 1951.

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### JANUARY

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The fight against T.B. was brought a step further by the opening of the new sanatorium at Killybegs in the reconstructed former industrial school.

The county learned, through reports from a County Council meeting, that to put the roads in a proper state of repair the staggering sum of £3 million would be required.

Ballintra motorists were successful in their years-old struggle to have a petrol pump installed in the village. Their success heartened other small centres in the county to persevere in similar agitations.

Business circles in the county experienced much difficulty during the bank strike which lasted six weeks.

The month was notable for a revival of interest in amateur theatricals. Pantomimes were held, by local groups, at Ballyshannon, Bundoran, Letterkenny and Mountcharles. An all-Irish drama festival was held at three centres, Carrick, Kilcar, and Glencolumbkille.

Very Rev. D. Canon McGrath, for twenty-three years parish priest of Bundoran and a native of Grouselodge, Pettigo, died. The death also occurred this month of another well-known figure in the county, Dr. J. Gormley, Stranorlar.

### FEBRUARY

---

Fuel was an outstanding problem facing the country and, answering the Government appeal to cut turf to offset coal import cuts Donegal County Council launched an intensive turf cutting drive.

Bundoran found itself in the unusual position of being without a post office for a few days during a change over of premises.

"My Story" by Paddy the Co-ope, it was announced, is to be published in Germany.

Very Rev. P. McQuaide, formerly parish priest of Brookborough, was appointed to succeed the late Very Rev. Canon McGrath.

At a meeting of Donegal County Council a rate of 30/- in the £ was struck, an increase of 2/3 over the previous year.

In his Lenten Pastoral, Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe, said the announcement by the Holy Father, extending the Holy year with its rich spiritual benefits to the Catholic world was a very important event and one which would bring tidings of joy and consolation to innumerable souls.

In his report to the annual meeting of the Lough Swilly railway company, the chairman, Sir Basil McFarland, hinted at the possibility of the 98-year-old company being involved in a merger at a later date.

Buncrana ratepayers heard with dismay that the total valuation of the town had jumped from £7,663 to £11,445 following a general revision.

## MARCH

---

Dunkineely was a centre for woodwork classes in the preceding months. The good work done was reflected in the successful exhibition held by the students this month, and it was felt that the area had strengthened its claim for the establishment of a Vocational School. The County Vocational Committee applied to the Department of Education for a grant towards the erection of new two and one roomed Vocational schools at Carrick, Gweedore, Gortahork, Glencolumbkille, Arranmore, Fanad and Glencar.

Ex-senator John McHugh, died at his home at Pettigo at an advanced age. He was a noted Nationalist and public figure in Irish political circles.

Fearing drastic changes arising out of the proposed agreement between the Dublin and Stormont Governments for the purchase of the Foyle Fisheries fishermen from Strabane, Lifford, Porthall, St. Johnston and Carrigans, decided to send a deputation to the Minister for Agriculture. Later in the month it was officially announced that there would be no change in existing conditions of fishing on the river Foyle.

Buncrana Urban District Council, deciding that over £13,000 was necessary to run the town for the year, deferred until the end of the month the striking of a rate in protest against the revised valuation. A public meeting in the town protested against the increases.

Another successful year was reported at the annual prize day of Raphoe Royal School.

Letterkenny Urban Council struck a rate of 35/- in the £. Bundoran's rate of 34/6 was an increase of 9d. on the previous year.

The Minister for Education, General Mulcahy, agreed to grant £2,500 towards the cost of building a summer Gaelic College at Rosguill.

The death took place of Rev. H. McDevitt, C.C., Arranmore.

## APRIL

---

Offices of the Vocational Education Committee Administrative staff were transferred to Letterkenny from Ballyshannon.

A Gaelic Athletic Association schools board was set up at Ballintra to cater for South Donegal.

Seven people were rendered homeless by a fire which destroyed four thatched cottages at Slate Row, Ballyshannon.

A Crucifix was placed in the County Council chamber for the first time.

