

INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 18

The dramatic explosion in Ireland's population from 2 million in 1784 to over 8 million in 1841 (i.e. barely 2 generations) created a frantic scramble for land. The catastrophic famine caused a sudden fall to half that number within a single generation. Even the landlords did not escape the effects of the social and economic collapse and most of their estates became heavily mortgaged and badly run down. The incentive to live in Ireland, let alone improve and maintain the interests, was sharply lessened by the increasing bitterness of their tenants. The nationalist spirit sweeping the country was borne clearly in the trade winds. Daniel O'Connell had agitated against Direct Rule and the Irish Parliamentary Party in Westminster would soon be fiercely pressing for Home Rule from Dublin.

Such was the extent of bankrupted landlords in Ireland that the London Government set up, in 1849, a Commission to supervise the sale and break-up of some 13,000 Irish landlords' estates. We will later discover how the Land Commission evolved from this Commission.

The 1854 Griffith Survey of Iveleary provides a graphic picture of the Parish. Compared to the 1821 census, Griffith records

widespread subdivision of occupation and break-up of ownership.

If we contrast the Griffith Survey with the Petty Survey two centuries earlier, we find that of the 36 O'Learys listed in 1654 as landowners of just about all Iveleary, there are 2 O'Learys listed as freeholders and landlords in 1854. These are Richmond O'Leary of Milleen House and his brother Denis of Gortnahoughtee. Denis also owned 90 acres in Gortsmorane.

The major landowning landlords are listed as John Brown of Currahy, Jasper Pine of Carrignacurra who was landlord of an extensive portion of the Parish South of the Lee and Thomas Barter of Dromcarra North. All three were sons-in-law of Jasper Masters and we detailed their estates (as listed in the 1840 Ordinance) in Part 14 of our History.

Minor landlords included Richard Townsend of Dereenacusha, Cooragreenane, Gortáfluidig and Gorteenakilla; Lewis Gollock of Teeranasig and Dromnagapple; Henry Seaward of Coolnacranagh owned and occupied the entire townland but was not a landlord.

The Rev. James White is described as owner and landlord of Glebes Townland (249 acres). The Boyle Estate (Boylesgrove) of Dromcarra

South is described by Griffith as under Court Supervision, suggesting that this was the first estate in the Parish to break up. William Boyle is however described as the landlord of 4 houses (without land) in Kilbarry, which townland comprised 11 houses and 4 small farms in its 166 acres.

The former landlord-family of the Barrys of Carrignaneelagh have nearly gone out of the picture and Nicholas Barry is described as a tenant-occupier of 100 acres of the 154 acres in that townland and a landlord of part of Derrenacusha. The Survey records a National Schoolhouse, the vanishing outline remaining today in Carrignaneelagh.

One Mary Burns is listed as landlord of much of Gortnalour, Gortnarea, Inchideraille, Bargariff and Scrahan. Henry Herrick is listed as landlord of Kealvaugh Beg (229 acres) and most of Kealvaugh More. William Hoare is listed as landlord of most of Aharas, Cabernacaha and Carrignadoura.

The Survey lists 58 unoccupied dwellings South of the Lee and 62 to the North. We saw in an earlier issue that the population of tenant-occupiers had dropped to four and a half thousand in 1851 from six and a half thousand in 1841. This large number of abandoned houses suggests large-scale emigration, rather than starvation, from Iveleary. It is clear that the "food kitchens" operated by Rev. Jer. Holland (P.P.) and Denis O'Leary (landlord) from their homes in Cappanclare and Cool Mountain House were organised and well stocked throughout the

enormous iron pot, probably welded by one or more of the several blacksmiths named Mangan, and said to be the biggest in Ireland, still exists. It was used in Denis O'Leary's kitchen in Cool Mountain House and fed literally hundreds of famished tenants.

In the 1854 Survey, the village of Inchigeelagh is part of the townland of Carrigeigh (246 acres). The townland of Inchigeelagh (105 acres)

contained one of the many "Pounds" in the district. The "Pound" was a holding-field for livestock, seized (impounded) by landlords in lieu of payment of rents by tenant-farmers.

The Griffith Survey of Iveleary is available for public inspection at the County Library in Cork. A copy, together with corresponding maps, are held by the Ballingearry Historical Society and are also available for studying. Many readers in Iveleary could be pleasantly surprised to discover the sites of their Ancestors' dwellings and farms.

It is advisable, on studying his survey of Valuation, to remember that the landlord (lessor/owner of lease) is not necessarily the landowner (freeholder). Very often the landlord is himself a tenant to another bigger landlord. In an earlier instalment, we saw that Boyle held Inchineill as a tenant to Barter. Andrew Brophy, who is listed as landlord of 10 properties in Carrigeigh, is himself a tenant of Barter and so forth.

In our next instalment, we trace the rapid decline and final collapse of landlordism.

Ted Cook

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INCHIGEELAGH
a history

1641-1991

part 19

Millstreet has been much in the news recently, and readers in Inchigeelagh may like to be reminded of the connection between Millstreet and Iveleary in the sixteen and seventeen hundreds:

In Part 1 we discovered that Donal MacArt O'Leary was the largest landowner in Iveleary in 1641. The 1654 Civil Survey records him as the owner/possessor of 3,956 acres and living in the tower

house of Carrignaneelagh Castle. Donal MacArt lost all his lands when he joined in the Rebellion in 1641.

The evicted Donal MacArt had a daughter named Julian and a son Arthur. Julian married old Colonel Donogh MacOwen MacCarthy of Drishane Castle, just outside Millstreet. The old Colonel was a cousin of Lord Muskerry and very wealthy, and settled Julian's brother

Arthur on a small estate in Millstreet.

Arthur remained in Millstreet and founded a new O'Leary dynasty, which was to last for several generations, and known as the "O'Leary's Millstreet", to distinguish them from the junior branch which remained on in Iveleary.

Arthur was succeeded by his son Daniel; and he by his son Denis. They lived as landlords in Coomiagane townland in Millstreet.

Denis became a wellknown landlord with substantial land in Duhallow which he purchased in 1768, having become Protestant (Church of Ireland). He was also a Justice of the Peace. He married Mary MacCarthy, daughter of Charles MacCarthy of Rathduane and they had one child, Helen. On Denis' death in 1783, Helen became very wealthy, having inherited lock, stock and barrel from the Drishane Castle MacCarthys. In middle age Helen married Denis MacCarthy, a widower of Dooneen. In her will of 1811, she left her property to her step-son on condition that he changed his name to

MacCarthy-O'Leary and to the O'Leary coat-of-arms. Thus a new O'Leary fam was begun although MacCarthy bloodline at which still has living descendants. The MacCarthy-O'Leary's rebuilt and enlarged Coomiagane House and became very influential.

The O'Leary's of Millstreet are no more, the MacCarthy-O'Leary's have long left and Coomiagane House no longer rings with the lavish parties. The hospitality became legendary nationwide.

But Millstreet goes on and prospers and shortly will, a few days, be ringing at the centre of the world of music.

In the June instalment trace the life of Charles Stewart Parnell, our great Statesman of the 19th Century who was born in the Famine Decade, mounted before Daniel O'Connell worn out by labour and anxiety, died in Italy in May 1847. In accordance with his last wish, his heart was sent to the Vatican City and his body returned to Ireland.

TEDDY COC

DADDY'S GIRL



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INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 20

20A

In our April instalment (Part 18) we were reminded that as a direct consequence of the Great Hunger of the Eighteen Forties, the landlord class began to loose their grip on the land and on their tenants. Everywhere the "Big House" was in decline and the landlords and their families were quitting for the Colonies.

Such was the extent of the depopulation, that 360,000 derelict cabins and cottages were demolished and cleared from the rural Irish landscape. The 1854 Parish Survey disclosed the huge number of abandoned homes whence entire families opted for the Emigrant Ships.

The condition of the Irish Tenant Farmer continued from bad to worse from the middle of the last century. In Ulster alone had the tenant farmers any legal protection from eviction and if evicted, he was entitled to compensation for improvements made to the land. Not so in the rest of the Island, where evicted farmers lost instantly the savings

effected by their life's labour.

A new class of entrepreneur purchased the thousands of bankrupt Estates, as they stood, and way below the market value. At once they raised the rents on the estates and there were evictions, resistance and outrage.

In 1879 Michael Davitt formed the land League which was to exercise great influence in the country and on the Irish Party. The Irish Party comprised the Nationalist M.P.s from the 32 counties returned to the London Parliament. Land agitation however became daily more intense and violent.

The following year Charles Stewart Parnell was elected Leader of the Irish Party in the House of Commons. Although himself an Aristocrat from Avondale in County Wicklow, the Irish Party were held together by him in a manner never equalled, so that they acted and voted as one man. At 34, he was already called the Uncrowned King of all Ireland.

One hundred years after his death, one asks who was this Protestant landlord, known also as the Great Oak of Avondale, who brought about Fair Play for the tenant farmer within a year of his election to the leadership of the party (1881 Land Act) and who brought Ireland to the threshold of Nationhood. It is worth sharing, that he died, a year younger than John F. Kennedy (46) which is the measure of the lost promise.

Davitt's Land League in 1881 had created so much agitation and "boycott" that the Secretary of State (for Ireland) brought in

Emergency Powers providing for Internment without trial where there was "reasonable suspicion". Parnell and several other M.P.s were arrested and interned in Kilmanlham Goal. From his cell, Parnell issued the "No Rent Manifesto", advising tenant farmers to withhold their rent. A Directive from the Pope, supported by the Bishops, condemned Parnell's Manifesto. Rents continued to be promptly paid. The Great Oak had weaknesses in it's roots. The highly aristocratic and radical landlord lead a deeply conservative tenant movement.

In a speech he delivered 4 years later in Cork he

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outlined the policies being pursued fiercely by the Irish Party within Parliament. Addressing a Munster Meeting of tenant farmers on that bitter January evening in 1885 he promised that the struggle would press forward for the interests of the tenant farmer but that the farmer in return must "do what in him lies to encourage Irish Manufacture"... "when he must purchase anything, that he shall not think it too great a sacrifice to get it of Irish material and manufacture". He went on to demand "for the landless labourer some recognition and some right in the land of his Country".

He concluded his famous Cork speech with a call for the return to Ireland of "the fullest measure of her rights" ie, the restitution of Home Rule "stolen from us towards the close of the last Century".

In May of 1882 the Secretary of State (for Ireland) Lord Cavendish and his Under-Secretary Tom Burke were murdered in broad daylight in the Phoenix Park in Dublin. An organisation called "The Invincibles" claimed responsibility. The following year, (in fact 100 years ago this month) a dynamite explosion rocked Central London, resulting in the loss of life

and extensive damages. In 1884 and 1885 further dynamite outrages occurred in Central London.

Partly on account of these events and coupled with the anarchy in Ireland brought about by the land agitators, the minds of Englishmen began to be turned to the need for some reform and improvement in the condition of things in Ireland. The Liberal Prime Minister Gladstone now became convinced that Ireland must have back its Grattan's Parliament and Home Rule. In 1886 he introduced, to Parnell's great delight, a Bill to grant Home Rule to Ireland. But a considerable number of his backbenchers in the Liberals opposed the Bill, declaring that they had formed a separate Party named the "Unionists". The Unionists joined the opposition Conservatives and defeated Parnell and the Nationalists and the last chance to settle the matter, without armed rebellion, was lost. From this time, the Conservatives re-named themselves "Unionists" until 1922 (when most of Ireland broke from the Union) when they returned to their former name of Conservative.

