

PROCEEDINGS, 1978

There were eight committee meetings held during the year, each of which was reasonably well attended. As in 1977, the question of the Limerick Museum occupied much of the Committee's time. It appeared likely to the committee that the promised temporary museum in the basement of numbers 1 and 2 St. John's Square might well become permanent. Consequently, the Society mounted a public campaign which involved informing the City Councillors, the relevant local Cultural and Social Societies, and the media, of the situation and seeking their support in having the Museum sited in St. John's Church. The response was overwhelming and, to the Society's satisfaction, the City Manager announced on the 15th of December that the Church would be opened as a museum before the end of 1980. Mr. and Mrs. Brian Geary deserve a special mention, as anything the Society achieved in the matter of the museum is due almost entirely to their so successfully planning and running the campaign.

Late in the year, the Society objected to the granting of planning permission for the erection of dwelling-houses in the vicinity of Kilrush Church, a national monument, on the North Circular Road, Limerick, unless a proper archaeological survey of the site was carried out.

The annual 'Social' was held at the Barn, Bunratty Castle, on the 7th of February. This year's function was in honour of Dr. Edward A. MacLysaght, Vice-President, Honorary Life Member, and the oldest living member of the Society. A specially bound copy of the 1975 *North Munster Antiquarian Journal*, which had been specifically produced as a *festschrift* in his honour, was presented to him by the President, Dr. Robert Cussen.

On the 14th of February, the Society sponsored a very successful musical recital by the Douglas Gunn Ensemble in the Great Hall, Bunratty Castle.

At a meeting on the 15th of September, which was addressed by Baron Brian de Breffny and Mr. William Garner, it was enthusiastically decided by the large gathering present that the Society should carry out an archaeological and architectural survey of Limerick City and County. At a subsequent meeting, on the 22nd of September, the following sub-committee was elected, with the object of directing the survey: Revd. John D. Leonard (Co-Ordinator), An tUas. Mainchín Seoighe (Publicity), Dr. Patrick F. Doran, Mr. Kevin Hannon, Miss Finnuala Synott, Mr. John Quin, Mr. Liam Irwin and Mr. Frank Lyddy.

The following is a list of the eight lectures and eleven outings which were held during 1978:

LECTURES

- 27th January — "English Settlers in Ireland and Virginia 1550 - 1650", Dr. Nicholas Canny, Department of History, University College, Galway.
17th February — "William A. O'Meara, O.F.M.", Rev. Bartholomew Egan, O.F.M., Franciscan House of Studies, Killiney, Co. Dublin.
10th March — "First Beginnings", Dr. Robert Cussen, President.

- 14th April — "Sylvester O'Halloran — Surgeon and Historian", Dr. J.D.H. Widdess.
 28th April — "Lough Gur and the End of the Irish Stone Age", Dr. Michael Herity, Department of Celtic Archaeology, University College, Dublin.
 20th October — "Máire Rua", Dr. Máire MacNeill, Member.
 17th November — "Economic and Social Development of Limerick and Its Hinterland, 1600-1850", Dr. L.M. Cullen, Department of History, Trinity College, Dublin.
 19th December — "Houses in Ireland from Earliest Times", Mr. Patrick Moroney, Member.

OUTINGS

- 9th April — Monasteranenagh Cistercian Abbey, Rathmore Castle, Caherguillamore (site of medieval town), Glenogra Castle, Bruff, and Ballygrennan Castle.
Organiser and speaker: Canon J. Culhane, Vice-President.
- 23rd April — North Clare: Lemanah Castle, Kilfenora Cathedral and High Crosses, Ballykinvarga Cashel, Aillwee Cave, Gleninsheen wedge-shaped gallery grave, and Poul nabrone portal dolmen.
Organiser and speaker: Professor Etienne Rynne, Hon. Editor.
- 7th May — Croom Castle, Disert Oenghusa Church and Round Tower, Doonamon Castle and Church, Kilfinny Castle, and Ballinakill Church.
Organiser and speaker: Mr. Tom Pierce, Vice-President.
- 28th May — Portumna area: Lorrha Motte, Monastic site of St. Ruadhán, Dominican Priory, Portumna Priory and Castle, Palace Castle, Kilnaleheen Abbey, and a newly-discovered stone circle near Woodford.
Organiser and speakers: Very Revd. Martin Ryan, P.P., Lorrha, Sgt. Michael MacMahon, Portumna and Very Revd. Dr. P. K. Egan, P.P., Portumna.
- 24th June — County Kildare: Kildare Cathedral and Round Tower, Old Kilcullen High Crosses and Round Tower, Ballitore Quaker Village, Moone High Cross, Castledermot Priory, High Crosses and Round Tower, and Kilkea Castle.
Organiser: Revd. J. Leonard, Hon. Secretary, and the Kildare Archaeological Society.
Speakers: Messrs Tadgh Hayden, Michael Dore and Eamon Kane.
- 13th July — King's Island, Limerick: Court House, Newgate, site of St. Nicholas' Church, King John's Castle, St. Munchin's Church and Churchyard.
Organiser: Mr. Brian Geary, Committee Member.
Speakers: Mr. Brian Geary and Canon J. Culhane.
- 23rd July — Ballingarry, Co. Limerick: Castle, the Turret, ruins of The Grove, C. of I. and R.C. Churches. The following houses in the area were also visited: Ballinaha, Ballyknockane, Fortwilliam (Bealdurogy), Mount Brown, Springmount, Herdman's Cottage at Odelville, Glenwilliam Castle, and Ballynoe Cox.
Organiser: Revd. John Leonard, Hon. Secretary.
Speaker: Baron Brian de Breffny.

