

# History Armagh



- ◆ **When the lights went out in Armagh**
- ◆ **From Boyd's plantation to Fairview terrace**
- ◆ **Gallows Hill and the malevolent spirits of Tullyargle**

**An Armagh History Group Publication**





**Above:** In the gardens attached to the Church of Ireland Cathedral when on a walk and talks outing in the area last June.

**Below:** Members pictured outside Armagh Observatory in September before the first meeting of the History Group in its new venue, the Observatory's library.





# History Armagh

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Front cover:

Detail from James Black's painting of  
Armagh showing the thickly wooded  
plantation running from left to right along the  
edge of Newry Road, (156.1958)  
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Back Cover:

The mural at Culdee Crescent/Callan Street  
© Photo Armagh County Museum collection

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# When the workers put the lights out in Armagh before Christmas 1918

by Mary McVeigh

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It was just weeks away from Christmas 1918 when life in Armagh was severely disrupted because workers in most of the city's main businesses as well as local council employees took strike action in support of a collective pay rise. For twelve days this unprecedented working class solidarity resulted in the town being without lighting both public and domestic, the streets left unswept, refuse uncollected and deliveries cancelled. What is particularly surprising is that all this took place just a few weeks after the workers involved had joined a trade union.

At this time life was difficult for those in the lower rungs of society. Sadly, those who returned from the trenches did not come back to a land fit for heroes, instead they were confronted with poverty, poor housing, limited employment prospects and a rise in the cost of living. In the aftermath of the war and indeed during it there was considerable industrial unrest and strikes for better wages and conditions were far from unusual. This Armagh strike however was significant because so many businesses were affected by it and it did have some success in that all received a pay rise, albeit not as much as was sought but substantial enough for many and probably more than was expected by some. As well, it clearly illustrated, then as now, that although many workers receive little recognition in financial or other terms their labour is nonetheless 'key' to the smooth running of society.

## **The Workers' Union comes to town**

Essentially the story began when the Workers' Union initiated a recruitment drive in Armagh in September/October. It was one of the big general unions which came into being in Britain in the latter years of the nineteenth century. These unions were different from the long established craft organisations in that they catered mainly for the unskilled and poorly paid. They were all

encompassing, all inclusive and their main weapon was industrial action. Indeed when the Workers' Union arrived in Armagh it was experiencing its greatest period of growth; by 1919 it was the second biggest in Britain, only surpassed by the miners' union. Armagh was an obvious target for a union like this, primarily because it was surrounded by linen factories and mills. Literally hundreds of workers, mostly low paid women were employed in them and not just in Armagh but in the surrounding areas such as Keady, Darkley, Milford and Markethill. Right from the outset the union made huge gains. At its first public meeting in September 'a large attendance of working men' was addressed by the Divisonal Organiser, J.S. McKeag, who said workers in Armagh were 'the worst paid of any town in the north of Ireland through want of organisation.' By this stage it had 400 members in the city and a committee: George Carson (chairman), Peter Collins (secretary and treasurer), W.J.Russell, Joe McKee, A. Steenson, J. Devlin, R.Hyde, G. McKee, P. Nugent, J.Curran, J. Fields, J.Jones, N.Orr, J.Hagan, S.Nicholl, P.Nougher, C.Slavin and P.Loughran. In the following weeks the membership continued to grow and by the end of October it was said to be over a thousand.

## **Discontent leads to militancy**

It would certainly seem that there was growing militancy among Armagh workers who were discontent with their conditions right across the board. However while they were combining in common cause so too were their employers who set up their own organisation. Initially a claim was lodged in mid November on behalf of around 245 workers employed in some of the main businesses in the city as well as local council 'scavengers' (street cleaners and refuse collectors) for a fifteen shilling (75p in today's money) weekly pay rise. Although the sum sought was later reduced to ten shillings (50p) it was rejected



by the employers. Instead a 3 shillings rise (15p) or further arbitration was offered. This was roundly rejected unanimously by the workers at a meeting in the Foresters Hall and so without further ado a strike was called. According to the *Armagh Guardian*: "This decision they called into effect the following morning which caused something of surprise to both the employers and the general public who had no intimation whatever of such a sudden development."

### Effects of the strike

The businesses targeted by the strikers included Messrs. Hillocks, Boyds, Hoy's clog factory, Wordie's Carters, Kirker's Mineral Water Co., Turner's coal and timber yard, Edwards's coal and timber yard, McKenna's building firm, Kings the contractors, Irwin's bakery and grocery, the Wholesale Co-operative Society, Corrigan's fowl yard, the Gas Company and the Laundry as well as the City Council. Immediately two firms made acceptable offers to their workers. Hoys agreed to pay men an increase of 7 shillings and sixpence and John Corrigan gave his workers the ten shillings they had sought and substantially raised the price for plucking fowl.

Right from the outset there was severe disruption, especially since electricity had not yet reached Armagh and gas was the main source of power. "The stoppage at the Gas Works probably caused the most inconvenience and the more serious consequences as it involves 22 places who run gas engines in the course of their business and some of these will be forced to close while others will be very seriously handicapped," the paper noted. Factories at Gillis and Umgola had to cut production which meant their workers were put on half-time. Shops and offices had to close early for want of light. However, it was not just places of business which were affected. The evenings were getting longer as winter was imminent so the lack of lighting was a danger to public safety. The *Armagh Guardian* reported that the darkness of the streets at night was causing pedestrians to collide and 'apologies here and there being the order of the night'. It also recorded that there were complaints from soldiers about 'many efforts' being made to trip them up or assault them in the unlit streets. "It

was stated that in one case a sergeant anticipated the attack and the injuries which a prominent Sinn Feiner laboured under were the result of a quick counter attack."

Not only were the streets unlit they were also dirty because of the strike action by the Council scavengers. This caused discomfort to the general public but apparently the mud piled in the middle of the thoroughfares was no deterrent to the traders coming in to the Tuesday market because they were used to dirty country roads. The closure of the City Laundry, according the *Armagh Guardian*, upset the housewives when their laundry was not dispatched while the menfolk were 'also put out' when they did not get their clean collars. Social life was also curtailed because the Cosy Corner picture house was unable to show films for the duration of the strike.

One of the most serious effects of the strike was the scarcity of coal because there were no deliveries. The *Armagh Guardian* which was very forthright in its opposition to the strike which it described as 'deplorable' was not slow to show who were the most adversely affected. "The poor people are feeling the pinch of the want of coal and everywhere one sees women and children with bags and barrows looking where they can get a little. Many houses have been fireless for the past few days, yet there are hundreds of tons lying up at the station, well guarded but no-one to cart it up." At this time there was actually already in existence a coal fund for the poor in Armagh to which the great and the good contributed and then had their generosity recorded for all to see in the local press.

There was one section of the business fraternity which benefited from the strike, those who sold lighting of any description; candles, oil lamps and even bicycle lamps. The *Ulster Gazette* commented: "The truth of the old saying that 'it's an ill wind that blows nobody good' was forcibly illustrated at the weekend when local ironmongers were practically besieged for lamps, paraffin etc. They very soon rid of all their old stocks." Indeed one merchant was reputed to have sold £70 worth, a substantial sum in 1918.



## The strikers' lot

The strikers, however, were existing on what might have been described as a pittance. Their strike pay per week amounted to twelve shillings and sixpence for married men and ten shillings for single people. Further aid came from collections taken up in local mills and factories and the Barmen's Union in Belfast sent a donation of £35. They sought support from fellow trade unionists in the neighbouring towns, Portadown and Lurgan, through the trades council which was an umbrella body comprised of delegates from the various trade unions active in the area. It was told by J.J. Hughes who was now secretary of the Armagh branch of the Workers' Union that wages were 'scandalously low' in the city and the highest paid labourer was drawing a weekly wage of twenty-five shillings but some were only getting as little as thirteen or fourteen shillings.

It would appear that the strike was well conducted. The *Ulster Gazette* commented: "A stranger coming to Armagh would hardly realise that a strike is in progress. The men have been engaged in peaceful picketing and there have been no disturbances. The workers have been strongly advised by their leaders to do nothing to call for the intervention of the authorities." There was just one incident of law breaking on the part of the strikers, Patrick Molloy, a City Council worker, was fined a pound and costs for assault. He apparently 'deliberately shoved' a policeman off the pavement. It would seem he picked the wrong policeman to jostle, the Head Constable.

Morale was kept high during the strike according to the papers by free nightly concerts in the Foresters Hall. Here the audiences were not only entertained but had their spirits lifted by encouraging speeches. At one meeting Alex Steenson proposed, seconded by Peter Collins, a resolution of thanks to fowl merchant, John Corrigan 'for giving his own stock of coal to all creeds and classes in the district'.

George McKee, at one of the meetings, said the workers, both Catholic and Protestant, were out to get a living wage. He was glad to say there were few 'blacklegs' in Armagh. The present was a 'battle between democracy and aristocracy' and he appealed to the workers all over the city for support

in the fight.

The branch chairman, George Carson, claimed that this was the first time in the history of Armagh that they had an organised strike of the working men to fight for their emancipation. They now had a membership of over 1,300 and were prepared to fight to the 'bitter end' should it take 'a week, a fortnight or three months'.

## Strike settled

It took less than a fortnight, twelve days in fact, for a settlement to be reached. In the end, despite all the fighting talk, they did not get the ten shillings they had sought or even the seven shillings and sixpence they had hoped for, instead they accepted five shillings for men, three shillings and sixpence for youths aged between eighteen and twenty-one and a half crown for boys under eighteen. Women regardless of age were to receive the same sum as boys although there was no mention anywhere of women participating in the strike. However, this is not to say that they were not involved. As wives and mothers they undoubtedly would have experienced the hardships of surviving on strike pay. Both local papers noted that one firm held out and stuck to the original offer of three shillings however neither gave any information on who it was and how many workers were affected nor did the union make any statement on it.

Why did the strike end as it did, why did the workers not hold out longer in the hope that they would achieve their goal of seven shillings and sixpence? It could well have been that they could not face a bleak Christmas, just weeks away, on the meagre strike pay pittance. It has to be noted too that five shillings was a substantial increase, twenty per cent, on a wage of twenty-five shillings. No doubt there were plenty who were happy enough with this addition to their pay. Not all the City Councillors, however, were satisfied with the outcome. A minority wanted to give their men the seven shillings and sixpence hoped for and some criticised their chairman, Thomas McLaughlin, also a member of the business community, for taking part in the negotiations alongside the employers' organisation. Their view was that the Council was a separate organisation and therefore should not be



bound by any agreement reached by the employers' body. There was a long, heated and somewhat confusing debate on the issue which nearly ended in fisticuffs with one member declaring that he would 'flatten' another only 'he wasn't worth it.'

The outcome of the strike, it would seem, worked well for the Workers' Union because it continued to maintain an active branch in Armagh. For instance, it held a well publicised meeting in the first week of 1919 at which motions were passed calling for a shorter working week in the textile industry and castigating the gas company for irregularity in the gas supply. It was said that both employers and employees would benefit from a 44-hour week, it would be better for workers' health thus improving the rate of output. The gas company came under fire because the 'spasmodic supply' was a 'serious hindrance to local industry,' the absence of gas in some factories was preventing people from working. These resolutions would indicate that the textile workers were an important and certainly the biggest section of the union in Armagh.

### **'Primatial City's first Labour Day'**

Evidence of this was to be seen when what was described as the 'Primatial City's first Labour Day,' organised primarily by the Workers' Union, took place a few months later. Throughout the world May Day has been recognised as having special significance for workers. In many countries it is celebrated as a public holiday and in major towns and cities marches and rallies are held to show solidarity and support for the labour and trade union movement. The demonstration in Armagh in May 1919 was probably the only time that such an event took place in the city. My research to date has not unearthed another.

