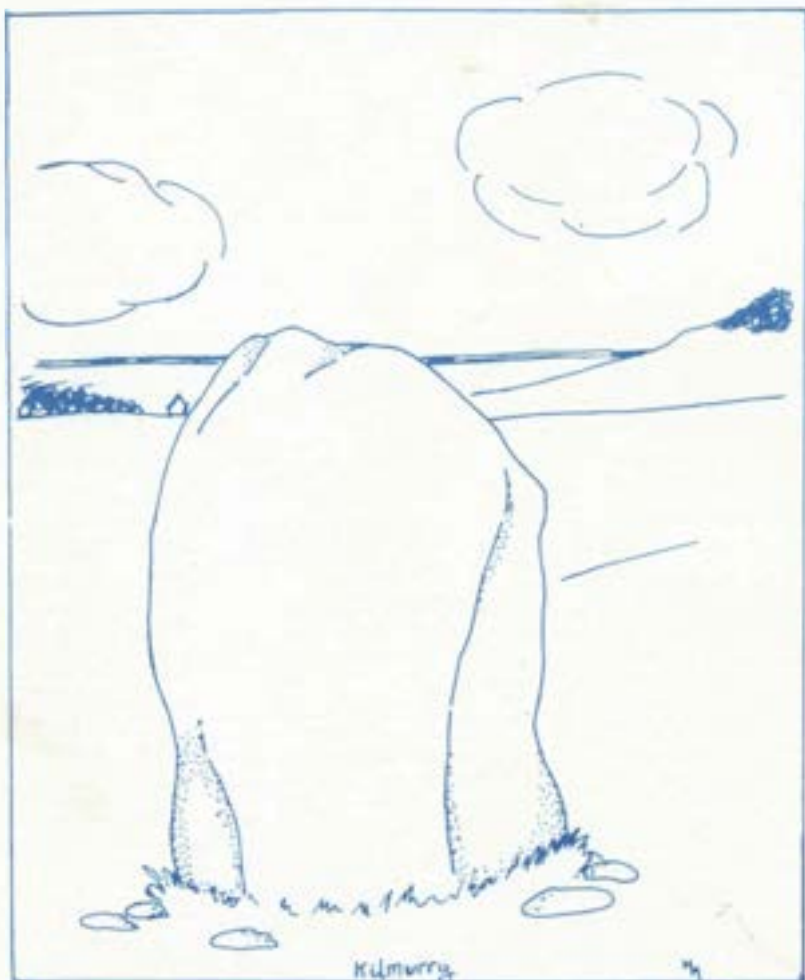


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Journal

Roundwood & District



History & Folklore Journal

No. 10

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(Continued inside back cover)

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From the Chair

It is with pleasure that I introduce you to our 10th Journal and hope that you enjoy reading our articles, some which have been written by members of our society and others by people who have a deep interest in our local past. It is with pride that we have produced ten journals which represent many hours of research and commitment over the years, it is truly a labour of love.

This year our society together with Wicklow County Council and many others commemorated the bi-centenary of 1798 by remembering the men and women who took part in the Rebellion especially Joseph Holt and Andrew Thomas to whom we unveiled memorials. We also ran a well attended Seminar and to the organisers of all the events: Joe Timmons, Chairman, John Medfycott, Helen Dwan, Joan Hatton, Martin MacSiurtain, Marie McManus and Colm Galligan who put in trojan work in putting it all together we offer our heartfelt thanks.

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special word of thanks to all our Patrons who have supported us over the years and to the Shopkeepers in the area who sell our Journal and Christmas Cards and to all who have helped us in any way in our endeavours. We look forward to your support in gathering in material for our archives and future journals.

Happy reading.

SEAN KAVANAGH
Chairman



(Left to right) School Master - Peter Redmond. Back row: Gerry Byrne (Tomdarraigh), Larry Hayes, Jack Byrne (Glendalough), Dick Byrne (Tomdarraigh), Howard Freeman (Tomdarraigh - Dixon's), Michael Rooney (brother of May Manley), Jimmy Price. Second row: Crisostoir Byrne, Patrick O'Brien, Elsie Ellis (Knockraheen), Irene Walker (Tomdarraigh), Kathleen Doyle (Water's Bridge), Sheila Holt (Healy), Jimmy Kavanagh (Terry's father Knockraheen), Edward Kavanagh (brother of Jimmy). Third row: Liam Timmons, Vera Byrne (Ballinacor), Kathleen Traynor (Knockfada), Chris Walsh (Knockfada), Nora Hayes (village), Kathleen Byrne (village), Bridgit O'Brien (sister of Pat), Molly Traynor (Knockfada), Maura Brennan (sister of Malachy), Nancy Price (brother of Johnsey), Gerry Doyle (garage). Front row: Johnny Ellis (Knockraheen), Sean Brady, Billy O'Brien (brother of Bright and Pat), Willy Doyle (brother of Gerry).

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Diamond Hill

In August four members of the Historical Society went out and surveyed the Rath at Diamond Hill. It was an interesting experience on a fine day as none of us had previous archaeological survey experience. The accompanying sketch map shows that we were not unsuccessful even though we had difficulties in mapping the north west section as it was overgrown with gorse.

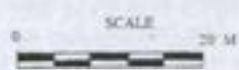
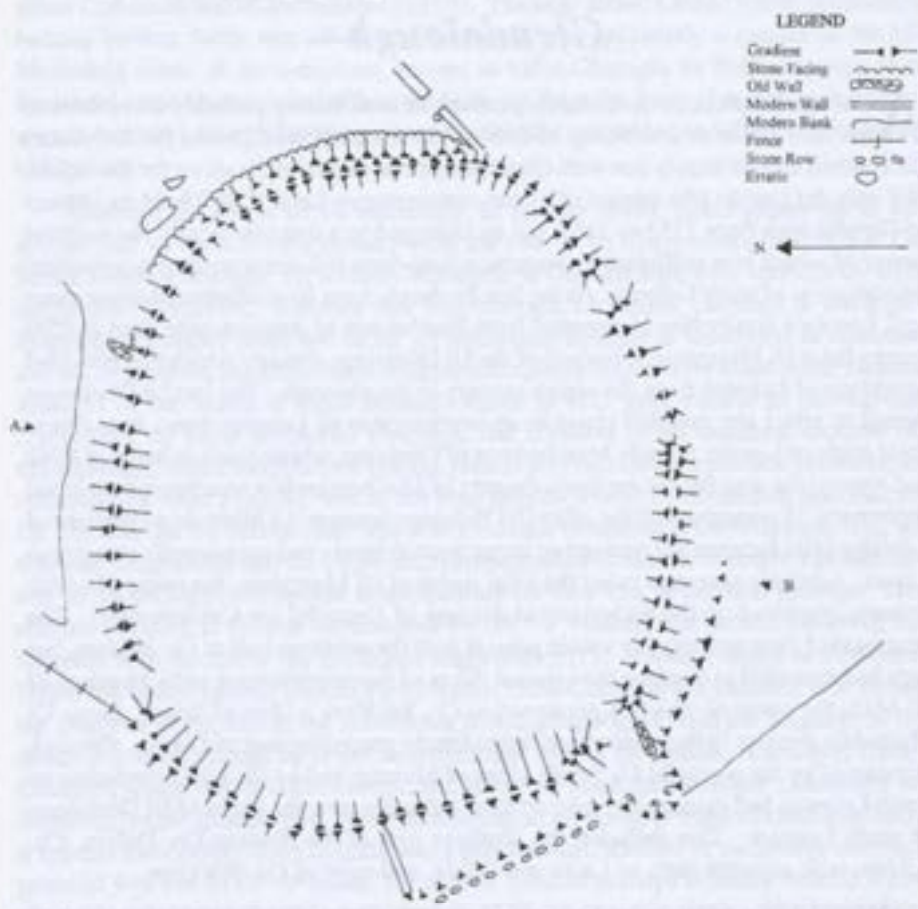
This feature is described in the recent Archaeological Inventory of County Wicklow where it is called an enclosure. The description by the Inventory is a basic one which is in line with the policy of providing a basic text to use as a benchmark for further detailed research. Several new features were noticed by us. The most important is what is probably the foundations of a clochan (beehive stone hut) in the south west corner just outside and beside a causeway into the rath. It is not clear whether the bank going north is a contemporary feature or was built later to make a effective corral. The stone row on top of the bank is of unknown purpose or date. The other gaps are caused by erosion. There are no discernible features in the rath though there appears to be foundations to the south east of the two erratics (which used to be mass rocks).

The Inventory makes a reference to the stone walls being modern but there appears to be the remains of a contemporary boundary wall on the northern face which is in the same masonry style as the causeway. Other walls are definitely modern. Some of the original facing on the north east corner survives. The structure of the rath is the usual pebble and clay mix.

This Rath is situated on a north facing slope overlooking the Vartry river. It is oval and varies between 60-80 metres (200-265 feet) in external diameter which is consistent with the size of raths associated with the *Ri* of a *Tuath* if not slightly larger. However, the rath has to be seen as part of the monastic estate of Fertir (Vartry) and may have been one of the largest farms within the estate, it may also had some farm administration functions. It does not appear to have been a spiritual centre as these were based in Ashtown, Derrylossary (which served the mill village of Raheen) and possibly Knockatemple though it is not clear whether the monastic estate took in that part of the plateau east of the Vartry river (this may have been controlled by a branch of the *Ui Teig*). It is, however, associated with a HolyWell and the Mass Rock nearby.

We wish to thank Mr. John Byrne of Knockatemple for his generous permission in allowing us to visit the site.

RATH: DIAMOND HILL, ROUNDWOOD TIL



SURVEYED, 8TH AUGUST 1998 BY IAN CANTWELL, TONY KENNEDY, MICHAEL LARREN, JOE McNALLY.
CARTOGRAPHY: IAN CANTWELL

St. Lorcán, the Ua Tuathail family and Glendalough

Although his place in the broader spectrum of Irish history probably owes more to his later career as archbishop of Dublin, the association of Lorcán (St. Laurence) Ua Tuathail and his family line with Glendalough had major implications for the region. Not only did Lorcán (the subject of a near-contemporary Latin 'Life') hold the abbacy of Glendalough from 1153 to 1162, but he belonged to a dynastic family the political power of which was sufficient to exercise a long-term influence on the ecclesiastical development of north Leinster. As the late Professor John Ryan illustrated many years ago, Lorcán's family line (descended from Tuathal son of Augaire, who died in 958) sprang from Uí Muiredaig, a lineage of the Uí Dúnlainge dynasty which had provided overkings of Leinster from the eighth century to the eleventh. The last Uí Dúnlainge dynast to effect any credible claim to an overkingship of Leinster was a four-times-great uncle of Lorcán, namely Murchad son of Dúnlaing, whose death in battle in 1042 had opened the way for the southern dynasty of Uí Cheinnselaig to achieve provincial supremacy. In common with the other Uí Dúnlainge lineages, Uí Muiredaig experienced a decline in its fortunes but retained an importance at local - and occasionally at regional - level. Lorcán's ancestors ruled the local realm of Uí Muiredaig, the name of which became imprinted on the ecclesiastical deanery of Omurthy (or Castledermot). The heartland of their territory lay within what is now the southern half of Co. Kildare, but they had managed to displace the original rulers of the neighbouring petty kingdom of Uí Máil, the name of which is preserved in Co. Wicklow's Glen of Imaal. Some Uí Muiredaig dynasts in the generations immediately preceding that of Lorcán, although dominated by the powerful Ua Briain kings of Munster and by the Uí Cheinnselaig of south Leinster, had managed to reassert their influence over the realm of Uí Dúnlainge or north Leinster. This included the southern part of the modern Co. Dublin, Co. Kildare with adjacent parts of Laois and Offaly, and most of Co. Wicklow.

When Uí Muiredaig's star had been in the ascendant, between the late tenth and early eleventh century, its kings had established firm dynastic interests at Glendalough - the premier ecclesiastical centre of the region - and at several of its dependencies including Castledermot, Kilcullen and Clonmore. The reasons for dynastic interference at ecclesiastical sites, attested at many locations throughout Ireland, have been discussed at length by various scholars including Doherty. Essentially, the prime motivation was politico-economic; ecclesiastical settlements like Glendalough (to label these foundations as 'monasteries' is to describe the whole in terms of a part) were invaluable to aspiring dynasties as sources of revenue, of agricultural and industrial materials, and of recruits for their armies - not to mention their convenience as centres for regional government. A direct ancestor of Lorcán, Dúnlaing son of Tuathal king of Leinster, died in 1014 at Glendalough - as the Book of Leinster attests. The fact that this man had a son named Gilla-Cóemgín ('Servant of St. Kevin') is in itself indicative of Uí Muiredaig ambition in regard to that foundation. A generation later, perhaps because the ecclesiastical administration at Glendalough was not following dynastic directives

sufficiently closely, Domnall son of Dúnlaing king of Uí Muiredaig had the hapless abbot Cathasach seized and blinded in 1031. The next abbot, Cináed son of Muiredach (whose brother Artúr was abbot of Clonmore), was apparently a cousin of the Uí Muiredaig ruler. A great-nephew, known as Gilla-Cóemgin na Faithche, may also have held some ecclesiastical office; the *faithche* (from the Latin *platea*) was the green area in front of a church building where the faithful assembled to fulfil their religious obligations.

Although the power of Uí Muiredaig, as already noted, faded somewhat in the second half of the eleventh century with the rise of Uí Cheinnselaig and of the Ua Briain kings of Munster, the dynasty's interests at Glendalough were sufficiently well established to survive. It seems that Muirchertach Ua Briain, claimant to the high-kingship of Ireland, made use of the Uí Muiredaig dynasty in his efforts to maintain control of Leinster. As Muirchertach (an ardent church reformer) was the prime secular architect of the Synod of Ráith Bressail, which in 1111 gave Ireland its first agreed framework of fixed territorial dioceses, the creation of an enlarged diocese of Glendalough, which incorporated Dublin, presumably reflected his political preferences. Although the local kingship was at this time held by a rival Uí Muiredaig line, that of Ua Lorcáin, the Ua Tuathail line was able to remain dominant at Glendalough; it is, on that account, possible that the Ua Briain overkings allowed them to maintain a prominent role in the ecclesiastical sphere to compensate for their loss of political prestige. The decline in political fortune experienced by the Ua Tuathail line would, however, be reversed with the fall of the Ua Briain kings after 1117. It seems likely, as Professor Byrne has observed, that Lorcáin's grandfather Gilla-Comgaill Ua Tuathail, who heads the pedigree of his line in the Rawlinson B 502 genealogies, held the kingship of Uí Muiredaig even though he is not accorded that role in the annals. Certainly, Gilla-Comgaill was abbot of Glendalough, and is styled 'comarba Cóemgin' (successor of St. Kevin) in the genealogies. Notwithstanding an on-going process of church reform, it appears that Abbot Gilla-Comgaill was a married man; whether or not he was ordained priest or was one of the so-called 'lay-abbots' (and so perhaps in minor orders) is not clear. In any event, he was murdered in 1127 by dynastic rivals. His immediate successor, a member of an old Uí Máil ecclesiastical line, in turn became a target for retaliation; he was slain by the Uí Muiredaig in 1128.

That same year saw the birth of Lorcáin, an event which tradition places at Mullaghreelion, Co. Kildare. According to the Latin 'Life', he was the youngest of his father's children, at the tail-end of a long family. Whether or not one accepts this assertion at face-value is not of prime importance; the genealogical evidence is not without its difficulties, but it does appear that Muirchertach Ua Tuathail was married three or four times and that Lorcáin had nine or more siblings. His brothers or half-brothers included Augaire Ruad, Gilla-Comgaill, Dúnlaing (the latter two succeeding in turn as kings of Uí Muiredaig), Áed, Tuathal and Conchobar while his sisters were Sadb, Gormlaith and Mór.

Lorcáin's childhood and formative years saw turbulent times in Leinster as the powerful Uí Cheinnselaig ruler Diarmait Mac Murchada strove to secure his claims to

over-kingship of the province. A distant cousin of Lorcán's father, one Augaire Ua Tuathail, who at that time was king of Uí Muiredaig, supported the cause of Mac Murchada and was slain in the latter's service in 1134. The next ruler of Uí Muiredaig, Murchad Ua Tuathail, who seems to have belonged to Augaire's branch of the family, was one of a number of dynasts (mostly from north-Leinster lineages) who rose in revolt against Mac Murchada in 1141. The over-king retaliated in no uncertain terms; in the course of what Professor Ryan has called 'the year of the long knives', Mac Murchada killed or blinded no less than seventeen of the dynasts who had opposed him. Murchad Ua Tuathail was among those who perished.

While this development opened the way for Lorcán's father Muirchertach to attain the kingship of Uí Muiredaig, political advancement was strictly on the terms of his Uí Cheinnselaig overlord. As the Latin 'Life' attests, the young Lorcán was taken hostage by Mac Murchada as a pledge for his father's loyalty, although it seems that he was not treated with undue harshness. In due course, he was placed at Glendalough in the care of an un-named bishop, who may perhaps be identified with a certain Bishop Ua Noidenáin. Apparently, the latter played a significant part in Lorcán's formation in the course of the 1140s; the Latin 'Life' refers to him as the future saint's 'spiritual father'. Throughout this time, there is little to indicate that relationships between Uí Muiredaig and Diarmait Mac Murchada had improved to any appreciable degree. Such signs as there are point to a circumspect attitude on the part of the king of Leinster. Byrne has noted that the site of Baltinglass, the new Cistercian house founded by the Mac Murchada in 1148, effectively separates the old heartland of Uí Muiredaig in south Co. Kildare from its later acquired territories in west Wicklow. However, by the early 1150s, as Lorcán entered young manhood, the situation had clearly changed. The probability is that the more amenable approach now taken by Mac Murchada towards the north Leinster dynasties, including Uí Muiredaig, was due in part to the fact that he had created enemies for himself amongst the other provincial kings. Be that as it may, it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the re-shaped diocese of Glendalough, as cast at the Synod of Kells-Mellifont in 1152, was representative of Uí Muiredaig interests and it is equally difficult to envisage that this should have taken place against the will of Mac Murchada. This is especially so when one considers that around this time (1152-3) Mac Murchada entered into a marriage-alliance with Uí Muiredaig, taking as his first canonically valid wife Mór, daughter of Muirchertach Ua Tuathail and sister of Lorcán. In the light of these developments, the view expressed by Dr. Flanagan, that the promotion of Lorcán to the abbacy of Glendalough in 1153 at the early age of twenty-five was politically motivated, is certainly persuasive. Just four years later, when Gilla-na-Náem Laignech bishop of Glendalough resigned and went on pilgrimage to Wurzburg, the 'Life' relates how the vacant see was offered to Lorcán. He declined, modestly pointing out that he had not yet reached the canonical age of thirty, and so the bishopric went instead to Cináed Ua Rónáin, a member of an ecclesiastical lineage long established at Glendalough. Dynastic considerations may well have played a part here; the metropolis was undoubtedly a far richer prize, and Grenne, archbishop of Dublin, was quite an elderly man. It is not at all unlikely that manoeuvrings with a view to his replacement were already underway.

Whatever political compromises lay behind Lorcán's appointment to the abbacy, or indeed his advancement to the archbishopric of Dublin in 1162, the dynastic ambition of Uí Muiredaig need not detract from Lorcán's almost certainly deserved reputation for sanctity. References in the Latin 'Life' to his wearing a hair shirt under his robes, so it would not be seen, and to his drinking tinted water at banquets, so the company would assume that he partook of wine, have an authentic ring about them, reflecting a man who was genuinely humble in spirit. In his time as abbot, Lorcán strove to further the cause of church reform at Glendalough by introducing a new monastic model. He was responsible for the Arrouasian foundation of Insula Salvatoris, or the Priory of St. Saviour, at the east end of the valley. The Romanesque architecture here, paralleled at several locations in Leinster but most notably at Killeslin, points to patronage from Diarmait Mac Murchada. Certainly, around 1160, Lorcán witnessed the latter's charter to the Cistercian house of Ferns. No doubt it was a matter of great regret to Lorcán that the cause of church reform progressed so slowly, and that the traditional community at Glendalough proved so resistant to the adoption of Continental monastic rules with the celibate and unworldly lifestyle which they advocated.

Symptomatic of the frictions between the reforming party and the 'traditionalists' at Glendalough was the controversy surrounding succession to the abbacy following Lorcán's promotion to Dublin in 1162. The author of the Latin 'Life' treats his immediate successor as an usurper, an unworthy candidate whose tenure of abbatial office was suitably brief. As it happens, the annals mention a burning of Glendalough in 1163 - but whether this formed part of any plan on the part of Uí Muiredaig to dislodge a dynastic rival, or merely records an accidental occurrence is not clear. It seems reasonable to identify Lorcán's successor with the otherwise unknown abbot whose name is given in the garbled form of 'Edenigmus' in the Register of All Hallows. In that event, if he witnessed Diarmait Mac Murchada's endowment of that foundation, in the company of Archbishop Lorcán and Bishop Cináed Ua Rónáin, it may be assumed that he was neither the reviled usurper nor the ephemeral office-holder that the author of the 'Life' implies. Nonetheless, the point should not be missed that the next abbot of Glendalough was Lorcán's nephew, Thomas. The latter's appointment may have come about during the political disturbance which followed the initial expulsion of Mac Murchada in 1166. One way or another, Thomas was established in office prior to Mac Murchada's death in 1171. The Latin 'Life' is at pains to stress that Thomas was elected by the clergy and people of Glendalough and was chosen on account of his suitability for abbatial office and not for reason of his relationship to Lorcán. The plea is impassioned, but the effort to deny dynastic influence fails to convince. Thomas is praised for his devoutness and it is remarked that his prayers, combined with those of his saintly uncle, helped to heal a possessed woman. Yet Thomas, it would appear, whether or not he was in priest's orders, was a married man. In any event, it seems that he had a son, Alexander, and a grandson, Richard. The inference, therefore, is that Thomas was either a married (or otherwise non-celibate) priest, or a lay abbot; in either case this points to compromise on the part of the reforming party at Glendalough, and more particularly on the part of Lorcán as an individual.

Much as Lorcán espoused unworldliness it was difficult to detach himself entirely from his dynastic roots, just as it was difficult for him to disengage entirely from Glendalough - now under the administration of his nephew. It is maintained that Lorcán, as archbishop of Dublin, returned periodically to his mountain retreat to find solitude, and there is nothing improbable in this. Indications of more specific dealings with Glendalough, however, are found following the establishment of the English Lordship of Ireland in 1171. Lorcán's contribution to the negotiations at the siege of Dublin, his part as an intermediary at the Treaty of Windsor and his role as Papal Legate and subsequent relationship with King Henry II lie outside the parameters of this short essay. Yet, it certainly appears that Lorcán's interaction with the new English regime had direct consequences for Glendalough. It is recorded that, at some point in the 1170s, Lorcán chose to augment the possessions of Glendalough, conveying to its charge two separate landholdings, in Glenmalur and (it seems) Glenasmole. The suggestion of the late Liam Price linking these transactions with the events of 1178 certainly merits serious consideration. In that year, Lorcán's brother Dúnlaing, the last king of Uí Muiredaig, was slain by the English and the dynasty was dislodged from its ancestral realms in what is now Co. Kildare. In such circumstances, it seems perfectly reasonable that Lorcán and his nephew Abbot Thomas should have offered asylum on the ecclesiastical lands of Glendalough to the surviving Uí Muiredaig dynasts and their retainers. Such usage of church lands to provide sanctuary for recalcitrant Irish dynasts, beyond the direct control of English law and safe from the worst excesses of feudal dues, would certainly have encouraged the English establishment to relentlessly pursue the union of Glendalough diocese with Dublin and the dismantling of the abbacy. Both of these aims were realised in the early decades of the thirteenth century. Well before that, in 1180, Lorcán had passed from the scene. His premature death, at the age of fifty-two at Eu in Normandy, was doubtless brought on by the stressful situation in which he found himself as he struggled with the political crisis which the failure of the Treaty of Windsor had brought. His nephew Thomas apparently outlived the last bishop of Glendalough, who died in 1212; if not with Thomas, then perhaps with his kinsman Tadc who was alive in 1228 and who seems to have retained some shadowy authority as abbot, the association of Uí Muiredaig with ecclesiastical office at Glendalough was finally broken.

