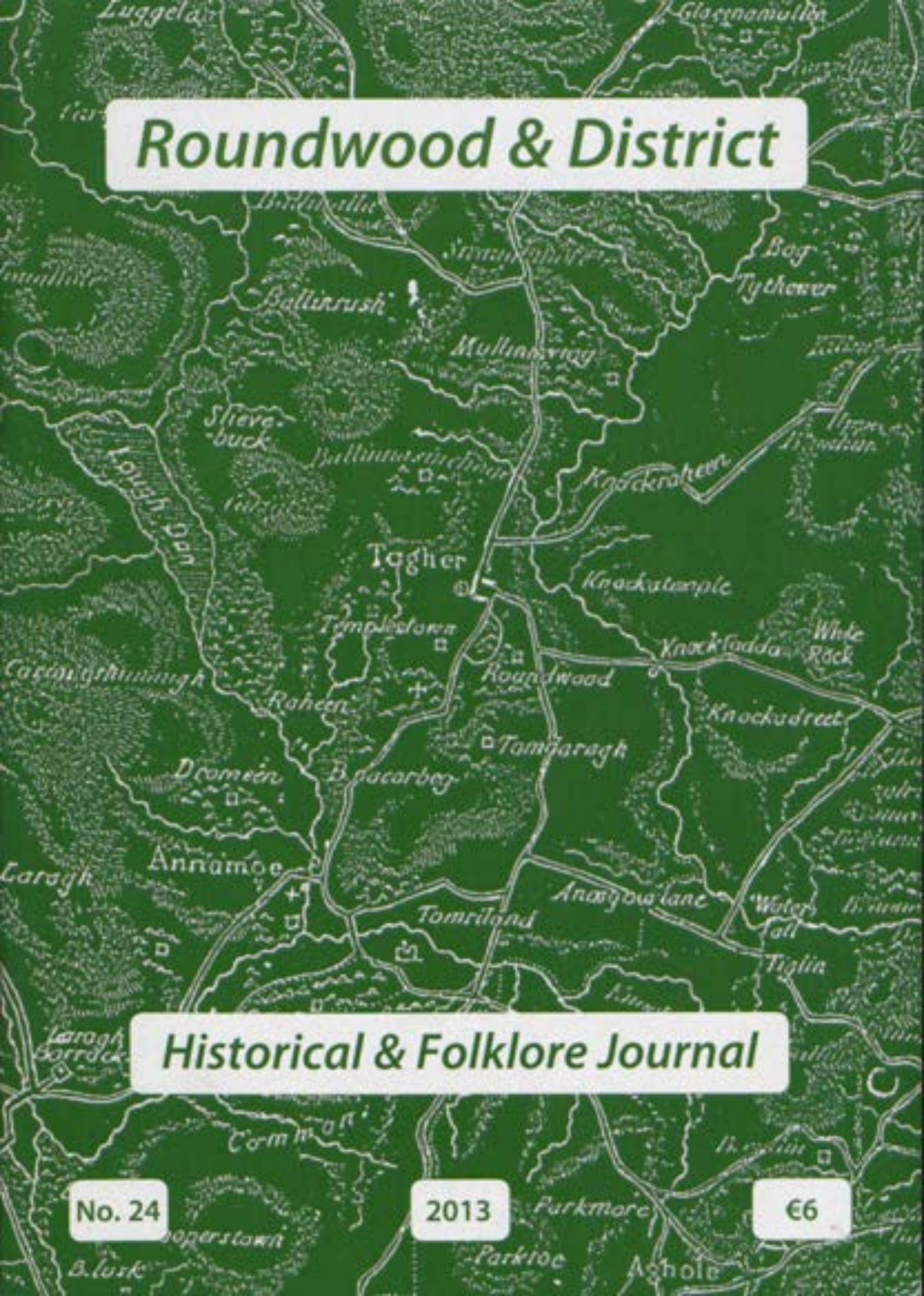
Roundwood & District



Historical & Folklore Journal

No. 24

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The Secretrary
Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Society
Roundwood, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

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, posted to the above address, or e-mailed to roundwoodhistorysociety@yahoo.ie

Find us at the Society website
www.roundwoodhistoricalsociety.com

Table of Contents

Roundwood and District Historical and Folklore Society

Committee 2013 - 2013

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From the Chair

Christy Plunkett

Welcome to our 24th Historical and Folklore Journal.

It was a great privilege to have historian and author Tim Pat Coogan launch last year's Journal . We were grateful that he took time ahead of the launch of his book '*The Famine Plot*' to come to Roundwood in acknowledgment of our publication. In the last months of the year we had local historian Michael Seery, from Enniskerry, presented a very interesting talk on The Estate village of Powerscourt at the Old School House and we finished 2012., in style with a festive Christmas Dinner at the Roundwood Inn.

Thanks to John Medlycott we had an eventful 2013 which started off with Jim O'Hagan delivering a talk on The Boundary Commission. Then at our AGM our current committee was elected. I would like say special of word of thanks to Monica Farrell our outgoing Chairperson for her dedicated work. Also thanks to Joe McNally for his years of hard work in the Treasury department and welcome to Denis Scanlon who took on the position. We welcomed John Winfer as our Journal editor but unfortunately he had to relocate to UK with his job. Thankfully the old Editorial team stepped back into the breach with help from other members of the Society particularly Tempe Pearson.

Our next talk was on Wicklow & World War One given by Christopher Power. A celebration of 300 years of Roundwood took place in Kavanaghs Pub where Martin, John and Cathal gave a short presentation on history of

the name of Roundwood village over the centuries including maps and place names from the seventeenth century. The evening was finished off nicely by a traditional music session with Cathal and friends.

The Glens of Lead project gave an insightful tour of Glenmalure mines which was led by Dr Sharron Shwartz. We were delighted to have long standing member and local historian, Martin Timmons, give a talk on the Flying Columns of the Civil War (1922/23) in Wicklow.

In July, as part of The Gathering 2013, we were pleased to host our Ancient Music Of Ireland event which was great success and took place in the Parish Hall. We were firstly entertained by the musical talent of young musicians from Roundwood Comhaltas Ceoilteoiri. Simon O'Dwyer gave a fascinating presentation on the ancient music and musical instruments of Ireland including the playing of one of Ireland's oldest musical instruments, the Wicklow Pipes. Our outing this year was a visit to Dublin where we went to Arbour Hill. Colm Galligan our PRO gave a short talk on Ireland's patriots and laid a wreath. At Collins Barracks we visited the Asgard exhibition. We next moved on to the Garda HQ were we had light refreshments. Next was Phoenix Park Visitor Centre and walled garden and then Dunsink Observatory. The day concluded with an enjoyable evening meal at The Goat, Goatstown.

As part of Heritage Week 2013 in co-operation with Wicklow Uplands Council we hosted a guided Hidden History walk which was very well attended. Starting at Castlekevin, Martin Timmons enlightened us on the fascinating history of the Castle & local environs. As we travelled towards the village of Annamoe, Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh told the story behind 1798 rebel Andrew Thomas, his tragic death and the stone which commemorates his memory. At Annamoe, we had a brief history of the village from John Medlycott and Martin Timmons before traversing the old road to Derralossary church. The walk overall covered many of the historical aspects and points of interest along the route. I would to thank Cara Heraghty of WUC, our guides and the local landowners who made this enjoyable walk possible.

Coming to the end of our year we had Francis Devine speak on Wicklow and Trade Union Movement and Joan Kavanagh gave a talk on Griffiths Valuation.

Sadly for Ireland and Wicklow in particular we have lost two exceptional friends, Éamon de Buitléar and Seamus Heaney. Sincere condolences to their families.

Finally, I would like to thank our patrons for their support and thank Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh our Secretary who has been at the centre of our Society.

Roundwood Through the Centuries

Cathal Mac Oireachtaigh and Martin Timmons

In understanding the development of Roundwood as a village, it is important first to place its development in the wider historical context. Roundwood can be described as a planned village as evidenced by its linear Main Street and triangular fair green, both of which are the hallmarks of a 17th century settlement. Some early references relating to the general Roundwood area or *'the lands and territories of the Farrtree'* occur in the early years of the 17th century with the confiscation of lands from Luke O'Toole of Castlekevin, the local centre of power, and the granting of them to Sir John Coke. Letters written in 1636 provide an interesting glimpse of settlement in the area and its potential for development by the new settlers.

'Castlekevin, the town where the castle doth stand. This hath a goodly wood but no great timbers, but very fine young oaks, Tomalan (Tomrelan), a pretty wood, no timber. Tomdarragh and Balincor, a goodly wood, no timber. Rahin, a very small village, no wood. Baltoman (Baltinamina), Carrickro and Bolelin (Balislam?), the largest town in the Vartries, a very good wood by where runeth the great river (Avonmore). Leitrim, joining to the river Vartry, a very pretty wood, no timber. Molenabige and Bolincas, a town, hath no wood. Balhinto (Balinastoe), where Mr. Masterson doth dwell. He is a friend of Mr. Tooles mother, he hath this and the above town. The town hath no wood. Glasmolin, joining to the Powerscourt Manor, no wood.'

What stands out from this letter, aside from the insightful account of settlement and woodland locally, is the reference to the largest settlement in the area being located in the Baltinanima region. Liam Price speculated that prior to the development of Togher or Roundwood a village in the area of Baltinanima was perhaps more established. The fact that the primary road or highway, the Old Long Hill, continued from Annacarter southwards via Sleamaine (Ballinavallla), along the higher ground of Ashtown (Ballinafuinseog), and would have intersected Baltinanima, coupled with the number of houses within the area evident on the Hearth Money Rolls (1688), further support the theory of a concentrated

settlement in that area. In the same 1636 Letter written by Coke a reference to establishing a town locally follows, *'between Tomolan and Tomdarragh is the best place to set the town. There is a very fair Civate in the bawn of Castlekevin which will serve to dwell in until the town is built, and very secure'.*

The Ascendancy, Old Maps and the Lay of the Land

In his post-Reformation report of 1630 Bishop Buckley stated that there were no Protestants in Derralossary parish and that the church was out of repair. It was not until the final defeat of the Irish clans after the 1641 Rebellion, and the subsequent Cromwellian confiscations, that a period of expansion by the new ascendancy took place in the latter part of the 17th century. Most of the villages in Ireland date from this period. A period of increased development occurred in Wicklow from the latter half of the 17th century owing to the timber and iron industries. Many settlements were based around these industries and it is likely the settlement at Baltinanima may reflect this given the abundance of woodland in the area at that time. On the lower ground closer to the river, the presence of new settlement being established in the vicinity of Roundwood Park (Leitrim *See Fig 1*) would have seen increased development of surrounding land and subsequently investment in local infrastructure. Roundwood village started to take shape around this time primarily under the influence of the Temple family of Roundwood Park. The year 1669 saw John Temple, previously Master of the Rolls for Ireland in 1641, and his brother William Temple, a patron of Jonathan Swift, granted lands in Roundwood by Letters Patent of Charles II. Although granted the land the Temples remained absentee landlords, relying on agents to

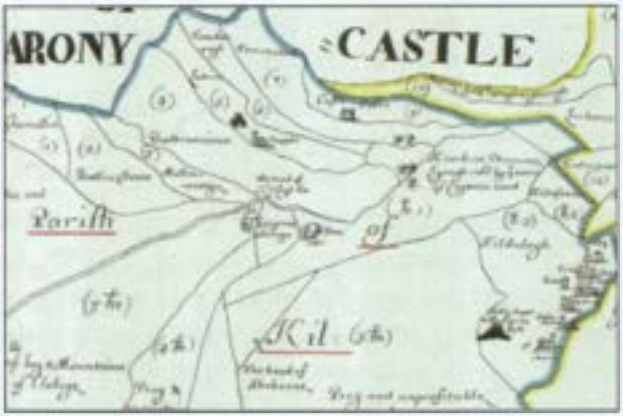

Fig 1: Section from Down Survey Map (1656-8) of the Barony of Ballinacor. One of the earliest maps of Roundwood (Leitrim) with interesting features and variations of local placenames.

look after their interests. In 1682 the Temples were recorded as leasing out the lands of Mullinaveigue and Ballinrush, while in 1713 John Temple, then residing in Westminister, granted a lease of lands and woods at 'Ballynacor' to Thomas and William Hatton. The first known reference to the name Roundwood appears in 1688 in the Heart Money Rolls which was the first survey taken after the Cromwellian Confiscations. The Rolls for Roundwood (including Coolharbour, Diamond Hill and Oldtown) list the following inhabitants; *'David Price, Peter Creighill, Hugh Vaughan, Wm. Fleming, Con. Oneyle, Daniel Lappin, Teig Farrell, John Shipton.'* all of which had one or more hearths in their homes and some of whose surnames are still recognizable family names in the area.

