

The diary of a teenage Scully's Parisian holiday in 1865

By Anthony McCan

The author of this diary was Darby Scully, eldest son of Jerome James Scully and Ellen Kennefick, living at Silverfort, near Fethard, Co. Tipperary. The Scully connection with Silverfort (or Stockidoney) went back to 1781, when Darby Scully of Woodhouse (the great-grandfather of the diarist) took advantage of the relaxation of the Penal Laws in 1778 to take land on long lease from John Watson of Ballinvoher.¹

This Darby had married Barbara Hourigan of Tantore, Co. Limerick, in 1768,² and was succeeded at Silverfort on his death in 1807 by his son Darby II. Another son was James Darby Scully of Tullamaine, who married Catherine Moylan of Cork in 1811, the ceremony being performed by the bride's cousin, Dr. Francis Moylan, Bishop of Cork.³ The bride and bridegroom were in fact first cousins by a previous Scully/Moylan marriage, the two families having had business relations for many years.

Jerome James, the father of the diarist, was their second son, born in 1814 in one of those pleasant Georgian brick houses along the North Mall in Cork, the home of Denis Moylan, merchant and banker. The address of James Darby Scully is given as "Tullamaine Castle" in the birth announcement. According to an advertisement in the *Clonmel Herald* of 20 February 1816 the house and demesne were to be let, the house being described as "new" and containing 10 bedrooms as well as a billiard room.

Clearly James Darby Scully had spent his inheritance on a splendid house, believing that the inflationary boom of the Napoleonic Wars would continue for ever, only to be caught by the postwar slump in agricultural prices. According to his grandson, "he used to drive four in hand and lived riotously".⁴

He moved with his family to Versailles about this time, following a well worn trail of gentlemen in impecunious circumstances. It was there that Catherine Moylan died in 1827.⁵ He was married again in Dublin in 1830 to Anne Taaffe, a widow, his address being given as "Rock Abbey Pavilion, Cashel".⁶ Since he died at this address in 1853, it may be assumed that he had returned from Versailles after the death of his wife together with his two sons, Jerome and Denis. The Primary Valuation shows him as the lessor of some 94 acres, with eleven houses on them, at Tullamaine, the remnant of his estate.

Meanwhile, at Silverfort James Darby's brother Darby Scully II had married Eleanor Burke of Limerick in 1811 and on his death in 1838 had left Silverfort to yet another Darby, born in 1813 and officially named Jeremiah Edmund, but generally known as Darby. This Darby was obviously in financial difficulties in 1844 when he mortgaged Silverfort for a loan of £1,000, but the Primary Valuation of 1851 shows him still in possession of 552 acres at Silverfort, of which he is farming 180 acres, the rest being let to tenants.

However, some time after this he sold out to his cousin Jerome James Scully, who had married Ellen Kennefick at Ballindeasig House in 1850.⁷ The Kenneficks were Cork merchants who had bought an estate at Ballindeasig and Ellen was a second cousin of Jerome through a previous Moylan/Kennefick marriage.

Jeremiah Edmund moved to Dublin, where he died at 3 Elm Grove, Cullenswood, in 1888, his death notice recording him as "also known as Darby, late of Silverfort, Co. Tipperary".⁸ He had worked as a cashier in some business in Westmoreland St. Dublin but had never married. It was into this close-knit family that Darby Scully was born in October 1851.

To accompany him on his journey was his uncle Denis Scully, at that time Petty Sessions Clerk and living in one of those pleasant Georgian houses in John St., Cashel. According to a letter from John Scully written in 1923 and printed in *The Irish Genealogist* of 1985 he was "A very good, merry old chap.... so much addicted to the girls of Powers Tobacco Factory that he had been denounced from the altar more than once!

My brother Joe used to pull his leg re the amenities of Cashel life.... One day, when probably exasperated, he exclaimed "Be Dow, Joe, I don't know why you abuse Cashel so much, I don't know any other place where you can get a nice clean girl for so little money".⁹

I have left Darby's rather erratic spelling and punctuation unchanged. He has that annoying Victorian habit of mentioning people by initials only, but I have put the first name in brackets where I can identify them. The diary itself is written in a round schoolboy hand in a small copybook and has been passed down through several generations of the Scully family to the author of this introduction and postscript, whose mother was a Scully.

