

Wicklow County Genealogical Society



*Wicklow
Roots*

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EDITORIAL

The announcement in March by the Commissioners for Valuation in Ireland that there would be a levy of not less than £15 per hour on non-commercial researchers was met by protests from genealogical researchers, an enquiry by the Genealogical Society of Ireland eventually elicited the fact that this decision had been reached without any consultation with any Public or Private bodies or individuals involved in this field, it was stated that 'informal' contacts had been made with the Society Of Professional Genealogists which was rather ironic since the levy would mainly affect the non-commercial sector and would have acted as an effective ban on most people researching for personal reasons and with no recourse to recoup their outlay.

Thankfully the proposed levy on the non-commercial sector by the Valuation Office has been withdrawn but the lack of prior consultation in this instance must raise serious questions with regard to future developments in the genealogical field. The recent proposal made to Government that genealogical material currently held at the National Archive and the General Registration Office should be pooled together in a new specially designated Family Research Centre would be welcome to researchers if it didn't carry the possibility that this may be the first step in the further commercialisation of the service, a similiar facility in London charges approximately £10 per copy (which cost approximately 5p to produce), this concern is exacerbated by the growing commercialisation of the Heritage Centres many of which now charge a fixed rate (£75 in one instance) for all enquiries, irrespective of content. Societies such as ourselves who have recommended Heritage Centres to our correspondents both at home and abroad now face the embarrassment of having to explain these policies.

Looking to the future the critical question with regard to Irish Genealogy is not what facilities will be available to researchers but who will control these facilities, involvement by those with a commercial interest in genealogy will effectively place these services beyond the reach of all but a privileged few, the Valuation Office development will hopefully have provided 'a wake up call' to all who are concerned at this possibility.

A recent book reviewer in a national newspaper remarked that the greatest works of literature were notable for their volume and density, certainly books such as 'Ulysess' are notable for these qualities, but these are also the works that, while widely discussed and analysed by academics, are least read, even in relatively literate circles. In preparing this Journal we have been cogniscent of this latter fact and have followed a deliberate policy of including only relevant material, all researchers like to see their efforts reproduced in print in their totality, names, dates, all kinds of obscure detail, but the sad reality is that such productions are purchased only out of a sense of duty and largely filed under 'unread', we would hope to avoid such a fate.

**THE TENANTS OF RICHARD AND KATHERINE STONE
1712-1718.**

Contributed by Brian Smith.

The rent ledger of the estate of Richard and Katherine Stone in and near Newry (Newrath) Co. Wicklow for the years 1712-1718 is an A4 sized hard covered book which contains the details of the Stone's one third part of Newry estate.

There are twenty eight tenants listed and the entries take the form of the following: 'Will Byrn of Ballybogg to Richard Stone of the City of Dublin and Katherine his wife for 1/3 part of Ballybogg the rent of...'

In some cases the address of the tenant is not given, the rents paid vary and several amounts paid at different times are listed after each entry. The following is a full list of tenants alphabetically arranged:

TENANT:	OF:	FOR:
ACTON, THOS.	City of Dublin	Land of Ballygannon More & Begg & part of Commonstown.
ALEN, ROBT.	---	1/3 part of Newrath House & Dem.
ARCHBOLD, PATRICK	Rossanagh Mill	Said Mill.
ARCHER, JOHN	---	Horse Park & part of Clonmanen.
ARCHER, RICHARD	---	1/3 part of Toomcoyles.
BOOTH, GEO.	Ranew	1/3 part of Rossanagh.
BRISCOE, TEMPLE	---	1/2 part of Cronacarry.
BYRN, REDMD.	Killagher	1/3 part of townlands of Rathmore.
BYRN, WILL	Ballybogg	1/3 part of Ballybogg.
CHAYTOR, CHIRSR.	---	1/3 part of Cowsloafe & part of Clonmanning.
COUNCILL, MICHS.	---	1/3 part of Hawkstown.
CRYERS, CHA.	Grenomemore	1/3 part of same.
DURRAGH, WILLIAM	---	1/3 part of Ballinabarney.
HANLON, DANL.	---	1/3 part of Ballinabarney.
HAYS, EDW.	---	1/3 part of Ballinacooley.
HOLMES, MRS.	---	1/3 part of Ballynerrin.
LEEKINS, JAMS.	---	1/3 part of Inshynappagh.
LYNAR, DAVID	---	1/3 part of Newtown & Aghamore.

TENANT:	OF:	FOR:
MARTIN, JOHN	Ballymorgan	1/3 part of Colewimoy & part of Ballynabarney.
MOONY, MORGAN	---	1/3 part of Ballybogg.
ROCHFORD,CHRISR.	---	1/3 part of Ballyhenry.
ROSE, JOHN	Newragh Bridge	1/3 part of Newragh Cowpasture & Cronecarrey.
SHEERIGLY, FOLIOT	---	1/3 part of Clonmanning.
STRONG, HON.	---	1/3 part of Clonmanning.
VERDON, EDWD.	City of Dublin	1/3 part of Barroncoyle Dem.
WATKINS, JOHN.	---	1/3 part of Yeelding.
WINGFIELD, THOS.	---	1/3 part of Culenashoagh.
YEATS, CHRISR.	---	1/3 part of Tinnekilley.

The rent ledger is held by the National Library of Ireland, it can be consulted in the manuscripts reading room and the reference number is NLI.Ms. 16,584.

.....Brian Smith.

Wicklow Cuttings...

Wicklow Quarterly Sessions...

A young woman named Mary McDermott, a native of Sligo, was indicted that on May 6th she did "steal, take and carry off" four bodices, the property of Mr George Kent, Friars Hill, Wicklow.

The Jury found defendant guilty, for this and other offences she was sentenced to twelve months with hard labour.

....*The Wicklow Newsletter, 23rd June 1888.*

Tinahely Petty Sessions...

James McGrath and Andrew Merrigan were charged with assaulting each other in the presence of the police. Merrigan....."Oh yes, we had a little row, I struck him when he struck me". A Police Sergeant said there was no ill feeling between the defendants.

McGrath was fined 2/= and costs, Merrigan, 1/= and costs.

...*The Wicklow People, 7th September 1889.*

YOUNGER SONS IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY,

By Joan Thirsk,
St Hilda's College Oxford.

Primogeniture is, quite briefly, the rule of inheritance whereby the estate of the parent is effectively inherited by the first born son and all other inheritances are subject to that, therefore provision for any other children or family members is made as a secondary bequest, e.g. other children may be granted an annuity, dowry or right of residence, this to be provided by the eldest son in whom the estate is now vested.

It is not difficult to understand how what may seem to many to be an unfair means of apportionment of a father's estate arose. In a world in which the strongest ruled, division meant weakness. In a Monarchical Feudal society it was important that family strength was maintained and centralised, just as a national ruler passed on his kingdom intact to his first born male heir, so the Lord passed his Manor to his eldest son, what is extraordinary is the degree to which this custom has survived into the present time, long after it has outlived its usefulness.

It was in the renaissance period that the first serious objections seemed to be raised to primogeniture. With the breakdown of the feudal system the need for centralisation seemed to recede but society still clung to its exclusive loyalty to the male firstborn (the question of female inheritance would have been unthinkable in all but the most extreme circumstances). The result has been the concentration of national wealth, (this is particularly notable in Britain) in the hands of the few, those who think otherwise, would be well reminded that the inequality applies even in the British Royal family, here Prince Charles own's huge tracts of the countryside, and was even gifted the Duchy of Cornwall on his coming of age, while his closest male sibling must content himself with a small corner of Berkshire.

In Miss Thirsk's Treatise (Published by the History Association in October 1969) great emphasis is placed on the difference between Nobility and Gentry, but in reality this discrimination seems irrelevant, for it was in fact better to be born the eldest son of a modest landowner than to be born the younger son of a Royal Duke, and in many cases the social fall of the latter, if he did not rise in Church or Military, was sudden in the extreme (the claims of many a person of seemingly low birth to aristocratic blood may not be as ridiculous as they first appear).

The depths to which the victims of primogeniture could fall can be gauged by the contempt of Falstaff in Shakespeare's "Henry V" when he refers to a bedraggled company of soldiers as.."Discarded unjust serving-men, younger sons to younger brothers, revolted tapsters and ostlers trade-fallen", younger sons were pitiable enough, but younger sons of younger brothers were very plainly the lowest of the low, the younger son, raised to be a gentleman, fated to be a servant, had become a stock figure in literature, embittered, often dissolute, and with little hope of redress

In the period dealt with the lot of the younger son had, if anything, deteriorated, the closure of the monasteries that had provided sanctuary to many a younger son created a vacuum that the new established Church notably failed to fill. Apart from wartime, when ‘volunteers’ of all hues were accepted, the Army was small and held little prospect of advancement, the Navy, in times of peace, was non-existent and held no prospects (seamen, such as Drake and Raleigh, were in fact merchants of a distinctly piratical leaning), mercenary service may have been available, but cannot have offered much in terms of long-term advancement. In future years the growth of the Empire would alleviate this problem somewhat, at that time plantation in Ireland offered some hope, but also the threat of slaughter at the hands of the ferocious Irish who somehow objected to the plunder of their national territory. The developing professions such as Law and Medicine were as yet in their infancy, the law being applied by the military, medicine by those practising the black arts (“have things really improved”?, you may ask).

Miss Thirsk dedicates an amount of attention to the rise of the Gentry in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, and asks if this was at the expense of the Nobility, her conclusion is positive to a degree but also that it was at the expense of those excluded by primogeniture. This argument is hardly sustainable since primogeniture was ostensibly exercised to maintain the status quo, and its exercise had not changed in centuries. More likely this change was due to the increase in rural husbandry which rewarded the progressive, if lower born, against the petrified privilege of the older orders, soon this progress would be translated to the cities and a new powerful merchant class (not to be confused with the hustlers and higglers of the middle ages) would emerge whose wealth was founded not on landholding as heretofore but on industry and commerce. The evolution to a total, inclusive, democracy had begun, in Britain this process is still incomplete.

The need for primogeniture eased somewhat with industrialisation since a business could be divided or shared without injury, also it would be a very foolish merchant who insisted on disinheriting a proactive younger son in favour of an idle elder.

In discussing primogeniture it is important to remember that while it has been the standard practise for many centuries, and often dictated by entail, it has never been compulsory. In the County of Kent the opposite was true, here gavelkind, the equal distribution of estate between heirs was enforced and any departure from the practise needed the sanction of Parliament, the result was a multiplicity of small estates and a situation where it was said, “All Kentish men are cousins”. Presumably this local aberration was the result of a deliberate policy by the great landowners of the county, in a county known as the “Orchard of England”, small estates may have been seen as more productive. Generally landlords must have preferred to limit the number of tenants for management purposes. It is interesting to note the chaotic results of enforced gavelkind in Ireland, it certainly succeeded

in its primary objective of impoverishing the Catholic majority, and lead directly to the recurrent famines which culminated in the great famine of 1847. In the end however it sowed the seeds of the destruction of British Rule by ensuring a wide and diverse native population of smallholders bitterly opposed to it, where a narrower, more privileged grouping might have offered greater loyalty and security to the established order.

