



A.G.M. 2003

The Annual General Meeting of the Tipperary Historical Society will take place on **Saturday, May 10th, 2003** at 2.00 p.m. sharp. All members are invited to attend.

Membership 2003

Members whose membership is due for 2003 will find a membership form enclosed. Please note the increase in membership fee to €15.00 (increases in foreign currencies noted on form).

Journal 2003

The Tipperary Historical Journal 2003 is on schedule this year for an early Summer release and will feature the following articles:

- ◆ The Franciscans in Carrick-on-Suir *Patrick Conlan OFM*
- ◆ Parliamentary representation for County Tipperary, 1560-1800 (Part 4) *Michael O'Donnell*
- ◆ Presbyterianism in Clonmel, 1650-1977 *David Butler*
- ◆ Cnuasach Amhrán Liam Uí Lúbaigh *Pádraig Ó Macháin*
- ◆ English Law in Tipperary 1295-1314 *Denis G. Marnane*
- ◆ John Davis White's Sixty Years in Cashel (Part 3) *Denis G. Marnane*
- ◆ The Murder of Constantine Maguire, 1834 *W.A. Maguire*
- ◆ The Munster Hotel, Cathedral Street, Thurles:

Archaeological Excavations 1998-1999 *Paul Stevens*

- ◆ The Benedictine Priory of Kilcommon? *Richard O'Brien*
- ◆ A Survey of Thomastown Castle Ruins, 2003 *Noreen Higgins*
- ◆ Retaining Relevance Through Reaction: Muintir na Tíre 1931-1971 *Raymond O'Connor*
- ◆ The Strange Death of William John Scully *Anthony McCan*
- ◆ Tipperary and the Titanic *Oliver Brennan*

Release to public of material in Bureau of Military History, 1913—21

By Marcus Bourke

The Bureau of Military History owes its origins to the late major Florence O'Donoghue, a Corkman who had participated in the War of Independence and who during World War II was editor of the Defence Forces' historical journal, *An Cosantóir*. After a series of articles on Irish military leaders was published in *An Cosantóir* in 1945-46, O'Donoghue suggested a plan to invite personal memoirs from survivors of the struggle from 1913 to 1921. The then Taoiseach Eamon de Valera enthusiastically took up the idea and the Bureau came into being.

Over the following ten years close on 2,000 statements were assembled by the Bureau. Probably the majority came from ordinary rank-and-file individuals, male and female, who had been active in the period 1913-1921. A team of senior Army personnel and civilians scoured the country collecting material for deposit in the Bureau. In addition, contemporary documents, photographs, voice recordings and press cuttings were collected from persons who had been active in the War of

Independence.

Amongst prominent survivors whose memoirs were obtained were Seán T. O’Kelly, William T. Cosgrave and Áine Ceannt, widow of the executed 1916 leader Eamon Ceannt. Curiously, Eamon de Valera refused to permit his voice to be recorded on the pretext that “his voice had already been sufficiently recorded”! The Air Corps co-operated by providing aerial views of the various sites in Dublin associated with the 1916 Rising. The Irish Brigade set up in Germany in 1914 by Casement was also included in the Bureau’s collection.

Some 15 or 20 years ago the files of the Bureau were closed, it being understood that the Bureau’s collection would only be released when all survivors of the period had died. However, for a number of years recently, pressure was exerted for the opening of the Bureau. Finally at a ceremony in Brugha Barracks, Dublin last spring, the Taoiseach Mr. Ahern presided over the official opening to the public of the Bureau. With him on the platform were the Minister for Defence, Mr. Michael Smith, and former Taoiseach Mr. Liam Cosgrave.

A 54-page coloured booklet comprising a History of the Bureau by Commandant Victor Laing, Director of the Military Archives, was presented to every person present at the ceremony. This booklet, dedicated by the Director to his predecessor Comdt. Peter Young, who died suddenly in 1999, contains almost 60 photographs, most hitherto unpublished, of the period 1913-21. A list of Tipperary names from the Bureau was published in the Journal in 2001 at pages 147/8. It is hoped that future contributors to this Journal, which has specialised in the 1913 –21 period, will make use of the Bureau material now at last open to all.

The Proposed Heritage Plans for County Tipperary

By Noreen Higgins

In 1995 the long awaited National Heritage Act was passed by the Oireachtas. Heritage was defined under

this Act as including monuments and archaeological objects, heritage objects, architectural heritage, flora, fauna, wildlife habitats, landscapes, seascapes, wrecks, geology, inland waterways, heritage gardens and parks. The passing of the Act saw the setting up of the Heritage Council of Ireland as an independent statutory body to propose policies and priorities for the identification, preservation, protection and enhancement of our national heritage.

