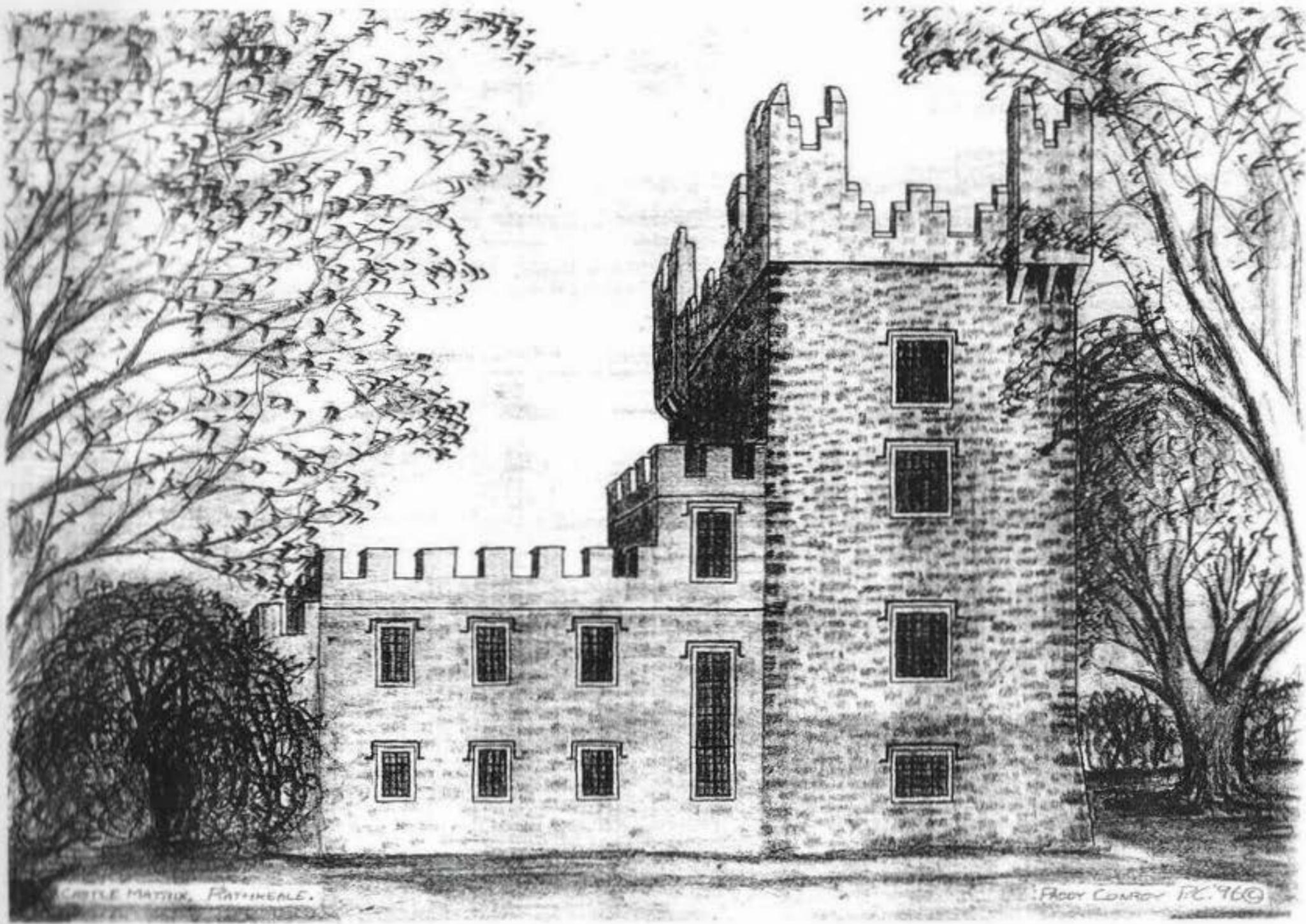

DEEL



VIEWS

Easter 1998



Easter
 **BLESSINGS**

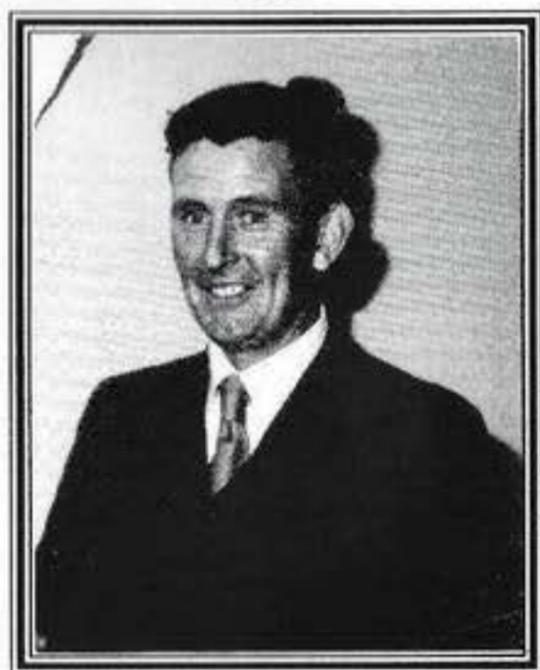
from
Rathkeale Community Council

Price: 50p

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It is with a great sense of loss we record the death of Patrick Johnson of Courtmatrix. He was a member of Rathkeale Community Council since 1976 and acted as Chairman from then until 1991. He was a dedicated supporter and advocate of Community Development in all its many aspects and we remember particularly his involvement in the Sheltered Housing Project for which he donated the site. He was most active in Siamsa, the weekly card games, the annual Gymkhana and the re-construction of the old courthouse and the sports complex, and so much more.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Miriam and family and we offer them our deepest sympathy. His death leaves a large void in our community.



Abrahams



Golfing Society

AGM 27 February 1998

Election of Officers:

<i>Position:</i>	<i>Name:</i>
President:	V. O'Kelly
Captain:	E. Newell
Vice-Captain:	D. Horgan
Hon. Secretary:	N. Duggan
Hon. Treasurer:	B. Neville
Committee:	B. Keating, Mary O'Sullivan (Ballingrane), P. Supple, D. Mooney, J. O'Connor.

Motion: (Passed)

That this AGM creates an additional category of Membership, i.e. "Honorary Membership" and empowers the Committee to make selections to this category in accordance with agreed criteria.

Outings 1998

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Tee Time</i>
18 April '98	Shannon G.C.	10am - 12noon
16 May '98	Newcastle West G.C.	12noon - 2pm
4 July '98	Charleville G.C.	11.30am - 1.30pm
25 July '98	Killorglin G.C.	2.00pm - 4.00pm
29 August '98	Adare Manor G.C.	9.30am - 12.30pm
26 September '98	Dooks G.C.	11.00am - 1.00pm
21 November '98	Doneraile G.C.	9.30am - 11.30am

Golfer of the Year: Frank Geary (after Play-Off)
Society Singles: Patsy O'Sullivan



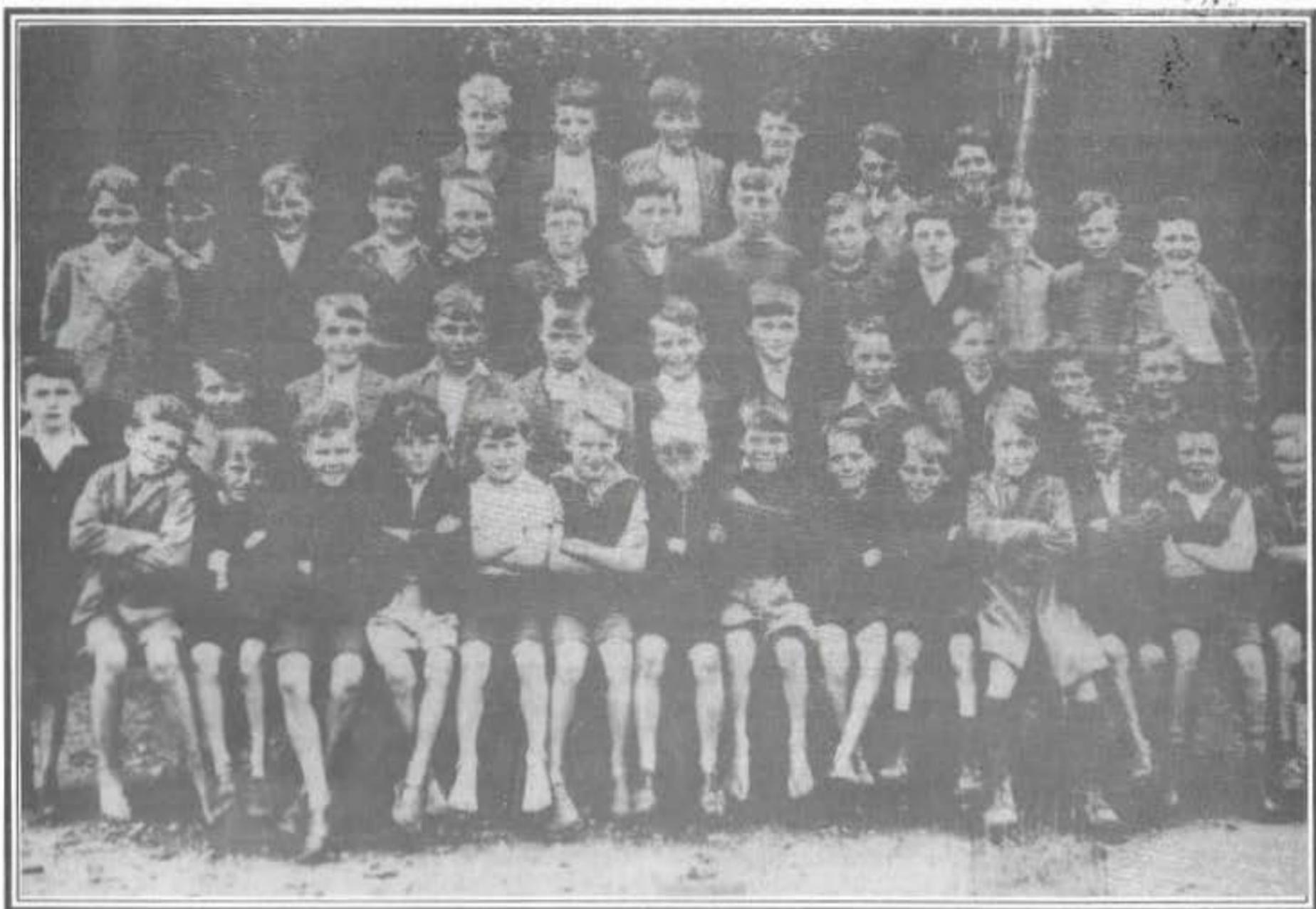
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Cappagh School 1929



Rathkeale School 1942

Rathkeale and District Historical Society

Since Christmas we have had three meetings of our society. In January at what has become the annual local night, we listened to talks from three speakers: Tom Donovan from Glin spoke on the 1798 Rebellion and particularly on its impact on Limerick. Paddy Fullam from Ardagh gave a very interesting talk on the finding and the history of the Ardagh Chalice. Finally, Rathkeale man John Patrick Shanahan discoursed on the planning and building of Rathkeale Catholic Church.