AILBHE MAC SHAMHRAÍN

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Freeman's Journal, 7/2/1840

A young gentleman named Nuttall who resides in Co. Wicklow was brought before the Magistrate of College St. by Inspector Gernon charged with being about to fight a duel with another gentleman named Goodman. The circumstances of the case are as follows:- The gentlemen met at a party in the county Wicklow and the conversation turned on the comparative merits of the English and Irish people Mr. Nuttall took up 'the cudgels' in defence of the 'Green Island' while Mr. Goodman (an Englishman) espoused the cause of John Bullism and in no very measured terms, not fit for ears polite, abused Ireland and the Irish adding that the people of this country were all a set of poltroons and cowards. This was rather too much for any true Hibernian to bear and to prove the fallacy of the assertion challenged the traducer to a duel on the spot. The challenge was accepted and the usual arrangements being complete, the parties agreed to meet on Dalkey island where their difference was to be settled only by one of the party falling. From information which the Magistrates received they dispatched the Inspector who succeeded in arresting Mr. Nuttall in Kingstown The place of his antagonist was not to be found. The Magistrate ordered Mr. Nuttall to procure two securities of £500 each before they would set him at liberty. The required amount was produced in the course of the day and he was then discharged.

The O'Tooles

The Family of Castlekevin

This is not intended as a definitive genealogical account of the O'Tooles of Castlekevin. Rather, it attempts to clarify their origins. This paper focuses on them until Colonel Feagh O'Toole's execution in January 1652 by the Cromwellians. To fit the ancestors of the Castlekevin family among the O'Tooles is problematic, but not impossible. I will deal with the sixteenth-century O'Toole families of Imaal and Powerscourt at a later date.

I

Earliest origins of the O'Tooles lie within the Laigin tribal confederation. It is thought there were seventeen Laigin tribes who conquered much of modern south-east Leinster and some of the midlands. Both Byrne and Smyth connect these with a Gaulish conquest several centuries before Christ of much of southern Ireland. In the sixth-century AD a prolonged contraction of their territory began. From the seventh-century one of these tribes, the Ui Dunlainge, gradually became predominant. The Ui Dunlainge heartland was concentrated mainly in modern Kildare. Over time they evolved into three separate dynasties, the Ui Muiredaig, the Ui Faelain and the Ui Dunchada. It is from the Ui Muiredaig that the O'Tooles are descended. This dynasty increasingly came to prominence after 1014. Between 1014 and 1042 they proved to be aggressive kings of Leinster. Towards the end of the eleventh-century the dynasty split into two families. These were the Ua Lorcaín family and the Ui Thuathail (hereafter the O'Tooles). By 1125 the O'Tooles had overcome their cousins.

Diarmait McMurrough fled Ireland in 1166 for the Court of Henry II. Upon his return in 1167 he submitted to Ruaidhri O'Connor, High-King of Ireland. Diarmait's main Norman auxiliary force arrived in 1169. With this force he raided Glendalough and the O'Toole mountain territories. After Diarmait's death in 1171, the Leinster men, aided by Ruaidhri O'Connor, erupted against his heir, Strongbow. Giolla Comghaill supported this failed rebellion. He with several Leinster kings submitted in winter 1171-72 to the newly arrived Henry II of England. Giolla Comghaill died in 1176 and was succeeded by his brother Dunlaing. Glendalough was again attacked in 1176 by the Normans. In 1177 Norman pressure on the Irish dynasties of Kildare is evident. Maelmorda, a probable son of Faelain MacFhaelain king of Ui Faelain, was slain by Dunlaing's followers. This coincides with the influx of Norman settlers into Leinster. It indicates the MacFhaelains were being pushed by the Normans into Dunlaing's lands. Dunlaing himself was a victim of a 1178 Norman raid on the Ui Muiredaig. This seems to have forced a number of his followers to Ui Muiredaig lands in Imaal and Glendalough. The Wicklow mountains had long been a traditional refuge for the defeated. This was a continual historical feature of this region until the early nineteenth-century.

Archbishop Lorcan O'Toole, brother of both Giolla Comghaill and Dunlaing, granted lands around Glenmalure to the priory of the Desert of St. Coemgen before 1180. In 1170 some MacFhaelains were banished from Kildare kingdom of Ui Faelain and they may have fled to their mountain lands. The mountains were seemingly swamped with refugees and this new influx must have made mountain life cramped. The MacFhaelains' cousins, the O'Byrnes, were possibly forced eastward as a result, from southern and central Wicklow. They may have pressurised the Ui Fergaile of Ui Garchon (east Wicklow). The Ui Fergaile were caught between this eastward migration and westward Norman settler penetrations, which may account for their disappearance in the 1170s. Archbishop Lorcan's grant against this background seems an attempt to extend church protection to kinsmen through his creation of this refuge.

There were several thirteenth-century O'Toole families. Firstly I deal with those near Glendalough which were the most prominent O'Toole family within the mountains in this period. They first come to notice in 1214 when Lorcan O'Toole was slain on campaign in, what is now modern, Westmeath. He probably led some of the Archbishop of Dublin's forces on this campaign. The O'Tooles retained some of their power at Glendalough. A Tadhg O'Toole appears to have succeeded Thomas O'Toole as abbot of Glendalough, upon the latter's death in 1212 but the length of his abbacy is unknown. An Alexander and a Richard O'Toole witnessed charters confirming lands to the abbeys of St. Mary and St. Thomas. MacShamhrain suggests that these may be a son and a grandson of Abbot Thomas. It seems his family (hereafter the McLorcans) seem Normanised. This compares with the neighbouring Ui Dunlainge dynasties. It is evident that the Ui Faelain were later accommodated by the Normans. For example the MacFhaelain ruler at the time of the Norman intervention later found a place within the feudal settlement of Ui Faelain. Cornellius MacFhaelain was bishop of Kildare between 1206-23. Extents of Kildare lands in 1311 record MacFhaelains living on ancestral lands. In the Fitzgerald cantred of Wicklow (east Wicklow), the O'Byrnes, were the leading thirteenth-century Irish feudal tenants. It is important to emphasise that the cantred of Wicklow was part of the medieval county of Kildare. The MacGilla Mo-Cholmoc, the principal family, of the Ui Dunchada, are the best example as they changed their name to Fitzdermot. They preserved much of their lands in Ui Briuin Cualann (north-east Wicklow), dwelt in the impressive castle of Rathdown, and married into the settler aristocracy.

Between 1228-55 Archbishop Luke granted to Lorcan's probable son, Meyler, forests near Killiskey. These good relations continued, for instance, Alen's Register reveal O'Tooles acting as officials on the Archbishopric's lands. They also sat on inquisitions and had recourse to legal redress. Moriertagh O'Toole who appears between 1256-71 was probably a MacLorcan. He could be Meyler himself or a brother. In this period he sold lands within Imaal to Archbishop Fulk (these had been given to him before 1256 by Philip FitzRhyss) and in turn Archbishop Fulk granted Glenmalure to him. Seemingly this Moriertagh/Meyler was the most powerful Irish mountain lord. He may have acted as an overseer of the Archbishop Fulk's mountain lands. By 1264 he was dead, seemingly without a male heir. Agatha his daughter and heiress in 1263-

64 became Archbishop Fulk's ward.

The McLorcan family was probably related to the O'Tooles further east, which I include under the McLorcan umbrella. The O'Toole lands stretched to Killadreenan. Magnus O'Toole was granted the land of Glenfeil (Glencaly) before 1272 by John de Sanford, who was Archbishop Fulk's brother and successor. Magnus's son Richard was an outlaw in 1307 and his lands were confiscated. Perhaps these were the townlands of Ballymanus Upper and Lower in Glencaly. Another prominent man was David McGilnecowil (Mac Giolla Comghaill) O'Toole of Kilfee who is distinct from his contemporary David Mac Faelan O'Toole of Imaal. David McGilnecowil was outlawed in 1305 and his confiscated lands at Kilfeith (Kilfee) were granted in 1307 to Hugh Lawlws, a Butler client. He is last mentioned in 1307.

The McLorcans declined after Moriartagh/Meyler O'Toole's death in the 1260s and they do not seem to have led the revolt of 1270. The O'Toole overlord's identity of this period is unknown and is just referred to as Othothell. In 1274-75 the unnamed overlord's son, John, was a Norman hostage. This may be significant as it possibly infers that John's father was previously unknown to the government. If so, he is unlikely to have been a McLorcan. By 1278 the McLorcans were hostile to the Normans. A Magnus O'Toole, perhaps Magnus of the de Sanford grant, was a hostage for the O'Tooles. Another O'Toole hostage was Donewich McLawelin. He was probably related to the 1228 convicted poacher of royal deer, Maclauchelin O'Toole, who had access to English Common Law. Other hostages given by the O'Tooles in 1278 have Norman first names. This indicates O'Toole families, previously loyal and normanised to a degree, were in revolt. These are hints of a major shift in the O'Toole internal equilibrium and by 1295 this shift is evident. Muiris McMurrough made peace with the government on behalf of O'Byrne and Faelan Mac Giolla Chaomghin O'Toole of Imaal. This Faelan was clearly acting as O'Toole overlord. In the early fourteenth-century Murchadh O'Byrne pushed the McLorcans from east Wicklow. It is unlikely they retreated westward to Faelan's territory in Imaal, perhaps they migrated northward to Glencapp. This, however, is only a theory.

Walter O'Toole of Kildare was a man of considerable importance and maybe related to the McLorcans. His family held some of the ancestral O'Toole patrimony of Ui Muiredaig beyond the mountains. During the late thirteenth-century and early fourteenth-century he accounted rents for a fifteenth of Kildare. A contemporary foil for Walter is Ralph Mac John MacGilla Mo-Cholmoc/Fitzdermot. In 1299 Walter took a legal action against William and Jordan le Palmer. Before Justiciar John Wogan he claimed they had disseised him of a freehold at Tancardeston. The le Palmers replied they did not have to answer an Irishman. Walter produced a charter which had been given by William Marshall in 1209 to Gillapatrik O'Toole which enfranchised Gillapatrik and his descendants into Common Law. Walter pointed to his family's service on juries, assizes and in the King's court. His importance within the O'Tooles is evident in 1299 when he was the only O'Toole included on a jury to investigate the state of the Archdeaconry of Glendalough. The eclipse of the McLorcans and Walter's inclusion on this jury is important. Walter was possibly the McLorcans' political heir

and clearly the Government regarded him as the only loyal O'Toole with enough prestige and power to influence Faelan Mac Chaomghin but this did not work. In 1311 he is recorded as holding lands at Corbaly in the Kildare barony of Kilkea. It is possible that the Adam Duff Mac Walter Duff O'Toole burnt for heresy during 1328 was his son. Other smaller O'Toole families were still living in Kildare at this time.

Another O'Toole kin-group was located in the Glenmalure region. They appear in the 1270s as Othobells of the mountains of Glindelory. Their territory probably originates in Archbishop Lorcan's grant of Glenmalure, before 1180, to the priory of the Desert of St. Coemgen. Cantwell suggests that there were two O'Toole kin-groups living in Glenmalure and Imaal. Glenmalure's medieval extent is hard to ascertain. What is certain is that Glenmalure and Imaal are separate medieval entities.

In 1256-71 Archbishop Fulk granted Moriortagh/Meyler O'Toole his Glenmalure lands. Is this a hint of unrest between the O'Tooles and archiepiscopal officials? Moriortagh/Meyler and his ancestors had long held Glenmalure from the Archbishops. What caused Archbishop Fulk to make this grant? It has been suggested he was trying to regularise the legal position of the mountain Irish. There may be other factors to consider. The Butlers expanded during 1240s-50s in the region south of Glenmalure as far as Macreddin in Ballykine parish. Between 1244-51 Archbishop Luke, Fulk's predecessor, granted to Theobald Butler a series of holdings. This grant included Fanavern (Fanancierin in Glenmalure), Rosahane, the church of DisirtKeyvn in 1275-1280 (the priory of the Desert of St. Coemgen), which was included in the deanery of Arklow, and the churches at Rathdrum and Macreddin. Canon Empey suggests that rural deaneries are a better indicator of secular medieval power than the more modern baronies. In many cases territorial units of church and secular power often corresponded and this may be the case here. Butler expansion possibly adversely effected the O'Tooles of Glenmalure. In this context Archbishop Fulk's 1256-71 grant of Glenmalure to Moriortagh/Meyler may represent an attempt to protect the Irish from Butler inroads. Significantly in 1277 Theobald Butler had custody of the march of Glindelory. The Irish rebellion of the 1270s heralded the slow end of the Butler mountain lordship nevertheless Theobald Butler continued to buy mountain lands from beleaguered Norman settlers. Geoffrey FitzRhyss in 1294 granted his Imaal holdings to him in exchange for the Manor of Cardiff. Eustace le Poer did likewise with his Imaal lands. Exactly when the Butlers first held the cantred of Wicklow in the late thirteenth-century from the Fitzgerald heirs is unknown. In 1297 Hugh Lawless was joint sergeant of the manor of Arklow and the Wicklow cantred and possibly acted as Theobald Butler's attorney in 1292. In 1305 Murchadh O'Byrne's followers living at Kilpoole, near Wicklow town, fraudulently described themselves as Lord Edmund Butler's *faithful hibernici*. By 1329 the cantred of Wicklow had returned to the Fitzgeralds. The Butlers, until the sixteenth-century, made intermittent, but determined, attempts to regain lost Wicklow lands.

The Irish rebellion of 1270 began on the Archbishopric's lands. In July 1270 Prince Edward, the future Edward I, instructed the Justiciar to aid Archbishop Fulk against unknown rebels. Three O'Tooles, one O'Byrne and one Harold in 1271 were in

government custody. James Audley, the Justiciar, before June 1272 was ambushed by the Irish in the pass of Glendalough. In 1269-70 Henry of Almain led an expedition to Glenmalure. This crisis was apparently fuelled by terrible economic and meteorological conditions. Archbishop Fulk may also have been too harsh towards the Irish. The Normans in this period increasingly discriminated against the Irish who were gradually excluded from access to Common Law. Undoubtedly these factors impelled the Irish to raid. Always neglected in the analysis of this rebellion was the void created by Moriartagh/Meyler's death. The absence of his restraint and a strong heir contributed to the rebellion. By 1274 Glenmalure was completely overrun. Gerald, overlord of the O'Byrnes, was in rebellion in 1274. Whether Gerald's revolt was related to probable Butler aggression in east Wicklow is uncertain. Fighting became widespread throughout east Wicklow. Major Irish victories between 1272-1276 against government forces were won in Glenmalure. Robert de Ufford in 1277 announced the rebels had been driven from Glenmalure. One of the major causes of the Gaelic rebellions in this period was the lack of access to Common Law and an offer was made by prominent Ecclesiastics of 7,000 marks for such a grant. De Ufford conveyed this offer to Edward I. The King accepted the offer but it was never implemented.

Within the Glenmalure region O'Toole and O'Byrne settlements were seemingly integrated or close together. This continued into the 1290s but between 1292-1312 a major shift can be detected. The aggressive emergence of Murchadh O'Byrne in the early fourteenth-century is decisive. Murchadh was O'Byrne overlord between c.1300-1337. In contrast to the O'Tooles the O'Byrnes seem a more homogeneous force. Their ruling family, the Gabhal Dunlaing, maintained a firm grip upon their kinsmen. Divisions among the O'Byrnes only emerged in the 1330s. Between 1303-20 Murchadh consolidated and expanded his territory throughout east Wicklow. This was at the expense of the Norman settlers and the McLorcan O'Tooles. The O'Byrnes focused particularly in the Glenealy valley. Murchadh fought two major battles there, his 1305/6 victory and his defeat of 1317. Early in the fourteenth-century he seemingly formed a short alliance with Justiciar John Wogan and Edmund Butler. Both Butler and Wogan wished to consolidate their eastern Wicklow lands. Justiciar John Wogan obtained the lands of Newcastle McKynegan, while Edmund Butler held the cantred of Wicklow. They attempted to divide the Irish. In 1307 Murchadh accepted Wogan's grant of Richard O'Toole's confiscated Glenealy lands. Hugh Lawless, Edmund Butler's client, received a grant of David McGilnecowil O'Toole's Kilfee lands. Murchadh's acceptance contributed to the O'Toole rebellion of 1308. Murchadh then changed sides and he with the O'Tooles in June 1308 at Glenmalure when they annihilated Justiciar John Wogan's force. In 1309 some O'Tooles, probably McLorcans, helped Piers Gaveston to defeat Murchadh. (The McMurroughs also increasingly served against him). The Lawlesses were gradually pushed north from Murchadh's eastern Wicklow patrimony. His brothers spearheaded O'Byrne expansion into Carlow and Glenmalure. He seems allied in 1311 with the David Mac Faelan O'Toole of Imaal, Faelan Mac Giolla Chaemghin's son. David Mac Faelan may have sought this alliance because of possible difficulties in asserting his overlordship over all the O'Tooles. Such an alliance with Murchadh may have secured David Mac Faelan's position. Murchadh throughout his

reign proved adept in exploiting fissures among rivals. Together in 1311 they fought Justiciar John Wogan's force to a standstill. By 1312 Murchadh had conquered Glenmalure. Edmund Butler forced him in 1312 to submit there. There is no mention made of the O'Tooles of Glenmalure again and David Mac Faelan may have settled them in Imaal.

Murchadh had settled the O'Byrnes of Gabhal tSiomoin in Glenmalure. As the fourteenth-century progressed, the Gabhal tSiomion O'Byrnes pushed into Carlow and they mortgaged Glenmalure to the O'Byrnes of Gabhal Raghnaill. The original lands of the Gabhal Raghnaill O'Byrnes, Nicholls suggests, were to the north-east in the coastal barony of Newcastle. By 1356 the Gabhal Raghnaill were definitively living in Glenmalure. These were Feagh McHugh O'Byrne's ancestors. O'Toole lands contracted substantially during Murchadh's reign (c.1300-1337). By 1320 their heartland was centred in Imaal and a discontinuous territorial arc spread to the north of Glendalough

II

In the thirteenth-century the ancestors of the sixteenth-century O'Tooles of Castlekevin resided in Imaal. They emerged towards the end of the thirteenth-century as the most powerful family of the O'Tooles. According to the O'Clery genealogy they were descended from Gilla Coemgin O'Toole. He was the son of Gilla Comghaill. This Gilla Comghaill, abbot of Glendalough, was slain in 1127 by the mountain tribes. The O'Clery genealogy makes them cousins of the O'Toole ruling family of the 1170s. At least two generations are missing from this genealogy. When they settled in Imaal is uncertain. They may have fled there in the late 1170s from the Normans but it is possible they were there already. Walter de Riddlesford was granted Imaal in 1173-74 by Strongbow but this only took effect, perhaps, after 1178. Walter granted Imaal to the FitzRhyss family. The adoption of Walter as a name by the O'Tooles indicates the de Riddlesford lordship. They seem to have enjoyed good relations with their FitzRhyss overlords. It seems the O'Tooles predominately dwelt on the more upland Imaal townlands. Moriortagh/Meyler O'Toole held lands from both Philip FitzRhyss and Archbishop Fulk. As discussed above this Moriortagh/Meyler seems to have been the traditional overlord of the O'Tooles of both Imaal and Glenmalure and by 1264 he was dead. Reasons why the rebellion of the 1270s broke out have been discussed above. There seems to have been a series of other interrelated O'Toole kin groups residing within Imaal during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. For instance the origins of the families of Hugh Og O'Toole or Donald Roth O'Toole are presently indiscernible. I shall now outline the descent of the later O'Tooles of Castlekevin.

FAELAN MAC GILLA CHAOMGHIN

According to O'Clery, Faelan was a son of an otherwise unrecorded Gilla Chaomghin. He first appears in 1295 when Muiris McMurrough negotiated a peace on behalf of O'Byrne and Faelan with the Government. In this treaty two sons of Faelan are

mentioned, one of whom was given as a hostage. Clearly Faelan seems to be the de facto O'Toole overlord. Hubert de Ruyly, a highway man, was accused in 1295 of sending Faelan presents. In 1297 Faelan paid a forty shilling fine for John de la Roche, a rapist. He was pardoned later with his followers. Later in 1297 Faelan was charged with receiving the robbers of John de la Corner. During this period he seems to have enjoyed good relations with Murchadh O'Byrne. With Conok Othel, Faelan in 1306 robbed a man named Oconyl. Faelan raided Kildare throughout 1308 and Justiciar John Wogan's force was destroyed in the same year, at Glenmalure, by Faelan and Murchadh O'Byrne. The undated extent of Imaal, within the Red Book of Ormond, records him holding land in the townland of Leitrim (Donaghmore). Faelan seems to have died by 1311. He may have had two brothers.

(1) Nicholas

Nicholas appears to be a brother of Faelan. He was accused in 1297, along with Faelan, of harbouring the robbers of John de la Corner. In 1306 he raided the livestock of the nuns of the priory of Tamelyn Beg but is not recorded again after this. He had one recorded son, Murith, who was probably the Moruth recorded in the extent of Imaal. Price thinks he was the Murghut O'Toole in Government service during 1328-29 against the O'Byrnes. He was slain mysteriously during the parliament of 1332. Murith may have had two sons.

Galfridus. Clearly he is of Imaal, one of FitzRhyss's lord of Imaal was named Galfridus. He was captured in 1318 by Oliver FitzYoyngham.

Murith Beg. He was captured with his brother Galfridus in 1318.

(2) Yoghy

Yoghy seems also have been a brother of Faelan. A note in Alen's Register records his real name, Richard. He was charged in 1297 with his brothers with receiving the robbers of John de la Corner. One son of Yoghy is recorded.

Richard. Mentioned as living in 1305. He had four sons.

Hugh. His address of 1311 is given as Cnoclorkan in Imaal and is mentioned in connection with his family's feud of 1311 with the de Valle family.

Henry. He is first mentioned in 1305 with his father and brother. Cnoclorkan is given as his 1311 address and recorded in the feud of 1311 with the de Valles. Henry had possibly one son John living in 1311.

David. This David was living in 1311. He is should not be confused with his contemporary and cousin David Mac Faelan of Imaal.

John. First mentioned in 1305. He was captured in 1326, with several other O'Tooles, by William Comyn. This was his last appearance.

