

# TIMES PAST



**Journal of the  
Ballincollig Community School  
Local History Society**

**Volume 5  
1988-89**



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Journal of the  
Ballincollig Community School  
Local History Society  
Volume 5 1988-89 ISSN 0791 1203

### Contents

History and Technology .....	1
An Industrial and Commercial History of Cork City, 1883-1914 .....	3
Ballincollig, Our Village, 1938-1988 .....	17
Local Community in a Satellite Town, Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig .....	23
A History of Ballincollig Rugby Club .....	27
Parliamentary Representation for the Ballincollig Area, 1885-1988 .....	31
The 1933 General Election in Cork Borough .....	38
Folklore and Traditions of Ovens .....	41
Some Houses of the Gentry Around Ballincollig .....	45
A Computerised Record of the History and Gravestone Inscriptions of St. Peter's Church, Carrigrohane .....	49
History News .....	53
History File .....	54
Sources; Barracks Burned .....	55

**Front cover;** *The steamroller and the Muskerry Tram; the crash of 1927 on the Carrigrohane Straight. (The Cork Examiner)*

**Back cover;** *The Irish Army on duty at In-niscarra Bridge during the Emergency (World War 2). (The Cork Examiner)*

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### HISTORY AND TECHNOLOGY

This is the fifth year of our Local History Journal. The Journal has now established itself as the main source of reference for the history of our locality. This has been achieved by the good work of the history students of our school who have continually sought out new sources of information as the basis of their articles.

But this year's Journal also represents a new departure. The entire production of the Journal from the initial word processing to the creation of a camera-ready copy for the printer has been undertaken in the school. History and computer technology have been firmly joined together in its production, and the buzz words of the revolution in desk top publishing frames, margins, fonts, laser printer and so on have been ringing around the school in recent months.

But history and technology have a wider meaning and application in our locality. Gunpowder production provided the most important source of employment for local people in the last century. Now the Regional Park and Powder Mills have been earmarked for major development by Cork County Council. The Regional Park will provide mainly recreational and sporting facilities and recent progress has been steady in this area. However, in the Powder Mills, the restoration of an incorporating mill and other aspects of the technology of gunpowder production is a very different type of development. There has been no progress in this recently.

Perhaps now is the time for the County Council to set up their proposed POWDER MILLS TRUST, which would lease this area from the Council and be directly responsible for its development. Such a Trust would have the advantage of being able to concentrate its energies on this one project. Within a short period, based on international experience, the restoration would have paid for itself as well as providing a considerable income for Ballincollig. Another visible and enduring link between history and technology would have been created for the benefit of all.

Dermot Lucey  
(Editor)

### Thanks

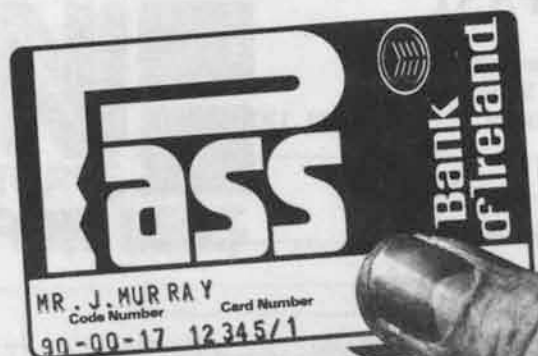
We would like to thank many people who helped over the past year. As always Tim Cadogan and Dave O'Brien (Cork County Library), Kieran Burke (Cork City Library) and Patricia McCarthy (Cork Archives) have been most helpful. As well as these, we are grateful for considerable help received from the staff of the Boole Library, U.C.C., Patrick O'Riordan (Cork Harbour Commissioners), Noel Holland (Cork Chamber of Commerce) and C.J.F. McCarthy (Cork Historical and Archaeological Society), Jim Twomey, Philip McCarthy, Nora Lynch (Muskerry Local History Society). In the production of the Journal, a great bunch of Fifth Years helped out with the word processing; Mr. Tim Horgan and Mr. Alec Myles (staff) and Ian Callanan (student) were always willing to help out a beginner in desk top publishing. Thanks is also due to Mrs. Bernie Fitzpatrick for photocopying. Finally, we would like to thank Mr. Dan Murray (Principal) for his support.



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# AN INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL HISTORY OF CORK CITY, 1883 - 1914

This article, by Jerry Burke, Noelle Corcoran and Sinead Snee, won *The Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland Centenary Awards* last year. Our photograph shows the students being presented with the Institute's Trophy and a cheque for £750 by the President, Mr. Eugene Greene. Also in the photograph are the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Ald. Carmencita Hederman, Mr. Kieran Crowley (Institute of Chartered Accountants) and Mr Dermot Lucey, History teacher.



## INTRODUCTION

In 1800 the largest manufacturing units in Ireland in sail cloth, cotton, brewing and distilling and papermaking were to be found in Cork. By 1900 Cork was still important in the woollen industry and in brewing and distilling. But Cork had failed to industrialise like Belfast and cities in Britain.

About a quarter of the workers were employed in manufacturing industry, but the factories in the city were usually small. The largest ones employed only about 300 workers and most of the manufacturing businesses were small workshop units.

The industries usually processed agricultural raw materials. But many other factories which could have used agricultural raw materials were not established. Many of the raw materials were exported and Cork imported products such as boots and shoes, cheese, biscuits, beef, ale and beer which could have been made in the city.

## INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL LOCATION; STREET PROFILE

When examining industrial and commercial location in 19th. century Cork, the city can be divided into 4 main areas. First, there was the centre city area. The second main area was the quays. The third area comprised the north city streets (Shandon St. and Blarney St.) and the south city streets (Barrack St. and the Bandon Road area). The last areas were Blackpool and Douglas.

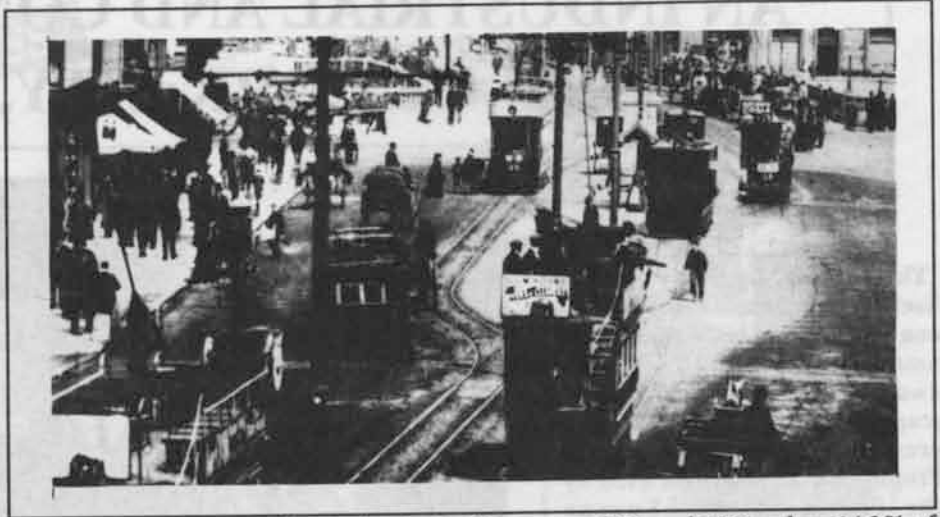
The centre city area was the central business district. Patrick St. consisted mainly of large stores the equivalent

of today's department stores and a number of small shops serving central city shoppers. Streets near or adjacent to Patrick St. contained mostly small shops with occasional factories and some small craftsmen's workshops. The South Mall offered industrial services including accountancy, insurance, and auctioneering. The North and South Main Streets consisted of small shops serving local people. In many places in the area there could be found dressmakers and milliners located in the upper floors of various buildings.

The quays served mainly as a port area with many warehouses storing a variety of goods. Here also were located the new steam powered flour mills. However, the main industrial areas were Blackpool and Douglas, bordering the outer limits of the city, where tanneries, woollen mills, bacon factories, distilleries and breweries were to be found. In the early 19th. century these became the main centres for manufacturing industry because of the availability of water power. Even though the earlier industries had declined, Blackpool and Douglas still remained the most important areas for industry.

There were not many changes in the shape of the city between 1883 and 1914. By 1883 the main railways out of Cork were built. Only the Muskerry Light Railway and the tramway system were added before 1900. There was very little public building at this time. The Court House was the main example and this was rebuilt after a fire. However there was considerable building of artisans dwellings and

*Trams in  
Patrick St., 1900  
(Cork Examiner)*



extensions to the middle class suburbs. But the overall layout to the commercial and industrial areas remained the same.

## THE PATTERN OF INDUSTRY<sup>1</sup>

### OCCUPATIONAL STRUCTURE

At the end of the 19th. century and the beginning of the 20th. century, the largest occupational sector in Cork, on average, was manufacturing. However, the proportion of the population engaged in this sector was relatively small and many of the workers were employed in workshops rather than the fully developed factory system of the Industrial Revolution.

In 1881, manufacturing accounted 22.4% of the total workforce. By 1911 this percentage had risen to just over 25%. In the years between the percentage had tended to fluctuate, but an important point to note is that by 1911, while the percentage had increased the actual numbers employed had decreased from 9,199 to 8,349.

The industrial services sector grew substantially during this time, rising from 15.5% in 1881 to 21.1% in 1911. This sector was male dominated with a 9:1 male/female ratio throughout the 30 years.

Public and professional services accounted for 13% of the total in 1881 rising slightly by 1911 to 14.4%. In 1891 the percentage rose substantially, falling again by 1901, but this fluctuation was mainly due to the numbers of soldiers stationed in the city in 1891. Excluding the army figures, this sector remained steady during the 30 years from 1881 to 1911.

The main female occupational sector in the city was domestic service with nine times more females than males. However, this sector declined in the late 19th. century,

decreasing by half between 1881 and 1911, when 14.3% of the workforce were engaged as domestics.

To get a clearer view of Cork's occupational structure, the sectors have been divided into service and productive industries. Included in service industries were domestic service, industrial service, dealing and transport. Productive industries, on the other hand, were composed of manufacturing, agriculture and fishing, mining and building. An average of the total workforce over the period shows that Cork was very dependent on services. Service industries accounted for 68% of all workers, while only 32% in Cork were producing.

The importance of commercial and service industries in Cork can be seen in other ways. Dr. Maura Murphy has pointed out that merchants were the largest group represented on the Cork Town Council in the 19th. century. Commercial interest also had stronger representation than manufacturing interests on the two main bodies promoting the industrial and commercial life of Cork the Cork Chamber of Commerce and the Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce. In the Cork Incorporated Chamber between 1883 and 1914, 11 of the Presidents had mainly merchant interests while 10 had mainly manufacturing interests. In the Cork Chamber of Commerce merchants were also very important, though it seems to have been more politically influenced. The trade directories also show us the importance of commercial interests. In 1901 there were over 2000 businesses listed in the city and 66% of these were in the dealing sector and 22% were in the manufacturing sector.

### A CONTRAST WITH BELFAST

A comparison with Belfast in 1901 gives a better idea of the occupational structure of Cork city. During the 19th. Belfast had grown from being smaller than Cork to being almost 5

times larger and it had a reputation for being more like English industrial cities than any other Irish city.

In Belfast in 1901 manufacturing was by far the most important employment sector with 55% of the workforce involved. This was almost twice the Cork figure of 29.3%. Since manufacturing was so important in Belfast all other sectors took up smaller proportions of the workforce. Industrial services accounted for 13.8% in Belfast compared to 17.3% in Cork. Public and Professional services held 6.3% of the Belfast labour force, while accounting for 13.6% in Cork. Not surprisingly, given the high numbers of females involved in Belfast manufacturing industry, the domestic service was much smaller in that city (7.8%) compared to Cork (16%).

The clear dominance of the manufacturing industries in Belfast can be seen when the sectors are divided into productive and service industries. In Belfast 60% of the total workforce were engaged in productive industries, with only 40% engaged in services. The positions were reversed in Cork; 60% were involved in services with only 40% producing in the city. It is obvious that Cork was much less a manufacturing city than Belfast. As Dr. Murphy has stated, Cork had never been a centre of heavy industry.

Cork failed to establish many industries using agricultural raw materials which were easily available. Industries such as footwear manufacturing didn't avail of the natural advantages which they had. While the Cork cattle trade increased in value from £803,318 in 1908 to £1,302,663 in 1914, the tendency was to export the cattle live. During the 1870's 500,000 live cows were exported; by the 1890's this had increased to 750,000. This meant that few hides remained to boost the Cork footwear industry, making it necessary to import vast quantities of shoes from Britain. Because of this wasted opportunity Cork footwear industries failed to dominate the home market.

Another case was cheese manufacturing. This was an industry with great potential. Cork dairying was strong at a time when Cork was importing twice as much cheese as it was exporting. Yet no cheese factory was developed to cater for this demand.

The development of a beef industry seemed just as practical. Mr. Wesley Frost, the American consul at Queenstown, wrote to the U.S. Government about the opening in this area for American investment; "There is an opportunity for a slaughter house and meat-packing industry in this district. There are probably few openings for American capital and enterprise outside the U.S. that have as many attractive features.....Cork is the centre of the Irish cattle country." However, Cork actually imported frozen, salted and fresh beef to the value of £68,140 in 1913. Once

again everything seemed right for industrial development using agricultural raw materials, but none came.

## EXPLANATIONS

Various historians have suggested reasons for the failure of the south of Ireland to industrialise in contrast to the Belfast area. These reasons range from lack of raw materials, lack of investment, British competition, lack of enterprise, changing technology, to a declining home market. There is no agreement amongst historians about the relative importance of these reasons. In the case of Cork, there has been little or no effort to apply these reasons to the region to explain its decline.

Mary Daly and Joseph Lee both agree that lack of capital was not a reason for the decline, but still capital was not invested in manufacturing industry. Contrary to doubts about the lack of workers, both historians also agree that there was a plentiful supply of unskilled labourers, and skilled labourers were readily available from England. But Professor Lee dismisses the idea of the Protestant ethic stimulating industrial growth in the North, while Dr. Daly suggests that the social and cultural links between Belfast and England helped its growth. Professor Lee suggests that growing consumer consciousness led to an expanding home market despite population declines and that imports rose to cater for the local market. Both historians emphasise the lack of enterprise amongst businessmen.

Mary Daly states that businessmen invested more in services than in manufacturing industry in southern Ireland. She explains that as services faced less competition from Britain there were less risks involved in trading than in manufacturing. The problem, however, was that profits in services were limited and the industry never tended to expand outside the home market. This would seem to be relevant to Cork. Tea, coffee, corn and coal merchant companies were all Cork companies supplying the local market. There were no English based companies in competition with them in Cork. Textiles, brewing, distilling and boot manufacturing, on the other hand, all faced competition from foreign imports. One service industry which was an exception to Dr. Daly's suggestion was the growing insurance business. In 1913 in Cork there were over 70 insurance companies represented. Only about 7 of these were Irish. Of the remainder, 23 had offices in Cork; the rest were represented by agents.

There is also contradictory evidence from the Cork area about Professor Lee's suggestion that the home market was expanding. In the period between 1881 and 1911 the Cork county population dropped by 20%, while the city



### *Murphy's Lady's Well Brewery*



population dropped by 5%. However, Dr. Maura Murphy shows that the wages of both the skilled and unskilled labourers rose considerably in Cork between 1820 and 1900, suggesting that even though the population was smaller, it was better off. But she also implies that unemployment weakened the home market considerably. Also in a survey of Cork's working class families, skilled and unskilled, at the beginning of this century, Fr. A.M. McSweeney found that "no less than 50% are compelled....to live under the harrowing circumstances of extreme want." This contradictory evidence would seem to suggest that the local market was stagnant between the 1880's and 1914.

However, Cork businessmen lacked enterprise in spite of improvements made by some industrialists. The tanning industry and the distilling industry both failed to change their technology even though consumer demand had changed. The same could be said about the Cork Butter Market which declined at the end of the 19th. century because merchants refused to improve their standards and because competing products came on the market

## **CORK INDUSTRIES**

### **BREWING**

The most prosperous industry in Cork during the 19th. and early 20th. century was the brewing industry. In 1901 6 common breweries existed in the city with 2 in particular dominating, Lady's Well Brewery and Beamish and Crawford Brewery. Altogether up to 500 people were involved in Cork's brewing industry.

Lady's Well brewery, situated in Blackpool, manufactured porter and ale. Established by the Murphy family in 1854, the family decided to form a private limited company in 1884. This ensured the control of the company remained within the family. In 1889 the plant was remodelled and

renewed. By 1892 the brewery had won gold medals for "highest excellence" at the Brewers' Exhibition in Dublin. Further acclaim came in 1895 when the brewery won awards at a Manchester Exhibition. Messrs. Murphy and Co. continued to show their enterprise into the 20th. century by successfully opening trade with the Colonies, London, Manchester and South Wales. In 1901 200 people were employed by the firm.

The other main brewery, Beamish and Crawford, was originally established in 1791 as the Cork Porter Brewery. In 1865 the brewery was rebuilt and modernised at a cost of over £100,000. In the early 19th. century Beamish and Crawford had the largest brewery in Ireland but during the century Guinness in Dublin grew faster. This was partly due to the development of the rail network in Ireland, but also Guinness were producing a better product. Marketing reports to the Beamish and Crawford Company in 1883 and 1884 suggested that Beamish stout was not of the same quality as Guinness stout, "though it tastes as strong and as full a beer, it wants the smack of Guinness." There were also problems about bottled stout in relation to unevenness of its condition and flavour.

Despite such reports the reputation both in Ireland and abroad of the Cork brewery industry was very good. Porter was a more important export from Cork than ale and beer which was generally brewed for the home market.

During the period 1883-1914 there is very little evidence of integration and expansion of existing industries in Cork. The main exception to that was the brewing industry. Beamish and Crawford reorganised and expanded particularly between the 1890's and 1914. In 1895 they became a private limited company with a capital of £186,000, with the shares held exclusively by the Beamish and Crawford families. In 1901 the company was reformed with an overall capital of £480,000.

The main expansion of the company occurred after this. They acquired Lane's Brewery (South Main St.), St. Stephen's Brewery (Dungarvan) and Allman, Dowden and Company (Bandon). They also amalgamated with J. Walsh and Company, wholesale wine and spirit merchants.

The integration of the other breweries as part of Beamish and Crawford eliminated some of the local market opposition. It also meant that the tied public houses controlled by these breweries now sold only Beamish and Crawford porter and ale. As well as this amalgamation with J. Walsh secured outlets for the distribution of their products.

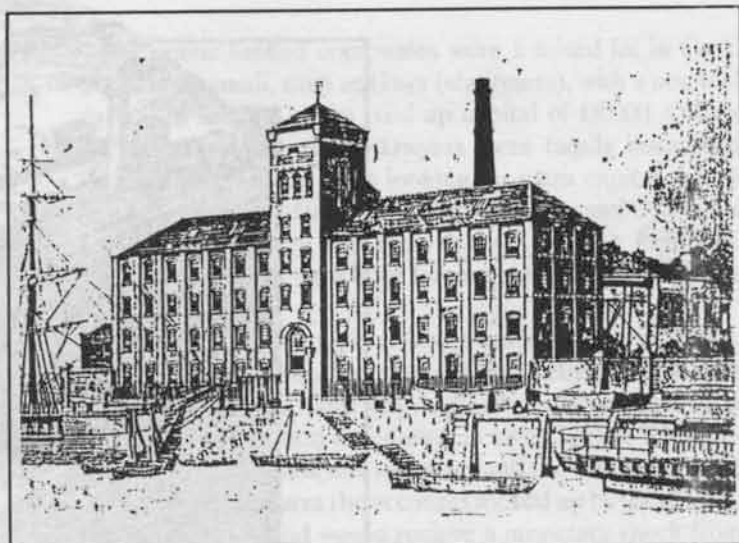
Murphy's Brewery also moved in the same direction as Beamish and Crawford. In the early 20th. century Murphy's took over St. Finbarr's Brewery (Cork) and the Riverstown Ale Brewery and Maltings. But their interest was not in the breweries, which they closed down, but in the maltings as well as the many tied public houses owned by St. Finbarr's Brewery. In the same way as Beamish and Crawford, Murphy's were ensuring control over their market at a time when competition from Guinness's and from imported ale and beer was becoming stronger.

#### DISTILLING

In 1867 the distillers of the North Mall, the Green, Watercourse Rd. and John St., and of Midleton merged to form the Cork Distillers Co. Ltd.. By the end of the century only the North Mall and Midleton were operating as distilleries. But a separate company, Glen Distilleries, founded in the 1870's also produced whiskey.

The distilling industry maintained a steady trade during the late 19th. and early 20th. centuries, employing in total over 250 people. The Cork distilleries were well renowned for their "pot still" whiskey as opposed to the easier to produce "patent still" whiskey. Proof of the quality of the product were the awards won at exhibitions in Philadelphia, Paris and Sydney.

Pot still whiskey was distilled from local barley and malt, but was much more expensive than the patent still whiskey. Prior to 1914 the finest quality patent still whiskey cost



#### *Furlong's new steam-powered flour mills*

1s.6d.(7.5p) per gallon, while lower grade pot still whiskey cost 3s.6d.(17.5p) per gallon. Yet despite the costs and the fact that the pot still whiskey had to be stored for three years before selling it, a steady demand remained for Cork whiskey with an annual output of over 1,000,000 gallons. However only about a seventh of this was exported as the cheaper patent still dominated foreign markets.

