

THE CORRAN HERALD

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A CARROWNTemple SLAB

On Eurovision 1988

by Martin A. Timoney

The superb piece of tourist publicity seen by over 500 million on Eurovision 1988 Song Contest, may seem to have ignored Co. Sligo. Indeed, some of our local politicians were quick to claim that that was so (see Town Talk, Sligo Champion 13th May, 1988). This is not so as one of the now internationally famous Carrowntemple slabs (see illustrations) was shown in the initial sequence of shots of major pieces of Irish sculpture. Sligo was not bypassed in that magnificent archaeological, historical, cultural presentation that was Eurovision, 1988.

The slab shown is one of fourteen slabs so far discovered at Carrowntemple, near Gurteen. It is perhaps the most perplexing of all Sligo, if not Irish, Early Christian slabs. On one face is carved a figure, while on the other is a cross with a badly weathered rectangular fret pattern below it. The slab measures 1.21 metres by 47cm, and it varies from 6cm to 10cm in thickness.

The standing figure is carved in outline. The sub-circular head has indentations for the forehead and chin. Around the face is a wide border, perhaps representing a halo.

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368 Carrowntemple

No. 10 Carrowntemple
Top of Slab showing 'LUGS'



Photographs by M. A. Timoney

Sligo Champion 1890

PRIZEFIGHT IN BALLYMOTE

From our Special Correspondent

Your rumour in the items last week was wellfounded, as the fight which was announced came to a very successful termination on last Sunday evening in the presence of a select few. The principals, seconds and referee, as well as a well known popular gentleman and coming heir to large estates in the neighbourhood formed the interesting group. The spot selected for the rendezvous was some three miles from Ballymote, in a lovely and secluded place where landlordism in the person of the notorious Dodwell has left its mark, by not leaving a house within a radius of two square miles. In a beautiful and well shaded valley surrounded on one side by a clump of trees and the other by a large fort, the pugilists with their friends met punctually at two o'clock. It was rather amusing during the day to see the police how they were baffled. From early morning they were perched on the surrounding hills.

In the barn where it was expected the fight would take place, a policeman whose antagonism to these innocent little gloves is especially noticeable, was lying under the hay from five in the morning.

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A CARROWNTemple SLAB

On Eurovision 1988

From page 2

The arms are placed straight down by the sides and the feet are out-turned. The figure appears to be naked but originally it could have had a painted loin cloth. Because the navel and nipples are indicated it would appear that the upper parts of the body did not have painted-on clothes.

On the other face of the slab is carved cross, consisting of a pair of triple-strand ribbons crossed at right-angles and knotted at their extremities. The cross is ringed by a band which turns inwards at four points to form figure-of-eight knots that occupy the spaces between the arms of the cross. Small bosses are used as space fillers. The area below the cross bears the remnants of a rectilinear or fret pattern. There are strange 'ear-like' features at the top corners of the slab itself.

This slab, which is the only Carrowntemple slab decorated on both faces, was intended to stand upright. There can be no doubt about the Christian reference of the cross. It is a matter of speculation as to who the figure represents. Educated speculation is only speculation, but the feeling that the figure represents Christ just will not go away. It is impossible to say if there is any appreciable time difference between the carving of the two designs on the slab which appears to me to have been prepared for the figure. The unique character of the carved figure, the only representational design in Carrowntemple, does not seem to have anything comparable in these islands. The uniqueness of several of the designs far surpasses any other mainland Sligo slab or pillar and makes this site second only to Inishmurray.

Carrowntemple is an Early Christian monastic enclosure on the lines of Reask (Kerry), Kiltiernan (Galway, Inishmurray or Clonmacnoise. So far thirteen decorated slabs, one rough-out for a slab and a socket-stone have been discovered. Two of the slabs are on display in the Treasury of The National Museum in Dublin. The fragmentary remains of what may have been a medieval parish church, measuring 6.40 metres by



CROSS-FACE

Carrowntemple, Co. Sligo.

Photograph by M. A. T.

at least 9.40 metres survive in the old graveyard. This is within two concentric enclosures. There are two souterrain chambers (caves) to the west of the old graveyard. Grose, writing in 1795, noted that at the time of Elizabeth I Carrowntemple belonged to the castle of Ballymote.

Some of the slabs were brought to archaeological notice in 1973 by Mr. Joseph Sweeney, N. T., Gurteen. Others were found by Dr. P. F. Wallace of the National Museum and by myself, and two local workers, Jimmy O'Gara and Raymond McGuinn, employed in the recent clean-up of the graveyard found yet others. In 1987, Dr. Wallace and I presented a description of the site and its

fourteen slabs in a book of essays to Miss Helen M. Roe, the expert of Irish Early Christian and Medieval learning, for her ninetieth birthday. The book is called 'Figures from the Past,' was edited by Prof. Etienne Rynne, and is available from the Royal Society of Antiquaries, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin, at £29.50 plus £2 p & p. It contains twenty two essays on Early Christian and Mediaeval art in its 330 pages. The copy of the statue of St. Molaise of Inishmurray which is in Grange village is dealt with in a separate essay in the book.

Prize Fight in Ballymote

contd. from page 1

The strictest surveillance was kept on a well known and popular sportsman, whom the police shadowed all day as they believed he was to act as referee. It is surmised that this true supporter of the fistic art remained in town to deceive the police, even though he was in secret forfeiting the pleasure of seeing the fight in order not to involve others in the danger of being caught.

Two young men left the town at twelve o'clock and on the way they picked up a mysterious looking man with a black bag nicknamed 'Jack the Ripper' and it is believed Jack came a long way to referee the fight. The greatest credit is due to those who succeeded so well in deceiving the police and helping thereby to bring the fight to a finish.

It may not be out of place here to give a description of the pugilists before giving details of the fight. For certain reasons we must give assumed names. Kilduff is a man of some thirty years, almost six feet tall rather slightly built with great muscular appearance and weighing one hundred and seventy five pounds, his face having a stern and care worn look after his spending some ten years in the land of the free. O'Shaughnessy rather older looking than his opponent and some four inches smaller and scaling fourteen pounds less, yet of powerful physique and wonderful development, seemed not to be as well taken up as his Yankee opponent. Four ounce gloves were used.

