



NEWSLETTER

Tipperary and the Peace Process

An insight into the background to the behind-the-scenes negotiations between the Sinn Fein/IRA and the Irish Government in the lead-up to the Downing Street Declaration in 1994 was given by Dr. Martin Mansergh, Head of Research, Fianna Fail, at the launch of the 1996 edition of the Tipperary Historical Journal at the County Library, Thurles.

Dr. Mansergh, a native of Tipperary town, who launched the Journal said it was a great honour as well as a special pleasure to launch the 1996 edition of the Tipperary Historical Journal, the ninth volume to appear since it began in 1988. "The consistent range and quality of the contributions is a tremendous tribute to the energy and skill of its editor, Marcus Bourke. The printing quality is also of a very high order. We should all be grateful for the support given by the County Library and by the County Librarian, Martin Maher, in terms of infrastructure support. Indeed, there is strong support for the Journal from the County Councils in both Ridings. In this sphere at least, as in many others, the county remains united. There is also very appropriate support from the longest established Munster third-level institution, University College, Cork, where there are excellent faculties in history and geography.

This is the journal of the Tipperary Historical Society, whose patron is the retired Archbishop of Cashel, Dr. Morris, who I know

has always had a keen interest in history. The officer board and committee include many of the leading local historians from around the county, including those working in institutions outside of Tipperary. We are fortunate to have a number of very fine historians in this country, and others in related disciplines, who contribute regularly to the Journal, and who have published important full-length Tipperary-related studies. I am glad to see in the last year an important book of 19th century photographs of Tipperary town, particularly relating to the New Town, many of them taken by Maria Nadin, whose mother would have been a great-great-aunt of mine. I welcome the reprinting of "My Clonmel Scrapbook". But I would very much like to see in reprint Paul Flynn's "Book of the Galtees" published in the 1920s.

Tipperary presents a rich historical patch-work. It is a part of Ireland that has played a very prominent part throughout our history. In some centuries it has been the epicentre of wars and troubles. In 1848, 1867 and 1919 it was the heart of the revolution. As my father once wrote, in January 1919, events on a Tipperary road at Sologheadbeg had as much importance in their way as the opening deliberations of Dáil Éireann. Apart from politics, Tipperary has important ecclesiastical foundations, Cashel and Holycross, to name but two. This town of Thurles gave birth to the GAA under the patronage of a marvellously outspoken churchman Archbishop Croke, whose political correspondence appears in the many books by Emmet Larkin.

From Tipperary virtually every family, including my own, has sent sons and daughters to England, America, Australia and all corners of the globe. Ireland is the headquarters of so many families, and there is great interest in their roots.

It seems to be that there is virtually limitless scope for local history stretching far into the future. There are so many individuals, families and institutions that could form the basis of articles and studies. There has been a strong and understandable concentration on memories of the war of independence and the civil war, while first-hand accounts are still available or relatively easy to track down. There are, in this issue, particularly detailed articles on the Famine. For my own area around Tipperary, Des Marnane has once again done an outstanding job. 1998 will not only be the bicentenary of 1798, but will be the 150th anniversary of 1848, where Tipperary played so prominent a role. The other night at an evening to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Fianna Fail, Thomas Keneally, the famous Australian writer and Republican, treated us to accounts of



Above: Martin Maher, Chairman presenting a special bound edition of Bassett's "Book of Tipperary" to Dr. Martin Mansergh

Smith O'Brien and fellow-prisoners in Van Diemen's Land.

History is above all about the creation of perspective, a mixture of both engagement in, and standing back from, the past. History encourages a sense of attachment and identification, and can certainly awaken passions. Much of what I am or can do stems from the sense of history that was instilled into me by my late father Nicholas Mansergh. Local history can add to a sense of pride and depth of attachment to both place and to people. The Tipperary Historical Journal underlines our shared pride in our Tipperary roots.

Tipperary is in the centre of Ireland. While particularly North Tipperary has had one or more cabinet Ministers in recent decades up to the present day, I for one hope that it can again play a more central role in Irish life, political, economic and cultural.