#### FLOUR MILLING

During the period involved there was a decline in the milling industry in Cork. One of the main reasons behind this steady decline was the introduction of new milling technology into Cork and elsewhere. The 1870's also heralded the introduction of cheaper North American grain on the European market. The new technology based on steam roller mills enabled this hard dark grain to be milled to a better quality. In order to compete Cork mills had to modernise.

This led to the opening of new flour mills in the city by John Furlong and Sons of George's Quay. The opening of these newer more efficient mills led to the closure of smaller mills in the city and towns closeby. The new roller system introduced by these firms proved to be far superior to the old flat circular stone method used by traditional Irish mills.

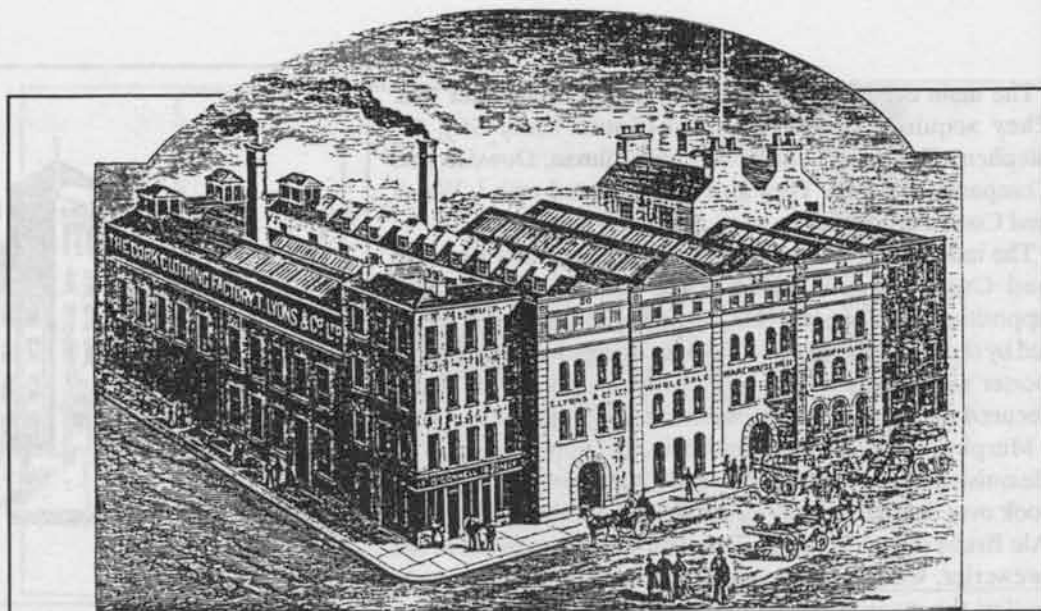
A second reason for the decline in flour milling was the increase in imports of flour to Cork. Over the two decades, 1881 to 1891 and 1891 to 1901, wheat imports decreased, but flour imports increased.

The change in Cork from a large number of traditional mills during the 1870's to a small number of modern mills built near the port using imported American grain by the

	1881-1891	1891-1901
Wheat	80,971 tons	63,708 tons
Flour	14,063 tons	22,502 tons

*Wheat and Flour Imports 1881-1901*

*Lyon's,  
South Main St.*



1890's represented an overall decline in the milling industry in Cork.

### TEXTILES

During the 19th. century, both in Ireland and in Cork, the textile industry was in general decline. However between 1883 and 1914, Cork textile firms showed signs of recovery.

An example of this was the woollen mills of O'Brien Brothers, Douglas. This firm was established in 1882 to manufacture Irish tweeds. Twenty years later the firm employed 300 people. By 1910 this figure had risen to 450. The mills were steam powered and their produce was in demand, both nationally and internationally, with a weekly output in 1902 of 1,200 yards.

Douglas also had a second woollen mills, that of Morrogh Brothers. This firm began business in 1891. Also based on the manufacture of high-class tweeds, the mills were powered by a 250 horse power engine. In 1902 the firm employed 300 people. Once again there was a good demand for their produce in all parts of Ireland, as well as England, Scotland and the Continent. However, because Irish wool was considered too coarse for other than blankets and flannels, both O'Brien's and Morroghs depended on imports of wool from as far afield as Australia, South America, South Africa and New Zealand.

Despite this, exports of woollen goods balanced imports. Woollen industries were quite successful in Cork from the 1880's onwards, with spin-off industries such as cloth manufacturing and the drapery trade under such firms as Dwyers and T Lyons and Co. The success of these factories once again depended on the use of steam power and new engineering technology. The demand existed if the factories changed to cater for that demand.

Apart from wool, flax spinning was the only other major textile employer in Cork. An intensive flax mill was

developed by the Cork Spinning and Weaving Co. in Blackpool which gave employment to over a thousand people. This firm depended on imported supplies of flax.

### BOOT AND SHOE INDUSTRY

During the 19th. century the Cork tanning industry declined steadily. Failure to modernise to the new chemical processes of preserving hides made leather manufacturing too long and too expensive a process in Cork. Along with this, there was a growing tendency to export live cattle which meant that there were relatively fewer hides available.

The decline in tanning was to some extent compensated for by the rise of boot and shoe manufacture. In 1882 a large scale boot factory was established in Blackpool by the Dwyer family. By 1890 there were three other footwear factories operating in Cork. These additional factories were generally small scale but had introduced modern machinery. Prior to World War 1 there were about 400 people employed in this industry.

The Cork boot and shoe industry was certainly the most important in Munster, and maybe the most important in Ireland during the 1890's. Yet despite its obvious success this industry failed to dominate the home market. The industry faced competition from the English footwear centres of Leicester, Northampton and Bristol. In all about £155,000 worth of boots and shoes were annually imported into Cork in pre-war years.

### CANDLE AND SOAP MANUFACTURING

A small industry in Cork was the soap and candle industry. But it was an industry dominated by a successful company, that of Edward Ryan. This firm was founded in Cork in 1878. In 1896 the firm became a limited company with Mr. Ryan as managing director. Ryan had expanded by taking over the Munster Candle Works and breaking into a home market



almost totally dependent on British imports. In the years up to 1903 the company had developed rapidly to become the leading manufacturer of soap and candles in Ireland.

Messrs. Ryan and Co. had proved that the market in Ireland could be catered for with specific commodities if the innovation and determination existed. Even so, by 1913 candles and soaps to the value of £55,000 were imported through the port of Cork.

#### CHEMICAL AND FERTILISER INDUSTRY

The chemical industry had three main producers in Cork; Harringtons of Shandon Chemical Works, W.H. Goulding and Co. of the Glen and Thomas Jennings of Brookfield Chemical Works, Victoria Cross.

Harringtons Ltd. were established in 1883. Up to this the company had been involved in the chemical trade, but decided in 1883 to switch to manufacturing. The company had a large export trade, particularly to Britain. Fine chemicals were produced here as well as an extensive range of paints and varnishes. After 1900 Harringtons were the sole producers of fine red paint in the United Kingdom.

W.H. Goulding of the Glen manufactured superphosphates and fertilisers. This company was the primary source of all fertilisers used in Munster and some of their products were also exported. By 1914 Gouldings employed about 300 people.

Thomas Jennings manufactured carbonates and calcined magnesia on a large scale. The primary market for this company's products was in the medical and technical fields, both at home and abroad. Between them these three companies made Cork a very important chemical manufacturing centre by 1914.

#### ORGANISATION AND FINANCE

Many Cork businesses were either sole proprietorships or partnerships. The sole proprietors were mainly the craftsmen and small retail shops found all over the city. These had the greatest number of bankruptcies at the end of the 19th. century. The partnerships were found along the South Mall, for example, Babington and Clarke, and some stockbrokers such as Carey and Buckley. Accountants were mostly either sole proprietors or private limited companies such as Atkins, Chirnside and Co.

Some of the most successful companies in Cork were the private limited companies such as Beamish and Crawford, Murphy's, Morroghs, and O'Brien's. These were family businesses which were well established, financially stable and provided the bulk of their own capital. By being private limited companies the families obtained more capital and retained control over the companies.

The public limited companies were a mixed lot in Cork. Some were small, such as Guys (stationers), with a nominal capital of £30,000 and a paid up capital of £8,000. Others such as T. Lyons and O'Dwyers were family businesses which expanded and were looking for extra capital as well as a cheap source of long term finance. Lyons and O'Dwyers owned warehouses and then set up clothing factories. O'Dwyers also set up a boot factory, while Lyons owned a department store.

Cork businessmen could rely on 6 banks to obtain finance, but only one of these, the Munster and Leinster Bank, was a Cork bank. This bank was originally called the Munster Bank and it went into liquidation in 1885; "unless the liquidation of the old bank was voluntary and the new one started to take over and nurse the accounts locked up by the closing, the South of Ireland would receive a monetary shock from which it would take years to recover"

However James Murphy of Murphy's Brewery was able to wind up the old bank and establish the new one with a good reputation. For such a company the capital raised using a quotation on the Stock Exchange was vital for its recovery.

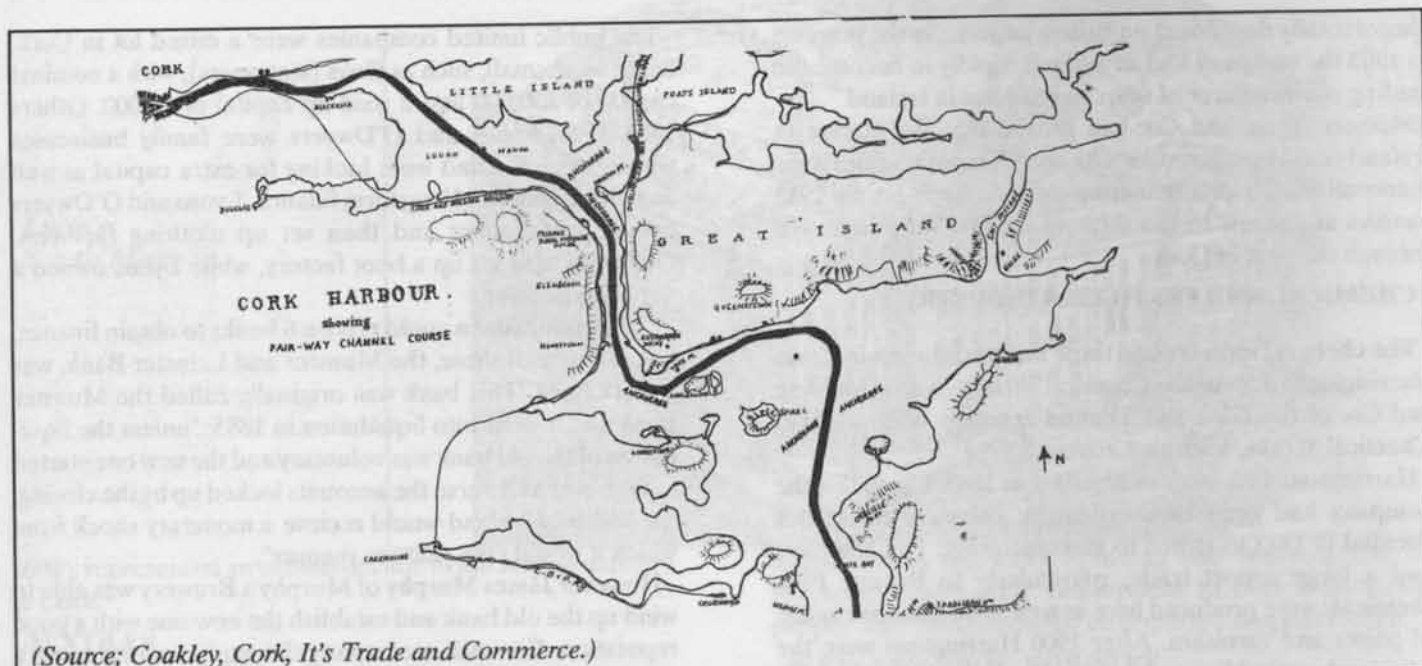
The Cork Stock Exchange was founded in 1886 and was situated on the South Mall. The motto of the Exchange was "Dictum Meum Pactum" (My word is my bond). When it began it had 10 members, but there were many local companies formed in the 1890's so that by 1900 24 companies were listed. The establishment of the Stock Exchange in Cork probably encouraged the formation of these public companies and its growth showed that money was available for investment.

#### THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PORT HARBOUR IMPROVEMENTS

Cork Harbour is one of the finest natural harbours in the world but in the 19th. century many problems had to be overcome before the harbour could be fully used for shipping.

Surveys in 1815 and in 1821 revealed that there was only 4 feet on the flats at low water, and that there was a series of bends and shoals in the channel. As the ships got bigger many of them had to discharge part of their cargo at Passage before proceeding with the remainder to Cork. This slowed the movement of ships and increased the cost because 2s.6d. (12.5p) per ton lighterage had to be paid at Passage.

The quays in Cork needed improvement too because they were neither deep enough nor long enough to accommodate many ships. The walls of all the quays had not been founded to sufficient depth below the bed of the river to allow dredging at the quays. Therefore it was necessary to protect



(Source; Coakley, Cork, It's Trade and Commerce.)

these walls with sheet piling so that dredging could be carried out.

Efforts were made by Cork Harbour Commissioners from the 1820's to deepen, widen and straighten the channel from the sea to the city. However, in spite of all their efforts and especially the "eleven foot cut" of 1869-72, by 1874 there was still only a depth of 8.5 feet at low water spring tides in some parts of the channel from Horse Head to the city.

Considerable improvements were made in the 1870's when a new dredger and two additional hoffer barges were bought for £37,460. Beginning in 1877 and finishing in October, 1883, over 3 million tons of material were dredged from the river. A minimum depth of 14 feet at low water spring tides and a widening of the channel from between 180-240 feet to 300 feet was achieved.

When these improvements had been completed the Mortgage Debt of the Harbour Board was £278,685 and this combined with a general trade depression, prevented any further development until 1894. After 1894 there was a revival of trade and from then on, up to the end of the century, work was done on the channel so that by 1900 cross-channel steamers could navigate it at all states of the tide. The design of the river channel was such that when completed, it resulted in an improved scour, which rendered the channel a naturally improving one. This greatly benefited the port as it reduced a large amount of the annual dredging work necessary and subsequently reduced expenditure.

Thus, in the second half of the 19th. century, the port of Cork was improved and developed. The channel from

Passage to Cork which was only 4 feet deep in 1821 was now 16 feet deep following continuous dredging. It was also 350 feet wide over the same stretch. The city quays were also improved; Albert Quay was extended by 440 feet, Victoria Quay by 75 feet and the North Quay by 155 feet. The foundations of the old quay walls were strengthened with sheet piling and the berthage was increased from a maximum of 3 feet to a minimum of 8 feet at low water. Over 5,000 feet of deep water quays was also available to meet the foreign trade requirements of the port.

### TRADE

By the end of the 19th. century Cork was the third largest port in Ireland the more important ports being Belfast and Dublin.

Trade in the port had doubled since the middle of the century. Comparing the years 1841-1850 with 1891-1900, the average yearly tonnage had increased from 331,017 tons to 664,953 tons. The period of growth was before 1870 so that from 1883 onwards tonnage was always over 600,000 tons. For many years in the 1870's tonnage was over 700,000 tons. However this dropped to 615,000 tons by 1890 due to the international depression of the 1880's. After this there was a revival of trade again.

The tonnage of the port can be divided into foreign, cross-channel and coasting (and also collier). The main decline in the 1880's was in the foreign sector while cross-channel shipping actually increased. This supports the idea that

there was an increase in competition from British factory produced goods during the depression of the 1880's. In the next decade foreign and coastal trade increased and cross-channel trade remained steady.

## EXPORTS

The chief items of export were livestock, butter, flour (to the 1890's), porter and whiskey. Livestock consisted of pigs, cows, calves, horses and sheep. In 1871 a total of 252,198 animals were exported; over the next 30 years the average number of livestock exported annually was 233,044, more than double the number shipped in 1861.

In 1872 437,811 firkins of butter were exported. Thereafter there was a large decrease so that by 1895 only 312,838 firkins were exported. Cork butter was losing out to better quality butter and to butterine from Continental countries on the English market.

Flour was exported in considerable quantities between 1871 and 1877 when more than 100,000 bags were shipped annually. However, in 1878 only 55,107 bags were exported and trade steadily declined from then on. Between 1878 and 1891 the average export was only 40,000 bags and exports of flour continued to decline into the 20th. century. This decrease in flour exports and a corresponding increase in flour imports was due to competition from more efficient steam powered roller mills abroad. As Cork mills changed to steam power the imports too declined.

The main cereal crop exported from Cork was oats. During the last 30 years of the century the export of oats was considerable and even exceeded 200,000 barrells on occasions. However, the total fluctuated from year to year, probably depending on the weather and the harvest crop.

The export of porter reached its peak in 1873 when almost 19,000 hogsheads were exported. However, from then on it steadily declined until 1895 when 15,000 hogsheads were exported. The decline in the first decade of the 20th. century was even more dramatic, from an average of 4,000 tons between 1895-1900 to an average of 645 tons between 1909-1914.

Throughout the last 30 years of the century the export of whiskey remained fairly constant at between 2,000 and 3,000 puncheons and 7,000 and 8,000 hogsheads. However, the export of whiskey declined after 1900, dropping by over half by 1914. The Cork brewing and distilling industries were losing out to foreign and Irish competitors.

## IMPORTS

During the years 1883 to 1914 the chief items of import were manufactured goods, grain and other foodstuffs, tin,

tallow, soap, candles, hides, oil, apparell, wines, brandies, fruits, glass and earthenware.

In 1861 almost 93,000 tons of wheat were imported. This figure increased gradually until 1878. From then on the annual import of this commodity steadily decreased with a few exceptions. The average annual import of wheat remained around 63,000 tons from 1895 to 1914. The variations in wheat imports are matched by changes in the import of flour. Up to 1871 flour was more important as an export but by 1891 flour was mainly imported. By the early years of the 20th. century there was over 4 times more flour being imported than being exported. The changes in both wheat and flour imports were influenced by the technological revolution in the milling industry in Cork which has already been described.

The declining fortunes of the brewing and distilling industries could be seen in the import figures for barley and malt. The imports of both commodities fell particularly in the years prior to 1914.

The increasing use of steam power in industry can be seen in imports of coal. Between 1878 and 1910-1914 the import of coal doubled.

## THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY

### ATTITUDES

In the 1880's Cork businessmen were worried about the lack of manufacturing industry in the city. The agricultural and industrial depression which hit Ireland from 1879 onwards made Irish people aware that more industry was needed in the country.

There was discussion about the "evil of emigration". There were too many people going abroad, but the only way to stop that was to provide jobs at home. Manufacturing industry was the best way to provide these jobs so Belfast was held up as an example to be followed.

Cork people were aware that many goods were imported. The main way to change this was to buy Irish goods. Many efforts were made between 1883 and 1914 in Cork to promote Irish goods. Exhibitions of manufactured goods were held and some organisations publicised the importance of buying Irish goods.

### INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITIONS

One of the main ways of promoting local and national industries was the industrial exhibitions held in Cork in 1883 and in 1902-3.

#### THE 1883 EXHIBITION

This was an ideal time for an exhibition in Cork. Most of Cork's industries were in decline and the mood in Cork was





*The Exhibition Hall, 1883 (Lawrence Collection)*

one of pessimism. The need for a boost for Cork's industries was more essential than ever.

The idea for the Exhibition came originally from the United Trades Council, but the organisation of the exhibition was carried out by Cork Corporation. The aim of the Exhibition was "to excite effort, to encourage talent and to patronise production by purchasing the native manufacturers in one's country." Another aim of the Exhibition was to attract tourism to the south of Ireland as is obvious from the various summer tours around the South advertised in the Exhibition's brochures.

The Exhibition was opened by the Earl of Bandon on the 4 July, 1883. There was a wide range of products exhibited and these were divided into three main sections; raw materials, industrial goods and art and craft industries. Raw materials included barytes (from West Cork), granite (from Northern Ireland) and pottery and bricks produced in Co. Cork. This section also included food and drink items. In the industrial section exhibits came from Lincoln, Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool and Manchester. Indeed most of the engines exhibited were from Britain. The third section, the art and craft section, "displayed works in metal, steel cutlery, edged tools and hardware." Nearly all were exhibits from English and Scottish firms, though Cork did display textiles, and arts from other parts of the country were also plentiful.

Even though financially the Exhibition was a success, with a surplus of £1637, little changed industrially and the traditional industries in particular continued to decline.

### THE 1902-3 EXHIBITION

The 1902 Exhibition was suggested by Sir Edward Fitzgerald and organised by Cork Corporation. Agencies and private individuals who supported and sponsored the event included the new Department of Agriculture who gave £5,000 as well as private individuals like Sir Horace Plunkett.

It's aims were similar to the 1883 Exhibition. The main priorities were to stunt emigration and to revive declining industries, "to give fresh life to the investor, the manufacturer and the artisan at the same time." It was felt necessary to encourage people to buy Irish and to "teach Irishmen and Irishwomen the much needed lesson that they can engage in no more patriotic work than in the management of home manufacture which will give employment to the people." The Exhibition was also designed to attract foreign holiday makers to Cork and this was enhanced by the visit of Prince Henry of Prussia.

The official opening was held on 1 May, 1902 and it was a "splendid affair" All hotels were full up and special trains were provided to the city. It was a great boost for tourism in Cork.

Ninety per cent of the goods were of Irish origin. All of the principal towns and many small Irish villages had exhibits on show illustrative of agriculture, technical instruction, manufacturing industry, fisheries, arts and crafts and Celtic design. However, British, French, Japanese and Italian goods were also represented.