The deaths took place of Mr. V. P. Duffy, well-known Donegal solicitor, and Mr. W. J. Doherty, M.R.I.A.I., Buncrana.

Mr. Andrew Gamble, who was in charge of the Ramelton fire-fighting unit, was severely injured when fighting one of the worst outbreaks in the town's history.

Damage running into thousands of pounds was caused when fire destroyed the hardware warehouse of Messrs. J. McColgan & Co., Buncrana.

Very Rev. P. McQuaid, P.P., was elected president and Mr. H. J. O'Kelly, chairman, of Bundoran Ratepayers' Association.

Buncrana Urban Council finally struck a rate of 26/4 in the £ based on the £11,445 valuation.

The Minister for lands, Mr. J. Blowick, initiated, near Barnesmore Gap, the biggest afforestation scheme yet undertaken in the county.

Damage estimated at between three and four thousand pounds was caused by fire at the stores owned by Messrs Timony, hardware merchants, Donegal town.

## MAY

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May brought the fever of election to Donegal where twelve candidates fought for the seven seats in the two constituencies. Prominent figures in the political world who visited the county included Mr. De Valera and General Mulcahy. Prior to the election Mr. S. McBride visited the County to deliver lectures.

Returned as deputies for the County were — West Donegal : Mr. Joseph Brennan and Mr. Cormac Breslin (Fianna Fail) and Mr. P. O'Donnell (Fine Gael). East Donegal : Mr. Neil Blaney, Mr. Liam Cunningham (Fianna Fail); Mr. D. McMenamin, B.L., (Fine Gael) and Mr. W. A. W. Sheldon (Independent). Among those defeated was Mr. Michael Og MacFadden who had represented West Donegal constituents for over quarter of a century.

Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused when a shirt factory at Ballybofey was completely destroyed by fire.

## JUNE

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The Rev. George G. Warrington, M.A., Rector, Rossinver, was instituted Rector of Finner Parish, Bundoran.

The Raphoe Diocesan Choir Festival was held at St. Anne's Church, Ballyshannon.

Under the auspices of the County Vocational Education Committee an experimental course in practical building, the second of its kind in the country, was instituted at Ballyshannon for young building trades apprentices. The students, selected by examination and interview, came from many parts of the county.

Right Rev. Monsignor James MacGinley, D.D., P.P., V.G., Ballyshannon, Dean of Raphoe, celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination.

Damage to the extent of £40,000 was caused in a fire which broke out in the Templecrone Co-operative Society premises at Dungloe.

A canning factory was established at Ballyshannon.

The Rev. Daniel Dargan, S.J., Assistant Central Director of the Pioneer Total Abstinence Society, addressed over two thousand members of the Society in Letterkenny, in the biggest Pioneer rally ever held in the county.

The appointment of Rev. P. J. McLaughlin, a native of Ballyshannon, as vice-President of Maynooth College, was announced.

Mr. J. Blake, P.C., was re-elected chairman of Letterkenny Urban Council ; Mr. J. McLaughlin was re-elected chairman of Buncrana Urban Council ; Mr. Joseph Doherty was elected chairman of Bundoran Urban Council and Mr. P. Gilfedder was elected chairman of Ballyshannon Town Commissioners.

The Lord Mayor of Pittsburg, U.S.A., visited Killybegs, the birthplace of his grandfather.

The deaths took place of Rev. P. Devlin, C.C., Malin, and Mr. O. McCormick, M.P.S.I., Milford.

## JULY

---

Deputy Cormac Breslin was elected Leas-Cheann Comhairle of Dail Eireann. At the annual meeting of the County Council, he was re-elected chairman.

Half a mile from Allingham Bridge, Ballyshannon, a new lake, 1,000 acres in extent, was created when the sluice gates at the Cathaleen's Falls dam, part of the almost completed Erne hydro electric scheme, were closed for the first time.

In the "Democrat" Cup competition, Gweedore G.A.A. team defeated Ardara in the final and regained the cup.

