

‘It is the fate of most men to have many enemies and few friends. This monumental pile is not intended to mark a career, but to show how much its inhabitant was respected by those who knew his worth and the benefits derived from his remedial discovery. He is now at rest, and far beyond the praises or censures of the world. Stranger, as you respect the receptacle of the dead, as one of the many who will rest here, read the name of John St. John Long without comment. Died July 2nd, 1834, aged 37 years.

### **THOMAS GEORGE SHAUGHNESSY.**

Thomas George Shaughnessy, first Baron Shaughnessy of Montreal, and of Ashford, Co. Limerick, was the son of Thomas Shaughnessy, a native of Ashford, who became a policeman in the United States. He was born on the 6th October, 1853.

He was educated in the ordinary primary schools and when sixteen years old obtained employment in the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway. In the beginning he disliked his work intensely, and studied law in his spare time in order to get out of it. However, as promotion began to come rather quickly he settled down to it. In 1879 he was appointed general storekeeper, and in 1882 general purchasing agent to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. When this Company were building their railway across Canada “on faith and credit,” it was said that “the one bright spot in the darkness was the success of the indefatigable and resourceful Shaughnessy.” Eventually in 1899 he became President of the Company.

Shaughnessy’s great work for engineering was adequately recognised. In 1901 he was knighted, in 1907 created K.C.V.O., in 1916 raised to the peerage, and in 1911 received the honorary degree of D.C.L. from Trinity College.

Shaughnessy's mother, like his father, was Irish, and in 1880 he married another Irishwoman, Elizabeth Bridget Nagle, by whom he had two sons and three daughters. He died at Montreal on 10th of December, 1923.

Shaughnessy has been described by a contemporary as "neither obstinate nor arrogant but wont to place great trust in his own judgment . . . with a quick wit and keen sense of humour . . . well-informed and an omnivorous reader in spite of the defects in his early education . . . fond of music, but cared little for pictorial art . . . habitually drank a pint of champagne with his dinner . . . fond of billiards and bridge . . . owned some race-horses . . . played golf . . . was a Roman Catholic."

### **JAMES BAGGOTT.**

James Baggott, revolutionary, mathematical scholar and hedge-schoolmaster, was descended from the Norman family who gave their name to Baggotstown. He kept a school in Ballingarry in the latter half of the eighteenth century. In 1805 we find him advertising that he has acquired a supply of "curious mathematical and astronomical instruments," in which he hopes his pupils will find "both pleasure and profit in the prosecution of their studies."

Baggott was an eminent mathematical scholar, noted for his solutions to the problems set in "The Ladies' Diary," and for the fact that he was the friend and correspondent of La Place, the great French scientist and tutor to Napoleon. It is recorded that when La Place was once in conversation with Colonel Odell, Member of Parliament for Limerick and one of the Lords of the Treasury, he enquired if Odell knew Baggott, the great Irish mathematician. Hence his nickname: "The Great O'Baggott."