The *Armagh Guardian* certainly at that time no ally of organised labour surprisingly accorded the Workers' Union credit on two counts. It declared: "The union has made a local record in being able to induce Protestants and Roman Catholics to walk in one procession" and "It brought before the public the great part that women take in our industrial life, as women made up by far the greatest part of those in rank." It noted that a thousand people took part

but the *Ulster Gazette* estimated that the figure was fifteen hundred so we can surmise it was somewhere in between, a significant number nonetheless.

Furniture makers from Richhill and factory hands from the mills at Gillis, Lislea, Umgola, Armagh Spinning and Milford were joined by other Armagh and Keady workers and, no doubt, the occasion was given a festive air by the bands which accompanied them. Leading the parade were pipers from Richhill and interspersed in it were Hibernian bands from Armagh and Ballycrummy. The Milford contingent brought its own band from the village.

No details were given of the parade's route but the paper reported that it traversed the 'principal streets' of the town to the Market yard at The Shambles where stirring speeches were made by both local and visiting speakers. One of Belfast's most prominent trade union officials at the time, Harry Midgeley, who was to become deeply involved in Armagh labour politics in the 1930s, delivered a long address which concluded: "We as workers demand these things essential to our existence, better housing, improved sanitation, increased wages to meet the cost of living and lastly, more time to cultivate the higher things in life hitherto denied us." Armagh City Council was called upon to 'see to the immediate installation of the electrical lighting system' in a resolution proposed by regional organiser of the Workers' Union, Bob McClung and seconded by Armagh man, Owen Loughran. The Armagh organiser of the Workers' Union, J.J. Hughes, said that labour in all lands 'from the burning sands of Africa to the frigid steppes of Russia' had awakened from its long sleep. Today the democracies of the world cried out for freedom from the destroying forces of capitalistic control. In the workers of Armagh he saw the spirit of the proletariat. Were they not justified in seeking for themselves a better world in which to live? Organisation in every phase of life was the keystone to success and he urged his fellow workers to 'pull together for the common interest.'

### **Political success denied**

It could reasonably be assumed in view of the numbers attracted to the rally and the sentiments



expressed by the speakers that a logical step towards getting better conditions for the working class would be to enter the political arena, even at a local level. Although there was no Labour Party as such in Armagh there was a trades council comprised of representatives from the various unions in the area. This body had been set up in April just weeks prior to the highly successful May Day event. Its office bearers were from both the Railway Workers' union and the Workers' Union. Sadly while some of the trade union activists may have had political aspirations of a socialist nature they were not going to get any opportunity in the foreseeable future to further them. This was certainly obvious from the goings on locally prior to the local government elections in 1920. This was the first and only time that proportional representation was used for the election of local councils throughout the whole island of Ireland.

The *Armagh Guardian* noted that a feature in some of the Ulster towns was the success of Labour, particularly in Belfast, Lisburn, Lurgan and Portadown. Here, in the city, however, voters did not even get a chance to exercise the franchise and those who wanted to represent the interests of the working class would seem to have been brushed aside. The requisite 18 members took their seats without any need for an election after some candidates, it would appear, were pressed into withdrawing their nominations. It looks like there was much wheeling and dealings behind closed doors and pacts entered into by the main parties. Indeed the view could legitimately be taken that they were as much concerned about keeping others out as gaining seats for themselves. The *Armagh Guardian* of course proclaimed an opinion on it: "Labour attempted to gain a voice on the council through its own nominees but Nationalists and Sinn Feiners joined in excluding it as a party." It was likely that Unionists were also involved in excluding the trade union interest because in the North Ward where seats had previously been hotly contested there was no competition after two members of the Workers' Union withdrew their candidacies. One of them was George Carson who chaired the local branch during the strike and the other was John Caldwell, a winding master in the linen industry. Another Labour candidate, William

Sullivan, who represented railway workers on the trades council remained but his affiliation changed from Labour to Nationalist. In the predominantly Nationalist South Ward another Workers' Union representative, Peter Collins, also dropped out of the contest.

## Conclusion

Concluding the story of the strike of November 1918 and its aftermath I have to say I was surprised that I had never heard or read anything about it until, purely by chance, I came across reports of it when browsing old local papers. Labour historians have researched and recorded strikes which have had far less impact and less positive outcomes. Although this one took place at a time when there was considerable industrial unrest throughout these islands and strikes were far from unusual, it stands out because it effectively caused severe disruption throughout the city in the month of Christmas. The strikers, who were just weeks in the union, may not have got exactly what they were looking for nonetheless they did get substantial wage increases, for some as much as twenty per cent. It was interesting also because it did not involve just one place of work or one industry but was spread over many commercial concerns. It would seem that the Armagh workers remained loyal to the Workers' Union right up to it merged with the Transport and General Workers Union in 1929. Indeed the annual Irish divisional conference of the Workers' Union was held in the City Hall here in June 1928. Perhaps an interesting follow up might be to focus on trade union involvement in Armagh in later decades to consider whether it suffered a decline or gained in support?

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# Armed Struggle in the Newry/Armagh Border area: 1922

by Stephen Day

## Background

In the last edition of History Armagh, dated December 2020, I provided a general overview of armed struggle in the Newry/Armagh Border area from mid 1920 to the end of 1921. This was the period when the Anglo-Irish War (the War of Independence) begun in January 1919, began to lead to violent deaths in the area under study. There was only one such death in and around Armagh City – that of RIC Sergeant Kirk as a result of an IRA grenade attack in Market Street on 14 January 1920 – but events and deaths elsewhere in Newry town and the Border areas had already led to increased security force presence and activity.

The opening of the Northern Ireland Parliament in Belfast on 22 June 1921 was followed by a Truce on 11 July. This was agreed with the British Government by De Valera and other senior figures in Sinn Féin and the IRA. Intense negotiations were concluded in London when the Articles of Agreement (The Treaty) was signed in London on 6 December. To resolve ongoing concerns about the Northern Ireland border Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, had made a last minute vague promise to support a Boundary Commission at some time in the future. Although lacking in detail, this ‘fig leaf’ reinforced with the threat of the consequences of failing to close the deal appears to have been sufficient for Michael Collins and the Irish negotiating team. On 8 December President De Valera, who had from the outset refused to attend the negotiations in London, denounced the Treaty as being “*in violent conflict with the wishes of the majority of this nation as expressed in successive elections over the past three years.*”

However, the increasing levels of violence over the previous two years had led to war weariness on both sides and a desire for compromise with a return to peace. This was to be tested with a series

of debates between the divided Irish representatives in the Dail at Dublin. After much acrimony the terms of the Treaty were accepted on 7 January 1922 by 64 votes to 57. De Valera resigned his Presidency of Dail Éireann on 9 January. The next six months were spent trying to reconcile the deep differences - the growing split between the pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty forces. Renewed sporadic violence in Belfast and parts of the six northern counties would be part of the collateral damage.

**January 1922:** Events now moved quickly. The British had been under increasing pressure from the United States to seek peace and resolve the ‘Irish Problem’ but now, Harry Boland, the anti-Treaty Sinn Féin envoy to America, was forced to admit that support for his position had been severely eroded:

*‘The great public opinion of America is on the side of this Treaty. The Press of Ireland has adopted the unanimous attitude in favour of it. So too has the American Press.’* (Frontier Sentinel – 14 January 1922)

Also, on 14 January, at a meeting of the House of Commons of Southern Ireland, resolutions were passed approving the Treaty and setting up a Provisional Government under the Chairmanship of Michael Collins. (For the time being the government of Dail Éireann remained in existence under the presidency of Arthur Griffith). The British Government was keen to copper-fasten the terms of the Treaty (the peace process) as soon as possible. On 16 January Michael Collins took formal control of Dublin Castle from Lord Lieutenant FitzAlan. The evacuation of British troops accelerated as did the disbandment of the Royal Irish Constabulary. On 19 January Southern Unionists formally met and resolved unanimously to recognise the Provisional Government and the Free State. On 21 January, following a meeting in



London the Craig-Collins Pact seemed to hold out hope of a reduction of violence in Belfast and an end to the Belfast Boycott. The latter was officially ended on 24 January but remained unofficially in existence for several further months. Protestant premises in Warrenpoint, Newry, Armagh and Keady experienced some relief but intimidation by 'Irregulars' continued. Before the meeting Craig had told Churchill that he wanted to ascertain clearly whether the policy of Southern Ireland was to be one of peace or whether the present method of pressure on Northern Ireland was to be continued. (Over the next few months Collins attempted to ride both horses in an effort to avoid civil war breaking out in the Twenty-Six Counties.)

On 30 January the first meeting of the committee to draft a constitution took place under the chairmanship of Michael Collins. On 31 January, as the British army withdrew, the newly announced Free State army moved into their H.Q. at Beggars' Bush Barracks, Dublin.

### **'Disarray in 'the North'**

Faced with these fast-moving events and an uncertain future, the Commander of the IRA 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Division, Frank Aiken, tried to plot a neutral path with his pro-Treaty and anti-Treaty colleagues. He was anti-Treaty and Collins was pro-Treaty but whilst Collins pursued a public policy of reconciliation with the North, most notably the Craig/Collins Pacts, in private he gave a nod of approval to the continuation of a violent policy in the Six Counties. Northern Nationalists were not consulted in any meaningful way and their consistent policy, that peaceful reconciliation rather than coercion was the best way to proceed, was dismissed by militant Republicans. The Nationalist leader, Joe Devlin, became increasingly side-lined by events.

In the second half of 1921 a decision had been made by Northern County Councils with a Nationalist/Republican majority not to recognise nor to co-operate with the Belfast Government. On 14 December this led to the Northern Government temporarily dissolving such Councils, including Newry and Armagh under the Local Government (Emergency Powers) Act. The policy of non-recognition appeared to be an understandable

decision by nationalists in the uncertain times following the King's visit in June 1921, the Truce, and the bargaining which took place between then and the signing of the Treaty. Now, in 1922, it became an obstacle to their official representatives presenting their views locally and further afield. Yet, behind the scenes, there remained some hope that a Boundary Commission might reduce the Borders of Northern Ireland in favour of the nationalists and fatally weaken the viability of the 'Northern Statelet' which some mockingly called 'Carsonia.'

### **Border Incursions**

January had been relatively peaceful in the Newry/Armagh Border area but, as so often before, events elsewhere were to raise tensions and lead to a final period of violence. The neighbouring 5<sup>th</sup> IRA based in County Monaghan and 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern covering most of Counties Tyrone and Londonderry had already become embroiled in a standoff with the Northern Government.

On 14 January, an armed IRA Unit, under the orders of Dan Hogan OC, 5<sup>th</sup> Northern, was on its way to release three prisoners in Derry Gaol. These prisoners had been condemned to death for killing two wardens with chloroform in a previous escape attempt but a reprieve was expected. Craig had promised this to Collins if due process was followed. En route the IRA unit was arrested by Special Constables near Dromore, Co. Tyrone. Hogan's deputy Eoin O'Duffy insisted on unconditional release and when this was not forthcoming he threatened to take hostages.

