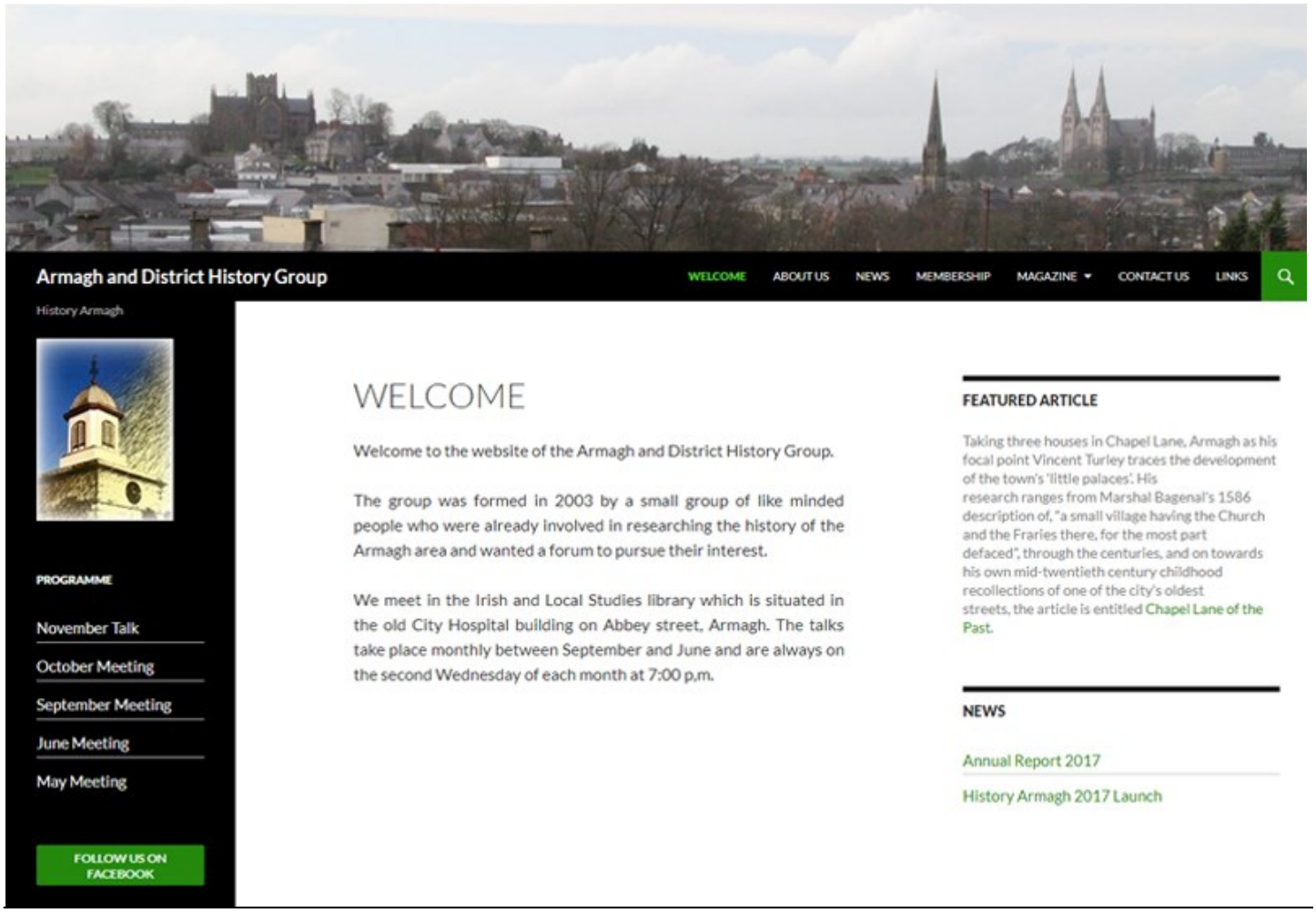
£3.50 ISSN 1743-565X (N0.14) Vol.4 No.2 December 2018

History Armagh

- The man who galvanised medical practice in Armagh
- Armagh couple meet 60s icon on Primrose Hill
- Work and play at the laundry

An Armagh History Group Publication



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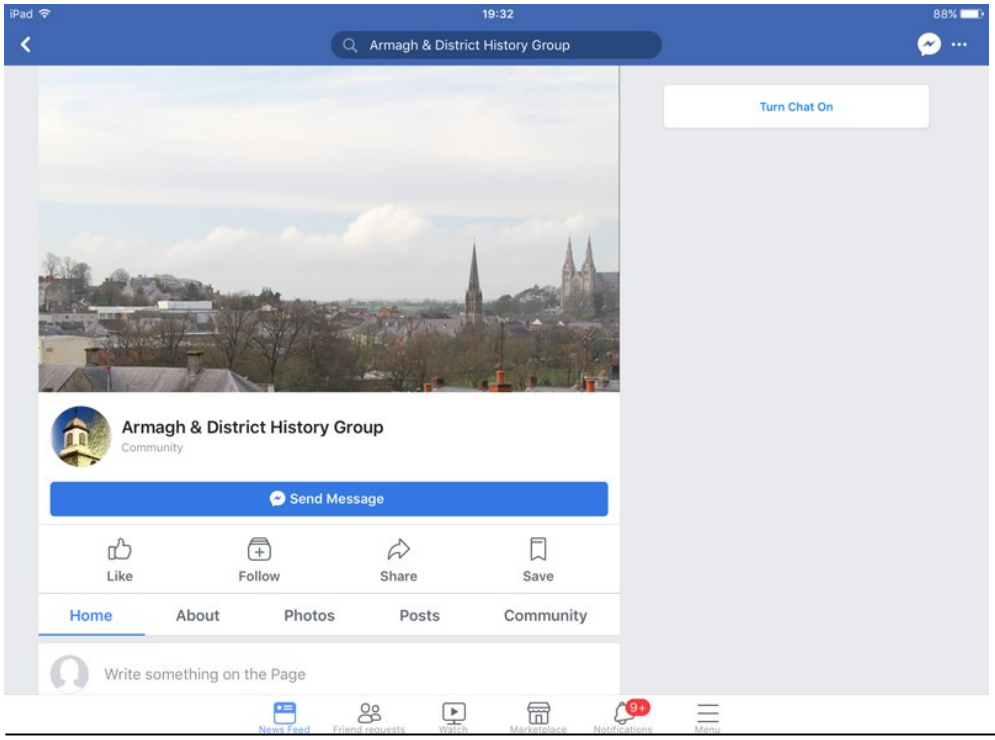
The website www.historyarmagh.org carries details of our meetings, news of local history events, and links to other useful websites and Facebook pages of interest to local historians.



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You can also keep up to date with the latest news from the History Group at our Facebook page – https://www.facebook.com/historyarmagh/

History Armagh

Vol. 4 No. 2- December 2018

This is a publication of
Armagh & District History Group

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Printers:

The Postcard Company Limited
51 Gortin Road
Omagh BT79 7HZ
Tel: 028 8224 9222
E: sales@thepostcardcompany.com

Front cover:
Upper Irish St. Police Barracks in 1950s

Back Cover:
Looking east from Navan Street to Primrose Hill, courtesy of Armagh County Museum

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A short history of the Police Service in Armagh

by Stephen Day

The focus of this article largely centres on the history of policing in Armagh City since the 1770s.

Origins

Law enforcement bodies of some kind have existed in Ireland from earliest times. Some of these bodies were made up of 'Watchmen' - guardians of the peace. In 1285, King Edward 1 of England had passed the Statute of Winchester which 'constituted two constables in every Hundred (for example, a geographic division of a County, often a Parish to prevent defaults in towns and highways.' A further Act of Parliament in 1495 enabled each Parish to appoint constables from the able inhabitants. Over the centuries, when local arrangements were not sufficient to deal with a significant threat to law and order, the local officials frequently enlisted the help of the military.

(To complicate matters, sometimes the position of Constable referred to the military officer charged with the defence of a castle or Fort. In the aftermath of the Nine Years War in Ireland (1594-1603) Captain Anthony Smith was listed as Constable of the Castle of Moyry and Francis Anneslie was listed as Constable of the Fort at Mountnorris. Both were located in south Armagh on the strategic route from Dundalk to Armagh via Newry).

At the most basic level, the term constable refers to a person of authority who has powers of arrest, under common and civil law, to protect life and property, to detect and deter crime and to maintain public order. The English policing developments gradually perculated into various parts of Ireland and by the early 1700s a basic form of civil (as distinct from military) policing was beginning to develop.

Early Records

In Armagh City the 1770 Census shows that the Town Sergeant, Richard Lutton, lived with his wife and one child in Little Meeting Street (thought to be just beside Abbey Street) a short distance down from the Cathedral.

Many of the Parishes in Armagh had their own constables, not many in number but effective in times of relative peace. One such was Petty Constable William Cowan of Tartaraghan Parish, north-west of Armagh City. In 1725 he was executing Warrants on behalf of Thomas Clarke, a Justice of the Peace (JP) for the County of Armagh.

Petty Constables would also have been assisted in carrying out their duties by the obligations of 'Hue and Cry' placed on local Parishioners and bystanders. The process of 'Hue and Cry' related to the ancient tradition of common law whereby local people could be called on to assist in the apprehension of a criminal who had been witnessed in the act of carrying out a crime. The Winchester Statute stated that anyone, either a constable or a private citizen, who witnessed a crime should make hue and cry, (basically shout out loud and clear) and that the hue and cry must be kept up against the fleeing criminal from town to town and from county to county, until the felon is apprehended and delivered to the sheriff. All able bodied men, upon hearing the shouts, were obliged to assist in the pursuit of the criminal. It was moreover provided that 'the whole hundred…. shall be answerable' for any theft or robbery – in effect a form of collective punishment, usually a fine or payment of compensation levied on the community or Parish. Those who raised a hue and cry falsely were themselves guilty of a crime and subject to punishment. By 1773 a similar 'county' police force existed in scattered baronies elsewhere in Ireland with the Baronial Constables often referred to as 'the old Barneys.' Dublin had its own city-wide force from 1778.

In Armagh the local authority was the Armagh Corporation, a Grand Jury of twenty three persons headed by a 'Sovereign' – a latter day Lord Mayor. They served in office for 12 months and at the end of this time another Jury was summoned by the new Sovereign appointed by the burgesses. Amongst their many duties was the requirement to prevent the existence of nuisances and to nominate town constables for the preservation of the public peace.

Corporation Books show that in the early 1780s Armagh had a very small establishment of police

officers and the Corporation regularly set money aside to pay them. They had the power to appoint and dismiss these men. Also the power to reward them for good work and fine them for poor performance. There are references to Petty Constables, Town Constables, Town Sergeants and the High Constable who appears to have had oversight of all law and order issues in the City. Many of these issues were routine.

15th November 1784*:*

'Every stallion that shall be rode or led for show into the Market Street or other streets of this town on a Market Day or Fair Day from the hour of nine o' clock in the morning to 6 o' clock in the evening shall be seized and kept in custody by the Town Sergeant until the owner pay a sum of ten shillings for use of the poor of this Corporation.'

On 22nd July 1795 the Sovereign and Grand Jury published a poster which was to be displayed to the public outlining a number of offences which they felt hindered the day to day good governance of Armagh – mostly commercial and public order issues – and the fines and penalties which offenders could expect to receive. (Armagh Robinson Library)

Innovations (1812 – 1836)

A fine 'new' Georgian Gaol had been commissioned by Archbishop Robinson in 1780 and was fully functioning at its site on the south end of the Mall. In 1812 a new Georgian Courthouse was built on the north end of the Mall. They now became the elegant centres of an efficient administration of justice and a focus of police activity for Armagh City, County and beyond. Reference to all three featured almost weekly in local newspapers. The opening of the Courthouse came as the Napoleonic Wars were reaching their end. It was anticipated that over the next few years the demobilisation of soldiers and an economic downturn would lead to more unemployment and an associated increase in crime. An increase in the police was a sensible precaution.

On 20th January 1812 the two Town Sergeants are named as Charles Bary and Barney Rocks and the Constables listed as Henry Kidd, John Barnes, William Irwin, Thomas Simpson, Patrick Rafferty and Robert Shillington. By the 7th July1813 the numbers appear to have doubled with the names of 26 Constables listed. However, there remained a need for a more efficient and adequate county police.

Many people date the formation of the modern Irish police to 1814 when Mr (later Sir) Robert Peel, Chief Secretary of Ireland, created the **Police Protection Force (PPF) 1814-1822.** It was mainly recruited from retired soldiers (not necessarily older men) and was the first fully uniformed police force. It was also commanded by military officers, unfortunate but perhaps understandable as there were fears that the repercussions of the recent Napoleonic Wars could threaten the political stability of Great Britain and Ireland. Peel objected in principle to the use of soldiers to enforce public peace but it was a case of 'needs must.' He spent the following seven years preparing the ground for a more civilian based organisation. Meanwhile day to day law enforcement continued. In 1820 the Town Sergeant, John Brown, was recorded as living at Callan Street and the High Constable, John Noble, was living at Church Lane, Armagh. They were responsible for supervising the local police. (Bradshaw: 1820)

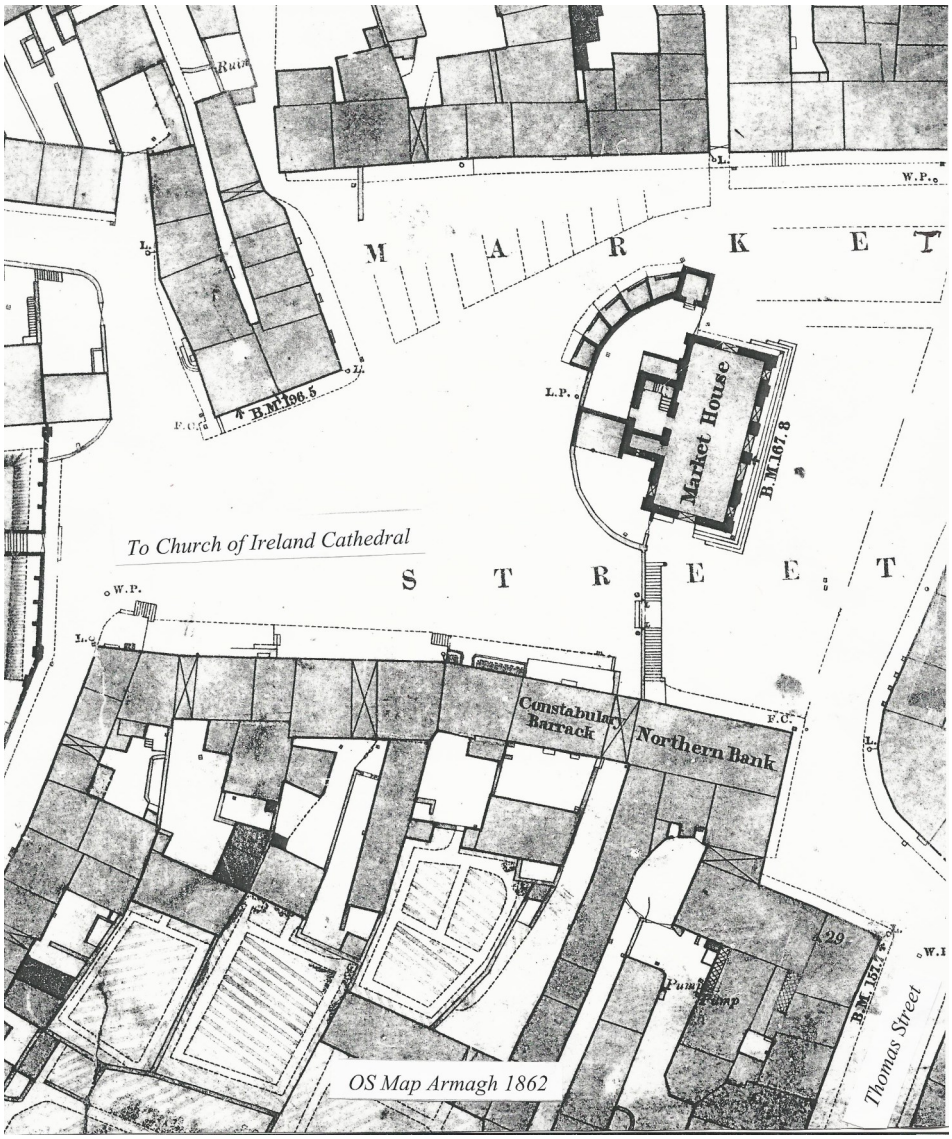
Peel's plans came to fruition two years later. By an Act of Parliament, a permanent trained police force for the whole of Ireland was created. Called the **Constabulary Police (1822-1836).** Opposition to the idea of a national police force delayed the introduction of the force in some counties and ensured that control of the force was localised. Each Barony was to have a force of sixteen constables commanded by a Chief Constable, with an Inspector General for each of the four Provinces of Ireland with County Armagh police officers forming part of the **Ulster Constabulary**. However, numbers expanded rapidly. By 1824, there were 214 Chief Constables, 1113 Constables and 3465 Sub-Constables in Ireland. Manpower expanded another 23% by 1830. During that decade there was a Police Barracks at Linen Hall Street (East), Armagh, just up from the junction with Abbey Lane. (OS: 1834) The centralisation that was resisted in 1822 was recognised as a necessity in 1836, when a single force, the **Irish Constabulary**, was established, save for the cities of Dublin, Belfast and Derry. A snapshot of the number of police officers located in some of the county towns outside of Armagh can be found in the records of the PARISHES OF COUNTY ARMAGH 1835-8. (Day & McWilliams: 1990) These Stations, or Barracks as they were most commonly called, generally consisted of a minimum of one Sergeant and three Constables. Locations included Lurgan, Tandragee, Crossmaglen, Belleek, Newtownhamilton, Keady, Middletown, Tynan, Markethill and Loughgall. (There were seven police stationed in Crossmaglen

'due to the country being in rather a disturbed state.')

Irish Constabulary: 1836 – 1867:

The force was now tightly controlled from Dublin Castle, the seat of British power in Ireland, and was under the control of one Inspector General. It became highly professional and this was enhanced when the training centre was established at Phoenix Park. Over time Phoenix Park became famous across the world for the quality of its recruits.

In Armagh on 12th July 1845 there was a serious confrontation between some members of an Orange Order parade returning from the main event at Loughgall and a crowd of local people from the predominantly nationalist Irish Street and Ogle Street areas. The flashpoint was the junction of Thomas Street, Dobbin Street and Ogle Street and a riot broke out after a man was killed. The local police backed up by the military from the nearby Army Barracks at Barrack Street managed to control the situation and undoubtedly prevented the loss of many more lives as the initial civilian gunfire, mostly into the air, had been intensive. The circumstances were complex and disputed with lots of what we might call today 'fake news' in the immediate aftermath. A speedy, full, investigation got underway and the local paper concluded that *'the sad affray was more by the accident of both sides than the design of either.'* (Armagh Guardian: July 22, 1845.) Incidents of this scale were rare in the city but sometimes did reoccur during times of political tension including our recent history.



Location of early Victorian Police HQ Market Street

Around this time a small Police Barracks was established on a temporary site at Irish Street (East) (73954970). They later transferred from these premises to nearby new premises at Irish Street (East) (73955035). A large Constabulary Barracks was established at Market Street in the same decade with County Inspector Louis Anderson in charge. It was located just adjacent to the Northern Bank and opposite the Market House. It was a prestigious location and had offices, a garden and a back courtyard with access to horses and coaches via an archway which still remains.

Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC): 1867 – 1922:

In 1867 Queen Victoria gave the force the 'Royal' prefix together with a new harp and crown badge for its part in suppressing the Fenian Uprising of that year. The force then became known as the Royal Irish Constabulary, the first royal police force and a model for a number of police forces throughout the world. Trainee officers were instructed in drill, rifle training, police duties, physical training, arithmetic, geography, English and first aid. Officers in rural areas had to learn how to use a fire pump to fight fires because there were no 'professional' firefighters outside large towns like Armagh.

For most of its existence the RIC was a community based police service performing similar sorts of everyday duties as their colleagues in Great Britain. However, whilst the police in Great Britain were generally not armed the RIC routinely carried firearms due to the

Escort to HM Judge of Assizes
Photograph taken at the Mall, Armagh at the turn of the century showing RIC troopers providing a mounted escort to the Judge's coach

ongoing small but significant threat of attack from extreme political activists – mostly militant republicans. Such attacks did not become a major threat until the years 1916 to 1922 and particularly the very violent period 1919-1922.

The RIC Barracks at 5 Russell Street, Armagh, built in 1883, and was one of the very few purpose designed barracks erected for the RIC. (Today the façade of the barracks and the letters RIC can still be seen, largely unchanged, although it is now used as Sheltered Accommodation.) It was the main police barracks in Armagh well into the 20th century. *(For a time in the late 19th/early 20th century there was also a small Barracks at 55 Ogle Street which was replaced by a medium sized one in Upper Irish Street (West).*

In 1888 the Head Constable in Armagh was David Magee. (The specialist Crimes Department (Ulster) Headquarters was located at College Street, Armagh with senior officers being Inspector Cullen, District Inspectors Faussett and Reeves and the Head Constable recorded as R. B. Hatch). The County Inspector, George H.W. Dobbin was resident at Woodford House, Newry Road, Armagh. A snapshot of Barracks elsewhere in the county are as follows: - Flurrybridge, Forkhill, Crossmaglen, Camlough, Silverbridge, Belleek, Cullyhanna, Newtownhamilton, Carnagh, Keady, Middletown, Mountnorris, Markethill, Richhill, Tandragee, Poyntzpass, Portadown (3), Lurgan (4), Annaghmore, The Birches and Blackwater. (Bassett: 1888)

The Armagh Railway Disaster June 12th 1889

The Armagh Railway Disaster was the worst railway disaster in Ireland resulting in 88 deaths and approximately 400 injured. It occurred when the runaway carriages of a Sunday school excursion train collided with an oncoming engine at the Kilcluney embankment. This embankment can still be seen on the right of the main Armagh to Portadown road, just outside the city limits. It is also probably the worst rail disaster that the RIC had to deal with anywhere on the island. It fell to the local police assisted by the military from Gough Barracks, to create some order from the chaos. All the train operators, with the exception of one who was in hospital, were arrested by District Inspector Bones. At 6pm in the dayroom of the Russell Street RIC Barracks, the Resident Magistrate, Mr Townsend, charged all four with causing death by negligence and misbehaviour.

Early 20th Century

This was a turbulent time for policing in Ireland both north and south of the island. The Home Rule crisis came to a head just prior to the First World War when those against, the Ulster Volunteer Force, and those for, the Irish National Volunteers, began to demonstrate and drill with real weapons. Tensions were high and the threat of civil war real, but the police managed to contain the situation. Certainly this was the case in Armagh and ironically there was a huge sigh of relief when confrontation at home was suspended in the summer of 1914 due to the beginning of major war on the continent.

The 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin did not manifest itself in any significant violence in Armagh and even the commencement of the Irish War of Independence in 1919 did not spread from the south to Armagh County and City until the summer of 1920. On 6th June that year Sergeant Timothy Holland, 37 years, married with 5 children was shot, along with a colleague, by 5 armed men at a public gathering in Cullyhanna. He died of his wounds three days later. On 14th January 1921 the violence finally reached Armagh City when Sergeant John Kemp, stationed at Russell Street Barracks, Armagh, was injured by an IRA bomb thrown at him in Market Street opposite the Technical School. An innocent young man named Francis Campbell, an insurance agent, was also seriously injured. It appears that he was on his way home from

a Gaelic League Language class. Sergeant Kemp died of his injuries a few days later. The only police officer to be killed in Armagh City during the troubled period 1916 – 1925. By now reprisal and counter reprisals were breaking out elsewhere in the county, particularly in the South Armagh/ Newry areas, as tensions relating to impending Partition of the Six Counties came to a head. On 22nd June 1921 George V formally opened the Northern Ireland Parliament. In the following months tensions led to a pro Treaty and anti-Treaty split between Collins and De Valera in January 1922. On 14th January 1922 Provisional Government under Collins was established in Dublin for the 26 Counties.

Royal Ulster Constabulary: (RUC) 1922 – 2001:

Following the Irish War of Independence (1919 -1921) and the partition of the island the Royal Ulster Constabulary replaced the RIC (1st June 1922) in what was now known as Northern Ireland. In the months before it was formed the unsettled situation on the island led to further violence in the North and the newly formed Ulster Special Constabulary (1920), who were acting in support of the RIC/ RUC suffered significant casualties. In South Armagh and Newry alone 12 men were killed by the IRA. The worst incident in the county was the Altnaveigh massacre in the early hours of 17th June 1922 *when the IRA burned four homes occupied by Presbyterians in Altanaveigh and Lisdrumliska just south-west of Newry. Six of their occupants were shot dead in the roadway as the families were lined up.* (Kennedy: 1988) There was widespread condemnation of the atrocity which turned out to be the high water mark as regards violence in County Armagh. Thereafter there was a steady decline assisted by events in the 26 counties. On 28th June 1922 Civil War in the South began with the attack on the Four Courts in Dublin. On 6th December the Irish Free State came into existence and firm action against the anti-Treaty forces became increasingly robust. On 24th May 1923 De Valera ordered his followers to end the Civil War. Public feeling North and South was unanimously in favour of returning to more peaceful times.

All of this enabled the RUC to establish its authority in Armagh and across the six counties. Like the RIC and the IC before it, the RUC was a community based police service performing similar sorts of everyday duties as their colleagues in Great Britain. In Armagh City and throughout the county this meant living amongst the communities they policed, taking part in local activities and their children going to local schools. The two Barracks remained located at Irish Street and Russell Street. Again, unfortunately, like their predecessors in Ireland and unlike their colleagues in Great Britain, the police had to carry firearms on duty. These were mostly revolvers and were necessary due to the ongoing small but significant threat of attack from extreme political activists – mostly militant republicans. On 3rd December 1925 the Boundary Commission had been terminated and the existing Border confirmed. The ongoing threat to the survival of Northern Ireland manifested itself by isolated incidents of sporadic violence in the late 1930s and in the IRA 'Border Campaign' of the 1950s/ early 1960s.

The start of the Border campaign was unofficially marked in 1954 by an IRA raid on the armoury at Gough Barracks, the home of the Royal Irish Fusiliers. The IRA made their formal announcement of the beginning of hostilities in November 1956. The campaign had little support from the nationalist community and was relatively limited in its effect. During this period the city Barracks/Police Stations remained at Russell Street and Upper Irish Street despite the latter being damaged in a bomb attack on 29th September 1957. *(The legendary Jimmy Nethercott was stationed at Irish Street in the 1950s and is well remembered in the west of the city as a fine example of a community police man.) (The 1957 blast blew out the windows on the south side of the Church of Ireland Cathedral and damaged houses on Vicars' Hill.)* It was only in the 1960s, after the conclusion of the campaign in 1962, that these two Barracks were replaced by a brand new, open plan, Police Station. This was built at the Newry Road junction over what used to be the main entrance and driveway to the Palace. For most of the remainder of the decade County Armagh and the rest of Northern Ireland enjoyed relative peace and quiet.

(An RUC women's section had been established in 1943 to carry out a limited range of duties, mainly concerned with women and children. The role of female officers and their numbers expanded greatly after the 1970s when they became more visible on the streets of Armagh. Full equality was achieved in 1994 with the right to carry firearms).

In 1968/69 demands for more civil rights led to civil protest in the streets. Soon disturbances broke out with large demonstrations and counter demonstrations in many major towns and cities including Armagh, Dungannon and Newry. Isolated violent incidents soon

escalated into serious civil conflict. The police were often caught in the middle attempting to maintain the peace and to protect life and property. With a small strength of just over 3,000 officers they had limited material and little training to deal with this level of public unrest. Worse still, overall decision making was compromised by political control and finally the army was called in to help restore order. A police enquiry followed which radically reformed the RUC to bring it more into line with other UK forces. The most important changes were the removal of political control over the police by the setting up of the Police Authority for Northern Ireland and the transfer of all military type duties to the army. The USC was disbanded and replaced by a newly recruited RUC Reserve. Another important change was the disarming of the RUC, a situation that had to be reversed after a year due to the escalating terrorist threat. (Over 300 officers died violent deaths before relative peace returned).

There was severe violence in the early 1970s with 1972 resulting in the most deaths (496) of any year during the entire thirty years of the recent 'Troubles.' Ongoing intermittent violence by both Republican and Loyalist para militaries saw the RUC develop in both size (to a maximum strength of 13,500) and expertise to meet the challenge. On 13th August 1973 the first police officer to be killed in Armagh City was William John McElveen, a Part Time Reservist who was shot dead at Cathedral Road whilst off duty. A further twelve were to be killed in and around the city, both on and off duty, over the next 25 years and many more were injured. Retired Full-Time Reserve Constable Cyril Stewart was the last, shot dead whilst shopping with his wife in the car park of Safeway Supermarket, Ogle Street on 27th March 1996. (Many more police officers were killed and injured elsewhere in County Armagh during this tragic and turbulent period in local history). The mid 1970's saw the RUC in Armagh take over control of Gough Barracks from the military who in turn moved to a new Barracks at Drumadd on the Hamiltonsbawn Road. This was part of the policy of 'police primacy' which became firmly established by the end of that decade. Responsibility for security now lay again with the police in the first instance with army support available only when necessary. Gough became the centre of a wide range of support facilities for the police in the south east of Northern Ireland.

Throughout the 'Troubles' the police were required to carry out ordinary duties whilst taking ever more sophisticated measures to protect against a wide range of possible terrorist attacks. This meant wearing body armour, carrying rifles and automatic weapons, using armoured patrol vehicles and the building of elaborate defences around police stations. At the height of the 'Troubles' the two police bases in Armagh City were augmented by the following Stations located in the county - Tynan, Middletown, Keady, Newtownhamilton, Crossmaglen, Forkhill, Bessbrook, Newry, Markethill, Poynzpass, Tandragee, Portadown, Craigavon, Lurgan, The Birches and Loughgall. These, in turn, could rely on a large number of military bases which had been established in the early 1970s and 80s. Political violence was being contained but there was political stalemate amongst the politicians. The peace process, which began in earnest in the early 1990s, resulted in a gradual reduction of these bases and a return to a more normalised policing profile. In November 1999 the George Cross (the highest civilian gallantry medal) was awarded collectively to the RUC by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, *'to honour the courage and dedication of the officers of the RUC and their families who have shared their hardships.'*

It was generally recognised that significant changes were required to ensure that the new political arrangements at Stormont were supported by a police service fully equipped to meet the requirements of the 21st century. As part of the provisions of the Police (NI) Act 2000 and to speed the progress towards achieving more normal civilianised policing the RUC GC was renamed the Police Service of Northern Ireland (incorporating the Royal Ulster Constabulary). For practical and operational purposes it was soon commonly referred to simply as the PSNI. The name change took effect on 4th November 2001.

Ulster Special Constabulary: 1920 – 1970:

The USC was essentially a police reserve which was formed to reinforce the RIC in the north east of Ireland at the height of the IRAs campaign to achieve independence for the entire island. The 26 counties achieved semi autonomy in the form of the Irish Free State but the 6 counties in the north east remained in the United Kingdom. Initially there were three categories of Special Constable – the 'A' Specials, who were full-time,) the 'B' Specials, who were part-time and the 'C' Specials who performed an additional support role. In the early 1920s, as peace was restored, the 'A' Specials were mostly merged into the RUC and

the 'C' Specials disbanded. The 'B' Specials were retained as a part-time reserve force that could be mobilised in the event of renewed internal or external threat to the Government.

They were mobilised during the Second World War (1939-1945) and worked closely with the newly created Ulster Home Guard to protect installations and secure the Border. The USC was again mobilised during the IRA Border Campaign (1956 - 1962) and, briefly, in the late 1960s to again provide back up for the RUC in protecting installations and providing additional patrols, especially in remote rural areas. Often this was done by a Platoon, a group of Special Constables under the command of a Sergeant but, in many cases, not accompanied by a member of the RUC.

They were not trained in, and were never intended for use in, crowd control duties but, in some instances, they were called on to do so in 1969 due to the enormous pressure placed on the RUC by rapidly escalating crowd disturbances in some urban areas including Armagh. They were disbanded in 1970 and replaced by (a) the Ulster Defence Regiment (primarily tasked with performing a military role to protect against increasing terrorist incidents under the command of the military) and by (b) the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve under the command of the Chief Constable.

Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve: 1970 – 2001:

The RUCR consisted of Part-Time and Full-Time constables whose primary duties were to be guarding police stations and performing back-up to the regular members of the RUC in other functions. Originally intended not to be deployed in 'front-line' duties, particularly in 'difficult' areas and that when on outdoor duties always to be accompanied by a member of the RUC, they formed part of the ordinary RUC station personnel. The RUCR was formed at a time when political violence was escalating sharply (1972 was the most violent year in the history of the recent 'Troubles') and the security situation meant that they experienced the same risks and were increasingly required to perform many of the same duties as their regular RUC colleagues. With the name change to PSNI in 2001 the RUCR continued for a further ten years as the PSNI Reserve and assisted as the new policing arrangements bedded in.

Police Service Northern Ireland: 2001 – Present:

Today the new modernised police service for the 21st century is supported by the main unionist, nationalist and republican political parties. The main police station in Armagh remains at Newry Road and Gough Barracks continues to provide support services to the wider organisation with a new state of the art call centre being formally opened in 2013.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the staff at Armagh County Museum, Armagh Robinson Library and Armagh Irish & Local Studies Library for their assistance. Also a number of retired and serving police and local residents for sharing their knowledge and recollections.

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Alexander Lane:

the man who galvanised medical practice in Armagh

by Richard Burns

For those of you who enjoyed Sean Bean in the television series “The Frankenstein Chronicles”, some of which was filmed in Armagh, it may interest you to know that one local doctor was practising some of the techniques depicted in the series in the early years of Victoria’s reign. Alexander Lane was a surgeon in the Royal Navy and lived an adventurous life, he kept a journal of his time at sea and of life ashore. Following his retirement from the Navy he wrote papers on various medical matters and was published regularly in the 1860s in the Dublin Medical Press. On 8th May 1863 an advertisement appeared in the Armagh Guardian inviting subscriptions for "My Own Cruize (sic)" a book about Alexander's life in the Navy and the people he met in the course of his naval career. Whether there were sufficient subscriptions to warrant publication I don't know, however the notes that he made for the book did survive and are in the possession of Earle Street living in Cape Cod, who I met in 2009.

Alexander Lane

Alexander lived for a time in Armagh, probably on Scotch Street where he met his future wife Dorothea Stanley. Dorothea’s parents did not approve of a proposed marriage as the role of ship’s surgeon meant Alexander was at sea for months if not years at a time. In October 1834 they eloped to Glasgow, where they married on 30th October 1834, they then returned to Ireland and were married again in Newtown Limavady on 1st November 1834 where many of the Lane family lived.

Dorothea Lane

They made their home there for a while, before moving to Aughnacloy and eventually to Abbey Street, Armagh. In the intervening years Alexander gained his medical qualifications obtaining an M.D. from the University in Glasgow in 1836. In 1838 he was off to sea again aboard the H.M.S. Herald [REF 1], their voyage was along the coast of South America to Australia to collect the Governor of New South Wales and bring him to New Zealand for the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. During his time in New Zealand Hobson suffered a stroke (described by Dr Lane as 'paralysis hemiplegia'), from which he recovered although this necessitated a transfer of himself and Alexander from the Herald to HMS Buffalo. The Buffalo was later shipwrecked in heavy weather in Mercury Bay with the loss of two of the crew. The surviving crew were returned to Spithead in March 1841. Alexander returned to Armagh and spent the next five years there.

The following advert appeared in the Armagh Guardian on 8th July 1845:

MEDICAL GALVANISM

The high position in which MEDICAL GALVANISM now stands in the various parts of Europe where due attention has been paid to its proper application as a remedial agent in the cure of disease, has induced DOCTOR LANE to procure a GALVANIC apparatus of a superior description at a very considerable expense, for the purpose of extending its benefits to those whose cases come under its peculiar and immediate influence; its power can be so regulated, that any required strength can be administered from infancy to old age, and the sensation produced is anything but disagreeable. Affections that have foiled the united talent of the civilised Medical world, have yielded to its extraordinary power, yet there is nothing mysterious about it; it supplies the place of tonic medicines, gives to the nervous system that vigorous and healthy tone which they have failed to do, and enables it to resist the insidious diseases to which it was liable, by giving to each part that sufficient degree of strength which enables it to do its appointed duty

efficiently. In consumption, where ***Medicine has utterly failed,*** *where* ***change of climate has proved a mere delusion****, and where no hope from either can possibly be expected, nor conscientiously given, Galvanism, when combined with DOCTOR LANES'S peculiar mode of treatment, more particularly in incipient cases where the structure of the lungs has not been vitally destroyed will convey the most sanguine hopes. Paralysis, Asthma, Indigestion, Tic Douloureux, Headache, Costiveness, Deafness, Rheumatism, and many other complaints, come under its immediate influence.*

Its power may be known from the following fact: - Divide the nerves which supply the stomach and digestion will cease – apply the Galvanic fluid to the lower part of the divided nerves, and digestion will be resumed as if the nerves had not been divided at all; thus proving the Galvanic and nervous fluid almost one and the same.

Numerous diseases come not under the Galvanic influence, and DOCTOR LANE will give his decided opinion respecting them, gratis. Hours of attendance, from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. Time of operation, half an hour each patient daily; fee, one guinea each, per week – medicine supplied gratis to all his Patients, except those labouring under Gout. Children vaccinated gratis every Wednesday morning from 8 till 9 o'clock. Advice and Galvanism gratis to the poor.

A nurse to attend the Ladies, who are solicited to a personal inspection.

40, Abbey-street, Armagh,
8th July, 1845

This advert was followed on 30th December 1845 with the following letter to the editor of the Armagh Guardian:

To the editor of the Armagh Guardian

Sir - My attention has been drawn to an article that appeared in the Westmeath Guardian of the 2nd July last from the pen of Joseph Ferguson Esq. M.D., Surgeon to the Westmeath Infirmary on the above subject. It is headed 'Extraordinary affects of Voltaic Electricity" It appears that a man named Rock had thrown himself into the canal, and, when taken out, was supposed to be dead; the usual means of restoring animation in such cases having failed, the stomach-pump was introduced, which removed upwards of a gallon of water strongly impregnated with spirits. The galvanic battery was now put into active operation, and its conductors were applied directly to the diaphragm, an insertion having been made below the seventh rib for the purpose of exposing this muscle. The effect was instantaneous - the dead man was restored to life

The above is not a solitary case. The York Courant gives the case of a woman who was to all appearance dead, and upon whom the usual means of restoring animation having been practised for three hours without effect, life then appearing extinct; a galvanic battery was procured, promptly applied, and life restored in a few minutes.