Though the main argument in favour of primogeniture has always been the maintenance of the family estate, it has, ironically, often lead to the destruction of that estate. Concentration of inheritance on one family member has placed onerous responsibility on the shoulders of one person, and failure in discharging that responsibility, whether through disability or dissipation, has often lead to the end of an entail, as also has the failure of the inheritor to provide male heirs. This latter must have been particularly disturbing to the sons of the previous generation who might in other circumstances have maintained the estate in family hands.

The results of primogeniture for the family have been generally negative, whether in sending siblings, unsupported and unprepared out into the world, or maintaining them at home in a state of helpless dependency. Very often favouring the dull and staid against the bright and adventurous, primogeniture divided families and created jealousies that carried forward for generations, or simply alienations that are perhaps the most difficult of all to reverse. As genealogists we are constantly faced with the varied results of the custom of primogeniture, here there are few cousins, and little love lost, little evidence of the bond of paternalism and brotherhood that supposedly underlined the custom, a system devised in a time of warfare and strife, it has little to offer in a time of peace and progress.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries sporadic campaigns were waged against primogeniture by pamphleteers and parliamentarians, this culminated in the campaign of Mr Locke King in the House of Commons in the eighteen fifties and sixties. This campaign like its predecessors was doomed to failure. Many blamed the dilemma of the younger son on the public school system that failed to provide its graduates with even a modicum of practical skills. Their defenders blamed that ultimate pariah of all progressive reformers, 'society', one such defender was Thomas Hughes, the noted author of that public school allegory, "Tom Brown's Schooldays". Hughes decided to take practical action in 1879, raising a subscription of £150,000 to found a colony in the United States with the avowed aim of providing a home and living for distressed younger sons, this colony in a deserted spot in Tennessee, was to be known, unsurprisingly in view of the authors background, as Rugby.

The literary and drama clubs at Rugby flourished exceedingly, and the fishing was excellent, but the vine growing, poultry farming, horse breeding, brick and tile works and cannery all fell into neglect, the local newspaper described their dilemma unsympathetically...

"They are Englishmen of culture and refinement, and at one period their supply

of Worcester sauce became exhausted and their agonies were terrible to witness, but this disaster was followed by an even greater one, the “London Punch” failed to arrive on time, worst of all the terrain was not favourable for the playing of lawn tennis, these accumulated woes had a most depressing effect on the pioneers in culture, high art and mutton chop whiskers”. The Colony at Rugby collapsed in 1881. Such relief as was to be later afforded to those distressed younger sons would come from more mundane quarters, most notably, the eventual changes in property laws, the emergence of the managerial society and the proliferation of the professions in the twentieth century.**Reviewed by Declan Byrne.**

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Wicklow Cuttings...

The Irish in California....Dr M.C.O'Toole of San Francisco, President of the National League of the State of California, is at present on a visit to Ireland.. The Doctor is a Wicklowman. Being asked, "How do the Irish in California compare, in both numbers and position, with the rest of the population of your state", he replied "Approximately, the population of the state is over 800,000 and about a quarter of these are of Irish birth or descent. In San Francisco we are more than one quarter of the population, socially we are now at the top of the heap, you will find Irish leading in every department of life, in the professions, in commerce, they are judges in the courts and merchants in the cities".

...The Wicklow People, 7th September 1889.

MARY JANE IN THE COUNTRY...A Personal Record

They are the forgotten men and women of the world of genealogy, the single unattached rarely merit more than a closed bracket signifying the extent of their years expended on this mortal coil, the married childless fare little better, even their marriage connections are devalued by the fact that no permanent links are established between their families, to many family researchers time spent among the childless is time wasted, leading nowhere and always with the danger of revelations of an unsavory nature that might in retrospect explain the solitariness of the subject.

In my own experience my researches have depended primarily on one unattached relative, thankfully very much living, and one elderly spinster who lived quietly and passed on unobtrusively in old age over three quarters of a century ago.

The first, a cousin of my mothers, is something of celebrity in local history circles and has “appeared” on a number of such programs on RTE, most notably with Donnacha O’Dulaing and John Bowman, there is little that has happened to the the family of my grandmother, the Fogartys, or their related families over the last century and a half that is unknown to this latter day seer.

My grandfather in Wicklow was only six when his father died, his memories of the past were strictly limited, the youngest and eventually the last surviving of eight children, he seemed to have little knowledge or curiosity about his own family, to his daughter, my mother, he spoke rarely of past times and even less of the siblings from whom he had been parted. It was only through his only living blood relative in the area that my mother learned the story of her family, the Keelys, their hopes and their tragedies in the town of their adoption. Lizzie Collins, then an elderly spinster who kept a modest grocery, had grown up with her cousins, shared their hopes and fears and ultimately their tragedies, half a century later she would rescue them from the worst fate of all, that of oblivion even in their own family, this old lady, probably long forgotten to all but my mother, was to become a towering figure in my research of her family, the Keelys of Wicklow.

The family of my paternal grandmother, Marianne Gahan, had always remained something of a mystery to me, my fathers passing while I was still young effectively divided me from that branch of the family, and apart from a few fleeting introductions at family funerals that division remained until just a few years again when I realised that the surviving Gahan sisters were my fathers last living cousins. My subsequent visit to the “Ladies of the Brewery” has been covered in my article published in Wicklow Roots, No.4, it was undoubtedly the personal highlight of my family search, and gave me an insight and a flavour of the family that a thousand years of research could not have done. The ladies were of course single, having, like their four brothers (only three of nine children married), never ventured on the stormy seas of matrimony.

Like so many family researchers, I had been first drawn in to the search not by knowledge but by ignorance, the disclosure that my grandfather had been one of

thirteen children, none of whom I had ever heard of before, and few of whose existence I'd even guessed at, represented a challenge that I could not resist. The fact that after a ten years search five, perhaps six, still remained unknown to me was a reminder of the strength of the challenge I'd taken on. The fact that my fathers family had all passed away was a problem, and though my cousins were able to help a little with regard to contemporary events they knew little of past history. It seemed I had begun my research too late. I particularly regretted never speaking to my fathers brother and sister, the last survivors of his eight siblings.

Quite unexpectedly, at the time of a family move, a window of opportunity opened up (always a good time for genealogical research), my Aunt's home (she was my fathers youngest sister) was being sold and many artifacts were being disinterred. There were surprises, some rather racy postcards from the roaring twenties involving saucy spivs and flirty flappers, but the main interest for me lay in the photos and records of family events, in truth most of these only served to confirm what I'd already gleaned from previous research, but the most important document came not from my Aunt at all but from an elderly relative of hers with whom she'd remained in contact. I'd often heard of Aunt Jane speak of her cousin, Mary Jane Brady, I had no real idea who she was, and as so often happens my initial enquiries only served to overturn all my preconceptions. Mary Jane was not Mary Jane Brady at all, and had not been since her relative youth, she was Mary Jane Byrne, married but childless, and finally a widow, nor was Mary Jane a cousin in the usual sense, her father had been a first cousin of my grandfather, so she was a second cousin of my Aunt and a generation farther away from me than the family I sought. She proved a very welcome support in my research however and the nearest thing in the Byrne family to the guiding angels sent by my other grandparents.

The youngest child of Thomas Brady of Kilmacrea and his wife Jane Byrne, the granddaughter of Patrick and Anne Byrne (Nee Donohue) of that place, Mary Jane had shown an interest in things clerical, in both senses, from an early age. Mary Jane worked as a priests housekeeper in Dublin for a number of years and later in the same capacity in Wicklow, in the intervening period she married James Byrne, a native of Kilmacoo, near her childhood home, and at one time a local sporting hero, after James's passing she had presumably returned to her earlier calling.

An inveterate recorder, even before her clerical contacts, Mary Jane had kept a newspaper scrap book for a number of years, as well as newspaper articles of a national as well as local character. She was a great supporter of the National Movement and kept cuttings and remembrance cards for many of the leading participants, and some now forgotten...most people would recognise Kevin Barry, for instance, but how many Thomas Whelan, hanged in Kilmainham on March 14th 1921?. In her scrap book she kept copies of memoriam cards of friends and relations for over half a century and, to avoid overmorbidity, cartoon cuttings from "Till" in the Evening Press (the Indo and Herald were presumably out of bounds for political reasons). In case it should be thought that all Mary Jane's

pursuit's were of a serious and reflective nature it is said that while living at St Audeon's in Dublin her favourite relaxation was an evening at the National Stadium where she enjoyed the pugilistic prowess of the cities youth, this interest is not recorded in her scrapbook.

Apart from her scrapbook, Mary Jane (undoubtedly a great loss to the clerical profession) had purloined a standard school copy book in which she wrote on a multiplicity of subjects, just a few examples...

"Jem (her brother) left Kilmacrea, Monday November 12th, 1906, and started from Queenstown, Thursday, November 15th, 1906" ..

Her brothers addresses in America give some indication of his roving lifestyle, like his ancestors (who included the 1798 rebel leader, Thomas Brady), he worked in mining...

J.J.Brady, Lane City, Nevada,USA...318 North Arizona St, Butte City, Montana, USA...Southern Cross Mine, Deer Gorge Co, Montana, USA...Kimberley City, Nevada, USA...318 East Sixth St, Leadville, Colorado, USA...The General Delivery, Leadville, Colorado, USA...300 East Sixth St, Leadville, Colorado, USA...

"Joined Sacard Heart Sodality and Apostleship of Prayer, Good Friday, April 14th 1911" ..Mary Jane's spelling let her down on this occasion, but she had dedicated half a page to just that subject, among the words choosen are. 'Orthodox, Suffragettes, Definitely, Progressive, Nationalists, Parliamentary, Supporters, Cardinal, University, Proportional, Deputation, Presidential'.

"Joined St Anthony's Branch A.O.H. Thursday 27th ..1913..31 Rutland Square, City". It was probably through the Ancient Order of Hibernians that she made the following contacts...Miss Doyle, Ballynarrean, Newtownbarry, Co.Wexford. Miss Deane, Ballycroon House, Crossmolina, Co.Mayo, Miss Kearney, Whitestown, Greenore, Co.Louth, Miss Coleman, Dolla, Nenagh, Co.Tipperary, Miss Wonfor, 61 Edenvale Rd, Ranelagh, Miss Kelly, Shentimon, Castleterra, Co.Cavan.

