

The
DONEGAL
ANNUAL



*Incorporating the Journal of the
County Donegal Historical Society*

Vol. 2.

No. 2.

4/-

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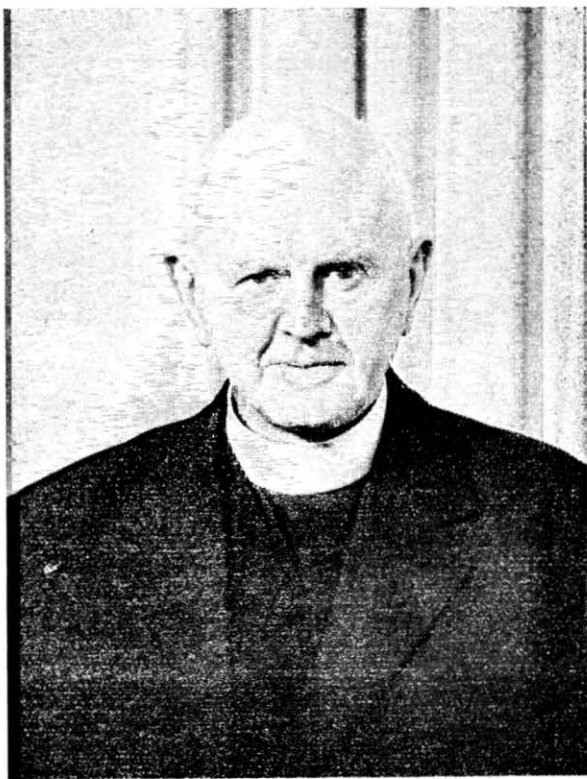
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THE DONEGAL ANNUAL.

The County Donegal Historical Society.

IRIS CUMANN SEANCAIS DUN NA nGALL

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



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beannaíct an pobail

Nuair a t'fhillígeamar do'n éadó-uair, an t-am seo anupair, "Uiam-Ihup, Tíh Conaill," bíom-ar i páinn mairip leir an t-éad—cuir agallan ar n-óige, a t-éadan go mb'féadp ann níl ba shonta a t-ábairt tu. Ac t'éiríe t-ar cionn leir an éadó umhup den'a "Uiam-Ihup, com mair na go n-éadair leasáó éubair na h-abairt ar ár t-éiríear ar fad. Uí pí ar éadan de na foill-reasáin ba mó a t-éiríe leir an pobal. Tuill pí ára mólaó ó na t-éiríearaí nup na nuaéatán t-éiríearaí, nup na páirpí dicitíla, agus i ponnit mair t-éiríearaí eile com mair.

Táimre anoir ag tairgint do'n pobal, umhup a tó de'n "Uiam-Ihup." Tá reasáó n-éiríear

t-éiríearaí agallan t-éiríearaí ar áran beatac de'n éiríearaí ára a t-éiríearaí anupair. Obaí éiríearaí i t-éiríearaí t-éiríearaí de'n éiríearaí, ar n-óige. Mop mairíearaí cummearaí go n-éiríearaí an obair seo ar fad i n-éiríearaí. Ac eiríearaí reasáó é tó t-éiríearaí na "Uiam-Ihup" an t-éiríearaí a eiríearaí an pobal i t-éiríearaí a reasáó. Ir t-éiríearaí, map t-éiríearaí reasáó mair éiríearaí t-éiríearaí, nup an pobal a mairíearaí i t-éiríearaí reasáó ar t-éiríearaí reasáó.

Táimre fá mairíearaí ag na t-éiríearaí a t-éiríearaí an obair seo eiríearaí t-éiríearaí. Ir t-éiríearaí an t-éiríearaí a reasáó ponn an "Uiam-Ihup" anupair, go n-éiríearaí an pobal le t-éiríearaí agus le t-éiríearaí cummearaí reasáó Tíh Conaill.

The Story Of Doe Castle

BY J. C. T. McDONAGH

IN 1915 members of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ireland visited County Donegal and one of them, an expert in architectural history, gave the following as his considered opinion of the buildings and fortifications called Doe Castle (1),

"Though converted into a modern residence it still has the main characteristics of a sixteenth century fortress . . . a central tower (fifty five feet high) with battlements, enclosure and bawn. The principal entrance was on the land side by a bridge across the ditch but there were approaches from the sea also. Below the original bridge, which is to the right of the later entrance, is a masked outlet, now filled with stones, which opened into the ditch. The central tower is enclosed on three sides by modern structures which in part are built on the walls of an inner rampart, such as the French style *chemise*, at a short distance from the base of the tower and flanked by circular bastions. The interior of the tower has been much altered. The lower storey is not now vaulted and it cannot now be seen whether it was so originally or not. There is no sign of a vault at the summit of

the tower. The original entrance to this tower was on the ground floor and a straight stair in the thickness of the wall, to the right of the door, gave access to the upper rooms and finally becoming a circular stair, in one angle of the tower, ascended to the battlements. The parapets of the tower and the enclosing wall were loopholed for musketry and were arranged in pairs as at Carrickogunnell, so that the same gunner could fire in two different directions".

A local antiquary, Harkin, in his "*Scenery and Antiquities of North West Donegal*" (2) placed on record a Doe tradition, dating into the eighteenth century, which told that the castle was built by Nachtan O'Donnell, for one of his many sons; thereby associating it with the erection of similar structures at Burt, Inch and Ramelton. This tradition also related that the Mac Sweeneys were given Doe Castle when peace was made between Owen O'Neill, Prince of Tyrone, and Nachtan O'Donnell, Prince of Tirconnell. Mac Parland in his **Statistical Account of County Doregal**, gave another tradition which also dated back into the eighteenth century . . . "Doe castle . . . situated at Cannon's

Point . . . was built by a lady named Quinn who afterwards married one of the Mac Swine family a couple of years before the reign of Queen Elizabeth (3) . . . it was since fortified by the grandfather of the present Mr. Mac Sweeney of Dunfanaghy" (4).

Our first historical reference to Doe Castle is in the year 1544 and is the sequel to the capture of its chieftain, at Rutland Island, by a fleet belonging to the O'Malleys (5). Mac Sweeney Doe died in captivity, in Connacht, the following year and when the news of his death reached Tirconail, Doe Castle became the fratricidal cockpit of the dead chieftains sons. One of them was killed with a number of his followers and another, Eoghan Og I succeeded to the title. He managed to survive the vengeance of his brother's family and friends until, some nine years later, they cornered him and slew him at Cloghan-eely. The lordship of Doe remained in his family as his son, later known as Murrough (6) was elected chief. This chieftain of Doe Castle is well documented in the Annals and vividly remembered in tradition. He was slain at Dunnyalong by some of the Mac Donnell's and was succeeded in the chieftaincy by his brother Eoghan Og II.

Eoghan Og II. was the Mac-Sweeney Doe who gave hope and sanctuary to some of the many unfortunate sailors who escaped from the Spanish Armada ships lost along the coasts of County Donegal. He was chosen by Inghean Dubh as one

of the fosterfathers (7) for her son, Red Hugh (O'Donnell), and as a patron of the Bards, his hospitality is still enshrined in the works of Eochaid O hEoghusa and Tadg dall O Uiginn, two great masters of that great period. (8)

This great chieftain of Doe Castle was cordially hated by the Queen's deputies in Dublin on account of his befriending the Spaniards and was marked for punishment akin to that administered to O'Rourke for a similar crime. O'Rourke was driven from Breifny and the English commanders made an abortive attempt to do likewise with Mac Sweeney Doe; but having failed to cross the River Swilly they quickly withdrew from Tirconail (9). The hunted O'Rourke spent a full year as MacSweeney's guest in Doe Castle and from there went to Scotland "in the hope of obtaining protection or assistance" a fatal venture which ended with his execution at Tyburn (10).

Eoghan Og II. MacSweeney Doe was one of the comparatively few Tirconail chieftains who attended Red Hugh when that young man was inaugurated Lord of the Cinel Conail at Kilmacrenan in 1592. The **Four Masters** were well pleased with him and in their recording of his obituary notice, 1596, described him as "an influential and generous man puissant to sustain, brave to attack . . . with the gift of good sense and counsel, in peace and war" They also record that from the day that this Mac Sweeney assumed the lordship

of Doe his country was free from reproach or censure (11). He died on January 26th., 1596, and his brother's son, i.e. Mulmurry, son of Morrogh Mall, took his place.

Mulmurry Mac Sweeney Doe, better known in history and tradition as Sir Miles Mac Swine, has been described by a contemporary as a man "in fidelity long inferior to his predecessor" (12) and Father Paul Walsh (13) described him as "a man of unsavoury character, though he was no worse than many of his contemporaries". He is spoken of in tradition as "Maelmurra Batta Bwee or Miles of the Yellow staff . . . a baton with which he could conjure up the 'black magician' ". Another tradition tells that Miles, called Mac Sweeney of the Staff, used to try his refractory vassals in the great hall of Doe Castle (sic). Any of the condemned whom he wished to **honour**, he forthwith brained with his club; the others if unworthy of his hand he transferred to the tender mercies of the serf tribe of 'the Ferries', who acted as Jack Ketches for him; and these offenders were forthwith **hung in gads** from the parapets of the castle. 'A false Ferry' was as proverbial in Donegal as 'a false Furlong' in Wexford". (14)

When we consider the efforts made by Red Hugh O'Donnell to re-introduce the rule of law into Tirconail and his many successes in this sphere we have one aspect of his life which raises him, in our opinion, far above his subordinate chieftans.

With this in view it is easy for us to appreciate that within two years of his inauguration the tyrant of Doe Castle was lucky enough to have escaped with his life from Tirconail with only the loss of sixteen of his henchmen on O'Donnell's gallows or at the hands of O'Donnell's bailiffs. His English friends were led to believe that the banishment was not due to his lawlessness and cruelty but rather that his defection was due to "jealousy that he conceived unto O'Donnell for his wife" (15). If a fictitious **amour** was the reputed cause of his break with O'Donnell a **lewd woman** undoubtedly assisted him to return to Tirconail when we find him supplicating O'Donnell's mercy and the restoration of his estates (16). In doing so Miles, now Sir Miles Mac Sweeney, abandoned a comfortable pension of six shillings per day from the Crown, not to mention a royal patent under which Doe Castle and its lands were granted to him in knight's fee. O'Donnell in his justice, to the repentant knight, allowed him to share the Doe estates with Eoghan og III Mac Sweeney i.e., O'Donnell's own foster brother.

This sharing with his cousin weakened Eoghan Mac Sweeney's loyalty and by the end of the year 1600, the Irish hero of the battle of the Curliews was an English ally holding Doe castle as a Queen's Irishman. A few months later Doe Castle and Eoghan og III Mac Sweeney were being besieged by his foster brother's forces under Rory O'Donnell and Sir Miles Mac

Sweeney. This seige was only abandoned when 1,000 men under Sir Niall Garbh O'Donnell and the English captains from Lifford were within a short distance of the castle. On their arrival Eoghan Mac Sweeney took the oath of allegiance to the Queen and in return was given a larger garrison and a promise of an English grant of Doe castle and lands on the same terms as those granted to Sir Miles.

In July 1601 Red Hugh descended upon Doe in one of his lightening raids and he forced his foster brother to line up with him again. His loyalty to O'Donnell was however dead and thenceforth whenever a Mac Sweeney Doe is mentioned, as one of O'Donnell's field officers, we can take it that Sir Miles Mac Sweeney was the person concerned. In fact he was the only Mac Sweeney of note who accompanied Red Hugh O'Donnell in his famous march to Kinsale in November 1601 (17).

During all these months Eoghan og 111 was the *de facto* Lord of Doe Castle and in March 1602, he again submitted to Sir Henry Dowcra, who left him in possession of the castle. In Dowcra he had a very staunch friend and this friendship was all the more strengthened by Dowcra's distain for Sir Miles, then a hunted man "on his keeping" in the Rosses. Dowcra's friendship with Eoghan was not misplaced for when in the early part of 1603 Sir Niall Garbh O'Donnell rashly gratified his vanity on the inauguration stone at Kilmacrennan, and sought to raise the standard of revolt from Doe Castle, Eoghan

Og, at once delivered it to Dowcra "requesting he might have it back again when the garrison I should put in be withdrawn, which I gave my word he should" (18). This promise, Dowcra, a very honourable Englishman was unable to fulfil for when the O'Donnells (19) returned from London, some months later, Rory O'Donnell was Earl of Tirconail and carried home, amongst others, a royal warrant giving him the custody of Doe Castle, which Dowcra tells us, "because of my promise I opposed against as much as I could, but with lost labour" (20).

Eoghan og Mac Sweeney Doe was executed at Lifford following a sessions held there in 1605 and even in the absence of any details of his crime it would be safe to assume that Doe castle figured prominently in his inditement (21). The following year Mac Sweeney's young brother, Niall Mac Sweeney, and Caffer og O'Donnell, "near kinsmen of the Earl of Tirconail and Sir Niall O'Donnell" seized Doe castle and drove out the Earl's warder and men (22). Their excuse was that Earl Rory had wronged them and as he was absent in England the Lord Deputy ordered Sir Richard Hansard of Lifford to call on these young men to come forward peaceably and to state their grievances (23). They did not respond to the challenge and when the Earl returned home, a short time later, he, as Lord Lieutenant of County Donegal, was compelled by, his office, to proclaim martial law and to muster forces for the suppression of his kinsmen.

In March, 1607, Doe Castle was again under siege by Rory O'Donnell and during the fighting which took place the Earl's principal ally, Sir Niall Garb O'Donnell, was so seriously wounded that he was not expected to recover from his wounds. When eventually the defenders capitulated it was found that the principal rebels had escaped to the woods of Kilmacrenan and the besiegers had to content themselves by hanging, on the spot, some three or four of the unfortunate garrison. Soon afterwards the promoters having come in and submitted to the King's mercy their lives were spared because "if these young men can be satisfied with a reasonable portion of land they may be preserved to good purpose to sway the greatness of others in these parts" (24). These grave words were written by Chichester, one of the architects of the Plantation of Ulster, and the master mind which engineered the Flight of the Earls. Doe Castle was one of the pawns in his game and although it was part of Earl Rory's possessions he ignored the Earl's title to it and nominated as its garrison a company of soldiers from Hansard's men in Lifford. He then immediately set about to indemnify his illegal act by recommending that Doe Castle be reserved for His Majesty's hands "being of great strength and standing in a dangerous place where it had hitherto been a great annoyance to the quiet settlement of these parts" (25). To which the Lords in Council, in London, at once replied, that they approved

Chichester's action and thus fortified, he compelled the Earl of Tironail to allow Captain Basil Brooke to dwell in Doe Castle and to pass him a lease of four quarters of the best land around it; at terms very much to Brooke's advantage (26). Brooke, however, had his eye on much more valuable and less contentious property and he merely used Doe Castle as his first foothold in Ireland (27). A few months later his lease was nullified by the Flight of the Earls and Doe Castle and its lands was again in the King's hands.

During Sir Cahir O'Doherty's rebellion Doe Castle fell into the hands of his allies some time in the month of April, 1608. It would appear that its garrison, then consisted of six warders placed there by Captain Henry Vaughan (28) and that these were betrayed by the Castle's cowherd "who was brought by a friar to give the alarm that seven or eight wolves were among the cattle; by which device they were drawn, all save one, slain and the castle taken" (29). Soon after O'Doherty's defeat and death near Kilmacrennan, Doe Castle was besieged by a mixed Anglo Irish force which included Sir Niall Garbh O'Donnell and Sir Miles Mac Sweeney. This expedition finished its mopping up operations with the massacre of the Irish garrison on Tory Island (30). One account of this siege tells that Doe Castle only yielded after a demi-cannon fired one hundred balls into it (31). Repairs were quickly carried out and its garrison strengthened; first under Captain Ellinge and

later under Captain Sir Richard Bingley. On the 19th May, 1611, Bingley was granted 500 acres of the lands of Doe at a rent of £4 per annum, subject to the usual conditions of the Plantation and also with a special clause under which Bingley was bound "to maintain and sustain the castle of Castledoe, situated on his lands, which is, nevertheless, excepted out of this grant" (32). Three years later, 1614, the castle and curtilage of Castledoe was granted to Sir John Days, Attorney General for Ireland, and on the 31st December of that same year he sold it to Captain John Sandford and Anne, his wife, niece of Sir Toby Caulfield. Sandford soon followed this initial purchase by buying up and leasing large tracts of land in the surrounding parishes, including those held by Sir Richard Bingley (33) and his brother Sir Ralph Bingley.

By 1619 Sandford and his family were well settled into Doe Castle and Pynar in that year noted that the Sandford home had "a bawne of lime and stone 40 feet square and 16 feet high and a castle within it that is very strong" (34). Sandford's wife died in the year 1629 and the tombstone erected to her memory is now preserved by being set in the wall surrounding the nearby graveyard of Ballymacsweeney. Sandford, himself died a year or so after her (35) leaving one son and five daughters. This son, Toby Sandford, died on the 7th May, 1639 (36) leaving his five sisters as his co-heiresses. Their names were, Joan, Anne, Lettice, Maria and

Maudlin (Magdalen). One of these ladies was wedded to an Irish Papist, one Mulrooney O'Carroll, who is given as their representative in the Civil Survey of 1656, and as such escaped the Cromwellian forfeitures. In 1643 O'Carroll, who described himself as "late of Castledoe," claimed that he had had goods to the value of £1,500, in County Donegal, and in the King's County, destroyed by rebellious Irish. For his Donegal losses he blames, amongst others, the O'Donnells of Ramelton, the O'Boyles of Kiltorish, and the MacSweeneys of Doe and Fanad. His deposition, like the few other Donegal documents of a similar nature, shows that Doe Castle was held for the Confederate Irish by "Captain Donnell Mac Niall Mac Sweeney, Gentleman;" not what one would expect; for Colonel Miles Mac Sweeney, "chief rebel" in the North-West, is described in all these depositions (37) as of Muintermellan, i.e., part of the lands granted to his grandfather, Sir Miles MacSweeney.

It would appear that Doe Castle fell into Irish hands shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in 1641 and remained in their hands for the next nine years. Its most colourful association with those years was on the morning of the 6th July, 1642, when the frigate Saint Francis, bound from Dunkirk, sailed into Sheephaven Bay and came to anchor in the deep water off Cannon's Point. This 30 gun man 'o war had safely eluded units of the Royal Navy sent out to intercept her and she had on board Gener-

al Owen Roe O'Neill and 100 Irish veterans from the Spanish armies. On disembarking at the boatslip of Doe Castle they were greeted by Sir Phelim O'Neill and many of the Northern Irish leaders; and, after a short stay in the castle, they set out on that dangerous route to Charlemont where Owen Roe took over command of the Irish army in Ulster.

During those eventful years Doe Castle was more often than not an isolated outpost of the Ulster Irish forces as the country between Ramelton and Raphoe was, from November, 1641, securely held and defended by the Ulster Scottish regiments of Sir William and Sir Robert Stewart, while the Royalist Gores and folliots of Donegal and Ballyshannon held, steadfastly, their grip on the Barony of Tirhugh. From time to time flying columns, particularly those from the Stewart regiments, swept fire and sword throughout the rest of the county and on more than one occasion swept past Doe Castle, through Mevagh, down into the Rosses; leaving West Donegal fit for neither man nor beast (38). On other occasions they swept past Sheephaven in galleys from the ports of Rathmullen, Ramelton and Derry (39), and in February, 1650, Doe Castle became the target for one of these amphibious raids. It was a complete success for the garrison was taken by surprise by a force belonging to Sir Charles Coote, the Parliamentary governor of Derry (40).

Some historians attribute the annihilation of the Royalist Irish

Army at Scariffholis, in June, 1650, to the fact that its commander, Bishop Heber MacMahon, weakened his forces by allowing Colonel Miles MacSweeney, sometime before the battle, to detach some of the Donegal regiments from his army for the purpose of retrieving Doe Castle, i.e., "the gratification of the whim of MacSweeney family honour" (41). A study of State papers and other contemporary documents relating to MacSweeney shows that as early as 1648 four of the Donegal Colonels, including MacSweeney, were prepared to break with Owen Roe O'Neill if "put in a way to get and enjoy, like knights and squires, estates in the county of Donegal" (42). In 1661 Charles II directed his Lord Justices that justice be done to MacSweeney because amongst other things he, to use MacSweeney's own words "made efforts to desert Owen O'Neill's party in 1648." (42a). These claims about, breaks with, and desertions from, Owen Roe's army, have led us to suspect that the absence of "1,300 or 1,400" (43) Donegal men from Scariffholis was brought about by much more sinister motives than the recapture of Doe Castle. These suspicions were all the more justified when in 1652/3, the years of mass executions of Irish officers, we found Venables, whose regiments administered at Scariffholis the *coup de grace* to the remnants of Owen Roe's army, actively employed in suppressing a charge of murder against MacSweeney (44). It also seemed strange to us that Doc

Castle, when captured by the Irish in 1641, was not taken over by Colonel Miles MacSweeney in accord "with family vanity", but by Captain Donnell mac Niall MacSweeney, grandson of Eoghan Og 11 MacSweeney Doe.

During the years 1616/7 a gentleman named Michael Harrison laid claim to Doe Castle, and strange to relate, the Crown Rentals, of 1707, record that he was the assignee of Captain John Sandford (45). This record shows something in the nature of a lacuna, in the devolution of the title to the Castle as it ignores Toby Sandford, his sisters, and Mulrooney O'Carroll. A State Paper, from Westminster, dated 18th August, 1646 requested consideration by the Committee Resident in Munster of a petition, from Quarter Master Harrison, for arms and ammunition for 30 warders, and to be allowed to take possession of Doe Castle "in the North of Ireland." Some months later a Parliamentary Commissioner at Belfast apparently recommended the implementation of Harrison's petition, not to Westminster, but to the Committee at Derby. "May it please Your Lordships, we think it reasonable that Quarter Master Harrison be restored to his own house and furnished with ammunition, he finding the men for the present." (46).

Harrison had however to wait quite a number of years before his claim to Doe Castle materialised. There is no reference to him in the Civil Survey of 1656 which recognised Mulrooney O'Carroll as the representative

of the Sandford Heiresses. On the other hand O'Carroll and the Sandfords are not mentioned in the 1659 Census which sets Harrison down as the Titulado (or resident claimant) to "Mogora" in the parish of Ray, and to add to this enigma he is tabulated as the only non-Irish person in that townland. Neither, Harrison, O'Carroll nor the Sandfords, figure in the Hearthmoney Rolls of 1658 for the district around Doe. The Ormond Mss. and State Papers of the Restoration period however show that Harrison was then a collector of Customs and Excise in North-East Ulster and that he had claimed the restoration of his estates in virtue of being one of the "49 officers" who remained loyal to the King. The reference to him in the Crown Rentals of 1707 confirms his ultimate success in this claim (47).

There is every indication that Doe Castle was returned very reluctantly to private ownership on account of its suitability as a fortress and military depot for the North West. In addition to record we have a very substantial tradition which deals with an officer of the garrison during the years following its recapture by Coote's forces from Derry, in February 1650. This tradition tells that the constable of the castle was then one captain (Robert) Cunningham and that he was slain near Ards by two men from the Rosses (48) in revenge for Cunningham's part in a massacre of women and children. This, of course, is a bare outline of the traditional account, involving of a number of

incidents, recorded by Archdeacon Kerr in this Journal (Vol. 1 No. 1 pp 9/10. An objective study of contemporary documents disclosed that Cunningham was a company commander in Sir William Stewart's regiment (which began the war, as King's liegemen and ended it as Cromwell's henchmen) and that in November, 1641, his company, in galleys, raided islands in the Rosses and slew 83 women and children; for which act he was commonly "called the killer of old women" (49). His act was, unfortunately, not an isolated incident and we have raked the embers of this barbarous war in Ireland to point out that *nemesis* overtook Cunningham (or Connyngnam as he is called in tradition) some nine years after his dreadful act.