To many those things will appear incredible; but facts are stubborn things. Doctor Ure in a Chemical Dictionary published by him so far back as 1823, states, in reference to the experiments made upon the body of the murderer, Clydesdale, that had galvanism in the first instance been applied before the opening of the vertebral column, as there had not been dislocation of the neck, he would have been restored to life - an event, he says however little desirable in a murderer, would have been pardonable in one instance as highly useful to science. It is known (he continues) that cases of death-like lethargy, or suspended animation, have occurred where life has returned after longer interruption than in Clydesdale's case, when death supervenes from noxious gases, etc., etc. He thinks galvanism will restore life; and when judiciously used, fair hopes may be a form of deriving extensive benefit from it and raising this wonderful agent to its expected rank among the ministers of health and life to man.

When we've thus seen the dead restored to life through the instrumentality of Galvanism, what may we not expect from it, in restoring and health and strength the sickly and debilitated constitution, nearly worn out by disease and physic. By giving a strong and healthy tone to the exhausted nervous system, so as to enable it to perform its functions properly? No medical man should be without one: it should be found in all public hospitals, infirmaries, dispensaries and poor-houses. Many a valuable life has been lost, and hundreds have been carried to an early grave, whose existence might have been prolonged to an indefinite period under the proper use of Galvanism.

I remain sir, your obedient servant, Alexander Lane M.D., R.N.

PS - the Galvanic Battery I have I can put into active operation in less than a minute.

The newspaper also included a copy of the article mentioned above from the York Courant.

Astonishing recovery of animation by galvanism

On Monday se'enight, a person residing at Ferrybridge, a potter by trade came home intoxicated, and abused and ill-treated his wife, as he had done on many former

occasions. Being a nervous person, she could not endure this treatment, and resolved to leave him, and ran out in the state of nudity. Not having returned at the expiration of a long time, the neighbours went in search of her. After examining all probable houses and places where she was thought to be, without success. It was deemed proper to drag the canal, some thinking that she might have jumped in there; but in the meantime, one of the party found her behind a building to all appearance dead from starvation. She was carried into the house, and Mr. P Atkinson, surgeon, was sent for her, who used and administered every proper means to restore her, but to no avail, life appearing extinct. After nearly 3 hours' exertions in chafing the body, applying warm flannels et cetera Mr A. sent for Mr Charter (late of Kirbymoorside), schoolmaster, requesting him to bring his powerful galvanic Bachoffner's machine which he had just constructed. This was very soon put in readiness, with one of Daniel's sustaining batteries, and taken to the patient's house who still remained inanimate. The machine was promptly applied and in eight or ten seconds signs of life were apparent. After passing two shocks through the body from the right to the left breast, the lungs began to heave, the heart and pulse to beat, and to the astonishment and gratification of a number of witnesses, she exclaimed, "What are you doing? Where am I?" Another slight shock was given, when she was enabled to sit upright; sickness followed, and animation was completely restored. She is now fast recovering.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the letter is the sentence "No medical man should be without one: it should be found in all public hospitals, infirmaries, dispensaries and poor-houses." It took over 150 years for the defibrillator to be widely distributed.

The interest in the use of electricity to resuscitate patients has had a number of different phases over the years. It first came to public attention in England in 1774 [REF 2], when the Royal Humane Society was established in London (as the Society for the Recovery of Persons Apparently Drowned) to promote the use of artificial respiration and to reward those who saved lives. It was soon realised electricity might be used to revive humans as well as animals, and the first recorded case was described in the Royal Humane Society's Reports. A 3 year-old girl, Sophie Greenhill, was pronounced dead after a fall, but a Mr Squires tried the effects of electricity. Twenty minutes elapsed before he could apply the shock, which he gave to various parts of the body in vain; but, upon transmitting a few shocks through the thorax, he perceived a small pulsation; in a few minutes the child began to breathe. Around the same time similar research was being carried out on the continent in France and Holland working with animals.

In 1790 a Northampton physician, James Curry published a guide on resuscitation for the public as well as physicians. Curry's "Observations on Apparent Death" is one of the first texts to attempt to distinguish between real and apparent death, and to outline in detail some resuscitation procedures. Curry describes how electricity might be used, once all other methods have been tried.

When the several measures recommended above, have been steadily pursued for an hour or more, without any appearance of returning life, Electricity should be tried; experience having shewn it to be one of the most powerful stimuli yet known, and capable of exciting contraction in the heart and other muscles of the body, after every other stimulus has ceased to produce the least effect.

In 1816, Mary Shelley, whose own mother, Mary Wollstonecraft who had attempted suicide on a number of occasions, was pulled from the Thames after attempting to drown herself. The book she subsequently wrote, Frankenstein, was undoubtedly influenced by the contemporary debates about electricity, resuscitation and the meaning of 'apparent death' and life.

It wasn't until the end of the 19th century that scientists began to understand the physiology of the heart and why electricity can sometimes resuscitate the 'apparently dead'. In 1874, Edmé Vulpian (1826–1887) first used the term 'fibrillation' to describe rapid, irregular contractions of the muscle fibres of the heart.

These techniques of resuscitation were more or less forgotten until the 1930s, when a professor of electrical engineering at John Hopkins University, William B. Kouwenhoven (1886–1975), began the studies which led to the development of the modern defibrillator.

The next step forward came in Northern Ireland where Frank Pantridge [REF 3], a cardiac consultant to the Royal Victoria

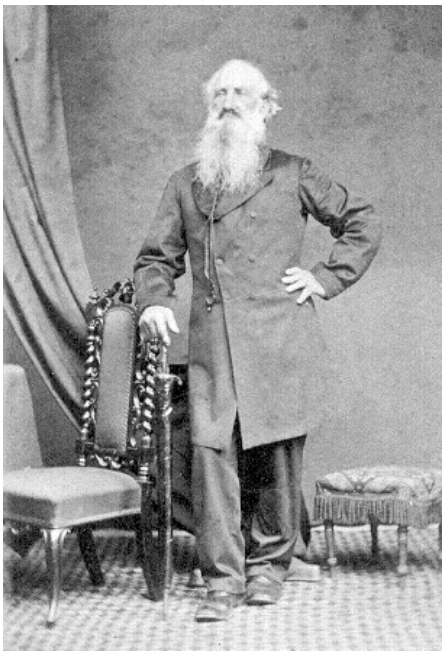
Hospital, Belfast and professor at Queen's University, established a specialist cardiology unit which introduced the modern system of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) for the early treatment of cardiac arrest. Further study led Frank Pantridge to the realisation that many deaths resulted from ventricular fibrillation which needed to be treated before the patient was admitted to hospital. This led to his introduction of the mobile coronary care unit (MCCU), an ambulance with specialist equipment and staff to provide pre-hospital care.

Pantridge went on to develop the portable defibrillator, and in 1965 installed his first version in a Belfast ambulance. It weighed 70kg and operated from car batteries, but by 1968 he had designed an instrument weighing only 3kg, incorporating a miniature capacitor manufactured for NASA.

His work was backed up by clinical investigations and epidemiological studies in scientific papers, including an influential 1967 article in The Lancet. With these developments, the Belfast treatment system, often known as the "Pantridge Plan", became adopted throughout the world by emergency medical services. The portable defibrillator became recognised as a key tool in first aid, and Pantridge's refinement of the automated external defibrillator (AED) allowed it to be used safely by members of the public. However, it still took until 1990 for all front-line ambulances in the UK to be fitted with defibrillators.

His medical practice must not have been enough to keep Alexander in Armagh, in 1846 following the death of Dorothea's father, John Stanley, the family moved to Rostrevor. Alexander returned to sea in October 1846 aboard H.M.S. Penelope but returned invalided out of the Navy on H.M.S. Cygnet in April 1847.

This turned out not to be the last time Alexander was at sea, in 1849 Alexander and the family (with the exception of the two eldest boys who had commenced their employment), sailed from Glasgow to Halifax to start a new life in Nova Scotia. In the spring of 1850 they made the 2 day voyage the following year to Mahone Bay and with part of Dorothea's inheritance they purchased a 30 acre property there, which they named "Lanesborough Villa".



Alexander Lane in old age

In 1866 a financial crisis, referred to by the family as the "Fish affair", occurred and to escape his creditors Alexander left in some haste, never to return, while the rest of the family remained. He made his home initially in Bishop's Castle, Shropshire, England. Here his son, John William, had developed a flourishing medical practice. It lay near the Welsh border in a farming community, with a noted cattle market, and was about thirty miles southwest of Shrewsbury. Some of the elder children remained in Nova Scotia and made their lives there, while the younger children and Dorothea were all back in England by September 1868. There were several moves in England in the following years but in the late autumn of 1875 the Lanes took up residence in Douglas, Isle of Man.

Alexander died there on 5 May 1877, while Dorothea survived her husband by twenty years, dying in Douglas in August, 1897.

Dorothea Lane in old age

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1. Naval Appointments
London Evening Standard,
2nd June 1838 p3, c3.

2. https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/news/first-defibrillator-work-james-curry

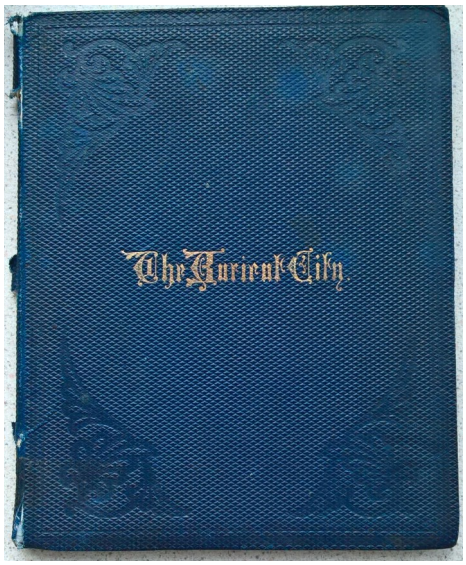
3. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Pantridge

'A triumph of photographic art'

by Catherine Gartland

A Record of the City of Armagh

The *Ulster Gazette* of 24 November 1860 announced that Mr Talbot, an 'artist and photographer', had set up a studio at his house on Vicars' Hill. A second advertisement further informed the Gazette's readers that Talbot was currently displaying in his studio a number of pictures of the various public buildings in Armagh. These photographs were intended as illustrations in a forthcoming book entitled *A Record of the City of Armagh*.



A record of the city of Armagh by E. Rogers (1861), illustrated first edition held at the Irish and Local Studies Library, Armagh.

This short work was published in Armagh the following year. It was written by Edward Rogers, then Deputy Librarian of Armagh Public Library (now known as the Robinson Library) and it is notable as a very early example of a book illustrated with photographs, possibly the earliest of its kind in Ireland.

A Dublin artist

Abraham Talbot had probably only been in Armagh a few months when the ads appeared in the paper. He was originally from Dublin and is probably the same Abraham Talbot who was a student at the Drawing Schools of the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in 1838. [1]

The purpose of the RDS, or 'Dublin Society for improving Husbandry, Manufactures and other useful Arts' as it was called when it was founded in 1731, was to further the economic development of the country and aid the creation of employment in Ireland. The Drawing Schools were not a fine arts academy. Tuition was free and the majority of pupils were young artisans, who were being trained to work in the decorative arts. Boys had to be under 14 to be admitted to the school. At one point, instruction would have included mechanical and pattern drawing. At the time when Talbot was attending, there were four schools teaching Landscape and Ornament, Figure Drawing, Modelling and Architecture. Figure drawing was an important skill, as portrait painting was the main source of income for professional artists. It was also useful for those who would find employment in engraving for the publishing trade. Talbot attended the Figure class in 1838 and was admitted to the Landscape & Ornament and Modelling classes the following year. Students presented their work at an exhibition when they had completed their classes and the best pupils were awarded prizes. Talbot must not have been an outstanding student, as he never won any prize, nor is he mentioned for any of his work in the Society's reports.[2]

The beginnings of photography

Talbot was attending the RDS schools when the new invention of photography reached Ireland. Louis Daguerre and Nicéphore Niépce had announced their first conclusive experiments in France in January 1839 and William Henry Fox Talbot presented his own invention of paper photography - the calotype - in England soon after. In September 1839, Francis Beatty, an Irish engraver, also claimed in the *Belfast Newsletter* that he had successfully completed similar experiments.[3] There was a lot of interest in photography among the educated classes in Ireland and equipment was purchased by the Natural Philosophy Committee of the RDS the following year. Instruction in Daguerre's process, the daguerreotype, also began at the Dublin Mechanical Institute in 1840. It is possible that Abraham Talbot took an interest, and even got trained around that time.

Early on, the daguerreotype was the preferred process for taking portraits, as it produced a more detailed image than early paper photography. The picture was captured onto light sensitive silver plates and then fixed. The image created was a reversed positive picture on the original plate, which then had to be enclosed in a frame for preservation. It was a single high quality picture, which could not be replicated other than by re-photographing the original, although from the late 1840s, copies were being produced by lithography or engraving. Printed

portraits of important personages and celebrities copied from photographs could be purchased from book and print sellers. Likenesses of 'The Liberator' Daniel O'Connell, for instance - copied from a daguerreotype taken during his detention in 1844 - were popular in Ireland and England in the years following his death in 1847.

The emergence of photography and the opening of portrait studios had a serious impact on professional artists, who relied on commissions of portraits to make a living, and many had to find alternative employment. Photography also presented new opportunities, though, and it became one of the industries which employed artists. Photographs were sometimes taken in front of painted backgrounds; they were touched up; and studios needed colourists, who made the black and white pictures appear more realistic by adding tints. Some painters retrained as professional photographers, having quickly realised that photography would allow them to reach a new public, who previously could not have afforded painted portraits.

Itinerant photographer

Talbot got married in Donnybrook, Dublin in 1850 and it looks as if he was based there for a few years, as his oldest children were all born in County Dublin.[4] There is no record of his involvement in photography until 1857, when the papers mention him in relation to a court case. According to The *Freeman's Journal,* Talbot, an 'artist photographer' then residing in Parsonstown (now known as Birr, County Offaly), was suing Foster, lithographers, of Crow Street, Dublin for breach of contract:

'Mr John Eyre, of Eyrecourt Castle, County Galway, was killed out hunting in February last. Mr Eyre was the proprietor of the hounds that hunted in his neighbourhood, and was highly esteemed by his friends. The plaintiff took a photographic copy of a picture of the deceased, which hung in Eyrecourt Castle. He procured a list of subscribers for a lithographic portrait of Mr Eyre, which he proposed to furnish at one guinea each copy, the subscribers to be supplied in about a month.'

The lithographer, Talbot claimed, was too slow to provide the copies and the subscribers refused to pay for their order. The defendant had a different story and blamed the poor quality of the photographs supplied by Talbot and the lack of a supplementary sketch.[5]

Taking photographs of a painting was not an entirely new idea. In the 1850s, this was a thriving business. Photographs of art works would have been on display in a photographic studio or exhibition, and then prints or engravings would have been offered for sale. This put fine art within the reach of the more popular classes. Talbot was quite enterprising in that he had combined the idea with the portrait business. Unfortunately, it seems that his business sense was not quite matched by his photographic ability in this case.

It looks like Talbot was travelling quite a bit but it was not unusual for professional photographers to travel in order to procure some business, and many were semi-itinerant. Photography was an increasingly competitive business. The1850s marked the start of a period of expansion for commercial photography. The daguerreotype was quickly being supplanted by paper photography, which had been greatly improved by a new invention: the collodion wet plate process (1851). A negative image was captured onto a glass plate coated in a light sensitive chemical. The plate had to be developed immediately before drying out. The negative was then transferred by direct contact with the paper. Photographers generally used albumen paper (coated with a mixture of egg white and chemicals). Unlike the daguerreotype, this allowed the production of multiple copies and the quality was much better than that of earlier paper photographs, good enough for portrait photography. Exposure time was also shorter. Whereas clients had to sit for several minutes to get a daguerreotype taken, now it was a matter of seconds. Portrait photography was becoming more convenient as well as slightly more affordable and studios multiplied. It was still for the privileged few, though: in the 1850s, a paper portrait would still have cost around £2, twice the weekly wages of a working man.[6] Even in Dublin, Talbot would have struggled to secure enough wealthy clients to survive.

This may explain the choice of Parsonstown as his next destination after Galway. Birr was the location of the seat of the Earl of Rosse. William Parsons, the third Earl, was a notable amateur photographer, who was also an acquaintance of English pioneer of photography Fox Talbot (probably no family connection of Abraham Talbot's). The Earl's wife Mary was an even more accomplished photographer than her husband: she had been elected a member of the Dublin Photographic Society in 1856 and would go on to win a silver medal from the Photographic Society of Ireland for her work in the 1860s. Whether Abraham

Talbot knew the Rosses personally or was hoping to benefit from their patronage or the presence of their entourage, we do not know.

He must have led quite a nomadic existence since, before reaching Armagh in 1860, he had also spent time in Clonmel and Cashel, Co.Tipperary.[7]

Armagh's 'model choir'

The ecclesiastical city of Armagh, also a garrison town and home to a county gaol and various other institutions, would have been a very attractive destination for a commercial photographer at the time. Clergy, army officers and various local officials and their families were all potential clients.

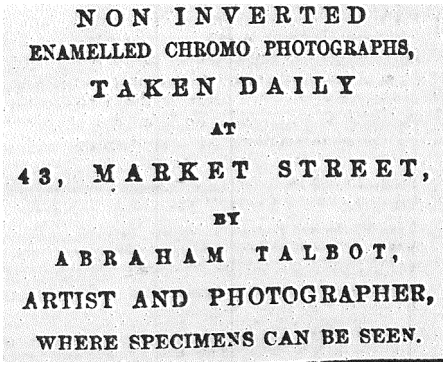
There may have been other reasons why he chose the city, and one of them was musical opportunities. From the mid-nineteenth Century, there was a revival of choral services in the Anglican Church. Services at Armagh Cathedral were sung daily and the choir at Armagh Cathedral was reputed for its very high standard. The choir consisted of two vicars along with a number of paid lay choristers. According to Rogers, it was at the time considered a 'model choir.'[8] This was a period of popularity for vocal music. Numerous music societies - mostly choral groups - had appeared in Dublin and other Irish towns, as the rising merchant and middle classes took an interest in the arts.[9] Abraham Talbot himself was a member of the Madrigal Society (created in Dublin 1846) and the Glee Club. He may also have sung at St Patrick's Cathedral Dublin. Before coming to Armagh, he was already a reputed singer, who had been performing in concerts throughout Ireland.[10] A short article in the *Ulster Gazette* in June 1860 announced his appointment to the 'staff of "singing men" of Armagh Cathedral Choir' and commented on this 'valuable addition' to the 'model choir':

'Mr Abraham Talbot, of Dublin (...) is an alto singer of great power and compass, and much sweetness of tone. His singing has frequently attracted public attention, and in Dublin his vocal performances have drawn forth most creditable observations in the leading newspapers'.[11]

He is listed by Rogers as one of the paid members of the Cathedral choir, along with musician Charles Wood and Rogers himself, and as a member of the choir, benefited from a house on Vicar's Hill, where he seems to have resided until 1862.[12]

'A triumph of photographic art'

When Talbot started to advertise his photographic services in the summer of 1860, he was operating from 43, Market Street. The premises were located at the corner of Scotch Street and Market Street. In the mid-1860s, they were occupied by Michael Talbot & Co., merchant tailors, clothiers and outfitters, possibly a relation.[13]


NON INVERTED
ENAMELLED CHROMO PHOTOGRAPHS,
TAKEN DAILY
AT
43, MARKET STREET,
BY
ABRAHAM TALBOT,
ARTIST AND PHOTOGRAPHER,
WHERE SPECIMENS CAN BE SEEN.

