



NEWSLETTER

MILLENNIUM'S FINAL JOURNAL!

The Tipperary Historical Journal for 1999, our twelfth, is due for publication after Easter and contains at least three unusual features. Running to over 230 pages, it ends with a 22-page ten year index (by Pat Nolan of Kilkenny), covering all issues from 1988 to 1997 inclusive. Next, it has two fine full-page colour illustrations - one of two Irish soldiers of the Irish Brigade of the French royal army (in a second article on this topic by Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin), the other a portrait of Cornwallis Maude, 4th Viscount Hawarden, whose family lived in Dundrum House (now a popular hotel) until 1904. Thirdly, this Journal is unique in that, in place of the usual editorial message is a Guest Editorial by Prof. Vincent Comerford of NUI Maynooth's Modern History Department.

The 1999 Journal contains no less than 17 substantial articles, as well as the usual Books Section (dominated by a lengthy review by Dr. John Bradley - also of Maynooth - of Denise Maher's book on Tipperary's medieval grave-slabs), a second report on our recent readers' survey and our fifth consecutive Famine Section. This last is graced once more by Des Marnane with his usual impressive array of statistical tables, while Martin Ryan of RTÉ (soon to publish yet another life of Gen. Sir William Butler) engages in some neat historical detective work on a famine eviction he suspects was carried out by the General's own father. The remaining Famine article is by Helen Kennally of Leeds, who tells a heart-rending tale of North Tipperary orphans "exported" to Yorkshire by an unscrupulous landowner from near Puckane.

In what amounts to a second Editorial - but still not from the Editor's pen - Michael Hall lambasts the continued obliteration of townland boundaries by "progressive" farming inside and outside the county, in a short piece which has the support of the County Tipperary Historical Society.

Hot with the news of the discovery (by himself and his twelve year old son) of a "new" 'sheela-na-gig' comes Edmund O'Riordan of Clogheen, whose two-page illustrated article arrived after final proofs for 1999 had been "put to bed".

Surely the most novel item in the new Journal comes from Corkman Anthony McCann, who reproduces (with explanatory notes) the diary of a teenage boy of the [in-]famous Scully family, kept during a holiday in Paris in 1865 - complete with typical schoolboy spelling!

In a fascinating, if high-brow, piece of historical speculation another Corkman, Diarmuid Ó Murchadha (lately Editor of the *Journal of the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society*) visits several possible Tipperary sites of the medieval synod of Rathbrassil.

By far the longest article in 1999 is a 31-page analysis of the possible causes of the decline of the Irish language in North Tipperary long before its demise in Norman "South Tipperary", which comments on inter alia Dr. Garrett Fitzgerald's learned R.I.A. paper of 1984, and has a list of sources running to 103 published works!

Dr. John Logan of Limerick University has collected and tabulated the vital statistics of no fewer than 67 Tipperary paupers taken into Limerick's House of Industry between 1774 and 1794. Among them were several "reduced" (sic) housekeepers and several "strollers" like Patrick Fogarty and Will Sallinger whose strolling career ended at 8 years of age.

Archaeologists are served by a 21-page report by Brian Hodkinson on his two year's work at Nenagh Castle gatehouse, and by a short account by Mary O'Donnell from Clonmel (and UCC) of excavations of a section of the traditional pilgrim route, Rian Bó Phadraig, found near Ardfinnan. Danny Grace has a homely piece, complete with extracts from letters home from the Front, on Nenagh men who served in World War I - including one winner of the Victoria Cross. This is balanced politically by an amusing account by the late Fr. Pat Gaynor (also of Nenagh) of his 1918 confrontation with the Redmondite Dean Innocent Ryan of Cashel. Michael Collins, Cardinal Logue, John Dillon and Piaras Béaslaí also feature in this

Annual General Meeting

All members are invited to attend the 1999 Annual General Meeting of the County Tipperary Historical Society which takes place at the County Library, Thurles, on

SATURDAY, MARCH 27th, 1998 at 2.30 p.m. sharp.

We would ask members to make a special effort to attend what will be the Society's last AGM of the Millennium...

NEXT SATURDAY MARCH 27

memoir from over 80 years ago. Perhaps the most unusual item of all in this new Journal is that on a royal mediation conference held in Terryglass monastery 1262 years ago, in 737 A.D. A thirteen page account of the Franciscans in Clonmel begins in the 1260s, while the only Irish language contribution is a discussion by Donnchadh Ó Duibhir of a manuscript by a Limerick man written in 1714 and found in Bolton Library in Cashel. [Full contents listing will be up on our Web site shortly]

And so to the Millennium - that is, of course, if 2000 A.D. be it!

A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Tipperary Historical Society is now established on a solid footing. It has a strong membership core and a very fine annual journal. The Society organised the launch of its 1998 Journal to coincide with the Slieveardagh Annual Summer School which commemorated the Rising of 1848 and the Young Irelanders. As members are aware the site of the Rebellion - the Widow McCormack's house known as The Warehouse - has been purchased by the state but plans have not yet been finalised concerning its future use. It may be worthy of some discussion at the Society's AGM. I am also glad to report that the upsurge of publications concerning the county or individuals from it continues to grow in strength. Dr. Sean O'Donnell's history of Clonmel in the nineteenth century will be published as will a study by William Jenkins of the Tipperary Co-operative and its evolution. If anyone is aware of any other material of Tipperary interest perhaps they would let us know for the next edition of the Newsletter.