A second major heritage development was the publication of the National Heritage Plan in Spring 2002, which aims to ensure the protection and to promote the enjoyment of our national heritage. While the Irish language is not covered by the Heritage Act or in the subsequent 2002 National Heritage Plan, both documents state that its usage and development should be integrated in heritage projects in meaningful ways. The National Heritage Plan obliges each County Council to appoint a county heritage officer, establish a County Heritage Forum and develop a local Heritage Plan. Such plan would identify the necessary steps for the protection and enjoyment of heritage at local level with the participation of local authorities, local communities and government. Finally, the National Plan contained a commitment of €12.7 millions for heritage funding over five years to local authorities with local Heritage Plans.

Sixteen County Heritage Officers have been appointed in the past two years to facilitate the development of Heritage Plans in each county. These positions are jointly funded by the Heritage Council of Ireland and individual local authorities. Two heritage officers have been appointed in the county in the past eighteen months. Mr. Brendan McSherry is Heritage Officer for South Tipperary while Dr. Siobhan Geraghty is Heritage Officer for North Tipperary.¹

The formulation of local Heritage Plans for both ridings in County Tipperary began in late 2002. It is envisaged that both plans will be officially launched at the end of 2003. The South Tipperary Heritage Forum is following the methodology for the formulation of a County Heritage Plan as drawn up by the Heritage Council. North Tipperary Heritage

Forum is following a similar methodology in drafting their Heritage Plan. This methodology highlights the need for public consultation and participation.

A committee of fifteen members was appointed to the South Tipperary Heritage Forum from both official bodies and voluntary groups within the county to ensure the widest possible representation. The four sectors of local government, local companies, the state sector and the social partners under the County Development Board are represented on this Forum. The first three sectors are represented on the South Tipperary Heritage Forum and include the County Council, Dúchas, Tipperary Leader, South East Tourism, Coillte, the VEC, Trade Unions and Teagasc. The social partners sector is represented by individuals from the trade unions, farming groups and community and voluntary groups. Three persons were elected to represent the community and voluntary groups on the South Tipperary Heritage Forum. Mr. Dan Hogan represents the wildlife societies while the community development groups are represented by Mr. Francis Corrigan. Ms. Noreen Higgins represents the local history societies. She is secretary of Tipperary Town Historical Society and is also a member of the Old Cashel Society.²

Bi-monthly meetings of the South Tipperary Heritage Forum are held to oversee the progress of the Heritage Plan. Three working groups have also been set up to aid the Heritage Forum in its work. Noreen Higgins has co-ordinated a history working group called the Tipperary Network of History and Heritage Societies. Its meetings are funded by South Tipperary Platform. It aims to inform historical societies and other heritage groups about the proposed Heritage Plan for South Tipperary and to establish and promote links between them. A database for all heritage groups in the county has already been distributed to nineteen groups and a county seminar is planned on heritage matters in the latter half of 2003.

Eight public information meetings about the proposed South Tipperary Heritage Plan were held at Cashel, Cahir, Carrick-on-Suir, Clonmel, Clogheen,

Fethard, Tipperary town and Killenaule during February and March 2003. A draft plan was then presented to the South Tipperary Council for consideration, amendments and adoption. This document will then be put on public display and will be published following final adoption by the County Council in late 2003. The South Tipperary Heritage Forum will supervise its implementation over a five-year period.

The completed Heritage Plans will contain only broad directives for the preservation and sympathetic development of heritage in the county. Typical objectives from other completed County Heritage Plans are the publication of booklets, developing heritage networks and promoting heritage awareness. Details of individual and specific conservation or heritage projects will not be included in the County Heritage Plans. Instead, an annual work programme based on the completed Plan will specify the actual projects to be undertaken with details of resources, budgets, schedules and participating organisations.³

¹ *Heritage Council Grants Programme 2003*, Heritage Council (Kilkenny 2002) p.3.

² McSherry, Brendan, *Consultation Briefing Document on the South Tipperary Heritage Plan*, Clonmel (February 2003) p.3.

³ *Ibid.*

Emmet Weekend

6th – 8th June, 2003

The grandfather of Robert Emmet is buried in Tipperary Town and the father of the patriots grew up there. To mark the bicentenary of Emmet's Rebellion, a series of events are planned by Tipperary Historical Society and the Excel Heritage Centre.

Events will include a talk on the Emmet connection with the county by Dr. Des Marnane; a political forum discussing Emmet's legacy, a key speaker being Senator Martin Mansergh; a concert and the weekend will conclude with an ecumenical service in St. Mary's, the Emmet parish church.

Information may be had from *Mary Alice*

O'Connor, Tipperary Excel Centre, Mitchel Street, Tipperary. Phone (062) 80520; Fax (062) 80550; Email Maryalice@Tipperary-Excel.com

Lieutenant – General Sir William Francis Butler

Martin Ryan's long-awaited biography of this remarkable Tipperary man will be launched by Senator Martin Mansergh in Cahir on Thursday 22nd May.