Ulster Gazette, 4 Aug. 1860

Talbot's first notice in the paper advertised: 'Non inverted enamelled chromo photographs.'[14] Enamelled pictures were obtained by a process similar to the collodion. The wet plate was replaced by a black enamelled support- usually an iron sheet, so that the negative against the dark background appeared as a positive image. One drawback was that, because it was a camera original, the picture was usually reversed; photographers sometimes fitted their camera with a mirror or prism to correct the image. This was probably what Talbot meant by 'non inverted.' 'Chromo' pictures were images which had been tinted. This type of photograph - which later became known as 'tintype' - would have been fairly quick and cheap to produce as the negative was the end product and there was no need to print out.

By November, Talbot had moved his operation to 1, Vicar's Hill, where a 'glass operating room' had been erected at the back of his house. His main business was photographic portraits. The advertisement in the paper explained that the light in the studio was 'peculiarly adapted to the purpose of portraiture'; the premises were kept warm by a stove, so that he had 'every means of following his artistic pursuits in winter as successfully as in summer.' The notice further boasted that he was able to take photographs 'instantaneously'. An example of his craft was displayed in his studio: a picture of 'a baby, awake, only three months old' - something unthinkable a few years earlier, and truly 'a triumph of Photographic Art'! Talbot was selling his photographs from 2s 6d upwards (around half a day's wage for a skilled workman)[15], which was only a fraction of the cost of a picture a decade earlier. Pictures could be printed on paper or leather and he was also selling miniature photographs on brooches, pins and rings. The fact that he was still offering his services as an artist - copying, cleaning and restoring

paintings - would suggest that he needed to supplement his income from photography and singing.[16]

Photographers of the period had a constant need to chase new customers and reinvent themselves in order for their business to survive. His venture into photographing public buildings for Edward Rogers' s book would have allowed him to market his wares more widely. By the summer of 1861, he was on the move again, this time to Belfast. To build up custom, he had first targeted a sample of wealthy and influential patrons by taking a picture of the County Courthouse and arranging for each of the County Antrim judges to be presented with a 'beautifully executed photograph of the County Courthouse'. Both judges, according to the newspapers, 'expressed themselves greatly pleased with the style and accuracy of the picture'.[17] Talbot, according to a notice in August 61, was only in Belfast for a few weeks and was operating from Donegal Square. This time, he was advertising a 'new style in artistic photographs of Gentlemen's residences', which, he claimed, had already 'procured for him a considerable amount of patronage'. Clients could procure a framed proof and two copies for one guinea - the equivalent of at least a week's pay for most people. He further announced that he would be attending the Royal Agricultural Show, 'for the purpose of taking photographs of animals, machinery, etc...'[18] Again, this would have targeted the wealthier public, as the Royal Ulster Agricultural Society was run by gentlemen, who still owned the majority of agricultural land. Talbot's claims of 'considerable patronage' must have been slightly exaggerated, for he declared insolvency the following year.[19]

The Observatory, vignette photograph by Abraham J. Talbot (1860). Other illustrations in the library copy include: the Barracks with a view of Armagh, the Palace, Armagh Public Library, St Mark's Church, St Patrick's Cathedral (Church of Ireland).

Musical and scientific entertainment

That was not the end of his photographic career, however, for he was still listed as a 'portrait painter and photographer' based in Bridge Street, Belfast and resident on the Ormeau Road in the Belfast directory for 1863-64,[20] and in October 1864, he was opening a new carte de visite studio on the Diamond in Derry.[21]

Carte de visite pictures were a new, smaller format of portrait mounted on a card. Several negatives were taken on a single glass plate, which brought down the cost of production drastically. They were very popular, as they could be had for as little as 12s 6d per dozen (roughly half a week's pay for a working man), and were the reason for a boom in commercial photography in the 1860s. Indeed, Talbot had to compete with several other photographers in town, which is probably why he had to boast of his 'new and scientific system of producing portraits' to attract custom. He was also making the most of his musical connections and offering in his studio 'a beautiful carte de visite portrait of Mr Henry Kayers, the celebrated violoniste'.[22] Collecting carte de visite portraits of royalty and celebrities and displaying them in special albums would have been a popular hobby then. Business must not have been that brisk since, by January, he was announcing reduced prices on all his wares, as well as offering his services as a portrait painter once more.[23] By March, resourceful as ever, he had devised a new way to boost his income: a night of 'grand musical & scientific entertainment', which took place in the Londonderry Corporation Hall. The programme combined music and songs with a display of his photographs, a 'grand exhibition of local celebrities, views, &c., &c. (...) which will appear more than Life Size, on a Screen Nine Feet in Diameter'. The seats ranged in price from 2s to 6d, so within the reach of the general public. No doubt he also intended to be selling a few carte de visite pictures at the interval.[24] The following year, there is no trace of him in the Derry directory, so it

looks like this last venture just was not enough to keep the business afloat.

The last trace of his life as a photographer in Ireland is a report of a court case against a John Burns, his landlord, in July 1868. He was then working as a 'photographic artist' in County Wicklow. His rent was in arrears and he had been expelled from his lodgings.[25]

By 1871, he had moved on to England. The English census lists him as a chorister living in Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire. Tenbury Wells was a fairly small place but was home to St Michael's College, a school with a choir which was dedicated to 'form a model for the daily choral services of the (Anglican) Church'.[26] Maybe that was the reason for his move, since the choir included a few lay men as well as the students. According to the census, his son William had by then become a photographer. The family eventually moved to Battersea, London, and he continued to earn a living through a combination of photography and painting until at least 1901. By that stage, a widower, he had moved to Surrey with his daughter Melecina, who ran a stationery business, and her family; he died there a few years later, in 1910.

By that stage, Edward Rogers had already passed away. He died in 1895. His death, unlike Talbot's, was widely reported and in 1910, some of his books were still being reprinted.[27] As for Talbot, it is likely that both his vocal performances at the Cathedral and his photographic studio had already long been forgotten in Armagh.

Thanks are due to P. Rowan for drawing my attention to Rogers' book and its illustrations and to Canon W.E.C. Fleming for his help with sources on the Cathedral Choir, Libraries NI for permission to reproduce the photograph.

***A Record of the City of Armagh** can be viewed at the Irish and Local Studies Library, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh. Tel: 028 37527851.*

References:

[1]According to the census of 1881-91, he was born c.1827, so the age would match.

[2]Proceedings (1839); Strickland (1969), ii, pp 579-591.

[3]Belfast Newsletter (BNL), 20 Sept. 1839.

[4]www.familysearch.org .

[5]Freeman's Journal, 5 Feb. 1857.

[6]Maguire (2000), p 4.

[7]'Bankruptcy and insolvency court', BNL, 3 Feb. 1862.

[8]Rogers (1861), p36.

[9]Fleischman (1996).

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[11]Ulster Gazette (UG), 9 June 1860.

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The Pavilion: a Picturesque inspired suburban Regency Villa

by Kevin Quinn

This article is a short architectural study of 'the Pavilion' which was located on the site of the new Southern Regional College. The article will focus on its possible architectural influences, the building's probable interior plan, a description of its outbuildings and grounds, and a brief study of the lives of its residents.

At the time of writing (October 2018), it is impossible not to notice the construction of the new Southern Regional College while driving along Lonsdale Road. Its construction is on a large scale when compared to the original build on this site; a 'Regency Villa' known as the Pavilion, built by William Whitelaw Algeo in 1809. In 1961, a few months before its demolition, the then curator of the Armagh County Museum, Mr T.G.F. Patterson, writing in *The Armagh Guardian*, described the Pavilion as "a delightful bit of architecture".

Captain William Whitelaw Alego, 1780-1850

William Whitelaw Algeo belonged to a Co. Leitrim family which had emigrated from Scotland in the 17th Century and settled near Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim. His military career brought him to Armagh City as a Captain in the 82nd foot Regiment (Patterson, p. 126) while also holding rank as Lieutenant in the local Yeomanry (Stuart, p. 564). In May 1804, he married Margaret Livingstone of Armagh, the second daughter of Robert Livingstone who was agent to the Charlemont Estate

Fig.1 Plan of the Pavilion and Grounds from the 1870 Auction Particulars. Armagh County Museum Library

(Patterson). The Pavilion was built in 1809 costing £ 8000. This sum would be the equivalent of approximately £650,000 today.

The approximate location of the Pavilion and its grounds. (See Fig. 1)

The Pavilion was approximately situated on the site of the lower block of the recently demolished Further Education College, at the junction of Lonsdale Road and Lisanally Lane. It was built close to an area known as 'the Commons' which incorporated part of the townlands of Knockamil, Knockamble and Knockmeala. The latter townland was known as 'the hill of the honey' (Rodgers, p. 49) due to the amount of bees that were found there. The grounds totalled nearly 30 acres.

Regency architecture

Regency architecture refers to a new style of architecture which emerged in the early 19th Century. The term 'Regency' refers to the Prince Regent, George Prince of Wales (1811-20) who would later become George IV. The 'Regency House' represented a new type of architecture which drew on a wider range of sources and styles than earlier Georgian architecture. An expression of this new break in architectural style was the development of the suburban villa of which the Pavilion is an example.

The Pavilion; a product of 'Picturesque' architecture (See Fig. 2)

From around the 1790s, a new artistic concept and style emerged in architecture in England. The 'Picturesque ideal' emphasised the value of irregularity and asymmetry in art. This marked a break from the Neoclassicism of the early Georgian period which emphasised "formality, proportion, order, and exactitude"

Fig.2 Front elevation of the Pavilion demonstrating its strong picturesque influences . Probably from the early 1900s. Photographer unknown. Google Image. Public Domain

(https://www.britannica.com/art/picturesque). In this way, architectural beauty was equated with buildings in a natural landscape. "For example, medieval ruins in a natural landscape were thought to be quintessentially picturesque" (ibid.). As a result, picturesque architecture was less formal. Smaller, irregular structures such as the Pavilion were an example of this type of informal architecture. Such structures often appeared in the work of landscape painters who wished to portray the beauty of architecture in a natural setting. Picturesque architecture was also less expensive and is perhaps a reason for it being particularly popular in Ireland.

Through this movement, the traditional vernacular architectural forms, continental styles from Europe, and more exotic elements such as Indian verandas and towers (such as those found at the Pavilion) could be combined and incorporated into Regency domestic architecture. Among this variety of styles and forms are Grecian, Gothic, Old English, and Swiss chalet designs. The Pavilion is an example of the coming together of these new architectural influences.

Picturesque architectural influences found at the Pavilion (See Fig. 3)

The most glaring picturesque influence found at the Pavilion was its irregular, asymmetrical, and uneven facade. Despite the introduction of this new style, the earlier Georgian style still determined aspects of the structure. At the Pavilion, the top of facade was finished in typical Georgian style with the parapet hiding a low roof. The roof was hipped construction aligned to the ridge and tall enough to contain attic rooms. Georgian specifications also continued to determine the Pavilion's window proportions; thin glazing bars divided sash windows into twelve or more rectangular panes.

The large, curved, 'bow' windows found at the Pavilion are an example of the French influence. French windows and doors were typically placed on the front ground rooms to provide direct access to the gardens, as was the case at the Pavilion. Chinese influence can be seen with the use of pavilions and the curved iron roof covering the veranda both resembling aspects of a 'Pagoda'. Another strong influence found at the Pavilion was 'Gothic'. It was a style best suited for the picturesque effect. It was achieved by placing doorways and windows in ogee or early Tudor-style four pointed arched openings. Examples at the Pavilion are the windows in both Pavilions and the main doorway entrance. Further Gothic influence is found with the portico of four columns supporting the Grecian influenced entablature.

Exterior details from photographs and auction plans

The original construction was a central block linked to side pavilions. Both pavilions had doors to the side which opened on to a

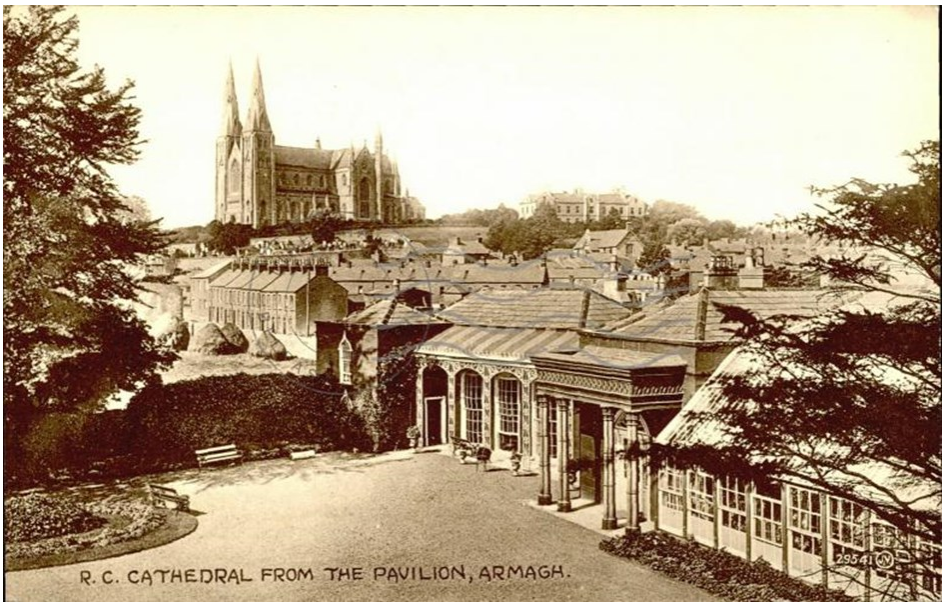

Fig .3 captures the variety of the romantic picturesque styles (combining Grecian, Gothic, European, Indian and Chinese influences) that made the Pavilion's front facade unique. Photograph Pre-1907/8 (Lonsdale Street constructed 1907/8). Photographer unknown. Google Image. Public Domain

veranda on the right and a conservatory on the left. The central block consisted of two small enclosed courtyards; the larger of the two was square and the smaller rectangular in shape. Enclosed courtyards were not influenced by any particular style or period. The central block was two storeys in height, the second floor containing attic rooms. A drawing room with three large slightly curved sash windows, and French styled glazed doors which opened on to a covered veranda linked the right pavilion to the centre. The left pavilion was linked to the centre by either a second drawing room or dining room with a double door opening on to a conservatory which contained, according to the 1850 auction description; "400 of the choicest home and exotic plants."

Interior details from 1850 and 1870 auctions

The building consisted of hall and entrance hall, two drawing rooms (one larger than the other) with both described as large and lofty which would suggest that both were probably positioned to either side of the entrance hall linking the centre to the pavilions. The 1870 auction describes numerous apartments. Some of these apartments were probably situated in both pavilions and some in the middle to rear of the central block opening on to the courtyards. It is probable that the servant quarters were located in the attic rooms. Several excellent bedrooms are listed in 1870. The 1850 particulars list a library containing over "600 volumes and a cellar containing Madeira, Hock, Port and Sherry." Seventy three oil paintings and engravings were being auctioned described as "of a superior description...well worth the attention of connoisseurs". The last of the particulars on the auction list was; "a front pew in the Gallery of St Mark's Church... [which] will be sold on the first day."

Outbuildings with hot house

The Pavilion had substantial outbuildings with some remnants still surviving today located at the turn in for the Youth Centre on Lisanally Lane. Compared to the 1870 auction particulars, the 1850 sale provides more detail on the outbuildings: "In the yard there was stabling for seven horses, a coach house, harness room, neat dairy fitted with marble slabs and stained glass windows, milk and beef cow houses, barn granaries, and store houses." Interestingly, the 1850 map shows a hot house (or greenhouse) which had been totally removed by 1870. A closed carriage and a threshing machine were some of the larger items for sale.

Landscaped gardens and vinery

The 1850 auction map shows a substantial landscaped garden to the front of the outbuildings. It is quite possible that this is the vinery that is mentioned in a few of the contemporary sources. Just on the boundary with the Observatory grounds, there was an elongated earth embankment surrounding a pool of water which was referred to as the horse pond. Directly to the front of the Pavilion was a gravelled forecourt with an avenue leading on to the Mall. The avenue along with other gravelled walkways were skirted with landscaped trees and shrubs. The 1850 auction describes the grounds in the following way:

"The Pavilion... tastefully laid out terraces, ornamented with the choicest shrubs, and delightful walks, so well-known to every inhabitant and stranger visiting Armagh, as 'Captain Algeo's Walks'… For home and distant prospects, is not to be excelled, when seen is best described."

Change of ownership in 1850

On December 28th 1850, Captain William Whitelaw Algeo died. He had left Armagh in early 1850 for health reasons described at the time; "Captain Algeo is leaving Armagh for indisposition". He was buried in St George's Churchyard, Ramsgate, Thanet District, Kent, England. The Inscription on the headstone reads: "The Pavilion Armagh, Ireland. Late Captain 8th Garrison Battalion. Who departed this life in the 70th year of his age. Deputy Lieutenant and Magistrate."

Concerning the new owner of the Pavilion, the Newry Telegraph of January 1851 states: "December 1st 1850, a Mr Strong, son of Sir J. M Strong-Bart and agent for Charlemont Estates, has taken the Pavilion for his future residence." It appears that Mr Strong never took up residence as the house was leased to the Society of the Sacred Heart Nuns in 1851.

The Pavilion Convent and School for the Society of the Sacred Heart Nuns, 1851 - 1856

In 1850, Dr Cullen, Catholic Archbishop of Armagh (1850-52) invited the Society of the Sacred Heart Nuns to set up a convent and school in Armagh. Primate Cullen was able to secure the Pavilion for the society on a yearly lease of £ 136.00 per annum. The Society took up residence on the 2nd October 1851 and began adapting the Pavilion and outbuildings for use as a convent and school. By 1853, a children's poor school had been established with a daily attendance of up to 300, a day school for 40 children, and a boarding school which

accommodated 18 children. On Sundays 400 mothers of local families came to have an hour's instruction in their faith.

'Divine Protection' at the Pavilion Convent - Accounts and testimonies from the letters of past pupils

Sister Phil Kilroy's "*The Society of Sacred Heart in Armagh 1851-59* (pp 350-361) provides accounts of the convent through letters from past pupils on their time at the Pavilion Convent. One past pupil described her time and the conditions at the Pavilion with fondness: "To my happy days in Armagh which began in a charming suburban residence close to the best part of the city, fine extensive pleasure grounds for recreation... our chapel opened out on the side of the vinery." However, the past pupil continues to say; "the community had to dine in the kitchen quarters and on a very poor fare. The school fitted into two houses...one was utilised as a dormitory". The description of the chapel opening out to the side of the vinery and the school fitting into two houses would suggest that the school and dormitory were located in the outbuildings.

Another two accounts from past pupils describe some strange occurrences at the school:

"One incident is imprinted on my collection. Devout persons from the city often attended holy mass, and about the time of the Immaculate Conception it was declared by them and early tradesmen they saw a Lady and infant in her arms up in the sky... directly over the vinery".

This apparition was later said to have provided divine protection to the tenants of the Pavilion:

"In July 1854, the Protestants of this County, known by the name of Orangemen celebrating one of their feasts, came to our door, about 80 of them during the night trying to frighten us by their shouts and cries. Suddenly we saw them going away so suddenly, they said that having seen a beautiful woman in the heavens dressed in blue carrying a child in one hand and the other hand stretched over the roof of the house, they lost all enthusiasm over going over to the convent. This fact is recounted in two Protestant newspapers".

However, Sister Kilroy finds no documented evidence for the trespassing on the 12th July 1854. She continues:

"The two papers published in Armagh at this period were the Armagh Guardian and the Gazette. Unfortunately, the early copies of the Gazette have been destroyed by fire but those of the Armagh Guardian are still extant. There is nothing at all about this incident in July or December issues for 1854".

