



NEWSLETTER

MINISTER LAUNCHES 1995 JOURNAL

As the 'fear an tí', Liam Ó Duibhir, pointed out, it was indeed mild weather for the launching of the annual Journal. After sterling work by the Society's Editor and this year's contributors, the 1995 edition of the Journal had been published and dispatched to members before the end of April, as had been promised in the last Newsletter. On Saturday, the 20th of May last, Michael Lowry, T.D. and Minister for Energy, Transport & Communications, honoured the Society by officially launching the eighth Tipperary Historical Journal - nearly 6 months earlier than usual. To a packed Local Studies Department of the County Library the Chairman of the Society, Martin Maher, while



Above: Minister Lowry being presented with a specially bound edition of the 1995 Journal by the Society's Chairman, Martin Maher

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introducing the Minister, took a moment to focus on a special feature of the 1995 Journal: "This year our Journal marks the first commemorative year of the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine, with a number of articles dedicated to that blackest of periods in our history. For us today it is very difficult to grasp the enormity of the suffering of a whole nation brought to its knees by hunger, disease and deprivation. It is harder still to credit that this calamity took place on our doorstep just a few generations ago.

Hardly a street or country road was spared and those who died were in many ways more fortunate than many who survived the horror. And yet it was that period in our history which, more than any other period, shaped the Ireland that we know today, particularly in the social and economic spheres". Thanking the Society's Committee members and Editor for their hard work during the year, the Chairman said "The



At the launch...

[Back row, l to r] Michael Hall, Denis Marnane, Secretary, Jess Codd, Treasurer;

[Middle row] John McGinley, County Manager, Tipperary (NR) County Council, Maura Scully, Bidy Condon, Liam Ó Duibhir, Eagarthóir Gaeilge, Donal O'Regan, Patrick Bracken, Anne Ryan, Michael Fitzgerald, Mary Guinan-Darmody;

[Front row] Marcus Bourke, Editor, Mai Quinn, Chairperson, Thurles U.D.C., Most Rev. Dr. Thomas Morris, Patron, Michael Lowry, T.D., Minister for Energy, Transport and Communications, Martin Maher, Chairman & County Librarian and William Corbett, P.R.O.

Society has grown steadily over the last few years and we now have members in almost all segments of the globe. Without their support, there would be no Society and no Journal". The Minister took up the Great Famine theme "Even at a distance of one hundred and fifty years it is a salutary pursuit to study the extent of the suffering of our people and of the efforts made to alleviate the ravages of the famine ...Tipperary is not normally associated with the worst horrors of the famine but this myth is quickly dispelled by anyone reading the well researched and splendidly written articles in that section of the Journal devoted to the famine. While countless people died and many more emigrated, we cannot forget the great, if ever so inadequate, efforts made to cater for the starving and the dying. The spectre of famine on our television screens is nothing new; perhaps we tend to become immune to the stark reality but such scenes should be a reminder of what happened in Ireland in the 1840s and awaken us to our obligation to help, as best we

**'a stature and standing
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can, the millions throughout the world who are in desperate need of our assistance." Mr. Lowry complimented the Society and, in particular, the Editor, Marcus Bourke, on the excellence of the Journal, containing upwards of twenty articles on a variety of topics of local interest and continuing the series of personal recollections of the fight for freedom with the first instalment of his story by the late Paddy Kinane of Upperchurch. "The annual Journal", said the Minister "has now achieved a stature and standing afforded to few of its kind. Without this Journal many of these articles on our native county might never have appeared in print and a wealth of well documented and amply researched information would have been lost. All of us here in Tipperary are deeply indebted to the skill, the knowledge, and the sheer hard work of all those who gave so selflessly of their time to ensure that a record of our county was preserved for us and future generations".

Society Talks

THE 1995
LECTURES

County Library, Thurles
at 7.30 p.m.

WED. SEPTEMBER 13, 1995

"The Great Famine in Ireland" by
Dr. Thomas McGrath

WED. OCTOBER 18, 1995

"The Great Famine in Nenagh Poor
Law Union" by Daniel Grace

WED. NOVEMBER 22, 1995

"The War of Independence in
Tipperary" by Dr. Joost Augusteijn

All Welcome

A Note from the Chairman

Dear Members,

Our harvest came early this year with the recent, successful launch of our 1995 Journal - a pre-summer launch at last, and signs are that we will make this our traditional launch date in the future. As usual the event was pleasant and enjoyable and we were delighted to have the Minister for Energy, Transport & Communications, Michael Lowry, T.D. present to perform the official launching.