Born in the Suir Valley at Ballyslatteen, Butler's life encompassed treks across Canada's prairies, the report which led to the founding of the Mounties, and the failed attempt to rescue Gordon from Khartoum. He was a co-respondent in the sensational 1886 divorce case involving 'sex goddess' Lady Colin Campbell.

Throughout his army career he successfully performed a delicate balancing act between, on the one hand his Catholicism and Irish nationalism, and on the other his role as a servant of empire. A prolific writer – fourteen published books – Butler was the author of the classic boy's adventure story *Red Cloud*. His wife Elizabeth was a renowned artist. Her most famous Irish painting, *Evicted*, is a powerful symbolic rendering of Ireland's endurance under oppression.

William Francis Butler: A Life 1838 – 1910, is published in hardback by the Lilliput Press at €25. The book will be reviewed by Marcus Bourke in the forthcoming issue of the *Tipperary Historical Journal*.

Details of launch time and venue from Joe Walsh, Cahir Social and Historical Society, Tel. (052) 42896

THE BOOK COLUMN

As always this is a listing of titles of Tipperary interest added to stock in the Local Studies Department of the County Library. If you'd like to try and purchase any of

these titles, John Butler at Bookworm, Parnell Street, Thurles [0504-22257] might be able to help, but remember some of these may now be out of print, especially annual publications!

- Anacarty-Donohill Parish Magazine/Anacarty-Donohill Cultural and Historical Society, 128p, pbk, €6.00
- Ayle National School 1952 - 2002 Golden Jubilee/Jubilee Committee Ayle NS; 138p, pbk €10.00
- Condon, J.: An Archival and Pictorial History of Thurles/CD, €33.00
- Conti, B.: From words to Infinity: a collection of poems/ Predator Press, 96p, pbk, €8.00
- Cooke, B: The Bishop's Peach and Other Stories/ 164p, pbk
- Daly, P: Lattin Lawn Tennis Club: Reviewing a half-century 1952-2002/Lattin Lawn Tennis Club, 88p, pbk
- Emerson, L.J.: The March of O'Sullivan Beare/55p, pbk, €10.00
- Fahey, M.: Aherlows Glen/44p, pbk
- Fahey, M.: Beneath the Devils Bit/56p, pbk
- Fahey, M.: Beneath the Galtee Slopes/64p, pbk
- Fahey, M. New Hymns and Songs/44p, pbk
- Fahey, M.: The Old Mountain Home/40p, pbk
- Farrelly, J. & O'Brien, C.: Archaeological Inventory of County Tipperary, Vol 1-North Tipperary/ Department of the Environment & Local Government, 488p, h/b, €35.00
- Harris, P.J.: The Pelter and the Fox: Poems /Village Square Publishing Co., 20p, pbk, €7.75
- Hayes, W.: A Life of Its Own: Moyne-Templetuohy, The Story of a Parish/Moyne-Templetuohy History Group, 3 Vols, h/b/pbk, €130.00
- Higgins, N: Tipperary's Tithe War/St. Helen's Press, 289p, h/b, pbk, €20.00/ €15.00
- Lewis, G.: Loosening the Chains: Nenagh Branch ITGWU-SIPTU 1918-1997/Relay Books-SIPTU, 236p, pbk
- Lynch, M: Behold Aherlow: The Glen from Bansha to Galbally/Rectory Press, 205p, pbk, €20.00
- Mamane, D.: The Excel guide to the Heritage of Tipperary Town/Tipperary Excel Heritage/60p, pbk
- Meskell, P. & Ryan, M.: Boherlahan-Dualla Historical Journal 2002/Boherlahan-Dualla Historical Journal Society, 112p, pbk, €8.00
- O'Brien B.: Talking with Denis O'Brien/37p, pbk+ CD
- O'Domhnaill M.: Magical Tipperary: History, Stories and Humour/Best of Ireland Pubs, 96p, pbk, €3.95
- O'Driscoll, D.: Exemplary Damages/Anvil Press Poetry, 86, pbk
- Ó Morónáigh, S.: Agallamh na hÉigse - Cioradh agus Cnuasach/An Comhlachas Náisiúnta Drámaíochta, 648p, h/b, €15.00
- O'Sullivan, T.: The Story of St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh/St. Mary's Secondary School, 261p, h/b, €30.00
- Ryan, M.: William Francis Butler: A Life 1838-1910/Lilliput Press, 244p, h/b, €25.00
- Tipperary GAA Yearbook 2003/Tipperary County GAA Board, 212p, pbk, €10.00
- Whyte, T: Aherlow National School 1911-1971/128p, pbk
- Wood, T. & Noonan, M.: My Favourite Haunt: The Collected Poetry of Michael Luke Phillips/40p, pbk