At the call of time both men stepped promptly to the centre of the ring.

Round One began with both men sparring cautiously for about one minute when Kilduff led once with his left to O'Shaughnessy's face, but fell short, and O'Shaughnessy retorted with a short right on Kilduff's jaw. More light sparring followed when K struck O'S on the face. A quick exchange followed and time was called.

Exchanges were even to round five when O'S sent his man to the line with heavy blows. A clinch followed in which both indulged in rapid fighting. At parting both slogged regardless of science until time was called.

Round six was action packed. In round seven both men were breathing very hard and O'S was in retreat. Round eight O'S knocked K down at end of round. Rounds nine to twelve O'S asserted his superiority knocking K twice. Round thirteen Kilduff weakening stood on the line near his side. O'S measured his man and with his right arm fully extended, quick as a flash, turned completely around on his right heel, landing the back of his hand on K's neck just below the ear. Kilduff fell flat.

Round fourteen O'S got K's head in a chancery and punished him mercilessly. Round fifteen O'S forced the fight with one terrific blow to the head and three uppercuts to the chin. K fell on his face down and out. The fight was formally declared in favour of O'Shaughnessy, who received the prize of ten pounds.

Another pair of athletes residing in the town are to be in the ring in about a week.

JANUARY 1890. BALLYMOTE

A meeting was held in the schoolroom on Sunday evening, January 19th to take steps to erect a ballcourt in the fairgreen. Sir Robert Gore-Booth has already given permission for the venture. For many years the project has been contemplated, the young men of the town have no other amusement on Summer evenings.

A Committee was appointed: Rev. P. J. O'Grady, C.C., President; John Cogan, Hon-Secretary.

TEA KITCHENER

with Brass Cock



COMBAT POVERTY

by Una Preston

COMBAT POVERTY

A huge task. The pattern of today's poverty has been building up for years and there is little indication that a cure will be found now. There are all the signs present that point to a greater and growing imbalance in our society. Recent Government cut-backs in health care and education have their greatest effect on the old, the sick, the poor and, of course, children.

Those who can pay as we have seen in the past will always have services available to them. Even now new private hospitals are appearing and of course private schools have been and will be there for those who can pay for them.

There are rumours that social welfare is in line for a chop in the autumn. What form that will take remains to be seen. Again the bottom line, and still no suggestion of cut-backs in sinecure jobs, double pensions and massive salaries so that those who would combat poverty must highlight the inequalities that the present pattern of cut-backs are causing and call for a realistic look at the massive expenditure at the top of the scale. Also, some thought must be given to the present pattern of mass emigration of the young and the effect it is likely to have on Ireland's future. Balancing the books is important but are we paying too high a price.

There are many questions to be asked. Is there no check on emigration at our end. Have the young emigrants any skills? Have they contacts? Have they money? Surely this country has responsibilities. Why must charitable organisations in Britain have to bear the brunt of helping these young people?

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ballymote needs a central kernel of thought, decision-making and action. At present there is a plethora of little groups each doing their own thing (jealously). Some improvements have been achieved but there is need of co-ordination if the target of a town that has eliminated its bad spots and retained and developed its good ones is to be reached.

The Community Council is such a body. During the almost six years of its existence it has been responsible for many worth-while developments, but it has been uphill work. Its real message doesn't seem to have been generally understood or accepted. It should be having an input from every organised group in the area, and where decisions of a major nature have to be made should be able to summon a general get-together for discussion.

This is an era of rapid change and an organisation such as a Community Council must keep abreast of on-going changes and be in a position to deal with them, to counter their bad effects or to take advantage of their good ones.

A recent project of the council, the setting up of a Tourist Development Association, has been a success. At present efforts are being made to establish a Credit Union, and though this is as yet only at the study stage, it has a fair chance of being a success.

Unlike most other organisations, Community Councils have statutory recognition and can act in an advisory capacity to County Councillors and local authorities.

SLOW-COMBUSTION STOVE.



BOGS & BOGLAND

It is calculated that one fifth of this country is covered in bog, part of this being classed as cutaway or reclaimed bog. The bogs develop where the ground has been waterlogged. As vegetation grows in flooded conditions it dies and accumulates as peat.

Blanket bogs, usually about six feet deep, are found in high rainfall areas in the west and on the mountains around the country. Some have been reduced by turf-cutting and erosion to a mere skin. Raised bogs, found mainly in the midland counties, average about twenty feet in depth so they have a much longer life.

Bogs have been growing for the past ten thousand years. They provide a unique field of research into the history of the occupation of the country. In the waterlogged depths everything is preserved pollen seeds and insects. Centuries of successive summers are accounted for in the pollens of trees and grasses which can be identified and thereby the change in vegetation, from prehistoric times can be reconstructed. Sometimes it is possible to see pine stumps or bog deal along the cutaways, and there are approximately four thousand years old. Through research of this kind we know that the primeval forest was cleared by neolithic farmers to make room for crops and animals. It has also been found that past phases of bog growth related to periods of deterioration in our climate.

At a glance raised bogs appear flat and lifeless, but they do possess a combination of plants and animals that are adapted to life in this habitat. The surface of the bog is not flat but is made up of a series of pools, lawns and hummocks.

The dominant plant on the bog surface is the bog moss or Sphagnum. Different species of Sphagnum grow in the pools, and in the lawns and hummocks, forming a richly coloured mosaic. The hummocks stand up above the waterlogged hollows and are better drained. The plants of the

Facts supplied by Dr. Matthias Schouten.

hollows include bog cotton (*Eriophorum* species), bog aspidel (*Narthecium ossifragum*) cross leaved heath (*Erica Tetralix*) and white beaked sedge (*Rhynchospora Alba*) while the hummocks are dominated by ling heath (*Calluna vulgaris*), bog rosemary (*Andromeda polifolia*) and a number of lichens.

Frogs are common on the bog while in the pools at the bottom of the bog, frogspawn and tadpoles may be found. Waterskaters, waterspiders, water beetles, water scorpions and slugs can be seen.