The changing place names and boundaries that present in the cartographic record give, in some sense, a timeline of change in the area. The Down Survey maps, surveyed by Sir William Petty between 1654-6, are possibly the most important early visual images of the new County of Wicklow (created in 1606) as they give significant detail. The early baronial divisions of the county are clearly represented on these maps. Accompanying the Petty Maps are notes known as terriers relating to the barony of Ballinacor which give a short account on the area as a whole…

'The quallity of the soyle is generally mountainous boggy and woody in many places impasable. There is little arable or good land except in some of the Glinns. The most remarkable place in this Barony is Killdalagh upon which there stand seaven churches though ruined, and one upon a high rocke to which the papists were wont to go in pilgrimage whence the rock on which it stands is called Pilgrimshill. There is likewise in the said parish of Killdalagh (Glendalough) a garrison at Castle Cabine (Castlekevin) there indeed well placed in the midst of the Barony.'

In the William Petty Downs Survey map of the Ballinacor area circa 1656, and in the subsequent atlas published in 1685, Roundwood is featured. However, at this time the general area where the village currently stands was known as Leitrim and the Vartry River was then recorded as Leitrim flu (flow) both which can be seen in Fig 1. From this map it seems that Baltinanima may then have included Toghermore, Carrigroe, Raheen and part of Roundwood Townland. Price speculates that the western part of Roundwood Townland presently known as Oldtown may have then

been part of Baltinanima. Roundwood village now takes in part of four townlands, that is, Roundwood, Toghermore, Togher Beg and Ashtown. This is best understood with reference to local public houses; Vartry House and Byrne and Woods are in Roundwood Townland, Tochar House is in Toghermore, the Coach House is in Togher Beg, and the Roundwood Inn is situated in Ashtown.

Eighteenth Century Roundwood; What's in a Name?

By 1701 we find that the pre-reformation Roman Catholic church site at Derralossary was once again in operation, this time as an Anglican place of worship, with William Hopkinson being listed a rector in that year. and a chalice was presented to Derralossary by Mary Temple, a daughter-in-law of William Temple. The oldest headstone inscription recorded in Derralossary churchyard relates to a Thomas Freeman who died in 1715. A deed granting the rights of Roundwood Fair was issued in 1713 indicating that by this time Roundwood had become an important enough centre of trade. Given that this is the first known legal document relating to commercial activity in Roundwood it has recently being used as the official dating for Roundwood village. In 1760, according to Nevilles Map, it seems the Fair was being held behind Roundwood Church which is close to the present Fairgreen.

Around the year 1720, Roundwood Park House was in existence as a tower house with the estate being managed by land agents John Hatch and Samuel McCracken who were cousins. One of the earliest references to the name Togher is first recorded in a townland map of 1727 and is spelt Tougher. This sketched map shows the current main street dissecting what is now Toghermore and Togher Beg. Similarly, a map drawn in 1731 by Henry Roe has possibly the first reference to the spelling as Tochar.

Prior to the building of the main street both townland were part of Togher which stretched from the Vartry River in the east up to Baltinanima and Carrigroe towards the west. Togher appears on Jacob Nevill's map of 1760 and in a deed of 1789 the name Big Togher is recorded. The village itself came to be referred to as Togher in Irish which was changed by officialdom to An Tochar in the mid 20th century. In 1737 a Charter School was built in the area of Oldtown on a site provided by the Temples. In 1760 it was called Templestown with Roundwood being marked as lying on the higher ground towards Mill Road. In 1739 a deed refers

to all that part of Roundwood where the Old Town stands, indicating that a new town was then in existence. This indicating the emergence of Roundwood as a distinct village.

One particular document from the Hatch Papers provides a valuable historical insight into the area and general lay of the land in 1778 – entitled *'An Account of the contents of the demesne of Roundwood taken by computation'* which includes names of fields in close vicinity of Roundwood Park. These local fieldnames which the surveyor notes *'are all situated on the left hand side of the Great Road'* and include the following names – *'Slang Meadow and Rabbit Borough Hill, First Bogg Field, the bushy fields, Cows pasture, Blackford Meadow, Turry(?) field, Brick Field, Wheat field.'* Other names on this document give an insight into land use in the village vicinity, *'Brewhouse Meadow, Coppice, Quarry Meadow, Bottoms Well Field, Upper Big Field, Acorn Field, Burk's field and Old Avenue, Pigeonhouse Field, Cluster Meadow, Manwaring's Meadow.'* In the same year, 1778, the publication of Taylor and Skinner's Maps of the Roads of Ireland saw all of the major roads emanating from Dublin presented on a fold out map of the country in what was essentially Ireland's first Road Map. The map entitled Road from Dublin to Powerscourt and Rathdrum is interesting and gives a few important insights regarding Roundwood (*See Fig 2*). Follow the Old Long Hill southwards we first observe Whitehall, the house of Mr Whitmore Esq in Glasnamullen, passing the

Fig 2: Section from Ireland's first road map surveyed by Taylor & Skinner (1778,) showing the road from Enniskerry to Rathdrum via Roundwood.

road for Seven Churches at Annacarter and moving on to Fairview, the residence of Andrew Price Esq. At this point before reaching the Village a long since extinguished road linking the Old Long Hill road and the road to Newtown is visible in an area close to what would nowadays be the Upper Reservoir Dam. The only feature in the village is that of an Inn situated where Byrne and Woods currently stands, while there is an absence of any church, the presence of Roundwood Park, then the Hatch residence, is clearly defined.

The work of the Ordinance Survey, undertaken in the area in 1837, results in townland boundaries being clearly defined, and the shape of the modern village of Roundwood is now well established. Many significant details are recorded on the first OS map, such as the Chapel, the Pounds and the Police Station in addition to the presence of a new lower road to Annamoe via Raheen built in the 1820s.

Sources:
The Down Survey of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin.
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O'Toole , P.L. History of the Clan O'Toole and other Leinster Septs, 1890.
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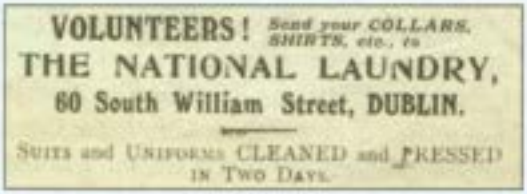


Extract from 'The Irish Volunteer' Aug 28th 1915

An Tóstal

Bob Heatly

An Tóstal was a series of festivals inaugurated in 1953 and running until 1958 celebrating Irish life. The festival aimed to promote Irish culture and attract tourists to Ireland during this time. There were parades, sporting events and art festivals organised as a means of attracting visitors to Irish shores. An Tóstal while to be based in Dublin, was to be of national interest. 'It will be intended that the whole country will, for the period of three weeks, be at home to Irish exiles and friends from everywhere.' The Gathering Ireland 2013 is a modern day version of An Tóstal and has a similar objective.

Major-Gen Hugo MacNeill, the organiser of An Tóstal, wrote *'In a few days the flag of An Tóstal will be hoisted ceremoniously all over Ireland, and the Easter fires blazing on the hills of Ireland will illuminate the skies with the message of IRELAND AT HOME! '*

An Tóstal Poster

'The Bowl Of Light' was another illumination. It was to be unveiled on Saturday April 3rd 1953. Curiosity was great and a crowd of about 3000 turned up. The Irish Independent reported Gardaí struggled to keep traffic flowing, then things turned ugly, resulting in a baton charge. Floral decorations were thrown at Gardaí and a number of shop windows were broken in O'Connell Street, including Clery's. It was not clear as to why this happened, but there was a major controversy over the 'Bowl'. It was described as a copper bowl, about 4 feet across, which was balanced on semi-circular tubular girders in a large octagonal basin, containing about a foot depth of water. There were revolving coloured plastic 'flames' in the bowl. At night, these were lit up to flicker.

The Irish Times reported *'Many protested against its aesthetic uncouthness'*. Tawdry, and vulgar were among the more repeatable adjectives used to describe it, even by the Dublin Tostal Cultural Features Committee. The flames lasted about a fortnight before they were plucked from the Bowl and thrown into the Liffey.

The empty Bowl was removed, but the concrete structure remained on O'Connell Bridge for a decade. In 1963, commonly remembered as 'The Tomb Of The Unknown Gurrier' with a suitable epitaph by the late Basil Payne

The City Fathers' grim myopia
confines me to this non-U-topia;
to reinforce their sentiment
They buried me in thick cement.

Other features of An Tostal were more sucessful. The big clean up that swept through the country spawned the Tidy Towns competion.

There were two stamps issued in 1953 to commemorate An Tóstal, tuppencehapenny and farthing stamps. In 1953 with the An Tóstal celebrations many schools got the opportunity to go on trips during school hours to celebrate the festival, the objective was that these were educational.

The Roundwood Celebration

The children from Roundwood national school were brought to Bray courtesy of W.S.Doyle's bus. In high excitement we were up at cock-crow on the day, and in adventure mode we piled onto the bus in anticipation of a great day out in Bray. Following a boisterous trip to the great metropolis we were calmed down and warned to be on our best behaviour. Having disembarked and roughly assembled we were marched first to the Wallpaper Factory (long since closed), then to Solus where we watched the entire process of production and packaging of bulbs. After some patience testing hours in the dry heat of Solus we got a reprieve and wended our way to the sea front where we had our picnic lunch.

We were then brought to an Art Exhibition in the International Hotel, where we were subjected to a lengthy lecture on various paintings and artists, (or so it seemed to us children). We displayed a vivid interest in the goings-on in the train station outside the window with little attention to the lecture.

Mr Doyle our bus driver brought us to Bray Town Hall, and we walked to the various activities and back to the Town Hall for our journey home. Mr. Peter Redmond was our teacher who accompanied us. He was the school principal and taught all the classes from third class up.

I think we all enjoyed our outing as it was a big treat in those days.

An Bhratach Náisiúnta

Colm Galligan found this small booklet, An Bhratach Náisiúnta, in his archives. Though the title was only in Irish, it was printed with Irish on the left page and English on the right. It cost threepence, (about 15 cents) and was published by The Stationery Office (Dublin) in 1953 and printed at the Dollard Printinghouse, Dublin.

Life was simpler then. Nevertheless, there were still protocols that passed by most of us ordinary citizens. Since joining the EU, there are further complex protocols as to which flag takes precedence and when and where. Immense care has to be taken to avoid an international incident! For those who need the current legislation, go to www. http://www.taoiseach.gov.ie/upload/publications/1104.pdf

An Bhratach Náisiúnta Booklet Cover

The History Of The Flag

The Irish tricolour is essentially a flag of union. Its origin is to be sought in the history of the early nineteenth century and it is emblematic of the fusion of the older elements, represented by the green, with the newer elements, represented by orange. The combination of both colours in the tricolour, with the white between in token of brotherhood, symbolises the union of the different stocks in a common nationality.

Irish tricolours were mentioned in 1830 and 1844, but widespread recognition was not accorded the flag until 1848. From March of that year Irish tricolours appeared side by side with French ones at meetings held all over the country to celebrate the revolution that had just taken place in France. In April, Thomas Francis Meagher, the Young Ireland leader, brought a tricolour of orange, white and green from Paris and

presented it to a Dublin meeting. John Mitchel, referring to it, said: 'I hope to see that flag one day waving, as our national banner'.

At that time, however, and for long afterwards, the national flag was the green one with a yellow or gold harp. Although the tricolour was not forgotten as a symbol of union and a banner associated with the Young Irelanders and with revolution, it was little used between 1848 and 1916. Even up to the eve of the Rising in 1916, the green flag held undisputed sway.

Neither the colours nor the arrangement of these early tricolours were standardised. All of the 1848 tricolours showed green, white and orange, but orange was sometimes put next to the staff, and in at least one flag the order was orange, green and white. In 1850 a flag of green for the Catholics, orange for the Protestants of the Established Church and blue for the Presbyterians was proposed. In 1883 a Parnellite tricolour of yellow, white and green, arranged horizontally, is recorded. Down to modern times yellow has occasionally been used instead of orange, but by this substitution the fundamental symbolism is destroyed.

Associated with the secession movement in the past, flown during the Rising of 1916 and capturing the national imagination as the banner of the new revolutionary Ireland, it was soon acclaimed throughout the country as the national flag. It continued to be recognised by official usage during the period 1922-1937, when its position as the national flag was formally confirmed by the Constitution of 1937, Article 7 of which States: *'The national flag is the tricolour of green, white and orange.'*

DESIGN AND DISPLAY-A GUIDE TO THE PUBLIC

Design

1. The Flag should be rectangular in shape, the width being twice its depth. The three colours – green, white and orange – should be of equal size, and vertically disposed. The Flag should normally be displayed on a staff, green being next the staff, the white in the middle and the orange farthest from the staff.
2. Provided that the correct proportions are observed, the Flag may be made to any convenient size.