Large sums of money were being sent home by emigrants. In a ten year period (1860's), from North-America alone, ten million stg. was sent home.

From this time onwards, emigrants from Australia and America were returning with the price of a farm.

By the 1880's tens of thousands of famine emigrants were repatriating and buying out farmland. A Land Commission had been created to lend to the tenant farmers to enable them to buy out their holdings from the landlords. The loan was repayable in annual sums and these annual sums normally were half that of the rent paid to the landlords.

In the July "magpie", we'll trace the "Split" of 1891 within the Nationalist Party. The late John Kelly T.D. used to claim that the split into Parnellite and anti-Parnellite, which sent Parnell to an early grave the same year, caused the bloody and dreadful events of 1916-21 and the Civil War of 1922-23.

P.S. A Catalan gentleman from the Basque Country has been enquiring about his Irish Grandfather's family. His Grandfather was a young emigrant named Walshe (Breathnach) from Iveleary who settled and married in Spain.

Ted Cook

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INCHIGEELAGH

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part 21

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In last month's instalment, we looked at the dramatic rise of Parnell to the leadership of the Nationalist M.P.s and we outlined his three central policies: "Buy Irish", "Land for the landless labourer" and "Home Rule for Ireland".

We saw the Home Rule Bill thrown out by the newly founded Unionist Party in London. Ireland, by 1889, was tranquil and rising in prosperity because of the Land Purchase Scheme and the repatriation of wealth by our emigrants.

At this time, unfavourable rumours, affecting Mr. Parnell's private life, began to spread. Parnell had not addressed a meeting in Ireland since the Galway by-election in 1886. Parnell persisted in declaring the rumours to be false, but on November 15th 1890, a divorce case opened in London, in which one Captain O'Shea sought divorcement of his marriage to Mrs. Catherine O'Shea, on the grounds of adultery. Parnell was cited as the second defendant with Mrs. O'Shea.

The "Split" within the Irish Party dates from this day, and the bitter schism, instead of healing on Parnell's death (11 months later), deepened. The "Split" echoes to this day in the dark belly of Irish politics. Historians describe the "Split" as the most significant event in modern Irish politics.

The Irish Catholic Bishops, at once, together with the Clergy in general, declared Parnell to be unfit to lead the Nationalist M.P.s in Westminster. The majority of Parnell's followers would no longer have him as leader.

T.M. Healy (a Nationalist M.P.) was in fact the central and calculating figurehead of the campaign to destroy Parnell. In the history books, Healy tends to be presented as a marginal figure. This is not so. Despite Parnell's subsequent marriage to Catherine O'Shea on June 25th 1891, Healy's shocking and chauvinistic attacks on the Irish Leader's sexual morality laid the ground for that moralistic and deeply reactionary Irish Nationalism. The Great Oak was brought crashing down, leaving a vacuum everywhere.

If only Tim Healy had had a talent to construct, even half as powerful as his talent to destroy.

Healy's description of "Kitty" O'Shea as a "convicted British prostitute" and "proven whore", coupled with the directive from the pulpits, inflamed the people, collectively, against Parnell and the Parnellites.

We saw in the June issue Parnell's clash with the Pope over the moral ethics of a tenant's right to withhold rent from a ravenous absentee landlord. Parnell's radical thinking on the right to ownership of land, by even the landless labourer, was suddenly painted as "Communist". Healy's calculated and ferocious language made it impossible for the multitude to be moderately anti-Parnellite.

It is important to remind ourselves that for the first time in decades, the harvests and crops throughout the late 1880's are recorded as "excellent". Our exports were rapidly rising and would soon be neck and neck with our imports. Wealth was fast generating throughout our newly

and intensely respectable Catholic Middle Class. It was, as Callanan puts it, "the modern thing for a Tenant to be anti-Parnellite, in a Church, that was a theatre of respectability".

Parnell's refusal, to the last, to compromise his style, along with his coolness of judgment was reinterpreted by Healy as cynicism. Parnell's first rally, back in Ireland, in December 1890 revealed a much clearer sense of direction on his part. He travelled the length and breadth of the country, in all weathers, holding meetings. But the anti-Parnellites, using organised disruption and violence, made it nearly impossible. He health failed utterly and Parnell died on October 7th 1891.

For the 700,000 Northern Protestants and many of the South's 300,000 Protestants, Home Rule died with Parnell. For the, the anti-Parnellites had hijacked "Home Rule", replacing it with "Rome Rule". From now on, the Northern Protestants

determined to arm and defend themselves against being forced into Healy's version of the new Ireland.

In our August instalment, we will consider the progress of the Land Purchase Scheme, when in 1903, the British Government advanced the whole of the Purchase Money to create full ownership in the tenant farmer. We will also consider at the beginning of this century, the effects of the Papal Bull (Ne Temere) which declared void, any marriage between Catholic and Protestant, unless the children of such union be raised in the Catholic Faith. An if space permits, we will trace the origins of the Republic's two main political parties, from the anti-Parnellites.

As usual, all Readers are invited to contribute their ideas and share their experiences in connection with this column.

Ted Cook

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INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 22

In our April instalment (Part 18), we saw the establishment of a Commission in 1849, to supervise the collapse of the landlord class and their thousands of bankrupt Estates throughout rural Ireland.

By 1903, the (conservative) Unionist Party in Westminster had suddenly begun to support the notion of Tenant Ownership in Ireland. It was, for them, another chance to win Ireland's loyalty to the Union and break the back of the Irish Nationalist Party in the Imperial Parliament. Immediately, an Act was passed, providing one hundred and fifty million pounds, to buy out the landlords, voluntarily, by Cash Payment and transfer full title to the Tenant Farmer. The Tenant Farmer was to repay this sum at 3 1/4% interest over 68 years to the British Government. Between 1903 and the 1921 Treaty, twelve million acres, comprising nearly 400,000 holdings had been transferred (vested) to the Tenant Farmer.

A further three million acres were acquired compulsorily, by Dáil Eireann in 1923, from the remaining landlords. This raised the figure of (free) farmholds to nearly a half million nationwide.

Most of the current-owned farmholdings in Iveleary originate under the 1903 Act, although some (free) holdings within the Parish's seventy square miles date from much earlier, as we saw in the 1854 Griffith Survey of Iveleary. Those Land Acts (1881 - 1903), won by Land War, gave ownership to all Tenants, big and small. Because the Land Acts provided no protection for the small farmer, Davitt

condemned the Acts as "landlordism under a new name". Stronger neighbours gradually absorbed the small holders and the flight from the land continued in this pattern up to 1921. Shamefully, in the period 1921 - 1973, 50% of our farmers, nationwide, have been forced off the land.

We will return to the (now abolished) Irish Land Commission and the accelerating exodus from the land since the Oireachtas signed the Treaty of Rome in 1973, which commits us all to going deeper into an enlarging Europe.

It is appropriate to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the founding by Douglas Hyde, of the Gaelic League in 1893. The Irish Language, like the land, is a remnant of a 2,000 year old Cultural Experience.

Seán ó Túama claims that the progressive pattern of decline of the language since the Treaty in 1921, is the same pattern as that under Imperial Rule prior to Independence. In other words, only 1% (and even less) speak Irish in Ireland today, despite the Centuries of struggle for the freedom of the Language. Yet more than one million citizens claim to be competent Irish speakers.

Professor Joshua Fleischmann forecasts that within 30 years, the Gaeltachts will have vanished from rural Ireland, but that Dublin will evolve strongly bi-lingually. It is interesting to note that the language of the Pale became prevelently Irish, as a reaction to the Penal Laws.

Since the Statutes of Kilkenny (1367), English had already become the key to material well-being. English was the medium of Trade and Commerce. The process of Anglicisation was the hand in the glove of Colonisation, that was pressing westwards, fluently, since 1641.

From 1810, the Catholic Sunday Sermon no longer was preached in Irish. Rome had earlier, in 1629, expressed its displeasure to Fr. Wadding

that "there was too much Irish for Rome". Irish was excluded from the National Schools (Part 7) and active suppression became pronounced both at home and at school after the Famine Decade. To a people dreading the recurrence of a Famine, English appeared the only door to survival.

We return to our story in the next issue.

Slán 's Le meas. Teddy Cook

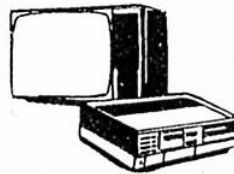
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INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 23

Several readers have requested an instalment of this "History" be devoted to the O'Leary's, and more specifically to the different branches of this pre-Gaelic Clan.

Firstly, this 23rd part is dedicated to all who treat genuinely the blow-in and stranger, with basic respect and fair play. As this article will witness, the simple reason for the O'Leary Clans continued presence and well-being in our Irish Landscape is that they had long come to grips with that instinctive and tribal fear of the "Outsider". Many later "New-Comers" to our shores have long vanished, their family names long forgotten, because they lacked that understanding, necessary to maintain healthy and vigorous bloodlines and keep the show going.

We were reminded in an earlier instalment that the O'Leary's do not originate in Iveleary. Their earlier ancestral tribal lands were between Bandon and the coast. They constituted one of the "Seven Tribes of Corcaloide", the leader of which grouping was O'Driscoll. Corcaloide was part of the "Eireann" - which word depicts those inhabitants in Ireland before the coming of the Gaels (circa) 500 B.C. and who continued to arrive over the following thousand years - or up to (circa) 500 A.D.

In part 1 we looked at the 1654 (Petty) Survey of Iveleary and its 39 landowners. This survey reveals, precisely, the head (male) of each of the landowner-families. The traditional manner of incorporating the owner's

father's name within the Christian name was recorded.

Donal McAirt O'Leary (Donal, son of Airt) lived in Carrignaneelagh Castle and Auliff McDonough O'Leary occupied Dromcarra Castle. Other members of the O'Leary Clan, having lesser holding were: Donal McConnor; Donogh McShane; Donal McTadgh and soforth. Where there were two families sharing a common name, one family added the grandfather's name. There was a Connor McDermott McConnor to distinguish him from Dermott McConnor O'Leary. In this way, from earliest times, human society has been always impelled to know who was married to who - and for obvious reasons. This was the common practice throughout ancient Ireland and became central to Brehon Law. It was the business of the Brehon to know, by heart, the precise bloodline of every family within his jurisdiction. It took a minimum of twenty years studentship to graduate as a Brehon Lawyer and the people in general respected and loved their Brehon Law and "Keepers".

As a result of the banishment of the Brehon Law (it was formally overruled by an English Common Law Court) and the expulsion to Connaught and Clare of the many prominent O'Leary's (see Part 3), much of the story of the O'Leary Clan has been lost with little trace. Or has it?

There remains yet, the use by many O'Leary families, of a family "nickname". It is reliably believed that the use of the "nickname" does not originate in Gaelic Times and that it developed in the social mayhem

of the early seventeenth hundreds. But there are some instances where, arguably, the "nickname" could be a throw-back to the family-branching system of the O'Leary Clan.

I). The 1654 Civil Survey registers the O'Leary Buidhe (Buí = yellowhaired) as in possession in the Lough Gougane District. The Keimaneigh poetess Maura Buí married a Burke in Inchymore Townland (Petty never mapped nor surveyed Keimaneigh - it remained a no-go area even to the Cromwellians).

II). The same survey registers 2 families named Roe (Rua - Ruadh - redhaired). It has been suggested that both the O'Leary Howdees and O'Leary Fox derive from the Roe branches.