The death occurred of Mr. James O'Neill, Ballyshannon, former chief of the Vocational Education Committee, and one of the pioneers of vocational education in the county.

Feis Iar Dheischirt, Tir Chonaill, was held in the Teelin Gaeltacht.

An unusual event in the county sporting circles was the holding of a swimming gala. It was undertaken by the Erne Swimming Club, Ballyshannon, and Connacht championships were decided at it.

Donegal's inadequate telephone system was mentioned in Dail Eireann by Deputy P. O'Donnell.

Donegal G.A.A. minor team was defeated in the Ulster minor football final by Armagh.

Mr. F. J. O'Brien, Trim, County Meath, was appointed town clerk of Buncrana.

Officials of the County Committee of the Irish Red Cross handed over an ambulance, one of the most modern of its kind, to the Gweedore branch of the Society.

The death took place of Mr. Anton Gallagher, P.C., Termon, a former County Councillor.

Letterkenny and Milford bakery workers who had been on strike for six weeks resumed work.

Mr. Charles Sweeney, ex-N.T., was re-elected chairman of the County Committee of Agriculture.

The total number of pilgrims to St. Patrick's Purgatory, Lough Derg, was 32,554, an increase of 1,100 on last year's record figure.

## AUGUST

---

St. Brigid's College, Ranafast, was the scene of a distinguished gathering in August for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Comhaltas Uladh. Among those present was An Taoiseach.

Mr. Michael Og Mac Fadden, former deputy for West Donegal, was elected to the Senate.

During excavations on the Belleek road, Ballyshannon, workmen unearthed a number of skeletons at the point which, it was thought, was on the path leading down to the ford across the riev Erne. It is presumed that the remains were those of soldiers who fell in one of the numerous battles fought at the ford. The discovery was investigated by Mr. L. Emerson, headmaster, Ballyshannon Technical school, a member of the Historical Society.

Right Rev. Mgr. Joseph O'Doherty, D.D., who was elevated to the Bishopric of the newly established Diocese of Yakahama, is a son of Kilcar born parents.

Ballyshannon G.A.A. team defeated St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, to win the county senior football championship.

There were over 800 entries for Ardara agricultural show.

Ballybofey Fox Club decided to dissolve because it was felt that it was not being supported by the public.

A big drop in membership was reported at the annual meeting of the Donegal Historical Society.

Mr. J. Lynch, B.L., T.D., toured the County on a fact finding mission as a preliminary to formulating plans to help the Gaeltacht and the Western sea-board areas to greater economic stability.

## SEPTEMBER

---

The County Executive of the Irish Red Cross Society sent congratulations to the Letterkenny branch on the success of the latter's Red Cross Week.

The Raphoe Diocese celebrated the Golden Jubilee of St. Eunan's Cathedral and on the same occasion a new chapel was opened and dedicated at St. Eunan's College by His Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely, Bishop of Raphoe.

Mr. Michael O'Craighin, C.E.O., in the course of his annual report to the County Vocational Education Committee called for the expansion of rural science classes.

A T. B. research and x-ray unit toured the county.

St. Naills junior football team and Donegal juvenile football team won the county championship in their respective grades.

The County Council announced plans for the re-organisation of fire fighting services throughout the county and it was stated that with the purchase of new equipment the cost would be £26,000.

Mr. Tadg O'Mahony, town clerk, Letterkenny, was appointed town clerk, Arklow.

Mr. M. J. Phillips, district court clerk at Ballyshannon was appointed to a similar position at Clonmel.

Mr. Sean Lemass, Minister for Industry and Commerce, received a civic welcome when he visited Buncrana, where he spoke at a Aeridheacht to mark the celebration by the East Donegal Comhairle Ceanntair of the silver jubilee of Fianna Fail.

A carpet weighing over twelve hundred-weights, which took over five weeks to complete, was woven at the Killybegs carpet factory for Princess Elizabeth.

