



The Bridge

**COAGH AND DISTRICT
LOCAL HISTORY GROUP**

VOLUME 1 :: 2000

£3.00



FOREWORD

As a member of one of the oldest families still living in Coagh, I have been asked to write a foreword to this publication, which has just come to hand. I would like to give a warm welcome to this remarkable and well researched volume of the local history of Coagh, and to pay a well deserved tribute to all those who put so much painstaking effort into compiling this valuable work. It is invaluable in that it puts on record such a wide spectrum of interesting historic events, which will bring back so many memories to the older residents of the town, and will give a sense of belonging and community solidarity to the younger generation. It is a most enjoyable and fascinating read. I wish it every success.

Anonymous.



EDITORIAL

In this, our first issue, we are pleased to welcome all our readers to a variety of local history, cures, superstitions and handy hints.

Our intentions are that this will be followed by more volumes and anyone who has any old photographs, interesting stories or memorabilia to lend, please inform any member of the history group as we would appreciate any contributions for future issues.

We would like to encourage anyone interested in local history to join our group. The meetings, held in The River Room, Hanover House, will re-commence in October 2000

We hope that you will find this first volume both enjoyable and interesting.

It is not always possible to verify dates and facts lost in the mists of time so it is hoped that any short comings will be overlooked.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors, those who wrote articles, lent photographs or who helped in any way. It was very much appreciated.

Thank You.

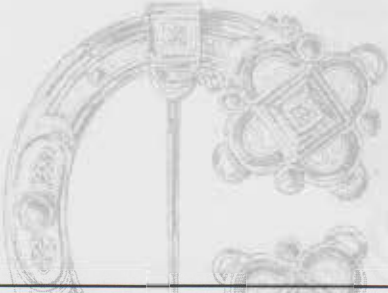
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The Bridge

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The place name **COAGH**, comes from Gaelic, meaning “in the hollow”

To explain the history of Coagh, we must go back to the Plantation of Ulster 1609-1610. In 1609, William Conyngham, a Scottish Presbyterian, settled in Armagh, where he was a commissioner for Co. Armagh. During the 1641 Rising, although resident in Armagh, he owned extensive tracts of land in counties Londonderry and Tyrone. In 1658 he added to his estate a further 350 acres, which he acquired from Henry Finch, Alderman of Derry, this was at Ballindrum.

Six years later, William and his father bought the Sixtowns, (Coagh, Ballynargin, Drumconvis, Mullagherony, Urbal and Unaghamore) from Anne Boyse and her son Nathaniel. That is how Coagh came into the possession of the Conyngham family of Springhill. In 1728, Colonel George Conyngham had the village laid out pretty much as we know it today. At the same time he obtained a charter to hold a toll free market every Friday as well as four annual fairs. As early as 1680, there were mills here. These mills featured in the marriage settlement of William Conyngham and Miss Anna Upton, of Castle Norton, Co. Antrim



LOST STREET NAMES

We know from the Ordinance Survey of 1840 that there existed 'Catherine St., Anne St., and Great Georges St. Unfortunately these names have disappeared with the passage of time and we would love to be able to trace them. From the photograph we can see that the present Main St. was formerly Great Georges Street.

At that time Coagh was obviously an industrious village with many varying professions and trades. (This can be studied from the following OS copy).

We would be interested in the views of anyone as to the whereabouts of 'Lost streets'.

Observer: John Hanna. June 4th 1840.

COAGH

PARISH OF

Name and Letter of Street	Name	Profession Trade or Business	Sex	Age
1	William Robinson	Woolen Draper	M	1/2
2	William Downing	Draper and Farmer	M	1/2
3	Walter Duff	Hotel Keeper	M	1/2
4	[] George	Publican	M	1/2
5	Sarah Ann McClelland	Dressmaker	M	1/2
6	John Thompson	Farmer and Wheel-wright	M	1/2
7	Maria Thompson	Dressmaker	M	1/2
8	Anna Thompson	Ditto	M	1/2
9	William John Howard	Farmer and Publican	M	1/2
10	Jas. Gibson	Woolen Draper	M	1/2
11	William []	Lodging House Keeper	M	1/2
12	John Knightly	Publican	M	1/2
13	William McCormick	Physician and Surgeon	M	1/2
14	Jas. Ekin	Farmer and Grocer	M	1/2
15	Jas. McEntire	Farmer and Publican	M	1/2
16	John Ekin	Farmer and Grocer	M	1/2
17	Eliza Hamilton	Lives Private	M	1/2

HANOVER ST. A (Cont.)

Townland Number	Name	Profession Trade or Business
18	Jas. Keys	Grocer
19	Daniel Campbell	Lives Private
20	Ann Brown	Ditto
21	William Vance	Lives Private
22	Samuel Vance	Constable
23	Henry Kane	Sub-Constable
24	William Pitt	Ditto
25	Jas. Johnson	Ditto
26	John Magee	Farmer
27	Saly Hamilton	Dressmaker
28	Joseph Galway	Butcher
29	William Vance	Blue Dier
30	Thomas Hardy	Glazer and Painter
31	Jas. Sampson	Surgeon
32	June Sampson	Haberdasher
33	Alecia Newton	Lady
34	John Fields	Land Steward
35	Duncan Storey	Miller
35	Nancy Storey	Keeper of Post Office

PARISH OF TAMLAGHT — TOWN OF COAGH

Number	Name	Profession Trade or Business	Grade	Total Family		Aid From Family		Other Assessments				Livesrent	Street	
				Male	Female	Male	Female	In Same House	Female	In Same House	Female			
1	John McClain	Shoemaker	M	1/2	1/2	2	A							
2	Edmond Bell	Grocer	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
3	Jas. Alexander	Grocer	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
4	Jas. Graham	Carpenter	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
5	William Cowden	Shoemaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
6	Robert Cowan	Grocer	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
7	Robert Blackwood	Carpenter	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
8	Margret Blackwood	Bookbinder	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
9	[] Walker	Brooker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
10	Mathu Conlin	Sailor	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
11	William Ferguson	Publican	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
12	William Wilson	Lives Private	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
13	Duncan Higans	Shoemaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
14	Rachel Higans	Shoemaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
15	Catherin Higans	Shoemaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
16	Margret Kenedy	Lady	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
17	Jas. Dunseith	Sailor	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
18	William Simpson	Butcher	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
19	Dan O'Hara	Wagon	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
20	[] O'Hara	Labourer	L	1/2	1/2	1	A							
21	Walter Young	Schoolmaster	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
22	Jas. Faulkner	Tailor	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
23	Betty Hamilton	Lodging House Keeper	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
24	Eliza Malon	Dressmaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
25	Elen Faulkner	Dressmaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
26	Jas. Kane	Dressmaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
27	William Ruddle	Blacksmith	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
28	Alex Simons	Wheelwright	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
29	John Marow	Labourer	L	1/2	1/2	1	A							
30	Margret Campbell	Spinner	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
31	Alex Cowden	Shoemaker	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
32	John O'Neill	Blackler	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
33	Saly Eldertin	Spinner	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
34	William Eldertin	Weaver	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
35	Peter McLaughlin	Nailor	M	1/2	1/2	1	A							
36	Fill McGarvey	Labourer	L	1/2	1/2	1	A							

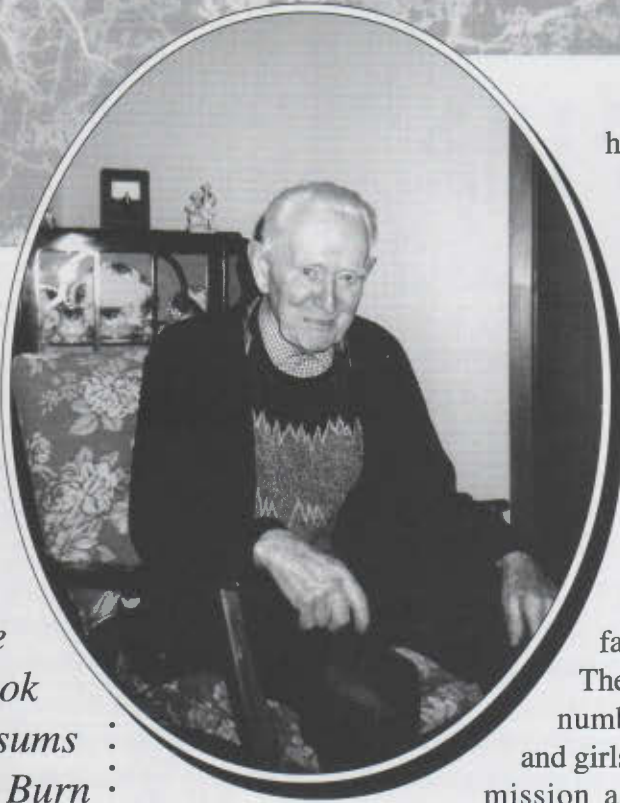
Great George's Street, Coagh.



Some memories of a hired servant boy

by Joseph Morgan

R.I.P (Died 7th. March 2000)



My name is Joseph Morgan-better known to my friends as Joey. I was born in June 1918, in Killybearn, about two miles from Cookstown, the eldest of a family of eight children. At first I attended the small Drapersfield School, and those of you who know Alice Taylor's book 'To School Through The Fields', it sums up my situation - over the Killybearn Burn and through the fields. My infant school years were spent here until the family moved to Ballyloughan.

Ours was a happy home, with my father Charlie and my mother Jane. It was a house full of music; so neighbours always told me. I know my father and his brothers were known far and wide as fine traditional ballad singers, and my mother, whose maiden name was Carson, had also a fine singing voice.

I attended Drummullan School, as did my brothers and sisters. Perhaps the older ones attended irregularly as my mother had to supplement my father's wages by working in Cloghue Factory, a linen Factory in the neighbourhood. Like many of my fellow pupils at the time, we had to explain our absences from school with, 'I was keeping house.!' In modern terms it would be called babysitting.

The teacher told me I was an able pupil, but that was before the days of the Eleven Plus, and there was no such thing as Secondary Education for myself or my peers. My future lay in being a hired hand to a farmer in the neighbouring area.

So let me give you a glimpse into the life of Joe the

hired boy. It is hard to believe that I had never been to Cookstown before, until that Hiring Fair Day in May. Here I was with my father, standing at Coagh Street Corner, ready to face the big world.

There were quite a number of us- boys and girls all on the same mission as myself. The farmers walked up and down past us surveying us like cattle and summing up our potential as strong farm labourers. I was fourteen years of age.

Well, my turn came. I was hired to a big farmer for the princely sum of £6 for six months. I accepted the shilling or 'eerle' to seal the contract and the farmer, my father and I went off to 'celebrate' in Turner's Pub- they with beer and myself with ginger-ale.

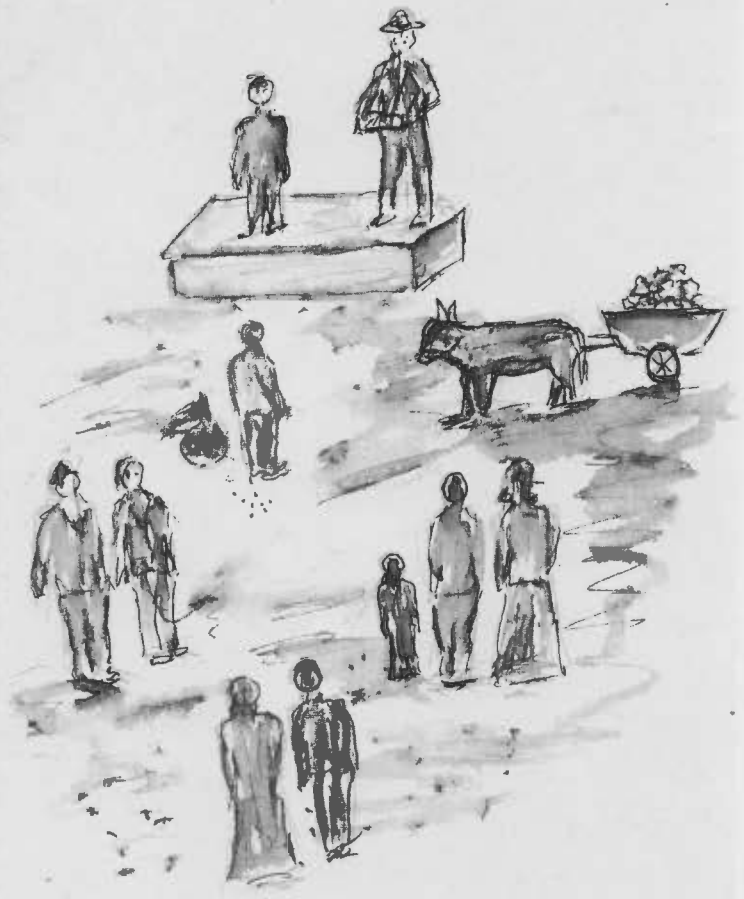
I hadn't to start until the next morning and my mother took time off from the factory, and with some concern and sadness, left me in the farmer's yard, where he was waiting. He addressed me as Charlie, my father's name, (In hindsight I realise he didn't even take the trouble to know my own name.) and sent me off to feed the bull. Now I had seen bulls before in fields, but never in a shed and here was I facing this enormous beast and feeling absolutely terrified. To make matters worse, the feeding trough was at the extreme end of the shed. I had two options viz., feed the bull or get the sack and face, I thought, my father's anger. I chose the first. This was my 'baptism' as a hired servant boy!

My bed was in an outhouse. I shared it with two other hired hands. Our small house in Ballyloughan wasn't palatial but I never dreamed that I would sleep in much the same conditions as the farm animals. He was an

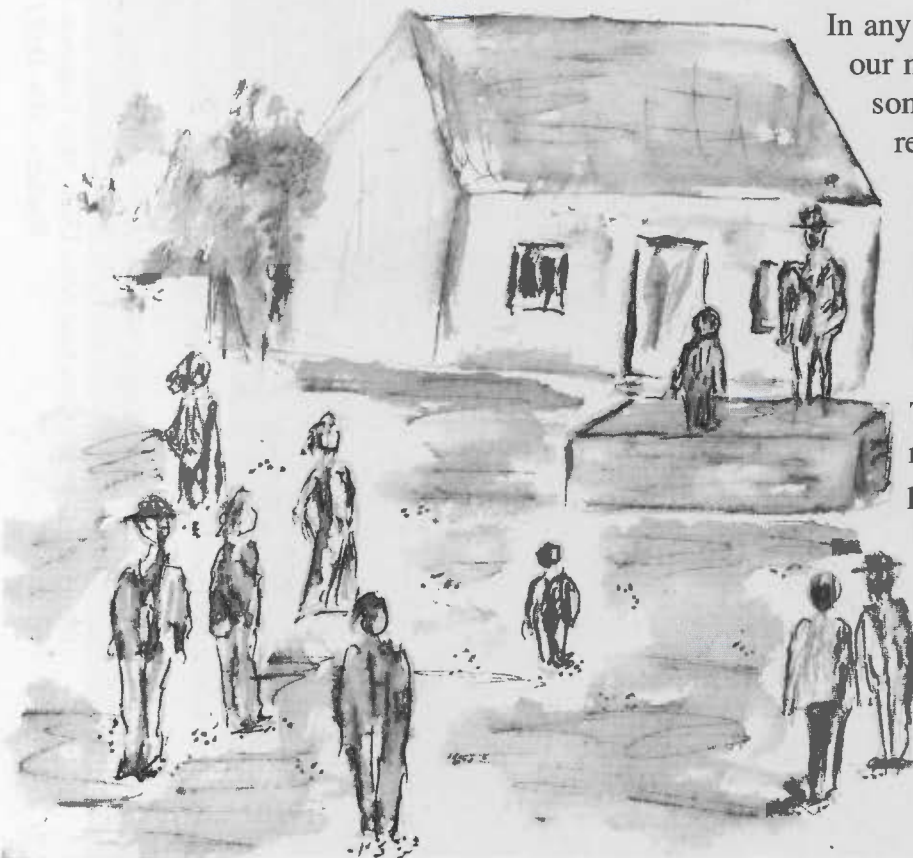
uncaring boss, but I can only speak with praise of the lady of the house.