The ostensible purpose of the visit seems to have been to find a French boarding school for Darby, but it seems to have been very much a holiday as well.

Being very anxious to see the Derby, London, and Paris, my Uncle Denis and I left Cashel, on the 19th day of May 1865. I determined to keep a small diary of what I would see, so I now begin.

May 29. Left Cashel with Uncle Denis, for the Limerick Junction, took a monthly return ticket to London, arrived in Dublin all right. Met J ... C ... at railway station, and Mr. V(incent) S(cully)¹⁰ At Merrion Square, where we stopped, Mr. V ... S ... left for London at 6 p.m., went to West Land Row with him, where I met young H ... son. Saw Mrs. S(cully) in the evening and wrote to Papa, bought some clothes, was not very well, a very wet day.

May 30. Breakfast at Merrion Square, left Dublin at 6 a.m., a fine morning, went across channel in the steamer Leinster, saw Howth, Dalkey and Dublin bay, also the Wicklow mountains, and a part of the Welch coast, was very sick for some time on board. Got into the train at Holyhead, saw a part of the town, splendid docks, took a cup of tea at the station. Went through a part of Wales, passed the Marina tubular bridge and several tunnels, stopped for a short time at Chester, saw some of the town, a very old looking place, also the large clock, counted eight railway joining there. We also stopped at Stafford, and at Rugby. Passed through but did not stop at Bangor, Conway, Tamworth, also saw Harrow school. It is a fine country, from Chester to London, arrived there at 6 p.m. and went to 6 Grove End Road, slept at the Eyer Arms Hotel, a fine day, tired, but very well.

May 31. Breakfast at Mr. V(incent) S(cully). Went to the Victoria station to go to Epsom, great crushing and crowding, traveled full fare at eight shillings each, had a walk of about half a mile, from the New station at Epsom, to the ground stand, all sorts of games, lotteries, and tricks of all kinds, all the stands were full. There was one private stand belonging to a London wine merchant. The first race, for which five started, was won easily by Vixen. Immense crowds continued to arrive from London, until the race was to be run for. Saw all the jocks as they passed to the paddock. The Prince of Wales arrived about two o'clock, soon after the horses began to appear on the course, which was splendidly kept by about fifty police. The two french

horses made there appearance from near Totingham corner. We had a very good view of the two favourites, Gladiatur and Bradalbin, they both looked in grand order. The former walked quietly down the course, his trainer Jennings, leading him by the head. He was ridden by H. Grimshaw, he is a bay horse with a small star on his forehead, black legs, a fine shoulder, and very lengthy. The latter is a very strong looking chestnut, with all his forehead white. After nine false starts, during which the Derby dog was running up and down the course, they went away in a body, coming into the strait, the race seemed to be between Christmas Coral and Eltham, but entering the enclosure Gladiatur came with a rush & won by over a length, I believe easily. Thus ended the Derby of 1865, a very warm day, returned to London.

June 1. Went with Uncle and R(odolf) S(cully)¹¹ to the Zoological Gardens, saw all the animals. The gardens are very large and splendidly layed out; after spending about three hours there, and seen a good many things, we went through a part of the Regents Park, dined at half past two. Uncle went to the House of Commons. R ... S ... and I went out to see a part of the City, saw all Oxford Street, Regents Street & Charring cross. Marshal & snelgroves in Oxford Street and Robinsons in Regent Street are very fine shops. We also saw the National Gallery at Charring cross & several other very fine buildings, fine day, was near loosing my way, but found it again.

June 2. Left 6 Grove End Road for London Bridge station where we took return tickets to the Crystal Palace. We saw Baron Rotchilds London house on the way which is a very fine one. R ... S ... came with us. We first saw a great part of the Gardens of the Palace, then took a boat on the lake for half an hour. We then went inside the building. The first thing we saw was statues of all the Kings & Queens of England since the conquest. Then saw the Egyptian court, the Roman court, the Moorish court, the French court & the English court all of which were splendidly layed out. Also saw the Polar regions and the house of Shakespeare which is build up entire. We also saw the bark of a Wellington tree. The picture galleries contain some very fine paintings. Eat our dinner there & at the railway station, on our return heard that Regalia had won the Oaks easily, returned to London, the evening was very wet.