III). Readers will recall that Conor the Freckled (or pockmarked) built Carrignacurra Castle (circa) 1500. In Petty's Survey, he is registered as Conor Merigagh (freckled). The late Johnny Creedon (R.I.P.) recalled this sub-branch as the O'Leary Mirgagh (or Meirgheach).

IV). The O'Leary Airts (or Cairts) now gone without a trace, may well have been the same branch that gathered for Millstreet (Part 19) under Donal McAirt of Carrignaneelagh Castle.

In Part 15(b) we saw that the Land Agents (Middlemen) for the Berrach More were the O'Leary Glasheens, known also as the O'Leary Breacs (trout-speckled). Richard Breac's two daughters (Ellena and Eliza), who inherited their uncle Denis' (Breac) Cool Mountain Estate, died without progeny. It is however believed that their brother, who eloped with a Miss Grainger for Boylesgrove may well have had children. Otherwise this branch would seem to have exhausted itself.

Four additional subdivisions of the O'Leary's - namely: na Bolgaithe (bagmen); na Dána (the daring); na Glealni and the Rúntachs are thought to have long migrated to the Bantry district - possibly the mid-eighteenth Century. Again the late Johnny Creedon referred to the "Rehúnachs". And in a recent article in the Examiner, one columnist referred to the "Sept" of the O'Leary Runaed. It is likely that the two latter mentioned are one and the same as the "Rúntachs" (Rún = secrets; Rune = keeper). The same columnist listed the Diomaoin, the Garadachs and the Reeaid as three additional O'Leary "Septs". This last name "Reeaid" might well be one and the same as the "Riabhachs" (swarthy). The late Timmy Tighe O'Leary of Derrivacorreen Townland was a Riabhach; as was the late Paddy O'Leary of Ardnalocha Guesthouse (may they R.I.P.)

In addition, there are the Céadachs (striking); Ceithearnachs (footsoldier); Chearnaighs (Carney); Cipes (ranker); Clogachs (or Clogaide) meaning blistered; Dorchas (dark); Dróilíns (wrens) and the Dúileachs (creative). The late Neilus Leary of Johnstown Cross was a Dúileach and the late Dinny Leary of Kealvaugh (Caolmhó) was an O'Leary Cipe. R.I.P. There are the Ghaelachs, Glás, Mochéirge (early risers) and the Tadghs.

And there's more - this is obviously only a segment of a larger picture and readers (especially the many overseas) are urged to send in any relevant details and make our "Tapestry" the more readable and accessible for all those others, yet to pass through. It is hoped in our November issue to trace, from the anti-Parnellites, the formation of the opposing Nationalist and Republican groupings.

Ted Cook

INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 24

The 1911 Population Census for Inchigeelagh Parish shows, for the first time, a pattern of population distribution that quite resembles the Parish as we know it today.

If we compare the 1911 Population Census with that of 1881 - a span of thirty years - we see a steadying off of removal and migration. The roller-coaster of congestion and emigration that had characterised Iveleary for so long was, at least, even keel. Within the three electoral divisions of Ballingearry, Clianrath and Inchigeelagh, the number of inhabited houses dropped from 421 in 1881 to 330 in 1911.

The Village of Inchigeelagh, which is described as "Carrigleigh Town", had a population of 189 in 1911, as compared with 149 thirty years earlier. Readers are reminded that Inchigeelagh comprised an important Barracks, housing several of The Royal Irish Constabulary, the forerunner of the Garda Síochána.

That portion of Iveleary and "Carrigleigh Town", South of the Lee, formed part of the electoral

division of Bealock in the Dunmanway Division. Inchigeelagh Division also included the electoral divisions of Kilnamartyr and parts of Clondrohid Parish, but we can take it on the authority of an ~~1881 Census of the Parish of~~ ~~the Parish of~~, that the exact population of Iveleary in 1911 was 3,242.

The most pronounced change in the distribution of population occurred in the eastern portion of the Parish - namely, in the electoral division of the 22 townlands of Inchigeelagh. These townlands include Teergay, west of Derreen. The 1881 Census records 1100 inhabitants in these 22 townlands. In the 1911 returns, that number has dropped to under 700.

The 165 acre townland of Kilbarry provides us with a graphic example of the "pronounced change". In Griffith's survey of 1854, there are 5 farms and 14 households in Kilbarry. By 1911, there are two families in occupation, and farming the entire townland. Gortafudig is the only townland in the 23 townland electoral

division of Ballingearry to such marked flight. The 1854 Survey records 14 quite heavily inhabited houses in this townland, and despite its area having been enlarged to 650 acres, the 1911 returns reveal 6 houses, containing 40 inhabitants.

In a sense, we now enter the current phase of our Parish History, as we enter the present century. It is a "Phase" comparable in savagery to the Rebellion of 1798. It is a phase, very much connected up to the present vision of terror in Ireland, that readers have witnessed, incessantly, for the past 25 years, with varying degrees of horror. Let us describe it as a phase, because history is a sequence of phases, moving, we pray, into deeper Creative Intelligence.

Otherwise History is an endless cycle of violent instinct that first began to be recorded, thousands of years ago, in those endless wars in the Older Testaments. That Cain's nature in us remains unchanged - ungracious. The former whispers Hope. That latter creeps without rhyme or reason, time-wasting.

Because the Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.) enjoys the support of all the Parish and commands the respect of all shades of historical opinion within Iveleary, it is hoped to enter our current "Phase" with the same discipline and organisation that the G.A.A.

brought, at Parish Level, to virtually all of Ireland. It was, De Valera would soon proclaim, that "these habits of Discipline and Organisation were worth more for a nation than anything else".

Let us take an example of the early days of the G.A.A. and assess its task of rechannelling that national despair into a collective and passionate pursuit for self-control through discipline. Exactly 100 years ago this year, the All-Ireland Football Final was between the Young Ireland's Club of Wexford and Dromtariffe - a G.A.A. Club from North Cork. Sixteen minutes from time, a Cork player was attacked brutally by a section of the crowd. In fact, the Cork team had been intimidated throughout the match by several of the Wexford crowd, who, somehow, believed that the North Cork Club was connected with the infamous North Cork Orange Militia, that had, 95 years earlier, inflicted "scalping" (pitch-capping) on the Wexford Rebels.

Throughout the Apartheid years of the Seventeen and Eighteen Hundreds, athletic meetings and contests throughout Ireland had been confined to the Landlord and Middle-Classes and the military. Rugby was the principal sport in Cork City and in the major centres of Midleton, Cobh and Bandon.

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The exclusion of the labourer from Sport, except at segregated events at certain meetings, was at the root of that National Despair.

The G.A.A. in 1884, was founded to revive the almost extinct native pastimes of Hurling and weight-throwing and running. In its first two years, the Association concentrated on Athletics and its very first meeting was held at Toames in 1884 - just a short walk into the neighbouring Parish.

The Archbishop of Cashel, Dr. Croke, together with Parnell, as Leader of the Nationalist Party and Michael Davitt, as founder of the Land League, became the first primary patrons of the Association.

By January 1885, the draft rules for Gaelic Football were first enforced at a meeting in Ballineen. It is to Iveleary's great credit that a skilful and representative Inchigeelagh team was, in 1888, drawn to play Macroom's Manchester Martyrs Club. It is remarkable if one recalls, that in the same year, all Nationalist M.P.s for County Cork were interned in Tullamore Prison and on a "blanket protest". In fact, the prison authorities confiscated their blankets in the depth of winter. The people had begun to look to themselves through the G.A.A., which had so grown that in 1898, 15,000 people turned up at the Munster semi-finals between Cork and Tipperary.

It is to the Association's historic credit, that it remained officially in steadfast support of Parnell - a courageous if dangerously unfashionable stance to take. Readers will recall that the Catholic Hierarchy, throughout Ireland declared Parnell unfit to lead the Irish People because he was living with Catherine O'Shea, outside of marriage.

While Hyde's Gaelic League (Part 22) might be compared to

the Nurseryman fertilising the intellectual search for National Expression, the G.A.A. was the Nurseman working, slow and steady, on the physical and mental culture of the people - giving voice to the deeply buried but forever pounding sense of place, sense of self-worth - the common experience of all of the peoples of Ireland.

Ted Cook

MACROOM DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

TENTH ANNIVERSARY

One of the first groups of its kind in the country, the M.D.E.G. was ten years old this year. It is also now in its fifth session of employing workers on a Social Employment Scheme, the present scheme employing five workers and a supervisor. This summer, we were also fortunate enough to be able to take advantage of the Student Summer Job Scheme.

THE WORK OF THE GROUP

Present work includes investigation into various forms of recycling (e.g. the silage plastic recycling plant that may shortly be available in Cork), the clearing of pathways, maintenance and planting at the Famine Graveyard at Carrigastya, and the on-going work at our tree nursery. Over the years we have also planted extensively and created nature banks - in the Gearagh (for which we received a Ford Conservation Award), Toon Valley, schools

such as Aghinagh N.S. and Kilnamartyra, and in the demesne of Macroom Castle itself, where we are particularly fortunate to have our office above the Castle Arch.

OFFICE IN THE CASTLE ARCH

This office is open to the public on Mondays, Tuesdays and Friday mornings and is a prime source of information on the environment, ranging from books, the many publications to which we subscribe, our own quarterly magazine "The Environmentalist", and a comprehensive catalogue of Government Acts affecting the environment.

SPONSORED CYCLE

We have recently held our annual sponsored cycle ride, our major fund raising project of the year, which was very successful, and we would particularly like to thank all the local businesses and individuals who sponsored us at a time when there are so many other demands on their pockets.

CAR BOOT SALE

We are holding our second Car Boot Sale on Saturday, November 6th, as the intention is to hold them on the first Saturday of every month. This will be in the Car Park near the Bottle Bank, between Mid-Cork Motors and Neville's Bakery. Cars can assemble from 12.30 a.m. to begin at 2.00 p.m. The charge will be 5 per car and pre-booking can be arranged on 026-46142.

JOHN SEYMOUR IN MACROOM

We are very pleased to be able to announce a further talk by John Seymour, author of the best selling book "Self-Sufficiency", following his very successful visit to Macroom last year. This will take place on the Back Bar of O'Riada's at 8 p.m., Wednesday, November 10th. All are welcome.

SESSION IN O'RIADA'S

We are also holding a session at the same venue, O'Riada's on November 25th at 8.30 p.m. This will be hosted by the accordion player Jim Bainbridge who will also be our guest for that evening. There will be a £1 entrance fee at the door and all musicians and everyone interested in traditional music are welcome.

MARKET STALL

Also, look out for our Market Stall in the Square on Tuesdays, selling our own produce ranging from chutney to trees.

WORKING WITH THE SCHOOLS

But perhaps most important of all is the latest FÁS Scheme's accent on working with the schools - promoting environmental awareness through an appreciation of the rich natural life which we are fortunate to have surrounding us. Much has to be done to ensure it is maintained and enhanced for our children, for it is truly by the next generation that our efforts will be judged.

Alistair Findlay

INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 25

In our November instalment, we looked at the 1901 and 1911 census returns for Iveleary, North of the Lee.

The returns for that portion of the river are contained in the Dunmanway Union records, under the Electoral Division of Cool Mountain, Ballingearry, Garrown and Bealock.

The same steadying-off pattern of removal and emigration that we discovered in the north of the parish, is the same for that vast mountainous portion to the south.