My second encounter was with a rather extensive farmer. He had lots of farm machinery, quite sophisticated for the thirties. The wages were just the same- £6. for six months. If you know the song, "To Be a Farmer's Boy" you will have an idea what was expected of us. There was absolutely no job that we weren't expected to do. I remember being bogged down in the meadow with a large cart- horse and machinery, on my own, a lad of sixteen. Work started at 6a.m., and we had breakfast of porridge at 8 a.m. For a healthy fellow those two hours were a long wait. It is well I remembered his sarcasm when one time in my haste to eat, I omitted to do one of my chores.

I mentioned porridge for breakfast- this was haute cuisine compared with Farmer No.3's menu. Have you ever heard of 'cookeen'? Well I hope never to see or hear of it again. Breakfast consisted of an egg fried in this gooey fat called Cookeen and eaten with a piece of hard bread. Now his meanness didn't stop here, and by the way, he was a very wealthy farmer. During my six months stay I had to borrow 2d from him - 1d for the chapel and 1d for boot-laces. He gave over the money with surprising alacrity. At the end of the term I handed over my pay-packet, unopened, to my father who exclaimed,



"You're not worth much if you're not worth tuppence!" He, the farmer had deducted the two pence from my wages, which were £10 at that time for six months.



In any of the fore mentioned houses we never ate our meals with the family but were relegated to some inferior part of the house. However I remember one fine Lissan family who treated us as equals and made one feel a person of worth; unlike one of the previous farmers, who when referring to me, said, "I would be better with a dog, he would eat less!"

These are only a few of the episodes during my career as a servant boy. I have no particular fond memories of this period of my life, but at the same time I have no regrets either. They are all part of life's experience and I made some good friends on the way. Shortly after, I went into the building trade and spent many happy years there- but that's a story for another time.



Coagh National School - Taken in 1911

Back Row L-R: Billy Duff ___ James Ferguson, Sandy Ferguson, Fred Dickson, William George McCullagh, Jack Howard, Tom Howard, Samuel Harkness, James McKnight, Henry McCorkell and Helen Dickson.
 Middle Row L-R: Mr. Hutchinson ___ Maggie Mitchell, Annie Dunn, Mary Collins, Selina McKnight, Bella McKnight, Anne Kieilty, Mary Knipe, Fanny Cooper, Georgia Bell, Arabella McCullagh.
 Front Row L-R: Jim Crawford, Miss Dunn, May Ferguson, Maud Bell, Frances Bell ___ Sily McGuckin, Sousia Green, Eva Duff, Meta Greer
 Teachers : Mrs. Duff (Was Grandmother of Gordon Duff), Master Greer

WHITE STRAW HATS.—To clean a white straw hat—Take the juice of a lemon, add sulphur until it is the consistency of cream, brush well with a stiff brush, rinse in cold water. This treatment makes a white straw hat as fresh as new.

C. Fleming, Kimberley Cottage, Ballinderry.

WASHING CHINTZ AND CRETONNES.—A simple and satisfactory way for washing chintz and cretonnes— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. rice, which should be boiled till perfectly soft and easily pressed through a cloth. Add cold water—rain water if possible—to about 4 quarts. Then divide this in two parts after having stirred it up. Take 1 quart, and leave about 3 in which to wash the chair covers, etc. When these are thoroughly washed, then rinse them in the second rice and water, to which has been added at least another quart or more of water (sufficient to rinse in), then wring out and roll up in cloths, and after a few hours iron with very hot irons, first on the wrong side, then again very lightly on the right. In some cases where the cloth is very soiled, it may be necessary to use a little soap. The quantity of rice to be used must depend on the number of articles to be washed. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. should be quite sufficient for about $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen chair-covers and a couple of arm-chairs. If a gloss is desired, some gum arabic can be dissolved and mixed in the rinsing portion.

Mrs. Travers-Smith, 4 Ardeevin Terrace, Dalkey.

These young people from Coagh National School would probably have found the Cookery Book and Handy Hints which was published by Ballinderry Church in 1912 very useful.

THE BALLINDERRY BOOK

COOKERY RECIPES

AND HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Ballinderry Church Bazaar

AUGUST, 1912.

DUBLIN.
PRINTED AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS,
BY PONSONBY & GIBBS.

1912.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS

To keep meat fresh in hot weather, cover it over with bran and hang it in a current of air.
If tainted by accident, meat should be washed quickly in water, to which either 2 tablespoonfuls of vinegar or a teaspoonful of Condy's Fluid has been added.

E. Carté, Atlanta, Dalkey.

Raw potato cut into small dice and well shaken in glass bottles or vases will bring up a clear glass.

Miss Cook, Fernhill, Dalkey.

An old blanket, tied on the diningroom table, does quite as well as a piece of felt under the linen cloth and is much easier to wash.

Mrs. Fisher, Blackrock.

FOR SCRUBBING TABLES AND ALL WOOD.— $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. soft soap, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sand, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. lime. Mix all to a smooth paste and use a piece of little on brush, and wash off with fresh water a few minutes.

Mrs. Nash, Drogheda.

When baking cakes, place a dripping tin half filled with cold water on the shelf underneath the one on which you have put the cakes. It is an excellent plan and prevents cakes from getting the slightest scorch, and is the means of them baking beautifully. If this shelf is required for cooking, a jam jar can be placed at the bottom of the oven, and the tin with water on top of it.

A. L. Challinor, Whippendell Road, Wauford.

When frying sausages, if first dipped in semolina or ground rice, they will not split.

Mrs. Tarleton, The Rectory, Castledawson, Co. Derry.

To boil an egg properly place it in boiling water for three minutes. If you require the egg hard, boil it as long as you like.

D. F.

NEEDLE-WORK IN HOT WEATHER.—To prevent your hot fingers soiling white or dainty work, powder your hands with prepared fuller's earth or any other white powder.

Mrs. Briand, Red Gables, Lyss, Hants.

TO CLEAN LIGHT FURS.—Heat a few teaspoonfuls of flour in the oven, and rub with the fingers well into the fur. Then shake out in the open air. The fresh appearance of the fur will surprise you.

Amy Briand, Lyss, Hants.

TO FLAVOUR POTATO SALAD.—Soak a little chopped raw onion in the vinegar for a few hours, and then proceed as usual. This gives a very slight and pleasant flavour to a salad when you are not able to use chives.

Mrs. Burkitt, Vico, Dalkey.

TO USE UP STALE SANDWICHES.—Fry them in batter.

L. Frazer, St. Albans, Dalkey.

Put a damp cloth underneath the sugared paper when turning out a jam roll. It rolls better.

E. M'Ferran, 92 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

STRAW HATS.—An excellent way to clean straw hats. Wash with salts of sorrel dissolved in boiling water. Apply with a brush rubbed away from you.

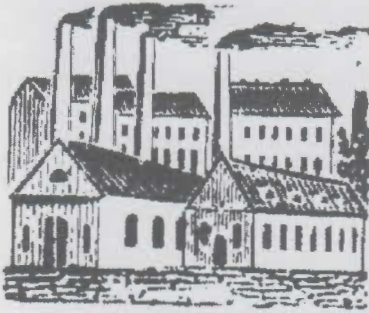
Mrs. Claude Wilson, Dulargy, Ravensdale.

WASHING BLANKETS.—Cut up say half a cake of soap, pour boiling water on to dissolve it; add two tablespoonfuls of powdered borax, then put enough cold water to make it a little more than warm. Put blankets to soak in it overnight, then rinse in clean warm water, and again in blue water. Hang out to dry in the sun (without wringing). They will not shrink this way, and will be beautifully soft and fluffy.

Cashmere dresses or other woollen goods may be done this way with the best results. An hour or so is long enough to soak them.

E. King, Raphoe, Co. Donegal.

Coagh and the Factories



The Duff family, for over three generations, gave employment to many local people by developing a factory to produce linen. They also employed many other people in their corn mill, saw mill, spade mill, shop and farm. Back in time horses and carts were used and these had to be maintained as did all the mills.

The Duffs came from Scotland in 1762 and they settled on a farm on the main road to Cookstown, where Jim Howard now lives. The Duffs moved to Flood Lodge. A family named Ledlie lived there and they had got into financial difficulties because they had had to build a dyke to prevent their land from flooding. The Duffs and the Ledlies swapped farms. The Duffs had six sons, the youngest, Thomas (1792-1862), married Miss McMorran (1820), whose family owned a spade mill and he came to Urbal to take it over, starting the first of the Duff family mills. He closed the mill in 1837 and started the flax scutching mill, which was situated beside the river, at the bottom of the square. As a result of having this good water supply he could charge 10d. when others were charging one shilling; this was known as "Duff's 10 penny touch". Thomas was a hard working man —walking to Belfast to do business. He would leave at 2.00 a.m. on a Monday and he would arrive at 5.00 p.m. in the evening. He rested Monday night and did his transactions on Tuesday. He took a rest and then started off for home.

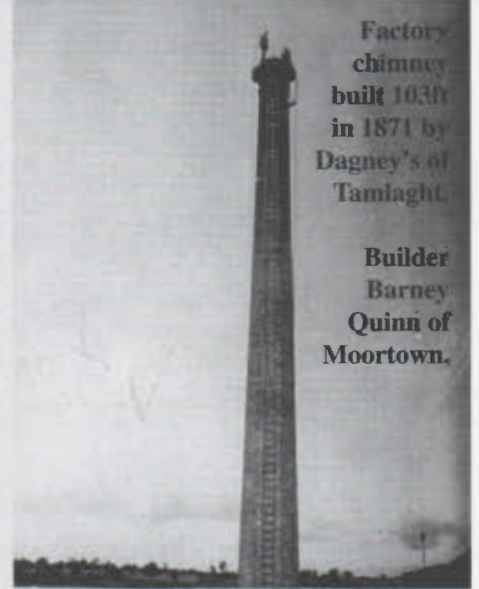


Harry Young who helped with the horses and the shop.

When cholera broke out in Belfast he went on horse back to Newry and did his business. Being so close to Lough Neagh, they were able to use the lough and the Newry canal for the transportation of goods back home.

Thomas, was quite a character, never showing his wealth, he was reported to have said that he owned a wee mill, on a sheugh, down in Co. Tyrone, but he was able to buy three gold watches costing £90, which his three great, great grandsons have to this day.

In 1845 Thomas started



Factory chimney built 1837 in 1871 by Dagny's of Tamlaght.

Builder Barney Quinn of Moortown.

buying spinning machinery, as the scutching of flax was going well and the flax spinners in Belfast were making a fortune. He was an enterprising and wise business man. This was the heyday of spinners like the Mulhollands of York St. and the Barbours of Lisburn. By the 1850's there was a little industrial estate round at Urbal. Scutching flax, scutching tow, this grew into a big enterprise as the flax spinning had now started. Robert, a son to his first wife, had built a very ingenious water-wheel 12 feet in diameter, which could be raised four feet in time of a flood by means of jacks, so they had good water power. Working conditions were awful at that time. Young men and women working as spinners in a constantly wet atmosphere, water flowing over the floor continually, or as scutchers in a humid, dust-laden air full of downy "pouce". They worked long hours- 6am. to 6pm. for around: 7/6 per week for spinners, 9/= to 10/= for weavers and 5/= to 10/= for labours. Ill health and accidents were all too common. An 8am. start became law in 1919.

Thomas's first wife died leaving him with three sons. In 1828 he remarried



Hugh Duff, Mrs. Empy daughter, Eleanor (Nonie) Duff, Hugo Duff, Alice Duff, Jim Duff, and children

a Miss Massey from Dromara, who was his first wife's cousin. They also had three sons, James, Walter and Hugh, who stayed at home to help run the business. By 1858 they owned 30 cart horses due to the fact that there was no railway in Coagh and they had to commute between Money more and Coagh and The Battery and Coagh. There were long bodied carts which needed to be maintained by the carpenter and the blacksmith. There were several men employed to ensure the daily running of the factory machinery. The ever enterprising Duffs employed a man to charge batteries which had been fitted to the Lough Neagh fishermen's boats. The general public could use any of these facilities. The local farmers could fell their own trees, bring them to the sawmill and have them made into planks which could be used to make their own implements- gates, troughs etc. for their own use or to be sold at the local markets.

In 1862 Thomas changed the name of the business to Duff Brothers, this just prior to his death in 1862 In

1863 they built a new factory which was steam powered.

In 1880 woollen blankets were woven, these were of a rough finish. This was a prosperous time for the Duffs, buying and selling at markets. James was made an J.P. in 1884 and later a member of the the Grand Jury of Tyrone.

Although the Duffs had all this industry they owned very little land in the village. James died in 1904, his sons Hugh and Willie took over the business; it was they who installed electric into the village. There was great potential of water power from the Ballinderry river. The Duffs decided to use this and they installed turbines to run dynamos to produce electric power for the village making it the first village in N.Ireland to have street lighting, this was in 1924. Credit for the workmanship must go to the Beatty and Creighton

families, [they were cousins]. You must remember that there were no electric poles as we know them. They had to use tall straight fir trees, some of which were felled locally and prepared in their own sawmill. One light bulb was installed in each house @ the cost of 6d. per week, if you required more a meter was installed.

Linen weaving started in 1926 producing a coarse fabric, which was used to line collars and lapels of suits.

In 1929 the factory suffered a set back with a great flood which closed the factory for 2 weeks. However they continued working until 1950's when some bright young man invented Vilene, they knew that they couldn't keep going for much longer and they eventually closed in 1958. The corn mill, the shop and the sawmill kept going until 1970, one hundred and fifty years exactly after Thomas came from Flood Lodge to the spade mill.



Hugh and Willie Duff, 1935

Mill at Derrygonigan



From Flower to Finery



The story of the linen industry in Ireland is the record of a remarkable success in

establishing a new industry in an under-developed country towards the end of the 17th. century. Although flax was grown and spun into yarn many centuries before, it wasn't until then that the industry had developed and became more organised.

The most successful development of the industry took place in the North and was due to many factors including the encouragement of the government in both England and Ireland and the encouragement given by foreign experts such as Frenchmen Louis Crommelin.

In the 18th. century, yarn was spun by women in their homes over a large part of the country and bleach greens were found on most Northern river banks. The traces of all this activity on landscape are rapidly disappearing and many scutch mills, bleach works and beetling mills are falling into ruin.

A common sight in the fields up until the 1950's was a blue blanket of flowers denoting a field full of flax. This crop was planted in March and harvested in late July. The stems which were about three feet long were pulled out of the ground and tied into bundles or "beets". Then it was rippled to remove the seed which was dried for planting the following year or made into linseed oil. Next the beets were taken to the flax dam for retting. This is the process which most people remember because of the terrible smell that was created. The retting process is where the flax was placed in the lint-holes for two weeks so that it could ferment. When taken out and dried the flax went through the processes of scutching and hackling so that the hard woody core, which the fibres surround, can be removed. At the end this process was likened to hair thus the term "flaxen hair". At this stage the flax was ready for spinning.

Spinning was a woman's job and it was easy to tell if a woman was married or not by the colour of the ribbon on the distaff (which is part of the wheel). If the ribbon

was pink or white that meant she was single, red or green meant married. Indeed the term spinster comes from the wheel as it was thought that a woman should be able to spin before she should marry. Once the fibres were in a yarn the next stage was for the cloth to be woven which was a specialist job undertaken on hand looms by the older men of the household. To get the traditional Irish Linen Damask napkins and tablecloths a special loom was used called a Jacquard loom. At this stage the cloth was brown and could be sold on the brown linen markets in Belfast or Dublin. To get it white it had to be boiled and laid out on bleaching greens for weeks until it was perfectly white.