The Exhibition was a financial success like the 1883 Exhibition so it was extended into 1903. "It was a Cork exhibition because it was primarily intended to advance the interests of this somewhat impoverished country, and it was an international exhibition because it invited exhibits from all over the world." However, apart from its success in attracting tourists to Cork, it failed to achieve its other aims.

### CORK'S CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

During our time span (1883-1914), Cork had two chambers of commerce. The older one was the "Cork Chamber of Commerce", founded in 1819, while the newer chamber, "The Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping", was founded in 1883 due, apparently to the increasingly political stance of the former and the election of Charles Stewart Parnell as its President.

During the period the younger body, The Cork Incorporated Chamber of Commerce and Shipping, played a more active part in the promotion of commerce and industry than the older chamber. The Cork Chamber of Commerce seemed to be mainly concerned with running the Victoria Hotel and Reading Rooms and facilitating individual initiative through reading material and contacts. The Cork Incorporated, on the other hand, represented the collective voice of Cork businessmen.

The Cork Incorporated tried to achieve its aims of promoting the "commercial, manufacturing, shipping and carrying interests of the city as well as the surrounding districts" in a number of ways. Politically, it lobbied local and

ing suggestions to improve the infrastructure of the city. In 1908 the School of Commerce was founded with the support of the Chamber who granted a subsidy of £670 towards its upkeep in the opening year. The Cork Incorporated was also successful in pressurising for a speedier and more efficient transport of mails between Britain and the South and West of Ireland.

Overall the two Cork chambers tried to fulfill their aims and they did succeed in some respects. But the full extent of the progress they made is very difficult to measure.

### INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Another body associated more directly with the promotion of industry was the Cork Industrial Development Association. On 5 May, 1905 the Association was formally inaugurated at a meeting held in the Cork Chamber of Commerce. The establishment of such an organisation was originally suggested by members of the Celtic Literary Society who felt that there was a need "to create an organisation for the advancement of Irish Industries which would be independent of all political and sectarian bodies"

Now, in 1905, it was clear to everyone involved in the Association that before any progress at all could be made, they would first have to "awaken and arouse the slumbering interest of the people in their own affairs". It was felt that the citizens of Cork lacked real confidence in Irish goods and were therefore more inclined to buy imported products.

Every year up to 1912, the Association held a Cork Exhibition to demonstrate to the buying public the quality of Irish goods. Through these exhibitions the Association tried to impress on the public the advisability of using Irish made goods. As well as this, they urged wholesale and retail houses to keep Irish manufactured goods in stock and asked shopkeepers to recommend Irish goods to their customers. During the "Irish Week" organised by the Association every year, traders displayed Irish goods in the front windows of their shops.

The Cork IDA continuously appealed to the public to give more practical support to native products through the press. They stressed "the useful service which even the humblest in the community could render to the nation by support of Irish made goods and produce" In 1912 the Council of the Association asked Cork consumers to insist on being supplied with bread made with Irish flour. The appeal did not fall on deaf ears. It was reported that "Cork master-bakers are now employing a decent percentage of Irish flour in the manufacturing of the bread they produce and more commendable still, there is a growing number of local bakers who have set a good example to the rest of their comperes by producing their bread from Irish milled flours exclusively" Yet despite

this, the importation of foreign flour into Cork in 1912 amounted to 15,094 tons. This meant an annual loss in wages to Cork workers of at least £7,000.

The Association also published a popular directory of Irish manufacturers each year as well as issuing countless pamphlets and leaflets about the industrial revival throughout the city and county, where branches were also formed. Information was also sent to Irish societies in Britain and America.

Another way the Association "educated" the people was by giving lectures and sending deputations to public boards, institutions and companies. There they spoke about the unnecessary importation of certain goods and tried to have Irish-made goods specified for future requirements.

The Association conducted conferences and public meetings regularly as well. Often those in the same trade came together to discuss their mutual problems and to decide on a plan of action. An example of this occurred in 1912. The few tanneries that existed then in Cork were not doing well. The Council, realising the seriousness of the situation, summoned a conference of tanners, leather merchants, boot and shoe manufacturers, operatives and others involved in the industry. They discussed the existing condition of the business and the steps necessary to secure for home-tanned leather a larger amount of public confidence and patronage. It was argued that quality Cork tanned sole and upper leathers were no dearer than the imported leather of similar quality. Yet imports of the latter meant an annual loss of £50,000 in wages to Cork workers.

As a result of this conference the Lee Boot Factory put on the market a special range of boots and shoes made from Cork-tanned leathers. All other southern users of leather were directly appealed to to give Irish tanned leather support. The public were asked to ask for and obtain from their boot merchants, boots and shoes made in Ireland from Irish tanned leathers.

In 1910 the Cork IDA organised the Sixth Annual All-Ireland Industrial Conference. A series of motions were passed advocating practical steps in the revival of local and national industry. For example, architects, engineers, builders and contractors were asked to specify and use Irish materials. It was also resolved that children in primary and secondary schools should be instructed in Irish industries. The Conference also suggested that as many manufacturing companies as possible should be quoted on the Stock Exchange.

The main committee of the Cork IDA was supported by a Ladies Committee and a Students Industrial League. Members delivered short addresses on the industrial revival movement in schools and colleges, and distributed literature dealing with the movement there. Senior students from the city schools visited local factories. The IDA also organised

essay competitions and the best essay was published in the local press.

The Cork IDA, therefore, was very active in the promotion of local industry. But like the other efforts made to promote industry it is very difficult to assess the influence of the Association. There was considerable awareness of the need to buy Irish goods but even though there were some successful campaigns to promote this idea, import figures suggest that the effect was not very great.

#### A CASE OF BUYING IRISH

A great deal of energy was used in organising exhibitions and promoting activities to encourage people to support Irish goods and companies. Some of these efforts were successful, but the long term effects were probably limited.

In 1884 Beamish and Crawford reported increased demand for their products after the publicity of the 1883 Exhibition. However for the next 20 years their export market declined and there was increased competition on the home market. The promotion of Irish made flour had some effects. But the amount of imported flour had begun to decline ten years before, in the 1890's, when the large steam-powered mills were built in the port. Tourism became more important and this was helped by the Exhibitions. People were encouraged to see the south of Ireland and at least one new hotel was built in Cork to cater for the tourists.

An interesting example of promoting Irish industry is to be found in the minutes of the Cork Harbour Commissioners. In 1894 the Commissioners proposed building a new wharf on the North Channel of the River Lee. A tender for the work from an English company was accepted by the Commissioners. However, a sub-committee was met by a deputation from the United Trades Association who were "strongly urging the desirability of having the iron work done in Cork" The Harbour Board made such a request from the English company. The company replied that if the Harbour Board's engineer was satisfied with the local work then the company would place the order in Cork.

The engineer was satisfied so the company went ahead even though Cork prices were higher than those from England. Shortly afterwards, however, the English tender was withdrawn because they had "made a serious error in taking out the quantities" The full contract was then given to a local firm but within a short time the Board was complaining that the work was being done too slowly. Support for Irish industry had ensured that part of the work was to be done in Cork. But when a local firm took over the full contract the work was not done satisfactorily.

The promotion of local industry had some success. But in many goods there were large amounts of imports in 1913.

Some of these, such as beef, bacon, paper, sugar, boards and deal, ale and beer, and confectionary could have been supplied by Cork firms. But the campaigns to support Irish goods had failed to prevent local people from buying imported goods.

#### CONCLUSION

Between 1883 and 1914 Cork was basically a commercial centre rather than a manufacturing city. The city was mainly run by commercial interests and the factories which were established were usually small. The largest had 1,000 workers but the other large factories had only 300 workers.

Despite the efforts of many Cork organisations, such as the Cork IDA, the United Trades Association and the two chambers of commerce, to promote the development of industry in Cork, the city and county were in general decline. On one level the actual population of Cork dropped during this period. The industries of the city were also undergoing decline. New technology, competition, and lack of enterprise all combined to halt the growth of industry in Cork.

The people of Cork were happy to depend on imported products instead of producing them here at home. Even the harbour at this time, despite making many improvements, was late in developing compared to other harbours in the United Kingdom, like Belfast, for example.

By the beginning of the 20th. century, Cork city had not much to look forward to. A commercial city in decline, the prosperous era of the early 1800's was now simply a memory.

#### NOTES

1. This section is based on a reclassification of the occupational figures of the censuses from 1881 to 1911 as suggested by W.A. Armstrong, "The use of occupation in the Census" in E.A. Wrigley (ed.).

Figures based on the classes used in the census -Class I to IV- are very misleading. Using those classes, in 1901 Cork would be classified as over 50% Industrial and only 16% Commercial. Therefore, a very wrong impression of Cork would be given. Using those classes for Belfast in 1901 would exaggerate the importance of Industrial (74%), but at least it would be correct in showing the importance of that sector in the city.

Dr. Maura Murphy has listed figures for Cork which are similar to ours, but she does not show how she derived the figures.

There are difficulties in using the occupations listed by W.A. Armstrong. They are better used in dealing with the Enumerators Manuscripts of the census (only available in Ireland for 1901 and 1911 - see *Journal 1986*, "Soldiers in the Barracks"), where more exact detail of occupations are given. But Armstrong's listing gives a better picture of the occupational structure of a city or town than any other available.



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*Jerry Burke Noelle Corcoran Sinead Snee*

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# BALLINCOLLIG, OUR VILLAGE, 1938-1988

This project, by Rang 4, Scoil Mhuire, Ballincollig, with an accompanying wall chart, won the overall award, Muskerry Local Historians of the Year, in the Schools' History Competition 1988, organised by Muskerry Local History Society.

*Proud holders of the Perpetual Trophy awarded to the Muskerry Local Historians of the Year 1988 are four representatives from Rang 4; Sorcha Ní Chartaigh, Jill Ní Ronáin, Máire Ní Shuilleabhain and Rachel Ní Loinsigh, with their teacher, Bean Uí Mhaoilmhichil.*



## INTRODUCTION

Ballincollig village has for many centuries been a centre of trade for the farmers in the vicinity, for the families of the workers in the Powder Mills, the soldiers in the Barracks, and, more recently, for the residents of the houses in the numerous estates which have made Ballincollig one of the major suburban towns of Cork city. The growth in the population of Ballincollig over the years has naturally resulted in a corresponding growth in the number of shops in the village. It has also resulted in the expansion of some of the existing shops, pubs, etc. which we have decided to study, and to record some of the changes which these premises have witnessed over the past fifty years.

## GROCERY SHOP - DOWN'S

### The Early Years 1952-1960

One of the oldest shops in Ballincollig is Super-Valu. This shop is today owned and run by the Down family. The shop was first opened by Mr. and Mrs. Down in 1952. Mrs. Down had inherited the house from Mr. Timmy Murphy. Mr. Down was a farmer. They began trading by selling a bag of potatoes. It was then that Mrs. Down saw the necessity of a grocery shop in Ballincollig.

They then converted their living room into a grocery shop.

The Down family first put a counter across the middle of the room. It was not a self service so all the goods were kept behind the counter stacked neatly on the shelves. Underneath the counter were paper and bags to pack the goods in and underneath those was a timber box where all the money was kept. Underneath the counter they also kept the pass-books. In the pass-books were written down the goods that the people got such as: 1lb. of butter, 1/2 stone of sugar, jam, tea and milk. Some people would pay the bill at the end of the week, or some people would pay at the end of the month. The Down family would often deliver goods to the customers if they so wished. Loose sweets, biscuits and cigarettes were also sold. Milk was not sold in cartons or bottles. They would pour the milk into buckets and sell it. They also sold light hardware which was extremely handy especially for farmers who would be carrying milk and seeds.

The Down's relationship with the customers was very close. If some women went shopping by themselves they would stay chatting for around two hours to Mr. or Mrs. Down. Then their husbands would come in and collect them to bring them home. The Down family had their own customers. If a customer wanted something which they didn't have, Mr. or Mrs. Down would send one of their



children to another shop to get what the person wanted, because their customers wouldn't go to another shop.

Every Monday Mr. Down would collect the eggs from the farmers and sell them in the shop. The bakers who supplied them were Thompsons and Mothers Pride. They sold Musgraves tea and they sold Fig Rolls, Lincoln Creams and Marietta biscuits. Their sausages and bacon were supplied by C.F.U.(Cork Farmers Union) which is now called Byrnes. Their butter came from Mallow by lorry which was sold in 1lb. or 1/2 lb. packs. Meal and layers mash were also sold to farmers.

Christmas boxes were also given to the regular customers as a Christmas present. They consisted of a box of chocolates, some Christmas candles and maybe a bottle of sherry.

### MINI-MARKET 1960-1980.

When Mrs. Down opened her grocery shop in Main St. Ballincollig in 1952 the population was less than five hundred. Over the years the population began to grow. In 1960 Mrs. Down opened a Mini-Market by expanding the original shop and by converting it into a self-service shop in Ballincollig. Goods were now displayed on shelves from which customers could help themselves. A greater variety of products was now stocked in the shop. As well as the tea, sugar, butter, bread, soap etc., which used to be sold in the original grocery shop they now had items such as orange squash, packets of biscuits, boxes of chocolates and pasteurised milk etc. A cash register replaced the wooden cash-box. A machine for cutting rashers and a display fridge were installed. Pass-books were still used and credit was still given to some regular customers. The custom of giving Christmas boxes was still maintained. Even though things had changed, some things, for example, tea, sugar, biscuits and cigarettes could be and were sometimes sold loose.

Even though prices in the 1960's were considered to be high, inflation was not really felt until the mid 1970's. It was in 1971 that the decimal currency system was first introduced.



*Down's Mini-Market in the 1960's*

### SUPER-VALU 1982-1988

By 1982 the population of Ballincollig had risen to almost 10,000 people. The Mini-Market in Main St. now became Super-Valu supermarket. In order to continue to provide the efficient and personal service which Mrs. Down had been giving since 1952 this expansion was necessary.

The first change was the further expansion of the shop. This was done mainly by the family vacating their living quarters and by making this part of the shop. More shelves were added, four checkouts were installed, a frozen food section, a fresh meat counter and a fruit and vegetable section were also added.

Today most of the products which were formerly sold loose are now bought in packets. They are all packed and ready to be put on the shelves for people to buy them e.g. tea, sugar, flour etc. When the money was changed it was easier to add up. Another change was that electric machines were bought for cutting meat, ham, rashers etc.

Despite the problem of inflation and high unemployment which affects many businesses, the volume of business in Super-Valu is continuing to increase. This may be due to the personal service which the Down family have provided for the people of Ballincollig since 1952, and which they are continuing to provide today.

COMPARISON		OF		PRICES.
	1960	1973		1988
Persil	10p	?p		£1.35
Biscuits	5p	8p		£0.54
Tin Fruit	9p	16p		£0.50
Jam	?p	17p		£0.69

## A BAR TO REMEMBER

"Teach Tabhairne"

The O'Connell's bought this bar in Main Street Ballincollig in 1925. The owners before them were the Whelan family. At that time the bar was small. There was a counter running along the wall facing the road. The windows were very small also. The furniture consisted of a few stools scattered around the bar but most men preferred to stand or sit on high stools at the counter. Here they would sip their drinks and discuss the various activities and happenings in Ballincollig and various bits of news which they would have got from the newspaper or from the radio.

In those days "The Snug" was to be found in most bars. This was usually just a small portion of the main bar which was portioned off by a timber and glass type of wall. People who wanted to have a quiet chat or those who did not want to be seen in bars would drink in here. Ladies were rarely to be seen in bars at this stage.

Entertainment as we know it today was non-existent; there was no such thing as having a band in to play. However people would come to the pub to listen to the radio, because only a few people had a radio. On occasions, however, for example if the Ballincollig or Cork team won a major game they would burst into song or at times they might even recite a poem recalling the victory. On St. Stephens Day there was a constant supply of entertainment from the Wren-Boys who sang, played music, danced and recited poetry in the pubs of Ballincollig. In return for this the customers would drop money into their hats. This money was divided among the members of the group or sometimes it was put forward to hold a Wren Dance in a local farm house. Nowadays people give the money to charity.

When Mrs. O'Connell came to live in Ballincollig the population of Ballincollig was about 500 people. However, by 1960 the population had grown. They found that it was now necessary to extend and improve the existing premises. The improvements were carried out; television which was new to Ireland was brought into the bar in 1963. When President Kennedy came to Ireland the pupils in Scoil Mhuire went to the bar to see him on television.

By the 1970's the population had increased tremendously. Many housing estates had been built in the area and many people enjoyed coming to this pub after a long day's work. The new trend for wives to accompany their husbands to the pub combined with the increased population, meant that further expansion and improvements to the facilities in the pub were needed. These improvements included the addition of the lounge and further improvements to the toilets.

It is this history that makes Mary O'Connell's pub a bar to remember.

## THE WAY THINGS WERE

Inflation seems to be accepted as part of everyday life in Ireland today. Every year we see an increase in the prices of a vast number of commodities.

When we visited Mrs. O'Connell she spoke to us of a time when a pint of Guinness cost 10d, this is the equivalent of 41/2p today. When she arrived one could buy three pints for half a crown; this is the equivalent of 12 1/2p. For 1s/5d one could have half a glass of whiskey. Today this would cost £1.20.

In 1949 the principal drink sold was stout. Guinness, Beamish and, of course, Murphys were the brands stocked. Paddy was the brand of whiskey most commonly sold.

The stout was stored in wooden barrells which have now been replaced by metal barrells. Beamish and Murphys Stout were made in Cork and so a supply was readily available. Guinness is made in Dublin and had to be delivered from there. Stout was, and still is, sold on draught and in bottles. Some publicans used to bottle the stout themselves. Stout was sold in pints and in mediums. The medium was larger than the half pint and smaller than a pint.

Barrells of porter were sold when a person died. It was a custom long ago to have a person laid out in the house when they died. At the wake the people who came to the house to sympathise were offered stout and whiskey for the men and sherry for the women. After funerals many of the mourners would come into the pub where they would talk about the person who had died. At Christmas time regular customers were given "The Christmas Drink."

When Mrs. O'Connell first started the laws concerning opening times were different than they are today. The pubs were closed every Sunday. Only the travellers, that is to say people who lived outside a three mile radius of the pub could be served a drink on Sundays. It was in 1960 that the licencing laws changed to those laws which apply today.

## WE BECAME AWARE

Britain and France declared war on Germany in 1939. From 1939-1945 Britain and the rest of Europe were torn and ravaged by war. The Irish government decided to remain neutral. Irish troops would not join in the fighting or support either of the sides. However the army was kept on alert all the time just in case they would be attacked by Germany, France or Britain. Even though the people of Ireland escaped the bombings which the people of most European countries were forced to endure, they were also affected by the war. It was during our visit to Mrs. O'Connell's pub that we became aware of the impact of the war on the Irish people and on the people of Ballincollig itself. Mrs. O'Con-

nell spoke to us about the rationing and the shortages which had to be imposed by the Irish Government at this time.

Ireland is an island. Like most other islands we rely on ships to bring us goods which are not available here. During the war ships could not travel safely to other countries and so goods which were imported became scarce. Commodities like sugar, tea, fuel, petrol, (even bread was scarce for a short period) were rationed and a ration card was issued to each person and householder. If there were six in a family, the family would get 12oz. of tea per person per week. The woman in the family would go into a shop, get her tea and the person stamped or tore out the coupon in the book so that she would not go into another shop and demand another ration. This avoided people getting double rations.

Cars for personal use were not allowed petrol. Trains ran slowly using peat as fuel. A journey from Dublin to Cork in 1943 took ten hours. Electricity and gas for domestic use were cut down.

During the war, Mrs. O'Connell got the bus at 8.30 a.m. to get to school in the city. Because gas was rationed during the war also, it was only turned on between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m. To facilitate the city girls the school would close at 12.00 and reopen at 2.00. The city girls were let out of school to go home and have their lunches. Mrs. O'Connell was a country girl so she could not go home and have her lunch so she had to wait for the city girls to return to school. At 6.00 the girls would be left out of school. Mrs. O'Connell got the bus and the journey home was long and slow.

Business was bad in the pub also because stout was rationed and a person was only allowed 1/2 pint a day. Whiskey was also scarce.

### THE CHEMIST SHOP

Bn. Ui Chruaiaoi, or Mairin Ni Cheochain as she was before she got married, originally came from Coolea. When she was qualified as a pharmacist in 1960 she decided to start a business in Ballincollig. At that time Ballincollig was a tiny village with a very small population. When she arrived in Ballincollig she rented a portion of a house from a man called Mr. Crowley.

This man himself had just opened a butchers shop in another part of the same house. The chemist shop was just a small room with a small window and thick walls. Even so it was quite sufficient for the people.

Business was good because it was the only chemist shop from there to Macroom. People were quite poor at that time. There was no dole or state aid of any kind. Free prescriptions were given to the less well off people.

A van came from Cork city every day with the supplies for the shop. There wasn't much medicine in those days except

baby food, cough bottles and glucose. Mrs. Crowley often made mixtures herself. Prices were very low by comparison to what they are now. However, Mrs. Crowley's business thrived.

Ballincollig began to expand rapidly and during the boom period of the 70's new houses and factories mushroomed up all over the place. To cope with this, Mrs. Crowley had to renovate her shop extensively. Lots of new products came on the market and Mrs. Crowley also had to employ more staff.

As a result of the changes all around, the once small room, run by Mrs. Crowley on her own, is now one of the most modern pharmacies in Cork, employing two qualified chemists and three or four assistants.

Incidentally, Mr. and Mrs. Crowley got married a few years after she opened her chemist shop. They have lived all their lives in Ballincollig. They had five children, three girls and two boys and they now have four grandchildren.