June 3. Payed our bill at the Eymer Arms Hotel, left the victoria station at 5.6 a.m. for Newhaven, where we got on board the steamer Marseilles, for Dieppe.



The University Club on St. Stephen's Green, where Darby Scully died in 1927 – now merged with the Kildare St. Club.

Took a cup of tea each. I went to sleep for some time, got a little sick when we were coming near the French coast. Landed in Dieppe about four o'clock, had a delay there of three hours, went to the railway station where we had a very good dinner & I wrote to Papa. Saw a part of the town & the church. Left by rail for Paris at 6.40 p.m. had a delay in Rouen of a quarter of an hour, I fell asleep nearly all the way from that to Paris. Met Mrs R ... at the railway station at 11 o'clock p.m. fine day, tired.

June 4. Met a Capt. B ... & Major C ... at breakfast, went with Uncle and Miss B ... to Mass at the Church of the Madeleine which is a very fine building. Then walked through the Tuilleries & the Palais Royal, the water works were playing in the latter, saw the west entrance to the Tuilleries at which there were fully a hundred soldiers on guard. Drove to St. Clue in the evening through the Bois de Boulogne, passed by the racecourse of Longchamps it is a very good one. Saw all S. Clue and the outside of the factory at Savre, came back by the Arch de Triomphe through the Champs Elize, had a grand dinner, fine day saw a great deal went to Mass to the Madeleine.

June 5. Went with Miss B ... to the Shamp Mars & the Dome of the Invalides, at which place Bonaparte is buried, his tomb is ornamented with flags and standards, taken during his wars. The names of all the great battles which he had gained are written on marble round the tomb. The peoples attachment to him is still so great, that it is very hard to see the tomb, the crowds are so numerous. I also saw the tombs of Joseph Bonaparte, Duroc, Bertrand, and of Napoleon 2nd. Saw members of the old soldiers who live there, found the tombs of their Generals. Went to the Circus of L'Emperatrix in evening, it was very good, the house was quite full, bought a hat for 22 francs, fine day.

June 6. Went with Uncle to the Louvre. The paintings are very fine, there is one splendid one, of the retreat from Moscow. We then went to the Palace of the Luxembourg, saw a great number of relics of Napoleon 1st including the matras he died on, the throne on which he was crowned, the plain cocked hat which he wore & many other things belonging to him. Also saw the bedroom of Catherine De Medici & the old Senate House, we also saw some very nice paintings there. Took a drive with Mrs. R ... in the evening, felt the weather very hot, wrote to Papa.

June 7. Rode on one of Mrs. R ...s ponies through the Bois de Boulogne, to a riding school about three miles from Paris, Mrs. R ... Major C. ... & Uncle drove with me, I jumped the pony a little over a stock, he gave me one fall. Lost my way when coming back but knew French enough to find it again. Took a drive in the evening through the Tuilleries, went to Perre la Chaise cemetery. It is a very nicely laid out. Little chapels are erected over the graves of the respectable people, where Mass is offered up at the anniversary of each persons death. Saw the tombs of Louis & Abelard & those of Generals Fay, Labedoyne, also the place where lies the remains of Marshal Ney.

June 8. Drove with Mrs. R ... to see the Imperial stables, the stalls and coach houses are very fine, the mangers are solid blocks of marble. The riding horses of the Emperor were in Algiers, over each stall was the name of the horse. Saw all the Emperors horses, some were very nice, did not see any of the ponies as they were at St. Cloud. The carriages are very fine, the state ones being richly decorated with gold, the ones used on ordinary occasions are strong and well made, some of the harness is splendid. The saddles of the Emperor are very rich, saw the one which he had at Solferino. We then drove to the Church of St. Clotilde. It is small for Paris but very handsome. Went to see Notre Dame, it is a splendid Church, saw the treasures. Some of the vestments, gifts of the Kings of France are very fine, as also the Chalices & monstrances. Saw the vestments, which the late Archbishop of Paris wore when he was killed, the bloodstains are still on them.