When the cloth was finally white it was taken to the Beetling mills where the final process is completed. The linen cloth was beetled by being passed through a machine and beaten by beechwood hammers, thus giving the cloth a smooth glossy lustre.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION FOR IRELAND.

PRICES FOR 1919 IRISH FLAX CROP.

Letters have reached the Department indicating that farmers are still in doubt as to the arrangements made regarding the purchase of the 1919 Irish Flax Crop. The Department desire to state that change whatever has been made in the arrangements announced by the Flax Control Board on last January, as follows:—
"The approval of the Government has been obtained for the acquisition of the Irish Flax Crop of 1919, at prices ranging from 25s to 35s per stone, according to the present system of grading."

"The Order relating to compulsory seed saving will not be applied to the 1919 crop."

12th April, 1919.

BY EMMA BROWN

The mill at Derrygonigan

A tablet carved in stone above a centre window marks the date when the beetling mill at Derrygonigan was erected.

1819 was the year, and the builders were the Hull Brothers. Situated in a secluded spot on the banks of the Ballinderry River, not far up river from the Bigbridge, stands the remains of the long redundant mill.



The machinery was powered by a water wheel, and this mill was part of a larger complex which provided for the scutching of the flax, and after the beetling process, dyeing and bleaching.

In many cases the scutched flax was taken up to Drapersfield for weaving and then brought back for beetling, dyeing and bleaching. Evidently it was a common sight in bygone days to see the adjacent fields covered with linen— out to dry. To this day that field is known as the Green.

The scutch mill stood right beside the beetling mill, but was a much older building, and collapsed about 1968 and had to be removed for safety reasons. It was powered by a turbine which drove the six scutching handles and rolling machine. The scutching process here continued until 1954.

This mill had a good reputation for scutching and old records show that farmers had brought flax from as far away as The Rock—on horses and carts.

Even in the early 1950's the mill would have employed six to ten men during the winter months, and, traditionally they were involved in other farm work during the summer— thinning turnips, making hay, and of course, pulling flax and putting it in lint holes—and about ten days later laboriously throwing it out to dry.

The mill changed ownership several times—as previously mentioned it was once owned by Hulls— then a Rev. James Jones, followed by William James Devlin. Matthew Gibson purchased it about 1878 and it has been in the ownership of the Gibson family ever since.



Many are the stories that came down with the mill work— but when the derelict scutch mill was being disposed of we levelled in a number of Cockpits— where the millworkers carried on their illegal bloodsports.

To this day the old freestone walls carry lasting records of a bygone workforce— many who etched their initials in the soft sandstone.

By Tom Gibson

The COUNTY HOUSE

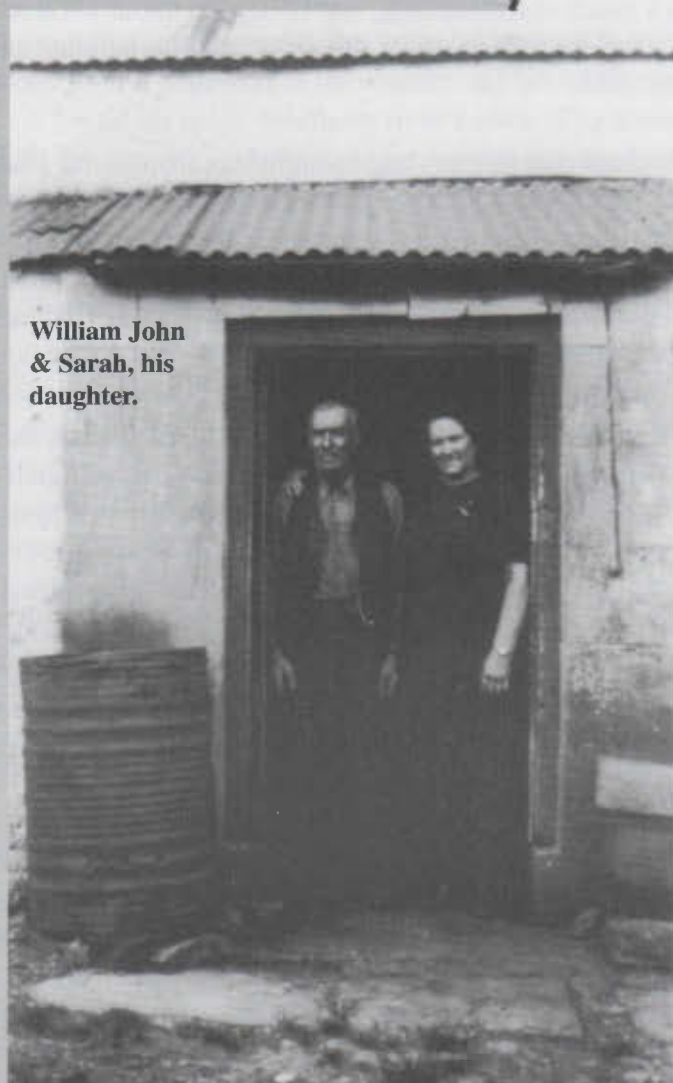
The road between Moneymore and Stewartstown takes you from Co. Derry into Co. Tyrone. On the border of the two counties a cottage style house was built, thus giving it the name county house.

Mrs. Molly Faulkner (granddaughter of Wm. John Rollins, owner of the house) tells us that the two roomed, white washed house was quite unusual in that it had its kitchen in Tyrone and its bedroom in Derry.

Wm. John Rollins, a "pross server", married Sarah Trimble from Bank Lane, Drumbulgan Stewartstown and they reared six children in this house. After he died in 1947, his son George with his wife Lena, nee McCollum from Coagh and their five children came to live there. It was George who decided to change the appearance of the house moving the front door and building a porch. Jim, George's son lived in the house until 1981.

Unfortunately in 1996 it was demolished and we lost this historical land mark without trace. However, marking the site there still remains some old walls from their chicken house.

AS TOLD BY MOLLY FAULKNER



William John & Sarah, his daughter.



William John Rollins

FOLK MEDICINE AND COUNTRY CURES IN MY NEIGHBOURHOOD

“How do you explain their continuing popularity?” I asked my friend Mary, herself a healer, as we sat round the fire a few weeks ago. We were discussing folk medicine and country cures.

These remedies have been passed down in families, well known to both of us, from generation to generation and guarded with the greatest secrecy by those who possess them. Perhaps in the past, the lack of telephones and the modern means of transport meant there was a delay in getting conventional medical help, but this doesn't explain the popularity of these home cures, and the faith and confidence that is expressed in the power of our present healers to-day.

Some of the folk medicine and especially the charms are looked upon as being silly and perhaps in a few cases dangerous and justifiably so. However in recent years it has been discovered that many of these remedies have definite medical qualities eg., the blue mould on white bread applied to a septic wound long before penicillin was mentioned.

Who among us as children have not received relief from a nettle sting after rubbing the offending part with a dock leaf and chanting the rhyme?

*Dockin, dockin in nettle nettle out,
Please God take the sting,
Of the nettle nettle out.*

In Killybearn lived Bob, the first person I remember as a child, having curative powers. Bob lived in the traditional rose cottage in 'the Hollow' in Killybearn. Even to go over the threshold was therapeutic in itself. The kindly welcome proffered to the visitor by Bob and his two sisters no doctor's bed-side manner could have equalled.

Among many of his cures was one for ring-worm. Three young boys of my acquaintance fell foul to the ugly virus. Their mother had tried conventional medicine but the results were poor so she decided to send for Bob. He arrived on his bicycle. We all sat around as Bob took each boy in turn, encircling the offending part with a charred willow stick, meanwhile whispering a prayer. This he did on three successive days. The result was a cure. The Divine intervention and the charred stick had brought results. Lately I read where the medicine Silicyl is made from the bark of some types of the willow and is widely used in the treatment of rheumatism and other ailments.

Suffering toothache as a child and loath to visit the dentist, I decided to try 'the cure'. Sarah, a warm, reassuring person lived in Drummullan. I waited in the kitchen while she went to the room. After a few minutes she returned and handed me a neatly folded piece of paper tied with a blue ribbon. This



I was to wear on my person until the toothache disappeared. Some time afterwards and the pain had gone, I opened the paper. It was a type of biblical script regarding Saint Peter. Imagine my surprise many years later to find the very same prayer in a book of country cures. Here are the words: 'As Saint Peter sat on a marble stone. Our Lord was passing and asked: 'What aileth you Peter?' Peter answered: "Lord my tooth aches". The Lord said: "Arise Peter and be going'. Let this be known to all who say these words, they will not suffer from toothache.

Apparently versions of this cure can be found in Anglo-Saxon manuscripts and it is also used in Brittany and in the Highlands of Scotland.

I remember a young boy, the son of a medical doctor, who suffered from eczema. As a last resort the mother decided to consult a local healer. She went to Bob's nephew, who had inherited the cures from his uncle. This was a herbal recipe in liquid form, which had to be consumed over a certain period. To-day this young man is free from all traces of this painful condition and has been for years.

I don't suppose there is anyone who hasn't heard of at least one cure for warts. The list is endless. As they are highly infectious a lot of children suffer from them during their school years. The most common cure used, was the one involving a piece of raw meat or a raw potato. The warts were rubbed individually with either the meat or potato which was then buried in the ground. As they decayed so also the warts.

However the fascinating 'transference cure', when you could buy the warts from the patient, was the one that intrigued me most. I was plagued with these unsightly growths. Pocket money was a scarce commodity in my youth, and not many of my companions were willing to part their hard earned savings, so I had to be content with a raw potato.

This leads me to the amazing 'verbal' cures. I was talking to a neighbour recently from the Drummullan area, whose son had been unable to return from holiday in the U.S.A., because of having contracted shingles. They weren't responding to the doctor's usual medicine. His sister consulted the local healer and over the telephone

the boy received his cure. To his parents relief he was home within the week, safe and free from the irritating illness.

My friend Mary, to whom I asked the question, has a vast knowledge of charms, folk medicine and local healers. She has inherited most of her cures from her immediate ancestors.

Sprains, eczema, erysipelas, warts, toothache, whooping cough, ulcers, styes, shingles, back pains and many more ailments are all treated by these healers. These are all respected, and useful members of the community and like Mary herself are always in demand for their expertise.

Folk medicine forms part of folk culture and has been practised in Ireland for many centuries. Many of these good people of the past used remedies which are only now emerging as having medicinal merit.

"Well," said Mary, after our long chat, "I don't know that we got the answer to your question. Perhaps people are disillusioned with modern medicine. However I think it is a question of faith and we both know that Faith can move mountains."

By MaryMeenagh

Healing with herbs

WE ALL get them, those nagging pains and aches and feelings of unwellness that you can't quite pin down.

They're not bad enough to bother consulting a doctor but how much easier it would be if you could sort them out yourself.

Well, you can, and Leslie Kenton's book *Healing Herbs** will empower you to take control of your body and live a much healthier and more comfortable life.

Television broadcaster and health and beauty guru Leslie, presents practical, easy to follow methods for using herbs which she has developed from traditional repertoires gleaned from her travels around the world.

She gives clear instructions for making remedies for everyday ailments, strategies for avoiding colds and flu, ideas for beating the blues and recipes for natural skin and hair enhancement. You could save yourself a fortune in expensive creams.

So what about some of those aches and pains?

BACKACHE affects us all at one time or another. She recommends essential oils of sage, thyme and rosemary all of which contain thymol and carvacrol, which are muscle relaxants. Rosemary is also antispasmodic, while clary sage is also used traditionally to ease the pain of a pulled back.

EARACHE is worse than toothache as you can't reach the pain. She recommends warm garlic infused oil and she tells you

By SANDRA CHAPMAN



HEALING: Feverfew

how to make and use it yourself.

HEADACHES have numerous causes, including food intolerance and nervous tension. Try willow bark which appears to block the production of certain prostaglandins in the body which cause pain and inflammation. Leslie also recommends essential oil of peppermint which also contains menthol, a pain reliever. Culming teas like camomile or passionflower can ease emo-

tional tension, while lavender will help with physical symptoms. For migraine she recommends feverfew and tincture of willow bark.

TOOTHACHE can only be treated by your dentist but until you see him essential oil of cloves can numb the pain. Sesame seeds are also loaded with pain-relieving phytochemicals.

SORE THROATS can react to gargles of sage, hyssop, thyme, goldenseal or marjoram. Licorice can rescue a chest and throat wracked by a cough while a really dry throat will respond to honey in a home made cough mixture.

BLOCKED SINUSES respond to steam inhalation of essential oil of peppermint, eucalyptus or bergamot. Elderflower is also helpful.

HAYFEVER requires a two pronged approach, prevention and easing symptoms. Take a tincture of echinacea to build up your immune system. Drink nettle tea as it contains small amounts of histamine - the substance that triggers allergies, while all through the winter months take bee pollen each day. An infusion of camomile will help eye irritation.

ATHLETE'S FOOT try garlic, Tea Tree oil, thyme and lavender. A foot bath is useful to allow these products to work best for you.

This is a valuable reference book for the whole family and also contains wonderful colour pictures to help you identify the herbs, some of which you'll find along the hedgerows

* Leslie Kenton's *Healing Herbs* is published in hardback by Ebury Press on March 23, price £25.

BALLYGONEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



This is a picture of the former church at Ballygoney which was built in 1789 during the Ministry of the Rev. James Steen. The small congregation worshipped in the little whitewashed church until the present building was erected in 1955. During the years 1762-2000 fourteen Ministers have served in Ballygoney.

In 1920 Ballygoney ceased to be an independent charge and for the following ten years the Rev. John Entrican minister of Third Cookstown supplied the congregation faithfully with ordinances.

In 1930 the Presbytery of Tyrone decided to unite Coagh and Ballygoney and the minister appointed to take charge of this new union was the Rev. A.J.Gillespie.

During the ministry of the Rev W.J.Crossley Mercer the congregation decided to pull down the old church and erect a new one on the same site. The dedication of this building by the Right Rev. James Carlyle Breakey B.A.D.D on Saturday 8th. October 1955 was a proud and memorable day for the Congregation of Ballygoney .

Extracts from publication by Rev. W.J.C.Mercer



Front Row: Ellen Brown, Marie Smyrell, Hella Anderson (Hogg), Vida Mullan, Pearl Anderson, Jean Crawford, Sadie Johnston (Hessin), Eileen Crawford.

Middle Row: Bob McKeown, Mary Charleton, Muriel Duff, Winnie McKeown, Lily Duff (Blackstock), Annie Crawford (Mrs. Hagan), Hugo Duff.

Back Row: George Smyrell, William Ferguson, Billy Duff, Ernest Smyrell, John Cowan, Jim McKeown.

TAMLAGHT STONE

known as Cloughtogel Stone



Clough-Togel means the raised stone. It is reported to have been here from Druid times and could be one of a line of altars, which ran east/west along the crest of the hill. The table of stone granite is supposed to weigh 24 tons. and is raised 13 ft. above the ground on 6 uprights and underneath there is a chamber of considerable extent

HONEYMUG

It was believed that Tamlaght Stone was surrounded by a circle of upright stones and one of these pillars is found in a field known locally for its fertility, as the Honeymug field hence the name Honeymug stone. This field is to be found on the right, down the Ballygoney Rd, just before Ulster Livestock Care, and it is now owned by Roy Elliott. Roy has grown cereal in it for a number of years.



Tamlaght Rectory, Coagh.