### **Military Return to Newry and Armagh**

**February 1922:** During the night of 7/8 February the IRA in Monaghan (5<sup>th</sup> Northern Division) carried out their threat by crossing the Border and kidnapping 42 prominent Loyalists in Fermanagh and Tyrone. The operation was not a complete success. The RIC and Special Constabulary captured 15 IRA men and a quantity of munitions. (Ironically, the Derry prisoners had been reprieved the same evening but it soon became clear that the Loyalists who had been kidnapped were now being held hostage at various secret locations south of the Border). In the

forthcoming weeks a number of Protestants were also kidnapped in the Newry and Armagh border areas and were also held hostage as bargaining chips linked to Republican demands. Most were released over the next few months.)

The kidnappings caused outrage amongst the unionists in the North and were condemned as being an ‘audacious act of war.’ Craig demanded that Churchill take action.

**9 February:** Churchill told Griffith:- *“If your people are going to pop into Ulster and take off hostages every time the Northern Government enforces the law in a way you dislike, there will be reprisals and we will have a fortified frontier and we will have to put there Imperial troops because they would be more impartial than Northern Ireland troops”.* PRO CAB 21/25

Within 5 days a large advance party of the West Kent Regiment had reoccupied the Military Barracks at Newry enabling the reinforced Specials and RIC to return to their old Barracks at Canal Street and Kilmorey Street. By the following month the West Kents had thirteen officers and thirty-six men in Newry with a further ten officers and sixty-nine men in Armagh. The irony of Republican violence leading to a return of English soldiers in this and other areas of the North was not lost on local Nationalists.

Meanwhile, on **10 February** Special Constables on duty on the Tyrone/Donagall Border were ambushed by the IRA at Clady village. One was killed and two others wounded.

**11 February:** A number of lightly armed Special Constables travelling from Newtownards to Enniskillen were foolishly placed on a train which would take them via Armagh, through the Monaghan salient in the 26 Counties, en-route to Enniskillen. At Clones Railway Station the IRA prepared an ambush. The IRA Commandant was shot dead as were four Specials. Eight Specials were seriously wounded and four taken prisoner.

**17 February:** Armagh Guardian reports:-

*“Monaghan IRA instituting a reign of terror over the boundary line. Mounted on Crossley*

*(armoured) cars so thoughtfully presented them by the British Government, bands of IRA ran along each road into Counties Armagh and Tyrone and fired at homes and people indiscriminately..... strong patrols run along the Border roads to repel any further raids”.*

(All of this led to a resurgence of sectarian violence in Belfast with 27 killed and 68 wounded between 12 -15 February. With increasing instability elsewhere on the island, the sporadic violence in parts of Belfast continued with growing intensity up until July 1922.)

**21 February:** Enlistment begins into the police force of the Provisional Government - The Civic Guard.

## Violence Increases

**March 1922:** In the period leading up to Saint Patrick’s Day tension along the Armagh Border remained high. The police had information that IRA activity would increase over the holiday period. The increase in patrolling continued and Northern security forces attempted to secure their territory by blowing up bridges on minor crossings as well as barricading some border roads. When carrying out these duties they were often the target of IRA sniper fire as indeed were some local farmers feeding their livestock.

**15 March:** A Catholic man, John Garvey, was shot dead by ‘persons unknown’ near Blackwatertown on the Tyrone/Armagh county boundary. Reprisals were expected. At midnight a resumption of raids on the Belfast to Dublin railway was marked when the midnight train was held up between Altnaveigh and Adavoyle just south of Newry. There were to be several more IRA raids on Northern goods being transported by road or rail in the South Armagh heartland over the next few weeks and months. Reports followed of Protestant property being attacked and burned.

**17 March:** A Catholic man was shot dead by Specials at Dundrum Crossroads, Keady. James McGleenan (60) a farmer. He had approached the patrol in the darkness and failed to stop when challenged several times. It was later discovered he had a serious hearing difficulty.



**19 March:** A Protestant man, Robert Milligan, was stopped by armed Republicans. Pulled from his bicycle and shot dead in a nearby field at Grangemore, within a couple of miles of Armagh city. Possibly this was a reprisal for Garvey's death.

**26 March:** A Protestant farmer Robert Scott from Caledon was shot dead whilst feeding his cattle just across the border from Monaghan. To the far east of the Armagh border Orior House, Upper Fathom was burnt. A few days later Adavoyle Orange Hall was destroyed by fire.

**28 March:** A Protestant, William Fleming, was shot dead by Republicans whilst going to fetch water from a well near his home at Corkley, Keady. Possibly this was a reprisal for McGleenan's death.

**29 March:** Sergeant Early (RIC) and Special Constable James Harper were killed when they walked into an IRA ambush at Cullaville on the Armagh/Monaghan border. A second Special Constable was seriously wounded.

**30 March:** The second Craig/Collins Pact was an attempt to ease tensions. Churchill optimistically insisted that the first clause read: "*Peace is today declared*". Sadly, any good intentions continued to be undermined by what has become known as 'the politics of the last atrocity'.

**31 March:** The IRA ambushed a patrol of Specials at Hill Street, Newry killing Special Constable David Allen and seriously wounding a colleague.

## **A Reduction in the Violence**

**1 April:** A young Catholic man, Joseph Garvey, was killed a short distance outside Newry on the Rathfriland Road by 'persons unknown'. This appears to have been a reprisal in response to the killing of Special Constable David Allen. (This was also the day that the transfer of power from Britain to the Free State authority was officially signed by Churchill and Collins.)

**4 April:** A police patrol escorting explosives for quarry blasting in the Derrynoose area (south of Keady) came under fire from the IRA operating from County Monaghan. A vehicle was hit but no

injuries.

**5 April:** After the Derrynoose attack police patrols increased in the area. One of these at nearby Roughan Crossroads came under attack and whilst taking urgent evasive action Head Constable Alex Compston MC was flung from the vehicle. He died of his injuries.

**7 April:** The Civil Authority (Special Powers) Act (NI) gives the Minister of Home Affairs power to detain suspects and set up courts of summary jurisdiction.

**9 April:** The anti-Treaty IRA Executive appoints a seven-man Army Council with Liam Lynch appointed as Chief of Staff. Some anti-Treaty IRA leaders like Aiken were able to restrain their more militant colleagues by advising them not to escalate their actions until after the draft Free State Constitution was published. Because of their particular circumstances the IRA Northern Divisions maintained a general, if temporary, allegiance to Collins and the Dail.

(At Charlemont, Co. Armagh, a B Special patrol was attacked by bombs and rifle fire. A Sergeant and a Constable were wounded but prompt follow up action resulted in 5 suspected IRA men being arrested and a quantity of firearms and ammunition found. In further large scale searches throughout the county IRA landmines were uncovered in rural areas close to Blackwatertown, Keady (Darkley and Carnagh) and Silverbridge).

**13-14 April:** Anti-Treaty IRA took over the Four Courts in Dublin refusing to recognise the authority of the Provisional Government. Kilmainham Gaol was also occupied.

## **The Northern Offensive**

**May 1922:** In late April and early May there was a lull in IRA attacks in the North but police intelligence reports indicated that a co-ordinated IRA offensive was planned for later in the month. There was even some talk of 'an invasion of the North' but this was thought to be unlikely.

The British Government attempted to play down fears and proceeded in the role of honest broker between Craig and Collins. At the same time the

security forces were placed on high alert, especially along the Border.

**1 May:** An old soldier who had served in the Boer War and the Great War, Postman Charles Part (55) and his son (14) were ambushed by the IRA whilst delivering letters in the townland of Crossnamoyle south of Keady. He was shot and died at the scene. His badly wounded son managed to escape and raise the alarm. At the inquest the following day the Coroner appealed for no reprisals.

**19 May:** The relatively peaceful start to the month came to an abrupt halt when the 'Northern offensive' began, followed closely by further intelligence reports which revealed Collins' collusion.

The official launch of the IRA campaign was already compromised by a premature start and the various intelligence reports received by police. Attacks on several RIC Stations were repulsed. Some Unionist 'Big Houses' were destroyed but, despite a spectacular start, it soon fizzled out. Roger McCorley, a Belfast IRA leader (3<sup>rd</sup> Northern), was to complain that the 1<sup>st</sup> Northern and 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Divisions failed to act. Tom McNally, also of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Northern Division complained that 2<sup>nd</sup> Northern Division did not do "a damn thing". (Hopkinson p 84-86) This inactivity was partly due to lack of confidence in the planning and co-ordination as well as knowing that the general public were not in support of a return to widespread armed struggle. Aiken believed that the operation had been compromised and had circulated a document to his 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Division directing that:-

*"We must concentrate on our own job of keeping our units intact, and preparing them for the work that is ahead of us, and with the help of God, we shall make Ulster part of a Free Irish Republic".*

Churchill promised that the number of British troops in the North would be increased to 9,000 and the Specials to approximately 48,000 He told the Cabinet:-

*'We could do no less, having regard to the gathering forces from the South and the ferocious*

*steps used against Ulster....(Collins having joined hands with avowed republicans we could hardly wonder that the North has gone back to its extreme and violent position) I think we have to give them assurances of help'. (Coogan p.314)*

He was given the opportunity to reinforce these assurances with dramatic action towards the end of May when a border incursion occurred in and around the villages of Belleek and Pettigo on the Fermanagh/Donegal border. Trouble had been brewing from the 26<sup>th</sup> and, on the 30<sup>th</sup> May, the *News Letter* reported that:-

*"Northern territory was invaded by huge forces of IRA men on Sunday and, according to the latest news to hand, a considerable portion of a triangular part of County Fermanagh lying below Pettigo and Belleek jutting into County Donegal is now in the hands of the IRA".*

The small force of police, primarily Ulster Special Constabulary, had carried out a tactical retreat. It was soon clear that Free State troops were heavily involved and apparently acting in common purpose with the anti-Treaty IRA. Over the next few days it was reported that significant numbers of Protestant refugees were arriving in Enniskillen.

**(On the 26 and 27 May** an unplanned and lengthy confrontation took place between Aiken's IRA on the Louth side of the Border and Specials on the County Armagh side in the vicinity of Jonesborough. Special Constable Herbert Martin was shot and fatally wounded. This had no connection with the events on the Fermanagh border.)

Churchill, who was coming to view Collins as a "corner boy in excelsis" saw the triangle incidents as an opportunity to teach him a lesson. On 3 June he ordered into Pettigo 1000 British troops armed with a battery of howitzers and a number of armoured cars. They were accompanied by a contingent of Special Constables who could provide local knowledge. (PRO CO: 739/16) In the face of such overwhelming force the IRA evacuated the triangle areas without any serious show of resistance. Casualties were minimal. This action involved the British shelling of the old fort on the Donegal side of Belleek.

Meanwhile the general increase in IRA activity and the assassination of a Unionist MP in Belfast on **22 May** had created the conditions whereby it was politically acceptable for Craig's Government to introduce internment. In the forthcoming weeks around 350 IRA and Sinn Fein members were arrested and a proclamation declared all republican organisations illegal. Among those interned was David Sheridan, a Sinn Fein Councillor and Chairman of the suppressed Newry Board of Guardians. His removal was a serious blow to the local Sinn Fein movement just as the other arrests had a very debilitating effect on their organisation throughout the Six Counties. (Between May 1922 and 24 December 1924 a total of 728 men were interned, many in Ballykinlar, Co. Down) With little support for continuing military action within their own areas, this effectively crippled what remaining hopes there were of maintaining any sort of IRA campaign in the North.

### **The Justification for the Offensive and its Subsequent Failure**

Those involved in the IRA May offensive sought to justify their actions by referring to one or more of the three main political and military objectives: (1) To defend Northern Catholics; (2) To embarrass and destabilise the Northern Government; (3) To promote IRA unity. The offensive was a total and predictable failure on all three counts. There was an apparent determination on the part of Aiken that his units remain aloof and intact. Nevertheless, over the next five weeks of intermittent IRA activity, some of Aiken's Units in Newry and South Armagh became embroiled in a brief, but ultimately futile, contribution to the 'armed struggle.' As was the case in many other areas, this soon degenerated into sectarian reprisal killings on both sides.