### THE BUTCHER SHOP

Con Ahern owned Crowley's Butchers before Mr. Crowley. He used it as a grocery shop. Mr. Crowley moved into these premises in 1957. There was only one butchers shop in Ballincollig at that time.

A piece of meat costing 1s/5d in 1957 would now cost £1.50. In those days there were no plastic bags or sellotape. Meat was wrapped in greaseproof paper and then wrapped in brown paper. It was held together with twine. On the counter there was a stack of greaseproof paper in different lengths. The butcher wrapped the meat in the length most suitable to the size of meat.

The meat was cut by the butcher using a knife and chopper, there were no electrical saws then. Mince-meat was not usually sold in a butcher shop. People bought the meat, and minced it themselves by using a hand mincer at home, that is if they wanted minced meat.

The original shop was very small. There was one small window at the front of the shop and there were very thick walls. During the years Mr. Crowley improved the shop by making the inside of the shop bigger and there are now two large windows at the side of the shop instead of one window at the front of the shop. Inside there was a wooden counter, now there is a glass counter. There are more fridges and deep freezers as well. Mr. Crowley got electric saws and an up to date cash register.

### BALLINCOLLIG POST OFFICE

The first Post Office in Ballincollig under the Free State Government was located in the premises now known as



Horgans Grocery shop. The post mistress in the office was Mrs. McCarthy.

Later the Post Office was transferred to No.15 Main St., a premises near the Darby Arms. At this time the bulk of the business was selling postage stamps, sending telegrams and issuing dog licences. Postmen delivered letters and parcels. They travelled through the village on foot and used bicycles on their country rounds. At this time the switch board was also located in the Post Office. In order to make a phone call people had to phone the exchange and ask to be connected to the number they required.

Miss O'Leary became Post-Mistress about twenty years ago. The Post Office was moved to its present location at No.7 Main St. There is an increase in post office business due to the different types of transactions and services which Post Offices offer today e.g. saving certs and bonds, payment of Unemployment Benefit and Assistance and pensions, postal orders and money orders etc.

Today however postmen who deliver letters in Ballincollig are no longer based in the local Post Office. In 1960 the automatic telephone system was introduced and Ballincollig ceased as a manual exchange. The telegram business is no longer carried on in this Post Office.

When we visited Miss O'Leary, she spoke to us and gave us a leaflet telling us about the three different series of stamps which have been issued by the Government since 1922. The first which was introduced consisted of five stamps in all, varying in price from 2d to 10s. The Second Series of stamps was introduced in 1968. However, with the introduction of decimal currency in 1971 some slight changes had to be made in the value on the stamps. The Third Series of stamps had nine different designs in all.

### BANKS IN BALLINCOLLIG

In the years up to 1970 Ballincollig did not have a bank. This was due to the fact that the population was small and did not warrant a bank. Local business people travelled to Cork once or twice a week to lodge their takings and to transact any other financial business. The village was however serviced by a mobile bank.

Due to the dramatic increase in population and the corresponding growth in business in Ballincollig the A.I.B. group recognised the need for a bank in the village. It was in December 1970 that the A.I.B. opened their first premises at 9 Main St. Ballincollig. When we visited 9 Main Street on February 16th 1988, we found the door closed. It was then we became aware that the A.I.B. had opened their new, bigger and more modern premises in another part of Main Street. This new bank again reflects the tremendous growth in population in Ballincollig and the continual increase of trade in the vicinity.

We spoke to a member of the staff who told us that as well as having a large number of accounts, the bank has a large "passing trade". People who have accounts in other banks come in to cash cheques and lodge money there.

The Bank Of Ireland opened a branch in Main Street, Ballincollig in 1971. They are still in the same premises today but a major extension was carried out in 1987. Some years ago, a new bank opened its doors in Ballincollig, that is, the Cork Savings, which now has a thriving business. The prosperity of the banks in the town is an indication of how much Ballincollig has grown in recent years.

### AT THE FAIR

In my grandfather's time, the fair day was held on the first Thursday of every month. Farmers for a radius of four or five miles brought their cattle, sheep and pigs to the fair. Most of the cattle were driven by road but pigs and sheep travelled by cart. Most villages and towns had fair greens but Ballincollig's fair was held in the street in the middle of the village; cattle, sheep and pigs were separated, cattle on one side of the street and pigs and sheep on the other. There were no cars or buses, no zebra crossings, no lights or traffic lights, but the houses, pubs and shops were almost the same. The barracks was there also. The fair or market was the place where farmers sold their livestock. The modern day fair is known as the mart.

### A DAY IN THE TOWN

A day in Cork city was a big event for the children of long ago. It was a wonderful sight to see the street lights and the shop windows lit up. Children went with their parents to town to buy Confirmation clothes, Communion clothes or to see Santa at Christmas. There were no shopping centres, only small grocery shops. There were no boutiques only, small clothes shops. The bus fare from Ballincollig to Cork city was 2d. When you could go into town you would go from shop to shop looking at the different shops. At lunch-time my grandmother would treat my mother and her brothers to lemonade and cake at Thompsons cake shop. This was the treat of the day and they'd all travel home in the bus in the evening completely exhausted from the excitement of the day.

### CALL THE NURSE

Mrs. O'Callaghan was the local nurse. When a person was sick or if a woman was having a baby she would be called on. People in those days had their babies in their own houses. The nurse would be called on, she would help the

woman before labour and stay with her after labour. Her transportation was a bike. She was respected by the people.

### WHAT MAMMY REMEMBERS

They used to shop in Down's shop on Fridays, which was payday for her Daddy. They used to get tea, sugar, butter, milk, porridge, flour, vegetables and cheese. Sometimes they used to get a "Peggy's Leg" [This was like a sweet rock.]

Mammy's mammy very seldom went to Cork. She only went on special occasions. The clothes Mammy wore were mini-skirts. Most of the girls had pony tails because it was fashionable in the '60's.

Mammy used to dance at the "Rainbow Ballroom", which is "More Miles" tyre store now. It was about ten shillings to get in. It was 10d (4p) for a drink of orange or other drinks.

Nowadays they give shopping bags at Shopping Centres.

Long ago they had to bring their own shopping bag to bring their shopping home in. In the old days to get to shops they cycled or used horses and carts. Very few people had cars in those days.

They had no birthday parties - only a family one. For a birthday cake they had a sultana cake and jam. They used to get a blackboard and chalk, colouring book and crayons, a toy or a watch. The girls might even get a book of cut out dolls and clothes.

### SOURCES

Bn Uí Chrualaoi; Mrs. Down and Barry Down; Mrs Mary O'Connell; Muskerry Herald; Miss O'Leary; Journal of the Ballincollig Community School Local History Society, 1986; The Birth Of Modern Ireland (Tierney).

*Rang 4,  
Scoil Mhuire, Ballincollig.*

## SHOPPING IN THE HEART OF MUSKERRY ESTATE

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# LOCAL COMMUNITY IN A SATELLITE TOWN -Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig-

## INTRODUCTION

Many studies have been carried out to try and determine the essence of a good community. People generally depend on others and are best served in clusters, rather than scattered throughout an area. I have tried to distinguish between the wide range of elements which contribute to the development of a community and to use these in connection with my study area, Muskerry Estate in Ballincollig (see map 1).

A sense of belonging and social interaction are significant factors in the development of community spirit. I looked at aspects within the estate, of a growing satellite town, which would assist community interaction, such as housing patterns, density of housing, public amenities, length of residence and numbers of children.

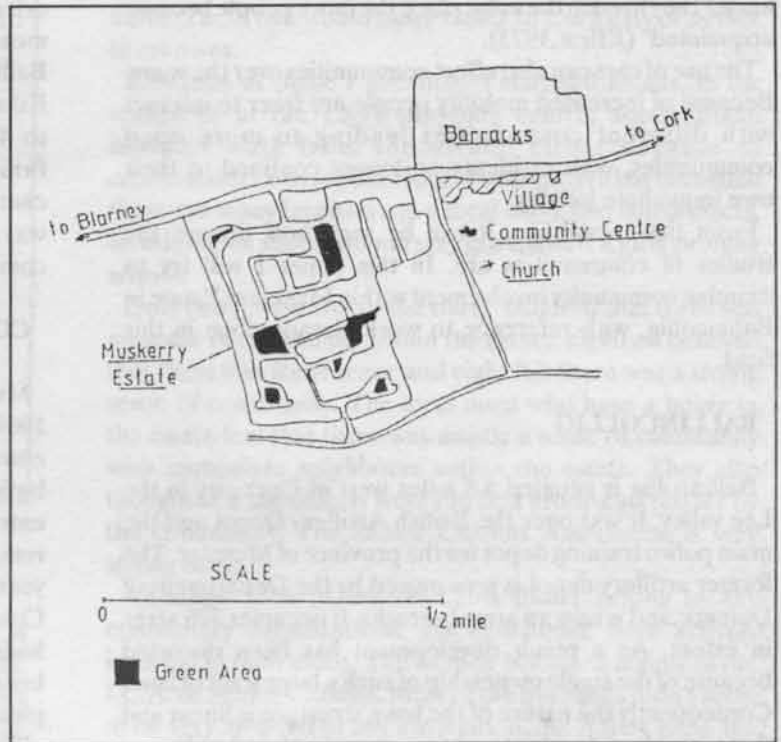
"No one in a community is static and the community itself is a changing phenomena" (Leaper, 1968). With this paper I will try to discuss this point and find out if it is true in connection with Muskerry Estate. In fact, what I want to do is to find out if there is any sense of community within the estate and, if so, what effect it has on its' residents.

## PREVIOUS RESEARCH

There has been a considerable amount of research done in the study of community. Community studies are an integral part of urban geography, and also sociology and planning.

There have been many definitions of community. A good definition is that it is "a limited area of living identified as such by the people in it with reference to common interest and mutual inter-action and obligation" (Leaper, 1968).

Many factors are associated with the development of a community and one of these is participation and involvement in the life of the community. It "encourages commitment, decreases alienation and supports the development of community in the form of solidary ties" (Effrat, 1973). In my view, participation is an element in the development of a community but I don't feel that it is a major factor. Some people don't feel obliged to participate in community services but still feel they are part of the community. It depends on the type of person living in the area.



Map 1, Location of Muskerry Estate, Ballincollig

Street patterns can have an important influence on community spirit. A study done of a Coventry estate by Leo Kupers showed that more "intensive interaction between neighbours took place in cul-de-sacs than in long terraced houses. Street groups may be even more cohesive and active" (Broady, 1972). Also in areas where the houses surround a "green", community spirit is high because of a common interest.

All of this shows the importance of planning within an estate and community. "Planning has to be thought of, not only as a matter of physical design and economic policy, but also as a social process of an educational kind which seeks to encourage the contributions which people can make to the improvement of their own social environment" (Broady, 1972).

Children are also a major contributor to the sense of a community. Many neighbours meet through their children.



Neighbours who are on closer terms have "children who play together or those who are about the same age....Pressure is not felt to convert every accessible neighbour, or every one of the same age and family circumstances, into a family friend" (Effrat,1973).

Another factor in the development of a community deals with the period of time that neighbours live there. A study by Lorimer (1971) was done of a 'street' neighbourhood in a downtown district in Toronto. It was found that "the longer they lived in the same place the more people became acquainted" (Effrat,1973).

The use of cars can also effect communities over the years. Because of increased mobility people are freer to interact with different communities leading to more open communities, with residents no longer confined to their own immediate locality.

From these examples it can be seen how diverse the studies of communities are. In this paper I will try to examine community involvement within Muskerry Estate in Ballincollig, with reference to work already done in this field.

## BALLINCOLLIG

Ballincollig is situated 5.5 miles west of Cork city in the Lee valley. It was once the British Artillery Depot and the main police training depot for the province of Munster. The former artillery depot is now owned by the Department of Defence, and is now an army barracks. It occupies 376 acres in extent. As a result development has been distorted because of the single ownership of such a large tract of land. Consequently the nature of the town structure is linear and there is ribbon development for approximately 2 miles.

Ballincollig is a rapidly developing satellite town with a predominantly youthful population. The town's function is primarily residential. In 1979 its population was 7,346 rising to 8,178 in 1981, an increase of 11.3%. Already Ballincollig has outstripped the predicted population figures of the LUTS report and is likely to have a population within the range of 25,000 to 30,000 by the year 2,000. Its present population is approximately 10,500.

Muskerry Estate itself is situated to the west of Ballincollig village (see map 1) and is the largest estate in Ballincollig. It consists of 470 houses with an approximate population of 2,300 people. This is larger than the total population of many villages and small towns in Ireland.

## METHODOLOGY

To assess the extent of community involvement and spirit in Muskerry Estate, I picked 30 houses randomly to answer a questionnaire. Most of the people I asked were happy to

help. The majority of people that answered the questionnaire were women, 24 females and 6 males. Most of the women were housewives. This is important to know because Anne Buttimer felt that women were main the contributors to a community. "Women are the force behind suburban ethic" (Buttimer,1971).

The questionnaire contained 46 questions. Questions 1 to 11 were general questions about local and social involvement. Questions 12 to 16 dealt with people's orientation towards their community and questions 17 to 28 measured the importance of services and facilities in Ballincollig and the extent to which people in Muskerry Estate availed of these services and facilities. Questions 29 to 45 dealt with the respondent's character and their families. These questions helped to establish the characteristics of the population of the estate. Question 46 was a general question asking for observations on the local community within the Estate.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

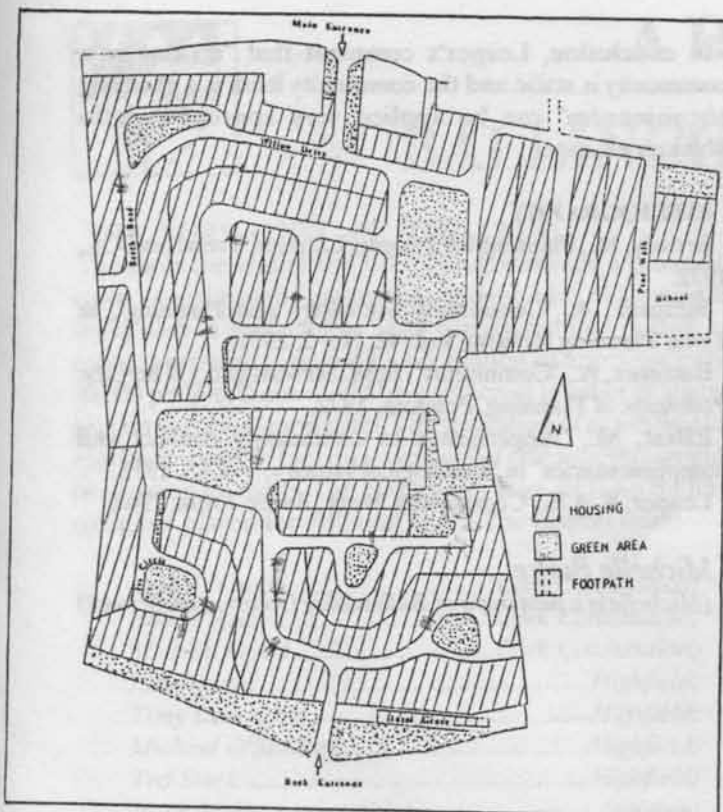
Muskerry Estate was built in three sections, beginning in 1969 with twenty seven houses. These are found at the entrance of the Estate (see map 2). The next stage was the building of over a hundred houses to the east of the entrance and the third stage involved building most of the remaining houses. One road, Hazel Grove, was built four years ago, mainly as an after thought as the builders, Coleman Brothers, found they had land left over which they hadn't anticipated. This street consists of nineteen two bedroom houses. At the moment there aren't any further plans for development within the estate.

There is a general understanding that people keep to themselves within an estate it is an 'unwritten rule' The reason for this could be that they feel they need their own private space, while living in a high density area. However, if a neighbour needs any help, there are many very willing to help them.

Length of residence is very diverse within this estate ranging from a couple of months to twenty years. The majority of respondents to the questionnaire were living here between ten and fourteen years, closely followed by those living here between fifteen and nineteen years.

Right through there are varying degrees of community involvement within different streets. It is thought to be too big for one single community association and what seems to be needed is an amalgam of community associations.

A major factor which helped in the development of a community spirit among neighbours were stations, operated by the local clergy. Within the streets stations were held twice a year. Many people felt that these stations helped in getting to know the neighbours of their own street.



Map 2; Plan of Muskerry Estate

Most felt the estate was satisfactory to live in, as it is centrally located within easy access of the church, shops, pubs, primary and secondary schools and the community centre. The community centre which was built by the people of the parish is only situated 5 minutes walk from the estate (see map 1). It contains a games hall, theatre hall, a senior citizen's room, library, and adjoining it is a snooker club. The centre facilitates approximately fifty clubs and associations, ranging from badminton, basketball, karate, snooker clubs to brownies, keep-fit classes and socials etc.

Some people felt that youth who were not interested in sport weren't adequately catered for. Also, boys seem to be catered for better than girls. Within the Estate there is a strong G.A.A. influence with teams involved in parish league games for gaelic football and hurling. Brownies and scouts also seem to have an important impact on children in the Estate. Overall the children are an important source of community involvement.

With regard to friends, fourteen out of thirty respondents had three of their closest friends living nearby and six had none of their friends living in the area. These six people had only recently moved to the area.

None of the people I asked thought that they had bad neighbours. Most commented that their neighbours were very good and helpful, even giving examples of neighbourly acts, such as, minding their children while they went to town. In the case of stations, neighbours on the road helped in the preparations.

Two thirds of the respondents were either unhappy or very unhappy to move to a different area. Seven out of thirty didn't mind if they moved and only two would be happy to move. These two would move closer to Cork City or nearer to relatives.

Everyone of those I questioned shopped locally, in the village or at the L&N shopping centre, about fifteen minutes walk from the estate, either because of convenience or to support local business. Within the estate there are many facilities e.g. a local shop, two hairdressers, an oddments shop, two nursery groups and a girls primary school.

Only two people out of the thirty believed that there was no sense of community within the estate, eighteen believed that there was some sense and eight felt there was a strong sense of community. The local nuns who have a house in the estate feel that there was mostly a sense of community with immediate neighbours within the estate. They also thought that the elderly were the best group catered for by the community. The Senior Citizens Association is very strong here.

Although 53% of the residents didn't belong to any community organisations, the remainder were actively involved in their clubs. The women belonged mainly to the I.C.A. or Senior Citizens. Most of the husbands didn't seem to be very involved in any association, but if they were the main involvement was with political groups.

On the other hand, 90% didn't belong to any organisation outside of Ballincollig. This showed that if a person is willing to become involved in a club or association, they would more than likely join one within their community. The fact that all the respondents owned cars didn't persuade them to join outside clubs. This is a positive element within a community. Community involvement cannot be forced, there must be a sense of belonging.

The majority of people didn't feel obliged to participate in the community but there were those who would like to get involved but couldn't due to family ties, pressure of work and lack of time, especially where they had young families. Overall people felt part of the community even though some didn't take part actively in the running of it. Living in such a central estate as Muskerry Estate was a great advantage.

## CONCLUSION.

In conclusion it can be seen that communities are very complex. With regard to estates, communities are made up of a diverse variety of people with different views of how they define and participate in the community. In this context the aim of my paper was to try and put these factors into perspective. The main factors involved in community in Muskerry Estate were the number of children in a family and length of residence.

People generally felt that there should be no obligation to participate in the community. As I have already pointed out there is an 'unwritten rule' between neighbours to keep to themselves, but this doesn't mean that they speak to no one.

Anne Buttimer had a point when she wrote about the "livability" of a community. She saw the community as not adequately defined in terms of a "state of being" but as a condition of "becoming" "Such a condition is seen to arise when resident communities engage in creative dialogue with their environments, molding, re-creating and eventually appropriating them as home" (Buttimer, 1972).

I found that overall Muskerry Estate didn't have a strong sense of community. But what was really evident was that on individual streets, community was strongly developed. Individual residents on the streets thought this to be all important. They weren't very concerned that there wasn't a community association for Muskerry Estate. That there was a strong spirit of community between immediate neighbours was enough for them.

As one becomes more attached to a community over time, one's life style becomes more integrated into the routine of the area e.g. the increase in the number of friends, shopping patterns, childrens attendance at schools etc. and the residents become more integrated into the community. Overall people were satisfied living in this estate, it has a good name and very little crime or vandalism. Residents come from different backgrounds, from the city and the country, which gives the estate a healthy mixture of people.

I tried to see if Muskerry Estate could fit a specific pattern of community involvement. Buttimer's definition of macro and micro services seems to be found within Ballincollig. Macro services consist of schools, churches, shops and a post-office, while micro services are youth clubs, community centres, libraries, nursery schools etc. The former she considered to be necessary and the latter could be added as the people grew used to the area and to one another. In general this is what happened in Ballincollig. The community centre was built six years ago and the public library was added on to the community centre two years ago. For Muskerry Estate this was very beneficial because of where it is situated. (see map 1)

In conclusion, Leaper's comment that "no one in a community is static and the community itself is a changing phenomenon" can be applied very appropriately to Muskerry Estate.