National news...The new Shop Act opened, May 1st, 1912, the new Insurance Act started, July 15th, 1912, Mr Asquith's first visit to Dublin, July 14th, 1912.

The theme of emigration is revisited in an item headed.."An Emigrants Farewell".

"A touching scene was witnessed at Avoca Station on last Monday when a large crowd of his schoolmates and friends assembled to say adieu to Mr Patrick Mooney who has departed for the "Land of the Stars and Stripes". The send off was truly a pathetic one, for Patrick, by his manly character and unassuming disposition, endeared himself to a host of people in the locality and they held him in the highest esteem. Amid the tears that were shed by his friends words of encouragement were whispered by his admirers. As the train steamed out a cheer was raised by the crowd assembled on the platform, a cheer such as could only emanate from a warm hearted people and which should prove a solace to the emigrant in stimulating him to make a successful flight in the land of the stranger, he has at least consolation in knowing he carries away with him the best wishes of the people of the locality for his future success" ...Monday September 5th, 1907.

.....Miss J.Arthur, Sea Lawn, Sutton. Co.Dublin.

Not all the entries are of such a serious nature, if one thought modern forms of communication were complicated ...*the Language of Stamps*. Upper left hand corner, "goodbye sweet heart". Same corner, upside down, "I Love you". Same corner, crossways, "My heart is another's". Same corner, horizontal, "I hate you". Upper right hand corner, business or "I desire your friendship". Same corner, upside down, "Write no more". Same corner crossways, "I send a kiss". Same corner., horizontal, "Do you love me"? In the middle at top, "Yes", Same place, upside down, "On no condition". In the middle at bottom, "No". Same place, upside down, "You are too loving". Same place, horizontal, "My parents object". Lower left hand corner, "I seek your acquaintance". Same corner, upside down, "I wish you joy". Same corner, horizontal, "Will you meet me"? Lower right hand corner, "You are very cool" (not a sign of approval in 1900). Same corner, upside down, "Can you love me"? Same corner, horizontal, "You are changed". Middle at left hand side, "Accept my love". Same place, upside down, "I am engaged". Same place, horizontal, "I long to see you". In the middle, at right hand side, "Write soon". Same place, upside down, "I am sorry". Same place, horizontal, "I am married".

Even after reading the above, I was taken aback by discovery of the following book list on an old newspaper clipping...

Books by Marie Stopes (5):-

"Wise Parenthood."
 "Married Love."
 "Early Days of Birth Control."
 "Contraception."
 "Radiant Motherhood."

Books by Margaret Sanger (4):-

"Family Limitation."
 "The New Motherhood." :-
 "What Every Mother Should Do."
 "The Pivot of Civilisation."

Book by Hofrat Dr.L.Lowenfeld (1):-

"On Conjugal Happiness."

Book by Aldous Huxley (1):-

"Point Counterpoint" :-

Book by Radcliffe Hall (1):-

"The Well of Loneliness."

I was just envisioning the Parish Priest idly perusing the scrapbook of his trusted housekeeper, and the seizure, possibly fatal, that might have succeeded such a discovery, then, in a moment of inspiration, I turned over the tiny, faded piece of paper, on the inverse I read the following...

'Drove First Electric Tram'...A cordial tribute has been paid to Mr Thomas Crutchley, who drove the first electric tram run by the Dublin United Tramways Company, and has retired from the service of the Company after 50 years. Mr Crutchley, who is a native of Avoca, Co.Wicklow, entered the service of the Company in 1880. He had never a complaint made against him, and was particularly fortunate in that he never experienced an accident. For a considerable time past he has driven on the Dalkey line, and in a letter to him local residents,

passengers, and his fellow workers expressed regret on his retirement and wished him many years to enjoy it.'

“Thank you Mr Crutchley for rendering one last great public service in restoring my faith in humanity, long may you continue to enjoy your retirement.” (“I couldn’t be mistaken, could I”? !!).

Quite apart from this eclectic collection, Mary Jane Brady did include in her writings some notes of a very beneficial nature to family researchers, for the years 1897 to 1915 she kept a record of the births, deaths and marriages that took place in her local community. It must be admitted that the list is not comprehensive, the birth and marriage entries are probably replicated in the Parish Records, but at a time when few could afford newspaper notices or expensive memorials the deaths entries may, in many cases, be unique.

The following database is a compilation from the scrapbook of references to the many people from the country whom Mary Jane remembered, for many she was probably their only common contact and with her passing that link between them was finally broken.

The initial extract is taken from the copybook of family records, it has been tempting to include these details in database form where the information could be formatted in an easily accessible manner, but the entries are not extensive and so much of a personal nature (she lost her own parents and sister during that period, in my own case there is a reference to my great grandmother, known to me only by name, as “My dear Aunt Dollie”) would be lost by that approach, that I have decided to reproduce this record in as faithful a copy of the original as possible.

.....Declan Byrne.

Written by Mary Jane Josephine Brady....1911-1915.

Thomas and Jane Brady, children, Julian Brady, born August 14th 1863, Catherine Brady, born 12th June 1866. The dead list as follows for the souls of Patrick and Anne Byrne, Thomas and Jane Brady and Julian Barry.

Deaths.....

Garrett Doyle, Glendalough, 16th November 1897, R.I.P. Mrs Lacey, Bolagh, 25th July 1898, R.I.P. Mrs Bushe, Ballinabarney. 21st April 1898, Jane Kinsella, 26th December 1899, R.I.P. Brien Murphy, 26th December 1899, R.I.P. Ned Cassell, 27th December 1899, R.I.P. Maggie Moore, 16th August 1899, R.I.P. Hannah Smullen, 10th September 1899, R.I.P. Mrs Byrne, Newbawn School Mistress, 8th January 1900, R.I.P. Mary Waldron, Ballycapple, 11th February 1900, R.I.P. Mr John Cullen, Dry-Arch, 21st, R.I.P. Coke Redmond Junr, 22nd March 1900. Mick Barry, 17th

1903, R.I.P. Miss Brien, Newbawn, 2nd April 1900, R.I.P. (My Dearest Father, 13th April 1900, R.I.P. Good Friday. My Dearest Mother, Saturday 24th March 1906. On who's Souls, Sweet Jesus have mercy.) Mrs Burne, Ballykeane, 10th May 1900.

Miss Fanny Ryan, 17th October 1903. Miss Davis, 24th February 1904. Mrs Anne Kavanagh, Tigroney, 7th April 1906, R.I.P.+ Silvester Farrell, Ballygannon, 20th December 1906, R.I.P.+ My Dearest Aunt Dollie, 12th January 1907, R.I.P.+ Mr Joe Byrne, Ballyboney, 20th January 1907, R.I.P.+ Tom Byrne, Ballykeane, 29th February 1907, R.I.P.+ Laurence Farrell, Kilbride, 20th March 1907, R.I.P.+ Thomas Kelly, Kilmacoo, R.I.P.+ My Dearest Aunt Ellen, 24th April 1907, R.I.P.+ William Kelly, Copper Bdgs, 27th May 1907, R.I.P.+ Brien Rourke, Conary, 8th July 1907, R.I.P.+ Mr Thomas Waldron, 1st September 1907, R.I.P.+ James Brennan, Brittas, 14th September 1907, R.I.P. Mrs Graham, Ballard, 23rd September 1907, R.I.P.+ Mrs Grimes, Coolanearl, 6th October 1907, R.I.P.+ Mr James Comerford, Rathdrum, 3rd October 1907, R.I.P.+ Dr Hudson, Avoca, 3rd October 1907, Mr John Grant, Ballard, 15th November 1897, R.I.P.+ Mrs Johnnie Brien, Launder, 1st November 1907, R.I.P.+ Jem Byrne, Brittas, 27th November 1907, R.I.P.+ Daniel Williams, 24th December 1907, Tommie Williams, 3rd January 1908, Johnnie McCoy, 19th January 1908, R.I.P.+ Mr John Waldron, 25th January 1908, R.I.P.+ Mr Thomas Blake, Rockview, 25th January 1908, R.I.P.+ Essie Cassell, Templelyon, 29th January 1908, R.I.P.+ My Dearest Sister, Maggie Arthur, 14th April 1908, R.I.P.+ John Burne, Templeraney, 19th June 1908, Thomas Acton, 25th August 1908, John Neill, Gabe House, 17th September 1908, R.I.P.+ William Moore, 17th October 1908, R.I.P.+ Mr John Sutton, Rathdrum, 14th November 1908, Denis Smullen, 20th February 1909, R.I.P.+ John Fleming, Patrick's Bush, 28th February 1909, R.I.P.+ Mrs M.Ashford, 8th May 1909, R.I.P.+ Loughlin Kinsella, Oughill, 9th May 1909, R.I.P.+ Mrs Lenahan, 7th May 1909, R.I.P.+ Mr Barry, Ballinabarney, 14th December 1909, R.I.P.+ Mrs Grant, Ballinabarney, 2nd April 1910, R.I.P.+ Patrick Kearns, Ballinameesda, Accidentally Killed, 9th August 1910, R.I.P.+ Mr Gahan, Rathdrum, 12th March 1910, R.I.P.+ Mrs Anne Mates, Kilmacrea, 27th December 1910, R.I.P.+ Mrs Anne McGuire, Ballycapple, 24th January 1911, R.I.P.+ John Kavanagh, The Lane, 2nd January 1911, R.I.P.+ Mr Thomas Wheatley, Redcross, 2nd January 1911, Ellen Fitzpatrick, 3rd February 1911, R.I.P.+ Kate Devoy, Kilmacrea, 7th August 1911, R.I.P.+ Mick Redmond, Ballycapple, 16th March 1913, R.I.P.+ Thomas Dunphy, Glasnarget, Rathdrum, 17th March 1913, R.I.P.+ Christina Margaret Parsons, Tuesday 13th January 1914, R.I.P.+ John McGrath, Tigroney, 24th January 1913, R.I.P.+ Mr Grant, Ballinabarney, 25th March 1914, R.I.P.+ Mr C.Byrne, Ballycapple, 14th August 1914, R.I.P.+ Mrs Grant, Ballard, May 1915, R.I.P.+ Sister Mary Joseph Ignatius Comerford, St Vincent's Hospital, 30th June 1915, Age 70th · her 40th in Religion, R.I.P.+ Jack Moore, Saturday 25th December, Xmas Day, 1915, R.I.P.

Marriages and Births...