Tamlaght Church

Tamlaght or St. Luke's Parish Church is situated on top of a hill and overlooks the village of Coagh. It was imputed by former residents that St. Patrick stood on Tamlaght hill and overlooked the village and was reported to have said, "Coagh, you're there, and there you will remain." Although

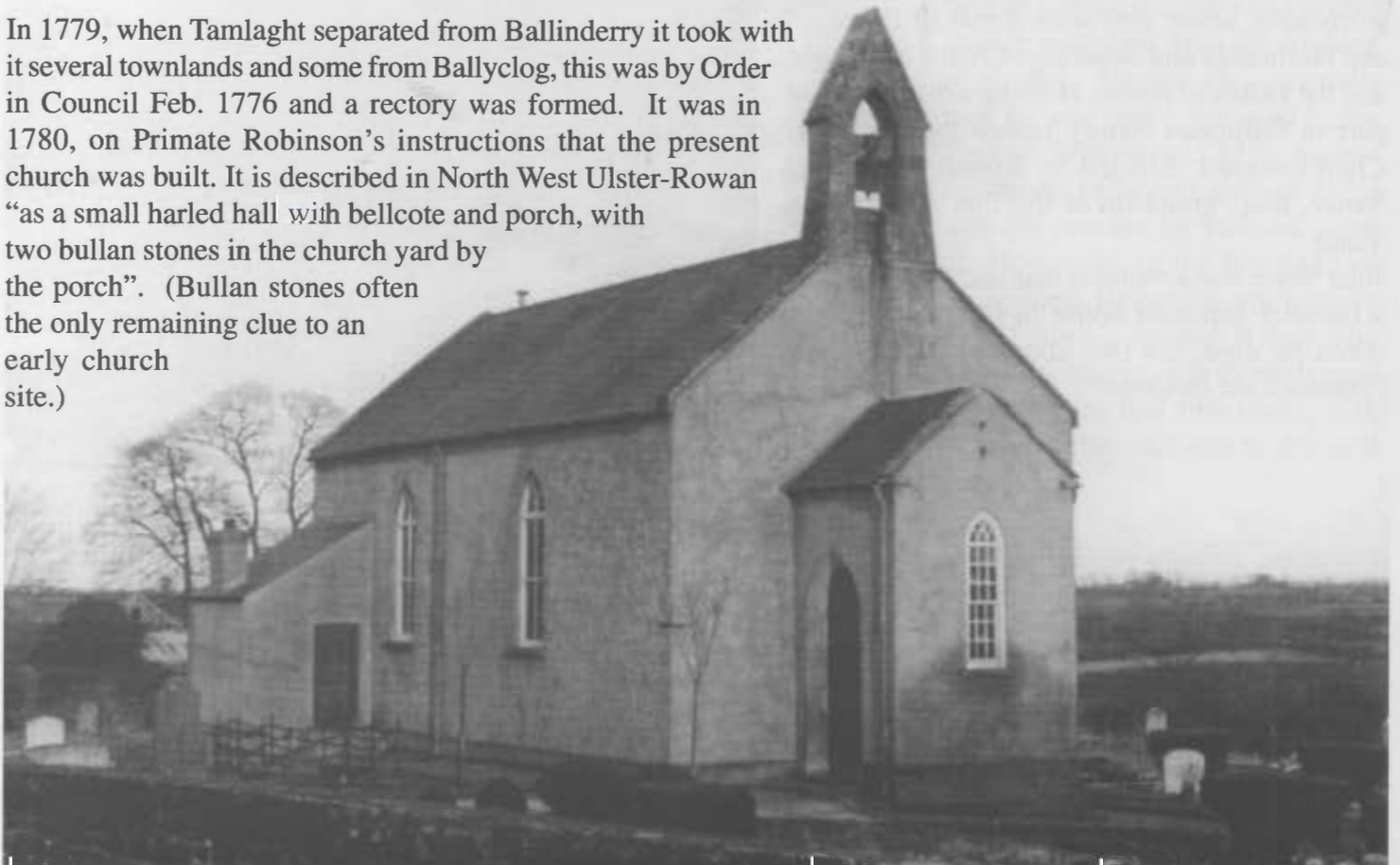
the present church dates back to 1782 when it was consecrated on the 27th. of September, we know that an earlier building did exist. The parish can be traced back to 1363, "Armagh Clergy and Parishes", records that the rector then was Patrick McKamayll.

J.B.Leslie lists several rectors up until 1616, when the parish was amalagated with Ballinderry until 1779, when once more it became a separate Parish.

During this interim period we can discover from "A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837", by S Lewis that "The place formed part of the estate granted to the Hon. Andrew Stewart by James 1 in 1612, and confirmed by Charles 1 in 1630. A battle took place here in 1641, when the chapel of Tamlaght was destroyed by the Parliamentarians.

It can also be noted from J B Leslie's "Armagh Clergy and Parishes" "In the year 1662, the church was ruinous and the parish was very small". The value of the rectory in 1663 was given as £9.0.0

In 1779, when Tamlaght separated from Ballinderry it took with it several townlands and some from Ballyclog, this was by Order in Council Feb. 1776 and a rectory was formed. It was in 1780, on Primate Robinson's instructions that the present church was built. It is described in North West Ulster-Rowan "as a small harled hall with bellcote and porch, with two bullan stones in the church yard by the porch". (Bullan stones often the only remaining clue to an early church site.)



He also endowed the parish with a glebe and in 1781 at a cost of £496.0.0 the Glebe house was built. Masons vol 111 records the house as being “built on the declivity of a hill, has a command of the village of Coagh and occassionally of Loughneagh. It has a most beautiful appearance, and there are a good many trees in the glebe planted by the present rector”(—Rev Ash).

Mason’s Survey 111 states there was an ancient stone building in the churchyard called “the old church of Tamlaght,” and a wall had to be removed to allow the present church to be built. From Masons we learn that “this old wall” which had to be removed was part of “an ancient stone and lime building, always known as the old church of Tamlaght. It had but one door, and was badly lighted, so that is difficult to say for what purpose it was intended”. The new building is a moderately small church and the outward appearance has changed little since 1782.

It was reunited with Ballinderry in 1923 and the union still remains.

The church is currently undergoing renovations and Jim McIntyre, the contractor, tells us that part of the old limestone wall was found and also the old heating system which was an old burner located at the front pews.

As you enter the graveyard on the righthand side is located an old and large headstone this was erected in memory of a family called Vance and some of the descendants are apparently still in the area. They were a Dutch family who originally settled in Aughavey, which means land of the Vans. The inscription on the headstone is interesting and reads as follows:- “In memory of John Vance, Esq., of Coagh, Born 1712, deceased 1799. Eldest son of James Vance, Esq, who was the second son of John Vance, Esq., whose father was John Vance (the elder) who first obtained a lease of Coagh. He was a son of Dr. Lancelot Vance, surgeon, and afterwards Colonel of the Coleraine Regiment, who died from excessive fatigue within the walls of Derry during the memorable siege thereof in 1689.

And whose father was the Reverand Vans who fled from the south of Scotland to Ireland during the religious persecutions there about the middle of the 17th. century and was a cadet of the ancient and distinguished family of Vans of Barnbarragh, Dirleton, Wigtonshire, a younger branch of the Lords of Dirleton in East Loanshean, who were descended of the Van who accompanied to England from France, William the Conqueror of Normandy, where they were Lords of Provence and Normandy and Sovereign Counts of Orange and the Dukes of Andre, Holding a distinguished part in European history before the advent of Charelemagne. Erected by Robert Anstruther Vance, Esq., grandson of the first named John Vance.”

John Vance was a business man and he established a brewery and malt house in Coagh 1735, and when he died, his two sons John and James continued the business.



This is the Vance Headstone in Tamlaght

THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF GOOD TEMPLARS (I.O.G.T.)

In the Omagh Almanac 1898, we find under the societies list one called the I.O.G.T. Coagh Rising Star Lodge No. 91, J Gibson LD. This was a temperance organisation. Unfortunately this is all we know about this early lodge.

From an article, by Catherine McCullough, we know the International Order Of Good

Templars was most popular in the north west of Ulster. There was also an Independent Order which originated in New York 1852. By 1905 however, the order became world-wide and so became International in title.

The Coagh Lodge was revived in 1932 by Alfie Charleton and his second cousin Jim Charleton. Jim had worked in Antrim and while he was there he had been a member of the local I.O.G.T. On his retirement he returned to live in Coagh. He told Alfie about the organisation and so they decided to hold a meeting. This was well attended and Jim gave all the details. A letter was sent to Belfast and authority was granted for the recommencement of the Lodge. On the opening night I.O.G.T. members from Belfast and Aghadowey came to give advice. The offices of Chaplain, secretary, treasurer, Chief Templar, Deputy Chief Templar and sentinel were elected.

The monthly meetings were opened and closed with prayer. A sentinel stood guard outside the door and to gain entrance to the meeting a password had to be given.

Many of the locals referred to the Lodge as I Owe Granny Tuppence. Members were not allowed to enter public houses or partake of strong drink, not even on their death bed, nor to dance. They socialised with other Lodges having music and playing games. Many of the members met their future partners through the Lodge.

AS TOLD BY ALFIE B CHARLETON

ROMANCE BLOSSOMS AT SALTERSTOWN I.O.G.T.

Mention the Independent Order of Good Templars to George and Evelyn Stewart of 'Glebe House', 28 Killymuck Road, Coagh, and their eyes light up, for it was through their association with the I.G.O.T. that they first met way back in 1936 in the I.O.G.T. Hall which was then located beside the old mill dam at Salterstown bridge on the road between Coagh and Ballyronan on lands owned by the Taylor family of Salterstown. Evelyn Jeffers as she was then, was the Secretary of the Salterstown Branch of the Order which met each week in the above hall. The aims of the Order were to promote temperance and sobriety amongst its members who on joining the order had to take an oath to abstain from the drinking of alcohol. George vividly recalls how he was first introduced to the Order in September of 1936. He had just moved to the area and was living with his parents, brother and sister at 'Hollyvale' in the townland of Ballygillen. He had become friendly with Evelyn's brother Walter who had invited him to join the Order and he cycled on that first night, with Walter to the Hall beside the mill dam.

Evelyn takes up the story "I remember him coming into the Hall on that particular night. I was sitting on a short bench, at the table where I took the minutes, when he came in and sat down beside me and that was to be the start of a friendship which led to our marriage in 1947 and

during those years we have both remained faithful, not only to our marriage vows but to our oath of temperance and sobriety taken in the little hall at Salterstown bridge".



She also recalls on that first night that "when leaving the meeting George was wheeling his bicycle along the little path from the Hall when in the darkness he stepped into the overflow ditch from the dam and got his feet very wet, a sort of baptism, you might say".

The I.O.G.T. was formed at Salterstown in the early 1920's and met on Thursday nights in a little corrugated hall which had been built by voluntary labour from money raised by the members. Evelyn recalls hearing the story of how one of the members, Miss Esther Mc.Master, from Salterstown (Dick Bell's mother) had made a patchwork quilt and had levied a sum of money on those who wished to have their names embroidered on an individual patch of the quilt. The quilt was subsequently auctioned.

When Evelyn joined the I.O.G.T. in 1935 the branch was in decline. Those names she can recall from that time are:- Margaret and Walter Jeffers (her brother and sister), Edmund Mc.Gall, Lizzie and Martha Mc.Allister, George

Mc.Guckin, all from Salterstown, Benny Booth who lived opposite the gates of Ballinderry Parish Church, Tom Mc.Lernon from the Loup, Tommy Pickering from the Mill houses at Ballyronan and of course her husband George.

The branches were run like a Lodge, and oath of Temperance was taken, collarettes were worn and there was an entrance password for admission to the meetings. The office bearers were Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Chaplain.

The meetings took place every week and were usually followed by tea and on special occasions a social evening was held with dancing, the music being provided by Walter Jeffers on his violin and Tommy Pickering on his accordion. On one occasion George can recall "that the birds were singing when we were going home from one particular dance and I had to leave Evelyn home to be met by her father, who was a very strict man". The dances were open to non members and the Hall would have been packed with locals and visitors from other branches. Visiting with other branches was commonplace and George and Evelyn recall travelling to visit with I.O.G.T. branches at Aghadowey and Bellaghy. In Bellaghy the Overend family were all very active members.

. Unfortunately the Salterstown branch went into decline following the outbreak of war, when the attendances dropped off and by the end of the war in 1945 it had ceased to function, and never recovered. The hall lay empty for a number of years and was eventually sold to Ballyneil Orange Hall No 495. In 1952 the hall was re-erected at Ballyneil crossroads with an extension to the original structure, where it was opened on 22nd. August, 1953. It remained in use until 1985 when a new modern hall was erected on the site. The hall was once more sold and taken down and moved to a new site, this time, at Oaklea Road, near the Woods Church, where it is again in use



as a store, for Mr. Derek Patterson. The money realised by the sale of the hall to Ballyneil was £50.00 and this was donated to Ballinderry Parish Church where it still appears on their annual statement of accounts as a bequest from the I.O.G.T. The hall furniture was removed to Salterstown Orange Hall where some of it is still in use to-day. Unfortunately the books and regalia of the branch have been lost and Evelyn would ask, that if anyone knows of their whereabouts, that they contact her. As far as they are aware, George and Evelyn are the last surviving members of the Salterstown branch of the Independent Order of Good Templars. A nostalgic memory of those happy days they still have in their possession the original key to the door of the hall where they met all those years ago.

AS TOLD BY EVELYN STEWART.



Jimmy Kennedy

COAGH'S SONGBIRD

Many people will know the song "South Of The Border." It was written in the 1930's and it is one of those songs that has endured the passing of time and deserves the description of evergreen. "South Of The Border" and many other popular songs were written by Jimmy Kennedy who lived in the attractive little village of Coagh, Co. Tyrone more than eighty years ago.

His father was the local R.I.C. sergeant. The family lived in the village in Tamlaght Rectory. Jimmy had a brother Hammy and sisters Nelly and Nina.

It was at Coagh that Jimmy displayed the talents that eventually would lead him to achieve international fame as a songwriter. As a youth he played the organ in Tamlaght Church and that is where he first showed his gift for musical composition. When services were over Jimmy would play pieces that he had composed himself. Songs require lyrics and a contemporary of Jimmy's who attended Coagh Primary School with him, later recalled that the young Kennedy had a flair with words and was very adept at making up poems.

Jimmy's younger brother Hammy was also a talented musician and Jimmy and Hammy performed at concerts, Hammy playing the ukelele and Jimmy the piano. Hammy would also later become a gifted songwriter. For Hammy songwriting was a part-time occupation whereas songwriting became Jimmy's career. Hammy did not have the opportunity to realize his full potential for tragically he died after an accident when he was a comparatively young man.

Jimmy Kennedy formed close friendships in Coagh village and he was particularly friendly with the Flack family. He and Hugh Flack cycled together into Cookstown to the Academy for their grammar school education. The Academy was a small establishment that closed many years ago. Jimmy and Hugh's friendship went beyond their childhood days and lasted into adulthood.

Although he obtained a university degree Jimmy was determined to make his living as a songwriter. Songwriting was a very competitive vocation and he went through lean times before he began to be successful. One of his early successes was "South Of The Border" which was the theme song of the film of the same name. The song was given a tremendous boost as it was sung in the film and recorded by Gene Autry, one of America's leading singers.

Jimmy got the idea for the song when he received a postcard from his sisters who were travelling in America, near the border with Mexico. The postcard mentioned that they would be travelling south of the border and this gave Jimmy the inspiration for the song.

During his songwriting career Jimmy concentrated mainly on writing the lyrics of the songs. But he did also sometimes compose the music. Jimmy wrote the words and the music for the



song "The Jarvey Was A Leprechaun" The song was written specially for Val Doonican. It was recorded by Val Doonican and was a popular song in Val's repertoire.