We had two lectures in March. The first by Jack O'Dwyer on the history of road development in Ireland, and later in the month from Brian O'Brien of Castlematrix on the life of William Smith O'Brien who was an ancestor of his.

We are now planning an outing for the summer to be finalised later. Meanwhile a committee has been formed jointly between Newcastle West, Ardagh and ourselves to organise a commemoration of William Smith O'Brien of Cahermoyle on the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Rising in 1848 of which he was the leader.

*From a talk by
Tom Donovan to
Rathkeale Historical Society*

*1798 Rebellion and the
impact on Limerick*

First of all a brief word on the background to 1798: the French revolution of 1789 resulted in the overthrow of the Monarchy by Republicans and had an impact all through Europe. Many other countries trying to stem the tide of revolution made attempts to restore the Monarchy in France and by 1793 France was at war with most of its neighbours, including Britain. The United Irishmen were greatly influenced by these matters especially a lot of Irishmen had seen service against Britain during the American War of Independence. The French saw an opportunity of attacking Britain through the back door i.e. Ireland. There was a split in the United Irishmen, nothing new, some wanted to attack the British on their own but the Wolfe Tone faction won out and agreed to enlist the aid of the French. This led to the disaster of the Bantry Bay invasion that never was.

There were three locations where Ireland could be invaded: Bantry, Shannon and Killala. This was because they could avoid the British fleet and also have the sympathy of the local West of Ireland people. Napoleon believed that the Shannon Estuary was the best spot for invasion and Bantry should have been used as a diversion. This because all the militias from Munster and the West of Ireland went to Bantry leaving the West largely undefended. In 1906 the memoirs of an old sea captain record a meeting with Napoleon on the island of Elba where he was surprised to discover that Napoleon knew more about the Shannon Estuary than he himself and mentioned Kilcrodane, Foynes Island, Scatterry etc. He mentioned to the old man that results might have been different if Shannon had been the target. The British were well aware of this and at the time the only defence structure was at Tarbert. After the Napoleonic Wars many more forts were constructed in the area. Sir James Duff, the military commander in 1798, issued a proclamation to the people of Limerick advising them to support the authorities and not the French who were known to plunder and slaughter in every land they conquered and as also a year earlier they wanted to fight the French. This was largely true and if the French had succeeded in their venture things might not have been all that rosy and I could be speaking to you tonight in French. The nineteenth

century was approaching and the age of Imperialism. It wasn't just the larger countries were involved as witness the major incursions into Africa by Belgium. At the time you either conquered or were conquered.

In 1942 Richard Hayes wrote an article in the Thomond Archaeological Journal where he mentioned a debate he had with Canon Begley (who wrote a history of the diocese). He had largely ignored the rebellion stating that there was no organisation in the county. This was in contrast to Lenehan. Even if there wasn't rebellion, there certainly was insurrection and in March 1798 the county was declared to be in a state of insurrection. By May martial law had been declared. This could be said to be an admission of defeat by the British. Begley was right in the sense there were very few records of the time in Limerick. The Chronicle files for 1798 are missing and last year I went through the Ennis papers of the time and found a number of interesting items, many of which had been taken from the Chronicle..... e.g. Lancelot Hill, a merchant from Limerick was captured by the French in Killala but was released as being too much of a nuisance. When I reflected on this I discovered that all the footnotes in Lenehan are from the Limerick Chronicle so the missing files are not such a serious problem. Micheal O'Longain a poet from Glin berated the Munster people for not rising up with him and a lot of people made the mistake that since there was nothing organised in Limerick nothing actually happened.

Commemorations this year will be mainly concentrated in Wexford, Kildare and Ulster and Kevin Whelan, in an essay, posed a theory as to why the rebels were successful in those areas. The United men relied largely on the written word to spread their message and hence were only effective in English speaking areas on the East coast. Munster was mainly Irish speaking at the time as evidenced by the fact that at the County trials in Rathkeale a translator had to be employed by the court. Kevin Danaher makes out that the famine had a two fold effect on County Limerick: it wiped out what he describes as the lower classes and in doing that wiped out the language. The United Irishmen here were divided into two areas, east and west with the River Deel as the boundary. In the former you had as leader a schoolmaster from Ballingarry named James Baggott. In 1942 Richard Hayes had Baggott's home pointed to him by a local man, and maybe some of my listeners might know more on this. Colonel Odell tried everything in his

power to capture him but failed and a report went to Dublin to say he was too cunning for Odell. It mentioned "that rascal Baggott who can neither be frightened or bribed". He survived until 1845 and is buried in Kilmacow Graveyard. In West Limerick the leader was Gerald Fitzgerald, a brother of the Knight of Glin. He was a former navy man and a good friend of Lord Edward Fitzgerald. When the latter visited the area secretly in 1798 he called on Baggott in Ballingarry and also went to Kilmallock. He also stayed in Glin Castle with Gerald. After the killing of Lord Edward the Knight called his tenants together and urged them to rise against the authorities. However the P.P. of the time mentioned that the previous year he had wanted to attack the French and next week maybe someone else. They all went home. Gerald remained active until 1803 and visited Robert Emmett a week before he died. He was obviously of some significant influence. However when Emmett died and the rising in Dublin failed, he dropped out of the scene. A lot of those under him wanted to rise but he would have none of it and at one point he was thought of as a spy but there was no proof of this. The English did have an agent called David Fitzgerald who masqueraded as Gerald and provided a lot of useful information. In fact the entire organisation was riddled with spies. Letters between Baggott and Fitzgerald were being constantly intercepted and one such was picked up in Shanagolden which exposed the whole matter. There was no need to capture Fitzgerald because of all the information available from spies. They found it a lot more difficult to infiltrate the militias and in June 1797 two men, Peter Murneen and Jimmy O'Neill were executed in Adare as an example to others....militias from as far as Tarbert and Ennis were force marched to witness the event. In 1798 two privates of the Kildare Militia were executed in Limerick... Thomas Lyons and Peter O'Loughlin. During the American War of Independence many of the soldiers who were sent to that war were of necessity replaced by Catholics at home. Thomas Lyons was taken to Kings Island and shot by eight men of his own regiment and up to October 1798 ten men were executed in Limerick. You might say ten was not a large number but the gentry and landlords who made up the judiciary were reluctant to sentence culprits to death for fear of their own communities among which they had to live. Furthermore many of the charges were trumped up and magistrates took the softer option of transportation. Getting back to the matter of spying..... a Michael McSweeney was sentenced to six hundred lashes and after one hundred he offered useful

information if they took him down. He must have done so as a Thomas McSweeney was hanged a week later and two Kennedy brothers from Doon were executed within another week. George Fitzgerald, who gave evidence against the Kennedy's was murdered in reprisal. Mannix Joyce has written of Staker Wallace who was hanged in Kilfinane and the six people who were murdered as a reprisal. Anyone wanting to learn about that period in Limerick should read Mannix Joyce's book on Staker Wallace. There is a very detailed account available of the life in jail at the time and also of the executions and floggings. Most of the hangings took place on what is now Matthew Bridge at the end of Patrick Street. Richard McElligott who had been a hedge school master and Gerald Griffin's first teacher was captured as were many masters. A lot of hedge school masters were rebels but not all rebels were hedge school masters. He was captured and imprisoned. He kept a diary which he succeeded in smuggling out of the jail stuck to the bottom of a plate with a potato skin (It was the practice that prisoners were dependent on relatives for bringing them food) He wrote as follows: "What shall I suffer walking up and down in this dismal place from light to light with no companion but a dying man who has been three times flogged, a breathing corpse, with legions of rats of all ages which have forgotten the timidity of their species and lord it here with their hereditary sway. There were three happy fellows hanging from every lamp of the bridge as I crossed. The lantern hooks were breaking and I must wait until some kind friend drops off. They occupied all the little footpath and the toes of some were even touching it".

McElligott was later released on bail. In 1845 the bridge was reconstructed and renamed Matthew Bridge and the contractor, Duggan, left one of the lamps as a reminder. Unfortunately it is there no longer. The hangings continued into 1799 and two Mangan brothers from Shanagolden were executed for the murder of another Mangan. It is possible they were related to James Clarence Mangan, whose father came from Shanagolden. Seven men from Knockfierna were arrested for the trivial offence of house robbery. All were convicted and due to be hanged. One young boy named Kelly was reprieved and sentenced to be transported. The other six were ordered to draw lots to determine who would be hanged and who would be transported. One of the unlucky ones was Kelly's father and sadly one of his last memories before leaving Ireland was the sight of his father's body hanging from a lamp-post on the

bridge. Is it any wonder that so many convicts in Australia also rebelled against English rule.