Miss Harriett Burne, Kilmacrea, and Mr Sutton married, 25th September 1906. Maria Connor and Peter Barry married 26th September 1906. Mr Ferdinand Cooney, Tymullen House, married 21st November 1906. Jem Arthur and Catherine Connor married 20th August 1907. Emily Kelly married, 24th August 1908. Markus Earls & Maggie Byrne married, 31st August 1908. Patrick Farrell, Ballygannon married , 10th August 1908. Ben Tuke & Maggie Nolan married, 12th October 1908. Pat Lambert & Anne Fitzpatrick married, 11th October 1909. James McCall & Kate Kavanagh married, 24th November 1909. Ben Kelly & Katie Timmons married, 31st January 1909, Lar Fleming & Jane Brien married, 29th August 1910. Mr Phillips & Annie Waldron married, 14th September 1910. Agnes Moore was born, 12th May 1907. Kate Brady & William Moore married, 8th May 1887. Maggie Brady & Laurence Arthur married, Thursday 18th November 1903. Dan Kelly & Dora Waldron married, 21st May 1911. Con Brien & Ellen Hetherington married, 7th June 1911. Jane Tracey & Mat Cosgrave married 29th January 1913. Julian Brady was born, August 14th 1863. Catherine Brady was born, 12th June 1866. Katie Moore was married, 26th June 1913. Christina Margaret Parsons was born, Tuesday 23rd December 1912, Christened, 2nd January 1913. Jemmie Byrne, Brittas, & Biddie Kavanagh married, 16th February 1914. Tom Arthur & Rose Grimes married 23rd February 1914. Will Fogarty & Lizzie Waldron married, 3rd June 1914. Bill Waldron , Ballasallagh & Miss Byrne married, 3rd June 1914. Jack McLoughlin & Lizzie Nolan married, 26th August 1914. Richard Arthur & Dora Byrne married, 2nd September 1914. Hugh Kavanagh & Nan Byrne married, 10th September 1914. Ned Monaghan & Babe Dunphy married, 3rd February 1915. Richard Fennelly & Mary A.Gaffney married, Monday 24th May 1915. James Joseph Arthur born, 3rd June 1915. Jack Hayden was married, Tuesday 27th July 1915. Ned Bergin & Maggie Toole, Wednesday 28th July 1915. Janie Finn & Dan Kearns, Wednesday 6th October 1915. Maggie Cullen & Thomas Scallon married, Wednesday 20th October 1915. Richard Joseph Fennelly born, Saturday 27th November 1915.

A brief Newspaper cutting...September 19, 1913, Henry Revell, third son of William Horton Revell, of Ballymoney, Wicklow, funeral private.

Families and family history, some random thoughts...

“It is indeed desirable to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors”...

....On the training of Children...Plutarch.

Name:	Address:	Event:	Date:
Arthur, Catherine	Springfarm, Redcross	D	27-03-1932.
Arthur, Laurence	Kilmacoo, Avoca	D	10-05-1946.
Barlow, Mary	3 Bachelors Walk, Wicklow	D	08-04-1922.
Barry, Annie	Ard Aluinn, Rathdrum	D	21-03-1940.
Barry, John J.	Barry's Hotel, Rathdrum	D	15-10-1950.
Brady, James Joseph	California	D	25-10-1947.
Byrne, Robert	Kilmacoo, Avoca	D	01-02-1925.
Byrne, Matthew	Kilmacoo, Avoca	D	17-02-1925.
Byrne, Laurence	Market Square, Wicklow	D	06-09-1922.
Byrne, Sara Teresa	Ballykeane, Redcross	D	06-10-1918.
Byrne, Mary Anne	Ballykeane, Redcross	D	06-06-1921.
Byrne, James J. (Jim)	Ballykeane, Redcross	D	30-05-1922.
Byrne, Thomas	Wicklow, Late of Kilquiggan	D	17-04-1922.
Byrne, James	St.Jude's, Castle St, Wicklow	D	04-03-1953.
Byrne, Anne Frances	Wentworth Place, Wicklow	D	25-02-1956.
Byrnes, Rev.William C.-PP	Barndarrig	D	30-12-1918.
Connor, Patrick	Rockstown, Rathdrum	D	22-04-1906.
Cullen, James	Ballydonnell	D	17-02-1926.
Cullen, Catherine	Ballydonnell	D	25-02-1925.
Doyle, Maria	Newtownmountkennedy	D	27-03-1951.
Doyle, Mary	Ballycurry, Ashford	D	06-06-1954.
Earls, Mark	Ballinabarney, Redcross	D	16-03-1947.
Earls, Margaret	Ballinabarney, Redcross	D	20-06-1953.
Esmonde, Mary	Cronroe, Ashford	D	12-12-1957.
Giffney, Michael (Sonny)	Mount Usher, Ashford	D	23-10-1952.
Hynes, Patrick & Margaret	Conery House, Avoca	R	Undated.
Kane, Henry	'The Stores', Ashford	D	21-04-1957.
Kavanagh, Sheila	Chapel, Redcross	D	24-03-1938.
Keane, Thomas	Ballinacor, Kilbride	D	23-05-1957.
Lacey, Bridget	Aughrim	D	06-08-1956.
Loughlin, Eileen	Ballybla House, Ashford	D	04-02-1958.
Nicholls, James M.	High Street, Wicklow	D	20-03-1951.
Nolan, William	Kilmacoo, Avoca	D	28-08-1945.
O'Connor, Thomas	Swordlestown, Ballymore	D	25-11-1949.
Redmond, Colclough	Ballycapple, Kilbride	D	28-09-1929.
Ryan, V.Rev.Patrick	Kilquade	D	29-04-1936.
Sutton, Mary Anne	New Street, Wicklow	D	19-02-1923.
Sutton, Lough	Seaview Park, Wicklow	D	17-04-1951.

A PORTRAIT OF JAMES J. SCANNELL

Part Two.

by

James Scannell.

Since the publication of Part I in Wicklow Roots No.3 (1998), additional information on James J.Scannell and his family has come to light following the publication of an appeal for information in the Irish Examiner (the Former Cork Examiner) and I am indebted to Ms. Helen O'Carroll in Stillorgan, Co.Dublin, who has been able to fill in some vital gaps and correct some of the information I had previously obtained from family members.

I was aware that James J.Scannell had a brother, Tim, who worked for the business as a buyer of furniture in Glasgow. I was not aware of any other family members but Ms. O'Carroll has pointed out that there were other family whom I never heard mentioned in my own circles.

My great great grandfather was David Scannell, a carpenter from Kerry, he married an Ellen Shehan who owned a public house in Clashnure. James and Ellen had several daughters and two sons, Thady who never married, and my great grandfather John Scannell.

John Scannell was also a carpenter and he married a Mary Cullinane. John Scannell bought the smallholding in Ballineadig in Cork. John and Mary had seven children, David, the eldest who died in infancy, James (born 1870), Nora, Ellen, Paddy, Tim and John who went to America where he died while a young man. I was told a story that he had been killed in France while serving in the U.S. Army during World War I but I have uncovered nothing to confirm this story so far. According to information given to Ms. O'Carroll by her aunt, a Mrs Nora O'Regan (who looked after Tim Scannell when he retired from business in 1954), John Scannell did serve in the U.S.Army but that he died of natural causes sometime after World World I leaving some money to the family members, which at that time was not great, James J. Scannell, in his role as senior family member, indicating that it was not worth pursuing due to the costs involved. One wonder if this money is still unclaimed in the U.S. and if so, where?.. Also is there an American branch of the family?.

Given that James J.Scannell's father and grandfather were carpenters, it can be seen how he came to enter the furniture trade. He worked in the furniture department of a Cork shop and after serving his time in Cork moved to Belfast, perhaps pursuing advancement.

In Belfast, as mentioned in the previous article, he was employed by Messrs Watkins and Co. and given that James J. had grown up through the era when Parnell had fought for Home Rule and had his political career destroyed as a result of his private life, this may be how he obtained his nationalist outlook and since John Redmond was an ardent Parnellite, this may explain why James J. was a great supporter of Redmond when he became leader of the reunited Irish

Parliamentary Party in 1900.

The connection with Joseph Devlin certainly stems from this time in Belfast. Joseph Devlin, born in West Belfast in 1871, was a United Irish League worker and campaigner for the Nationalist cause and had a very busy time at the time of the Parnellite split and became a great political organiser.

Successful in business, he held a number of directorships and was a leading figure in the Ancient Order of Hibernians. Obviously at some stage in Belfast their paths crossed and this is probably how James J. was introduced to the United Irish League, the Irish Parliamentary Party's organisation on the ground, and also to the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

After his sojourn in Belfast, James J. returned to Dublin where he became a manager in McBirney's Store (the site of the current Virgin Megastore, just off O'Connell Bridge) and it was while in Dublin that he married in 1904.

This is as far as I have now progressed on his early life and by the time next article is ready for publication for publication, I hope to have some additional information on some of the 'grey areas' which need to be filled in.

- to be continued.

Wicklow Cuttings...

Information sought regarding...

Mary Dempsey who left Baltinglass for America in 1884 and when last heard from in 1886 was living in Arbour, New York, by her sister Kate Dempsey.

Francis Byrne, native of County Wicklow, when last heard from was in Philadelphia, by his mother Eliza Byrne.

...*The Wicklow People, 16th November 1889.*

Edward and William Fairfield of Aughrim, County Wicklow, the former went to England ten years ago, the latter went to America four years ago, last heard of in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by their nephew.

..*The Wicklow People, 23rd November 1889.*

John and Sarah Doyle, late of Bray Head, County Wicklow, when last heard of living at Wentworth Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, by their father.

Patrick Doyle, Sailor, of Arklow, County Wicklow, last heard of thirteen months ago in Montevideo, by his sister.

..*The Wicklow People, 30th November 1889.*

**THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR HIS HOLINESS POPE LEO XIII
IN THE DIOCESE OF DUBLIN.**

he Freeman's Journal , Saturday 2nd August 1880.

Parish of Kilquade.....Total collection £27-5-3.

Rev. Peter Seagrave, P.P. £3.

Mrs Loby , Mr James Gorman , £2, Capt. Seagrave £1.

Sir John Power, Bart, William Corbett, M.P. Mr James Byrne, Mrs Fox, Mr James Byrne, Kilmullen, 5/=, Mr Thomas Walker, 3/6.

Mr John Barry, Mr James Kearns, Mr McGuire, Mr McGee, Mr John McCall, Mrs Cooling,, Mr Robert Deveraux, Mr Patrick Barry, Mr James Brien, Mr James Kearns, Mr Christopher O'Rourke, Mr Thomas Byrne, Mr Doyle, Mr Michael Brady, Mrs Hempenstall, Mrs Murray, Mrs Travers, 2/6.

Mr James Smullen, Mr James Brien, Mr Goggins, Mr Richard Byrne, Mr Patrick O'Brien, Mr John Hunter, Mrs McGreanor, a friend of Mr Deane, 2/=.

Small donations, £1-6-3.