Placing and Precedence

3. No flag or pennant should be flown above the National Flag.

4. When the National Flag is carried with another flag or flags, it should be carried in the place of honour, i. e., on the marching right – or on the left of an observer to whom the flags are approaching

5. When the National Flag is displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the National Flag should be on the right, i.e., the flag's own right or on the left of an observer facing the flags, and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.

6. Where either an even or an odd number of flags is flown in line on staffs of equal height, the National Flag should be first on the right of the line (i.e., on the observer's left as he faces the flags). Where, however, an odd number of flags is displayed from staffs grouped so that there is one staff in the centre and higher than the others, the National Flag should be displayed from the staff so placed.

7. Normally, only one National Flag should be displayed in each group of flags or at each location. In all cases, the National Flag should be in the place of honour.

8. When the Flag is displayed either horizontally or vertically against, say, a wall or other background, the green should be on the right (observer's left) in the horizontal position or uppermost in the vertical position.

9. When displayed on a platform the Flag should be above and behind the speaker's desk.

10. While being carried the Flag should not be dipped by way of salute or compliment except to the Sacred Host during religious ceremonies or to the dead during memorial ceremonies.

Hoisting and Lowering the Flag

11. The Flag should always be hoisted rapidly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. In raising or lowering, it should not be allowed to touch the ground. When being hoisted to half-mast, the Flag should first be brought to the peak of the staff and then lowered to the half-mast position. It should again be brought to the peak of the staff before it is finally lowered.

NOTE. – A flag is at half-mast in any position below the top of the staff *but never below the middle point of the staff.* As a general guide, the half-mast position may be taken as that where the top of the flag is the depth of the flag below the top of the staff.

Saluting the Flag

12. When the Flag is being hoisted or lowered, or when it is passing by in a parade, all present should face the Flag, stand at attention and salute. Persons in uniform who normally salute with the hand should give the hand salute. Men in civilian attire should remove the headdress with the right hand and hold it over the heart. Women should salute by placing the hand over the heart. The salute to the Flag when it is being borne past in a parade is rendered when the Flag is six paces away and the salute is held until the Flag has passed by. Where more than one National Flag is carried, the salute should be given only to the leading Flag.

    When the National Anthem is played in the presence of the Flag, all present should face the Flag, stand at attention and salute it, remaining at the salute until the last note of the music.

Worn-out Flag

13. When the Flag has become so worn or frayed that it is no longer fit for display, it should not be used in any manner implying disrespect.

Practices to Avoid

14. The Flag should never be used as a decoration. In particular, it should not be festooned over doorways or arches, tied in a bow knot or tied in a rosette. Bunting of the National Colours may, however, 'be used for decorative purposes.

15. When displayed on a platform, the Flag should not be used to cover the speaker's desk, nor should it be draped over the platform.

16. No lettering or picture of any kind should be placed on the Flag.

17. The Flag should not be draped on a train, car or boat; it should not be carried flat, but should always be carried aloft and free, except when used to drape a coffin; on such an occasion, the green should be at the head of the coffin.

18. The Flag should not at any stage be let touch the ground, trail in water or become entangled in trees or other obstacles.

19. The Flag should be displayed, in the open, only between sunrise and sunset, except on the occasion of public meetings, processions or funerals, when it may be displayed for the duration of such functions.

Occasions on which the Flag is Flown

20. It is the normal practice to fly the Flag daily at all military posts and from a limited number of important State buildings in Dublin and elsewhere. On two occasions each year, however, namely-

    St. Patrick's Day (in honour of the national day), and Easter Sunday and Easter Monday (in commemoration of the Rising of 1916),

    the Flag is flown from all State buildings throughout the country which are equipped with flag-poles, and many private individuals and concerns also fly the Flag on these two occasions.

Extract from 'The Irish Volunteer' Aug 28th 1915

The First World War and its impact on County Wicklow

Christopher Power

It is not an exaggeration to say, that the First World War, was perhaps the single most important and devasting social upheaval to be visited on Ireland. To put its impact in context, the 1916 rising, which occurred in the midst of the War, pales into insignificance in terms of the loss of life suffered by young Irish soldiers who died on the Western Front, and elsewhere, during that period. 831 men from Co Wicklow alone, died in the 1914 - 1918 War. This figure is roughly the same for every county in Ireland. A staggering 32,000 Irish men died during the war, and that is not including participants who survived unscathed or otherwise. Over 200,000 Irish men enlisted and yet the war is scarcely known about today, despite the fact that virtually every family in Co Wicklow is likely to have had some relation, near or distant, who was a participant. Why this collective memory loss? Simply, the price of Independence for Ireland was a silence and a sense of shame for its sons who fought in the British army. Now at last we can look back at why these men took their part and how their so often tragic stories unfolded.

The reasons for enlisting varied considerably. Recruitment stations were situated in every reasonable sized town in the country. Recruits had a wide range of different regiments to choose from including, for example, The Royal Irish Rifles, The Irish Guards, The Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers and also many English regiments. Large numbers of the soldiers enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, due to the close proximity to Wicklow of this regiment. The demand for recruits was insatiable and became ever more so as the war continued month after month. The famous recruitment poster of Lord Kitchener pointing an accusing finger stating *'Join your Country's army'* springs to mind and young men did join from every social stratum. The perception of Anglo-Irish landed gentry being among the only participants is simply untrue. Most were ordinary men from various backgrounds who tended to enlist with their peers in the several Irish regiments based locally at the time. The reasons for enlisting varied considerably. Many joined simply because it was a paid job where food and clothing were provided and some would have enlisted to see a bit of the world.

Others joined from a sense of Nationalism. This more complicated reason makes perfect sense when one considers the huge influence of John Redmond, MP, the head of the Irish Parliamentary Party. Redmond had close links with Co Wicklow, his mother being a Hoey from Dunganstown. He owned the barracks in Aghavannagh , previously been owned by Charles Stewart Parnell. John Redmond's famous speech on September 20th, 1914 in Woodenbridge is the pivotal event in Co Wicklow's involvement in the Great War. This was a month after war had been declared. He was on his way back from London to Aghavannagh in elation as the Home Rule Bill was finally passed into law two days earlier on 18 September 1914. His call that day, was for the young Irish Nationalists to take a moral stand, to set their faces against the repression of small nations by a larger neighbour and to lead by example. By fighting in the British army to protect the small nation of Belgium against the tyranny of Germany, they were sending a resounding message to the British establishment, that Ireland expected its own independent rights to be respected in return for its assistance in this crucial hour. Redmond believed that Westminster would grant Ireland some form of Independence in return for this assistance. This high minded approach sadly was doomed to failure and as the losses mounted, the Irish Parliamentary party began its slide into historical oblivion. The dramatic events in Dublin during Easter Week 1916 and the subsequent executions and imprisonments, scuppered Redmond's political approach.

Willie Redmond, his brother and fellow MP, who lived in Glenbrook, Delgany, was one of the first to volunteer for the army as a member of the National Volunteers. He had been a captain in the Royal Irish Regiment 33 years earlier. He re-enlisted as a Captain at the age of 53 and went to France on the Western Front with the 16th (Irish) Division in the winter of 1915–16 and was soon in action, winning a mention in dispatches from Sir Douglas Haig. His dream that the shared experience of the trenches would bring Protestant and Catholic Irishmen together, overcoming the differences between Unionists and Nationalists. In December 1916, he told his friend Arthur Conan Doyle: *'It would be a fine memorial to the men who have died so splendidly if we could, over their graves, build up a bridge between North and South. I have been thinking a lot about this lately in France - no one could help doing so when one finds that the two sections from Ireland are actually side by side holding the trenches!'* He took part in the Battle

of Messines ridge close to Ypres in Belgium. He was shot in the ankle while advancing in no mans land and later died of shock in Locre Military hospital on the France/Belgium border. He is buried in the small village of Locre (now Loker). He had requested that he not be buried within the military cemetery. His gravestone is unique, instead of the standard War Graves headstone of Portland stone, it is cut from limestone from his native County Wexford. He lies beside a tiny cemetery surrounded by huge fields of crops. Willie Redmond is commemorated in a number of different locations. A family memorial exists in Kilquade Catholic Church, his local church. Redmond Square in Wexford town contains a fine memorial to the Redmond family in general and includes details of Major William Redmond. Perhaps most interestingly he is remembered in Westminster Hall, where he is listed along with other members of the House of Commons killed in the Great War 1914-1918.

William Redmond's grave at Locker, Belgium

The reward for many of the participants who answered John Redmond's call was death on the Western Front and subsequent oblivion in the collective memory of the new Irish Free State. Because of this and the lack of interest their stories are largely lost to us. Another reason was the fact that in many casualties were young single men. Within a generation or two they tended to be forgotten, becoming great grand uncles outside living memory. The First World War was the first truly modern conflict where mechanised means were developed for the killing of large numbers of human beings. This technology had been perfected by both sides. As a result of the equal strength of fire power and resources, military action quickly ended in a stalemate of two opposing front line trenches, often very close to each other, where movement was limited. The long line of entrenched positions ran roughly from the coast, near Ypres in Belgium, to the Swiss border.

The scene was set for the next four years with small amounts of ground being bitterly fought over only to be retaken perhaps days later. The terrible attrition also goes a long way towards explaining Britain's heavy handed response to the 1916 rising and why it was considered such a treasonable event from an British view point, that a group of people would attempt to cause such disruption in a major British city, namely Dublin, while Britain was locked in conflict against the Kaiser and Germany. When one sees the endless rows of Commonwealth war dead in the Somme in the hundreds of cemeteries, many of them containing Irish dead, as well as virtually ever other nation from Europe, it does not justify but does perhaps explain Britain's approach to Ireland prior to Irish Independence in early 1922.

Every social stratum was represented and the lines were blurred in terms of whether recruits considered themselves Commonwealth soldiers, Irish Nationalists, or British Loyalists. A good example is the famous Barton family of Glendalough house. Robert Barton, at 34, joined up as an officer in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. He was stationed in Dublin during the Easter Rising and came into contact with many of its imprisoned leaders while on duty at Richmond Barracks. He resigned his commission in protest at the British government's suppression of the revolt and joined the Republican movement. Robert Barton's later involvement in the Nationalist cause is well documented. Less known is that his two cousins, brothers Thomas who had been a magistrate in New Ross, and Charles Erskine also fought in the Great War and tragically were killed within six months of each other, Charles by shrapnel at the Somme while Thomas, was gassed in Wimille in France. This demonstrates how the lines became blurred.

If the Barton family was from the higher social strata of the county most of those who participated were from modest working class backgrounds. A phenomenon unique to Co Wicklow was the dispropionate numbers of those lost at sea. This applies to both World Wars and is a result of the high number of experienced sailors who enlisted, particularly from Arklow and to a lesser degree from Wicklow town. In fact of the sixty-five men from Arklow killed during World War One, most were members of the British Navy. It was natural for these men to gravitate towards the Navy. Many perished during the U-boat campaigns, and in engagements such as the Battles of Jutland and of Dogger Bank.

Tom and Seamus Burnell's book on County Wicklow gives an excellent oversight of statistics for those killed from the county. To put the numbers involved in some kind of context, 34 Byrnes from Co Wicklow were killed. In terms of the geographical spread of casualties, 43 men from Wicklow town died, 70 from Bray, 16 from Baltinglass, 8 from Rathnew, 11 from Newtown Mountkennedy. The numbers that died from Roundwood are not so clear since some though, born in the locality, may have enlisted elsewhere. Also, the War Dead lists are based only on surnames.

Date of Death	Name and Age	Locality
6 July 1915	William Brinkley	Moneystown
15 Aug 1915	William Porter, 37	Lough Dan, Roundwood
30 Sept 1915	Elijah Sutton, 30	son of William Sutton, Calary
15 Sept 1916	John William Delamere, 28	son of John Delamere, Calary
28 Feb 1917	Edward Price, 22	Roundwood
4 May 1917	Samuel Delamere, 34	son of Matthew Delamere, Calary

Those known, with connections to the Roundwood locality, who died in the First World War.

These numbers do not include those who died afterwards as a result of injury or trauma. A tragic and forgotten statistic is for those who returned injured, amputees and the mentally damaged. Basically there are no statistics for such survivors. These men somehow ceased to exist in the years that followed. Incidentally, many of the same families later lost members in World War Two. 29 men from Bray and 27 from Arklow died in the later conflict, most of them sea-faring men.