A copy of the 1854 Gazette exists on microfilm. There are no entries for either month reporting the above occurrences. In any case, according to the Sister Kilroy; "in 1854 a statue of Mary was placed in the front of the Pavilion in thanksgiving for her protection".

Society asked to vacate the Pavilion Convent in 1856 in controversial circumstances

According to the Society there was a verbal understanding in 1851 that the Pavilion would be on a yearly lease to them and if the property was ever put up for sale, the Society would have first offer. According to the memoirs of a friend of the Mother Superior Madam Croft writing in 1875:

"After a very short period they became tenants from year to year. When they were determined on purchasing the place in which they resided and known as the Pavilion, they commissioned their solicitor to purchase the property which he did, but instead of handing it over he retained it for himself and the ladies were obliged to leave"

The annual letters of the Society recount that the solicitor bought the Pavilion in 1855 and warned the Society that he would give only a month notice when he wanted to take over the house instead of the original agreed three months. In July 1856, the new owner informed that he wished to take up residence but would wait another year. By November 1857, the society had moved to 2 Charlemont Place with a poor school continuing at 24 Abbey Street.

The Stanleys

By the late 1850s, the Stanleys were resident at the Pavilion. According to the Newry Examiner dated 3rd August 1854, the Pavilion was sold by private contract as it was unable to meet the asking price:

"The auction of the pavilion realised good prices. The furniture and other effects sold were of a superior description. The bidding for the house and demesne, did not, however, come up to the auctioneer's mark. These will be sold by private contact".

With the death of John Stanley in 1873 the Pavilion was back on the property market.

The Lonsdales

By the latter part of the 19th century James Lonsdale (1826-1913) from Loughgall was now owner occupant of the Pavilion. The *'Lord Belmont in Northern Ireland blog'* provides some insight into the financial rise of the Lonsdales:

"James Lonsdale was a substantial tenant farmer at Loughgall. In the 1860s, however, he realised that rather than just produce and sell his own butter; it would be much shrewder to buy other farmers' butter for the English market. He established butter depots in Armagh and other parts of Ireland. Ca. 1880 he moved the centre of his operations to Manchester and began to import produce from the Empire. His two sons, John and Thomas, joined him in his enterprise which became very successful financially".

His son John (1849-1924) became High Sheriff of County Armagh in 1895, MP for Mid Armagh 1899-1918 and Lord-Lieutenant of County Armagh (1920-24). In 1911, he was created a baronet and in 1918 was elevated to the peerage as Baron Armaghdale. In 1907, due to political expediency, he financed the building of Lonsdale Street which was named after its benefactor. From late 1916 to early 1918 he was the leader the Unionist Parliamentary Party, temporarily replacing Carson who had joined the war cabinet. He died in 1924 without an heir. It appears that the Pavilion was rented from 1924 onwards as his wife remained in London until her death in 1937.

Attempted arson on the Pavilion by militant Suffragettes

In July 1914, militant Suffragettes known as the 'Furies' because of their violent acts attempted to burn down the Pavilion. In the early hours of a Sunday morning, an engine driver called Mr Scott was returning home from work along Lisanally lane when he noticed smoke rising from the Pavilion. Raising the alarm, he, along with local residents from Lonsdale Street, attempted to tackle the fire whilst waiting on the fire brigade and police to arrive. A local newspaper recounts the incident:

"They found a prepared fire of paper matches and firelighters under the stairs in the entrance hall, in a kind of press and this fire had ignited the side of the press and stairs. Apparently, however, the smoke caused by the fire lighters was so great in the confined space that it smothered the flames and so held back the progress of the fire. The fire brigade arrived late." Suffragette literature and envelopes marked 'votes for women' and "Ulster women are entitled to vote as well as Ulster men" were also scattered around. One piece of literature had the '*Women's Social and Political Union'* written on it with a picture of a lion chasing a mouse. This referred to 'the Cat and Mouse Act' of 1913 which allowed imprisoned Suffragettes who went on hunger strike to be released when they became very unwell and to be arrested again when they had recovered.

The Police also found fresh tyre marks on Lisanally Lane which they traced as far as the Portadown road before losing the trail. The paper also reported that Mr Lonsdale was residing in London at the time and that he had lent the Pavilion to the Unionist Medical Board as a residence.

The Pavilion, 1924-61

Over the next 37 years, the Pavilion had a number of owners. Some owners resided there and others put it out to let. George Crozier, a local solicitor, was the occupant in the 1920s and 1930s. A Rev A.F.B Tunstall was a tenant in the late 1930s. The McVitty family who also own The City Bakery cafe or CB Cafe in Scotch Street were owner occupants in the 1940s. The last owner was W.G Davidson of Drumadd House who owned the building until a vesting order was made for the construction of the technical and secondary schools. The last tenants to reside there were Samuel Kane, County Drainage Inspector, and a Miss Maxwell living in a separate wing. The Local paper reported on the day of their departure; "last to leave tearfully, just a few days ago, was Miss Annie Maxell, member of an old Armagh family."

Demolition, summer of 1961

In April 1961, County Museum Curator, Mr T.G. F. Patterson, was interviewed for the Armagh Guardian for a column entitled 'Here and There'. He described the demolition of the Pavilion to make way for the new Technical and Intermediate schools as a "tragedy". He considered it, along with some councillors, as not a good site for schools. They were of the opinion that the site was more suitable for recreational 'playing fields'. Along with the Pavilion, the right hand side of Lonsdale Street and the 'Catch-my-Pal-Hall', the local Temperance Hall, had to be demolished. The left hand side of the street remained until making way for the new Lonsdale Road in 1984. Both schools opened in May 1966.

Three Georgian glazed windows rescued from the skip (See Fig.4)

A characteristic feature of the Pavilion was the wide Georgian glazed windows with curved sashes which were fortunately salvaged during demolition and incorporated into the music room of the new school. This was to later become the board room of the Armagh Intermediate School. They were recently removed for a

Fig.4 The Picturesque French influenced slightly curved sash windows (one of three) being successfully removed before demolition of the old secondary school earlier this year. Photograph courtesy of Armagh SRC.

second time to escape the arrival of the wrecking ball. They are now in the hands of Historic Environment Division storage facility at Moira awaiting restoration, hopefully to return to Armagh to adorn a new setting.

Fortunately, strict architectural conservation laws exist today to protect architectural gems such as the Pavilion. This was not the case in 1961, and unfortunately, Mr T.G.F. Patterson's calls to preserve this 'delightful bit of architecture' went unheeded resulting in the loss of a very unique part of Armagh City's architectural heritage.

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County Armagh Families

by Gerry Oates

The following essays are part of the on-going series of articles on local surnames published in this magazine in recent years.

Crozier

Sir William Petty's 'census' of Ireland, taken in c. 1659, lists *Crozier* as one of the principal English names in Co. Fermanagh. Four centuries later Irish genealogist Edward Mac Lysaght (1978) noted that *Crozier*, apart from the Belfast urban area, was more numerous in Co. Armagh than elsewhere in Ireland. The surname *Crozier*, however, has a much older pedigree which begins with the Norman conquest of England in the late 11th century.

Reaney in his 'Dictionary of British Surnames' traces the first record of the name to Eynsham in Oxfordshire and a certain *William le Croyser* in 1264. The name is of Norman-French origin with its basis in Old French *crois* 'cross' which gives the form *croisier* 'cross-bearer' and suggests an occupational name for one who carried a bishop's cross, or crozier, in church processions. Early English versions of the surname include *Croyser* (1264), *Crocer* (1305) and *Croser* (1393). From the above it is assumed that the first *Croziers* arrived in England from France at some period after the Battle of Hastings (1066) and William the Conqueror's occupation of the English throne.

From England *Croziers* made their way north and to the Scottish borders and by the 14th century were among the early settlers in Liddesdale and Teviotdale. An early rent roll of the local lordship recorded the term *locus Croyser* (Croziers' place) c. 1376. A *William Crosier* was professor of philosophy in the newly founded university of St. Andrews in 1410. Others of the name, it is claimed, were among the so-called Tyndale rebels resettled there in 1540. These were followers of the early reformer William Tyndale (c. 1494 -1563) whose English translation of the Bible appeared in 1534.

In Liddesdale the *Croziers* formed alliances with the Armstrongs, Elliotts and Nixons and were prominent among the Riding Clans of the Borders. South-west of their territory lay the Debatable Land, a 'buffer-state' between the kingdoms of Scotland and England whose inhabitants were noted for their lawless behaviour with constant raiding on both sides of the border. The warlike Riding Clans were known by several designations: the Border Reivers, the Steel Bonnets, the Raiders. Among the more notable *Croziers* whose deeds are still recounted are *Ill Wild Will* and *Nebless (Noseless) Clemmie* of 16th century notoriety.

The origin of the Border troubles can be attributed to the political vacuum created in the region after Edward I's invasion of Scotland in 1296 and the subsequent retaliatory raids by Scottish armies. The Border region became an economic wasteland notorious for its pillage and bloodshed and gave rise to unchecked rustling, robbery and blackmail. When James VI of Scotland became King James I of England in 1603 he was obliged to pacify the region. He began by ruthlessly uprooting the Riding Clans. In the decade after 1603 when the power and the social system of the Border clans had been dismantled, many sought refuge from persecution in Ulster where they settled under the terms of the Ulster Plantation. By the mid-seventeenth century, *Croziers*, Elliotts and Nixons were among the principal names in Co. Fermanagh. From Fermanagh *Croziers* and others eventually spread into Cavan, Monaghan and Armagh.

In Co. Armagh the surname *Crozier* is not evident among the early undertakers or settlers of the 17th century. No *Croziers* appear in the early 17th century 'Census of the Men & Arms on the Estates of the English & Scotch Settlers in Co. Armagh' of 1630. The Hearth Money Rolls (1664-65), Petty's 'census' of 1659 and the rent rolls of the See of Armagh (1615-1746) do not record the name in the county. *Croziers* are again noticeably absent from early 18th century records.

In Co. Armagh the name *Crozier* begins to appear in the latter half of the 18th century and particularly in the neighbouring parishes of Mullaghbrack and Ballymore. A *Robert Crozier* of Clare, Tandragee, was named in a petition presented by the Protestant Dissenters in 1775. Armagh assizes indictments include another *William Crozier* who appeared as plaintiff at the summer assizes of 1768 and a *Moses Crozier* in 1780. *John* and *William Crozier* of

Mullaghbrack were awarded spinning wheels by the Irish Linen Board in 1796 in a government-sponsored initiative to promote the local linen industry.

Crozier occurs more frequently in 19th century Armagh records. Tithe returns for Drumcree parish in 1828 recorded three *Crozier* households in Cannagola More townland. Griffith's Valuation (1848-64) included 28 *Crozier* holdings distributed mainly in the adjoining parishes of Lisnadill (7), Kilclooney (6) and Newtownhamilton (7). Elsewhere there were four *Crozier* holdings in Kilmore with individual households in Mullaghbrack, Ballymyre and Keady parishes.

The census of 1911 produced a more accurate assessment of *Crozier* numbers. The distribution within the county indicated a shift from the mid-Armagh parishes to the urban centres of Lurgan (53), Portadown (24), Armagh (10) and West Newry (27). *Croziers*, however, were still numerous in Lisnadill (32) and Killevy (17), but less so in Tynan (8), Ballymyre (4), Keady (3) and Ballymore (2).

In 1911 there were 19 *Croziers* resident in Seagahan (Lisnadill), now the site of the Armagh & District reservoir. In 1947 the *Croziers* of Seagahan established the present quarrying and engineering firm of *W. J. & H. Crozier* in nearby Outlack. For more than 70 years *Croziers* of Outlack have been among the leading firms in the construction and civil engineering sectors in Northern Ireland.

Among the more famous Irish *Croziers* is *Capt. Francis Rawdon Moira Crozier*. Born in Banbridge in 1796 he joined the Royal Navy in 1810 at the age of 13. During a distinguished naval career he became a noted polar explorer and researcher participating in six exploratory expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic. In 1845, *Crozier* joined Sir John Franklin, in HMS *Terror*, on the Northwest Passage expedition. After Franklin's death *Crozier* took command of the expedition in 1847. The last message from HMS *Terror* was in April 1848 and the fate of the expedition remained a mystery until September 2016 when the wreck of the ship was located off King William Island in the Canadian Arctic. *Francis Crozier* was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1827 for his valuable contribution to astronomical and magnetic studies during his three expeditions to the Arctic. He was also elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1843 in recognition of his outstanding work on magnetism during his penetration of the Antarctic pack ice.

More recently, *John Baptist Crozier* (1911-20) was archbishop of Armagh & Lord Primate of All Ireland from 1911 until 1920. He was not, however, a native of Co. Armagh but was born in Co. Cavan of Fermanagh ancestry. During a distinguished clerical career he was appointed chaplain to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1891 and was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 1916. His son, *Major General Baptist Barton Crozier* served with distinction in World War 1 and was awarded the Order of the Crown of Italy; in France he was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

Primate Crozier died on 11 April, 1920 at the archbishop's palace in Armagh and is buried in the grounds of Armagh cathedral.

Dynes

In their publications on Irish surnames both Mac Lysaght and de Bhulbh agree that *Dynes* is an English name of French origin from Old French *digne* 'worthy, honorable'. Reaney, writing on English surnames, agrees with the French origin but suggests that possibly a number of distinct surnames have become 'inextricably confused'. As well as *digne* he proposes Old French *deigne* and *doigne* meaning 'haughty, reserved' as possible sources and to these he adds Old French *deien, dien* 'dean'.

In addition, Reaney lists the surnames *Dain, Daine, Daines, Dayne, Daynes, Deyns, Dines, Doyne, Dyne* as emanating from the above Old French sources. Among the earliest recorded references to the name are *Robert le Dine*, Surrey (1201), *Richard le Digne*, Surrey (1222), and *Gilbert le Dyne*, also recorded as *Dynes*, in the Court rolls of the Manor of Wakefield, Yorkshire (1275 & 1284).

Mac Lysaght also claims that *Dyne* without the final *'s' occasionally* occurs as a synonym of *Doyne*, an early anglicised form of *Dunne*. The Gaelic name *Ó Duinn (Dunne)* represents one of the chief families of Leinster whose ancestral territory was in the present-day Co. Laois. Early anglicised forms of *Ó Duinn* include *Doyne* and *Dyne* before it was standardized as *Dunne*. The pronunciation of *Ó Duinn* in Leinster would approximate 'O Dine' and the practice of adding final *'s'* to Gaelic names which had discarded the prefix *Ó* might explain the present version *Dynes*. However, Reaney has shown that *Dynes* with final 's' also occurs in the Court Rolls of the Manor of Wakefield as

a variant of *Daine* as early as 1275 as well as the later variants *Dyne*, *Doyne*. It is unlikely that versions of the English surname would appear with prefix *Ó* in Ireland. The Elizabethan fiants of 1602 include pardons granted to *Connchor oge O Duyne* and *Tirrelagh oge O Duyne* of Portnelligan, Tynan parish, and the Co. Armagh Depositions of 1641 indicted a *Michael Doine*, also recorded as *Duyn*, as a rebel under Sir Phelim O Neill on the outbreak of the Rising against the plantation settlements. Petty's 'census' of Ireland c.1659 recorded six landholders named *O Duyne* in the barony of Oneilland and in 1664 the Hearth Money Rolls included an *Edmond oge O Dunn* of Cannagola More, Drumcree parish. The Franciscan petition of 1670-71 also included *John* and *Edd Doyne* and a *Patrick Mc Doyne* in the joint parish of Clancan/Loughgall.

The problem with the surname *Dynes* in Co. Armagh is to establish whether it is derived from a native Irish source or is of English origin.

The barony of Oneilland East is where the surname *Dynes* occurs most in 17/18th century historical records. *Henry Dynes* of Crossmacahilly, Seagoe parish, paid six shillings tax on three hearths in 1664 and the Brownlow Estate papers show that a *John Dynes* leased half of Derrytagh townland, Montiaghs parish, in 1694. The 18th century Armagh assizes indictments include accounts of 25 persons named *Dynes*, *Dines* and *Dyans* who appeared as both plaintiff and accused between 1745 and 1786. A number of the cases suggest that several of the name found themselves politically at odds with the authorities: at the Lent assizes of 1767 *Arthur*, *John*, *Thomas*, *Meredith*, *Alexander*, *James* and *William Dynes* were found guilty of being 'papists bearing arms', an offence introduced in the Penal Laws of 1695; *Jacob Dines* and *John Dines* were sentenced for 'insulting a magistrate in the execution of his duty' at the Lent assizes of 1772; and at the Lent session of 1777 *Richard*, *Jacob* and *Henry Dynes* were charged with 'rescue', the crime of forcibly freeing another from arrest or legal custody.

Forenames such as *Alexander*, *Meredith* and *Jacob*, in particular, of the above *Dynes /Dines* offenders normally indicate a planter background, yet the charges against them would suggest the same persons were anti-establishment and opposed to the Plantation settlement of the 17th century. Keenan in his history of Seagoe parish states: "The *Dines* were Catholics but the following members of the family 'went over' to the Established Church in 1768, according to the so-called 'Convert Rolls' - *Thomas*, *Meredyth*, *William*, *Valentine*, *Arthur* and *John Dines*." More than a decade earlier, the Co. Armagh Poll Book includes *Arthur Dynes* of Lisnamintry, Seagoe, and *Oliver Dynes* of Crossmacahilly, in the same parish, as eligible to vote in the election of 1753 when Francis Caulfeild and William Brownlow contested the Armagh seat for the Irish parliament in Dublin. Both *Arthur* and *Oliver* must have been members of the Established Church, for voting rights did not extend to Roman Catholics or other Dissenters in 18th century Ireland and would suggest that *Dynes* was a surname of planter background. However, if those accused of being 'papists bearing arms' and 'insulting a magistrate in the execution of his duty' were of planter background it would be interesting to know how and when they became disaffected.

The surname *Dynes* has been recorded in the north Armagh area since the mid-17th century and is prominent in Mac Corry's studies of The Montiaghs and of 18/19th century local parish registers. Griffith's Valuation (1848-64) recorded 39 holdings in the name *Dynes /Dines* in the parishes of The Montiaghs, Drumcree, Seagoe, Tartaraghan, Killyman and Shankill. The census of 1911 confirmed the surname as predominantly an Armagh one and concentrated in the northern parishes of Shankill, Seagoe and The Montiaghs with a religious breakdown of approximately 60% Catholic, 40% Protestant, apparently a result of the 1768 defections.

The question of whether *Dynes* is a native Gaelic name or of Planter origin is still to be resolved with certainty. *Ó Duinn (Dunne)* which produced the early anglicised forms *(O) Doyne*, *Dyne* could possibly be a source, but the connections between *Ó Duinn (Dunne)*, *O Duyn*, *Doyne* etc. and *Dynes* are too tenuous to be reliable.

Interesting figures were published in 2014 regarding the numbers of persons named *Dynes* in the British Isles: N. Ireland (322), Republic of Ireland (16), England (290), Scotland (92). Further afield, the figures were USA (1002), Canada (290), New Zealand (144) and Australia (89). With the exception of the USA, Northern Ireland recorded more persons named *Dynes* than any other region.

Rolston / Roulston / Rolleston

The *Rev. Richard Rolleston*, from Rolleston in Staffordshire, was among the earliest settlers to arrive

in Co. Armagh some time in 1610 during the first phase of the Plantation of Ulster. Described as a Cambridge graduate, who was an ordained, but possibly unbeneficed, clergyman, he was the son of *Rev. Edward Rolleston*, rector of the parish of Rolleston, and accredited with being the inventor of a power-driven sawmill.

