

De Vere was keenly interested in the Irish people and worked hard for them during the awful famine years of the 1840s. He was so generous to the tenants of his Limerick estate, and they appreciated his kindness so much, that, even in his lifetime, they erected a fountain to commemorate his great work.

He represented Limerick in Parliament from 1854 to 1859, and was High Sheriff of the county for the year 1870. As a parliamentarian he realised the impossible plight of the Irish under the bad landlords, and the even worse government, and he advocated emigration as the only possible relief, encouraging all able-bodied young men to go to Canada. Together with Charlotte Grace O'Brien he investigated the terrible conditions prevailing on the emigrant ships and sailed as a steerage passenger to Canada in order to find out the truth for himself. His letter describing this voyage was read by Lord Grey in the House of Lords and, as a result, the Passenger Act was passed and the "coffin" ships eliminated.

His investigations into the conditions of the Irish poor so excited his admiration for their patience, which he attributed to their great faith, that, after his steerage passage to Canada, he took instruction in the Catholic Church and was received into it in the year 1847.

Sir Stephen wrote many pamphlets on the economic situation here, on the Grand Jury system, and on the Land Purchase Bill, but most of them were printed for private circulation only, and are extremely scarce. He inherited the family love of literature and in all his busy work, he found time to write original verse as well as to translate the Odes of Horace into English. This latter, which is his greatest work, ran into several editions, and it is by this work principally that his memory will live. It has been described as the best verse translation in the English language.

In 1880, on the death of his brother, Sir Vere de Vere, Stephen inherited the family title and estate. He enjoyed them for 24 years and died, unmarried, on 10th November, 1904, at Foynes, and was buried there, just outside the Catholic church which he had done so much to help build. With his death the baronetcy, gained by his grandfather, Sir Vere Hunt, in 1774, became extinct.

PHILIP EMBURY

Philip Embury, Methodist preacher and founder of American Methodism, was born at Ballingrane, County Limerick, in the year 1728. He was a descendant of one of the Palatines who had settled on the Southwell Estate in 1709 and was educated locally by another of them, Philip Guier. He became a carpenter, was said to be a good tradesman, and, like most of the Palatines at that time, had no religion on account of the lack of a pastor.

When John Wesley preached in Limerick in 1752 he won most of the Palatines to Methodism, and among them was Embury, who became a sort of preacher to them and built the first Methodist church in the county, at Court-Matrix. He married Mary Switzer of the same place in 1758, and it seemed as if he intended to settle down as Methodist preacher to the Limerick Palatines.

However, conditions for the Palatines became very hard on the Southwell Estate and many of them emigrated to America. Embury and a family named Heck, also from Ballingrane, set sail for New York in 1760. More families joined them in 1765, and in that year he preached his first Methodist sermon in America—in his own house—to a congregation of five persons, including his wife.

The congregation increased in number with the assistance of Barbara Heck and a certain Captain Webb, who preached in his full military regalia, and in 1769 they were able to build a new preaching house at a cost of £511.

Before Embury's death he became not only preacher, but also magistrate, or more properly "Burgomaster," to his community at Salem. He died at the comparatively young age of forty-five, from pleurisy contracted while mowing his own farm under a burning sun. He was buried under a simple oak tree at Salem, in the year 1773. As the Methodist movement grew in America, Embury's remains came to be regarded as sacred. They were exhumed and re-buried at Ashgrove Cemetery in 1832. In 1886 they were again exhumed, and this time they were buried at Cambridge, not far from the latter cemetery, and a tombstone was erected over his grave.

FATHER MAURICE ENRIGHT

Father Maurice Kinrechtan or Enright was born in Kilmallock, son of Thomas McEnrychty, Kinraght or Enright, a goldsmith in that town. His father, a native of County Kerry, had taken part in the Desmond rebellion and is listed in the Fiants of Queen Elizabeth as having been granted a pardon in the year 1566.

Maurice became a priest, and being an eloquent preacher, laboured for many years in and around his own town. He became chaplain to Gerald, the 14th Earl of Desmond, and when the latter rebelled, Maurice accompanied his army. In 1583 he was captured by Lord Roche at Duhallow, through the information of Murtagh Sweeney, an officer who had deserted Desmond.

He was sent in handcuffs to Clonmel Jail and held there for over a year. While here, a prominent Clonmel citizen, Victor White, bribed a jailor to release Enright on Easter Saturday, so that the spiritual needs of the Clonmel people could be at-