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*Michelle Burke*

*(Michelle is a past pupil of Ballincollig Community School)*





# A HISTORY OF BALLINCOLLIG RUGBY CLUB

## THE FORMATION OF THE CLUB

Towards the end of the 1977/78 rugby season a group of seven or eight rugby enthusiasts had the idea of starting a rugby club in Ballincollig. They considered that in Ballincollig, a growing town with a population of approximately 10,000 people, there would be a sufficient number of rugby players to form a good team. The formation of a club would also be an amenity for large numbers of children who would be growing up there. The enthusiasts were all from Ballincollig but played for different clubs. The players were;

<i>Tom O'Grady</i> .....	<i>Cork Constitution;</i>
<i>Bob O'Reilly</i> .....	<i>Cork Constitution;</i>
<i>Michael Good</i> .....	<i>Cork Constitution;</i>
<i>Jack Quaid</i> .....	<i>Highfield;</i>
<i>Tony Lancaster</i> .....	<i>Highfield;</i>
<i>Michael O'Sullivan</i> .....	<i>Highfield;</i>
<i>Ted Stack</i> .....	<i>Highfield;</i>
<i>Hugh Mullen</i> .....	<i>Dolphin;</i>
<i>Ed. Fitzgerald</i> .....	<i>No club.</i>

Ted Stack was the driving force behind the formation of the club.

After a few meetings the club organised a match against Highfield in March, 1978. The team consisted of mainly Highfield, Cork Con., and Dolphin players. The remainder of the team consisted of beginner rugby players and soccer players. Although an unusual team, Ballincollig won by 18

- 10. Games followed against Cork Con., Dolphin and Sunday's Well. The results of these matches were sufficiently good for the organisers to call a public meeting to launch the club and to register it with the Munster Branch of the Irish Rugby Football Union.

The public meeting was held in Ballincollig Community School at the beginning of May, 1978. Between 50 and 60 people attended the meeting. The officers elected that night were;

<i>Ed. Fitzgerald</i> .....	<i>President;</i>
<i>Hugh Mullen</i> .....	<i>Secretary;</i>
<i>Bob O'Reilly</i> .....	<i>Treasurer;</i>
<i>Jack Quaid</i> .....	<i>Captain..</i>

## CLUB COLOURS AND CREST

The club colours are black and white;  
black and white hooped jersey;  
black shorts;  
black and white socks.

The idea occurred to the club that a crest should be worn. The idea for the crest came from the translation of Baile An Chollaigh as "Town of the Boar". The crest was designed as a boar on a black and white background with three crowns of Munster on top but the three crowns became

*The first team  
to represent  
Ballincollig RFC*

*(Courtesy of John Quaid)*



stars in a printing error. The crest can be seen on the club's membership card, tie and jumper.

## PITCH AND DRESSING ROOMS

At this stage the problem of a pitch and dressing rooms had to be tackled. The officers approached John A. Woods Social Club. The Social Club agreed to let them use their G.A.A. pitch and dressing rooms. A G.A.A. pitch is about 137 metres long, which is about 40 metres longer than what a rugby pitch should be, so the club had the longest rugby pitch in Cork and the lowest crossbars in Rugby history, but they managed and were grateful. During that season the club played very well, but did not win any trophies.

## PLAYING RECORD

### SEASON 1978/79

In the 1978/79 season the club entered competition at Minor B level. They played well in the league but failed to reach the semi-final. In the Minor B Cup they were beaten in the third round by Old Christians. During that season they played quite a few friendly matches against Junior teams. The results of these were quite promising.

### SEASON 1979/1980

The players decided to move up two grades to Junior level because of the good results achieved in Junior friendlies the season before. A second team was formed that year also to facilitate the increasing numbers of players who were joining the club.

That year the club went on its first tour to Amsterdam. The Hague Rugby Club thought the team arriving was "Ballin College", a long established college rugby team. They included five international players in their team. Suffice to say that the result of the game has never been made known outside the touring party!

### SEASON 1980/81

The club again played at Junior level that season; the 2nd team played at Minor A level. That season first moves were made to form a Juvenile section in the club. The club made a second trip to Amsterdam and this time there was no mistake in the club's identity.

### SEASON 1981/1982

At an extraordinary general meeting that year the club decided to drop its first team back down to Minor A. This



*Mary Quaid presenting the Denis Quaid Cup to Vice-President Tony Lancaster (Cork Examiner)*

automatically pushed the second team back to Minor B level, which was much more suitable for them. At that general meeting also, the club was one of the few in Ireland to pass a motion against the proposed Irish tour of South Africa. That year the first team reached the semi-final of the Minor A Cup but were beaten by Cork Con, 16-13.

Also in that season, Ballincollig seriously got involved in under age rugby. Trained by Jack Quaid, the Under 18 team won the West Cork Cup. They beat Bandon 12-3 in the final.

### SEASON 1982/1983

This season was a disastrous one for Ballincollig RFC in many ways. At the beginning of the season, John A. Woods Social Club informed the club that they couldn't use the pitch and dressing rooms anymore because they needed these facilities for their own members. The first few games of the season were played either in Highfield or at Murphy's Farm in Bishoptown. Negotiations with Cork Co. Council allowed the club to lease the grounds at Innishmore where the present pitches are. Mr. Dan Murray agreed to rent dressing rooms and training facilities to the club at Ballincollig Community School.

In November, 1982, the Vice-Captain of the first team, Denis Quaid, suffered a brain haemorrhage while playing against Kanturk on the pitch at Innishmore. He was rushed to hospital but all in vain for Denis never recovered. He died a few days later. He was 30 years old and his wife was, Mary, was expecting their first baby. The baby boy, called Denis, was born the following April.

### SEASON 1983/1984

At the start of the season Mary Quaid donated a commemorative cup in memory of Denis and asked for competition to be held in memory of him. The club decided on a



*First XV 1980-81*

one day festival in September. Sixteen clubs were invited, fourteen clubs were represented. After a magnificent day of rugby, Muskerry emerged victorious. They were the first holders of the *Denis Quaid Trophy*.

In November the club held their most successful tour to date when they travelled to Plymouth with a strong team where they won one and lost one match. Also in that season the first team reached the semi-final of the minor A league, where they were beaten by 6-3 by Kanturk. In the minor A Cup they reached the final but were beaten by Highfield 13-12.

#### SEASON 1984/1985

The highlight of this season was Ballincollig winning the Denis Quaid Trophy. That year twelve clubs were represented. The first team again reached the semi-final of the Minor A league. They were beaten by Dunmanway, 14-9. They were beaten in the first round of the Minor A Cup. The second fifteen reached the semi-final of the B Cup but lost to Kinsale, 6-3.

In March 1985, the club ended its association with The West End Bar where all the weekly meetings and post match discussions had been held since the founding of the club. The West End changed hands at this time. The club was delighted to accept the offer of the Shanahan family to use Oriel House as their base. Oriel House also provided the club with dressing room facilities.

#### SEASON 1985/1986

The Denis Quaid Trophy was now firmly established as a prestigious competition. The competition this season was won by Dunmanway. The White Horse Plate, which was a secondary competition during the Denis Quaid Festival, was won by Ballincollig.

That season, the club held an under 12 competition as

well. This was attended by ten teams. The teams were aiming to win a cup presented by Tom Power. Presentation College were the winners.

#### SEASON 1986/1987

1986/87 had a poor start when the captian, Michael Moloney, following a road accident, had to stand down as captain. Phil Rees, the vice-captain decided to retire and Colin Glavin was eventually elected captain.

Mary Quaid became the first female officer of the club when she was elected Secretary. Mary Stafford became the first female member of the general committee. Douglas won the White Horse Plate. The competition for the Denis Quaid Trophy maintained its high standard and status. The 2nd XV reached the final of the McCarthy Cup, the real breakthrough for them.

#### SEASON 1987/88

Beginning this season the nomenclature of rugby team grades in the South Munster Branch was changed. These changes were made to bring it into line with the other branches. The Ballincollig 1st XV or Minor A changed to Junior II and the Minor B team became Junior III.

The 1st XV (Junior II) team played well in the league but did not qualify for the final stages. Neither 1st or 2nd teams got very far. Midleton won the Denis Quaid cup.

#### FINANCES

Running a club which fields two adult teams each weekend and maintains a large under age section is a very costly business. This cost has grown from a few hundred pounds per year in the first few years to over £4,000 in the season 1984/85 and 1985/86 (Figures from audited club accounts).



## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF BALLINCOLLIG RUGBY CLUB

Season	President	Secretary	Captain
1979/80	Ed Fitzgerald	Hugh Mullen	Michael O'Sullivan
1980/81	Hugh Feighan	Sean O'Riordan	Jack Quaid
1981/82	Karl Bornemann	Kevin McAdoo	Jerome O'Donovan
1982/83	Jack Quaid	Pat Slattery	Jerry Crotty
1983/84	Jack Quaid	Noel Cronin	Jerry Crotty
1984/85	Tony Lancaster	Noel Cronin	Michael Gibbons
1985/86	Jack Quaid	Noel Cronin	Donie Collins
1986/87	John O'Flynn	Mary Quaid	Michael Moloney/ Colin Glavin
1987/88	Flor O'Sullivan	Mary Quaid	Liam Lehane

In the first years of the club, the main expence was £300 to John A. Woods Social Club for use of their facilities and the usual affiliation and insurance fees. However, the move to Innishmore where pitches are rented from the County Council, and the renting of the more elaborate facilities from the Community School increased the running cost. Insurance premiums both for players and public liability also increased dramatically over the period of the clubs lifetime.

Fund raising is an essential part of the club activities. The club runs a Christmas raffle each year. The club has also run three other limited draws. (1)A 300 draw at £20 per head. (2)A 500 draw at £20 per head. (3)A 300 draw at £50 per head. These draws were the main sources of income for the club.

The club has also run disco's, dinner dances, ballad sessions, barbecues, fashion shows and garden fetes. The first garden fete was held in 1980 in the Community Hall and was a great success, both financially and otherwise. The next fete was in 1983 and was held this time in the Community School. It was a good day and a large crowd made it a financial success. In 1984 the garden fete was held on the day that is now remembered as the day of the Air India crash. As the crowd began to assemble at the fete, the rain came down in torrents and the fete was washed out leaving nothing but debts behind it.

### CONCLUSION

In the ten years of its existance, Ballincollig RFC has become a very well established club and is highly respected in rugby circles. Through the dilligence and determination of its members the club has grown from one team to a club that can field two adult teams and also under 18's, under 16's, under 14's, under 12's, and under 10's. The Denis Quaid competition is well established as a major rugby

event in South Munster. The under 12 competition for the Tom Power Cup is also growing in status.

In recent times Ballincollig RFC returned to the West End Bar for meetings and after-match gatherings. But the club hopes one day to have its own grounds and club house and so provide the best of facilities for its members. In 1981 the club bid £47,000 (with permission from the Bank of Ireland) for grounds near Ballincollig but unfortunately were outbid. The difficulties over playing pitches may soon be resolved, with the development of a pitch at the western end of the town, in Coolroe.

On the playing field the club hopes to win some competitions at Minor level. The ultimate objective will be to play at Junior level and eventually to reach senior status. Ballincollig's nearness to Cork City may be a disadvantage here as younger players wishing to further their rugby careers can easily move to play senior clubs in the city. This will happen until Ballincollig RFC gains Junior or Senior status. But can Ballincollig reach this high status without the benefits of its best young players?

Ballincollig RFC has overcome many hurdles to achieve its present status but there are many more obstacles to be overcome as the club continues to evolve.

### SOURCES

Ed Fitzgerald; Karl Bornemann; Jack Quaid; Tony Lancaster; John O'Flynn.

*Niamh Lancaster*

# PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION FOR THE BALLINCOLLIG AREA, 1885-1988

In last years' Local History Journal (1987), the Local Government representation for the Ballincollig area, 1899-1987, was listed. This year the parliamentary representation from 1885 to the present time is reproduced, based on Eddie Murnane's *Cork County Council, 1899-1985, Appendix A*, and Ted Nealon's *Guide to the 25th. Dail*. In both of these, candidates are listed alphabetically, but in this article candidates are listed according to the votes which they received.

## INTRODUCTION

1885 was an important year in the parliamentary history of Ireland and of the Cork area. The large increase in the vote in that year along with developments in national politics had important consequences for parliamentary representation. The Irish Parliamentary Party (Home Rule Party) captured all the seats in Cork county as well as 85 of the 103 seats in Ireland. The success of the Irish Party and the secure nationalist majority in most constituencies often resulted in unopposed elections at the end of the 19th., and the beginning of the 20th., century. Where contested elections occurred, they were usually the result of in-fighting amongst nationalists, such as after Parnell's downfall or the foundation of William O'Brien's United Irish League.

The increased vote in 1885 necessitated the creation of new constituencies. In Cork county this meant that separ-

ate representation for the towns of Mallow, Bandon, Kinsale and Youghal was discontinued and Cork county was now divided into seven county constituencies and one city constituency, Cork Borough.

The Ballincollig area formed part of the Ballincollig District Electoral Division, which included 21 townlands. Even though Ballincollig D.E.D. included the townlands of Carrigrohane and Curraheen, these were often separated from the D.E.D. when constituency boundaries were drawn up. This happened when Ballincollig was not included in a city constituency.

From 1885 to 1920 Ballincollig D.E.D. formed part of the Cork Mid constituency. With the redrawing of boundaries in 1923, Ballincollig was included in Cork Borough. Further constituency changes occurred in 1935, 1947, 1961, 1969,

## BALLINCOLLIG D.E.D.

Barony	Parish	Townland
Cork	Carrigrohane	Carrigrohane
	Kilnaglor	Curraheen
Muskerry East	Carrigrohane	Ballynora
		Ballincollig
	Corbally	Coolroe
		Great Island
		Ballyshoneen
		Corbally
	Kilnaglor	Ballincollig
		Ballinguilly
		Ballyburden Beg
		Ballyburden More
		Ballyhank
		Greenfield
		Kilnaglor
		Knockburden
		Knockpoge
		Lisheens
		Ravakeel
		Windsor
		Maglin
	St. Nicholas	

1974, and 1980. For Ballincollig, the most unusual change occurred in the 1935 revision with the creation of the constituency of Cork South-East, and Ballincollig was then represented by T.D.'s from East Cork.

From 1885 to 1922, each constituency was represented by one M.P., who was elected under the straight vote system. The substantial increase in vote in 1885 meant that most men had the vote. But women were not permitted to vote in parliamentary elections until 1918, when women over 30 were given the vote. With the foundation of the Irish Free State, women over 21 were able to vote.

The voting system changed in another way after 1922 when the Straight Vote was replaced by Proportional Representation. Now constituencies were represented by 3, 4 or 5 T.D.'s and party politics became more complicated with candidates from many parties and independents seeking election.

#### Key to Parties

Anti-Tr. = Anti-Treaty  
 AE = Aontacht Eireann  
 Centre = National Centre Party  
 C.na P. = Clann na Poblachta  
 C.na T = Clann na Talmhan  
 C.na nG. = Cumann na nGaedhael  
 DSP = Democratic Socialist Party  
 Far. = Farmers' Party  
 F.F. = Fianna Fail  
 F.G. = Fine Gael  
 Ind. = Independent  
 Ind.Far. = Independent Farmer  
 Ind.Lab. = Independent Labour  
 I.P. = Irish Parliamentary Party  
 IRSP = Irish Republican Socialist Party  
 Lab. = Labour Party  
 Nat.Lab. = National Labour  
 Nat.League = National League  
 N.P. = Non Party  
 PD = Progressive Democrats  
 Prog.Assoc. = Progressive Association  
 Pro-Tr. = Pro-Treaty  
 Rep. = Republican  
 S.F. = Sinn Fein  
 U = Unionist  
 WP = Workers Party

(For a full account of political parties since 1922, see M. Gallagher, *Political Parties in the Republic of Ireland, 1985*; and M. Manning, *Irish Political Parties: an introduction, 1972*)



*Constituency of Cork Mid, 1885-1920*

#### \* Candidates elected

### CORK MID

1 Seat

#### General Election

Nov.-Dec. 1885

\*Dr. C.K.D. Tanner (I.P.) ..... 5033  
 A. St.J. Patton (U) ..... 106

#### General Election

July 1886

\*Dr. C.K.D. Tanner (I.P.) ..... Unopposed

#### General Election

July 1892

\*Dr. C.K.D. Tanner (I.P.) ..... Unopposed

#### General Election

July 1895

\*Dr. C.K.D. Tanner (I.P.) ..... Unopposed

#### General Election

Sept-Oct 1900

\*Dr. C.K.D. Tanner (I.P.) ..... Unopposed

#### Bye-election

1901

#### Death of Dr. Tanner

\*D.D. Sheehan (I.P.) ..... Unopposed

#### General Election

Jan-Feb 1906

\*D.D. Sheehan (I.P.) ..... Unopposed

#### Bye-Election

1906

#### Resignation of D.D. Sheehan

\*D.D. Sheehan (U.I.L.) ..... Unopposed

#### General Election

Jan-Feb 1910

\*D.D. Sheehan (U.I.L.) ..... 2824  
 William Fallon (I.P.) ..... 1999



General Election	27 August 1923
<i>Valid Poll</i>	42611
<i>Quota</i>	7102
*James J. Walsh (C.na nG.)	17151
*Mary McSwiney (Rep.)	6109
*Richard H. Beamish (Prog. Assoc.)	5822
*Alfred O'Rahilly (C.na nG.)	2506
Richard S. Anthony (Lab.)	2492
.Dr. Cors. Lucey (Rep.)	1870
Timothy Corcoran (Far.)	1616
*Robert Day (Lab.)	1431
William Kenneally (Lab.)	1358
Sir J. Harley Scott (Ind.)	786
*Andrew O'Shaughnessy (Prog. Assoc.)	766



*Constituency of Cork Borough, 1923-1935*

Frederick Murray (Rep.) .....	461
Capt. Jerh. Collins (Ind.) .....	243

<b>Bye-Election</b>	<b>17 Nov.1924</b>
<i>Resignation of Alfred O'Rahilly</i>	
<i>Valid Poll</i>	41724
*Michael Egan (C.na nG.)	27021
Sean French (Rep.)	14703

General Election		8 June 1927
Valid Poll	.....	45236
Quota	.....	7540
*James J. Walsh (C.na nG.)	.....	8480
*Richard S. Anthony (Lab.)	.....	6548
*Sean French (F.F.)	.....	5989
*John Horgan (Nat. Leag.)	.....	5177
Mary McSwiney (S.F.)	.....	3527
Sir John Scott (Ind.)	.....	2638
Patrick J. Bradley (Ind. Lab.)	.....	2246
Timothy Corcoran (Far.)	.....	2060
*Barry M. Egan (F.G.)	.....	1994
Edward J. Fitzgerald (Lab.)	.....	1910
Francis J. Daly (Far.)	.....	1527
Liam de Roiste (F.G.)	.....	1447
Michael Egan (F.G.)	.....	920
Dr. Cors. Lucey (F.F.)	.....	607
Sean O'Leary (F.F.)	.....	166

General Election	15 Sept. 1927
Valid Poll .....	44699
Quota .....	7450
*William T Cosgrave (C. na nG.) .....	17395
*Sean French (F.F.) .....	11608

*Richard S. Anthony (Lab.)	5668
John Horgan (Nat. Leag.)	2452
*Barry M. Egan (F.G.)	1383
Sir John Scott (Ind.)	1344
*Hugo Flinn (F.F.)	1236
Dr. Cors. Lucey (F.F.)	1231
M. J. Nagle (F.G.)	1122
Alex M. Healy (F.G.)	813
Luke J. Duffy (Lab.)	447

#### General Election

16 Feb. 1932

Valid Poll	49296
Quota	8217
*William T Cosgrave (C. na nG.)	18125
*Thomas P Dowdall (F.F.)	10058
Jerh. Hurley (Lab.)	5058
*Richard S. Anthony (Ind. Lab.)	4844
*Hugo Flinn (F.F.)	3235
Dr. Humphrey Kelleher (F.F.)	3046
*William Desmond (F.G.)	1395
John Horgan (F.G.)	1380
Sean O'Leary (F.F.)	1337
Alex M. Healy (F.G.)	818

#### General Election

24 Jan. 1933

Valid Poll	55212
Quota	9203
*William T Cosgrave (C. na nG.)	14863
*Hugo Flinn (F.F.)	12696
*Richard S. Anthony (Ind. Lab.)	5719
Jerh. Hurley (Lab.)	5248
*Thomas P Dowdall (F.F.)	5087
Sean French (F.F.)	3812
John Horgan (C. na nG.)	2168
Cors. Duggan (Centre)	2111
Barry M. Egan (C. na nG.)	1995
*William Desmond (C. na nG.)	1533

#### 241 SOUTH-EAST CORK

3 Seats

#### General Election

1 July 1937

Valid Poll	31014
Quota	7754
*Brooke W. Brasier (F.G.)	8594
*Martin J. Corry (F.F.)	7567
*Jerh. Hurley (Lab.)	6720
William J. Broderick (F.G.)	4818
J. Leahy (F.F.)	3315

#### General Election

17 June 1938

Valid Poll	31880
Quota	7971
*Brooke W. Brasier (F.G.)	8535



Constituency of Cork South East, 1935-47

*Martin J. Corry (F.F.)	7701
*Jerh. Hurley (Lab.)	5872
Eoin O'Mahony (F.F.)	5175
Edmond Carey (F.G.)	4597

#### Vacancies

B.W. Brasier died in Aug 1940

No bye-elections, by agreement, were held after the Summer of 1940

#### General Election

22 June 1943

Valid Poll	32891
Quota	8223
*Martin J. Corry (F.F.)	8767
*William J. Broderick (F.G.)	6123
Patrick D. Lehané (C. na T.)	4499
Sean McCarthy (F.F.)	3374
Edmond Carey (F.G.)	2644
*Thomas D. Looney (Lab.)	2755
Jeremiah Hurley (Ind.)	2481
P.J. O'Brien (Lab.)	2248