The 1911 returns (Lee South) shows a population drop to 1400, from 1445, ten years earlier. The 11 townlands of Clogher, Coolcaum, Coolmountain, Lackabawn, Moneylea, Tullagh, Toonreen, Shehy Beag and Mór and the Shanranes East and West form part of the Carony of Carbery East (West Division), whilst the rest of Iveleary's 112 Townlands are comprised in the Barony of Muskerry West.

The twenty two Baronies in County Cork originate in the Tribal Divisions (Tuatha) of Celtic Ireland. They

standardised into their present divisions about 1500 A.D. and continue in use merely to signify ones legal address. But to the Historian, the inclusion of these 11 townlands into the ancient Barony of Carberry recall a land dispute, centuries ago, between the McCarthys (Ríoch) and the O'Learys.

In Part 17, we discussed the pre-Gaelic origins of the Townland and Parish Units. Suffice to add that Ireland's 64,000 townlands can vary in size from under an acre to several thousand acres.

Gortnahoughtee Townland (733 Acres) suffered the largest decrease in population: from 80 in 1881 to 40 in 1911. Coolmountain Townland alone, remained steady at 71 inhabitants in 1881 and 71 in 1911.

There was one house inhabited in Shehy Mór Townland (645 acres) in 1881 and still only one occupied house in 1911. The exact same story for Shehy Beag Townland (720 acres) - with only one house.

The 1901 returns for Deereenacusha Townland

attributes the increased population to the presence in that townland of several employed builders. The same census records that the marked increase in numbers in the Dromdeegy area (Electoral Division of Cool Mountain) of the neighbouring parish of Fanlobbus is attributed to recent erection of labourers cottages.

It was in this period that many of the tens of thousands of such cottages were built throughout Ireland. And, as we shall discover, later in the series, it was these same cottages that produced the bulk of Irishmen, numbering over 170,000 that joined the British Army, as National Volunteers, in the Great War of 1914.

We saw earlier the Catholic Emancipation Act become law in 1829. But the Act only admitted to vote, those who held property worth a minimum of £10.00 Rateable Valuation. This at once disenfranchised most of the Catholic Population. Before Emancipation the Valuation threshold was forty shillings.

A further difficulty was that it was only in 1872 that votes were cast by secret ballot. Up to then, the voter declared in public - the problem, of course, was that the Presiding Officer was normally the Landlord who invariably was a Unionist. Sever tenant-farmers found themselves quite suddenly removed to a hill-farm, several hundred foot higher in altitude. The loyal tenant-farmer

was normally to be found in the deeper soils, nearer the Landlord's big house.

Furthermore, females simply had no vote. It was not until late 1918 that a new Franchise Act passed through the Imperial Parliament. Under this Act, women over thirty were admitted to vote. The same Act admitted all males over twenty one, landless or otherwise. The Irish voting register trebled to nearly two million, including 800,000 first-time voting women.

In this, our Christmas issue, let us look at the Irishwoman's experience at the turn of the century.

In part 14, we looked at the process of property transfer from Landlord to his son. A daughter's inheritance automatically bypassed her, to her husband, on marriage. Throughout the Seventeen and Eighteen Hundreds, and indeed well into our present century, women, regardless of economic background, had very few basic rights.

In the 1880's, over half of all employed Irish women worked in domestic service. A huge industry had grown around the six or so thousand families that owned the entire island. Every town had at least one agency that served the Big House.

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Reformatory Schools was placement for service with these agencies.

Between 1880 and 1900, the average wage was £8.00 per year, until 1900, when it increased to £14.00 annually. Because women servants normally lived in, their board and keep was calculated at £13.00 annually.

But it was not only the unmarried daughters of small holdings that "entered service".

On his death in 1835, the Berrach Mór's Estate (of 23 quality townlands to the east of the Parish) passed to his son Nicholas. Nicholas has been described as a "wild character". And wild he must have been, because 30 years later, he is described as a small tenant-farmer in the 1854 Griffith Survey.

By 1860, the once powerful Family of the Berrach Mór, descended from Captain Tom Barry, Officer in Cromwell's army, now find themselves occupying modes rented accomodation in Castle Street, Macroom. From here, we can trace the young unmarried Georgina Lucinda Barry. She entered service as a Governess to the Bowen-Colthurst family in Carhue House in Coachford. Remarkable, because her own family has once employed a dozen servants at Kilbarry House - including private tutors of Modern European Languages.

The hours for these women were long and arduous. Even as late as 1920, all efforts to extend Trade Union Protection to domestic servants, failed.

Fortunately, Dromcarra House, former seat of the substantial landlord family of Baxter is a two-storey residence, which-employed numerous house servants. Fortunately - because in some of the big houses, servants were required

to climb as many as 4 flights of stairs to answer "bell-service". Only to be asked to pull the curtains, or pour a glass of water, and explain the delay in responding to the bell.

One wonders if these servants ever got rest. The working day started before sunrise, ensuring that tea was served, throughout the house, at 6.30 a.m. Dinner was normally served nightly at 8 p.m., and it would have been in the wee hours, tht the ware was cleared and crystal and silver polished.

The Big House had been designed and built to incorporate separate entrances to separate apartments for the servants and employers. The servants themselves were divided into Upper and Lower categories. Where the employer was a Protestant, the butler, the cook and the other upper servants were normally of like religion. Personal servants including nursemaids and valets also were in the upper bracket. Many of the upper servants, including the governess were brought from England.

The lower servants, including dairymaids and footmen, lived "below stairs" and were nearly always Catholic and Irish. These rarely, if ever, saw the inside of the main residence.

In her book, Dr. Hearne states that socially the female servant was lower than the factory girl. Any prolonged illness was forbidden the servant - as was the right to complain about sexual harrassment. Where the servant became pregnant, she had to leave, and normally found no sympathy at home - leaving her, in many cases, the choice between workhouse or prostitution.

The news of 60,000 Irish dead in the Battles of the Somme and Dardenelles and the sight of their Nationalist M.P.s canvassing for Home Rule in British Army Uniform; the stories

of brutal treatment of thousands of others of their menfolk, arrested as suspects in 1916 and shipped to Internment Camps in the Welsh Mountains and the extension of Conscription to Ireland in 1918, formed some of the furious elements beneath the long battered-down Silence of Women.

The General Election of 1918, which included on the Voting Register, 800,000 first-time women voters, was a political earthquake which saw the sudden and decisive sweep to power of Sinn Fein. We will analyse the origins of Sinn Fein later in the series.

And to clarify a misprint in the November Issue:- The District Electoral Division of Inchigeelagh included Tirgea West to Derreen, as well as the town of Carrigeigh, now known as Inchigeelagh Village.

Some Readers may be interested to know that the enumerator's returns for the 1901 Census, listing the inhabitants of each household are available on microfilm in the Boole Library in Cork University.

It remains to wish Readers, especially our emigrant brethren home for the Holiday, a harmonious and conscious Christmastime.

Ted Cook

P.S.:

Readers are reminded that we discussed the foundation of Maynooth Seminar, after the Penal Period - in 1794. Also next year sees the 200th Anniversary of the Orange Order. We will look again at the latter, early New Year.

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INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 26

Welcome back to our history, readers.

In last September's issue, we saw the founding of, and commemorated the 100th Anniversary of the Gaelic League, and in November we recalled the founding in 1984 of the G.A.A. Both movements were part of a social revolution in Ireland. The Gaelic League preached the notion of "Equality of the Sexes", socially and politically. And at a time when the custom of dowry was in widespread practice throughout the farming community. In no time there were 600 branches of the League, and hundreds of G.A.A. clubs the length of Ireland and Britain. This newly emerging national expression lacked only a political setting.

The Local Government Act of 1898, gave, for the first time, an Irish say in local affairs. Alongside the Irish Land Acts, this was yet another measure to satisfy Ireland's deepening grumble for Home Rule. The Conservative Government in Westminster called it a policy of "Killing Home Rule with Kindness", but the 1898 Act was soon to backfire.

The Urban and County Councils began to drain the authority of the British Administration in Ireland. They became instead, with amplifying force, militant in Ireland's demand for some shareholding of power. Soon, the Local Government Board's Inspectors would be received, from the Customs House in Dublin, with every politeness, but shown nothing. Returns would be demanded by Customs House - and equally politely, none would be sent. The forced marriage of Ireland with Britain, dating from the Union of 1800, was perilously near the rocks.

After Parnell's death, the Irish Party of M.P.'s in the Imperial Parliament, had split into splinter groups. It is to John Redmond's credit that, by 1900, he managed to become the overall leader of the Irish Party. But Parnell still remains the last Irish leader to have commanded allegiance of every house and home in Ireland.

In 1893, the Irish Party again pressed for Home Rule in the Parliament. Again the Bill was "out out outed" by a majority of

419 to 41, in the British House of Lords. Many of that House enjoyed property rights and interests throughout Ireland and were determined not to let her go. Peers flocked to Westminster from Ireland to "crush the Bill like a cockroach".

In the 1893 Bill, Redmond had offered a very large measure of power to the Unionist Community, which numbered about one and a quarter million, throughout Ireland. The proposed Irish House of Commons, sitting in Dublin, would reflect the Nationalist majority. An Upper House would return a majority of Unionists, as admission to the Upper House would be based on wealth and property qualifications. The Unionists rejected this model. They wanted undivided Union between Britain and Ireland.

In 1911, a very important statute was passed, called the Parliament Act. Under this Act, the House of Lords must enact any Bill that comes for a third time before them. Redmond, with wide-eyed relish, now presented, for the third time, his Home Rule Bill during the Summer of 1912. The now inevitable journey into Law of Home Rule for Ireland produced a wide-eyed alarm and fright in the four Counties of Down, Antrim, Derry and Armagh. In these Counties there was a definite majority in favour of the Union. Immediately, Sir Edward Carson formed his Ulster

Volunteer Force, which pledged itself to the Union. Carson's Volunteers claimed to derive their authority from the 200,000 signatures opposing any rupture of the Empire. Many of the signatories signed Carson's "Ulster Covenant" with their own blood.

The more the majority of the Irish People pushed for separation, the more intense became the "Holy Grail" of the Union, to both Irish and British Unionists.

The following year, in 1913, was born the twin of the Ulster Volunteer Force. In Dublin, Eoin Mac Neill called for the formation of the Irish Volunteers. They were "to secure and maintain the rights and liberties of all the Irish People". The Irish Volunteer movement rapidly caught on throughout the Four Provinces. Unknown to Mac Neill, behind him was the secret and oathbound organisation called the Irish Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.). In part 15B (November '92) we saw 2 young men on the run in Iveleary during September 1848. Their names were James Stephens and Michael Doheny. Denis O'Leary (Breac) had provided his Cork Mountain House as their "safe house". Stephens was the architect of the I.R.B., the object of which was to break "by physical force" the connection with England. It was a Fenian Brotherhood,

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claiming direct descent from Wolf Tone's revolutionary "United Irishmen" of 1798. In part 8, and in earlier instalments, we traced the descent of the Woodkerne, the Tories, and the Whiteboys and other secret societies.

We saw how Wolf Tone, the father of Republicanism, had confided all the secrets and plans for the 1798 and 1802 rebellions to his solicitor Leonard McNally. Dublin Castle were long prepared - McNally was in paid "secret service".

The McNally episode was never to occur again. The newly emerging I.R.B. of 1913, showed, that despite the failure of the Fenian Rising in 1867, it had never ceased to exist. It came as a rude shock to the Intelligence Division within Dublin Castle, when the I.R.B. Rising of Easter Week overran the Capital in 1916. Such was the nature of the "Circle of the Brotherhood". It was Tom Clarke, from his little Tobacconist Shop in Parnell Street, in Dublin, breathed a new vitality into the I.R.B. It was in his small shop that the plan for Revolution was born and nurtured.