Parish of Newtownmountkennedy....£7-3-6.

Rev Laurence O'Byrne, C.C. 10/=.

Mr Michael Byrne, Newcastle, £1.

Mr John Byrne, Dromore, Mr Thomas Short, Edward Cullen, Mrs Brady, all Newtownmountkennedy, Mr Patrick Walker, Glendaragh, Mr Michael Mooney, Trudder, 5/=.

Mr James Flynn, Mr Hugh McDonald, both Newtownmountkennedy, Miss Deceise, Mr Pierce Short, Kilday, Mr Cullen, Callowhill, 2/6.

Small donations. £1-16-0.

Kilmurray...£1-15-0.

Mrs Byrne, Ballinahinch, 10/=.

Mr Daniel Cullen, Monaline, 5/=.

Mr Laurence Keegan, Knockfadda, Mr John Cullen, Ballinahinch, Mr Laurence Loughlin, Mr Charles Toole, both Trudder, Mr Denis Alpin, Keelogue, 2/6.

Small donations...£7/6.

Delgany...£4-13-0.

Rev H.O'Donnell, C.C. 10/=, Mrs Lawless, 10/=.

Anon, 5/=, Mr Moore, Miss Murray, Mr John Connolly, Mr Francis O'Connor,

Miss Kate Donnelly, 2/6.
Small donations...£2-15-6.

Blessington...£20-12-6.

St Mary's..

Rev. J.Hamilton, P.P. Right Rev W.Cogan, £1.
Rev P.Kavanagh, C.C. John Boothman, 10/=,
Mr John Halligan, Mr John Ross, Mr William Magrath, 5/=.
Mr William Sargeant, 3/=.
Mr Patrick Nowlan, Mr James Slattery, Mr William Clinch, Mr Patrick Healy,
Mrs Breen, Mrs Grainger, Constable Hartnett, Constable McGoey, Mr John
Molloy, Mr Thomas Hanlon, 2/6.

Eadestown..

Rev. E.O'Connor, 10/=, Mr Edward Donnelly, Mr James Reilly, 10/=.
Mr Peter Byrne, Mr Patrick Tyrrell, Mrs Melia, Mr John Donnelly, Mr John
Hughes, Mr Peter Molloy, 5/=.
Mr Hugh Melia, Mrs Tyrrell, 4/=.
Mr John Byrne, Mrs Walsh, Mr Martin Hayden, 3/=.
Mr Michael Burke, Mr Thomas Murray, Mr Mat Denison, Mr Joseph Confrey,
Miss Cullen, Mrs Lawlor, Mr John Slattery, Mr Michael Cullen, Mr Michael
Mullen, Mr Mat Byrne, Mr John Meyler, 2/6.

Kilbride...

Rev. James Cassin, 10/=, Mr Charles Grenan £1, Mr Michael Kirwan 10/=.
Miss Halligan, Mr James Eustace, 5/=, Miss McGowan 3/=.
Mr James Quinn, Mr Michael Eustace, Mr Michael Tallon, Mr James Grath, Mr
John Halligan, Mr Thomas Merrigan, Miss Tighe, Mr James Balfe, Mr Darby
Dowling, Mr John Donohue, Mr Garret Tallon, 2/6.

THE MILLER OF ROSANNA'S TALE **.. the Meades of Coolharbour.**

From her earliest childhood the name had always intrigued her, in her fancies my mother had tried to imagine this welcoming haven high in the Wicklow Mountains from which her maternal grandmother had sprung, she remembered the Meades as small of stature, but handsome with dark brown eyes, they lived on the shores of the Roundwood reservoir, and had been native to that place long before the area had been flooded in the mid nineteenth century.

Contact with the family had long ceased by my mothers time, but she often repeated an anecdote of grandmothers time regarding a visit to Coolharbour in her youth, the occasion had been a family wake which she had attended with her sister, as so often happened with wakes, the occasion had been a great social success and it ended with a pressing invitation to visit some Meade cousins in North Wexford, "We'll write and tell you when to come", she was told, the letter had never come and the event passed into family legend to be remembered whenever an invitation was unaccountably delayed.

The match between between the young farmer, Michael Fogarty from Carrigmore, and the girl from the Wicklow Mountains had been a long distance romance, if romance it was, family tradition held that the marriage was arranged by a travelling matchmaker, a local connection could not be ruled out however since a neighbouring family, the Meades of Kilbride, could well have been related to the Coolharbour family.

Born in the dying years of the eighteenth century, memories of my great great grandmother had understandably been all but lost in the mists of time, there had been at least six children of the marriage, a Grand Uncle remembered his fathers tears at his grandmothers death, he remembered that she died in the small bedroom nearest the road, a room still used in the family home, she was an old lady at that time, almost eighty years of age, and a widow for almost two decades, the distress of her son, a rather gruff and distant man, already deep into middle age, may be her lasting memorial.

My research into the Meade family began in the old Parish of Wicklow (long before the establishment of Ashford Parish in 1864) the name seemed to be common enough in that area in the early nineteenth century, the name was spelt Meath at that time, there were branches of the family at Trinity and Ballyduff in particular, and it was there I suspected, that the roots of the Coolharbour family also lay, this seemed to be confirmed later when I found references to the family in the old Glendalough Parish (which at that time encompassed Roundwood) only towards the middle of the nineteenth century, this would suggest that while my great great grandmother had a definite connection with the Coolharbour family, her own roots were in the Trinity area. Further research in the Wicklow going back to the eighteenth century uncovered the marriage of Matthew Meath to

Bridget Turner on 10th January 1778, the only surviving entries regarding their family record the birth of a daughter, Cecilia, in the following year and the birth of a son, Matthew, twenty one years later, obviously the last child of what was probably a very large family.

The paucity of birth entries on the Meade family was due to a gap of almost fifteen years in the Parish Records in Wicklow (1781-96), not an unusual phenomenon in those troubled times when the Catholic Clergy often had more pressing concerns than the maintenance of Church Records, the maintenance of their own existence being a primary one. Fr Andrew O'Toole, Parish Priest of Wicklow, eventually failed in this latter endeavour, it is recorded that shortly before his death at the hands of the local Yeomanry his house in Wicklow was burned and all his books and records lost.

Without finding the actual birth record of Bridget Meath there might still have been some doubt regarding her connection to Matthew and Bridget, certainly the fact that both the parents names had found their way into the Fogarty Family and that Catherine Turner had actually "stood" for her son Matthew strengthened the possibility but the conclusive link was to come through that eldest child. Cecilia Meath had married Ferdinand Byrne at Wicklow on 10th September 1804, there her connection with Wicklow had ended, like so many others who moved away she might have been lost to local memory, ending her days in some anonymous tenement in the city, fate was to ordain otherwise however...

I had often been told of a boy from Dublin who had stayed with the family in Carrigmore, an orphan, he had been raised by two elderly cousins, it was at their request that he came first to the farm to stay for his summer holidays, a failed medical student, he eventually emigrated to America where he followed a career in journalism. John Francis Byrne never found the fame he sought in the "New World", but he did achieve celebrity of a kind through his early association with the young James Joyce as a medical student in Dublin, in latter years he wrote his autobiography, "Silent Years", in which he recounted his memories of that connection but more particularly of his happy childhood days in Carrigmore. Byrne also remembered his great grandfather, Ferdinand or "Fari" Byrne, who had played a minor role in the Emmett Rising of 1803, undoubtedly this was the same Ferdinand Byrne who had married a young Wicklow woman in the autumn of the following year.

From my researches I was able to uncover some other members of the Meath family, a brother Bryan, who married Ann Nowlan, was buried in Killoughter Cemetery, Matthew had married Anne Power in 1829 and had probably been the founder of the Coolharbour Family, when Matthew Meath, his son, married Catherine Rooney in Glendalough in 1850 he created a link between my wife's family and my own that I had never suspected for her Great Great Grandfather, Hugh Butler of Carrigeenshinnock, had married Mary Rooney in the same parish just a decade earlier.

I found the baptism of my Great Great Great Grandmother, Bridget Turner, in Wicklow on 27th January 1757, she was the daughter of Loughlin and Judy Turner of Knockatomcoyle, and very probably the Granddaughter of Philip Turner, born in the latter years of the seventeenth century, he died on 23rd July 1762, aged 66 years, his gravestone may still be seen at Killiskey to this day.

I was less successful in tracing the Meath family in the eighteenth century, the baptism of Matthew Meath, who married Bridget Turner, probably took place before records began in Wicklow in 1747, I did however discover the record of a Bryan Meath, Miller, at Rossana in 1742, his christian name, passed down in the Coolharbour and Kilbride families (and also in the Meath Family of Old Connaught, Bray, with whom there may have been a connection) and also his abode, near the old family burial ground at Killoughter, would strongly suggest that he was indeed the immediate ancestor of that family, and perhaps my own Great Great Great Great Grandfather.

.....*Declan Byrne*

The Turner & Meath Families of Killiskey & Ballyduff.

Phillip Turner (1696-1762)

Parent of:

Dominick Md Winny - Children: Phillip, Dominick
Matthew Md Elizabeth Kennedy
- Children: Christian, Matthew

Loughlin Md Judy

Parents of:

Mary, Michael, John, Phillip, Loughlin, Sylvester &..

Bridget Md Matthew Meath

Parents of:

Celia (1779) Md Ferdinand Byrne - Children: Matthew, Celia
Judith Md John Power
Bryan (1794) Md Ann Nowlan - Children: Matthew, Bridget
Matthew (1800) Md Ann Power
Bridget (1793) Md Michael Fogarty- Children: Michael, Judith

THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION AND FAMILY HISTORY.

By George H O'Reilly.

It is unlikely that anyone born in Ireland in the past hundred and fifty years or so has not been affected in some way by the activities of the Gaelic Athletic Association, either as a player in it's various sports or as a spectator. Consequently, it struck me recently that the records of the various county organisations and that of the headquarters of the association must surely provide some interest to anyone who wants to put some information of interest to anyone who wants to put some "meat on the bones" of family members.

Cumann Luith Chleas Gaedheal was founded in 1884 at a meeting in Hayes' Hotel in Thurles, County Tipperary, and so began an amateur association to rival any other in this country or elsewhere. The family history connection comes from such material as is contained in the archives of the association at GAA headquarters at Croke Park in Dublin relating to players, managers and the people involved in the overall organisation. Many publications about both the organisation, the various sports and players have been published over the years. It is from one of these latter publications that I am indebted for the following information.

"50 Years of the GAA in Wicklow 1885-1935" was written by C.M.Byrne, Chairman, County Board, GAA, and P.J.Noonan, Wicklow, and published some time close to that period which is evident from the fact that it sold for 6d, or about 2.5 pennies in our 'new' money. It has about 170 pages including many advertisements..