#### General Election

30 May 1944

Valid Poll	30353
Quota	7589
*Martin J. Corry (F.F.)	8038
Patrick D. Lehané (C. na T.)	5484
*William J. Broderick (F.G.)	5350
*Sean McCarthy (F.F.)	5155
Thomas D. Looney (Nat. Lab.)	3087
Daniel Desmond (Lab.)	1636
David Barry (Lab.)	1603

**CORK SOUTH****3 Seats****General Election****4 Feb 1948**

<i>Valid Poll</i>	28840
<i>Quota</i>	7211
*Daniel Desmond (Lab.)	7241
*Patrick D. Lehane (C.na T.)	5245
*Sean Buckley (F.F.)	5000
Eamonn O'Neill (F.G.)	4488
Jeremiah P. Buckley (F.F.)	3502
Thomas Hales (C.na P.)	2287
Michael O'Driscoll (F.G.)	1077

**General Election****30 May 1951**

<i>Valid Poll</i>	30242
<i>Quota</i>	7561
*Daniel Desmond (Lab.)	7699
*Sean Buckley (F.F.)	7500
*Patrick D. Lehane (Ind.)	5215
William Kent (F.F.)	3964
Tadg Manley (F.G.)	3089
John L. O'Sullivan (F.G.)	2775

**General Election****18 May 1954**

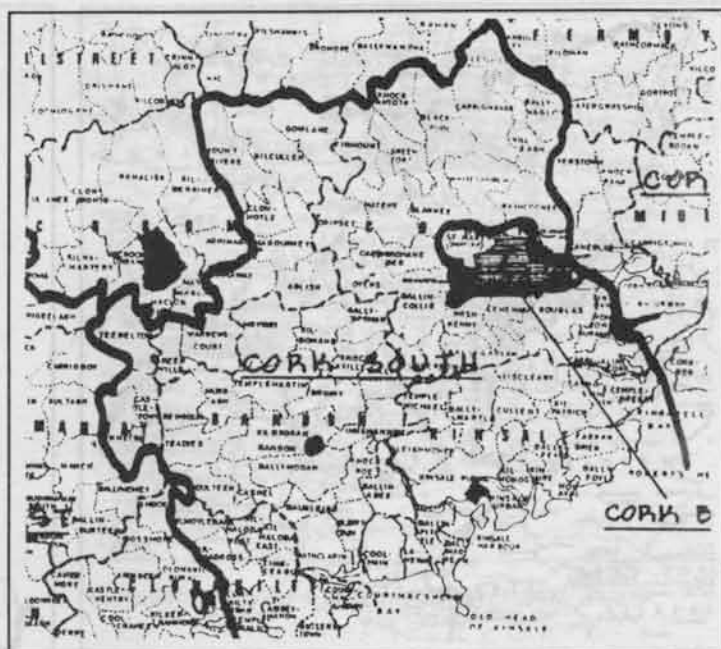
<i>Valid Poll</i>	29897
<i>Quota</i>	7475
*Daniel Desmond (Lab.)	7704
*Timothy Manley (F.G.)	7401
*Sean McCarthy (F.F.)	5714
Sean Fawsitt (F.F.)	4872
Patrick D. Lehane (Far.)	4206

**General Election****5 March 1957**

<i>Valid Poll</i>	26819
<i>Quota</i>	6705
*Daniel Desmond (Lab.)	6176
*Sean McCarthy (F.F.)	6146
Sean Fawsitt (F.F.)	5016
*Timothy Manley (F.G.)	4769
Pat Dineen (Ind.Far.)	4712

**MID -CORK****4 Seats****General Election****4 Oct 1961**

<i>Valid Poll</i>	36773
<i>Quota</i>	7355
*Daniel Desmond (Lab.)	10035
*Denis J. O'Sullivan (F.G.)	7787
*Con Meaney (F.F.)	6586
*Sean McCarthy (F.F.)	6499
Timothy N. Desmond (F.G.)	3976
David C. McGrath (F.F.)	1890

*Constituency of Cork South, 1947-61***Bye-Election****10 March 1965***Death of Daniel Desmond*

<i>Valid Poll</i>	38078
<i>Quota</i>	9040
Flor Crowley (F.F.)	13779
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	12752
Donal Creed (F.G.)	10957
Sylvester P. Cotter (Ind.)	590

**General Election****7 April 1965**

<i>Valid Poll</i>	40121
<i>Quota</i>	8025
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	10041
*Flor Crowley (F.F.)	7884
*Donal Creed (F.G.)	6103
*Tom Meaney (F.F.)	5683
Denis J. O'Sullivan (F.G.)	4935
Paddy Forde (F.F.)	3099
Tom O'Sullivan (Ind.)	1089
Ted McCarthy (F.G.)	789
Sylvester P. Cotter (Ind.)	498

**General Election****18 June 1969**

<i>Valid Poll</i>	39063
<i>Quota</i>	7813
*Tom Meaney (F.F.)	8978
*Donal Creed (F.G.)	7400
*Philip Burton (F.G.)	5310
Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	4936





*Constituency of Mid Cork, 1961-69*

*Paddy Forde (F.F.)	4284
Batt Donegan (F.F.)	3468
Neily Lehané (Lab.)	2866
Patrick Lombard (F.G.)	1821

#### Bye-Election

2 Aug 1972

#### Death of Paddy Forde

Valid Poll	39962
Quota	9982
*Gene Fitzgerald (F.F.)	19959
Denis J. O'Sullivan (F.G.)	12530
Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	6301
Paddy O'Callaghan (A.E.)	1172

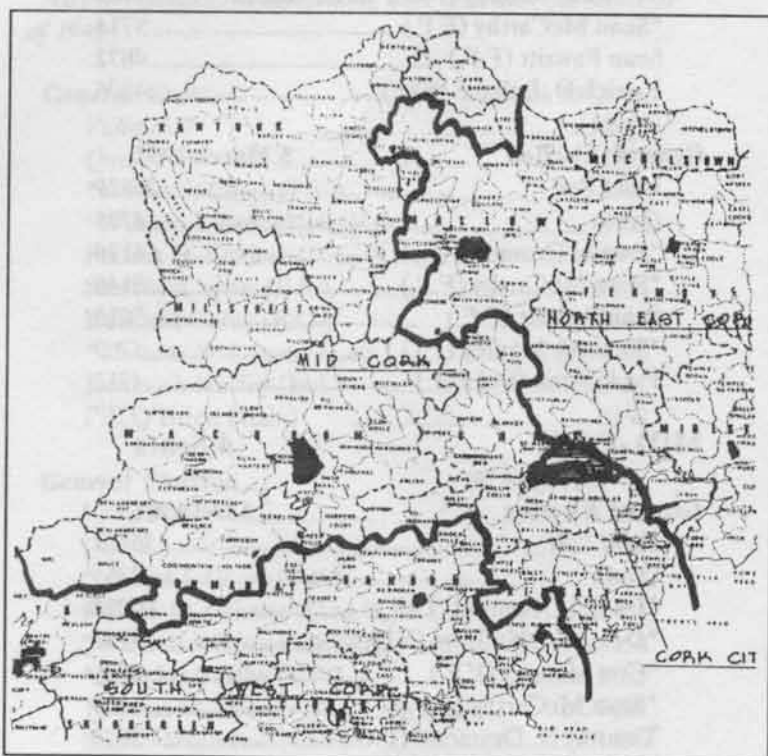
#### General Election

28 Feb 1973

Valid Poll	40566
Quota	8114
*Tom Meaney (F.F.)	10400
*Gene Fitzgerald (F.F.)	9584
*Donal Creed (F.G.)	7728
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	6170
Philip Burton (F.G.)	5629
Dan O'Leary (F.G.)	1055



*Constituency of Mid Cork, 1969-74*



*Constituency of Mid Cork, 1974-80*

**MID -CORK** **5 Seats**

## 5 Seats

**General Election 16 June 1977**

Valid Poll	61248
Quota	10209
*Gene Fitzgerald (F.F.)	12179
*Tom Meaney (F.F.)	11877
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	8902
*Donal Creed (F.G.)	8088
*Barry Cogan (F.F.)	6563
Frank Crowley (F.G.)	4681
John Dennehy (F.F.)	4522
Sean O'Leary (F.G.)	4436

### CORK SOUTH-CENTRAL

**5 Seats**

## General Election

11 June 1981

Valid Poll	49934
Quota	8323
*Peter Barry (F.G.)	9010
*Gene Fitzgerald (F.F.)	7889
*Pearse Wyse (F.F.)	7819
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	6961
*Hugh Coveney (F.G.)	5274
Jim Corr (F.G.)	4705
Barry Cogan (F.F.)	3821
Denis Cregan (F.G.)	2109
Chrissie Aherne (F.F.)	1988
Sean P. Twomey (N.P.)	358

## General Election

18 Feb 1982

Valid Poll	48476
Quota	8080
*Pearse Wyse (F.F.)	8092
*Peter Barry (F.G.)	8062
*Gene Fitzgerald (F.F.)	7500
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.)	6494
*Jim Corr (F.G.)	5769
Donal Coleman (F.F.)	4688
Hugh Coveney (F.G.)	4210
Mary Kelly (Ind.)	1929
Denis Cregan (F.G.)	1168
Declan Murphy (Ind.)	564

## General Election

24 Nov 1982

Valid Poll .....	49451
Quota .....	8242
*Peter Barry (F.G.) .....	9472
*Pearse Wyse (F.F.) .....	8673
*Hugh Coveney (F.G.) .....	7604
*Gene Fitzgerald (F.F.) .....	7136
*Eileen Desmond (Lab.) .....	6496



Constituency of Cork South Central, 1980-

Barry Cogan (F.F.) .....	3375
Thomas Ryan (F.G.) .....	2689
Noel Power (W.P.) .....	1485
Owen B. Casey (Ind.) .....	1307
Val Jago (F.F.) .....	447
Jim Lane (I.R.S.P.) .....	398
Garry O'Sullivan (D.S.P.) .....	369

## General Election

17 February 1987

<i>Valid Poll</i> .....	56259
<i>Quota</i> .....	9377
*Pearse Wyse (PD) .....	10935
*Peter Barry (F.G.) .....	7328
*John Dennehy (F.F.) .....	6099
*Toddy O'Sullivan (Lab.) .....	4862
*Batt O'Keeffe (F.F.) .....	4437
Barry Cogan (F.F.) .....	4305
Hugh Coveney (F.G.) .....	4296
Michael Martin (F.F.) .....	3619
Owen Curtin (PD) .....	3112
Kathleen Lynch (W.P.) .....	2349
Charlie Hennessy (Ind.) .....	1585
Mary Dunphy (Ind.) .....	1229
Sean Beausang (Ind.) .....	756
Bernard Murphy (Ind.) .....	441
Cornelius O'Donovan (Ind.) .....	245
Michael F. Murphy (Ind.) .....	31

Ballincollig D.E.D.; Source; *Directory of Townlands and District Electoral Divisions in the County of Cork*, Cork County Council, 1985.

# THE 1933 GENERAL ELECTION IN CORK BOROUGH

## INTRODUCTION

Following the 1932 General Election Fianna Fail took office for the first time. This was the first break in Cumann na nGael's rule since the foundation of the state. Although in power with the support of Labour, de Valera had initiated radical policies with regard to foreign affairs, the economy and constitutional matters. The 1933 Election was to be a test for those policies.

## CORK BOROUGH

The constituency of Cork Borough covered the whole of Cork city. Westwards it included the parishes of Ballincollig, Ballinora and Ovens; to the south Douglas and Carrigaline were included, and to the north, Blackpool. It was a 5 seat constituency, having been so since the Electoral Act of 1923.

In the 1932 General Election in Cork Borough, William T. Cosgrave, leader of Cumann na nGael, topped the poll with over 18,000 votes, more than double the quota. His success brought in his colleague, William Desmond, on the 7th. count. T. P. Dowdall (Fianna Fail) was also elected on the first count with over 10,000 votes. His surplus helped to elect his colleague, Hugo V. Flinn on the 6th. count. The other T.D. elected was R.S. Anthony of Independent Labour. Fianna Fail's advance in Cork Borough was not as dramatic as nationwide, primarily because the constituency was the power base of W.T. Cosgrave and traditional Cumann na nGael territory.

## DE VALERA IN POWER

Despite being in power for less than a year, de Valera made some radical political decisions. The Fianna Fail Government cut ministerial pensions by £700 and introduced old age pensions. To their credit they did not replace Cumann na nGael appointed civil servants, police or military officials with their own nominees. de Valera had also initiated the process of severing the Free State's constitutional ties with Great Britain. Fianna Fail made the abolition of the Oath of Allegiance a primary aim. They also succeeded in forcing Governor-General, O'Neill, to resign, replacing him with O'Buachalla, who virtually made the post obsolete. de Valera introduced protectionist tariffs under the guise of a patriotic anti-British Economic War, and oversaw the whole process of "breaking the link" by becoming Minister for External Affairs himself.

All these policies, however, were dependent on the support of the Labour Party, so de Valera needed an overall majority to ensure that he could continue to carry out his policies in full. De Valera also felt that, so long as his government had an uncertain political future, the British Government would not negotiate with him concerning the Land Annuities. There was also the danger that, if de Valera did not go to the polls then, that within months he would be facing a united opposition of Cumann na nGael and the new Centre Party. Therefore, de Valera picked what he felt, and what turned out to be, the most opportune time for a surprise election, 24 January, 1933.

## CORK CANDIDATES

While the calling of the General Election by de Valera took the country by surprise, the local party organisations in the Cork Borough constituency were quick to react. The Cumann na nGael and Fianna Fail constituency executives met on the 3 January to organise the selection conventions for the following Saturday and Sunday, respectively. Cumann na nGael re-nominated W.T. Cosgrave and William Desmond, sitting T.D.'s, while also adding Barry Egan T.C. and John Horgan to the party ticket. Fianna Fail also selected their sitting T.D.'s, T.P. Dowdall and Hugo V. Flinn, as well as Sean French. The Labour Party also held their convention on that Sunday and unanimously selected Jeremiah Hurley as their candidate. R.S. Anthony T.D. went forward as an Independent Labour candidate. Finally, Frank McDermott attended the Centre Party's convention which selected Cornelius Duggan.

## POLICIES

Cumann na nGael condemned Fianna Fail's annuities policy as anti-British and reckless. They promised to make an honourable financial settlement with the British and by doing so to improve the general economic climate drastically. Cumann na nGael promised farmers that this agreement would lead to a reduced annuity and better market prices for their goods.

The main thrust of Fianna Fail's policy was that the political uncertainty of the seventh Dail had led to a delay in settling the annuities dispute and had created economic instability. A majority for Fianna Fail would end this uncertainty. Fianna Fail also proposed an agricultural policy that would lead to complete self-sufficiency.



## CAMPAIGN

The campaign was hard fought and aggressive. It was marked by intensive canvassing and frequent meetings. Cumann na nGael leader, W T Cosgrave, conducted a two week speaking tour of the country, beginning and ending in Cork's Grand Parade. The main thrust of his speeches was that the Economic War was unnecessary and that a quick and beneficial solution would be found by Cumann na nGael within 3 days of the Eight Dail's first meeting. Other Cumann na nGael speakers were more direct in their attacks on Fianna Fail. On New Years Day, in Ballincollig, Barry Egan delivered a scathing attack on Fianna Fail, saying "President de Valera's handling of the situation with England could only be likened to that of a bull in a china shop."

R.S. Anthony (Independent Labour) was also opposed to Fianna fail policies. He said at meetings in Ballincollig, Ballinora and Ovens that Fianna Fail had only succeeded in increasing unemployment and misery. He also called the Economic War a display of fanatical nationalism on Fian-na Fail's part.

A considerable amount of newspaper advertising space was taken over by the 2 main parties. Cumann na nGael repeated it's claim that Cosgrave would end the Economic War quickly and beneficially. Fianna Fail advertising declared that given a majority, they would end annuities, create a favourable economic climate for agriculture and continue to benefit industry. On 11 January, a Fianna fail advertisement declared "The Wheels of Industry are turning again." This was typical of the Fianna Fail campaign, putting forward an image of prosperity on the way, with only political instability hampering it.

## RESULTS

The fact that all 5 sitting T.D.'s were re-elected is deceptive. The number of votes each party and each candidate received differed considerably from the 1932 Election. The most significant result was the decline in the Cumann na nGael vote from 44% in 1932 to 37% in 1933. The party lost 1000 votes in an increased poll. The Cumann na nGael decline was most clearly seen in the huge drop in the huge drop in the personal vote of W T Cosgrave (10%) from 18,000 in 1932 to 14,000 in 1933. Overall, the party's decline in Cork (7%) was larger than the national decline (5%). Some of the Cumann na nGael vote, undoubtedly, went to the Centre Party. but while this party did well nationally, winning 11 seats and 10% of the vote, in Cork Borough it received only 2,000 votes (4%).

The decline of Cumann na nGael and the increase in the Fianna Fail vote by 3,000 meant that Fianna Fail now be-



*W T. Cosgrave campaigning on an earlier occasion in Cork when he was President of the Executive Council (Cork Examiner)*

came the largest party in Cork city with 39% of the vote. However, Fianna Fail did not improve it's vote in Cork (3%) as much as it did nationally (5%). There was also a huge turnaround in the fortunes of it's representatives in the city. Hugo Flinn increased his vote by over 8,000 and most of this was at the exence of his colleague, T.P. Dowdall, whose vote dropped by 5,000. This change seems to been due to an effort to ensure that Hugo Flinn was more easily elected.

In the case of the Labour candidates, R.S. Anthony (Independent Labour) held his vote and, with heavy transferring from other candidates, retained the Labour seat over the official party candidate, Jeremiah Hurley.

## CONCLUSION

In the 1933 General Election in Cork Borough, the swing to Fianna Fail followed the national trend; de Valera's policies of the previous year proved popular with the electorate. But even so the dramatic drop in W.T Cosgrave's personal vote was surprising. Was it a sign of things to come for Cumann na nGael/Fine Gael over the next 15 years?

## SOURCES

The Cork Examiner, 1933.  
Fanning, R., Independent Ireland, 1983.  
Murphy, J.A., Ireland in the Twentieth Century, 1975.

*David Leach*

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# FOLKLORE AND TRADITIONS OF OVENS

## INTRODUCTION

This article selects aspects of folklore - the peoples' account of life in Ovens. The Folklore Commission of Ireland supply two sources of reference. One known as "The Main Collection" gathered by wholtime and part-time collectors. The second is known as "The Schools' Collection" gathered under the guidance of national school teachers using a booklet prepared by the Irish Folklore Commission and issued by the Dept. of Education in Meán Fómhair 1937. It would appear that no fulltime or part-time collectors worked in Ovens. The material following is primarily from the Schools' Collection, Ovens and Farran schools. Only one story is from the students own collection. Material selected is about local characters, marriage customs, hedge schools and riddles.

## FOLKLORE AND TRADITIONS

Every country in the world has its' traditions. Traditions are customs and beliefs, ways of doing and knowing handed down from generation to generation. Ireland is no exception. The Folklore of Ireland Society now the Irish Folklore Commission started an intensive collection of oral tradition in 1935. Eight fulltime collectors and forty part-time collectors were doing fieldwork. In 1937 Láimhleabhar Béaloideas was published and in the same year a guide for national school teachers, "Irish Folklore and Tradition" It is interesting to note that there is nothing in the main collection in the archives for Ovens. This is a consequence of the emphasis put by the pioneer folklorists, Séamus O Duilearga and Séan O Suilleabháin, on the importance of recording as much as possible in Irish speaking areas since much oral tradition would die with the language.

Last year we interviewed residents of long standing in Ovens, concentrating mainly on the townlands of Kilcrea, Knockanemore, Garryhesta, Knockburden, Grange and Srelane. We discovered that these areas had their traditions and can only assume that the stories, customs, beliefs we heard were but remnants of an under repertoire. We are happy to report that some oral traditions have been saved by Mr. Muiris Buttimer and Ms. McGuire who participated in the Schools' Collection in Farran and Ovens (girls' schools respectively in 1938/39).

We have selected five aspects from the the schools' collections that we hope will be informative, of interest to you, and at times entertaining.

## 1. MARRIAGE CUSTOMS

The tradition in rural Ireland was to get married during Shrove. Ovens was no exception with Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday being the lucky days. "Skellig-Lists" were composed in the area and the last one recorded - the only one recorded - was compiled in 1894. These lists poked fun at the single marriageables of the parish who could still go to Skelligs to get married since it was believed that Easter was celebrated on Scéilig Mhichil seven days later than elsewhere (K. Danaher, The Year in Ireland p. 49).

### "Skellig List 1894"

*"First cometh Maggie Mullane, and  
she dressed in mourning black.  
Her heels are out of order from running  
after Jack.  
Jack Kelly is the man we moan, a hero stout and bold.  
Maggie's not young and handsome  
But she is worth her weight in gold.  
There's another lass of Maggie's class  
With wrinkles on her brow  
She says to Stephen Hegarty  
"Tis time you'd have me now  
If we do not prosper on the Road Contract  
We'll thrive alright as long as apples grow  
for me upon the Chapel Road"  
There's another maid just of the proper sort  
And Jack Flynn is trying hard  
to win her fair young heart.  
But he says he cannot marry  
till he "does for" Mary Anne.  
Go along the Grange Road, and stop as you pass by,  
'Tis true you'll meet Kate Twomey  
Indeed she seldom sighs  
For herself and Bob McCarthy will be married by and by"*

In the Oven's collection it states that "after the ceremony when the company assemble for the bridal breakfast, the bride's mother breaks a crust of bread over the daughter's head" (p.385). A custom "peculiar to this locality" is recorded in the Aglish collection. The information was supplied by Mrs. Bridget Flynn, Farran (p.327). "The bridesmaid holds the wedding cake over the bride's and the bridegroom's heads and the best man puts a cut in it with a knife."