On the drier parts of the bog the caterpillars of a number of butterflies and moths can be found feeding on the bog plants, while the adult insects feed on the nectar of the bog flowers. The large heath, green hairstreak, wall brown meadow brown, small tortoiseshell, peacock, small white, orange tip, common blue, silver washed fritillary, small copper, emperor moth and the oak eggar can all be found in the bog. Dragon flies and damsel are hunters on the bog and their larvae may be glimpsed hunting among the Sphagna in pools.

A number of birds such as the mallard, snipe, curlew, redshank, pheasant, meadow pipit, skylark and linnet are common on bogs and may nest on the hummocks, while the Greenland white-fronted goose may roost on bogs in winter. The perimeter of the bog is a good hunting ground for birds, particularly the cuckoo, willow warbler, various thrushes and finches, corncrake and reed bunting. Birds of prey, especially kestrels, peregrines and her harriers, may be seen flying over the bog hunting the smaller inhabitants.

Although harder to see, mammals also occur on bogs - the fox, badger and hare. Even when they are not seen it is possible to observe their tracks or resting places.

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AN OLD MAN'S AMAZING STORY

by P. J. Duffy

In 1960 while standing in the farmyard at the place where I now reside, I became involved in a conversation with the late James Scanlon, a man in his early eighties who resided nearby. During the course of the discussion he pointed to a stonewall fence which separated the farmyard from an adjoining field. 'You see that spot over there' he said, drawing my attention to a sloping incline that reached to the base of the stonewall. 'At a period during the first half of the last century there resided alongside that stonewall five families who were totally wiped out during the famine years.'

His grim revelation immediately aroused my curiosity, and I proceeded to question him more fully as to his source of information. To my amazement he was able to inform me that his father, who had died in 1919, at the age of 97 years, had assisted with the carrying out of the dead bodies, wrapped in straw coffins, and then burying them in the corner of a nearby field. A short time later he took me to the spot and pointed out some mounds of clay and stones and an ancient whitethorn bush which he said had been planted by his father and the other people who had carried out the burials. He went on to explain that the name of the spot where the remains of those people lie buried is called Cree; 'it is' he continued 'sacred ground, and don't ever let anybody interfere with it, or with that whitethorn bush.'

Needless to say, his entire story had fascinated me in the extreme, for up until that time I had regarded the famine as a remote disaster that had taken place in the dim and distant past instead of something that had occurred a mere one hundred and fourteen years before. I now found myself discussing the event with a real living link, somebody with a first hand account of the happenings as it was told to him by his own father.

Scanlon went on to explain how these young people who were not in possession of any land whatsoever, and didn't even own the shacks in which they dwelled, were totally wiped out in the exceptionally severe weather conditions prevailing during the Winter of 1846-'47. They were, he added, foolish young people who had run away to get married at an early age, and their death, resulting from starvation was an inevitable result of this act of folly.

His father had told him that at the time the couples married, their parents and neighbours had taken a day off to build them a house. This was usually a one roomed thatched structure called a bothán. In rural Ireland at that time botháns were often built close together in tiny settlements called clacháns, so in actual fact the information I had been getting was an exact description of an Irish clachán.

Although the bothán may have solved their housing problems, Scanlon maintained that these people had no prospect whatsoever of ever earning a livelihood, and the failure of the potato crop was for them the final stroke. By the time the Board of Works employment scheme had gotten under way they were too weak to work. They had, he concluded, died of famine fever in the Spring of '87 and their wasted bodies were taken out and buried at the place already described.

Scanlon died in March, 1963, and three years later while clearing a site for the erection of a hayshed the grim truth of the story he had told me suddenly unfolded as one by one I uncovered traces of four of those little homesteads. The ground on which they had stood was remarkably dry, and the flat stones and rubble which concealed the lower portion of each cabin were decked by a heavy layer of moss. This covering ensured that after 119 odd years, the remains of the entire settlement was in a remarkable state of preservation. Deposits of reddish brown ash on the



LATE JIM SCANLON

hearthstones, I immediately recognised as having come from turf obtained from a nearby bog. A heavy film of soot which had formed on flat hob stones at the back of each fireplace was as secure as it had been when the cabins were abandoned.

For a couple of moments I viewed, in stunned silence, the spectacle I had just uncovered. My thoughts at once went back to the old man who in the first place had told me the story. How I wished he were still around to see the unveiling of its proof and substance. My mind dwelt on the poor unfortunate creatures who had existed here, and the nightmare of torture and suffering they must have endured. Surely, it wasn't unreasonable to assume that they must have been instantly delivered into eternal salvation.

That was just one man's account of the great hunger that ravaged our land towards the middle of the last century. The event I have just mentioned tended to intensify my interest in the happenings that occurred during that particular period in time. Sometime later I was to listen to other stories told about droves of hungry people trudging off to work in the morning and returning drenched wet at the end of the day. The Board of Works had opened up relief schemes for the needy, and employment became available through the making of roads and the building of sod fences, mainly on landlord property. I remember my late father pointing out a spot on our own farm where a man dropped dead while returning from work at Ballyfaghy, which involved the building of a double-ditch, linking the townland with Carrowloughlin. A double-ditch was a broad sod fence usually erected as a boundary separating one landlord's property from another.

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BALLYMOTE SOCCER TEAM 1905



Front Row: John (Bull) Berreen, Rathdooney; John (Doc) Chambers, Emmet St. Middle Row: Willie Snee, Rathdooney; Michael Fox, Emlaghgeishen, John Joe Dockrey, O'Connell St; Frank (Sony) Cunnane, Wolfe Tone St; Willie Candon, Emmet St and Martin Wimsey, LEmmet St. Back Row: McManus, Emmet St; John Brennan, Michael Hever, Derroon; Paddy Alcock, Carnaree; Brennan Emmet St and big Jim Reynolds, Emmet St.

Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Peggy McGettrick.

BALLYMOTE by Una Preston

Ballymote seems to be becoming aware of its potential to be more attractive and efficient. Some of its derelict sites have been attended to. Two attractive and up-to-date restaurants have made their appearance recently and the grim courthouse in its commanding position now has a walled garden with trees, ornamental shrubs and flowers at its base while the statue of a local hero whose achievements are well-forgotten now stands out in greater relief than when it was surrounded by parked cars.