DAVID MAC FAELAN

David Mac Faelan is mentioned in O'Clery's genealogy. He was the son and successor of Faelan Mac Gilla Chaomghin and is not to be confused with his contemporaries David McGilnecowil O'Toole of Kilfee and David McYoghy O'Toole. After 1311 he was leader of the O'Tooles. It was he who led the revenge attack on the de Valles. Like his father he usually enjoyed good relations with Murchadh O'Byrne. In 1315 they burnt Bray, Newcastle McKynegan and Arklow. In 1316 they destroyed, with the Harolds and Archbolds, the town of Wicklow. Later in 1316 David Mac Faelan's force was defeated by William Comyn outside Dublin. At Tullow, later in the year, his force met disaster and suffered huge casualties. Roger Mortimer campaigned in 1317 both in Imaal and Glenealy against David Mac Faelan and Murchadh. In 1328 David Mac Faelan was captured and executed in 1328 at Dublin. He was posthumously described as '*the strong thief, the king's enemy, the burner of churches, the destroyer of people*'. There were at least two brothers of David Mac Faelan.

(1) *Walter*

Mentioned in 1311 in connection with de Valle feud. In this incident he is called of Cnoclorkan.

(2) *Moriertagh*

The only mention I have found of him is a 1325 reference when he was captured by William Comyn.

HUGH MAC DAVID

O'Clery's genealogy records his descent. Hugh did not directly succeed his father David Mac Faelan as between 1328-1352 there was no clear O'Toole leader. Hugh Mac David appears in 1353-1354. He was in continual government service in the early 1350s against John O'Byrne who submitted in April 1354. Hugh Mac David's contribution of fifteen hobelars (horsemen) and four footmen was rewarded with £8-13s-4d. In June 1355 Hugh Mac David protected the English of Tallaght while at the same time his brother, Shane, protected the settlers of Imaal. By August 1355 they had joined John O'Byrne's rebellion. Both John O'Byrne and Hugh Mac David were back in Government service, in 1357, when they were part of a Government campaign against the O'Byrnes of the Duffry in Wexford. In 1358 John O'Byrne and David Mac Hugh returned to warring. They besieged Killoughter castle in July of that year but a truce was negotiated by August. By May 1359 they were in conflict with the Government again. Duke Lionel of Clarence forced the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles in 1362-63 to sue for peace. However, the O'Tooles continued raiding into 1364. There also seems to have been a campaign in the summer of 1368 against them. Hugh Mac David was slain in 1376 by the English. In his obit, in the Annals of Ulster, he was titled king of Ui Mail. It seems he had two brothers.

(1) Shane

This Shane is mentioned defending the English of Imaal in 1355 from John O'Byrne. He succeeded his elder brother Hugh in 1376. In 1386 the people of Fingal were granted a subsidy against his and Gerald O'Byrnes' raids. He was assassinated in 1388 by a clown (churl?). Some accounts grant him miraculous resurrection, which allowed him to kill his assassin. He is titled king of Imaal.

(2) David

In 1331 he raided the Archbishop of Dublin's lands at Tallaght. The English killed him in 1368. It seems he had one son Donnell.

Donnell. The Annals of Connaught place his death in 1433. In the Annals of Ulster his obit is mentioned in 1431 where they describe him as *'..the general protector for the [bardic] and retainues of Ireland to the day of his decease'*.

PHELIM MAC HUGH

Phelim was a son of Hugh Mac David and succeeded his uncle, Shane, sometime after 1388. In 1392 he with Art Mor McMurrough, Gerald O'Byrne and O'More burnt Carlow and Kildare. In October 1394 he and Art Mor McMurrough submitted to Richard II. The King took Phelim and Gerald O'Byrne as hostages to Dublin but they were released within the year. On the 28 March 1395 he submitted to Richard II at Castledermot. Phelim wrote to Richard II in 1395 after Hy Kinsella raids upon his territory and the capture of his men at the fair of Ballymore. From his letter it is known that he had at least one son who had been kidnapped by the Hy Kinsella raiders. By 1396 Richard's agreements with the Irish began to break down and Phelim became hostile. Marleborough's Chronicle recorded his victory, with Donnchadh O'Byrne, over the Earl of March's army at Kelliston in Carlow in June 1398. Phelim, in 1399, with Donnchadh O'Byrne and Art Mor McMurrough harried Richard II's army throughout its trek through the Wicklow mountains. Later he attended Art Mor McMurrough's failed conference with the earl of Gloucester near Avoca. Phelim died in 1403-04. His obits describe him as king or lord of Ui Muiredaig. Hugh O'Toole, described as royal heir of Ui Mail, who died in 1406 of plague, may have been his son.

DERMOT MAC HUGH

Dermot is mentioned in the O'Clery genealogy. He was Phelim's brother and probably succeeded him. In 1419 the O'Tooles launched a huge raid on Ballymore, their spoils included four hundred cows. Justiciar John Talbot with the citizens of Dublin razed Castlekevin in revenge. Throughout 1423 the O'Tooles raided Dublin and Kildare. Otway-Ruthven believed the royal service summoned in 1423 to Mullaghmast was to campaign against them. In 1424 Justiciar James Butler, the White Earl of Ormond, concluded an indenture with Dermot (a son of Dermot is mentioned in this agreement). In 1426 the White Earl took hostages from the O'Tooles. Dermot, Donnchadh O'Byrne

and Gerald Mac Art Kavanagh invaded Kildare in 1427 when they destroyed Castledermot and captured Sir Thomas Wogan. Gerald Mac Art Kavanagh accepted a black-rent of eighty marks to depart but Dermot and Donnchadh O'Byrne burnt further. In 1431 he raided the Pale with Gerald Kavanagh's brother, Donnchadh Mac Art McMurrough. This raid was eventually defeated and Dermot was taken prisoner. Relations seem particularly close in this period with the O'Byrnes. Donnchadh O'Byrne's first wife was Honora O'Toole. Edmund O'Byrne succeeded in 1434 his brother, Donnchadh, as overlord. His mother was Derbail of Crioch Cualann who seems to have been an O'Toole. A large Anglo-Irish hosting in 1442 attacked O'Byrnes' Country but the O'Byrnes with Dermot's help annihilated the homeward bound hosting. In 1443 Thomas Fitzgerald, prior of Kilmainham, approached the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes for help and asked them to kidnap his rivals at Kilmainham. They agreed but the outcome is unknown. Dermot met his end in 1445 when he was slain while pursuing O'Dempsey raiders. The Annals give his age at eighty and describe him as Lord of Clann-Tuathail. It is known he had at least one son, Theobald.

THEOBALD MAC DERMOT

Theobald is mentioned in O'Clery's genealogy and succeeded his father in 1445. He seems aged. Gerald Mac Art Kavanagh's son ravaged O'Tooles's Country in 1445, captured Theobald and mistreated him. His daughter was killed by Kavanagh's mercenary troops from Connaught. This seems part of a wider struggle between the O'Byrnes and the McMurrough-Kavanaghs. In winter 1446-47 John Talbot, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, campaigned throughout Leinster and extracted submissions from Donnchadh Mac Art McMurrough, O'Connor Faly, O'More, O'Dempsey and O'Nolan. However, no submissions were sought from O'Byrne or Theobald at this time. In 1449 Richard, Duke of York, forced Bran O'Byrne to submit at Kiltimon. Several other Irish lords, including Theobald, travelled there to submit to him. Duke Richard granted permission in 1450 to Sir Edmund Mulso to found a town in Fercullen in O'Tooles' Country. It seems in 1450s there were attempts to conquer Fercullen. O'Hart places Theobald's death in 1460 but does not indicate his source. It seems Theobald had two sons and one daughter.

EDMUND MAC THEOBALD

Edmund Mac Theobald appears in O'Clery's genealogy. He first appears when the Parliament of 1470 commanded the people of Saggart to surrender their truce with Edmund Mac Theobald. He had extended his protection to Saggart for a black-rent and as a result, in 1471-72, he with the O'Byrnes destroyed Saggart. Maurice Walsh of Kilgobbin in 1476-77 complained that O'Byrne and Edmund Mac Theobald destroyed his castle at Jamestown. A document, dated 1480, places Edmund's strength at twenty four horsemen and eighty kern, and he is titled "*lord of Fercwolin and Ymayle*" by the compiler. Edmund Mac Theobald's alliance with Tadhg O'Byrne began to break down in the 1480s and this probably has much to do with the rise of the Earls of Kildare.

Gerald Mor Fitzgerald, the eighth Earl of Kildare, from 1480, increasingly expanded his influence into Wicklow. Edmund Mac Theobald may have adopted a pragmatic policy of co-operation and this broke his alliance with the O'Byrnes. The Annals of the Four Masters and Annals of Ulster record, in 1488, that he was killed by the sons of Tadhg O'Byrne. However, the Annals of Connaught and the Annals of Loch Ce blame the sons of Tadhg O'Carroll but it is more likely that Tadhg O'Byrne's sons killed Edmund.

(1) A daughter

Her name is unknown. She was killed in 1445 by the troops of Gerald Mac Art Kavanagh's son.

(2) Theobald

This Theobald was probably a son of Theobald Mac Dermot. He is mentioned only in 1491 when he was appointed archdeacon of Glendalough. He was the first O'Toole archdeacon of Glendalough of the fifteenth-century, before him there had been five successive O'Byrne archdeacons. His appointment mentions that he was of noble parentage. This may be a sign of a power shift among Wicklow's Gaelic Irish.

ART MAC EDMUND

This Art appears in O'Clery's genealogy. Edward Butler of Dunboyne captured him in December 1495 and this may be because of his sympathy with the rebellious Geraldines, particularly Sir James Fitzgerald, brother of the 8th Earl, Gerald Mor. He was imprisoned in Dublin Castle where he is recorded as receiving food in his chamber between 1495-97. The Fitzgeralds expelled the O'Tooles from Fercullen and Fassaroe and this may have forced Art's family to retreat to their old Imaal heartland. This may have contributed to O'Toole feuding. O'Hart places his death in 1499 but does not indicate his source. The Art slain in 1517 by his own kinsmen is a more likely candidate. He had a brother and a sister.

(1) Cahir Mor

The only mention of him is in Lord Burghley's pedigrees.

(2) A daughter

She only appears in Lord Burghley's pedigree.

ART OG MAC ART

This Art Og was a younger son of Art Mac Edmund. He was the founder of the sixteenth and seventeenth century O'Toole family of Castlekevin. He is recorded in Alen's Register holding considerable lands in Imaal. In 1532 he destroyed the rectory of Donard in Imaal. He was a loyal supporter of his brother Turlough the elder. Formerly they had

been Fitzgerald clients but upon the outbreak of the Fitzgerald rebellion they entered Government service and he remained in service until 1536. The two brothers unravelled the Fitzgerald conquest of O'Tooles' Country in the period after 1536. They, with their allies, between 1536-1540 posed the Government huge problems. They developed alliances with the northern Kavanagh septs and the O'Byrnes of Glenmalure, however their cousins within Imaal continually opposed them. They constantly sought confirmation of their gains from both the exiled Fitzgeralds and the Government. They submitted in December 1540 and St Ledger sent Turlough the elder to Henry VIII's court. The King agreed to Turlough the elder's requests. Art Og was granted Castlekevin and Ferter, while Turlough the elder received Powerscourt and Fercullen. Turlough the elder was slain by Turlough Mac Shane O'Toole of Imaal in November 1542. Art Og was part of the Irish contingent of Henry VIII's Scottish campaign of 1544-45. He was dead by 1549. He had two recorded brothers and one sister.

(1) Hugh Mac Art

In 1523 Hugh was slain by the O'Byrnes.

(2) Turlough the elder

Turlough, the elder, was the ancestor of the O'Tooles of Powerscourt. I will deal with him and his descendants in a subsequent article.

(3) A daughter

This daughter of Art Mac Edmund remains nameless. She married a McKeogh. They had one recorded son who was slain accidentally in 1532 by one of his uncles. The offending uncles in question are probably Art Og and Turlough the elder. The Annals of Loch Ce record him as Donnchadh but the Annals of the Four Masters call him Mulmorry McKeogh. There is a degree of scribal confusion here.

FEAGH MAC ART OG

This Feagh was Art Og's son and heir and is sometimes called Luke. He was first pardoned with his brother Morgan in 1549. In 1550-51 he was granted the livery of his father. Feagh married Rice, daughter of Dr. Edward Basnett, who was the dean of St Patricks. Interestingly he was part of a jury that examined, in August 1541, the extent of Castlekevin and Ferter. Newcastle McKynegan was granted in December 1543 to Dr Basnett. Two of his brothers received, in January 1544, two parcels of lands near the O'Byrnes' Country. He was still living in 1546. Incidentally in 1566 William Basnett leased the Franciscan monastery of Wicklow for twenty years. The marriage of Feagh Mac Art Og and Rice Basnett is undated but was probably before 1560 as Barnaby, their son, was eighteen in 1578. The O'Tooles were forced in 1556 to submit. This may be connected to the turbulence of their neighbour and cousin, Hugh Mac Shane O'Byrne of Glenmalure who was pardoned in 1557. Feagh in the same year was ordered to cease his impositions upon the freeholders of Glencapp. His brother-in-law, Phelim of

Powerscourt, was similarly warned. Feagh fostered alliances with members of the Harolds, Walshes, and the Archbolds. He was pardoned in 1559, 1564, 1566 and 1577. At some stage he served as sheriff of Co. Dublin. He died on 6 April 1578. Rice, his wife, was still living in 1601. He had two recorded brothers and one sister.

(1) Morgan

Morgan was pardoned with Feagh in 1549, 1564 and 1566. Oliver Sutton claimed, in 1565, that a Morghe O'Toole hid stolen cattle for the Earl of Kildare in Wicklow, and this probably is Morgan. In February 1597 a kinsman of Rose O'Toole named Mortagh was reported at Dungannon Co. Tyrone. He had returned to Ireland from Spain, through Scotland, with letters from Philip II of Spain, allegedly, in his possession. He probably was Feagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne's envoy to Philip II. He may be Rose O'Toole's uncle.

(2) Hugh

This Hugh seems younger than Morgan and Feagh. He was pardoned with them in 1564 and 1566, but nothing else is recorded of him.

(3) Sadbh

Sadbh was Hugh Mac Shane O'Byrne's second wife. Hugh Mac Shane was Feagh Mac Hugh's father but she was not the mother of Feagh or his sister Elizabeth. However, she seems to be the mother of Hugh Mac Shane's other legitimate children and was married to him by 1550. She is mentioned in the *Leabhar Branach* (The Book of the O'Byrnes).

BARNABY MAC FEAGH

Barnaby was the eldest son of Feagh and Rice Basnett. He was born in 1560 and was heir to Feagh's estate except the widow's third. In July 1578 Sir Henry Harrington was granted the wardship and marriage of Barnaby and the custody of Barnaby's lands, except his mother's third. This may be an attempt by the Government to prevent Barnaby from falling under the influence of Feagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne, his brother in law. It should be noted that Sir Henry Harrington in 1578 became seneschal of O'Byrnes' Country. It seems Barnaby lived for a period at the court of Elizabeth I. During the 1580-82 Baltinglass rebellion he served against Feagh Mac Hugh. Barnaby married Honora O'More before 1584 and livery was granted to him in May 1585. He was pardoned in 1590 with the O'Byrnes of Newrath. Generally he obeyed the Government by steering a course of neutrality and was tolerated by Feagh Mac Hugh. However, by 1596 he was a firm supporter of Feagh Mac Hugh. Lord Deputy Russell wrote that Castlekevin was garrisoned in November 1596 by English troops and also reported the capture of two of Barnaby's kinsmen. He died in Glenmalur on the 13 January 1597, aged about thirty seven years. His wife later married Roger Masterson and they lived in Wigmanstown, probably around Ballinastoe. She was still alive in 1636. He had several brothers and sisters.

(1) Donald

O'Hart records this Donald as Donoch. He was pardoned with his brothers and the O'Byrnes of Newrath in 1590. In December 1597 the Government pardoned him with members of his family. He was still alive in 1600.

(2) Alexander

Alexander is mentioned in O'Hart's pedigree. He appears in the pardon of 1590 with his brothers. In December 1597 he was pardoned with other rebels. He is called Alexander McFeagh of Carrickroe in 1601 and 1602 when he is last recorded.

(3) Shean

Shean's only appearance is in 1577 when he was pardoned with his father, Feagh.

(4) Hugh

This Hugh was recorded in August 1588 as a pledge for Feagh Mac Hugh in Dublin Castle. In early 1589 he escaped from Dublin Castle with Feagh Mac Hugh's sons, Redmond Mac Feagh and Brian Mac Feagh. He was pardoned in 1590 and again in December 1597 for rebellion. The last mention I have found of him is in 1600.

(5) Cahir

(6) Katharine

This Katharine married Feagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne's son Redmond. She is mentioned with her husband in the pardons of 1598 and 1602. It seems she was the mother of Feagh, Shane, Phelim, and Katharine.

(7) Una or Owny

She was the beloved wife of Feagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne's son Phelim. She was pardoned with Phelim in 1598. They were married before 1593 as Brian Mac Phelim, their son, was twenty years old in 1613. Una died during the infamous trial of her husband in 1629 when, according to Phelim, she died of a broken heart. She suffered the indignity of being exhumed by the planters. She was the mother of all of Phelim's children.

(8) Rose

Rose O'Toole was a celebrated woman in her time and was regarded by many as a Gaelic Machiaveli. She was fostered by Thom Garrahall of Ballelocha. Rose married Feagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne before 1573 but it seems they had no children. She was captured during the Baltinglass rebellion 1580-82 but was later released. It is said Rose and Turlough Mac Feagh, Feagh Mac Hugh's heir, disliked each other intensely. A marriage contract was drawn up in 1593 between Rose and Feagh Mac Hugh which was witnessed by Redmond and Phelim, Feagh Mac Hugh's sons. Turlough Mac Feagh's name significantly did not appear on this contract. Unfortunately it does not survive.

Lord Deputy Russell in May 1594 mentions her capture. She was tried for treason and she was sentenced to be burned. In a very unclear incident Feagh was led to believe that Turlough Mac Feagh was about to betray him. Some sources point towards Rose as the instigator of Turlough Mac Feagh's downfall. Feagh Mac Hugh confronted Turlough Mac Feagh and sent him to Dublin. While in custody, it seems, Turlough Mac Feagh was offered his life by the English but in return he had to betray his father. Turlough refused and was executed on 18 July 1595. In February 1597 Rose was pardoned and released. Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone, in April 1597 asked Feagh to send Rose to him but Feagh was killed in an ambush on 7 May 1597. It seems Redmond and Phelim blamed Rose for Turlough's demise. Captain Thomas Lea wrote in August 1597 that Rose was ready to betray Feagh's sons. After this she gradually faded from view but was imprisoned in Carlow Castle in the early 1600s. The date of her death is unknown.

(9) Phelim

Phelim was a younger brother of Barnaby. He was closer to Feagh Mac Hugh O'Byrne than Barnaby. In 1590 he was mentioned in a pardon. Later in 1597 he was called Phelim McFeagh O'Toole of Fartrie. He succeeded Barnaby as head of the Castlekevin family and continued in rebellion during the minority of Barnaby's heir, Feagh. Phelim married a Margery, who in 1600, is called Margery nine Feagh. A year later she is known as Margery Birne and it seems that she was Feagh Mac Hugh's daughter. She had first married Walter Reagh Fitzgerald, who was executed in 1595. When Phelim Mac Feagh O'Byrne submitted early in 1601, Phelim did likewise.

COLONEL FEAGH O'TOOLE

Feagh was born in 1584 and is better known as Luke. In 1597 Captain Thomas Lea was granted the custody of Barnaby's lands and received the wardship and marriage of Feagh. Lea, however, was killed soon afterwards. Feagh had two recorded brothers Art and Cahir. A Margery O'Toole is named as his sister. Feagh is recorded as the father of seventeen children in 1636. He played a prominent role in the rebellion of November 1641 when he, with his cousin Brian Mac Phelim O'Byrne, reversed the plantation of their territories. Feagh was present at the siege of Knockrath during November but he gradually faded from view. His sons were more prominent between 1642-1650. He surrendered in 1651 to Sir Edmund Ludlow. He was put on trial and in January 1652 was executed aged sixty eight.

Author's Note

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EMMET O'BYRNE

Small Mercy

A common perception of the O'Tooles is that they were bandits based in the mountains who caused all sorts of problems for the English invader. However a closer reading of the sources show that they were primarily an agricultural clan who were integrated into the Gaelic and English body politic. This can be seen through marriage patterns, leases, alliances, etc. In the late 15th century the rise of the Fitzgeralds of Kildare caused the O'Tooles to become a minor subservient military clan. This is the background to the transfer of the chieftainship from Imaal to Powerscourt and the developing relationship between the O'Tooles and the Dublin Administration and the more important Dublin families. This can be seen by the marriages of Luke O'Toole of Castlekevin (slain 1578) to Rose, daughter of Edward Bassnett, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral and Felim O'Toole of Powerscourt (slain 1592) to Mary Talbot of Belgard. In the 1540s Brian of Powerscourt (slain 1581) was Sheriff of County Dublin. Thereafter the loyalties of the east and west Wicklow were divided.

Part of the integration of the O'Toole clans into the English power structure was the provision that junior sons were sent to the Elizabethan Court for training. Two examples being Barnaby of Castlekevin (ob. Glenmalure 1597) and Arthur (Art) of Powerscourt (alive 1615). The activities of Felim MacHugh O'Byrne proved to be too attractive for Barnaby who rejected his English loyalty for the Gaelic dream. Arthur remained a Royalist to the end of his days and developed a serious obsession with the lands of Powerscourt. He had a legal right to these lands through the Surrender and Regrant treaty of 1540 between Turlough O'Toole and Henry VIII. This is somewhat complicated to explain. One provision of the Treaty was that The Irish would obey English Common Law which included marriage law and custom. However, Felim had married through Brehon Law so his nephew, Arthur, argued that Felim had broken the Treaty and that he should be given the lands instead. Arthur originally had the backing of Queen Elizabeth I when he first made the claim around 1580 but his claim was rejected by the Dublin Administration who knew that if they attempted to eject Felim there would be civil war and that was the last thing they wanted on the outskirts of Dublin. Arthur appears to have spent much of his time writing petitions and generally annoying everybody. Eventually the English Privy Council gave him £40 in 1600 because "Her Majesty hath been moche importuned ... (he) hath been very troublesome to us".

In 1591 he had the misfortune to have had dealings with the Lord Deputy John Perrot, who was an eccentric, headstrong, impulsive individual, a brilliant soldier but poor administrator. Arthur's letter of complaint, written in June, gives an evocative picture of the rough and ready nature of politics in 16th century Dublin.