The Brotherhood was structured on a 32 County basis, each County representing a Circle. Within each County Circle were comprised the lessening Circles of Parish and Townland. The Supreme Council of the Brotherhood was "Head Centre" of the Circle. Within "Head Centre" was the Supreme Military Council.

Sworn initiates of the Brotherhood swore allegiance to the Republic. Their flag was the Tri-colour of Green, White and Orange. These colours were first presented to the Citizens of Dublin in 1848 by Thomas rancis Meagher. Meagher was that great orator from Waterford whose fiery speeches urged the

Irish People to take up arms and fight. It landed him in an Australian Convict Colony. It is worth noting, that almost a century and a half back, Meagher had preseen that the real challenge, then and now, ist "that the Men of Orange and Men of Green must find that White for Peace between".

Though intensely political, the I.R.B. had yet to take on a "Constitutional Shape", through which it's sole policy of a Republic, by force of arms, might be broadcast. The Brotherhood did not hijack Griffith's newly born Sinn Fein - rather it adopted Sinn Fein as it's political vehicle.

Arthur Griffith had founded an organisation in 1897, called Cumann na nGael. It was a separatist or anti-Union organisation. It was not a physical force party. In 1905, he renamed it Sinn Fein, intending that it should give political expression to the Gaelic League and G.A.A. ideals. It was radical in that it resembled Daniel O'Connell's "Passive Resistance Movement". It was eventually to get caught in the tide of revolutionary violence. Its name was to become, internationally, a symbol of an "armed resistance movement".

The picture being relayed, back to Dublin Castle (British Intelligence G. Division), through the eyes and ears of the Royal Irish Constabulary, was one of a rural Ireland more settled and contended than it had been in seven centuries. The Land Acts and Congestion Boards were working well.

By 1905, most farming land had moved from the landed class to tenant ownership. The dreaded Landlords and their middlemen-agents were pulling out, but claiming to have been robbed under the Acts. They felt "driven out" - some moved to the North East Counties but no figures exist. It is reliably

believed that most of the landed Anglo-Irish, on dispossession, moved to England.

The political gap between Carson and Redmond had narrowed by late 1914:

Carson conceded Home Rule for 23 Counties. He would not concede Donegal, Monaghan or Cavan, on the grounds, that these three additional Ulster Counties did (and continue, presently) to comprise substantial Protestant Communities.

Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalist Party, would agree only to the exclusion, for a limited period, of the four Counties of Antrim, Down, Armagh and Derry. Redmond would not hear of losing, what became known as the "Tug-of-War" Counties of Fermanagh and Tyrone.

Readers are surely familiar with the story of the two mothers, both claiming the same child, in

Wise King Solomon's Court. In the case of Ireland, there were three claimant mothers, two of whom elected for mutilation. The third mother, represented by the 300,000 Southern Irish Protestants, pleaded she would live under any authority (unless driven out by intolerance) but that "the idea of the dismemberment of Partition of Ireland was so hateful as to be inconceivable.

In our March instalment we shall find out what finally was enacted for Ireland in the 1914 Home Rule Act.

Happy New Year to everyone.

Ted Cook

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INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 27

In the last days of that "Indian Summer" June of 1914, the Imperial Parliament passed the Government of Ireland Act.

This Act provided for Home Rule for Ireland. In an accompanying Amendment Act, which was rushed through, undebated, (because of the outbreak of the Great War) during the last days of July 1914, the four Unionist-dominated counties of the North East of Ulster were excluded from the operation of the Act. On which side of the proposed Boundary Line, Fermanagh and Tyrone were to go was left in the air.

These two enactments, known as the Partition Acts, were shelved for the duration of the Great War.

These Acts provided for the transfer to Dublin, from Westminster, of a parliament with a little more power than a glorified brand of Local Government. London retained the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Customs and Excise, the Armed Forces and Defence and just about everything else.

The First World War was fought on the issue of the Rights of small nations. Irishmen enlisted, voluntarily, in the British Army to

the number of 175,000. The Army, leaping to the defence of little Belgium, now faced a formidable Germany.

Irishmen from North and South alike, flocked under the Allied Colours, which came as a shock to the German Kaiser, who was counting on England's pre-occupation with a deeply troubled Ireland.

Carson's Ulster Volunteers (U.V.F.) who had armed themselves and were ready to fight Britain to remain united with her, went to war as part of the 36th Division. They went to the front with their own officers and colours. This division was cut to pieces in July 1916 at the Battle of the Somme.

Redmond's Irish National Volunteers went to the front as part of the 10th and 16th Divisions. These divisions, which included the Munster Fusiliers, were wiped out, mostly in the Battle of the Dardanelles. The Clare Regiment suffered the highest losses. Cork City and County Regiments made exceptionally high returns to the British war effort.

Earlier, we noted from the 1901 Parish Census, the erection,

recently, of several Labourers Cottages. These cottages produced the bulk of British Army enlistments from Ireland.

Little record remains of the Uibh Laoghaire men that enlisted, but we do know a little of one Sergeant Micheal O'Leary of the Irish Guards Regiment, who was awarded the Victoria Cross, for his exceptional bravery on the Battlefield of Flanders on St. Brigid's Day, February 1st 1915. Sergeant Michael was the son of Daniel and Mrs. O'Leary of Cluain Siar Beag townland. Locally, they were known as the "Leary Lodgers" and lived a stonethrow to the west of Kilbarry Post Office.

Mr. R. Brophy, Chairman of Macroom Board of Guardians, recorded in March 1915, at a testimonial held in the Council Chamber of Cork City Hall, that O'Leary entered the British Army before 1909 and started his military career in Malta. He describes O'Leary as "an Irish Nationalist, who knew how to fight for his King and Country".

Brophy continued, stating "that Irishmen proved on the Battlefields of Europe, how they could work for the Empire". He said that so long as England fought for Justice, Ireland would fight alongside her. At the same testimonial, Mr. A Roche, M.P. for Cork stated that "O'Leary's deed was, perhaps, the bravest ever recorded".

In seconding the proposed motion to start a subscription fund for their hero, "that he might never feel the pinch of want", Mr.

William Kelleher (Cork Councillor) stated that O'Leary's name would go down in history for the next twenty centuries.

But Sergeant O'Leary's memory has long receded. All that appears to be left is an old photograph of O'Leary, as a young recruit, which hangs in the Public Bar of John and Lilly O'Sullivan's Lake Hotel, in Inchigeelagh Village. Under his fading picture is penned a few lines of a poetic lament.

As we shall soon discover, the testimonial and other papers recording the details of his astonishing bravery, went up in smoke on the night of December 11th 1920, when Cork City, including its City Hall and Libraries, was burnt down by British Crown Forces, in what remains the most extensive single act of vandalism ever committed in these islands. The British Cabinet grudgingly admitted that "a few Auxiliaries did get a trifle excited, here and there". Any proper enquiry into the burning of Cork, along with the burning to the ground of twenty four towns, in the south and west of Ireland, by Crown Forces, in a single month, was suppressed.

Also shelved under the Official Secrets Act was the enquiry into the burning and total destruction, by Crown Forces in a single week, of Mallow, Trim, Lahinch, Milltown Malbay, Balbriggan and Ennistymon. But we jump the gun!

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Also closed and sealed off is the Record Centre of the present Ministry of Defence in Middlesex, due to asbestos contamination. But, dear Readers, we do have just about sufficient bits and pieces to mount a profile of Sergeant O'Leary, V.C.

His act of bravery drew a comment, published in the Cork Examiner early 1915, that "with all their spies, Germany did not reckon that there was a place called Inchigeelagh". Sgt. O'Leary was a member of the elite Irish Guards. In peacetime, this regiment protected the Monarch and extended royal blood-line. In wartime, the Irish Guards constituted a crack regiment.

The requirements necessary to join his Flagship Regiment were firstly, a minimum in height of six foot, two inches, with corresponding stature, and the possession of an extraordinary capacity for courage and the disregard of self. Without doubt, O'Leary displayed such degree of bravery on February 1st 1915, at a point on the Western Front named Guinchy in Flanders.

Single-handedly, he penetrated deep into German lines and armed with a pistol, he crept on all fours into the rear of a dugout nest of German Machine Gunners. He disarmed and arrested the entire nest. Having blown up the dugout with the single hand-grenade that he carried, he marched his Prisoners-of-War west behind Allied Lines. It was for this that he received the highest award in the British Army - the Victoria Cross.

We can gather from statements made by the Parish Priest of Inchigeelagh, that the O'Leary's (lodgers) were very poor. Addressing the Citizens of Cork in the Council Chamber, in March of 1915, Rev. James O'Leary (P.P.) said he was pleased that "they were going to give their hero something more substantial than the honour which he richly deserved".

The five pounds paid out annually, for life, to recipients of

the Victoria Cross, did leave a pinch of want. At the conclusion of the meeting, it was announced that £65 had been subscribed to the O'Leary Fund.

O'Leary remained fighting at the front, until the end of war in 1918. On his return from the front, he was made a Recruiting Officer for the British Army in England. In later years, he became a Coal Haulier in Central London.

Readers that possess any little details concerning Sgt. O'Leary, are urged to contribute.

It is perhaps appropriate at this juncture to confirm that it is the hope of the writer, jointly with magpie, to publish an edited version, in pocket-book form, of our Parish History "Uibh Laoghaire - Cromwell to Maastricht".

The booklet would be aimed at a newly emerging growth sector, both in Europe and America, called "Educational Tourism", where visitors stop in a particularly aesthetic area and study and soak up, for a fortnight, the natural environment and specific history of that area.

In our next issue, we will commemorate the establishment in the Parish of the Inchigeelagh Company of the Seventh Battalion, Cork No. 1. Brigade of the Republican Volunteers, in October 1915. (It was in January 1918, that both Inchigeelagh and Ballingearry, along with Kilnamartyr and Ballyvourney, were formed into a separate 8th Battalion).

And, if our Editor permits the space, it would be auspicious indeed, if our Easter instalment were to mark the 77th Anniversary of the 1916 rising, which detonated the Anglo-Irish War, also known as the War of Independence.

Ted Cook

P.S.: Should the proposed publication come together, and go so far as to bear a material return, it is intended to direct all profits to the protection and nurturing, of the integrity of our landscape.

MACROOM DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

JUMBLE SALE

We are holding a mega-jumble sale in O'Riada's, Macroom, on Saturday, 25th, March. Doors open at 1.00pm. Entrance fee 30p for adults - children admitted free. If you have any unwanted Christmas presents, books, records or tapes that you are prepared to part with, clothes that you can't see yourself wearing again, please put them aside. Also there will be a raffle. We are looking for handcrafts (leatherwork, jewellery, paintings, baskets, pottery etc.) or anything that is in good condition. If you have anything that is sellable, please let us know. We can be contacted at: The Castle Arch, Tel:(026) 42498 during office hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9.30am - 5.30am and Friday mornings from 9.30am - 1.30pm. So: Drop us a line or call in and see us. We shall be very pleased to see you. All jumbles collected.

CAR BOOT SALE

Our Car Boot Sales are now an on-going event. We are holding our next one on Saturday, 12th, March.

The venue is the Fair Green, in the car park near the Bottle Bank, between Mid-Cork Motors and Neville's Bakery. Cars can assemble at 12 mid-day. The charge is £5.00 per car. All monies for items sold if your own. Refreshments available.