The Cromwellian Census of 1659 shows that the townland on which Doe Castle stood ranked in the Barony of Kilmairen, next to Letterkenny in the number of English and Scottish persons domiciled there. This relatively high number, 45 English and Scottish residents as against 11 Irish persons was largely made up of the warders, garrison and their families. No Titulado is registered against the castle and the Hearth Money Rolls of a few years later (1665) also reveal that the Government exempted it from Hearth tax on account of its being commandeered as a military depot (50). This assumption is confirmed by a return furnished in the year, 1664, by Captain Webb, a famous military engineer, in which it is shown that

the Government had spent £100 (a relatively large sum for those days) in repairing and strengthening the Castle and its defences.

The Government felt justified in this expenditure for their spies in Donegal so alarmed the Lord Lieutenant that he believed that a Tory War was about to break out in the County. This belief was based on a memorandum presented to him (51) deposing that the brothers and son of Colonel Miles Mac Sweeney and others of their friends, were so truculent and contemptuous of the laws that no peace officer would dare proceed against them. For this they were listed as "suspected of being Tories" and the Lord Lieutenant ordered a company of Foot, stationed at Raphoe, to proceed at once to Doe Castle with special instructions that they "be careful in their duties and watchful in the security of the place" (52). Some months later the master of Ordnance was ordered to supply the Castle with barrels of powder and "with ball and match proportionate".

In the year 1666 the garrison of Doe Castle petitioned "to settle down with their families and plant". This petition was granted and the men were discharged but not before their young commander, Captain Claud Hamilton, had replaced them with a corresponding number of new recruits, drawn from the regimental muster. A month or so afterwards Captain Hamilton was ordered to withdraw his troops from Doe Castle and

to bring them to Carrickfergus. Then for nearly twenty years the fortress of Doe was ignored until the years 1684/5 when a battalion of Lord Mountjoy's regiment had quarters there (53). The officers stationed there were Major Gustavus Hamilton, Captain John Hamilton and Ensign Thomas Pigott.

Early in the Revolutionary War Doe Castle was held by a Williamite named Matthew Babbington (54) who was outlawed by the Jacobite Parliament of 1689 and who withdrew with his family and supporters to Derry when the army of James II came northward. After Babbington's withdrawal Donogh Og, son of Colonel Miles MacSweeney, took over the castle and "offered his services to James II. He promised to raise a regiment amongst his followers if granted a commission. It was refused him, if you please, because he could not speak the **Bearla**. 'Methought,' says MacSweeney 'that this war is being waged to drive the **Bearla** and all that it stands for out of Ireland.' Nevertheless, he joined the forces of James, fought at the Boyne and Aughrim and went with Sarsfield to France to where he rose to a high rank in that nation."

"MacSweeney was the best swordsman in the France of his day. He is said to have fought no fewer than in 35 duels and was victorious in every one of them. His custom was to engage his opponent's rush in a favourable moment and seize the blade of his enemy's sword in his right hand, while with his own sword held in his left hand he ran his

enemy through the body. Such was the grip in MacSweeney's hand that, once he caught his enemy's swordblade, his enemy could do nothing."

"When engaged in his thirty-fifth duel he rushed in as usual, seized his opponent's blade and dispatched him."

"Little will it gain you to win this victory," says his dying enemy, "for the sword you seized was poisoned."

"And within three hours the brave Mac Sweeney was dead" (55).

This tradition is substantiated by the Williamite Outlawry Lists of 1691, which has "Donogh Og. Mac Sweeney of Castledoe, Armigero" as the third important Jacobite in County Donegal. (56). The MacSweeney Doe pedigree recorded in O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters shows that this Jacobite nobleman was the grandfather of the itinerant Dunfanaghy tinsmith, Eamon Mac Swyne, whom John O'Donovan met in a fisherman's cabin at Downings in the year, 1835 (57). The tinker was, I believe, in turn, the grandfather of the famous piper, Torlogh Mac Sweeney.

The history of Doe Castle, as a fortress, faded out with the seventeenth century. It shared the fate of most of our Irish castles for the Williamite War showed how untenable they were in the face of powerful armament and the long peace which followed the war drove the occupants into the comfortable big houses which became the fashionable type of dwelling in the eighteenth century. By the middle of that

century Bishop Pococke wrote of Doe Castle as a curiosity observed while on his way to the and comfortable homes of Wray of Ards and Stewart of Horn Head. By the year 1786 guide books, such as **The Post Chaise Companion** described it as "a magnificent ruin." It was, however, destined to obtain a new lease of life.

Some eighty years ago Lord Leitrim and the then owner of Doe Castle took their dispute over the Lackagh Fishery to the House of Lords and the Law Lords commented on the fact that neither party could or did produce any documentary evidence of title derived from the grants made by James I to the Bingleys and other grantees or their assignees, Captain John Sandford and his family. Apart from these early seventeenth century parchments the earliest document of title which Stewart of Ards could produce was a copy of a Chancery Decree of 1759 which showed that Doe Castle and lands were, in the opening decades of the eighteenth century, the property of one Francis Harrison, a partner in the private bank of Harrison and Burton, Dublin. Information kindly supplied by the Chief Herald for Ireland now reveals that the banker was the grandson of Quarter Master Michael Harrison, who claimed Doe Castle as his home, in 1649, and that Michael Harrison's wife was the daughter of Captain Theophilus Sandford, ancestor of the Lords Mountsandford of County Roscommon. The Civil Survey, as we now know,

showed that Mulrooney (O) Carroll, an Irish Papist, was recognised as the legal representative of the daughters of Captain John Sandford of Doe Castle some ten years after Harrison first laid to Doe, a fact which rather tends to lead us to believe that the Quarter Master was, like his father-in-law, a "claim jumper" (Ormond Mss. new series R.H.C.) whose only legal title became based on "being long in possession". The void in documentary evidences of title was, I believe, an astute suppression of guilt!

Francis Harrison, the banker, died on the 5th July, 1725, leaving a spend-thrift brother, Marsh as his heir; and within two years he died but not before encumbering the large Harrison estates with heavy debts as part of the legacy to his surviving sisters. A greater burden was added when in 1733 the banking firm, which Francis Harrison had established, failed with very great liabilities on the estates of the living and deceased partners. It took four Acts of the Irish Parliament to wind up the Bank's affairs and coupled with them were Chancery proceedings by Marsh Harrison's creditors. In 1759 the Courts ordered the sale of the Harrison estate in County Donegal and Doe Castle and lands were purchased by William Wray of Ards in trust for George Vaughan of Bunrana. Its purchase was confirmed to Vaughan by decree of the Court of Chancery in 1761 and some two years later it passed by his death into the

joint possession of his sisters' families, the Brookes, the Sampsons and the Hartes.

By the end of the eighteenth century a representative of the Harte family, George Vaughan Harte, afterwards a distinguished general in India (61) bought out the other family interests and set about making Doe Castle habitable again. He carried out many repairs to the ancient keep and while doing so made one or two interesting discoveries (62). By way of improvements he changed the entrance to the castle and built an annex to it in manorial style. He also carried out repairs to the walls and turrets enclosing the bawn and completed this with a touch of barbaric splendour in the form of numerous cannon (63), mounted on the turrets and on gun carriages along the terrace on the sea front. His Indian servant, "the faithful Balgool" gave the place a further touch of oriental splendour (64). General Harte died at a very ripe old age—the result of an accident (65) in 1832. He was succeeded in the ownership of Doe Castle by his son, Captain John Harte, who as a boy of sixteen took part in the Battle of Waterloo.

Captain John Harte, unlike his father, made Doe Castle his chief residence for many years before his death in 1838. He was very friendly with the Mac Sweeney tinker family who often settled down for long periods, to work for him in and around the castle (66). His father regarded him as the black sheep of the family and,

as he left no legitimate heirs, Doe Castle and most of the family estates, passed to his brother, Commander George Vaughan Harte, R.N. About the year 1843 Commander Harte moved most of the family effects from Doe Castle to the old ancestral home of the Hartes at Kilderry and in the year 1864 he and his son, William Edward Harte, broke the entail on Doe Castle and sold it in the Landed Estates Courts. It was purchased by Stewart of Ards who also found himself taking on a feud with the Lords Leitrim over the salmon fishery on the Lackagh river, and this law suit only ended when it reached the House of Lords.

Doe Castle's history as a private residence came to a close near the end of the last century. Shortly after the Hartes moved to Kilderry a retired naval officer, a Captain Madison, became its tenant and some of his family were born and reared there. They were extremely popular with the local people (67). The Captain was succeeded by a Church of Ireland clergyman, the Rev. Mr. Murphy, known as "**An Minister ban**". He became involved in a lawsuit with his landlords when he sought to invoke clauses in the Land Acts for the purpose of establishing a title to the castle and lands. After the landlord got rid of him Doe Castle was left vacant and was allowed to "go from wreck to ruins" and this decay was very much accelerated through pilfering and vandalism. In 1932 the landlord sold the castle and lands to the Irish Land Com-

mission and what remains of the castle is now vested as a National monument (68).

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND NOTES ON TEXT

1. Doe. Caislean na dTuath and MacSuibhne na dTuath are the proper renderings of Castle-doe and MacSweeney doe. Some writers, like O'Brien, in the last century were inclined to translate the Mac Suibhne na dTuath as MacSweeney of the battle axes, i.e., na dTuagh. Equally erroneous was the claim made by a writer in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* (Vol. XLV, Sept., 1915) that the name **Tuatha** "indicated that the territory allotted to the MacSweeneys (by the O'Donnells) had been occupied by an ancient populace subjected by the dominant Milesians and that it was possibly amongst this early remnant that the heathen customs prevailed which were the occasion of a remarkable letter from Pope Alexander IV to Patrick, Bishop of Raphoe in 1226 (? the blind Bishop of Raphoe, who resigned 1251-53). The Bishop, at his own request, was directed to use the sword of ecclesiastical censure against **lay folk** (and the Irish word, tuath, has that meaning) of his diocese, who worship idols, marry persons related to them by kindred or affinity . . ."

The slender threads of argument, by which this writer sought to associate the bishop's censure exclusively with the Doe district, break down when we realise that the word tuath (in addition to being the eccles-

lastical term for lay folk) also was (a) the political term for "a population group capable of maintaining 3,000 (or less, down to 700 (**MacNeill**) and by extension the land it occupied" (**Dinneen**) and (b) that a very ancient Irish account of Tircon-aill mentions many other tuathas in addition to "The three tuaths in McSwine-na-Doe's country." In fact the **tuath** was almost the unit of division in this particular account (Hill, "Planation in Ulster" pp 101-2). O'Donovan rightly translated Tuath as a **district** or **territory** and tells that MacSweeney Doe's **three territories** were Ross Guill, Tuath Tory and Cloghaneely and these divisions were co-terminous with the parishes of Meevagh, Clondahorky, Raymunterdoney and Raytulaghbegley. Before the advent of the Mac Sweeneys the O'Boyles appear to have been the lords of these districts.

2. William Harkin, author of "Scenery and Antiquities of North-West Donegal." (Londonderry 1893) was a native of the Cresslough district. He got these traditions from Manus Og O'Donnell of Golan, a son of Manus a Phice, who was born in the year 1758. See vol. 1, No. 3, p. 203 of this Journal.

3. See "**Traditions of Doe Castle**," by the late Mr. Edward Durnin, N.T., of Cresslough, to whom members of the Donegal Historical Society were much indebted when we visited the castle in 1948.

4. "Mr. MacSweeney of Dunfanaghy," (1801-1810) mentioned by Dr. MacParland was,

according to O'Hart's "Irish Pedigrees," (3rd Edition), Emon MacSweeney, whom O'Donovan met in a fisherman's cabin, at Downings, in 1835. See Vol. 1, No. 4, p. 241 of this Journal.

5. There are strong traditions, still preserved, which recall such raids upon the Rosses. The most vivid, that taken down about 1880 from Bartley O'Boyle of Arranmore, deals with a raid made by the galleys of Grace O'Malley on her return journey from the court of Queen Elizabeth.

6. See "Traditions of Doe Castle," by Hugh Durnin.

7. Red Hugh O'Donnell was fostered with the O'Kanes "Life of Hugh Roe O'Donnell," p. XXXI, by Denis Murphy, S.J., 1895.

8. Leabhar Chloinne Suibne (Dulain 1920), Father Paul Walsh.

9, 10, 11. **Annals of the Four Masters.**

12 *Historia Catholicae Hiberniae* (Lisbon 1621) O'Sullivan Beare.

13. "Sir Mulmory McSwiny," by Father Paul Walsh, in the **Irish Ecclesiastical Record** and **Derry Journal**, 1936.

14 *The Fate and Fortunes of the Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell*, Dublin, 1870, By Father C. P. Meehan, 2nd Ed.

15. Sir George Carew to Sir Robert Cecil. 12th Feb., 1600. Calendars of State papers.

16. "Sir Mulmory McSwiny" **op. cit.**

17. *Ibid.*

18, 19, 20. "Dowry's Narration", *Miscellany of Celtic Society*, 1849.

21, 22, 23, 24, 25. Calendars

of State papers.

26. "Fate and Fortunes," **op. cit.**

27. Basil Brooke, Esq., Captain in Elizabethan army in Ireland. Ancestor of the Brooke families of Manor Brooke and Donegal Castle and of Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh.

28. Captain Henry Vaughan. He was then High Sheriff for County Donegal. He was a brother of Sir John Vaughan, Governor of Derry, 1611-1642, and grandfather of Colonel George Vaughan, 1693-1763. See **Three hundred years in Innisowen** by Mrs. A. M. Young, also **Roman-tia Innisowen** by H. P. Swan.

29. Calendars of State papers.

30. Described by Harkin "Antiquities of North-West Donegal," and Rev. Dr. E. Maguire's "A History of the Diocese of Raphoe."

31. Hill "Plantation in Ulster".

32. Calendars of State papers

34 Pynar's Survey printed in Hill's "Plantation in Ulster".

35. Capt. Sandford's pension ceased to be paid in the year 1629-30. Sandford was one of the captains in charge of the Irish swordsmen shipped to Sweden after the "Flight of the Earls." See *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*. Vol. 5. 1859.

36. *Inquisitions of Ulster* (Printed).

37. Mss. T.C.D.

38. Relation by Audley Mervyn, printed Gilbert's "A Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland," 1879.

39. Harkin "Scenery and Antiquities," **op. cit.**

40. *Ibid.*

41. Journal of Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, Sept., 1915. (1915).

42. Gilbert "Contemporary History," *op. cit.*

42a State Papers Domestic. Signet office 1V 502.

43 "1,300 or 1,400 men" to recapture a garrison of some 30-40 men!

44 Papers and letter from Colonel Venables to Sir Gerrard Lowther, President of the High Courts. Transcript made for Allingham, Mss.

45 Extracted from Crown Rentals, now in Public Record Office, Dublin, by Dr. Simmington, for which we are very grateful.

46 Calendars of State papers.

47 The quit rent office ledgers even as late as 1818-1823 have the following items which need further explanation.

Patentee, Michael Harrison; Denomination, Ballymasinena Pt., of Castledoe and Dowbeg £4 12s 6d.

Tenant

Heirs of Gore Wray, per Bryan Devanny of Meevagh (This rent includes Ir. 5s [4s 7½d British] charged on "Castle and Fort of Castledoe").

Dr. Simmington reports that the above Crown rent was paid until 1837 when "the heirs of Gore Wray" ceased to appear. Bryan Devanny marked 'dead' and Patrick McBride, Claggan, Carrickart, appears in his stead. Then from 1843 to 1848 "James Cochrane."

48 Tradition appears to have reversed the Christian names of these two men, James Crone O'Donnell and Aodh Bane

O'Gallagher. O'Donnell figures in the State Papers of 1652 and was on his keeping through "acts of piracy."

49 O'Connell's "Ireland" quoting pamphlet printed in 1661.

50 Castledoe (townland) parish of Kilmacrenan 1635, Hearth Money Rolls.

John Algeo 1s for 1 hearth.

Richard Benstead, 1s do.

Bernard Knex, 1s do.

51 *Carte Papers*. Bodleian Library, Vol. XXXIX, p. 290.

52 *Ormond mss.*

53 *Ibid.*

54 *Allingham Mss.* in author's possession. Outlawry List Parliament of Jas. II, 1689.

55 Tradition recorded by late William Durnin which he got from Father Sweeney, a native of Dungloe, who died in 1910.

56 Williamite outlawry lists 1691, mss. T.C.D.

57 O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letter from Dunfanaghy, 1835, quoted in this Journal.

85 "*The History of the Bank of Ireland*", by Dr. F. C. Hall.

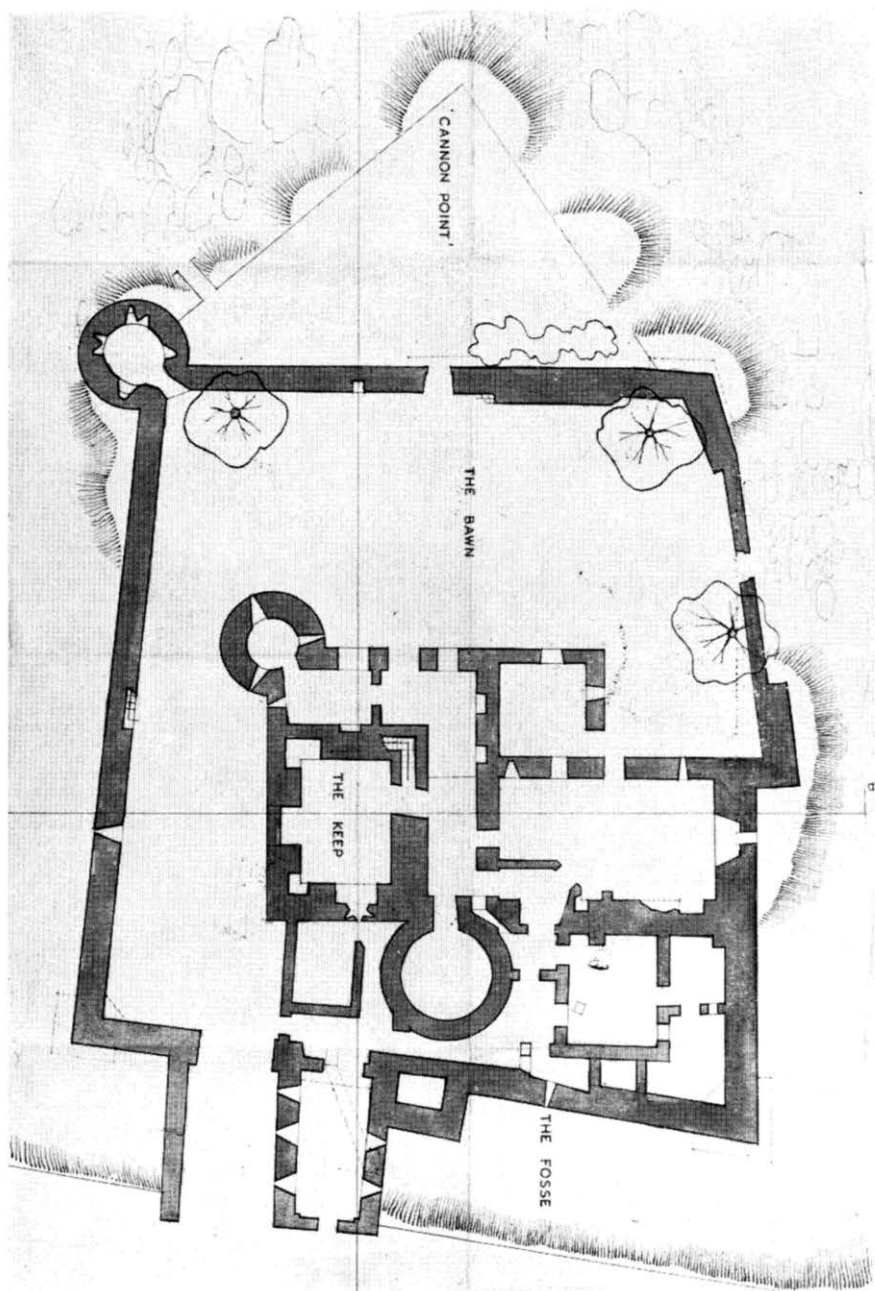
59 Letter published in "Derry Journal" G. V. Hart, 17th Dec., 1931.

60 The Sampson family only benefited under Colonel Vaughan's will by mere chance. "*The Family History of Hart of Donegal*", London, 1907, p. 97.

61 General Hart joined the 46th Foot as an Ensign in 1774 and from 1775 to 1777 was on active service in America. In 1779 he was with General Harris at the capture of Serringapatam, as Colonel of 75th Regiment, and acting in command of the Highland Brigade. As Colonel George Vaughan Hart he returned to Ireland to become Brigadier



DOE CASTLE FROM THE SEA.



ROUND PLAN OF DOE CASTLE
(By courtesy of Inspector of National Monuments).



Very Rev. Father Michael McMullin, P.P., and Mr. L. Emerson with members of the Scottish B.B.C. who took part in our Doe Castle meeting 1948.



LAND APPROACH TO DOE CASTLE.

General of the Curragh Camp. In 1805 he was promoted a Major General and in 1811 the Lieutenant General of Northern Command. In 1814 he became M.P. for County Donegal and in 1820 was appointed military Governor of Derry and Culmore Fort. He held this office and his seat in Parliament until his death in 1832.

62 See "Doe Castle one hundred years ago."

63 These cannons were afterwards taken to Ards House by the Stewarts.

64 For "Balloo" see "The Family History of Hart" *op. cit.*, p. 141.

65 There is some doubt about this accidental death. Some people claim that Captain John Hart was the person who met his death by falling down the steep stairway in the Doe Castle keep.

66 The Family History of Hart of Donegal, pp 115-6. Also vol. 1, No. 4, p. 241 of this Journal.

67 Tradition from late Mr. William Durnin.

68 Doe Castle is now vested as a class E National Monument See vol. 1. No. 2. p. 123.

DOE CASTLE ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

An old pile of building . . . it consists of a square tower of five storeys, rising to a height of some fifty feet, with walls 8 feet in thickness, but of such confined interior demensions that each storey contains only one room. The southern face of this tower adjoins a much lower

but more spacious building, consisting of one large and several smaller appartments, below which are rooms now used as kitchens and other domestic offices; and in the angle formed by the junction of these two parts of the edifice stands a low round tower. The whole is surrounded by a roughly-built, but strong, grey wall of grey-stone about 14 feet high, provided with an interior platform, or banquette, with various ungainly projections and machicolations meant to hinder an enemy from availing himself of the cover of the walls.

The castle, which stands on a low, rocky promontory jutting out into the waters of Sheephaven, is defended on the landward side by a fosse excavated across the little promontory through the slatey rock of which it is composed. The passage over this fosse to the principal gateway is a solid stone bridge, or rather causeway, commanded from the walls by a multitude of loopholes and embrasures.

A subterraneous tunnel and winding stair lead from the fosse to a small turret within the gate, and there are two other openings on the outer walls, both looking towards the sea though in different directions. On the eastern side, furthest from the great gate, there has lately been constructed outside of the exterior wall a lunette of earthwork, on which are mounted five long nine-pounder cannon and there are some smaller swivel guns in some of the flanking turrets . . .

The largest apartment in Doe Castle is one in its southern wing about 35 feet long by 18 feet wide, none of those in the tower being more than 13 feet or 14 feet square. One of the latter is usually termed the dungeon. It forms the third storey of the tower and until lately was lighted, so to say, by only one small loop hole, piercing the southern wall through 8 feet of masonry. The loophole has, however, been enlarged and supplied with a window; and the dungeon, though by no means a cheerful apartment, is now much more habitable than of old. The only mode of access to the mysterious chamber used to be by a doorway, not more than 4 feet high, surmounted by a small pointed arch of cut stone. This opening is not on a level with the floor of the dungeon, its threshold being about 2 feet higher, so as to make one's first step on leaving the room remarkably inconvenient . . . It communicates with a winding flight of stone steps in the thickness of the wall leading to the room immediately over it, so that a visitor to the dungeon would be obliged to ascend to the room forming the fourth storey, and after crossing it diagonally, to make his way downwards by the winding stair, which I have described.