**Brennan's for bread,
deliveries by lorry, cart or rail – tel Arklow 10.**

**The Wicklowmen's House – Werburgh Street, Dublin,
10 year old Powers.**

**Wicklow Flakemeal from Haskins Bros. Wicklow.
Cullen, Main Street, Rathdrum,**

But the main interest is in the names of the organisers and players as association developed in the county. The first football game in Wicklow played under the association's rules was at Ashford, between Ashford, captained by John Byrne ('Dr Jack') and Dalkey, captained by J.J.O'Reilly. Apparently the match was won by Ashford but a return game gave a win to Dalkey. The book then details what the authors describe as "the biggest effort yet made, probably in Ireland, when three teams from from counties Wexford and Wicklow met in the Avondale Demesne (Parnell's residence). This was on October 31st 1886. The Wicklow players (only)

Wicklow vs Wexford.

Peter Golden, Captain, Andrew Keogh, goal, A. Carroll, T. Doran, John and Michael Byrne, J.M.D'Arcy, John Dunne, Michael and John Murphy, Michael Costello, James Kennedy, Patrick Doyle, Hugh Monks, James Short, Michael Keogh, Andrew Kirwan, T. Cunningham, William Lawler, Michael Waters.

Togher vs Rosslare.

Laurence Murphy, Captain, Chris (goal) and Morgan Byrne, Pat and John Kane, Michael Keenan, James. John and Patrick Murphy, Andrew Doyle, Andrew Halpin, Charles Nolan, John Martin, John and Dan Redmond, Thomas Jones, James Brady, James Meath, James and John Mason, Michael Keogh.

Crossabeg vs Avondale.

P. Byrne, Captain, P. Lambert, W, P and J. Byrne, P Fogarty, B. Murtagh, P. Grace, John and J. Kelly, P. Murphy, D. Atkinson, John Finn, Peter and James Gaffney, Denis Kennedy, James Farrell, Peter Gahan, J. Toole, J. Doyle, R. Cullen.

Ashford vs Ballymore.

John Byrne, Captain, R. Fitzpatrick, goal, H and O.O'Neill, E and B. Kelly, L. Giffney, W. Hender, Pat and Laurence Byrne, P. Graham, R. Turner, W. Hartley, M. Lawless, William Murphy, Charles Toole, P. Hawkins, P. McCall, P. Burke, J. Glynn.

Piercestown vs Barndarrig.

A. Hyland, Captain, B. McDaniel, goal, T. Douglas, E. Vickers, E. Costello, W and R. Ball, J and M. Redmond, J and T. Graham, J. Kinsella, M and W. Byrne, T. Staunton, T. Richardson, J. McCall, J. Carroll, T. Kavanagh, J. Darcy, E. Reed.

Castlebridge vs Rathnew.

J.H. Cullen, Captain, John (goal), Joseph, Jacob and Denis Mara, William Byrne, James, Pat, William and George Clare, James and Hy. Doyle, Rd. Gill, Dan Winders, Pat Brown, M. Bennett, C. Twamley, W. Smullen, S. Lee, P. Crowley, W. Martin.

In the book, written post 1935, some of the names listed above are in heavy type to indicate that they were still living then and some details of what had happened to them in the intervening years is given. One example, for instance, is that of James Gaffney – ‘working on Father Sweetman’s place near Gorey’.

The book provides a detailed history of the GAA in Wicklow and names flow from every page in one context or another – the death of Timothy Doyle, aged 34 years, ‘who for twenty years captained the Rathnew football team, whose tragic death at Bray Railway Station, on the 29th February 1908, was deplored by the people of Rathnew’, etc, is mentioned. Then there are photos of various teams and officials over the years.

The recently opened GAA Museum at Croke Park, Dublin, entered off Clonliffe Road, is well worth a visit. Photos, medals, trophies, extracts from relevant papers, letters and so on displayed in lovely surroundings. Much use is made of interactive computerised informational databases to cover all aspects of the association. The children will enjoy the opportunity to kick a ball, jump for a high one, etc. All in all a great opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of the national pastime.

Work is ongoing on the Archive which will, when completed, be of great interest to family historians at the above extract from just one book indicates.

...George H.O'Reilly.

Wicklow Cuttings...

Bray Petty Sessions...

Mary Gaule summoned Mary McCann on a charge of having made use of improper language towards the complainant on the 19th June.

Complainant deposed to the language used towards her by the defendant, which was neither polite nor edifying. Mr W.J.Hanmore appeared for the defendant.

The Magistrates fined defendant 5/= and costs.

Riding velocipedes on the footpath...

A gentleman named James Wall was summoned for riding a tricycle on the footpath at the Strand on 15th June, fined 2/6.

William A.Beckett was summonsed for riding a bicycle on the footpaths of the township on 11th June. The Chairman said the Magistrates would impose a fine of 2/6 in this case but they wished it to be known that in future they would impose the full penalty of 5/= in such cases.

..*The Wicklow People, 6th July 1889.*

TWO COASTGUARDS DROWNED IN WICKLOW BAY, Narrow Escape of Three Others.

Wicklow News Letter – Saturday 25th March 1899.

Last evening intelligence reached Wicklow that two coastguards had been drowned near the Five Mile Point, Newcastle. It appears that a coastguard boat manned by five men belonging to the Five Mile Point Station left Wicklow in the afternoon with stores and when they had reached within two hundred yards of the shore the boat capsized and the occupants were thrown into the water. The boat was under sail and from the meagre details to hand it is evident that a sudden squall caught the small craft as she was nearing the shore and that she turned over completely.

Two of the men were drowned, their names were FREDERICK RONCLIFFE and THOMAS MUMFORD. The chief officer of Five Mile Point was in the boat and got so much hardship in the water that he is at present in precarious condition. Each of the men drowned leaves a wife and two children. The details to hand are very scanty and it is difficult to understand how an accident attended with such sad results could take place so close inshore on a fine evening when the sea was perfectly calm.

Inquest and report of the “The Boating Accident in Wicklow Bay”, Saturday, 1st April 1899. Wicklow News Letter.

...Contributed by Maeve Flannery.

Wicklow Cuttings...

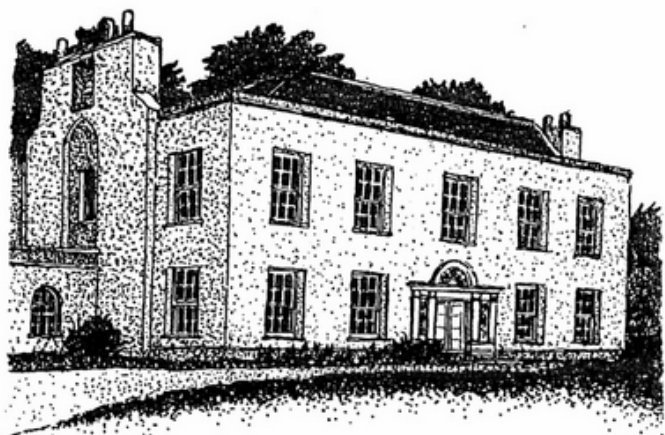
News Reports...

Two servant girls, Catherine Nevin and Catherine Dillon were drowned while swimming near Newcastle Station, Nevin's body was later recovered from the water.

...Wicklow News Letter, Saturday 4th August 1860.

Mr Peter Castles, 76, of Ballinacarrig, fell from a twenty foot cliff at Ballinacarrig to his death.

...Wicklow News Letter, Saturday 23rd May 1859.



Ballykeane House, County Wicklow.



St Kevin's Church, Dunganstown, County Wicklow.

‘A LIFE OF THE HYMN WRITER MRS ALEXANDER’

by Valerie Wallace.

The name Frances Cecil Humphreys has hardly achieved immortality in County Wicklow and even the addition of her married name Mrs Alexander is unlikely to raise a hint of recognition outside of a very narrow circle and yet Mrs Alexander is one of those unusual creatures whose work has achieved immortality while her name has remained unknown (quite the opposite problem exists for many today in our modern celebrity culture) for what children’s collection of songs does not contain the the hymn “All things bright and beautiful”, for hymn it once was, and Mrs Alexander’s writings were always of the highest religious fervour, and there were many lesser known publications from her pen.

Even as a little girl Fanny was noted mostly for her seriousness, her creativity and her dedication to matters of religion, born in Dublin, Fanny first comes to our attention when her father, Major John Humphreys (an Englishman of reputedly aristocratic origins) came to work as land steward to the Earl of Wicklow and to take up residence at Ballykeane House, just outside Redcross village, it was 1825 and as well as her parents, Fanny, then seven, was accompanied by her two sisters, Elizabeth, nine, Anne, five, John, eight and Thomas William, two.

The Humphreys were to reside at Ballykeane House for eight years and happy years they appear to have been, the house is described as..”standing on a wooded hill, pink washed, elegantly simple, it’s nine front windows reflecting the wide skies which in their turn were full of light from the Irish Sea a few miles away....the heavy double doors with ornamented glass on either side and a delicately wrought.fanlight above were probably those which the Humphrey children first tumbled through, exhilarated by the feeling of freedom and space which pervades the place...outside the children would have found a walled kitchen garden , a pleasure ground, a stable building of unusual appearance, perhaps a previous family residence...Ballykeane House possesses one particularly distinctive feature, built into either gable end is an archway between the chimney stacks, and slung in each arch is a large bell, it’s rope hanging down the wall of the house, hardly justified for purely domestic purposes, could they be a remnant from troubled times (we do know that a yeoman named Jones of Ballykeane was among the casualties in the rising of 1798) when landowners could expect to come under attack at any moment, and local solidarity was seen as vital.

The house at Ballykeane seems to exercised a special hold over those who entered it’s portals, the story is told of an elderly bachelor, Francis Penrose, to whom the house had become like wife and family, in the year 1805 he lay dying in one of the high ceiled bedrooms, pathetically crying, over and over again, “Ballykeane, Ballykeane, must I leave you”, when at last he did pass away, the plumed carriage that was to move his mortal remains from the house stood still on the driveway, the horses refused to budge, and no amount of coaxing would entice them or threatening intimidate them, finally it was the men of the estate, with the spiritual guidance of a local cleric, who carried the reluctant resident from his

erstwhile home. The story is credited to Michael Byrne, a member of a family who had lived and farmed in the neighbourhood for centuries, I was reminded of my own families much more humble abode in that same townland, and my uncle writing from America to say how..” *though it was almost in ruins, we all loved it so much*”.