At the time of Emmett's rising in 1803 the only recorded activity was an attack on the castle which failed.

Rathkeale was the principal town of the county during this period and all the county trials were held there. Driving through the town tonight I couldn't but notice how it has declined from its position of eminence of the last century and think of the late John Healy's phrase "No one shouted Stop". A Patrick Joseph O'Loughlin from here was arrested and brought to Limerick. He is mentioned in Lenehan's history and it is believed he was later released. He had a brother, Dr. Brian O'Loughlin, a distinguished surgeon, to whom there is a monument erected in Greenwich Hospital, London. He was the man who was instrumental in introducing the pension scheme for widows and orphans. Patrick's son was also a doctor and a daughter, born in 1798 had the distinction of living in three centuries when she died in 1902.

One of the major consequences of the rebellion was the great number of convicts transported for their "crimes". This had been used as a form of punishment from the 16th century and in Cromwellian times people were transported to the West Indies. In 1791 the first convict ship left for Australia from the port of Cork and contained a number of Limerick men. Four Ahern boys, accused of being Croppies, were on "The Atlas" out of Cork in 1800. It is interesting to note that there are two different versions of the origin of the name "Croppy". Here in Ireland it is believed to come from the fact that many rebels cropped their heads like the French republicans while in Australia it came from the practice of share cropping adopted by pardoned convicts. I have already mentioned Gerald Fitzgerald; he had a number of men under him who were betrayed by spies and arrested; Leonard, Cunningham, Sheehy, Galvin and Langan. They were convicted in 1798 and lodged in a hulk off Cork to await a convict ship. They eventually sailed on "The Anne" in 1800 and arrived in Australia in 1801. Their story is described in an excellent book "The Fatal Shore". The conditions on the ship were abysmal and before leaving Cork the stores had become infested with rats and had to be removed, the holds fumigated and then restocked. The First Mate treated the prisoners so badly that there was a mutiny on board. On one occasion when a man was swabbing the deck he spilled some liquid and the

mate threw a cannonball at him and knocked him out. In retaliation, Sheehy attacked the mate but was overpowered and later executed by shooting.... being the only convict ever to put to death by shooting on such a ship. Langan and Galvin were spared due to the intercession of a Fr. O'Neill, a friend of the Captains. Strangely both of these made it back to Ireland after being pardoned in Australia. Cunningham was a well respected leader from Moyvane and while in exile he was urged to lead a rising at Castlehill in 1803. He was about to agree when a priest moved in and succeeded in averting the plan. When they were surrendering he was shot, not fatally, but was then hanged from a banister as a warning to others. Two of the five colleagues of Gerald Fitzgerald were now dead.

Governor King of the time described them as "notorious, seditious rebels" and had no respect whatsoever for any of them. Galvin was pardoned in 1810 and Langan in 1817.

"The Fatal Shore" contains an account of a whipping Galvin received (taken from a diary of Joseph

Holt). The two men with the whips worked as if they were flailing corn, one left handed and the other using his right hand. A doctor stood by to check the victims pulse and the first hundred lashes around the shoulders exposed the bone. the doctor ordered that the next hundred be lower down and these reduced the flesh to such jelly that the final lashes were on the calves. Galvin never flinched and when asked to disclose where pikes were hidden is alleged to have replied "You may hang me but you will have no music out of my mouth to have others dance". He was carted off to hospital and when Governor King heard that he had refused to divulge any information he had him whipped again two weeks later. However he recovered and when pardoned in 1810 returned to his home in Moyvane. Local tradition has it that he is buried in the cemetery there.

In conclusion, I would recommend two books for anyone who wishes to know more about this period in Irish History, particularly in regard to transportation: "The Fatal Shore" by Robert Hughes, and "Botany Bay" by Con Costelloe.



Local personalities of the past.

Back L-R: Sean Finn, ? , Nolan, ? , Mce. Noonan, ? . Front L-R: ? , Power, Meade, Meade.

Rush-gathering in County Limerick

(From "The Irish Countrywoman" 1960)

More years ago than I care to count, rushwork was introduced to our Guild by a charming and talented lady, now one of our Organisers. We bought our rushes and duly made baskets, mats, and all the lovely things that can be shaped by skilful fingers out of the silken, well saved rushes which had been gathered over the summer from the lakes and rivers scattered throughout our beautiful countryside.

Our guild in those days, as it is now, was a flourishing one, but like many, we fell on lean times and had to tighten our belts and tread cautiously, economising here, and cutting out there the demonstrations and lectures we "imported" for our monthly meetings and had to rely more on our own members for variety in our programmes. Through no fault of our own, our numbers became small, and our annual outing was going to fall by the wayside when one of our members suggested killing two birds with one stone, or I should say three with one shot, as her suggestion has given entertainment to many, interesting work to all, and by doing it we are helping to keep interest alive in one of the oldest crafts known to man, for is not rushwork recorded in the Bible, where it is said in the year 1547 B.C. Jachabed, the wife of Amran, made a "cradle of rushes with her own hands, and in it placed her beautiful male child to float on the waters before Pharaoh's daughter, and when that Egyptian Princess beheld the "basket of rushes" she ordered her handmaidens to bring it to her, and on seeing the child lying in its "rush cradle", she was touched, and adopted the

infant for her own and named him Moses.

The suggestion made was, why not take the guild on a picnic to some river during the summer and pass a part of the time gathering rushes for our own use during the winter?

Now to most of us rushes meant awkwardly-long bundles of "grasses", neatly tied and labelled, collected by patient husbands from bus or train when in town. Growing, they had never obtruded themselves on our lives, apart maybe from a child making a "cat's cradle" out of the smaller varieties found along the river banks. However, our "leading lady" knew all. We were to wear wellingtons and come armed with sharp knives, bring twine to tie the rushes into long bundles, and, above all, that which is so dear to every I.C.A. heart, don't forget to bring contributions towards the tea!

Off we went, two car-loads of us, only ten in all, but what fun we had! We looked right and left, we even crossed the border into the "Kingdom" in our search for giant rushes, ignoring the tidy clumps waving gently on the rivers nearer home.

We waded through swamp and sedge. We sank above our boot-tops in the rivers and had to be dragged by the arm-pits to safety. We sheltered under bushes from occasional showers, and when weary and damp but with several bundles to our credit, we huddled around the smoky fire waiting for the kettle to boil. We wondered why we

were killing ourselves, all for the sake of a few rushes. Was it really worth it?

The cup that cheers certainly lived up to its name that day, for after it we set forth new women and quite close to home discovered a wonderful stretch of river filled with rushes simply asking to be cut, and from that evening on we have become confirmed rush-gatherers.

Since those far-off days our lot has improved. We are again affluent. Our numbers have increased, and our "outing" each year is quite a big affair. The Ring of Kerry one year, Cork Show another. We have been up the Shannon and to the Ballet, but never, in spite of these attractions, do we forget our rushgathering.

Early in July the children will start, "Is it time to cut the rushes yet, Mammy?" for by now it has resolved itself in a family affair as well as an I.C.A. picnic.

You will be pestered on every side by willing juvenile helpers, until at last you will say, "Go, find when Paddy Bourke can lend us his donkey and cart". Word will come back that he is busy this week with the turf, and next, he is going out doing the hay for a neighbour, but if Tuesday week would suit, he'll try and give it.

Tuesday it is, and word flies around to the big families and the small to be out at Kilcool Bridge at one o'clock.

On foot they come, and on bikes, with

a few big boys proudly driving the donkey and cart, a place of honour reserved only for the "senior juniors"; the smaller fry are assigned to the motor cars brought by members to convey the mothers and the picnic equipment.

The excitement, wondering who will be here this year! The mad chase across the fields once we are free of the road and the confines of the cars. The donkey is untackled and galloped madly around and around with yelling youngsters clamouring to get on its back. Mothers are struggling with baskets and small children across the meadow until the river bank is reached, and suddenly we all settle down into the well-remembered and loved routine.

If the day is warm, it's togs for the children and old tennis-shoes, whilst some of the adults don togs or shorts as well as old shoes, which are a "must" for easy walking on the river bed.

We divide into three lots. The togged-out members of the party go upstream. Those of us content with "hitching" our skirts, to halfway, and the small ones of the party play around the opening on to the meadow, and wade out into the shallow waters to catch and bring ashore the rushes cut by the workers up-stream and floated down.

So the work goes on merrily, cheerily, but quite intently, because we are out to better last year's tally of bundles, and who knows, we may make a fortune for the guild by selling the surplus to the neighbours!

Not one moment too soon comes the call to tea, as rushcutting is back-breaking work. We are very modern now with our "volcanoes" to boil up the water, but the enjoyment of the good things provided is still the same.

We are good cooks, and pride ourselves on everything being home-grown as well as being home-made, and we aim to keep the fare simple, thereby ensuring that the mothers will have little trouble preparing it so that they too will get as much enjoyment as possible out of the day. However, what can Cordon Bleu offer to compare with oven-fresh soda-bread eaten with tomatoes, just picked and still warm from the sun, or newly-baked scones topped with butter and last week's raspberry jam; or delicious apple-tart, dripping sweetness and mouth-watering pastry - what can they, indeed?

We loll around or saunter up stream away from the chatter of the happy crowd, to look across at the old castle dreaming on the river bank, to listen the 'plop' of a trout, or follow the wake of a family of water-hens who busily swim in and out amongst the rushes so rudely disturbed by the inroads of the I.C.A.

I hear singing on the breeze and listen, lost in the beauty of the scene,

to the sweet voice of my guild, rising pure and clear in that lovely melody we learned for the Eleanora Gibbon choirs, "My love is like an arbutus". What judge could not but put them first in all Ireland had he but heard them in such a setting?

What might have been does not matter now, what does, is that the dew is falling, the sun is gone, the children, tired after their long day of work and play, have to be packed into the cars, and the donkey and cart with its load of rushes has a long road home.