Although there was no rivalry between Jimmy and Hammy Kennedy they rarely collaborated in their songwriting. However one song that they combined their talents on was "The Chestnut Tree". A dance was devised to go with the song and the song and the dance that accompanied it proved to be remarkably successful. Near Tamlaght Rectory where the Kennedy family lived there is a fine group of chestnut trees. The Kennedy brothers must have gathered the chestnuts and perhaps climbed the trees. Is it not just possible that such memories were a factor in inspiring them to write the song?

Bing Crosby recorded a considerable number of Jimmy's songs. One of these songs which has had lasting appeal is "Harbour Lights". This song is a perfect example of how Jimmy could find an idea for a song from an unremarkable incident. Jimmy, who at a time lived in England, drove some of his relations to Southampton from where they were to embark on a voyage. On his way home Jimmy took the wrong route and got completely lost. Whilst trying to find the proper direction he passed a wayside inn called "The Harbour Lights". The name fired Jimmy's imagination and before he arrived home he apparently had the lyrics for the song completed.

Another of Jimmy Kennedy's songs was "Did Your Mother Come From Ireland?". It was also recorded by Bing Crosby. When Bing attended social gathering in Hollywood he sometimes encountered the film actor Pat O'Brien who was of Irish descent. Pat would invariably insist that Bing would sing "Did Your Mother Come From Ireland?" On one occasion Bing was at a baseball match in Yankee Stadium. He went to the men's room and happened to meet Pat O'Brien who had obviously just come from the bar and was in expansive mood. He greeted Bing effusively and requested a rendition of "Did Your Mother Come From Ireland?" Not unnaturally Bing declined, considering the location was hardly the place for bursting into song. However Pat was so insistent that Bing finally agreed to the request. Those who witnessed the incident must have thought it a bizarre spectacle, seeing the world famous crooner singing "Did Your Mother Come From Ireland?" in the men's room of the Yankee Stadium with Pat O'Brien, his arms draped

round Bing's shoulders, and overcome by the emotion that the song evoked in him sniffing and dabbing at his eyes with his handkerchief. Perhaps those who had also come from the bar, concluded that they had taken one too many and were having an hallucination.

Many of Jimmy Kennedy's songs have stood the test of time and one of his songs that exemplifies this is "My Prayer". Over the years it has become a hit three times. The most recent and perhaps the most memorable version of the song was by the internationally successful group The Platters, who at the height of their fame was the world's number one group.

Jimmy's parents, after his father's retirement went to reside at Portstewart. By that time the family had reached adulthood and Jimmy who then would have been almost thirty years of age was living in England busy furthering his career.

One of Jimmy's notable songs is "Red Sails In The Sunset" which he wrote after seeing the Yacht, Kitty Of Coleraine, sailing in Portstewart Bay, the evening sun was glinting on its sails.

Jimmy Kennedy gained many awards for his songwriting. The most outstanding honour that he achieved was being admitted into "The Music Hall Of Fame". A songwriter can receive no higher recognition than this and Jimmy is the first, and as yet, the only Irish born songwriter to be granted this accolade.

Coagh and Cookstown should be justifiably proud of their connection with Jimmy Kennedy, songwriter supreme.

By Eddie McCartney



Hugh Flack on Safari

Church of Our Lady, Coagh



The Parish of Coagh and Drummullan is comparatively new in the annals of the Catholic Church of Ireland. It was from the outskirts of ancient parishes viz. Arboe, Tamlaght, Lissan and Artrea. Coagh appears, as a parish, in the Irish Catholic Directory in 1866. The first Catholic Church in Coagh appears, as a parish, in the Irish Catholic Directory in 1866. The first Catholic Church in Coagh is believed to have been located at the rear of a house in Main Street (now Arthur Gibson's) and was referred to as the "Temporary Chapel" where Father Byrne P.P. was the first Parish priest and who resided in

Drummullan at that time.

This "Temporary Chapel" was transformed by voluntary labour and a new chapel was opened in 1916 with a seating capacity for 92 people. This transformed chapel was known as St. Mary's and Father Peter Donnelly (1915-1938) was its priest and this Church served the parish for over four decades until, with a further growing congregation, an extension was necessary.

This new extension scheme was undertaken by Father Paul MacSeain (1965-1969) with a loyal band of voluntary workers. The seating capacity was further increased to 250.

The original altar and tabernacle were retained in this church, of which a feature was a crucifix carved from an apple tree which was grown in the Drummullan end of the parish. Again this church served the congregation for a further twenty two years when the present beautiful church was built in 1991 by Father Brian MacNeice (1988-1994).

When the old church fell into disuse, the present Parish Priest, Father Breslan (June 1994-) had the grounds landscaped and a beautiful shrine built on the site of the original tabernacle and altar.

Presbyterian Church

We know the Presbyterians ordained their first Minister the Rev. David Tomb in October 1711. We think the church was not on this site but down Kettle Entry towards the stepping stones on the Ballinderry river. It is highly probable, that this existing building was erected during the incumbency of the Rev. John McClland, who was Minister of the church from September 1755 until 1798 (43 years) It was recorded that he was a "A man of some distinction and a keen upholder of liberty". It is an example of a fine Barn Church and is unique in that it is completely square.

Mr. McClland's grave is the earliest to be found in the grave yard. Interestingly, the Rev. John Cowan who served the congregation for 34 yrs. from 1801-1835 was a relation of the Cowan family of Annahavil. From its beginning, almost 300 yrs. ago, the church has installed only 16 ministers. Along with the two long staying

ministers, the Rev. John McClland and the Rev. John Cowan, the Rev Crossley Mercer served the congregation for 34 yrs. until he retired in 1985 although he is still the senior Minister of the church. The Rev. William Orr took charge in 1986.





The Baptist Church

In the latter part of the 19th century we know that the Baptist Witness existed on the outskirts of the village at Mullaghtironey Hill. This ceased and the members dispersed. In the 1920's Pastor McKillen, from Magherafelt, arriving on horseback, recommenced the gospel meetings and a small group was formed. They set about erecting a permanent meeting place on the Urbal Rd. In 1929 the building, which seated 100 people, was completed by Benson Bros. Cookstown at a cost of £800. Pastor Jardine, a native of Coagh, took charge of the church until his death in 1937. During the next fifteen years there was a vacancy and two of the elders namely Mr. Jack Ashcroft and Mr. Walter Marks ministered faithfully. The church continued to increase in membership under the guidance of Pastors Baxter, Duffin and Hughes and their present building was not large enough. A new church was completed in 1985, with seating for 200 people. Mrs. Jack Bell, a founder member, performed the opening ceremony.

A DRUMADS WEDDING FROCK OF 1857

And an Ulster Plantation Family's Pedigree and Muniments

HOW did a bride in Co. Tyrone dress over 100 years ago?

When Miss Susannah Bell, daughter of W. J. Bell, Windmill Farm, Coagh, set out on the morning of 23rd April, 1857, from the residence of her brother-in-law in Drumads to marry Joseph Anderson, of Ballymaguire, in First Cookstown Presbyterian Church,



she wore the frock shown in this photograph. The frock now 106 years old is still in existence and in the possession of her great-granddaughter, Miss A. Hewitt, of Bessbrook, who is shown displaying it.

Joseph and Susannah had a family of six daughters and three sons. The youngest, Dr. Joseph George Anderson, of Wanstead, Essex, is still alive and now in his 87th year. Earlier this month he paid a visit to his nephew, Mr. G. Ivan Anderson, of Ardrea House, and other relatives in the vicinity, and took the opportunity to visit his old home in Ballymaguire and other local scenes of his boyhood years. He also called on Miss Evelyn Anderson who lives in the old home in Bawn, near Sixmilecross, which his grandfather left in 1806 to settle in Ballymaguire.

Dr. Anderson can trace his descent through eight generations from the time of the beautiful, but unfortunate, Mary Queen of Scots. The line runs as follows:—

1 Joseph Anderson, merchant of Paisley, Scotland, a close personal friend of John Knox the Reformer, and it would seem related to him by marriage.

- 2 His son Archibald who crossed to Ireland in 1602 to fight in Queen Elizabeth's army, and subsequently settled at Flush, Sixmilecross, in 1614, at the time of the "Planting."
- 3 His son Joseph, also of Flush, who lived through the period of the Great Rebellion, and whose brothers John and James were in the Laggan forces of the time. As Covenanters they fought alongside the Royalists against the Cromwell forces at the 1649 Siege of Derry.
- 4 His son James, also of Flush, who lived through the period of the Glorious Revolution, and was in his prime at the time of the 1689 Siege of Derry.
- 5 His son Archibald, also of Flush, most of whose relatives migrated to North America in consequence of the strictures imposed by the Episcopal minded Irish Parliament on the Presbyterians of the North.
- 6 His son James of Bawn, adjoining Flush, Sixmilecross, who preceded the Volunteer period when more of the Andersons migrated to North America as a result of landlord evictions of farmers in violation of the Ulster Tenant Right custom.
- 7 His son Joseph, who first came to Ballymaguire in 1804 and a few years later married a second time, Margaret Kells, of Ballyveeny, adjoining.
- 8 Their son, Joseph, who married Susannah Bell of Windmill Farm, the lady already mentioned, in 1857.

Dr. Anderson's nephew, Mr. G. I. Anderson, and his grandnephew, both of Ardrea House, now represent the tenth and eleventh generations of the Andersons in East Tyrone.

The collection of family papers goes back for many generations and includes leases, bonds, agreements, wills, family letters, many before the days of postage stamps. Of special interest are the Articles of Marriage of 26th June, 1804, fixing the marriage dowry of Joseph Anderson's first wife, Elizabeth Watt, of Corkhill, Pomeroy, a hearth tax receipt and the Letters Patent of the Family Arms and Crest beautifully engrossed and painted in full colours on vellum.

COAGH PETTY SESSIONS.

TUESDAY. Before Messrs. S. E. Ekin, J.P. (chairman); and James Duff, J.P.

DRUNKS.

Thomas Collins, drunk, fined 7s and costs; John Marshall, drunk and disorderly. The disorderly conduct consisted of shouting, hawling, and singing songs. Robert Sloan, like charge at same place. Defendant's were fined 2s 6d and costs each, or in default on week in Arinagh jail. Edward O'Neill, drunk on the Ballinderry road, 3rd offence, 8s 6d and costs; Charles Meglaughan, drunk, 2s 6d and costs.

A DANGEROUS DOG.

Patrick Hagan of Kelky, summoned Francis R. Quinn, for allowing his dog to be at large without a clog or muzzle.

Complainant said the only evidence was a little boy about five years of age, who said that when returning from school, defendant's dog came running at him and threw him down, and cut him in three places.

Chairman—What made the dog run at you?

Witness—Mr. R. Quinn set the dog on me. Was accompanied by four other children from school.

Complainant insisted on the dog being destroyed, and the bench adjourned the case for a month, and advised the defendant to destroy the dog in the meantime in the presence of a witness. Defendant promised to comply.

FISHERY PROSECUTIONS.

W. J. Duff, inspector of fisheries, Coagh, summoned Joseph Connolly, Arneestmore, Henry Devlin, and Charles Donaghy, of Annaghmore.

Defendants were charged on three separate summonses, with having in their possession a draft net in a boat on Lough Neagh, and with refusing to produce a license when demanded.

Mr. J. P. Harris, Stewartstown, prosecuted, and Mr. John Malone, Cookstown, appeared for the defendants.

Felix Connolly, water-bailiff, deposed that on the 8th of August, he was on duty between six and seven o'clock in the townland of Arneestmore. It was perfectly clear, and witness observed a boat on Lough Neagh, with Joseph Connolly, Arneestmore, Henry Devlin, and Charles Donaghy, of Annaghmore, in it. He called after Joseph Connolly and demanded license for the net in the boat. The boat continued to row out. He had no doubt there were three men in the boat. The reason he called on Connolly, because he considered him to be the owner. Witness had a conversation with Connolly on the 10th inst; and asked him if he was going to pay his license, but he refused. He demanded license of the other two, but got some little abuse in return. By the use of opera glasses he could see the defendants clearly.

Susan Quinn was called for the defence, and deposed that she knew Joseph Connolly's boat, and helped to put it out to the lake, between five and six o'clock. Charles Donaghy, Joseph Connolly, and Henry Devlin were in the boat. They had no draft net in the boat. About ten minutes afterwards Felix Connolly came forward. She was sure there was no draft net in the boat.

Henry Devlin deposed that there was no draft net in the boat, and did not see Felix Connolly on the evening in question.

Charles Donaghy and Joseph Connolly (the defendants), were also examined, and corroborated the evidence of last witness.

Mr. Malone and Mr. Harris having addressed the bench, the magistrates marked "no rule" in all the cases.

TRESPASS.

Wm. Campbell brought two summonses against Patrick Colman, of Clentorichardson, for trespass of two cows on the 15th July, and a mare on the 8th of August.

After hearing the evidence, the bench held that there was a question of title involved, and marked "no rule."

John Devlin summoned John Connolly for tethering three goats on his farm of land. The bench had no jurisdiction, as there was a question of title, and marked "no jurisdiction."

SPIRIT GROCERY LICENSE.

Mr. J. P. Harris applied for a spirit grocers' license, for Edward Devlin, Killygouland. He argued the magistrates were bound to grant it, following the decision in Matthews v. Tyrone justices. Evidence of the suitability of the premises was given by applicant, Mr. Corr, and Mr. W. J. Henry.

Mr. Cary, D.L. opposed on the ground that the premises were unsuitable, and the police could not exercise proper supervision, and Sergeant Trazer gave evidence to that effect.

After lengthened arguments the magistrates were equally divided, and the license was therefore refused.



COAGH PETTY SESSIONS

The court house was situated at the right-hand side of the entrance of the Presbyterian church. The building was made of stone and had a slate roof. In recent years this building was demolished, it could have told many tales.

The petty sessions met on the second Tuesday of each month at twelve o'clock noon:- T Pettleton clerk, T Howard and Patrick Malone summons servers.

This extract was taken from the Mid-Ulster Mail Saturday 15 September 1894. It is interesting to notice the different misdemeanours of yesteryear.

It is interesting to note that the Court houses in Cookstown and Stewartstown were used for entertainment. Does anyone know if the Court house in Coagh was used for similar purposes?

C.M.S GLEANERS' UNION.

The Children's Fancy Dress Party

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE WILL BE HELD IN THE

COURT HOUSE

ON FRIDAY, 2nd MAY

3.30 to 7 p.m.

Prizes will be given for the most popular Costume—Decided by Vote.

Children & Young People in Fancy Dress, 6d Spectators, 1s. Tea, 1s.

(WAR TAX EXTRA.)

L.O.G.T. Hope of Cookstown Lodge No. 507.

A Grand Social Evening

HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR

TUESDAY, 22nd APRIL,

IN THE

COURTHOUSE, COOKSTOWN,

COMMENCING AT 8 O'CLOCK.

TEA FROM 10 P.M.

Each member of the lodge may invite two friends.

GENTS., 2s. LADIES, 1s.

No invitation cards will be issued.

BRIAN OG. G.F.C., COOKSTOWN.

A RE-UNION

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ABOVE WILL BE HELD

IN THE COURTHOUSE

On Easter Monday Night

21st APRIL, 1919.

Dancing to commence at 9 o'clock. Supper at 12-30.

MUSIC WILL BE SUPPLIED BY MR. P. M'BURNEY'S STRING BAND BELFAST.

Conductor: Mr. P. M'Burney.

Admission—Gent's 3/6. Ladies 2/-

A Grand Easter Dance

WILL BE HELD IN THE

Courthouse, Stewartstown, ON FRIDAY, 25th APRIL, 1919,

COMMENCING AT 9 O'CLOCK, P.M.