I think you will all agree that, as in previous years, our Editor has again found a very nice blend of articles in this present Journal. The inclusion of some articles on the Great Famine indicates our intention to mark the 150th anniversary of that event in this and forthcoming issues.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will notice that we will be hosting three lectures here at the County Library later on in the year. The first lecture, due to be held on Wednesday, September 13th next, will be given by Dr. Thomas McGrath entitled "The Great Famine in Ireland". Tom, as we know him, is from Ballingarry and was a founder member of this Society. He holds two Doctorates, in History and Education,

and lectures at St. Pat's College, Carlow which is Ireland's oldest third level Catholic College and Seminary, opened in 1793.

On Wednesday, October 18th, Danny Grace will give a lecture on "The Great Famine in Nenagh Poor Law Union". Danny has a particular expertise in this subject and his lectures on this and other themes have been widely acclaimed. A secondary teacher in Nenagh C.B.S., he has a passionate interest in local history and has contributed to many books and journals over the years.

Later on, in November, Dr. Joost Augusteijn will deliver a lecture on "The War of Independence in Tipperary". Dr. Augusteijn is a lecturer in History in TCD and UCD. He completed his thesis "From Public Defiance to Guerrilla Warfare: The Radicalisation of the Irish Republican Army; A Comparative Analysis, 1916-1921" at Amsterdam University. Knowing the interest that Tipperary people have in the War of Independence, I feel that we can expect a big crowd for this lecture. Equally, the Famine lectures are sure to attract attention and I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible on these nights.

As always, your help in promoting the Society and the Journal is much appreciated and, of course, if any of you are passing through Thurles on your travels this summer, do drop in to see us at the County Library.

Sincerely yours,
Martin Maher

The Book Column

A listing of titles recently added to stock in the Local Studies Department of the County Library. The list is extremely short because most additions were noted in the recent Newsletter [Newsletter #4, still available if required]. However, information on any other titles of Tipperary interest gratefully received - drop us a line or phone (0504) 21555.

Cabragh Wetlands, Holycross, Co. Tipperary: Environmental Report, July

1994/R.P.S. Cairns - The Environmental Consultancy, Cork

Cabragh Wetlands: Vegetation & Flora: Report to the Cabragh Wetlands Development Group, 1994/Roger Goodwillie & Associates, Kilkenny

Hayes, William: The Old Churchyard and Graveyard, Townparks, Templemore/Sr. Aine Historical Society, Templemore, 141pp, p/b, £5.00

O'Sullivan, Mark: Wash Basin Street Blues/Wolfhound Press, 221pp, p/b, £3.99

O'Leary, Edward: The Written Word Remains; selected poems and prose/Edward H. Hughes, 107pp, h/b £12.00, p/b £8

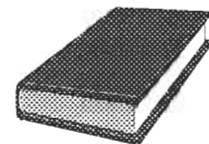
The MacCarthy Mór, Prince of Desmond: Historical Essays on the Kingdom of Munster/Irish Genealogical Foundation, Box 7575, Kansas, Missouri 64116, 315pp, \$30.00

Office of Public Works; Farrelly, Jean; Carey, Hugh: The Urban Archaeological Survey: Co. Tipperary North Riding, Parts 1 and 2

The Stag Trippant: Official Journal of

Clan MacCarthy, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1994; Vol. 1, No. 2, 1995

Ó Muirghéasa, Dónal: Education in the Parish of Knockavilla/Fitzpatrick Bros, Tipperary, 176pp, p/b, £6.00



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Our thanks to all those involved in Societies across the county who helped us with the Calendar!

Calendar

Borrisokane Historical Society

June 25: Outing to Cobh Heritage Centre, Barryscourt Castle & Museum.

July/August: Local field trips led by members of the Society.

September 3: Field trip to Kildare & its environs led by Con Manning.

Lectures commence in October - first lecture by Fr. Stanley. Further details from Cyril Crawford (067) 27302.

Cashel Arts & Heritage Society

Recently launched, and now playing five nights a week throughout the summer at Halla na Féile, *An Gorta Mhór* written & produced by Danny O'Dwyer. Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine, all proceeds will go towards famine relief in different parts of the world.