The dungeon is, however, now accessible by a more convenient entrance. The owner of the castle, during my visit to him, happened one day, while planning some repairs to the upper part of the tower, to observe high up on its northern face two

loopholes, to which he could not remember any corresponding openings to the interior. On raising the flagged floor of a small closet above these unrecognised loopholes, the workmen, summoned for the exploration of the mystery, discovered a flight of stone stairs partly blocked up with loose masonry and rubbish. This was immediately cleared out and another passage to the dungeon was disclosed, which had been blocked up for some unknown reason ages before . . .

There are still two unexamined loopholes on the opposite side of the tower which must have given light or air to some small room or passage blocked up in a similar manner on that side; but no search has been made for them from the interior of the building from an apprehension that further disturbance of the masonry might endanger the stability of the castle wall.

Based on *"Memories of a month among the 'mere Irish' by 'W. H. Floredice'"* (William Hart, grandson of General Hart).

MORE ABOUT DOE CASTLE

by DEORAIÐHE.

From Mr. MacIntyre, former County Librarian for County Donegal, (a native of the district of Doe), we obtained further interesting data concerning Caislean na dTuagh (dTuath?). It changed hands a great number of times until it finally passed into the possession of a Colonel Harte, who fought at the battle of Seringapatan in India. He brought home with him an

Indian servant, who always wore his native dress, and it is said, slept fully armed, each night, on a mat outside his master's door. The general met with a sad death by falling down the stairway leading to the tower. And his Indian valet died shortly afterwards — of broken heart, it is said, so devoted was he to his master.

The Hartes remained in possession of Doe Castle until 1866, though the Maddisons were in permanent occupation up to that time—more or less as caretakers of this historic habitation. Then, or soon afterwards, it was sold to A. J. R. Stewart of Ards, a neighbouring landlord (whose house at Ards is now, since 1930 or thereabouts, a Capuchin Friary.

Doe Castle was rented by Mr. Stewart to the Rev. Mr. Murphy, then Episcopalian minister of Meevagh (Rossguill), on the opposite side of Sheephaven Bay. This gentleman, known locally as An Ministear Ban (being fair haired), held the Castle and adjoining lands until the Land Act of 1880, granting tenant right, was passed. Mr. Murphy claimed that, as he was paying rent at the passing of the Act, he, too, was entitled to the privileges accruing therefrom. Prolonged litigation followed, until finally, around the early nineties, a decision was given in favour of the Stewarts. During the intervening years, a Gideon Moore (caretaker for the Rev. Mr. Murphy) looked after the estate.

DOE CASTLE SIXTY YEARS AGO—AND NOW?

Our kindly informant, Mr. Andrew MacIntyre, recalls that about 1893 or '94, i.e., sixty years ago, he gained access to the Castle—and “explored” from room to room for the best part of a summer day.” It was quite intact at that time. Not a broken pane. And many old books and documents lay about. Some receipts picked up at random dated back to 1847, and were for Relief Grants made in the year of the famine (“Bliadhan A’ Droick-Shaoghail” as the old people used to call it).

In 1893 there were tables, presses and chairs in most of the rooms, with one or two old-fashioned wooden - bedsteads. During the end of the last century and the beginning of this enlightened age, Doe Castle suffered greatly from vandalism. The black oak wainscotting was stripped off the inside walls, — some of it to make pig troughs or stable-centres. Slates were taken away, and more recently the flat roof of the circular portion of the building was denuded of its lead flooring. This was done by some travelling tinkers less than twenty years ago, but the ruffians were exonerated on some legal technicalities.

And so Doe Castle (that saw Sir O'Doherty's “Far fierce hour” of glory, and later welcomed home from Spain the great Owen Roe O'Neill) is now a roofless ruin. Half a century ago a habitable home. Now a shambles. We build for the for-

eigner at Rineanna. And allow these sacred reminders of Gaelic resurgence to collapse before our eyes. Thus does the "pocket" Present neglect the patriot Past.
"Decraidh."

TRADITIONS OF DOE CASTLE

(By the late Edward Durnin,
Ex-N.T., Creeslough).

1. *Moll Nic Ghiolla Bhrighde agus Caitilin Ruadh.*

Long, long ago in Umerafad, there lived a certain man who dwelt in a strong house with his mother, his wife and his family. He had plenty of this world's goods and all the household were very content and happy. However, just at the height of their prosperity a terrible plague swept over the land dealing death alike to rich and poor. Not a soul was left alive in all Doe but this man's mother and his youngest daughter. The old lady's name was Moll Nic Ghiolla Bhrighde, while the maiden's name was Caitilin Ruadh. The poor woman was in an awful fright when she saw all her friends and neighbours dead around her. So taking her little grand-daughter by the hand she fled from the plague-stricken land.

Leaving Doe behind, right over Lough Salt she went; away through Kilmacrenan and Liffey she fled and they stopped not until they reached the sunny south. Here the poor wanderers were well received their wants were attended to; and for a time they were happy enough. But their hearts yearned for their northern home and after spending seven long years

in the sunny south they set out for their old home again. They were accompanied by a faithful servant, who attended their wants all the time they lived in the south.

After a long and weary journey they reached their home in Doe. Here they found not a human being, but immense flocks and herds. In the vacant houses they found big stockings filled with gold. Now what to do with so much riches they knew not. At last a happy thought occurred to Kathleen.

"Oh Granny" says she "do you know what we will do. We will build a castle just like the castles we saw in the South".

Tradesmen were found and a castle was built and Moll and Kathleen went to dwell there. Poor Kathleen, however, was lonely and sad for she had no companion of her own age. Sometimes she walked along the sea shore, watching the tide or sat on a rock viewing the salmon as they jumped and sported around Bishop's Isle on their way to Lackagh and Glen Lough. But her favourite walk was through Duntally wood and up to the highest point of Umreafad. Here, on beautiful summer evenings she would sit for hours.

One evening Kathleen was seated, as usual, on the heights of Umerafad she was surprised to see a cloud of dust arise from behind the hills. Suddenly a troop of horsemen burst into view. They came swiftly towards her and before she realised it she was surrounded by the soldiers. Poor Kathleen was frightened but the leader — a fine dashing young

man—rode forward and said,

"Fair young maiden, be not afraid, for neither I nor my men will do you harm but pray tell me how came you here for we have been riding since we came ashore this morning and you are the first human being we have met".

Thus reassured, Kathleen explained how she and her grandmother dwelt in a castle nearby and, to make a long story short, he and his followers accompanied Kathleen thither.

And who, may be asked, was this dashing young man? He was one Mac Sweeney — leader of a band of gallowglasses—but where he came from is not so easy to say. Some say that he came from Scotland, as in those days professional soldiers hired themselves to the chieftains. So in all likelihood MacSweeney came across to offer his services to some Irish chief.

The upshot of MacSweeney's visit was that he and Kathleen Roe fell in love and, in due course, were married and thus into the hands of the MacSweeneys fell the Castle of Doe.

MacSweeney took service with O'Donnell and rendered him such good service, that he was appointed by O'Donnell over a number of districts (dTuaith). Hence the name Caislean na dTuaith, i.e., The Castle of the Districts.

11 MURROUGH MALL MAC SWEENEY

Murrough was named Murrough Mall from being the last of O'Donnell's chiefs to arrive with his followers at the Battle of Fearsad Suileach in 1567. The

battle was hot when MacSweeney arrived from Doe and O'Donnell's troops were being driven back slowly, but surely, by the forces of Sean O'Neill. The O'Donnell was in no good humour.

"Is Tusa Murach Mall," arsa seisean,

"Chan e, acht is mise Murach i n-am," says MacSweeney. And he was.

111 COMMUNICATIONS WITH DOE CASTLE IN THE OLDEN DAYS

The main road between East and West Donegal did not run as at present as the road through Barnes Beg was not constructed until the year 1849. In former times the road to the west ran from Letterkenny to Kilmacrennan and then straight uphill via Golan and Lough Salt, then downhill into the village of Glen, across Lackagh and so on westwards. The castle was conveniently situated for observing the crossing of the Lackagh river, hence there was a strategic reason for its site.

IV SIR MILES MacSWEENEY

In the Plantation of Ulster he was given 1,500 acres in the neighbourhood of Dunfanaghy, where he was allowed to hold two fairs yearly. The greater portion of his land was on the Horn Head promontory, then called **Corran Binne**. At a place called Muintermellan he built a fortified dwelling afterwards called Horn Head House. It is now occupied by Mr. William Durning.

Sir Miles was abhorred by the country people to whom he was very cruel. We do not know the

date of his death, but the story was that he had some business with the authorities in Derry and that he died on his way home, at Kilmacrennan, in great want and misery. His son, Donogh, inherited his lands.

V THE GREAT FEIS AT DOE CASTLE IN 1905

In the year 1905 there was a great gathering of Gaels at the Castle. I, myself helped to organise the meeting by acting as its secretary. The meeting was held on a beautiful July day. Thousands of people from all over the country assembled at Creeslough and headed by Turlough MacSweeney, the famous piper, we marched from Creeslough down through Duntally wood along the ancient road to the castle. Piper MacSweeney played 'McSwine's March' as we went along.

The evening's programme consisted of songs and dancing as well as Gaelic games and competitions and some speeches were delivered. Everybody enjoyed the occasion very much.

VI PIPER TURLOUGH MacSWEENEY

Turlough MacSweeney, the piper, was a very interesting man. He was tall and powerful and claimed to be a direct descendant of the MacSweeneys of Doe. He was a very famous piper and won the first prize at the pipers' competition held at the World Fair, Chicago, in 1896. I knew him well. On one occasion he visited Horn Head House and was walking around viewing the place when he was accosted by old Charles F. Stewart—a gruff

old landlord—who wanted to know what was his business there. MacSweeney replied that he just took a walk into Horn Head to view the place that once belonged to his ancestors. He put his hand into his pocket and produced a document, which proved to be the title deeds of the grant of the Horn Head property given to Sir Miles MacSweeney.

Stewart had much more respect for MacSweeney afterwards.

TWO TRAGIC ROMANCES ASSOCIATED WITH DOE CASTLE

1, The first story of broken romance was recorded by "W. H. Floredice," (op. cit.) and as told by the author of "The Family History of Hart of Donegal," runs as follows:

"Beneath the compartment, which has now been converted into a kitchen, was a well, which is now filled in, and as was intended to supply the inhabitants of the castle during a siege. Sir Mulmorey McSwine being besieged by Sir Richard Bingley, and believing his nephew, Hugh McSwine (who had come to warn him of the treachery of one of the garrison), to be himself the traitor, struck at him with an axe. Hugh's betrothed, Judith McSwine, rushing forward to protect him, received the blow and staggered back into the well. A belief prevailed amongst the country people that on the anniversary of Judith's death her spirit and that of her murderer glide at mid-night along the battlements of the castle—the

former in white with golden wings folded on her shoulders—the latter in black robes, half revealing in his cowl a visage of fiendish and most uncomfortable aspect. Although this belief has partially died away, the maids still go about in couples after nightfall; and some declare, while tending the fire in the highest chamber of the tower they have seen gleams of light flash from the eyes of the sculptured face which ornaments the mantle-piece and is generally known as 'Mulrorey's head'".

Sir Miles Mac Sweeney was not besieged by Sir Richard Brugley;—in fact the only occasion on which he might have been besieged in Doe Castle was prior to his escape from the vengeance of Red Hugh O'Donnell.

2. The story of *Torlogh Og*. O'Boyle and Eileen MacSweeney is one of the popular romances in the folklore of Tirconail. For this we have to thank or to blame, the late Niall MacGiolla Bhridhe, the poet of Creeslough, who contributed much towards its popularity with his ballad;

"TURLOGH OG. O'BOYLE"

"Wild are the hills of Donegal that frowning darkly rise
As if to meet the mist that falls upon them from the skies.
Dark, dark the hills, and darker still the mountain torrents flow,
Yet still more dark was Mulmurrough's heart in his castle halls of
Doe,

Fair are the plains of Donegal, and calm the winding streams
Flow gently by each hut and hall beneath the pale moonbeams,
But plain or stream or meadow green or flower upon the lea
Were not more fair than Mulmurrough's child, so sweet and fair
was she.

Stout grew the oaks of Donegal, and straight the ashen tree.
And stout and strong its sons so tall, their country's pride to see,
But oak or ash, or young en all, e'er trod on Irish soil
Were not more stout, swift, straight or strong than the Chief of
Clan O'Boyle.

He was the pride of Faugher side, near the hills of Ballymore,
For feats of strength none equalled him from Fanad to Gweedore,
And he would go through frost and snow on a merry Christmas Day
With a ringing cheer to hunt the deer from its haunts in dark
Glenveigh.

And often in Duntally Wood he'd hunt the deer and hare,
But the witching deer that brought him here was Mulmurrough's
daughter fair,
And there was no man in all the land, or trod on Irish soil,
Mulmurrough's daughter loved so well as Turlough Og O'Boyle.

In Duntally Wood as best he could his love to her he vowed,
But her father, overhearing him chastised O'Boyle aloud.
In haughty pride he says: 'Abide in Faughter by the sea,
But you'll never wed the daughter of Mulmurrough an Bhata
Bhuidhe.

In his little boat O'Boyle would float, a-fishing he would go,
With hook and line to Lackagh stream that runs by Castle Doe,
High on the castle's tower of strength, his darling was confined,
And on its lofty battlements in sorrow deep she pined.

By Doe Castle strand two boats lay manned to wait the rising tide;
Mulmurrough there in chief command right cowardly did hide,
And as O'Boyle his homeward course steered by the Bishop's Isle.
They there waylaid and a prisoner made of the fearless young
O'Boyle.

They took him to Doe Castle, in strong irons he was bound
And by Mulmurrough was confined to a dungeon underground,
And in a few days afterwards, beneath the Castle wall,
Four stalward ruffians bore a bier wrapped in a funeral pall.

Young Aileen from her tower on high beheld this mournful scene;
In mute amaze she cast her gaze on the castle graveyard green
Where, pale in death, beside a mound of freshly risen soil,
The pall removed, she then beheld the features of O'Boyle.

Then with a shriek she madly jumped from the tower to the ground.
Where by her faithful waiting maid her gory corpse was found,
And in Doe Castle graveyard green beneath the mouldering soil,
Mulmurrough's daughter sleeps in death with Turlough Og O'Boyle.

And fishers say along the beach a phantom boat is seen
To gently glide by pale moonlight adown by Lackagh stream
While in that boat two figures sit and on each face a smile
They say it is young Aileen and her Turlough Og O'Boyle."

This version of the ballad was given, by Mr. Andrew Mac Intyre, to "Deocaidhe" the author of an excellent series of articles which appeared, some years ago, in "**The People's Press**" under the title "**Wild West Donegal**". "Deocaidhe" also obtained the following interesting bibliographical details from Mr. Mac Intyre :—

"The ballad was composed fifty-nine or sixty years ago by Niall Mac Gioila Bhrighde. It was not published until some years later. It is sung to a very plaintive and characteristic old Irish air which was first put to words by that fine traditional singer, Anton Mhac A Bhaird of Knocknafaugher (who is still happily with us). Niall the author, is now but a few years dead.

"The Air is recorded in 'Songs of Uladh' by the late Herbert Hughes — a volume published some forty odd years ago. Expert in Irish music as he undoubtedly was, Hughes despaired of noting the air exactly as he had heard it sung, and so it was printed in his 'Songs of Uladh' without bars to divide the time.

"The song was sung to Hughes by a Portnablagh fisherman, Jamie McGinley of Parkmore, on board the lugger 'St. Ambrose' on the occasion of an excursion to Tory Island. Among the passengers were Francis Joseph Biggar, Herbert and Fred Hughes and several others from Belfast.

"The ballad was first printed by Standish O'Grady in his 'All Ireland Review' a little over

forty years ago. Mr. O'Grady was staying in John Mullan's of Bregany at the time. While there he met Niall—and also published another of his ballads, viz. 'Charlie of Feymore'."

The romance as narrated in the ballad is substantially similar to that which now passes as the traditional version of the tragedy. The following biographical notices of the, supposed, hero, Turlogh Og O'Boyle, of Faugher castle, near Creeslough, are now presented, not for the purposed of debunking the romance, but, solely, in the interests of historical truth.

Turlogh Og O'Boyle, believed to be the builder of the castle of Faugher, was the son of Teig Og, head of the O'Boyle clann, who died in the year 1607. O'Boyle's first wife, Mary, daughter of Conn O'Donnell, (? father of Sir Niall Garbh), died in the year 1601 and, his second wife, "the Lady Honoria Burke," survived him. That Turlogh Og, O'Boyle was the son of O'Boyle's first marriage is evident from the fact that he was old enough to obtain and to enter into possession of 2,000 acres of land in the precinct of Doe in 1610/11. By 1611 Carew reported to his royal master that " . . . Tyrlogh O'Boyle, with servants and followers removed (from Kiltloorish) to the proportion assigned to him" and by 1618-1619 Captain Pynnar was able to report that " . . . Tyrlogh Roe (his son Torlogh Og, was born some time previously and Turlogh Og, senior, became Turlogh Roe) hath 2,000 acres called Carrowbleagh, and Comas. He hath built a good **Bawn** and a

House of lime and stone (Faugh-
er) in which he and his family
dwelleth."

In the year 1628 Turlogh Roe
O'Boyle found himself for a time
in Lifford Gaol as a result of the
machinations of his renegade but-
ler. The information which this
spy gave Dublin Castle has many
interesting observations, and
from which it would appear that
O'Boyle was regarded, by Irish
exiles on the Continent, as the
foremost Catholic gentleman in
Tirconail. The information also
reveals that O'Boyle was mar-
ried to one of the Maguire ladies
of Fermanagh and that one of
his brothers was then resident in
Scotland. The O'Clery **Genealog-**
ies give these brothers' names as
Teig Og, Niall and Felim. It
would also appear from the spy's
deposition that Turlogh Roe
O'Boyle had managed to retrieve
the ancient family residence at
Killtoorish for he was residing
there while the treacherous but-
ler was in his service.

The Loyalist Despositions of
1641—1643 for County Donegal
mention that Turlogh Roe
O'Boyle, his son, Turlogh Og,
and his brother, Teig Og, were
amongst the foremost rebels in
the County. A Turlogh O'Boyle
(either the father or the son) of
Ballymore, and a Hugh O'Don-
nell of Ramelton were the Coun-
ty Donegal members of the
Catholic Confederate Parlia-
ment, held in Kilkenny City in
1647. One of them was also re-

ported amongst the wounded
and dead after the Battle of
Scariffholes in 1650. Both father
and son, however, survived the
wars and in the confiscation
which followed Turlogh Roe
O'Boyle lost all his lands in the
barony of Kilmacrenan. In the
Cromwelian Census of 1659 Tur-
logh O'Boyle is set down as
Titalado for the five quarters of
Kiltoorish, while Teig Og
O'Boyle was the resident claim-
ant for Maas, also in the parish
of Inniskeel. They also figure
in the Hearth Money Rolls of
1665 as paying tax for houses
in these two townlands. O'Hart's
Irish Pedigrees would have us
believe that the younger Tur-
logh O'Boyle was the grand-
father of an American Naval
officer named Boyle of the last
century!

From this sketch of the
O'Boyles' association with
Faugher it will be seen that
neither the father nor the son
did meet with violent death at
the hands of Sir Miles Mac
Sweeney, or for that matter his
son, Donogh Mor, for both Mac-
Sweeney's were dead by 1641
i.e., twenty years or more be-
fore the O'Boyles of Faugher
fade from our ken.

Every genuine tradition, we
are told has within itself some
atoms of fact. We wonder where
these are to be found in the
story of Turlogh Og O'Boyle and
Eileen Mac Sweeney?

History of Public Transport In Donegal.

(BY C. A. CELKIN).

For some years back the system of public transport in Ireland has been witnessing a revolution. The years since the end of World War II have brought radical changes, nowhere more noticeable than in Donegal, where this revolution has already deprived the county of more than half of its railway system and threatens complete extinction in the course of another decade. A vast area of the county formerly served by the Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway is now totally dependent on road transport, the last section of this line, that extending from Derry City to Bridge-end having been closed this year by an Order of the Government in Belfast. It would be inappropriate in a work of this kind to pass comment on the changes that have come, and are coming. The purpose of this article is to give what must necessarily be but a mere outline of the history of the county's transport undertakings from the first half of the nineteenth century when the railway era was introduced with the incorporation of the Londonderry & Lough Swilly Company.

This development was brought about by a special Act of Parliament in 1853. The company at the date of incorporation found that they were unable to carry out the original project in the stipulated time and it was ten years later before the railway was actually in service. The system had its origin in an eight mile line between Derry City and a place known as Farland Point at the Southern end of Lough Swilly, which was opened on December 31st., 1863, on the Irish standard gauge of 5 feet 3 ins. An account of the event at the time says that the incorporation of the company was promoted by a group of businessmen, mostly from Great Britain.

Mr. James Whyte, the present popular and efficient manager and secretary of the Company, who has very successfully carried through the transition from rail to road, has furnished us with a very interesting account of the development of the project. This tells us that one of the promoters of the Company was Thomas Brassey from London, a leading public works contractor of his day, and father of the first Earl Brassey. Mr. Brassey had

hitherto taken a prominent part in the reclamation of thousands of acres of the Sloblands along the shores of Lough Foyle and also the upper reaches of Lough Swilly. Previous to that date the two Loughs practically met. The reclamation of this land, between 1840 and 1850, provided much of the ground over which the Railway was subsequently built. Another prominent member of the group of promoters was William McCormick, ancestor of the famous broadcasting Parson, the Rev. Pat. McCormick of St. Martins in the Fields, London. Mr. McCormack was M.P. for Derry and mayor of the city about the year 1859.

The effect of the Railway on the main industry of the city and port of Derry and the County of Donegal was quickly felt. Previously most of the business was conducted by sea in sailing ships as was prevalent in those days, but the more convenient and expeditious transport by rail very soon ousted many of these as it did also the horse-drawn road transport of that time. It also had the advantage of giving a better service for the fishing industry, which was of considerable importance in those days, and it is on record that in the early days of the Company there was a considerable business in the transport of whale blubber brought into Lough Swilly by whalers from the Arctic seas.

The Railway was extended a year later from Farland Point to Buncrana, which was then a fishing village and seaport of some importance; Lough Swilly

at that time was an auxiliary Naval Base where ships of the British Revenue Service were permanently stationed, no doubt for the purpose of preventing smuggling and the illegal activities of smugglers, so prevalent in that by-gone age.

Some years after the Railway Company was established shipping services within Lough Swilly were introduced under the Company's control and this gave connections for goods and passengers to and from the Eastern side of Lough Swilly across to the small ports on the Western side chiefly Rathmullan, Ramelton and Letterkenny. At that time Lough Swilly was an important anchorage for ocean going sailing vessels, many of which traded into American ports.

About 1880 a separate company was promoted to run what was then known as the Letterkenny Railway. A good deal of preliminary work went into the effort, but the project came to nothing, and in 1879 it was taken over by the Lough Swilly Company which four years later extended its services to Letterkenny. Until then the Swilly system was run as a broad gauge railway. On the two companies merging, it was converted to narrow gauge in 1885.

