

Roundwood & District

Historical & Folklore Journal

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Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Society

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From the Chair

Mary Byrne

Welcome to the 19th Journal of the Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Society.

It is gratifying that we have such an interested and active membership to call upon for help and suggestions.

The past year provided us with so much of interest, a reflection of the enthusiasm and hard work of all involved in arranging the calendar. Lectures early in the year, Ronan Kelly on Thomas Moore (The Meeting of the Waters) gave insight into his life and times.

Celebrating 400 years of the Irish College in Louvain, the speaker was Dr Edel Breathnach, who was very enlightening and made us feel 'we were there'. Agatha showed us her photographs of the college.

A splendid evening at the Society's Christmas dinner in the Roundwood Inn was enjoyed by all. It was enhanced by Irish music by Joe and Antoinette McKenna.

In March a large attendance of members came to hear Grania Langrishe who talked of her experience growing up on an Irish Country Estate.

Further afield, we visited Belfast for our annual outing. It was a



Welcome mat



*Basil McCrea, slightly surprised,
as our Chairman Mary gave him a brown envelope!*

memorable day with our visit to Stormont where we met Basil McCrea, who gave us an insight into the workings of the Assembly and a brief history of the building. A guided tour of the city continued with Ken McElroy. On behalf of the Society I wish to thank John Medlycott and Joe McNally who organised the day so well.

On our visit to Avoca, we were given a guided tour of Castlemacadam, Castlehoward and Conary by Henry Alexander. We learned of the contribution the miners made to the beautiful churches in these areas. Then we were given a lovely supper in the hall at Conary.

The Society were very grateful to the late Frank Darcy, (R.I.P), for the gift of a framed photograph of our visit to Roundwood Park last year. This was brought to the meeting.

On a May evening in very inclement weather, society members went to Ballinacor Estate. Aran McArdle made a great effort for us to reach the residence of the O'Broin Clan and to enlighten us about Fiach MacHugh O'Byrne, the Battle of Glenmalure and much more. The weather again played a part at the visit to the Coronation Plantation. We only viewed the obelisk at Ballynabrocky from the road and returned to Kavanagh's where John Medlycott gave us a short history of the Coronation Plantation.

Two of the few beautiful summer days of 2008 found us in Charleville House and Gardens, everyone expressed delight. Again at Wren's Wood, Mrs Mattei's gardens were delightful and a special treat, tea in the garden.



View from Stormont

R.C. Barton and Glendalough House

Michael Fewer

As a young architect in the 1970s I worked in the firm Alan Hope Associates in Dublin, and had the pleasure of carrying out alteration works to Glendalough House at Annamoe, County Wicklow for Robert Childers Barton. When I met him he was 89, a small man, a little stooped but very well-preserved for his age, and very active in body and mind. He arrived at our office in Merrion Square from Wicklow in his Alfa Romeo car, an exotic model for Ireland at the time, wearing an overcoat with an astragan collar, and a homburg hat. I was at the time only vaguely aware of who this country gentleman was, but was to learn much in the months to follow.

T J Barton, Barton's grandfather, had bought the estate at Annamoe in the 1830s from Captain Hugo, who, even after disposing of some parcels of his vast Wicklow estate, still ranked seventh of Wicklow landlords at the time with 20,360 acres. The house on the estate, called Dromeen, was a modest 18th century farmhouse which had been partly destroyed in 1798 by insurgents. T J Barton had a large and grand gothic extension and a range of stabling built and he changed the name of the place to Glendalough House. His son Charles inherited the estate, and married an English woman, Agnes Childers: their son, Robert Childers Barton, was born in 1881. Charles's sister, Anna, married Agnes's brother, Professor Robert Caesar Childers, a distinguished oriental scholar, and set up home in England. They had three daughters and two sons, but Robert Childers contracted tuberculosis, a disease much forgotten now but one that was widespread at the time and crossed all social barriers. His wife also contracted the disease while nursing him, and when he died in 1878, she was unable to care for their five children, and so they were 'farmed out', a relatively common occurrence at the time and a result of the scourge of tuberculosis. So it was that the five children found themselves settling in to life in the wilds of Ireland at Annamoe, and Robert Barton suddenly gained three sisters and two older brothers, including Erskine Childers, who was twelve at the time.

In 1918 Robert Barton was elected as Sinn Fein MP for West Wicklow, and the following year he was arrested for making seditious speeches and was imprisoned at Mountjoy Jail. With the help of Michael Collins, however, he escaped a month later, leaving a note for the Governor which explained that he could no longer stay as 'the service was not satisfactory'. He was re-arrested in January 1920 and sent to Portland Prison in England, where he led the life of an ordinary inmate for eighteen months, wearing typical prison garb, khaki trousers and tunic marked with broad arrows and a khaki forage cap*. On the signing of the Truce in 1921 he was released, and he was, with Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, Eamon Duggan, and George Gavan Duffy one of the delegates sent to London to negotiate the Treaty: his cousin, Erskine Childers, was the delegation secretary. Like Collins, he was an unwilling signatory of the Treaty, saying that he had signed '... as the lesser of two outrages forced upon me and between which I had to choose.' He did, however, also like Collins, vote for the Treaty in the Dail, and in the ensuing general election in June 1922 he was elected. Later that year Erskine Childers, who had joined the Republican side in the ensuing civil war, was executed by the Free State, leaving two sons, Robert and Erskine junior, who was to become the fourth president of Ireland. Disillusioned by the civil war that brought about the deaths of friends and his cousin, with whom he had been raised, Robert Barton did not take his Dail seat or seek re-election thereafter, and went back to his farming his land at Annamoe.

In 1970 Barton retired from farming his estate, and had arranged with Robert (Bobby) Childers to move from England where he had been for many years, and take over the farm. It had been decided to divide Glendalough House into two self-contained apartments: Robert Barton and his wife would continue to live in the east end of the house, while Bobby and his wife Cristobel were going to move into the west end, which mainly consisted of redundant servants quarters, and which were now to be refurbished and modernised.

The first thing required on the project was a thorough measured survey of the house, and based on this a room by room specification of what work had to be carried out would be prepared. For a couple of weeks I would set out each morning from Dublin in my tiny Fiat 500 for Annamoe and

**Cf. Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Journal*, 2003, vol. 14, p47 ff.

Glendalough House to carry out the survey: exploring the old house and its beautiful grounds was a most enjoyable and fascinating experience, and a welcome break from the schools and factories that I was also working on. The original farmhouse section of Glendalough House where the Bartons lived, a modest, homely, warm and comfortable place, was sandwiched between an imposing and flamboyant pinnacled gothic pile, built about 1838, and a later extension, built apparently in the early 1880s to accommodate the new Childers members of the family. Although abandoned and empty in 1970, the battlemented gothic pile with its *porte-cochère* was what greeted you at the end of the long, curving beech-lined avenue.

The original house was divided in two, lengthways, by a wide, stone flagged corridor, which the servants confidently informed me had once been a road. On the south side of the long corridor the 'gentrys' ground floor accommodations were located, while on the north side the servants quarters were laid out, with rooms noted on old plans as the Butler's Pantry, Sculleries, the Bootboy's Room, and the Housemaids Pantry. Mrs Barton, a kind and warm lady, was delighted with the impending works, probably the first improvements that had been carried out in Glendalough House in many years, and took the opportunity from the beginning to get a lot of little extra jobs done, including putting a modern cushioned vinyl floor covering on the stoneflag floors. The electrics had not been renewed since the house had originally been electrified, and it was interesting to see that ceiling light fittings were mounted not in the middle of the ceiling, but right in front of windows, as if to replace daylight.

It was clear that the house and the lifestyle of its inhabitants were coming to the end of an era: at the end of the corridor was a cold room, a place of large slate shelves and a butcher's block, and hanging from the ceiling when I first saw it were pheasants, sides of mutton and a brace of wood pigeons: this room was soon to be reduced to garaging Bobby Childers's car. A long line of bells near the ceiling of the corridor, mechanically linked to each of the living-rooms and bedrooms, would probably not ring again. Domestic staff, which used to number about fifteen, was now reduced to three, a great jolly lady who did the cooking and had a bed-sittingroom upstairs, and two housemaids who lived out.

One of the bedrooms I surveyed had been occupied by the late Erskine Childers's American wife Molly until she died in the nineteen fifties. She had come to live at Glendalough House after her husband's execution in 1922 and the room had not been touched since her death. In November 1922, during the height of the Civil War, Childers was staying at Glendalough House, when it was surrounded by Free State soldiers. He emerged from his bedroom to find troops on the stairs, and he drew a small revolver that had been a gift of Michael Collins. Before any shots were fired an old family servant threw himself in front of the troops, shouting 'You'll not shoot Mr Childers!' and Childers was peacefully arrested. He was condemned to death by the Free State courts for the possession of a firearm, and shot on 24th November at Beggar's Bush barracks.

The great gothic pile at the front was in the throes of dry rot infestation and although still serving as a 'front door' in 1970, it was empty but for some old furniture and things 'in storage'. Inside the front door was a reception hall with a fireplace, and a flight of steps leading up to a fine stair hall. The stairs were oak with cast iron balusters, the oak-leaf motif of which I later had copied for a new stairs I designed for the Childers's end of the house. The main rooms had fine chimneypieces, in carved oak in the dining room and in carved white marble in the drawing room.

Languishing in the upstairs rooms was a collection of artefacts brought back by Barton's father from trips to Africa and other exotic places. Mrs Barton took me on a tour of the rooms to see spears, fierce wooden masks and animal hide shields. In one room we came across a magnificent 'thunder box', a traveller's commode. It was made of beautifully inlaid mahogany, with a decorated ceramic bowl complete with an ingenious flushing device, and was of a weight that it must have taken four strong bearers to carry it. Standing against a wall was a music box and automaton, as tall as a grandfather's clock and twice as wide. The bottom section housed the mechanical parts, while the top consisted of a glass case displaying a trio of dancing monkeys. Mrs Barton set it going for me, and the monkeys went through a weird dance to the plinky-plonky music played. When the music stopped the monkeys abruptly ceased their jerky movements, but as we watched, they still seemed to be alive, their fur rippling strangely. When we took a closer look, we saw it was not the

monkeys' fur that was rippling, but a host of tiny flies or fleas that had come out of the fur. We made a hasty retreat!

The gardens of Glendalough House, which had been laid out in the late eighteenth century by the former owners, the Hugo family, were particularly fine if not extensive. Terraces planted with azelias and rhododendrons stepped down to a mountain stream tamed into little pools and waterfalls. A sequoia had been planted in the centre of the lawn at the south side of the house to mark the occasion of Robert Barton's birth and by 1970 it towered over all.

No planning permission was needed for the work in those days, nor were there any Building Bye Laws in County Wicklow that had to be applied for. Rather than seek competitive tenders, a Wicklow building firm of good reputation, Kanes, were asked to price for the work, and their tender was accepted. Upwards of fifteen men were involved on the job at one time – and I remember that at one stage there were nine Byrnes, including the foreman, working there, so there was no mistake, we were in County Wicklow!