Another very specific and highly relevant influence on Wicklow was the presence in Arklow of the enormous munitions factory of Kynochs. Kynochs was situated on the north side of Arklow close to the modern day Arklow Bay Hotel and roughly on the site of Arklow caravan park. The original factory manufactured the chemicals, cordite and guncotton. These materials were component parts of heavy artillery shells. A large proportion were used by the British Navy throughout the First World War although shells were also manufactured for field guns throughout the Western front. Kynochs was an enormous employer of local people. In the later years of the Great War, the munitions were highly sought after by the IRA in the War of Independence and security at the plant was a major issue. In 1917

there was a large explosion in the factory, which killed seventeen workers. Despite various conspiracy theories in relation to attacks by German submarines etc, this explosion was most likely accidental as the health and safety requirements for the time would have been poor.

The Menin Gate, Ypres

The biggest impact on Co Wicklow was the experience of the young recruits in terrible places such Ypres and Passchendaele in Belgium, the Somme in the province of Picardy in France, Gallipoli on main land Turkey and in the numerous sea battles around the Baltic and the Irish Sea. Trench warfare was dreadful in the extreme and the stereotype of foul smelling **glutinous** mud, rats, gas and unburied corpses is all too accurate. Imagining what it was like when there was scarcely a growing thing left there is difficult, looking today at the big fields of sugar beet, peas, potatoes and corn, chalky, rolling hills with small forests interspersed. Various sleepy villages with sparse population are scattered about the Somme, all rebuilt after the war. The presence of Commonwealth cemeteries everywhere, some enormous with tens of thousands of graves, others with as little as a few dozen graves, mostly of men buried near where they fell. The names on the uniform Portland stone grave slabs are usually a mishmash of every regiment and country usually with the men killed on the same day, buried in rows. The Irish graves are scattered throughout. Many graves contain unidentified dead.

Even today, the fields are filled with fragments from the war including live artillery shells, shrapnel, spent cartridges and various other bits which are ploughed up every year. The live bombs and artillery shells are left for bomb disposal to remove.

For those who returned from this trauma the rewards were very small. Ireland in the early days of Independence and right up until the present day was very unsympathetic towards these men. (Although a modest military pension was issued to veterans). Many came home damaged physically and mentally and lived out their days in poverty and shame. The almost derogatary term 'shell shocked' was applied to many poor unfortunate veterans who returned home perhaps to their mothers or even to institutions where they lived out their days in social isolation. As these men died out their story was largely forgotten.

Others, however, did find success afterwards and made the transition often in quite surprising ways. For example Emmett Dalton, from North Dublin, was one of the founders of Ardmore studios in Bray, had been in the thick of the Somme battles and was beside the Nationalist MP Tom Kettle when he was killed in Guinchy in the Somme in September 1916. Dalton was injured that day but he later went on to fight in the Middle East. After being demobbed from the Royal Dublin Fusiliers he joined the Irish Free State Army becoming a Major General in his early twenties. The enormous amount of experience he gained in the army was put to good use during the Irish Civil War. He was with Michael Collins when Collins was killed in the ambush at Bael Na Blath in August 1922. There are quite a number of Irish men who fought in the British army with a similar experience, perhaps the most famous example being Tom Barry, the famous Cork IRA commandant, who had spent his early years in the British army based in the Middle East.

In summary, my aim has been to try and take these events in the context of the time. The roles of those involved were not clear cut and the emerging Ireland of the Great War period was as likely to have become a Commonwealth country such as modern day Australia or Canada, as it was to become an Independent state, which is what ultimately happened.

Lovely Wicklow

W J Duffy

This was written by WJ Duffy while in the trenches in France in 1917. It is sung to the air of the Thomas Moore's ballad *'The meeting of the waters'*.

There is not in the wide world a valley so sweet
so sung famed Thomas Moore in his great lyric treat
but equally charming are scenes I will know
elsewhere than Avoca in lovely Wicklow.

What rivals Glenealy or Clara's deep vale
Glendalough, lovely Laragh or sweet Avondale
Lough Dan 'mid the mountains, near lone Annamoe
or the bank of the Vartry in lovely Wicklow.

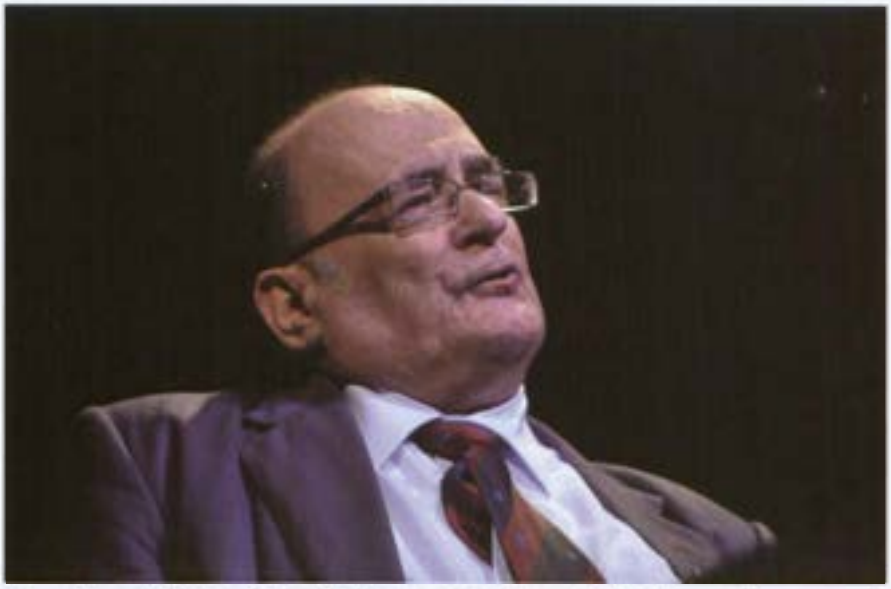
There are glens; the Downs and Devils, each a deep wooded pass
Glenmalure, Glenacorga and Glenmacanass
Ashford a neat village 'neath Ballymacrow
and Carrick majestic in lovely Wicklow.

'Mid the mountains and valleys adorning this land
the scenes are exquisite, its people are grand
for there youth and beauty do gracefully grow
with virgin-like virtue in lovely Wicklow.

I have danced at your weddings, condoned at your wakes
romped through the bushes that bloom in your brakes
dear land of youth folly, wherever I go
thou art still in my bosom my matchless Wicklow.

Zoltan Zinn-Collis - Lest we forget

Eve Holmes



The ashes of Zoltan Zinn-Collis were laid to rest in the tranquil graveyard of Calary Church earlier this year. He made a lasting impression on me, even though I only met him once. About twenty years ago, while working as a photographer in RTE, a colleague and I were sent to meet a group of Holocaust survivors. Both of us, like most people, knew about the holocaust and were horrified by what had happened. Each survivor told their dreadful, heartbreaking experiences. However, Zoltan, a gentle unassuming man, spoke quietly, with passionate dignity, but brought the events into the room and left me with a vivid lasting memory. So often, I had seen newsreels, showing the piles of bodies being bulldozed into mass graves. Zoltan mentioned this, saying *'when I see scenes like this, I always wonder are my mother and brother in these piles'.*

Zoltan thought he was born 1st August 1940. His birth was registered in Kazmarok in what is now Slovakia. With the Nazis in charge of the area, his Jewish father Adolf Zinn went into hiding. His mother, a Hungarian Protestant, refused to denounce him, thus in 1944 the family was rounded up. His father is thought to have been sent to Ravensbruck whilst the rest

of the family were sent to Belsen. His infant sister died en route. Zoltan said *'I was never a child. For when I was a child in years, my home was Belsen. The games I played, I played around 20,000 rotting corpses waiting to be buried, but with no one to bury them. ..... I slept in one of the flea and lice infested trestle beds which was also part of my home'*. His brother Aladar had died from TB. Their mother died on April 15, 1945, just as Belsen was liberated.

Among the liberators were Red Cross volunteers, Dr Bob Collis and a Dutch nurse Han Hogerzeil, whom he later married. Bob brought 5 orphans to Ireland and adopted Zoltan and his older sister, Edit. Phyllis, Bob's first wife, was a mother to them.

Zoltan arriving in Ireland carried by Bob Collis

Zoltan said *'I did not know what liberated was, other than that it was good'*. The move to Ireland must nevertheless have been stressful, even though they were surrounded by kindness. Zoltan was separated from Edit as he had TB and spent some time being treated at Fairyhill sanatorium in Howth. There was also the problem of language. Stability at least prevailed as they settled into life in Ireland. The trauma of those early years in Belsen were never forgotten. Initially Zoltan never spoke of it. However he realized that we should never be allowed forget the horrors of Belsen. To this end, he spoke to schoolchildren and at seminars around Ireland. He also raised awareness that genocide continued in places like Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda. He highlighted this and emphasized we must learn from the past and develop strategies to help prevent further genocides. He said *'I hope I have not made myself out to be anything special'*. He may not have thought so, but we were fortunate to have known such an inspirational man.

Holt's Return Voyage 1812 - 1813

Ian Cantwell

Joseph Holt is known through the many books and articles written about him and his involvement in the 1798 Rebellion. His return to Ireland on the *Isabella* in 1812-3 is the subject of a fascinating book *The Wreck of the Isabella* which is source of this article.

The *Isabella* left Port Jackson (Sydney) for London on the 4th December 1812 carrying captain, mate, eighteen crew, 20 passengers, 14 Royal Marines and a cargo of c. 19,000 salted fur and hair skins, 91 caskets of sperm and black oil, 17 tons of pearl shells, sealskins and ox hides. The crew were mostly from the UK. The passengers were a mix of military and civilians, many of the latter were ex-convicts.

Joseph Holt was travelling with his wife Hester, their thirteen year old son Joseph Harrison, and three servants, John Byrne, Philip Harney and Edward Kilbride. Holt had sold his property in Australia for over £2,000, which funded the £150 for the tickets, the cost of erecting a cabin in steerage, and provisions including water, biscuits, salted meat, raisins, tea, wine, twenty gallons of rum, 21 parrots and a cockatoo.

Another passenger was Sir Henry Hayes, from Cork, who had been sentenced to death, and transported for his notorious abduction of Miss May Pike, a Quaker heiress, in 1797. He received a pardon for assisting Governor William Bligh (of the Bounty fame) in the Rum Rebellion, 1808-10. He was an eccentric character; he built Vaucluse House on a snake-infested island in Sydney Harbour, which he protected by a barrier of 500 bags of turf brought from Ireland in the belief that since St Patrick had banished snakes from Ireland, no snake would dare cross the holy turf!

Other civilians included a pardoned convict, Samuel Breakwell, and a stowaway William Mattinson. The latter was a drunken troublemaker who had run up large gambling and alcohol debts in the colony. Though he was discovered before departure and delivered to his creditors, they annulled all his debts provided he never returned. Even though the captain refused him back, he was smuggled on board and not discovered until later.

Also travelling was Captain Richard Brooks, a naval officer who was travelling back to England to take command of a new ship and bring his wife and children to Australia. He was highly experienced though had had his share of controversy as captain of the *Atlas* in 1801 when seventy Irish convicts died of privation on the journey to Australia.

Returning on leave was Captain Robert Durie of the 73rd Regt, his pregnant wife Joanna Ann and their baby daughter. In Australia he was a troop commander and resident magistrate in Paramatta. He is described as being weak and ineffective compared to his wife who was said to have 'the sympathizing heart that distinguishes the tigress'. Also returning on leave was Lieutenant Richard Lundin, a Scot in the 73rd Regt with dispatches for the Colonial Office.

The fourteen Marines were returning home after having spent eight years in Tasmania. Of the forty seven original soldiers, seven had died, 28 elected to remain as settlers and the rest had decided to return home. The crew were a mixed lot, the captain, the alcoholic George Higton, was incompetent and one of the sailors suffered from psychotic episodes.

The remaining passengers were four single ladies, who apparently had been prostitutes in Port Jackson. Of these one moved in with the captain, another with Lundin, and the others stayed with the crew and were reputedly very fond of rum!

After being nearly shipwrecked off Campbell's Island, New Zealand, they safely passed Cape Horn. However on the 8th February 1813, disaster struck when strong winds drove the ship on to a rocky beach on Eagle Island (now known as Speedwell Island) one of the then uninhabited Falkland Islands. There was chaos on the ship with the crew drinking everything they could lay their hands on. The long boat was launched and then commandeered by the stowaway Mattinson, Hayes, Breakwell and a marine who rowed ashore abandoning everybody. In the meantime, Capt Brooks transferred the women and children ashore on a bosun's chair suspended from a rope while Holt organized the transfer of his provisions.

The following morning the beached ship was discovered to be not too badly damaged; it could have been refloated had the crew not further holed it in search of more rum. Surviving provisions were unloaded and

it was calculated they had enough food for all and a daily ration was worked out that would last a year. This was supplemented by wild birds, mainly ducks and geese, elephant seals and wild celery (an important antidote for scurvy). A camp of fourteen huts was built using earth, turf, materials from the boat and tussock grass that grew up to five metres tall, providing shelter from the incessant wind and rain.