A sad story with a funnier twist is told of Jeremiah Murphy from Donoughmore who was married in the local church. On his way home he fell off the side-car and sprained his ankle. He said he would walk with his two legs to the church and back the next time he was to get married. His wife died. He got married again and walked to the church and back on the second occasion.

## 2. RIDDLES

Riddles would seem to have been used as entertainment. Our study of riddles (from the Schools' Collection) taught us that riddles can be culture-bound. For instance, "the trap" as used in the following riddle is a piece of material culture not readily associated with a house in modern society. We asked our classmates, "Why is a mouse stronger than a horse?" No one could answer, but the answer is readily understood though, "because it can run away with a trap"

Since children no longer go without shoes the following riddle was a problem also;

"I went into a wood and got it.

I sat down to look for it.

I couldn't get it, and I came away with it".

Answer; a thorn.

Other riddles requiring skill and wit were easily answered, i.e. "Twice in a moment, once in a minute, but never in a thousand years"

Answer; the letter "m"

"What has four legs and only one foot?"

Answer; a bed.

"What is the difference between the North and the South Poles?"

Answer; There is the world of difference.

## 3. OLD SCHOLARS

Miah McCarthy of Clashenafrin told of a hedge school in a stable in his farmyard. Scholars sat on a stone trough holding pencils and slates. "Unruly pupils were put sitting in the trough during recreation conning<sup>1</sup> their neglected lessons, whilst the master gazed down upon them chanting, "Rehearse, rehearse, rehearse" Another hedge school was carried on in Lockinareague. It was the last hedge school in Ovens... The teacher's name was Michael Hegarty. Hedge schools were also held at Mylane and Kilcrea Cross. Owen Maister was one of the teachers at Mylane..." (p. 369-370).

Mrs. Deasy of Aherlamore told her daughter for the Farnan School Collection that "there was a hedge school in the year 1844 in an old house called Larr Doyle's forge at Cros na Marbh, a cross at the head of the road which leads to Kilcrea Abbey. Mr. Costello, a stranger in the district,

taught during the winter months in this forge. He stayed at intervals with the farmers that invited him and they were delighted to have him in their midst. Each scholar paid a penny a day. English subjects were taught ... they wrote with quill pens and also wrote on slates. This teacher remained in the district for some years until the national schools were built" (p.308-309).

## 4. LOCAL CHARACTERS

A. Story told by Timothy O'Connell, Knockburden. (Collected by us in 1986).

"Down the Ovens road there used to be three old houses. In the first one lived two old maids, Maggie Mullane and Julia Mullane. In the other house was P.O. Halloran. He was a journeyman tailor and there was a Mrs. Cotter and her son, John, lived in the next house. Poor P.O. died and there was a wake. All the neighbours came and they cleaned up the place. He had his bed in the corner. Donncha Mac was in the Boer War. Well all Donncha wanted was to get at the porter. So whatever way he got a rope he put it under the corpse, under his back and around his neck and he sat down at the foot of the bed. Just at twelve o'clock poor old P.O. sat up. Did they run out fast? Oh yes, they ran like the wind and the old women were screaming murder. While they were out Donncha drank the porter"

This actually happened. Mr. O'Connell was a young lad running around at the wake.

### B. Tadhg and Daisy

Mrs. Norry Coughlan was born in 1840 and died in 1933 at her residence at Ovens Bridge. She told the following story of a local character to Mrs. Moloney N.T. and Maud McGuire N.T. in 1926 and the latter included it in the Schools' Collection in her own words.

### "Tadhg the Natural"

"The terror of Norry's childhood days was a peculiar individual of about eighteen years, who wore a long cotton pinafore over his male attire and who was never seen without a great shining bucket on his arm - needless to say he was the village "ònsuch"<sup>2</sup>.

He regarded the bucket as his best friend. He called it "Daisy", and undoubtedly Daisy helped him to earn his living, for according to Norry's account a modern "parcels express van" would not convey half as many messages as this famous bucket.

From morning to night, in all seasons "The Natural" tramped through the countryside from farmhouse to shop, from hilltop to valley, conveying messages in his well polished "Daisy" Hours of happiness were spent in grooming her and in gazing at his reflection on her shining surface.

The bucket was left in the church porch, most reluctantly, whilst its owner attended Mass. At weddings and wakes and christenings "The Natural" appeared accompanied by thumps on Daisy.

The neighbours, with the exception of the children loved the poor simpleton. He had access to cabin and hall alike. He often astounded the people by quaint comments which indicated a wisdom quite unexpected in one of his type.

His aimless wanderings often led him as far as Bandon (10 miles from Ovens). He visited the district one wild winter's morning. A great gale had swept the countryside during the night - few people were abroad. The poor "Natural" tired from his long journey, entered the main lawn on the Bandon Estate. Protected from the rain by the inverted friend Daisy he strode along, chatting gently to his kind protector. But soon his attention was diverted by the sight of a group of workmen laboriously engaged in trying to rebed a fine tree, which had been almost entirely uprooted by the storm.

The Lord Bandon of that period, stood anxiously by, directing operations. "The Natural" was quickly on the scene. Placing his precious Daisy out of danger, he stood by Lord Bandon's side and remained an interesting spectator for a few minutes, apparently deriving great amusement from the excited orders of the latter, and the futile efforts of the workmen to execute them. Then suddenly he turned from the scene and restoring Daisy to her place of honour on his head addressed her thus, "Daisy, a sthore, no wonder you are laughing at the little lord trying to put up what the Big Lord knocked down"

"The Natural" died at the age of 30. During his last illness Daisy was always kept in view on a table by his bedside. On the day of the funeral it was placed at the head of the grave filled with blooms by the kindly neighbours"

This is a story of gentle fun. In traditional communities the unusual was held, if not in awe, with respect. The "wisdom" of Tadhg's "quaint comments" surprised people. While he is referred to as a simpleton and set apart from others he was cushioned by the adults, accepted and had a function. Perhaps it is worth pondering that in Irish such a character was referred to as "duine le Dia"

#### NOTES

1. Not clear on MS. Could be cain(ing) = Irish for singing.
2. òinseach usually used with female.

#### SOURCES

1. Our last year's project, "An Ethnography of Storytelling In Ovens"
2. Schools' Collection MS.345 Folklore Commission of Ireland consulted in Co. Library.

3. Danaher, K., The Year in Ireland, Mercier Press, Cork, 1972.

4. O'Suilleabháin, A Handbook of Irish Folklore, Singing Tree Press, Detroit 1970.

*We would like to thank our teacher, Inion Ide Ni She, for her help.*

*Triona Corcoran, Fiona Kelleher,*

*Linda Gordon.*

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# SOME HOUSES OF THE GENTRY AROUND BALLINCOLLIG



## ORIEL HOUSE

Charles Henry Leslie, a Cork banker, built Ballincollig Gunpowder Mills in 1794. Oriel House was built shortly after this. It was not known as Oriel House until later. In 1804/5 the house and Powder Mills were bought by the Board of Ordnance. The deeds were signed on behalf of the Board by Brigadier General Orlando, the latter having fought in the wars to regain Portugal from Spain. He later allied himself with England against Napoleon. Mr. Charles Wilkes, who was a superintendent in the Gunpowder Mills, seems to have lived in the house from 1805-1815.

In 1834 the Gunpowder Mills were bought by Thomas Tobin of Liverpool. He married Catherine Ellis in 1835 and they moved into the house. Catherine was a keen painter so Thomas built an oriel so that she could paint from inside the oriel, which is about 20 feet long by 10 feet wide, and even has a glass roof to give maximum natural light. It wasn't until after this it was called Oriel House. Sir Thomas Tobin was knighted in 1855 and was at this time employing about 500 people in his mills. During his years in Oriel House he always wore a velvet silk coat and a silk hat of bowler form. He died in 1881 and is buried in Inniscarra. After his death Lady Catherine moved to Albert House Mansion in London.

The house passed through a series of owners after this. In *Guys Directory* of 1886 Colonel W. Balfe of the 11th Hussars was in Oriel House. The 11th Hussars were in Ballincollig from 1884-1886. In 1893 J. McKenzie MacMorran was in residence. In 1911 Lt. Col. Onslow R.F.A. lived there. In 1916 W.J.O Hara was living there. In 1922 the house was set on fire by the Republicans but some

local people cut the roof joists and saved the eastern part of the house. In 1925 A.F. Mac Mullen lived in the house and his son R. Mac Mullan was living there in 1938.

In 1947 Mrs. Marie Louise Perrins (of Lea & Perrins fame) came to live there. She later married Noel O Mahoney of Blarney Wollen Mills. She was a very keen horsewoman. She moved out of the house as she felt the road was getting to busy and dangerous for her and her horses (1957). She moved to Greybrook House Waterfall.

The house was let to various people until Bill Shanahan bought it in 1970. He officially opened it as a hotel in 1983. The house retains its old world charm. The cellar bar is unique. Bill Shanahan has ensured that the past history of the house will be remembered by giving some of the rooms in the house historical names, such as "Sir Thomas Tobin Room", "Lady Catherine Room" and "Orlando Room".

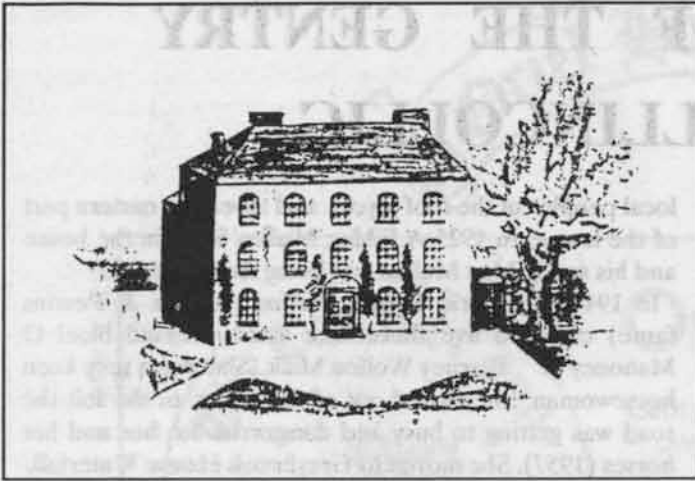
Sources: *Various Guy's Directories, Evening Echo, 17/9/84*

## GRANGE HOUSE

Grange House is situated near Kilmuney village. *Smiths History of Cork* (p.173) says "Colgan places an abbey of Austin nuns at Kilcrea, and says it was founded in the 6th. century by St. Crea. But in the records it is said to be at a place called Grany, now Grange, which is a mile east of the abbey of Kilcrea in Ovens". Evelyn Bolster says Grange abbey was also known as Grany, and Greyn abbey. The Down survey shows it as Grange but the Paris map of the same period shows it as Granagh. According to the Royal Visitation of 1634 the rectory of Aglish and Kilbrogan belonged to the Abbess of Grange.

After the suppression of the church in the 16th. century Grange passed into private hands. Bolster says that the families of Spencer, Boyle and Tynt had the possessions of Grange.

Colonel Robert Phaire came to Ireland in Nov. 1649 with his regiment of 500 foot and £1,500 as part of Cromwell's troops. Col. Phaire was one of the persons to whom the warrant for the execution of King Charles I was directed. He became governor of Cork in 1654. In 1656 (*Calender State Papers*) Col. Phaire made a petition setting forth his losses by transporting Irish to Spain. In pursuance of the protectors direction certain lands in Muskerry and Barretts Baronies were surveyed to compensate him. This is how he got possession of Grange where he lived. He died in 1682. His son Onesiphorus of Grange died in 1702, followed by



*Grange House*

his son Robert of Grange who died in 1712. His son, also called Robert of Grange, died in 1742.

The Phaires seem to have left Grange shortly after this. Sir John Benn-Walsh in his Journals (1823-1864) says that Grange was let for £376 in 1765 for 3 lives which were John Hawkes and his children. John Hawkes was the son of Capt. John Hawkes of Bishopstown. There is still a road in Bishopstown called Hawkes Road.

Benn-Walsh in his Journals says; "I must not omit a very Irish story which amused me much at Grange on Saturday. Old Mr. Hawkes showed me all over the house, which is a very large, plain, two storied mansion built by his father on the walls and site of an old castle. The walls are very thick. In one of the upper rooms, used as a lumber room, I spied two holes in the wall, one blackened with smoke and Mr. Hawkes replied, "Sure, the kitchen chimney was badly built and apt to take fire so we made this hole for the convenience of pouring down water and putting out the fire". This Hibernian expedient seemed to me more likely to cause the burning of the house than the putting out the flame". "With what", I asked, "was the other hole for". "Why!" said old Hawkes, "in 1822 the country was in a disturbed state and the people went about attacking the middlemen's houses, who were a bold intrepid gentry, and we defended your property for you and kept down the people. Perhaps some day next time you will have to do it for yourselves and won't find it so easy. Now, this was a very strong house and it was well garrisoned too, for there was my father and his three sons and plenty of arms and ammunition. And we bricked up the windows and barricaded it below, so that it would not have been easy to get in without artillery, and that hole you see was made to command the back door, that we might fire down upon the people if they tried to break in".

It looks as if Grange house is built upon the walls of

Grange abbey. Joseph Cleburne M.D. lived in Grange until his death in 1843 and his widow was there until 1850.

Benn-Walsh says (30/08/1851); "Grange has come into my hands Mr. Salkeld having failed to redeem it" He then let it to his agent Henry Reid. The Reid family lived there for many years.

The house has been owned by the O'Sullivan family for about the last 50 years. They have reduced it to a two storey house.

Sources; *Journal of John Benn-Walsh in J.C.H.A.S. 1974 & 1975; Smiths History of Cork; Burkes Landed Gentry of Ireland.*

### KILCRENAGH HOUSE.

The modern Kilcrenagh House is built on the site of the old Kilcrenagh House, in the townland of Woodside, near Healy's Bridge.

The old Irish name for this townland was Kilcrenagh. In an inquisition of 21/1/1620-1 Charles Cormac MacCarthy of Blarney had as one of his possessions the townland Killigreny (now Woodside). Petty's survey of 1652 gave its name as Killigreny. In 1702-3 one of the townlands confiscated on the MacCarthys was Killagreen. In the Protestant census of 1766 the townland was called Killigreeny.

However, the Carleton family had moved in around this time. The Carletons had come from Cumberland and their estate there was called Woodside. An advertisement in the Cork Gazette of 15/4/1795 said "WOODSIDE, IRON MILL NEAR CORK" So the townland became known as Woodside after the house name. The Rev. Edward Carleton was living there in 1824 until his death in 1837. However, by 1852 Horace Townsend had moved into the house, but by 1867 there was a new occupier- J.H. Cochran.

By 1875 Captain William Addis Fagan was living there. He was a big land owner - he had 577 acres in Cork and 840 acres in Kerry. He was an M.P. for Carlow from 1869-1875. His father was William Fagan, a Cork M.P., and when he died in 1859 he left his son, the Captain, £51,000 plus an estate of £2,000 a year. He seems to have been a good landlord. The Cork Examiner of 12/2/1881 reported that he reduced his Kerry rents by 15%-25%. He died in 1890.

Ebenezer Pike bought the house and lands about 1893/4. One of the Pike family had come to Ireland as a Corporal in Cromwell's army. They became Quakers. The Pikes were famous bankers and shipbuilders in Cork.

Ebenezer Pike of Kilcrenagh was a J.P., High Sheriff for Co. Cork, Chairman of the city of Cork Steam Packet Company, of the Great Southern and Western Railway, and of the Muskerry Light Railway.

He had changed the name of the house back to its original

*Ebenezer Pike*



Irish name-Kilcrenagh. He extended the house and put on other storey. The house was described as "A house of late Georgian appearance consisting of a centre of three storeys over a basement and three bays with two storeys, three bay wings set a little back" The house had a Billiard room. It also had a huge iron strong room. There were 28 chimneys on the house. He had a large staff working in the house, such as a Groom, Footman, Governess, Nurse, Cooks, Housemaids, Dairymaids, Kitchenmaids, etc. He had stables for 10-12 horses and his wife Ethel was a well known horsewoman.

During the War of Independence the I.R.A. burned the house. The Cork Examiner reported the burning on 29/05/1921. It said that their loss was enormous, as valuable furniture, paintings and art treasures were all consumed in the fire. This was the end of the connection with Kilcrenagh.

Edmond Riordan bought the property in 1925, and his son John is still living there. He built a new Kilcrenagh House on the site of the ruins of the old house.

*Sources; W.Mazern Brady, Clerical and Parochial Records of Cork, Cloyne and Ross; Guys Directories, various; Griffiths Valuation 1852; Census 1901, 1911.*

## CARRIGROHANE CASTLE

Sir Warham St.Leger, to whom Queen Elizabeth granted the manor of Carrigrohane, granted it to Abraham Baker c.1590. Abraham who died 1615 was succeeded by his son Barrachias Baker who died 1636 and was succeeded by his brother Abraham who died 1641. Carrigrohane Castle was dismantled in 1641 and had several outworks which were ruined in the wars of 1641.

However by 1659 John Baker was back in possession of the castle. He was a brother of Abraham (d.1641). When John died without a male heir, he left the Castle to his sister Mrs. Peter Wallis. Her eldest son, John Wallis, was described as of Carrigrohane Castle in his will (1731). Failing a male heir, it came into the possession of his younger brother Barrachias Wallis of Ballycrenane. Next it came to his only son, William, who died without issue. It



*Carrigrohane Castle*

then descended to Barrachias' daughter Clotilda, wife of Sir Edward Hoare of Annabella, Mallow, and so passed into the Hoare family.

There was 2,641 acres in the estate. But Sir Edward was a "bad hat" According to old documents he was continually in debt and engaged in many dubious activities. He squandered his wife's fortune as well as his own and, in mysterious circumstances, Edward and Clotilda fled to Bristol where they died in 1814 and 1816 respectively.

In Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of 1837 he says, "Behind the Church (Carrigrohane) are considerable remains of an ancient castle and the fine ruins of a more modern house, of great strength, of which nearly the whole of the outer walls are remaining" In the Ordnance Survey map of 1841 they were still in ruins. In 1846 the castle, in ruinous condition, was bought by Mr McSwiney, who owned Carrigrohane Flour Mills.

Pigot & Co., Provincial Directory of 1824 gave McSwiney brothers of 18, Dunbar Street as Cork city merchants. In the 1842-3 directory it gives Augs. R. McSwiney of Carrigrohane Mills. The Southern Reporter and Cork Commercial Gazette of 8/9/1821 had an advertisement by the McSwiney brothers trying to let the Flour Mill at Carrigrohane. Augustus Robert McSwiney carried out such extensive repairs on the castle that he became financially embarrassed and he sold the castle back to the Hoares. The Cork Examiner, 2312/1865, reported that in the Landed Estates Court Carrigrohane Mills, the property of Eugene McSwiney, a bankrupt, was to be sold.

The Hoare family lived in the renovated castle until 1946 when they sold it to a Mr. Burnett. He sold it c.1977 to Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien who are the present occupiers.

*Sources; Muskerry Local History Society leaflet on Carrigrohane Castle; The Road to Glengarriff, by M. Jesse*



### CARRIGROHANE HOUSE.

Carrigrohane House is of 18th. century origin and stands near the road bridge officially known as Carrigrohane Bridge but popularity called Inchiggaggin Bridge. The house was built c.1727 when the Parkers got a grant of land in the area from King George. The Parkers were from Kilkenny. Robert Parker died in 1739 and left one son, Thomas, a captain in the yeomanry corps in his locality, Inchiggaggin. Thomas married in 1727 Mary White of Cork and left only one child, Mary. Mary, born in 1742, married Nicholas Dunscombe of Mount Desert in 1764. Their second son Robert, born 1766, was left the property at Inchiggaggin and he changed his name to Parker. Robert married in 1788 Helena, a daughter of Richard Dunscombe, who was a cousin. They had 8 sons and 3 daughters.

Thomas inherited Carrigrohane House. His brother Richard (b. 1805-1881) who was reared at Carrigrohane House was a famous painter. Here in 1822 Richard is recorded as having painted a Hobby Hawk which was used as an illustration in Thompsons Irish Birds, 1849. Richard later resided at Landscape House, Shanakiel Road, Cork. His paintings were exhibited in Cork in 1843 and at the exhibition of 1852. When his niece Eleanor died in 1932 at Carrigrohane lodge part of her will, Clause 5, stated, "I bequeth the book of Irish Birds painted by my late uncle, Richard, to the Lord Mayor, Aldermem and citizens of Belfast for the benefit of the Public Art Gallery and Museum of said city"

There were 170 paintings of birds and there was a special exhibition of these in Belfast in 1980. Eleanor also left three of Richards paintings to the National Gallery in Dublin. Alfie Allen of Clashenure House has 4 of his paintings. The Local History Society should try to arrange an exhibition of these in Cork. The Parkers lived in Carrigrohane House until c.1896. Major Phillips, who was related to the Parkers, lived there from 1906-1911. There were various army personel there until 1920. Patrick Joesph Bradley then bought it until c.1938 when Dan O'Sullivan, city analyst, bought it. The O'Sullivan family still own it. The house which is very big was extended about 1870.