The line was extended from Buncrana to Carndonagh (18 miles) in 1901, and in 1903 from Letterkenny to Burtonport (50 miles). This brought the total mileage of the entire railway up to approximately 100 miles. The Burtonport extension ran through the rugged, rocky mountainous country of the

Highlands of Donegal to the western seaboard. There were many geographical and physical difficulties in the way of operating this section of the line. On two occasions, in 1908, and again in 1925, passenger trains were actually blown off the (Twencarrow Viaduct, which spans a wide ravine in the mountains, by gales of great violence (over 100 miles per hour) which are so common there. On the second occasion portion of the train fell off the bridge into the ravine and a number of passengers were killed and injured. After that experience the Company put heavy weights in the carriages to hold them down and stopped all trains at danger point (80 m.p.h.). A wind gauge was erected to measure wind velocity.

The Railway proved of great value during the 1914-18 war. Before the advent of commercial motor transport as we know it to-day, Lough Swilly was the most important naval base in Ireland during that period and at one stage in the early phases of the war the entire Grand Fleet under Admiral Jellicoe, hunted off the high seas by German submarines, had to take refuge in Lough Swilly. During that period the Railway was called upon to transport practically all the supplies required for the very large number of war vessels and this continued throughout the war. As well as this, several camps for training recruits were located on the Company's system. Large numbers of shipwrecked sailors off torpedoed ships and German pris-

oners were also carried.

This was probably one of the most important phases of the Company's history as a Railway but unfortunately within two or three years after the cessation of hostilities the Company got into financial difficulties due to the development of road motor transport, and the impact of the Anglo-Irish war. The Company suffered a severe set-back by the interruption of its rail services due to local hostilities which caused the line to be closed by order of the British Military authorities for lengthy periods. This gave added impetus to the development of private road transport as a competitor of the Railway and in a relatively short time caused a diversion of traffic from the railway, the public being quick to favour local road services for both passengers and goods, particularly for the short distances, owing to these being more convenient and in some cases even cheaper than the Railway. The creation of the "Border", with the consequent levying of Customs Duties on both sides, also retarded trade on which the Railway depended so much. About 1924 both Irish Governments decided to subsidise the Company. This did not prove a permanent solution because in the meantime road transport continued steadily and inexorably to have its effect upon Rail traffic, with the result that eventually the Company was obliged to develop its own road services for both passenger and goods traffic. One result of this was that the Railway position

deteriorated still further until eventually in 1935 it was decided to close the Buncrana-Carndonagh Extension (18 miles) and the Letterkenny-Burtonport Extension (50 miles) which, as already stated, had only been opened in the early nineteen hundreds. This reduced the Railway to the position as in 1883.

Just before the 1939 war the Company's road services extended over almost 300 miles of routes—roughly three times the mileage of the Railway and the Company's business had increased very considerably in consequence of the provision of this more popular type of service, which was well supported by the public for both passengers and goods.

Conversion of the gauge to three feet was accomplished in 1885, shortly after the extension of the system to Letterkenny. From 1923 to 1938 particularly heavy losses were incurred by the Company—actually £121,153 and to meet this the two Irish Governments made grants totalling £112,930. By far the greater portion of the losses was incurred on the operation of the Burtonport extension, which ran to nowhere. Many of the towns and villages served by it were considerable distances from the stations—typical examples being Dunfanaghy (six miles); Carrigart (eight miles from Creeslough); Dungloe (three miles). The most formidable competitors at that time were Mr. John Doherty and Mr. Edward Barr, enterprising Buncranamen, who were in rivalry on the Derry-

Buncrana - Carndonagh route. For some years previously, a Derry firm of motor engineers, Messrs. Roberts of Foyle St., had been pioneering with road services on the Derry-Moville-Shrove route. There were also Mr. Joe Doherty of Moville, Mr. Dan Kearney of Carndonagh, McLaughlin brothers of Carndonagh, the Ward brothers of Kerrykeel, and several others, all in keenest rivalry. And then came a Belfast businessman, H. M. Catherwood, pioneer of long-distance bus travel in Ireland, who was first really to give a door-to-door passenger road service. The acquisition by the Lough Swilly Company of these privately-owned concerns proved not an easy accomplishment.

In some parts of Co. Donegal the roads proved unsuitable for buses. After an attempt to operate a bus service to Dungloe and Burtonport for a period of eight weeks in the spring of 1931, the company was obliged to terminate the service at Gortahork, 20 miles short of the latter town, because of bad road conditions and because the Donegal County Council threatened legal proceedings. This authority eventually claimed £710 from the company for alleged damage to the roads in question. The claim was amicably settled but the company had to undertake that it would not run services in the area in future without permission. This enforced change in the policy brought about the restoration of passenger train services to the Burtonport extension. Goods traffic on the railway also dwindled

with the economies in the passenger services and the growth of private lorries. Nevertheless, considerable savings resulted even from the partial implementation of the company's scheme and the establishment of the bus services, even on a limited scale, proved a sound one. The defective roads were eventually modernised by the County Council with the aid of Government grants.

Suspension of the train service on the Letterkenny—Burtonport extension line occurred on June 3, 1940. At the same time the few remaining passenger trains on the Letterkenny—Derry line were withdrawn.

The first of these moves caused considerable local opposition as it was felt that difficulty would be experienced in the transport away from North-West Donegal ports of such local products as fish. On one occasion during track removal, a hostile crowd of some 200 people stopped the work at Crolly Bridge. This action followed a meeting at which it was resolved to prevent the railway company from further lifting the track. However, the company, with the aid of the authorities, persisted, and the work was completed from Burtonport to Gweedore by the winter of 1940-1941.

During the war the shortage of petrol made it necessary for the company to re-open the Letterkenny - Gweedore section in 1941 for goods traffic—chiefly turf for fuel—and in 1942, following an air raid on Derry—the Derry-Buncrana Section for passenger as well as goods traf-

fic; the redundant buses thus released were used for strengthening services far removed from the railway. There was a considerable increase in the volume of traffic offered to the company, and sufficient profits were earned to enable dividends to be paid in 1942 for the first time in over 20 years.

The motor-ferry service between Fahan and Rathmullan was discontinued in 1952, and with its cessation went a unique distinction—that of the company operating on road, rail and sea. Now the company has an even more rare distinction—it is still a railway company in name, but it has no railway to work.

Most of the bus services are daily, that to Buncrana with certain journeys connecting to and from Inch Island normally operating on an hourly Schedule, which at rush periods is built up to a four-minute headway. Other routes are as follows: Derry—Carndonagh — Malin Head; Derry — Moville — Shroove; Moville — Carndonagh; Derry — Newtowncunningham or Bridge End—Letterkenny; Buncrana — Carndonagh; Letterkenny — Churchhill; Letterkenny — Rosapenna — Downings; Letterkenny — Portsalon; Letterkenny — Gweedore — Burtonport; Falcarragh — Buncbeg — Dungloe; Milford — Portsalon — Shannagh; and Milford and Kilmacrenan. As it will be seen, most of these services centre in Letterkenny and timed connections are made between them there to facilitate through journeys to Derry.

To maintain these services,

there is a fleet of 50 buses, including six double-deckers.

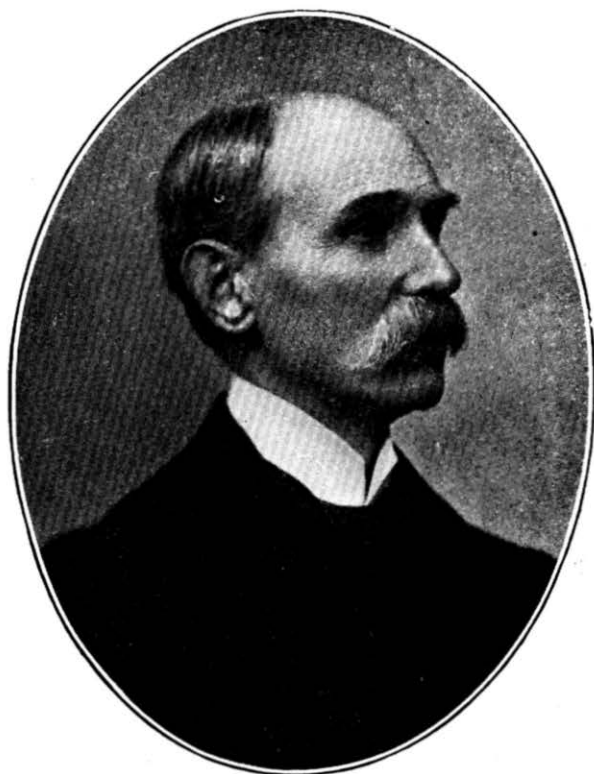
The administrative offices of the undertaking are situated in Derry at Pennyburn, integrating road and rail operation. This is the original railway depot situated on the Northern boundary of the city, a factor which contributed to the popularity of the bus services that reached the town centre. Besides garaging and servicing most of the bus fleet and a large number of the goods vehicles in Derry, there exists a well-equipped workshop for major overhauls and running repairs of all road and rail vehicles. With the exception of crankshaft grinding, every process in the reconditioning of vehicles is carried out.

There is a good-sized garage at Letterkenny and sub-depots or dormy sheds at Buncrana, Carndonagh, Moville, Ramelton, Burtonport, Downings and Portsalon. In Derry (Great James Street), a waiting-room, inquiry, luggage, parcels and booking offices are maintained. The Buncrana route, which is double-decked, leaves from the adjoining Patrick Street. On all the routes from Derry, time is allowed for customs examination and each bus carries a customs pass book for the signatures of officials. Some few years ago the Company erected a magnificent building at Buncrana, where waiting rooms, wash-up and sanitary conveniences, as well as catering facilities, are provided for passengers. This is one of the most elaborate public transport buildings to be found anywhere in provincial Ireland.

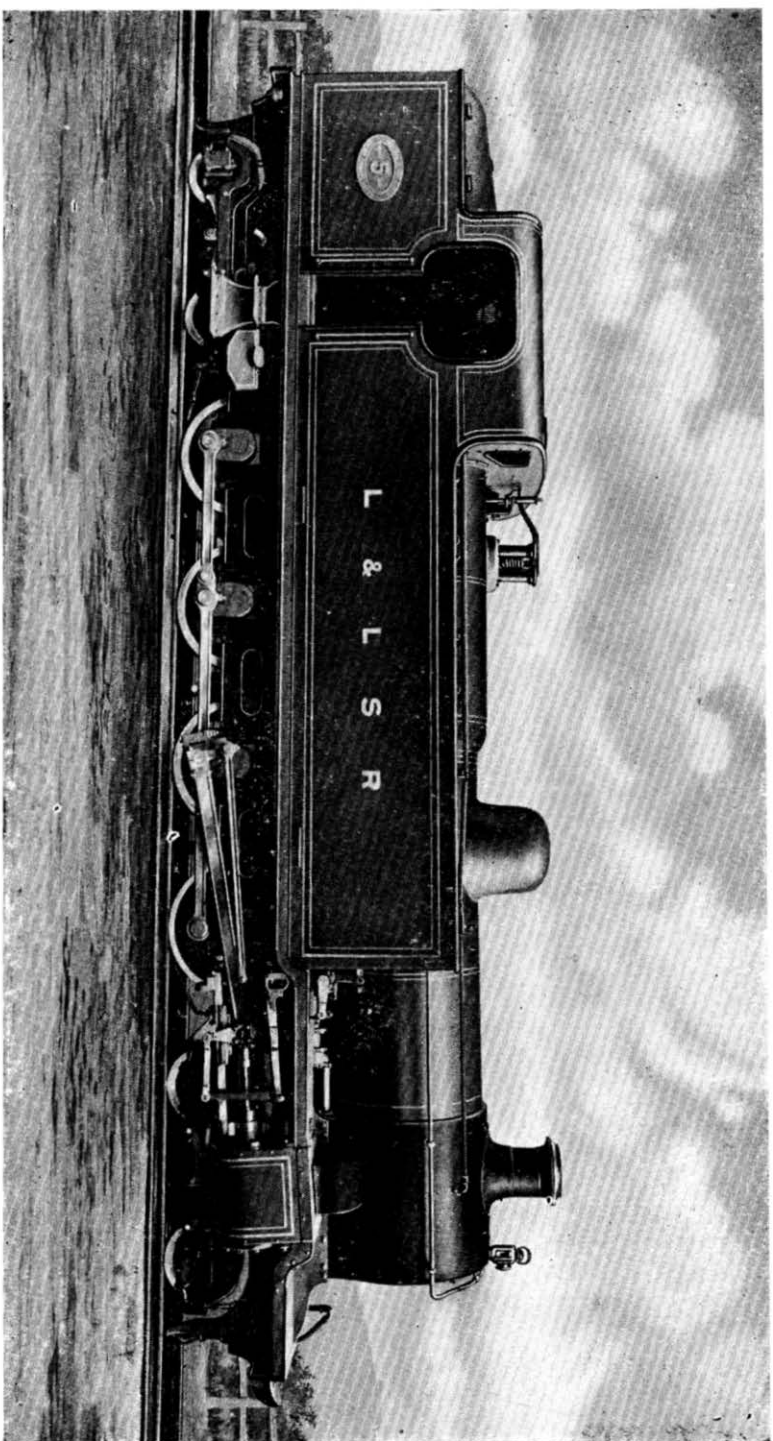
The directors of the company are Col. Sir Basil McFarland, Bart., (chairman), Dr. J. McCormick, Mr. J. A. Piggot, Mr. J. T. McFarland and Colonel J. McLaughlin. Other officials are Mr. S. H. Bell, accountant, and Mr. J. Armstrong, mechanical engineer, and there are some 400/420 staff on the undertaking. It is interesting to note that the remaining railway section of the undertaking provided about 10 per cent. of the gross earnings, yet required 33 per cent. of the total staff to operate it.

Although the Lough Swilly company is relatively small compared with the nationalised concerns on both sides of the Irish sea, it would appear that the much-talked-of integration of road and rail transport offers possibilities if the problem is approached in a realistic way and that the operating organisation on the one hand and the competent authority, whether it be the Government, a commission or executive on the other hand, applies itself diligently to the problem of meeting public requirements effectively because in the final analysis that is what it amounts to.

From the point of view of history it is interesting to record that when in 1903 King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra visited Ireland the royal party landed at Buncrana Pier and travelled to Derry on the Lough Swilly Railway. The Royal train travelled right into the heart of the city, its distinguished passengers being able to alight almost at the Guildhall, centre of the city's civic administration.



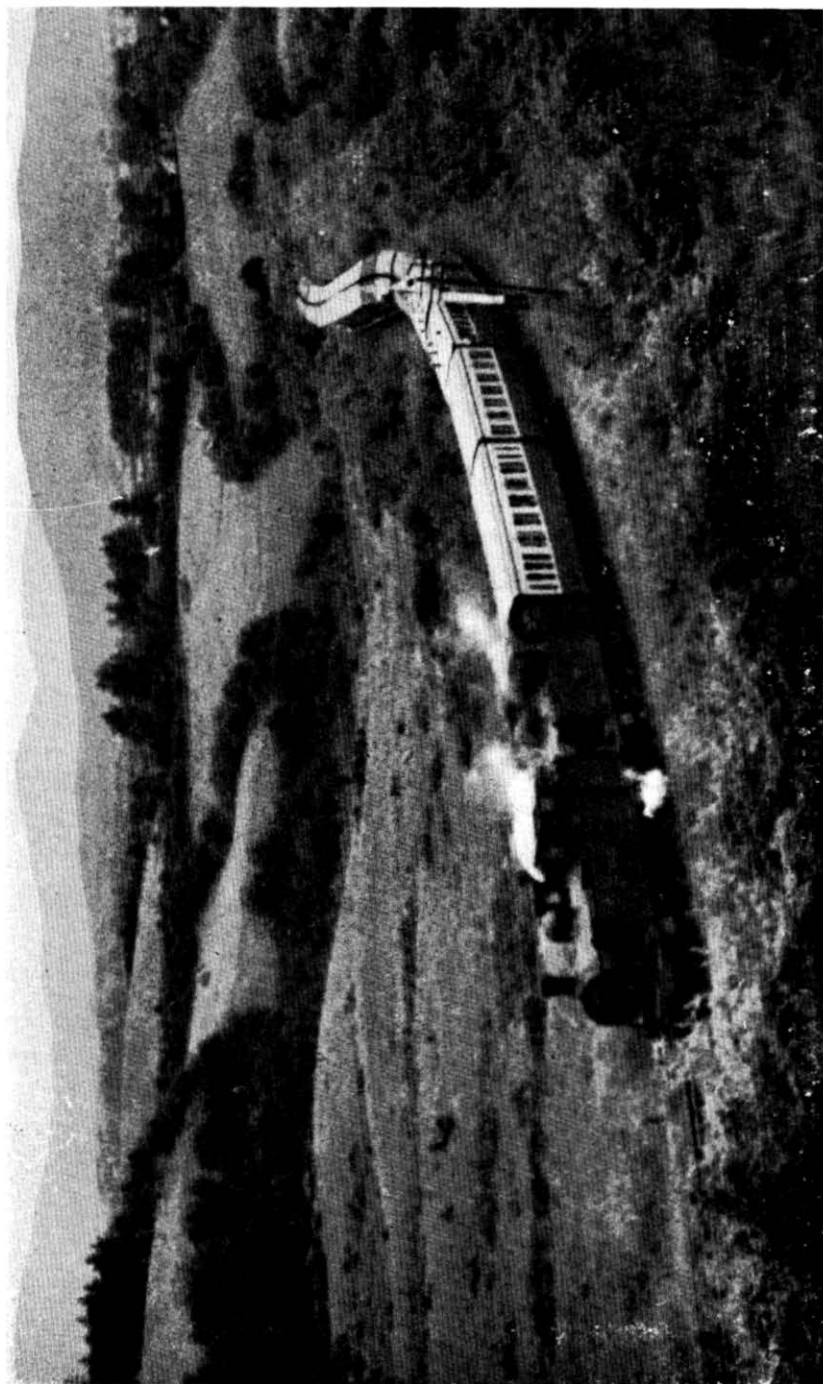
THE LATE SIR JOHN MCFARLAND, BART.



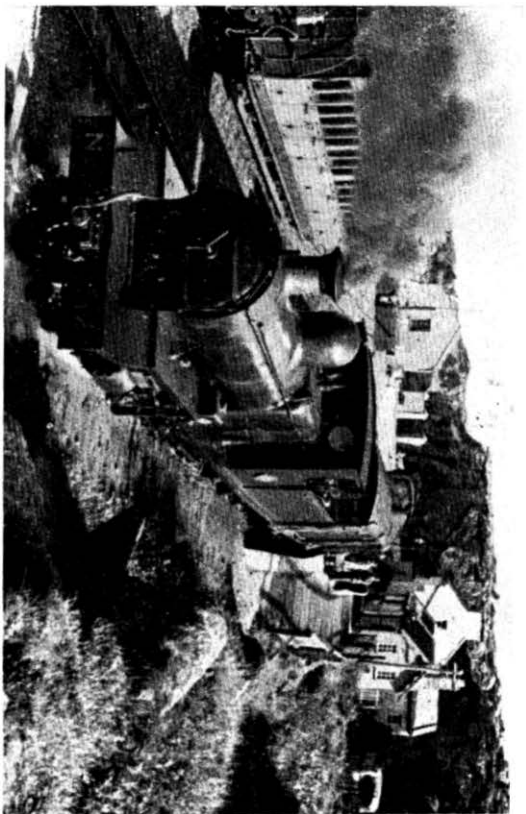
THE LARGEST NARROW-GUAGE ENGINE IN THESE ISLANDS. LOUGH SWILLY RAILWAY, 1912.



SCENE OF THE DISASTER AT OWEN CARROW VIADUCT.



A C.D.R. TRAIN ENTERING THE PICTURESQUE FINN VALLEY



The last train leaving Burtonport on the eve of the closing
Letterkeny - Burtonport section of the Lough Swilly Railway.

One of the first chairmen of the Lough Swilly Company was Sir John McFarland, Bart., Aberfoyle, Derry, whose son, Sir Basil McFarland, Bart., now occupies that office. The first was a Mr. James Clay. Sir John assumed office in 1896 and it is noteworthy that it was under his chairmanship that the line had its era of greatest progress, maintaining a dividend of 7 per cent on its ordinary shares for many years prior to the 1914/18 war.

THE G.N.R. IN DONEGAL

The County Donegal Railways (Joint Committee), as it is styled to-day, is as the name suggests, under the joint ownership of the G.N.R. and the British Transport Commission.

The Finn Valley Railway was opened from Strabane to Stranorlar in 1863 and was subsequently extended to Glenties and from Donegal to Killybegs. This Company was amalgamated with the County Donegal Railway in 1891. The C.D.R. lost its autonomy in 1906 when the narrow gauge railways of the South County Donegal came under the joint ownership of the G.N.R. and the L.M.S. (N.C.C.). Those important lines had not an entirely successful career, financially speaking, and negotiations resulted in the arrangement for their future control by two broad gauge companies, one Irish and one English. The County Donegal Railways Joint Committee came into being on May 1st, 1906, and is still operating as such.

An extension constructed by the Midland Railway Company

on narrow gauge from Strabane to Derry was opened on January 1st, 1904, by the British controlled Midland Railway, but it was not remunerative. This line runs parallel to the G.N.R. line, but on the other side of the River Foyle.

A line constructed by the Enniskillen - Bundoran Railway Co., 35½ miles long, was opened on June 13, 1866, and this later became the property of the Irish North Western Railway Co., and later still the G.N.R., who to-day have the privilege of serving this popular resort. The Irish Highlands Hotel at Bundoran, was taken over by the G.N.R. and completely renovated by Act of Parliament in 1897. The Londonderry-Enniskillen Railway opened a line, broad gauge, for the 14 miles section from Strabane to Derry on April 19, 1847, and this forms part of the main G.N.R. line between Derry and Belfast via Strabane, Omagh, Dungannon and Portadown.

THE C.D.R.

From the pen of S. J. Carse, a recent issue of the *Journal of the Irish Railway Record Society*, gives an interesting survey of the working of the County Donegal Railways. The Finn Valley Railway Co., the article states, was incorporated May 15, 1860, and the first sod was cut by the Marquess of Abercorn on September 9, 1851, when "His Lordship amidst the applause of the assembled spectators, divested himself of his coat and wheeled away the turf on a highly ornamental barrow, specially prepared for the occasion."

This ceremony was followed by a dinner to which all and sundry were invited. The usual promises were made by the contractors of reaching the far end of the line in no time, and the Chairman, not to be outdone, predicted a dividend of at least 11%; but, alas, neither of these two promises was destined to be fulfilled. The time for opening extended from nine months, as promised, to three years, and the line was not opened till September 7, 1863. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, Earl Carlisle, thought the occasion of sufficient importance to attend and in a felicitous speech declared the line open to traffic. In order to avoid a bridge across the River Mourne, the junction with the Irish North Western Railway was made a short distance south of Strabane.

Lord Lifford, the Chairman, announced that he had set himself the task of building a railway which for economy in construction would be an example not merely to the United Kingdom, but to the whole civilised world. The entire line, including four stations, but exclusive of rolling stock, cost £70,000, about £5,300 per mile. The F.V.R. at first possessed no rolling stock of its own; a contract was made with the I.N.W.R. to supply engines, carriages and wagons, and to work the line for 10 years for 35% of the traffic receipts. After the 10 years a new arrangement was made: the F.V.R. bought carriages and wagons, while the I.N.W.R. supplied engine power for 9d per mile and received a fixed sum for permission to

work into Strabane. The receipts of the F.V.R. increased from the opening until 1878, when the earnings were £7,000 per annum, equal to about £10 per mile per week, a dividend of 2½% being paid on the ordinary stock. After that year, however, the revenue dropped, and in 1881 payment of dividends on the ordinary stock had to be suspended. The West Donegal Railway was granted powers on July 31, 1872, to build a 3 ft. gauge line from Stranorlar to Donegal town, 18 miles. The line was opened to Druminnin (now Lough Eske) on April 25, 1882, and thence to Donegal town on September 16, 1889.