Two weeks later, Joanna Ann Durie gave birth to a daughter. She was christened Eliza Providence after the name Holt gave their camp, Newtown Providence. A few days later the seventeen-foot long boat was launched with Brooks as commander, George Davis (mate), Lundin, a marine and two sailors to seek rescue. Later Mattinson and three others left in the smaller boat to search for other boats around the Falklands.

On the 4th April, sixty-three days later, a ship was spotted which, much to their relief, saw them and sent a boat ashore. It was the *Nanina* from New York, which had been in the Falklands on a seal hunt since September and included a shallop, yawl and small boat. The usual procedure was to catch seals, sell the skins and oil in Canton (now Guangzhou), China, and return to the USA with Chinese goods, which provided a handsome profit. The plan was to hunt during the summer, leave a crew to overwinter while the ship went back to be replaced with a larger vessel that would return the following year. They would then hunt more before going to Canton in the autumn. The captain was Charles Barnard, a Quaker, accompanied by his father, Valentine, three officers, mate, four seamen, steward, carpenter and cook. Last, but not least, was Cent the captain's dog.

Owing to the USA and the UK war 1812 –1815 all US merchant shipping was vulnerable to seizure by the British Navy and UK whalers, carrying Letters of Marque.

By a curious coincidence one of the officers, Capt Edmund Fanning, was a United Irishman and recognized Holt's beard as being in the same revolutionary style as his own and greeted Holt with *'How is the settlement of the world?'* and received the correct reply '*Very well*'. Later that evening Mrs Durie and the Holts entertained the visitors with a meal, told them what had happened and discussed the possible fate of Brooks' and Mattinson's rescue attempts. Over the next few days they agreed that the *Nanina* would transport them to South America in exchange for

making over the *Isabella's* cargo as compensation to Charles Barnard, the captain of the *Nanina*.

This took some organization because many of *Nanina's* crew were elsewhere on the islands sealing and unaware of the rescue. In the meantime the stowaway Mattinson's boat made it back just as they were leaving Eagle Island.

Bad weather affected these rescue plans over the next few weeks. Mattinson then forcibly took control of the *Nanina* while Barnard and crew were out hunting. They sailed back to Eagle Island to collect those left there and found a British ship there whose own contingent of marines boarded them and took control.

It turned out Capt Brooks's boat had made it to Buenos Aires after spending two weeks searching the islands for settlement but finding only the abandoned Spanish village of Port Egmont. They had decided to risk the 1,200 mile journey and made one of the 'most courageous and remarkable journeys in maritime history' arriving safely after 26 days of bad weather and heavy seas with little protection. Lundin's account was published in the *Edinburgh Review* in 1846.

On arrival in Buenos Aires the naval authorities immediately ordered the HMS Nancy, under the command of William Peter D'Aranda, to go to the rescue. After a difficult voyage of 27 days it arrived at the shipwreck settlement in mid-May. During the bad weather, whilst they were carrying out repairs, D'Aranda, ignoring the agreement with Barnard, had Captain Fanning and the other Americans arrested as prisoners of war, ordered various marines to be punished for drunkenness (24, 36 & 48 lashes) and confiscated the Isabella's cargo. When the *Nanina* with Mattinson etc aboard returned, it was captured and looted by the British and squabbles then broke out between D'Aranda, Hayes, Durie and Mattinson as who had the right of capture of the ship. However there were serious misgivings among many, including Holt, who felt the Americans had been badly treated, given that they had agreed to rescue them.

At the end of July, with repairs completed, the two boats left. The *Nancy* headed for Buenos Aires with the Duries, Hayes, and Highton. Holt opted to sail directly to England on the *Nanina* with other passengers

including the American prisoners of war. Captain Charles Barnard of the *Nanina*, and four others were left behind since they could not be found before departure.

However the *Nanina* did not even have navigational equipment since it had been looted and was captained by an inexperienced midshipman, John Marsh. Luckily the American officers assisted Marsh during the voyage. It was decided instead to head to Rio de Janeiro due to lack of supplies and they arrived there three weeks later.

On arrival in Rio de Janeiro, Holt delivered a letter on behalf of the Americans to their consulate while Marsh met up with Admiral Dixon, who released the Americans the following day. Intense negotiations took place between them and the Admiralty regarding the disposition of the *Nanina* and its cargo and the rescue of the stranded men in the Falklands. In the end the *Nanina* was sailed to England and the Holts made their way back independently subsequently returning to Ireland, regretting having left Australia. Joseph's son, Joseph Harrison, returned immediately after his father's death in 1826.

There is no mention of the fate of the cockatoos or the parrot!

It was another two years later before Barnard arrived home having travelled via Peru, Mas á Fuero Island, Sandwich Islands and Canton. He wrote of his adventures in 1829. In 1818, the case of the *Nanina* came before the Prize Appeal Court in London, who found for the American claimants, much to the disgust of D'Aranda, who remained in naval service until 1854. Hayes returned to Cork and unsuccessfully attempted to regain his social position.

Source:

David Miller *The Wreck of the Isabella;* Lee Cooper Publishers, 1995

Reflections of returned emigrants

With the constant doom and gloom of emigration, it is intriguing to have the stories and reflections of returned emigrants from different decades.

From the 1960s - Teresa Healy

Why did I emigrate in the 1960s? I had many questions and few answers.

I had a job. I left school at 14 years of age. I started my first job on the day after my 15th birthday. I began working in Glendalough House as a kitchen maid the lowest of the lowly jobs available. My wages were £1 a week with full board. Having worked there for a few months I then went to work in Áras an Uachtaráin again as a kitchen maid and wages were £1-10 shillings per week. There was not a lot of work available at that time except domestic service, especially for anyone without secondary school education. However I did not mind that because I enjoyed working in the kitchen. I was very fortunate that the housekeeper at Áras an Uachtaráin encouraged me to go to Cathal Brugha St College for cookery classes at night.

When Sean T O'Kelly retired, I stayed on and was then employed by Mrs de Valera. Many girls were recruited from Ramsgrange College in Wexford, and brought new energy to the place. Even though we worked long hours we had a lot of fun. I have many fond memories of that time.

I then moved to work for a family as a Cook General. This was a step up from being a kitchen maid, the wages reflected this at £2-10 shillings a week. However, I had itchy feet and changed jobs many times during the next few years. I also changed positions and now was titled housekeeper.

In 1964 I thought about training as a nurse so my adventure to England began. I applied to many hospitals and decided on one in Essex. I am very pleased that I did and still have friends from my student days.

I was the only member of my immediate family to emigrate. At the time I was not aware of any relatives in England, but then I learned of a cousin in London. I got to know her and her family which was lovely for me. During my training, I worked with a girl from Wexford and we realised we were second cousins. We have remained friends although she still lives in England.

On beginning my training, I was very aware that I was at a disadvantage by having no secondary school education, but it was not a problem as we had wonderful tutors. I was about 4 years older than the rest of my class which was an advantage, as many were immature for their years. Again money was scarce, we had a salary of £11 a month during First Year that increased by £1 for Second and again by £1 for Third Year.

Teresa and her Wexford cousin

We had two holidays a year. At that time the air fare was £14 return for students and £3 on the boat. This left little choice as we did not have money for air fares. We had many difficult nights' sailing with rough seas. The boats in those days were not meant for comfort. We always travelled at night as many girls were from the length and breadth of Ireland and would be travelling most of the next day.

It was really important for many girls to have new clothes, especially a hat and coat or a suit depending on the season so that the neighbours would see that one was doing well for oneself abroad. This was not a priority for me but I did like to bring home some gifts for my family. There was the ordeal of customs when our well packed suitcases were emptied and searched. It was important that all labels were removed so it could not be proven that the items were new.

During the three years training I applied myself to my studies. I did work hard to achieve my goal. There were many times I thought about what I was doing and wondered if I would succeed. Each time that I doubted myself, something positive happened that gave me the encouragement to continue.

I returned home in December 1968. I had no difficulty in getting work, but found it difficult to settle as Irish hospitals were then very different to the large hospital in England where I had trained.

I acknowledge that returning to Ireland may have been as difficult as it was to emigrate. As the years have passed I am glad that I emigrated and

returned. The time in England enriched my life considerably, I believe that my subsequent career in Ireland, would not have been possible, had I not emigrated.

From 1990s - Barry Cunningham

I always wanted to be an apprentice mechanic. So when I left school, I looked around here. I asked everyone but there was no hope unless you knew someone, people were not taking on apprentices. As I was not strong at school and had left school after 5th year, my career path seemed to be as a farm labourer, so I headed off to Australia.

Once there I went back to college and did a TAFE course, the equivalent of a FAS course. Basically it shaved 6 months off an apprenticeship and also covered the 1st year technical training. It gave a broad spectrum covering all aspects, metal work, machine turning, sheet metal work, boilerhouse maintenance, welding. I concentrated on the mechanical end of things but also had to do modules from other trades. This was useful as it gave a taste of other trades. Though I completed the TAFE, I really needed up to Leaving level so went back to school. Part way through this year I was offered an apprenticeship with a carpenter. However we parted company after about 3 months

From there, I went working in a standard farm job, doing everything from picking strawberries, deliveries to compliance stuff/regulations.

Through contacts I was offered an apprenticeship with a plumber and found I loved it. At the time, I shared a flat with my best friend who was doing the mechanical apprenticeship. Compared to him, I had taken the better route. I was never out of work and also paid more than him.

I became a plumbing subcontractor based in Cairns. The main work was to build houses for aborigines. This usually involved an entire team of builders, arriving at some remote site for a six week stint with one week back. Camp facilities were basic, a generator for electricity, that ran essential components. If something ran out or broke down, patience. There was nothing to do, but relax and go fishing. A great advantage was nowhere to spend money and also in most beautiful unspoilt scenery, usually coastal, sometimes in areas that white men were normally not permitted. It was idyllic. Fish were amazing and had to be thrown back

if smaller than 20inches. We would either eat them fresh or freeze to take home at the end of the stint. We did a lot of work in Saibi, the furthest north of Australian Islands of the Torres Straits, a few miles from the coast of New Guinea. New Guineans would come across and fill the one ton bags with offcuts of straight timber, all of which would then be used, including the bag, for building.

I found I was getting too used to this idyllic lifestyle, despite the mossies and sandflies. It was an easy lifestyle, which I enjoyed, no pressure - no parts, no work. I tried working in towns but did not like being around people. I came back for Christmas in 2000, basically to learn to like people again! I got a job in Galway initially, but returned to Roundwood to help with lambing in spring. I had sold my only solid asset, the Landcruiser, so had no ties there. I worked for a firm in Wicklow initially being paid less than in Galway. Frustrated by this and also not knowing the availability of plumbing paraphernalia here, I took a job with a major plumbing supplier. It was useful in learning what new technologies were coming on stream here. The moment of heart-searching came when I was shortlisted as a regional manager. The horror of being suited and at meetings brought me to my senses. I went back to what I enjoyed most, plumbing and being my own boss. Renewable energy was the way forward but there was much misinformation circulating. I had been involved in this in Australia, so was aware of cost effectiveness to benefits ratio. Persuading customers, that believe everything they read on the internet, is more difficult. There have been many other challenges, harsh weather and the recession together with mastering all the plumbing and employment regulations and requirements of company law. Hard work is not a problem and the company has survived the downturn. I still travel for work but now the length and breadth of Ireland. Being optimistic, I have just taken on two additional plumbers. Learning new marketing skills, such as branding, has been an asset; the vans and workforce all have the company logo thus raising the profile.

Emigration was the making of me but it is good to be back.

The History of Jacob or Piebald Sheep

Geraldine Fletcher

Jacob Sheep take their name from the Bible story of Jacob and his flock of pied sheep. Jacob went to work for his kinsman Laban and later fell in love with his daughter Rachael. Jacob agreed to work unpaid for Laban in exchange for Rachael as his wife, later Laban agreed to give Jacob every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb from his flock.

There is good evidence of the existence of spotted sheep around the Mediterranean, Persia and Arabia in the centuries leading up to the Birth of Christ. In Sicily, during the Corinthian Period (c 600 BC), several terracotta vessels were fashioned in the form of rams carefully dotted with spots, usually two horned with small ears.

Spotted sheep are documented in China from c.1000 AD until the present day, also, there are Chinese paintings from 186 – 580 AD which confirm the existence of spotted sheep in the Northern Sung dynasty.

Shakespeare referred to Jacob's flock in 1600 when he wrote The Merchant of Venice, and they are mentioned in Act 1, Scene 3.