So ends a perfect day, as in the lovely still, dusky evening we wend our various ways home. Tired, yes, but with that contented tiredness which comes from work well done, in ideal surroundings, with congenial companions, and our children around us, in whom I hope and feel the seeds of love for our countryside and crafts is being sown, deep and truly, by this yearly gathering for work and play by the old Desmond Castle on the River Deel.

*Mrs. Pauline O'Callaghan,
M & L Bank, Rathkeale.*

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the Rathkeale area this summer?**

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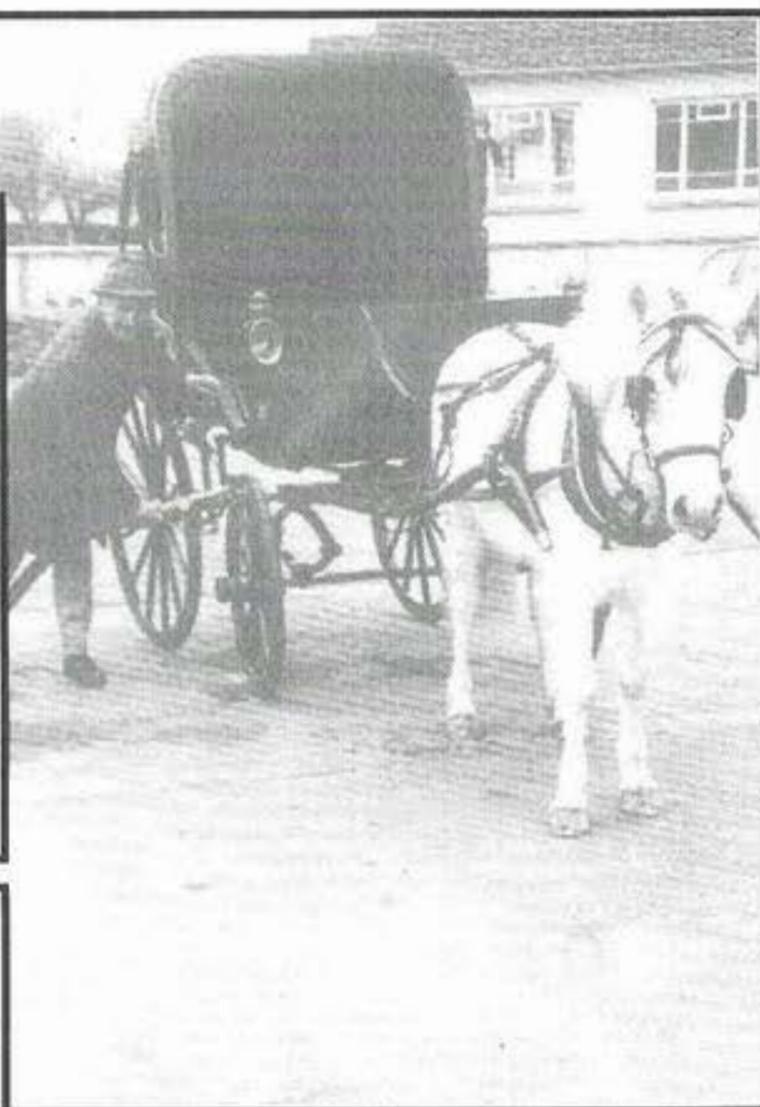
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st. patrick's day

parade



St. Patrick's
Day



Michael Stack,
Eugene McNamara,
Eamon Daly and
Padraig Feehan at
the Schools Hunter
Trials in Clonshire

*At the
Opening
of
The Rathkeale
Community
Arts Centre*



*Jack Donovan who opened the Centre
presents one of his works to Norma Prendeville*



*Gillian Hogan, Josie Meehan, Norma Prendeville,
Geraldine Sheehan, Noreen O'Flaherty.*



Teresa Cronin



Pat Coleman, Brian Óg Coleman, Pat O'Flaherty

REMEMBERING PAST EVENTS

by P.J. Madigan - 1973

The following Rathkeale members of the Dalton School of Dancing were successful in the Rural Dancing Section of Feile Luimnighe on Sunday 11th March.

3- Hand Reel under 8

1st, Grainne Donovan, Anne Hogan, Niall Mooney.

Reel under 8 - 4th Niall Mooney

Reel under 11 - 3rd Brian Mooney

4-Hand Reel under 12 - 1st, Martha Fitzgerald, Martin Doherty, Fiona Madigan, Brian Mooney

Double Jig 10-14 - 3rd, Richard Mooney

4-Hand Reel (open to any age over 12) - 3rd, Bernie Sullivan, Catherine Carroll, Seamus Doherty, Richard Mooney.

A branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann was formed at a meeting held in Patsy Doherty's residence, on Tuesday, 20th March a total of twenty four members were enrolled. Present at the meeting to give assistance in starting the branch were two C.C.E. executives - Tadhg O Maolcatha, Templeglantine, and Donal de Barra, Duagh. The following officers were elected:-

Chairman: Mr. Patrick Sheehy M.C.C.

Vice-Chairman: Miss Nora Flynn N.T.

Secretary: Mrs. Maura Mooney

Treasurer: Mrs. Irene Donovan

Auditor: Mr. Denis Hartnett

Delegates to County Board:

Mr. Tom McNamara and Miss Maura Mooney.

On Thursday 22nd March at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Croagh, the wedding took place between Michael Noonan, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Michael Noonan, Ballylin, Ballingarry and Marie O'Connor, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice O'Connor, Ballinvirick, Croagh. The best man was Sean Noonan, brother of the groom, and another brother Patrick, was groomsman. Michael O'Connor, brother of the bride, was usher. The bridesmaids were the Misses Jean and Helen O'Connor, sister of the bride. The flower girl was Deirdre O'Connors, another sister of the bride.

The wedding took place on 28th March at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale between Patrick McMahon son of Mrs. McMahon and the late John McMahon, Conigar, Askeaton, and Kathleen Sheahan, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Sheahan, Roche's Road, Rathkeale.

The best man was James McMahon, and the groomsman was John O'Shaughnessy. The bridesmaid was Margaret O'Dea, friend of the bride, and Mrs. Marie Hackney, sister of the bride, was matron of honour.

A meeting of past and present members of the Rathkeale C.G.M.S was held recently to endeavour to service the branch. The following were elected for 1973:-

President: Very Rev. J. Canon Costello P.P.

Chairman: Mr. Michael Hanley

Secretary: Mr. J. Griffin

Spiritual Director: Rev. J. Irwin C.C.

Committee: John White, Joseph Daly, T. Glenny, Patsy Doherty, Peter Donovan.

At Broadford, set-dancers from the Rathkeale Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann qualified to dance in the finals being held in Abbeyfeale during the Fleadh Ceoil. The members of the successful team are:-Mr. and Mrs Tom Hogan, Mr. and Mrs. Jim McEniry, Mrs. Tom McNamara and Patsy Doherty, Miss Nora Flynn and Michael Neville.

The counting of votes for the election of members of the Rathkeale Community Council took place at the Library on Tuesday 24th April. The following are the members elected:- Miss Eithne Neville, J. J. O'Kelly, Maurice Foster, Stephen McDonnell, Mrs B. Dunleavy, Andy O'Dea, John Griffin, William Nestor, Michael Geary, Peter Donovan, Michael Hennessy, Mrs. Nora Hennessy, Mrs. Jane Lynch, Willaim Quinn, Dan Gammell, Rev. B. Snow, Michael Hanley, Miss C. O'Rorke, Edward Roche, Con Crowley, Jack O'Dwyer, Edward Scully, Mrs. Rae Teskey, Tim Geaney, Mart Daly, Miss Lucy Wall, Joe Nash, Mrs. Sarah Lenihan, James (Blackie) McEniry, Patrick Keating, Amigan, John O'Donnell, James Power, Mrs. Ellen Chawke, Dermot Dillon.

The checking of the voting papers and the counting of the votes was supervised by Mr. Tom Keane, Community Adviser, Mr. Walter Ruttle, Chairman of the Limerick County Federation of Muintir na Tire; and Mr. Denis Hawkes, Chairman of Cappagh Community Council.

Rathkeale Youth Club held their Easter Social in the Deel Hall on Thursday 26th April, comprising a concert programme, tea and dancing. The concert opened with a lively selection of tunes from "The Roof Tops" a juvenile group including Liam Fitzgerald, accordion, Gearoid Cahillane, drummer, and vocalists Pat Neville, Cormac Cahillane and John Talty. Two members of Askeaton Youth Club, Tina O'Gorman and Ann Hanafin, sang some popular

songs, after which there was a monologue from Rev. B. Snow. This was followed by songs from Mrs. Dorothy Teskey. Members of the Dalton School of Dancing gave a display of traditional dancing, a 3-hand reel by Fiona Madigan, Brian Mooney, and Catherine Carroll. The following members of the recently formed Comhaltas branch danced a junior polka set; Ann Hogan, Elma Hogan, Felicity and Patricia Doherty, Brian and Declan Mooney, Brian Carroll, Martin Doherty.

Members of Rathkeale Youth Club then sang some well-known songs. The group consisted of soloists Marie Dunne, Valerie, John, and Michael O'Brien, Teresa Curtin, and the youngest soloist, Eithne O'Sullivan, and Maura Markham. Other members of the group were Finola Fennell, Frank Dinnage, Marese Fennell, Marcella Curtin and Padraig O'Dwyer.

The wedding took place recently between Patrick Kiely, son of Mary and the late John Kiely, Lisamote, Ballingarry and Kathleen Clancy, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Clancy, Ballyea, Rathkeale. The best man was D.J. Kett, and the groomsmen were Maurice and John Lenihan, nephews of the groom. The brides sister, Mary, was bridesmaid, and two sisters-in-law, Margaret and Mary, were matrons of honours.

For the past six weeks the beginning of May, pupils of 6th standard in St. Josephs Boys school have been engaged in compiling a weekly paper which they call the "School Times". The venture was first suggested to the boys by the Principal, Mr. Pat Ambrose. Every week the paper contains different features, including news items of local interest, and details of the sporting and academic activities of the school.