On June 27, 1892, the F.V.R. and the W.D.R. were amalgamated under the title of the Donegal Railway Company. In their Report of 1888 the Royal Commission on Irish Public Works made suggestions for the development of the Irish railway system by means of Light Railways. As a result the Light Railways (Ireland) Act of 1889 was passed, which applied where the promoters made an agreement for the working of the line by an existing railway company. The State aid took the form of a free grant towards the cost of construction. The Stranorlar-Glenties section was constructed under the provisions of the F.V.R. (Stranorlar to Glenties) Order, 1891, at a cost of £124,886, of which £123,886 was provided by Government grant, and £1,000 by the issue of stock to which was attached a Baronial Guarantee which ceased on the passing of the Great Northern (Ireland)

and Midland Railways Act, 1906. After the amalgamation of the F.V.R. the Donegal Railway Co. completed the construction of the section, which was opened June 3, 1895. From Donegal town the line was extended to Killybegs and opened for traffic on August 18, 1893. These railways were worked by the D.R., the profits, after paying all outgoings, to be divided equally between the State and Company. As part of this arrangement the D.R. undertook to convert the old F.V.R. from 5' 3" to 3' gauge, to complete the line to Strabane, and to provide a separate station there. This was done in 1894 and on July 16 of that year narrow gauge trains began to run through to Strabane. The Strabane-Derry line was opened August 8, 1900, and the Donegal-Ballyshannon branch, September 21, 1905. Under the provisions of the Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Act, 1906, the Donegal Railway was acquired jointly by these two Companies (except the Strabane-Derry section, which passed entirely into Midland ownership) and the present County Donegal Joint Committee was established. The Strabane & Letterkenny Railway was opened January 1, 1909, and except for some mineral lines was the last narrow gauge railway to be built in Ireland. It is owned and worked by the Joint Committee, having a Board of four representatives of the Joint Committee with a Shareholders' Chairman. In 1923 the Midland passed to the L.M. & S.R. (N.C.C.), and this in turn passed to the Railway Executive (British Railways) on

January 1, 1948. The Strabane-Derry section was taken over by the U.T.A. in 1949 but continues to be worked by the Joint Committee.

The distance from Strabane to Killybegs is 50½ miles. At Strabane the station adjoins that of the G.N.R. and consists of an island platform connected by a footbridge with the G.N.R. In practice the services to Killybegs use the near side, to Letterkenny and Derry the far side. Adjoining the station are the tranship yard, goods store, and sidings, and there is a two-road engine shed. Leaving Strabane the line is carried over the River Mourne by a steel bridge, and after traversing a stretch of fairly level country the frontier between the Republic of Ireland is crossed by a bridge 150 ft. long. Clady station is 4½ miles from Strabane, and Castlefinn 6 miles. Both are Irish Customs posts, Preventive Staff work being done at Clady and Executive work at Castlefinn, where both platforms are signalled for each direction, so that trains can be brought into up or down platforms as convenient. The Imperial Customs Post is at Strabane. Between Castlefinn and Stranorlar are Liscool Halt, 8 miles; Killygordon, 9½ miles, and Cavan Halt, 11½ miles. At Stranorlar (13½) miles are the headquarters of the Committee and the principal locomotive sheds. The Locomotive, Railcar, Carriage and Wagon Shops, and the General Stores and Offices are situated here and there is extensive siding accommodation.

On leaving Stranorlar the line

crosses the Finn River by a stone viaduct and begins the ascent of Barnesmore bank. The gradient is 1 in 59 for the first mile, then $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles at 1 in 50 to Meenglas Halt, followed by 1 in 60 to the summit at $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles; there is a short level stretch past Lough Mourne, then 1 in 67 to Derg Bridge ($21\frac{1}{2}$ miles) which is the highest point on the line, 591½ ft. above Ordnance datum. Thence the line descends at 1 in 60 through the Barnesmore Gap to Barnesmore Halt, and drops at frequently changing gradients (with some slight uphill stretches) past Clar Bridge Halt and Lough Eske to Donegal. From Donegal the line follows the sea-coast most of the way, passing Killymard Halt (situated in a valley between a fall at 1 in 51 and the $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles long Glen bank to Mountcharles at 1 in 40), Mountcharles, Doorin Road Halt, Mullinboy Halt, Inver, Port Halt, Dunkineely, Bruckless, Ardara Road Halt, to Killybegs ($50\frac{1}{2}$ miles). There are a number of stiff gradients on this section, the worst being 1 in 40 on a $7\frac{1}{2}$ chain curve at Seahill, Dunkineely.

The Strabane and Letterkenny Railway, $19\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, swings sharply to the right on leaving Strabane, and crosses the joining of the Rivers Finn and Mourne by a girder bridge 293 feet long. Lifford Halt is 1 mile from Strabane and is the Irish customs post. Sidings are provided for wagons waiting Customs examination and for local goods. Trains also pick up or leave off mails for the Post Office sorting depot situated in the station premises. There is a crossing loop at Rap-

hoe, $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Strabane; other stations are Ballindrait, Coolaghey Halt, Convoy, Cornagillagh Halt, and Glenmaquin where there was formerly a crossing loop, but it was removed many years ago. The longest gradients are Raphoe bank, $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles at 1 in 45, and Convoy bank, 3 miles at 1 in 50/87.

The Stranorlar-Glenties line, $24\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, was closed to regular traffic on December 13, 1947. Since then it has been used a few times for special livestock traffic, the last time being on September 19, 1949, when a special ran between Stranorlar and Cloghan with sheep. The line has since been closed to all traffic. There were stations or halts at Ballybofey, Glenmore, Elaghtagh, Clogan, Glassagh, Ballinamore, Fintown (where there was a crossing loop) and Shallohans. On leaving Stranorlar the line crossed the Finn river by a large single span bridge. It is one of the largest in Ireland and was originally intended for a Norwegian broad gauge line. The Donegal and Ballyshannon branch is $15\frac{1}{2}$ miles long, with stations at Drumbar Halt, Laghey, Bridgetown, Ballintra, Dromore Halt, Rosnowlagh, Coolmore Halt and Creevy Halt. At Ballyshannon there is no connection with the G.N.R., the stations being about a mile apart and on opposite sides of the Erne.

In 1926 Mr. Henry Forbes, Manager of the Joint Committee from 1910 until his death on November 7, 1943, introduced petrol railcars, by means of which he was able to operate a more frequent service, and stops could be

made at crossing gates to pick up or set down passengers. These cars proved so successful that larger cars were built, fitted with Diesel engines. The C.D.J.C. was a pioneer in the introduction of Diesel rail traction, No. 7 railcar which went into traffic between Strabane and Killybegs in September 1931, being the first regular Diesel service in the British Isles. In 1930 Mr. Forbes started a road bus service between Glenties and Rosbeg with two small 36 h.p. Ford 20-seater petrol buses.

In 1933, when Catherwood's buses had opened up a fine road transport system, chiefly on the Derry-Donegal-Sligo road, the G.N.R. took over this route and extended the services to hitherto isolated centres like Carrick, Kilcar, Glencolumbkille and Malinmore and Portnoo. In more recent years a service was opened between Ballybofey and Letterkenny. Hitherto the only link between these two towns was the long journey by rail, via Strabane.

THE LOUGH DERG PILGRIMAGE

On the borders of Fermanagh and Donegal is situated the small town of Pettigo, and $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles away in a wild mountain district is Lough Derg, where on Station Island is located the scene of St. Patrick's vision of Purgatory. Here there is a basilica in Byzantine style and a hospice. The annual pilgrimage to this holy place has become the most remarkable in the world. Pilgrims come from all parts.

To indicate the modern growth

of this pilgrimage the following figures, taken from the records of the G. N. R. Railway, are of interest :— In 1929, 5,933 pilgrims were carried; ten years later in 1939, on the outbreak of World War II, 7,349 pilgrims made the journey and in 1947 no fewer than 17,062 pilgrims visited Lough Derg. In 1951 this figure jumped to 18,803 and notwithstanding Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome in 1950, the figure was 18,450. But figures for 1952 broke all records. The Great Northern Railway carried 21,829. The balance arrived at Lough Derg by private motor and many organised parties travelled in Coras Iompair Eireann and Ulster Transport Authority buses.

The pilgrims arriving by train at Pettigo station are brought out to the lake shore in a fleet of Great Northern Railway buses which are maintained at Pettigo throughout the season for this purpose. This service was taken over by the G.N.R. in 1930. The phenomenal growth in the volume of pilgrimage traffic has made it necessary to provide additional facilities at Pettigo Station and this work is now being carried out. Many special trains run into this station during the pilgrimage season, but apart from these, the majority of the pilgrims travel by the now famous "Bundoran Express" from Dublin direction which provides connection at Clones from Belfast. The "Bundoran Express" runs non-stop through "Northern" Ireland between Clones and Pettigo in each direction thereby not only reducing the travelling time for the journey, but also cutting out the

Customs examination at the various boundary stations between the two points.

In another number it is hoped

to trace more fully the evolution of transport from the days of the "goat-tracks".

DONEGAL IN INDUSTRY

MANUFACTURE OF TWEEDS

LONG before the State aided industrial drive of recent years, Donegal was playing a big part in Ireland's struggle for economic salvation. Back through the pages of nineteenth century history one finds names that are to-day world-known in the sphere of industry. Their progress from small beginnings makes reading of absorbing interest and to know about them is to find new hope for the future place which Ireland will hold in world affairs when the world, if ever, returns to anything like normality.

In these pages only a few of the industrial firms in the County at present can come under review, since it is history that is our concern. Thirty years from now, the history of modern beginners can be written. Let us hope it will prove as worthy of narration as those which we mention in the following pages.

Weavers of Donegal tweed in that county still use the well tried methods and hand looms of their forefathers, but their inherited skill is now linked with the most modern ideas of design, with the result that the industry

has seen two post-war revolutions—the production of a lightweight cloth which is now being used extensively in women's suits and dresses, and the building up of a big export market.

Tweed has been handwoven amidst the hills of Donegal for centuries. The original type of tweed was made with a white or undyed warp and a brown speckled or black yarn woven across it giving a flecked appearance as opposed to Harris tweed made in Scotland, which has a solid or self colour. If one examines a piece of granite from any of the Donegal hills it has very much the same colour as the original type of tweed and it is thought that this type was evolved because of the protective colouring it gave against the background of granite hills.

It is this type of tweed which is known throughout the world as Donegal tweed and this is one of the great difficulties in endeavouring to introduce legislation to protect the name "Donegal", as while this type of Donegal handwoven tweed, in a new, firmer and more durable

cloth is still made, people in the wollen trade throughout the world refer to the many imitations, with a white background and mottled weft as Donegal tweed—in a sense of tribute to the fame and name of the genuine article.

In the early part of this century a lot of the genuine tweed was being made in Donegal in the cottages throughout the country. Unfortunately there was no real supervision of quality and with a good demand there was a growing tendency not to keep the standard of quality as good as it should. The tweed was brought to the markets and fairs, usually in creels on the back of a donkey and there sold to one of a few firms engaged in the export and marketing of the tweed.

The firm of Magee, in Donegal town, which is now one of the two big firms engaged in the industry, bought tweed like this, as far back as 1860. The difficulty however was that while the majority of the weavers made good cloth, sometimes a bad weaver would make cloth not up to standard and if this was exported it tended to give the tweeds a bad name, even if it was only one bad piece in a consignment.

Mr. Robert Temple, a Donegal man himself, entered the firm of Magee in 1887, the original Magee being a cousin of his, and became owner of the firm in 1901. He soon realised that if the Donegal tweed industry were to survive all the handweaving must be done under supervision and, therefore, took steps to gather some of the best weavers around

him in his own factory and to send out yarn only to the good weavers in the cottages, all cloth made being carefully examined in Donegal. That this was the right policy was proved by the fact that while the Donegal tweed industry diminished greatly after the first world war, Magees have continued to weave tweed all through this difficult period, and today export their cloths in increasing quantities all over the world. Mr. Robert Temple, now chairman of the Company, in his 84th year still takes an active interest in the products of his firm and is regarded as one of the grand old men of Donegal.

It was always his policy to regard the employees of the firm as friends and many years ago when such a thing was uncommon he introduced a form of bonus or profit sharing. His son, Mr. H. L. Temple, Managing Director of the firm, firmly believes in the same policy.

Magees regard service and value as being essential conditions for success in business. A staff pension fund was introduced a couple of years ago and was received with great enthusiasm by the staff.

Mr. R. Harris is Production and Export Manager and regularly visits the various Export Markets all over the world. Last autumn he visited America and Canada and as a result of his visit Magees have been able to increase the amount of employment they give. A substantial number of cottage weavers have been taken on. A new weaving centre has been opened by them in Glencolumbkille and work has

just been completed on an extension to the Donegal factory.

In addition to the tweed making a shirt factory is in operation and an extensive wholesale business is done in suitings,

hosiery and general drapery.

Visitors are cordially invited to visit the factory and see for themselves the various activities which are carried on.

Carpet Making In Killybegs

Carpets on the world's luxury ocean-going liners, the Queen Elizabeth and Queen Mary amongst them, on the floors of the Houses of Parliament in Cape-town, of Buckingham Palace, the Irish Embassy in London, Dublin Castle, and the Presidential residence, Aras an Uachtairian in Phoenix Park, and in many other State institutions throughout the civilised world, principally America and Canada, give Donegal craftsmanship an enviable place in the annals of the crafts. Killybegs carpets are world-famous. It is doubtful if any other industry in these islands attained the prominence in world affairs that this remotely placed Irish enterprise achieved in the days when the skill of man was free of the opposition of the machine.

The writer could not do better than reproduce here an article from the "Freeman's Journal" of August 1890 as an outline of how this industry came into being.

"EVERYONE has long known that more essential to the permanent welfare of Ireland than even beneficent laws, would be the natural spread over her counties of active, healthy Industries,

but the difficulty has always been to find steady branches of Industry that would not be too sorely handicapped by the absence of coal with its accompanying economy in power. Those who travel from Donegal to Galway and farther south, will admire the wild, rolling grandeur of the scenery, but they will be still more struck by the vast number of cottars' huts dotted everywhere among the hills, considering the meagreness of livelihood that must be snatched from those allotted roods of rock and bog. There is none of that natural richness of soil which yields golden harvests ungrudgingly; coal and iron, that have made all the world elsewhere wealthy in modern times, have kept severely away from those districts, and it is patent to any observer that those who brave life there must content themselves with what luxuries hard work and patience can extract from bog or barren rock—a meagre fare enough, God knows!

"Yet there they are. Thousands of those families have eked out their existence generation after generation for hundreds of years, and despite the terrible poverty



A group of workers engaged in the Killybegs Carpet Factory. Extreme right, back row, is Catherine McShane, now thirty years with the firm.

it entails, there continues a power in those hills to attract and enfold the people, for many who wander away return again from the luxuriousness of the cities, or look back with yearning to the simple, hard life among the hills. Something pathetic there is in all this, yet of great virtue, and in those days when there is general lament over the depopulation of rural districts, and our teachers cry for a return to country-life, the feeling is surely one to be encouraged. Yet who would extol a life of such deplorable poverty as dependence on the soil among those highlands affords, and if we would have people in the rural districts, we must ensure them there higher comfort and easier access to the better things of life than can be snatched by slavish worming of a livelihood from utter barrenness. And there lies the problem: a people deeply attached to a land which is incapable of supporting them by ordinary means, for, after all, romance and poetry are but thin stuff for the stomach, and they have to dig from the bog or scratch from rock the fuel to keep the fire a-burning. To one going fresh among such a people, this work seems an enormous waste of human energy. One stroke of a M'Cormick machine in Colorado will reap more harvest than a Celt with his spade in a round year. Those rough, rumbling hills were never meant to be tilled, and the idea at once strikes a stranger,—Is there nothing else these people can give, in order to draw in, in exchange, some of the bountifulness of the outside world! What of the sharp wits

of the Celts, and the hundred-and-one fine qualities that tradition gives him by birth-right? What of that ability and nimbleness that are never without their outstanding examples in high quarters, and which seem to gleam from the ordinary Irishman under the commonest conditions? Surely the world has uses for those!

"Some such ideas occur to all visitors to those parts, but some eighteen months ago the fact so caught hold of certain manufacturers of artistic textiles, touring there, that they resolved to make a practical experiment, especially as they were on the outlook at the time for districts where they could work a certain hand-industry that would employ large numbers of girls and boys. This resulted in their establishing, just a year ago next month, a place for the making of Hand-Tufted Carpets of the description known as Turkish or Persian. The peculiarity of this fabric is that from its nature it must be a hand-production. The tufts, or "mosaics of small woollen squares", as William Morris calls them, are tied by the fingers in knots into longitudinal warps which are stretched between two long parallel beams. The Carpets are made to the size and shape of any room. The design is placed in front, and the girls, from three to a dozen according to the size of the Carpet, select the colours indicated row by row, which are tied, then bound down by "shoots" of woollen weft drawn across the entire width, and beaten firm by small iron-toothed hammers. There is interesting variety and

pleasure in the work, and it is such that individual skill and workmanship come largely into play. Altogether it is just such an industry as is suited to the rural districts of Ireland. No steam-power is required, and there is therefore no handicap on the commercial side by the absence of coal, and, the production being necessarily slow, a large proportion of the ultimate value comes from the labour. Moreover, the chief charm of these Carpets when finished is derived from the very fact that they are hand-tufted, and have that stamp of individuality and irregularity that no power-loom can give. The manufacturers who have undertaken this venture make many varieties of Carpeting by power-loom, and it was owing to strong demand from high-class customers over the world for a production of more individual character, that they were led to resort to this primitive method of weaving. The difference between a Carpet produced in this way and the ordinary smoothly-shaven power-loom production is much the same as that between a real oil painting and a smart coloured lithograph. The real article has dignity, individuality, and with the increase of good taste and wealth the demand for the genuine daily grows. Unlike "Homespun" tweed and similar fabrics, the method is one requiring human thought in the process. It is therefore an industry which in its own way cannot be superseded by power-loom, and can be approached only by mechanism of a highly-complicated and uneconomical sort. In-

deed it is this individual art character which has kept the Persian and Turkish Carpets in steady demand for hundreds of years, and makes them more sought after to-day than ever. It was also the appreciation of this quality that led William Morris to establish hand-tuft Carpet and Tapestry looms at Hammersmith some 20 to 30 years ago, and the Carpets being made in Donegal are of similar weave and character, though they do not aim at such exclusiveness.

"The first year's experiment with the Irish girls has proved that they are admirably adapted for the work. The experience for generations of the little "Homespun" and lace work that are always to be met with in Ireland has been a first-rate education, for the girls show a nimbleness of finger and sharpness of eye for colour and form that have quite astonished their teachers and they take to the work with a spirit and cheerfulness that is quite refreshing. So convinced are the promoters now of its ultimate large success, that they have planned out a broad scheme that will spread this work all over the West of Ireland, and give employment to many hundreds of girls and boys. In addition, and this is a most important feature, these goods being made entirely of wool, the scheme embraces the rearing of sufficient sheep on these Western Highlands to supply the entire requirements of the Industry, and as this will be spun and dyed on the spot, the composition of these high art productions that are ultimately to find their way into

the best homes and halls the world over, will be entirely Irish. It is reckoned that one girl in this Industry will work up in a year the wool of 225 sheep. Thus, when the number of girls employed grows to 1,000—the matter it is expected of a very few years—it would mean the consumption of the fleeces of over 10,000 score of sheep annually, and a sum divided among the sheep-farmers of something like £15,000. Again, for the spinning, dyeing, and weaving of this wool, the families of those farmers or small holders would earn in wages from £20,000 to £30,000, making a total of perhaps £40,000 circulated annually among the inhabitants of those Donegal hills. So far as one can judge, the scheme is both feasible and eminently practicable. Confining their efforts entirely to Donegal at first, the promoters are building a place at Killybegs to accommodate over 400 workers, this quantity being available within a radius of two miles from the village. Having an ideal harbour, as well as a branch of the Donegal Railway, Killybegs is meant to be the centre depot, where all wool will be collected, and spinning and dyeing done for the entire Industry. Other branches, for weaving only, will be made at villages such as Killycar, Ardara, Glenties, &c., and the products collected to the central depot for finishing and despatch. For more scattered and outlying parts where girls could not walk morning and evening to a factory, a simple device has been invented whereby, after the girls have learned the art, they

can take the frame-loom to their homes, and weave the quaintly-designed rugs or Tapestry panels in their houses, or as they watch the sheep on the hillsides.

"We are sure all wish success to this estimable and highly interesting enterprise. Those who have seen the Donegal Carpets must agree that they need to depend on no "Support-Home-Industries" sentiment for trade. The choice touch of art in the design and colouring are the same that have already won for the promoters a world-wide reputation, and with the sound quality of the texture, we have little doubt that the Irish Hand-made fabrics will soon bulk largely in the markets of the world. Already Carpets have been made at Killybegs for some of the highest Decorative Art Critics in England and America, and work is at present going on for important public buildings.

Now that the success of such a scheme has been established, it is to be hoped others will take advantage of this hitherto almost unrecognised vein of wealth in our Western Highlands. For by using the latent intelligence and activity of a people to convert the raw products of the hills into articles of high interchangeable value, they will link them to an outside world that can give in return comforts which the most slavish drudgery on bog could never approach. The wits of the people it is, after all, that form the real wealth of the hills, and if these can be properly "tapped" things undreamt of will doubtless spring up. Freed from the rude struggle for existence, and amid those inspiring hills, the inherent

qualities of the Celt will again assert themselves; the high ancient Civilisation will be recalled, with a new Celtic Art to interpret it, as beautiful and distinctively National as any its history records.

"It is gratifying to know that the Congested Districts (Government) Board have given the venture the heartiest support from the very outset, and the promoters, the Messrs. Morton, of Darvel, Ayrshire, speak in high terms of the extreme courtesy and assistance they have met with everywhere, from priest and people alike."

August, 1899.

At present the factory is controlled by Messrs. Morton Sundour Fabrics, Ltd. Carisle, which was founded by Alex Morton, who started the Killybegs factory. A native of Ayrshire, he died in 1924 at Bruckless, some miles from Killybegs, where he had resided for some years. His remains were interred in his native Ayrshire. He was succeeded as chairman of the Company by his

son, Sir James Morton, who was noted for work of research in dye-dyeing processes. Sir James died in 1952 and was succeeded by his son, Joceyln, the present chairman of the company.

If the commendable scheme originally planned by the founder of the factory did not materialise in full, it can be said that the experiment made at Killybegs fully justified itself, for ever since Killybegs and its carpets have been almost synonymous terms in many lands.

There are other industries which the writer would like to review here, but space does not permit. These are the knitwear industry at Glenties, which now "employs half the countryside", and the Belleek Pottery, which, though not of Donegal, is near enough its borders to give the county a pride in its world-fame; and, of course, Convoy woollen mills, the founding and development of which makes a story in itself. These and other worthy of note will be dealt with in the next and future numbers of the "Donegal Annual."

Ireland's First District Justice

A little over ten years ago, on December 28th., 1942, the mortal remains of Louis J. Walsh—lawyer, dramatist, author and journalist—were laid to rest on the grassy knoll of Conwal whose northern side faces towards the rim of hills that overlooks his native South Derry. His death at a time when his wide public believed that he had yet two decades of active, useful work before him was not only a loss to contemporary letters but took from the national scene one who always delighted in playing a part in public affairs and who brought to the discharge of a high office the Franciscan geniality and broad charity that made his Courts the most popular Tribunals in the land.