June 9. Left Parish at 9 a.m. for Versailles, travelled by the north bank railway. The country was very handsome, saw a great number of vine yards also nice cottages. On arriving at Versailles went to see the Imperial College, but did not go through much of it. Saw the house No. 83 in the Avenue de Paris, where my poor grandfather lived for some time.¹² It is a splendid house, one of the finest town residences I ever saw. Then went to the Park, saw a great number of the water works and a large part of the gardens, which are all very fine. Saw a great deal of the palace, there are some very fine paintings, the church is very handsome. Eat our dinner in a cafe in the town. Left Versailles at nine o'clock p.m. for Paris on the tramway, which was very pleasant travelling, changed horses in Sevre, arrived in Paris at 10 o'clock, a very fine day, was tired.

June 10. Went with Uncle to see the Exhibition of fine arts, amongst other things were some nice statues and a few fine paintings. Took some refreshments there. Heard a band playing in the Tuilleries gardens. Went out to drive through a part of Paris, in the evenings saw some Illuminations, on account of the Emperors return from Algiers. Bought a vest and a pair of gloves, got my hair cut, a fine day.

June 11. Drove in Mrs. R ...s carriage through the Bois de Boulogne to the Longchamp races. There was an immense number of carriages and cars, besides from 10 to 15 four in hands. Went on the Grand Stand, all the others were quite full, where was a private one for the Jockey Club. The part of the weighing yard in front of the Grand Stand was specially for the Ladies. The Emperor, Empress and Prince Imperial arrived about half an hour before the race for the Grand Prix. I had a good view of them. The betting was 5 to 2 on Gladiateur. Six horses started. Court Lagranges two remained together last for a great part of the race but on coming into the strait, which is a long one, Gladiateur came through his horses, and won in a canter by three lengths. I was within a few yards of him in the weighing yard after the race. There was great cheering for the Emperor, the prize given by him was exhibited, it is very handsome. The Emperor and Royal party left immediately after the last race, there were large crowds on the roads coming into Paris, was very tired.

June 12. Went out with a servant and one of Mrs. R ...s ponys in the Bois de Boulogne, took a long ride, came home through the Champ Elize and the Park Morceau, a great many were looking at the ponys, they looked so nice. Went out driving in the evening with Mrs. R ... saw a large part of the city, a very hot day.

June 13. Went with Uncle to the Convent of Le Petit Oiseaux to see M. C. ... , it is a long distance from the Palace Pentagonale, and at the other side of the river, after waiting in a reception room for some time, we met her. She likes the place very well, and asked for Mama and Alice, saw a great deal of the old part of Paris, the streets are narrow and the houses very high. Stopped in Tuillery gardens for a couple of hours on our return as there was a splendid band playing, I am sure there was over fifty in it, a fine day.

June 14. Drove with Mrs R ... to see the factory at Savre, the porcelaine was splendid some of it very expensive, then drove back through Paris to see the Golden tapestry, saw the people working at, there was some magnificant pieces. Saw the Morgne and the Mint, went again to the Convent of Le Petit Oiseaux to see M. C. ... , offered to drive her out in the Bois de Bolougne, but the Superess would not allow her. We were shown through a great part of the Convent by an English man. The church is very handsome, there are 240 girls there. Came home through the Place Vendome. Went to the Port St. Martin Teatre in the evening, the piece was a fairy tale, the theatre was greatly crowded, the acting very good, there were some splendid seeings, it lasted very near five hours.

June 15. Went with Uncle to see a school belonging to a Mr Bedeau, saw the place and got a

prospectus. After lunch we drove in two carriages to see the Church of St. Denis where a great number of the Kings of France were buried some of their bodies were raised during the first revolution, but they are not erecting tombs to their memory. Saw the places where Cathern De Medecies and other celebrated persons are buried there is one splendid window in the Church it is said to be one of the finest in the world. Then drove to Danjow, saw the lake which is handsome, took a drink of its spaw water, went on to Montmorency from which we had a grand view of Paris, and the adjoining country. Then returned home after a drive of about 16 miles, walked out in the Bois de Bolougne and had a boat on the lake, in the evening. A great number of cab men struck work on this day.

June 16. Rode one of the ponys in the morning to a riding school about three miles from the Barrier de L'etoile, the servant rode the other came back about 11 oclock went riding again in the evening in the Bois de Bolougne the dust was very great as the men for watering the roads also struck work. Some people in carriages used stand up and look after us they looked so handsome. Uncle bought some prints, a very hot day.