That fine old cinema should have another use. Could it become a cultural centre? The town has musicians, writers, artists and dramatists, but no suitable

meeting place. If it would sell itself tourist-wise Ballymote's cultural potential must be re-animated, co-ordinated, developed and made presentable and to that end the first need is a centre. Is the provision of such a place a task for the Tourist Development Association, the District Council or both?

The Heritage Groups efforts to find a suitable centre for its activities and to house a small museum have so far proved unsuccessful. A site is available but the construction costs of building is a major obstacle.

These Lottery funds - Ballymote could use some, and is this now progressive little town not entitled to a share?

Our thanks to Mr. John Perry for supplying photographs of cookers etc. dating from the turn of the century.

Cooking Stove



THE DUMPHY.

THE BUILDING OF BALLYMOTE CHURCH

by Declan McGrath

Shortly after Canon Denis Tighe became parish priest of Ballymote in 1863, he set about planning for a new church for the parish. Many fine churches were being built in the diocese around this time under the guidance of the Bishop of the diocese, Dr. Patrick Durcan.

The architect appointed for designing the new church was George Goldie of a well known London firm called Hadfield & Goldie. He had designed many churches in the country including two others in the diocese as well as the cathedral in Ballaghaderreen. The contractor who was in charge of building the church was Mr. Barker.

There has been no structural change in the church apart from the building of a toilet block which is linked with the main building via a corridor into the sacristy.

THE SITE

The site of the church was granted, free of charge, by Sir Robert Gore-Booth. It is situated beside the old church which is now known as the Loftus Hall and is used as a community facility.

Gore-Booth was a very rich and powerful man and was owner of the town at that time. He was grandfather of the Countess Markievicz.

As the site was very soft and wet there was great difficulty in securing the foundation. Huge bales of wool were used and pillars were placed several feet under ground.

Site 3 is the location for the style. The style of the church is gothic. This can be seen in the arches which are supported by pillars. Gothic design can also be seen in all its big windows except for the small circular ones at either gable.

These small windows display Roman architecture, which can also be seen in the arch-ways of the doors.

BUILDING OF THE CHURCH

There seems to be some uncertainty as to when the church was started and finished.

In J. C. McDonagh's book it is stated that work on the Ballymote church began in 1857, directed by Rev. Denis Canon Tighe, and was completed under Rev. John Canon McDermott in 1881.

However, it is stated in the parish records that the building was started in 1863 and was completed in 1884. So it is unclear to which dates are right, but there is only a difference of 3 years.

J. C. McDonagh reckons it took 24 yrs. to build and the parish records state that it took 21 yrs.

It is important to note that there is an inscription over the main entrance door on a sheet of glass which displays the date 1857 and this date appears again on the side door beside the steeple carved out of rock.

THE FOUNDATION STONE

The site was prepared and everything was ready for the laying of the foundation stone on Wednesday, 12th October, 1859.

This was preceded by a High Mass in the old church (Loftus Hall) at which the Bishop, Dr. Durcan, presided and at which Dr. Terence O'Rourke, P.P. Collooney preached.

Some days previously a protestant, Mr. Jackson gave his men a holiday so that they could attend the ceremony of the laying of the stone. The stone weighed 17 cwt.

MATERIALS USED

Walls Limestone
Roofs Pine
Seats Mahogany
Floor Terazzo and Mosaic
Windows Stained Glass

CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Pulleys were used to haul the Limestone blocks up to the required height. The blocks were placed on pallet-like boards. Horses were then used to work the pulleys.

The pillars were built in layers joined by a bed of lime-mortar in between. The floors were laid in 1 metre squares to prevent cracking. Bales of wool were used to soak up some of the water in order to lay the foundation.

Timber poles were used as scaffolding and wire or rope lashings were used to hold them together. Lime mortar, horse hair and oxen blood were used to bond the bricks of limestone together.

COST

The estimated cost of the building was £2,743. It is important to remember that £1 in the 19th century corresponds to about £300 in today's money. So in today's money terms the total cost of the church, including inflation could reach £1,000,000 (1 million) if not more.

Most of the money had to be collected from outside the parish - from all parts of Ireland, from England, Scotland, the United States and Canada.

As there was a lot of poverty in the west of Ireland, especially at that time, Canon Tighe travelled widely in an effort to collect funds.

CONTRACT

Division 1: 1 portion, excavation, masonry, cut stone work - £1,515; Stone arches, £100; Portion of tower, £260; Mr. Barker, £1,683 - 10 - 0 (withdrawal); Balance, £191 - 10 - 0. Arches, clerestory, west rose window, chancel window, a budget of £191 - 10 - 0. 2 Portion, roof, sacristy, porch, slates, lime, sand, barging - £50. Portion 1 plus portion 2 equals £1,925.

Division 11: Roofing, slating - £868.

During his campaign to raise funds for the church, Canon Tighe had many letters published in the Sligo Champion of the time acknowledging money received and reporting on the progress of the building. One of these dated 5th July, 1860 reads as follows:-
Dear Sir,

Availing myself of your usual kindness, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of £1 from Mr. Pat Kean, merchant, New York, as his second subscription towards the funds I am collecting to build our new church in Ballymote.

BALLYMOTE CHURCH

Contd. from page 7

Mr. Kean is a native of this rising town. The building of our beautiful gothic church is progressing most favourably. The staff of mechanics and labourers is now so large that it will take over £40 a week to pay them, but I hope that we will be able to push on with the work and leave the walls in a good way before the winter overtakes us.

Dr. Tighe, P.P.

In another edition of the paper he acknowledged receipt of £21 - 4 - 0 from Austin Mullarkey, Augusta, Georgia, which was a hugh sum by any standards.

In the Sligo Champion of June 29th, 1861, the following letter from Mr. G. Goldie, architect for the new church and written to Fr. Tighe was published.

Dear Canon Tighe,

I have the honour to report to yourself and your Committee upon the state of your new church. I have gone most carefully over all the work this day am happy to record my general satisfaction with the manner in which Mr. Barker (our contractor) has carried out my plans and specifications to the present time. The unfortunate strike of the masons, for which Mr. Barker is in no ways answerable, has thrown back the progress of the works, but I have urged upon him the importance of pushing on during the fine weather and so make up for lost time as much as possible. The first division of the contract is now approaching completion. It was to include excavation, masonry and cut-stone work and to cost £1,515. To this amount is added, by your desire and instructions, stone arches for £100 and a portion of the tower for £260 making in all £1,875. Of this Mr. Barker has drawn £1,683 - 10 - 0, leaving a balance of £191 - 10 - 0 to complete the arches, clerestory, west rose window and chancel window and arch.