THE impermanence of newspaper notices is almost as notorious as the forgetfulness of those who write them, yet it is in a way a special tribute to the man himself that Louis J. Walsh should be gratefully remembered ten years after by the many newspaper-men whom he made his friends. Most Donegal people by now have forgotten the full page obituary notices that appeared and the special articles contributed by men of letters from all parts of the Catholic world. But in the newspaper offices of an evening when the work is done and the last proof of a

dreary recording of the unimportant doings of a District Council has gone to the compositors, the reporters settle back on their chairs and listen to the flow of anecdote from the older men. Inevitably, one of the company will remark "That reminds me of Donegal and the day we were at Falcarragh Court" and off he goes into a delightful reminiscence of the Derry-born Justice for Donegal who dispensed his own brand of judicial mercy in the little barn at the Crossroads. One good story calls for another, and before one knows, the air will be filled with stories in which Justice Walsh figured — figured always to his credit and inevitably to the advantage of the newsmen.

WHEN contributing to THE DONEGAL ANNUAL what is meant merely as a vignette one must omit details that belong more properly to a biography. Thus, it is taken for granted that the reader already knows in a general way that Louis J. Walsh came from Maghera, that he studied under Padraig Pearse, that he was in gaol for his country's cause (though the genial Justice would have it that he was interned for his country's good) and that he became Ireland's first District Justice. It is assumed also that his work as a Catholic publicist

in the United States and in Australia is too well-known to require inclusion here. All that is aimed at in this brief notice is to convey something of the man as seen by those professional cynics, the newspaper reporters. It will not be disputed that the pressmen have every advantage when, after long experience, they assess the worth of any public figure. Their opinion in such a matter is more likely to be right than wrong and, recalling some specific instances, it is only fair to say that they are seldom in error.

JUSTICE Walsh presided in No. 1 Area, a bailiwick that stretched from Malin Head to Magheraarty and which contained as diverse an assortment of minor malefactors as a hard-working Judge who was also a humcrust might wish for. Throughout almost twenty years the monthly and bi-monthly Court sittings in this area were as keenly looked forward to as any of the more orthodoxly social events, which however they far outclassed in point of real interest.

WHAT impressed the regular frequenter of any of Justice Walsh's Court sittings was his great humanity and wide charity—virtues which are difficult to reconcile with the invariably stern processes of the law. But where the unimaginative Gardai saw in the dock the figure of an incorrigible rogue whose numerous petty vagrancies had cost them weeks of labour, the kind-hearted Justice peering forward myopically to view the shrinking offender saw only a

lineal descendant of the Penitent Thief. The man on the Bench did not believe in tempering justice with a little mercy; those who watched him at work day after day for many years came to know that with him justice was the same as mercy. On one occasion a defendant came before him who had long done violence to his last chance. The Gardai were fair but firm. The unhappy man could offer no explanations, and it became clear that a gaol sentence would have to be imposed. Justice Walsh reminded his hearers that we all must some day appear before the Great Judge and that we ourselves would expect mercy in circumstances much less promising than those in which the unfortunate defendant in the present case found himself. "Therefore" he continued, "as we hope to receive mercy ourselves, we must try to grant it to others". In the event, he sentenced the wrong-doer to six months imprisonment but suspended the sentence "as Christmas is now but a few days away".

IT is only right to say that the Gardai sometimes took a poor view of the Justice's kindness towards the offending class. They believed, and with much force, that laws should be enforced especially where penalties such as imprisonment were concerned, and that the cause of order and authority was ill-served by homely admonitions to constant offenders. Yet even the enthusiasts for chasing the owners of unlicensed dogs and the venturesome legion who breezily undertook to decide at

what stage a citizen may be regarded as being in a condition more accurately defined as "not sober", had to admit that serious crime was largely unknown in No. 1 Area and that its Justice, when the need arose, could be as stern as he was benign.

IN those cases coming before him which involved some degree of domestic friction, Justice Walsh made it a rule to intervene early in the case and force a settlement in open Court. Where this failed (as often it did) his suggestion that the parties on either side might care to see him in his private room frequently resulted in a reconciliation and the withdrawal of summons and cross-summons. Disputes between neighbours were similarly dealt with, but not infrequently the Justice saw that the proceedings were brought, not to decide the merits but "to have a day at the law" and the law was allowed to take its appointed course. A long day during which he might hear and decide ten contested cases and summarily adjudicate upon fifty or sixty admissions found the Justice at its end as attentive and as interested as he had been in the morning. He never affected the judicial ignorance that has served its purpose in giving openings to studied quips and epigrams. He was the Darling of the Irish Bench only in the sense that his repartee was as swift as that of his English contemporary but, unlike him, entirely unsought; the openings were not made—they made themselves.

ONE anecdote can now be related as all the parties but

one are dead. Many years ago Justice Walsh had the painful duty of hearing at a special Court a charge against a youth then within a couple of months of entering a profession. The defendant was accompanied by his widowed mother, whose only child he was. Her distress visibly affected the Justice who dealt with the case in a manner that met the merits but which would leave no record against the lad. When all was over, the mother thanked the Justice and sobbed "Will you see it is kept out of the papers; my boy is ruined if this case is known". The Justice turned to the solitary reporter who had attended the proceedings and said simply "This is something for you. Do what you can and ease a mother's heart". Remembering many kindnesses at the Justice's hands, the pressman whispered to him that the case was already forgotten and asked the Justice to be himself the bearer of the good news to the weeping mother. Within a few minutes a thoroughly frightened and repentant youth and his rejoicing mother made their way from the Courtroom. There is much to be said in favour of Clause 42 which has raised such a storm in another place; widowed mothers whose only sons go slightly off the rails have no assurance that they will come before Judges whose kindness is equalled only by their humility.

SOME readers may remember the comical puzzle which Justice Walsh set the State away back in 1939 when he innocently enquired whether a prosecution for the alleged importation of

silk stockings lay under the Scrap Iron Act. The draughtsman after some months gave some sort of an answer but it was almost as unsatisfactory as the Justice's own solution to the problem of how to tell a girl's age. The latter arose from one of his rules that no girl under seventeen was to be admitted to a dance hall in his Area. When a reporter asked how was any dance hall proprietor to know a girl's age the Justice was stumped and fell back upon the fair-day expedient of regarding teeth as a reliable birth certificate.

WHEN giving judgment in a case he always was careful to explain to those litigants who were their own attorneys that an appeal lay against his decision, and proceeded: "Only one man in this world's infallible, and even he is infallible only on certain occasions. Now in this case I am either right or wrong. If I am right that's an end to it, but if I am wrong you can get my verdict reversed. Tactfully, he ignored discussing the possibility that the Appellate Court might also be wrong and that the only effect of an appeal might be to confirm an error. In all the duties of his high station he sought to act as the friend and guardian of those in distress and who had none to plead their cause or commiserate their follies. In his robes, seated on the Bench, he was The Law but surely it was difficult to associate vengeful forms and dread penalties with the kindly figure who mildly interposed now and then to hazard an explanation in favour of the de-

fendant, or who quizzically reminded the Court audience that all men have their faults. It is thus he will be remembered.

JUSTICE Walsh was at work on his Autobiography when death came to halt the busy hand. He had not got far with the work. A few months before his death a caller at his home in Letterkenny noticed (with the hands of the clock pointing to within a few minutes of midnight) that the typewriter was in action and a chapter "The Moy Fair" being written. That chapter never was completed. Only the next day the Justice became more gravely ill and left his desk never to return. Recently, a copy of the first ten chapters of his Autobiography showed how engrossing a story the Justice intended to make of his own life. He had intended to write of his own times much as Macaulay thought history should be written—with all the colour and detail that alone can give the past a meaning and bring it alive for the reader. Yet, brief though they be, the ten chapters of the contemplated work bring alive again memory of the pale, square face, with the broad brow crowning the penetrating eyes and the wisp of hair that never would stay in place but often fell almost to the spectacles. We hear in fancy the well-remembered voice and see the plump hand grasp firmly that pen which is in real truth "the machinery of the Law" — and across the film of memory pictures flit so rapidly that we lose trace of all we wish to remember.



The late Louis Walsh, Donegal's first District Justice.

Antiquities in the Parish of Donegal

DISTRICT OF TOWNAWILLY

(O/S Sheets 85, 86, 94. County Donegal).

1—Standing Stone in townland of Ardevin (Ard Aobhin) Barnesmore.

Height 4'. Breadth $2\frac{1}{2}'$. Thickness 8". No visible markings. Facing S. W. Not local stone but of a stratified nature. Evidently greatly weathered especially towards top. Occupies culminating summit in this townland and surrounding district. Firmly embedded.

2—Standing Stone in Milltown about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile S. W. of No. 1 above. Height 5'. Circumference of base $10\frac{1}{2}'$. Firmly embedded and very massive. Inclined northwards at angle of about 20 degrees. No visible markings. Local blue whinstone. Situated on low lying plains. Apparently facing South and somewhat rounded.

These would not be boundary stones—The river Lowry running parallel about 100 yds distant to South would be the natural boundary.

Local Tradition in regard to these stones. Niall of the Nine Hostages had two sons, Conall and Owen, whose chief pastime was throwing the shoulder stone. One day they entered into keen competition at this, their favourite sport, and their father promised the territory that extended

away towards the West to the son that displayed the greater prowess in throwing the stone. Eoghan stood on Cruach Eoghanach (mountain peak to south of Barnesmore Gap) while Conall stood on Cruach Conallach (peak to north of the Gap). Eoghan's stone landed on Ardevin (No. 1) while Conall's stone went further West (No. 2).

It was thus this County got the name Tir Conaill in the olden times and its people became known as the Cineal Conaill (c.f. Cineal Conaill and Cineal Eoghanach).

OTHER PLACES OF INTEREST IN VICINITY

Carnhill in townland of Ard-nableask (Ard na n-Blaosc — skulls). The hill known as Ard-nableask is quite near to Carnhill.

The Fort on top of a conical hill overlooking Lough Eske in townland of Ardevin. There seems to have been a circular buttress of stones about 6 ft. high, the inside of ring being level. Diameter of ring about 15 yards. Greatly overgrown with blackthorn and massive stones strewn about on hillside. On

western side of hill there would appear to be a large cap stone sliding off its supports but it is so massive that you could not imagine human strength moving it into such a position as to form a Dolmen.

Roisin in Ardevin is a small peninsula on shore of Lough Eske about 200 yds west of Fort. It is a disused graveyard said to be consecrated and possibly used as a burial place when Franciscans ministered in the Friary — the townland on opposite shore of Lough Eske after their expulsion from Donegal Abbey. The owner of adjoining land told me bodies unearthed there were wrapped in flannel — possibly Franciscan Grey.

Tobar Na mBrathar a few fields to west of Roisin on shore of lake.

Friar's Bush coincides with townland of Ardnawark (Ardan Amhaire). It is said that a Franciscan Friar was summarily hanged here by the Redcoats. It is just at Western entrance to Barnesmore Gap.

Ardawark (Ard an Amhaire) — Lookout Hill). It was on this hill which commands a view of passage through Gap and away towards Donegal that the sentries kept a lookout for the Redcoats in the Penal times while the priests (Ar a Seachnadh) celebrated Mass in the neighbouring fastness of Cullinboy (Cullinn Buidhe).

Graine Ni Baoghail when a very old woman told the following story (in Irish of course) to Patrick Callaghan who was about 10 years old at the time. Callaghan died 6 years ago at the age

of 71:—The people of Townawilly were eagerly looking forward to attending Christmas Mass which was to be celebrated in Cullinboy. The women folk of the district had rush candles in readiness days beforehand and when the great day arrived they were off to the appointed venue long before dawn. But some spideoir had done his fell work and when Mass was in progress the Redcoats eluded the lookout by crossing the mountain from the South and there was no opportunity of giving the required warning of their approach. Thus the soldiers surrounded the assembled congregation unawares. Loud lamentations from the worshippers broke forth. "A Mhuire Mhathar cuidigh Linn—A Mhuire Mhathair Saor Sinn." Immediately the soldiers fell prostrate and helpless remaining in that position until Mass was over and all had departed. Thus did the Virgin succour them in the hour of danger.

Charr, a species of Alpine salmon are caught in great numbers with bait in Lough Eske during spawning season (November) when they come close to shore. They are generally of a uniform size weighing about 2 ozs., and are said to have been put there by the Franciscans. They are found in one other lake in Ireland, somewhere in Westmeath.

The Friary is a townland situated on the Killymard side of Lough Eske. It was here the Friars settled when banished from Donegal and ministered to the Spiritual wants of the neighbouring districts. There is now no sign of a Church or building there

but Tobar na mbrathar and Roisin already noted, as well as Droichead na mbrathar and Casan na mbrathar, all close by, seem to be associated with their activities here.

Droichead na mbrathar the remains of an old bridge spanning the Clady river between the Friary and Greenans (Grianan).

Dolmen in townland of Friary in field above Lough Eske school on mountain side of Ceannachar. I did not yet get an opportunity of examining it but it is said to consist of a massive cap stone supported by pillar stones.

Casan na mbrathair marks the way leading from Edregole (Eadar Gabhail) on northern shore of Lough Eske and leading to Glenfinn. It consists of small cairns of quartz principally, at about distances of $\frac{1}{2}$ mile on this journey and served as a guide to the Brathair in mist and fog on their way over the Cruacha Gorma mountains. They are still very useful as land-marks to shepherds when caught on mountain in foggy weather.

Stone Circle (?) About two miles along the Casan na mbrathair are the Leachtaí Bana at a place called Dubh Chro. It is only lately I chanced to hear of it and did not see it. It has been described as a large stone circle on a height, the stones standing on end, a much larger stone standing outside the circle. As far as I can understand there are two smaller circles on lower ground near hand. There is not much opportunity of visiting it in winter.

Leachta Seain Ui Liathain has been described as a large artificial Carn east of Loch Bealsead

and near Casan na mBrathair. I can find no tradition in regard to it so far.

Loch Beal Sead takes its name probably from the sparkling sands and quartz comparable to Scada or Seoda at its mouth where the Easdunain issues to Lough Eske. It lies about midway towards summit of Cruacha Gorma.

Oilean Ui Dhomhnall (Island O'Donnell) lies towards southern shore of Lough Eske off Ros Dubh. Area about 5 roods. It is surrounded by a wall about 10 or 11 ft. high and 4 or 5 ft. in thickness.

Wall substantially constructed of very large stones and mortar, containing many loop holes and buttresses. Large entrance or gateway towards land. Apparently a stronghold or place of defence in retreat. There are the ruins of a building on North side of island.

Local Tradition states that Island O'Donnell was used as a prison by the O'Donnell Princes when they held sway in Caislean an Uisce. (It is not known whether these prisoners were military or civil or both—perhaps hostages). It is said that Island O'Donnell and Caislean an Uisce (about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant) were connected by means of a tunnel.

Carraic an Aifrin in Goladoo, Townawilly. Near hand there is a rocky field that would remind one of an old burial ground. Some of the stones occupy strange positions in regard to one another and it would seem strange that so many of them should be so placed naturally. There is no local tradition.

The Coire— a cave among the hills near the stone circle (?) described.

NOTE—This excellent little un-

signed survey was sent to Mr. Mac Lochlainn in response to his appeal sent out in 1931 on the formation of the County Council committee for preservation of Local Monuments)—EDITOR.

Antiquities In And Around Killybegs

- 1—**Stragar** — (O.S. 91, 92) six large stones standing in a rough elliptical space and some distance apart. Evidently a grave monument.
- 2—**Carricknamohili** — Megalithic Monument with dolmen at one end—running N. and S. It has every appearance of being a burial monument.
- 3—**Roughwood** — Altar Rock — (ii) The traces of an old double Fort (Caiseal). Splendidly chosen for defensive purposes.
- 4—**Croaghlin**—Sgreag an Aifrinn (a cross is cut on face of rock in front of supposed Mass-stone. The cross which seems to be the work of recent hands is 15" by 9" and plain)
- 5—**Largy na Greana** (O/S. 91, 97) —Roger's Farm — A raised mound of earth forming a rough circle about 33 yds in diameter and seems to be the seat of a crannog.—The local people say that it was a place used for training horses. A paved path led from this "Guirtin" (local name).
- 6—A double ring fort 180 yds further North, on same farm known locally as Caiseal Charaigh. This Fort is, or

was, almost circular but about one sixth of it has been quarried away to make room for a garden and the stones have been used in the boundary walls.

- 7—To the north of the ring fort (VI.) is a fine specimen of dolmen running East and West ; but 6 feet of the western end has been removed to clear a way for a road. What remains is wedge shaped 3 feet at closed and narrow end and 6 feet at wider end, where portion has been removed. It is about sixteen feet long and very well covered with massive slabs of rock.
- 8—On top of a hill in next townland, Lisnac'leithe, is an "altar rock" from which the hill - Cnoc-na-hAltoire takes its name. The Mass-rock measures 9' x 3½", and stretching eastwards from the rock is a row of 14 standing stones — some almost touching, others about a foot apart — which may be termed an "Alignment."
- In Lias na Cleithe there are the remains of the lios from which the townland takes its

- name, but the stones have been quarried for building purposes to such an extent that the Lios is almost obliterated. The position of Lios rendered it difficult to capture.
- 10—In the same townland and in view of Caiseal Caraig (VI) which lies about 700 yds to the East, is a mound known as Crocan Charaigh. It is a hillock with a flat top, but there are no indications of habitation there.
 - 11—Still further West in same townland is a spot known as the Scalan.
 - 12—In the townland of Castlecommon to the west of Killybegs on Mr. McIntyre's farm, is a very peculiar structure. It consists of two parallel rows of standing stones of immense size, supporting covering stones of still greater size and extending eastwards under a cultivated field. The local people believe that there was an underground passage leading to Caiseal Chomain (which we were unable to locate) on to Caiseal Charaig which lies almost due north from it and about 1,200 yards distant.
 - 13—There is a Megalithic monument in the townland of Drimanoo (O-S 97). It runs East-West and is 16 feet long and about 6 feet wide. There are no covering stones.
 - 14—Remains of an old Franciscan Friary to the south of Killybegs town.
 - 15—On an eminence to the south of the remains of the Franciscan Friary stand the ruins of the castle of Killybegs.
 - 16—In the Catholic Church in Killybegs a coffin shaped slab is cemented into the East wall. It bears curiously carved shapes of animals and humans.
 - 17—In the same church is a mural tablet to commemorate the sixteenth century Bishop McGonigle's association with Killybegs. He attended the Council of Trent and is believed to be buried within the walls of the old Franciscan Friary. His Manor house may have been that now known as Killybegs Castle.
 - 18—At the bridge near Mrs. Ryan's, Lough-head, there is an Altar stone about eight feet long and two feet wide. The bridge is often called Droicead na h-Altaire. During the Penal days Mass was celebrated on this rock and it is said that boats were always kept in readiness for the priest's escape if danger threatened. There is at the door side of Jim McBrearty's house of Roughwood a large hollowed stone which tradition says was used as a Holy-water font at this Carraic-na-hAltaire.

(B. J. McNELIS, KILLYBEGS,
SEPT. 1931).

KILBABBIN

(A link with the days when the O'Dohertys were chiefs of **Ardmiodhar**).

In the townland of Cavan Lower (parish of Donoghmore, barony of Raphoe South O/S. 78.) there is a field belonging to Mr. Hugh Alexander known as Kilbabbin. In it is the site of a graveyard which was but a few perches in area, but which locally gave its name to the whole field and the whole is now cultivated as one field.

About sixty years ago a farmer, named John Gallen, who owned a little farm beside the cemetery, died. It was said that he remembered seeing, while herding cows in a field adjoining the graveyard, a funeral party arrive there. Gallen was then a lad of seven or eight years old and this event, unusual and made all the more untoward by the gathering twilight, frightened him into driving the cows home. In later life he told this story several times.

It appeared to him that there were two or three men of the party, and that they had a coffin on a **wheel car**, a forerunner of the present farm cart in hilly districts. They did not proceed with the digging of a grave at once, but sat around and partook of some form of refreshment for he saw them drinking from a jar which was handed around.

The horse began to crop the grass very greedily and appeared to Gallen to have come a long distance. The late Monsignor McLaughlin, P.P. of Donaghmore, was interested in this old graveyard and asked me to show him the site. He was very disappointed to find no trace of a boundary between it and the field.

John Gallen died when he was eighty years old so that the last burial in Kilbabbin must have taken place about one hundred and thirty years ago.

The late Father Walter Hegarty was also very interested in Kilbabbin and some twenty years ago he recorded the following, based on traditions received from Father James O'Flaherty:—

"Cill Babin was the special burial ground of the O'Dohertys and when they removed from their original headquarters near the Finn to Inis Eoghain they still loved to bring back their dead to Cill Babin. This would show that this church like Killfaugher in Clonleigh parish was a foundation and under the patronage of that noble family. It may possibly throw some light on the jurisdiction of **Ardmiodhair**."

P. Maguire, Cooladawson.

GLEANINGS FROM OLD NEWSPAPERS AND MSS.

MURDER IN FANAD

"While men were cutting turf in Ballykinard bog on Friday evening 21st Sept., 1840, they discovered the body of a woman dressed in a dark stuffed gown and flannel petticoat with a scarlet handkerchief tied round her head. The body was perfectly preserved, flesh not the least decayed or shrivelled and free from smell. Her throat was cut in a most frightful manner, the hair and riband encircling the head was stained with blood and the left arm was broken. At the inquest held in the parish church at Fannet, by Mr. John Miller, coroner, several witnesses clearly recognised and identified the body as that of Betty Thompson, wife of the late Owen McSwine. Mrs. McSwine disappeared in the month of May, 1811 under circumstances of a most suspicious nature and it was rumoured from the time she was missed that she had been murdered and her body buried in the bog. Strange to say no search was made nor did any investigation take place until the body was accidentally discovered near the surface of the bog—and there is little doubt that sufficient evidence formerly existed to have led to the conviction of the murderers.

It was really astonishing to

see a human body for 30 years inhumed in a bog with the lineaments apparently perfect and unchanged as the day the unfortunate creature was murdered and the clothes of the deceased were uninjured by time. Even the small pox, with which she was slightly marked, was clearly discernible . . . the figure was finely proportioned, and the limbs perfectly elastic and most exquisitely formed with beautiful dark hair flowing round the neck, as if veiling from the eye of nature the horrid deed . . . to the credit of the parishioners every exertion was made to throw light on the mysterious deed, but without effect. The Jury found — that the body was that of Betty Thompson, who disappeared in the month of May, 1811 and that she came by her death in consequence of a wound inflicted on the throat, with some sharp instrument, by some person or persons unknown."

(Derry Journal)

COUNTY DONEGAL NEWSPAPERS

"The Ballyshannon Herald" was the first newspaper printed and published in County Donegal. Its first number appeared in July, 1831, under the editor-

ship of a Sligo man, David Carter. It was ultra Conservative and Unionist in tone and, at times, extremely anti-Catholic. To counter-act its influence a rival was set up entitled "**The Ballyshannon Patriot**," which proved abortive, for only four numbers appeared. Some years later the Sligo Liberals, encouraged by their success with "**The Sligo Champion**," founded in 1836, tried to help the County Donegal Liberals by opening a printing house in Ballyshannon and issuing from it a weekly newspaper "**The Donegal Liber-**

ator" in 1839. It went out of circulation after 11 months. Are there any copies of these publications extant?

A LINK WITH OLIVER GOLDSMITH

"Died at Carrigart on 23 August, 1863, aged 88 years, Letitia Coll, otherwise Denniston, widow, for 40 years sextoness of the parish church of Meevagh. She was the grand-daughter of the noted Doctor Wilder, Oliver Goldsmith's tutor in Trinity College, Dublin."

(Derry Sentinel).

Burials At Knader, Ballyshannon

Towards the end of March, 1952, while opening a drain, Mr. Alfred Patton unearthed some human bones near his new house at Knader, Ballyshannon.

Unfortunately the bones were very much disturbed and broken by the excavation, but some facts could be gleaned without exploratory work, and it was decided to leave further investigation until a later date.

There were traces of three burials along a 10 yard section of the drain, but only in one case were the remains found to be in a fair state of preservation. This interment was, as far as can be seen at the moment, facing east. The depth of soil on the rock in this area is only about 15 inches and the grave had been dug down to rock. No

surround of stones on edge is apparent. No weapons or other articles have so far been found.