Richard and his wife Elizabeth, also *Rolleston* by birth, arrived in Ireland with two children and Elizabeth's brothers *John* and *Arthur Rolleston* in 1610. Under the terms of the Plantation *Richard Rolleston* received a grant of 3,000 acres in the townland of Teemore in Mullaghbrack parish. In 1611 he purchased another holding in Drumcree townland which he later sold to Richard Cope and William Obins. The portion purchased by Obins eventually developed into the market town of Portadown. *Richard Rolleston* died c.1637.

With the rising of the native Irish against the planter settlements in 1641 many of the early settlers and their homesteads were swept away in an initial wave of unbridled violence. *Elizabeth Rolleston*, Richard's widow, living in Marlacoo at the time, was taken prisoner and imprisoned in the Earl of Bath's mill at Clare, near Tandragee. In her deposition of August, 1642 she recounted how she had been attacked in her home, robbed of goods to the value of £940, and how her late husband's house and books were burned and crops destroyed. Four of her sons were killed by the insurgents and her brother, *Raphe Rolleston*, was hanged at Rathfriland. After the destruction of 1641 the only surviving grandson of *Richard Rolleston* died while still a minor and with the death in 1683 of Susanna, his only daughter, that branch of the family died out. However, according to English genealogist, Ken Rolston, Elizabeth's brother *Arthur Rolleston* survived the 1641 massacre and migrated south to Cos. Offaly.

The surname *Rolleston* does not appear in the Co. Armagh Hearth Money Rolls of 1664-65 or other 17th century records relating to the county. However, records from the 18th century list the surname under a range of spellings – *Rolleston(e)*, *Rol(l)ston(e)*, *Roulston(e)* and *Ralston* among others. It is probable that others of the name settled in Co. Armagh in the later plantations of the 17th century. The Manor of Armagh rent roll of 1714 lists a *James Roulston* as an under-tenant of the archbishop in Tullykevan townland, Clonfeacle, and the Co. Armagh Poll Book of 1753 includes a *John Ralston* of Tray townland, Eglish parish, among those entitled to vote. Towards the close of the century, leases granted by the Charlemont estate include a 'three-lives-lease' to one *Alexander Rolston* of Drumatee, Mullaghbrack, in 1795.

Rolston /Roulston in its varied forms is more evident in the early part of the 19th century which suggests that many of the name had settled in the county in the previous century. *Thomas Rolston* of Richhill appears in the Armagh Presentments to the Grand Jury in 1816 as a sub-constable for the barony of Armagh; a later edition of these Presentments include a *Sam Rolston* of Keady fulfilling the same role. The Tithe Applotment Books (1825-40) recorded 25 tithe payers named *Rolston* (13), *Roulston* (3), *Rollestone* (5) and *Ralston* (2) with individual entries under *Rolstin* and *Rolliston*. The latter two entries occurred in Eglish parish alongside four named *Rolston*. The distribution of the tithes' records covered the parishes of Drumcree, Tartaraghan, The Grange, Eglish, Clonfeacle, Loughgall, Loughgilly and Newtownhamilton.

Grifith's Valuation (1848-64) provides a little more content and includes 32 entries under a range of spellings. *Rollestone* with 23 entries was most common and located in Tynan, Eglish, Loughgall and Drumcree parishes. There were eight *Rolston(e)* holdings in Ballymore , Armagh and Loughgilly; *Roulston* was recorded once in Corcrain, Drumcree parish.

In Bassett's 'Armagh' (1888) *Andrew Rolston*, proprietor of The Armagh Mill Bakery, in English Street, and *Robert H. Roleston*, Keady, grocer and provision merchant were recorded among the local prominent business enterprises.

As mentioned earlier, *Arthur Rolleston* who survived the 1641 massacre migrated south to Co. Offaly. A descendant, *Col. Francis Rollestone*, a known Jacobite, later settled in Co. Tipperary and his grandson, *Francis Rolleston*, came into possession of Franckfort Castle and estates in Co. Offaly, by marriage in 1740. Two of the Franckfort Castle family served as County Court judges in Tipperary and in Mayo. *Thomas William Rollestone* (1850-1920), a son of *Charles Rolleston-Spunner* a distinguished County Court judge for Tipperary, achieved renown in literary circles in both Ireland and England. He founded the *Dublin University Review* in 1885 and published *Poems and Ballads of Young Ireland* in 1888. His best known work, *The Dead at Clommacnoise*, appears in the Oxford Book of English Verse. In London of the 1890s *Rollestone*

was a founder-member of the Irish Literary Society and clashed with W. B. Yeats who remembered him as an 'intimate enemy'. In Ireland he was involved in the early years of the Gaelic League and was known as an aristocratic nationalist, poet, scholar and mystic; he had eight children, from two marriages.

In 1911 Franckfort Castle was still in the possession of the *Rollestones* and the census of that year recorded the following numbers for the various spellings of the name: *Roulston* (507), *Rolston* (176), *Roulstone* (70), *Rolleston* (49), *Rollston* (18) and *Ralston* (46). Only entries under *Rolston* (48), *Rollston* (16) and *Roulston* (2) were recorded in Co. Armagh. *Rolston* was evenly distributed between Armagh city and the parishes of Mullaghbrack, Loughgall and The Grange; *Rollston*, on the other hand, was confined to Pollnagh townland, Tynan parish, and there were two recorded as *Roulston* in Killeen, Lisnadill.

Reaney, in tracing the origin of the *Rollestone* name, maintains it is an English habitation name from any of number of places named *Rolleston /Rowleston* in Humberside, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire or Herefordshire. He also alludes to its many and varied spellings - *Rolleston*, *Rollston(e)*, *Roleston(e)*, *Rolston(e)*, *Roulston(e)*, *Rowleston (e)*, *Rowlestone* etc. – and notes that the first record of the name occurs in a Leicestershire pipe roll of 1170 - a *Simon de Roluestone*. He further explains that all of the above place-names stem from Old English *Hrólfr* + *tun* ('Rolf's farm').

Finally, the appearance of *Ralston*, alongside *Roulston/Rolston* etc., suggests a distinct surname. Black in 'Surnames of Scotland' maintains that it derives from the lands of *Ralston* near Paisley. A *Nicholas de Ralstoun* of Paisley was recorded in 1272. Later records include *Jacobus de Raulyston*, Paisley, 1346 and *John Raleston*, also of Paisley, in 1488. *Ralston* is undoubtedly a distinct surname of Scottish origin, later recorded as *Rowlston*, *Rowlestone*, *Ralstoun* and *Roulston* which means that in some instances in Ulster it might have been absorbed by *Rollestone/ Roulston(e)* at some period.

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Armagh Cricket Club

by Brian Weir

The Mall looking east

No-one will ever know for certain when cricket was first played in the cathedral city of Armagh but on 29th July 1845 the "Armagh Guardian" reported that cricket had been played the previous week on a new cricket ground on The Mall. The current home of Armagh Cricket Club is thus a contender for the oldest cricket ground in Northern Ireland.

The Mall itself is a flat area of land just to the east of the city centre. It was known originally as The Commons and from 1671 to 1773 it was used primarily as a racecourse for horses. Contemporary maps show that the course followed roughly the line of modern roads which surround The Mall. They were laid out in the shape of a coffin to remind the citizens of their mortality! The central area was swampy ground so quite apart from the morality of gambling on the outcome of races, the area was perceived by Archbishop Robinson to be damaging to the health of the local population so he closed down the racecourse and set about reclaiming the land which became parkland, though in private ownership.

By 1845 The Mall seems to have been at the disposal of Mr Wiltshire, owner of the Beresford Arms Hotel, who is credited with having leased the central area of The Mall "for the playing of cricket". In the absence of the formation at that time of a cricket club it is not clear to whom he could have leased it but 1845 seems to have been the year when it became a cricket ground.

At the time Armagh was a Garrison City and an early game was between soldiers and local inhabitants so the military would have been experienced cricketers while the locals had not yet formed a cricket club and had quite a bit to learn about the new game. A significant development occurred when The Royal School Cricket Club was constituted in August 1850. The basis of the Royal School CC was a group of teachers with pupils playing a relatively minor part, or at times no part. The club continued to exist for many years although all its records for the first four seasons were destroyed in a fire in 1854.

The Armagh Cricket Club itself was formed in 1859 at a meeting which, according to local legend at least, took place in a house in Russell Street and games were arranged wherever the club could find a ground and a team to play. During the next decades friendly matches were played, mostly against local sides. It must be understood that cricket was an evolving game and such refinements as restricting teams to eleven players per side and the use of a scorebook instead of cutting notches into a handy piece of wood were still some way into the future, as was the idea of playing competitive games.

An unusual feature of the early years was that when the Cricket Club was eventually able to secure a lease of The Mall the lease contained a clause requiring the Club to keep trespassers off the ground. One person refused to leave the pitch and the case eventually led to a court case with the trespasser being fined for daring to set foot on the Mall.

Most of the games in the 1860s were against local sides such as Monaghan, Aughnacloy, Gilford, Newry, Moy, Loughgall, Richhill and in later years teams like Annvale, Milford and Glenanne, most of whose players would have been mill workers. The Armagh players by contrast were drawn largely from the upper classes of society, one of whom, John Stanley later, as Sir John Stanley, became a judge in the High Court of India

where he served as Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court.

Among the other players were Sir Capel Molyneux, Edward S Obre, Robert Templer (ancestor of Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer), Henry St George and the Earl of Gosford all of whom played their part in the life of the city and district far beyond the cricket club. Other players at various times included the headmaster of the Royal School, the governor of Armagh Prison and more than one Vicar-choral of St Patrick's Cathedral.

One of Armagh's best cricketers in the early years was John Fox from Castle Dillon who after leaving the city became the first Armagh man to play for Ireland and later became the first Ulsterman ever to play in an English county side when he turned out for Gloucestershire in the absence of W G Grace.

As well as local and military opponents Armagh by now were playing against the famous North of Ireland club and other opponents such as Lisburn and Lurgan. On one occasion they almost beat North but when they had taken seven wickets it was time for the last train to leave for Belfast and the game had to be abandoned!

Cricket was covered in local newspapers in very little detail, an example coming in 1880 when readers were told that a large crowd watching a game against the Royal Tyrone Fusiliers on The Mall was entertained by some top class bowling and also by the Armagh Light Infantry Militia Band under Bugle Major Cloughley, with more detail about the excellence of the music than of the cricket. In 1890 the top Belfast side Ulster CC came to Armagh. The local press reported that Armagh won the game and listened to the 3rd Royal Fusiliers who "attended on the ground and discoursed a select programme of music". The fact that Armagh could beat such a team as Ulster CC suggested that they were strong enough for the biggest clubs to take notice.

Events such as the Armagh Archery Championships got as much press coverage as cricket, though most of the archers were also cricketers and archery seems to have been equally the preserve of the landed gentry. On another occasion a cricketer, W F Templer won the Armagh Lawn Tennis championships, watched by "a large and fashionable attendance, representatives of all the leading county families being in attendance". In the late 1880s other cricket teams were playing locally including Drumcairne, Gillis and Armagh Amateurs whose team had been formed to introduce cricket to working class men who perceived that they would not be welcome in Armagh Cricket Club.

In 1888 came a development which changed cricket for ever, the introduction of the Senior Cup, the first ever competitive cricket in the Province. Armagh reached the semi-final in 1888 and qualified for the final in 1889 and 1890, though most games were still friendly matches. A Senior League came next though with the majority of clubs being within 20 miles from Belfast. Armagh felt that the travelling commitment would be too great though they did join the league for three years from 1901 with some good individual performances by players with growing reputations such as Ernest Lowndes, Bob Forbes, Terry Tarleton, Max Anderson, Bertie Coote and on occasions William McCrum who played when Milford CC had no game. Armagh finished third, fifth and sixth but then withdrew from the League, playing only Cup and friendly matches for eight years. The last of those years, 1911, was significant in that the first pavilion was built on The Mall. In 1912 Armagh returned to the Senior League though only Cooote, Anderson, Forbes and Tarleton remained of the 1903 team and the club had limited success for the next three years, following which the Great War ended cricket until 1919.

Armagh returned to the Senior League in 1920 and had one good season followed by three years of struggle but in the mid-1920s the team's fortunes improved and Wilfred McDonough and Charlie Raynor were on the fringes of the Ireland team with Milford man Bob McKinley also making a good contribution. A new name in 1925 was a very young Robert Barnes who came into the first team at the age of 14. In 1926 Armagh came second in the league for the first time, repeating that achievement in 1927 before taking the coveted senior league title in 1928. Bobby Barnes scored his 1000th run that year, a remarkable feat for a schoolboy. McKinley, Barnes and McDonough were the leading players in that memorable year.

Armagh finished in mid-table for the next two years but in 1931 were again champions of the NCU Senior League, winning eight of their ten games. Bobby Barnes, about to leave for university, was both the leading batsman and the top bowler with McDonough and Bob McKinley also to the fore, together with two newer players, Harry McCauley and Billy McKinley. The team reached the Senior Cup Final again (and lost again) in 1932 and were in the top half of the table for most of the rest of the 1930s, with Bobby Barnes being replaced by his brother Jackie, though both he and the third

The 1928 team

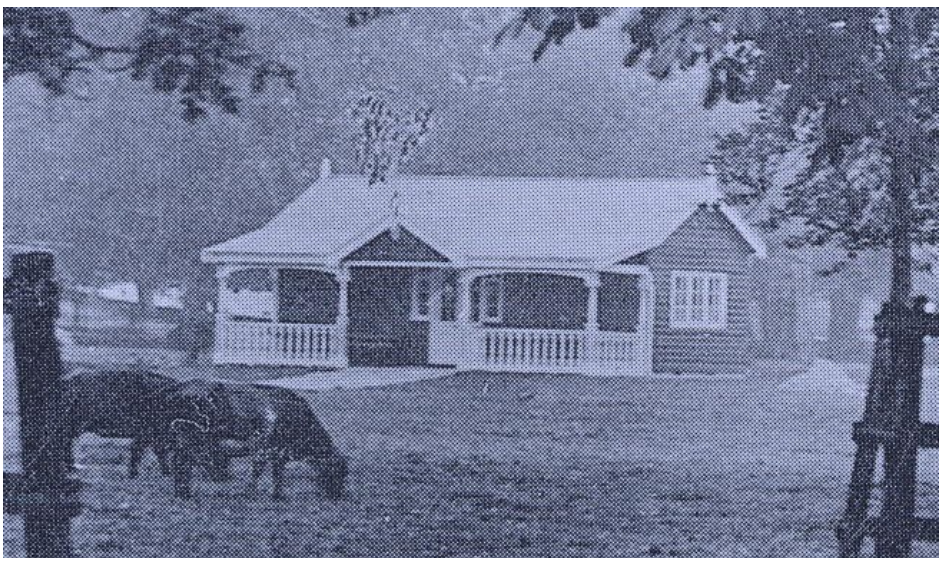
brother, Stanley Barnes had played with Bobby on one occasion, the first time three brothers had represented Armagh together.

Against Queen's University in 1937 Jackie Barnes took nine wickets for four runs, a feat unequalled by any Armagh player before or since and helped achieve selection to play for Ireland alongside Bobby.

The 1939 season was another memorable one as Armagh won twelve games out of 14 and were Senior League champions again. Star performers that year were Bobby Barnes, Jackie Barnes Harry McCauley, both McKinleys and two other Milford men, David Carson and George Livingstone. The final game was in Belfast and the champions came home with the trophy by train to Armagh where they were met by Milford Flute Band. As they followed the band through a crowd of cheering supporters the Cup was carried to Market Square by McKinley and Barnes. In the square McKinley addressed the crowd, thanking the band, the supporters and the people of Armagh. The players had appreciated the way the city had stuck by the team during the season. The under-15 team reached the final of the Graham Cup and all seemed to be so promising for Armagh Cricket.

But 1939 turned out to be the peak; in 1940 the team struggled. Rev Bobby Barnes was now an ordained clergyman and would live away from Armagh for the rest of his life, George Livingstone had moved to work in Birmingham, Charles Raynor had left and Harry McCauley played only once. Jackie Barnes was the leading batsman and also the leading bowler but with the country at war the future would be very different. 1940 and 1941 were difficult years and Armagh CC played only friendly matches in 1942 and not at all in 1943 though cricket was totally overshadowed by the news that Jackie Barnes had been killed in England. He had been expected to be one of the pillars of the team when the war ended (his total of wickets puts him in Armagh's top ten, even 75 years after his death).

Armagh were back in the Senior League in 1947 and had a good season though few of the players came from Armagh. While the captain, Terry Grainger, would have argued that reaching the 1948 Senior Cup Final and losing by the narrowest possible margin, justified in the short term the policy of recruiting players from far and wide, the consequence was that a whole generation of young men in Armagh were lost to cricket and the years that followed were years of struggle, though one last Cup Final was reached in 1952. In 1953 Armagh won only two games and lost their Senior League place for the first time since 1912. Although they returned in 1955 a further relegation followed in 1957 and while they came close to winning the second tier in 1958 no-one would have guessed that it would take sixty years to win the second league again and return to the top section for one season in 2018.



The old pavilion

A Halloween tale of gunfire, clergy, police and medical men laying a ghost at a lake

by Eric Villiers

With ghost tours of Armagh now an established event on the city's growing list of attractions for citizens and visitors alike – anchored of course by the most famous local story of them all The Green Lady of Vicar's Hill – it is perhaps appropriate just after Halloween to remember another local tale which has only just come to light.

Unfortunately the only documentary evidence for this yarn is a very old A4 sheet onto which someone has attempted to record the event in poetic terms.

Although to be fair it is closer to doggerel than verse, it appears to have been penned or at least refers to events that occurred after 1920 and the partition of Ireland.

Under the title "Henderson's Ghost" the unnamed author of the piece sets out unexplained activity that happened at Halloween at a cottage, which seems to have been near Lowry's Lake off the Hamiltonsbawn Road.

In 19 stanzas the author relates how a series of ghostly happenings culminated in the police, a priest, a minister and a doctor being called in or arriving in an effort to get to the bottom of quite a few puzzling incidents – at one point the local constabulary engage in a melodramatic chase across fields and a shooting at miscreants, which if true could have had dire results.

Whether this piece of folklore has survived beyond the typewritten verse is doubtful, although judging by the contents and the various names dropped into the piece, it clearly gave a certain amount of humorous pleasure to its readers as it pokes fun at their neighbours.

It may well be that it was written to be sung locally at parties marking Halloween, so it could have been a ballad rather than a recitation.

In either event, if the torturing words to force a rhyme or three, was a crime then our anonymous balladeer might well have been guilty of a capital offence – judge for yourself.

Nevertheless our pen-smith did produce a decently long story even if he had to force in rhyming words to end each line of his neatly punctuated quatrains.

It's a pity the author did not sign the work but if it is a tiny bit malicious in its intent, then that's understandable. At least they did, or someone did, go to the trouble when typing it up, and if the scary blood red capital letters used for title are anything to go by they intended their drama to be served up with a fair portion of ridicule.

The tone of the verses suggests that a whole bunch of gullible people had been well and truly conned or fooled into believing in paranormal activity. The fact that community leaders and dignitaries are at the heart of the story and the butt of the joke, suggests mischief was being done on paper as well as one Halloween night.

While the story has only recently been discovered the presence in it of so many local names is of interest: Cassy McHugh, Sam and Tommy Pillow, Mr Kane, Annie Farnham, the policemen, the priests, etc.

All in all it suggests that at some point in the relatively recent past it was well known and widely circulated, and interesting enough for a local family to store it safely in a biscuit tin that served as the family's archive.