Between the ages of seven and fifteen, when the family moved once more, Fanny enjoyed the freedom of life in the Wicklow countryside and by it’s shores, it was an untroubled time, she was fortunate in her parents, sane, unpretentious yet cultivated people (not all Victorian children were so lucky), doubly fortunate in her good health and that of her siblings (though she did lose a baby brother, Carbery, when she was thirteen) at a time when early decline and death were by no means the preserve of the poor. It was in Ballykeane that Fanny first formed a serious resolve to lead a good and holy life and it was there that she developed her first interest in writing verse, initially for a magazine which flourished in the family before her brother John went off to Charterhouse School in London. Fanny did not confine herself to family events or personal emotions in her versifying, early works included subjects such as the death of Nelson and the Battle of Culloden, heroism obviously appealed to her, her book of poems to her mother, written in 1829, was eventually lost in a flood.in Norfolk in 1947.

Life in Ballykeane was very relaxed for children, not so for the family of John Humphreys employer, the Earl of Wicklow in their castellated residence at Shelton Abbey, one of the oldest houses in the district it had been remodelled by the architects, Sir Richard Morrison and his son, for Lord Wicklow around the time of his marriage in 1816, the formal gardens and cathedral like residence reflected the aspirations and absorptions of the family who lived there. Lady Harriet Howard, the daughter of the Earl, was to become Fanny’s closest friend, and to share her high minded preoccupations and concerns, in sharp contrast to the more light hearted play of the other children and even her own siblings.

The Earls of Wicklow were part of a circle of five like-minded aristocratic families all linked together by marriage and by the proximity of their landed estates, as well as the Wicklows, there were the Powerscourts, the Aberdeens, the Abercorns and the Rodens. Lady Wicklow’s nephew, James Hamilton, as a child of seven, had become the second Marquis of Abercorn when his grandfather died in 1818. This little Marquis’s step-father was Lord Aberdeen (later Prime Minister), who was also his uncle through an earlier marriage, a later Earl of Aberdeen would serve as Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Lord Wicklow’s cousin Theodosia Howard had married the fifth Earl of Powerscourt in 1822 as his second wife, when he died in the following year she was left childless, except for two step-children, the son and daughter of his first marriage to a sister of the Earl of Roden. Lord Roden had been educated at Harrow with the small Marquis’s late father and with the Aberdeen (and also, incidentally, with Byron, Palmerston and Peel). The religious fervour of the Wicklows in the 1820’s and 1830’s was matched by Lady Powerscourt, who brought up her step-children ‘in the fear and nurture of the Lord’.

The girl married a clergyman and the boy, the sixth Viscount Powerscourt, married his cousin, Lady Elizabeth Frances Charlotte Jocelyn, Lord Roden's daughter, on his coming of age in 1836. This lady was inclined to discuss at length with fellow guests at dinner tables 'how much a Christian ought to mix in Society'. Her piety was a reflection of her father's, Lord Roden had become in his early twenties what we would today call a 'born-again' Christian. To understand the wave of evangelism that swept through the Church of Ireland in the early nineteenth century one has to remember the age of hedonism that had only really ended with the regency, eighteenth century society had been legendary for its gaming, drinking, womanising and duelling. The age of the bucks and rakes, of hell fire clubs and burning churches was no distant memory, undoubtedly the higher lifestyle adopted by many of the acquaintances of Fanny's family were a direct reaction to the excesses of that time. The writer draws an interesting family picture of the second Marquis of Abercorn and his wife walking to the Presbyterian Church in Crown Court, Covent Garden, each Sunday when in London, with many of their fourteen children, as part of their observance of the Lords Day, the family did not dine out on this day or entertain at home in order that the servants might have as restful a day as possible (it is ironic that the writer later suggests, as delicately as possible in the circumstances, that Major Humphrey may have been a blood relative of this family, though by no orthodox connection).

As the principal landowners in the district the Wicklow's also dedicated much of their time and resources to the endowment of religious and educational institutions, in 1834, at a cost of £900, borne entirely by themselves, they built a small picturesque church near the entrance to their demesne, earlier the Earl had given a plot of ground plus £100 to assist in the erecting of another church beside an ancient graveyard at Redcross, the completion of this church in 1829 must have greatly inconvenienced the Humphreys family, ending the need to travel a steep and narrow road to the Church of St Kevin, over three miles away at Dunganstown, Fanny may not have been so happy with the change however, her poetry at this time was redolent with courtly knights and castles, undoubtedly influenced by the ancient castle ruin which towered over the church, presiding over meadow lands running down to the sea (a worthy inspiration for the castle of Dunsinane some might say, for Lord Bacon visited here and, according to some, wrote the plays later claimed by an upstart from the West Midlands named Shakespeare). Fanny may have missed her friends, the Actons, who worshipped here, the girls, Maria, Sydney, Caroline and Jane, were much of an age with the Humphreys girls, the family lived nearby at West Aston, now called Kilmacurragh. The deaths of the three Acton girls, probably from tuberculosis, within a short period, soon after her move from the district, left a deep and melancholy impression on Fanny of the flimsy divide between life and death, it was to have no small influence on her later compositions. Fanny returned from her new home in Strabane, County Tyrone to visit the bereaved family, as she walked through the grounds beyond the house with Jane, she marvelled outwardly that all still seemed outwardly unchanged...

*“The glistening drops of early dew
lie late along the ancient park,
And down the stately avenue
the mingled shadows, long and dark,
of hoary beech and drooping lime,
still linger as in olden time.
How strange that human hopes should be
there swiftly touched of sure decay;
The Dewy mead, the shadowy tree
I greet again, but where are they,
so fair of face, so blithe of cheer,
in olden times that we met here.”*

Her literary style may not have not as yet reached full maturity, but the sadness was real, the first dark thread had been woven into her life’s pattern.

Reflecting on the family’s misfortunes, there were those who might have remembered the destruction of the old Church and Churchyard at Kilmacurra by an ancestor of Actons, and questioned whether the families ill luck was an inheritance from those times. The family enjoyed a revival under the stewardship of Thomas Acton, born in 1826, he was the eldest of the three sons who, together with their sister, Jane, survived, he continued to live at the old home and from 1850 to 1906 created a glorious garden whose specimen trees still flourish today, although most of the grounds, together with the house, are in decay. The death of the sole male heirs to the family in the Great War finally brought to an end the families residence at Kilmacurra .

As well as churches, Lord Wicklow built a number of schools, five in all by the 1840’s, which provided education for all ‘without religious distinction’. He also provided for a Sunday school catering for 120 pupils, Harriet and Fanny almost certainly taught there regularly, they also visited some of the weekday schools, as it was the custom for even very young ladies to instruct the Church of Ireland boys and girls in Church Catechism. It was years later, continuing her voluntary teaching in Strabane, that she began to think that simple poetry which could be recited aloud or sung as hymns would be helpful both in explaining Christian beliefs and in fixing the comprehension of them in childrens minds, thus began her career in composition.

The Earl and Countess of Wicklow were of great importance in Fanny’s life, encouraging her friendship with their daughter and the girls many charitable interests, similiarly the Wicklow’s were to play a large part in the career of Major Humphreys, by 1833 they had formed such a high opinion of his abilities that they recommended him as the ideal person to take over the management of the estates of their nephew, Lord Abercorn, in County Tyrone on the latter’s coming of age, it thus that the families sojourn in county Wicklow was brought to an end.

The town of Strabane must have compared poorly to the Wicklow countryside, Thackeray in ‘The Irish Sketch Book’ (1843) recalled peering through an ice and

mud starred coach window at ‘a very dirty town called Strabane’ and later J.B.Doyle wrote severely about the ‘irregular appearance of the town and general want of neatness’, however Fanny had soon thrown herself into the continuous round of parish work, she would never make as good friends again as those she left behind, perhaps because of this her writing began to take a more central role in her life, though, as with most immature writers, she left works that she would probably have preferred to forget (ghost stories, folk tales, romances etc), within a few years in the late 1840’s she produced a series of writings that would probably mark the high point of her powers, ‘Verses for Holy Season’ (1846), ‘The Lord of the Forest and his Vassals’(1847), ‘Moral Songs’(1849), all met with some success but her ‘Hymns for Little Children’, which included ‘There is a Green Hill faraway’, ‘Once in Royal David’s City’ and ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ was destined for real immortality. In later times she would focus on more introspective theme’s but never with the success of those early years. Acclamation was probably of little concern to her other than as an introduction to like minded spirits in elevated clerical circles such as the Oxford movement, she corresponded with luminaries such as Rev.Charles Keble, but in common with him was shocked at the conversions of Newman and Manning, a step which she herself would never have considered.

The inspiration for Miss Humphreys early writings would seem to have been a love of the order of nature and a genuine concern for the underprivileged, the words of her most well known work have been criticised as patronising (ie.in ‘All Things Bright and Beautiful’ she writes, “The rich man in his castle, the poor man at his gate, God made them high and lowly and ordered their estate”), but they were undoubtedly inspired by a genuine spirit of noblesse oblige, if an underdeveloped sense of social justice, in later life she would abhor the growing nationalist and socialist movements that threatened to sweep aside her well ordered world. As with all writers however the real inspiration for those early writings came from loss and an attempt to reach beyond present tragedy to future redemption, the loss of her friends the Actons was followed by the death in 1846 of her great friend Harriet Howard and then, within a short time, by the death of the man with whom she had hoped to build her future, Rev.William Archer Butler, she remembered both in these lines...

*“The beautiful and gifted dead,
the noblest of our kind,
have cast their work aside and fled,
and we are left behind alone,
and we are left behind..”*

It must have seemed a bleak world for Miss Humphreys, now in her early thirties, plain, shy and self effacing, she must have resigned herself to a life of spinsterhood, but help was at hand in the person of a good and kind clerical friend, the Rev.Benjamin Bloomfield Gough, he introduced her to a young acquaintance, the Rev.William Alexander, a local curate, as well as her religious interests he

shared her interest in poetry. The couple married in 1850 and had four children, Robert Jocelyn (1852), Cecil John Francis (1855), Eleanor Jane (1857), Dorothea Agnes (1860). The happiest days of the Alexander's marriage were spent at Fahan in County Donegal, they returned to Strabane in 1860 and it was from there that William was appointed, at the early age of forty two, to the Archbishopric of Derry and Raphoe in 1867, while welcome, this elevation (coming just months after William had been disappointed in his hopes of a Professorship In Poetry at Oxford) marked a total rededication of their lives to their new calling and ended all thoughts of less serious pursuits. Always of a retiring nature Mrs Alexander played little part in her husbands public life, she did not accompany him when he was invited to preach before Queen Victoria at Windsor in March 1868, though it was probably the highpoint of his clerical career.

In contrast to so many of their friends and contemporaries the Alexanders lived to old age together, and Mrs Alexander was in her seventy eight year when she passed away quietly in Derry in October 1895. In the following year, on the death of Archbishop Gregg, William Alexander was elected Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland, he would serve for fifteen years in that high position. He retired from Armagh in the spring of 1911 and settled, with his daughter Nell, in Torquay in Devon, he died there in the following autumn.