"The Lord deputy hath made himself a confederate of mine adversary who keeps away my lands and living. The Lord Deputy consented to shed my blood innocently, for he proclaimed in Dublin upon pain of death that no man should draw weapon therein to the intent to do hurt in the same city, and I, fearing to offend, laid away all

my weapons, for I knew that if he could have any matter against me I should have small mercy at his hands. And being thus without weapons there came one Woodford, a soldier, with divers others, with daggers, and fell upon me at once suddenly, contrary to your Majesty's proclamation, and wounded me. And yet with much ado I brake from them and ran for my weapon, and got those men apprehended, bringing them before the Lord Deputy, and showing my wounds, yet he did dismiss them without any punishment, and fell out with them before my face for that they killed me not, whereby men do think his Lordship was there setter on, they themselves asking me for forgiveness, and confessing their faults. I dare not trust the Lord Deputy. He hath encouraged him that hath my lands in such sort that he caused fines to be laid on the following heads of the country there. And yet I went into my country all alone, saving one man, to see who durst attempt to strike me.

And when the people saw me in the country, what for fear and for the love they bear me, being unwilling to hurt me they fled out of the champion country into the Glen choosing rather than to forfeit their fines than to do me any harm. Then I followed them, and stayed in the Glen two or three days persuading them not to fear me, and that I meant no harm, and thereupon they returned to their houses.

These are people who, the Lord Deputy says, would rebel if justice were done me. Phelim Attoole, their usurping leader, dare not lift a weapon against me, though John Perrott and others of the Council did what they could to urge him thereunto. And they provoked me to offer to enter combat with him with one of my hands tied, and he would not; and, indeed, no Deputy could ever rule them, nor ever is like to do but by me, they are so mischievous a people. He that hath the government of them now will lead them to take the Spanish part as he did at the last rebellion. But if I have them I will cause them to take your Majesty's part according to their duty. Sir John Perrott and the present Deputy should be ordered to pay me all the damage I have suffered by the loss of my lands. Walshingham and others have spoken against me, and not one man will vouchsafe either to help or speak for me but rather against me, but withal I will prove my right.

A pension of 2s. a day is poor recompense for all my lands of Powerscourt and Toule's country. That pension was given me for services whereof I have testimonials, I beseech you, most excellent Queen, though my speech be not pleasant, not having been brought up in the school to get advancement by words, but having spent my youth in the field against your Majesty's enemies, bear with me, yet I hope your Majesty will think that the simplest reason that I deliver is better than the allegations of mine and your Majesty's enemies."

ARTHUR ATTOOLE

Arthur Young and Mount Kennedy

Arthur Young (1741 - 1820) was a very well known English agriculturist and traveller, who came to Ireland in 1776. He was agent for Lord Kingsborough from 1777 - 1779. In the two volume 'Tour of Ireland', which was published in Dublin in 1780, Young recounts his journey through twenty nine of the thirty two counties. Maria Edgeworth claimed the book contained the most faithful portrait of the Irish peasantry ever to have appeared. Young has also been described by John Andrews in the New History of Ireland, Volume IV as 'a sharp observer, a good listener, and an insatiable recorder of facts and figures'.

Arthur Young also had published in Dublin in 1771 'A Course of Experimental Agriculture' in four volumes. This contains very detailed information on all aspects of late eighteenth century agriculture and he analyses two thousand original experiments. Young also visited France and Italy on the eve of the French Revolution, and these journeys are recounted in 'Travels in France and Italy during the years 1787 - 1789'.

On July 15th 1776 Arthur Young - 'reached in the evening Mount Kennedy the seat of General Cunningham, who fortunately proved to me an instructor as assiduous as he is able. He is in the midst of a country almost all his own, for he has 10,000 Irish acres here. His domain, and the grounds about it, are very beautiful, not a level can be seen; every spot is tossed about in a variety of hill and dale. In the middle of the lawn is one of the greatest natural curiosities of the kingdom; an immense arbutus tree unfortunately blown down, but yet vegetating, one branch, which parts from the body near the ground, and afterwards divides into many large branches, is 6 feet 2 inches in circumference.

'About Mount Kennedy the country is enclosed within various mountains and high lands; farms are generally small, from 20 acres to 100, except in mountainous tracts, where they are larger, some from 300 to 600 acres. The soil is in general a dry sound gravel, hanging to the south east, and protected by mountains from the northwest. The rent on an average, from 30s. to 50s, not mountain which is usually 8s. or 10s.....' (land which was) 'uncultivated and uninhabited lets for not more than 6d. an acre.....'

'The courses of crops are: 1. Potatoes, all the dung of the country used for them. 2. Wheat, sow one barrel and get an average 8 barrels.....3. Oats sow near 2 and get 10 barrels. 4. Oats. 5. Barley, sow half get 10, and then leave it lay for 5 years, never sowing any grass seeds. It produces nothing at all for three years, but after that white clover comes slowly.

'Barley has been more cultivated upon account of the quantity of ale and beer which is brewed here, being the common beverage through the county and more famous for it than any other. The barrel, two-thirds of a hogshead, sells at 40s.....

'Very few pease, and no beans, nor any rape; and not a turnip, though saw great tracts perfectly adopted to that crop. They sow also very little of flax, having no such

manufacture. Their potatoes they universally plant on an old lay; they spread their dung in beds for the trenching way, none under the plough. Plant 8 to 10 barrels on an acre, laid at 6 inches from one another. When the plants are about an inch or two high, they cover them a second time from the trenches. They hand weed them.....

'There are many copses on the sides of the mountains of birch, oak, ash, and holly, which are cut generally at 25 years growth for poles for building cabins; the bark for tan and the smaller branched for charcoal. They are worth from 12l. to 25l. an acre. Many of them on very steep sides of mountains, and to a great height; but no great oak woods, since the Shillaly woods were cut down about 12 years ago.

'There are considerable tracts of mountain land improved the improvement is reckoned very profitable. No folding sheep: there is no such a thing as a hurdle known. They pare and burn the mountains as the only way to improve, though contrary to an absurd act of parliament against it.

'Lime they use in very small quantities, and no wonder, for it is the Sutton stone they bring from the hill of Howth to Wicklow, where it is burnt

'Very few dairies, so that they make scarce any butter. Their cows are subservient to their lamb suckling, and leave them free only in summer, when they fat calves for the Dublin market. Four or five quarts of milk at a meal is a common quantity. In the winter they have hay, but only in hard weather. No grazing of oxen. As to sheep their system is particular; it is all suckling lambs for Dublin market.

'General Cunninghame carried me to a farmer who is reckoned the most able in that business of any in the country He breeds his own lambs, from a flock partly bought in every year. The rams he puts to the ewes the middle of May, in order to have them lamb at Michaelmas, They are left in the field for a week and then brought into the house. The ewes are brought to suckle them twice a day in general; but three or four times while young; they have cows milk given them by women from their mouths, squirted down the lambs throats, to the quantity of a noggin a day at first, and rises to 1 and 2. A noggin is one eighth of a quart. They keep them till three weeks before Christmas and then begin to sell them. Their ewes are left on grass only, unless in bad weather, when they have hay. He sells seventy five lambs annually, from a stock of eighty rams and ewes at 33s. on an average, some up to 40s., for these lambs he has eight cows, 5 of them in full milk, and if he has not cows enough, buys in for the purpose. The ewes are bought in at 9s. each in July, and some old ones are sold every year at 6s. 14 acres of grass will keep 80 sheep until the stubbles are ready for them.

'In this system much depends on having them take the ram in proper time for the Dublin market. In order to accomplish this seemingly difficult business, they treat the ladies with a cup of generous Wicklow ale, and drive them about the field, in order to create the proper ferment between the blood and the ale, and then at the critical moment let in the gentlemen. Some managers more attentive than common, treat them with claret instead of ale: perhaps the swarms of children in the cabins are owing to the prolific quality of this excellent ale of Wicklow.

'The wool of the country is all wrought up by the inhabitants, spun, combed and wove into flannel and frizes, and to such an extent that the mountain farmers pay half their rents by this manufacture..... On the mountains many goats are kept for the milk which is drunk very much by people from Dublin.....

'They plough with both horses and bullocks: two horses and two bullocks, and one bullock and three horses, and do from one half to three-fourths of an acre a day.....

'They have plenty of potatoes; all keep a cow, some more; all a pig or more, and poultry of every kind. Their fuel is turf from the mountains; they are universal pilferers of everything they can lay their hands on: great liars, but full of quickness and sagacity, and grateful to excess'. (Presumably Arthur Young was here talking of the people of Newtown!)

He concludes his account of Mount Kennedy by writing 'I saw two large compost dunghills turning over and mixing, a sight not common in Ireland. It pleased me more than the sight of a palace would have done. The General's crops I found all exceedingly fine, one field of oats the best I had seen in Ireland'.

Young left for Powerscourt on July 17th 1776 by way of the Glen of the Downs where he described the scenery as 'of a most magnificent character'. And when he arrived at Powerscourt he writes 'you look full upon the house, which appears to be in the most beautiful situation in the world'.

JOHN MEDLYCOTT

Wicklow People, 21/1/1914

After a very short illness all that was mortal of Mr. John Dawson DC, Knockatemple, Roundwood, was laid to rest in Glendalough on Sunday last. Mr. Dawson was a man who attained to a comparatively advanced age. He was a well known and popular character among all classes of the community. He was identified with every movement that augured for the well being of the Nation's prestige. He was one of those who would not be inaptly described as having died in harness. No later than the last meeting of the Toghher Agricultural Committee he took his place as one of the founder members and most practical workers. As member of the Rathdrum Board he was a most consistent colleague. As an active participant in the Land League and subsequently the United Irish League his name and fame have furnished a fund to the history of our country's chequered career. The funeral was the largest which has crossed the quaint old bridge at Laragh for many a day since. The funeral cortege which was extensive in proportions was enlarged at every byway and highway along the route.

Wicklow Newsletter, 17/10/1891

The annual sale of Cheviot rams, the property of John Doyle of Parkmore, took place in Roundwood last Thursday. There was a large attendance of buyers and it is evident that local breeders appreciate the efforts of Mr. Doyle to improve sheep breeding in the county.

Tittour - A Family Farm

Tittour is a small stony upland estate which has been in the Nuttall family since 1769. The lease was bequeathed to George Barker Nuttall by his spinster aunt Elizabeth Barker of Dublin, who had inherited from Robert Jones of Dublin. It was originally part of the Mount Kennedy estate which belonged to General Robert Cunningham, later Lord Rossmore. Tittour was probably used for rough shooting or 'hunting, hawking, fowling and setting' as it says in the lease. It consisted of 420 Irish plantation acres or 680 statute acres.

On being bequeathed Tittour George Barker Nuttall commissioned the eminent map-maker Jacob Nevill to draw up a plan of the estate. This is very interesting as it shows that the old road to Roundwood from Newtown Mount Kennedy went between what is now the Roundwood Golf Course and the top fields of Tittour. The new road which divides the farm from its upper fields was under construction. [Was Joseph Holt the engineer?] There was no house marked on the map or farmtracks and it is described by Nevill as "wet, coarse pasture, flat furzy pasture, (turf bog) some low meadows, low wet pasture". There are no trees on the map and the river is twisting its way to the Feartrey. The south side of the river is described as being "part of Upper Ballinahinch added to Tythewer by John Ford". When Arthur Young visited Mount Kennedy in 1776 he described the system of hill-farming which may refer to Tittour (see the article on Arthur Young.)

When George's son Major John Christopher Nuttall married in 1808 he took a great interest in the estate. It is possible that the house was built by him, or there may have been a shooting-lodge there from the 1780's. The house was originally a small stone-built, two storeyed one; slated, with very thick walls curved at the back corners,



Tittour 1919

with two rooms downstairs and three upstairs and an attic which is still referred to as the 'cock loft' so cock-fighting was presumably a pastime. Records exist of John Christopher's tree-planting and it is pleasant to think that while Napoleon was marching across Europe, Nuttall was at home planting! Between 1813 and 1815 6,500 forest trees including beech, oak, ash, sycamore, scots pine, larch, spruce, elm, poplar etc. were planted, also 14,000 thorns. These trees, surrounding all the fields and on top of ditches, are such a feature of the farm to-day. Last year, for safety reasons it was necessary to fell 100 mature beech, ash and sycamore along the road but Patrick Nuttall has planted 42,000 trees, of which 11,000 are hardwoods, between 1992 and 1998. John Christopher was also interested in exotic trees and he attended lectures in the Botanic Gardens where his lecture-notes still exist. Beside the house, in what he called 'The Pinetum', he planted a collection of more unusual trees including monkey-puzzle, wellingtonia, laurel, hornbeam and two douglas fir. The small river which flows through the farm is believed to have been straightened as Famine employment by him. He was on the Select Vestry when Calary Church was built in 1834 and was also on the building committee of the Cholera hospital in Newtown which was built during the epidemic of the 1830's.

John Freeman Nuttall J.P. succeeded his father in 1849 and reared a family of 11 children at Tittour, having had to enlarge the house by adding extensions at each side of the main block. Drainage and stubbing of furze were taking place at the time of his death, according to valuation for probate in 1879 and the farm was described as 'suitable for small sheep'.

John Freeman was succeeded by his son John McIntosh Nuttall, who was much more interested in horses than farming. The northern half of the farm Tittour Hill or Carrick-a-lough was sold and was subsequently bought by his nephew, Bertie Harrison, and has changed hands often since, now belonging to the Dolans and the Cookes. John McIntosh is remembered for his racehorses; he would walk a horse to Punchestown, race it next day and walk it home the next. He kept stallions, including Keith, Clan Chatton and a racing pony, Innismore, which is described as having won the Roundwood Plate; his service fee was 2 gns. The fields on the avenue at Tittour are still called the Racecourse. Jack Nuttall, his nephew, was a well known jockey in the 1930s and lived for a while at Tittour and Aubrey Brabazon the Champion jockey was a grand-nephew. Field names which recall workers who lived in small cottages on the farm are Pat Cullen's field, Daly's Bog and Butler's Bog. In 1904 Dublin Corporation compulsorily purchased land at Tittour for the flooding of the Upper Reservoir which was finally opened in 1923.

When Travers Nuttall succeeded his uncle in 1918 legend has it that the sole stock was 20 broken-down racehorses and there were considerable debts. He was very energetic and did much to reclaim and develop the farm until his retirement in 1962. He bought a lorry and licence for haulage in 1926 and for a while collected milk for Hughes Dairy. He became very well-known in this area as he transported most of the stock to the Dublin Market early on Wednesday mornings. He was renowned (or infamous?) for never waiting for anyone: if your animals weren't ready he would go

without them. Does anyone remember the annual outing on the back of the lorry to Punchestown races, or the ladies' trip to the Turkey Market at Christmas with Mrs. Pharr holding sway in the front seat with Mrs. Hatton and everyone else in the back with the birds?

Farming was very difficult during the Economic War in the early 1930s and there was much hardship in the district. Travers employed up to twelve men also women potato-pickers came up from Killiskey in the autumn. Bill Stokes from Calary was the resident yardman at Tittour for many years. The racehorses were replaced by grey draught horses, some of which were used by the Roundwood and Wicklow ploughing teams. A stallion was kept and cart horses for Dublin were bred and trained by Will Cullen. Travers was chairman of the Roundwood Ploughing Committee for many years and used to transport the team. He was a founder member of the National Farmers Association in this area and of the North East Wicklow branch of Macra na Feirme, and his wife Frances was a founder member of Roundwood I.C.A.

Agriculture was much less specialized when Travers was farming and there was more labour available. Seed and main-crop potatoes were grown, also barley, oats, kale, rape and turnips. He kept cattle, Cheviot sheep, pigs and horses and various poultry, eggs being sold at one time to a hatchery. He even attempted growing tobacco for Father Sweetman's scheme. Travers had a threshing machine and threshed around



Family group taken at Tittour 18th April 1877
John Freeman Nuttall and wife Lucinda with 11 children.

the neighbourhood. The first two combine harvesters of Allis Chalmers make were demonstrated at Tittour in 1946, the second belonging to Larry Burke of Ballinahinch. He also owned what must have been one of the first baling machines in the county. Travers installed a forge at Tittour and would shoe his own horses or Peter Lawless, his friend, the blacksmith from Ballyduff, would come. The late Jack Roche remembered his system of pulleys for training the Ballinastoe tug-of-war team in the 1930's. He was always ready to embrace new ideas, for instance he taught himself oxyacetylene welding and installed an electric generator before rural electrification, wiring the house himself with his son Frank. A circular saw was worked from a tractor, also a corn crusher and winnower and later a corn dryer worked from the generator. Silage was made in round concrete silos with doors in the side long before it was common. Superphosphate fertilizer was mixed by the shovelful and burnt lime drawn from Carlow.

Frank and Gay Nuttall took over on their marriage in 1962 and continued the modernization of the farm. More land reclamation and mechanization took place, specializing in sheep, suckler cows and barley. The lorry is no longer needed by the neighbours though the ballot-boxes are still carried by Nuttalls. Labour was significantly reduced. Now their son Patrick owns Tittour and it has become a model upland farm for the Rural Environmental Protection Scheme and for visiting farmers from abroad.

The meaning of the name Tittour is given by Liam Price as "house of the manured field" or Tigh an Tuair. It has also been spelt Titthewer, Tittore, Tythewer, Teetore, Tythewere, Titore, and Teetour!

References:

Family papers in the National Library of Ireland.

Liam Price; The Place Names of Wicklow vol. VIII, 1967 p. 402.

Original map of Tittour by Jacob Nevill 1769

ELINOR MEDLYCOTT (NÉE NUTTALL).

Wicklow People, 10/1/1948

Farm auction of Denis Maher of Kilmullin. Ransome No. 2 Plough, Two part zigzag harrow, Chain Harrow, Steel timber rake, Pony's spring dray, Roundabout trap complete with harness and cushions, Donkey cart body and harness, Donkey dray, Part motor van wheels and axle, Part dray wheels and axle, Motor axle wheels and springs, Horse collar, 3-Galt churn, Bog harrow, Root cutter, Two churns, Galvanised sheeting, etc. Six to seven tons 1st & 2nd of hay, Rick oat straw, Four barrels oats, Pit Arran potatoes, Pit British Queens, Milch cow, One and half year old bullock, Farm mare, Jennet, Fowl, China cabinet, Dresser, Cupboards, Tables and chairs, Two iron beds, Chairbed, Dressing table, Mats, Delph, Lamps and Utensils.

The Society of the United Irishmen

On the 10th of May 1798 the house of Joseph Holt, Wicklow United Irishman who lived in Mullinaveigue, Roundwood, was burnt by the Fermanagh Militia. Joseph Holt took part in many battles in Wicklow, until his surrender on the 10th of November 1798. He was later transported to Australia.

The Society of the United Irishmen was founded in Belfast in October 1791. Those who set up the organisation included Wolfe Tone, a Dublin lawyer, Hamilton Rowan, Samuel Nielson and Thomas Russell. These men were much influenced by events taking place in Europe. The movement contained people of various political interests from cautious reformers to Republic radicals. Their objectives were an equal representation of all the people and a political system which would include people of all religious persuasions. The demand for a separate Republic came later.

This movement became a secret society in 1795 and Wolfe Tone looked for French help which arrived in Bantry Bay in December 1796, but was unable to land due to bad weather. The Government responded to the French threats with a 'scorched earth' approach and organised a series of spies throughout the country. Because of these informers many of the Society's leaders were arrested. The insurrection broke out in 1798.

PATRICK FARRELL (AGED 12)

The Moving Magazine

(In our first Journal published in 1988 the late Sheila Holt, one of our founder members, wrote the following short article on 1798. We re-print it in honour of her memory.)

In his 'Lives of the United Irishmen' Madden tells of Susie O'Toole from Annamoe whom Joseph Holt, the 1798 leader, called his 'Moving Magazine'. She was the daughter of one Felim O'Toole who was a blacksmith. Having no sons he brought her up to his own trade, and she could wield a sledgehammer as good as any man.

She was an ardent supporter of the United Irishmen and being a master of disguise was able to make her way in and out of English lines without being detected. Her favourite impersonation was that of a peddler. Dressed in ragged clothes, and carrying a basket of gingerbread, she went among the enemy doing intelligence work and collecting what she could in the way of ammunition and guns, concealing the weapons under the ginger bread.

She was well able to defend herself or disarm a soldier with one blow of the fist.

SHEILA HOLT

Roundwood in 1798

The United Irishmen of Wicklow were the strongest rebel force in Leinster with a paper strength of 14,000 men on the eve of the rebellion. From April 1797 concerted efforts had been made to organise the county for insurrection. Trusted men formed the nucleus of twelve man cells which elected delegates to parish, barony and county level committees. In January 1798 the county total was 12,800 with 1,800 listed for the Barony of Ballinacor North and Newcastle each, a figure which only Arklow bettered with 2,400.

The principal United Irishman in Roundwood was James Kavanagh who kept an Inn and general store. His position in the community and extensive family connections marked him an ideal person to organise the area. He was related to the Heatlys of Ashtown and his wife Catherine (nee Byrne) was sister to Bryan Byrne of Rathdrum who was in turn related by marriage to the Byrnes of Ballymanus and Parkhill. She was also a cousin of the Harmons of Killafeen who were among the most determined rebels in the county. The exploitation of such family systems was the method of recruiting most favoured by the United Irishmen as it enhanced security and fostered loyalty to the cause. Kavanagh's significance was not lost on the loyalists who rated him capable of doing 'more mischief than even Dwyer'. Typically he denied being a rebel but was arrested just prior to the rebellion and spent two months on a prison hulk in Dublin Bay before being released on the intercession of William Hume of Humewood. He was re-arrested on the information of John Byrne of Camera who testified that Kavanagh had associated with Dwyer's gang in hiding at Matthew McDaniel's farm at Castlekevin in August 1800. He was an intelligent man who was credited by his arch enemy, Tom King of Kingston, with having 'a good knack at stating grievance'. It is likely that Kavanagh was obliged to give a certain amount of information to the authorities to avoid transportation and he ended his days in poverty. R. Myers wrote that 'Cavanagh had been of service' and the influential George Ponsonby helped to get him released a second time.

Joseph Holt of Mullinaveigue was almost certainly recruited by Kavanagh in late 1797 or early 1798. He was required as Deputy Alnager and Baronial Sub-Constable to travel through the mountain districts and his knowledge of remote communities there was unrivalled. During the rebellion Holt's military acumen was revealed and he proved himself an able and courageous leader. When in captivity at Dublin Castle he gave information concerning 'a great gang of robbers about Roundwood'. Holt despised criminals and gave their names freely despite the fact that some of them were ex-rebels. He named Owen 'Kittagh' Byrne and other members of his family, John and Thomas Harris, Michael and Francis Wafer, Val. Browne, and William Repton. Owen Byrne was prominent in the local United Irishmen and an early conspirator. He was, however, corrupt and used Holt's name to extort goods from John Smith of Roundwood and others. Smith's testimony secured the death sentence for Byrne but obliged him to seek the protection of the Fermanagh Militia and Somerset Fencibles. Holt claimed

that Byrne 'used to stay 4 or 5 nights together in Roundwood drinking the money he received for pike heads'. As he was not a blacksmith the implication is that Byrne pocketed funds subscribed by the rebels for the purchase of weaponry and the support of imprisoned men. Terence 'Kittagh' Byrne, Owen's son, was executed for the murder of John Mason as was Garrett Nowlan of Clohogue who came from another rebel family.