I will finish with some remarks about Tipperary and the peace process. The Tipperary Peace Festival of course played a valuable role for over 10 years in bringing people together and fostering a positive commitment to peace. I always remember a Unionist Assembly member, personally engaging but hard-line in politics, who was half-convinced, despite his friendly hosts, that he might not escape home alive from this Republican county. Fr. Alec Reid, who was brought up in Nenagh, and with whom I had many dealings on behalf of Charles Haughey and Albert Reynolds, was the key person in the peace process, who kept everyone, Taoisigh, John Hume and Gerry Adams, motivated and sticking to the point.

In my own case, what I picked up from my late father and the late Denis McGrath, who managed Friarsfield for a considerable time when I was young, about the traditions and culture of the old IRA in Tipperary, had a considerable influence on my understanding of the present-day organisation.

In August 1994, there was a wild and totally untrue story in the *Irish Press* that Albert Reynolds and myself had met the IRA leadership secretly in the Hotel Minella in Clonmel, as if it were possible to keep such a meeting secret. The article, it has been subsequently suggested to me by someone in the British Embassy, may have been inspired by a desire to flush out what was really going on! What was true, however, was that Fr. Reid, staying overnight in the Redemptorist House in Limerick, met and had breakfast with me in early August, 1994 at the Aherlow House Hotel, to discuss what language would satisfy the Irish Government in the IRA cease-fire statement, and the criterion of permanence laid down in the Downing Street Declaration, accepting that the work 'permanent' would not be used. The key recommended terms were used in the cease-fire statement, which included the words 'complete' as applied to the cessation of operations, and 'definite' as applied to their commitment to the success of the democratic peace process. Contrary to what is perhaps being now suggested - even Republicans can be revisionists - Gerry Adams confirmed publicly at the time that the Taoiseach's public interpretation of the terms of the statement as being equivalent to permanent was correct.

I recall on a brilliant warm October day in 1994 being invited to give the oration at the Sean Treacy Old IRA Commemoration in Kilfeacle, and being followed on the platform by Martin McGuinness. Readers of the new Mallie and McKittrick book on the history of the peace process will discover, as we exchanged greetings, on the way to and from the rostrum, we knew each other better than onlookers may have realised, because Martin McGuinness was not only chief negotiator with the British Government, but also with the representatives of Albert Reynolds. A month to the day, the Government I had the honour to serve fell, and a few months later when all-party talks did not follow the publication of the Framework Document the bright hopes began to fade. Rebuilding confidence before it is too late is the huge task ahead".

A NOTE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear members,

Hardly any of us envisaged back in 1987 that the County Tipperary Historical Society would achieve the success and widespread popularity which is so obviously evident today. Least of all did we expect that our yearly Journal would find a place in the higher echelons of historical journal publishing in Ireland. Our many contributors deserve our highest praise for the great multitude of articles which have appeared since our first issue and, indeed, there is reason to be cautiously optimistic that the "flow" will continue. Marcus Bourke has made the task of tracking down articles and editing look easy as well as ensuring high standards in both content and production.

Our recent A.G.M. gave an opportunity to members to air their views on many issues concerning the Society. The overall tone of the meeting was upbeat and optimistic. A number of events in our history will be commemorated in 1998, among them the 200th anniversary of the Rising of 1798 and, perhaps more importantly for us in Tipperary, the 150th anniversary of the Rising of 1848. No doubt our Editor would like potential contributors to direct their attention to these events.

Dr. Martin Mansergh did us the honour of officially launching our 1996 Journal on Saturday, April 27th and, indeed, the day was most pleasant and enjoyable. He is a man who has an acute sense of history, not only on the local and national front, but also on the international front and, of course, his contribution to the Anglo-Irish peace process has been immense.

Once again we are at a critical and delicate stage of Anglo-Irish relations - a stage where courage and compromise are called for from all sides. Let us hope that all parties involved will act in a committed and responsible manner and finally close the chapter of violence and intolerance in these islands.

Thank you for your support and enjoy the summer.

Sincerely yours,

Martin Maher, Chairman.

1848 - 1998

The Editor of the Tipperary Historical Journal appeals to potential or intending contributors to let him know, as soon as possible, of material relating to the 150th anniversary of the Young Ireland Rising in County Tipperary. Preference will be given to articles from within the county - but be sure to give the Editor adequate advance notice.