SHYLOCK When Jacob grazed his uncle Laban's sheep—
This Jacob from our holy Abram was,
As his wise mother wrought in his behalf,
The third possessor, ay, he was the third—

ANTONIO And what of him? Did he take interest

SHYLOCK No, not take interest—not as you would say
Directly interest. Mark what Jacob did:
When Laban and himself were compromised
That all the eanlings which were streaked and pied
Should fall as Jacob's hire, the ewes, being rank,
In the end of autumn turnèd to the rams.
And when the work of generation was
Between these woolly breeders in the act,
The skillful shepherd peeled me certain wands.
And in the doing of the deed of kind
He stuck them up before the fulsome ewes,
Who then conceiving did ineaning time
Fall parti-colored lambs—and those were Jacob's.
This was a way to thrive, and he was blessed.
And thrift is blessing, if men steal it not.

The majority of the many flocks of Jacob sheep in the British Isles, Europe, the USA and Canada owe their existence to the owners of parklands who took great trouble in the 17th and 18th centuries to try to keep their flocks pure, two or four horns usually being of prime importance. These few inspired people collected rare animals, flowers and birds for their menageries and the Jacob with its distinctive spotted fleece and often multiple horns is an obvious curiosity. Some flocks were kept with deer in parks purely as ornamental sheep to be admired from afar. It is from these often quite large flocks that our present day sheep are descended. Care was taken in those early days to obtain new blood, normally by an exchange of rams, but eventually in most cases, interest waned and the stock lost condition through neglect. Very few were shorn as nothing could be done with the coarse fleeces and some of the small lean carcasses were not worth using. By the end of the First World War many flocks had disappeared. The flocks that survived did so through the efforts of the owners who took the trouble to get stock from distant places, from England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland or the

Close up of Jacob sheep

Powerscourt House by George Barret the Elder c 1762 with Jacob sheep in foreground

ones that had accompanied the newly married daughter of the house to pastures new and thereby giving the modern breeder the choice of so many blood lines.

1760	Powerscourt House in Co. Wicklow	1902	Knockmark, Drumrie, Co. Meath from Lansadurn, Anglesea	1910	Eyrefield Lodge, Curragh Camp, Co. Kildare
1786	Marino, Dublin by the 1st Earl Charlemont	1906	Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny, from the Fitzwilliam Estates, possibly Wentworth Castle, Yorkshire or Coolattin, Co Wicklow.	1910	Shanbally Castle, Clogheen, Tipperary by Lady Constance Butler
1900	Ballywalter Park, Newtownards, Co. Down from Barford in Warwick.				

Large Irish estates that kept Jacob's sheep

Spotted sheep are probably the oldest type of sheep in the world. The Jacob's unique markings, originally for camouflage, were carried by the majority of feral sheep from very early times throughout the world. The many names by which these pied sheep have been known in the past inferred that they had come to the British Isles from overseas, usually a Mediterranean country. No evidence has been discovered that pied sheep were ever native of the British Isles. The black gene is dominant in the Jacob, they are really a black sheep with white markings, black lambs are always the result when crossed with most other pure breed except a few such as the Dorset Horn, which may once have carried a 'spotted gene'. It is impossible to say that there is one definite location from which these sheep originated, but with the flourishing trade along the silk route from East to West it would seem that the blood of the spotted feral sheep of ancient Mongolia and China may still be carried in the pedigree of Jacob Sheep

The following is an extract from a letter written by an Irish member of the Jacob Sheep Society to Lady Aldington and which appeared in the Jacob Journal in 1987:

In about 1960, when I was 18, an old tinker lady told me that the tribes brought horses from the East, along with the goats and the 'batty' (piebald) sheep. At this time I had never met a Jacob sheep, so I laughed and said that I had never seen a travelling sheep, let alone a batty one. Julia, this old

granny of the travelling family said that when the lands were fenced (1600 – 1700?) they had lost the sheep, some had gone to the mountains and 'lost the colour', but some had gone into the 'big places' to be ornaments for the gentry. She had seen them 'down Tipperary way' as a child, and that they were queer looking yokes with horns like a puck goat, and that her granny had said that they used to belong to the travellers, and there a were still a good few of them 'around the land'.

I have asked a number of the families if they remember any stories of 'batty' sheep but in these days of mobile homes a lot of the heritage is lost and I have had no reaction.

I do feel that the origin of the Jacob Sheep in Ireland may be much earlier than supposed, although have no evidence to support this except that the Tabley flock came from Ireland, and that it is thought that sheep first came to here from the Iberian peninsula when the 'Great Atlantic trade route' was opened between Ireland and Spain and Morocco during the late bronze age.

The Tabley flock was kept at Tabley House in Cheshire, UK. It is known to have been there since before 1820, so Jacob Sheep must have been kept in Ireland before then.

Lady Araminta Aldington and Miss Hermione Bartholomew formed the Jacob Sheep Society in 1969 to improve the breed of Jacob Sheep and to establish a Flock Book, and from the beginning wool quality has been an important aspect of the breed. The first Irish member was Meryl Gardner from Co.Waterford, and she and a small number of members raised the profile of Irish Jacob sheep. There are now 45 members throughout the island of Ireland and the interest in these unusual sheep is increasing every year. Through importing of bloodlines from the UK and the dedication of breeders in improving their stock, many quality Jacobs are to be seen grazing in fields around Ireland and at agricultural shows, notably Tinahely, Tullamore and Tullow shows. In April 2014 the Jacob Sheep Society AGM will be held in Ireland and approximately 100 members of the Jacob Sheep Society from the UK and Ireland will visit flocks in Wicklow and Meath, together with visits to Glendalough and Newgrange.

My two horned Stonecroft flock was established in 1993 with an unregistered ewe lamb, since registered Jacobs were very difficult to come

by at that time. Further ewes were added to the flock and were bred with an unregistered ram called Billy. The first registered ram, Deerfield Lancelot, was bought from Marion Byrne from Tullow in 2002, and the ewes were upgraded to registered status through the Jacob Sheep Society's Appendix system.

The aim over the years has been to improve the conformation of the sheep, while retaining the ewes' excellent mothering qualities and their ability to rear lambs into old age. Rams have been brought from flocks in the UK to improve the sheep. Knowlton Mungo was imported from Dorset in order to improve the wool quality of the sheep, and Woolpit Thomas from the Woolpit flock in Suffolk and he was followed by Webbery Major bred by Bridget Wilson. In early 2013 two new rams arrived from the UK, Border Marengo from the flock of Clive Richardson in Cumbria and Loynton Fergal from Jean Blacknell's flock near Stafford.

My daughter Nicola started her own flock of 4 horned Jacobs, 'The Sugarloaf Flock', which she established in 2005 with the purchase of a ram named Belcreeny Viduka . He bred some really nice ewe lambs, and so she decided to get serious and went to the Welsh Jacob Sheep Society Sale in 2006 and bought a ram lamb, Hope Magic, and two ewes to keep him company while he was quarantined in the UK. Magic has been followed by some other fantastic rams. Overdale Monty arrived in 2008 from Yorkshire. Monty was a prolific show winner all over the UK, including winning the Championships at the Royal Show and Great Yorkshire show twice, and DunMor Ultimate who won many prizes in the UK before winning many championships here including the Championships in Tullamore and Tullow in both 2010 and 2011. These rams have bred some fantastic females which are the basis of the Sugarloaf flock today.

Sugarloaf Noodle was only shown twice in 2012, but she was Champion Jacob on both occasions. Her brother, Sugarloaf Sundance, born in 2012 was Reserve Champion at both shows.

Source

George Barret the Elder, Plate XXV from H. J. Harris, 1985 *'The Artist and the Country House 1540 – 1870.'*

We are survivors, those of us born before 1945

Joe Timmons

We were before television, penicillin, frozen foods, plastics, contact lenses, videos, frisbees, the pill, radar, credit cards, laser beams, ballpoint pens, dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes, pizzas. McDonalds and instant coffee were unheard of.

We existed before househusbands and computer dating.
We got married first and then lived together.
We thought that fast food was food you ate during Lent.
A Big Mac was an oversized raincoat.
Crumpet we had for tea.
Sheltered Accommodation was where you waited for a bus.
A Chip was a piece of wood or a fried potato.
Hardware meant nuts and bolts.
Grass was mown.
Coke was for burning in the cooker.
A Joint was a piece of meat you ate on a Sunday.
Pot was something you cooked in.
A Gay Person was the life and soul of the party and nothing more.
Eldorado was an ice cream.
Aids meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.
Clamping meant stacking the turf.
Rock Music was a fond mother's lullaby.
Stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt
A Tablet was a pill you took when you were unwell.

We who were born before 1945 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make.

Diary of the Wicklow Training Camp

Colm J Galligan

This extract is from the newspaper edited by Eoin Mac Neill, The Irish Volunteer, Vol 2 No 38, Saturday August 28th 1915. The Irish Volunteer was printed from February 1914 up to April 1916. We assume that the first days of the Wicklow Training Camp were reported in the previous newspaper, as this is a continuation of the report, recording only the last eight days of the camp. The number of men taking part is not given but it is interesting that a sizable band of men were able to move around so freely and for a lengthy period without arousing attention or asking question.

Diary of the Wicklow Training Camp

(continued)

Fri, Aug 6th — The early hours of the morning was spent in marking out the camp, pitching tents, and bringing all the baggage from the village to the camp. After breakfast somewhat later than usual, the entire command had a good spell at close order drill on the roads as the fields were still too wet. After dinner, though, it was found possible to manoeuvre over them.

Sat, Aug 7th — Again very wet. Most of the forenoon was devoted to a lecture and discussion of the style of fighting most suitable to Ireland. In the afternoon exercises in attack, defence, and placing of outposts were carried out, the various duties being assigned to the senior officer attending the camp in turn.

Sun, Aug 8th — After church, preparations were made to move off. In the afternoon the whole force struck camp and headed for Newcastle preceded by the cyclists. In all these later pitchings and strikings of camp a great improvement was necessary: the men took the intervals and distance for the tents accurately and automatically, ran them up and

down quickly, deposited their belongings neatly, dug fire pits, collected fuel, &c, &c. In these respects huge strides have been made.

Mon, Aug 9th —This was the day of days. It happened that a blockhouse had been erected on the coast near Newcastle railway station to protect the cross-channel cable terminus. A force of police constituted the garrison. Finding such an excellent example ready to his hand, the CO, marched his men down to it and began to point out the use of barbed wire, sandbags, &c., blissfully unconscious that he was thereby in the endangering the Realm. The sentry on duty, however, moved the sightseers on and they practised extended order advances for a long distance along the sea-shore coming back across the country, and studying the different tactical aspects of the ground. After dinner there was an exercise in combat reconnaissance, and more across- country work. But what crowned everything was the Quartermaster's announcement on their arrival in camp that the owner of the field in which the camp was pitched had refused to allow it to remain another night, the only conceivable reason being the Defence of the Realm. But this trial was what really showed the mettle of the men. Never was a meal cooked or tents struck quicker nor a campsite left cleaner, and at a quarter to eight the main body started on a night march towards Enniskerry. But the day's work had been too hard and the rate of marching became very slow. In the Glen of the Downs all prospect of reaching Enniskerry was abandoned, and a bivouac was selected. The men lay on a pile of road metal which they pulled down to fit themselves — it was the dryest 'bedding' in reach.

Tuesday, Aug 10th — The infantry marched in very leg-weary at 7 am. The cyclists and Quartermaster were there ahead of them, and a few tents had been pitched. Very little the men cared whether there were tents there or not. On the command 'Fall out', each man simply unslung his pack and lay down in the

sunshine where he stood. Badly-needed sleep figured largely in this day's programme, but the camp was in an entirely unexceptionable condition.

Wednesday, August 11th —Another busy day. In the morning, Close Order Drill and Protection at Rest. In the afternoon a series of advanced and rearguard actions — cyclists against infantry — were carried out. A considerable advance in the men's grip of these tactics was observable in comparison with former occasions. On this evening Mrs Desmond Fitzgerald was so good as to invite the entire contingent to tea and they spent a very pleasant evening as her guests.

Thursday, Aug 12th — In the forenoon the men were exercised Close Order Drill and Protection on the March, and were thoroughly grounded in the signals for extension, and more especially in the proper manner of giving them to a force under their command. In the afternoon they were dismissed, being recalled at 7.30 for Night Operations. A Night Attack on the Camp — which had only a skeleton defending force — was carried out by two sections operating by two distinct routes. The only coordination was by fixing beforehand the exact hour at which the assault was to be delivered. The attack was completely successful and impressed all who took part with the extreme value of proper training in such operations.