TEA AT 12 O'CLOCK.

GENT'S TICKETS, ... 3s. LADIES ... 2s.

Kettle Entry

If some of the younger folk to-day were asked to go to Kettle Entry, most likely they would not know where to go. They would be surprised to know that there were dwelling houses down the entry between the McVey family home and the

butcher's shop. The building of these houses is probably one of the most interesting things in our departure from the control of the Lenox-Conynghams. In the early 1800's Thos Duff wanted to build cottages for his workers and he went to the all powerful landlord—Sir William Lenox-Conyngham. Thomas told him he wanted to build on his land at Urbal, to which Sir William banged his fists on the table and shouted, "Go home sir, you have no land in Coagh! I am the owner, you are only the tenant and you will build no houses". Thomas' temper was also raised and he shouted back, "That's

where you are wrong, I do own land in Coagh, and I will build my houses". It was down here, not a great site, that Thomas built houses for his workers.

They were inhabited until the 1940's. It was in one of these houses that Alfie and Rose Charleton started their married life and where Leila was born. The houses were very small by today's standard and how a family was reared in it is hard to comprehend. They had none of the facilities we would expect today. If one needed to use the toilet, there was no bathroom to run to, you were expected to walk to the end of a long lane to the dry toilets. Not a pleasant contemplation on a cold, wet winters night!

In the Ordinance Survey there is a list of the one time inhabitants and although they were mostly labourers a process server lived in one of them.

Also down this entry, we are led to believe, was the

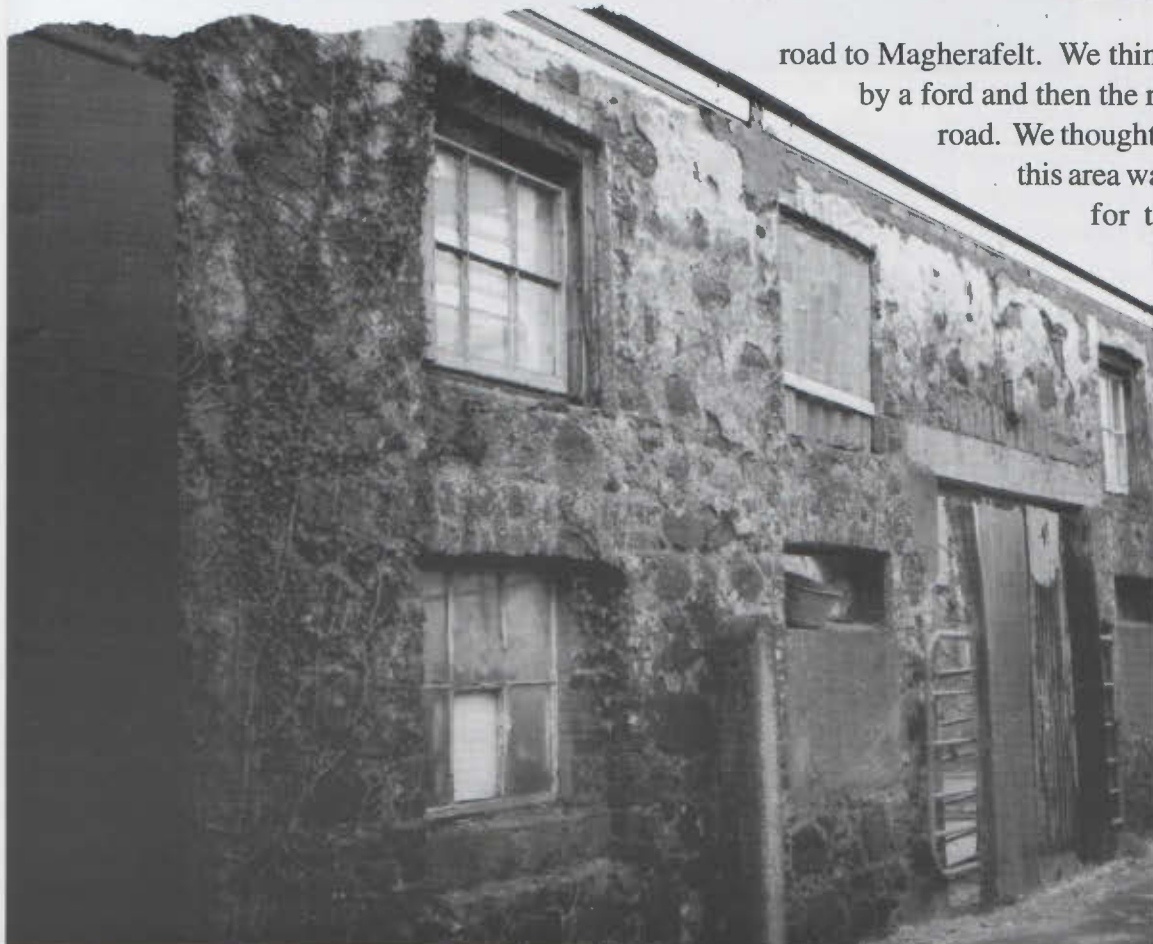
N.B.—The cars entered against Nos. 10 and 15: The one against No. 10 is a Hearse and No. 15 a Post Car.

KETTLES ENTRY B	1	Dan Ward	Labourer	L	2/11	2/11															No Garden or Stock. Works to any person.	
	2	John Ward	Labourer	L																		Son to No. 1 this Street. Works to any person.
	3	John McPeake	Labourer	L	1/1	1/1																Lodged with No. 1 this Street. Works to any person.
	4	[] McEldoon	Labourer	L	2/1	2/1																2 No Stock or Garden. Works to any person.
	5	William McEldoon	Labourer	L																		Son of No. 4 this Street. Works to any person.
	6	Hugh Mc[]	Process Server	M	1/1	2/1																2 No Stock or Garden.
	7	Elen Mc[]	Dressmaker	M																		Daughter to No. 6 this Street.
	8	Jas. Malon	Hackler	M	1/5	2/2																2 No Stock or Garden.

*This is the man with whom the Field Observers lodged while staling in the parish.

435

Ordinanc



road to Magherafelt. We think the river was crossed by a ford and then the route led up to the Loup road. We thought that somewhere around this area was the first meeting place for the Presbyterians, and behind McVey's pub is where the Methodists were supposed to have met.

In 1688 James 11. travelled down Kettle Entry and crossed the river by the ford, on his way to the Siege of Derry, so it has been reported.

KETTLE ENTRY
Built by Thomas
Duff

POST OFFICE

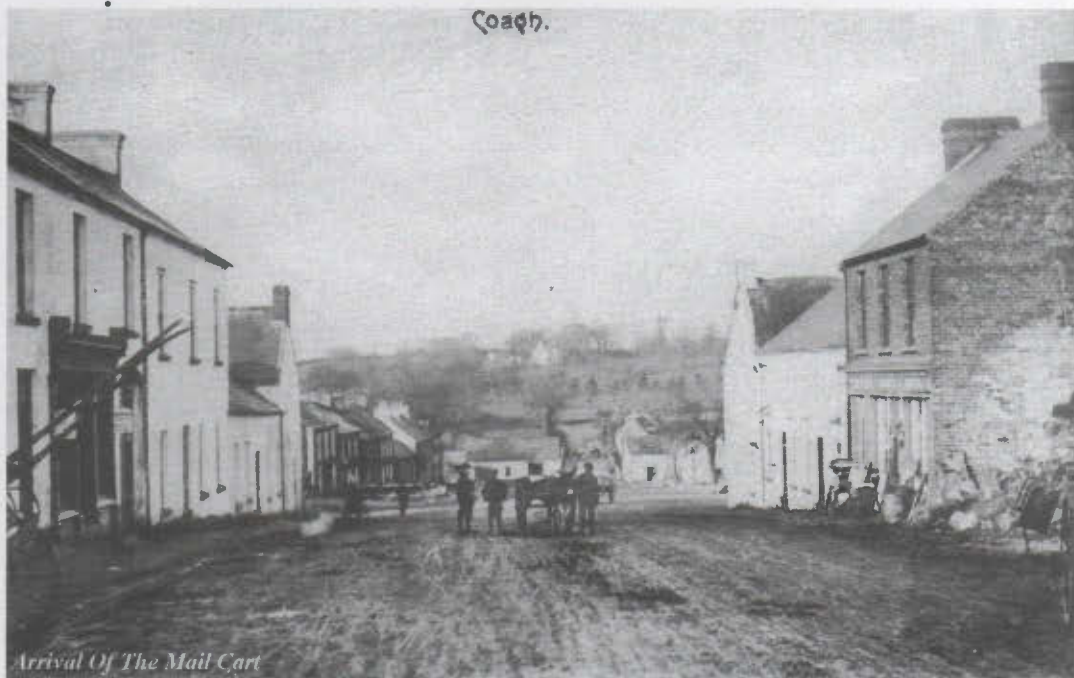
The post office derives its name from the post or stages at which couriers were maintained on the roads of the Roman Empire for the purpose of conveying news and despatches.

The first inland post was created by Charles I in 1635. Some years later eight postal lines were set up throughout England. The Mail Coaches were introduced in 1784. The penny post was started by Sir Rowland Hill, on 10th. January 1840. The Post Office Saving Bank was established in 1861, The Post Office Telegraph in 1870 and the Parcels Post in 1883.

As the records of Coagh post office are stored in the archives in London, it has been difficult from the little information available to produce a complete record of the local post office. It appears that Coagh Post Office was opened on 23rd. April 1833, became a Money Order Office on 18th October 1863 and a Savings Bank on 28th. December 1863. It was situated at Hanover Sq.. Slater's Directory of Ireland (1846) states that Ann Storey was Post Mistress from 1844- 1857, and that letters from all parts arrived every forenoon at half past eleven and were dispatched every morning at half past seven. Unfortunately we have

no records until 1896 when it was recorded that J. R Elliott J.P was Postmaster, a position he held until December 1944, when he was succeeded by his son Berkely Elliott who held the post from 1944 until 1974. On 1st. October 1974, the Post Office was relocated to 47 Main St. and was taken over by Annie Charleton who was the Post mistress until her retirement on 8th. December 1999. The present Postmistress is Shirley Walker.

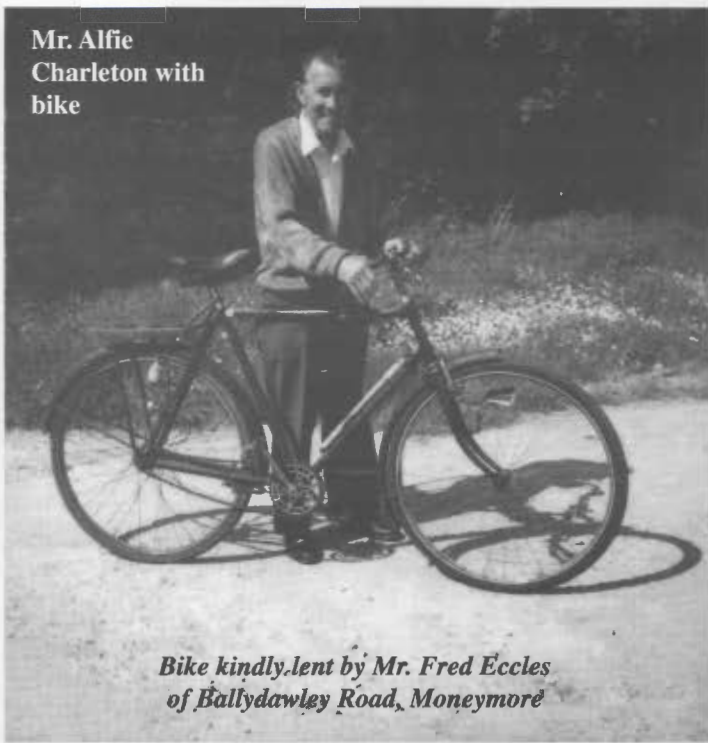
Over the years several postmen have travelled from this Post Office, on foot, bicycle, or more recently by mail van to the outlying areas. We have an account of one postman's recollections of his mail delivering by bicycle.



RELIEF POSTIE IN THE 60'S AS TOLD BY A.B. CHARLETON

When I became relief or temporary postman in Coagh in the early 1960's there were four postmen in Coagh at that time namely: Ernie Rankin, Willie Hagan, Willie McGuckin and Sam KIELTY. (Unfortunately none of these men are with us now to tell their stories); each postman was responsible for his own run. At that time Berkley Elliott was the owner of the post office in Coagh, he had taken over from his father Rowley (the M.P), who in his turn took over from his father John R Elliott (Johnnie). The Elliott's owned a hardware shop which sold feeding stuff and had a number of horses and spring carts which in those days were taken round the countryside collecting eggs and selling groceries. In the present day this hardware shop is John McGaw's garage and filling station.

Mr. Alfie
Charleton with
bike



*Bike kindly lent by Mr. Fred Eccles
of Ballydawley Road, Moneymore*

The P.O. was in fact, a small room at the side of Elliotts shop and a Miss Edna Junk (now Matthews) was in charge of the office. In the morning, I had to be down at the P.O for 8.30, to start sorting out the letters and parcels and to get a number of the newspapers, which we were to carry without a stamp, but we delivered them anyway. We were all supplied with a post bike with a carrier at the front and were given a postman's hat to wear, a postbag to carry and if the weather was bad you wore a cape.

As I mentioned before there were four postmen which meant four different routes to be learnt. The shortest run was that of Ernie Rankin's—9 miles. The lower part of the village was first to be done.

Over the bridge and up by Tamlaght church, on to Ruskey where I was given tea at Armstrong's of Ballynuey. Across to Ballymoyle and over to Drumindard and if Sloss's creamery cans were empty I had permission to put the letters into one of the cans, and of course if they weren't empty I had to bring the post up to the house. I then continued on to Hutchinson's Mill, the last house on the run was Fred Hutchinson's and I returned to Coagh at about 12 o'clock. I signed out and as this was a short run I had to do the evening post in the village at about 3.30p.m.

Sam Kielty's run was 10 miles long and went round the Urbal Road where there were a lot of letters to be delivered to Duff Bros. On to Crumlin Bridge, Mullaghtironey past Gray's farm, back to Owen's Cross, right to Ferguson's of Kilsally, back to Aughavey old school, on to Drumads then past Joe Fergusons, up to

McKeowns of Aughavey and homeward bound again to Coagh via Urbal Lane.

The third run was Approx.. 15 miles long and was Willie Hagan's. It started at Coagh Corner up the Main Street through to Mullagh Island to my mother-in-law's where I got tea and frequently she helped me to sort out the post as I hadn't been in this particular district for maybe thirty or forty years. Then on to Duff's of Drumaney sub-post office and to Small's sub-post office to collect any letters and parcels for Cookstown and brought them to Coagh in time for 3 o'clock when they were taken to Cookstown. I do remember that in those days there were many ladies in Coagh called Mrs. Hagan and in those days there were no numbers on the houses so one had to be extra careful about delivering post correctly. In Ardboe, throughout the Lough shore it seemed that everyone had a nickname but as these were never written on the letters it was easy to get confused. The people were very kind and helpful to me in this area. They wanted me to take tea everywhere I went and in return I was able to do messages for them. When they found out that I was John Charleton's son we spent many hours talking about him.

Last but not least, was Willie McGuckin's run which was about 18 miles long. I went round the back road of Lower Coagh and got tea in Fred Gibson's house then on through Lanaglug towards Kinnear's post office to collect the usual parcels, papers and letters. Back to Derrychrin and Upper and Lower Mullan and then down to the Lough shore. After this I went down the Cot Lane where, incidentally, my grandparents and my mother (their surname was Avery) came from. Again I was given tea by Mrs. Jones after going up the Cot Lane which was about a mile long. I came out at Ballinderry Chapel. I then went down to the crossroads at which there was a small post box. I had a key to open and collect the letters from this box. After which I took all back to Kinnear's, and then cycled back to Coagh again with all the letters and parcels for Cookstown. I signed my name at the end of each postal run.