As work went on slowly but surely through 1971, every second Wednesday I would drive down south from Dublin, over the Sally Gap and through Roundwood to Annamoe. I would meet with Mr Kane (who, like many rural building contractors, was also an undertaker), a round-faced small bald man with a strong Wicklow accent, and we would go about the works, dealing with any problems that had arisen. It was clear he had a rustic reverence for Barton, and in his presence never spoke until he was spoken to.

After my tour with Mr Kane, I would report progress to Robert Barton, usually over afternoon tea. Thus as a young man I had the pleasure, once a fortnight for some months, of having afternoon tea with a man who had been in the midst of things at a momentous time in Irish history, had negotiated with Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, had a close relationship with Michael Collins and Eamon de Valera, and had served time for Ireland in an English prison. Tea was taken in his study, a small and cosy book-lined room with a welcome fire burning in the grate in all but the three months of summer. We sat in armchairs and afternoon tea was served by a maid from a large silver tray on a trolley and she would ask me

'China or Indian?' before pouring my tea from the appropriate silver teapot. The sandwiches, which included cucumber, had all the crusts cut off of course, and there was a liberal supply of teacakes and often tart: I do remember that the tray was always large and very well laden.

Barton invariably was dressed in a Donegal rust-brown or pepper-and-salt tweed suit, and wore highly polished brown brogues. Apart from discussion on the progress of the work on the house, he was glad to chat generally about things. While I never directly brought up the subject of the period of the War of Independence and the Civil War, it was referred to from time to time in our conversations. One day I admired a small side table that had been beautifully French-polished. He quite proudly told me he had polished it himself, and when I said I understood it was a difficult technique, he replied with a smile that it was not hard to learn, and that he had 'picked it up' while in Portland Prison in England. Our impending membership of the European Economic Community was a major political subject of conversation at the time, and one day I asked him of his opinion on Ireland's entry. He replied that the Irish had always done well abroad, with many ex-patriots reaching high positions in other countries, and he would not be surprised if the Irish did not end up having a major part to play in the governing of the Common Market. Years after, I enjoyed retailing this remark to Pat Cox, then president of the European Parliament.

In spite of his modern outlook, Barton was undoubtedly a survivor of another Ireland, long forgotten even in the 1970s. He told me that as a young man visits to Dublin were invariably made on horseback, and that he usually carried a sidearm for protection. His father had been a friend of Charles Stewart Parnell and a fellow cricket enthusiast, but as Charles Barton was a staunch Unionist, they fell out over politics. They both had saw-mills on their estates and were enthusiastic timber producers, and when a great tree which had been growing in front of Glendalough House since the eighteenth century was felled in a storm in 1888, Parnell was invited to Annamoe to see it and discuss how it might best be processed. The uncrowned king of Ireland came on horseback and Barton told me he had a childhood memory of looking out the window of his playroom and his nannie pointing out the great man talking to his father. Socially, Barton still had a foot in the past. When he hired a new farm manager in 1971, a young chap with a degree in agriculture from UCD, it was decided that

part of the old gothic stabling at the back of the house would be converted into living accommodation for him. Barton was a little disconcerted when the new man assumed that a fully fitted bathroom would be part of the accommodation, and he asked my advice on whether or not this would be normal.

Robert Barton's old colleague Eamon De Valera used to visit Glendalough House from time to time, and I was just leaving one day when the long, gleaming weekday presidential car, a postwar Dodge, was arriving at the *porte-cochère*. In December 1971 when Thomas O'Neill's biography of De Valera was published, and the Bartons gave many copies as Christmas gifts, including one to me.

The Glendalough House job went on for a long time due to the many changes and the fact that having started off with one client, it grew into a project with two clients, Barton and Bobby Childers. Bobby Childers was not happy with the old heating system, which probably dated back to the turn of the century, and with the general contractors work almost at an end, he decided to have it all renewed. Amazingly, after eighty odd years the heating firm that put in the original system was still in existence, and they were taken on to carry out the work. With changes such as this, the project didn't reach full completion until the middle of 1972.

Robert Barton died in 1975. The last time I saw Glendalough House was when I visited and had lunch with Bobby and Cristobel Childers in 1980. By this time the old gothic pile had been removed, Barton's birthday tree had been cut down, and the place looked again as it must have in the early 19th century.

Scouting 1908 - 2008

Derek O'Brien

Robert Baden Powell came from an English upper class background. The family had enough money to get him a commission in the Army, but not in a 'good' regiment. After a rather undistinguished career in the colonies, he found himself in South Africa as the Boer War broke out. As with many of the conflicts of the time, the British were unprepared for any show of independence by the locals and a series of military disasters promptly followed.

Baden Powell found himself in command of a mining town that no one at home had heard of, Mafeking. Using a variety of unorthodox military manoeuvres he managed to hold the town until it was finally relieved. The story of the siege and relief made headlines for months in the newspapers and on his return home, Baden Powell was a hero.



His army training book *Aids for Scouting* had become a best seller and boys wanted to try out outdoor activities. In 1907 he took a group of 20 boys away for a week and this was so successful that he modified the book and published it in weekly parts as 'Scouting for Boys'. All over Britain and Ireland groups of boys persuaded adults to give them help to carry out

Scouting activities. By 1910, BP, as he was now known, retired from the army to devote himself to the Scout movement which then had 100,000 members.

The first known Irish Scout meeting was in early 1908. Many of the early Irish Scout troops were attached to Protestant parishes although some were non-denominational. The rise of Nationalism and the perception of Scouting as being a British and Protestant organisation led Catholic parents to remove their sons and after Independence, the Scout Association of Ireland (SAI) became *de facto* protestant.

In the mid 1920s, Fr Ernest Farrell in Greystones started an informal boys club on scouting lines and later with his brother Fr Tom Farrell launched the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland (CBSI) in 1927. Ireland, including Northern Ireland, now had 3 theoretically non-denominational Scout organizations. Anyone of any religion could join, provided they were willing to be church-paraded to the church to which the troop was attached. In the 1960s, as many Catholics became disenchanted with the official church, more parents encouraged their boys into SAI troops.

Differences in attitude to what constituted scouting developed between the organisations. CBSI troops remained loyal to the old ideas: formal fixed camping, tents in straight lines, insistence on full uniform, everything by the book, and the scouts enjoyed it. In SAI, an influential group of young leaders were more interested in mountain camping than fixed camping. Navigation and hill walking skills took precedence over uniforms, initiative in solving problems was encouraged and the scouts enjoyed this too. SAI bought the Lough Dan campsite about this time.

In the 1980s, girls began to join both groups, leading the CBSI to change its name to CSI (Catholic Scouts of Ireland).

In about 1990, the Department of Education noticed that it was funding two sets of head offices etc. and started to encourage a merger. This finally came to pass in 2004 and the result is called 'Scouting Ireland'. In the North, the Scout Association is part of the UK Scout Association. There are about 45,000 members in the whole of Ireland.

Baden Powell was appalled at the carnage of the First World War and at its end worked at the setting up of a world scouting body to encourage international camps or jamborees as he called them. He died in 1941, in



'I have gone home' B-P's Grave in Kenya

Kenya, broken hearted that his boys 'were again at war'. *Scouting for Boys* is the fourth best selling book ever coming in after the Bible, the Koran and the *Thoughts of Chairman Mao*.

All Scouts must, on joining, make the Scout Promise, (with local variations).

'On my honour I promise that I will do my best to do my duty to God and to my country, to help other people and to keep the Scout Law'.

The scout law is:

A scout is to be trusted, is loyal, is friendly and considerate, is a brother to all scouts, has courage in all difficulties, makes good use of his time and is careful of possessions and property, and has respect for himself and others.

They were good ideals in 1908 and they still are.

Lough Dan Memories

Aged 45, I knew nothing about Scouting other than driving my son to various events. Due to a strange set of circumstances (and foolishness on my part) I became Scout Leader of 7th Dublin (Donnybrook) Scouts. I was given all sorts of advice by the leaders of the surrounding troops - the gist of which was that one had to make it up as one went along.

I was told about Lough Dan, a marvellous place, where the boys could do various activities, looked after by trained instructors. All that I had to do was organise transport, food and learn how to put up tents in the dark. One of the parents agreed to come along.

Off we went on a dry Friday in November, got firewood, got a fire going, played hide and seek in the dark, got the lads to bed, shouted at them 20 times to keep quiet and finally went to sleep. The morning was gorgeous, crisp, dry and sunny and a bunch of pheasants were strolling around. I discovered that the eating habits of small boys are horrific, one in particular added sufficient milk and hot water to coco pops resulting in a sort of semi liquid chocolate biscuit cake.

Our assigned instructor turned up and took the boys off canoeing or whatever and allowed us time to recover and organise lunch (cuppa soups and sandwiches).

During the afternoon's activity it started to rain . . . surprise, surprise . . . and we discovered that fish fingers should be baked not fried but that the resulting mush is just about edible.

Saturday night was easy as we were all tired and I have no recollection of Sunday so it must have gone OK.

We stayed in Lough Dan many times in the 15 years that followed, camping, staying in the hostel or in the bunkhouses that were built in the yard. The staff were always great. On one occasion a small boy wangled his way into the kitchen where a course was being catered for. I found him halfway into the gas oven, steaming as he dried out.

I attended and gave various courses as the campsite developed into an Outdoor Education Centre. Going to one I saw a house for sale - blame those pheasants . . .

'Clermont': Our Lady's School in Rathnew

1956-2005

Agatha de V. Mansfield

As we drive on the main road from Roundwood through Ashford towards Rathnew, we see the directions to the left: WICKLOW COUNTY CAMPUS. After a few hundred metres, an old compact white entrance gate is suddenly in front of us. We enter the estate, past the gate lodge and up the tree-lined avenue of mature beech trees, some of the tallest beeches in Ireland. And there it is the picturesque and stately mansion, historic Clermont.

I was shown around by John Ryan from Wicklow County Council who was very erudite and friendly.

The entrance door is framed by Doric columns. The inscription over it reads: DEUS HAEC OTIA FECIT 1730. The heavy wooden door was opened with an enormous key to reveal a spacious hallway and imposing staircase with a richly ornamented stucco ceiling and a beautiful chandelier. Despite being devoid of furniture, the house has a special appeal with its stone-tiled hall flooring and the inscription over the fireplace set in stone: 'Fear God in Life'. (easy to imagine the dramatic entrance of the heroine coming elegantly down the steps beloved of the Hollywood films).

Occupants of Clermont, also known as Newrath House, 1709 - 2005

1709	Usher
1730	Yarner or Leeson
1824	Leeson (Milltown)
1837	J A Leonard
1884	Rev. Francis Chomley (Vicar of Wicklow)
1890 - 1953	Somerville
1955 - 2005	Institute of Christian Education 'Our Lady's School'

Clermont, a three storey house, was built by William Leeson to a design of Francis Bindon in 1730. It was originally called Newragh House. The surrounding area had been a property of the Yarners of Clonmannon who had obtained it by royal grant in 1666 after the O'Byrnes were dispossessed.

Much of the time, Clermont House was held on lease by different families. In 1777, it was the residence of Mr Prioore. In 1800, it was lived in by Nicholas, Marquis of Ely, and then the Congreves. In 1837 it was leased to Mr. J A Leonard.

The Chomleys purchased the fee farm grant of Clermont in the 1840s. The Rev Francis Chomley was Rector of Wicklow and his unmarried grown-up children Frances, Henrietta and Louisa lived at Clermont.