Friday, August 13 —The last day in camp. The forenoon was spent in Close Order Drill and in an exercise in the reconnaissance of a position preparatory to an attack. The afternoon, which was wet, was partly spent in putting our house in order. In the evening we held a concert in Mr Desmond Fitzgerald's house, after which took place the presentation to the three officers on the camp staff of some very handsome presents from the men attending the training course, which were suitably acknowledged by each.

Sat., Aug 14th — Camp was struck immediately after breakfast, and the site was left as clean as the proverbial new pin. The infantry piled themselves on top of the baggage on the motor lorry, and looked forward to a magnificent joyride into Headquarters. Alas for their hopes! At the Scalp came an accident, and the rest of the journey was a forced march to

Clomskeagh, [sic Clonskeagh] which was completed in time that was a testimonial to the camp training. At noon everyone was in Headquarters again.

Lessons from the Wicklow Camp

Our manoeuvres through the thickly wooded and mountainous county of Wicklow have taught us many lessons. One fact, however, that stands out clearly above all others is the enormous advantage of the defensive over the offensive; and this is probably the case over most of Ireland. Next to this the most striking thing is the great value of even a slight offensive action on the part of the defenders. Our usual manoeuvres consisted of skirmishes between cyclist rearguards and infantry pursuers, and the former nearly always held off their opponent with little difficulty. This was partly due to the infantry's failing to realise that the cyclists cannot move far from the road and having thus a false idea of their mobility deployed themselves to an unnecessary extent. It should be noted for future use.

Another useful lesson was learned by our various advance parties who had to choose our camping grounds. They will never again choose a steep slope and they will always remember the question of fuel. They, and in fact all our cyclists, have also learned the danger of setting out on a campaign without seeing that the brakes and other parts of their machines are in good order.

Other lessons are chiefly hygienic. We consider it advisable that every man carry a small bottle of iodine and some boric powder. The value of the repeated instructions in the Volunteer on the care of feet was brought practically home to some unfortunates; others discovered for themselves the ill effects of drying damp boots too quickly. These and other things we have learnt, but before all and above all, we have learnt discipline.

Editors note: The Fitzgeralds, the parents of Garrett, lived at Fairy Hill in Bray.

Robert Barton

Colm J Galligan

The Irish Press, Tuesday, January 21, 1969 did a special supplement to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the first Dail and the elected members. This interesting slant on Robert Barton is taken from the paper.

Became a nationalist at Oxford

At first sight a man like Robert Barton seems out of place in the First Dail. His immediate ancestors had been strongly opposed to the idea of Home Rule for Ireland. They were substantial farmers in County Wicklow and neighbours of Charles Stewart Parnell but the friendship between the families received a severe setback when Parnell took up Home Rule.

Besides, Barton was Protestant and apart from Ernest Blythe, the only Protestant in the First Dail.

He had been educated at Oxford, another unlikely qualification for an Irish revolutionary assembly. But at Oxford he became friendly with other Irishmen of his own class who were interested in Irish Ireland movements like the Gaelic League and Sinn Fein. Robert Barton still recalls how one of his contemporaries at Oxford in the early years of the century, Claude Chevasse, used to take down his history notes in Irish.

So by the time he left Oxford Barton was already interested

in Irish nationalism. He became a member of the Irish volunteers and acted as secretary to Col Moore. Like so many other volunteers answering John Redmond's call he joined the British Army.

He returned to Dublin while the rising was in progress in 1916 and was unable to collect his officer's uniform because of the disturbed state of Dublin. After the rising and with so many of the insurgents in prisons, Barton was given the job of officer in charge of the prisoners' effects.

In this capacity he met once again the friends of his early Volunteer days, prisoners like Sean T O'Kelly and Darrell Figgis and soon his sympathies were drawn to the reorganised Sinn Fein.

When the 1918 election came he was chosen as Sinn Fein candidate for Wicklow-West. Most of the Sinn Fein candidates were in prisons at the time of the election but Barton was one of the minority who was free to conduct his own campaign.

He remembers cycling from meeting in one meeting to the next through the Wicklow Mountains in December of 1918. He was very impressed by the way that Sinn Fein headquarters in Dublin organised the election campaign. He remembers reporting to headquarters about his campaign in Wicklow and feeling that he was being briefed by superior officers for a military campaign.

When Mr de Valera nominated his first ministry on April 2, 1919. Robert Barton was accepted as Head of the Department of Agriculture. Barton spent a great deal of the period either in jail or on the run, but he did manage to give some attention to his Department. Looking back on the work of the Department of Agriculture he feels that it accomplished a certain amount of good work in the circumstances.

The Land Bank worked successfully and his efforts to pursuade farm-labourers and small farmers to join co-operatives and share profits did not altogether fail.

Erskine Childers's tin trunk

Mary Davies

This smallish tin trunk with its two inscriptions was for sale in an antique shop in Mullingar last summer. The neatly-lettered original inscription across the centre of the top reads: 'R.E. CHILDERS.' Added later in cruder lettering is 'NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL 10 YEARS AFTER JUNE 8 1962'. There is also a number on the front. The trunk, rather battered, has carrying handles and a frontal lock. It apparently came to the dealer from Dublin.

R.E. Childers is, of course, Robert Erskine Childers (1870–1922). It appears to be the kind of trunk used by boarding school pupils, so it may date from his schooldays at Haileybury College or perhaps from when he was a Cambridge student: it seems the size for small personal possessions rather than clothing. It could even date from his time serving in the Boer War. This Childers connection alone would make it of interest, but it is the later inscription that is truly intriguing.

Apparently Erskine Childers's widow Molly stipulated that his papers were not to be opened until fifty years after his execution on 24 November 1922. Is the possible explanation that in 1962, before her death in 1964, she placed papers in this trunk, with the ten-year period roughly timed to end at the same time as the fifty-year period from 1922? And does the date 8 June 1962 have any significance or is it just the date on which the inscription was painted?

The Will Of Charles Frizell Of Castle Kevin, Early1800s

Jim Doyle/Seamus 0 Dubhghaill

Discovery of the Will

Being a direct descendent of the John Rochfort, I continued my interest in following the history of the Frizell family of Castle Kevin and thus the Rochfords. John Frizell was the grandson of the last Frizell to own Castle Kevin. He was kind enough to provide a copy of a one-page summary Will, the Prerogative Will of Charles Frizell, 1812, that was proved 3rd February, 1812. A Prerogative Will would be similar to probate today. The solicitor who handled the will was Richard Ballard, of 2, Clifford's Inn, Fleet Street in London.

This lead me to Ireland's National Archives (An Chartlann Naisunta), where a typewritten copy of the Will of Charles Frizell of Castle Kevin (Ref No T /19728) is held. The original will is not available, presumably the typewritten version would have been required at a much later date as a certified copy. The Will copy is inexpertly typed and has some gaps in the text. It is a lengthy document, extending to five pages and contains a wealth of interesting details. Charles was the first of four Frizell generations and five owners to be associated with Castle Kevin between 1789 and 1921, a period of one hundred and thirty-two years (cf R&DHFJ 22).

The will bears two dates, hence vagueness of the title. One has to be an error but, as an argument could be made out for either, neither one has been cited.

The document is headed:-

> *'A copy of the Will of Charles Frizell of Holles Street, Dublin, dated 4 August 1810'*

but it is quite possible that '*1810*' should actually read '*1802*' as '*One thousand Eight hundred and Two*' is the date in words written towards the end of the will, immediately above where Charles Frizell put his signature. The internal content of the Will could also possibly indicate 1802 as being the correct date.

In the text of the Will, Charles describes himself as Charles Frizell Senr of Holles Street in the City of Dublin. The Will reveals that Charles had been

married twice. His wives, Sarah and Mary, were both buried in '*Finglass Church Yard*', where he also wished to be buried. He refers to five children, his eldest son being John Richard (a captain in the Royal Surrey Regiment), his middle son Edward, his youngest Charles and his two daughters Sophia Mary and Maria Susanna.

Charles' Will also reveals, in addition to his interest in Castle Kevin, ownership of a total of ten townlands, five in County Wexford with the other five in County Dublin.

Charles bequeathed the five Wexford townlands plus '*... my Farm and lands of Deans Grange ...*' to his eldest son and the other four of the County Dublin townlands to his middle son Edward. To '*... my youngest son Charles Frizell ...*' he bequeathed '*... the Town and Lands of Castle Kevan in the county of Wicklow and all my Estate and interest therein ...*'

The youngest son Charles was also bequeathed '*... all my Estate and interest in Reversion or Claim on the houses in Bride's Alley and French Street in the City of Dublin on the death of Miss Susanna (Adreen) ...*'

The exact relationship between Charles Frizell, the Will-maker, and Susanna Adreen is not known but the surname Adreen could possibly be a version of Adrien. Charles' first wife Sarah is known to have been Sarah Adrien of Dublin and so Susanna Adreen could have been his sister-in law.

Each of Charles' two daughters received from the Will the annual interest on £1,000, a total sum of £2000 having been left *In Trust* for this purpose. The part of the Will involving the oldest daughter is fragmented but included below is the section relating to his youngest daughter.

One must wonder whether such generous provision for his daughters would have been considered normal for families of similar standing in his day. Certainly this was not the norm in later generations.

John (the oldest) and Charles (the youngest) of the three sons appear to have been favoured more kindly than was the middle son Edward. The residue of the estate was to be divided between John and Charles in the ratio of two-thirds and one-third respectively. The proceeds from the sale of the Holles Street house and its contents were included in this. John and Charles were also appointed as executors of the Will but Edward was not.

I give Devise and Bequeath to my Executors herein afternamed Two Thousand Ster which is Secured by Three old judgements on the Earl of Annesly's Estate assigned to me at the Rate of Six per cent One Thousand Pounds of the said Two Thousand Pounds in Trust to pay the interest thereof unto my eldest daughter Sophia Mary... ... ...One Thousand Pounds in lieu thereof in caseof such a marriage and in case of no such marriage should take place she my said daughter Sophia Mary Frizell shall be at liberty to bequeath the said One Thousand Pounds at or before her death to whom she shall think proper to leave the same Also One thousand of hers and sum of Two Thousand In Trust to pay the Interest thereof unto my Youngest Daughter Maria Susanna Frizell during her life or until she shall marry a man who will be able to settle one hundred pounds a year Well Secured Permanent Jointured on her own Fortune of One Thousand Pounds Ster in lieu thereof in case of such marriage And in case of no such marriage should take place she my said daughter Maria Susanna Frizell shall be at liberty to Bequeath the said One Thousand Pounds at or before her Death to whom she shall think proper to leave the same

Why Edward (who died in 1814, just two years after his father) was apparently discriminated against in such a manner is not at all clear. He also was deprived of a source of possible income as the yearly rent charge (twenty-six pounds two shillings) which Edward had on the holding of William Weekes of Castle Kevin were to be no longer payable but instead merged into the rents of Castle Kevin (and so would become payable to his brother Charles instead).

The above details account for all of the lands and houses owned by Charles Frizell. The greatest part of his money is also accounted for but not quite all, as people other than family members were also included. Ten pounds each was left to Cavan M. Daniel and Mary Toole whom he describes as *'.. my Too faithful servants ...'* There was also *'... an Annuity of Four guineas yearly to Mary Kelly during life who lives with Mrs. Looke of Rathfarnham ...'*

He also did *'... give and Devise and bequeath an Annuity of Ten Guineas a year to John Rochfort Senr maintenance of his niece Frances Rochfort and nephew Thomas Rochfort so long as they respectively continue with him ...'* There was also a legacy of twenty guineas for each of the two. To set this in context it needs to be explained that when Charles Frizell first came to Castle Kevin in 1789 he brought the two brothers Thomas and John Rochfort with him as employees. All three had suffered in the 1798

Rebellion, their three respective houses having burned down on the same night. Thomas died in 1799 and Frances and Thomas were two of his seven children, presumably the two youngest. John Rochfort was presumably taking some responsibility for them as the maintenance Annuity was for *'... as long as they respectively continue with him ...'*. Should Frances Rochfort leave the home of her uncle John or get married the Annuity was to cease. In the case of young Thomas the same applied to his Annuity if he went to become *'... apprenticed in some useful trade...'*.

The sums left to the two fatherless Rochfort children in Castle Kevin (twenty guineas lump sum plus five guineas Annuity to each), when compared to the ten pounds each for Charles *'Too faithful servants'* must be some indication of the high regard in which the late Thomas Rochfort was held by Charles.

The poor were not forgotten, either. Two hundred pounds forever was to be *'... consolidated in trustee Lands for the Indigent poor of the parish of Finglass ...the Interest thereof to buy bread ... to be distributed ... every Sunday in every year ...'*.

The witnesses to the Will were Roger Devine, W. Erskine and Hugh Reilly who signed to this effect below Charles Frizell's signature.