The Bradys of Ballinacorbeg were also deeply implicated in the rebellion although there is no evidence they were involved in criminal activities. Joseph Harding claimed that Edward Brady tried to recruit him at Brockagh bridge in December 1797, an overture that ended in a fight. Edward Brady junior was a follower of Michael Dwyer before the catastrophe of Ballinamuck and Holt named William Brady as a captain. Why he did so is unclear as Holt had gone to some trouble before the outbreak to help Edward Brady recover a debt from Daniel Nailor. This apparently led to the downfall of Holt as Nailor denounced him as an United Irishman. In March 1799 there were two local men on the prison hulk, 'Brunskill', Hugh Lacey, a twenty-one year old 'hatter' and forty-two year old James Murray, a Castlekevin farmer. It is likely that Roundwood men were acting with Captain John Neill robbing mail coaches in late 1798 as he issued certificates of safe passage to his victims, endorsed 'The Roundwood Cavalry'. United membership was by no means confined to Catholics; Holt asserted that 'at least one third of the people in the glen were Protestants'. One such sworn rebel was Joseph Thompson, woodranger to Francis Synge, who refused to turn out when the rebellion began. He was arrested by the rebels in Roundwood on the 18th June and taken with other prisoners to their camp near Clohogue. He was permitted to join the insurgents and remained with them until the battle of Hacketstown on the 25th. David and William Edge were tried by the rebels at this time on suspicion of being Orangemen but were released on acquittal. They both joined Lord Powerscourt's Yeomen, a corps noted for its extremism.

The strategic importance of Roundwood in the rebellion was lessened by the existence of strong garrisons at Rathdrum and Newtownmountkennedy but it was nonetheless situated on the periphery of what could and could not be controlled by the Government. Its proximity to the mountain redoubts of the insurgents ensured that it was frequented by them and vulnerable to raids.

The rebel emissary, Fr. John Martin of Drogheda, was arrested at Cronebane on the 11th June 1798 having passed 'thro' Roundwood and the mountains to summon all the United Irishmen to the attack of Dublin. Roundwood was clearly an important communications centre for the rebels and John Harmon thought it significant that his 'safe place to harbour' was 'convenient to Roundwood'. Many inhabitants who did not take to the mountains undoubtedly assisted the insurgents by providing intelligence and food. Lt. General Lake was just one senior of the many senior military men who visited the village during the operations against the mountain rebels. Notice of his presence and the composition of his force was the type of information that the rebels required to avoid encirclement and mount attacks.

Initially the resident magistracy were ill-prepared to meet the industry and organisational skills of the United Irishmen. Andrew Price of Fairview (Mullinaveigue) was unwell and Francis Synge of Roundwood was out of the country. The commander of all the military forces in Wicklow and North Wexford was Major Joseph Hardy of the Antrim based militia based in Rathdrum. In November 1797 he launched a series of drives to recover arms and identify rebel personnel. One measure he took to increase security of the Roundwood area was to have Thomas Hugo of Drumeen appointed magistrate. Hugo, a yeomanry officer and 'gentleman of large property & loyal principles', had been active in Hardy's counter insurgency programme which was at times conducted illegally.

Hardy learned on 29th of May that a 'large party of rebels were assembling near Roundwood for the purpose at least of destroying the property of the loyal'. John Edwards of the Ancient Britons was dispatched with twenty dragoons of Capt. Boycott's troop and some of the Newtownmountkennedy corps. The Britons who had run amok in the Bray area in April were incensed by the loss of fourteen men only six days previously. An estimated three hundred rebels were encountered of whom twenty four were killed and they went on to burn Clohogue 'from whence these people principally came'. This reputation was apparently deserved, the Court Martial of John Nowlan heard in 1801 that 'all the inhabitants' of Clohogue 'were considered as disloyal or disaffected'.

On the night of the 13th and 14th of June the insurgents burned almost every major loyalist property from Derrybawn to Ballinastoe and Laragh to Tomriland. In Tomriland alone the houses of John Beaghan, a sub-Constable, Thomas Rochford, Robert Freeman, Joseph Edge, Henry and Joseph Harding, and Alexander and William Scarf were consumed in 1798. This contrasts sharply with the experience of Roundwood village which survived the rebellion relatively unscathed. Of those aligned with the Government only Francis Synge's house was attacked and this was due to his positions as magistrate. The extent of damage to rebel owned properties is more difficult to ascertain but it does not appear to have been great.

When the insurgents near Clohogue moved off Whelp Rock on 19th June they were intercepted at Ballinarush by elements of the Reay Fencible Infantry and Newtownmountkennedy Cavalry. Lt. McLaren of the Reays noted that on coming up from Roundwood the rebels 'formed a regular front (and dismounted their cavalry who were supposed to be about fifty strong), they gave fire from behind a hedge on the top of a commanding hill, which was vigorously returned for about twenty minutes.' Capt. Herbert Morrison claimed twenty rebels were killed on Fancy Hill with no Government casualties.

The scale of the devastation increased as the Rebellion dragged on into the Autumn. John Blanchford, a yeoman operating from Powerscourt, told Henry Grattan of 'the houses of the peasantry burning in all directions 'and in a circuit of eight miles from thence, towards the village of Roundwood, not a human being was to be seen'. People were shot as they fled from their burning homes. Another writer maintained that beyond

Roundwood there was a '... scene of desolation and misery ... for five miles not a single cabin to be met, all levelled to the ground ...'. Roundwood escaped this fate because the politics of the inhabitants was sufficiently polarised to obviate the emergence of extremism in either camp. This was facilitated by the fact that it did not field a yeomanary corps which would have forced loyalist elements to take a more violent stance. It is unusual for a village large enough to host Fairs not to have a corps. The resident force of the Fermanagh Militia may have deterred minor raids but far bigger towns with large garrisons were not immune to insurgent reprisal attacks. The experience of Roundwood in 1798 demonstrates that the Wicklow rebels were not sectarian as the property owned by Protestants in the village was not burned with the holdings of active loyalists in the contiguous townlands. The village and its environs continued to be an important source of men and supplies until the last vestiges of insurgency died out in 1804.

RUAN O'DONNELL

(Reprinted from Journal No. 3, 1990)

Wills's


"WILD WOODBINE"

The Value is in the Cigarettes.


Mr. J. Lawler
Roundwood

From
M. J. BRENNAN,
 General Merchant,
 Vartry House, ROUNDWOOD.

Date 29. 9. 32



Makers of the Standard Cigarette
by W.D. & H.O. WILLS
 Makers of the Standard Tobacco Company
 of Great Britain and Ireland, Limited.

<i>To 4 bundles Curr. Iron</i>	<i>2. 15 6</i>
<i>paid with stamp</i>	
<i>RJ</i>	
	

After 1798

In May the editor was honoured with the invitation to unveil the memorial to Andrew Thomas at Redbank Bridge. In the area people still know where he was assassinated and remember him. He was just 18 years old when he left his employ as, game keeper to Thomas Hugo of Drummin, and joined the Rebellion in Wicklow and later teamed up with Michael Dwyer. The route of his last escape is not remembered and the following map attempts to retrace his last steps. This is based on Br. Luke Cullen who spent many years collecting the oral traditions of 1798 and its aftermath. His account is somewhat confused and does not appear to be in the right sequence. His informant was a Johnson of Trooperstown so the story is seen from that perspective. The map is the best fit of the local topography. At that period there were maybe six houses beside the river and ruins of a house survive in the south-western corner of Castlekevin in the oak wood. The roads since then have undergone considerable change by the Forestry Department which makes the pass difficult to identify exactly but is maybe a cliff face identified as 'pass' on the map. There is a tradition that the cottage, now known as North Lodge, had a bullet hole above the doorway which came from the incident when James (perhaps a mistake for William Sutton) Weeks wounded Thomas while out duck shooting. The house was completely rebuilt after 1840.

This hillside is now heavily forested with plantations of beech and spruce but then, in 1798, it was probably a bare hillside which made it difficult for Thomas to escape. That he was travelling on firm ground, unlike Harmon who escaped over the bogs, made it easy for the horsemen to catch him and he met his end violently just to the west of the old castle. The traditional account differs from the affidavit signed by Mary Healy, his half sister, who stated that he only had one head wound. It is worth noting, however, that the affidavit was drawn up by Tom King and signed with an X by Mary who was therefore illiterate and did not necessarily know what she was signing.

There are other items on the map which may need comment. Firstly Avondore House appears to have been the name of Thomas Sutton Week's house. Only after the Famine does it appear as Avonmore House. Willmount house belonged to the Freeman family and does not appear to have been rebuilt after its destruction in 1798. Patrick Murray was a captain in the United Irishman and his fate was discussed in Vol. 2 of our Journal. Ambrose Weeks, father of William Sutton Weeks, lived in what is now called Uplands and was the 18th century Rectory for Derrylossary Church at a time when the upper coach road was the main road.

Fr. Christopher Lowe lived in Tomriland, where he had a farm, as is clear from the deposition he made after the attempt on his life. This deposition was made to the Grand Jury of Co. Wicklow which comprised all the leading gentry who expressed outrage and offered a £200 reward for the capture of the attackers. It is worth noting that Fr. Lowe stated that he did not recognise any of his assailants and this may be true. However, Fr. Lowe, who appears to have been a member of the United Irishmen, was then about 62 years old (he died in 1803 or 1805 and is buried in Kilmacanogue); and perhaps

discretion was the better part of valour which is an understandable position in those violent times.

In the aftermath of the Rebellion the Government offered compensation to loyalists who suffered losses in the Rebellion. The claims were then published by the Irish House of Commons in 1800 so that objections could be lodged disputing the claims. A later publication lists some of the results of the claim assessments. However after the Union in 1801 this assessment process was taken over by the London Administration and they never published any further results and the relevant documentation has disappeared.

For the First Roundwood Historical Seminar (1993) whose theme was 'Who Fears to Speak' an analysis was made on the 'List of Claims' which formed the basis of an exhibition. Wicklow was the second highest in Ireland, only Co. Wexford was higher and Co. Mayo was third. This shows that 1,046 claims were made by 1,056 people, of these 128 (17%) were women who made claims by themselves; of the 90 who gave their marital status 83 (92%) were widows.

A breakdown of the 537 who gave their occupations was: Farmer 244, Yeoman 96, Shopkeeper 21, Cleric 15, Weaver 15, Labourer 14, Carpenter 12, Smith 11, Clothier 10, Military 9, Butcher 8, Mason 8, Publican 7, Skinner 7, Shoemaker 7, Cooper 5, Hatter 4. Three each were Breeches Maker, Taylor, Servant and Teacher. Two each were Constable, Brewer, Attorney, Slater, Dealer, Miller, and Housekeeper. Single occupations listed were Organist, Turner, Tobacconist, Wigmaker, Merchant, Victualler, Tanner, Sawyer, Carrier, Glover, Gauger, Musician, Apothecary, Postmaster, Pedlar, Revenue Officer, Architect, and Flannel Manufacturer. This gives a good picture of the range of skills in the county.

Half the claims were £25 or under which shows that the majority were not the wealthy but those caught up in the military destruction of the period and it was a relatively small number who made large claims over £500. The breakdown is as follows:

<£10	222	(21%)	£101-£500	127	(17%)
£10-£25	296	(29%)	£501-1,000	32	(3%)
£26-£50	201	(19%)	>£1,000	21	(2%)
£51-£100	158	(15%)			

The following is the breakdown of property destroyed or stolen. Percentages under 5% are not given.

HOUSING: Houses 460 (44%), Furniture 461 (44%), Clothing 439 (42%), Farm buildings 24, Household utensils 20.

FOOD: Provisions 154 (15%), Potatoes 82 (8%), Meal 45, Butter 40, Bacon 35, Other 7.

LIVESTOCK: Horses 267 (26%), Cattle 188 (18%), Sheep 92 (9%), Poultry 24, Pigs, 16, Bees 3, Mules 2, Goats 1.

TILLAGE: Crops 41, Meadow/Pasture 39, Corn 36, Hay 33, Oats 29, Straw 16, Garden 7, Barley 6, Wheat 6, Trees 3, Orchard 1.

AGRICULTURAL TOOLS: Saddle/Bridle 70 (7%), Cars 45, Utensils 35, Ploughs 3.

DRINK: Spirits 28, Wine 22, Ale/Beer 9, Milk 7.

MONEY: Cash/Banknotes 84 (7%).

FUEL: Turf 46, Coal 3.

INDUSTRY: Timber 34, Mills 5, Iron 3, Smelting Works 1, Factory 1.

CRAFT: Looms 21, Wool 21, Weaving materials 19, Fishing nets 15 (All Arklow & Ferrybank), Leather 13, Other weaving tools 8, Smithy tools 6, Other craft tools 5, Hides and Skins 6, Bark 2.

RETAIL TRADE: Shop goods 24, Other retail 2.

OTHER VALUABLES: Books 15, Watches 15, Musical instruments 5, Gold rings 3, Gold ore 1, Pictures 1.

It must be noted that the majority of the claimants were classified as loyalists and sympathisers to the Rebellion were not eligible to apply though it appears that some did. For instance Bryan Byrne, shopkeeper of Rathdrum, put in a claim for his nephew James Kavanagh, of Roundwood, who during this period was in jail twice as an United Irishman. It is however not clear why loyalists who would have had a legitimate claim (i.e., the prosecution witnesses of the trial of rebels) did not. It is possible that many small-holders did not think it worthwhile. This list of claims only deals with claims against property and no allowance is made for the suffering, grief, misery and loss of those that lost a parent, child, spouse or sibling through battle, ambush, murder, execution or casual brutality.

An attempt was made to locate all the addresses within the Civil Parishes of the county. Approximately 90% of the addresses were found using a combination of Liam Price's Placenames of Co. Wicklow and Brian J. Cantwell's Memorials of the Dead, Vols. I-V. Problems appeared with Placenames that became defunct, whose spelling variations are unclear (Moylisha appears as 'Militia'), and where placenames appear more than once, i.e. Ballybeg, Ballard, and Ballinacor.

On the basis of the analysis maps were made showing the areas and their relative proportions of Claims. As might be expected the areas where there had been battle were the worst affected but areas such as Derrylossary suffered more from guerrilla activity. The accompanying maps show the distributions under various headings. First (Map 2) the amount of claims were most concentrated in the west and south. The top ten identified were Carnew 136, Arklow 96, Donard 75, Kilcommon (Ballinacor) 57, Derrylossary 53, Kiltegan 52, Kilpipe 46, Donoughmore 43, Blessington 39, and Aghowle with 28. An analysis of the amount of money claimed by Parish shows similar pattern (Map 3 & 4), even when one excludes claims over £1,000 such as the spectacular claim of over £10,000 by the Marquis of Downshire. The top ten Parishes in the amounts (all figures rounded) were:

TOTAL			EXCLUDING OVER £1,000		
Name	Total	Ave.	Name	Total	Ave.
Blessington	£19,775	£507	Carnew	£11,279	£88
Carnew	£15,970	£117	Derrylossary	£5,209	£102
Knockrath	£10,727	£466	Kilcommon	£4,273	£76
			(Ballinacor)		
Derrylossary	£9,977	£102	Blessington	£4,121	£114
Kilcommon	£5,716	£100	Donoughmore	£3,464	£82
(Ballinacor)					
Kiltegan	£5,393	£104	Donard	£3,323	£44
Donoughmore	£5,040	£117	Kiltegan	£3,037	£62
Arklow	£5,000	£534	Arklow	£2,868	£31
Burgage	£4,571	£1,143	Aghowle	£2,363	£84
Rathbran	£4,237	£162	Dunlavin	£1,714	£69

While this is a useful method of analysis, these Parishes are of different sizes and population density so the claims were re-analysed against the Parish house count from the 1821 Census. This method is problematic as between 1798 and 1821 there has been the destruction of housing during 1798 and afterwards, the rebuilding of housing, and population expansion. It is also believed that the enumerators underestimated the population and one needs to be aware that the Civil Parish boundaries don't always correspond with the 1821 Census boundaries. It is, however, the earliest figures available and if it is presumed that the rate of growth of housing in each parish is roughly the same than the relative distribution of claim density will not be affected. Even if one adjusts the housing figures by ten per cent it does not affect the overall figures significantly.

Map 5 shows that the areas thus worst affected were the battle and skirmish areas. The top ten were (given as one claim per number of houses): Donard 1:3, Carnew 1:5, Derrylossary 1:8, Knockrath 1:9, Arklow 1:10, Kilpipe, Kilcommon (Ballinacor), Kiltegan and Kilbride (Talbotstown) 1:11 each, and Hacketstown 1:13.

The final two Maps, nos. 6 & 7, show the average claim per house (1821 figures) including and excluding the claims over £1,000. The first shows that it was mostly central and north west Wicklow that was affected due to the number of high claims, but the second indicates the spread of middling and small farmers who were worst affected. Interestingly Arklow does not feature highly here. The top ten in each case were:

TOTAL		EXCLUDING > £1,000	
Parish	Average	Parish	Average
Burgage	£85	Donard	£17
Knockrath	£50	Carnew	£15
Blessington	£30	Derrylossary	£12
Boystown	£25	Burgage	£10
Derrylossary	£23	Kilbride	£8
		(Talbotstown)	

Carnew	£22	Kilcommon (Ballinacor)	£7
Donard	£17	Knockrath	£6
Kilbride (Talbotstown)	£17	Blessington	£6
Kiltegan	£10	Kiltegan	£5
Rathbran	£10	Ballynure	£5
Crehelp	£5	Aghowle	£5

It is unknown how much of the above is representative of the total destruction. It is not known whether the proportion of claims made to claims not made, among loyalists, is the same in all parts of the county, but more importantly whether the proportion of destruction suffered by loyalists as compared to rebels (and their sympathisers) and neutrals is equally the same. Given the variations of religious persuasion in Wicklow, probably not.

As noted above the only further surviving information is a published list of partial assessments from 1801. This list indicates that claims were assessed on a first come first served basis. At this stage 395 (38%) claims had been fully dealt with; 221 (56%) received all of their claim, 87 (22%) received 90-99%, 45 (11%) received 70-89%, 17 (4%) received under 70% and 23 (6%) had their claim completely disallowed. In monetary terms £13,187 (10%) had been completely disallowed, £68,928 (53%) had been allowed and £48,263 (37%) had yet to be assessed.

The rebellion changed the political structure of Ireland and in time became part of the Nationalist ideology by the end of the last century. This can be seen from the development of commemoration events from 1898. We know little of what happened in Derrylossary at this time but the first local initiative dates from 1906 when a committee was set up with B.J. Maffy in the Chair and W.J. Duffy as secretary. Also present were J. Murphy Annamoe, Mr. Porter Killafeen, Geo. Byrne & J. Butler Tomriland, B. Byrne & P. McGuirk Knockraheen, J. Dawson Knockatemple, P. Doyle RDC Killilane, T. Byrne RDC Trooperstown, L. Murphy Togher, and A. Halpin RDC Whiterock. In a committee meeting of the 10 November, in Roundwood, it was noted that a fund-raising Gaelic match against Rathnew had to be abandoned due to the closure of the brickworks there. The historical agenda was to set up memorial stones to Robinson in Tittour, Sweeney and Kearny in Ballinrush, Smith, Slater and Murphy in Ballilam, Thomas in Castlekevin, and Holt's house in Mullinaveigue as well as the collection and preservation of information (including "particulars respecting the men shot in Hugo's yard"). The chairman thought "they would be getting ahead of themselves by taking up so many questions together" and they should do it in stages. Larry Murphy then promised to read a paper at the next meeting. There was a discussion on whether the 'Croppy grave' contained a croppy or a British soldier "as some would have us believe" and enquiries were to be made. It was also decided to collect the different versions of a song on Andrew Thomas. The problem arose as to where the next meeting in Laragh was going to be held, suggestions of the Protestant school and Police Barracks raised laughter and D.J. Cogan's house (now Lynhams) was settled on as "he would be displeased if we did not ask him".

On following meeting on the 24th November Larry Murphy gave a talk on Joseph Holt which included this perceptive comment. "Many people hold a wrong opinion of our Protestant neighbours, we are not to consider, as some people unmistakably do, the Protestant being of the garrison sect. They had as good a right to revere the memory of '98 as we have. They to a large extent were prime movers in that ill fated struggle for independence and are as welcome to co-operate with us to perpetuate their memories as any Catholic in the land. The Protestant of '98 had a sacred reverence to his oath and was a man to be relied on. Let no small-minded issues be a barrier to a United people." The meeting closed with a humorous ballad on the Dublin Fusiliers in South Africa sung by E. Cullen.

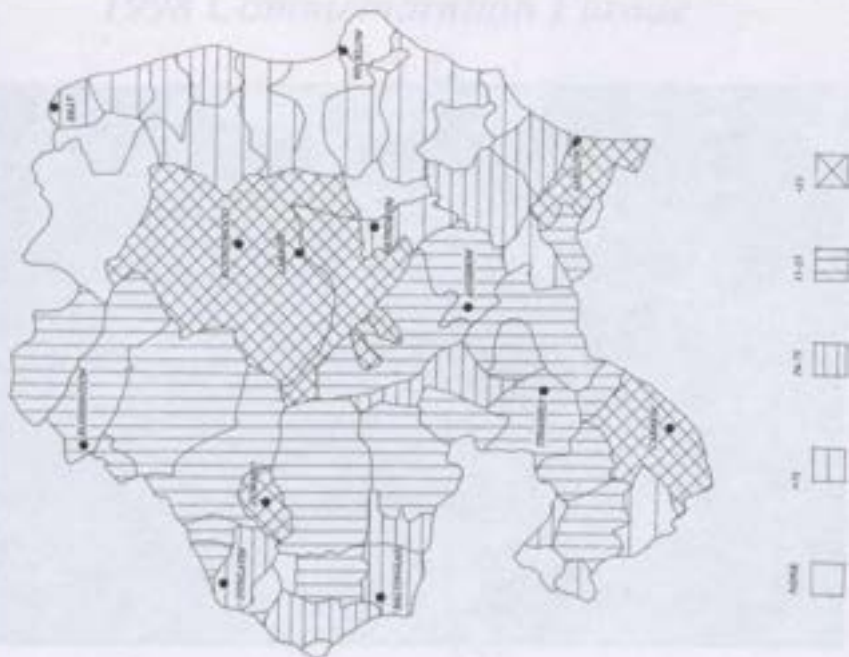
A further meeting was held on the 27th but then the society disappears from Public view until 2 November 1907 when it was obvious it had not lived up to its initial aim as William J. Duffy admitted that "progress was tardy" though they were not "moribund". An Athletic fund-raising meeting was held in the Parish field in Glendalough that following Sunday with various competitions and a Football match that was cut short as it clashed with Evening Mass.

The society then disappears though various attempts were made between 1920 and 1950 to commemorate Holt with a memorial and a concrete base survives outside his field. This period is still within local memory and needs to be recorded. The current Historical society working with Wicklow County Council were successful in erecting monuments to Joseph Holt and Andrew Thomas in May as part of our annual historical seminar. The Saturday consisted of the unveiling of the Thomas memorial at Redbank with about 50 people in attendance and on Sunday, attended by two battalions of pikemen from Wicklow and Wexford and the Arklow Brass and Reed band, over 500 local people and dignitaries marched (negotiating bicycle races and Sunday traffic) from Roundwood to Mullinaveigue. These included participants of the 1939 and 1949 parades and the direct and collateral descendants of Joseph Holt from Australia and the USA. The memorial was unveiled by Sonny Holt who has been the inspirational focus of the Holt clan over the last decade.

