Obituary

ROBERT F. HEWSON

When the mortal remains of Robert F. Hewson were interred in the family cemetery at Castle Hewson, Askeaton, on April the 22nd, 1966, a foundation link with the Society was severed.

In 1897 when the Limerick Field Club (the forerunner of the present Thomond Archaeological Society) published its first journal, it contained a very important paper on "Adare and Some of Its Ancient Buildings," by George J. Hewson, of Hollywood, Rathkeale. He wrote many other valuable articles till publication of the journal ceased in 1913.

His son, Robert, became a member of the Society in 1899, and when he died recently in his ninety-first year, he had sixty-seven years of close association with the Society as member and vice-president, lecturer and author. His last paper, "Notes on the Old Churches of Adare," was published in the Society's journal for 1955 and it was surely fitting that he should have concluded with Adare, the place he loved so much. His last lecture was at St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, another site he cherished.

All his long life, save the period of the first World War where he fought in South Africa, was spent in Co. Limerick, and few could trace better than he the history of the great Limerick families over the past two centuries.

Besides being a historian and antiquarian of note, the late Mr. Hewson was also a botanist and ornithologist. A walk or drive with him in the country was a special treat, as every tree, flower and bird brought forth interesting comment and anecdote.

A scholar and fine Christian gentleman, his presence will be sadly missed from the outings and lectures of the Society.

T. PIERCE

MOST REV. JOSEPH RODGERS, D.D.

The sudden death, last July, of Dr. Rodgers, Bishop of Killaloe, deprived the Society of a member of many years' standing who not only engaged in historical research himself but encouraged it in others. In the Foreword to the History of the Diocese of Killaloe we find His Lordship paying this tribute to its author (Dermot F. Gleeson): "He has history in his blood as well as in his pen," words which might well be applied to Dr. Rodgers himself for he had a deep interest in local and ecclesiastical history. He contributed regularly to Moira, the diocesan journal, a notable contribution being his editing of the letters written in Rome by Dr. N. Power, Coadjutor Bishop of Killaloe 1865-1871, containing his observations and impressions of the First Vatican Council. During the Second Vatican Council Dr. Rodgers devoted much of his spare time to research on diocesan items of historical interest in Roman archives. He was pleased to see published the parish histories of Killanena, and of Inagh and Kilnamona
his preface to the latter should be an inspiration to the young writer of today interested in recording events of historical importance within his own parish. At the time of his death, Dr. Rodgers was actively engaged in research into the history of the Great Famine as it affected West Clare.

Gerald O'Connell

We regret having to announce the deaths of the following members also:

Chevalier Patrick Sheahan, Sixmilebridge, Co. Clare.

May they rest in peace.

Proceedings, 1965

In many respects the year 1965 was one of the most satisfying since the Society was founded. Though the weather throughout the summer was very unfavourable, the outings were excellently attended as were the lectures held in the City Library, Limerick.

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, January 21st. At its conclusion Mr. Alma Fitt (Member) gave an interesting talk on a holiday spent in Denmark and Sweden.

On February 24th, the Rt. Rev. Robert Wyse Jackson, Lord Bishop of Limerick, Ardfort and Aghadoe, lectured on "Irish Silver, Silversmiths, and Marks." At the lecture the Lord Bishop had on display a very fine assortment of Irish silver, well illustrating the skill of Irish craftsmen in that medium.

On March 31st we had Dr. William O'Sullivan, Keeper of the Art and Industrial Division, National Museum of Ireland, who lectured on "Irish Coinage," a lecture of more than local interest, as many finds of Viking and other coins are known from Limerick and surrounding district.

The first Summer Outing took place on the evening of Thursday, May 6th, to the monastic site at Mungret and to Carrigogunnell Castle. Despite the bad weather there was a very large attendance.

On Thursday evening, May 27th, the Society visited the ruins of the Franciscan Friary at Ennis, the monastic site and High Cross at Dysert O'Dea, and the delightful church at Rath. The tour was conducted by Rev. Fr. Senan, O.F.M., Ennis.
On Sunday, June 6th, the Society joined with the Military History Society and heard a most interesting series of talks on the two Williamite Sieges of Limerick given by Dr. J. G. Simms, at Ireton’s Fort, the City Walls, and at the site of the final assault on the bridge which led to signing of the well-known Treaty.

On June 6th, the members left Limerick for Cahir Castle, picnicked on the bank of the Suir, and visited the beautiful Swiss Cottage by kind permission of the owners. They continued from there to the restored 16th century Manor House of the Earl of Ormonde at Carrick-on-Suir where Mr. G. Butler spoke on the main branches of the Butler family.

Springfield Castle, home of the Lords Muskerry, was the first stop on the Sunday outing of September 4th. Here the members were very hospitably received by Dr. and Mrs. Deane, who very kindly showed them over the castle. From Springfield the tour continued to Tullylease, and through delightful countryside to Glenquin Castle where Dr. Cussen spoke on the O’Hallinans.

The last outing held in 1965 was an evening one to Bunratty Castle where Mr. Marcus Ó hEochaidh, Assistant Inspector of National Monuments, showed the members over the excavations there. A tour of the Folk Village was conducted by Mr. Caoimhín Ó Danachair and Mr. Christopher Lynch. The evening ended with hot claret cup, followed by musical entertainment, harp and vocal, by the Bunratty Castle singers.

The Autumn lectures opened on September 30th when Mr. J. W. Waterer, F.S.A., Museum of Leathercraft, London, gave a delightful and most unusual lecture on “Leather Through the Ages,” ranging from the beautiful ancient Egyptian products to leathercraft of the present day.

On November 18th, Mr. Caoimhín Ó Danachair lectured on “Irish Festival Customs,” a lecture which was of general interest and much appreciated by all, particularly those who had enjoyed such festivals in the Irish countryside long ago.

The final lecture of the year was on December 9th when Dom Mark Tierney, O.S.B., lectured on “The Great Famine in Murroe,” a stark account of the suffering of one parish in those grim days.

The most pleasing feature of the year, however, was the big increase in membership. Over fifty new members enrolled, the majority being young people. This, we feel, is a healthy sign: it shows that the youth is not unmindful of its historical heritage, and that the Society has something to offer to young and old. With the production of a good annual Journal, the provision of good lectures and the holding of interesting excursions, we hope the upward trend in membership will continue.

T. Pierce
(Hon. Secretary)
THOMOND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS, 1966

President:
THE RT. REVD. ROBERT WYSE JACKSON, Lord Bishop of Limerick, Ardfert and Aghadoe

Vice-Presidents:
VERY REVD. JAMES CULHANE | A. B. KILLEEN
DR. ROBERT CUSSEN | CHARLES O'MALLEY
MISS MARY DUANE | DR. S. O'MALLEY
JOHN HUNT | REVD. JOHN RYAN, S.J.

Committee:
TIMOTHY CLERY | C. C. McCUTCHEON
BRIAN GEARY | DIARMAID O'LEARY
JOHN HARRINGTON | MRS. T. O'NEILL
FRANCIS JOHNSON | MISS V. SHEEHY
PATRICK LYSAGHT | GEORGE STACPOOLE

Hon. Editor:
ETIENNE RYNNE, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin 2.

Hon. Secretary:
THOMAS PIERCE, Adare, Co. Limerick.

Hon. Treasurer:

Annual Subscription £1

Subscriptions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer. Material intended for publication in the Society's journal should be sent to the Hon. Editor. All other correspondence should be sent to the Hon. Secretary.