In 1879 the estate was purchased by Col. Tottenham of Ballycurry Estate, Ashford and he sold it to Bellingham Arthur Somerville 1853-1949, a retired District Inspector of the Royal Irish Constabulary. Two new wings were added by the Somervilles. The most significant parts of the new buildings were the large drawingroom and billiard room. The ceiling was magnificently decorated in richly ornamented plasterwork, depicting the arms of the Somerville family (one can still see them, though at the moment they are being restored by local craftsmen).

As well as the new building, the walled garden and the moat were renovated and substantial tree and shrub planting was undertaken. Margaret Somerville died in 1949 and the house was sold to Mr Griffin, a



Clermont

South African fruit farmer, in 1953. He sold the property to the Religious of Christian Education in 1955 (La Congregation de l'Education Chrétienne). They were originally located in Argentan, France, 1889, and then they established a new foundation in Farnborough, Hampshire, England.

Farnborough Hill was the location for the Noviate during both world wars. During World War I, fourteen postulants from Germany, Ireland, America and France entered and they were the first outside of France. They moved to Clermont in 1955 on the invitation of Dr John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin, after establishing a preparatory and secondary school for girls, Our Lady's School in Terenure. On 16th July 1955, Archbishop McQuaid celebrated mass and a novitiate was established at Clermont. Under the guidance of Mother Sanguis a small group of sisters occupied the premises and prepared to receive students. Under the directorship of Sr. Patricia Wright were Joyce Roberts, Monica Morrat, Vera Rennie and Elaine Wisdom.

The billiard room was transformed into an oratory. The dormitories prepared for the first boarders. The kitchen garden and the farm attached to the house were ready to provide much of the necessary food. In September 1956 the first boarders were entered. Sr. Bourne was appointed principal. In 1957 there were forty pupils and the first student was entered for the Leaving Certificate examination.

In the 1960s, new school buildings were added, providing dormitory and classroom space, a large chapel (still in use, for concerts and promotion of the local Wicklow talent), an assembly hall, a kitchen and refectory. In 1970, the open-air swimming pool was built.

The Silver Jubilee Celebration of the founding of the school was performed in a marquee at the Mass by Bishop Cumiskey. The physics laboratory was added to the existing science laboratory. Modernisation and more improvements were carried out. In 1987 an all-weather hockey pitch was built and in 1990 the swimming pool was covered.

But with changing times and the aging profile of the community, the absence of younger sisters became a problem. As a result the community decided that the school would close. The formal closing of the school was in May 2005 with the gathering of many past pupils and the celebration of

a mass of thanksgiving. One could notice a great bond had formed between the community, teachers, staff and students which led to a happy atmosphere.

Over the years, there were many academic achievements together with great talent shown in producing musicals and plays: 'The King and I,' 'My Fair Lady', 'The Fiddler on the Roof', 'Sound of Music', 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', 'South Pacific', 'William Tell' etc. A most memorable production was the presentation of 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast' incorporating verse speaking, dance and singing. They enjoyed being members of the choir and the music classes with the music teacher Mirette Dowling. Being Our Lady's School, each evening ended with the singing of the 'Salve Regina' and the lovely sung Latin masses on Sundays and holidays. They were also lucky to have the gifted organist Sr. Fehrenbach who accompanied the choral singers. Echoes of many liturgical occasions are still ringing around the chapel. In 2001 under the directorship of Ms Mackie Olohan, the girls presented a concert in the National Concert Hall in Dublin, a wonderful reflection of the school's achievements in the arts.

The physical education, with involvement in all sports and outdoor activities, were an important ingredient of the overall training. These included swimming, sailing often in Wicklow harbour, cross country courses, visits to Tiglin Adventure Centre in the Devil's Glen, canoeing, rock climbing, tennis, horse riding, hill walking.

Excursions were also a part of education: Rome, Venice, the trip to Oberammergau for the Passion Play, Strasbourg, etc.

The Clermont magazine was very popular among the students and the witty articles were appreciated by everybody.

The pupils were provided with a platform for life after school. The education was of a high standard, as seen by the success of many former students in all walks of life. This is reflected as the 'Clermont style' or motto 'What you put into it you will get out of it'.

All of this has its origin in 1817, when the congregation was founded in Echauffour, close to Argentan in Normandy, France. The parish priest of that small village, Father Louis Lafosse choose four women and gave them a solid human and Christian formation. He said 'Ite docete' (Go and teach). The words of the founder still echo in the school of Our Lady and their

sayings included 'Show forth Mary in your lives'; 'Be magnanimous, be joyful and free' (Father Lafosse); 'Walk always in truth'.

The Wicklow County Campus in a joint venture between Wicklow County Council and the Institute of Technology, Carlow, are promoting higher education, training and enterprise, offering part-time degrees, diplomas and certificates. It is well equipped for a third level qualification in business, accountancy or law as well as in early childhood studies and applied social studies. All will be of benefit for the local people of Wicklow.

Let us hope such spirit continues through to the present day with its new function and purpose.

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Clermont Our Lady's School, Rathnew, 1956-2005: the special publication for The Past Fifty Years (published by the School).

Sheila Clarke, *Ashford, a Journey through Time*, published by Ashford Books, 2003, preface by Seamus Heaney

Interviews with former students and teachers, notably Professor Mirette Dowling, the director of music.

Special thanks to John Ryan.

The Independent, Thursday, October 19, 1950. 11

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A Drive Through History - The Archaeology of the N11 from Kilmacanogue to Ballynabarney

*Sylvia Desmond (Project Archaeologist, Wicklow County Council)
and Eoin Halpin (Archaeological Development Services)*

Introduction

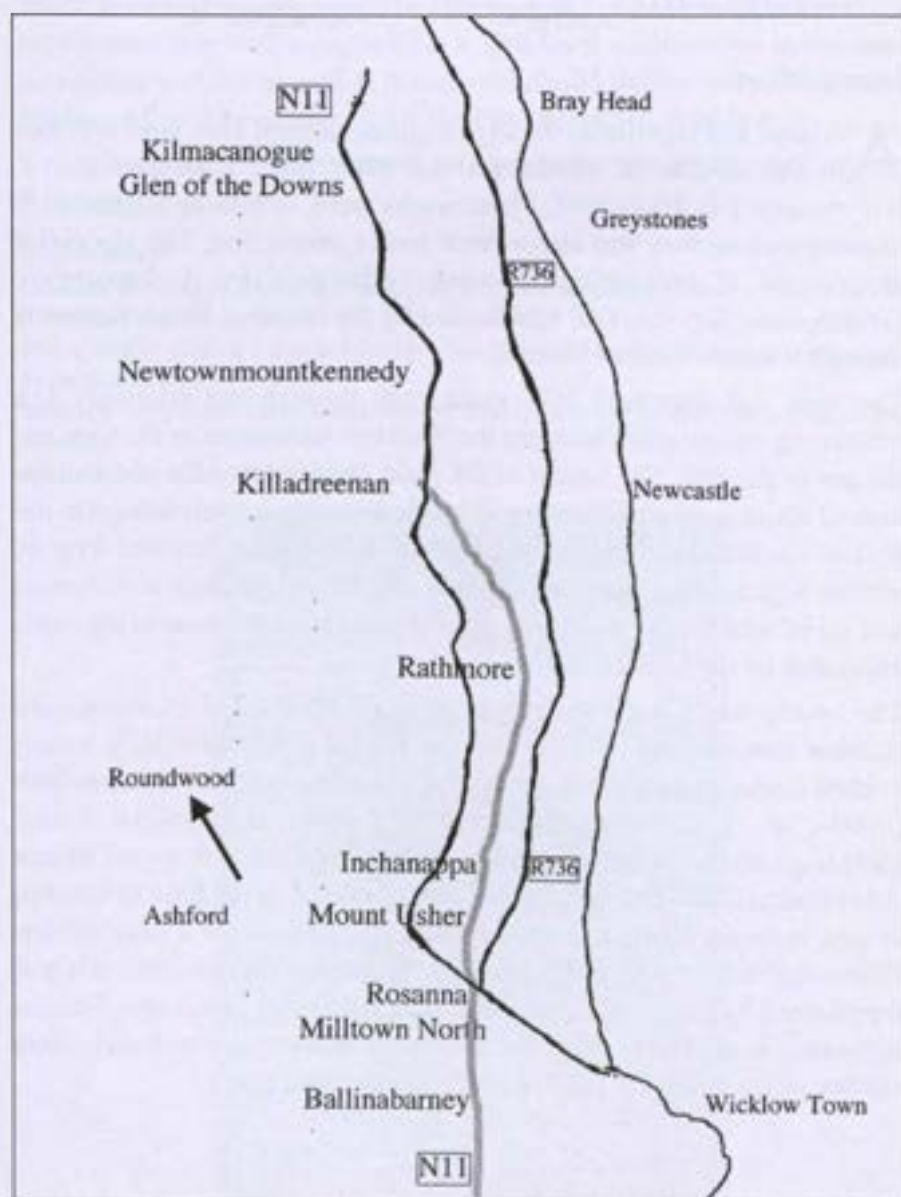
A diverse and significant variety of archaeological sites were revealed in the course of works on the N11 from Kilmacanogue to Ballynabarney in 2001-2003. These works were, in part, re-alignment of existing carriageway and also as new road construction. The associated programme of archaeological work undertaken by Archaeological Development Services Ltd, was funded by the National Roads Authority through Wicklow County Council.

The new and improved N11 route runs through the relatively low undulating coastal plain between the Wicklow mountains to the west and the sea to the east. The nature of the plain creates low hills and valleys, both of which were attractive to prehistoric and early historic settlers to this part of Co Wicklow. This is amply evidenced by the fact that over 60 archaeological sites, many of regional and indeed national significance and all of which were unknown prior to road works commencing, were excavated by the archaeologists.

The county has a wide variety of previously recorded archaeological remains commencing in the Mesolithic period (7000-4000 BC), mainly evident through flint scatters discovered along the coastline. The Neolithic (4000-2500 BC) is well represented by a series of megalithic tombs, including passage, portal and wedge tombs. There are widespread Bronze Age remains (2500-600 BC) throughout the county in the form of standing stones, barrows, cairns and stone circles, also present are a large number of Iron Age hill forts (600 BC-500 AD). The early Christian period is well represented by ringforts and ecclesiastical remains, while Anglo-Norman settlement is evident through the number of moated sites and early stone castles, along with later tower houses and fortified houses.

The Archaeology

The first phase of the road scheme from Kilmacanogue through the Glen of the Downs resulted in several archaeological sites coming to light through the monitoring of the construction works.



The village of Kilmacanogue, like Wicklow town, has its origins in the Early Christian period with the founding of a church by Saint Mochonnóg of Glendalough. However, several sites, revealed during this road scheme point to earlier activity in the area dating to the Bronze Age. A series of fulachta fiadh, or burnt mounds were revealed in the townland of Kilmurry North.

Fulachta fiadh were dug in ground with easy access to water, a stream or marsh for example and consisted of pits, often lined with stone, wood or clay to make them water tight, which were subsequently filled with water. Hot stones were used to heat the water, into which meat, wrapped in straw, was placed and slow-cooked. The immersion of the hot stones into the water caused the stones to crack and this along with charcoal and blackened soil, create the low mounds so typical of this type of monument.*



Wood cut detail of the trough of a burnt mound in use.