The organising committee was Joe Timmons, Chairman, John Medlycott and Helen Dwan, they were assisted by Joan Hatton, Mairtin MacSiurtain and Marie McManus with Colm Galligan organising the Parade. The Historical Society, notwithstanding the vast logistical problems, were privileged to have been associated with the commemoration of such a significant piece of Irish History.

IAN CANTWELL

PROPORTION OF CLAIMS TO HOUSES - MAP 5



DISTRIBUTION OF AMOUNTS - MAP 4
(excluding those > £1,000)



1998 Commemoration Parade







The Spirit of Irish Wit, 1811

The asperity of Lord Clare's politics during the disturbances of 1797 and 98 rendered him particularly obnoxious to the majority of people and so conscious he was of this that he generally walked the streets with pistols in his pockets. He used frequently to declare that he would make the leaders and advocates of the popular factions "As tame as gelt cats" and obtained amongst the multitude the nick-name of the 'Cat-gelder'. A few years afterwards the noble Lord died in Ireland, in consequence of a dreadful accident he sustained when riding in Rotten Row, St. James's Park. His remains were interred in the churchyard of St Peter's, Dublin. His funeral had, indeed, a most popular attendance; and just after the body was deposited in the grave and the Minister had pronounced the words of the burial service "Earth to earth! Ashes to ashes! Dust to dust!" a sudden yell from the surrounding multitude rent the air, like the squall of a thousand cats, and the dead bodies of above a dozen 'tabby mousers', which the bearers had brought concealed under their greatcoats, were tossed aloft, and fell into the grave upon the coffin, as an hecatomb to the memory of the departed statesman. His mourning relations, who surrounded the sarcophagus, were highly shocked and exasperated at this insult to the memory of the 'Patriot Peer', but it was impossible to discover any of the offenders.

Freeman's Journal, 27/10/1798

Last Thursday night, the guard at the outpost of Macartney Bridge stopped a man of a curious aspect coming to town and they took him into custody. He had a long red beard and when questioned about where he had come from said he was returning from Sugar Loaf Hill where he was employed for sometime in making observations on the planets. The guard not believing this wild Astronomer, they detained him and sent his *Beardship* to the Castle. Next morning when he underwent examination in the course of which it appeared he had been in America and France at the commencement of the Revolution. He is a native of this City and is named Terence (Horace?) Dunn. However it appearing that he was only influenced by the Moon, this grotesque stargazing Astronomer was discharged.



A Roundwood Public Disorder Incident of 1863

Up to the middle of the last century the City of Dublin drew its supply of drinking water from a number of sources which included rivers and canals but gradually it came to be recognised that not only was the supply from the canals unsatisfactory but it was unsafe on health grounds as on a number of occasions Dublin had been subject to outbreaks of water-borne diseases.

In 1860 a Royal Commission set up to review the state of Dublin's water supply reached the conclusion that the Vartry in Co. Wicklow was the best, if not the most expensive source of water for the City. Commissioner Sir John Hawkshaw gave his opinion:

- *That the present supply of water is bad*
- *That there is urgent need for a new supply*
- *That the best source from which an improved supply can be obtained is the River Vartry.*

Schemes examined included the Royal and Grand Canals, the Dodder river, Lough Owel and Lough Sheelin, the River Dargle and Lough Bray, and the River Liffey.

The Vartry Water Bill received Royal Assent on June 21st 1861 and Dublin Corporation proceeded immediately with the project with the laying of the first stone in the scheme being laid in Stillorgan on November 10th 1862 by the Earl of Carlisle.

Work was also in progress in Roundwood and a year later in November 1863 there was a serious local incident involving locals and some of the work force employed by the Contractor, Mr. McCormack, who was from Northern Ireland and who brought his own work force with him and this fact may have been a contributor to the incident which resulted in a court appearance by Edward and William Byrne from the Roundwood area and a John Maguire, who was a member of McCormack's work force, at the Newtownmountkennedy Petty Sessions before Major R.A.G. Cunningham J.P. on Saturday November 21st charged with committing a riot.

Maguire was unique in that he had an artificial wooden arm which had a large metal knob at the end of it and which one correspondent stated "In a faction fight would form a most formidable weapon".

According to Constable Burke of the Irish Constabulary (The term Royal had yet to be added to the title) there had been a fight at a house kept by William Manley on the evening of the November 15th and that he had brought charges on the basis of the information he had received. His information was that the Byrnes were set upon by a mob described as 'Northerners' armed with bottles, sticks and forks and other weapons who had entered the premises and assaulted Edward Byrne, until he was near dead. But by the time he was informed of what was happening and had reached the scene the

incident was over and having collected information proceeded to issue the charges on this basis.

Both the Byrnes were defended by Mr. Burke, solicitor, who said that one of his clients had been seriously assaulted and had been victim of an unprovoked attack. The first witness called by Mr. Burke was William Manley who stated that the two Byrnes were on his premises on the evening in question. During the evening he heard the sound of stones landing on his roof and when he went outside to investigate he could see no one. When he returned the Byrnes were wrestling each other - Maguire than came in - and he went back. Then there was a rush at the door and he went back to the door to try and prevent the intruders outside from coming in, but he could not and was pushed back and could not see what was happening for some time (he may have been knocked unconscious). Then he saw Edward Byrne lying on the floor in a pool of blood and he heard someone say that he would not live, but knew that he would.

Cross examined by Constable Burke who was prosecuting the case, he admitted that Byrne had a weapon in his hand but he could not say what it was and that it could have been a hatchet. Mr. Burke said that the man had been assaulted by the party, for no apparent reason and that he had used the weapon to defend himself. The questioning of Manley then continued and he stated that he did not hear Byrne challenge any Orangeman from the North. He did hear some remark about 'party men' but could not tell what it meant.

At this point Mr. Burke moved that the charges against Edward Byrne be dismissed as he was the aggrieved party who had received a terrible beating. He also asked for the dismissal of the charges against William Byrne on the grounds that he had done nothing whatsoever. He suggested it would be better if Edward Byrne was made the prosecutor and bring the others to justice. The charges were dismissed and the new case of Edward Byrne v John Maguire was then heard.

Chief witness in this case was Edward Byrne who was then questioned by Mr. Burke. Byrne stated that he was in Manley's house on the night in question and that a party of men rushed in who were armed. He could not recognise any of them except Maguire as he had a short arm. Some of the party had three pronged forks and that he was stabbed in the thigh. Maguire ran out and the party came in after he whistled to them. He was struck in the head and knocked down. He stated that Maguire had struck him several times but he had not struck back.

William Byrne was the next witness and he stated that on the night in question he heard the sound of stones. Maguire came to the door, looked in, then went out and whistled. A party then rushed the door, forced it in and struck Edward Byrne with bottles and stabbed him with a fork but he could not say who did it. He said he did not strike anyone nor did Edward Byrne. He was not related in any way to him and his closing remark was that "Edward Byrne was awfully abused".

The final witness called was Mary M. Manley - wife of William Manley. In answer to questions from Mr. Burke she stated that on the night in question she was in bed as

she was not feeling well. She heard a row in the kitchen and decided to get up and go down to see what was going on and saw a crowd there including the Byrnes. She said she tried to drag William Byrne away but could not and dragged her husband into the room. She said that there was a lot of women there and that she saw Maguire there. She also noticed a large party of men who were called 'Northerners'. She stated that a man named Donovan had a three pronged fork known as a 'stuff jack' and that there was another man named Laurence Murphy who was armed. There were other men there who she did not know, she went on to say that while there were bottles lying on the floor she did not see these men strike anyone with them. She concluded her evidence by stating that she saw Edward Byrne lying on the ground bleeding and heard it said that he would not live for more than 10 minutes.

There was a brief interval while the magistrate considered the evidence which had been presented before him and in giving his verdict he said that in his opinion Maguire was not the worst and did not take part in the fray nor in his opinion could he do much with one arm. Since Maguire had promised him that he would be of good behaviour he would deal leniently with him and imposed a penalty of 10/- or two weeks in prison with hard labour as an alternative and with that the proceedings concluded.

Yet no motive emerged for the fight and one is left to wonder if there were sectarian tensions in the Roundwood area at that time between the contractor's men of Northern Ireland and locals who may have been aggrieved that employment opportunities for them were reduced or non-existent. Given that immediately after the hearing William Manley was charged with selling spirituous liquor and not having a licence contrary to Chapter 26, Victoria 27, one wonders if Manley was operating an illicit drinking establishment and that perhaps he excluded the contractor's workforce from it; and perhaps this may have been a motive for the incident.

In any event the motives are still a mystery 135 years later.

JAMES SCANNELL

Freeman's Journal, 5/10/1835

Friday night last a party of persons unknown proceeded to some of Mr. Whites Lodges in Glendalough and demanded admittance in to one inhabited by a man named David Murphy. On being refused ingress they commenced pulling off the slates until the occupier handed them out through the window twenty-one shillings together with some provisions and a similar attack was made on the house of a man named Russell who was obliged to satisfy them in like manner. They took eighteen shillings from the latter.

Wicklow Newsletter, 19/10/1895

Newtownmountkennedy Petty Sessions. Ann Bolger, an old woman, obtained a decree for 10/6 and 5/- costs against John Edge of Tomriland for labour done. The defendant did not appear.



Annacarter School - Year approx. 1932

(Left to right) Back row: Andy Manley, Paddy Walsh, Paddy Doyle, Johnny Molloy, Ben Doyle, Billy Halligan, Tommy Dorey, Pat McGuirk. Middle row: Sis Doyle, Mary Dorey, Maggie Molloy, Kathleen Cullen, Dick McGuirk, Michael Doyle, Kit Halligan, Charlie Manley, May Doyle, Liz Molloy, Nan Walsh, Kate Walsh, Fidge Kennedy. Front row: Jim McGuirk, Maggie Dorey, Nancy Kearns, Lil Dorey, Bridie Connolly, Essie McGuirk, May Halligan, Mick McGuirk, Joe Molloy, Larry Smith.

Wicklow People, 10/4/1948

After a tedious delay the long promised new fountain for the service of the tenants of fifteen council cottages has been installed at the same position as the first fountain. This arrangement does not correspond with the requirements of the people concerned. They want it brought nearer to the corner of the avenue leading up to the cottages. A protest was made on behalf of the tenants but the reply of the men engaged was they were acting on Council orders that where the water was the proper place for the fountain.

Freeman's Journal, 9/12/1863

The beautiful crozier presented to the Most Rev. Dr. Dixon by the late J. Donegan is made out of a portion of the yew tree known as St. Kevin's Yew, which grew at the Seven Churches, and which the miners presented to The Rev. Francis O'Neill CC. This tree was held in great veneration by the people of the district and various religious emblems were made by them out of the wood. The successor of St. Patrick holds a crozier made of the wood of a tree said to have been blessed by St. Kevin which grew in the romantic region of Glendalough.

Trip to Glendalough

During the Eucharistic Congress of 1932 the Polish Delegation, Cardinal Hlond, The Most Rev. Przewdziecki and The Most Rev. Okoniewski had an afternoon off. This is the description by the then Polish Consul General, W. Tadeusz Dobrzynski of what happened next, taken from his biography 'An Unusual Diplomat' by Krystyna Dobrzynska-Cantwell.

It looked that afternoon as if we would have a few hours rest, but, however, it seemed inconceivable that His Eminence should allow himself even a short spell of inactivity, so we were waiting to hear how he proposed to spend these few hours, and then it came. "We are certainly having the most glorious imaginable time" he said and then turning to me with a smile, "But we think on the Continent that this beautiful island of yours and the rain are two inseparables, and that he who did not experience Irish rain could not boast of having visited the country. Could you introduce us to this National Institution?" "Well", I answered, considering the anti-cyclone firmly established over the island, as a weather forecaster would define the prevalent conditions, "Your Eminence is certainly putting me up to a hard task, but I will try." I then took the whole party to Glendalough, by the Old Military Road. Magnificent scenery all along the drive, uninterrupted sunshine, a mackerel sky. Same conditions in Glendalough. After we had visited the local antiquities, I decided to play my trump card and suggest that we should cross the lake to St. Kevin's grotto. As we started moving towards the landing place I experienced a sudden influx of hope, nay, of certainty. A low lying nasty cloud, comfortably stretching across the water was unmistakably there. I think it was in the middle of the lake that my guests began to appraise the meaning of an Irish drizzle. When we reached the cave Mgr. Przewdziecki, incidentally the oldest and frailest member of the party, insisted on visiting it. So he did, but it took quite a while and by the time he was back with us we were pretty thoroughly soaked. I noticed that his Eminence was watching me with that charming smile of his. "My dear Minister" he said "I don't think you could have kept your promise any better, but now - couldn't we go back to the sunshine?" So off we set back to the sunshine! It was, I presume, in the course of this trip that our Prelates must have got the erroneous idea that, as far as Ireland was concerned, I could not possibly go wrong. Sadly, it took me another twenty years of happy life in Ireland to realise that if I know anything about this country, it is next to nothing . . .

Wicklow Newsletter, 2/2/1895

Roundwood Ploughing Match. In spite of the extraordinary hard weather in the Roundwood district, the committee held a meeting last week and decided that if the weather at all permitted the Annual Match would be held as near to the ordinary date as possible, yesterday snow was falling heavily in the Roundwood district and the roads which had been only been partly cleared from the last snow storm were again blocked.

The Roving Bard

It was during the War years that I first came to know the Roving Bard. He was a Scotsman who first came to Ireland before the War. He had many alias's. His real name was Peter Grattan, alias the 'Roving Bard' alias 'Killogie' which is a Scotch Gaelic word and which is the name he preferred to be addressed by. He loved everything Scottish especially the Scots Gaelic language. He would spend the winter months hibernating in what was referred to as the County Home in Rathdrum.

He was a wonderful Tin Whistle player and come May each year he would leave the Workhouse in Rathdrum and head for Glendalough. It was usually the Upper Lake that he went to as that was the usual halting place for the 'Chara Bancs' as the buses were referred to at that time. He had a suitable tree against which he would used to stand. He then took off his hat and placed it upturned on the ground between his two feet so that the tourists could drop donations if they liked the music of his Tin Whistle.

His nightly abode was the farmer's hayshed of which there were plenty at that period. He would stay around Glendalough until the Fall which was usually around end of August or early September and then head up for the Roundwood area. He was very fond of his pint of Guinness and the Fair Day in Roundwood was usually a bumper day for Peter. A favourite spot of his to stand was the corner of Rita's shop where he always gave a brilliant rendering of my favourite tune 'Avondale'. Usually, when darkness began to fall he would head for the pub with the biggest number of farmers and as soon as he started the money began to drop in the hat so there were plenty of pints as well. When the pub closed Peter had no home to go to so he made for the only place open to him which was the nearest hay shed, of which there were five at that period in the village of Roundwood.

He always carried a 'Billy Can' strung over his belt and he usually lit a fire to boil a can of water and make a cup of tea. At that time I was in the butchering business in partnership with a fellow by the name of Liam Timmons, selling 1lb of Round Steak for 10p and 1lb of Sirloin Steak for 14p. What change compared to now? I mentioned the price of meat as it coincides with what I'm going to end this short story with. You will have seen that I began this episode with the name 'The Roving Bard', well Peter Grattan was a brilliant Poet, Bard, etc., and I will now prove it to you.

He came into the butchers one day and with tears in his eyes he said to me " I am not a beggar. I have never begged for anything in my life, but I will please ask you for a small piece of meat as I am starving". My partner in the business, Liam Timmons, nodded his head and so put a chop, a piece of steak and a piece of liver and gave it to him. He said "Remember I have no money" and with that he left the shop. It must have been six months later when he came into the shop and handed me an envelope. When I opened it a piece of paper fell on the counter and written on it was the following:

Up with the Billy Can
Down with the Frying Plan
Mutton chop, juicy steak, or cut of Sirloin,
Hear the happy children roar
"Mammy just a little more
From Timmons and O'Brien"

PATRICK O'BRIEN

Wicklow Newsletter, 10/10/1891

A large and representative assembly of people of Roundwood and Annacarter entertained the two teachers of the local schools, Mssr. Cullen and Brady to supper on Monday night last in Mr. Murphy's hotel and expressed sympathy with them on the occasion of their departure from the neighbourhood. Present were: W. G. Murphy, John Keenan, Patrick Nolan, James Kennedy, Wm. Murphy, James McDonald, George Byrne, Michael Kearns, Richard Pierce, Laurence Murphy, D. Murphy, James Brady, Laurence Smyth, M. Greggan, James Hatton, Luke Kelly. Laurence Murphy proposed the health of the teachers and referred to the arbitrary manner in which their removal was effected. The toast being drunk with enthusiasm fitting replies were tendered. The health of Mr. W. G. Murphy was also given and in response said that he looked upon their removal as a cruel case of eviction and one which their sense of Justice could not fail to condemn. On the previous evening he had mentioned their case to some MPs and they fully agreed with a principle which they all recognised and which had been recommended by many of them; that the management of the schools should be more representative. If they had one clergyman controlling the education of children why not have another of a different denomination and a committee as well. In addition to the many advantages that such a system presented it would raise the teachers above the whims of one man. They had all read and heard of bad types of landlords but he would prefer to exist under them than be victim of such a system as resulted in the expulsion of the two gentlemen whose service they desired to commemorate and whose departure they would long regret.

Sweet Clara Vale

Smiling 'neath the Irish skies lies a little paradise
Like an oasis in the Wicklow Hills.
'Tis a realm of fragrant bowers, fairy raths and ancient towers
Fondly hugged by scented groves and crystal rill.
O! dark the soul and mean could survey that wondrous scene
And, unresponsive, in its duty fail
To turn with hopeful eyes to that sphere above the skies
That mirage-like reflects o'er Clara Vale.

Could there be a scene more fair than that peaceful sylvan lair?
Where stands the school and chapel as of yore,
And the winding mossy path through the woods to sweet Knockrath
O'er the ancient bridge that spans the Avonmore;
High o'er each wooded rim whitewashed cabins neat and trim
Dot the green hillside like drifts from wintry gales
While at night their lights aglow sparkle o'er the depths below
Like scintillating stars o'er Clara Vale.

Happy was this heart of mine leading home the lowing kine
And alter bloom plucked from the dewy lane
While music soft and rare filled the early morning air
As the cuckoo hailed the thrush in Derrybawn,
And the woods agleam with dew rang with echoes through and through
As the urchins gambolled down the mountain trail
And the river's crooning song mingling with the merry throng
To the little woodland school of Clara Vale.

And those honest sons of toil hardy reared on mountain soil
Their scant reward - good health and simple spree
Yet time and labour found for the widow's plot of ground
That her orphan'd children small from want be free.
Then, all daily labour o'er and complete each evening chore,
The homeless traveller sheltered from the gale;
The gathering of the fold the family rosary told -
At Peace, all things hushed in Clara Vale.

From those scenes from yesterday boyhood friends have passed away
Some to cross the ocean's surging flow,
While but few remain to weep o'er the loved ones laid to sleep
In the little sacred spot at Glendalough.
But some day we'll meet once more on that bright eternal shore
Where no pain of parting can prevail.
Where, perchance, with wistful eyes gaze down from the skies
On that little paradise called Clara Vale.

THE ROVING BARD

Mining in Glendassan Valley

I can remember on our way home from school in Laragh the miners cycling to work each evening on their way to the 4 p.m. shift. These men cycled the daily round trip from as far away as Glencaly, Newbawn and Rathdrum.

The mine in Glendassan reopened in 1948 and was known as St. Kevin's Lead and Zinc mine, operated by the Wicklow Mining Company. The mine consisted of two tunnels, the Moll Doyle and the Fox Rock. In the early years after re-opening the ore was started by truck to Avoca where it was put through a plant and pressed before being sent to England for smelting.

The working week for miners consisted of six eight hour shifts. The Shift I commenced at 12 midnight on Sunday and finished at 8 am the following Saturday. There were three 8 hour shifts in operation. Working conditions were not good, with too much water and dampness and no protective clothing provided. Combining the very poor ventilation, the use of so much explosive and the distance to the surface of approximately three-quarter of a mile in one tunnel meant that air was always foul and as a result many of the miners developed chest and lung problems.

The miners worked mostly in pairs, one driller and one helper. Roughly five pairs worked in a single shift. There was one fitter and a number of men loading wagons. The ore was transported to the surface by three pit ponies pulling the wagons along a rail line.



Workers outside Compressor Shed

In 1951 the Wicklow Mining Company erected their own plant for extracting the lead from the blasted rock. This was done by first of all putting the ore through a crushing plant, a rolling machine and finally a jig table. Using the vibration and high water pressure the lead was separated from the rock. The lead was then placed into 1 cwt. bags which resembled one of potatoes. It was then loaded onto a truck and transported to the port in Wicklow from where it was shipped to England for smelting.

The average price of this lead was £100 per ton. The average out-put was 50-60 tons per week. The total work force approximately 65 persons. Miner's wages were £6-8 per week and plant wages were £4-5 per week. The starting wage for a 16 year old was 1/- (5p) per hour for a 48 hour week. There was a bonus arrangement for extra tonnage of lead obtained.

There was always an air of uncertainty about your employment as the price of lead changed very frequently. However, moral always remained high among the miners and on the tug-of-war field they were known as the Tunnel Tigers. In 1956 the mine was taken over by a Canadian mining company but the expected amount of lead was never located and the mines closed its doors in June 1957.

ROBERT CARTER



Scene of the Glendassan Mine

Annie Gilbert

Annie Gilbert died in March 1988 and had she lived another year she would have attained her 100 years. I first knew Annie when our family came to live in Knockraheen in 1930. She was Postmistress in Roundwood then and had taken over when her mother died some years previously.

Miss Gilbert, as she was known, was a friend to many. Younger people today do not appreciate the importance of the Postmistress for former generations. Now we are living in an age of instant communication around the world. In the past this was not so. A lot of communication and therefore news came through the telephone and the interpreter of the telephone was the person in the Post Office. This was especially true in the days before so many telephones became automatic.

Indeed there are many good stories in villages and towns around the countryside of indiscreet - to put it at its mildest - telephonists in the Post Office. You see, in the old exchanges - and every rural Post Office was a minor telephone exchange - the telephonist could listen in to what the callers were saying so any news that came by phone was the property of the Post Mistress. You can see the significance of this post and how important it was that the person appointed was discreet.

Under this heading Annie Gilbert came out with an outstanding record. She was always most gracious, friendly, and to the very last a cheerful, smiling and happy person. Often enough she must have had good cause to be none of these things. But she resisted the temptation to let loose with her feelings - when too much was demanded of her - as often it was.

I could write more of this kind lady and very good friend but I know that God will reward her.

ANNIE TAYLOR

Wicklow People, 24/4/1948

The demolition of the one and only thatched cottage of Laragh took place which survived 1798 and was in occupation of the last residents for the last 75 years. Within its cosy confines in the glow of the peat fire many an entertaining anecdote was related and songs went the rounds. In addition there was the innumerable game of 45 played for chickens, boots, clothes and various articles as well as the penny game that whiled away the tedium of long winter nights.

The sun kissed streams around Lough Dan
And lake itself so fair to scan
Would charm the heart of any man
Nay, e'en a heart of stone.