Below the signatures are two interesting pieces of information. The first of these states:-

'The above Witnesses live in the Town of Cavan where this Will was made and executed the Testator having had a very severe attack of the bowels in order to decide any future litigation (for two days) maturely quiet his mind as a just man for his remains to rest quiet in his grave he made this his Will being a very fair Distribution of his property all of which he acquired except a small part.'

Signed / Charles Frizell.

The second piece of information reads as follows;-

N.B. *This addition was wrote by himself at the bottom of the Original will. This being a copy of the same which he gave sealed up to his son Chas. Frizell to keep in his possession to prevent accidents*

The final two lines of the document state *'Died on the 5th day of January 1812, aged 72'*.

Evie Hone's Treasures in Greystones

Agatha Mansfield

The Holy Rosary Church in Greystones, consecrated in 1903, has many beautiful stained glass windows. A preservation order on the church in Wicklow County Development Plan, 1999, names the 'interior including the Evie Hone windows.'

Two stained glass windows, representing Our Lady of the Rosary and the other the Good Shepherd are on the aisles. These are real treasures, designed by the internationally acclaimed stained glass artist and painter, Evie Hone (1894 - 1955). They have been in situ since 1948.

The Good Shepherd window inspired the poet Brian Power, a priest of the diocese, to write the following

Your tunic, magnetic gold,
has drawn me near, but you look fretful, shepherd,
with all those woolly bleaters clamouring to be led
and a fat old ewe wrapped round your shoulders.
It's a black sheep
gets to nuzzle your knee and pulls
your eyes downward perhaps to guard the errant –
or rather to protect the little one
different from a heedless flock?

Evie Hone was born in 1894 in Co. Dublin. She was crippled by paralysis when she was 11 years old. On a visit to Assisi in 1911, she became interested in stained glass. She trained in London and Paris. From 1924 onwards she exhibited in Dublin, England, France and the USA in various media. In 1937 she converted to Catholicism and her work took on a more religious tone. Evie Hone along with Mainie Jellett were the first artists to introduce art style cubism to Ireland. This style of square (cube) stained glass can be seen in her work. She is most famous for The Crucifixion and Last Supper (1949) in Eton College Chapel, England.

Evie Hone worked at An Tur Gloine (1935-44) studio. She opened her own studio at Marley Grange in Rathfarnham (1949-1952). In 1938 Evie was commissioned to do a large window for the Irish pavilion at the New York World Fair. The first sketch design is on display in the C.I.E. office in O'Connell Street, Dublin.

In tempering her abstract training, Evie Hone was influenced not only by French artists like Rouault but also by late medieval Irish carvings which she loved to draw. The echoes of medieval Irish sculpture are frequently to be found in her larger windows particularly in traceries in Gothic windows. I love to contemplate as often as I can her three exquisitely tender windows, Madonna and Child, St. Patrick and St. Brigid in the Catholic church at Blackrock, Co. Dublin, which were completed shortly before her death in 1955.

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Prehistoric Landscaping at the Sugarloaf?

Paul Duffy

On a recent training exercise with the Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team, I had the privilege of being a passenger in the Irish Coastguard's n62 rescue helicopter. The exercise took place in the townland of Calary Lower on the broad plateau of bog and pasture which runs from the shoulder of the Sugarloaf to the lip of the Powerscourt/Glencree valley. We were blessed with a fresh March morning of limpid clear skies and I was looking forward to seeing the area from the air. In particular I was hoping we would fly over the fine ringfort in Glasnamullen adjacent to the R755.

The helicopter lifted us three at a time and the aim of the exercise, which followed a groundschool out in Dublin Airport the week previous, was to familiarise us with the craft when airborne and to experience the winching mechanism and associated procedures.

Once aboard, we headed east over Calary Bog flying low over the ringfort. I was disappointed to find that there were no cropmarks or any humps and bumps in or around the fort which might have suggested the location of associated activity or structures. The helicopter then headed into the wind before rising up above the shoulder of the Great Sugarloaf to allow the wind to carry the turn back to the landing site.

As we gained altitude, the quartzite protrusions of the Little Sugarloaf and Bray Head came into view over the bulk of the Great Sugarloaf. Beyond, the Irish Sea appeared as a hazy, light strip of blue. At first I didn't recognise the hills, seeing them for the first time from a new angle. What was immediately striking however was the alignment of the three humps or summits on the South of Bray Head with the three knobs which form the peak of the Little Sugarloaf. I had never noticed the very similar profiles of these two hills when viewed from the south west. What was even more striking from this angle was how the two cairns upon the shoulder of the Great Sugarloaf added a further depth of alignment to the profile of the other two natural hills. When viewed from this direction, both the Little Sugarloaf and Bray Head South have two smaller humps to the left and larger eminence to the right. Although these eminences are far

less striking than the pinnacle of the Sugarloaf, in a very broad schematic way, both hills have two lower humps to the left and a larger to the right.

Could the two enigmatic cairns located on the shoulder of the Sugarloaf be an attempt at landscaping the skyline to create a sense of resonance with the natural topography of North-East Wicklow?

Figure 1. The profile of the Great Sugarloaf looking East

The larger cairn is located to the north of the smaller one and has a diameter of 13 to 15m and a height of c.1.5m. The smaller of the cairns is very low and has a diameter of c.7m. Neither cairn exhibits evidence for kerbing or a formal central chamber. The larger cairn was excavated by Liam Price in 1933. Although no definitive evidence for the date of the monuments was recovered during this excavation, the general consensus is that both cairns most probably date to the Early Bronze Age (2200 -1600 BC)[i].


Figure 2. The cairns at Glencap Commons Upper looking North

Unlike Three Rock Mountain and Seefin to the north, no cairn adorns the summit of the Great Sugarloaf. The significance of this has been remarked upon by Chris Corlett who has written on the possibility that the mountain was worshipped during the Bronze Age[ii]. This conclusion was arrived at due to the wide range of Bronze Age burial and ritual monuments which seem to be aligned upon or built within sight of the Great Sugarloaf. Perhaps, in addition to being a focal point upon which tombs aligned, the profile of Great Sugarloaf itself was altered to reflect the skyline to the north east.

The peaks in this part of Wicklow differ from the rounded granite and schist mountains that form the greater part of the Wicklow massif to the East. It is their profile rather than their height or extent which marks

Figure 3. the protuberances on Bray Head and the Little Sugarloaf

them out as different. These sharp profiles are the result of immensely durable pink and white quartzites standing proud from underlying grey slate and greywacke (a hard, dark rock). The light colour of the quartzite which makes up the prominent peak of the Great Sugarloaf in particular can give a distinct pink hue under certain light. The builders of the cairns would have been equally noticed this difference and the geological formation known as the Bray Head Formation[iii] which includes Bray Head and the Little and Great Sugarloaf, would have expressed itself to the Bronze Age population in the different character/qualities of the stone and the subtle differences in vegetation which grows upon it. This difference is something that may well have been heightened by the construction of the cairns to enhance the similarity of these 3 peaks in an immediately recognisable visual way. Furthermore, these cairns would have been imbued with significance, inhabiting a space within an ideological religious framework which is unknowable to us now.

Figure 4. The orientation of the Glencap Commons cairns and the natural protuberances to the North East

The archaeologist Christopher Tilley has identified what he has called 'landscape metaphors' in the Ebble-Nadder ridge in Berwick, England and he describes how Bronze Age barrows positioned on ridgelines *'link every distinctive topographic element in the landscape into a coherent whole with possible cosmological significance...'*[iv] Such a network might well have been in existence within the immediate landscape of the Bray Group. From the East the three peaks of Bray Head, the Little Sugarloaf and the Great Sugarloaf rise from roughly 210m to 310 to 430m in a progressing scale towards the West and the setting Sun.

A total of 4 other cairns extant or known from historical sources occurring on in the townland of Glencap Commons North as well as a possible hut site which may date to the Bronze Age. These monuments are sited on the lower slopes of the Sugarloaf at elevations below the cairns pictured above. When the extensive evidence for Bronze Age activity in the valley between the Great Sugarloaf and the Little Sugarloaf is considered, it is clear that these cairns belong to a complex ritual landscape.

While the notion that the cairns on the shoulder of the Great Sugarloaf were constructed to create a visual resonance with the profile of the Little Sugarloaf and Bray Head to the North East is purely speculation I believe it is healthy speculation all the same. The rising sun climbing in the sky from the East, just as the three peaks themselves rise from East to West holds significance in itself. These kinds of parallels are often celebrated by prehistoric man. It is my intention to make observations of the position of the rising and setting sun at various stages of the year from the Glencap Commons cairns. Perhaps such observations might enable further comment to be made upon the prehistoric landscaping of the Great Sugarloaf profile.

[i]Atkins Consulting 2010, Landscape Study of the Great and Little Sugarloaf. Final Report submitted to Wicklow CountyCouncil, 60.

[ii]Corlett, C., 1998, The prehistoric ritual landscape of the Great Sugarloaf. Wicklow Archaeology and History Vol 1, 1 – 8.

[iii]Brück P.M. & Reeves, T.J., 1976, Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Structure of the Bray Group in County Wicklow and South County Dublin. Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy Section, Vol. 76, 54.

[iv]Tilley, C., 2010, Interpreting Landscapes Geologies, Topographies, Identities. Walnut Creek, 178.

Alfie Byrne and the Artane Boys Band at Roundwood 1931

Martin Timmons

In September of 1931 a ceremonial turning of the sod took place at the Vartry Reservoir where four new filter beds were to be constructed in order to meet the growing demand of Dublin City. Alfie Byrne the legendary Lord Mayor of Dublin cut the first sod in the presence of delegates to the annual conference of the Association of Irish Municipal Authorities, whom he entertained to tea at Roundwood. The delegates on arrival were received by Mr Moynihan, City Engineer and Gerald Sherlock, City Manager. During the evening the Artane Boys Band gave a 'delightful selection' of music.

The sod was cut with what was described as a 'handsomely designed silver shovel', which was presented by William Grainger, on behalf of the contractors who were Grainger and Son of Hollywood and Dublin. Among those present at the sod turning ceremony were Dr Butler, PP, Roundwood: Fr Lavell, CC, Roundwood: Fr McArdle (Lord Mayor's Chaplin): Rev J Kelly, SJ, Boston, USA: Rev R A Hewitt SJ, Boston, USA: PS Doyle, TD: James Everett, TD: D. Gun O'Mahony, TD: S. Moore,TD: M. J. Hennessy, TD: B. O'Connor, TD: Sean McEntee, TD: and Commissioner P J Meghan, BE, BSc.

After the sod turning ceremony, the Lord Mayor addressed the delegates and said that the contract for the new filter beds amounted to £35,000 and would provide work for at least 50 men from the locality. He was sure the visitors would agree Dublin had reason to be proud of their waterworks, and all would wish the City engineer and City manager 'God Speed' with the works now being started. Although the average daily consumption of the Vartry water in Dublin was sixteen and three quarter million gallons, there was no fear of a shortage, as the reservoir contained a supply sufficient for 200 days.

When the ceremony took place in September 1931 it was expected that the works would last for 15 months but in the event the work on the four new filter beds was not completed until 1934. The Vartry remained

Dublin's principal supply source until the Liffey Scheme from Ballymore Eustace came on stream in 1944. The following is a list of men who were employed on the construction of the new beds: J Pierce, J Bennett, C McManus, Bill McCabe, Bill Hatton, Frank Healy, Matt Farrell, Mick Kavanagh, G McCabe, M Plunkett, J Walsh, J Mason, J Byrne, M Moore, J Holden, J Gibbon, P McHugh, T Doherty, M Doyle, T Healy, J Rochford, Mog Kavanagh, Bill Doyle, S McGowran, Tom Timmons, Gerry Byrne, B Smith, T Doyle, T Traynor, M Meehan, G Gore, P Kelly, J. Price, T Kenna and J Mason.

Old Irish Weather Sayings

Joe Timmons

Many old Irish weather sayings have a solid foundation in scientific fact. The following are old weather sayings:-

A Moon with a halo around it means rain soon.

Low flying swallows portend bad weather.

When distant objects appear nearer than usual, or when distant sounds can be heard more clearly, are signs of wet weather approaching.

Good weather is due when the sound of the waterfall is far away; a bad spell is due when the waterfall is audible.

If there is good visibility at sea, bad weather is coming.

Mist was also considered a weather sign. A particular worry was "Fairy Mist" which would descend without warning, disorientating a person and perhaps signalling his or her death. Like the wind or clouds, the pattern of mist was held to foretell the weather - mist of good weather on a river - mist of bad weather on a hill .

When the sea is foamy at high tide, this is a sign of bad weather

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Ross Print Services, Greystones. Tel: (01) 287 6612 Email: ian@rossprint.ie www.rossprint.ie