Note the heated stones in the water and the wooden lining of the trough.

* Cf Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Journal, 2003, vol. 14, p1 ff (Details of other local fulachta fiadh in 'Wicklow's "Hidden Heritage" by Robert Jennings)

In addition to the fulachta fiadh, a complex of possible Bronze Age hearths also came to light during this first phase of work, emphasising the prehistoric utilization of the landscape.

However, the most extensive evidence of prehistoric settlement came from the second phase of the scheme. This involved the section of the road from Newtownmountkennedy to Ballynabarney, which revealed an astonishing array of over 50 archaeological sites. Many were large hilltop ritual enclosures with cremations dating from the late Neolithic to the Early Bronze Age. Others were typical Bronze Age sites, such as fulachta fiadh described above as well as possible settlements of the Early Christian to late medieval periods.

Killadreenan

A series of large hilltop enclosures with deposits of cremated bone and decorated pottery were also uncovered. Many had associated Bronze Age ring barrows – circular earthen mounds with encompassing ditches. Aerial survey carried out along the new route had revealed a series of large circular enclosures which lay immediately outside the new scheme at Killadreenan.

During monitoring a large archaeological site was located here, which consisted of a series of ditches and pits, along with a small ring barrow or burial site. The finds included a possible flint arrowhead, placing the complex within the late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.

Rathmore

An unusual twentyfour individual fulachta fiadh sites were uncovered during a phase of pre-construction testing along an 800m stretch of routeway in Rathmore in an area known locally as the Cullenmore Bends. The large number of fulachta fiadh in such a small area is extremely significant and will add significantly to the understanding of this site type. Many revealed troughs and pits lined with wood. The extremely wet conditions that prevailed within the general area preserved much of the wood and indeed the contents of the pits. It is hoped that such preservation will provide invaluable insights into the prehistoric ecology and landscape of the area. A small number of artefacts were recovered in association with the complex. These included a fragment of ring money – a small



*Selection of flint tools,
scrapers and blades*



*Wrist guard – as the name
suggests thought to be
used by archers to avoid
injury from the bow string.*

plaited gold ring – uncovered beneath one of the fulachta fiadh thereby dating the artefact to the Bronze Age. Such a find is extremely rare and the ring money is presently with the National Museum of Ireland undergoing conservation. Unfortunately there was little evidence for occupation associated with the fulachta, only the remains of a few postholes were uncovered around some of the troughs and these have been interpreted as temporary shelters or wind breaks.



Base timber lining of a burnt mount trough - Rathmore

Cullenmore

A very significant site was located within the townland of Cullenmore where three large areas of prehistoric activity were uncovered. The first, located on a ridge of elevated ground to the east of the existing N11 road, consisted of a large prehistoric enclosure, some 30m in diameter, with a central cremation, probably representing a barrow. These types of burial sites are generally dated to the Bronze Age.

The second site, also located on the ridge, covered several hundred metres and revealed a series of ditches, pits and hearths. The prehistoric pottery and flint artefacts recovered from this site would place it within the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age.

The third ridge top site was located to the immediate west and the fact that it also consisted of numerous ditches and pits could suggest that it dates to the same period.

Inchanappa

A large prehistoric enclosure site, some 30m in diameter, was uncovered at Inchanappa. Located, this time at the base of a hill, the site revealed evidence for habitation through various pits, enclosures and ditches. The post-holes indicate a large round structure, possibly a domestic house located within the enclosure. Portions of large granite quern stones for grinding corn into flour were recovered, together with prehistoric pottery and flint artefacts.



*Saddle quern and rubbing stone
Inchanappa*

Evidence for industrial archaeology was found at Inchanappa Upper where a series of six large deliberate areas of burning were recorded. The largest of these, a stone lined kiln was found. Evidence was recovered that it was reused at least three times prior to its destruction. The kiln has been interpreted as a corn-drying kiln although no production waste or debris was recorded for any of the features. However one spindle whorl, a tool used in spinning was found, suggesting domestic activity in the area. It is possible that this later phase of the site may have been associated with a known Early Christian church site nearby.



Spindle whorl



Stone font at the early christian site near Inchanappa Upper

Rosanna

At Rosanna, a large complex revealed a range of monuments and sites, which ranged from the prehistoric to the post-medieval. There was evidence of prehistoric cremations and activity in this area, which may be related to a large possible Bronze Age mound. This mound is a previously recorded monument and overlooks the Vartry River.



A large circular ditched enclosure, with the vestiges of pits and post holes visible in the interior. Many of the linear features are agricultural in origin and post date the occupation of the enclosure.

One of the most significant sites located in this area is a possible Anglo-Norman moated site, with a wide enclosing ditch that was revealed through testing. The pottery from this moated site would place it firmly in the medieval period.

A very fine mould for a spur and an arrowhead was retrieved from a stone lined pit at Rosanna.

There was also evidence for the prehistoric period at Rosanna with cremation pits and archaeological features dating from the Bronze Age Period.

A large number of post-medieval garden features were also revealed in this area. Many of these were circular in shape with raised banks of stone and are typical of garden features on large demesnes, such as Rosanna. All the garden structures were investigated, recorded and photographed.



Iron age or Early Medieval bowl furnace, the stone mould was found in association with this feature - Rosanna



*Stone mould side a
- the spur and arrow head
Rosanna*



*Stone mould side b
- uncertain what objects these moulds
may have been used to manufacture*

Mount Usher and Milltown North

Prehistoric ritual/burial sites: The Bronze Age 2000 - 500 BC

Two important burial sites were excavated in the townlands of Mount Usher and at Milltown North on the flood plain of the Vartry River. These were both ring ditch burial sites dating from the Middle Bronze Age. Mount Usher is a single large ring ditch enclosing an internal structure marked by postholes. Within the structure there was evidence of a possible cremation pyre (wooden structure burned during the process of cremating the dead). Evidence for at least three cremation burials were found; a badly destroyed stone lined cist burial within the ditch contained at least 2 urns and cremated remains, the third burial was located just outside the southwest edge of the ditch. This cremation was placed in a large encrusted urn. The site in Milltown North contained two ring ditches 20m apart, one of these measured 15m wide and contained two simple cremation burials within and a second smaller ring ditch 5m wide located to its north. The entrance to this second ditch was facing west with two large pits at the end of each terminal. Although badly truncated over time a ring of shallow postholes encircled the outer edge of the ring ditch.

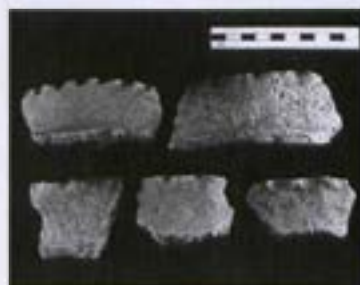


Prehistoric ritual, burial site Milltown north

Ballynabarney

At the southern end of the scheme a site uncovered in Ballynabarney, revealed evidence for prehistoric habitation in the form of a large circular Bronze Age house.

Circular houses are a feature of the Bronze Age and are typically 8-12m in diameter. The structure at Ballynabarney falls within this range and from which a large quantity of prehistoric pottery, some decorated, together with a considerable amount of flint artefacts, were recovered. Pits, ditches, hearths and many other archaeological features were also revealed, indicating that this house was part of a much larger archaeological complex.



*Selection of rim sherds
Ballynabarney*



*Strap handle from a
medieval pottery vessel
Ballynabarney*



*Neolithic stone axe
Ballynabarney*

In addition to the Bronze Age house, a medieval domestic complex consisting of a kiln within a rectangular enclosure, was also discovered at Ballynabarney. The enclosure formed a complete circuit with a notable depression, which might have allowed an entrance, appears to have been intended for drainage. The most conspicuous feature within the enclosure was an area of very heavily burnt red clay and sand possibly representing a hearth or kiln and a flue. 2,700 sherds of pottery provisionally dated to the late 13th and early 14th centuries, several metal objects and several hundred small stones apparently chosen and brought to the site for their shape and size, possibly for some industrial purpose were discovered within the enclosure. Two groups of small stake holes, 60 in total, associated with the hearth may be the remains/traces of where a screen was used to shield the fire against the wind. The quantities of pottery suggest that this enclosure may have been for a small rural pottery kiln.



This house had a roof which sprang from the top of timber wall, which was set into the circular gully, visible in the photograph. An inner ring of postholes both further supported the roof and would have sub-divided the interior.

In addition, in this case, there appears to be an arrangement of four posts creating a porch at the entrance - Ballynabarney

What has been described is simply a small sample of the wide range of archaeological activity discovered along the routeway. The significance of this wealth of new archaeological evidence is still being assessed. However, its importance to our knowledge of County Wicklow cannot be overstated. The County already had many known archaeological monuments and sites ranging from the prehistoric to the post-medieval. To date the N11 road scheme has revealed a large number of new prehistoric sites, both ritual and secular, demonstrating a much higher density of prehistoric settlement throughout the county than was previously thought. The number and broad range of sites reflect the widespread use of the landscape of Wicklow throughout our past, from the remote prehistoric period of the Neolithic to the 19th century. The 'Garden of Ireland' may be a relatively new term used to describe a county with stunning landscape, and abundant in flora and fauna. This 'Garden' has provided further evidence for a rich and diverse archaeological heritage and a landscape steeped in prehistory and history.

The Front Cover

Over the years, the Journal has been recognised by the map of the area on the front cover. This map has been used since the third journal. The only information of its source was the statement 'Cover: Baldwin, Craddock and Joy's Survey of 1822' in some of the older Journals.

Curiosity started a search for more information about this Survey. Survey of what and by whom? Baldwin, Craddock, and Joy were situated in Paternoster-Row, London. Robert Baldwin was described as being the lead partner in the 'eminent bookselling partnership Baldwin, Craddock and Joy'. They were also publishers who published an eclectic mix including poetry, travel and medical tomes.

Did Baldwin, Craddock and Joy commission the map of the Wicklow area? The surveyors were frequently anonymous in those days, but the engraver was often identified. Was it Sidney Hall, a renowned London engraver, who had done a fine map of the City of Dublin in 1821 for Baldwin, Craddock and Joy? We still do not know but maybe further digging will provide more answers.

Egg Shells for Poultry

It is a bad thing to give fowls egg-shells. They supply nothing that is not equally well furnished by lime, and especially bricklayers' rubbish, old ceilings, &c. Never do anything that has a tendency to make them eat eggs. They are apt scholars. If they find worms in a natural way they are good food, but it is a bad plan to give them by the handful.

Enquire within upon everything, 1893, Houlston and Sons, London.



Miss PORTER, HUBERT TAYLOR, BEN DOYLE, SARAH MANLEY, LIL MOLLOY, ANN WALSH, KATHLEEN COLLEN, TERESA MOLLOY,
 BEIDIE MOLLOY, ANGELO MOLLOY, MAGGIE PICKER, BILLY MANLEY, PAT Mc. GUIRK,
 MURIEL TAYLOR, MOLLY CONNOLLY, NANCY KEARNS, MAY DOYLE, MAX HALLIGAN, MAGGIE DOOLEY,
 KATE WALSH, EMMIE Mc. GUIRK, DORA KEARNS, CISS DOYLE, PEGGY KENNEDY,
 BUDY DOOLEY, BUDY WALSH, KIT HALLIGAN, MARGIE DOYLE, TERRY DOOLEY, CHARLES MANLEY, JIMMIE MOLLOY, ADELLE GUIRK,
 PAULY MANLEY, SEAN KEARNS.

