



**TIPPERARY HISTORICAL JOURNAL
1992**

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ISSN 0791-0655

reference to any church at Derrynaflan, so presumably by the 17th century the church was no longer in use and was probably ruinous. In 1659 the townland of Largoe (*sic*) is said to have had a population of 5 Irish, but no English. There is thus no reliable history of the monastic settlement at Derrynaflan, something this site shares with Ahenny and Tipperaghney.

Patrick C. Power

National Library Closure.

Readers of this Journal and members of the Co. Tipperary Historical Society are advised that that indispensable source of Irish historical data, the National Library of Ireland, has become an eleven-month institution. At the AGM of the library's pressure group, the National Library of Ireland Society, held on 4 June last, no less distinguished a figure than Prof. T.P. O'Neill of UCG strongly criticised the month-long closures in November of 1990 & 1991. Since the Director and several senior members of her staff were present and remained silent, it is safe to assume that a third successive annual closure is due in November 1992 — an indefensible move by such a library as the NLI.

Editor, THJ

Obituary

JAMES MURPHY

The early death of James Murphy at the age of 53 after a serious illness bravely borne removes from our midst an exceptional local historian. He was a man of many parts: farmer, builder, stonemason, musician, but above all a historian. A native of Killamery and a descendant of the local poet, Liam Ó Meachair, Jimmy Murphy had a deeply felt and infectious interest in the past.

He was widely known and appreciated for his historical knowledge by scholars and academics who resorted to him for help, and he was a regular lecturer and speaker at the Callan Heritage Society and the Mullinahone Kickham weekend. Indeed with his tremendous memory he would often unintentionally upstage visiting lecturers by answering, with exact attention to names and dates, questions which proved too difficult for them!

He had a great knowledge in both Irish and English of the Gaelic heritage of the Tipperary-Kilkenny borderlands. I remember him lecturing on this subject to an appreciative audience at the Park, Ballingarry, late in 1986, when he covered favourite themes: among them Slievenamon, the ancient monastery at Killamery, the Butler influence at Garryricken and Kilcash, the poets of Ninemilehouse, Amhlaoibh Ó Súilleabháin and Callan. He often led historical tours through Windgap, Carrickshock, the slate quarries, Ahenny, and the mountains of south Kilkenny. His detailed knowledge of virtually every townland *en route* was extraordinary.

Jimmy Murphy's obsequies were a fitting tribute to the man. He was laid to rest in May, before a large funeral congregation, near the ancient High Cross in Killamery graveyard (which he had restored). Joseph Kennedy of the Callan Heritage Society delivered a graveside oration. Two pipers played. By those of us who knew him as a sincere friend he will be missed.

Thomas McGrath