But to this balance may be added the value of the roof, the sacristy and porch, slates, lime, sand, barging etc., on the ground which may be estimated at £50 and which belong to the second portion of the contract, so that you have a sum, or an equivalent, for £241 - 10 - 0 to complete the first portion of the contract the value of which is about £199.

The important point now to be decided and that as speedy as possible is that carrying on the second portion of the contract, namely, roofing and slating to which was apportioned the sum of £868 your present chapel is in dangerous and unfit state for divine worship. The walls of the new church if left exposed for the winter will be sure to suffer from wet and wind.

I cannot conclude without expressing the feelings of satisfaction with which I see the manner in which the church is working out and I feel convinced that when completed it will prove an ornament and credit to the county and parish.

G. Goldie, Architect.

In reference to the above letter it is unclear why the stone masons went on strike, but it is most likely to be on account of wages.

Contributions for the roofing of the church soon began to come in to Canon Tighe after the publication of this letter. These were acknowledged in later editions of the Sligo Champion, for example, the munificent sum of £25 - 5 - 0 from Mr. Charles Kerins, Saint Catherines, Canada West, America. A list of U.S. contributors gave in all \$122.

Canon Tighe travelled north to collect funds and expressed his gratitude to the people for their generosity.

Collecting and begging was not the only way money was got for the new church. In 1862 a raffle was held in the old church. Tickets were one shilling each and the prizes included a gold watch and chain, a silver watch and a number of other wide and varied prizes.

Shown below is a copy of one of the tickets which is preserved in the parish records.

With winter fast approaching and the need for the roofing of the church, Canon Tighe got a welcome surprise.

John Smith of Smigh & Knight, Railway contractors, Sligo, offered to convey all the timber and slates required for the roofing free of charge. Many of those employed on the construction of the railway to Sligo contributed on a regular basis to the church fund.

OFFICIAL OPENING & DEDICATION

By September, 1864, work on the new church had advanced sufficiently for its solemn dedication and official opening on Sunday, 4th September.

Mass was held to mark the occasion and was dedicated to the worship of the Most High by the Rev. Dr. Durcan, Lord Bishop of Achonry.

No. 1951 NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH AT BALLYMOTE.

A GRAND DRAWING,

Towards Completing the NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH at BALLYMOTE, will be held in the OLD CHAPEL OF BALLYMOTE

On Tuesday, the 25th of March next, and following Day,

FOR A VERY HANDSOME

GOLD WATCH AND CHAIN,

A SILVER WATCH,

BUTLER'S LIVES OF THE SAINTS,

A ONE POUND NOTE, MOORE'S MELODIES,

And a Number of other Valuable Prizes.

TICKETS.....

ONE SHILLING EACH:

To be had of the Very Rev. D. Tighe, P.P.; Rev. J. BARRETT, C.C.; JOHN G. REYNOLDS, Esq., Solicitor; the Principal Inhabitants of Ballymote; at the Sligo Champion Office; or from

JOHN E. TIGHE, } Secretaries.
DANIEL MILMOE, }

The Freemans Journal of the following day commented that the church which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and her Immaculate Conception, was one

of the 'most spacious, most substantial and at the same time one of the handsomest temples of catholic worship to be found in the country districts of Ireland.'

Rev. Bro. JOHN HANNON

Rev. Bro. John Hannon, who had been Principal of the Roscommon C.B.S., for the past six years, has been appointed Manager of the new £4.5 m. school for deaf children, run by the C.B.S. in Cabra. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hannon, Keenaghan, Ballymote, he will take up his new post in August. Brother Hannon is a member of a family of five, four boys and one girl. Educated at Ballymote N.S. and St. Joseph's, Baldoyle, he qualified as a Primary teacher in the early sixties and was finally professed as a member of the community in 1965. In that year, he also graduated from U.C.D., as a teacher for the deaf. Over the past two decades he has had considerable teaching and managerial experience in C.B.S. schools throughout this country and was also attached to the C.B.S. in Zambia for a period. His teaching post in C.B.S. schools in that period included the O'Connell Schools, Colaiste Mhuire, Parnell Square, St. Mary's, Drogheda; Tullamore C.B.S. and Tuam. C.B.S. While Superior of the Roscommon Community, Brother Hannon had a major role to play in the C.B.S. Golden Jubilee celebrations in Roscommon. He also directed the school extension building project which is currently in its third phase and took a great interest in the performance of the gaelic teams of the college.

BALLYMOTE



UNION OF BUNNINADDEN LEWIS SURVEY 1837

Cloonoghill a parish in the barony of Corran, County of Sligo and province of Connaught; 3 and a half miles W.S.W. from Ballymote containing 2241 inhabitants.

This place was formerly called Cloonymeaghan, and was the seat of a Dominican monastery founded about 1488 by the sept of McDonagh which afterwards became a call to that of Sligo; at the dissolution its possessions were granted to Richard Kyndelinshe.

The parish contains 4551 statute acres as apploted under the tithe Act; the land is generally good and there is not much bog. Limestone quarries are worked. Fairs are held at Bunenadden, Jan. 14th, Jun 2nd, August 6th, Sept. 10th, Oct. 7th and November 29th.

The principal seats are Ballinaglogh the residence of J. West Esq. Greyfort, J. Rea Egg, Drumraine, J. Taaffe Esq, Old Rock, J. Trumble Esq.

It is a rectory and vicarage in the diocese of Achonry. The rectory is partly impropriate in J. Baker Esand partly with the vicarage forms a portion of the union and corps of the deanery of Achonry. The tithes amount to £170 per annum of which £90 is payable to the impropriator and the remainder to the Dean.

In the Roman Catholic division it is the head of a union or district called Buninaden comprising Cloonoghill, Kilturna and Kilshalvy containing two chapels of which that of Cloonaghill at Buninaden is a large slated building. There is a school at Ballynaglogh under the patronage of John West Esq. in which are about 110 children; there is also a hedge school of about 50 children.