Sources; *Burkes Landed Gentry 1844; Echo 18/8/80; Richard Dunscombe Parkers Irish Birds by C.J.F.McCarthy*

### GAWSWORTH HOUSE (Templehill)

Richard Fyton built the house in 1805. He was descended from the Fyttons of Gawsworth House in Cheshire. He

modelled the Irish house on the house of his ancestors and the Irish house is a better house than the original. The house is a beautiful structure. There are 2 bow-shaped rooms at the front of the house which give a view of the course of the Lee, both upriver and downriver.

Richard (1751-1811) was a barrister at law. He married Bryanna Bellew in 1787 at Ovens church. She died at Gawsworth in 1837. They had 5 sons and 9 daughters. William was the eldest son. He is the ancestor of the Fittons of Kilnaglory. He was the first Fitton to be buried in Kilnaglory in 1874. He seems to have lost his right to Gawsworth to his brother Russell (1804-1864). In 1852 he was lessee of 50 acres of land from his brothers, Russell and



Robert Pratt

Patrick. His holding enclosed the graveyard at Kilnaglory. Sarah, the daughter of William, married Henry Pratt of Carrignashinny near Castlemartyr at Ovens Church in 1815.

When Russell died in 1864 without issue, Robert Pratt, son of Sarah inherited Gawsworth and the Pratts money helped to keep the house in the family. Robert Pratt (1835-1910) moved from Castlemartyr to Gawsworth in 1866. He married in 1855 Anna Chadwick of Co. Tipperary and their eldest son Henry (1857-1918) inherited Gawsworth. When he died without issue the estate was sold. A Dr. Pearson owned the house until c.1930, when John A. Woods bought it. He lived there until about 1950. Mrs. Hegarty is presently living there.

The Fittons from all over the world had a reunion at Gawsworth in Cheshire two years ago and Mrs. Downs Snr.(of V.G.) (nee Fitton) was one of the Fittons who travelled from this locality.

Sources; *Hodges and Pike, Cork and County Cork in the 20th. Century, Cork, 1911; J.C.H.A.S. 1968 p.175,180; 1969 p.187; Mrs. Down.*

Donagh McCarthy

# A COMPUTERISED RECORD OF THE HISTORY AND GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CARRIGROHANE, CO. CORK

*St. Peter's Church,  
Carrigrohane.*



## OUR PROJECT

Most of our class knew where St. Peter's Church, Carrigrohane was situated, but very few knew much about it. So when our history teacher suggested doing a project on it, eight of us Second Years jumped at the chance. We have produced a computer file on all the gravestones, old and new. We have also put together a picture portrait of the church and graveyard and a history of the church.

## METHOD

The graveyard adjoining St. Peter's Church consists of an old and a new section. As you can imagine the old part took a lot more strenuous effort pulling away briars, uncovering colonies of ants, falling into hollows, tripping over stones and so on. Our task was to read the gravestones firstly, which at times was quite difficult. To aid us we rubbed chalk markings over the carved out letters. This made the more difficult inscriptions legible. However on damp days this was of no help to us.

We returned Saturday after Saturday until we had recorded all the gravestone inscriptions into our tape recorders. We did this by first numbering all the gravestones. We spoke the number into the tape recorder, then began with, for example, the line; "In Loving Memory". We then said, "Stop", to indicate the finish of the line and so on after every line. When we got home we transcribed from the tape recorder onto individual index cards, one for each gravestone.

Next we ordered the cards and typed each one into the computer. This was a rather long and tedious process as only one of us had any experience of computers, so we had to learn by doing. We used a BBC Master Compact with a word processing programme called View. We stored the inscriptions under 2 files, PETER and CHURCH. By using View we can find names, places and dates very quickly without having to go through each inscription ourselves. Instead the programme will search the files for us and show us

where each name, place or date that we are looking for occurs.

Our second task was to put together a picture portrait of our work and findings in Carrigrohane. We took these photographs on different visits to the graveyard, and divided them into 3 sections. The first section is a general one on the Church and graveyard. The second section - Notable Burials - contains the gravestones of some people - famous in their own rite and buried in Carrigrohane. The third section contains samples of gravestones, varying in style of writing, style of stone and kind of stone, from the 18th. to 20th. century.

Our final task was to compile a brief history of the Church. In doing this we relied on sources in Cork County Library such as Lewis' Topographical Dictionary and Church and Parish Records of the United Diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross by Rev. J.H. Cole. We also used the Dictionary of National Biography for information on Canon Gregg.

### CARRIGROHANE PARISH AND CHURCH

Carrigrohane is a Church of Ireland and civil parish, mainly in the Barony of Barrett's, but partly in the city of Cork. The village of Carrigrohane is about four miles west of Cork city. The parish is situated on the south bank of the River Lee and includes the townlands of Carrigrohane, Ballincollig, Curraheen, Coolroe and Great Island. The parish is comprised of 2,578 acres.

### THE CHURCH

The original church was built in the seventeenth century but it has been extended and renovated since then. In Lewis' Topographical Dictionary (1837) it is described as a "small plain edifice" which had been repaired in the 1830's. But most of the changes in the church came after this.

In 1851 the chancel, west end, tower and spire were erected by Revd. Dr. Hodder. The stained glass windows of the chancel were contributed by Tomas Tobin, owner of the Royal Gunpowder Mills, Ballincollig, in memory of his only son, Arthur Lionel, who was killed in India. The annex to the church was built under Revd. R.S. Gregg to the design of William Burges, architect of St. Finbarre's Cathedral. A cut stone spire replaced the earlier one of timber and slate in 1896-7. This was erected by Revd. Frederick Dobbin after plans by W.H. Hill of Cork.

### FAMOUS RECTORS.

Robert S. Gregg was the son of John Gregg, who was

Here lieth the  
Body of Terrance  
Howard and family  
who depd this life  
August 24th 1771  
Mary Howard his  
wife who departed  
this life July 8th 1796  
aged 72 years  
"May the Lord have  
mercy on their  
souls Amen "

Erected  
by John Lenihen

### Computer Print-out

Bishop of Cork. He published a number of sermons as well as "A Missionary Visit to Achill and Erris". He was rector of the union of Carrigrohane in the 1860's. He later became Bishop of Ossory and of Cork, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland. In 1901 a marble dado was put up in the chancel as a memorial to him. It is in panels of Cork, Carrara and Connemara marble.

Edward Gibbings was father of Robert Gibbings who wrote a number of books about Cork, including "Sweet Cork of Thee"

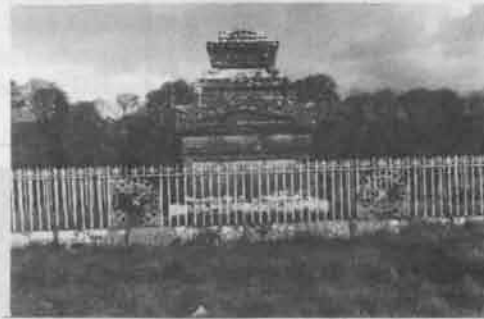
### THE GRAVEYARD

The earliest gravestone that we have recorded is 1735. There are other 18th. century gravestones but most of the gravestones are from the 19th. and 20th. centuries.

The graveyard is a mixed Protestant/Roman Catholic graveyard. Most of the earlier gravestones are either limestone or sandstone, but some of the new gravestones are in marble. There are very few tombs or monuments, one of the main exceptions being the Murphy (of brewery fame) family vault.

Some of the families buried here come from the big houses of the Lee Valley, such as Gawsworth House, Mount Desert and Carrigrohane Castle. There are also connections with Cork city as some families had businesses there, such as the Bass family [solicitors], Rohus [furriers] and Duncombes [merchants].





(Top left) The oldest gravestone, 1735 (Top right) Gravestone in slate, 1814  
(Bottom left) Hoare's of Carrigrohane Castle. (Bottom right) Gravestone of Robert Day, antiquarian.  
(Centre) Murphy family vault.

#### NOTABLE BURIALS

##### BASS

- Rockrohan House, Carrigrohane.
- Philip William, solicitor, 9 South Mall, practised for over 50 years
- Francis Hodder, born 1856, educated privately, farmed his own land at Carrigrohane, well known as a breeder of Hereford cattle, also of Irish Red Setters, successful exhibitor of pedigree stock at Munster shows, member of Select Vestry of Carrigrohane; recreations fishing, shooting; owner of 3 miles of the best salmon fishing on the River Lee.

##### BLOXHAM

- Royal Irish Constabulary
- shot in ambush in Waterfall during the War of Independence.

##### DAY

- Robert, born 1836, died at his residence, Myrtle Hill House, on the 10th of July, 1914, aged 79; married to Rebecca Scott(1857)- 4 daughters and 4 sons;

F.S.A., M.R.I.A., J.P

President of Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (from March 20th, 1894) President of the Cork Literary and Scientific Society, Trustee of the Cork Savings Bank, and of the South Charitable Infirmary, Fellow of the Royal Numismatic Society, and Governor of the Commercial Buildings;



*Old  
and  
New*

*Resting between  
the showers! -  
four out of eight*



#### **DUNSCOMBE**

Nicholas, Dunscombes Marsh called after this family?

#### **HOARE**

-Carrigrohane Castle,  
-Emily, B.A., R.U.I., daughter of H.Helen of Dublin, wife  
of W.E. Wallis Hoare, 1 son and 3 daughters.

#### **PARKER**

- Carrigrohane House  
Helena and Eleanor, family related to the Dunscombes  
of Mount Desert, ancestor a noted painter.

#### **PRATT**

Gawsworth House

#### **WOOD**

- Elizabeth Frances and Richard, family owned Gaw-  
sworth House after the Pratts.

#### **SOURCES**

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Stephen and Lee(ed.), Dictionary of National Biography,  
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Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological So-  
ciety.

*Susan Calnan Gillian Cotter  
Brid Deasy Colette Hegarty  
Catherine Hogan Eileen Jackson  
Mary Kelly Elaine O'Keeffe*

## Well Done, Colm!

It's good to see past pupils making progress. Last summer Colm O'Mahony (Ballinora) had the great experience of being asked to address the London International Youth Science Fortnight at the University of London. There were 41 countries represented. Colm's topic was "Water-powered Industry in the Lee Valley", which he had originally researched with Con Nagle and Noel Kerins, while they were students of Ballincollig Community School. Colm was now able to take this further and compare the technology of 1750

1900 to the present day, with particular reference to the turbines in the Inniscarra Dam.

## Powder Mills Progress

●The County Council has published an information leaflet on the Powder Mills. The leaflet has a brief history of the Mills and an account of the production of gunpowder. Illustrations include a map and diagrams of the Powder Mills. The Council hopes to publish French and German versions of the leaflet.

●Considerable progress has been made in the Regional Park section over the past year. One of the most important steps has been the appointment of a Park superintendent. However, there has been no progress made in the Powder Mills proper and this is very disappointing. In the long term, the development of the incorporating mills will provide a significant source of income to the County Council and the local community. The best example that Ballincollig can draw on is the renovated Powder Mills in Hagley, Delaware, U.S.A.. Almost 90,000 (paying!) visitors a year are attracted to these Mills. Ballincollig Regional Park and Powder Mills can do the same.

*Money alone isn't the problem. There has to be more local interest.*

●Last year a brief account of the Powder Mills was given in the "Gunpowder Mills Gazetteer" (compiled by Glenys Crocker) which lists the black powder manufacturing sites in Britain and Ireland.

## Muskerry Local History Society

Muskerry Local History Society have had a number of interesting and well attended lectures this year (1988/89). These range from talks on Kilcrea Abbey to The Sinking of The Lusitania, and from Big Houses to Castles of the Lee Valley. Lectures for the coming months (as well as, history walks and a bus trip to the Limerick region in June) will be

advertised in the local press and newsletters. So be on the watch out!

## Sites and Monuments Record

A full list of archaeological sites in Cork county has recently been published by the Cork Archaeological Survey and the Office of Public Works. This Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is based on the work of the Archaeological Survey, under Denis Power, which undertook a complete survey of county Cork. The SMR is mainly aimed at assisting public and private organisations, who are engaged in development, "in protecting the archaeological heritage of the country by providing as complete a list as possible of archaeological sites and monuments as well as providing a clear indication of where these features are located" The 2 volumes of the SMR and the accompanying maps are available for consultation from Muskerry Local History Society or from the County Library, Farranlea Road, Cork.

## Ballincollig and New Zealand

News of our Local History Journal is going far and wide.

33 Valley Road  
Mount Eden  
Auckland 3  
New Zealand  
17th October 1987

Dear Mr. Lucy,

A copy of the 1986 Journal of the Ballincollig Community School Local History Society has been lent to me (by Revd Goswami of Largs, Sutherland, Scotland) and I am hoping that a spare copy may still be available for purchase. The whole issue is of great interest, not least the several references to The Barracks. ("Ballincollig Barracks" is the birthplace of Mr Goswami's forebear Agnes Ugochart Mackenzie about 1812 - nothing else known.)

I enclose a US dollar which I hope will buy a stamp so that you may give me a purchase price & postage, or a note of unavailability of same. May I wish you and the Journal well. Alison Menzies (Mrs)





## Soldier in World War 1

On 7 December, 1917, The Cork Examiner printed the following report;

*Gunner Thos. D. Nagle, R.F.A, D.C.M., aged 22, killed in action in France, whose father, Mr. D. Nagle, Waterfall, Co.Cork, was on Saturday last at the Kinsale Barracks presented on full parade with the D.M.C. won by his son. The presentation was made by Major Barry, Commanding Officer. The late Gunner Nagle, in the course of operations, went forward by himself to enemy dugouts and called on the occupants to surrender. As they came out one German fired on him and missed. He returned the fire, killing three. An officer, sergeant and ten men then held up their hands, and he brought them back alone. Later he brought in four more single handed. His name was well known throughout his division, and his exceptional example and imperturbable courage and cool daring, were the just object of everybody's admiration.*

## Distress in Ballincollig

Towards the end of the last century, as the Powder Mills declined, there was much unemployment in Ballincollig. This led to the following letter to the Cork Examiner, 13 April, 1889.

DEAR SIR,—It is with the greatest reluctance I make this Appeal, knowing well the constant and ever increasing demands made on the citizens of Cork; but having, through the aid of some few friends, given weekly money to the most destitute for the last month, I am now compelled by necessity to put the claims of the unemployed in the Powder Mills before the charitably disposed, being convinced that their bad condition may induce some to whom God has given wealth to bestow a small share of it on them.

There are at present 27 families, numbering 115 persons, whose bread-winners are out of employment, not through any fault of their own, but owing to the absence of the manufacture of any large quantity of powder.

All the coopers are idle for a considerable period; several have gone to England for employment; the remainder—men of most excellent character, active, intelligent, and skilled workmen—are watching every chance that may turn up to give them employment in making kegs, barrels, boxes—in fact, anything—but they cannot succeed.

Up to a short time ago there were no people in this parish more comfortable, none more generous to the Priests, and the Church, none more attentive to their religious duties and the education of their children, than the inhabitants of the Powder Mills; now sorrow and desolation have cast a pall over the place, and no one can tell where it will end.

May these few lines speak to the many friends of the poor who will read them, and induce them to come to their aid, is the prayer of

Your obedient servant,

A. CANON MAGUIRE, P.P.

## THE BOWLERS OF GREENFIELD (c.1908)

by Seamus Long

(AIR: THE BOULD THADY QUILL)

How can I ever forget Kilnaglorry  
Where I toddled in childhood and grew to man's years  
Where I played by clear brook  
And roamed the hills over  
Untroubled alike by the world and its cares  
How oft by the fireside with my fond parents near me  
I read the old stories which made their hearts gay  
Or warbled the tuneful old song in sweet Gaeluinn  
Or knelt on the hearthstone my night prayers to say:  
How oft in the evenings the boys would all meet us  
Ere the bright summer sun had sunk down to rest  
At the old meeting place at the Cross they would greet us  
Then we'd toss for choice bowls and we'd steer for the west  
Lighthearted and merry we'd start on our journey  
Jerry Long and John Daly first bowls would throw off  
And from that to Grange Gates we were joyful and hearty  
As shot followed shot with a joke and a laugh.

Paddy Collins, Jerh. Murphy, George Brian and gay Florrie  
Den Duggan, Bob Fittin, and young Connell so game  
Denny Long known as Doulton, Mick Keating, Bill Duggan  
Who were out watching bowls and police just the same  
Tommy Long from the poorhouse made one of the party  
And myself now an exile, a place there did find  
And as long as I live should it be to a thousand  
The Bowlers of Greenfield will ne'er leave my mind.

When the last shot was thrown and the score was all over  
To Killumney's old tavern we wended our way  
And there in the taproom with song, dance and music  
We finished the evening, with hearts light and gay  
John Daly would give us "The Pride of Liscarroll"  
Jerry Long's "Farmer's Boy" was in favour all round  
And then on the road home from Georgie's mouth organ  
The notes of a march on the air would resound.

I have left all those scenes from the boys I am parted  
But in spirit I ever shall join in their glee  
I ne'er can forget the glad hours I spent with them  
Or their kindness and friendship to mine and to me  
God grant they will always be joyful and happy  
May they ne'er have to roam from the old spot away  
If Erin should e'er call her sons to the standard  
May the Bowlers of Greenfield be there on that day.

Kindly submitted by Con Cronin, Ballinora

On Monday, 15 August, 1922, the *Cork Examiner* published the following account of Ballincollig after the retreat of the Irregulars (Anti-Treaty forces) during the Civil War.

A representative of the "Examiner" who visited Ballincollig on Sunday describes the once commodious barracks as now a monument to the talent for destruction displayed by the Irregulars.

No one expected that Ballincollig would retain its military glory under the new conditions, but it would make an admirable training centre for portion of the National Defence Army, and the remainder could easily be adapted for industrial purposes. Even as things are it should not be impossible to put some of the buildings - or what will be left of them - into sufficient repair to be turned to some useful purpose.

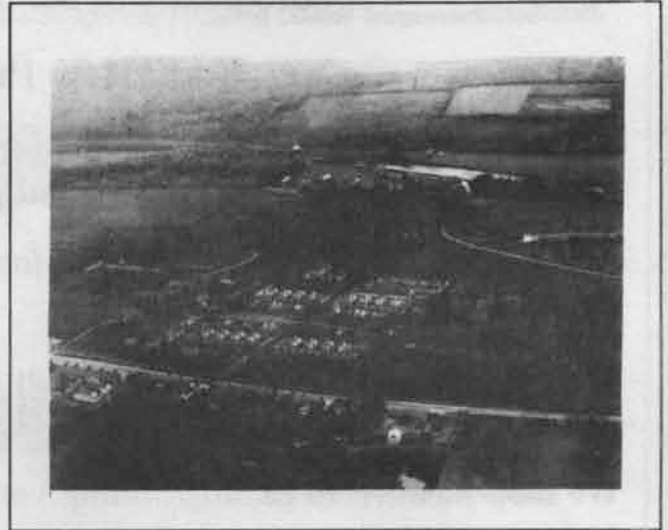
The road to Ballincollig retains traces of hurried retreat made on Thursday. Near Carrigrohane a large lorry, bearing the name of Messrs. Dobbin Ogilvie and Co., blocks half the roadway. The bonnet is gone, and the engine is apparently damaged, and the chassis is travel-stained, but there seems no reason why what remains should not be brought into Cork. A little further on a tree lies across the road. This must have been felled when the retreating parties had passed. A junk has been cut off to allow the Blarney tram pass. Cars have to invade the railway track to get through.

On the road from Carrigrohane to Ballincollig another tree was felled, but it has been removed.

Approaching the village one still finds that peculiar odour exuded by smouldering debris. And at one point one observes a small column of smoke from some block not yet completely gutted.

The village itself escaped by something approaching a miracle. When the Irregulars were evacuating the barracks, they had to leave behind a large quantity of either petrol or oil. Either deliberately or accidentally, this was spilled on the passage inside the main gate. It flowed in a regular stream along the passage, and on to the street. It followed the course of a little water channel to the other side of the road, and were it not for the efforts of the residents of the village, this would have carried a train of fire to the houses. Were it not that the people noticed the danger in time a great part of the village would also be in ruins. A black trail marks the ground where the inflammable liquid ran.

A little distance westward one comes to the remains of a derelict armour-plated lorry. It bears the legend "Cork No.



(The Cork Examiner)

1", and is to all appearances out of action. It was evidently hurriedly left behind.

Getting into the barracks grounds one can work one's way through the debris. Nearly all the roofs have fallen in. One especially regrettable feature was the destruction of a block of pretty "married" quarters. Corrugated iron, barbed wire, cooking utensils, and a hundred and one miscellaneous kinds of things lie about. It would be impossible to give a complete inventory of everything.

In one part of the grounds a row of gaunt fire-charred trees bear testimony to the intensity with which a neighbouring block burned.

And amidst the scene one finds carts being loaded with everything that could by any stretch of the imagination be used for some purpose. Gates, doors, window frames, etc., were being taken away in broad daylight. Even efforts were being made to "loot" the very telephone poles. One may be inclined to excuse poor people "looting" a few pieces of half burned timber or bedding, or cooking utensils, or something which may turn in useful to them. But poor people do not usually possess strong well-fed horses and large farm carts. We do not suggest that "looting" is being done by even a considerable number of people, but it is being done by a few persons too many.

After the destruction of the barracks at Ballincollig the Irregulars commandeered large quantities of supplies, principally foodstuffs, in the village.

# Images

26 Marlboro St,  
Cork. Tel: (021) 272352.

(Also at Ovens, Co. Cork. Tel. (021) 871820).

photography by John Quaid

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John Quaid.



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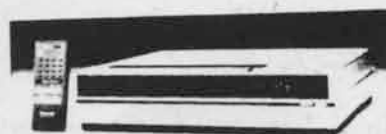
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