John Roche is the papers editor, Sean O'Shea is sub-editors, and John Madigan is chief reporter.

On Tuesday 5th June at the Church of St. John the Baptist, Croagh, the wedding took place between Patrick Madigan, Boolaglass, Askeaton, and Mary Ahern, Killea, Craogh. The best man was Patrick Cregan, friend of the groom, and the bridesmaid was Mary Ahern, cousin of the bride.

Rathkeales Festival '73 ended on Sunday 22nd July. One of the principal attractions on the day was the children's fancy dress parade. The following were the results:-

Groups over three members.

1st - "Childrens Allowances", Margaret Lyons, Margo Geaney, Mary Lyons, Myra Naughton, Josies Lyons, John Lyons, Michael Massey, Helen Massey, Edward Geaney.

2nd "Rose of Tralee" Marie Madden, Ann Sheehan, Celestine Hogan, Pat Madden, Mary Shier.

Groups under three members.

1st - "Surprise Peas" Philip Dolley and Stephen O'Brien

2nd - "Princess of Desmond" Breda Smith.

Adult Fancy Dress (groups on foot)

1st - "The Ireland of Yesterday and the Ireland of the Today"

Rathkeale Youth Club group.

Groups on Floats.

1st - "Benjies Wedding" Abbeylands Group

2nd - "Strauss Family", Mrs. Nora Hennessy and Group.

Festival Dog Show

Longest Dog - 1, Mrs. Carroll, 2, Richard Mooney, 3, Annette Dollery

Shortest Dog - 1, Stephen Williams, 2 Martin Williams, 3, Margaret Williams

Cleanest Dog - 1, Paul Dollery, 2 Margaret Williams, 3, Mary Meehan

Best Dressed Dog - 1, Annette Dollery, 2, John Madigan, 3, Jacqueline Mooney and Mrs. Carroll, 4, Paul Dollery

The centenary of the consecration of St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale was celebrated on 15th August. Mass was concelebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Murphy, assisted by Very Rev. J. Cannon Costello, P.P. Rathkeale, Very Rev. J. Enright P.P. Janesboro', Very Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald, P.P. Cappagh, and Very Rev. D. Wall, P.P. Kilcornan.

In the sanctuary were Very Rev. M. Canon O'Grady P.P. Adare, Very Rev. M Canon Purtill, P.P. Abbeyfeale, Very Rev. J. Culhane, P.P. Parteen, Rev. J. Irwin C.C. and Rev. A. Elliott, C.C. Rathkeale.

In the county swimming championships held in Askeaton on 30th August, swimmers from Rathkeale won 1st and 2nd places over the home team. They will represent Limerick in the Munster Swimming Championships at a venue to be arranged in September. The first team is Marie Madden, Celestine Hogan, Patricia Madden, and Elva McCarthy. The second team is Margaret Williams, Bernie O'Dea and Carmel Hennessy.

On 12th September, at St. Mary's Church, Rathkeale, the wedding took place between James Kenerick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Kenrick, Shanagolden and Veronica White, daughter of Michael and Veronica White, Roches Road, Rathkeale. The best man was Joseph Kenrick, and Chris Kenrick was groomsman. The bridesmaids were the Misses Teresa and Patricia White, and Angela O'Shea aw flowergirl.

The following officers and members of Cappagh Community Council attended the National Conference of Muintir na Tire, which was held in Killarney from 11th to 14th October:

Walter Ruttle and Dominic Culhane, Vice-Chairman
Eugene O'Sullivan, Secretary
Ernest Ruttle, Treasurer
P.J. Madigan, P.R.O. and Vincent Hayes

On Saturday, 15th September at St. James Church, Cappagh, the wedding took place between Mossie Hennessy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hennessy, Cappagh, Askeaton, and Mary Quinn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Quinn, Cappagh, Askeaton. The best man was Michael Hennessy, brother of the 'groom' and the groomsman was Eugene O'Sullivan. Miss Peg Hennessy, sister of the 'groom', was bridesmaid, Mrs. Noreen Wallace, friend of the bride, was matron of honour. The flowergirl was Nicole Wallace.

The wedding took place on Wednesday, 17th October, at St. John's Church, Tyone Nenagh, between Timothy Shiels son of John and Mary Shiels, Main St., Rathkeale, and Mary Condon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Condon, Knockanpiedee, Nenagh. The best man was Kieran Healy, Ennistymon, and the groomsman was John Shiels, Jnr, brother of the groom. The bridesmaid were Sarah Cawley, friend of the bride, and Olive Shiels, sister of the 'groom'. Orla Dillon was flowergirl and Michael Lee was page boy.

On Saturday, 3rd November, at the Church of the Assumption, Abbeyfeale, the wedding took place between Francis Wilmott, son of Joseph and Kathleen Wilmott, Rockfield, Rathkeale and Ivan Lane, daughter of Thomas and Mary Lane, Killarney Road, Abbeyfeale. The best man was Thomas Wilmott, and the groomsman was Martin Wilmott, both brothers of the groom. The bridesmaid were Eileen Lane, sister of the bride, and Mary Lane, cousin of the bride.

The following were the winners from Rathkeale in the Juvenile Section of Scor '74 which was held in the Deel Hall, on Wednesday, 21st November:-

Instrumental 1st, Liam Fitzgerald
Solo Singing - 1st, Mary Hogan, 2nd Declan Mooney
Novelty Act - "The Big Deal", Rosemary Hughes, Eileen O'Shea and Great Dollery
Question Time: - 1, Bernard O'Gorman, 2, Pat Coleman, 3 Seamus Doherty.
Ballad Group 1, Conor Crowley, Pdraig O'Dwyer, Cormac Cahillane, Gearóid Cahillane, Liam Fitzgerald.
Recitation - 1, Jacqueline Fitzgerald, 2, Mary Meehan.
Set Dancing (Polka) Rosmary Hughes, Eileen O'Shea, Catherine Carroll, Bernie Sullivan, Seamus Doherty, Liam Fitzgerald, John Talty, Richard Mooney
Figure Dancing (3 Tunes) Bernie Sullivan, Breda Sullivan, Rosemary Hughes, Eileen O'Shea, Seamus Doherty, Declan Mooney, Liam Fitzgerald, Richard Mooney.

The A.G.M of Cappagh Muintir na Tire Community

Council was held in the National School on Thursday, 22nd November. The guest speakers were Mr. P. Cleas, National Registrar of Muintir na Tire, and Mr. F. Lyddy, Secretary of the County Federation.

The following officers were elected:

President: Very Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald P.P
Vice-Chairman: Rev. B.Snow and Rev. D. Coates
Life Vice-Pres.: Mr. Maurice Hennessy
Chairman: Mr. D. Hawkes
Vice-Chairman: Mr. W. Ruttle, Mr. D. Culhane
Secretary: Mr. Eugene O'Sullivan
Asst. Secretary: Mr. Michael O'Donnell
P.R.O: P.J. Madigan
Delegates to Co. Federation: Mr. T. Barry, Mr. T. Hogan, Mr. J. Baker, Mr. J. Shorten, Mr. D. Culhane and Mr. E. O'Sullivan

The A.G.M of Rathkeale I.C.A. Guild was held in Geary's Hotel on Tuesday 11th December. The following officers were elected:

President: Mrs. Irene Donovan
Secretary: Miss Helen Madigan
Tresurer: Mrs. Mai Geary
An Grianán Rep: Miss Joan Roche
Production Officer: Mrs. Jerry Devlin
International Officer: Mrs. Brenda O'Grady
Press Officer: Mrs. Maura Mooney

On Saturday 24th November, at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Muckross, Killarney the wedding took place between Martin Roche, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. P. Roche, Corner House, The Square, Rathkeale, and Mary Frances O'Sullivan, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Sullivan Staybank, Tahilla, Killarney. The best man was James Roche, brother of the groom. The bridesmaids were Anne Carmel O'Sullivan, sister of the bride, and Bridget Riall.

Four local members of the Dalton School of Dancing travelled to Mallow on Saturday 1st December, to participate in Oireachtas Rince Cuige Mumhan. They were awarded first place in the 4-hand reel under eleven years, in which twenty one teams took part. The four were: Fiona Madigan, Martha Fitzgerald, Brian Mooney and Martin Doherty. Each was awarded a gold medal.

Schoolchildren from Rathkeale, Cappagh, Coolcappa and Croagh were entertained to a free show at the Central Cinema, Rathkeale on Friday 21st December. The function was organised by the local Social Services Committee, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all the children, who were also served with refreshments. There were two film shows, one in the morning for the Rathkeale children, and an afternoon show for the children from the neighbouring parishes.

To be continued.

A Co. Limerick Impression

from "Ár Leabar Féin" 1959, by Mrs. O'Callahan,
Munster & Leinster Bank, Rathkeale.

They came in groups of ten, twelve and eighteen, packed into cars; in bus-loads, three huge monsters lending an air of business to the car park in front of the beautiful Muintir na Tire Hall so picturesquely situated beside the Deel.

Never before in its long history had the hall responded to the clamour of so many women. They swarmed in from the east, from the west, from the south and the city. Young, middle-aged and old, school children, mothers and grannies, dark, fair, and touched with silver, all with one thought, or rather two which were synonymous, to sing and to enjoy themselves; and right well they did both.

To listen to the merry bustle, the greetings, the laughter, the settling of ties, the tying of crios, the fixing of the beautiful June roses, the emblem chosen by one Guild. The chatter "did I ever think I could sing, let alone go up on a stage", and another "Timmie said he'd mind the turkeys, I've forty-three this year, and then, "himself has to get the tea for a change," and the lady who said "sure I had to bring them or they wouldn't believe I was up singing on a state," alluding surely to a delighted bunch of children who came to really crown mother's day.