The gentle zephyr sighing by
The rippling waters lullaby
Beneath a glorious summer sky
What beauty here is shown!

I've wandered o'er its pastures wild
In weather rough and weather mild
And felt as happy as a child
Or king upon his throne.

'Tis not alone those scenes so fair
Admittedly beyond compare
Impels me oft' to wander there
When feeling sad and lone.

There is a Colleen by that lake
I often stroll a glance to take
But not a sign to me she'll make
And thus in grief I moan.

The pleasant days we spent of old
Shall we ne'er see again?
Our rambles by mossy banks
Along the Avonmore
Where little lays in Erin's praise
I sang you in galore.

My ray of hope is clouded now
Can love's star show no light
Remember I've both heart and hand
For fortune's spoils to fight.

If only you would speak the word
How happy we would be
'Mid Wicklow's Hills and sparkling rills
where love makes melody.

In Cupid's Net

I love the Wicklow mountains high
I love the sunny vales
I love each scented lawn
Where I sported with the Gaels.
I love each honey-scented grove
With oaks and elms tall
But something there is still more fair
And prized by me o'er all

And that's the Colleen of my heart
My thoughts both day and night
Whose eyes doth sparkle pleasantly
With soft angelic light
Reminding me of Paradise
That peace I hope to find
When my career I've ended here
And troubles left behind.

Mo Stoirin og, my idol
My solace in all pain
Will Cupid with his magic wand
Compel this Colleen of the pond
With weary Willie to abscond?
Cause I'd love her for my own.

Two love poems by William J. Duffy

CONTRIBUTED BY JOE TIMMONS

Wicklow Newsletter, 13/2/1892

The Rev. F. W. Stokes, Rector of Derrylossary, delivered two highly entertaining and instructive lectures last week in the schoolhouse, Laragh, and at Mr. James Gilchrist's house, Tomriland, on 'Mission work in Japan'. A few exceptionally interesting and curious scenes in the life of the ingenious people who inhabit the country were illustrated by a magic lantern and graphically explained by the Rev. lecturer. Some devotional exercises brought the proceedings to a close.

The Spirit of Irish Wit, 1811

A blacksmith of a village in Ireland murdered a man and was condemned to be hanged. The chief peasants of the place joined together, and begged that the blacksmith might not suffer, because he was necessary to the place which could not do without a blacksmith, to shoe horses, mend wheels etc. But the Judge said "How then can I fulfil justice?" A labourer answered "Sir, there are two weavers in the village, and for so small a place one is enough, hang the other".

The John Millington Synge Centenary Walk

In its chapter 'Synge and Wicklow' by Nicholas Grene, that wonderful book *Wicklow - History and Society* (Hannigan and Nolan, Editors), refers on page 697 to a walk by J. M. Synge and his brother Robert on 8 July 1898: they "climbed Lugnaquilla - starting on foot from C(astle) K(evin) at 1.45, reaching the top at 7.45 - back to the (Glenmalure) Hotel at 10 and then walked home".

As a hill-walker in Wicklow for many years, I found this very interesting. Interesting enough to want to know more: in particular, what route they followed. The source for the above quotation - the Stephens Manuscript in T.C.D. Library - provided some further information. It says that Robert kept a diary in which he recorded with great accuracy the places that he and John went together. On Friday the 8th of July they walked across the bog to Laragh, over the ridge to Glenmalure, and to the highest hill top in Ireland, except one. For that day, Robert wrote in his diary: "Started at 1.45 for Lugnaquilla with John on foot - got to Glenmalure at 5 p.m. and to the top at 7.45 - had a very fine view - got back to the Hotel at 10 p.m., had tea and walked back - a cool pleasant night. Saw a tent by Kelly's lake supposed to be Croftons".

It seemed a good idea to mark this centenary - but with the very clear proviso that walkers in their mid-sixties rather than their late twenties were not committing themselves to the whole of the route walked in July 1898! "Across the bog to Laragh, over the ridge to Glenmalure" - what did it mean, starting from Castlekevin? Some



Left to right: Bob Thomas, Louis Cullen, Andrew and Frank O'Rourke.

Annamoe/Roundwood people consulted, suggested the lower slopes of Trooperstown Hill to Laragh, then over Derrybawn Ridge.

So, on the morning of 8 July, 1998, four (Bob Thomas, Louis Cullen, Frank O'Rourke and the author) of us set off from the gates of Castlekevin on the forestry paths to Trooperstown Hill, then to Ballard, Bookeys Bridge, through the Derrybawn woods to the ridge and up the east side of Mullacor. We could now look across Glenmalure towards Lugnaquilla, but having stopped for lunch we had been out for three and a half hours, and (to our sneaking relief) the weather was closing in. A quick decision - we had 'marked the centenary' - head for Drumgoff. This we did and had a most enjoyable pint (not tea, as in the original) while waiting for our lift home, in the pouring rain.

Perhaps the long walks (and cycle tours) of the Synge brothers may be remembered and celebrated again in future years, now that hill-walking is such a popular past time? A word of advise: if you start from Annamoe to climb Lugnaquilla and intend to do it in six hours, better not take our route up the Derrybawn Ridge - even if it is the most beautiful. It seems more likely that in 1898 "over the ridge" from Laragh to Glenmalure meant the Military Road, then, of course, a traffic-free sanded road. And in 1898, it is likely there was a useful shortcut into Laragh from Castlekevin along an old Mass Path

ANDREW O'ROURKE



Getting the turf off the bog (Sally Gap) 1940

Last Flight of a Toucan

Wicklow Air Crash 1946

On the 27th May 1940 during the early days of World War II some 338,000 Troops began evacuating from Northern France. The Retreat of the British Expeditionary Force became necessary after the Nazi advance through Belgium and France and on June 4th the last Allied Troops were snatched from German clutches at Dunkirk. Ten days later on June 14th 1940, German troops marched into the French capital of Paris. The Swastika flag was flown from the Arc de Triomphe and a note was pinned to the door of the French Parliament proclaiming the reality of the war to that point, "Germany conquers on all fronts".

For the following four years, France would suffer under the German Jackboot, until the D-Day landings near Le Harve on June 6th 1944 involving American, Canadian and British forces would re-establish hope in French hearts. On August 25th 1944, Allied Troops swept into Paris on what was described as "a physical wave of human emotion". Cheering crowds stretched out for 15 miles and the following day General Charles De Gaulle – Leader of the "Free French" – led an allied victory Parade through the city.

De Gaulle escaped to London after the fall of France in 1940 and he would now become the head of the First Post-War French Government.

The Liberation of France, however, was not all sunshine and roses as the purge of collaborators would soon begin. Amid great bitterness, thousands of people were accused of collaborating with the Nazi's. Large numbers of Public Officials were known to have co-operated and savage local reprisals took place throughout France. Many male collaborators were executed without trial and women who fraternized with Nazi Officers had their hair cropped in public.

Against this wholly unpleasant background, the children of 1940's France were growing into Teenagers and most had known only hardship and suffering during their adolescent years. One such Teenager was NICOLE JACQUES-LEON from the famous University town of Grenoble in the Alpine Region of South-Eastern France, who in 1946 was 14 years old.

In the summer of that year, Nicole could not believe her luck when she was chosen from her local Girl Guide Troop to travel to Ireland to take part in an International Camp at Dublin's St. Columba's College in the foothills of the Dublin-Wicklow Mountains at Rathfarnham. On the second weekend of August 1946, Nicole packed a few belongings into a rucksack said goodbye to her Mother and envious little Brother, took the train from Grenoble and made the 300 mile journey to Paris with a sense of excitement and anticipation.

Some 400 miles away in Le Harve on the French Atlantic Coast and in various other parts of France, more girls were packing rucksacks and making their way to

Paris. In total, 21 girls were chosen to make the trip to Ireland, under a "Save The Children Scheme", which was in operation after the war for rehabilitating those most effected by the hostilities.

On Monday morning, August 12th, the girls rose early had breakfast around 6am and then made their way to Le Bourget Airport on the outskirts of Paris.

Le Bourget achieved its finest moment in history on May 21st 1927, when Charles Lindberg landed "The Spirit of St. Louis" there to complete the first ever solo non-stop flight across the Atlantic ocean from New York. On June 17th 1946, Le Bourget gained a place in Irish Aviation history when the first ever Aer Lingus flight to mainland Europe touched down there. Among the passengers on board the "St. Colmcille" that day was Sean Lemass, the then Minister of Industry and Commerce. The following month Air France opened a reciprocal service to Dublin in July 1946.

When the group of excited Guides arrived at Le Bourget that Monday morning in August 1946, they were therefore some of the earliest 'tourist pioneers' to fly to Ireland on holiday from mainland Europe. Nowadays, some 300,000 French Tourists come to visit Ireland each year. On the runway awaiting the girls stood a French Air Force (Armee de L'Air) A.A.C. ITOUCAN. The French built Toucan was in all but name a replica of the famous German Junkers JU52/3M which was a multi-purpose military transport aircraft.

German Aeronautics Engineer, Hugo Junkers had produced the first ever all-metal aircraft – the J1 – known as the 'Tin Donkey' in 1915. The Junkers Company was based at Dessau in Germany and in the 1920's also had factories near Moscow and at Malmo in Sweden. Designed by ZINDEL, the Angular JU52 with its corrugated duralium skinning became a familiar sight in World War II as it was the Luftwaffe's main transport aircraft. The first seven built were single-engined but only one was sold. When Junkers and Zindel realised that the demand for a large cargo aircraft was not sufficient they redesigned it as a passenger aircraft.

For more safety and reliability, they converted it into a three-engined craft and it first flew as such on March 7th, 1932 and from the outset became a very successful aircraft.

In 1934, Hugo Junkers was pushed out of his own Company by the Nazi's. From 1934, the three-engined JU52/3M was produced as a bomber for the Luftwaffe. Later it was put into production as a military transport and used in a wide variety of roles up to and including World War II. After the death of Hugo Junkers in 1935, the company was nationalized by the German government and by 1936, had become the largest Aviation Company in the world. For the Germany Re-armament Programme, Junkers built factories in many parts of Germany and also in Czechoslovakia and France. Total production of the JU52 was more than 4,850.

During the German occupation of France, the Ateliers Aeronautiques Colombes (A.A.C.) Factory came under Junker's control and produced JU52/3M Transports for the Luftwaffe. After French Liberations in 1944, the French government contracted

the A.A.C. company to build more of these planes. Naturally a new name had to be chosen and so the German JU52/3M became designated as the French A.A.C. I TOUCAN. When the order had been completed more than 400 Toucans had been produced and it was one of these planes that stood on the runway at Le Bourget on Monday morning August 12th 1946 awaiting the arrival of a group of Girl Guides.

This particular Toucan, which had the No. 46 displayed under the cockpit and the letter B on the tail-section, had apparently flown to Ireland previously – to deliver Strawberries to the Dublin Market – and was manned by a crew of four and a Hostess.

The Pilot was CAPT. CHRISTIAN HABEZ, at 29 a French Air Force Veteran who had seen service during the war with the R.A.F. "Free French" bomber command. Capt. Habez however had never flown to Ireland before and was not looking forward to the trip as he "did not know the Country". His Co-Pilot was DANIELE DURAN aged 28, the Navigator was the 27 year old MICHEL JOURRET and the Wireless Operator was GEORGES BEAGIONI, aged 26.

The A.A.C. version of the JU52/3M was sub-type GIII with a side cargo door and anti-icing equipment. The Toucan was powered by three B.M.W. 132 nine-cylinder radial air-cooled engines and the fuel capacity was 535 gallons giving it a range of about 800 miles. The Pilots cockpit had side by side seats with complete dual controls. The JU52 had gained a reputation as a sturdy, versatile and reliable aircraft but when it came to passenger comfort it was a different matter.

When the Girls boarded the plane, they had to sit facing each other on wooden bench type seats without proper safety belts. The girls however were not complaining. Most of them were going on Holiday and flying in a plane for the first time and after enduring the hardship of World War II, they were now in 'party mood'.

Shortly after 9am, the A.A.C. I Toucan taxied down the runway at Le Bourget and rose slowly into the clear skies over Paris and headed West – destination Dublin, Ireland.

Although the weather was fine in Paris, on the East Coast of Ireland it was a different matter. It had been raining torrents since the early hours of Sunday morning and when the Valve Operator at the Vartry Waterworks near Roundwood, went out to take his daily reading at 9 o'clock that morning, the rain gauge gave a measurement of 88.1 millimetres, which was about 3 inches. The rain continued all day Sunday accompanied by strong winds and severe damage was caused to crops in the Roundwood/Glendalough Area. Roads were flooded and many houses were engulfed to an extent that caused alarm to residents.

The rain continued on Monday morning and when the daily reading was taken at 9 o'clock that morning, 65.5 millimetres or just over 2 inches were recorded. This meant that in the previous 30 hours over six inches (153.6 mm) of rain had fallen in the area. Forty years later in August 1986, the same gauge at the filter beds would record 160.6 millimetres during the 24 hour period of "Hurricane Charlie" – just 7 millimetres more than the August 1946 storm.

At 7 o'clock Sunday evening, the wind was coming from the South-East but by midnight it had moved to East. It continued to move slowly anti-clockwise around Ireland all day Monday and reached due North at 5 o'clock Monday evening. At 3 pm a maximum 10 min. wind of 28 knots was recorded at Dublin Airport. The mean Temperature for Monday the 12th was 12.3 degrees Celsius.

Back on board the plane the girls were in high spirits and sang songs to pass the time. There were soon over the St. George's Channel and next the South of England came into view, then across the Bristol Channel and out over Wales. At Cardiff, Capt. Habez became aware of bad weather conditions over Eastern Ireland but considered they would not prevent him from landing at Collinstown, as Dublin Airport was then known.

As the Toucan crossed the Irish Sea conditions worsened and the mood on board began to change. The singing stopped and as the turbulence increased some of the girls began to feel ill. At 12.36 pm during the height of the Storm – as the plane was approaching Ireland – a gust of 41 knots was recorded at Dublin Airport. The bright skies of France and England had now given way to a grey monotonous gloom approaching Ireland and as a result the crew were relying on instruments only.

When the plane departed Paris the crew were flying normally under Visual Flight Rules (V.F.R.) which meant flight under conditions of good visibility and without dependence on instruments. When the Captain encountered poor weather conditions over the Irish Sea he had to change to Instrument Flight Rules (I.F.R.) which meant flight by reference to on-board instruments under conditions of poor visibility or darkness.

At about mid-day, Margaret Hamilton Reid (International Guide Commissioner) left her home in Rathgar, South Dublin and made her way out to Dublin airport to formally welcome the Guides to Ireland. Eileen Beatty, Chief Commissioner for Ireland was also there to await the arrival of the French Girls.

Meanwhile, about seventy miles down the coast at Pollshone Cove some two miles south of Courtown in Co Wexford, 13-year-old Larry Martin was strolling along the Beach when he suddenly heard a noise overhead. He looked up in boyish wonder to see a plane appear out of the mist and approach the coastline. Moments later the plane took what Larry described as a 'sharp right turn' before disappearing Northwards up the coast towards Arklow.

Some 450 miles out from Paris, the Toucan had finally arrived over Ireland and the crew were in contact with Dublin Air Traffic Control giving their E.T.A. (Estimated Time of Arrival) and in return, receiving the weather information for the Dublin area. Nothing more was heard over the radio.

At Ballinacarrig, near Brittas Bay, 46-year-old Arthur Tomkins his wife and two children were spending a few days holidays in a cabin close to where the rocks go out at Jack's Hole. Over fifty years after the event, 98-year-old Arthur gave the following vivid description;

"The weather turned bad. It was a very misty rain which reduced visibility to a few hundred yards. I was sitting in the hut with the door open looking out over a miserable scene, when I suddenly heard the sound of an aeroplane over the sea. I could just see the plane flying North hugging the coast only a few hundred yards away and not more than 800 feet above the waves. I saw the pilot turn to fly in over the land and I said to my wife that plane will hit the Sugarloaf if it does not rise".

This was the first indication that the plane had gone off-course and was flying inland toward the mountains of North Wicklow rather than up the coast out over Wicklow Town, Greystones and Bray.

A short time later approaching 2 pm and flying at 2,000 feet, Capt. Habez was surprised to see a set of iron railings and a waterfall come into view, indicating that they were over land rather than the sea as they still thought. These iron railings were almost certainly the bridge to the draw-off tower of the Vartry Reservoir near Roundwood and the waterfall may have been the nearby by-wash or overflow of the reservoir. The Vartry Lakes would have been swollen by over six inches rain that had recently fallen and the overflow in full spate would be a visual landmark.

Annie Taylor who was newly married in 1946 and had recently moved from Knockraheen to live near the crossroads in Ballinastoe remembers hearing the plane overhead. It was now less than two miles from Djouce Mountain.

Opting to get a better bearing on his position, Capt. Habez decided to descend. Moments later he suddenly became aware of the clouds getting darker as if there was an obstacle ahead. What was to follow can only be described as a remarkable set of fortunate circumstances.

Trying to avert a tragedy, World War II Veteran, Christian Habez instinctively pulled back the control column for all he was worth in an effort to elevate the plane. Almost instantaneously, the plane hit land with a glancing blow and then rebounded into the air before hitting the ground for a second time. The A.A.C. I Toucan then ploughed on for about 150 yards and veered to the right before coming to rest – its flying days over forever.

The point of impact was on a gradual slope below the summit of Djouce Mountain. The nature of the ground had assisted Cap. Habez to make a successful belly landing for if the aircraft had been 10 yards lower, it would have impacted at a far steeper gradient and most probably destroyed. As it was the undercarriage had absorbed much of the impact when ripped off by the rain-sodden heathery moorland.

The fact that the three engines were also torn off and rolled away for some distance meant that no fire occurred even though there was about 240 gallons of aviation fuel still on board. When the sturdy Junkers designed Toucan came to rest it was remarkably intact with the tail-section, the wings and most importantly, the main fuselage - containing most of the passengers - surviving well.

The quick thinking of Capt. Habez and the control response of the aircraft also played a major part in keeping the plane intact, as it had impacted at a small angle with its nose slightly 'in the air' rather than hitting the mountain 'head-on'.

Capt. Habez was cut, bruised and dazed by the impact but remained conscious and was immediately concerned for his passengers. Looking behind him he saw that nine girls thrown out of the plane on impact, were still alive but badly injured, while more lay injured inside the fuselage. His crew mates were also injured but still in reasonable shape.

Just before the crash happened, the Hostess was attending to some of the guides who were ill, while more of the girls, including Nicole from Grenoble, were dozing asleep. She awoke suddenly to ask what had happened. Someone near her replied, "we have crashed, we have crashed", then Nicole felt pain in her leg.

Miraculously all had survived and there was no major panic on board, but it was obvious that medical assistance was urgently required. With the assistance of the able-bodied, Capt. Habez made the injured passengers as comfortable as possible. He knew he now had to seek help quickly - as nobody other than those on board were aware that the plane had crashed.

Two of the Guide Leaders in charge of the Girls, CHANTAL DE VITAY and ANDREE BONNET (both aged 21) shouldered their responsibility and volunteered to go with Capt. Habez.

Before leaving the plane, Capt. Habez reminded the girls that they were Guides and must be strong in the face of adversity and that help would soon be at hand. It was now after 2 pm in the afternoon.

Close to the crash scene now passes the Wicklow Way instituted by J.B. Malone. Hillwalkers from all over the World including France pass by here every year and enjoy the magnificent vistas which include Luggala, Lough Tay and Lough Dan.

It is one of the most scenic areas in Ireland with stunning views across the Calary Plateau to the Irish Sea coastline where on fine days, waves can be seen breaking on the off-shore sand banks. Northwards Djouce and Sugarloaf Mountain punctuate the skyline. The placid Vartry Lakes can be seen stretching to the South towards Roundwood and on extra clear days, the Mountains of Wales can be seen in the far distance.

On Monday, August 12th 1946 however, as Capt. Habez, Chantal and Andree set out to find help they could barely see each other in the dense fog and as they were lashed by wind and rain, it must have seemed like one of the most uninviting places on earth.

Meanwhile, at Dublin Airport, Margaret Hamilton Reid was becoming increasingly anxious at the non-arrival of the French Guides. At the time of the last radio contact it was estimated by Air Traffic Control that the plane should have been over Kish lighthouse. This led to fears that the plane could have gone down at sea, with the dire

consequences that that would entail. However, Miss Hamilton Reid was told that the crew had probably turned back due to the bad weather. With a heavy heart, Margaret Hamilton Reid left the Airport at about 3 o'clock and returned to her home in Rathgar.

Back at the crash scene, Capt. Habez and the two girls had first climbed up the Hill but could see nothing. On seeing sheep, they thought they might find a Shepherd on top of the hill. There is still a tradition of Shepherds remaining with their sheep in mountainous areas on the Continent. They then decided to go downhill in a Northerly direction. Capt. Habez had a compass and knew that Dublin was somewhere in that direction and this may have influenced his decision.

They came to a fence on which he took a bearing so that if necessary they could return to the plane. They followed the fence which was actually the Southern boundary of the Powerscourt Demesne land. They were stumbling blindly through fog, wind and rain over boggy mountain terrain in saturated clothing and their physical and mental condition can only be imagined, knowing that the badly injured girls and crew members were depending on them to find help.

They eventually came to a steep decline which was almost certainly the ravine which leads down to Powerscourt Deerpark. After more than three hours struggling bravely against the elements, they now saw the first signs of human activity - smoke rising in the distance. The terrain here is difficult in normal conditions and must have been extremely testing on the French trio. The well known Hill-walker and Author, David Herman, describes this as a "miniature Grand Canyon" and warns that negotiating it is "not for the faint-hearted or weak of limb".

After making it down the ravine they crossed a river which was almost certainly a tributary of the Dargle to the East of the Waterfall. Then they faced their biggest test - the Dargle River proper in full spate. In attempting to cross the Dargle, both girls came close to drowning but Capt. Habez somehow managed to rescue both and get them to the other side.

Further down the river in the 1980's, two women - one of whom was a French National - were drowned as they attempted to cross the river on horseback.

In the Deerpark Lodge close to the Waterfall, an elderly couple George Davis and his wife - both of whom were artists - were sheltering from the storm when three dishevelled people speaking in French arrived at the door looking for a telephone. They soon discovered to their dismay that there was no telephone. Capt. Habez and Andree Bonnet could take no more and they both collapsed in a state of exhaustion.

Chantal de Vitrey, the 21-year-old Guide Leader, was made of sterner stuff, however, and on being informed that the nearest telephone was 1½ miles away at the Mount Maulin Hotel, she knew she must carry on - the injured guides and crew were now depending on her. Chantal carried on for a mile and came to the Powerscourt Waterfall entrance gates, turned left up around a steep bend then turned left again off the Glencree Road and up the avenue to the Hotel.

At about six o'clock, Chantal de Vitrey on the point of exhaustion entered the Mount Maulin Hotel urgently seeking help for a group of French Nationals injured and isolated somewhere in the Wicklow Mountains.

There was a remarkable irony involved here for it was to the same house that Gen. Joseph Holt, the 1798 Leader from Roundwood, had gone to seek the protection of the then owner, William Keegan of Bahana, before surrendering to Lord Powerscourt on 10th November, 1798. After six months of warfare he had finally given up hope of the French coming to aid the Irish Rebellion.