The Games We Played

Catherine Fox

As children, growing up in the fifties and sixties, the games we played after school, were seasonal. After our chores were hurriedly done, games were top priority.

Spring was for ball games - the good ones could juggle three balls at a time while chanting 'What shall we do with the drunken sailor', for skipping - one on each end of a rope - a group of us singing out the rhymes like 'Tilly on the telephone miss a loop your out' - and of course marbles or thaws played on footpaths with a hole made in the tarmac where you could be asked to knuckle to your eyebrow for the big bottler that was equal to six smaller ones (aiming while standing upright rather than from a kneeling position).

Ball Games

Played with two balls up against the wall

'Jack Jack keep me up the longest

Jack Jack don't let me fall down (*drop one ball down*)

Jack Jack watch as I turn around (*turn around and catch the ball*)

Jack Jack don't let me tip the ground.'

✱

What will we do with the drunken sailor

What will we do with the drunken sailor

What will we do with the drunken sailor early in the morning.

Put him on board and throw him over (*repeat 3 times*)

early in the morning

Ding dong down he goes (*repeat 3 times*) early in the morning

E. I. Up he rises (*repeat 3 times*) early in the morning

Some Skipping Games

Tilly on the telephone,
Miss a loop you're out

*

Vote vote vote for DeValera
In comes [Name] at the door I-I-O
[Name] is the one that will have a bit of fun
and we don't want DeValera anymore I-I-O

*

Blue bells cockle shells
Eever Ivor Over
Mother in the kitchen doin a bit of stitchin
In comes the boogie man and out runs she.

*

Mr Brown is a very good man
A very good man indeed
He goes to Mass on Sundays
To give him help to bash the kids
on Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday etc
*(Each person runs in without missing a turn of the rope,
until someone misses a skip)*

*

Down in the valley where the green grass grows
That's where [Name] washes her clothes
She washes her socks and she washes the vest of
The one she loves best.

Summer was for rounders played in a field with four sticks placed at intervals in a square. Many a one went home with a sore leg, arm or backside from a smack of the ball or even the bat! Tennis and swimming were also high on the agenda as was hurling when we tried to kill each other on the pitch if not with the hurley, cat-calling or fists. Ah yes - a great game to get revenge on the opposite team. We fished also and of course fell

in the water and had to walk home soaking wet with just a minnow to show for our trouble. Hoops were played with the steel frame from a bicycle wheel and a stick. The craic was mighty. Go-car racing was great fun, made from wheels off a pram, an orange box and some rope to do the steering. Two or three were needed for this, two to push and one in the car and you needed a good slope for the job. If you managed to stay in the box and get to the finish line it was a miracle!

Naughty(ish) Rhymes

My Mother and your Mother were putting out the clothes
My Mother gave your mother a punch on the nose
What colour was the blood?



Climb down the banisters climb down the banisters Y-O-U.
Why won't you marry me marry me marry me
Why won't you marry me Y-O-U.
It's not because you're ugly It's not because you're clean
It's because your face is dirty from eating margarine!

Autumn was for the conkers. Knees were bruised from climbing the trees for the biggest chestnuts and our fingers were so sore from getting walloped, we found it difficult to carry our bags to school. Snap-apple at Halloween was a great favourite, we ate sour apples and nearly died with the pain in our tummies. But did we care? NO. Getting nearly drowned in a tub of water to get the money (an old penny) a sweet or a nut didn't bother us so long as we got the prize.

Winter then came and all the board games to play such as draughts, ludo, snakes and ladders, monopoly and tiddly winks.

Christmas - that wonderful peaceful happy time when everyone wishes each other well. My eye - not in our house! Rings and card games brought out the worst in everyone. Rows over standing too near the board to slamming the ring that was hanging too near the edge and knocking it off and waiting for that all important No. 1 ring to finish on was all too much. It was enough to make you tear your hair out.

Cards caused the most trouble. People fell out over looking at someone's hand, cheating, and being accused of knowing the backs of the cards were some of the comments used.

Believe you me, it was no place for a novice you could get flailed alive. Many's the one, who left the game, vowing never to play or set foot in the house again. They still turned up again for more of the same the next night. Oh the blood, sweat and tears of it all - could you beat it on a cold winter's Friday night, the only night we youngsters were allowed to stay up late.

The girls loved to dress up, with beautiful long red nails compliments of the fuschia plant - the lipstick came from Nancy balls (aniseed balls - twelve for a penny that lasted forever) and of course to finish the look a big beauty spot from a colour pencil plonked in the middle of the cheek. Mother's high heels, her hat if you could reach the top of the wardrobe, plus daisy and buttercup chains around the neck and you were dressed to beat the band.

The boys played Cowboys and Indians with scarfs around the neck and some bird feathers on the head, guns with caps in holsters held on the waist by elastic belts and a bow and arrow made from a branch bent over and held together with string and a stick for the arrow and they were ready for action. Cops and Robbers was another old favourite with masks around the eyes made from paper cut with slits for the eyes held on by string or elastic around the ears. Of course swinging from the trees and hooting like Tarzan was great fun also.

Sliding needed skill. We would throw water on the ground of a frosty evening to make the slide. Arms out gracefully as we glided to the end. I have to say not all were successful, you could have a very sore bottom while trying to perfect this. Of course leather soled shoes was the next best thing. Big holes in soles of shoes were proof of a good slider! And they had to be stuffed with brown paper until they could be repaired by the cobbler or your Dad if he had a last. The lads had big patches on their trousers, more evidence of a good slider!

All the games we played taught us a lot, like how not to fall, how not to get soaked, how and most important of all, to do running repairs before you got home and how to stay stum when asked what you were up to!

More on the Schools Manuscript Collection

Ita Corcoran

In last year's Journal, we printed a number of compositions written by local primary school children in 1938 and preserved in the National Folklore Collection in U.C.D.

These form a small part of the Schools Manuscript Collection, a nationwide project with more than 5000 primary schools participating. People were very interested, particularly those who had wholly or partly forgotten their participation.

We are now listing those pupils from Roundwood and Moneystown National Schools whose compositions were included in the official notebooks.

These official notebooks are ones in which children with the best handwriting transcribed the most interesting and varied essays of their classmates.

Also in the Schools Manuscript Collection are the original 50,000 copybooks from which these would have been copied. These are considered a national treasure and are preserving a large body of folklore for posterity.

The Delargy Centre for Irish Folklore is in Newman Building, Belfield, U.C.D. and welcomes visitors, particularly those who wrote the compositions. It is open from 2.30 to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed in August.

Who would have thought copybooks a National Treasure and that they are treated with as much respect as old manuscripts such as the *Book of Kells*! Cotton gloves are worn to handle them.

Roundwood National School 31/12/1938

Patrick Brennan	Local Crafts Riddles The Hidden Treasure The Potato Crop The local forge Herbs Games I play A collection of prayers Emblems and objects of value
Sean Brady	Weatherlore Local Poets Fairy forts My home district The care of the feet Our holy wells Proverbs The local patron saint Local ruins A story of 1798
Liam Timmons	Local heroes Riddles Local Poets A strange cave Hurling and football matches A song by W.J. Duffy
Christina Pierce	A strange story of Raheen
Molly Traynor	Riddles (Knockfadda)
Lily Farrell	A strange story Local cures

Moneystown National School

Willie Byrne <i>Aged 14 of Tomriland</i>	Hidden Treasure Local Heroes
Nancy Kenna	Riddles Weatherlore Our holy wells
Lil Kearney <i>Aged 13</i>	Bird lore
John Doyle <i>Aged 14 of Lickeen</i>	The potato crop
Neans Ni Briain	Homemade toys Prayers Churning
Desmond Fitzgerald	History of '98

Mo ainm Liam Timmons
Fuaras an scéal ó: Mr Martin Murphy,
Roundwood, Co Wicklow

Local Heroes

Mr Martin Farrell Castlekevin jumped the ivy wall going up to the graveyard in Glendalough and he was going to Dublin in one day and he met with two horses and the man said to him although you jumped the wall in Glendalough you will not jump those two horses, the man put the two horses together and Mr Farrell jumped them and won a bet of thirty shillings.

James Fleming of Oldtown jumped the county road measuring twenty one feet, from one side to the other.

Andrew Doyle Ballinacoor was a famous runner and he ran by the name of the "Mountain hare".

When the reservoir was been made, Mr Martin Murphy Roundwood jumped the puddle trench measuring twelve feet (deep and) wide and thirty feet deep in a standing jump. There were two witnesses namd Patrick McCabe and Kevin Hughes, Roundwood.

NFCS: 918

6

Learn Termonross
Mr. Matthew Hurley
Roundwood
Co. Wicklow

Lo. I Heroes

Mr. Martin Farrell basketweaver jumped the
the cry wall going up to the grave just
in Glendalough and he was going to
Dublin one day and he met a man
with two horses and the man said to
him although you jumped the wall in
Glendalough you will not jump those
two horses, the man put the horses
together and didn't well jumped them and
won a bit of thirty shillings.

James Fleming Oldtown jumped the
county road measuring twenty one feet
from one side to the other.

Andrew Doyle Ballinacorney was a famous
man and he ran by the name of the
"Mountain Hare".

When the Reservoir was being made,
Mr. Murphy Roundwood jumped the
puddle trench measuring 20 feet deep
and 20 feet wide and thirty feet deep in a
climbing jump. There were two witnesses named
Patrick de Cate and Rowanburgher Roundwood.

NFCS 918

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National Folklore Collection. University College Dublin.

(NFCS 918 p6)

Patrick Brennan's Treasure Hunt

C M Chambers

Included in the Schools Manuscript Collection, in last year's Journal, was an essay 'The Hidden Treasure' by Patrick Brennan. He wrote that there are the remains of an old church on the right hand side of the road heading to Lough Dan. The site of the church is correct as it is marked on the Ordinance Survey maps and highlighted in the maps accompanying the 2007 Roundwood Town plan as an Ecclesiastical complex.

He also mentioned that an excavation of the church was carried out by a Mr O'Doherty. O'Doherty and Mr Murphy found a large bell there that was kept by Mr Keogh who was a landlord of the parish. After Mr Keogh's death, the bell was reported to have been sold several times but now was in a Belfast museum. A glass chalice was also reported to be found during the same excavation.



Patrick Brennan with son

This seemed exciting news so the Ulster Museum was contacted in April. Cormac Bourke of the Ulster Museum replied no. The Ulster Museum did not have the bell from this site nor was there any archaeological record of a bell from this site. However he has an interest in medieval bells and had been, by coincidence, already been looking for information on the bell that was described as the Knockatemple bell (*cf* Journal 3, Martin Timmons article on Knockatemple church).