To see the magnificent hall built by the youth of the parish, the stage banked with flowers, softly lit and smoothly managed; the commodious dressing-rooms, the supper tables tastefully laid out. Here, indeed, was every comfort waiting the eight Guilds, some of whom had travelled up to forty miles to compete in this Festival, and all presided over by the charming ladies of the hostess Guild and the gracious President of the Federation.

And then the singing, how the first choir charmed us with their sweet harmonies. Could their effort be bettered? How proud we felt of our countrywomen from the outposts of the Federations who gallantly travelled so many miles to compete. How stirred up we were by the winning choirs interpretation of the programme. We were captivated by the charm of the "Rose-Buds", and caught and held spell-bound by that undefinable 'something' which spread throughout the hall, when the sweet clear voice of a young girl singing solo in "Bheidh Aonach Amáireach" was heard. As the members of that choir, many of them white-haired, joined in the full chorus of that attractive item, it made one feel that here was the true meaning of the competition, the core of it, to get young and old to sing together.

Bless the mind who thought of this way of giving pleasure to so many. May this experiment be but the forerunner of many happy singing festivals, and may its success spur the organisers on to further effort to make the Irish women singing women in the future.

Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Births

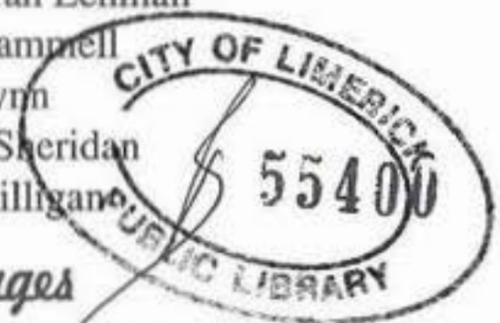
- ◆ Bridget Kealy
- ◆ John Quilligan
- ◆ Ann O'Brien
- ◆ Kathleen Hegarty
- ◆ Joshua Patrick Hennessy Enright
- ◆ Jack James Feane
- ◆ Nora Quilligan
- ◆ Patrick Joseph McCarthy
- ◆ Jim Hegarty
- ◆ Aoibhleann Mary O'Flaherty
- ◆ Adrian Patrick Brennan
- ◆ Corey Michael James Buckley
- ◆ Orla Sarah Lenihan
- ◆ Mary Gammell
- ◆ John Flynn
- ◆ Patrick Sheridan
- ◆ Jean Quilligan

Marriages

- ◆ Michael O'Donoghue
and Ann Kennedy
- ◆ Joseph Jeremiah Flynn
and Brigid Quilligan
- ◆ Michael Quilligan
and Jean Teresa Gammell
- ◆ Michael O'Brien
and Mary Culligan
- ◆ James Joseph Carey
and Jeannette Bridget Daly
- ◆ William Hourigan and
Tara Evans
- ◆ Kevin Thompson
and Marie Geoghegan

Deaths

- ◆ Michael Stackpoole
- ◆ Queenie Sheridan
- ◆ Pa "Button" Sheridan
- ◆ Jimmy Meehan
- ◆ Tim Cunningham
- ◆ Mary Lynch
- ◆ Jimmy Hayes
- ◆ Mick Shiels
- ◆ Maureen O'Shea
- ◆ Patrick Johnson
- ◆ Donal Johnson



CONCLUDING PART OF STORY OF GREATRAKES FAMILY OF RATHKEALE

He [Edward, snr.] was buried at Rathkeale, 6 Dec. 1790. His eldest son John Greatrakes, Esq., of Rathkeale, married Miss Jane Kelly of Limerick, and along with two daughters, he had a son Michael, who studied medicine and became an army surgeon. Owing to some peculiarity of disposition, or over sensitiveness about what he erroneously considered was ridicule attached to the name of Greatrakes (for his juvenile companions were accustomed to call him Great tricks, Great rakes, & c. & c.,) Michael Greatrakes changed his name to Nugent, when he joined the army as surgeon. Under the name of Surgeon Michael Nugent he achieved wonders for the safety of soldiers committed to his care, during the outbreak of a terrible epidemic in one of the West India Islands, I believe Barbados. I have heard his surgical abilities spoken of as of the highest order.

Mr. Greatrakes wife, Jane Greatrakes, alias Kelly enjoyed an independent property which was held in trust for her by her brothers John Kelly, Esq., Deputy Lieutenant of the city of Limerick and Thomas Kelly, Esq. of Shannon View near Limerick. Both yet survive. John Kelly, Esq., has reached the 94th year of his age and is in the enjoyment of excellent health and of all his mental faculties, and resides at New Grove, county of Clare. Thomas Kelly Esq. is in equally good health, & c, & c, but is very advanced in years also, and resides at Shannon View, county of Limerick. James Kelly Esq., J.P. of Cahercon House, co. of Clare, is son of John Kelly, Esq. D.D., and is married to the Hon. Miss Roche, sister of the Lord Fermoy. Mrs. Jane Greatrakes died in Limerick in 1831, testate. Her last will was proved at Limerick, and is endorsed as No. 79 in the Registry. Her husband also died in Limerick in 1835, and was buried in Rathkeale, on the 19th of August that year. Their daughters yet survive - Miss Anne Greatrakes is resident with her uncle at Shannon View, and her sister, the widow of Mr. Sampson, a county Clare gentleman, lives in the city of Limerick. The old Derbyshire name is therefore still extant in Ireland.

It only remains for me to subjoin some interesting excerpts from the Parochial Registry of Rathkeale, for which I am indebted to the Rector of the Parish, Dr. Hassard, Protestant Archdeacon of Limerick:-

1755⁴³ Baptised, Mary, ye Mary ye daughter of John Greatrakes of Rathkeale, and Elizabeth his wife, March 7th.

1757 Buried, Mary, the daughter of John Greatrakes of Rathkeale, and Elizabeth his wife, July 9th.⁴⁴

1758 Baptised, Norton, the son of John Greatrakes of Rathkeale, and Elizabeth his wife, Oct. 7.

1763 Married, Edward Dartnell (8) and Elizabeth

(Continued from Christmas Edition Deel Views)

Greatrakes, Dec. 14.

1767 Baptised, Michael son of Edmund and Eleanor Massy Greatrakes (9) Oct 27.

1768 Baptised, Hugh (10) son of Edmund and Eleanor Greatrakes.

1769 Baptised William and Edmund, twin sons of Edward and Eleanor Massy Greatrakes, Dec 20.

1770 Buried, William son of Edmund and Eleanor Greatrakes, March 7th.

1777 Buried, Elizabeth Greatrakes, of Rathkeale, relict of John Greatrakes, January 22.

1780 Married, Robert Deane and Elizabeth Greatrakes, August 10th.

1781 Married Rev. George Rose of Rathkeale and Jane Greatrakes of ditto, June 21.

1790 Baptism - John, son of Mr. John Greatrakes and Elizabeth his wife, June 15.

1790 Buried, Mr. Edmund Greatrakes of Rathkeale, Dec. 6th.

1792 Baptism - Michael, son of Hugh Greatrakes and Mary his wife, July 19.

1795 Baptism - John, son of Hugh Greatrakes, and Mary his wife, July 19.

1835 Buried, John Greatrakes, of Limerick, on 19th of August.

[Here ends Dr. Hassards extracts from the Parochial Register above referred to] ⁴⁵

In the old Catholic Parish Register of St. Mary's, Limerick ⁴⁶, I have found also some traces of the family.

1802 April 22, Ellen, daughter of Hugh Greatrakes was baptised by the Rev. Mr. Regan, C.C. of St. Mary's Parish.

1805 Feb 20. Jonas, son of Hugh Greatrakes was baptised by the Rev Mr. Hurley, C.C. same parish.

1824 Dec., Rev John Brahan, C.C., baptised John, son of Jonas Greatrakes and Mary Owens, sponsors James Hogan and Mary Mulcahy.

Should I have further intelligence on this subject it shall be communicated to the pages of the "Reliquary" ⁴⁷.

(2) Irish Close Roll, 7 and 8 Caroli, membrane 2, dorso - Vide "Reliquary", Vol v, p.25

(3) There are yet some respectable families of this name in Rathkeale.

(4) Either from illness or arising from other inability, the name is not fully written, and what appears is the wiring of an old man.

(5) See Lenihans' "History of Limerick".

(6) The Brownes are an ancient family in Rathkeale ⁴⁸ (see Brown, of Clonboy, Burke's "Landed Gentry").

(7) The Lake family were highly respectable.

(8) The Dartnells are an old family in Rathkeale ⁴⁹.

(9) The alliance with the Massy family appears from this entry. It is said that one of the Greatrakes family became heir-at-law to the extensive estates of Ingoldsby Massy, Esq., in the County of Limerick, but did not survive to enjoy the property, which is now for the most part, held

in fee-simple by John Kelly, Esq., Deputy Lieutenant of the city of Limerick, who purchased for £40,000.

(10) Hugh, so called after Sir Hugh Massy, Bart.

(11) Written Greenrakes in Dr. Hassards".

Here ends Maurice Lenihans article.

43. It is interesting that the family were having ceremonies of baptism celebrated in Holy Trinity before our records indicate the head of the family became a member of the Established Church. This may have been strategic. It is known for instance that some Catholic families attended both Catholic and Anglican Church ceremonies. The Kavanagh family of Borris Co. Carlow, are said to have eventually joined the Established Church circa 1812 when the local Parish Priest refused to delay Mass to allow the family time to come from the Established Church ceremony. Alternatively the Greatrakes family may have joined the Established Church at another time. Another possibility is that members of the family moved between membership of the Established Church and the Catholic church as opportunities for new marriage alliances arose. One of the significant things about the convert list in Rathkeale Church referred to in Footnote 9 above is that it established that the official Convert Rolls are not complete. None of those listed as converts in Rathkeale occur in the official Convert Rolls. Unfortunately, most Church of Ireland records were destroyed in the Four Courts fire at the commencement of the Civil war in 1922.