There is a memorial stain glass window in St Columb's Cathedral in Derry depicting 'There is a green hill far away', 'Once in David's city', and 'The golden gates are lifted up', it has been restored on two occasions in recent years following bomb damage. Fanny's portrait with that of her husband hangs in the nearby Deanery. In truth Mrs Alexander's memorial will always be in the timelessness of those few hymns she wrote over a century and a half ago, still performed today, often by those who have never heard her name. That is just as she would have wanted it. Quite apart from those whose faith or musical interests may incline them towards this biographical subject, there is a mass of information on family and local history in this deeply researched book that deserves a much wider readership.

...Reviewed by Declan Byrne.

'A Life of the Hymn-writer, Mrs Alexander, 1818-1895' by Valerie Wallace, was published by Lilliput Press, 4 Rosemount Terrace, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7 (1995).

Some additional biographical detail...

John Humphreys was believed by descendants to be the son of an impecunious Norfolk yeoman, Thomas Humphreys and his wife Frances Bayfield, though said by some to be the natural son of the Marquis of Abercorn, and therefore the half brother of Cecil Frances, Lady Wicklow, whose name he gave to his second daughter. If the above speculation seems harsh, it should be remembered that the late Marquis was recognised as having a number of 'natural' children, in fact at the time of his divorce and third marriage, his wife was pregnant by his first

wife's brother, his mistress pregnant by himself, and his wife to be a lady of such repute that Lady Holland, greatly displeased, was moved to remark, 'If she closes her amorous career with one of the greatest matches in the Kingdom I don't know how young women will credit wise precepts..eg..virtue alone is rewarded'.

Humphreys spent a brief time at Cambridge (to use an Irishism... it might well have been said that if a yeoman's son went to university in those days, he probably wasn't a yeoman's son) before joining the Royal Marines in 1798 at nineteen. He was invalided out of the Marines in 1804, having lost part of an arm in an engagement off Santo Domingo in the West Indies, his highest naval rank was Lieutenant, the designation which he preferred, that of Major, dated from a period in the Tyrone Yeomanry.

Cecil Frances was born to at 25 Eccles Street, Dublin, to John and his wife Elizabeth Reed in 1818, her father was at this time acting as second in command to the Inspector General of taxes for Ireland at Dublin Castle.

However doubtful his origins, when Major Humphreys died in June 1872 (his wife survived him by only 24 hours) in his ninety third year, he was honoured by a marble sarcophagus in the little churchyard at Baronscourt inscribed, 'In grateful and affectionate memory, this stone was erected by James, Duke of Abercorn.' Family notes...

- (1) Fanny's brother John went to Charterhouse College, later settled in London.
- (2) Her sister Elizabeth never married, remained with her parents whom she outlived by less than a decade.
- (3) Her brother Thomas William remained in County Tyrone, he and his wife Isabella had seventeen children of whom only nine survived to adulthood,, his daughters remembered their aunt as 'crabby', perhaps because she favoured their brothers.
- (4) Her younger sister Annie married Rev. John Mulock Maguire and settled in Boyle, Co.Roscommon, her daughter Annie, who became a missionary nurse and son Rochford (Roffey), who became a Nationalist MP, remained close to their cousins.
- (5) William was born at Garvagh, County Derry in 1824, he was the son of Rev.Robert Alexander (an army veteran of the american war of 1812) and his wife Dorothy McClintock. The Alexanders also had five daughters and a younger son, Robert, who was killed in the Indian Mutiny of 1857. The family would later claim a connection with Earl Alexander of Tunis.
- (6) It was the childhood experience of Dorothy's mother, Mary Caldwell, which inspired Fanny's story in which a father left his young family to seek his fortune in America and was never heard of again.
- (7) William and Fanny's eldest son Robert Jocelyn (Joc), went to Winchester

- and Brasenose College, Oxford. He won the Newdigate Prize for poetry in 1874, an honour he shared with John Ruskin, Matthew Arnold, Oscar Wilde, Laurence Binyon and John Buchan. Joc married his cousin Annie Humphreys in 1876 and settled in London, his only son died at 8 months but his wife and daughter, Betty, survived him. He returned often to his home in Ireland, it was while returning from one such trip that he died during the sinking of the RMS Leinster by a German U boat on 10th Oct 1918. The same tragedy claimed the life of Lady Phyllis Hamilton, sister to the Duke of Abercorn, she had given her life jacket to her mother's cook saying, 'I will be all right, I am a strong swimmer'.*
- (8) *John Francis Cecil (Sprig) went to Winchester and Christ Church College, Oxford. He married Eva, the daughter of Arthur McMurrough Kavanagh, Landlord and former MP, in 1882. The family were disappointed by Kavanagh's defeat by Nationalist forces in the general election of 1880, but more bitterly resented his being burned in an effigy that ridiculed the physical disabilities he had fought so hard to overcome. Like his father before him, Sprig became an estate manager and settled in Kilshane, County Tipperary, he had one son, Arthur Cecil, who was to be very much his grandmothers favourite. Sprig died in 1910, a sad man who's wife and child had died more than a decade before.*
- (9) *Eleanor Jane (Nell), the eldest daughter was educated at home and went to a German finishing school in Dusseldorf. Nell remained unmarried, one suitor whom she hoped to marry committed suicide while in an institution, another was found to be already married, and history repeated itself when an army captain to whom she was engaged was also found to be previously married. She accompanied her father on many of his trips abroad and in his retirement to Torquay in Devon, after he died she lived in a grace and favour apartment at Hampden Court Palace. Nell shared her parents literary interests, though her works are now largely forgotten, she wrote her fathers biography in 1913, she died 1939*
- (10) *Dorothy Agnes (Dot) married her childhood sweetheart, George Bowen, a native of Burt, County Donegal, in South Africa in 1893, Cecil Rhodes, a family friend through their cousin Rochfort (Roffey) Maguire was a witness. Dot and her husband remained in Africa until the 1920's. Their only son was killed at Narvik in Norway, during service in the World War II, he was survived by his wife and two sons, both raised in their mothers Catholic religion, one son became Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark in London.*

The works of Cecil Frances Alexander included in this biography...

'The Legend of Stumpie's Brae',

'The Farmyard',

'Lost for Gold'.

Wicklow People-At Home and Away.

Name:	Home:	Away:	E:	Date:
Beasley, Deborah	Delgany	London	D	1888.
Byrne, Annie	Coolkenno	London	D	1945.
Byrne, Arthur	Croney	London	D	1948.
Byrne, Patrick	Vevay, Bray	Providence, R.I.	D	1942.
Carpenter, William	Holdenstown	New South Wales	M	1888.
Condren, Sheila	Arklow	Ormskirk, UK	D	1946.
Conlan, Patrick	Baltinglass	Melbourne	D	1942.
Cullen, Arthur	Delgany	Tasmania	D	1939.
Cullen, John	Cullenmore	Mexico City	D	1910.
Doolittle, Martha Mary	Wicklow	London	D	1910.
Doyle, Margaret	Corballis	Newcastle On Tyne	D	1946.
Dunne, Mary	Bray	Toronto	D	1940.
Earl, William	Redcross	Sparta, N.J.	D	1888.
Gregory, William	Arklow	Bristol	D	1942.
Hall, Catherine	Burkeen	New South Wales	M	1888.
Heavener, F.Sgt Harvey	Rahaval	Nth.France	D	1945.
Hopkins, Ethel	Wicklow	Adelaide	D	1888.
Kearney, Julia	Avoca	London	M	1911.
Kearns, Patrick	Dunlavin	Melbourne	D	1946.
McCull, John	Arklow	South Africa	D	1946.
McDonald, William	Glendalough	Philadelphia	D	1912.
Murphy, Mary	Arklow	South Africa	D	1945.
Nowlan, James	Trudder	Brixham, Devon	D	1941.
O'Carroll, Annie	Summerhill	London	D	1945.
O'Neill, F.Cpl Jack	Tullow	France	D	1945.
Ost, Isaac	Wicklow	South Wales	D	1947.
Redmond, Jack	Arklow	Seattle	D	1945.
Redmond, Matthew	Rathdrum	New York	D	1940.
Rock, George	Bray	North.Africa	D	1945.
Smith, George	Wicklow	Vera Cruz, Mexico	D	1912.
Symes, Mjr Thomas G.	Greystones	Burma	D	1945.
Troy, Anne	Arklow	Natal	M	1912.
Tyndall, Georgina	Ballyrogan	Minneapolis, USA	D	1888.
Walsh, Michael	Arklow	Nth Rhodesia	D	1948.
Webster-Smith, William	Blessington	Natal, SA	D	1941.
Williams, Frances H.	Tinnakilly	Vancouver	D	1911.

D=Death, E=Event, M=Marriage, R=Resident, Married woman = Maiden name

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THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOURCES SERIES.

“Irish Genealogical Sources No.1 - Shillelagh & Ballinacor South, Co.Wicklow, 1837 - A Memorial”.

(ISBN 1 898471 40 1). Price £7.00 (Postage £1.00, Ireland, £2.50 overseas).

This memorial contains a listing of the names and addresses of 1,500 people from the South West County Wicklow. It covers an area which includes the vast Coolattin Estate of the Earl Fitzwilliam which witnessed large scale assisted emigration between 1847 and 1856. Compiled & edited by Sean Magee.

“Irish Genealogical Sources No.2 - Corn Growers, Carriers & Traders, County Wicklow, 1788, 1789 & 1790”.

(ISBN 1 898471 50 9). Price £3.00 (Postage £1.00, Ireland, £2.00 overseas).

The information covers the period before the great rebellion of 1798 and therefore provides a valuable census substitute almost fifty years before the Tithe applotment Books. Compiled by George H. O'Reilly.

“Irish Genealogical Sources No.3 - Newcastle, County Wicklow , - School Register, 1864-1947”.

(ISBN 1 898471 70 3). Price £7.00 (Postage £1.00, Ireland, £2.00 overseas).

George H. O'Reilly has compiled and edited this valuable genealogical source as a census substitute for this area of North County Wicklow.

“Irish Genealogical Sources No.14 - People of the Rebellion, Wicklow 1798”.

(ISBN 1 898471 26 6). Price £8.00 (Postage £1.00, Ireland, £2.00 overseas, £4.00 airmail).

Researched and compiled by the noted local historian, P.J. Power of Arklow, County Wicklow. Around 1,800 names of those who took part on both sides in the 1798 Rebellion in Wicklow are listed together with their affiliation at the time, their probable addresses coupled with information about their lives or deaths.

Copies may be ordered from this Society or direct from the publishers:

***The Genealogical Society of Ireland,
11 Desmond Avenue,
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