Contact: The Editor, Tipperary Historical Journal, 17
Brooklawn, Dublin 3

The Society also welcomes suggestions from members for any special feature they would like to see in the 1997 Journal, to celebrate our tenth edition. You can send your ideas to the Editor or the Newsletter at the address below.



This Newsletter is published twice a year, winter/spring & summer issues

All correspondence should be addressed to the Society at: Co. Library, Castle Avenue, Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland.
(0504) 21555 / Fax (0504) 23442 / email: tipplibs@iol.ie /
<http://www.iol.ie/~tipplibs/Welcome.htm>

County Tipperary Historical Society

Accounts 1995-1996

Annual General Meeting, Saturday, March 23rd 1996

OPENING BALANCE	£5,273.90	
Current Account	£199.25	
Deposit Account	£5,074.65	
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	£5,273.90	
<i>Income</i>		
Punt	£8,287.23	
Sterling	£423.01	
Dollars	£848.98	
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	£9,559.22	
<i>Total</i>		£14,833.12
Paid Membership	£2,861.50	
Direct Debit Membership	£881.90	
Sterling Membership	£354.44	
Dollar Membership	\$835.00	
Punt Sales	£4,468.66	
Sterling Sales	£95.00	
Dollar Sales	\$561.00	
Interest	£11.17	
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<i>Expenditure</i>		
1995 Journal	£5,585.00	
1996 Journal	£1,860.00	
Newsletters	£239.58	
Postage	£1,214.23	
Stationery	£280.96	
Lectures	£215.00	
Sundry	£541.62	
Bank Charges	£42.92	
Memberships	£45.00	
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	10,024.31	
<i>Cash on Hand</i>		
Current Account	£270.34	
Deposit Account	£4,538.47	
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	£4808.81	
<i>Total</i>		£14,833.12
CLOSING BALANCE	£4,808.81	

WEB UPDATE

The response to our new Web site has been tremendous since it was launched in December - we have already attracted nearly twenty new members but, even more importantly, have helped dozens of people in their quest to discover more about County Tipperary and their roots in Ireland. (We have also been instrumental in helping one of our new members, Jack Wilson in Bothell, USA to set up a Web site solely dedicated to the surname Maher/Meagher at <http://www.brigadoon.com/~jwilson/gen/maher/maher.html>).

We'd like to say hello to some of our new members who have joined us through the Web: Mr. William Lanigan, Texas; Rev. William Lanigan, Jr., Texas; Jack Wilson, Bothell, WA; John C. Grant, Sudbury, MA; Michel Bourassa, Yellowknife, Canada; Paul Grant-Costa, Glastonbury, CT; Elizabeth A. Hay, New York; Gretchen Hurt, Milford, Ohio; Joan E. Regan, Paradise, CA; Charles Heffernan, Schenectady, NY; Charles D. Fitzgerald, Ellenton, Florida; Jean Casper, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Maryellen R.

Meara, West Hartford, CT; Richard O'Connell, Flushing, NY; George T. Burke, La Jolla, California; Vere H. Scott, Manitoba, Canada; Margaret D. Lattin, Seabrook, MD, USA; John Hunter, Maleny, Queensland.

HELP!

Some members would like your help with the following: Raymond M. Keogh "interested in St. Patrick. Published an article entitled: 'Does the Armorican forest hold the key to St. Patrick's escape?' (Studia Hibernica, Vol. 28:145-157, 1994), which interprets Patrick's writings on his escape from Ireland and concludes that this happened in or around AD 409. Also published a novel: 'St. Patrick's letter to Prosper' (March 17th, Nairobi, 1995), which highlights the probable connection between Patrick and Prosper of Aquitaine. This theme is explored more conclusively in another book which Raymond is completing, called: 'St. Patrick reinterpreted'. Would like to correspond with anyone with

similar interests. Raymond M. Keogh, c/o Karen Country Club, PO Box 24816, Nairobi, Kenya, e-mail RKeogh@tt.sasa.unon.org"