On the banks of the Owenmore river are the remains of an old castle built by the McDonaghs. On the lands of Churchhill is a large cromlech, consisting of one horizontal and three upright stones also the ruins of an old church.

BALLYMOTE SHOW



Presentation of Paddy Brady Perpetual Cup by Mr. Bill McGovern

BALLYMOTE CHURCH

It goes on to say that the style of architecture is pure gothic, the arches and pillars separating the nave from the aisles are remarkably elegant in outline and the doors and windows also give evidence of their graceful design.

So it can be seen from this report, full of praise for the new church, that it was and still is one of great splendour and beautiful architectural design. Great credit must go to the Most Rev. Canon Tighe for his efforts in the building of the new church.

In the same report the paper had this to say about Canon Tighe. 'To the able, indefatigable and sincerely beloved pastor of the parish the very Rev. Canon Tighe, the highest credit is due for his great and unwearied efforts. His admirable and devoted people are worthy of a share in the honour, for they have zealously co-operated with their pastor in all his labours.'

After the death of Rev. Canon Tighe in 1876 an altar was erected to pay respect to his memory by his two brothers and the inscription reads as follows:

Pray for the very Rev. Denis Canon Tighe P.P. of Ballymote by whose zealous exertions this church was built and to whose respected memory this altar has been erected by his devoted brothers Edward and James Tighe. Died 20th Dec. 1876. May he rest in peace.

He had served in the Parish for 23 years (1853 - 1876).

It is interesting to note that the Bishop of the diocese, at that time, Rev. Dr. Durcan, served in Ballymote parish from 1823 to 1832 (9 years) and when he arrived first, some of the parishioners resented his coming to Ballymote and they planned an attack on his life one day while he was dining with Fr. Fitzmaurice of Keash. They changed their minds at the last minute, however, and spared his life.

He later became one of the greatest bishops of the diocese and in 1864 he consecrated the new church.

WAGES

In one of his letters, Canon Tighe stated it took £40 to say all Tighe stated it took £40 to pay all the workers working on the site.



The average wage in the late 19th Century was about 6 shillings (72d) or a shilling a day (12d) maximum.

It is important to note that there was 240d in the Punt.

However, the stonemasons and the carpenters would have earned a better pay than the labourers.

The following table shows the wage converted into today's money terms and it also shows the percentage increase in the wage compared to today's counterpart of the stonemasons, the brick/block layer.

1880's	1980's
£1 equals	£300
240d equals	£300
24d equals	£30
4d equals	£5

12d equals £15

72d equals £90

1880's stone mason £90 (today's money) equals 1980's brick layer £200.

So as can be seen from the above table the wage has increased by over 60%.

But it is very important to note that the hours were for longer in the 1800's than present day time.

In the 19th Century a day's work consisted of 12 hours a day for 6 days a week. Compared to present day times where it is an 8 hour day, 5 days a week.

Then: 12 hours a day 6 days a week. Now: 8 hours a day 5 days a week. Then: 72 hours a week. Now: 40 hours a week. Then: 1d an hour (max). Now: £5 an hour (min). Note an 1880 worker worked almost twice the hours of his/her present day counterpart.



Tara-Mairéad Trust Fund

Tara and Mairéad McHugh, Knocknahur, Sligo, are two young sisters who suffer from an unidentified condition which causes a lack of balance and impairs the movement of their limbs.

Tara, aged 6 cannot walk unaided and has difficulties with her speech. Mairéad, aged 13 months suffers from the same condition.

Now there is hope for these children. A Fund has been set up to send them to the world famous Peto Institute in Hungary. Treatment there involves intense sessions of therapy lasting for periods of several weeks each time.

The Tara-Mairéad Trust Fund hopes to raise the necessary finance for both sisters. Please give as generously as you can, to the Tara-Mairéad Trust Fund.

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CONNAUGHT RANGERS MUTINY

*'And How can man die better,
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of their fathers.
And the temples of his Gods'*

Sentiments such as these must have been the thought-patterns of that gallant band of Irishmen, who spurned the might of the British Empire and laid down arms on a barrack square in India during the Anglo-Irish War of 1919-21. They were members of the Connaught Rangers Regiment in the service of His Majesty the King.

Their action was in protest against British atrocities in Ireland, and as a gesture of their identification with Ireland's fight for freedom. The incident became known as the Connacht Ranger's mutiny, and the penalty for mutiny was death. Their leader, James Daly from Tyrellspass, Co. Westmeath, was executed, and two others were killed in an attack on a magazine. The rest were sentenced to various terms of penal servitude.

The survivors, be it known, were no less heroic than their leader who faced the firing squad, or their comrades who died in action. They knew the penalty that would follow as a corollary to the ultimate in military indiscipline - de facto they, too, made the supreme sacrifice in everything but acutality. They were denied this consummation when the British, fearful of world opinion, spared their lives.

Following the general amnesty brought about by the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty they were released from prison and returned to Ireland at the height of the Civil War. Because of the strict censorship in English prisons this was their first intimation that there was real fighting here. They could not understand why Irishmen should be fighting fellow Irishmen. Was it for this they laid down arms neath the blazing sun of an Indian sky? Was it for this that Daly, Smith and Sears died? They became sad, cynical and disillusioned men. Figuratively 'they folded their tents and stole silently away,' to become Ireland's forgotten heroes.

True the remains of Daly and his comrades were brought from India to rest amongst their own, but their fellow mutineers - the survivors of the torrid incarceration, and incidental cruelties of Jullunder and Solan - apart from a pittance-pension granted to them in the late thirties, went to their graves 'unwept, unhonoured and unsung' by an indifferent and unthinking Ireland.

Among those soldier patriots who put their lives on the line was Private Jimmy Gorman from Tubbercurry, who was the only Sligo man to be identified with this heroic episode. Jimmy came back to his native town, where he married, raised a family and became an active and industrious member of the community.

He donned the khakai again in the fifties when he was 'enlisted' by the Phoenix Players to play the part of a British Tommy in Journey's End. His characterisation was his swan song to things martial.