In 1946, the Mount Maulin Hotel was owned by the Hogan Family and one of the guests was a French speaking Austrian, Miss Frances Widmann, to whom Chantal was able to communicate what had happened. Almost immediately a telephone call was made from the Hotel to Enniskerry Garda Station and the alarm was finally raised.

Brian Hogan remembered the incident thus:

"The girl came to our door in a pitiful condition. She was a fine looking girl of about 20 years wearing only a thin, torn dress, soaked to the skin, covered in mud and cut and scraped on her face, hands and legs from falling down among the rocks and briars etc.

Mother immediately had her safely put to bed after phoning the Guards in Enniskerry and Powerscourt House and Dr. Deeley, my brother (Conor) and I went over to the Waterfall in the car. There in the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Davis we found the Pilot also in bed with what seemed to be a broken shoulder and arm.

We decided the quickest way to the Mountain was to go up by the Paddocks on the Old Longhill Road. We were quickly joined by the Enniskerry Guards, Dr. Deeley and his son Bill. We divided into parties for the search.

While we were still out on the Mountain, the French Ambassador arrived at the Hotel and interviewed the brave girl survivor and ordered her out of the bed to show him the way to the Plane. An order which was immediately and in no uncertain terms revoked by my Mother."

The Emergency Services were now on full alert and a call was made to St. Brickin's Military Hospital at 6.30 pm as a result of which an ambulance and three nurses were deployed to Wicklow.

Other emergency services being mobilised included a unit of the Irish Army under Gen. Hugo McNeill, the Red Cross, the St. John's Ambulance Corp, Knights of Malta, Dublin Fire Brigade, Dun Laoghaire Fire Brigade, Wicklow County Hospital Ambulance units as well as local Gardai and Civilians.

Back at the crash scene, the seriously injured passengers were suffering from exposure, with wind speeds of up to 50 m.p.h. and rain entering the fuselage. Hunger was now also a factor as none had eaten since early that morning. In an effort to raise morale during the long wait for assistance, the girls sang songs and prayed.

It appears that for the first few hours most of the rescuers were searching War Hill which was the wrong area and they naturally met with no success.

Coming up to nine o'clock things were getting desperate, daylight was fading fast and it was now seven hours since the Plane had crashed. An ordnance survey map had been consulted by which Capt. Habez and Conor Hogan were able to work out the approximate position of the plane and at around 9 o'clock the plane was finally located.

One of the first to reach the plane was Conor Hogan and he gave the following description:

"We found the girls sheltering in the undamaged fuselage. Some of them were lying on their backs and groaning, while others were unconscious. A few were able to walk about".

Bill Deeley Jnr. was a final year Medical Student in 1946 and this is his account of events:

"We weren't involved in the official search parties, we were on our own. We had a good idea where we were going. We started off from Mulligan's of the Paddock. The light was fading rapidly. There was fog down and we could only see maybe 30 yards ahead of us most of the time. But as fog always does, it lifted for a short time at about 9 o'clock and there in front of us about 40 yards away was the aircraft.

We had a fair idea, from what the Pilot had told us, of the territory it was in. Some of the Girls were badly injured. I stayed in the Aircraft because I had my father's medical kit with me and Conor went off to get help. I was busy treating the wounds, putting splints on, tourniquets and the rest".

Two priests from St. Kevins, Glenree – then a Reformatory now the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation – Rev. Eugene Doherty O.M.I. and Rev. Michael Kehane O.M.I. climbed the mountain and administered the last rites to three of the girls whose condition seemed extremely serious.

In Roundwood that evening, the local Garda, Sgt. William McNally had been busy doing the rounds of local houses, shops and pubs and quickly organised a group of able-bodied young men. W.S. Doyle's Turf Lorry – with Michael Rooney at the wheel – was requisitioned to transport the volunteers.

Fred Doyle the local butcher's delivery Van was also quickly called into action and it was driven by Mick Hayes.

W.J. Duffy in the Wicklow People named the following as having constituted the Roundwood Rescue Party: Matt Keenan, Jimmy Price, Ned Curley, Fred Doyle, Michael Rooney, Anthony Brennan, Pa Brennan, Jimmy Kavanagh, Pat Hughes, Christopher Byrne, Peter Hatton, Mick Hayes, Willie Rooney, Paddy Doyle, Jack Brady, Bill Kenna and Billy Brien. Others involved included Gerry Byrne, Pat O'Brien, George Timmons and Dominic Browne.

A First-Aid station was set up at the 'Sheep Bank House' an old disused house close to Bolehorrigan Bridge on the Roundwood / Sally Gap Road. When the rescuers reached the 'Sheep-Bank', they then had to climb about two miles from the south-western base of Djouce up to the site.

It was now about 10 o'clock and the first of the Roundwood party to arrive at the scene were Michael Rooney, Billy Brien and Anthony Brennan. They immediately removed their overcoats and undercoats and put them on the unfortunate victims.

The rescuers now had the strenuous task of carrying the girls down the mountain-side. They had to pick their way down in pitch darkness over uneven ground that had been torn up by the storm and every few yards their paths were blocked by fallen rocks, displaced mounds of earth and floods. At times in trying to prevent themselves being blown-over and getting separated in the driving mist, they were forced to form a human chain linking each other for support.

Initially the girls had to be carried in the arms or on the backs of the rescuers. Later the work was rendered somewhat easier when the military arrived with light stretchers.

From that point on the rescuers were fully organised but the difficulties were indescribable as on the treacherous journey to and from the first-aid station the stretcher bearers fell waist deep into bog holes and hidden subsidences in the rain sodden ground. The work of attending the injured on the bleak windswept mountain-side presented an eerie and dramatic scene with flares being fired to indicate the site.

Outside the 'Sheep Bank House', the remarkable feat of lighting a huge turf-fire was achieved to guide the rescuers as they negotiated their way down the broken slippery paths to the dressing station. At a later stage flash-lights were placed along the route to guide the way.

Inside another large turf-fire and candles gave light to Doctors and Nurses and their paramedic assistants as they administered emergency First-Aid to the victims.

Invaluable assistance was given to the emergency Services by James Doran (Enniskerry Postman) who directed them across the mountain. Other people from the Enniskerry area involved on the night were Jim Fitzgerald, Charlie Keegan, Bill Hicks and Archie Gregg.

From the Kilmacanogue area, Andy Fitzsimons, Bart Fitzsimons and Tommy Walker were among those involved in the Rescue. Also mentioned in dispatches

was Lt. Almond, 2nd Field Engineers, Kilpedder Camp.

During the rescue operations, William Fitzsimons, the resident Engineer at the Varry Waterworks, Roundwood is reported to have trekked to the scene to give the girls their first food since early that morning.

The first five girls taken down were not badly injured but were suffering from shock, hunger and cold. They were taken in an ambulance driven by Michael Rooney to Keenan's Hotel, Roundwood (now the Coach House) where they were given tea and refreshments. Although nobody could communicate properly with them, they were given a hearty welcome before being brought to Wicklow County Hospital. It appears they were shortly afterwards transferred to St. Michael's Hospital, Dun Laoghaire.

One of the worst ordeals was suffered by crew member, Georges Beagioni, who was missing for most of the night. Injured in the crash, he collapsed and had to be left on the mountain-side while aid was being sought. He was eventually brought with one of the girls, Anne Lemornier whose leg was fractured, to Wicklow County Hospital.

When it was thought that all passengers and crew had been accounted for news came through that the Bray Rescuers had found another girl lying exhausted on the mountain-side.

The main rescue operation continued for most of the night from about 10 o'clock till 5 am the following morning before all the injured passengers and crew were brought down to the waiting ambulances below.

The crash victims were taken in a fleet of ambulances to St. Michael's, Dun Laoghaire, St. Bricken's, Dublin and Wicklow County Hospital. During the operation one ambulance had to drive through three feet of water as a bridge had been washed away on the Sally Gap road. A private ambulance belonging to Colliers of Bray was also involved on the night, and among the Bray Rescuers were Paddy Mahony, Sean Fox, Matty Wogan, Christy Doyle and a Mr. Farrelly who was Dr. Raferty's driver.

Paddy Mahony had the following memories:

"When we got up, there was terrible moaning and groaning and a Doctor there giving them injections. I picked up a bag containing a piece of flesh in my hand. Sean Fox was with me. The door of the plane was ripped off and they had a sheet of canvas over it.

We took a stretcher down to the roadside. Daylight broke as we were on our way down. When we got down we were wet up to the shoulders. The Red Cross gave us rum and boiling water, we never got a cold or anything out of it.

It was a terrible climb that night. We were going down in bogholes. I had only knee-boots and every time I pulled up my leg it was full of water. When I came home, I couldn't go to work the next two days, I was so sore".

A call was made to Bray Garda Station at 1 a.m. to confirm that seven girls had been admitted to St. Brickin's but the last girl was not admitted to St. Michael's till around 6 a.m.

Dr. Donal Meagher was on duty in St. Michael's Hospital that night and remembers the casualties being admitted at intervals and suffering from a variety of injuries including fractured femurs, clavicles and head injuries. Chantal de Vitrey was one of the first to be admitted.

The last girl admitted, Genevieve Betrancourt, was the most serious. She was extremely cold when admitted and was suffering from two broken femurs as well as a fractured shin-bone. It was six weeks later before she was declared fit enough to return to France.

Everyone was impressed with the stamina shown by the girls in the face of all they had to endure. Visits were made to St. Michael's by the Chairman of Dun Laoghaire Corporation, Mr. H. P. Dockrell and by T.C. O'Mahony, Assistant City and County Manager.

The girls taken to St. Brickin's were all seriously injured. They all had fractures and were also suffering from shock. They were all in one ward and though not able to sit up, there was a constant flow of French between the beds. They were allowed visits by French girls residing in Dublin and received many gifts from the public.

One girl who was uninjured was admitted to St. Brickin's on Friday, 16th August to keep the other girls company. It appears this girl may have stayed at Lord Oranmore's House at Luggala for the three days previous.

The parents of many of the girls came over from France to visit them, including the mother of Nicole Jacques-Leon. Her leg had been shattered in the crash and surgeons at St. Brickin's were in favour of amputation. When her mother arrived, however, she refused to allow it.

Nicole and five other girls were discharged from St. Brickin's on Tuesday, September 10th and they returned to France by ambulance plane. For the long train journey from Paris to Grenoble, Nicole was placed beside the window on a stretcher.

The last girl to be discharged from St. Brickin's was the Hostess. She had been attending to the air-sick passengers when the crash happened and received a fractured skull. She was not declared fit to return to France until October 21st, some ten weeks later.

It appears that some of the girls were distressed at having to return home by Air, but pressure was applied on the Parents by the French Authorities and in the event, all but one of the girls returned by air.

There was no free Medical Service in 1946 and at St. Brickin's Hospital, a rate of 15 shillings (75p) per patient per day was charged to the French Government. This sum was arrived at because Internees during the emergency (1939-1945) were charged at this rate.

The site of the crash was preserved by the Gardai for a few days and an investigation was ordered by the relevant Minister, Sean Lemass. R.W. O'Sullivan, Chief Inspector of Accidents of the Aviation Section of the Department of Industry and Commerce, visited the site the following morning. Col. P. Pelissie of the French Air Transport Command visited the scene of the crash on Thursday, August 15th and after vital evidence was removed, the plane was left in-situ.

R.W. O'Sullivan went to interview the crew members at St. Michael's Hospital. An Air Plot was made from the Navigator's Log and this clearly showed that he had made no allowance for the wind velocity, though this had been transmitted to him from Dublin Air Traffic Control and duly acknowledged.

In his "Aviation Sketch-book", O'Sullivan gave the following account:

"Two officers of the Armee de L'Air came over to investigate the accident. When shown the Air Plot and the transcript of the wind data, the Senior Officer threw his hands up in typical Gallic fashion and cried "Erreur de Navigation" in an tone of firm conviction. With profuse thanks for our co-operation, the two officers departed at high-speed in the direction of Dun Laoghaire, and it was clear that things didn't look too good for the future professional prospects of the unfortunate N.C.O. Navigateur".

Nowadays, a Ground Proximity Warning System is mandatory on all transport Aircraft. This system – G.P.W.S. – gives a warning in the cockpit if an aircraft comes within a pre-set height of closing terrain.

For about two months afterwards, the site became a tourist attraction with people travelling from far and near to view the wreckage.

The most important person to make the pilgrimage up the mountain was the then Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera. It was a warm day and he left his coat at Mrs. Mary Doyle's house in Glasnamullen before climbing to the scene with his body-guard.

What was left of the plane gradually disappeared thanks to souvenir hunters, hill-walkers and local farmers and almost nothing now remains. Some parts of the plane were recycled in ingenious ways. One local woman who removed small wires from the cock-pit used these to hang pictures with. Another local was not so lucky – he brought down some of the fuel from the plane, put it in his motor bike only to discover that 'aviation fuel' did not work so well in motor bikes and his engine was ruined. One enterprising man brought down the frame structure of one of the wings, turned it upright and used it as a mast for his wireless aerial.

One of the B.M.W. Engines was brought down to Doyle's Garage in Roundwood and other parts of the plane survive in various locations.

In the event, the camp at St. Columba's in Rathfarnham carried on without the French. Among the events organised for the Dutch and Irish Girls was a Garden Party

hosted by Mrs. Guinness (County Commissioner for Dublin) at her Tibbradden Home. Ironically, a trip was also made to Powerscourt, Lady Powerscourt being a Patron of the Irish Girl Guides at the time.

Today Le Bourget Airfield – from where the Plane departed – is itself a tourist attraction with a large Museum of Aircraft (The Musee de L'Air) housing over 140 historic Aircraft – including an A.A.C. I Toucan – for the public to visit and admire.

The last retirement of a JU52 from official use was as recent as 1984 by the Swiss Air Force, who had flown three original models since 1938. Today there are still five JU52's airworthy and these are used for nostalgic flights by Luftansa, South African Airways and JU Air. In the early 1990's, Luftansa took one on a World Tour. Sixty-eight years after its first flight, the JU52 still flies.

George Davis died of natural causes in the 1950's. A couple of days later his wife's body was found in the Dargle River by Gardai in tragic circumstances. The Deerpark Lodge was never lived in again and was demolished in the 1970's. A Tea shop for visitors to the Waterfall (at 398 feet the highest in these Islands) now marks the spot. The Mount Maulin Hotel closed down in the mid 1950's. It is now a dwelling house and still in the ownership of the Hogan Family and locally known as the Fox Farm. Conor Hogan died in 1981 while Brian passed away in 1997.

In May 1998, almost 52 years later, twelve survivors of the crash returned to Ireland for the first time and spent the bank-holiday weekend in the Irish Girl Guide Centre at Enniskerry. A Committee of Women under Muriel Webster, who had been members of the Irish Girl Guides in 1946, arranged a programme of events. On Sunday morning, May 31st, they received a warm welcome from the People of Enniskerry at the local Church.

During the course of the weekend, they visited both St. Michael's and St. Brickin's Hospitals and met with some of the people who had attended them in 1946 including Pat O'Brien, Pa Brennan and Dr. Donal Meagher. Incidentally, Dr. Meagher had kept up a correspondence with three of the girls over the years and some of his Children had exchanged with their Children during school holidays to perfect their language skills.

On the afternoon of Sunday, May 31st, the Girls visited the site of the First-Aid Station at Sheep Bank House and walked up part of the Wicklow Way close to the scene of the crash.

It was a fine day and they saw, for the first time, all around them the magnificent beauty of the area.

As they climbed up "The Barr" past the J.B. Malone Memorial, out front in the lead - as in 1946 - was Chantal (De Vitrey) Lacoïn closely followed by Andree (Bonnet) Brocard. The two ex-Guide Leaders were now both aged 73 years.

Finally, I can do no better than give the last word to Nicole the 'Girl from Grenoble' whom I walked alongside that day. As we stumbled slowly back down the mountain she told me her story. She still had both her legs, although one bore stark evidence of

events on a bleak mountain-side in Wicklow on August 12th, 1946.

As she reached the bottom, tired and emotional – but clearly satisfied at having finally returned to the scene after 52 years – she turned to me and said in broken English:

"We suffered. But we were young and all the people were so good to us".

MARTIN TIMMONS

Heartfelt thanks to the following:-

Dermot James, Michael Kelleher, Lt. Col. Chris Browne, Margaret Hamilton-Reid, Chantal Lacoïn, Andree Brocard, Nicole Lucquin, Dr. Donal Meagher, Sheila Lawless, Anne Bowen, Muriel Webster, Helena Lawless, Wendy Thompson, Michael O'Reilly, Arthur Tomkins, Bill Nelson, Larry Martin, Ned Fleming, Annie Hogan, Michael Rooney, Pa Brennan, Charlie Keegan, Annie Taylor, Pat O'Brien, Matt Taylor, Joe Mulligan, John Doyle, Commdt. Victor Lang, Gerry Doyle, Mark Hogan, Mick Hayes, Jimmy Price, Vincent Hunt, Ernie Turner, Tom Traynor, Michael Donnelly, Fay Whelan, Margaret Hogan, Paddy Mahony, Mick Gaffney, Sean Fox, Paddy Mulligan, Dick Massey, Liz O'Grady, Eugene Doyle, Kevin O'Mathuna and Dr. Bill Deeley, the staff of the National Library and the staff of Bray Public Library.

Extra special thanks to the Hogan Family for access to the papers of BRIAN P. HOGAN.

Sources:

The Wicklow People, Wicklow Times, Irish Times, Irish Independent, The Irish Press and Evening Herald.

Further Reading:

<i>"The Flight of the Iolar"</i>	Bernard Share
<i>"History of Aviation In Ireland"</i>	Liam Byrne
<i>"An Irishman's Aviation Sketchbook"</i>	R.W. O'Sullivan
<i>"Illustrated Encyclopaedia of Aircraft"</i>	David Munday
<i>"Jane's Fighting Aircraft of World War II"</i>	Leonard Bridgman
<i>"A History of Modern France"</i>	Alfred Cobham
<i>"Everyman's Aviation Handbook Europe"</i>	R.W. Simpson
<i>"Hill Stroller's Wicklow"</i>	David Herman
<i>"Walking in Wicklow"</i>	J.B. Malone



Roundwood village scene - 1943



Ellen Kenna, Moneytown, c 1900

The Last Word

It is with great pleasure that I have edited this, our 10th Journal. In the first Journal in 1988 our Founding Chairman, Sean Kavanagh, wrote the following words in the forward.

"The Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Society was formed in December of 1987 by a small group with an interest in and a love of our local heritage. Since these humble beginnings one year ago the society has steadily grown and now has an enthusiastic and ever growing membership,

At one of our early meetings it was suggested that members should write an essay on some facet of local history or folklore in the hope that at some future time these would be published in our own journal. At that time the financial out lay alone of such a project for a fledgeling group like ours seemed insurmountable. However, the enthusiasm and determination of all our members, and the generous support of our patrons has made the hopeful dream become a reality.

It is therefore with a sense of pride that we now present the first ever edition of our Journal. As this is our first attempt at such a venture we feel that in the future, with your support, we can improve on this initial effort.

It is the earnest wish of everyone connected with this publication that after you have read it you will have learnt something which will help you appreciate and cherish more our wonderful local heritage.

If you are a visitor to the area we hope this booklet gives you an insight to our local traditions and if you are an exile reading it in foreign places we hope it brings you closer to home.

Finally, I must acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our Editorial Board who expended so much time and effort in getting this project to fruition. To Martin, Michael, Monica and Shay, we say thanks on a job well done."

Little did Sean know that in 1998 he would still be chairing a vibrant society of 35 strong and it is therefore with deep regret that the Society offers its sincere sympathy to him and his family on the death of his wife, Marie, who peacefully passed away recently at their home in Roundwood.

Since it foundation the Society has run monthly meetings, held lectures, went off on field trips to Wicklow and surrounding counties, run exhibitions (some in association with the Roundwood Reservoir and The Office of Public Works [Parks]), and published a yearly journal which has expanded from an initial modest 32 to 60 pages.

More recently we have expanded into running yearly Historical and Folklore Seminars (some in association with the Local Studies Group of University College, Dublin and Dr. William Nolan, a co-editor of *Wicklow - History and Society*). Our last was our most ambitious when we commemorated the 1798 Rebellion in Wicklow with

lectures, an exhibition and unveiled memorials to Joseph Holt in Mullinaveigue and Andrew Thomas in Castlekevin. The unveiling of Holt's memorial was done by Sonnie Holt and accompanied by the Arklow Brass & Reed band with pikemen from Wicklow and Wexford. The editor was honoured to have been asked to unveil Thomas's memorial at Redbank bridge.

Not a bad record for a small mountain rural historical society. However none of this could have been achieved without the continuing support of you, the local community, who have provided sponsorship, bought the journal and attended our events and to you all we give our thanks and we look forward to your continuing support, and perhaps an article or two, in the future.

For the record we list the sponsors (all local unless otherwise stated) of our first Journal: Avonmore Gun Club, Avonmore Stud, Bank of Ireland in Rathdrum, John Boorman, S.J. Burke & Co. in Rathnew, Butler's Medical Hall in Wicklow, Byrne's Newsagent, Clarke Auctioneers in Ashford, Clarke Oil Products in Rathnew, The Coach House, E.M. Doyle Associates in Bray, Jerry Doyle's Garage, Dr. John Keating in Newtownmountkennedy, Kinsella's Grocery, Lakeview House, J.J. Lowe Haulage in Bray, Modern Display Artists in Dublin, The Reservoir Coffee and Wine Bar, Roundwood A.F.C., Roundwood Home Producers, Roundwood Inn, St. Kevin's Bus Service, An Tochar G.A.A., Tochar House, Vance & Wilson (E & M O'Brien) of Bray, Vartry House, Mr. & Mrs Galen Weston, J.J. Wolohan & Sons in Rathdrum. Many of these have sponsored the journal to this day and to these and all those who have supported us in any way we thank you again for your loyalty and confidence.

As always we are deeply grateful to Ian and Wendy Mullen for their patience and expertise over the last nine years in seeing the journal through the various stages of typesetting and printing.

IAN CANTWELL

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FIFTY POUNDS REWARD.

WHEREAS on the Night of the 15th of FEBRUARY, 1845,
THE HOUSE OF WILLIAM S. WEEKS, ESQ. OF

CASTLEKEVIN, NEAR ANAMOE,

Was BROKEN INTO by a number of Persons with their Faces Blackened and Robbed of SIX TEN POUND NOTES, of the Waterford Provincial Bank, (probably Endorsed "William S. Weeks") SOME SOVEREIGNS, AND A GUINEA of the Coinage of King George the Third, also ONE CARABINE, ONE FOWLING-PIECE, AND ONE PAIR OF HORSE PISTOLS, all numbered 959 W. I.

A Reward of Fifty Pounds

Will be given to any Person or Persons who will give such Information as may lead to the Detection and Conviction of the Perpetrators of the above Outrage, or

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For such PRIVATE INFORMATION as will lead to the discovery of any of the Parties concerned therein.

WILLIAM T. BOOKEY.
THOMAS J. BARTON.

Dated this 17th day of February 1845.

H. & W. MacPhail, Printers, Wicklow.—Henry MacPhail, Licensed Auctioneer.

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