"Congratulations on your new Web page; you are leading Ireland into the year 2000 and beyond. As a member of the County Tipperary Historical Society, I ask for your help: Information needed about 19th century Keatings in Ballyboy in Ballylooby RC parish. After the famine, two brothers lived in Ballyboy - Patrick and wife Ann Hickey and Leonard and wife Mary Daly. Both were blacksmiths. Leonard and Mary had eight children, of whom little is known. Patrick and Ann had six children, of whom two stayed in Ireland. Johanna Keating married Peter Burke of Ballyboy in 1883, living at the time in Tubrid, and had two children, Peter and Margaret, who later emigrated to New York city and Canada respectively. Around 1920, Johanna and her husband lived in Marlfield, just outside Clonmel, and presumably died there. Another blacksmith, John, was born in 1868 and lived his youth in Ballyboy and neighbouring Tubrid. As a young man, he and three friends (Patrick O'Brien, another distantly related Keating, and a man named Myles) got into trouble in Tubrid; the four fled Tubrid and moved to Fethard. In Fethard, John married Mary Mockler and had four children (Patrick, Ellen, Richard & Margaret Patricia). John's wife died in 1922 in Fethard and he died in 1939 in Tubrid. Several children of Patrick and Ann Hickey emigrated. Leonard, also a blacksmith, emigrated to Brooklyn, New York in 1885. Margaret emigrated around 1888 and subsequently returned to Ireland for visits. After Patrick's death in Ireland, his wife Ann left for New York in 1894 with their youngest daughter, Mary. It is believed one son emigrated to Australia. Can anyone help? Leonard Keating, 171 Canoe Brook Parkway, Summit, New Jersey 07901, USA; e-mail BDKV05A@prodigy.com"

"My father was a member of your Society and I hope to renew that membership in my name shortly. I am also researching my family tree - my father's (Albert George Scott) father, William Scott, came from Goold's Cross in Tipperary. He married Mary Ann Taylor of The Deer Park, Dundrum, Co. Tipperary in 1914. They came to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada that same year (he had emigrated earlier and returned to marry Mary Ann Taylor). I would like to establish contact, via e-mail with any other people who might be researching these Scott and Taylor families. I am especially interested in the Taylor family's relationships to the Viscount Hawarden estate The Deer Park and their inter-related history. My particular interests, besides the genealogy of the Scott/Taylor families, includes the historical landscape ecology of the Dundrum/Goold's Cross areas, the Kilnarnagh region, and a geographical information systems (GIS) approach to these interests. Vere H. Scott, 24-738 Nassau Street South, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3L 2R3, Canada, e-mail Vere_Scott@MBnet.MB.CA".

THE BOOK COLUMN

A listing of titles recently added to stock in the Local Studies Department of the County Library. If you'd like to purchase any of these titles, John Butler at Bookworm may be able to help you - write or ring John first for availability and pricing details at Bookworm, 5 Liberty Square, Thurles; (0504) 22257.

◆ Carew, Heather; Cashel Workhouse in Famine Times: A Study from 1845 to 1855/Thesis NUI, UCG 1995

◆ Clár Fleadh Cheoil Co. Thiobraid Árann 1996, Bansha 17/18/19 Bealtaine/Bansha Fleadh Committee, 96pp, p/b, £1.00

◆ Coady, Michael; The Well of Spring Water: A Memoir of Packie & Micko Russell, Doolin/Coady, 40pp, £5.00

◆ Coffey, Tom; Don't get mad, get even/(new, details n/a as yet)

◆ Collins, Michael; The Famine in Newport/ Newport Historical Society, 56pp, p/b, £3.00

◆ Cranley, Patrick; Moving On/Cranley, 101pp, p/b, £4.50

◆ Decies; Journal of the Waterford Archaeological & Historical Society, No. 51 1995 (Famine edition)/ 141pp, p/b, £10.00

◆ Dooley, Dolores; Equality in Community: Sexual equality in the writings of William Thompson & Anna Doyle Wheeler/Cork Univ. Press, 448pp, h/b, £30.00

◆ Duggan, Máire/O'Malley, Norah; ICA South Tipperary Federation: Development & History 1941-1996/ICA, 120pp, p/b, £6.00