Damage estimated at £1,000 was caused by a fire which destroyed a two-storey slated house at Rathmullan.

The death took place at Dunfanaghy, when he was on a visit, of Mr. M. J. McManus, the noted author.

## OCTOBER

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Mr. G. Bartley, T.D., Parliamentary Secretary, announced, during his visit to Killybegs, that it was planned to erect a fish meal factory there.

Much inconvenience in East, South and South West Donegal was occasioned by the lengthy strike which halted the G.N.R. bus service for six weeks.

At a meeting of Killybegs Harbour Board it was decided to make an effort to step up the volume of shipping traffic using the port. It was pointed out that imports of such commodities as tar for road making could be imported via the port.

The County Committee of Agriculture announced at the monthly meeting that the three candidates from the county who sat for the

scholarship examination to the Albert Agricultural College, had failed.

Plans and specifications for Donegal town's new technical schools were approved by the Department of Education and the County Vocational Education Committee advertised for tenders.

Rev. C. H. O'Callaghan, C.C., St. Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny, was appointed to the Chair of Church Chant and Organ, in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Letterkenny F.C.A. unit was third in the Western Command Platoon competition for the Custume Cup.

That Ballyshannon's rates were five times the 1915 figure, was stated by a solicitor in a case at Ballyshannon Civil Court.

A new housing scheme at Ardonnell, Letterkenny, was blessed and opened by his Lordship, Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely.

The Minister for Local Government, Mr. P. Smith, formally opened the new 28 house scheme at Finian's Park, Moville.

Right Rev. Mgr. McShane, D.D., P.P., V.G., Buncrana, presided at Dunree Fort at the Solemn Invocation of Our Lady, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, as patroness of the Defence Forces.

The death took place of Mr. J. H. Steadman, former Donegal county surveyor.

## NOVEMBER

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Captain W. Ramage, Ballyshannon, well-known South Donegal solicitor, died after a short illness, in Enniskillen hospital.

The Irish Tourist Board announced acceptance of the £4,500 offer made by Bundoran Urban District Council for the purchase of the amusement park, swimming pool and other property owned by the Board in Bundoran.

At Ardara, a development association was formed and plans were made to attract tourists in greater numbers. It was also agreed to try to re-start the weekly market in the town.

Donegal Town G.A.A. football team won the St. Connell Cup, defeating Glenties in the final.

The Stranorlar and Ballybofey branch of the National Ex-Servicemen's Association was wound up.

Very Rev. John Canon McCafferty, P.P., V.F., Stranorlar, Chancellor of the Raphoe Diocese, died on Sunday morning, 11th November. He was National President of the A.O.H. and played a prominent part in having Donegal excluded when an attempt was being made to bring it within the jurisdiction of the Stormont Government. He was succeeded as parish priest by Rev T. W. Gallagher, formerly Administrator in the parish.

At St. Peter's Church, Bradford, a memorial was erected to the memory of the late Father Charles Daly, parish priest of that parish and a native of Kildoney, Ballyshannon.

Cathaleen's Falls power station, Ballyshannon, part of the Erne hydro electric scheme, went into production for the first time when

the first of the two 22,500 k.w. generators supplied current to the national network during peak hours.

That the Foyle Fisheries would be purchased jointly by the Six Counties and Irish Governments from the Irish Society for the sum of £100,000, and would be administered by a joint commission in which both sides would have equal representation, was stated by Mr. Bartley, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Agriculture, when he addressed a meeting of fishermen at St. Johnston.

The captain and a member of the crew of a tanker lost their lives in a drowning accident at Buncrana Pier.

Donegal Vocational Education Committee struck a rate of 8d. in the £, an increase of a penny on the previous year.

The death took place of Rev. D. Doherty, C.C., Carrigart.

## DECEMBER

---

Donegal branches of the Irish Red Cross Society were active in the collection of money and clothing for the victims of the Italian floods.