MARKET STALL

Visit our stall in the Square, on Tuesdays, operated by members of our friendly FAS workers. The products and items we sell are produced and made by our Group and FAS worker, i.e. bird boxes and handmade stained glass window hangings etc.

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SESSIONS IN O'RIADA'S

Great news for traditional music lovers and set dancers. We anticipate holding two sessions - one on the 10th of March, and one on the 26th March, after our jumble sale in the Town Hall. Watch out for posters displayed in and around the Macroom area and surrounding villages giving further details of these events. All musicians, music lovers and anyone interested in the set dancing welcome. Come along and bring your friends and enjoy great craic, music and set dancing.

The Group hopes that these events will help raise urgently needed cash for a tree nursery. The contract on the current nursery expires shortly. It has been operated successfully for a number of years by FAS workers with the Group.

OFFICE IN THE CASTLE ARCH

This office is open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings and is a prime source of information on the environment, ranging from books, and many other publications to which we subscribe, our own quarterly magazine "The Environmentalist" and a comprehensive catalogue of Government Acts affecting the environment.

Office hours are: Tuesdays and Thursdays - 9.30am - 5.30pm and Friday mornings: 9.30 - 1.30pm.

INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 28

World War I broke out in August 1914.

In October 1914, John Redmond, leader of the constitutional Home Rule Party in Westminster, uttered his recruiting speech for the British Army. In our March instalment, we described the flocking by scores of thousands of Irish recruits who were known as **Redmond's Volunteers**. Some 400 men, themselves supporters of Redmond's constitutional policy, from the Macroom area, joined up and went to the Front.

In October 1915, a grocer from Cork Street in Macroom, named Dan Corkery, formed the Macroom Branch of the Irish Volunteers, later known as **Republican Volunteers**. Twenty five men attended this meeting and formed themselves into a Company. These volunteers, in pursuing the Fenian tradition, rejected constitutional or legal methods as the only means. For them the shelving of Home Rule for the duration of the War was the last straw. For them, the 1914

Anglo-Irish Agreement that created a partitioned Island, was the subtle end of the 'Divide and Conquer' imperial wedge.

Corkery was just newly married to a Miss May Murphy of Macroom's Main Street, who had recently come home from America. At 31, Corkery was the oldest member at the Meeting. By those closest to him, he was believed to be a member of the secret Republican Brotherhood (I.R.B.). He was Commanding Officer for the Macroom area from October 1915 up to the Truce on July 11th, 1921.

From late autumn in 1915, the Company formed up each Sunday after 10 a.m. Mass, and with a day's rations, they marched to different villages in the surrounding countryside, forming Units.

These Volunteers deeply resented the British Army's recruitment of Redmond's Volunteers. They considered Recruiting Sergeant Michael O'Leary V.C. to be fighting in the

wrong army in the wrong war. In his memoirs, Charlie Browne (Adjutant 7th Battalion) recalls the apathy of the people to have been the most serious task of the Republican Volunteers. Few took them seriously in their quest for freedom, apart from the ubiquitous eyes and ears of the R.I.C. The widespread ridicule and mockery endured by this band of young Republicans built up in them an even greater loyalty and comradeship.

Politically, Corkery was a Republican of the Wolfetone Tradition and an ardent Trade Unionist. As an admirer of Big Jim Larkins' vision of a Socialist Ireland, he saw the urgency of planting a 'Social Conscience', so as to arouse the educated class to the poverty and illiteracy of the masses. What the press called 'Larkins' Rabble'.

But the tide was to turn dramatically, as and from the night of Easter Monday 1916, when reports began to reach deep into the Valley Desmond of the Republican Rising in Dublin.

This Easter Monday marked the 77th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising. On that morning, Padraic Pearse, President of the Supreme Council of the I.R.B. and First President of the Irish

Republic, read from the portico of the General Post Office, in our capital's O'Connell Street, the brave and beautifully worded Proclamation of the Irish Republic. The Proclamation was signed on behalf of the Provisional Government by seven signatories. It was a secret government within the I.R.B. (the first Dáil, sitting 75 years ago, claimed its constitutional basis from this government).

Crowds gathered in astonishment, as Pearse read the Proclamation. Younger recounts, in his History, that the crowd looked upon Pearse as 'an exhibitionist and a crank'. To a people, enslaved for generations, the declaration of Pearse of 'the right of the People of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland' must have been highly amusing.

In her effort to woo loyalty to the Union from the Irish people, the British Government had completely overlooked the Capital City of Dublin. While the Land Acts (1891 - 1905) had resulted in the farming community growing 'prosperous and fat', milk and butter were literally unknown to the 20,000 Dublin families living in one-roomed tenements in 1908. One third of the City's 305,000 were

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underfed. One half of her children were seriously undernourished. Up to a dozen people shared eating and sleeping in a single room. 87,000 people were destitute in the inner City. A survey revealed that 37,000 crammed tenements were unfit for human habitation. A further 23,000 tenements were declared "absolutely unfit".

These decaying tenements originally were the private Georgian houses of the ascendant gentry and townhouses to the County squires. They moved en masse to London, after the 1800 Act of Union moved the entire Irish Administration to Westminster. The average weekly rent for a room was two shillings (10p), while the average weekly wage was four shillings and sixpence (22p). Despite the creation, one hundred years ago, in 1894, of the Irish Trade Union Congress (I.T.U.C.), unskilled and casual labourers had no Trade Union. Trade Union protection was extended solely to skilled craftworkers.

In 1911, Big Jim Larkin, a County Down Man, edited a

newssheet called "The Irish Worker". Its country-wide readership rose to 94,000 in September of the same year. Larkins' message was to instil spirit and confidence in the people. From 1908 to 1914, the business and commercial life of Dublin staggered from crisis to crisis. Pitched battles with the R.I.C. and Military increased. Batten Charges led to unprecedented brutality.

Another Ulsterman and militant Socialist, James Connolly, was summoned from Belfast to help co-ordinate the workers' demands for the right to join a Trade Union and for basic Fair Play in the workplace. In his periodical "Workers Republic, Connolly in 1915 argued that revolution was necessary.

In 1914, Thomas Clarke, who had revived the I.R.B. along with Padraic Pearse, assisted in the Food Kitchens, operated from Liberty Hall, to feed the starving of the City.

The compound of radical Irish Republicanism with

Connolly's militant Socialism proved explosive. In our next instalment, we will trace the central roles played in the Rising by the young 24 year old Michael Collins and

another young man, aged 26, named Éamonn de Valera.

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INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 29

In a hallowed corner of the stone-breakers' yard in Kilmainham Jail, all of the seven signatories of the Proclamation of the Republic faced the firing squad in May 1916. There, too, met their death all of the other leaders who were executed, with the exceptions of Sir Roger Casement who was hanged in London and Eamon De Valera whose death sentence was committed to Penal Servitude for Life (De Valera was then 34). The Rising, which commenced on Easter Monday, April 24th 1916, lasted for one week. The Volunteers under the command of Thomas McDonagh at Jacobs Biscuit Factory were the last to surrender, on April 30th.

It was the Irish Regiments of the British Army in Dublin that fought the fiercest against the rebel positions - particularly praised by the Establishment were the

Royal Irish Regiment and the Dublin Fusiliers.

On May 3rd Patrick Pearse, Commander-in-Chief of the Republican Army and member of the Military Council of the I.R.B., was tried before a Court Martial and shot. Also shot on May 3rd was Thomas McDonagh who, like Pearse, was a poet, playwright and teacher. Both Pearse and McDonagh had founded a school in Dublin called Scoil Éanna. Many of their pupils fought beside them to the bitter end in Easter Week. Also shot by firing squad on May 3rd was Thomas Clarke whom we have already discovered in an earlier instalment was the Chief Organiser of the revived Fenian Brotherhood (I.R.B.). Earlier that day, the British War Cabinet sent General Sir John Maxwell with full military powers to Ireland as Commander-in-Chief of the British Army.

Because the I.R.B. Military Council, despite its 2,000 volunteers, was unknown to Dublin Castle (British Intelligence G Division), Maxwell mistook the Easter Rising for a German manoeuvre.

On May 4th, Joseph Plunkett, a prominent poet and one of the founders of the Volunteers in 1913, and Director of Military Operations, was tried by Court Martial and shot. His brothers George and John were transported to Penal Servitude for life. A young 26 year old Staff-Captain Michael Collins who was serving as Plunkett's Aid-de-Camp in the burning G.P.O. (General Post Office), took over at the operations table and efficiently plotted positions throughout the City on maps, receiving and dispatching reports through the Cumman na mban or Womens' Volunteers. Also on May 4th, William Pearse (brother of Patrick) and Edward Daly (Commandant of the Four Courts position and Tom Clarke's brother-in-law) were put before a firing squad, alongside Michael O'Hanrahan, a Quarter-Master General in

the Volunteers. His brother Henry was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

On the same day, Maxwell court-martialled a further 17 rebels to Penal Servitude for life. On May 5th, Major John McBride, who had formed an Irish Brigade in South Africa in 1899 to fight off a British Invasion, was executed for his part in the Dublin Rising. While John Redmond of the Irish Party in Westminster threatened to resign from the Commons and pull the 85 Irish Home Rule M.P.s with him if there were any more executions, the Unionist Community demanded fuller operation of Martial Law and further executions. A Petition signed by 763 "influential citizens of Dublin" supported Maxwell's reactive and brutal measures.

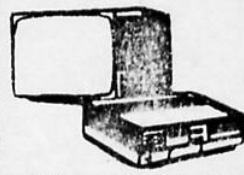
On May 6th, a further 18 death sentences were committed to Penal Servitude for life and several Exclusion Orders were served. Even in 1916, the Exclusion Order concept was not new. Jeremiah O'Donovan

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Rossa from Rosscarberry, in 1870, had been excluded for life from Ireland and Britain and had died "unrepentant" in New York in 1915.

O'Donovan Rossa was the most successful organiser of the Fenian Brotherhood and he founded, in West Cork, the revolutionary network. His family farm was only a few fields away from the family farm of the young Staff Captain Michael Collins. On May 7th, the British Prime Minister Asquith appealed for an end to the executions by Maxwell in Dublin. Asquith was a disturbed and ineffective Prime Minister. The War was going badly in Europe - and he was relying on Ulster Unionists to hold his slender majority in Parliament. Not unlike the present conditions that engulf P.M. Major.

In response, Maxwell on May 8th had Con Colbert shot. Colbert commanded the rebel position at Marrowbone Lane Distillery in Dublin throughout the Rising. The same day, Eamonn Ceannt, who had only recently played the Whistling Pipes, solely, in private audience with the Pope, was executed. His dying words were "Ireland shows she's a Nation".

Later that day, Michael Mallin who had directed operations at St. Stephen's Green, was executed. Mallin was also Chief-of-Staff of Connolly's (Republican-Socialist) Citizen Army. This Workers' Army had been formed to protect workers' meetings from R.I.C. baton charges. It joined forces with the Volunteers after Connolly

was co-opted into the I.R.B. by Pearse.

Also shot after trial that day was Seán Houson who organised and trained the Fianna Eireann (Boy Scout Volunteers) in drill and musketry.

On May 9th, a young Cork Volunteer named Thomas Kent from Castlelyons, Fermoy, was shot by firing squad in Cork. His brother Richard had been killed during the attack on their home by the British Army. Even their aged parents and entire family fought in hand-to-hand combat with their assailants.

On May 10th, P.M. Asquith travelled to Dublin to investigate for himself what was happening.

