



**TIPPERARY HISTORICAL JOURNAL
1995**

© County Tipperary Historical Society

**www.tipperarylibraries.ie/thc
society@tipperarylibraries.ie**

ISSN 0791-0655

Memories of the Famine from the Irish Folklore Commission

Editorial Introduction

In 1945, on the centenary of the outbreak of the Great Famine, the Irish Folklore Commission circulated a questionnaire on the Famine. In many areas teachers, usually national teachers, proved expert collectors of information. This was recorded in writing and forwarded to the Commission in the form of written statements, on forms that had been prepared and distributed by the Commission.

The following three articles comprise three typical statements furnished to the Folklore Commission 50 years ago, all relating to Co. Tipperary. The statements have been edited only minimally, so as to make them suitable for publication. The author of the first was a member of a well-known Tipperary Quaker family who published a history of Irish Quakers in 1927. The author of the second was a national teacher in Thomastown near Golden, and was the father of the well-known writer and broadcaster Frank Delaney. The author of the third was also a teacher, in Kilcash.

All three statements come from Volume 1068 of the Main Manuscripts Collection of the Department of Irish Folklore in U.C.D., since 1971 the successor of the Irish Folklore Commission. They are reproduced here with the permission of the Head of the Department. The editor wishes to acknowledge the assistance and advice he received from Bairbre Ní Fhloinn of the Department, and advice also received from Cathal Portéir of RTE. It is hoped to publish a further selection of such statements in the 1966 *Tipperary Historical Journal*.

The Famine in the Carrick area

By Isobel Grubb

Famine deaths – My father, who was born in 1843, remembered relatives coming from Clonmel who spoke of the dead bodies of those who had died of starvation lying on the roadside between there and Carrick. Edmund Wall of Seskin, a townland in Co. Waterford, aged about 75 [in 1945], says there were no deaths in the townland. In Carrickbeg, the Co. Waterford suburb of Carrick-on-Suir, on the Waterford Road thirteen or fourteen people died in one house of cholera and no one was allowed to go in.

Burial places – On the road leading out of Carrickbeg towards Mothel, about 250 feet above the river at a corner, there is a tiny platform-like field where the cholera victims were buried. They were also buried at the east end of Carrick-on-Suir at Ballylynch, where the hospital and dispensary wait is flagged, and they are said to have been buried under the flags.

Cures – Edmund Wall says there was an old woman in a house and a man came in to her and she saw he had the sickness on him and she took a mug of spring water and put her hand up the chimney and took down a fistful of soot and put it into the water and stirred it up well and