Here it is as it appears on a dog eared typewritten script, minus a word or two that have been lost to wear and tear of the folded page it was written on:

HENDERSON'S GHOST

In a nice little cottage not far from the lake,
If you want to go there you'll make no mistake,
There lived an old lady both hearty and hale,
And we wish her long life may her health never fail.

~~~~

Some few months ago she was living alone,
When her daughter and grand-daughter both arrived home,
They engaged a young maiden the house-work to do,
And the boys soon discovered 'twas Cassy Mc. Hugh.

~~~~

The district was quiet, the boys they were slow,
So the girls at some tricks said they'll have a go,
The doors then were rapped, and the tables and chairs,

Went banging through the kitchen like hounds after hares.

~~~~~

The sport it began on all Hallowe'en
When the goats were let out, and these ladies tied in,
At least so twas said. Tho' some had their doubts
That they were not all in at least one was left out.

~~~~~

Then a window was broken and Cassie did run
To bring old McCutcheon to join in the fun;
He went rushing down to see which one was broke
She yelled "go to Heaven" girls this is no joke.

~~~~~

The brave Serg't Smith who carries the post,
Called on his rounds to see the new Ghost,
And great was the panic in the district around,
Though no real Ghost in the place could be found.

~~~~~

Their fears to allay he would do his utmost,
And bring up the B's to frighten the Ghost
So with Constable Barkley and Beck he did go,
Accompanied by Sinton and their C.O.

~~~~~

With Constable Barkley acting as guide,
He said he would show them the best place to hide,
Over hedges and ditches he never once stopped
Till some of the Constables very near dropped.

~~~~~

At last in the darkness they dropped to the ground,
With the rifles all ready they made not a sound,
When all of a sudden they heard a loud crash,
And some of the window panes went into smash.

~~~~~

The C. O. cried "Halt" then the rifles they spoke
And from that day to this no more windows were broke,
For the Ghost was so frightened it stayed in the house,
And if the B. men went in, was quiet as a mouse.

~~~~~

Miss Kilpatrick of Woodside just called for to know
If all of the ghost stories she heard could be so,
She unharnessed her Danny and left him well tied,
But the Ghost let him loose when he got her inside.

~~~~~

Then Cassie ..... wondrous shout,
She said the ghost must have let Danny out,
So they searched round the yard and got him alright.
As the Ghost had made sure that the gate was shut tight.

~~~~~

She then saw a picture move down on the wall,
And it stuck "wid a spit" for fear it would fall;
She then heard some knocking and listening for more,
But found 'twas the girls who were knocking the floor.

~~~~~

The Pillows were frightened, as they had the land,
Says Tommy, Come home boy, and we'll ask "our Sam"
And get his advice as to what we should do
As the Ghost might attack us if we ventured through.

~~~~~

The good mother Farnham came over to boast,
That Father O'Callaghan could lay the ghost
If they would believe in his powers supreme,
He could send the Ghost home to the land unseen.

~~~~~

So accompanied by Annie the priest did arrive,
And with candles and cross and beads they did strive,
To lay down the Ghost, but it couldn't be done
As this frolicsome Ghost was enjoying the fun.

~~~~~

The good Dr. Johnston came down the Lough Lane
And for company brought with him his friend Mr Kane,
And said that their troubles he soon would allay,
As the Ghost could not trouble them after that day.

~~~~~

The Rev. Dowling then walked out of town,
To try and assist with this Ghost of renown
The trio of clergy all did their best
But could not compete with this troublesome guest.

~~~~~

But the neighbours got tired and soon took the huff,
So then the ghost decided it had enough,
So they finished it up and a holiday took,
And now they declare it was a huge joke.

~~~~~

While it does not come anywhere near the fascinating story of the Vicar's Hill ghost that has haunted the nightmares of thousands of Armagh children down the generations, Henderson's Ghost does have appeal – perhaps someone out there knows a little bit more about the story's origins.
For those interested in finding out more about the mysterious Green Lady, I can heartily recommend a well researched and finely written book by Sean Barden: **The Green Lady Mystery: The Vicar's Hill Murder** published recently by Armagh County Museum.
~~~~~

Irish Street: plenty to be proud of despite poor press

by Mary McVeigh

Irish Street was like the Wild West if you were to believe the press and police in the closing decades of the 19th century. In February 1889 the *Armagh Standard* claimed that Irish Street was 'the most rebellious and disorderly district of the city' and alleged that some years ago the authorities were 'compelled' to establish a police barracks there 'on account of the murderous attacks' that were made on passers-by. It was only the presence of the police barracks which now prevented the occurrence of similar acts, the paper declared. Head Constable Magee asserted that the police were 'unmercifully beaten in that quarter'.[1] In fact the *Dublin Daily Express's* Armagh correspondent who could well have penned the *Armagh Standard's* vitriolic views blamed the political situation, namely the campaign for Home Rule, for the mayhem in Irish Street: "… For the last eight years it has been observed that when the Nationalists are most violent in their resistance to the constitutional authorities in the South and West of Ireland, the number of violent assaults on the police in Irish Street, a Nationalist stronghold in Armagh, largely increased," it stated.[2]

All this caustic comment came about after two Keady men appeared at the local petty sessions court on charges of being drunk and disorderly in Irish Street. They apparently gave false names which did not do them any favours with the result that they were each sentenced to one month's imprisonment. The solicitor of one sought some leniency for his client who suffered from 'delicate health'. However, Head Constable Magee was not for turning, and instead directed his ire at the 'Irish Street quarter'. His views did not go unnoticed and so some 50 or so residents added their names to a letter which the papers referred to as a 'memorial'. This was sent to the Inspector General of the Royal Irish Constabulary at the Phoenix Park in Dublin. The *Belfast Morning News* published the document, which strongly refuted the Head Constable's statement and called for a public withdrawal of it. It pointed out that the inhabitants of Irish Street were 'peaceful, orderly and law-abiding citizens and no resident therein has for many years and for long anterior to the advent of Head Constable Magee in Armagh been charged with assaulting the police or annoying them in any way – nay, more the very opposite has been the case, as on several occasions they have assisted the police in arresting disorderly persons'. It went on to add that the person charged was 'not a resident of Irish Street at all, nor even of the city of Armagh, but an entire stranger from a distant town'.[3]

The memorial certainly did not pour oil on troubled water as far as the local Unionist press was concerned. Whilst the *Armagh Guardian* did no more than report on the petty sessions the other two papers, the *Armagh Standard* and the *Ulster Gazette* with which it later merged, spared no effort in directing invective on the Irish Street folk. Whilst the *Ulster Gazette* admitted that there were 'very respectable and law-abiding men resident in this quarter – men who exercise a deterrent influence over the rowdies' it nevertheless claimed that the Irish street 'quarter' was the rowdy part of the city and court records could prove this. It pointed out that whilst the 'brutal attack' was carried out by a man who was not resident in the area, it did not accept he was a stranger to it as stated in the memorial but alleged he had 'very many friends' there because people gave evidence on his behalf when his case was being heard. No sympathy had been shown for the policemen who had been sent in to perform 'an arduous duty' and whose persons bore marks of the violence with which they were treated. "Intimidation in one form or another is the Irish Nationalist's policy,' it asserted.[4]

The *Armagh Standard* went a step further by attempting to cast aspersions on the character of Patrick Corr, the main signatory of the memorial by declaring that that he had behaved badly on a train journey. It asked: "We wonder if this is the same Patrick Corr of Armagh who was summoned to Enniskillen Petty Sessions last month for insulting the Rev Mr Bradshaw, a Protestant clergyman, in a railway carriage and, if we mistake not, he was also summoned by the railway authorities for giving a false name?". It alleged he managed to get everything hushed up by claiming he had a sick wife and paying £4 expenses. "Being the saviour of the inhabitants of Irish Street is he at the same time the disturber of the peace in a railway carriage?" It would seem that the *Armagh Standard* had no qualms

about adopting a partisan approach when it came to Nationalism or those who were perceived as supporting its campaign for Home Rule.[5]

'Sick' policemen

It was just the following year when Irish Street police barracks was in the news again but this time it had nothing at all to do with the residents. Instead it was to do with the health and wellbeing of the constabulary. Apparently there was 'scarcely a policeman who came there from the country but took fever'. When the matter was raised at a meeting of the Town Commissioners in October the local Medical Officer, Dr Gray did not accept that the cause of the illnesses suffered by the policemen after coming to Irish Street had something to do with milk supplies as suggested by the Town Clerk. He said that the police were supplied with milk the same as their neighbours, and there was no other case of fever in Irish Street – in fact there had not been a case of typhoid fever in Irish Street for years. It was the newcomers from the country that took in the fever to the barracks. The neighbours all around were perfectly healthy, he added. A 'bad smell from the sewerage in the house' was also cited as a cause for concern. The Town Clerk suggested that the barracks should be moved to the stone yard at the corner of Irish Street. Dr Gray agreed to seek to have this carried out. By the end of the century the barracks had indeed been transferred to this site from the east side of Upper Irish Street.

Train stops at Irish Street

Despite Irish Street's reputation for rowdiness in some sections of the press there was support from major business interests right across all sections of the community for a railway station at Irish Street on the new line to Keady and on to Castleblayney. It would seem that initially there was a question mark over the need for a train stop there. Thus in the summer of 1904 there was 'an influential meeting of Armagh merchants'. The outcome was a deputation led by the Unionist MP, Sir James Lonsdale, to the directors of the Great Northern Railway who made the case that it would be 'exceedingly inconvenient for both passengers and goods traffic' it there was not a station at Irish Street.[6] The result was that on a Monday morning in June 1909 the first train on the new line made its way from Armagh to Keady with a stop at the Irish Street halt.[7]

Irish Street Halt. Looking north on Keady Line at Irish Street Halt, Loco No.1
Armagh County Museum collection

The alleged unruly behaviour of the residents did not discourage those in authority from trying to revive the Flax market in Irish Street. By the end of the 19th century it was 'practically closed' apparently due to competition from foreign imports but in 1901 a local committee was formed to restore it to its previous importance. Competitions with 'valuable cash prizes' were to be on offer to attract both growers and buyers.[8]

Irish Street men went to war

The Nationalist leanings of some of its residents did not deter men from Irish Street from fighting in the First World War or indeed could actually have been the reason some joined up. They may have answered the call from John Redmond, the leader of the Nationalist party, to defend small nations like Belgium and bring the cause of Home Rule nearer. Alternatively, they might have joined the army for economic reasons bearing in mind that work was far from plentiful in Armagh. The main sources of employment were the textile factories and mills which were vulnerable to fluctuations in demand and general labouring work on buildings and farms. Some could have seen the army as a means of adventure and a chance to escape what they saw as their dreary, humdrum existences in a small country town. Whatever the reasons were for their involvement too many never came home. It should be noted that it is only in recent years that there has been any

real acknowledgement of the significant contribution made to the war effort by those from a Catholic or Nationalist background or efforts taken to collate their stories.[9]

Among those who lost their lives on the battlefield was Patrick Carson, a young joiner who was born in Irish Street in 1879 and 20 years later married Lena Mills in St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral. He was 35 years old, father of five children and living in Belfast when he enlisted. He joined the Sixth Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment where John Redmond's brother, Willie, was a captain. He died in the trenches in France in June 1916. A few months later his widow received his personal effects which included his identity disc, a handkerchief, his pipe, envelopes, photographs and Rosary beads. Six months after his death Lena died and the orphaned children were brought to live in Armagh and to be looked after by Lena's sister Mary Ellen Fields and her husband Jack.

Another poignant tale was that of Peter Leo Reilly of Lower Irish Street. He had been a private in the Irish Guards for three years and was on the reserve list when he was called up for service in the war. He was killed very early in the conflict, in September 1914, aged just 23 years. Prior to his enlistment he worked as a clerk at the railway station in Armagh. Shortly after his death his mother received a letter from the Hon. Mrs Ernest Guinness in Dublin: "I have received particulars about the death of your son from a lady who lived close to where he died. She asked me to tell his relations and I have just got your address from the Colonel in London. Your son was buried with the rites of the Catholic Church. There was a Requiem Mass for him with a catafalque before the altar and candles around it and the French colours. All the people in the neighbourhood went to the funeral and the Mass. His grave will always be honoured. He did not suffer at all and died a glorious death. I offer you my very deepest sympathy. The lady's name is the Marquise de Vasteyrie and if you wish to write to her I shall be pleased to forward the letter."

Four years later his younger brother Eugene received an award for bravery but not for conduct on the battlefield. He saved a young lad from drowning in the river Callan and thus was presented with a certificate from the Royal Humane Society.[10]

The Kearney family was recorded in both 1901 and 1911 censuses as living in Irish Street but by 1916 had moved to Navan Street. It was cited as an example to others in the *Armagh Guardian's* recruitment drive. This was the paper's rallying cry: "Mrs Kearney, Navan Street, Armagh, has a right to be the proudest woman in it. She has no less than five sons fighting for Ireland. Joseph is a Sergeant in the Australian Forces and was recently home on leave. William is in the Irish Fusiliers wounded; Patrick is in France with our Irish Fusiliers; James with the Irish Fusiliers in the Salonica Force, twice wounded and Henry with the Inniskillings in France."[11] It is interesting that the paper claimed the Kearneys were fighting for 'Ireland'. Had they come from another part of town or were of a different religious persuasion would a different approach have been used? By this time the attitude of many within the Nationalist community towards the war and involvement in it would have been affected by the aftermath of the Easter Rising and the harsh treatment of those who participated it it, particularly its leaders. It certainly contributed towards the strong resistance to the imposition of conscription. Sadly in the following year the paper reported: "Another Armagh man who has made the supreme sacrifice is Pte. Patrick Kearney, Royal Irish Fusiliers. He joined the forces at the outbreak of war and was with the 10th Irish Division during the fighting at the Dardenelles. He also took part in the evacuation of Gallipoli. Afterwards he was sent to France where he was killed". The paper also noted that his brother who was with the Australian forces was 'lying in hospital severely wounded in both legs'.[12]

Not all who lived in Irish Street were Nationalists or belonged to the Catholic Church. One young man who died, aged 27, as a result of war wounds sustained in Mesopotamia was Lee Rice, a member of the Church of Ireland. In the 1901 census he lived in Upper Irish Street with his uncle, also Lee Rice who was a flax merchant. He was an officer with the Royal Navy Transport but prior to the outbreak of war had belonged to the Merchant navy and had travelled extensively. He saw service in the Persian Gulf and his ship was under fire on many occasions. His funeral to St Marks in Armagh was accorded full military honours with a firing party of the Royal Irish Fusiliers and with a large and representative public attendance. A member of the Presbyterian church who lived in Irish Street and survived the war was Thomas McClelland who had worked as a postman according to the 1911 census. He received several military medals.

Conflict for a different cause

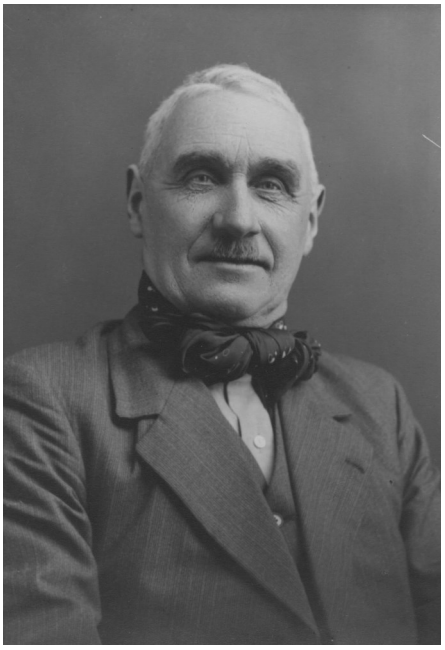
Some Irish Street residents were involved in a very different war just a few years later, the fight for

independence from Britain, the Anglo-Irish war of 1919 to 1921. Two men who played prominent roles as officers in local I.R.A activities were among those who gave detailed accounts of their involvement to the Bureau of Military History in Dublin which has collected over 36,000 pages of witness statements from over seventeen hundred people who took part in the conflict. They were James Short of Lower Irish Street who was First Lieutenant of the Armagh Company in 1921 and Frank Donnelly of Upper Irish Street who took over as O/C of the Armagh Battalion in the same year.[13] Both started out in the Irish Volunteers and the I.R.B in 1916 and would seem to have been mainly engaged in the early stages in drilling and training. Frank Donnelly observed that 'the spirit of the men at Easter week was the ideal that that the younger generation aimed at' and they had some differences in approach to the older men whose past experiences had taught them to be cautious at all times.

Theirs was guerrilla warfare fought by limited numbers and an obvious lack of resources. They blocked roads, cut telephone and telegraph wires and were on raiding parties seeking arms and ammunition, not always with great success. A major operation directed by Frank Aiken which included men from South Armagh as well as the local units to obtain U.V.F guns from the Cope residence at Drummilly proved to be fruitless and a raid on the home of a Major Boyle just netted 2 pairs of binoculars, a Sam Brown belt and 'some large rifle ammunition suitable for elephant shooting'. On one occasion a comrade of James Short was seriously wounded when a group of them, all unarmed, managed to disarm 2 Special constables at Umgola. According to Frank Donnelly during summer and autumn of 1920 there were a number of raids on the postal service. He took part in one when the mail was seized from a horse drawn postal van, taken to a hut outside the town where the letters were opened read, stamped with the words, 'censored by the I.R.A' and then brought to a postal box at Umgola for collection

Nowadays it is difficult to comprehend that often their main mode of transport was the bicycle. James Short instanced a time when he was involved in transporting ammunition from Belfast. It took 4 or 5 round trips by bike to collect the packages of bullets. When the Armagh men went to raid Newtownhamilton police barracks in 1920 they cycled there and back and although they did not manage to get any arms the operation was deemed a success because the barracks was burned to the ground. The attempt to blow up the barracks in Irish Street also in 1920 was certainly not regarded as a triumph. Frank Donnelly recorded that the explosion did more harm to the houses opposite than it did to the barracks and caused a lot of broken windows in the vicinity.

James Short, in his submission, described how, on the evening prior to the General Election of 1921, he survived an assassination attempt by a member of a 'murder gang' from Dublin led by a man named Igoe. At that time posters were put up throughout Armagh warning the I.R.A that if they did not cease operations 'serious reprisals' would occur. Frank Donnelly was arrested in May 1922, when the car in which he was travelling was intercepted by Special Constables who discovered 200 rounds of ammunition in it. He got four months imprisonment but just a few days after his release he was re-arrested and interned in Larne Workhouse until February or March, 1923. He mentioned that a 'few Cumann na mBan girls' were in the car and one of these later became his wife so it was not all bad!



James Trodden

James Trodden, an unrepentant Republican

An Irish Street inhabitant who was a leading figure in Republican political circles in Armagh was James Trodden, owner of a garage and taxi business in Lower Irish Street. He was on the platform party to greet Michael Collins when he came to Armagh in 1921 but there was a traumatic end to the day for him when his car was fired upon by opponents to Collins. He was driving supporters home to Poyntzpass when over 50 bullets struck the car. Fortunately no-one was injured but the car suffered extensive damage for which he was awarded £12.10s at the local Petty Sessions court.[14] He was back there again in November in what surely even then must have been a most contentious case. He was fined £3, not an insignificant sum at that time, certainly more than the weekly wage of many. His offence, it was said in court, was that he had 'some characters- believed to be Irish' printed on his motor cars. The

prosecuting solicitor said that English was the language of the country and the laws of the country were carried out in that language. 'Irish was never the recognised language,' he asserted.[15] This case undoubtedly raises some pertinent questions. Was this an isolated case where the intention was to make trouble for the individual, to harass him or was it common practice to prosecute anyone who displayed any sign or notice in the Irish language? It certainly merits more research.