Death sentences on a further 9 rebels, including De Valera who commanded the Bolands Mills rebel position, were committed to Penal Servitude for life. De Valera's committed sentence was made in deference to his American nationality, but it is known that Redmond personally intervened with P.M. Asquith on De Valera's behalf. As he was marched into captivity, to a jeering group of onlooking Dubliners, De Valera remarked bitterly: "If only you'd come out with your knives and forks."

On May 12th, James Connolly and Seán McDermott, the remaining two signatories to the Proclamation and last survivors of the Provisional Government, were shot by firing squad. Connolly was the last of the Easter Week

Men to be executed in Dublin.

Meanwhile, in the early hours of Tuesday May 2nd 1916, the rounding up of suspects in Iveleary Parish and neighbouring parishes had begun. By May 12th, some three thousand suspected rebels from every parish in Ireland were being shipped out in cattle boats, each pair of prisoners handcuffed together, to prisons in England.

These young men endured solitary confinement and strict silence, without even a slate and pencil which was a normal amenity for a

prisoner. That not a single individual cracked was due to the desire, in the most part, to prove worthy of those who had been sacrificed.

By late June, all the Irish prisoners, except those sentenced to Penal Servitude, were concentrated at Frongoch Internment Camp in Wales. It had been used to house German prisoners of war but had been condemned by the International Red Cross. It was, however, good enough for the "Shinners" - what the armed Sentries called the Sinn Féiners.

Ted Cook



West Muskerry Athletic Club

During the month of May, many West Muskerry athletes were involved in the B.L.O.E. County Championships at Cork R.T.C.

Michelle O'Sullivan won Silver in 1500 M U-15, Eileen O'Sonovan and Carmel Kelleher won Silver and Bronze respectively in Long Jump U-15. Eleanor O'Sullivan won a Silver Medal at 800 M and Lisa Foley won a Silver Medal in Long Jump U-11. At 800 M U-11, Teresa O'Grady took Silver and Katie Lyons Bronze. The girls U-15 and U-16 Relay teams won Bronze medals.

Many of the athletes from the club were involved with their schools in Colleges Competitions. The annual open sports events in Belgooly and Fermoy were postponed due to bad weather. It is to be hoped that by July 4th, the day fixed for West Muskerry Open Sports, that the weather will be more favourable.

Training continues regularly each week in Cork R.T.C. on Tuesday nights and Macroom Town Park on Thursdays.

INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 30

In Part 12 of our History, we traced the fine Architectural Heritage of Iveleary and discovered that the present site, in Inchigeelagh Village, of the Protestant Church, dates from 1591 and is noted in Petty's Survey of 1659. The present roofless structure dates from 1814 and was known as the Vicarage of the Holy Trinity. It was renovated in 1867 and appears structurally sound. From 1591 to 1909 its records disclose an unbroken line of Protestant Clergymen.

Its doors closed in 1909 and responsibility for its maintenance rests with the County Council. It is appropriate to praise the evident sensitivity of local authority, countrywide, in the management of the numerous abandoned churchyards, both Protestant and Catholic, not only throughout the State but also in the Northern Counties.

Though derelict, each and every one play their part in what our Minister for Culture, Michael D. Higgins, refers to as the evolving "Tapestry" of Irish History. Might not this fine structure be renovated under the

auspices of some fund or other (like the International Fund for Ireland), and be developed as a "Centre for Understanding" that tapestry into which Minister Higgins invites us all.

Many factors have contributed to the drop, this century, in our Protestant population in the Twenty Six Counties, from 11% (300,000) to 2% (82,000) at present.

One major factor was the Papal Decree (Decretum Ne Temere) of Pope Pius X in 1908. Though not an encyclical, its principal elements are very much in force. It provides that where a Catholic partner marries a non-Catholic partner, that marriage is valid only if the children are brought up in the Catholic Faith. And that a Catholic cannot validly marry, according to any other faith, without dispensation.

Gradually, the majority community in the Twenty Six has absorbed a large section of the minority community. Other factors include the extreme brutality of the Anglo-Irish War and Civil War, as we shall see.

It takes no great effort to somehow understand the deep-rooted fears of the ordinary Northern Irish Protestant. The Census of Population figures for Northern Ireland, published earlier this year, reveal that the birthrate within the minority Catholic community is now equal to that of the majority Protestant community. Add our Territorial Claim of our Constitution, and the Tapestry clarifies somewhat. In her book "A Place Apart", Dervla Murphy explores how every offer of a handshake from Dublin and, increasingly, London, appears like a hostile "bear-hug" to this cornered minority in the North East.

However, to continue with the unfolding events of our last instalment - and to clarify an error. It was on April 28th 1916 and not May 3rd, that General Sir John Maxwell arrived to take over Supreme Command of Ireland with instructions to crush the Irish "Republic" in the egg. Forty thousand troops were in place.

Dublin still burned on Saturday night, April 29th, and while the Republican Volunteers lost 56 killed and the British Army 130 killed, no estimate of the far greater civilian casualties appears to have been ever made.

By a process best described as "that strange Alchemy of Irish Politics", a sudden shift from

shock to admiration collectively swept the people. At the same time, a wave of fury swept through Irish America - and a feeling of universal sympathy among the entire American People sprang into action the moment the executions began in Kilmainham Gaol. Despite Martial Law in Ireland, huge congregations attending Masses for the dead of Easter Week turned increasingly into a form of political demonstration in support of the Proclamation. Posters declaring that the "Republic Lives" were replaced twice as fast as they could be removed by both R.I.C. and British Army.

The so-called Constitutional Home Rule Party in Westminster were unable to offer leadership or policy, other than agreeing to the Floor of the House that the ringleaders of Easter Week must be "dealt with in the harshest way". There was, however, an alternative leadership with an alternative policy - but the bulk of it was in British prisons and British Internment camps. The latent revolutionary energies within Ireland were stirring, again, for the 7th time within 300 years. The destruction of Dublin was blamed on the British - wasn't it their artillery shells that had levelled the City Centre, costing the Irish taxpayer nearly three million pounds. Was it not British fire or

RING'S GARAGE

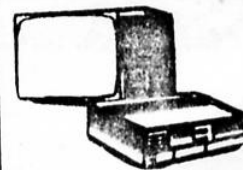
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innocent civilians? Maxwell had become the "butcher" and the Union Jack his "butcher's apron".

The secrets of the Brotherhood were in the hands of Mrs. Kathleen Clarke (widow of the executed Tom Clarke), put there in his wisdom by her husband who knew that after the Rising, the Supreme Council would be ruthlessly liquidated.

It was to a young Michael Collins (26), after his release from internment in December 1916, that Mrs. Clarke revealed these secrets. Collins was born in 1890 near Sams Cross, Clonakilty, the youngest of eight children. His mother was 35 and his father 75, when he was born. (The name Collins derives from the Irish "Wolf Cub" and, as a matter of interest, the Collins Sept, which originated in Co. Limerick, displaced the O'Leary Sept from Roscarberry - resulting in the O'Learys settling in Uibh Laoire.) At school, he became strongly influenced by his teacher Denis Lyons - a man steeped in the Fenian Tradition, whose bardic ancestors were Hedgerow School Masters. At 15, Collins passed the Post Office Entrance Exam and in July 1906 he set out for London to take a position in West Kensington P.O. as Boyclerk. He joined the G.A.A. in London, usually playing midfield and became Secretary of the London Geraldines Club. He joined the Gaelic League and was sworn into the I.R.B. in Islington after being introduced to the Circle by the fellow Corkman and friend, Sam Maguire.

Sam worked as a Clerk in London G.P.O. - and it is to his memory that the Sam Maguire Cup is presented in perpetuity. Sam captained the London team that played in the All-Ireland Football Finals in 1903, 1905 and 1906.

In April 1914, Collins enrolled as a Republican Volunteer in No.

1 Company in London. He became treasurer for the I.R.B. in the South of England.

In January 1916, after the British Government brought in Compulsory Military Service in Britain, Collins returned to Ireland and prepared for the Rising. At Frongoch Camp, he was numbered Prisoner 48F. His natural leadership in the camp earned him his fond nickname "The Big Fellow". Even the British Prime Minister Lloyd George was to describe Collins "as the most courageous leader of a valliant race".

On the death on September 25th 1917 of I.R.B. Secretary Thomas Ashe, as the result of force-feeding whilst on hunger strike (in pursuit of Political Prisoner Status) in Mountjoy, Collins was appointed Secretary to the Supreme Council. By mid-1919 he became President of that Council and so remained until the day of his death in the nearby Valley of the Mouth of the Flowers in August 1922.

In January 1919, at Kilnadur townland, a short walk into the neighbouring Parish, Collins, along with Sean Hales of Bandon, formed Cork No. 3 Brigade of the Republican Volunteers.

It was in January of the previous year that Macroom Battalion (7th Battalion) was divided. Inchigeelagh, along with Kilnamartyra, Ballingearry and Ballyvourney were formed into the 8th Battalion. It was the following July (Sunday 8th) 1918 that the 8th Battalion, at Bealaglanna (Mouth of the Glen) in the townland of Dirragh in the adjoining Parish of Kilnamartyra undertook the first armed confrontation with Crown Forces, anywhere in the country since Easter Week. Two armed R.I.C. were ambushed and their rifles captured. One of the R.I.C. was shot in the neck but survived. The result was the

immediate imposition of Martial Law in West Muskerry, which covers the Lee Valley from the Kerry border to just east of Macroom town.

In our August issue, we will look at what the Bealaglanna Ambush started, including the burning down of no less than 510

R.I.C. Barracks throughout the country and the 1918 General Election that swept Sinn Fein to power on an Abstention from Westminster Policy and the formation of Daíl Eireann exactly 75 years ago.

Ted Cook

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BALLYVOURNEY / COOLEA MACRA NA FEIRME

Readers, you will remember that some time ago, as part of "Macra na Feirme Community Services Week", the club built a can bank. Our labours eventually bore fruit when at the regional meeting in April we were declared winners in the Muskerry Region. The judge was Kevin Corcoran - well known local author. Our can bank has been very well received by the locals and is being well used, judging by how often it has to be emptied.

Congratulation to Tom Healy, our Chairperson, and Sean O'Muimhneachain, who recently received a gradam at Feile Dramaíochta na Gaeltachta in Feothanach in Kerry.

Our commiserations to Aindrias O'Muimhneachain who was a candidate in the recent Udarás na Gaeltachta elections. Unfortunately Aindrias didn't succeed in being elected, but as everyone knows, the first step is the hardest.

Some weeks ago, as a Sunday afternoon's entertainment, some club members decided to go road bowling. The weather was reasonably kind but after losing the bowls for a second time, our group decided that the local hostelry was considerably more entertaining.

Tom Healy, David Murphy and Deirdre Kelly did the club proud when they came third in a public speaking competition organised by Muskerry Region. Hidden talents abound in our club, as we discovered at the "Artistry in the Home" Regional Final held in Riverstick. We have carpenters and flower arrangers, to name but a few.

Finally, anyone who did exams recently, especially to club members, we wish you the best of luck with results.

Helen Gordon P.R.O.

N.B.: We ask you keep August 7th free if you want an entertaining day. It's our Field Day on that day - there will be a wide variety of side shows for both young and not so young and competitions to keep you entertained.

INCHIGEELAGH

a history

1641-1991

part 3

This September marks the fiftieth anniversary of the erection at Rossmore, of the Lourdes Grotto, a pleasant and short walk east of Inchigeela Village.