Dr. Swan of Coxtown examined some of the bones and confirmed that they were human, but he could not give any indication of how long since the burial took place. His opinion was that the few bones inspected looked rather light for a fully grown man. However, the fact that the bones were very brittle may indicate that they were of considerable age. There were no mounds of earth perceptible over the graves such as may be seen on graves a century old or more.

There is a local tradition of the existence of a burial ground in the townland of Knader, but until this recent discovery the

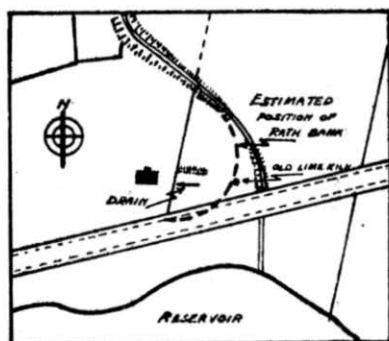
location was unknown.

Mr. George Patton indicated the approximate position of part of the bank of a rath formation and pointed out a bank some 2 ft. high about 15 yards long running approximately east and west, and near the centre of the rath. The bones were unearthed between this bank and the southern limit of the rath. The rath or lis which must have been about 200 ft. in diameter, was divided approximately in half by a stone and sod wall at some period. The western half has not been traceable in living memory, and although Mr. Alfred Patton's house is on this

part of the site, nothing of interest was found when the foundations were opened. The eastern half was fairly clearly defined until destroyed by the excavation of a channel during the construction of the Erne Hydro - Electric Development Scheme.

Allingham mentions, in his "Ballyshannon: Its History and Antiquities," the existence of an ecclesiastical lis in the townland of Knather and the unearthing of bones. Is this the lis on Mr. Patton's land?

P. A. Jackson. M.A., M.A.I.,



Map of district where bones were unearthed.

A FEW HINTS ON CORRECT ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

For many years writers on Irish Antiquities have been in the habit of using a variety of terms that are bewildering and often very misleading. Anyone familiar with the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries must be aware of this.

Implements should, as far as possible, be described under the names of the modern implements they represent, e.g. a stone, copper or bronze, axe, hatchet, chisel etc., should be so named, and not a **celt**. Ring Forts, Earthen Forts, Double Forts, Triple Ring Forts, should be so named, dropping the terms "Dun", "Cahir", and "Caiseal".

Standing stones of from 3' 0" or 4' 0" upwards that have evidently been sat on end for a purpose should be carefully examined for scorings, marking of any kind, possibly ogams, and accurately described, and many traditions connected with them recorded. Everyone had a significance. Some undoubtedly are Grave Monuments, and many of them are Boundary marks.

A row of standing stones, three or more in a straight line, is an **Alignment**. In all cases accurate measurements should be recorded.

A **Stone circle** is a ring of five or more standing stones. Note carefully any **large** standing stone in the lot, not quite in the line of the circle. This is important.

A **Boulder circle** is a ring of boulders, not standing stones, sometimes found around Dolmens.

A structure consisting of large blocks of stone pitched together on end, not built into a wall, had better be described as a "**Megalithic Monument**". The term "**Giant's Grave**", though as old as the days of St. Patrick, should be dropped.

A structure consisting of three or more standing stones supporting a large Cap stone should be designated a **Dolmen**, the name by which these structures are known over most of Europe. The name **Cromleck**, confined to Ireland, is a misnomer, and is not understood by Continental Antiquaries. While these are, undoubtedly, Sepulchral Monuments, they should not be called Giant's Graves, and certainly not Druids' Altars, nor the beds of Dermot and Grania.

A similar structure (rare in Ireland) with only two stones supporting the Cap stone, and where it is evident a third support has not been removed, is correctly named **Trilithons**.

Half Dolmen. Frequently we find one end of the Cap stone resting on the earth, and that has been its original position, where there is no evidence that it slipped into that position. Such a Monument may be described as a half Dolmen, a Demi-Dolmen, or an "Earth-foot Dolmen", **Half Dolmen** is preferred.

A structure consisting of two parallel rows of standing stones, supporting covering stones, is an **Allée Couverte**.

Wedge Dolmen. An Allee Converte in which the rows of stones are not parallel, but converge towards one end (which is generally closed by one or two standing stones) is best described as a **Wedge Dolmen**.

Bee-hive huts should be so named — not Clochans. Such structures of small size (5 to 8 feet in diameter) standing on the bank of a pond or river may be **Sweat-houses**, Irish Vapour Baths, the predecessors of the European Turkish Bath.

Artificial islands in lakes, generally adjoining the residences of the old local Chiefs, and in use down to the fifteenth century, had better be described as **Crannoges**, not **Lake Dwellings**. They were as a rule too small for permanent dwellings, and were more likely store houses, and places of retreat in time of danger.

Stone "Grave Mounds". Conical heaps of stones put together to mark a grave are correctly described as **Carns**. They have generally an outer ring of retaining stones, or flags partly sunk in the ground.

An artificial earth mound is generally called a Tumulus, unless there is a necessity for a distinguishing adjective, when it is described as a Long, Round, or Disc-Barrow.

Cist-Carns or Cist-Tumuli are Carns or Tumuli, having a box-like Cist. Chambered Carns or Chambered Tumuli have a generally pretty large burial chamber.

The names **Monastery**, **Abbey**, **Priory**, and **Friary** are applied indiscriminately to all remains of the residences of Religious, and

seldom correctly.

The **Monastery** was the residence of the regular Religious Orders, (originally wholly detached from worldly concerns), such as the Benedictines, Cistercians, etc. Those of higher rank governed by an Abbot were called **Abbeys**. Assaroe is probably rightly called an Abbey. Those of lower rank governed by a Prior were called **Priory**. Outlying branch houses, in which a few monks worked a farm and sent its produce to the mother house, were called **Granges**, and the monk in charge a **Granger**. Assaroe had a number of those in County Donegal.

Friary. The Convents of the Mendicant Orders :— (1) The Franciscans; (2) The Augustinians; (3) The Dominicans; (4) The Carmelites or White Friars should always be called Friaries. Donegal was a **Friary** not an **Abbey**.

Names or words in any intelligible script are described as **Inscriptions**. Any other markings, such as cup and ring, circle marks, trumpet marks, that have not a literary significance may be described as **Scribblings**. Even the slightest artificial mark on a stone should be recorded.

A BOOK WORTH BUYING

Prehistoric Ireland by Dr. Joseph Raftery—Batsford Ltd., London, 16s; p.p. XVI & 228 267 illustrations.

A BOOK WORTH ORDERING

The new edition of Dr. Sean O'Riordain's **Antiquities of the Irish Countryside**, which will be on sale in the near future.

Donegalmen In The American War Of Independence

O'HART in his **Irish Pedigrees** opened the genealogy of the Conyngham families of Lancaster and Wilkes Barre, U.S.A., with a romantic account of their Irish ancestor, Alexander Conyngham, of the Glencairn family, who settled at Rossguil in the early seventeenth century. He is credited with having (what was then quite a common occurrence) married the daughter of one of the dispossessed chieftains; in the case one of the MacSweeneyes. The Conynghams of Lancaster, U.S.A., are descended from their eldest son, Adam Conyngham. The descendants of Adam Conyngham's brothers, David and Gustavus are, however, those which now interest us.

DAVID Conyngham, we are told, married a daughter of "the renowned Irish chieftain, Redmond O'Hanlon" and their eldest son Redmond emigrated from Letterkenny to Philadelphia with his wife, Martha, daughter of Robert Ellis, and their family about the year 1756. Redmond Conyngham was a trained sea captain and on occasions took command of a merchant ship owned by John Nesbitt & Co. of Philadelphia. Eventually he was offered a partnership in this firm which then changed its name to Nesbitt and Conyngham. About the year 1767 he grew tired of America and returned to Ireland. His son, David Hayfield Conyngham took

over his father's partnership in Philadelphia and became one of Washington's most valued supporters in the War of Independence. He was the father of John Nesbitt Conyngham, LL.B., born in Philadelphia, 1798, one of the foremost American Jurists of the last century. His descendants were living in Wilkes Barre at the close of the century and one of them was the wife of the Rt. Rev. Bacon Stevens, D.D., Bishop of Pennsylvania.

GUSTAVUS Conyngham, third son of Alexander Conyngham and Miss MacSweeney, married his cousin Gabriel Conyngham and their son was also named Gustavus. He, too, emigrated to the New World and served as a ship's officer under his cousin, Redmond Conyngham. When war broke out he passed into the American navy with the rank of Captain and on 2nd May, 1777, his ship, "The Surprise" captured the British packet boat "Prince of Orange" in the English Channel. He was, in turn captured by the Royal Navy but escaped while being sent, in irons, for trial. He managed to find his way back to the Revolutionists and was given command of the U.S. warship "Revenge" which he commanded until 1784.

IN a footnote O'Hart tells that Redmond Cunningham was named after his maternal grandfather, Count Redmond O'Hanlon,

the famous Raparee of the seventeenth century and in support of this quoted the following tradition :

"In the Conyngham House at Letterkenny was (and likely still is) preserved on the mantelpiece a stone on which it is recorded Redmond O'Hanlon once became separated from his followers and being weary he lay down to sleep. He was awakened two or three times by a lizard running over his face, and at first was merely irritated ; but, as he became more aroused, he recollected the lizard's action to be accounted for as a warning. He therefore arose, looked around, and saw a wild boar ready to attack him. His encounter with the boar drew him into a wood, and in a direction contrary to that he was about to take. He was thus saved from a party of his enemies, who were lying in wait for him."

O'Hart is not a reliable historian and we wonder how much of the above data is fact and how much is fiction?

J. C. McD.

The Fenian Movement In County Donegal

IN the month of October 1865, police, acting on information received, arrested three men in the town of Ramelton and hurried them off to Lifford Gaol. The

first was a man named Rogers who proved to be a Captain in the United States Army, and his legal adviser complained that his army commission was one of the documents taken from him at the time of the arrest. This complaint was forwarded to the American Consul at Derry. The second man, MacElwee, was also an American citizen and was believed to be a special trainee of the American Irish Republican Brotherhood. Both were natives of the Fanad district.

THE owner of the house in Ramelton in which Rogers and MacElwee were captured was the third man arrested in this police swoop. His name was Gallagher (Sic) and he was described as a Cooper by trade; who had been discharged from the Donegal Militia, after one period of training, on account of his treasonous language. Police observed that Gallagher and Rogers, "although they never knew each other before", were constant companions from the date of Rogers's return and this caused enquiries to be made into the motives behind the return of the two exiles.

ONE of the hostile press reports, upon which this account of Fenian activity in County Donegal is based, sneered at Gallagher's arrogance because he claimed to be descendant of "the great O'Gallagher" and persisted in calling himself Michael Carol O'Gallagher.

VERY soon after these arrests were made the Royal Navy established a patrol along the coast of County Donegal.

K. TAAFFE.

The Ballyshannon Fishery District- Co. Donegal.

BY H. HEMMING

This district embracing the Southern part of Co. Donegal and the Northern part of Co. Leitrim, provides some of the best and most varied fishing in the British Isles. It suits all pockets; that of the angler with his car who can afford to stay in the best hotels, hire gillies and boats, and pay for good salmon fishing, and that of the sportsman who of necessity is restricted to the modest hotel or boarding house with a cycle to transport him to his free fishing. The district suits the keen angler who wishes to concentrate on his fishing and also the angler who regards fishing as being incidental to lovely surroundings and a good time with his family or friends on a picnic. The fisherman may change from loughs to rivers or from estuaries to the small lakes. He may fish dry or wet or troll or spin. He may take pollack and mackerel off the shores of Donegal Bay.

The most extensive water in the district is Lough Melvin. Some 9 miles long with some 25 miles of attractive shore line, it is remarkable for its four different types of trout as well as for its salmon. There are no pike. The only other fish are char,

perch and eels. There are free waters and preserved waters and both are equally good. Those who like good pike fishing will find well stocked waters in the district. The Bundrowes River, the Bunduff River and various spate rivers running into Donegal Bay provide salmon, sea and brown trout fishing. The finest salmon river, the Erne, one of the best in Ireland, has lost its lovely salmon pools now covered by a new lake to provide power for the Electricity Supply Board. Provision has been made for the salmon to run through and the large number of fresh run salmon and the returning smolts using the two new fish passes gives hope that the trouble the E.S.B. have taken to preserve the fishing may be rewarded. A multitude of elver are using the special elver pass at the main power station at Kathleen Falls and at the subsidiary station at Cliffe.

The Erne contains big deep bodied trout and it may be that after a time the new lake will provide good sport with salmon and trout. In anticipation of this the E.S.B. intend to guard the interests of anglers. There are other good waters in adjacent

districts within easy reach, including Lough Erne across the "Border".

The man who wishes to fish but whose family like the bright lights and the entertainment offered by a popular seaside resort will find accomodation to suit his pocket in Bundoran. If he and his family like the peace and beauty of the country there are hotels to meet his needs. There are lovely motor runs along the shores of Donegal Bay with its secluded bathing beaches, and also through the mountain valleys, with every opportunity to wield the rod. Bundoran provides dancing, golf, tennis, cinemas, and other entertainments. The quiet old world town of Ballyshannon on the Erne can make the visitor comfortable. It is a good shopping centre and caters for the angler and his requirements. There are comfortable hotels, efficient garages, a cinema and a theatre where dances are held. For those who wish to live in the country by their fishing there is a comfortable hotel on the North shore of Lough Melvin.

A list of hotels, their charges, etc., may be obtained from the Irish Tourist Association, with offices in Dublin, Belfast, London and New York. The Anglers' Guide compiled by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries Branch is obtainable from the Department or the I.T.A., and is stocked by many of the leading tacklists.

There are not many places in the British Isles where one can have the choice of catching salmon and trout in lough, river or estuary, or combine mountain

climbing with fishing. One sportsman who visits the district in the latter part of the season frequently brings back a mixed bag of trout, grouse, duck and rabbits, while his wife who accompanies him, finds happiness in recording the lovely scenery on canvass. Two visitors one a well-known bird artist, climbed to a lake nearly 2,000 feet up and returned with a 1½ lb. trout and a determination to return and try the evening rise. Next day the artist caught a superb brown trout on Melvin weighing 7½ lbs. Within a few minutes he had recorded its fresh colours on his rough painting block. An outline of the fish was then taken and in due course a finished painting was created.

The dry fly purist will find use for all his art in presenting his fly to the big shy Erne trout. Running up to 6 lbs. or more these deep chested fish are magnificent fighters. With skill, patience and cunning they may be taken during the day on dry or wet fly, but the night rise is the best time. Just as it is getting dark these big trout come on the feed and the angler may well have the sport of a life time packed into a short half hour. There is a May Fly rise and at other times the medium Olive or Wall Fly, fished wet dry are suitable lures.

The wet fly fisherman may have all the sport he desires with tail fly and two droppers drifting on Lough Melvin and at times fishing the shores by night for the cruising gillaroo or brown trout feeding on snails, shrimps and flies. Flies—well there are

many authorities who have their own ideas and achieve success. Personally I start the season with a Gosling as top dropper, a Connemara Black or March Brown as middle and a Golden Butcher on the tail. By mid April I replace the Butcher with the Welshman's Beetle and the mid dropper with a Golden Olive. As soon as the gorse blazes I use a Hares Ear as mid dropper. When the May Fly appears this replaces the Gosling, though perhaps the Gosling fishes just as well for it is like a May Fly. I continue with Hares Ear, or Golden Olive or Claret and Mallard on the mid dropper. As soon as the Daddy is up that replaces the May fly and I retain it and the faithful beetle until the close of the season. Do I take fish? Yes and good ones, but so do others with entirely different combinations of flies.

In July and August, when the Daddy is up, grand sport is to be had with the dap. When making up to the start of a drift it is well worth trolling or spinning with the natural minnow or golden sprat, or the blue Devon, the Coillie or the spoon. In this way salmon and large trout may be taken. Sea trout may be taken spinning the blue and silver Devon or on a Rogan fly lure in the Erne estuary and in various rivers running into Donegal Bay.

The Bundrowes, connecting Melvin to the sea is an early salmon river opening on the 1st January. Most of the fishing is owned by an hotel in Bundoran

and part by a private estate. Tickets may be purchased. The Bunduff, a late salmon river, sometimes fishes well for salmon and sea trout when in spate. The owner of the fishing allows members of the Bundoran and District Anglers' Association to fish for trout free of charge. Visitors are welcome to join the Association on payment of 5s.

He makes a reasonable charge for salmon fishing. At times mixed bags of small salmon, sea trout and brown trout may be taken from a boat drifting on Lough Eske where tickets may be obtained at reasonable prices.

Every year large trout are taken spinning at the West end of Lough Erne and in the river where it leaves the Lough. When the May Fly is up some heavy baskets may be taken on the dap or with the dry fly and the spent gnat. This area is a few miles East of Belleek in Northern Ireland where a 10/- rod licence is required. Tickets to fish the Erne for salmon or trout may be obtained from the Fishery at Ballyshannon.

Grand sport with small but hard fighting trout is to be had on the numerous small lakes North East of Ballyshannon. Some of them contain good pike and rudd. These lakes appear like jewels among the rocky foot hills which are covered with heather and gorse and from which lovely distant views may be obtained of Donegal Bay and its fringing mountain ranges.

Correspondence - The O'Donnells Of Glassagh

DEAR Sir,—The popular proprietor of Brownhall is inclined to treat with derision the few legends that we still possess about the O'Donnell's of Glassagh. This much, however, has the support of a vivid and widespread tradition. A man called An Dalach Mor appeared in Glassagh some time in the first half of the eighteenth century. According to one account he came from Scotland; according to another he came from Spain. This man may have been the celebrated Domnick Roe, although of course there is no certainty about it. Legends have it that An Dalach Mor married the "Daughter of the Earl," but we know not who the Earl was.

NO one ever said, as Captain Hamilton implies, that the O'Donnells had set up a sort of independent principality in Glassagh. The first comer was simply a squatter who built a commodious house which the hovel-dwellers on the two sides of the Finn designated An Teach Mor.

THE authorities looked upon the Glassagh tribe as being loyal which it surely was and Rory, the grandson of Dalach Mor became Constable of the Barony of Boylagh, whatever that meant. Rory gave a signal proof of his loyalty in 1798 when he absented himself from the scene of the duel in Lifford between his brother-in-law and the

British dragoon. He was quite safe years afterwards in presiding at a pro-Emancipation meeting in Stranorlar, since both Teel and Wellington favoured the repeal of the Penal Laws.

FOR many years the Catholic clergy held their conferences in the Big House of Glassagh, why they discontinued it does not concern us here.

LATIN was studied in the Glassagh house and Rory maintained against Bishop Patrick Mac Gettigan, whose obstinacy exceeded his own, that the priest at the Millside scallan had no right to begin Mass until the O'Donnell cavalcade had arrived.

ACCORDING to very reliable traditions, Rory, like his father before him, was permitted to carry a sword, acted the swashbuckler, and could replenish his kegs from the never-ending supplies of continental smugglers. There is a striking resemblance between this family and two contemporary Kerry tribes; namely, the O'Donoghoe of the Glen and the Magilcuddy of the Reeks. The Glassagh sept was the most Irish, for when taunted with their apparent loyalty to Government they always replied that they alone of all the O'Donnells in Ireland had never used the Christian name Niall!

NOW although our Brownhall friend despises folk-lore when

quoted as history it may nevertheless interest him to hear what the folklore of the Fintown district says of the Hamiltons as landlords, and the relations between the latter and the O'Donnells. I must summarise and in regard to dates I cannot but be vague.

SOME time in the 'Thirties or the 'Forties, but before the Famine, a young man named Jeremiah O'Donnell, from Rusky or Convoy, came to Ballinamore. He had a glib tongue and a bright eye and succeeded in winning a daughter of the house of Glassagh. Some time afterwards Major James Hamilton appointed Jeremiah as his agent. Now there was this difference between the landlord and the agent. The former was considerate and popular; the latter was detested. James Hamilton took measures to prevent any of his tenants from dying of hunger in 1847. Jeremiah O'Donnell of Ballinamore advocated the raising of rents. In fact a plot was laid in the early 'Sixties to terminate the career of Jeremiah, but it miscarried.

IT is not my place to sit in judgment on accepted and deep-rooted traditions. Many a time has the Finn flooded its banks since, as a little boy, I sat listening to truthful and venerable shanahies describing the men and the events of those far-off times.

Sraig.

Jan., 1953.

The Editor,
Donegal Annual,

THE O'DONNELLS OF THE GLASSAGH.

"Ailsa Lodge",
Rosslare Harbour,
Co. Wexford,
28th January, 1953.

A Chara,

WHEN I read Captain Hamilton's letter in the last issue of "The Annual" accusing me of creating fantastic legends and parading fables re-anne in my article "Captain Manus O'Donnell", in Vol. 1, No. 3 (pps. 193/203) of the 1949 "Journal" of the Historical Society, my mind flashed back to that episode in the Captain's own autobiography, "My Times and Other Times", (p. 45) in which he prides himself that once at a County Council meeting a member did not fully understand something that had been put forward, but nevertheless accepted the facts as coming from the Gentleman of Brownhall! I would like to think that my accuser had similar faith in his fellow men. Far from being a figment of my imagination, there are Chapter and Verse for every statement in that sketch but the fact that the paper was originally prepared as a talk is largely responsible for my not having quoted them in the first instance. The description of the Glassagh O'Donnells and their claim to belong to the main line of the Premier Family of Tirconail (a family that also has "blue" blood in their veins—although a distinguished representative of the present generation tells me that his uncle always considered this "foreign" drop much inferior to their own!)

are principally based on "A History of the Diocese of Raphoe," (Canon Maguire), The Grand Jury Presentments for County Donegal, "Dha Chead de Cheoltaibh Uladh", (Enri O'Muirgheasa), "Cloic Ceann Folaídh", (Seamus O'Searcaigh), "O'Chamhaoir go Clap-Sholas", (Seaghan MacMeanman), supplemented by additional information very kindly supplied me by the last-named author — and who knows his native Glenfinn better than Seaghan Ban?

I prefaced my description of the Glassagh O'Donnells by "it is said", and the quoting of "Dha Chead de Cheoltaibh Uladh"—a standard work of reference that is so widely known—made it obvious that I was speaking of tradition. Dr. McNeill tells us that "tradition is but the people's memory"; but apparently the voice of Glenfinn never penetrated the feudal walls of far off Brownhall. The Glassagh O'Donnells are well known beyond the limits of Glenfinn. Seamus O'Searcaigh published "Doiminic Ruadh na Glaisghe" that was recorded in Rann na Feiste. I have heard frequent mention of the Family in The Rosses and elsewhere. Seaghan MacMeanman writes how they sacrificed everything to alleviate the distress in Famine times. He says that they had a man working night and day killing and skinning animals for broth for the starving people until the entire hill was cleared of stock and they spent all they possessed.

I am very grateful to Captain Hamilton for the kindness, hospitality and help so generous-

ly extended to me when I called on him one winter's evening in 1946 and first made his acquaintance. I was seeking information concerning the O'Donnells and it was then that I learned that his Fintown property did not extend to the Glassagh, which was on the adjoining Styles estate. Although I was living in Lifford at this period I was almost continuously out of the County and thereby prevented from following the matter up. Shortly afterwards I moved permanently to Co. Wexford, and with the change has gone all possibility of pursuing it further. Who will carry on?

Mise, le meas,
Rupert S. O'Cochlain.