The Knockatempul bell as it was described by W Frazer, in 1879, as a large square bronze bell 12 inches high and 8 inches across. It was found at Knockatemple Church, at the east end of the church about two feet underground. It was surmised that this would have been the position of the altar. The handle was broken during the excavations and one part of the top of the bell was damaged by a pickaxe. F J Bigger gave a more detailed description of a 12 inch high bell 'with the usual tapering oblong shape 6 inches and 8 inches wide at the mouth. The clapper and handle are missing and one side has fallen away in part through corrosion. The material is iron, and the welding and riveting at the sides can still be traced. There are also traces of bronze plating'.

Bigger also gives some information of the fate of the bell. 'It was sold by Joseph Keane, auctioneer, in March 1915 at the sale of the effects of Mr H C Hall, of Knockraheen, deceased, a local resident, and a relative of the finder of the bell. It was purchased with other articles by a Dublin dealer for a few shillings (although freely advertised) and in November following was acquired by the Rev J McArdle of the Pro-Cathedral on the advice of the writer. There were other articles found at the same time at Knock-atemple : a "glass chalice" said to have been found on the breast of a skeleton; oyster shell painted with mineral paint, and a carved head; these were auctioned at the same time. The last named is now in Chicago. It is a miracle the bell is not there too'. Neither paper included an illustration.

Cormac Bourke was surprised:- 'the suggestion that the bell came here (Belfast) is new to me and might be connected with the fact that Bigger was a Belfast man. In fact there's no evidence of what happened to it after 1915; it isn't in the National Museum of Ireland and (because I have an interest in early medieval bells) I have been in touch with the Pro-Cathedral and am reliably informed that it isn't there and that they know nothing about it. I have recently pursued the possibility that Fr McArdle

might have left a will but am now assured by the Dublin Diocesan Archives that they haven't got one. This leaves a further possibility, which by coincidence I've been exploring within the last fortnight, that a photo or drawing of the bell might exist among the Bigger papers in Belfast Central Library. I have put this to a colleague who knows the material and he has undertaken to check'.

There are interesting discrepancies between the two reports. The landowner was Keogh but the name was Henry in 1879 and in 1915 there is reference to the bell being unearthed by late John G Keogh. The 'chalice' is not mentioned in the list of other finds at the site in 1879 by Frazer but only by Bigger in 1915.

Thus it would seem that though Patrick Brennan was right about the site of the church on the Lough Dan road, but the 'treasure' would seem to be that excavated at Knockatemple. Sadly Patrick died since the launch of the last Journal, which he enjoyed and was delighted to be reminded about his school days. May he rest in Peace.

However if anyone knows the whereabouts of the wooden bell carved by Mr Jermiah Maloney that Patrick Brennan described it would be another piece of the jigsaw filled in.

References

F J Bigger 1915 Ancient iron bell found at Knock-a-temple, Co Wicklow. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, vol XLV, 315

Cormac Bourke 2008 Personal communication 25 April.

Ita Corcoran 2007 Schools Manuscript Collection 1937-1938. Patrick Brennan NFCS:918 pg 1 *R&DHFJ*, 15, 19-27

W Frazer 1879 On a bronze bell and sculptured head of stone, and other antiquities found in the Church of Knockatempul, Co Wicklow. *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*.

Martin Timmons 1990 Knockatemple Church *R&DHFJ*, 3, 20-23

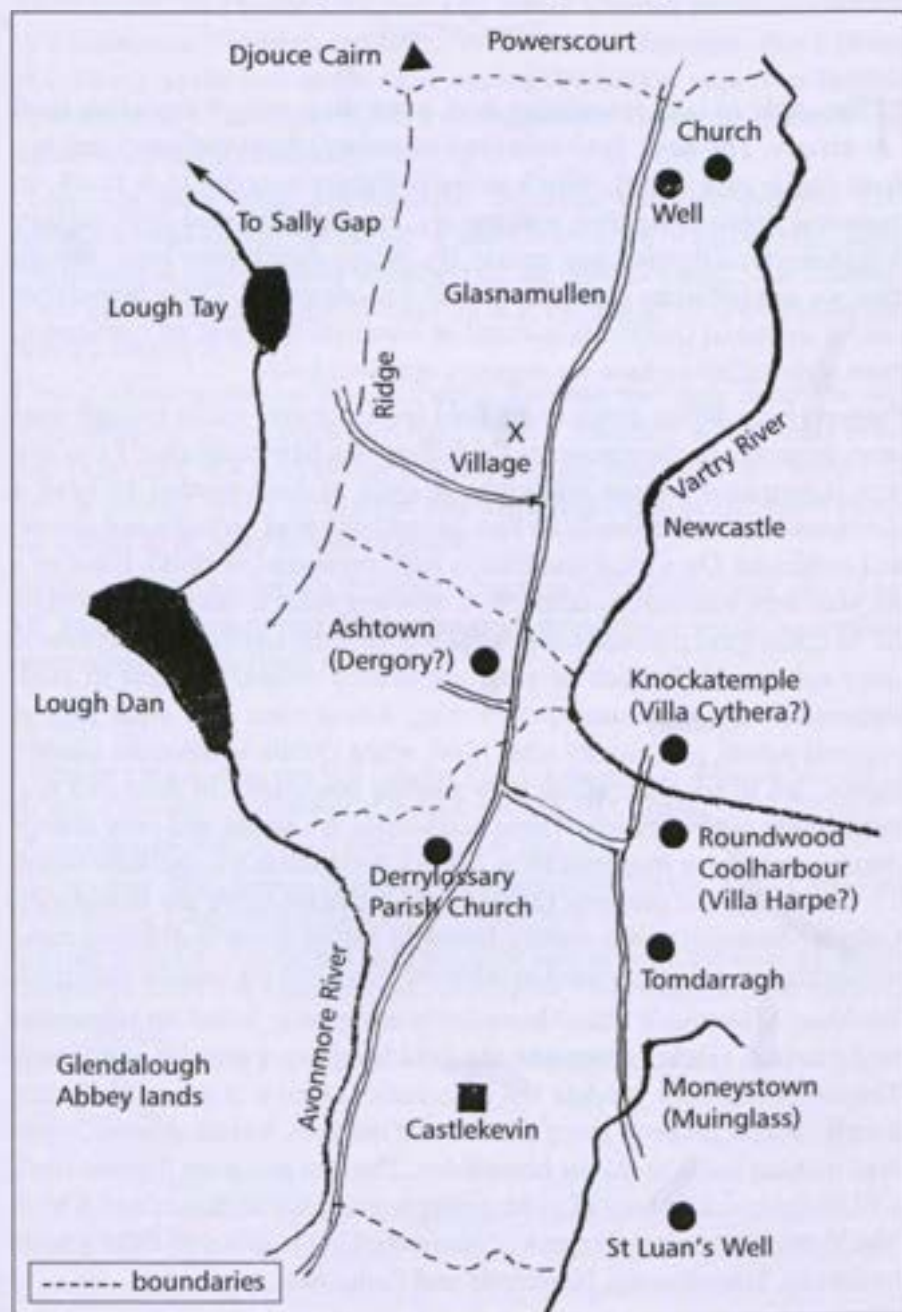
Land Boundaries of Derralossory and Environs

Ian Cantwell

The study of land boundaries is an interesting way of exploring local history. The basic land unit (and boundary) from earliest times is a farm (*baile* /townland), which in early history was set in a *Tuath*, in medieval times in a parish and barony, but since the mid 19th century within electoral districts and unions. By tracing their history back through time we can get some idea of how land was organized. These boundaries can be territorial (political), cultural or administrative and all continue to have some effect on how we organize our lives today.

Property boundaries, down to the field level, are very stable though, over time, there will be the transfer of fields from one farm to another. Farm size was determined by the minimum amount of land needed to keep a *derbhinne* (extended family to four generations plus servants and slaves) self-sufficient. On a local level farms were organized in *Tuath*, ruled by a *Ri*, and there was fierce competition between them to become provincial *Ri*. In effect local political boundaries tended to be stable while provincial were ephemeral. Periods of conquest caused radical changes in land-ownership but often used pre-existing boundaries. The slow loss of regional power, particularly after 1200, when Dublin became the island's capital, led to administrations who adapted boundaries to their own use, particularly tax collection. These boundaries are stable and only change during conquest or modernization. Church boundaries are also farm based, i.e. the smaller the property (or territory) the more stable the boundaries. Cultural boundaries are mostly found in earlier periods dividing areas where monuments were used in different ways and are usually indistinct. Wicklow Mountain's oldest boundaries are mostly found on ridges and rivers though roads, crossroads and field hedgerows are also significant. The roads probably predate the boundaries since it is more likely that people divided property using pre-existing markers, including roads, rather than making roads to follow boundaries. The best and most popular roads will be the quickest way of getting people and pack animals from A to B. The Vartry plateau has all types of boundaries but is split into three ancient territories, Derrylossary, Newcastle and Rathdown.

Early Medieval Derrylossary



Derrylossary is made up of the western part of the plateau and the upper river valleys; its history can be traced by its external and two internal boundaries. The first internal boundary was the Avonmore River as far as Drummin, which divided the Abbey lands (west of the river to the Sally Gap) and the monastic estate of Fertir (Vartry). The Parish is a 17th century amalgamation of the two parts. The age of this boundary is unknown; the answer probably lies in earlier conquest and grants of land to Glendalough from the 4th century onwards. The second internal boundary is the Vartry River, which divides the plateau from Moneystown (that part of Derrylossary in Newcastle Barony) and is also of 17th century date.

The external boundaries are much older. On the western side the Wicklow Mountain ridge has long divided the coast from the interior (passes are of equal antiquity) though its importance has declined since the formation of Wicklow County in 1606, except in Gaelic Games. The northern boundary that divides Rathdown (Dargle valley) from Derrylossary begins at Liffey Head Bridge and follows the spur to War Hill (standing stone) to Djouce (cairn). Then down the slope meeting the stream that divides Powerscourt Paddock from Glasnamullen to the Vartry river just to the north of Sutton's Mound. This natural glacial mound (excavated for gravel by the County Council in the 1950s but no burials found according to Liam Price) could have been of territorial and symbolic importance as it is half way between Djouce and Downshill hill fort. About 0.5km to the south the boundary forks south and east where a stream divides Calary Upper and Carriggower.

It is worth noting that it does not follow the ridge but is south of the watershed of the Dargle's tributary streams. The ridge may have been a ritual boundary in the Bronze Age as ring barrows are sometimes boundary markers. A mound, identified by Liam Price and Anthony Farrington as natural and called *Cnoc na nDiabhal* (Hill of the Devils) by O'Curry, at the mouth of the ravine is suggestive given its foundation of purple (a royal colour) Ordovician Shale, its location at the head of a natural *cursus*, under a sacred mountain, Sugar Loaf. It, like Sutton's Mound, may have been used as a burial mound, been an assembly area or inauguration site, or all three. The large numbers of *fulachta fiadh* (c. 1,500BC) nearby to the south could be interpreted as catering for large assemblies as an alternative to the usual idea of *buaille*, shepherd's summer cooking spots.

It continues eastwards and crosses the saddle between Downshill and the neighbouring hill of Calary Lower and then joins a tributary of the Three Trout River on the other side of the watershed, joins the main river at Woodlands and continues to the sea at Charlesland. It is an ancient boundary since the monumental archaeology north and south of the divide is different. There are greater numbers and types of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments in the north, part of the West Wicklow and Leinster River territories. To the south it is much simpler with a greater emphasis on the sacredness of the natural landscape of mountains and rivers; it may be that they focused their spiritual activity through the landscape directly and felt no need to build monuments. The distribution of megaliths, cairns etc. indicates that they may be territorial markers.