### **Reprisal, Counter-Reprisals and The Civil War**

**1 June 1922:** The Royal Ulster Constabulary was established in Northern Ireland replacing the remnants of the Royal Irish Constabulary many of whom were integrated into the new force.

**4 June 1922:** A local Resident Magistrate, James Woulfe Flanagan was approached by three IRA

men and shot dead as he left Sunday devotions at Newry Catholic Cathedral. He was with his sister and the area was crowded.

**6 June 1922:** The day before the RM's funeral the IRA in Newry opened fire on police personnel who were on guard duty at the local hospital. They were protecting their colleagues who had been injured in the action at Jonesborough on 26 May. There were no injuries.

Later that week patrols operating in the Camlough area uncovered landmines dug in at the roadside. This discovery appears to have finally provoked the anticipated reprisals.

**14 June 1922:** The bodies of two Catholic men, Patrick Creggan (50) Derrymore, Bessbrook and Thomas Crawley (40) Auctioneer, Lisadian, Whitecross were found on the old Lislea Road beside the holes where the landmines had been planted. Both men had been shot. At the subsequent enquiry a number of witnesses came forward and reported seeing unusual activity with men dressed like police officers stopping, seizing the men and placing them in a lorry before driving on. One witness spoke of a car carrying men with "Anglified" accents who talked to those in charge of the lorry. All the evidence points to these killings having been carried out by some clandestine unit of the Crown Forces.

**16 June 1922:** The funeral of Thomas Crawley takes place in Newry.

**17 June 1922:** At about 1.00am a patrol of Special Constabulary was ambushed by a large number of IRA men at James McGuill's public house at Drumintee between Newry and Forkhill. Fire was returned and the attackers driven off but Special Constable Thomas Russell had been shot dead and a colleague wounded.

Also, in the early hours of 17<sup>th</sup> June, a large number of IRA men sealed off a number of isolated rural Presbyterian houses on the Northern flanks of Camlough mountain and ordered families out of their homes at gunpoint. Joseph Gray (20), James Lockhart (25), John Heslip (54) and his son Robert (19), Thomas Crozier (60) and his wife Elizabeth were all summarily shot dead on or near their



doorsteps. Four others were seriously wounded and whilst the survivors of the families looked on eight homes were bombed and burned. The fires at Altnaveigh were clearly seen in Newry where many of the townspeople had been awoken by the shots and explosions. However, by the time the security forces arrived on the scene the raiders had escaped. All the evidence at the time and since indicates that this was a purely sectarian attack and that both attacks that day had been approved by Frank Aiken.

The Altnaveigh massacre received world-wide publicity and was a severe embarrassment to those supporters of militant Republicanism who insisted that the IRA were non-sectarian. It also appears to have been an embarrassment to many members of the IRA's 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Division and was certainly a major departure from their operations prior to that date.

(IRA raids also took place at houses in the townland of Outlacken and Lurgana, between Whitecross and Newtownhamilton, but these were nothing like the operation carried out at Altnaveigh and only one of the occupants was wounded before the raiders escaped into the night.)

**18 June:** A Catholic man, Michael O'Kane, was shot dead at his Cloghanramer home to the northwest of Newry by 'Persons unknown'.

**19 June:** Two Special Constables involved in protecting families (previously attacked) on the Armagh/Monaghan Border were themselves shot dead by the IRA in the townland of Fergort, south of Keady. They were Special Constables Samuel Geary (28) and William Mitchell (21) both of whom belonged to the local Drumhillery USC Platoon. They had been cycling alone between Keady and the Border and the attack was a timely reminder that, although this area had remained relatively quiet since the IRA had killed Charles Part, Republican gunmen were still willing and able to take advantage of any relaxation of patrolling further inland. (A 70 year old civilian, Charles Haughy, was accidentally shot dead in the first volley from the IRA)

That evening, a gang of armed men singled out and abducted a Catholic man from Dublin who had

been employed as a lineman for the Great Northern Railway at Edward Street, Newry. Peter Murray was later found dead on the railway line to the west of the town.

**22 June:** Once again it was events far away from the Newry/Armagh border area which were to bring to an end this alarming cycle of violence both locally and in the Six Counties generally. On this day General Sir Henry Wilson, military advisor to the government of Northern Ireland, was shot dead outside his London home by two IRA men. Less than a week before, a General Election in the Free State had returned a majority of pro-Treaty candidates and an endorsement of the new Constitution. The British Government insisted that it was now time for Collins to take decisive action against the anti-Treaty IRA Headquarters in the Four Courts. Collins issued an ultimatum to the garrison on 27 June and bombardment of the Four Courts began at 4am on 28 June. This is generally recognised as the beginning of the Civil War in the South. The anti-Treaty garrison surrendered on 30 June. Street fighting continued in parts of Dublin until 7 July.

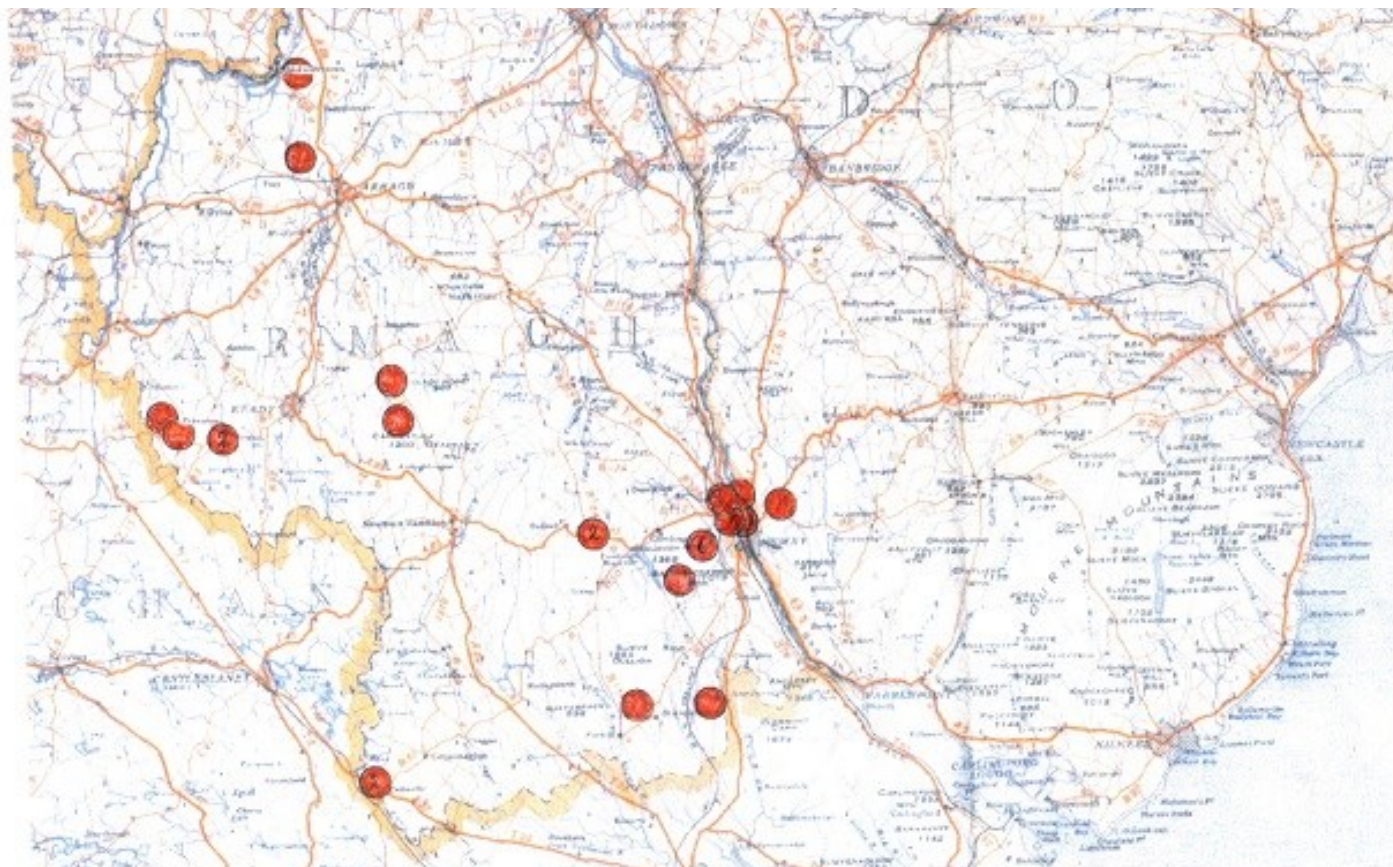
### **Civil War in the South/ Relative Peace returns to the North**

**July 1922:** Street fighting continued in parts of Dublin until 7 July, but the true horror of the Civil War grew in intensity over the coming months.

Even after the shelling of the Four Courts Collins appears to have done nothing to discourage IRA hopes that he might continue clandestine support of IRA activity in the Six Counties. It was left to his Cabinet colleague, Richard Mulcahy, to urge an end to uncertainty and a return to the terms of the Treaty. In a memo to Collins dated 24 July he had pointed out some blunt realities:-

*"The people (in the North) are for a peace policy and for a recognition of the Northern Government. They are even giving information to the Specials. Our Officers seem to realise there is no other policy for the North but a peace policy of some kind". (Coogan, p.382-383)*

The defeat of the IRA's violent policy in the North was formally acknowledged in a meeting between Officers of their Northern Divisions and Collins at



Map showing location of deaths as a result of political violence in Newry/Armagh Border Area - July 1921 to June 1922

Portobello Barracks, Dublin on 2 August. Division and isolation were underlined by the absence of Aiken. He was unable to represent 4<sup>th</sup> Northern owing to his being 'on the run' from his erstwhile colleagues in 5<sup>th</sup> Northern following his escape from Dundalk jail.

The Civil War was to continue until April 1923. When it was over the Free State Government faced the immense challenge of reconstruction and reconciliation within the Free State. As a result Craig had a period of remarkable calm in which to shape the future of Northern Ireland. He was also fortunate in that Lloyd George had fallen from power in October 1922 and Bonar Law, the Ulster Unionists strong friend in London, had replaced him as Prime Minister. Whilst 1921 had been the defining year in the creation of Northern Ireland, 1922 was the decisive year in securing its future.

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# Gallows Hill and the malevolent spirits of Tullyargle: *Folk and ghost lore from some local townlands*

by Kevin Quinn

## The Oral Tradition

An often overlooked part of our heritage is the folklore of our townlands. Each townland has built up its own history, traditions, and stories over the years. While most historians rely on written sources to explore the events of the past, oral histories, which often rely on folk memory, also provide an invaluable insight into the past. This treasure trove of information lives on in the memories of local people. In particular, 'ghostlore', a subset of folklore concerning the supernatural, has been passed down from generation to generation in our local townlands through story-telling. This short article aims to record some of these memories before they are lost forever.

## A Local Folklorist

My daily walk takes me through the townlands that surround the Navan Ring. Depending on my schedule, my walks can range from four to eight miles as I dander through half a dozen townlands. Over the years, I have met, and through regular chats, come to know many of the local people. In the townland of Ballybrolly, I would regularly meet with an elderly gentleman who is well-versed in the folklore of these townlands. Initially, my conversations with this local folklorist would have consisted of a few brief pleasantries, but as we met each other on a more regular basis, our roadside chats expanded to cover topics such as the local history of the area.