It was in the early Summer of 1944, on a fine Sunday evening, that John Oldham of Rossmore gladly offered the land for the project, his permission having been sought by a couple of Parishoners.

The shopkeepers and hoteliers of the village, among others, responded generously to the subsequent appeal for funds and the Statues were purchased from Mr. Bernardi of Paul St., Cork for £27.50. Haulage was undertaken by Timmy John O'Sullivan in his lorry and Danny (the Mason) Sullivan was contracted to lay out the ground and erect the Statues. The final cost was £37.00.

In 1944, the world was at war.

There is another grotto. It is sited in the silent Valley of Noeux-les-Mines, in France. In this grotto stands a very fine marble statue of Notre Dame, erected a quarter of a century earlier, in another world war. It was placed there by the bereft families of the 16th (Irish) Division of the Allied Army, to the memory of the 6,000 Irishmen, including 292 Officers, that lost their lives holding the front-line for 24 weeks, from Hulluch to Loos.

We discovered in an earlier article that three new Divisions of the British Army had been raised in Ireland to go to the front; namely the 10th, 16th and 36th Divisions. Of the 71 Irish Battalions, 53 Battalions were already in the "trenches" in early 1916. In March 1918, forty four fresh German Divisions laid siege and commenced an all out attack on the remaining fourteen

exhausted Allied Divisions. From Epehy to Ronnsoy, the 16th Division had, for 16 weeks, held the front line. So short of men was the 16th Div. that the Dublin Fusiliers (Regiment) had been 44 days and nights without relief or re-enforcement in the front line trenches. The Munster Fusiliers were surrounded.

Of that entire Regiment, comprising Redmond's Volunteers in huge numbers from Cork City and County, 3 Officers and 35 men survived and were taken prisoner. It was the last of the 16th Division.

Not far away, in the Carmelite Convent Chapel of Locre, seven miles south of Ypres, stands a magnificent Lords Table, presented to that silent community, in thanksgiving for the same Division's earlier victory in the Battle of Wytshaete.

In the Valley of the Somme, about halfway between Guillemont and Ginchy stands another special reminder, in the form of a huge Celtic Cross, carved in oak. It silently stands witness, in all weathers, to the 50,000 Irish graves in Flanders.

Somewhere in Flanders lie the mortal remains of one Dan Cremmins who was killed in action on September 10th 1917. For the benefit of some of our older readers, who still clearly remember Dan, let us recall his short lifestory.

The Cremmins Family lived in the cottage of the lately deceased Mr. Murnane, in Gortmoorane (Dromcarra Nth) Townland, to the eastern end of Iveleary. It was one of several workmen's cottages built about a hundred years ago, between Toonsbridge and Boylesgrove. Dan attended the National

School at Cluainsiar Beag (otherwise Kilbarry School) at the turn of the century. This young scholar grew brighter under the watchful eye of Master O'Dea and his Assistant Teacher Mrs. O'Leary. Mrs. O'Leary was also the Master's sister and not to be confused with a later assistant teacher, a Miss Molly O'Leary of Kilbarry Townland. Having well qualified in an aptitude and fitness test, young Cremmins entered the Royal Irish Constabulary and was posted to Loughrea Barracks in Co. Galway. The Constabulary of Ireland, which was formed in 1836 was the forerunner of the R.I.C. which became so named, in 1867, for its loyal services to the Crown, in crushing the then Fenian Movement in Ireland.

Throughout the Great War and up to March 1920, (when arrived a specially picked Force, known as the Black and Tans, from England) the normal strenght of the R.I.C. was about 12,000 men. It was an armed and military Police Force and no Constable could be stationed next or near his native County. Cremmins was duly posted to Co. Galway. From there, he enlisted for Army Service and joined the Connaught Rangers (10th Irish Division) as a Lewes Gunner. He was killed at Flanders seventy seven years ago this month.

Earlier we saw the founding by Arthur Griffith of a movement called "Sinn Féin". "Sinn Féin" derives from "Sinn Féin Sinn Féin Amháin" - the Gaelic League motto meaning "Ourselves Alone". Through the vehicle of his newspaper, published first on March 4th 1899, Griffith along with his partner William Rooney, published articles on every aspect of self-sufficiency. This paper, called "The United Irishman" continued for 7 years, until in 1906, it was finally smashed up by Dublin Castle (G. Division). It is remarkable that it even survived for the 7 years because it had been seized no less than 20 times, and thrice suppressed by the Establishment.

At the age of 27, and standing 5 foot 4 inches, Griffith, a noted High-Jumper and Weight-Thrower would not be easily repressed. He threw his full weight behind the G.A.A. and Gaelic League and developed the Sinn Féin Movement as a non-violent Civil Rights Movement.

In one section of the media, Griffith was referred to as a "foolish dreamer" - in another section, as "the ablest journalist in the Empire". A "stark lunatic" said some Politicians.

Griffith had chosen for his pathfinding movement towards "Self Reliance", the twin pillars of Hydroelectricity and the Reafforestation of the Island as the two vital features of Irish Rural Economy. One of the most powerful advocates of Forestry in his day, he had long grasped the cultural and environmental significance of tree-planting as well as the absolute economic requirement of arresting Ireland's dependence on English Coal Imports.

It was in 1903, that Ireland's first Forestry College was established at the former home of Charles S. Parnell in Co. Wicklow (was it Parnell or Phillpott Curran that instructed his gardener to set oaktrees in the hedgerow - the gardener responding that it took a hundred years to grow such a tree - drawing the reply from Parnell "that we had best therefore plant at once".) By 1922, there were 17 Forestry Stations in Ireland and a total of 19,000 acres acquired and planted by a Forestry Commission set up by the Ministry for Agriculture in 1907.

Cork City was chosen to host Ireland's first ever All-Ireland Industrial Conference in November 1905. At that conference was launched the Industrial Development Association (I.D.A.) and the establishment of a National Trade Mark, making Ireland the first in the world to adopt such a concept. It was the idea of Sir Bertram Windle (President

U.C.C.). At the same precise time, Griffith chaired the first Convention of the National Council of Sinn Féin in Dublin, at which was propounded his party's alternative vision of the way forward, economically. The republicanisation of Griffith's Sinn Féin was already well advanced by July 1917, when it was declared that Eamon De Valera was the Sinn Féin candidate to stand in the East-Clare bye-election. Although serving a 20 year sentence of imprisonment in England for his part in the Rising, he was granted an amnesty by the British Government, the very day after it was announced that he was to stand. All eyes now looked to the Banner County - as all eyes had done when Daniel O'Connell, ninety years earlier, had gone to the Clare Electorate. De Valera's opponent was a popular local man named Lynch - a true blue Redmondite of the theatrical anti-Parnellite hue. Apart from Dev's record in the Easter Rising in the previous year, the Clare Electorate knew nothing about this very tall and thin bespectacled Maths Teacher, whose academic enthusiasm lay in applied physics.

Dev was born in New York in 1882 and as a young child was brought to Ireland, where he was reared by his mother's people at Bruree in Co. Limerick. He joined the Gaelic League and enlisted in the Irish Volunteers at their inception in 1913. He rapidly rose to a Commandant of the Republican Volunteers and remained, in July 1917, the only surviving Commandant from Easter Week.

Two incidents occurred during his campaign in the East Clare Constituency:

Narrowly escaping a collision between his motor-car and a runaway horse and trap, he jumped out and gave chase and captured the animal. On a second occasion he gave prompt assistance to the elderly occupant of a trap whose horse had become dangerously restless and was about to overturn the trap. The Claremen decidedly (there was an 87%

turnout) placed Dev firmly in the political saddle with a majority of 3,000 votes over the (constitutional) Home Rule Candidate. "Making John Bull uncomfortable" was Dev's response to a query concerning Sinn Féin's precise policy.

Readers are reminded that the Female Franchise did not come into force until the General Election of December 1918 - hence "Claremen".

What probably contributed most to the eventual and complete enfranchisement and consequent militarisation of Griffith's Sinn Féin was the passing, in the Imperial Parliament, of the Military Service Act in April 1918, which imposed compulsory enlistment on all eligible Irishmen and the banning of all Gaelic Football and Hurling, without official permit.

P.S. To mark the 50 years of the Rossmore Grotto, there are plans afoot, in conjunction with the County Engineer, to plant a couple of native (sessile) Oaktrees at the grotto. Native trees are the more appropriate to a prayerful spot.

Ted Cook

Macroom District Environmental Group

Our sponsored Fun Cycle Ride takes place on Sunday, October 16th. The cyclists will leave the Square, Macroom, 12 o'clock and picnic at St. John's Well, and cycle back to O'Riada's Bar which is the finishing point, where a music session will start at 6 p.m. A most enjoyable evening and fun time is assured.

For details phone 026-42498. On morning of cycle you can ring above number between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Sponsorship cards can now be collected in the office at The Castle Arch, Macroom, on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Friday mornings. Warm clothes and waterproofs recommended.

HAPPY CYCLING!

Useful HOUSEHOLD TIPS

For those of you with a yen for beetroot and shallots, the following will be of interest:

PICKLED ONIONS (SHALLOTS)

4 lbs Shallots
2 pts Pickling Vinegar

Method: Peel the shallots, being careful not to damage the flesh, taking only a small amount off each end with a sharp knife. Wash well and layer in a bowl with plenty of salt between layers. This ensures a good, crisp pickled onion. Leave for 2 days. Wash the onions well in plenty of fresh water. Place in clean jars, cover with cool pickling vinegar, seal well and store. Best left for a month or more if possible.

PICKLING VINEGAR

2 pts Malt Vinegar
Pickling Spices (these can be bought mixed)
4 dried Chillies
1" dried Root Ginger

Place all ingredients in a pan and bring to a boil for 15 mins. Then allow to cool before using. I use about 4 tablespoons of pickling spices to 4 lbs shallots, but adjust this to your own taste. Store any spare vinegar in screw top bottle for later use.

PICKLED BEETROOT

4 lbs uncooked Beetroot
2 pts Pickling Vinegar

Wash beetroot, remove leaves, leaving about 1" of stalk, leave roots intact. If you own a pressure cooker, medium-size beetroots will only take 10-15 mins. but otherwise boil or steam for approx. 1.30 hrs. until tender. Pack into clean jars when cool and cover with pickling vinegar.

Larger beetroot will need slicing after cooking, but younger, smaller beetroot can be pickled whole.

This pickle will only last about 2 months. For a longer lasting pickle dice larger beetroot instead of slicing and pack loosely into jars, covering with boiling spiced vinegar and seal while hot.

Variations on the pickling vinegar recipe:

To two pints of vinegar add
1 tsp ground allspice (cloves/cinnamon/nutmeg)
1 tsp ground cinnamon
2 tsp ground coriander
1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
1/2 tsp ground black pepper
1/4 - 1/2 tsp ground cloves
2 bay leaves, crumbled

To make the peeling of shallots easier, place in boiling water for 5 mins. then transfer to cold.

BEETROOT STAINS:

Washables: Rinse in cold water, soak in solution, 2 tbsps borax to 1 pint water.

Whites: Dampen stain with warm water and sprinkle with neat borax. Stretch over bowl and pour boiling water through from a height. Use biological detergent as directed.

Non-washables/Upholstery:

Sponge all immediately with cold water. Try sponging with a solution of 1 part vinegar to 5 parts water. Blot dry with clean cloth. You could also try Dry Cleaning Fluid from hardware stores. ALWAYS wear rubber gloves for protection when using Dry Cleaning Fluid.

Lorraine Clohessy