44. The fact of burials occurring in the grounds of Holy Trinity are of no value in determining an individuals religious persuasion at the time. Catholic burials continued here throughout the Penal period. Undoubtedly, this was important for many families whose antecedents were buried at this location. However Danaher states that families from outlying areas were also obliged to bury their dead on the grounds of Holy Trinity. He records two means people used to get around this. They would bury their dead quietly at their traditional burial ground always an option for the poor who were no doubt largely invisible to Rector and landlord. More prominent members of the Catholic community would not have this option. They appear to have been more flexible in his approach and to have allowed the burials to go ahead. Burial records certainly exist for the 1743-1760 period of the Holy Trinity Church records. I have not seen details for later dates.

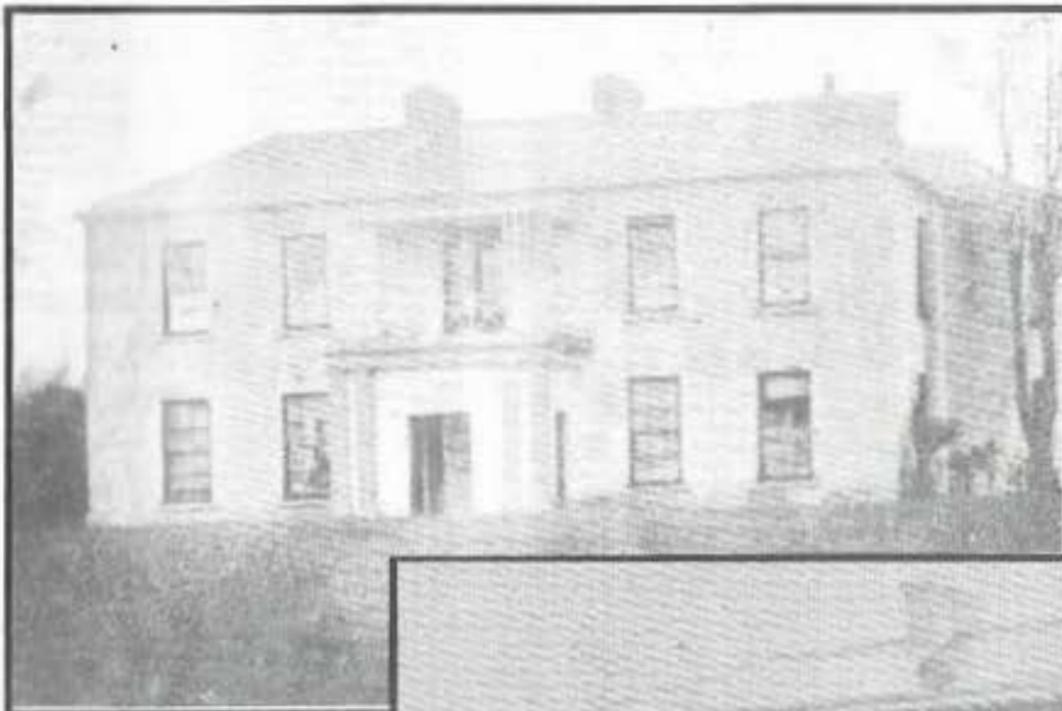
45. It is wiser to take details of dates of births, marriages and deaths from here than from the general text.

46. One wonders if Lenihan looked at the Catholic records for Rathkeale parish. Hugh Greatrakes certainly would appear to have children baptised in Catholic and Anglican Churches.

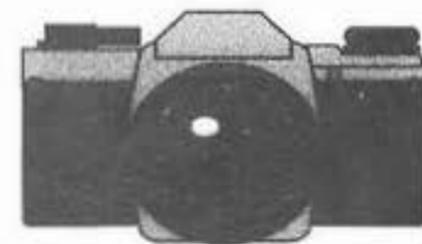
47. This journal appears to have published a history of the Greatrakes family in Ireland. However it concentrated only on older sons. Lenihan published this article to augment the information contained in that piece.

48. The family were not as ancient as Lenihan suggests. The first member of the family to settle in Rathkeale did so in the 1740's.

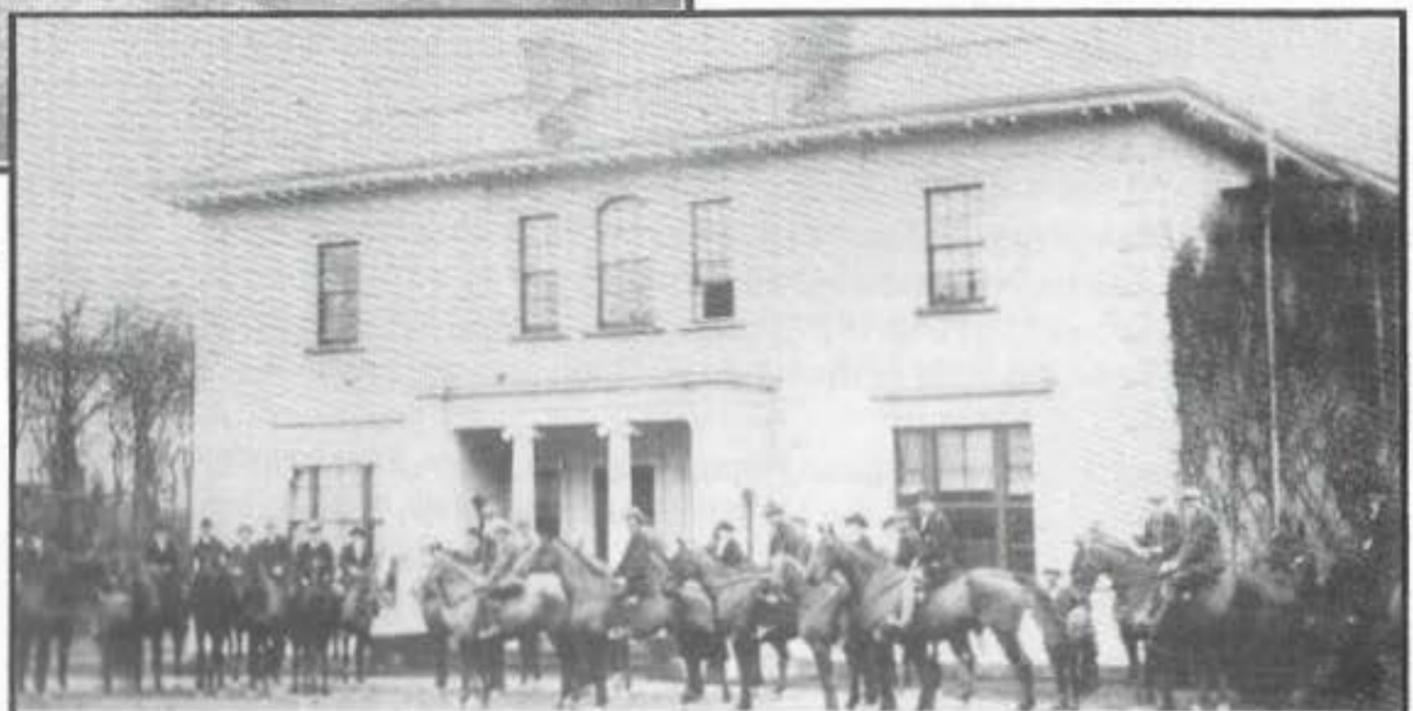
49. They appear to have been a merchant rather than a land-holding family. A member of this family operated as a goldsmith in Rathkeale in the early 19th Century.



Above: Old photo of Creedons, Ballywilliam



Right: Hunt Meet at Whites, Nantinan



"From the Deel Views 1978"

BOXING

At the A.G.M of Rathkeale Boxing Club concern was expressed at the number of boys and girls on the streets at night. John White the outgoing President said that it appeared there was no alternative to the pub and street corners. Referring to an article in the "Deel Views" on teenagers and drinking he pointed out that although the article stressed the need for alternatives, no attempt was made to provide any. P.J. Jones said there were more clubs and societies in Rathkeale than any surrounding town - The Swimming Club, The Pitch and Putt Club, The Tennis Club, The Youth Club, The Gun Club, Deel Anglers, The Soccer Club and the G.A.A. at all levels. Ned Daly pointed out that although all these Clubs existed and provided enjoyment for all the town lacked some club which would occupy the youth at night time all year round. There appeared to be a complete lack of any activity which involved the youth after tea all year round. The community lacked the personnel to direct the youth and channel their activities to the various clubs. Joe Sheehy, the outgoing Chairman agreed that although the town did have a number of Clubs and societies the youth was not taking an active part as one would like. It would appear that instead of the youth becoming involved in any of the activities the elders of the town were left holding the

baby. Of all the clubs mentioned teenagers played a very small part indeed. E. O' Reilly the outgoing treasurer suggested that the various clubs should get together and appoint two or three youth officers to maintain a link between each Club and keep the young people informed.

Ned Daly said that the Boxing Club existed in name only and had achieved nothing in its one year of existence. This was due entirely to lack of a suitable premises. He pointed out that the C.Y.M.S. Hall was not being utilised as it should be. He suggested that the C.Y.M.S. Committee should be approached and the possibility of using the hall discussed. It was pointed out that physical training could begin and although a ring could not be erected at least a beginning would be made. It was decided that a letter be sent to Canon Costello outlining the aims of the Club and inviting him to a meeting to discuss the position as regards the C.Y.M.S. Hall.

E. O'Reilly stated that the financial state of the Club ruled that a premises could not be rented and therefore made things more difficult.

The following officers were elected:

President: John White
Chairman: Joe Sheehy
Secretary: C. Jones
Treasurer: E. O'Reilly

St. Bernard Well

St. Beinid's or St. Bernard's. While the historians dispute the authenticity of the latter name the ordinary people of Ballyallinan and district (as distinct from the scholars) are adamant that their beloved well is indeed rightly named St. Bernard's and tradition is on their side. From time immemorial the ceremonies associated with the well have commenced on the 19th of August which is the vigil of the death of St. Bernard on August 20th 1153. Devotions continued throughout the octave.