Clogheen Famine Commemoration

Famine commemoration evening on Sunday, June 25 - Latin Mass at Clogheen Hospital, then pageant based on *Sally Cavanagh*, followed by fund-raising evening on actual workhouse site, traditional music evening. Also to be unveiled is a memorial stone, taken from the ruins of Shanbally Castle, to be erected in the hospital grounds. The Padraic Colum inscription deserves to be noted here:

"A plague wind blew across the land,
Fever was in the air.
Fields were black that once were green
And death was everywhere".

Clonmel & District Historical & Archaeological Society

Annual outing this year is to Clonmacnoise, on Sunday, the 18th of June. Bus leaves Oakville Shopping Centre at 9.00 a.m. Charge of £10.00.

September 10th: outing to Cahir. Assembly at 2.00 p.m. at Oakville Shopping Centre. [Own transport].

Fethard Historical Society

Currently organising an overnight trip to Derry on the weekend of Saturday, July 8th; coach to leave Fethard early Saturday morning, return Saturday. Cost of approx. £45.00, all inclusive. Contact Chris Nevin (052) 31701.

Heartland Heritage

From Easter Monday to mid-October (excluding August). Tours tailor made - you choose the length of tour & your particular area of interest. Brochure detailing *Weekend Break Tours* and *Evening Tours* now available from James Duggan at (0504) 23831.

Kickham Country Weekend

August 11 - 13th. Theme this year is the Famine. Friday 11: Official opening by Labhrás Ó Murchú; Lecture by Dr. Kevin Whelan. Saturday: Bus trip to areas of famine interest in

Callan, lectures by Cathal Poirteir [RTE] and John Walsh [Callan]. Sunday: Oration & laying of wreath after 11.00 mass, poetry reading at Killaghy Castle & variety concert Sunday night. All details from Sheila Foley (052) 53200.

Nenagh District Heritage Centre

Present to mid-July: Local crafts exhibition.

July 16-30: Art exhibition by Clare Mulholland, Glasgow (nee Lynch, Nenagh).

Ormond Historical Society

Sunday June 25: Afternoon outing to East Clare Heritage Centre and Holy Island.

Old Cashel Society

Outings are planned to Limerick, Fethard etc, with dates to be finalised. For further details, contact Margaret Leahy at (0504) 41115.

16th Roscrea Summer School of Local Studies

Evolution of the Castle on the Irish Landscape. Monday, July 3 - Friday, July 7 at Roscrea Vocational School, commencing at 9.30 a.m. each morning, includes lectures & field trips. Contact George Cunningham at (0505) 21619.

Thurles Summer Courses

Reading the landscape in the Thurles Area. July 3 -7th at Scoil Ailbhe and surrounding countryside. Themes include Irish Peatlands, Tower Houses in Tipperary, Ring Forts, Trees in the Irish Landscape... Cost £25.00. Fuller details from James Duggan (0504) 44493 [wk] or (0504) 23831.

3rd Annual Slieveardagh Summer School

The Irish Diaspora: The Tipperary Experience. July 3 - 7th at Presentation Convent, Ballingarry. Organised by the Centre for Local & Heritage Studies, UCD & Slieveardagh Rural Development Company. Extensive timetable available. Academic Director Dr. William Nolan, UCD (01) 7068197 [wk] or (01) 4566085. Booking and payment (£40.00 or £10.00 day rate) to Ms. Peg McGarry, NT (056) 34333 [after 4.30 p.m.].

Tipperary Town & District Historical Society

Thursday, June 22: Mass at 8.00 p.m. in the graveyard, plaque to be unveiled in memory of the many Famine victims, talk on the Famine in Tipperary Town by Des Marnane.

Sunday, July 16th: Day coach trip to Cork, visiting Gaol, Cobh Heritage Centre & Middleton Distillery. Leave at approx. 10.00 a.m. from L&N car park.

August: Proposed outing to Kilcooley Abbey & surrounding areas; September: Proposed walk around Cahir. Also hoped to have a walk in Tipperary town over the next few months with an emphasis on famine sites. Details from Chairman, Denis Hartnett (062) 52551/51970, Treasurer Kitty O'Donovan (062) 51269, PRO Mary O'Connor (062) 72368



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