Apart from delivering the post twice a day most postmen had other jobs which they went to during the rest of the day. It was not unusual to find a postman cutting hair whilst on their delivery run or another being asked to kill a pig or two through the country or another helping a farmer with his flax. At that particular time in my life I used to work in a factory and after being cooped up indoors for so many hours it was great to get out and to breath good fresh air. I really enjoyed my time spent as a temporary postman as I met and made a lot of friends.



The Railway Coagh Almost Had

In September 1883 six of the main citizens of Coagh held a meeting and decided to promote a company to be called, "The Coagh and Moneymore Tramway and Light Railway Company".

The men involved were:- Samuel E Ekin; James Duff, mill owner; William Thompson, hotel owner; John R Elliott, shop owner; John Greer, schoolmaster and Dr. Burgess who was to act as secretary. Messrs. Glover & McGuckin of Ormond Quay, Dublin were appointed as their solicitors. Many letters were sent in the next three months to Sir Wm. Conyngham and to the Belfast and Northern Counties Railways, asking for their support. Letters were also sent to Dublin Castle enquiring about the Treasury and Roads Act. Sir John Lanyon (who was in Belfast supervising the building of Queens University) was invited to survey the proposed line. However at



Mary Marks & her husband

the end of November, the project came to an abrupt halt because no financial support was guaranteed from the counties of Derry and Tyrone. Also Mr. Newton, who lived in Hanover House, would not give his consent to the proposed line running through his "Pleasure Grounds". (The Pleasure Grounds is the stretch of land running between the river and Hanover House running back as far as Dr. Finch's house.) The Railway Company only existed for three months and the said six men lost out on their investment. When investigating the proposed railway we

came across a fascinating tale regarding black slavery.

In 1807 the British Parliament passed a law against the slave trade but the illegal practice continued for many years. Around 1880 a slave ship on its way to America was arrested and escorted into the harbour at Karachi, India. The slave ship contained many black males, the youngest of whom was about nine years old.

Mrs. Mary Marks nee Marks, a native of Coagh, who was a teacher in Karachi at that time, adopted a boy who was too young to look after himself. Mrs. Marks was delighted to have the boy, who did not even know his own name. John Alexander, the ship's captain, found the child on a Monday, and so Mary decided to call him Jack Munday.

A few years later Mrs. Marks's brother, William, also went to Karachi and while he was there he was bitten by a snake. Mary, who was worried about the consequences of the snake bite brought her brother and Jack home to Coagh. William made a full recovery but unfortunately Mary died in the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin on the 25th. July 1896 aged 39 years. She was buried in Belfast City Cemetery. Jack continued to live with the Marks family at Drumads, Coagh and he grew up to be a very intelligent young man with impeccable manners. It is said that he never sat down to eat until he had held out a chair for Mrs. Marks and she was seated at the table.

There are many conflicting reports regarding Jack's employment. Some say he drove the mail cart, which by this time had changed from being horse driven to being steam powered, between Moneymore and Coagh, while others say he worked on the railway in Moneymore. At any rate he lodged for a time with Mrs. Faulkner and her son, Tommy, in Smith St. Moneymore.

Jack Munday was always well

groomed, as you can see from his photograph. He was a very sociable person and a great singer proving to be very popular at local functions. For a time he sang in the choir of St. Johns Church of Ireland in Money more and it is said his rendition of "The Holy City" couldn't have been surpassed. Jack eventually left this area and prior to the outbreak of the first world war he worked as a chauffeur to the Lord Mayor of Galway and he then moved to Dublin where he worked as a shopkeeper. It was here that he met his future wife. We do



Jack Munday

respectively. This was obviously a very happy time for Jack. After the end of the war everyone suffered from the period of recession. Jack found work hard to come by in the U.K. and eventually in 1929 he moved to the Gold Coast where he obtained employment with a firm called Elder Dempster Co., as a mechanic. He earned £18 per month and he sent £12 home to his wife and family who were still in Glasgow.

Jack in his twilight years living in the Gold Coast



Jack as a Chaffeur in Galway

In 1948 his eldest daughter died and Jack writes that he was unable to get a passage home. Following the death

Mrs. Munday suffered a bout of depression. Her brother, who was a priest in Canada, visited her in Glasgow and decided to take her and her remaining daughter back to Canada with him. Unfortunately Jack and his wife and daughter had no further contact.

not know her name, but apparently she was the daughter of a well established family who owned several shops in Dublin. We are told that Jack's wife was disinherited because of her husband's ethnic origin and the Marks family weren't too pleased at Jack marrying a Roman Catholic.

When World War 1 broke out Jack offered his services to the government and obtained employment in Glasgow working as a mechanic in the shipyard until 1921.

In one of his letters to the Marks family Jack writes telling that he earned good money. It was during this time that his two daughters were born in 1915 and 1917



Jack's two daughters

We would be interested to talk to anyone who knew Jack Munday or anyone who could give us any more information about him.



AUGHAVEY SCHOOL

as it is today . . .



AUGHAVEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, taken in 1939

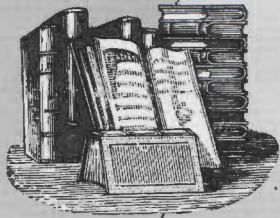
Back Row L-R: Sammy Harkness, Noel Gray, Geoffrey Hagan, Sandy Gibson, Joe Glendinning, Amanda Gibson, Florence Badger, Winnie Stewart, Noel Gibson, Jean Glendinning.

Middle Row: Martha O'Neill, Jean Badger, Evelyn Harkness, May Harkness, Olive Gibson, Margaret Silcock, Kathleen Harkness, Nancy Hagan, Myra Badger.

Front Row: Walter Gibson, Alan Badger, Ronnie Stewart, Betty Cowden, Booth Marks, Stanley Silcock, David Gibson, Matthew Gibson and Roy McGaw.

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today . . . now used by
Tamlaght Church



TAMLAGHT SCHOOL

Back Row L-R: Joe McCollum, Roy Irwin, Ellison Hagan, Bertie McAleece, Ann Berryman, Robert Straehorn, Marion Greer, Ann Taylor, Helen Greer, John Ferguson, George Crooks.

Middle Row: Teacher Miss Fleming, Alfie Orr, Jack McAleece, Ian McAleece, David Straehorn, Margaret Greer, Violet Curry, Roberta Stewart, Heather Straehorn, Myrtle Buchanan, Teacher Mrs. Irwin.

Front Row: Florence Lennox, George McAleece, Sylvia Lennox, Dorothy McCullagh, Helen Calderwood, Elma Woodward, Noelle Workman, Jim Calderwood, Eileen Lamont, Margaret Stewart, Joy Somerville, Dorothy Somerville, Jennifer McAleece, Amy Burnett, Wilma Hagan.

SHORTHORNS, MIGHT THEY RETURN?

In the early 20th. century the most popular breed of cattle in Northern Ireland was the Shorthorn. There were two types the beef Shorthorn and the dairy Shorthorn which was a dual purpose animal.

In 1919 a Pure Bred Shorthorn Sale was held in Cookstown market yard and the local area was well represented. The auctioneers were Messers. John Thornton & Co., Hanover Sq., London, and exhibitors came from all over Ulster and Southern Ireland. Come to think of it Ireland was not divided at that time. The names of some of the locals who showed cattle will surely jog your memory.

W.J Blackstock,
Rosemount,
Ballygoney.

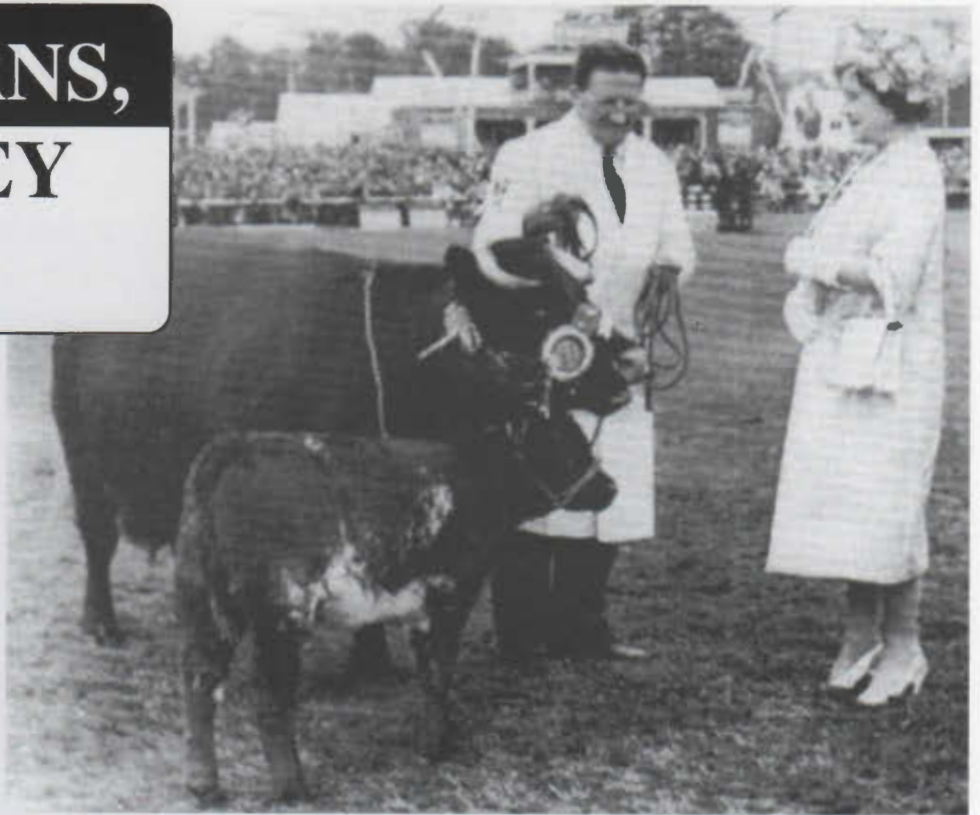
James Duff,
Churchill,
Money more.

Thomas
Ferguson,
Silverhill, Coagh.

Thompson
George, Ruskey,
Money more.

James Henderson,
Farm Hill, Coagh.

George Jardin,
Ballygoney,



The Queen Mother congratulates Mr. W. Gordon Blackstock, Denend Pedigree Farm, Strichen, who won the Shorthorn championship at the Royal Highland show with Bapton Queen Janetta.

Coagh.

Edward Lavery, Drumads, Coagh.

David Wright, Ballinderry Br., Coagh.

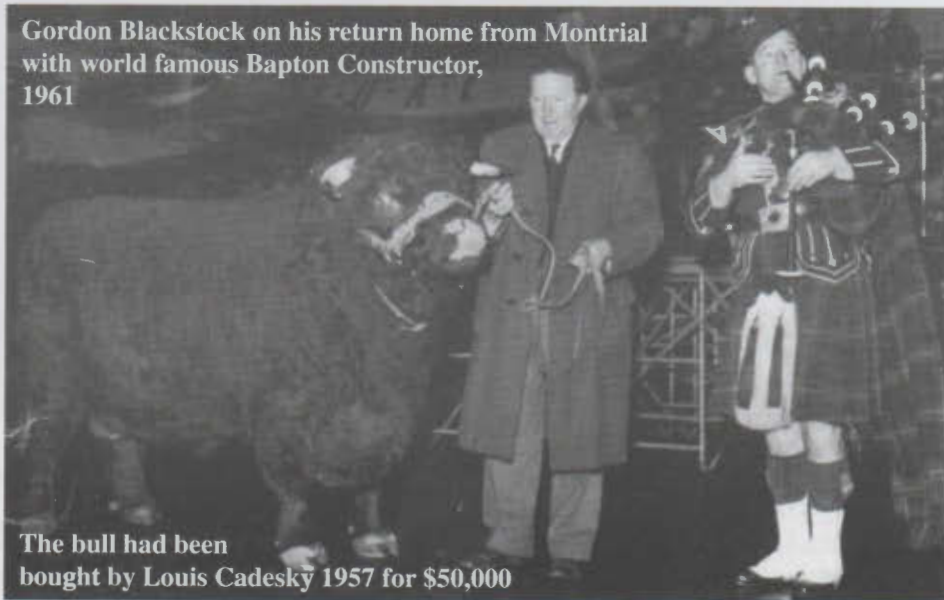
The sale was held by the Mid-Ulster Shorthorn Breeders Association, and the President at that time was J.H.Cowan of Annahavil, Money more.

The one name that kept coming up in Shorthorn circles during that period and continuing for many years was The Blackstock Family of Rosemount. The Late J.B.Blackstock and his uncle W.G .Blackstock exported cattle to the Argentine for many years. The then young Gordon Blackstock took over the Rosemount Herd, at Ballygoney, where the McAleece Family now live, and it is still known as "Blackstock's Hill" to people of my vintage.

Gordon's knowledge of cattle was recognised in 1945 when he judged the

Shorthorns at Perth, Scotland — the biggest show and sale of Shorthorns in Britain. Not only did he place the large show in record time, his top placing made the best prices. In 1946 Gordon decided to sell out as he was offered a job to manage the most famous herd of beef

Gordon Blackstock on his return home from Montrial with world famous Bapton Constructor, 1961



The bull had been bought by Louis Cadesky 1957 for \$50,000

Percy McReynolds



Shorthorn in Britain— The Calrossie Herd, owned by the MacGillivray Bros. Gordon's right-hand man in Rosemount was Percy A McReynolds, who went to Scotland with Gordon and was put in charge of the females at Calrossie. No mean feat for a couple of lads from Coagh!

His judging ability was a gain recognised a year later, when he was asked to judge the biggest show of cattle in the world — Palermo, South America. Unfortunately Gordon lost his life in a car accident, but he

will always be remembered for coining the phrase— "The only animal fit to beat a good little one, was a good big one".

By Boyd Millar

THE MID-DISTRICT
Shorthorn Breeding Association
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FOR SALE BY AUCTION,
IN THE MARKET YARD,
COOKSTOWN,
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Commencing at 10-30 o'clock a.m.

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(Who will Execute Commissions) or from
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(Secretary of the Association).

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For Railway Time Table and Special Train see page following Index.

Is this the type of Beef Shorthorn bull breeders should be aiming at? He had great length and smoothness as shown in this picture

Is This The Type To Aim At?



LORD MAYOR (132036)

taken when he was two years old. At that age he weighed 17cwt. 1qr. When he was five years old he was described by the late Bertie Marshall as probably the best bull alive at the time. He was a great sire in Ireland and when an old bull was sold to William Duthie of Collynie, but died shortly afterwards. He was a roan, calved on February 1, 1915, and bred by T. Paddleton, his sire being Garbity Field Marshall and his dam Dorothy F. 7th by Golden Flash (989 62). He was owned by Robert W. Bell, Windmill Farm, Coagh, Tyrone, N. Ireland.

From South Farmers of February 6th - 1965

From Killybearn Hibernians to Ogra Colmcille

By Patsy Devlin

Ogra Colmcille are at present getting ready to open a new playing field and changing rooms at Drumullan. The club played on rented fields since Gaelic football was first played in this area. The first team was formed in 1911 and played in the Tyrone league. It was known as Killybearn Hibernians. They only stayed in football for a couple of seasons, probably through the scarcity of players. They were in and out of competitions throughout the 30's and 40's. In the 40's they were known as Drumullan Sarsfields. They played in the Tyrone League for a few seasons before joining the South Derry League where they played in Div. 2. They finished in second place in the league on two or three occasions.

In the early 50's they went out of football for a few seasons, some players joining Cookstown Fr. Rocks and some going to Moneymore Henry Joy McCrackens.