And journeys end came finally for Jimmy in the early hours of New Year's morning in 1978. In Sligo surgical hospital he heard the Reveille that heralded the dawn of an eternal day. Aged eighty one he went to join The Man from Tyrellspass, to join Sears and Smith and all those other members of that gallant conspiracy, whose heroism captured world imagination and embarrassed an empire.

by John Kilcoyne

BOYHOOD MEMORIES

*I oft times think of boyhood days,
Before you said Goodbye,
In all this world could there be found
Such pals as you and I?
We shared each others secrets then,
In trouble side by side,
We faced each boyhood tragedy,
We laughed and dreamed or sighed,
As to each mood our heartstrings played,
In happiness or care,
Then spoke we oft the magic of
The circus, race and fair.
And short the time since you were here,
And romance led us on,
Though many Summers saw we since,
And many Winters gone,
When on one far Autumnal night
We said Goodbye, and fell
To sadness neath the lonely moon -
The moon that knew us well,
How oft in many a ghosted hour,
(Oh carefree happy pair)
Upon a bridge that knew us best,
We built our castles there.
But though full many moons have gone
Since far thy lot was cast,
Remembered still thou art, and will,
Companion of the past,
Oft in that little chapel where
Two rascals feigned a prayer,
In quietude I speak you name
To Him who's always there,
I ask God's blessing on a boy,
Who sailed across the sea,
Who left such impress on my heart,
And memories to me.*

J. Kilcoyne

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THE PUB WITH A DIFFERENCE

GLENVEAGH

A new national park. An oasis in the bleak but majestic Donegal mountains - so it can best be described.

The estate was formed from a number of small holdings from which the tenants were evicted. It is a sort of poetic justice that the place, now beautifully developed, has come back to the people to be enjoyed and to provide employment. The park which covers a wide area of mountain bog and woodland is centred around the partly restored castle and the lovely Glenveagh lake. It has a modern and very efficient reception centre with a picnic area, parking facilities and an up to date restaurant. The gardens are of special interest, sheltered as they are by pine and other native trees. Delicate and beautiful plants and flowers from Chile, Madeira, Tasmania and other warm parts of the world survive and flourish there.

The mountain area is fenced and is the summer haunt of a large herd of native red deer as well as foxes, badgers, hares and other creatures of the wild. This part of the park could be a challenge to the adventurous but suitable mountaineering equipment would be needed and all necessary precautions should be taken to avoid accidents.

Glenveagh National Park was the venue of one of Ballymote Heritage Group's outings last season. It certainly would be worth a second visit.

YOUNG IRELAND MOVEMENT

A message of hope - we look to our youth. If they can see the silver lining of the dark cloud of almost despair that overshadows our country at present we should take courage and help them in their efforts.

They say 'Buy Irish.' Let us do just that. Supermarkets are tempting. They offer attractive assortments of goods of mixed origin. It is up to us, the buyers, to see that what we chose is Irish made, or grown or its production is giving employment to our people.



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BALLYMOTE



Ulster Bank

MANAGER: Kieran McGowan
ASST. MANAGER: Nobby McGuirk

Three years ago a group of young people in a Dublin school aided and inspired by a patriotic teacher decided that they themselves could and should help in a drive to make people aware of their power to help and their obligation to do so. Their efforts have been amazingly successful. Now the organisation has spread all over the country and is still developing.

In buying Irish made goods there is something that needs to be watched - standards. This is an area that needs attention and should be monitored. With the advent of Free Trade sharp competition will be inescapable and from now on the target of Irish manufacturers must be - Perfection. Also there is scope and need for new ideas in production, in presentation and in selling, and we can all help in these fields.

Ballymote Horse Show

Ten Years On

by Alison Healy

June 12th marked a decade of horse shows in Ballymote since the revival of the show all those years ago. Ballymote Junior Chamber organised the first of these shows with the help of local volunteers who set up a committee which has grown and strengthened immensely. Corran Park has been the venue for each show and has proved to be one of the best showgrounds in the west in terms of space and parking organisation. Who would have guessed that the horse show would become so successful in such a short space of time?

The recent horse show was an unqualified success, the excellent weather playing an important part, as the sun shone continuously throughout the day. Once more, entries were up in all classes with the record number of twenty broodmares in Class 1. The horse show secured six important qualifiers and therefore competitors travelled from all over the country to take part in these classes with a large contingent from Northern Ireland.

One of the best factors about this show is the variety. If horses do not interest you, perhaps the dog show will, or the cat classes or Best Dressed Lady Contest or Little Miss Ballymote and Bonny Baby Contests. The dog show is now a very well established feature and this year it drew an enormous crowd of spectators in the afternoon. The Best Dressed Lady Competition is in its second year and is proving to be an interesting side attraction. Mrs. Henry from Keash won the title this year, gaining £50 for her eye-catching black and white creation. For younger fashion pioneers, the Little Miss Ballymote event was an exciting contest, the prize going to Little Miss Feeney from Culfadda. Lots of oohs and aahs could be heard from the Bonny Baby area and the babies stole the show by cooing their way into the prizelist. To add to the family entertainment of the day, local musicians took to the stage and played almost three hours of live Irish music. About twenty musicians played a variety of instruments and some young Irish dancers put on a splendid show of our national dancing. The musicians and dancers drew a large crowd of spectators and proved to be a perfect background to the show jumping. It was a novel attraction and not one common at other horse shows, and the show committee were very grateful to the musicians for their talents.

This year the Show Dance took place in the Castle Hotel and Canadian Express provided the music. Throughout the years, the Show Dance has always received great support from the townspeople and it also gives the show committee a chance to relax and enjoy themselves after the hectic day.

Miss Anne Brennan from Bunninadden was picked from the crowd at the dance as the Ballymote Show Queen '88. The horse show started off ten years ago with the admission of £1 at the gate, and today it is still £1. What a small price to pay for such a varied day of entertainment! The show has grown so much in ten short years, who knows what will happen in the ten years?

Bogs & Bogland

contd. from page 4

As bogs receive most of their minerals from rain water, nutrients needed for plant growth are in short supply. Some plants are carnivorous - the sundew (*Drosera* species) which has spoon-shaped leaves covered in sticky tentacles traps flying insects in the Pools bladderwort (*Utricularia*) traps aquatic animals in tiny bladders which have an explosive trap door.