Derrylossary's eastern boundary follows the Vartry River south and divides the plateau between it and Newcastle. It does not follow the ridge so it appears to be the result of some political decision that perhaps arose out of some long forgotten conflict between east and west Wicklow. How long the plateau has been divided is impossible to say but is at least Iron Age. The southern boundary from the Vartry River south and west to the Avonmore River is somewhat confused and wanders north and south without any logic. It looks like some temporary resolution that was never changed and must reflect some ancient complicated political problem. The megalith and cairn at Moneystown Crossroads may have been boundary markers; this is one of their functions (the only other local example is in Castletimon, Ennisboyne, where it appears to mark an internal division). Glenacawrya (*Gleann na Cairde?* Glen of Friendship/Treaty) in Glenwood may be associated. At any rate this area of scrubland has probably belonged to Derrylossary, Newcastle and Rathdrum since ancient times though the current boundary may only be 800-1,500 years old.

The earliest named people of Wicklow were the *Cuala* (Keuleni, according to Ptolemy, and part of the Celtic *Laighin*) who may have controlled Tara and as far north as the Cooley Peninsula and from whom the *Ui Enechglais* descend. The name is of generic European origin and is found in Britain and Germany (Köln), so it seems that language and culture for the average European farmer was much the same. By 300AD they had been supplanted by the *Dal Messin Corb* under whose auspices Christianity arrived in Leinster spreading from coastal Christian settlements and who may have

given the first land grants to Glendalough. However the Abbey did not come into prominence until the 700s under the *Ui Mail*, when it probably gained many of its *paruchia* (granges, originally independent Early Christian communities). The *Ui Teig* held Newcastle and Rathdown, which later came under the control of the *Ui Briain Cualann*.

In time Glendalough became very wealthy and powerful with a large number of subsidiary granges in Wicklow, Kildare and Dublin and by the 1150s controlled much of the land that fed the Viking coastal towns. The original Glendalough Diocese included all County Dublin. Derrylossary estate was divided into farms at Derrylossary (Parish Church), Tomdarragh, Roundwood, Ashtown and Glasnamullen; almost all have large enclosures, churches, bullauns, and holy wells. It is possible that Tomdarragh and Roundwood were subsidiary to Derrylossary, at least that appears to have been the situation c. 1200 since neither has a church ruin. Tomdarragh may be much older as it has two, previously unrecorded, boulders with Rock Art (Bronze Age or earlier). The first, within the enclosure has three cups, 25cm, 8.5cm and 5cm, whose circumferences touch. The second is by a gap in the wall that makes a right angle with the enclosure's outer wall at the S.E.

The annexation and assimilation of the Bishopric and Abbey by the Archbishopric of Dublin in the early 1200s resulted in Derrylossary coming under new management at Castlekevin Manor, built c.1230-50. The estate was modernised, new churches were built and tenancies re-organised. The Parish Church now only held the surrounding land (Derlaster) and Clonbo (*Cluan Bó* cow river meadow, Ballincorbeg?). Two other local estates were *Lakyn* and *Muneglas* (Lickeen and Moneystown) and Bealing's holding of Carboth (*bothóg* hut settlement?), Ballinlocher (*luachair* rushy land), Ballydergory (*doire Guaire* Guaire's oakwood, the *Ui Guaire* were a subsidiary sept of the *Ui Mail*), Ballyonmochay (*machaire* cleared land), and Ballyoseran (*soar* craftsman). The place names have been mangled by Latin and French speakers; translations are provisional since few have survived to modern times. Other lands held by the Manor were in Stagonil, Killadreenan, Killiskey, Kerikee, and Arklow. It is curious that oak appears in three church names, Derrylossary, Ballydergory and Tomdarragh, is there some association with sacred oak groves or is because Early Christians liked oaks on the farm? As king of

the trees it was a high status building material. Ballydergory became Ballynafunshoge (Ashtown), a tree that denotes fertile soil.

The main reason so few old place names have survived was because of the conquest of Wicklow by the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles in the 1300s, followed by the Reformation. The majority of topographical names now used date from 1300-1500s, while the original church dedications and farm names are lost, as is most of its history. The next major change is when the Archbishopric of Dublin made over its nominal title to the estate to Henry VIII who then granted it to the O'Tooles of Castlekevin in 1534. There are two lists of farms, excluding churchland, from 1541 and 1578; these are Castlekevin, Tomriland, Ganmonstown (Moneystown?), Leitrim (Roundwood), Whigmanstown (1578 only, Ballinastoe?), Glasnamullen and Tullaghgory (Ashtown?).

There appears to have been some re-organisation of the farm leases in the 1580s as the next list, 1598, has Castlekevin, Myngles (Moneystown), Cowlecremock (in Trooperstown), Littlefertir (?), Bolenalge (Ballinvally or Slemaine according to Price but doubtful), Tomerane (Tomriland), Knockrahin (? A small rath is less than 20m diameter), Twodarragh (Tomdaragh), Ballencorbeg (Ballincorbeg), Colenebur (Coolharbour, now in Roundwood), Rahin (Raheen), Ballanany, (Baltinanima), Leitrim (Roundwood), Molenemeg (Mulliveigue), Ballynistoy (Ballinastoe), Glassnivolin (Glasnamullen), Boleneherna (Boleyhorrigan), Luggelagh, (Luggela). This is similar to a 1636 list of Castlekevin, Tomriland, Tomdaragh, Leitrim, Baltinanima, Glasnamullen, Coolroomock, Tullaghgory, Bolekavarre, Bolenenalge, Ballincorbeg, Raheen, Ashtown, Downmore, Carrickcor, Knockraheenbeg (same as above?), Luggela, Corboyle, Boylenrath, and Ballyballycoogegheg. However while the first appears to follow a line the second is more difficult to reconstruct. Another 1636 source, which describes surviving woods, gives Castlekevin, Tomriland, Tomdaragh, Ballinacor, Raheen, Baltinanima (plus the next two were one farm or 'town'), Carrickroe, Bolelin (Ballilam, the earliest reference), Leitrim, Mullinaveigue, Bolinas (?), Bahinto (same as Whigmanstown) and Glasnamullen.

They are comparable to the Ordnance Survey townlands, which are the farms within the Temple Estate (as Castlekevin Manor was identified from 1650s) as surveyed and mapped in the 1830s. The history of the townlands

in the parish's other three parts can be reconstructed as follows. The Abbey lands, west of the Avonmore River, have been divided into its townlands since the 17th century and may be much older. Drummin and Laragh are first mentioned in 1601, the others in the Down Survey, 1655-9. The Moneystown area has probably only been divided in the late 1600s or early 1700s, before this it was mostly unsettled scrubland but an important woodland resource. From eastern Vartry a 1719 list of Mount Kennedy Manor includes Knockraheene, Knockatemple, Upper Ballyneinch, Buolynasse, Boulymane, Knockadritt, Knockbuolycargy, Upper Colloghill and Knockfadda.

The Temple Estate went through various periods of reorganisation and development in the late 1600 and early 1700s. For instance Luggela and Boleynahorrigan were amalgamated into Ballinastoe by 1700 and by 1714 part of its mountain and bog (by the Vartry) were transferred to Mullinaveigue. The farms were mostly meared by then (meaning marked out as a 'mear' was a landmark or boundary) and lease descriptions put them in relation to neighbouring farms. Sometimes topographical features were used, i.e. Vartry and Avonmore (Clondillogh) Rivers and the boulder at northeast Castlekevin. Others had places, such as 'where the old town stands' in Baltynanima or the 'Crosses' west of Ashtown (1711).

The Ordnance Survey created new townlands. Examples are Shramore and Slemaine (subdivisions of Mullinaveigue), Toghermore and Togherbeg (subdivisions of Baltynanima), Glebe (Rector's land from Drummin). However they eliminated villages as separate units so while they may appear on the 6 inch maps they are not in the townland indices and were written out of official reckoning in census and other administrative returns. This resulted in Annamoe, Moneystown and Roundwood being found in one or more townlands, which makes it difficult to trace their 19th century development.

On a broader level these divisions are still in use today. For instance when the Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic churches subdivided Derrylossary Parish in the 1830s and 1970s respectively they used these ancient boundaries. Electoral divisions are similarly based and this is the reason the area is in different County Council districts. Because of the loss of Rural Councils and the double vote in urban districts the plateau has lost democratic franchise and has no political unity unlike West Wicklow.

A final example comes from the survey carried out on the formation of the Roundwood Community Council in 1992. One finding was that Trooperstown residents wished to be transferred from Rathdrum to Roundwood Police district. That this never happened is an example of State inertia or more charitably it could be that the philosophy is 'that if it was good enough for St Kevin, it is good enough for us'.

Sources

The main published sources for this study were Liam Price's invaluable *Placenames of Co. Wicklow* and *The Liam Price Notebooks*, edited by Christiaan Corlett & Mairéad Weaver, supplemented by Charles McNeill's *Calendar of Archbishop Alen's Register* for the medieval period, Margaret Griffith's *Calendar of Inquisitions - Co. Dublin* and letters to Archbishop Coke, *Historical Manuscripts Commission*, Vol. 12, app. 2, for the 16-17th centuries. The Registry of Deeds has invaluable records of deeds and leases from 1708, which outline early 18th century topography. From the late 1700s they can have more details of internal divisions, as more small farmers registered their transactions. I am grateful to Frank McGillick for his suggestion of Glenacawrya's (Glenwood) derivation.

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Irish Independent - October 19th, 1950

Highlights of the Society's Meetings & Outings

Photos by A de V Mansfield



Belfast - in the snugs of the Crown Bar



On the steps of Stormont with Basil McCrea



Preparing to go to Charleville in style



At Charleville House



Ballinacor - damp but interesting



Ballinacor - the pub where time stands still

Last Will

Ian Cantwell

Among the many documents destroyed in the 1921 destruction of the Four Courts of Ireland was its will collection mostly dating back to the 1600s. One of the few sources of surviving transcripts is the Registry of Deeds from where the following has been taken. I have made a few minor simplifications. The spelling and grammar are faithful to the original.