Then in 1953 the club reformed and was known as Kevin Barrys and have been in competitive football practically ever since. Players were always scarce and they were just about able to field a team. Father Pol Johnston came to the Parish and called a meeting of the Littlebridge club and the Windmill, who played in Tyrone. They also had trouble with numbers. He proposed that both teams amalgamate. That meeting was attended by John Bleeks, Joe Gilligan, Dessie Bleeks from Windmill and Patsy Devlin from Littlebridge. It was agreed to call the club Ogra Colmcille and it was decided to play in Derry. Thus Ogra was born.

They now field teams in the Senior, Minor, U16, U14, U12 and a ladies team. At present the club has a wealth of talent, having won the Under 16 Championship, B.Division in 1998. They have two players Chris Collins and Stephen Devlin, on the Under 17 Irish team to play Australia with the same two players on the Derry Minor panel as well. In March this year Stephen Devlin won the Ulster Vocational Schools Medal with Tyrone; and Ryan Taylor, Thomas Devlin and Donal Ward won the Cornaog Cup medal (Ulster Medals).

Down the years the club had a number of county players. Best known of these were, Dr. Peter Smith, who played for Derry in the 1958 All Ireland Final, as well as Francie Devlin, Dennis O'Hagan, Francie McCann, Sean OHagan as well as a number of Minor players who wore the red and white of Derry. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Ogra Colmcille every success in the future.



UNDER 16 TEAM CHAMPIONS 1998

Back Row L-R: Frank Taylor Manager, John Rooney, Nial Collins, Oliver Devlin, Gerry O'Hagan, S. Bell, Chris Collins, Barry Kelly, Conrad Ward, Gavin Owen, Patsy Devlin Selecter.

Front Row: Brian Devlin, Ryan Taylor, Louise Taylor, Brian O'Hagan, Kevin McDonnell, Stephen Devlin, Aaran Martin, Oliver Devlin, Thomas Devlin, Nial Bradley. (Chris Collins & Stephen Devlin picked on the Irish Team U17 to play Australia Compromise Rules).



OGRA COLMCILLE DIV 3 DERRY LEAGUE CHAMPS 1982

**Back Row L-R: Patsy Devlin (Selector), Oliver McElhone, Frank Devlin, Tony Muldoon, Dermott Devlin, Marc Bell, Kieran Devlin, Colm Martin, Seamus Heron, Joe Gilligan (Selector) .
Front Row: Sean O'Hagan, Eugene Bleeks, Tommy McLoughlin, Dennis O'Hagan, Seamus Bell, Willie Martin (Capt.), Hugh Martin, James Bleeks, Mickie Devlin.**



**Back Row L-R: Aidan Quinn, Sean McGranaghan, Sean O'Hagan, Tommy McLaughlin, John McLaughlin, John Martin, Stephen Heron, Paul Conway, Barry Devlin, Paul Devlin.
Front Row: Kieran Devlin, Philem McElhone, Damian Devlin, Marc Bell, Kieran Conway, Gerry Donnelly, Martin Mullan, Gerry Heron, Seamus Heron, Bobby McLaughlin.**

A Historical Note ON MONEYMORE

Sir Thomas Phillips (A survey of the Irish Plantation in 1662), produced a plan of the lands belonging to the Company of Drapers. They also showed a layout of the village of Moneymore (Munnie Mor - The Big Thicket).

The village consisted of two streets, intersected at right angles with a cross and stocks to mark the crossing. Phillips recorded (1662) that there were "sixteen British men present on the propartion, meanly armed and 186 natives".

The survey provided much further information. There were for example:-

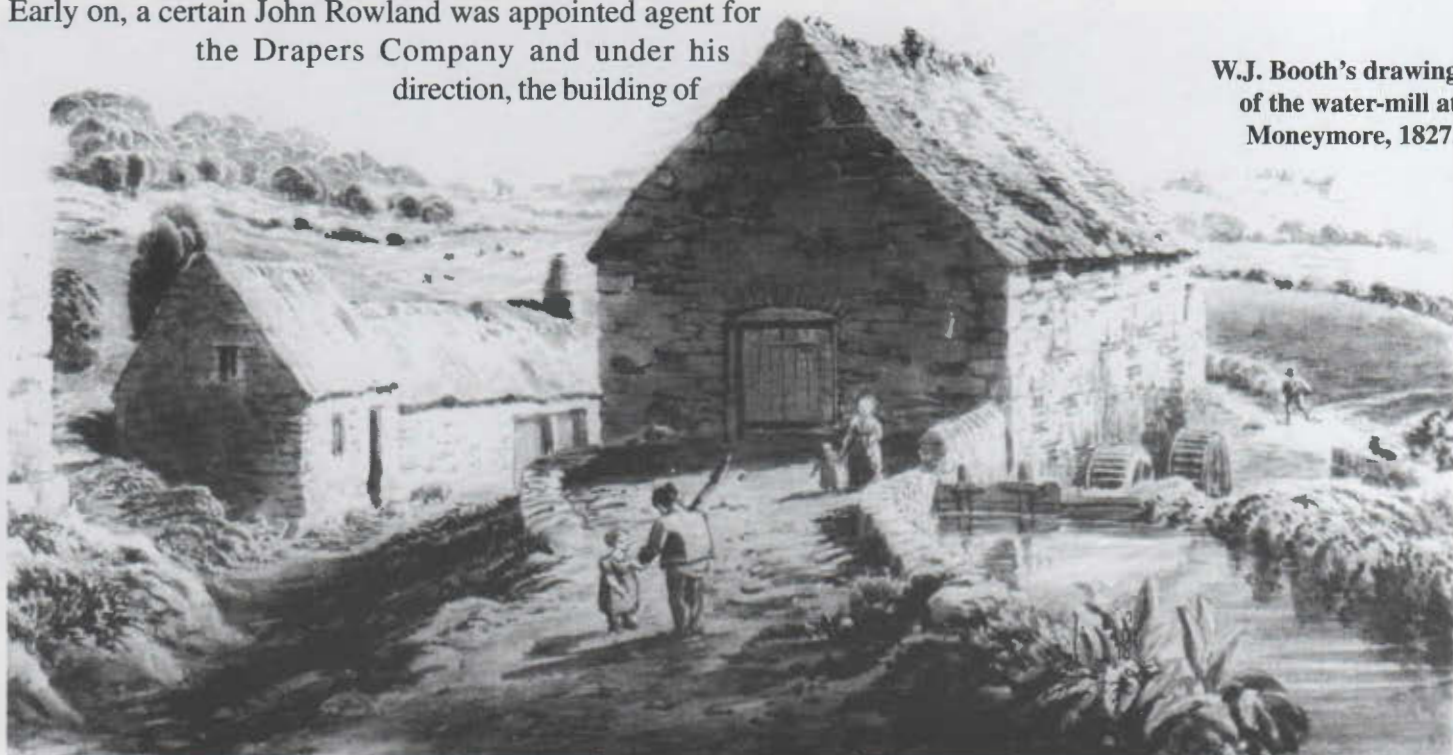
- i several substantial timber framed houses
- ii some smaller two storey buildings of stone with slate roofs
- iii several elliptical huts of native Irish type, roofed with thatch
- iv a large house with a bawn, but says Philips, "this being neatly finished, lies in part uncovered, the flowers and partitions not made, the timber thereof rotting and walls decaying, with the weather having so remained these six years and is now used as a pound for cattle"

Clearly all was not well, and the Worshipful Company of Drapers began its long association with Moneymore, and its many and repeated efforts to improve and restore the "town", as a later historian (I'm told, but am uncertain about this) called it.

Moneymore was, it seems fairly typical of a London Company Village (or Town), but it was unique in that it was the first Village in Ulster to have piped water, the pipes being made of wood. Moreover, the Drapers Company, unlike the other London Companies, set out to develop their own "proportion" in order to attract settlers. The other Companies leased their land to persons who were prepared to do the building themselves.

Early on, a certain John Rowland was appointed agent for the Drapers Company and under his direction, the building of

W.J. Booth's drawing
of the water-mill at
Moneymore, 1827.



The Common Barn



Moneymore, with its Castle and Bawn commenced. By 1616, twelve houses were completed, Rowland however died in 1617. His successor was Robert Russell, who apparently caused much dissension between the Company and its tenants.

The detailed history of Moneymore and Draperstown is to be found in many sources, e.g. James Steven Curl's History (Ulster Architectural Heritage Society).

Here, however are a few very selective observations to convey something of the Villages' past and character. With regard to the building undertaken by the Drapers Company it is interesting to note the following;-

- i Pre-fabricated framed building were shipped by the Drapers Company, to the Port of Derry and then transported by horse or oxen and erected in Moneymore. The walls were of mud or sandstone and lime, available locally.
- ii A grit mill was built and a Castle, where the Orange Hall now stands. The Castle was taken over by a local Chieftain, Cormac O'Hagan. The Castle, surrounding houses and mill were burnt down in the rebellion of 1641.
- iii After 1641, these buildings were restored by the Drapers Company and it appears at this early date the quarterly fair was started.



W.J. Booth's drawing of 1827 showing the southern aspects of Moneymore, taken from a window of the Drapers' Arms Inn.

iv In 1688, James II and his army came through Moneymore on their way to the Seige of Derry and on their retreat, operated a “scorched earth” policy with the result that the Drapers Company had to undertake a second programme of building and restoration.



Leaping forward in time there are some very interesting Key dates.

1820 - The establishment of a linen yard, where people came from local towns and villages with webs of linen, (from 1727, Antrim, Down, Armagh, Tyrone and Derry were fully geared for the production of linen. Naturally, considerable quantities of flax began to be produced).

1830 - The monthly fair was established, the fair day being the 21st of each month. Moneymore (it seems) had the second largest horse fair in Ireland and the largest overall fair of horses, cattle and sheep. The fair ceased in the late 1950's

1850 - The Drapers Arms was built. It is interesting to note that the Belfast to Dungannon Stagecoach from Dublin to the North-west stopped (I believe I don't know the source) at a staging post just outside the Village.

1851 - A Railway junction was established in Moneymore, the line ran from Randalstown - Magherafelt - Moneymore to Cookstown. This, of course considerably enhanced the commercial prosperity of the Village.

Late 1880's - Henry Bryne came from Cork. He was a surveyor for the English land Commission.

He was instrumental in setting up a creamery in 1902, and in 1908, a Co-operative Fruit Growers Society. In 1920, a local Co-operative Store was established.

St. John's Protestant Church,
Money more.



Copyright Photo (189) by O'Connell, Letterkenny & Moira.

From Plantation times, lime has been quarried in Money more, and for over 100 years the Devlin Family have been associated with this industry. The yard, presently owned by the Devlin Family was used by the Drapers Company as an office in the eighteenth century.

After the First World War, the Glover Family commenced stone quarrying in Money more, and the family and this industry continues to this day.

There was, it appears, in the late 19th. and early 20th. Centuries, much manufacturing in Money more including nails, candles, saddles and blacksmithing equipment.

A Couple of Stories about “Old Money more”

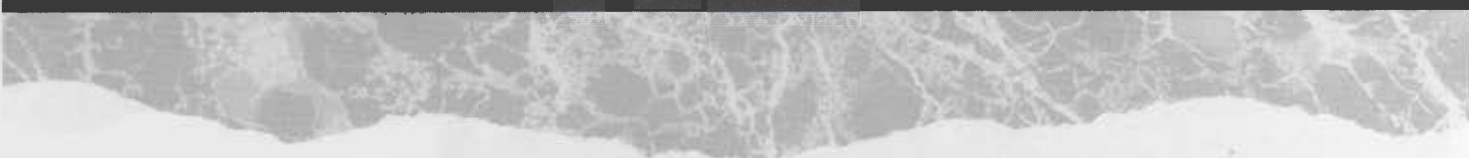
(a)of Sam Gilliland, a blacksmith, in an old Salvation Army record, “Sam has gone to the hands of the Devil”

(b) There were four roads into Money more and at each approach a Church. Someone allegedly said “The Devil will never get into Money more”, to which the reply was “The Devil is here already, and can't get out!”

This next piece is the Conclusion of an address I gave at the launch of Project Money more, before members of the present Drapers Company, representatives of the International Fund for Ireland etc.



Copyright Photo (189) by O'Connell, Letterkenny & Moira.



“on a bright Autumn day recently, I (walked from the direction of Cookstown) down the hill into Moneymore. I was moved by the beauty of the season, and by the delightful setting of the Village. I recalled some words from the Latin Poet, Horace, which can be translated something like this.

“That nook of earth smiled for me beyond all other places”

Men and Women have always felt an affection for their native place and have always heard the whisper of their roots. The residents (the real residents) of Moneymore are no different . They can say “My lot has fallen unto me in a fair ground, Yea! I have a goodly heritage”.

It is appropriate surely, that in the presence of the representatives of the Drapers Company, who, over three centuries ago, set out to rebuild and improve this place, that the Moneymore Project should now undertake imaginative restoration and further improvements.

Edmund Burke was a great Irishman and a great Parliamentarian. He wrote some words that are appropriate today.....

“People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors. The idea of inheritance furnishes a sure principle of conservation, and a sure principle of transmission, without at all excluding a principle of improvement”

By Wilfred Young

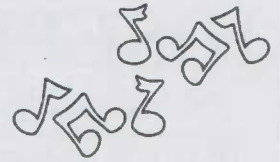
We would like to take this opportunity to thank Wilfred for writing this article and also to convey to all those working on the Moneymore Project our best wishes.



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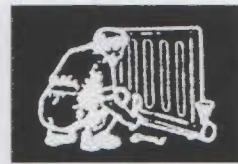
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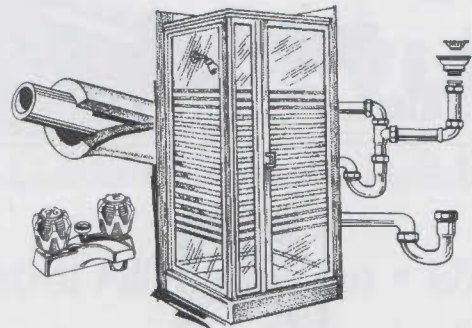
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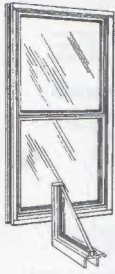
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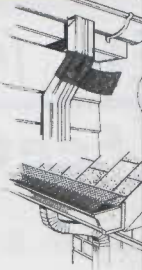


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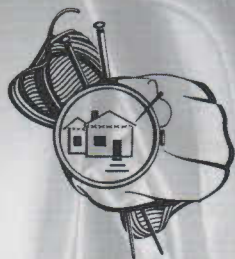
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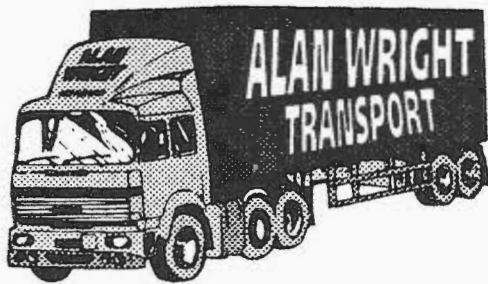
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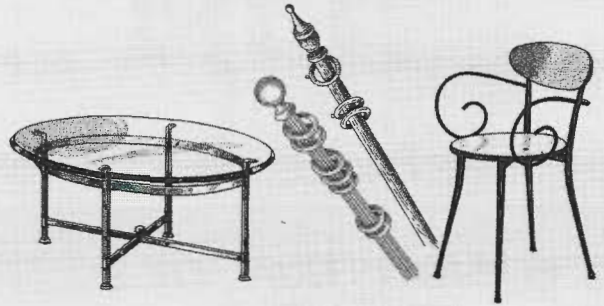
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