Our bogs are part of the landscape, fitting into a mosaic of rivers, lakes, eskers, woodlands and ridges.

THE DUTCH EXPERIENCE

Ireland and Holland did have roughly the same area of bog. In the nineteenth century Holland's industries took advantage of their extensive supply of cheap fuel. The cutaway bog was reclaimed and used by the farmers for growing cereals and for horticulture. After the second World War large scale peat-cutting was rapidly consuming the last large areas of bog. In the sixties 66 hectares remained of what had been one immense bog covering 160,000 hectares. Owing to industrial pollution just one species of plant survived there, a yellow flowering one found in Ireland called Sundew.

In 1968 a nature conservation organization headed by Dr. Matthias Schouten, with Government aid, purchased this parcel of bogs as a state nature reserve. Then it was decided there should be a roadway to the bog. The Government sanctioned the purchase of 500 ha (hectares) of cut-away. Drains were made to take the water away so that an entrance road could be constructed.

After one dry summer the water had drained from where the Sundew were growing and they withered and died. So the drains were filled in and in 1970 a peat-dam was constructed around the reserve in order to raise the water table in this mostly dried out bog. Gradually it became clear that the reserve would keep on deteriorating unless an extensive restoration project was initiated. A complex network of peat-dams was constructed all over the cutaway and this work is still in progress creating a marshland around the bog. In the last decade the reserve has been extended to 1,700 hectares through further acquisition of cutaways. The water table in the central part of the reserve has been raised several meters through the restoration project.

The purchase, restoration and staffing involved an expenditure of around a million guilders, spent on a plot of bog incapable of any living growth owing to pollution.

An Old Man's Amazing Story

contd. from page 5

Many of us are familiar with the expression he/she is as thick as a double-ditch. Well therein lies its source of origin. The double-ditch served a twofold purpose, in the fact that it could also be used as a passageway, allowing people to make contact with one place or other.

In 1946 the late James McTiernan, on whose property at Carrowloughlin the double-ditch then stood, split it in the centre and heaped one portion on top of the other, thus making it into one single line fence. The same fate befell most of those old structures. On the opposite side of the road, to the rear of the ruins of what was once the Shaw residence, there still exists, in a fairly good state of preservation, a double-ditch dating back to this period in time.

For the destitute and needy there was the daily trip to the soup kitchens for a scoop of the sacred broth or a measure of yellow gruel. Britain's premier, Sir Robert Peel, had abolished the 1915 Corn Laws which prohibited the importation of cheap grain into the U.K., thus allowing in large quantities of yellow maize. Lord John Russell who succeeded Peel in 1886, stepped up delivery of supplies to the most distressed areas of the country.

At the behest of landlords, Henry Irwin, James Shaw of Ballyfoghy, allowed his boiler house to be used as a soup kitchen. Shaw, like many of the great landowners was at that time, in no great financial circumstances himself; nevertheless whole carcasses mixed with vegetables were placed in a melting pot and turned into soup. A frail looking clientele seated themselves on wooden planks inside the boiler house where they were dealt out noggins of liquid food from what was to be called a 'souper's pot.' This was a circular flat-bottomed metal container with a capacity of about forty gallons. It had a pivot fitted into each side which allowed it to swivel forward, as it was permanently set in a masonry fireplace. The soup or gruel was removed by dipping a scoop with a long handle called a ladle down into the pot. When empty the pot was then tilted forward on its axis and washed out.

A souper's pot, which was used in a soup kitchen at Bunninadden during the famine period is now in the possession of the Gardiner family of Killaville. The late Michael Gardiner purchased it at an auction back in the early years of this century. It is still in a perfect state of preservation.

A noggin was a small staved and looped wooden vessel made in a cooper's workshop. It had one long stave for holding with the hand.

In later years you couldn't offer an Irishman a greater insult than remind him that his ancestors accepted food from a souper's pot. I have heard my late parents say that this slur was frequently cast up when they were boys and girls. Let us remember that the famine in Ireland was not just something that suddenly came about during the harsh winter of '46 - '47. With millions of people on the poverty line, there were several outbreaks of acute hunger during previous years culminating in the monstrous disaster of '46 - '47.

A number of years ago I had a conversation with a priest who was a student in the early years of this century. He told me of a discourse he once had with a man who lived through the famine years. When asked about his experiences the old man curtly replied 'I'll tell you something young man, it was all a bloody famine.'

The pattern of life, especially in rural areas, changed dramatically in the aftermath of the famine. No longer was it deemed feasible to marry at an early age, for to do so was to court disaster. For the eligible young women of the country, men of property became the order of the day, with love and happiness thrown in for good measure. This situation inevitably led to people marrying late in life, and large numbers not bothering to marry at all. An environment was created which brought into being, the matchmaker, the fortune hunter and the bartered bride.

Nowadays, we see the trend being reversed once again with our young people marrying in their late teens and early twenties. Despite its setbacks and misfortunes, the human race has, it would seem, a stubborn method of bouncing back.

TEMPLEHOUSE

David McEllin
November '87.

*As the great houses die and turn to
dust,
extinct the deer herds, the big
beeches, the oaks
brought down by the torch of the
terrorist hand
or ignominiously succumbing to
damp.*

*Templehouse beside the lake lives
on
entrenched upon a strategic mound,
one wing broken now but the main
resisting
the onslaught and ravages of time,
where splendid drawing rooms still
wear the hallmark of grandeur,
and exquisite are and treasures
bedeck the halls,
swords of the Samurai and Zulu
warrior*

*elk and boar heads adorn the walls.
With paintings of eminent
gentlemen and ladies
in uniform and aristocratic fashion
dressed*

*in the regimental colours of the
Irish Guardsman,
worn last at the Somme and Dieppe.*

*On a southern aspect of beech and
oakland
looking sadly out on Ballymote
and Keash*

*on sweeping pastureland where
peacefully grazes
pedigree Suffolk and Galway lamb.*

*Staring now from protruding
windows,
eyes dimming with the passing of
years,*

*a grey facade still bears character
and elegance,
the steadfastness of the face,
a mask.*

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