17th August — Rearcross area, Co. Tipperary: Bournadomeeny Wedge Tomb and Shanballyedmond Court Tomb.

Organiser and speaker: Mr. Brian Geary, Committee Member.

10th September — South-East County Clare: Glennagross cairn ("The King's Grave"), D'Esterre's Bridge and Rosmanagher Toll-Gates, Ballintlea oil mill, Fenloe Churchyard, and Killone Convent.

Organisers: Mr. Cian O'Carroll, Committee Member, and Mr. John O'Brien, Shannon Historical and Archaeological Society.

Speakers: Messrs C. O'Carroll, J. O'Brien and H. Roche-Kelly.

23rd September — "O'Sullivan-Beare's Route", Soloheadbeg (site of battle and ambush), Donohill motte-and-bailey, Hollyford monument to Eamonn an Chnuic, and Sweat-house.

Organisers: Messrs T.J. Cahill and P. Lysaght, Committee Members.

Speakers: An tUas. Mainchín Seoighe and Mr. P. Lysaght.

8th October — County Cork: Ballyhea Church and 14th century effigy, Knocknanuss battlefield, Assolas House, Kanturk Castle, Dromagh Castle, Drishane Castle, and Clonmeen Churchyard.

Organisers: Canon J. Culhane, Rev. J. Leonard and Mr. T. J. Cahill.

Speakers: Canon J. Culhane, Commandant Barry O'Brien, Mr. Burke, Mr. Michael Corbett, and the Sisters of Drishane Convent.

REV. JOHN D. LEONARD
Hon. Secretary.

OBITUARY

A. B. KILLEEN
(1899-1978)

With the death of Andy (as he was familiarly known) Killeen in October 1978, there passed away one of the longest-serving and most faithful members of the Thomond Archaeological Society. An engineer by profession, he came to Limerick in the 1920s when the E.S.B. power station at Ardnacrusha was being built, and was appointed resident engineer there, a position he held until his retirement in the mid-sixties. A keen angler, very few knew the Shannon from Limerick to Carrick-on-Shannon as he did.

A shy, quiet-spoken man, he never sought the limelight, but when he spoke his opinions were well-reasoned and carried weight. He was one of the very dedicated and gifted group who helped bring about the revival of the Society in 1929. He served on its committee from 1945 to 1955, when President from 1956 to 1964 (the longest-serving president in the history of the Society) and was Vice-President from 1965 until his death. He had an intimate knowledge of the history and archaeology of Munster and of Thomond in particular, especially family history. It was a pleasure to sit beside him on the summer outings and listen to his quiet voice as he discoursed on the history of the countryside and its people as the bus journeyed on. In a pub too, with his pipe drawing well and his favourite Scotch on the table, I remember his deep chuckles as he reminisced on the jovial companions he had known, both former members of the Society and angling friends. A gifted raconteur, with a puckish humour, he was a delightful companion on every occasion.

Of late years, owing to ill-health and what he called "a baccady knee", he did not actively participate in the Society's functions and his absence was clearly felt by those who knew him down the years and appreciated the sterling qualities of the quiet-spoken, wry humoured member.

May he rest in peace.

THOMAS PIERCE

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The Society also tenders its sympathies to the relatives of the following members deceased during the year:

ARTHUR CHRISTY, "Ardel", Ashbourne Avenue, Limerick.

MRS. R. COUGHLAN, Treaty Cafe, Nicholas Street, Limerick.

WILLIAM CUMMINS, Shelbourne Park, Limerick.

CHARLES ELLIOTT, 4 Sarsfield Terrace, South Circular Road, Limerick.

DR. D. J. FLOOD, 97 Seaford Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3.

MISS MARY GRIMES, Donoughmore, Co. Limerick.

REVD. CANON D.M.S. HEVENOR, The Rectory, Palaskenry, Co. Limerick.

FRANK LYDDY, Cnoc an Tíre, Ballinacurra, Limerick.

DONAL McLACHLEN, Knockeera, Killimer, Co. Clare.

SEÁN T. Ó NÉILL, Iar-Bhaile Cléireach, Aonach Urmhuman, Co. Tiobraid Árann.

MRS. TOSSIE RIORDAN, 1 Ashbourne Villas, South Circular Road, Limerick.

REVD. T.R. SHORTEN, "Aylesbury", North Circular Road, Limerick.