

## Inchigeelagh Parish – A History 1641-1991

By Ted Cook

During 1989 on the launch of the 'Magpie Magazine' the writer agreed to voluntarily write a history series for the bi-monthly publication. The series of 31 instalments commenced early in 1990 – alas issue 55 of the publication / October 1994) was the final 'Magpie' and the series halted with an account by the late Neilie Buckley (of Dromcarra North Townland) of one Dan Cremmins, a Lewes Gunner with the Connaught Rangers who was killed in action on September 10<sup>th</sup> 1917.

The Cremmins family lived in the cottage of the then recently deceased Mr. Murnane (1994) a stone's throw from Neilie Buckley's cottage. Had 'Magpie' not folded Nellie's eye witness account of the auxiliary cortege passing over Dromcarra Bridge that faithful November 28<sup>th</sup> afternoon in 1920, would have been recounted. **It remains the writers hope to continue the series via the Cumann Staire website.**

As a new-comer (1981) to Inchigeela parish (orse. Uibh Laoire) the writer quickly encountered and befriended his elderly neighbours and their narratives. In 1985, Jamsie Kearney (late of Cooleen townland who passed over August 25<sup>th</sup> 1990, aged 93) introduced the writer to the "Malachy Prophecies".

How frequently Donal Buckley and Peter Creedon and Gerry 'the racer' Murphy and Michael 'Christmas' Creedon gathered of an evening at Jamsie's – and we'd fall to talk. Divining the riddles of the 'prophecies' preoccupied our 'crinniú' (gathering).

But this tattered copy book, penned in the old Irish script in black ink that recorded the future, vanished. Born in Derryvane townland in 1897 Jamsie carried coded messages in the crossbar of his RIC pushbike during the War of Independence.

Should the series be kick started, Jamsie's life and times will receive appropriate space. In keeping with his last request to the then incumbent P.P. Fr. M. Cahalane, Michael "Christmas" Creedon and the writer back-filled Jamsie's grave by hand.

In keeping with the "Kearney" tradition no blood relation must be permitted to participate in opening or closing a Kearney burial plot.

Peter O'Leary late of Tírnaaspideoga and Derryvane settled in his ancestral Uibh Laoire with his wife Muriel in 1990. From our first contact in 1992 we hit it off. From 1999 Peter contributed to, and for 10 years co-hosted, heritage week events at a number of venues with the writer.

The last of our scores of field outings over the 20 years was to identify the site of Glasheen House as evidenced by the rubble pile. The story of the 'O'Leary Breacs' of Glasheen and Milleen and Coolmountain Houses and the part played by Lady Clancarty (nee Ellen O'Leary Clancarty's second wife) during the "restoration" of the 1660s remains to be shared.

Part 23 alludes to "O'Leary Glasheen" as "Middlemen" for landlord family of Barry who acquired Carrignaneelagh Castle after the Cromwellian confiscations.

Part 18 carries some details of the Barrys and introduces the survival of the 'Famine Pot' at Coolmountain House. During that Indian summer of 1994 Peter O'Leary and the writer tracked the "Famine Pot" which had been removed elsewhere outside the parish and negotiated its return.

**And so our story begins with the Civil Survey of the Barony of Muskerry in Part 1 recorded in 1641. Uibh Laoire's 70 square mile parish supported 39 landowners which are identified, together with their respective parcels of townlands (118).**

In the penultimate paragraph, **the mention of a National School at Kilbarry ought to read "Carrignaneelagh"**. The ruins of the school remain – in 1884 the school transferred to the Cluain Siar Beag where it remains today under the name of 'Kilbarry National School'

Kilbarry townland of c. 108 acres lies a kilometre to the South and at 500 feet a. s. l. looks North into the Toon Catchment and the National School below.

The primary beneficiaries of this 'story' going online are the scores of correspondents (since the Magpie Publication) in USA, Australia, UK and the many in the Republic of Ireland who have contacted the writer. It is hoped to continue with Part 32 during 2016. **The Parish is called Inchiqeela Parish throughout as this is the name of the Historical Civil Parish.**

Ted Cook.