June 17. Went with Uncle to the Tuilleries heard a military band playing there went out riding one of the ponies in the Bois de Bolougne with a little Miss J ... , Passed through the Park Morceau. Took a drive in the evening in the carriage through a great part of the city saw the place where the prison of the Bastille stood, returned through the Champ Elize. Mrs R ... and Miss B ... left for Fontainbleau.

June 18. Went by rail to Versailles arrived there about 12 oclock went to the Imperial College, saw a great deal of its buildings including the Dormitories, dining halls, and play ground of several classes, also saw the Infirmary which is very nicely kept, got a prospectus Were in the Church of Montricle and of St. Louis. Spent several hours in the Park where there was a band of the Artillery of the Guards playing on our return to the town we saw a foot regiment of Grenadiers marching in heavy marching order through the Place D'arme with drums beating. Eat our dinner in Caffé in the Place D'arme, walked about the town, saw the soldiers beat the tattoo, left for Paris by the nine oclock train which was the longest one I ever saw, a fine day, was tired.

June 19. Went with Uncle and Mrs J ... by rail to Joinville, a nicely situated town about 10 miles from Paris on the Strasbourg railway, walked from the station to see a school there, the distance is about half a mile. It is a fine large building, got a prospectus from the Head Master who showed us the house, saw the playgrounds and the Dormitories which are fine airy rooms also saw the dining hall and the baths there are 220 boys there. The river Marn runs through the town. Returned to Paris at 5 oclock dined with Mr. And Mrs. J ... They live in another apartment in this house. Mrs B ... and Miss B ... returned from Fontainbleau.

June 20. Went to see the guard relieved at the Tuilleries at 10 oclock, it was well worth seen, there were about five hundred men there, the band played and the soldiers marched off to different places. Went out driving with Mrs R ... in the evening in the Bois de Bolougne with the ponies, met the Empress who was driving also. She looked very sharp at the ponies and returned our salute. Called on a Madame E. P ... who is from Kildare, she has a nice place about two miles from Paris, a very warm day. Got a letter from Papa to say Mrs H ... was dead.

June 21. This day was so warm that I did not go out until evening. Drove the ponys with Mss B ... in the Bois de Bolougne. Mrs J ... and the Uncle drove in the brougham, took a long drive through a great part of the Bois, the ponys went very well, came back through the Champs Elize, packed all our things that night, as we were to lave next morning.

June 22. Left Paris by rail at 8 oclock in the morning for Dieppe arrived there at 12 oclock a.m. Had a good view of the country, got on board and came across in the steamer Alaxandra, had a delay in Newhaven of about half an hour, arrived in London at 10 oclock got out at the

Victoria station and drove to the Ayre Arms left our luggage there and went to see Mr W ... Did not stop long, came back went to bed was very tired.

June 23. Breakfast at Mr Vs went with Uncle and V. S(cully) to see Madame Tousands, saw all the wax works and the carriage which Napoleon had at Waterloo, also saw the chamber of horrors, J. Wilks Booth and Mullar have been lately added to it, it all was splendidly layed out, then went to the Regents Park took a boat on the lake. Came back to Mr V ...s had an erarly dinner, went to the Ayre Arms paid our bill packed up our things and left London by the 5 oclock train from Euston Square, arrived at Holyhead at 12 oclock at night got on board the steamer Munster took our births had a cup of coffey on board Uncle fell asleep, but I did not untill near morning.

June 24. God up early and went on deck met Mr L. O'B ... on board saw Mr Whiteside as he was getting out of the steamer, arrived in Kingstown at 7 oclock in the morning and got into Dublin about eight eat our breakfast in Merion Square met my brother Denis in the street on his way to meet us. Went with him through a great part of Dublin during the day. Dined with J. C ... slept at Merion Square.

June 25. Walked to see St. Patricks Church but the doors were closed and we were unable to see the inside. Dined early and went to the Bank where I met Mr T ... Saw the Wellington testimonial and a large part of the city. Heard Mass at the Westland Row Church, took a very long walk, slept at Merion Square, was very tired.

June 26. Went to see the Exhibition did not see much of it. The machinery is very fine also the carriges and the paintings. Left Dublin at four oclock met Papa at Thurles station came home to Silverfort, all were well there, and thus ends my very pleasant tour of one month. I was very happy to get home.