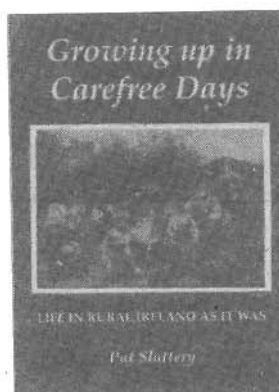
The Seventh Annual Slieveardagh Summer School will be held in Killenaule from Monday, 28th June to Friday, 2nd July. This year's themes are the 'War of Independence and the Civil War in Tipperary and neighbouring counties', with the emphasis on Tipperary. A strong panel of speakers is in place and all of them have either personal links to participants in the War of Independence and Civil War or academic research interest. Speakers and topics are as follows; - Monday, 28th June - Marcus Bourke on Richard Mulcahy; Seamus Leahy on the Second Tipperary (Mid) Brigade I.R.A.; Tuesday, 29th June - John Hassett on the Third Tipperary (South) Brigade I.R.A.; Liam Ó Duibhir on the Gaelic League and the War of Independence in Tipperary; Wednesday, 30th June - Eamonn Gaynor on the First Tipperary (North) Brigade I.R.A.; Jim Maher on The Civil War in Tipperary and Kilkenny; Thursday, 1st July is the annual commemorative lecture for two men now deceased, Canon John Lambe a former parish priest of Gortnahoe-Glengoole and Mr. Don Byard former principal teacher at Ballingarry Primary School. This lecture is to be given by Dr. Jim O'Shea, a native of Gortnahoe-Glengoole parish, who will speak on 'John Sadleir M.P. - parliamentarian - speculator - bankrupt'. Sadleir's story brings into focus one of the most extraordinary characters in the drama of mid-nineteenth century Ireland and Dr. O'Shea has gathered much original material on the man, his deeds and his motivation. The School concludes on Friday, 2nd July with two lectures: Joost Augusteijn will lecture on 'Why was Tipperary so active in the War of Independence' and Michael Laffan will talk on 'The 1922 election in Tipperary and surrounding counties'.

Many of the speakers are members of the Tipperary Historical Society. Marcus Bourke is editor of The Tipperary Historical Society's Journal, which is now in its twelfth year; Seamus Leahy from Clonmel is a teacher and author whose late father was officer commanding the Second Tipperary Brigade I.R.A.; John Hassett has contributed numerous articles on the War of Independence and its

participants as well as collecting ballads from the period - he is also President and founder of the Irish Bardic Foundation; Liam Ó Duibhir is our eagarthoir Gaeilge, co-author with brother Michael of a fine history of Emly and a constant supporter of cultural activities in the county; Eamonn Gaynor will speak from his personal knowledge of the roles of both his late father Sean Gaynor and his uncle Fr. Pat Gaynor in the north Tipperary and national contexts; Jim Maher is well known for two fine books on the Flying Column in West Kilkenny and more recently a biography of Harry Boland; Jim O'Shea has published a seminal study on Priest, Politics and Society in Post-famine Ireland and his biography of John Sadleir will be published later this year; Joost Augusteijn who lectures in Queen's University Belfast has written on the I.R.A. in Tipperary, Derry and Mayo; Michael Laffan lectures in history in U.C.D. and will publish his major work on Sinn Fein later this year.

The County Tipperary Historical Society has been involved in the Slieveardagh Summer School since its inception seven years ago and it is appropriate that so many of its members will form the speakers' team this year. Indeed one of the strengths of the Journal under the editorial baton of Marcus Bourke has been the detailed chapters / reminiscences / diaries published in recent editions dealing with the 1916-23 period. People should note that the venue for the lectures is now the Slieveardagh Rural Development's building in Killenaule. Lectures will commence at 7.30 p.m. each evening.

William Nolan



We've held over our BOOK COLUMN until Newsletter #13 later on in the year. However, let's note one new publication by a Society member, Pat Slattery from Cahir, entitled 'Growing Up In Carefree Days' of which Brendan Kennelly remarked "a very lively, personal and endlessly interesting book" - members can buy it from Pat at Garryroan, Cahir for £10.00 including postage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ardmayle Heritage Society

- March 19 "Old Photographs of Cashel & Local Area" by Pat Dunne
Contact: Tom Ryan (0504) 41222

Clonmel & District Historical & Archaeological Society

- April 12 "The Grubbs of Clonmel" A talk by Michael Aherne in Hearne's Hotel, 8.15 pm
- May 12 Guided Tour of Medieval Cashel. Bus leaves Oakville @ 7.00 pm
Contact: Liam Ó Duibhir (052) 22917

Old Cashel Society

- March 24 "Medieval Towns of South Tipperary" by Jean Farrelly in Cashel Palace at 8.00 pm
- April to be confirmed, with outings also planned in May & June to Ballysheehan Graveyard and Kilkenny
Contact: Margaret Leahy (0504) 41115

Roscrea Conferences

- April 9-11 "Regions of Contrast: The Burren and the Irish Midlands in early Christian times" Spring Conference at Mount St. Joseph Abbey - extensive brochure available
- October 29-31 "The Cathedrals of Ireland" 25th Roscrea Conference
Contact: George Cunningham, Parkmore, Roscrea

This Newsletter is published twice a year, Winter/Spring & Summer/Autumn issues

All correspondence should be addressed to the Society at: County Library, Castle Avenue, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.

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