Last Will and Testament of Richard Ffreeman late of Roundwood, Ffarmer, deceased, bearing date 11th April 1722 whereby the said Richard Ffreeman bequeathed to his wife Ann Ffreeman six of the choicest milch cows he then had and to be greased free on his farm of Roundwood during her viduity and thirty pounds sterling to be left in the executors hands and ye interest of it to be paid her and in case of her marrys the said thirty pounds shall be disposed of to his children that was then unprovoked for but in case she does not marry then the said thirty pounds shall be disposed of as she thinks proper to his children and also bequeath to his wife a new bed, a white horse, ye saddle and bridle, and her own room, four pewter dishes, six plates, a new iron pot, three platters, three kealers, two milking peggins, and her chest and did bequeath to his daughter Margaret Ffreeman, sixty pound to be paid out of his goods and chattles provided she marry by consent of his executor and to be paid her at the day of her marriage and that she should have her dyet, washing, cloathing and lodgeing free in his house till she is marryed or provided for and bequeath to his son Ralph Ffreeman sixty pounds out of his goods and chattles and to be maintained free in his house in cloaths, dyet, lodgeing, washing and the costing till his executor think proper to put the said Ralph Ffreeman to a trade or calling and did bequeath to his son James Ffreeman sixty pounds out of his goods and chattles and to be maintained free in his house in cloaths, dyet,

lodging, washing and schooling till his executor think proper to him apprentice to a trade or calling and did bequeath to his son in law John Jones one shilling and bequeath to his son in law John Ffox one shilling and by the said will the said Richard Ffreeman did bequeath to his son Richard Ffreeman all his right, title and interest in his ffarm at Roundwood with all his stock except before excepted and all other goods and chattles he the said Richard Ffreeman Jnr paying all the legacies and paying to Robert Ffreeman thirty four pounds and two shillings due to him of his porcon and in case any of the said children shall dye without issue their fortune shall be equally divided amongst the rest that are unprovoked for and that the said Richard Jnr shall not sell the lease of Roundwood nor imbezil the said stock without the consent of the executor and appointed the said Robert Ffreeman of Newrathbridge, Ffarmer, executor. Which said Will was witnessed by Wm. Ball of Baleynecorr, Gent. and Wm. Rose of Newry Bridge. Registered by Wm. Ball in 1722.

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*Irish Independent - October 19th, 1950
From a newspaper found under an old carpet*

Thatched Cottage at Shraghmore, Roundwood

Ann O'Brien

It is good to see that though Ivy Cottage, the former home of Noel Browne at Shraghmore, has been replaced, the tradition of the thatched roof has been continued. Simon Banks and family have brought new life to Ivy Cottage, aided by the thatcher, Peter of Countrywide Thatching.

The number of thatched houses has been in decline nationwide since 1940s. In a survey of Wicklow in 1990, there were only eleven but in a survey by the OPW it suggested the number was 15. However the state of the thatch or the houses was not always pristine!

A downward spiral of cause and effect occurs with fewer houses being thatched, the number of thatchers required declines and straw of thatching quality not being produced as a result of changed farming techniques.

At Ivy Cottage, they have used wheaten straw for the main thatch with reeds for the ridge. Wheaten straw and also water reed were the most widely used materials for thatching. When thatching was more common, oaten straw was preferred in North Leinster. Reeds were used in some localities in Munster and flax in the North western areas. Rushes and tough marram grass were popular in the coastal areas of the northwest and west. The thatch is secured by pinning the straw with pegs made with thin rods of hazel known as scallops. In some cases the initial bundles of straw were sown on the roof beams.

The life expectancy a thatched roof varies depending on the material used. As an approximate estimate, a long straw (winter wheat) roof lasts from 7 to 10 years between spar coats; oaten straw lasts between 5 and 7 years and water reed up to 25 years. However, there are many variations on this, including grant related information that indicates an average re-thatching period of all materials and styles of 7 to 10 years. It is worth noting that the estimates given in the replies to the 1940s Irish Folklore Commission questionnaire, 'Roofs and Thatching' on the subject of the longevity of thatch roofs, are not dissimilar to those of today, where claims for the poor quality of materials are attributed to high nitrogen levels as a result of intensive farming practices.

Photos of Progress on Ivy Cottage



The Materials



The Start of the Roof



Roof thatch of wheaten straw



The untrimmed reeds of the ridge



The finished roof

Wicklow Memories of an Emigrant

Terry Cunningham

As I reminisce on my holiday in Ireland in August 2007, my thoughts go back to my earliest memories of the Sheepbank house, Luggalaw, where my father was the last person to be born there on 26th July 1877. James Byrne was the youngest child of James and Eliza (Nolan). His father died in 1880 aged 43 and left a young family. Some years later, Eliza and her family moved to Bray and then later to Ballyboden (Rathfarnham). Before leaving Luggalaw my father attended school at Annacarter. While living in Ballyboden, my father attended Edmondstown School where Mr Hegarty was the Head Master. It was there that my father, being a good runner, was encouraged by Mr Hegarty. In later years he won the Anchor Brewery Mile Cup which still remains in the family. He was also a member of the Tug O'War teams in the area and was a member of the Ballyboden Team that won the United Kingdom Championships 5 times around the turn of the century. They also won several medals in national and local competitions.

I recall during the 1930s travelling to Luggalaw with my parents, my father's cousin Jenny Carty (Rafferty) and her husband Christy having a picnic near the Pier Gates. My father loved visiting his birthplace and also his parents' grave at Glendalough.

In 1938 I stayed with my parents at another of my father's cousins Annie Hudson (Nolan) and her husband Paddy at Lake View Cottage. During our stay there we walked around the reservoir, also up to the top road from the



*James at Sheepbank House,
self in doorway - 1954*



*James, Vinnie, self and Dympna
at the Sheepbank House - 1954*

crossroads where a stream crossed the road. I stayed another week when my parents went home and on the Wednesday morning Aunt Rita and I walked into Roundwood very early and got the St Kevin's bus at Doyle's Garage and went to Glendalough to visit her sister and brothers at Brocagh. We returned on the bus in the evening.

My father had many relations and once when asked why he didn't apply for a land grant said he had 96 first cousins. His mother being from a family of 17 from Clohogue lost their prosperity during the famine, his father, from a similarly large family was probably in a similar situation. Sometimes when I go to Wicklow, people think I am just another Dubliner, but my mother was also born in Wicklow her maiden name was Donnelly and her mother O'Toole.

On the three weekends in August I attended mass in St Laurence O'Toole Church in Roundwood. This would have been around the 130th anniversary of my father's Baptism in that Church.

During my stay, I had wonderful hospitality from my in-laws and nieces and nephews from Skerries to Lough Dan and was able to spend time with my 93 year old brother. I hope to get back to see him again. On one weekend I travelled with him from Ballsbridge to Delgany.

The one disappointment of my holiday was on visiting cemeteries where family members are buried and seeing the dreadful state of neglect with weeds and nettles nearly 3 feet high, particularly Cruagh in Co. Dublin and Derralossary*; Glendalough also needs some care - surely with a country so flush with money it would not be too hard to have places of national importance cleaned up.

Terry married Vincent Cunningham, the oldest of William and Mary Cunningham's nine children (brother of William and Paddy). They came from Clontarf to farm in Roundwood in the early fifties. He went to Australia, shortly after the move, Terry followed him and they were married there. They now live in Freemantle and have raised eight Australians. Terry still has relatives living at Lough Dan.

* The week after Terry returned to Australia, Derralossary graveyard had its annual workparty to clean it up. It is maintained by St John's Church, Laragh and is dependent on volunteers.

Years Ago

*Some of the references to Roundwood
as seen in National Newspapers of the time*

75 years ago

In 1933, Roundwood is mentioned virtually every week from May to November. The reason - WATER SHORTAGE. What a contrast with this year! The Irish Rainfall Association records for Roundwood were: May 4.61 inches; June, 1.80 inches; July, 1.80 inches; August 1.18 inches (29.9 mm); September, 2.91 inches and absolute drought was mentioned at the beginning of the month; while October was 4.61 inches. Contrast that with this year - at Dublin Airport, the total rainfall in August was 189.9 mm (7.4 inches). (Data is not available for Roundwood, but it felt like more here!).

Interestingly it was also recorded that on the 28 October, 'falls of snow and hail, as well as thunder and gales occurred' with 4 inches seen in Hacketstown. Seems to be the only similarity with this year!



Snow October 29 2008

50 years ago

It is interesting that two landmark properties were for sale in Roundwood and that the advertisements appeared the same day in the Irish Times, 1st November, 1958. Varry House is of course, beloved of the Historical Society as Kavanagh's, since Sean Kavanagh was the Founding President.

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10c	45c	HA
15c	FOR SALE, as a going concern—Varry	6
20c	House, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow,	0
25c	highest pub in Ireland, 20 miles from	2
30c	Dublin on Glenslough road, com-	LE
35c	pletely renovated. Ideal for develop-	1
40c	ment as tourist hotel (hunting, shooting, fish-	6
45c	ing, mountaineering); cafe, television	LU
50c	lounges, extensive out-offices, 4 acres of	1
55c	land, £3,000. Particulars from Daniel	1
60c	Morrissey & Sons, Ltd., M.I.A.A.,	1
65c	Lower Merrion street, Dublin. 45c	LU
70c	HARCOURT STREET—Well-established	1
75c	lock-up Tobacconist and Confectionery,	1
80c	as going concern; rent £175 p.a. and	1
85c	rent; price £750 for goodwill and fittings	1
90c	—Loney & Son, M.I.A.A., 23	1
95c	Stephen's Green 61976 45c	1
100c	HOTEL—Highly important Seaside Hotel,	1
105c	100c	1

President
is 76



The President was 76 yesterday. He spent his birthday quietly at his country house in Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, where he is on vacation with Mrs. O'Kelly. There was no official celebration, but the staff at Aras an Uachtairain sent on numerous telegrams of congratulation which had arrived, including one from President Eisenhower. Mr. Eisenhower said: "On behalf of the people of the United States and myself, I take great pleasure in extending heartiest congratulations to you on the occasion of your birthday."

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Time Did Not Stand Still

Kevin Byrne, a stalwart of the Society and regular contributor to this Journal, has produced a interesting book entitled *Time Did Not Stand Still* on the History of St Colman's Hospital, Rathdrum, Co Wicklow. It was launched by Christy Kinneally at a ceremony with Andrew Doyle, TD as the master of ceremony in the Function Room of the Hospital on Saturday 24th May, 2008.



Máirtín Mac Siúrtáin, Jean and Kevin Byrne with Christy Kinneally and Andrew Doyle, TD at the launch of Kevin's book

Kevin in his generosity is donating all proceeds from the sale of book to St Colman's Hospital Patients Benefit Fund.

The 210 pages are packed with fascinating information of the history of the Poor Laws, Famine and the need for a workhouse to the transformation to the current Hospital. No better man than Kevin to write the book since he has spent most of his working life in St Colman's. He almost knows every stone in the place.

The book is great value at €15 and is available in most shops or from Joe McNally, Roundwood.

KEVIN BYRNE

Time did not stand still

THE HISTORY OF ST. COLMAN'S HOSPITAL,
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Centra Supermarket, Roundwood	Prices Garage Ltd, Roundwood
Co Wicklow Anglers Association	Roundwood Home Producers
Heather's Bistro, Roundwood	Roundwood Inn, Roundwood
Justine Fitzpatrick, Roundwood	St Kevin's Bus Service, Roundwood
Flynn Refrigeration Ltd, Roundwood	Timber Management, Measurement & Valuation Ltd.
Mr Colm Galligan, Roundwood	Tochar House, Roundwood
Kavanagh Construction, Roundwood	Varry House, Roundwood
Noel Kavanagh Motors Ltd, Roundwood	

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Other publications also available are
a CD of all previous journals

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The Ordnance Survey Letters - Wicklow
ISBN 1-9005058-1-9,

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McNally, Joseph. 2003
A Pictorial History of Roundwood
Martello Press, Blackrock

We especially welcome contributions from those living locally or overseas
and those who used to live in Co. Wicklow.

Articles and/or photographs may be submitted to any member of the Society,
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