*Darby Scully.
Silverfort,
June 27th, 1865.*

And so ends 13-year-old Darby Scully's account of his eventful trip. Readers may wonder what happened afterwards to this young extrovert with his enthusiasm for horses and military affairs. The idea of sending him to a French boarding school seems to have been dropped; instead he was sent to Clongowes in the following September, where he remained for the following five years. He was obviously just the sort of outgoing boy who thrives at boarding school and his later contributions to *The Clongownian* show that he regarded the place with warm affection throughout his life.¹³

An obituary by a schoolfellow hints delicately that he was noted more for his vigour on the football field than for his academic brilliance, but on leaving school he did graduate in Classics and History at Trinity and later read for and was called to the Bar.¹⁴ There is no evidence that he ever practised although he did act as agent for various American and Canadian Scullys who had land in Ireland.

On the death of his father in 1879 he inherited Silverfort as well as some 300 acres in Co. Kilkenny, and lived the life of a country gentleman with duties as magistrate and grand juror, but the last quarter of the nineteenth century was a nightmare for small landlords such as him with no outside resources. A Catholic heiress was the obvious solution, but such were scarce on the ground and any that were around might have been daunted by the prospect of life on a remote Tipperary estate with a husband whose twin passions were military history and fox-hunting.

Darby's style on the hunting field is commemorated in some lines of doggerel:

Here comes Darby Scully, well known as The Blast,
At the theory of hunting no mug,
You can hear him a mile with the hounds running fast,
Geddup! Bad luck to you, slug!¹⁵

To add to his difficulties, his sister Alice had married Bernard Cogan J.P. of Liscanny House, Co. Sligo in 1875.¹⁶ He had died in 1889, leaving her penniless with three young children, so Darby had to provide a home for another family. He always attributed the fact that he never married, in spite of his strong family feeling, to having to provide for her. He sold what remained of Silverfort in 1926 and retired to Dublin to live in the University Club in Stephen's Green.

Darby Scully died on 2 April, 1927, having attended Naas races only a few days before apparently in good health. One of the bequests in his will was a white enamel scarf pin which had belonged to his great grandfather, another Darby Scully. It went to Reginald Lough Scully "as a memento of my name and race now being wiped out in our native county by Vincent Scully and Mrs. Alice Cogan".¹⁷ Vincent Scully had recently sold Mantlehill and emigrated to Canada with his family.

FOOTNOTES

1. See Registry of Deeds, 1844-81, for a recitation of deeds regarding Silverfort.
2. Marriage notice in *Freeman's Journal*, 13.11.1768.
3. Marriage notice in *Cork Mercantile Chronicle*, 13 Feb. 1811.
4. John Scully Letters, *Irish Genealogist*, Vol. 6, pp. 230 ff.
5. Notice in *Cork Constitution*, 8 Feb. 1827. "In the prime of life, following a painful and protracted illness".
6. Marriage notice in *Limerick Evening Post*, 7 Jan. 1830.
7. Marriage notice in *Cork Constitution*, 12 Feb. 1850.
8. Notice in *Cork Constitution*, 8 August, 1888.
9. John Scully Letters, *I.G.* Vol. 6, p. 227.
10. Son of Denys Scully of Mantlehill, Co. Tipperary and Merrion Sq., Dublin, at this time M.P. for Cork.
11. Younger brother of the Vincent previously mentioned, a barrister in London.
12. James Darby Scully mentioned in the Introduction, whose extravagant style of living had caused him to move to France some time after 1816, where he remained until the death of his wife Catherine Moylan in 1827. Young Darby's father Jerome, having been brought up and educated in France, spoke with a strong French accent all his life.
13. See *The Clongowes Record* by Rev. T. Corcoran, pp 126-128.
14. See *The Clongownian* 1927, obituary of Darby Scully.
15. Quoted in a letter from the late Vincent Scully of Montreal to the writer.
16. The Cogan, or O'Cogans as they are called in the Primary Valuation, were, like the Scullys, typical Catholic middlemen, holding some 600 acres from Lady Norbury. In 1871 the coming-of-age of young Bernard had been celebrated by a party for several hundred tenants and their families on the lawn of Liscannor House, with dancing and music until dawn.
17. John Scully Letters, *I.G.* Vol. 6, p. 516.