## Loughnashade Bulrushes

In one particular meeting around Halloween, we chatted about how most of the local traditions associated with Halloween are no longer practiced. I recalled how as young lads we would have collected bulrushes at the nearby lake of Loughnashade a few days before Halloween. By Halloween, the 'catkin' – or the flower part of the

bulrush - would have turned brown making it perfect for a torch. We would have soaked the head in an inflammable liquid such as Paraffin oil for a day or two before igniting them on Halloween Night. We would have then paraded around as if we belonged in a Medieval torch-lit procession.

## Malevolent Spirits

The folklorist's reply to this story of my juvenile antics was that we were lucky we did not encounter malevolent spirits on our quest to collect the bulrushes, as we had entered one of several haunted places. Located to the northeast of the Navan Ring are a cluster of bordering townlands known as Ballybrolly, Drumcoote, Tyross, and Tullyargle (see fig. 1). According to the folklorist, there are certain locations within these townlands where many locals and strangers have experienced strange happenings. One such location is just off the small section of Drumcoote Road that lies in the townland of Tullyargle.

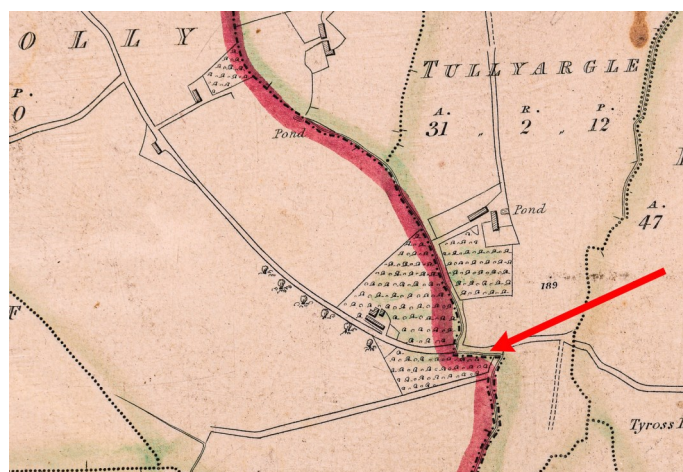


Fig.1: 1835 OS map sheet 12 (Armagh County Museum collection )

## A Burial Ground

Behind a large stone wall (see fig. 2), local folk memory places a burial ground for prisoners hanged at Gallows Hill in Armagh. It is said that vengeful spirits lurk in the executed prisoners' burial ground, and that they haunt the adjacent





**Fig. 2:** In the field behind the wall, local folk memory places a burial ground for the unclaimed bodies of prisoners executed on Gallows Hill

short stretch of the Drumcoote Road that lies between Hardy's Hill in Tyross and Connolly's Hill in Ballybrolly. Over the years, local huntsmen have told stories of how their hounds would not leave their side in the fields surrounding the burial spot, and if they were forced to hunt, would return quickly, yelping and cowering at the huntsmen's feet. (see Fig. 3) It has also been said that their malevolent behaviour at night has terrified many a passer-by unfortunate enough to encounter them .

## Gallows Hill

The site of Gallows Hill is located in the present-day Palace Demesne Public Park (see fig. 4). In the 17th Century, the public gallows was situated on a minor track of road, which branched off Irish Street, known as the 'Road to the Fews'. The road continued south over the high ground which is now a wooded part of the Palace Demesne Public Park. The gallows was located in such an elevated position to provide a stark, visual reminder to the people of Armagh of the consequences of crime. This location remained the place for public executions in Armagh for two centuries until the construction of Armagh Gaol in 1780 when public

executions were moved to the Gaol square. From the 1860s, execution was carried out within the prison walls.



**Fig. 4:** 1760 map by John Rocque, showing Armagh and Gallows Hill on the old Road to the Fews south of the city (Armagh County Museum collection )

## Further Indignities

The bodies of the executed could be left for days for the people of Armagh to look upon. Prompt possession was prohibited as there were cases where relatives attempted to resuscitate the corpse. However, after a few days, most families were allowed to remove the bodies and to bury the bodies in consecrated ground. Further indignities were carried out on the bodies of the more high-profile prisoners, such as highwaymen. Depending on the seriousness of their crimes, they could be hanged, drawn, and quartered, their head displayed on a spike, and their body parts scattered to the places where they had committed their crimes.

## Conway's Grave

Although there are examples of placenames in Ireland that are associated with executions, such as 'Cnoc na Chrochaire' and 'Croc na Croiche' meaning the 'hill of the hangman' and 'hill of the gallows', the townlands of Tullyargle, Tyross, Drumcoote, and Ballybrolly do not appear to have any association with execution sites or burial grounds. However, local folklore does connect some of the practices at Gallows Hill with these townlands. Local tradition places the grave of a notorious highwayman named Conway in Ballybrolly which is only a short distance from the supposed burial ground in Tullyargle. It is believed that Conway was captured in Ballybrolly after attempting to rob a coach in the nearby townland of





Fig. 3: Conolly and the Armagh Harriers, showing the windmill and city in the background, (121.1998)

(© Armagh County Museum collection )

Ballaghy and was summarily executed on the spot. He may then have been hanged, drawn, and quartered, his head put on a spike, and the body parts then displayed where he had committed his crimes. It is perhaps possible that the supposed location of the burial ground at Tullyargle was one of the scenes of Conway's crimes.

### Unclaimed bodies, unsettled spirits

A common local superstition is that the spirits of the executed are unable to rest. There are multiple reasons for this belief. Some of these executed prisoners would have been innocent of their alleged crime and would have suffered an excruciating death. Other prisoners' bodies may not have been claimed by their family depriving them of a Christian burial or a burial in consecrated ground. Local folk memory tells us that unclaimed bodies of these executed prisoners were brought to the burial ground in Tullyargle. It is believed that the spirits of these executed prisoners are unable to rest and so haunt this short stretch of the Drumcoote Road.

### The importance of folklore

By its very essence, folk memory is ever-changing making the historian's objective to discover the

historical origins of these stories ever more elusive. Although there are no known historical sources which allow us to fully authenticate the story of a burial ground at Tullyargle, we should still consider such folklore to be a rich and fascinating part of our local history. Unlike the executed prisoners whose unclaimed bodies returned as vengeful spirits to haunt the bottom of Hardy's Hill, we must claim these stories as our own by continuing to tell and enjoy them.

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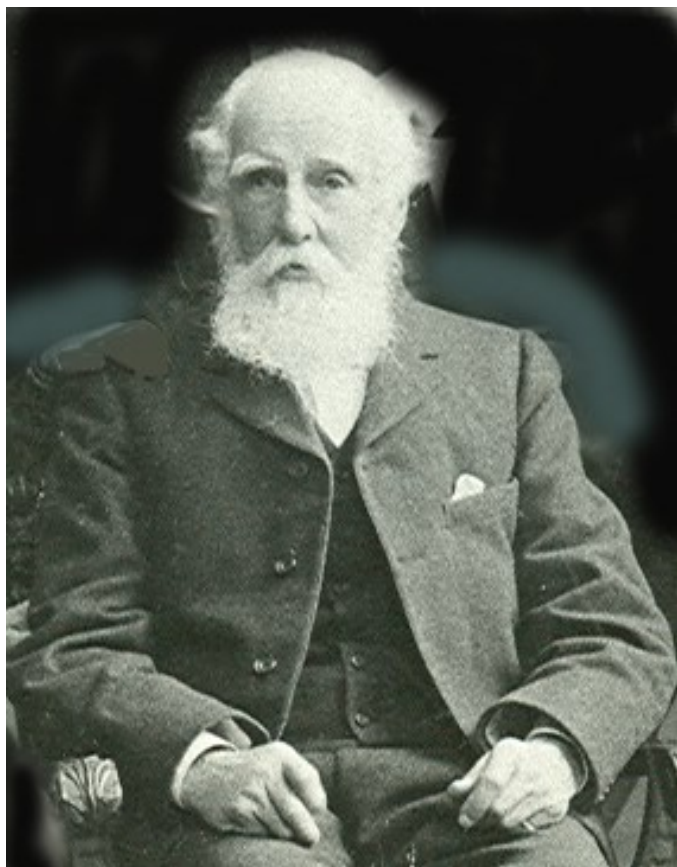
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### Acknowledgements

Special thanks to the local folklorist (who wishes to remain anonymous) for sharing a snippet of his folkloric knowledge of his local townlands.

# Three Lives: Charles Stanley, his brother-in-law and his granddaughter

by Richard Burns



Charles Stanley

Charles Stanley was my great great grandfather's older brother, he was born on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 1817 and baptised in St Marks, Armagh on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1818. He was the ninth child and fourth son of John and Septima Stanley nee Walker. He began his career as a solicitor.

With the death of his father in 1846 and a consequent inheritance from the will, Charles became a more eligible bachelor. James Crooks Bell, who married Margaret Trimble from Clogher and was the brother of Catherine Sarah Bell, who had married Charles' older brother John, may have drawn Charles attention to his wife's sister Jane Charlotte King, a widow. A marriage settlement was drawn up between John Stanley and George Charles Brackenridge, Jane's brother and ran to eight pages and involved 51 acres (Irish plantation measure) of the lands of Roughan, Co Tyrone and trusts for £2,800.<sup>1</sup>

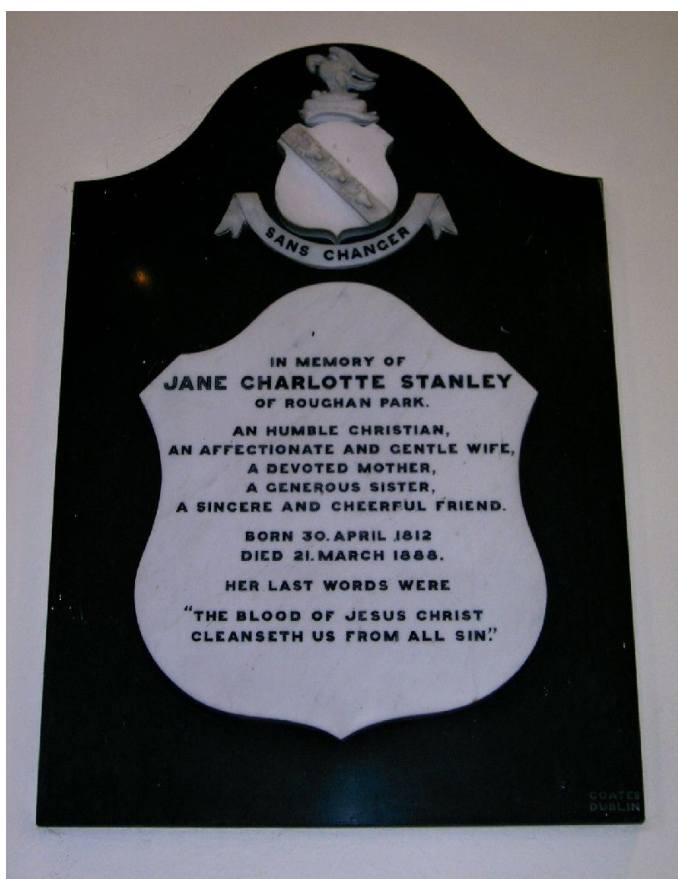
The settlement was agreeable to all parties and Charles married Jane on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1847 in St George's Parish Church, Dublin. The witnesses were John Stanley and George Charles Brackenridge. The couple made their home in Roughan Park and on 18<sup>th</sup> February 1852 their only child was born, Janetta Charlotte Catherine Josephine Stanley.