St. Bernard was born of a noble family in France. His father was a knight who died on a crusade to the Holy Land and his mother died when he was a boy. Together with his brothers and some relatives he joined the newly-founded Cistercian Order and became one of their most famous and most saintly members. The Cistercians had been founded to lead monks away from wealth, idleness and pleasure to a holier way of life, and to them and to subsequent generations St. Bernard founded the famous monastery of Clairvaux to which even Popes came to seek his advice. Innocent 11, at the time of antipope Anticletus 11, Celestine 11, (1143-1144), Lucius 11 (1144-1145), Eugene 111 (1145-1153), Anastasius 1V (1153-1154), were all contemporaries of his and most of them had troubled and stormy reigns.

St. Bernard may as well have been Pope, such was his moral authority in Church or state - Church affairs. He is believed to have saved the church of his time when it was in great need of courage and holiness. Pilgrims flocked to Clairvaux from all corners of Europe to see and hear this holy man. There was widespread reports of miracles and cures at his hands, the blessed waters at Ballyallinan are reputed to be of miraculous benefit in eye ailments.

Another famous contemporary and friend of St. Bernard was our own St. Malachy, (1094-1148) Primate of Armagh, who has been in the news again recently because of his prophecies on the Papacy. He it was who brought the first Cistercians to Ireland and he died at Clairvaux in the arms of St. Bernard. Mellifont, Roscrea, Mount Melleray (and Ballyallinan?) are among the ninety three monasteries affiliated to Clairvaux.

With the celebration of Mass by Father Irwin at the well for the first time in 1977 and again this year a new era has dawned for our blessed well. Of particular significance is the enthusiasm with which the young people of the neighbourhood have helped with the arrangements. More and more people are stopping to visit and pray their rounds all through the year. The pageantry of former years has been replaced by the Drama of Calvary - a development of which the saintly Bernard would heartily approve.

This year a committee for the preservation of St. Bernard's well was elected as follows:

- President: John Keating
 Chairman: Fr. Irwin
 Joint Treasurers: Martin Egan and John Chawke
 Secretary: Paddy Murphy
 Committee: P.J. Scanlan, Patsy Keating, Miss Margaret Egan, Mrs. Nellie Chawke, Thomas Frawley, Michael O'Brien, Mrs. Ann Doherty, Tom Chawke, John McCoy, and Mrs. Shelia Frawley.

BILLY'S FIND

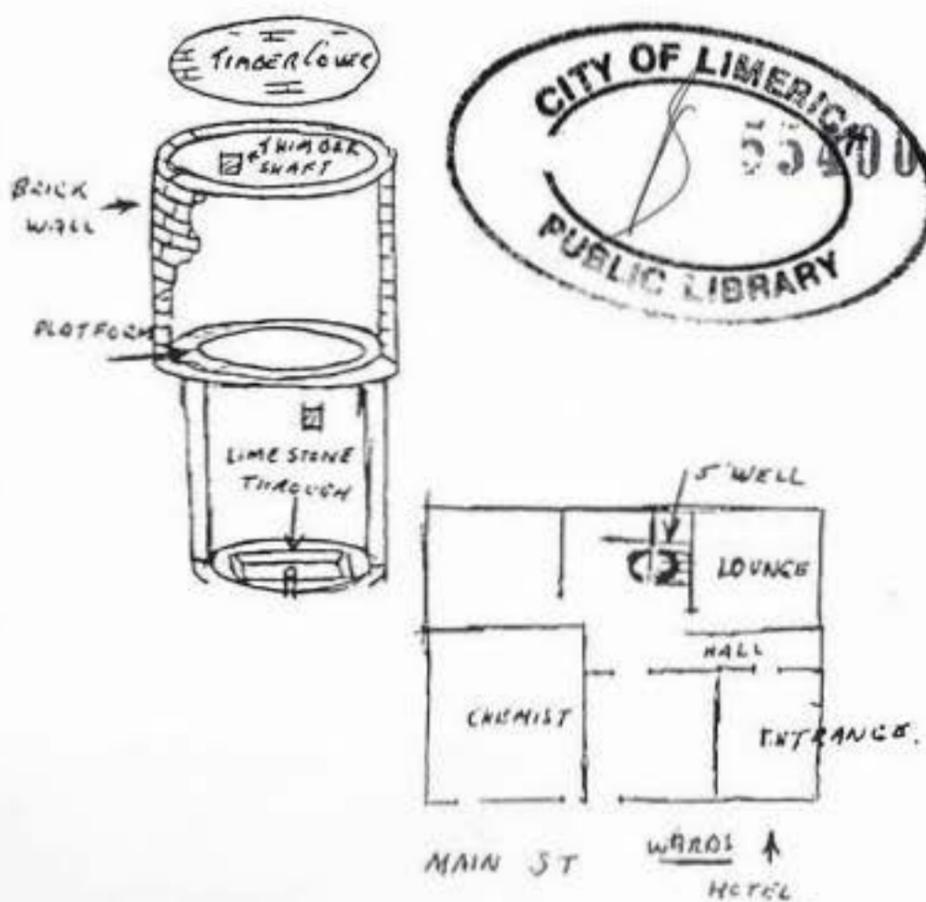
In June of last year while working on the renovations at Donovan Pharmacy, originally Ward's Hotel, Billy Neville made an unusual discovery. When the floor boards and stairs were removed a 5' deep hole resembling a well was revealed. Billy realising the building was once a bank, immediately "staked his claim" on the find. However, the well was filled with loose dry sand and rubble. The sides were made of brick, the upper section 6' in circumference, again with a timber shaft near the top. The base of the well was a cut limestone 'trough' with a central hole going down a further 8".

Many of the older inhabitants of Rathkeale were asked about the possible use of the well and nobody seemed to have a definite answer. Some suggestions were that it was a cider press, indoor well, wine cooler, poteen still, a hideout for fugitives, even a toilet! More expert advice was sought from Dr. Robert Cussen of Newcastle West, Tom Pearse of Adare and Captain Kevin Danaher of U.C.D., but again no positive identification was made.

The National Museum expressed an interest in the find and Mr. Brendan O'Riordan visited Rathkeale some months later. He removed some brick and timber for examination in Dublin, and asked that the structure be preserved in its original condition. He guessed the structure was 150-200 years old and promised to do some research on it. Last month Mr. O'Riordan sent a report on a similar find in Scotland, this was an indoor well complete with copper pipes and obviously of more recent origin.

Finally, Matt Doolan (of Late, Late fame) who was visiting Rathkeale, in his capacity as a medical representative, gave a definite answer to the mystery. He said it was a cold water larder for the cold storage of meat, butter, fish etc.

He had seen something similar in Rockingham Castle near Lough Key. According to Matt, long ago, places like hotels and country houses had no other means of keeping large quantities of food during warm weather. The larder was washed clean, the hold plugged and meat and fish etc. placed on the limestone slab, then filled with water and the temperature at 5' below ground level kept it fresh for sometime. So it seems that the larder having been discovered by a Corkman was solved by another. Can our readers suggest another use for the hole beneath the stairs?



Useful Information

DEEL VIEWS:

Jack O'Dwyer. Tel: (069) 64210

BANKS: Late Opening Tuesday

CREDIT UNION:

Monday: 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Tuesday & Wednesday: 10.00am - 4.00pm
Thursday: 10.00am - 6.00pm
Friday: 10.00am - 4.00pm &
7.30pm
Saturday 10.00am - 12 noon

LIBRARY OPENING HOURS:

Monday & Wednesday: 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Tuesday: 10.00am - 1.30pm; 6.00pm - 8.00pm
Thursday: 10.00am - 1.30pm; 2.00pm - 5.00pm
Friday: 2.00pm - 5.00p.m.; 6.30pm - 8.30pm

MART:

Tuesday: Cattle. Wednesday: Calf & Pig.

POST OFFICE:

Monday to Saturday: 9.30am - 5.30pm
Thursday: 9.30am to 1.30pm

DENTIST:

Mr. Brosnan, Thomas Street.

DOCTORS:

Dr. Lynch: Half Day Thursday
Dr. Curtin: Half Day Wednesday
Dr. Teahan: Half Day Thursday

CHURCH/MASS TIMES:**St. Mary's Catholic Church:**

Sunday: 9.30am & 11.30am
Monday to Saturday: 9.30am
Saturday: 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church of Ireland:

1st & 3rd Sundays: 11.15am Morning Prayer
2nd & 4th Sundays: Holy Communion
5th Sunday: Joint Service on rota
Rathkeale, Askeaton, Kilcornan

Embury Heck Memorial Methodist Church

Sundays: May & July 11.30a.m.
Sundays: June & August 10.00am
Sundays: Jan., March, Sept., Nov. 12 noon
Sundays: Feb., April, Oct., Dec. 10.30am

FESTIVAL SHOW: Mrs. Ann O'Connell

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Monthly Meeting: First Monday at 8.30pm
Secretary: Brian McEnery

SOCIAL SERVICES

Secretary: Breda Morrissey

RED CROSS

Secretary: Tim Shiels

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

J. Dunleavy. Meeting alternate Mondays.

I.C.A. Secretary: Mrs. Alice Vereker, 2nd Thursday

G.A.A. Hon. Secretary: Pat Sheahan

Soccer (Juvenile): Seán Hartnett

Abrahams Golf Society: Secretary: N. Duggan

Scout Cubs: Thursdays, Youth Centre

Community Hall. Tel: (069) 64908

Things to do and see

Tourist Information Centre - Irish Palatine Centre
Open June-September 7 days 2pm to 5pm

Irish Palatine Heritage Centre

Open June-September 7 days 2pm to 5pm

Dohyle Lough: John Griffin

Sports Complex:

Squash, Racketball, Handball, Snooker, Pool

Tennis Courts:

Telephone: (069) 64622

Kyletaun Tennis Club: Contact Pat O'Doherty
(069) 64086. Affiliated to Tennis Ireland.
Floodlit International Size. Open 7 days.

Bridge Club: Every Tuesday night. Sept.-June
Contact: Maureen Airey