◆ Eiriksson, André & Ó Gráda, Cormac; Estate Records of the Irish Famine: A Second Guide to Famine Archives, 1840-1855/Irish Famine Network, 68pp, p/b, £4.50

◆ Flynn, Mary; Cashel Community School, the Class of '96/Cashel Community School (new, details n/a as yet)

◆ An Foras Cosanta Áitiúil, Nenagh 1946-1996/ Nenagh Guardian, 52pp, p/b, £3.00

◆ Grace, Daniel; Portrait of a Parish: Monsea and Killodieman/Relay & Stair Monsea Killodieman, 346pp, £12.00

◆ Leahy, Alice/Dempsey, Anne; Not just a bed for the night: the story of Trust/Marino Books, 192pp, p/b, £7.99

◆ Life & Times of Nenagh CBS Concert Band: 10th anniversary commemorative history & recollections 1985-1995/52pp, p/b, £3.00

◆ Luddy, Maria; Hanna Sheehy Skeffington/ Historical Association of Ireland, 63pp, p/b, £4.50

◆ Luddy, Maria/Cullen, Mary; Women, Power and Consciousness in 19th century Ireland

◆ Lynch, Michael; Tipperary Golf Club 1896-1996/ Tipperary Golf Club, 148pp, p/b, £10.00

◆ Lyons, Mary Cecilia; Illustrated Incumbered Estates, Ireland 1850-1905/Ballinakeela Press, 268pp, h/b, £38.00

◆ McDonagh, Thomas; Literature in Ireland: Studies Irish & Anglo-Irish, a new edition/Relay Books, 209pp, p/b, £7.95

◆ Molua (Journal being relaunched, may be quarterly, no details as yet)/Fr. Brian Geoghegan, 32pp, £1.00

◆ Murphy, Brian P.; John Chartres: Mystery Man of the Treaty/Irish Academic Press, 189pp, £14.95 [was £24.95 as reviewed in '96 Journal]

◆ Nelson, Justin; Faces and places: Clonmel 1955 - 1960/(new, details n/a as yet)

◆ Old St. Marys (Clonmel); Memories and Images/ Central Technical Institute, 72pp, p/b, £5.00

◆ Ryan, Eileen; Mohera N.S.; A History 1847-1996 /Mohera N.S. Committee, 158pp, p/b, £7.00

◆ Slieveardagh News, Volume 2, February 1996/ Slieveardagh Rural Development Co., 12pp, £0.50

◆ Tipperary North Family History Newsletter '96/ Tipperary North Family History Foundation, 2pp

◆ Trant, Ion; Just across the water/South Eastern Cattle Breeding Society & author, 209pp, h/b, £20.00

CALENDAR

Cahir Social & Historical Society

■ "The Fighting Irish: Campaigns, Colours & Characters"; A weekend military conference including excursions, exhibitions and entertainment to be held in Cahir Castle from Friday September 13th to Sunday September 15th. Various aspects of imperial history mingled with republican history will be explored: speakers include Michael Collins on Michael Collins, Martin Ryan on General Butler's involvement in South Africa in the lead up to the Boer War, Kate O'Dwyer on the guerrilla tactics of the Third Tipperary Brigade and Michael Hallinan on the capture & execution of District Inspector Potter RIC in 1921.

Contact: John Mackey, Alandale, Cahir, Co. Tipperary; (052) 41931 or Joe Walsh, 11 Glenlyon Grove, Dublin 16; (01) 4938300

Cashel Arts & Heritage Society

■ July: An Gorta Mhór, commemorating the Great Famine playing Wednesday and Thursday nights at 8.00 p.m. in the Convent Theatre, Friar Street. A video of "An Gorta Mhór" available from July.