In November 1855 Charles was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Peace for county Tyrone and in February 1866 he was sworn in as a Commissioner of the Peace for county Armagh. He was a member of the Church of Ireland and was involved with the building of a new Parish Church in Brackaville on the outskirts of Coalisland. He served as a church warden both there and at his home church Holy Trinity in the Parish of Tullyniskin, Newmills. He attended some of the larger demonstrations against the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland at Hillsborough and Killyman. He took an interest in the Temperance movement and the Young Men's Christian Association, and served on the Board of Guardians for Dungannon, Cookstown and Lurgan Unions.

In the 1860s and 1870s, sectarian riots, drumming parties and demonstrations were increasing in the area, in the 1860s these centred around the disestablishment of the church, and in the 1870s by Gladstone's Land Reform Act.<sup>2</sup> The rioting in the greater Dungannon area and the treatment of the rioters led to a Government Commission of Inquiry being launched in 1871 into the charges brought by a number of Roman Catholics against all of the eight magistrates of the Dungannon Division for partisanship with the Orangemen and neglect of duty. Charles was one of the magistrates named in the proceedings who requested the Inquiry to clear their names. The others were Col. Stuart Knox, M.P., Thomas Hamilton, A. L. Nicholson, Courtenay Newton, A. M. Lyle, J. G. Richardson



and Ynyr Burges.<sup>3</sup> The Commission found no sign of partisanship or neglect of duty. Two years later, Charles missed his opportunity to enter into Orange mythology when he refused attempts to be drawn into an armed Orange party who were on their way to Coalisland to defend a Sunday School procession from a supposed attack by a Catholic party. The resulting riots were memorialised in an anonymous epic poem entitled *“Ye Hystorie of Ye Riot in Coalisland on Ye 24<sup>th</sup> June, Ye Year of our Lord, One Thousand Five(sic) Hundred and Seventy-three and Ye March of Ye Protestants in Ye Little Children’s Defence”*. The poem ran to 56 verses each with a minimum of 8 lines in each.<sup>4</sup>



Memorial to Jane

Charles’ wife Jane died on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1888 and was buried at Tullyniskin Parish Church graveyard. He erected a memorial to his wife inside the church, and one to his parents, who both died in the 1840s, in St Marks, Armagh at the same time. Following his wife’s death, Charles spent more time in England. In the 1891 census Charles is visiting his daughter Janetia and her husband in Tunbridge Wells. On 25<sup>th</sup> May 1892 Charles married Rosa Maude Mackay in Merrow, Guildford, Surrey. Rosa was born in Canada and

was the daughter of Spencer Mackay and Mary Charity Vansittart. Her brother, Edward Vansittart Mackay, served with the Indian Police before retiring to Clifton, Gloucester, and may have known Robert Hobart from his time in India. In 1893 Charles and Rosa are back in Roughan Park and he is appearing regularly as a magistrate on the bench in Dungannon and Stewartstown, by 1895 his appearances are limited, and by 1897 Janetia is managing his property. The 1901 census finds Charles and Rosa in lodgings at 27 St James Square, Bath and at this point Charles is registered as blind. Charles died 2 years later on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1903 at his daughter’s house in Tunbridge Wells, a few weeks after his 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, and was buried in the Borough cemetery. Rosa died on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1913 in Weston-Super-Mare, she had been living at 21 Lansdowne Gardens in Tunbridge Wells and was buried alongside her husband in the Borough cemetery

### His brother-in-law:

George Charles Brackenridge is an interesting character attracting the attention of the author, William Carleton in his lifetime, the BBC’s roving reporter James Boyce in the 1960s, and a few less reputable characters in the intervening years. He was born in 1814, the second of 3 children born to Joseph and Catherine Trimble nee Smith, a merchant in Clogher, county Tyrone. He was a solicitor, then a barrister, then a magistrate and eventually deputy lieutenant of county Tyrone, in the process building up a substantial property holding in the county. He changed his name to Brackenridge by deed poll in 1846, reportedly saying there are too many Trimble’s about this place. Brackenridge was his paternal grandmother’s maiden name. Charles Stanley was a witness at his marriage to Matilda Anne Bunbury, the daughter of Rev. Sir John Richardson Bunbury of Augher Castle. In addition to his son Upton Percival Brackenridge, George fathered a number of illegitimate children in the Clogher area.<sup>5</sup> He died at his home, Ashfield Park, Clogher on 12<sup>th</sup> July 1879.

Carleton, who became a close friend, portrayed him as a bumbling solicitor desperate to become a magistrate and thereby attain social advancement

begging those in power to put his name forward. He appears in “The Black Baronet” <sup>6</sup> and some of Carleton’s short stories as Periwinkle Crackenfudge. In The Black Baronet he does achieve his ambition to become a magistrate but only out of malicious spite from the baronet, who would enjoy watching his antics on the bench and the reaction of the other magistrates.

William Egbert Trimble, the owner of the Impartial Reporter in Enniskillen, in his book on the Trimble family, mentions him in passing under the chapter heading Trimble’s Folly. <sup>7</sup> He mistakenly states that Brackenridge had changed his name to Upton Percival Brackenridge, who was in fact George’s son, and he probably relies more on Carleton’s depiction of Crackenfudge for his description of Brackenridge than the reality. He also probably misquotes Brackenridge commenting on the building of the Folly saying, “As I looked down on the people of Clogher while I lived, I intend to keep on doing so in death”. Most other sources have the quote as “They looked down on me all my life, so I will make them look up to me in death”. The Trimble’s Folly referred to is now known as Brackenridge’s Folly and is part of the Carleton Trail around Clogher.



Brackenridge's Folly

The Carleton Trail describes the Folly as a mausoleum being built during the famine years to provide employment along with a road leading up to it. It was known as Brackenridge’s Folly in which he was to be buried in a vertical position, upside down as he believed on the day of resurrection the earth would be turned about and he would then be in the right position. After his death rumours that he had been buried with his gold watch and possibly other valuable possessions eventually attracted grave robbers. The tower was broken into, the lead coffin was pulled out and his bones scattered about. There were reports of children playing football with his skull. His bones were collected, and he was reburied in the tower. Depending on your viewpoint, blame for this initial exhumation was put down by some to Republicans and by others to the Black and Tans. American troops were blamed for a second exhumation during the second world war, the bones were subsequently buried elsewhere.

James Boyce visited the Folly in the 1960s for his Roving Reporter feature for BBC television, expanding on the legend and painting Brackenridge as a local Casanova exercising droit de seigneur over the local women in a form of “lasses for leases”. <sup>8</sup>

Shortly before her 28<sup>th</sup> birthday, on 7<sup>th</sup> October 1880 Janetta married Robert Thompson Hobart in Tullyniskin Parish Church, Newmills. They were married by Robert’s brother the Rev William Kirk Hobart. Robert was born in Dublin on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1840 and attended Dungannon Royal School and Trinity College Dublin. At the time of their marriage, he worked for the Bengal Civil Service. The Indian Mutiny of 1857 had provided Robert with this career opportunity, following the mutiny the East India Company was wound up ending their effective rule of the country. The Government of India Act introduced the principle of open competition by examination for appointment to the Indian Civil Service, rather than the system where the East India company regarded places in the Indian Civil Service as being within their gift.

Robert Hobart completed the Open Competitive Examination for the Indian Civil Service in 1860 and after further training arrived in India on 31<sup>st</sup>





The Hobart Family with Charles and Rosa Maude Stanley. Back Row: Patrick, Charles, Stanley, Frank, Betty. Front Row: Rosa Maude Stanley, Zillah, Charles Stanley, Robert, Janetta

Photo courtesy of Ann Miller nee Hobart

October 1861. He was Assistant and later Joint Magistrate of the United Provinces from 1862-73, then Deputy Inspector General of Police from 1873-82, then Inspector General of Prison from 1882-86, then Inspector General of Police from 1886-89. He retired from the Indian Civil Service in December 1889. They had six children, the first three boys were born in India. In 1885 Robert began making plans to return to England to give the boys an education in English schools. They set up initially in the village of Hawley in Hampshire, before setting up in Tunbridge Wells when Robert retired from India. In 1891 he was invited to stand for the town council and was elected and served for two terms before retiring. In 1898 he was placed on the Commission of the Peace for the county of Kent. In 1902 he was asked to stand for Kent County Council and he served there until 1912 when he retired from ill health. Robert died on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1912 and was buried in the Borough cemetery. Janetta sold the house in Tunbridge Wells in October 1912 and returned to Ireland, but returned to England on the outbreak of WWI to live

in Ticehurst, Sussex. After the war she returned to Tunbridge Wells and lived at 37 Madeira Park. She lived long enough to see her two remaining unmarried children married, and her widowed daughter remarried. She died on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1929 and was buried alongside her husband in the Borough Cemetery.

Their eldest, Robert Charles Arthur Stanley Hobart was born in Naini Tal, United Provinces, India on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1881, and educated at Temple Grove, Charterhouse and Trinity College, Oxford. Known as Charles in the family, he followed his father's career in the Indian Civil Service. He married Elsie Hinds on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1915 in Goudhurst, Kent and had two children. He retired to Mayfield in Kent in 1935 and died some 20 years later on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1955.

Their second child, Francis Edward Henry Graham Hobart was born in Barielly, North West Province, India on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1883 and educated at Fosters Stubbington House and Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Known as Frank in the family

he had a long naval career serving with the Royal Navy and the Royal Australian Navy. He married Constance Eleanor Billing on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1908 in Chelsea, London, and they had two children. The family emigrated to Australia in 1923 and settled in Victoria. He retired in 1947 and died on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1954.

Their third child, Percy Cleghorn Stanley Hobart was born in Naini Tal, United Provinces, India on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1885, and educated at Temple Grove, Clifton College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Known as Patrick in the family, he had a long and varied career in the Army and was best known for his work with tanks and armoured warfare. He married Dorothea Florence Field on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1928 in Kensington, London. They had one daughter. Patrick retired in 1946 and he died on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> February 1957 in Farnham, Surrey.



Betty

### **His granddaughter:**

Their fourth child, Elizabeth Adah Noel Hobart was born on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1888, known in her younger days as Adah and later as Betty, she was the first of Robert and Janetta's children to be born in England. She was educated at Southlands

School, Fairfield Exmouth, where she won prizes from the Royal Drawing Society for drawing, and a finishing school in Lausanne, Switzerland. It was in finishing school that she met and became friends with Alison Carver. It was through Alison that she met Alison's brother Oswald Armitage Carver known as Waldo. Waldo was educated at a number of schools including Charterhouse and later went to Trinity College, Cambridge, he rowed in the Cambridge eight that won the boat race in 1908 and they along with the Oxford eight and a Leander eight represented Great Britain in the Olympics that year. The gold medal was won by Leander, in second place was the Belgian team and in third place was the Cambridge team. Waldo became a director in his father Oswald's cotton company in 1909. In the same year he joined the territorials as a second lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Lancashire Field Company, East Lancashire Divisional Engineers. Waldo's grandfather Thomas and his twin brother William along with Samuel and Edward Hodgkinson had bought Hollins Mill in Marple Cheshire in 1859. The Carver family acquired additional Mills in the Manchester area in subsequent years. When word reached Betty's parents of the romance and the prospect of a marriage, her parents did not approve of someone in the family marrying into trade.<sup>9</sup> Eventually the payment of a sizeable marriage settlement convinced Robert Hobart to give them his blessing. Their engagement was in August 1911 and the couple were married in December of that year. Their eldest son John Hobart Carver was born on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1912 in Marple and their second son Richard Oswald Hobart Carver was born on 26<sup>th</sup> May 1914.