Editor's Note—I think that both the above writers are mistaken in assuming that Captain Hamilton scorns all Glenfinn tradition. My interpretation of his letter was that he deplored the fiction which flowed as folklore into some of the literature upon which Mr. O'Cochlain based his remarks on the O'Donnells of Glassagh. I agree with Captain Hamilton that the time has come to eradicate some of these inaccuracies but on the other hand, I also agree with Mr. O'Cochlain that these O'Donnells were an important branch of the clan and I should be grateful if the parties concerned and readers would suspend judgment until our next publication when I hope to be able to carry on Mr. Cochlain's good work; and at the same time to satisfy Captain Hamilton's curiosity. J. C. McD.

“na Glúnta Rorannaca”

le mall ó domhnall

Da mhíne an pmaointiú agam sup máit an futo é lámleabhar ar ptaip áitiúil a beit ar fáil ag aor léinn na típe reo mar fúil so rppreagfaó pé iao le ruim agus ionnú a cúp i rcéal a n-áite duéair. De toipaó faotair Néill Uí Domhnall tá a leitéro rin de leabhar le fáil anoir ag páirtí na Rorann; agus so bfeicimro an lá a mberó an rcéal amloró ar futo na Con-tae uilig! An gcluin rib me, a feara Saoth Dobair, a muintir Clóic Cionn faotaró, Sleann Finne, Sleann Colmcille agus na h-áiteada eile?

Da deacair, ar n-óig, do úime ar bit, dá fheadar é, rcéal na Rorann a érapaó agus a fáirceató irteac i ppár 200 leat-anac! Le hobair den treort rin a úeanam i gceart, meapfaimn sup ceart é a úeanam amac i gcúpla imleabhar. Ac b'féirir naé mbeaó an ceannaéc céanna ar an leabhar dá mbeaó barrai-ócé den áitúlaéar intí. Meap-faimn féin sup ceart rcéal agus tuararcála an ceantair beit i gcuiró amháin den obair agus anrim imleabhar eile beit ag tuit le rin ag tabairt reanéair agus béaloroir na háite. Ip cáb-áctac an ghné an béaloroeap mar foirlíonú agus iomlóro ar an ptaip bunaró. Ip noilíge do

úime, cuir i gcár ptaip na 18^{ao} agus 19^{ao} haoipe a éirgbeaíl so maít gan an cúl comhdaonnac a beit ar eolap aige agus níl áit níor fearr le éeacé air reo ná inr na hamháin (tiofa agus eile), umnaigeacá, rcéalta, agus mar rin de, acá agaimn pa béal-oroeap.

Ag trápéc do mall ar Napper Tanraí inr na Roraib (1798) ip léir ón méro aoeir pé naé bfuil pé ar úime de na doime a éreoeap so raib muintir na Rorann péro le lám éuróite a tabairt do na francas! Uí muintir na Rorann i bfaó éun oeiró ran am rin: “Mí raib Déarla acu; ní raib caíraéa acu . . . Mí raib de roieté acu ac luéc rtoacá píota Rutlanó.” O'átpaig an raol ó foin. O'féatfaimn a rá so otáimig muintir na Rorann aníor so móp ó foin, ac sup éall inr míne an Duirn iomao a péime agus a upraime. Tá tite inr míne an Duirn cumhoite le riabair na mblianta; o'imig na reaniontóirí agus níl fopter nó a bunaró fá na faobair rin níor mó. Tá futo amháin fíor am-éac: O'fan muintir oileam Déal Áhanna oílir do éangair fopter agus na bplancóirí-éarb ionann agus muintir lapéair na Rorann a épéig a oteangairó

féin!

Ir tlua naé utus an t-údar níor mo de cup ríor tóinn ar bliam an Opoé-Saonl in na Rora. Tá peálta go teor as pobal na Rorann ar ainm an Opoé-Saonl go fóill agus dar lom ba éar cepla peéal acu rin a cup ríor i bhoim caibitil fa leir. Tá cup ríor maí ar an Sora in na Rora le fáil i leabhar darb ainm "Transactions of the Society of Friends," agus déarfaim naé mbeaí doé ar ar bíe do pleacáí ar an leabhar rin a cup ríor mar pinne pé le cuntas an Cigire Uí Chiaráin.

Bí an fiabhar leiceatáí in na Rora porta le linn an Opoé-Saonl. Naé fiabhar a tús báp an aSagairt Ruairí fa bliam 1843? Éirean an éaí sagairt páiríre a bí ar páiríre Teampall Cróine Iocáirí, 1835-1848, agus an Sagairt Móra Ó Domhnaill (1848-1879) a táinig ina áirí.

As caint ar flánte na noaimhe de, nár maí an muí é dá mbeaí páiríre againn ar doéití na Rorann pan 19aó haoir, agus san dearmad a déanam ar an Oir. Smyth a fuair báp le fiabhar fa páiríre, 1901.

Níor éagair Miall do na sagairt a bí rin áit pan 19aó haoir agus a pinne oibair éifeacáí ar pon na noaimhe. Porta, agus muid as léam pan Dubhair ba éar páiríre níor iomláine a éabair fa áit cónaí na sagairt agus ionad na scapaisceáí aipinn go léir. Tá a lán capaisceáí aipinn pan áit nár luag pé, agus téicair doim nár

éar neamair a déanam in na háitea beannaité rin, nó má shíteor faillí iontu anoir ní beirí ionpa ar bíe ortu ar ball.

Ir tlua porta naé nuaire pé cup ríor níor iomláine ar fórbairt agus meá na hapeair-eacá in na Rora; ar iapair-eacá éirí éanaí; ar déanam an bóair iapainn go háit an Córáin, agus mar rin de. Ciofaí porta alanna breá a péirí ar Oíce na tToir Dúí, ar Oíce an Andrew Nugent," ar éacá an "tSileir," agus mar rin de. Cioé-míte i peéal na Rorann fa 19aó haoir a bí in na tairláirí rin. Ac cá bfuil mé as caint? Dá péiríre páirí na Rorann ina iomláine — Cuairt Uafour, Teac Dr. Croke, Féir Cíir Cónaill in na Rora 1914, Comluéir Saitán Óán na nSail, Jrl., ní beaí deireaí leir an leabhar a coíe!

Ir cuimneá linn an peéal a hipeair fa naoim páiríre as tuit tairna na héirne agus gur bup porta a éabair cepla nair, lena cup in áit do naé páirí iapairí ar i péiríre Cónaill nó go páirí tuite eile teagá amaí as Dia fa éinne na háite rin i gColmeile. Ar an tóir éanna tá fáil againn go líonpaí tuite inteacá bí beairíre atá i peéal na Rorann as Miall agus cé atá á b a l t a é u i s e rin ac an Uálaí é féin. Beirí luáir oirínn i gCónaí a tuitte alt ar páirí agus ar feacáir na Rorann a fáil óna peann acmainneac.

PÁIRÍRE NA CHÁIRÍRE

1952 IN Retrospect

JANUARY

Stormbound for five weeks, Tory Island was relieved, but only just in time as food supplies were exhausted.

Rev. Dr. B. Duggan, D.Ph., C.C., Kilcar, a native of Mullaghduff, Kincasslagh, died in the Sheil hospital, Ballyshannon. He was ordained in Rome in 1916.

Donegal Vocational Education Committee decided to erect new technical schools at Carrick and Gortahork at a cost of £20,000, and to seek the permission of the Department for the erection of a third school at Gweedore.

The death occurred, at 80 years of age, of Rev. P. Devlin, P.P., Donaghmore. He was educated in Paris.

Very Rev. J. MacIntyre, parish priest of Burtonport for 12 years, died. A native of Carrick, he was ordained in 1905 and spent nine years on Arranmore, where, at his special request, his remains were interred.

The county treasurer reported a loss of £163 11s on the year's working when the annual county convention of the G.A.A. attended by 60 delegates, was held at Ballybofey.

FEBRUARY

Comhaltas Uladh, at a meeting in Belfast, announced that

the new Irish training college at Rossguil would be ready for opening in May. £7,500 was collected from subscribers, including An Taoiseach, and all the Bishops of Ulster.

Rev. P. McHugh, P.P., Badooney Upper, (Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone) was appointed P.P., Donaghmore. Rev. T. R. Griffith, Adm., Glenswilly, was appointed parish priest, Burtonport.

Donegal County Council fixed a rate of 35s in the £, an increase of 5s. The County Manager had estimated for a rate of 40/4.

Lough Swilly Railway Company shareholders at the annual meeting, heard that for the first time receipts had reached the quarter million pounds mark. Actual increase (gross receipts) was £20,226 and a dividend of 5% was declared. It was decided to close down the remaining portion of their railway line—Derry to Buncrana and Letterkenny.

Most Rev. Dr. Farren, Bishop of Derry, laid the foundation stone of a new convent building for the Sisters of Mercy, Buncrana.

MARCH

Dr. Anthony Dunlevy, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Dunlevy, Mountcharles, radiologist in one of Manchester's

biggest hospitals, was featured in "Manchester Evening News" for his work in saving the hospital thousands of pounds by practically "home-making" one of the most up-to-date x-ray systems in the world.

Efforts by the local Industrial Development Association to obtain an industry for Letterkenny were successful and it was announced that Messrs. Nestles, Ltd., London, had agreed to erect a milk products factory a short distance from the town.

Mr. P. Lavin, Portahand, Co. Roscommon, was appointed town clerk, Letterkenny, in succession to Mr. Tadg O'Mahony, appointed to a similar post in Arklow.

The 26-years-old Movice Fishery Board and its Derry counterpart, went out of existence and were replaced by a four-man Commission set up under the Foyle Fisheries Act of 1952. The Commission is the first body in Ireland to have representatives of both the Dublin and Stormont Governments and this was the first attempt at full scale co-operation between the Twenty-Six and the Six Counties.

Letterkenny Urban Council fixed a rate of 38s 8d in the £, an increase of 2s 8d. Bundoran rate increased by 5s 1d to 39s 10d. Buncrana Council refused to strike a rate in protest against the increased demand by the County Council occasioned by the town's revaluation.

Rev. M. McCauley, C.C., Movice, formerly C.C. Glenmulin, died. He was ordained in 1914. He spent some years in America, where he was one of the

organisers of a banquet for Archbishop Mannix, Australia, when he arrived in the U.S. following the British Government's refusal to allow him to land in Ireland. Fr. McCauley also accompanied Mr. De Valera when, as President of the Irish Republic, he travelled through the States seeking support for the Republic.

APRIL

Donegal County Council decided to rely on private contractors for turf supplies this year.

The county G.A.A. football team was defeated, 3—3 to 0—7 in the semi-final of the National League competition at Croke Park, by Cork.

County engineer, Mr. D. P. Barry, submitted details of a five year plan of road works to the County Council. The Government grant was stated to be £114,000.

Sean O Caiside, O.S., secretary, in his report to the annual meeting of the S.W. Donegal Coiste Cheanntair of the Gaelic League, said excellent work was being done and there was great progress in the Irish drama movement in the area.

Rev. M. Connolly, chaplain, St. Joseph's Orphanage for the past seven years, was appointed parish priest of Drumsnat and Kilmore, Corcaghan, Co. Monaghan.

A distinguished visitor to the county was his Excellency, the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Gerald Patrick O'Hara.

MAY

A conference of 300 national school teachers, organised by the Donegal County Committee of the I.N.T.O., and the first of its kind, met in Ballybofey and pooled ideas on school methods and problems.

A rate collection amounting to 97.8 per cent. of the total warrant was announced by the county secretary.

Ballyshannon's first Drama Festival was opened by Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely. Entries were received from each of the four provinces.

Donegal junior G.A.A. football team defeated Tyrone in the final of the Ulster championship.

The Bishop of Raphoe, Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely, solemnly blessed and laid the corner stone of the new £60,000 Church of Christ the King at Gortahork.

The hearing of 90 appeals from the decision of the Commissioners of Valuation arising out of the general revision of valuations in Buncrana concluded at Buncrana Circuit Court.

Mr. W. M. A. James, headmaster, Royal School, Raphoe, for several years, received an appointment in Drogheda Grammar School.

The Rev. W. McQuade, M.A., Longford, was appointed curate-in-charge, Glencolumbkille parish. Attendance at installation in St. Columba's Church included the Bishop, Most Rev. Dr. McNeill Boyd, D.D.

JUNE

On 29th June, Ros Nuala was the scene of an historic ceremony, the blessing and dedication of the new church and friary erected by the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor. The occasion marked the return to Tírconaill of the Order for the first time since they were banished in Penal times. The Order had, in fact, returned at the invitation of the Bishop of Raphoe, Most Rev. Dr. McNeely, some years previously, but were accommodated in temporary quarters pending the construction of the new buildings. It was estimated that some 7,000 people attended the ceremonies. In addition to the Lord Bishop and other church dignitaries, his Excellency, the President of Ireland, An Taoiseach, Mr. De Valera, members of the Oireachtas, Judiciary and Army, were present. The dedication was performed by his Lordship, the Bishop, who later presided in the Sanctuary at Solemn High Mass celebrated by Very Rev. A. McLoone, president, St. Eunan's College. A temporary altar was erected outside the church and here Mass was also celebrated for the thousands who could not be admitted to the church. A special sermon was preached by Very Rev. Dr. J. P. McLaughlin, vice-president, Maynooth College, a native of Ballyshannon. The Franciscan community, all present at the ceremonies and all who assisted received a special Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness, the Pope.

The new milk products factory at Letterkenny opened and on

the first day 1,200 galls. of milk were accepted.

Capt. James Hamilton, chairman, told the County Executive of Macra na Feirme, that the county had the lowest membership in the Twenty-Six Counties at 188 members. There were only nine clubs, he said.

Rev. Daniel McCready, Buncrana, assistant at All Saints parish, Tucson, Arizona, since 1948, was appointed Diocesan Director of the Catholic Youth Organisation, Tucson Diocese.

The death took place, after a brief illness, at Mulroy, of the fifth Earl of Leitrim. On the death of his father in 1907 he took over the management of the Rosapenna Hotel and the steamer service between Milford, Mulroy, Glasgow, Portrush and Derry.

Donegal was given a new motor vehicle registration series—ZP.

Most Rev. Dr. D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all-Ireland, patron of the society presided in Cappa Magna at High Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Bundoran, at the opening of the annual Congress of Christus Rex.

Ramelton Guildhall, it was announced, was converted into a knitting factory and about 12 girls were employed. Sir Jocelyn Stewart undertook the development.

Donegal County Council, by 12 votes to nine, co-opted. Mr. Seamus McGonigle, Ballyshannon, in place of Mr. Fergus P. Britton, solicitor, who resigned.

Mr. Hugh McKendrick, P.C., Co.C., was elected chairman of

Letterkenny Urban Council. Mr. John McLoughlin was re-elected chairman of Buncrana Urban District Council. Mr. Joseph O'Doherty was re-elected chairman of Bundoran Urban District Council and Mr. P. Gilfedder was re-elected chairman of Ballyshannon Town Commissioners.

JULY

The Lord Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, Rt. Rev. R. McNeil Boyd, D.D., M.C., laid the foundation stone of a new national school at Donegal for Church of Ireland children.

Over 100 students from Dublin and the Six Counties attended the July session in Colaiste Uladh at Gortahork, oldest of the seven such colleges in Donegal.

Parades of the Organisation of National Ex-Servicemen, to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, took place. Most Rev. Dr. MacNeely, Lord Bishop of Raphoe, was among the platform party at Letterkenny.

Ros Goil Irish College was opened by An Taoiseach.

The title of Lord Muskerry was conferred on the Hon. Matthew Chicester Cecil Fitzmaurice Deane-Morgan, of St. Ernans, Co. Donegal, brother of the late Lord Muskerry, who died this month.

Death took place of Sr. M. Magdaline, Convent of Mercy, Ballyshannon.

AUGUST

The death occurred of Rev. James McRory, late C.C., Termnamongan, a native of Desergetney, Co. Donegal.

Letterkenny Battalion of the F.C.A. provided a guard of honour for the Minister for Defence, Mr. Oscar Traynor, when he visited Finner Camp.

The death occurred at his home in New Jersey, U.S.A., of the Rev. Alexander Ketterson, retired Protestant Episcopal clergyman, former rector of the famous Ascension Memorial Protestant Episcopal Church, New York. He was a native of Mountcharles. He was aged 74 years.

The Bishop Maginn Branch, Irish National Foresters, Buncrana, celebrated the golden jubilee of its foundation. Marking the occasion the organisation held their 2-day all-Ireland convention there and selected Mr. P. H. O'Doherty, Buncrana, as High Chief Ranger for the Republic of Ireland for another term.

The transfer of Mr. Padraig O hEidhin, M.A., national schools inspector, in charge of the county's Gaeltacht schools, to Galway, was announced. He was succeeded by Mr. Padraig Mac Seaghain, N.S., inspector, Co. Leitrim, a native of Teelin, and formerly inspector in Inishcwen.

Very Rev. Dr. Andrew, O.F.M., Cap., Guardian, Ard Mhuire, Cashelmore, Creeslough, was appointed Secretary of the Missions, with headquarters in Dublin. He was guardian at Ard Mhuire for nine years. He was succeeded by Very Rev. Father

Virgilius, O.F.M., Cap., Difinitor, and previous secretary of the Missions.

There was a record attendance when the annual county demonstration of the Ancient Order of Hibernians was held, in ideal weather conditions, at Killybegs.

Mr. C. Sweeney was unanimously re-elected chairman of the Donegal County Committee of Agriculture and Mr. J. Brennan, T.D., was unanimously elected vice-chairman.

SEPTEMBER

The death took place at the Convent of Mercy, Ballyshannon, of Rev. Mother M. Antonio, a native of Nenagh. She had been Mother Superior or assistant Mother Superior, alternately, since 1912 and was mainly responsible for having the new wing of the Convent (completed in 1930) built.

The new fishmeal factory at Killybegs started production and initial tests proved satisfactory.

Donegal junior football team was defeated by Meath in the all-Ireland semi-final re-play at Navan.

Donegal tweeds on exhibit at Frankfurt fair aroused much interest and many orders were received.

At a meeting of Buncrana Urban Council it was stated that there were 131 shops in the town, including licensed premises, sufficient to cater for a population of from 15,000 to 20,000 people.

Tribute was paid at a meeting of the County Vocational

Education Committee to the people of Dungloe, who built a technical school by voluntary labour and with locally raised money. The school, said Mr. M. J. Cryan, C.E.O., cost £1,600 and was worth £7,000.

Killybegs defeated St. Eunans, Letterkenny, in the final of the county senior G.A.A. football championship by 0—9 to 1—5.

The death took place of Lady Helen Henrietta Blennerhasset Fitzmaurice Dean-Morgan, wife of the sixth Baron Muskerry, St. Ernans, Donegal. The funeral took place to Laghey cemetery.

Sixty anglers from clubs representing four provinces competed for the Provincial Angling championship on Lough Melvin.

At a meeting in Letterkenny a County Donegal Badminton Association was formed.

A Co. Donegal football league association under the auspices of the F.A.I., has been formed with Mr. L. McMenamin, Ballybofey, as chairman and treasurer.

Twelve years old Lena White, Ballyshannon, took first place in a Church of Ireland Scripture examination and received the Hon. G. Lowry-Corry silver medal.

OCTOBER

Mr. Lemass, An Tanaiste, Minister for Industry and Commerce, officially declared the Erne Hydro-Electric scheme open. He was presented with an address of welcome by the Ballyshannon Town Commissioners.

Rev. Bro. Leo, superior, De La Salle community, Ballyshan-

non, was transferred to Mount La Salle, Ballyfermot, Dublin, as vice-principal of a new 1,000 pupil school. He was succeeded at Ballyshannon, as superior, by Rev. Bro. Denis, headmaster of the secondary school, and by Rev. Bro. Mark, Navan, as principal of the primary school.

The new £70,000 pier at Killybegs, was officially opened by Mr. Lemass, Minister for Industry and Commerce.

The death occurred of Rev. Art O'Friel, C.C., Knockfolia, Derrybeg, a native of Fanad.

Ramelton-born hypnotist Jack Wafer broke the world's fasting record at Brighton. He lived for 72 days on soda water and cigarettes.

Rev. Joseph Crossan, of Merville, was appointed to take charge of Hanyang diocese in China.

Lieut. E. J. McDaid, aged 26, U.S. Army, only son of Mr. J. McDaid, well-known Letterkenny business man, was awarded the Bronze Star and medal for heroism in the Korean war.

A branch of Macra na Feirme was formed at Ballyshannon.

The death took place at the City and County Hospital, Derry, of Rev. John O'Brien, P.P., Malin. He was 90 years of age. He served in eight parishes throughout the Diocese, including Carnadonagh and Clonmany.

The death occurred of Mr. Edward O'Friel, ex-county councillor, Termon.

Supt. T. Noonan, G.S., Ballyshannon, was transferred to the training depot, Dublin. He was a native of Limerick and was stationed at Ballyshannon for 15

years.

Very Rev. George Otto Simms, M.A., Ph. D., was consecrated and enthroned as Protestant Bishop of the united diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross, at St. Fin Barre's Church, Cork. A native of Dublin, he spent his childhood years at Lifford where his father, the late J. F. A. Simms, Crown solicitor for Tyrone, resided. Aged 42 he is the youngest bishop to be appointed in the Church of Ireland since 1915. He is a brother of Mr. H. J. Simms, LL.B., Lifford.

Donegal County Council made an order extending the urban boundary for the urban area of Letterkenny.

NOVEMBER

It was announced that the Department of Education was making a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of the new Gaelic college at Teelin.

A meeting of farmers in Letterkenny was informed that Messrs. Nestles wished to invest about £30,000 in their new factory at Letterkenny but that before doing so they wished to know if a receiving depot, costing £10,000 would be erected. The meeting decided to form a society to erect and run the depot.

Supt. W. Leen, G.S., Clogher, was transferred to Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan.

Tory Island was relieved after 24 days isolation by high seas.

Mr. Edward Gallen, Bloomfield, Castlefin, ex-county councillor, one of the county's most outstanding public figures, died. He was a former judge of the Sinn Féin Courts and had a life-

long connection with public affairs and Local Government bodies.

Apart from Fort Dundee, where a military care and maintenance party was being retained, it was not intended to station any permanent garrison of Regular Army troops in Co. Donegal, the Minister for Defence told the Dail.

Inspector Sean Murray, G.S., was promoted superintendent and transferred from Ballyshannon to Belmullett, Co. Mayo.

At the Irish Red Cross Society novices first aid competition at Kilkenny, the Letterkenny ladies' team, representing Co. Donegal, shared first place with Wexford. The Donegal men's team (drawn from the Lifford branch) was third in their section.

Supt. W. Cronin, G.S., was transferred to Ballyshannon from Carrickmacross.

The remaining 37½ miles of railway line of the L. & L. S.R. Co., between Derry and Buncrana and Derry and Letterkenny was closed down. The line was first opened for traffic from Derry to Farland Point in 1864 and a year later to Buncrana. The line was converted to narrow gauge in 1883. The Derry-Burtonport branch closed in 1946 and the Buncrana-Carnadonagh line in 1935.

DECEMBER

Buncrana Urban District Council was abolished by order of the Minister for Local Government and the County Manager, Mr. S. D. MacLochlainn was appointed by the Minister to carry out the functions of the Council. The

abolition of the Council followed a refusal to strike a rate of 38/4 to provide for a net expenditure of £20,829. The Council had struck a rate of 29/9. Their refusal to strike the rate was a sequel to protests at the revaluation of the town which necessitated an unexpectedly heavy contribution to the County Council.

It was announced at a meeting of the County Council that for the year 1953-4 Donegal would get a grant of £50,000 for tourist

road improvement schemes in the Gaeltacht.

A campaign for the production of tar free wool was launched in the county as part of the effort to step up exports of wool in the dollar areas.

Rev. Denis L. Curran, fourth son of Mr. John Curran, P.C., and the late Mrs. Curran Letterkenny, was ordained at Dalgan Park by the Bishop of Meath, Most Rev. Dr. Kyne.



The President's first official visit to Donegal. His Excellency arriving at Ros Nuala for the dedication of the new Franciscan Church.

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