■ July: Irish night commences on Mondays
Contact: Martin Dwyer, The Folk Village, Cashel (062) 62525

Clonmel & District Historical & Archaeological Society

■ June 30th: Outing to County Wexford, Tintern Abbey, Dunbrody Abbey etc.
Contact Liam Ó Duibhir, 40 Shamrock Hill, Clonmel (052) 22917

Kickham Country Weekend

■ August 9th - August 11th, 1996: Official opening on the 9th at 7.30 p.m. with a lecture by Dom Mark Tierney; Bus tour on the 10th with a walk of Carrick with Michael Coady, lectures at 8.30 p.m. by Dr. James O'Shea and Joe Kennedy; mass at 11.00 a.m. on Sunday, 11th and poetry reading with guest poet Richard Lynch in Killaghy Castle at 2.00 p.m., variety concert that night.
Contact: Sheila Foley, (052) 53200

Newport Historical Society

■ Sunday, June 30th: Bicentennial celebration of building of Church of St. John, Newport
Contact: Sean Guilfoyle, (061) 378130

Old Cashel Society

■ Sunday June 16th: Outing to Limerick, St. John's Castle and the Hunt Museum. Meeting point at Ladyswell, 11.00 a.m. This is the meeting point for all the following:

■ Thursday, June 27th: Outing to Shanballyduff, 6.30 p.m.

■ Sunday, July 14th: Outing to Bansha area, 1.00

p.m.

■ Thursday, July 25th: Outing to Castlelake, 6.30 p.m.

■ Sunday, August 11th: Outing to Grantstown, 1.00 p.m.

Sunday, September 8th: Outing to Ardfinnan area, 11.30 a.m.

Contact: Margaret Leahy, (0504) 41115

Ormond Historical Society

■ Sunday, June 23: Outing to Rock of Cashel and town; Tour of the Rock begins at 3.00 p.m. sharp - own transport.

■ July: weekday evening outing to Puckaun - date to be announced in the Guardian.

■ August: weekday evening outing to Finnee district of Borrisokane - date to be announced in the Guardian.

Contact: Danny Grace, Ardcroney, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary; (067) 38127

"Reading the Landscape in the Thurles area"

■ July 1st to July 5th, 1996 at Scoil Ailbhe, Thurles and surrounding countryside. Themes include fulachta fiadh and ring barrows, fortified houses, the workhouse, deserted famine villages, Celtic hillforts, toghers, the great marches of the Elizabethan era, holy wells, the big house and gender equity. Fee of £25.00 applicable.

■ Heartland Heritage gives a glimpse of Ireland's past through its ancient landscape. The tours are tailor made for your enjoyment - you choose the length of tour and your particular area of interest.

Contact: James Duggan, St. Kevin's N.S. Littleton (0504) 44493 or Garryvicleheen, Thurles (0504) 23831

Roscrea

■ July 1st - July 5th: 17th Summer School of Local Studies at Vocational School, Roscrea, "Reading the Irish historical landscape" [Sorry, fully booked!]

■ November 1st - November 3rd: Autumn conference at Mount St. Joseph Abbey, "Enduring Sermons: The Medieval Church on the Irish Landscape". Speakers include Prof. Terry Donlon, John Bradley, Paul Gosling, Jim Higgins, An tAthair Ciarán Ó Sabhaois.

■ Wednesday, October 9th: S.W. Midlands Branch of Crann organising a one day seminar at Terryglass, "Trees: Planting on the farm and in the town"

Contact: George Cunningham, Parkmore, Roscrea, (0505) 21619

Slieveardagh Summer School

■ "The Great Famine in Tipperary & adjoining counties": July 1st - July 5th at Presentation Convent, Ballingarry; Lectures by Dr. Thomas McGrath, Professor W. J. Smyth, Mr. Jack Burtchaell, Professor Cormac Ó Gráda, Dr. Jonathan Bell, Ms. Anne Lanigan, Dr. William Nolan, Mr. Danny Grace, Dr. Tim O'Neill. Academic director is Dr. William Nolan (01) 706 8178 or home (01) 456 6085. Booking & fees (£40.00) to: Ms. Peg McGarry, Fennor, Urlingford, Thurles (056) 34333 after 4.30 p.m.

Tipperary Town & District Historical Society

■ Sunday, July 21 [proposed]: Full day outing of the Society to Emo Court and the historic sites of Laois. Outing will be by coach.

■ Tuesday, August 6: "The Origins and Development of Irish Nationalism" by Kevin Haddick Flynn.

Details from Denis Hartnett, 23 Marian Terrace, Tipperary; (062) 52551 or Mary O'Connor, Thomastown, Kilfeacle; (062) 72368