When the war broke out Waldo enlisted full time with the East Lancashire Brigade of Engineers and by 31st December 1914, he was in Egypt and promoted to captain of one of the Company's four sections. At the beginning of May 1915, the regiment left Egypt to go into action at Gallipoli. What was to become known as the third battle of Krithia was launched on 4th June. The attack on the Turkish positions was a three-point attack on the Turkish lines. The Territorial Battalions of the Manchester Regiment led the infantry attack on the Turkish positions to the right of the other groups.



The Engineers followed behind the Manchester's to help secure the captured Turkish trenches, establish communication back to the original British line and build strongpoints to be used in case of counterattack. The other two attacks were not as successful, and the Manchester's and their support were forced to retreat. Sometime during the day, Oswald was wounded in the back. He was evacuated down to the landing beach where he received attention from the military surgeons. The fact that Oswald was still there when he died three days later, perhaps suggests that the army surgeons had determined his condition as hopeless.

Betty was totally grief-stricken, and it took years to get over her loss. At first, she lived with her mother-in-law in Cheshire, but they did not get on well together, and feeling trapped, Betty with her two sons decided to move to London where her brother Patrick was living. Patrick was friends with the Herbert's, who knowing her situation suggested she rent a house they owned.<sup>10</sup> Settling in Chiswick she set up a studio to pursue her interests in art and sculpture. Her landlords A. P. Herbert and his wife Gwen lived a few streets away and became close friends, through them she acquired a wide circle of friends in the arts and literary circles.<sup>11</sup> Both Eric Kennington, another friend of Patrick's and Gwen were accomplished artists and sculptors, so all three had much in common. On the recommendation of Augustus John, she applied for and was accepted into the Slade School of Art. Her elder brother Charles arranged for the boys to attend Charterhouse and both then went on to Cambridge.

Bernard Law Montgomery first met Betty Carver on a skiing holiday at Lenk, Switzerland in January 1926. Montgomery 40 years old at the time, was in pursuit of a seventeen-year-old blonde, Betty Anderson who had previously turned down a proposal of marriage. When she turned him down again the following year at Lenk, he switched his attention to Betty Carver. He subsequently proposed, was accepted and on 27<sup>th</sup> July 1927 they were married, and on 18<sup>th</sup> August 1928 their son David was born.<sup>12</sup> Their first home was at the Staff College in Camberley. When his posting there finished in 1929, he returned to his regiment at the

Inkerman Barracks in Woking. In January 1931, Montgomery took command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion the Royal Warwickshire Regiment and set sail for a tour of duty in Palestine, then Egypt and finally India. Betty could not travel with him as John was seriously ill. She was able to join Monty in June 1931 along with David and John Carver. Betty enjoyed the Holy Land, and the opportunities it provided for painting. One of her subjects was Jack Philby, an explorer, he was a distant relative of Monty's and Monty had acted as best man at his wedding in India. Jack's son Kim would later become infamous.

At the end of the year the battalion was posted to Alexandria in Egypt, and in 1934 the battalion was moved to Poona in India. In the spring of 1934 Monty applied for leave and set out with Betty on a six-week cruise from Bombay to Japan, calling at Colombo, Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai on the way. Towards the end of March 1934, when the liner reached Hong Kong, Monty received word from Army HQ offering him the post of Chief Instructor at the Staff College in Quetta. He accepted the offer and took up the post towards the end of June 1934. On 31<sup>st</sup> May 1935 a major earthquake struck Quetta, there were a series of aftershocks up to October 1935. The death toll was estimated as being between 25,000 and 60,000 and many more were injured. Betty initially helped out with the injured and homeless but returned to England after the earthquake with David so that he could attend school in England. In January 1936 Betty returned to Quetta. In May 1937, Monty was promoted to Brigadier and given command of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade in Portsmouth. When Betty and Monty returned from India, Monty took 2 months leave. Betty, David and Monty took a motoring holiday to the Lake District and visited friends and relatives in Cheshire. When they returned at the end of July, Betty and David spent some time with Monty's mother Maud in New Park, Donegal until the third week in August when they would holiday in an hotel in Burnham-on-Sea. Shortly after arriving there, Betty was bitten by an insect on the beach. Betty had a severe reaction to the bite, her leg swelled up and she was in considerable pain, the doctor was called and he admitted her to the Cottage Hospital and Monty

was sent for. From reports it appears that Monty underestimated the seriousness of Betty's condition, until it was too late. He was involved in exercises on Salisbury Plain, David was being looked after by Jocelyn Tweedie, Richard Carver's fiancée and later by Betty's niece Kate Hobart. When the exercises on Salisbury Plain were over Monty returned to Plymouth, but this was 100 miles away from the Hospital. Monty was sent for again on the 14<sup>th</sup> October and they agreed to attempt amputating the infected leg. Betty suffered a slow death, as the blood-poisoning worked its way through her body. Her leg was amputated but it was too late, Betty died on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1937, aged 48.

Their fifth child, James Wilfred Lang Stanley Hobart born on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1890. Known as Stanley in the family, he was educated at Temple Grove, Charterhouse, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. He served his military career mainly with the North Staffordshire Regiment from 1908-45. He saw service in Ireland before WWI, France, Belgium, Germany during WWI, India and England between the wars, and West Africa, the Western Desert, Cyprus and the Sudan in WWII. He married Kathleen Whiteford Grove White in Buttevant, county Cork on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1914, they had one child. He retired in 1945 and died on 10<sup>th</sup> March 1970.

Their sixth and final child, Zillah Cicely Nita May Hobart was born in Tunbridge Wells on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1894 and educated at Southlands School, Fairfield Exmouth. Known as Zillah in the family, she attended finishing school in Aigle, Switzerland and intended to train as an opera singer. At the start of WWI she began her career in nursing. She met her future husband Thomas Wood in Gstaad, Switzerland and they were married in 1925 and set up a poultry farm in Beddegelert, Gwynedd, Wales. Her husband died on 24<sup>th</sup> February 1931 in Portmadog Hospital from a tetanus infection following an accident on the farm. She and her son Connla moved first to Madeira and then to Canada after the outbreak of World War II. They settled in Victoria, British Columbia where Zillah continued working in nursing. Zillah died in May 1967 in Ottawa, Ontario.

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# Lisanally, Knockamell and Drumadd in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

by Gerry Oates

In 1609 a Crown Commission was established by James I to distinguish, among other things, the ecclesiastical lands from those belonging to the Crown within the Manor of Armagh. During the earlier dissolution of monastic lands, in the period 1537-40, there were so many complaints of lay lords usurping the former church lands to their own benefit that James decided to include the landed endowments of the dissolved religious houses in the Commission's task and ordered that no grants of such lands should be made, until the true facts were ascertained by inquisition. Thus, the Inquisition of 1609 became, in fact, a prelude to the Plantation of Ulster.

The text of the Inquisition laid out the boundaries of the area under discussion - 'the lands within the meares and bounds of the Manor of Armagh, beside the town of Armagh itself'. The Inquisition's findings listed more than 100 parcels of land including several townlands whose names are still in current use and several more that have fallen out of use or been absorbed into the present Corporation of Armagh. Among those that have survived within the precinct of today's city are Lisanally, Knockamell, Lurgyvallen, Mullynure, Gillis, Longstone, Drumarg, Drumadd, Cregagh and Mullynure.

This present essay is an attempt to investigate the backwaters of history, rather than the main stream of momentous events and lives of powerful men, and glean from the information contained in those place-names and their links with Armagh an insight into the lives of those who dwelt there. The areas chosen for this purpose are Knockamell, Lisanally and Drumadd and the following information is taken from the above inquisition of 1609, and a later one of 1633, the rent rolls of the See of Armagh and other historical documents relating to Armagh city and county in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## Knockamell

Among the first lands mentioned in the Inquisition text of 1609 are those of the Lord Archbishop of Armagh which include the parcel of land *Knockyamoyell*, as noted by Glancy in his account of the Inquisition, and described as *Knocke-Iamoyle* by Hill in his History of the Plantation of Ulster. The same parcel of land is recorded as *Knockiamoile* in the rent rolls of the See of Armagh in 1676. The current name is *Knockamell* which appears to be an anglicized version of the Gaelic *Cnoc Ui Adhmaill* and translates as *O Hamill's Hill*. The place-name is situated in the townland of Mullynure and refers to the hill on which the Observatory was built in 1789.

Where do the *O Hamills* come from and what is their connection to Armagh? The sept *Ó hAdhmaill / Hamill*, a branch of the Cineál Eoghain and an old established Ulster family, have been associated with Co. Armagh for more than 600 hundred years. They belong to a population group of the Cineál Eoghain known to historians as Cineál Binnigh and were originally settled in south Derry in the vicinity of the present village of Castledawson. Their subsequent migrations took them south to Tyrone and Armagh and east across the River Bann into Co. Antrim. The present distribution of the name indicates that *Hamill* is most numerous in Cos. Armagh and Antrim.

The earliest reference to the surname *O Hamill* in the annals reports the slaying of *Giolla Criost Ó hAdhmaill*, chief of the sept, in the battle of Downpatrick in 1178 in an unsuccessful attempt by the Ulster Gaelic chiefs to halt the advance of the Anglo-Normans under John de Courcy. Almost two centuries later, the death of *Ruarcán Ua hAdhmaill* in 1376, described as 'ollamh to Ua hAnluain' (O Hanlon's professor of poetry) is recorded in the Annals of Loch Cé and suggests

that a branch of the family had established themselves in the county as poets to the O Hanlon lords of Orior. Half a century later, a less impressive report on the *Hamills* is found in the correspondence of Archbishop Swayne, dated 1429, stating that *Turlough* and *Bryan O Hamill*, laymen, had attacked and robbed the occupants of granges belonging to the Abbey of SS. Peter & Paul in Armagh on behalf of a local O'Neill chieftain for which they were excommunicated.

The term *Munteramyl* (*Muintir Adhmaill* – ‘the O Hamill progeny’) appears on the 1610 barony map of Upper Dungannon as a territory consisting of about 50 townlands, covering the northern half of the parish of Clonfeacle as vassals of the O Neills of Tyrone and indicates where they had settled, perhaps, before arriving in Armagh. *Hamills* were also found in numbers east of the Bann in the territory controlled by the Clandeboy O Neills of Co. Antrim.

During the early years of the Plantation the Manor Court Rolls of Armagh (1625-27) recorded a *Daniel O Hammell* in October 1625 and *Arthur O Hammell*, of Kilmore, in April 1627 among the litigants. On the outbreak of hostilities in 1641 between the native Irish and the planters the subsequent depositions relating to Co. Armagh reported a *Friar Hammell* among the rebel forces who was most probably the Franciscan, *Fr. Pádraig Ó hÁmuill*, chaplain to Owen Roe O'Neill's forces in 1643. Later in the century, the Hearth Money Rolls of 1664-65 located a number of *Hamill* households in English parish close to their former territorial lands of *Munteramyl*: *Torlagh* and *Shane O Hamill* in Aughrafin and *Owen O Hamill* with lands in Lisnafedy and Drumrusk townlands. The Franciscan petition of 1670-71 in the diocese of Armagh included *Patrick* and *Laughlin Hammell* together with *Bryan* and *Owen O Hammell* of Creggan parish. The petition was the result of a dispute between the Franciscans and the Dominicans over the right to solicit alms within Armagh diocese.