In the Dail, Deputy Breslin raised the question of the disposal of herrings landed by West Donegal fishermen. The Minister for Agriculture in his answer stated that Irish Sea Fisheries were making arrangements for the marketing of as many as possible of the fish landed, and planned to purchase the surplus for kippering, curing and cold storage.

The death occurred in Dublin of Mother Benedict O'Donnell, of the Loreto Order, sister of the late Cardinal O'Donnell, former bishop of Raphoe.

News was received from America that the widow of a Killybegs man who had been accidentally killed in a shooting affair, had been awarded 140,000 dollars, the biggest such award ever made in New York State, it is believed.

The Ulster Council of the G.A.A. voted grants of £200 each towards the cost of the Sean MacCumhaill Park, Ballybofey, and the new park, Ballyshannon.

Rev. D. Furey, Ph.D., for over 12 years principal of the Mac Devitt Institute, Glenties, was appointed Administrator at St. Eugene's Cathedral, Letterkenny, and was succeeded, as principal of the Institute, by Rev. J. McLaughlin, B.A., of the teaching staff, St. Eunan's College.

Among the deaths of prominent people which occurred this month were those of Mr. J. Ward, editor of the "Donegal Vindicator", a native of Derry, and Mr. J. White, The Mall, Ballyshannon, who had extensive business interests in South Donegal.

The year had a stormy exit with gales lashing the coast and hail and rain showers sweeping over the countryside. At Killybegs, three boats valued £20,000 were torn from their moorings and sank in the harbour.

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# THE CITY OF LONDONDERRY

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Owing to its long history and its geographical position the city of Londonderry has a distinctive and attractive life of its own.

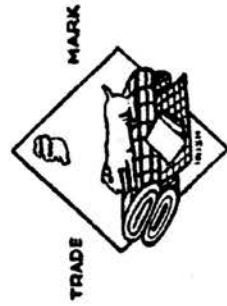
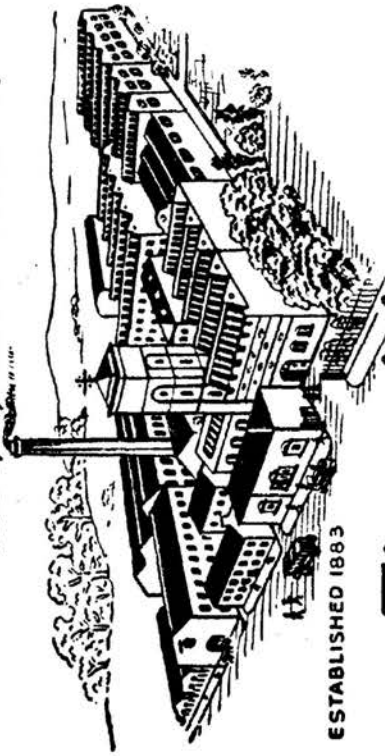
It was born over fourteen hundred years ago, when St. Columba founded a monastery in the oak grove, on the hill where later the walled city was to stand. It began, therefore, as an ecclesiastical community, surviving for centuries frequent burnings by plundering Northmen and native armies. Then in the sixteenth century, when Ireland became involved in European wars and politics, the position of Derry at the mouth of one of the great rivers leading directly into the heart of Ulster led to its fortification as a garrison town, important strategically. So it became a walled city, numbering two sieges in its long and laden story, and the second of these makes one of the greatest chapters of history.

To anyone interested in olden times Derry has a constant fascination. Its ancient walls still stand and everywhere the present meets the past. There are quaint glimpses in unexpected places of stately georgian doorways and windows. Old muzzle-loading cannon look down on a modern warship at the quay side where descendants of Columba's gulls are still crying and calling. Yet it has its own modern life, its clashes of standards and culture, its own interesting economic and social problems.

One of its greatest attractions is, perhaps, the ease with which one can exchange the country for the city. To the West are the hills of Donegal ; down the broad lough to the East the headland of Benevenagh stands out against the sky ; while to the South-East rise the rounded peaks of the Sperrin mountains.

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