James Trodden was obviously a seasoned political activist. He chaired meetings, delivered speeches and was election agent for Republican candidates at various elections, notably in the 1925 Stormont elections for Eamon Donnelly who later went on to be a Fianna Fáil Minister in Dáil Éireann and in 1933 when the Republican candidate P.J. McLogan succeeded in winning the South Armagh seat. However, one speech he made caused him to be sentenced under the Special Powers Act to 6 months imprisonment with hard labour. In February 1933 a celebration with bands and a bonfire was held at Cladymore outside Markethill to mark the Fianna Fáil victory and DeValera as its leader in the Dáil Éireann elections of the previous year. According to the police, James Trodden in his speech to the assembly 'made false statements likely to interfere with the success of the R.U.C.' What he said was that two men currently imprisoned in Belfast jail were there because the police who gave false evidence against them, instead of being in uniform, should be serving sentences for perjury.[16] Just months later he was declared bankrupt which would seem to suggest that the prison sentence affected his business.[17] In spite of it all he did not give up his political activities. In 1935 he was again speaking at a Republican meeting in Irish Street.[18]

Upper Irish Street
Armagh County Museum collection

At the outset the intention was to look at Irish Street up until the late 1960s but space and time decreed otherwise, thus this article covers just over half a century of some aspects of Irish Street's past. Unfortunately this meant having to defer looking at social issues such as housing, unemployment and poverty and perhaps some more light-hearted aspects of life such as social activities and sport. All for another day!

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[6]Belfast Newsletter, 26th August, 1904

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[9]I am really grateful to Joe Center for all his help in supplying this information. His new book: "Armagh dead in the Great War," should be of interest to all sections of the community in Armagh. It can be obtained from the Fusiliers Museum

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Armagh City Steam Laundry - through the eyes of the workers

by Sean Barden

As outlined in the first part of this article (History Armagh Vol. 4 No.1) Armagh Steam Laundry existed for forty-four years from 1907 to 1951. During that period it employed many hundreds of local workers and was one of the main sources of employment for Armagh women. By the mid 1920s the laundry had become firmly established at Tullyelmer on the outskirts of the city with a growing workforce, fleet of vans and offices at 3 The Seven Houses in Upper English Street.[1]

Incidents and Accidents

During the twenties the laundry had expanded its reach and by 1926 vans were collecting from customers in 'Londonderry and district weekly"[2] There were risks having a fleet of vans on the road because pressure to collect laundry quickly in an era when road safety was not as good as nowadays meant that accidents were not uncommon.

One of the most serious occurred on April 9 1932 on the road between Omagh and Newtownstewart when a local carpenter William Monaghan was struck and killed instantly by one of the Armagh laundry vans.[3] The following March a laundry man found himself in court after his van was in collision with a cyclist in Ballygawley and had to pay a twenty shilling fine.[4]

In the past when the laundry premises had operated as a mill it had suffered from several fires and this risk was no less now as it was processing hundreds of flammable textiles daily. On the night of May 5 1932 what the owners had hoped would never happen occurred when fire broke out in the drying sheds. Luckily the flames were quickly quelled and a potential disaster averted.[5]

Despite improvements in factory safety it was inevitable that laundry workers suffered accidents at the Tullyelmer facility. The heavy calendars consisting of massive rotating cylinders that could smooth bed sheets in seconds, could also be devastatingly dangerous if workers got too close. On 28 February 1940, seventeen-year-old Brigid Johnston of Gillis Row on Loughgall Road was injured when her right hand got caught in a machine. The following March she was awarded £700 compensation in the High Court.[6]

The chances of falling victim to crime especially during the unsettled period of the early 1920s was also something laundry van drivers had to be wary of. On 27 September 1923 van drivers John Sleeth and Michael Fagan were on their way to Armagh on the Newtownhamilton road near Ballymacnab when they were held up by five armed and masked men. Although the thieves made off with only £12 it was reported that Fagan had been struck on the head with a revolver.[7] It appears the robbery was an opportunist incident perpetrated by a gang who were taking a convenient opportunity to grab some quick cash.

Crime came to the laundry's doorstep eight years later in 1931 when the laundry was deliberately targeted in a gun attack. On the evening of December 21 eight shots were fired into the factory office, luckily the place was empty at the time and the papers could offer no

Armagh City Steam Laundry vans and drivers at Tullyelmer c1923
Armagh County Museum collection

piece of blackguardism".[8]

Work and play at the laundry

The community of workers at the laundry were not only washing and ironing together but socialising too. On December 3 1937 when the laundry held a dance in the City Hall the event attracted over 400 people. The crowd was strengthened by a party of Erne Laundry workers from Enniskillen. The Armagh manager, Mr Millar had previously worked in Fermanagh and both laundries were by this stage, owned by a Mr Thomas Hunter. The City Hall was specially decorated with the livery colours of the Armagh and Enniskillen laundry vans and Music was supplied by Mr F Donaghy's band.

The Armagh Guardian reported that local men Joseph Digby and Patrick Cartmill took charge of the evening's events and both Joe and Tommy Murphy entertained the crowd with songs. Prizes for dancing were won by Peter Fields and Miss A. Campbell, George Houlihan and Miss Casey and the enjoyment continued until 4.00am.[9]

Even considering the hard work and length of the working day one former employee thought she was lucky to get a job there and not in one of the local mills. The nature of laundry work necessitated a clean environment that was warmer than a draughty weaving factory or spinning mill. It might not have been as cold and dirty as a mill but it was just as noisy with washing machines and smoothing calendars constantly at work. The same employee said her mother would complain that even at home her daughter habitually shouted just as she did at work to be heard above the din of the machines.[10] She had lively memories of her time at the laundry not just working long shifts but fondly remembered the fun and banter of the workplace too.

Staff of the Armagh City Steam Laundry at their annual re-union 12 October 1923
Armagh County Museum collection

Men worked in the wash room with the women but they were in the minority, usually hauling heavy wet blankets and curtains into and out of the big wash drums. '*At the back of the calendars there was these big drums, what we would say was big washing drums and Davey Kennedy and them looked after them[…]'*

She recalled how one of the men rose through the ranks. '*Mick Lappan he was the washhouse man and he turned to be the foreman…. He lived in the house at the laundry.'* She recounted with some glee one day during the War years when she and some fellow workers got the DKO or Dirty Kick Out all because a pre-Christmas smuggling excursion to county Monaghan went wrong!

'We went to Monaghan the Monday before Christmas to get butter and stuff, and we always wore pleated skirts that went out over the saddle of the bicycle so you could take the butter and the sugar home. We took the wrong turn and we landed in Emyvale and we went round and round a wall and we couldn't find the road into Middletown. And when we got into Middletown we phoned the laundry. We were supposed to start at half one on a Monday, what we were doing was half one. And we phoned him and told him that we had got lost and that we were in Middletown and we'd be in as soon as we could and he said ,"You can take your cards on Friday." He was an oul bleart an oul bugger oul _____[...] an he says you can get your cards on Friday, so when Friday come I had a job in Portadown laundry and Lilly was going to munitions somewhere in Lancashire, somebody she knew had got her a job. So the two of us into the office to Leila Vallely on the Friday and we got our pay envelopes and we said, "Do we get our lying week, our money owed to us?" She says, "What for?" and I says, "We've got the sack, sure he told us on Monday to get our cards on Friday." "O God", she says "I don't know …", you see I worked in the laundry office with Leila

Vallely. It was the time Maureen Burn was off in the receiving office and somebody was off and they put me in it. But I got more pay than they got, for the laundry workers got more pay than the office workers. She said to me, "I'll have to see Millar" and Millar came out and he says, "What do you two think you are playing at?" And I says, "You told us to get our cards on Friday so I want our cards". He says, "Forget about it my bark's worse than my bite." I says, "No, I've got a job" and Lilly says, "I've got a job" and I was in Portadown laundry on Monday morning…'

She found the management at Portadown easier to negotiate with and even managed to get them to pay for her dinner on occasions.

'Well the oul fella that owned it oul Spence Bryson …well he was a real oul gentleman, the man that owned it. And he said to me one day, "Would you work for us this evening" and I was in the packing room at this stage and I said to him, "No I can't work I have to go home to get my dinner…" He owned the laundry and he had a factory across the road. And he says to me if, "I buy you your dinner would you work", so I said, "I will" so he gave me the money and I went to _____ And got my dinner cheaper and kept the rest of the money. And I got my dinner every Saturday when I worked and our ____ were all raging and Peggy Hannon and them all.'

Soon after she went to work in England but after the war came back to Armagh and was soon back in Tullyelmer from where she'd been sacked a few years before. Her area of expertise was packing and checking which was so important when keeping track of thousands of garments and bed linen belonging to hundreds of customers. Concentration was the key and unlike some of the other jobs in the laundry if your attention slipped items could go astray.

'I was a checker and a packer I checked army and I checked domestic and I packed both. I never was on the calendar and I never was on the ironing…You had your pen and your marking ink and you marked on the corner of the clothes and that wouldn't come out, if there was something delicate you would have marked it on tape and stitched it on, you know like a delicate lace.

Say for instance _____ was down with her mother and she used something of her mother's and she sent it in in her washing, you'd have to put the other name on. When we were in Portadown laundry whenever there was any confusion situation as regards people's numbers, washing numbers, they'd always come to me and ask me, is there a connection there. There could be two numbers and it could be a mistake, somebody checking, somebody's laundry there would maybe talk and look at somebody else's piece there, you know through talking.'

Although checking wasn't as labour intensive as washing or ironing there could be some nasty surprises.

'I didn't mind the checking out but I didn't like the checking in, you got some very dirty cloths and you had to handle them, and you got some awful things in some of the washings. We used to get Belfast washings […] There was an agent in Belfast […] and he collected the washings for Armagh laundry. And we'd get the washings in and they'd all go into big wooden skips and I can remember us starting to them and there was Lilly Orr and Margaret McVeigh and me and we took out the washings they were crawling and we threw them back in and we went till look for Miller and we couldn't get him, and Mick Lappin he wasn't as high up then and he was sort of over the checking and we said "We refuse to handle that" . It was an awful shame too people lapped their things in a pillow case or lapped them in a tablecloth and put a pin in them or maybe a bit of string round them […] and poor innocent people was getting their washing sent back. And none of us wore rubber gloves for you couldn't with the needle, if you had socks you had to stitch the number on them if you had jumpers you had to stitch the number on them with coloured thread. Some laundries had a label and some sort of a wee machine that would tab them on […] we just had to stitch them on.'

Shifts were long and near the end of the week everyone was impatient to get away from the laundry to socialise with friends. But if a van driver arrived with a batch of laundry then it had to be washed.

'I wouldn't like to say five days or six because some Thursday nights you weren't home till eight o'clock and some Friday nights you didn't know if you were going to see home at midnight. And you still had to go in on a Saturday to pack things. Paul Hanratty would come for Portadown laundry and you had to have them on a certain day. Jimmy Mackle, he was a van driver he had his on a certain day, Vincent Gibney, he took his on a certain day, he might have a couple of them to do. Tommy Gray, a wee ginger fella, he worked on the vans too.

Maureen Donnelly and a crowd of them always came in and they

they were going anywhere. And I remember them saying to Tommy Gray "take us in the length of the chip shop" […] and he took them down and he put them out on the Mall and he wouldn't let them back in the van, and he came back about ten minutes after and he lifted them and he left them in the Moy. And there was murder! There was no checkers that evening, it was a Thursday evening and stuff had to be ready […] Tommy was terrible headstrong and Maureen Donnelly and them had oul shoes on them, oul slippers on them, and them left standing in the Moy and it would have foundered you and them with no coat nor nothing on them. Tommy didn't care if he lost his job or not that was the kind of him.'

Closure

Between 1930 and 1950 the consolidation of the dozens of small independent electricity companies in Northern Ireland into just a few big players meant that a reliable grid was reaching most of the population. After the War social change and technological developments led to increasing sales of cheaper domestic conveniences such as electric cookers and washing machines. All these factors would ensure the demise of Armagh Steam Laundry.

After the boom years during the war the demand for the laundry's services fell away and by June 1951 the workforce was reduced to just twenty. In June that year the Armagh Steam Laundry finally admitted defeat and closed its doors for the last time. On the 29th June the local newspaper reported that:

Armagh City laundry has changed hands and the works at Armagh are advertised for sale. The business was purchased recently by the Newry Steam Laundry and a fortnight ago the works were closed down and their staff paid off. Some of the machinery has been transferred to Newry and the rest will be sold, and already the premises have been advertised for sale.

The Armagh receiving office and delivery staff in Armagh will be retained, and as many of the works staff, as possible will be offered work in Newry, where already some of them have started. It is rumoured that a bid has been made for the premises for a canning factory.[11]

The closure was brought to the attention of politicians at Stormont by Socialist MP for Belfast Falls Harry Diamond who asked what steps had been taken by the Ministry of Employment to find work for the workers who had been paid off. The reply revealed that only two had found jobs since the closure.[12]

The former workers fared as best they could and Mr Millar the laundry manager looked to the future for opportunities and opened a dry-cleaning business behind the laundry office in College Street called College Cleaners. Soon two local businessmen Jimmy Moore and Barney Rafferty did indeed open a fruit canning operation in the premises, calling it RafMore Canners Ltd proving that there was still a life for the old Tullyelmer weaving factory premises.

It may have closed 67 years ago but the Armagh Steam Laundry at Tullyelmer was an Armagh institution that for 44 years was an important source of employment and for the few surviving laundrymen and women is still a source of fond memories and great stories.

Acknowledgments

I received valuable help when writing this article from the Irish and Local Studies Library in Armagh. I should especially thank those employees of Armagh Steam Laundry whom I spoke to, whose memories helped enormously bring the human story of the laundry to life.

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It's not so unusual to say hello: Armagh couple meet 60s icon on Primrose Hill

by Kevin Quinn

When I meet up with my mates Desi 'Pokey' Devlin and Rory 'Momba' Johnston for a few drinks, it's nearly always guaranteed that there will be a 'reminiscing session' before the end of the evening. Someone usually kicks it off with the classic opener; '*do you remember that time…*' and with that line, a wave of memories comes flooding back. Within a few minutes, we are all perched on the edge of our seats waiting our turn to recall events, experiences, truths (or half-truths!) from our childhood, teenage years and early adulthood. Most of the stories we have all heard before. Interruptions are frequent as we often need to correct each other if bits are added or bits forgotten. But, occasionally a clinker of a story emerges which we have not heard before, such as the night Pokey said, "*Here's one about the night my Ma and Da met .... on Primrose Hill*". After hearing the story, I knew straight away that the story was destined for print.

Fig. 1 Photograph of Pat and Madeline Devlin from 1958. By kind permission of the Devlin family.

In the early hours of a July morning in 1967, Pokey's parents, Pat and Madeline Devlin, were making their way down Primrose Hill[1] to their house in Navan Terrace. They had attended a house-warming party at a friend's house in upper Dawson Hill and had left shortly before 2 am. About halfway down Primrose Hill, a car which was driving up the hill unexpectedly pulled up beside them. At first they were a bit startled as it was no ordinary jalopy, but rather a dark-coloured Jaguar. They thought the driver intended to ask for directions but as the driver's window was lowered, a familiar face came into view. It was Jim Aiken[2], the music promoter and first cousin of Mrs Devlin. When Jim recognised his cousin, he exclaimed:

"*What has you out at this time in the morning?"*

"*We're just making our way home from a house warming party*" replied Mrs Devlin.

"*Well… Do you know this fellow in the back seat?"* asked Jim.

As Pat and Madeline opened the back passenger door to peer in, the passenger who had been sleeping woke up slightly startled. Sitting up in his seat, the passenger held out his hand to greet the couple and courteously said, "Hello, pleased to meet you".

Well… (As you can imagine) a very shocked Mrs Devlin exclaimed:

"*Oh my God, Pat! It's Tom Jones!"*

Mrs Devlin, rather taken aback by the encounter, managed to make conversation with the pop star by remarking:

"*There are a lot of boys in Armagh singing your songs."*

"*That's great to know*" was the reply from the Welsh crooner.

"*It was lovely to meet you*" continued Mrs Devlin after a brief pause.

"*And you too…"* the star replied as the brief but exciting conversation came to a close and Mr Jones tried to get back to some much needed shut-eye.

Fig .2 Photograph of Jim Aiken and Tom Jones at the Television Club in Dublin during the promotional tour in July 1967

After a few brief pleasantries between the cousins the car pulled off, leaving a slightly mesmerised Pat and Madeline to continue with what they had thought was going to be a quiet, uneventful walk home.

Next morning, at breakfast time, Mrs Devlin excitedly proclaimed:

"*You'll never believe who we met last night on Primrose Hill!"*

"*Who Mum?"* was the immediate response from the children.

"*Tom Jones!*" declared the still star struck Mrs Devlin.

With this proud declaration, a bombardment of questions followed. The oldest sister who had a poster of him on her bedroom wall asked if they had managed to get his autograph.

"*No, he looked tired so we let him go back to sleep"* was the rather disappointing answer from the considerate Mrs Devlin.

Following this chance encounter on Primrose Hill, family folklore added another snippet to the tale. The classy Jaguar had apparently stopped off at Jim Aiken's mother's home in Jonesborough earlier that evening for a cup of tea. The idea of auctioning the best china teacup which Tom Jones had allegedly drunk from was suggested by an uncle of Jim Aiken.

In July 1967, Tom Jones was on a ten day promotional tour of Ireland. The tour was the follow up to his blockbuster hit, the 'death row ballad', *'Green Green Grass of Home'* which was in the charts for five months and spent seven weeks at number one. Tom's opening show was in the ABC cinema in Belfast, followed by the Flamingo Ballroom in Ballymena later in the week. A surprising feature of Tom's appearance at the ABC was that he performed two shows on the one night, the first starting at 6:45 pm and the second at 9 pm. So, with such a demanding schedule coupled with all the travelling, it was not surprising he was sound asleep by the time he reached Primrose Hill.

References

[1]Primrose Hill is one of the oldest streets in Armagh and was a main thoroughfare through the town until the construction of the ring road in the late 1960s/early 1970s. It dates back to 1618 when it was known as 'Monaghan Street'. By 1760, it was known as 'Belnayleg Street' then 'Charter School Lane/Poor School lane 'in 1766. By 1767, it reverted back to 'Belnayalea Street' but with a slightly different spelling. By 1794, the street was known as 'Primrose Lane' after Lady Primrose. Lady Primrose was the daughter of Dr Peter Drelincourt (Dean of Armagh 1691-1722), and widow of Hugh, 3rd Viscount Primrose. Her mother left an endowment to found the once nearby Drelincourt School. By 1834, it was known as 'Primrose Street'. Finally, in 1856, it was known as 'Primrose Hill'. With the redevelopment of the area in the late 1960s/early 70s, it was renamed for the ninth time and became Culdee Street.

[2]Jim Aiken was associated with bringing some of the biggest music artists to Ireland from the 1960s to his death in 2007. Born in Jonesborough, Co. Armagh, he was educated at St Patrick's College Armagh and played senior Gaelic football for Armagh. His mother was born and raised in the Convent Lodge located at the entrance to St Catherine's school on the Convent Road.

2017 Outing to Glasnevin Cemetery and the Boyne Centre

2018 Outing to EPIC, the Irish Emigration Museum and the Jeanie Johnston Tall Ship

Una Boylan, a valued member of the committee of Armagh and District History Group passed away in March this year, 2018.

She will be sadly missed for her enthusiasm and commitment and, above all, her unfailing good humour and ready wit.

An Armagh History Group Publication