Referring to the spellings of place-name as *Knockyamoyell* / *Knocke-Iamoyle* Edward Mac Lysaght, former chief Herald of Ireland, notes the English version

*O Hammoyle* in late 16<sup>th</sup> century reports which probably accounts for the anglicized forms of the place-name found in the text of the 1609 Inquisition and other 17<sup>th</sup> century documents. In the Gaelic surname *Ó hAdhmaill* ‘descendant of *Adhmaill*’ the latter part *Ui Adhmaill*, which means ‘of *Adhmaill*’, is reflected in the latter elements of the anglicized versions of the place-name –*yamoyell* / –*Iamoyle*. The *H* of the English version (*O*) *Hamill* only serves to keep the vowels *Ó* and *A* of the Gaelic surname apart.

### Lisanally

Michael Glancy's account of the Inquisition of 1609 states that the parcel of land known as *Liosconalia* was part of the townland of Mullynure and was formerly the property of the Mac Moyer sept of Ballymoyer. George Hill's account refers to the same place as *Liosconalta* and, a later inquisition carried out in 1633, lists it as *Lyosconalta* and *Lisscanalla*. The initial element of all versions is obviously derived from Gaelic *lios*, which in early Ireland literally meant ‘the space about a dwelling house(s) enclosed by a bank or rampart’. In place-names it is usually translated as ‘ring fort’.

As far as I am aware no Gaelic version of the place-name has been suggested by the Ulster Place-Name Society. The second element of the name which occurs as –*conalia*, –*conalta*, –*canalla* is problematic. The *con-* element appears to represent the genitive case of *cú* ‘hound’ which often occurs in Gaelic personal names and surnames, and consequently in place-names. Gaelic dictionaries, Dinneen, Ó Dónaill and eDIL (electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language) give both *cú allaidh* and *cú allta* as alternative terms for ‘wolf’ (lit. ‘wild hound’), which in the genitive case would become *con allaidh* (pronounced *con-ally*) and *con allta* (pronounced *con-alta*) and appears to correspond to the historic versions *Lios-conalia* / *Lios-conalta* which were in use in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. The meaning of both versions *Lios-conalia* / *Lios-conalta* is ‘the enclosure of the wolf’ and, since both share their meaning and refer to the same parcel of land, I will deal with the term *Liosconalia* alone as the more likely forerunner of the place-name *Lisanally*.



However, the terms *Cú Allaidh* (and *Cú Allta*) were also personal names in Old Irish with the metaphorical meaning of ‘warrior, hero’ and suggest an earlier owner of the ‘enclosure’ bearing either of the names. If *Mac* is prefixed to *Cú Allaidh* we have *Mac + Con Allaidh* a surname which has been attested in historical records in anglicized form as *Mac Anally*, common throughout Ulster. And if the surname *Mac Con Allaidh* forms parts of the original Gaelic version of the place-name it would read *Lios Mhic Con Allaidh* (*Mac Anally’s ring fort*). In many such place-names the initial element *Mac* has been either discarded or reduced to *-c-*, a frequent occurrence in place-name development. So, the *c-* which occurs initially in the second element of *Lios-conalia* is possibly a remnant of *Mac* which has absorbed the following *c* in *Mac Con Allaidh*, giving us with the early anglicized form, *Lios-conalia* of 1609. *Lios* has universally been anglicized *Lis* and I reckon that, with the passage of time and the demise of Gaelic, the *c* has been elided, leaving us with something similar to *Lisonalia* and eventually, *Lisanally*.

The above supposition, however, is a subjective view and still has to be verified by place-names’ specialists.

The surname, *Mac Con Allaidh* (*Mac Anally*), however, has been shown to have a connection with Armagh from at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Diarmaid Ó Murchadha, commenting on place-names and people in ‘Miscellaneous Irish Annals’ (1114-1437), notes that *Giolla Mártain Mac Con Allaidh* (*Gilmartin Mac Anally*), chieftain of Clann Chonchadha, an ancient territory which included the present parish of Lisnadill, was slain in 1178 at Downpatrick by Anglo-Norman forces, incidentally, in the same encounter in which *Giolla Criost Ó hAdhmaill* (*Gilchrist O Hamill*) was killed.

The surname, *Mac Con Allaidh* ‘son of the wolf’, is found among the Cineál Moain, a branch of the Cineál Eoghain in east Donegal, that later settled in the neighbourhood of Strabane. The reference to *Giolla Mártain Mac Con Allaidh* (*Gilmartin Mac Anally*) of Clan Chonchadha would suggest that a branch of the Cineál Moain sept had settled in

Armagh some time before 1178.

*Mac Nally*, and its earlier spelling *Mac Anally*, is at present a fairly common name throughout Co. Armagh, but many bearers of the surname regard it as derived from *Mac Con Uladh* (son of the hound of Ulster), which was closely associated with the ancient territory of Oriel and included Cos. Monaghan, Armagh and Louth. This, however, does not preclude the presence of a second sept (*Mac Con Allaidh – Mac Nally*) within the county.

## Drumadd

Unlike Knockamell and Lisanally, both of which formed part of the townland of Mullynure, *Drumadd* was a townland in its own right of slightly more than 182 acres situated to the east of the city centre and includes the areas known as Barrack Hill and the Clump within its bounds.

Between 1609 and 1664 this place-name occurs eight times in a range of historical records as *Dromod*, *Drumadokenean*, *Dromadokeenean* and *Drumaddykenan*. These versions appear to be anglicized forms of the Gaelic *Droimfhada Uí Chianáin* (Keenan’s long ridge). The present townland of *Drumadd* had originally been church lands and was most probably granted to the family in the medieval period for their services to the diocese of Armagh. Several *Keenans* appear in the registers of the archbishops: *John Kenan* was an important official of Archbishop Sweteman (1361-80); *John Okynan* acted as chaplain and administrator to Archbishop Swayne (1418-39); and *Thomas Ochenan* (*O Keenan*) was appointed perpetual vicar of Termonmaguirk in 1491 in Archbishop Octavian’s time (1478-1513). Prof. Ó Mainnín, of the Ulster Place-Name Society, in a recent study (2012), suggests a link between the Augustinian abbey of SS. Peter & Paul in Armagh and the Augustinian abbey of Lisgoole in Fermanagh and ventures the opinion that *Keenans* might have settled in Armagh before establishing themselves in Fermanagh.

Throughout the medieval period the sept *Ó Cianáin / Keenan* enjoyed a reputation for learning as one of the most renowned literary families of Ulster. Members of the sept were employed as hereditary scribes and chroniclers to the ruling

Maguire dynasty of Fermanagh until the break-up of Gaelic Ireland in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Scholars reckon that the origins of the *Ó Cianáin* sept can be traced to the Boyne valley area of Co. Meath before their dispersal.

As historians, chroniclers and men of literature, many *Keenans* travelled to various parts of Ulster where their services were required and settled mainly in Cos. Monaghan, Tyrone and Armagh. *Tadhg Ó Cianáin* (ca. 1575-1625), reputed to be a native of Tynan parish, who accompanied Hugh O'Neill and his retinue into exile, was the first to commit to writing an account of the event known to history as the 'Flight of the Earls' which took place in 1607.

Having been established in Armagh in the medieval period, several references to the *Keenans* are on record in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and post-Plantation Armagh. *Shane O Kenan* of The Fews is listed in the Elizabethan fiants of 1602, and *Keenan* was noted as the 3<sup>rd</sup> most common surname among those granted pardons in the Tynan-Middletown area as followers of the O Neills of Portnelligan. *Cuconnaught O Kinan* is mentioned in the same document as chaplain to Henry Oge O'Neill of Portnelligan and, according to historian, T. F. O'Rahilly, is the same *Cuchonnacht* who with five others was unjustly found 'guilty of treason' and hanged in Derry in 1615. A decade later, *Edmond O Kynan* of Cavanballaghy, Eglisish parish, appeared at the Manor Court of Armagh in October, 1625. *O Kenan* was also listed as 'a principall Irish name' in the baronies of Armagh, Oneilland and Tiranny in Sir Wm. Petty's 'census' ca. 1659. The Hearth Money Rolls of 1664-65 recorded the following versions *O Keenan*, *O Kynan*, *O Kenan* in Keady, Derrynoose, Kilclooney and Kilmore parishes. In 1770 Wm. Lodge's survey of the archbishop's tenants in Armagh city located a *Bartholomew Keenan* in Callan Street. An indication of the troubled times which plagued the county in the 18<sup>th</sup> century is reflected in two particular cases from the Armagh assizes indictments (1735-97); *John Keenan* was convicted of treason at the summer assizes of 1742, but pardoned on condition of transportation to the colonies; *James Keenan* was found guilty of 'riot

and assault' at Killylea Fair in 1794 during a period of serious sectarian disturbances in the county.

Not all *Keenans*, however, were scribes, chroniclers or churchmen; *Cormick Keenan*, known as *Cormac na gCeann* ('Cormac of the heads') was a dreaded 'head-cutter' and hunter of rapparees employed by Johnston, Constable of The Fews, in the early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Local tradition recounts that he had 110 decapitations to his name.

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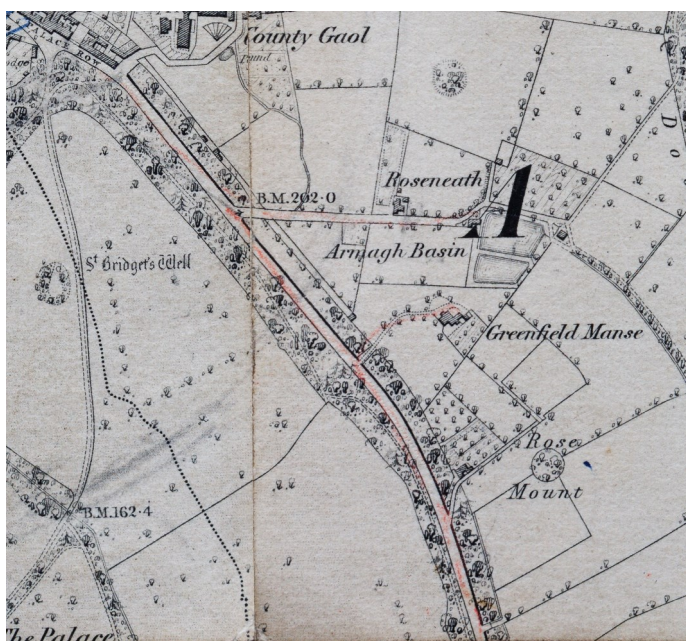
# From Boyd's plantation to Fairview terrace

## Suburban development in Armagh

by Sean Barden

In this article I will be exploring how a section of Armagh's suburbs developed during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and looking at the people who owned and occupied properties in this area.

Looking at James Black's painting of Armagh made in 1810, the left hand side is dominated by a long grove of trees that hides the Newry Road, (*see image on front cover*). The true extent of this feature is clearer on Ordnance Survey maps of the city. Running for just over a kilometre up the long gradient of the road from Palace Row near Barrack Street to the crest of the hill, this long narrow strip of woodland just twenty metres wide covered about five and a half acres. In 1864 it is described by Griffith's Valuation as Robert A. Boyd's plantation and ran parallel to the eastern boundary of the Primate's walled demesne on the other side of the road. Boyd was leasing it from the Church of Ireland archbishop who at the time was landlord of most of the property in Armagh.



1862 OS map sheet 12 showing Robert A. Boyd's plantation running up the right side of Newry Road. (Armagh County Museum collection)

### Robert Alexander Boyd

In 1864 Robert Alexander Boyd was a 34 year old seed merchant and farmer living with his wife Fannie at Woodford House just 800 metres south east of his plantation.<sup>1</sup> However, by the 1870's he had moved from Woodford and was letting the house to tenants and by 1894 he had placed it with its 47 acre dairy farm up for sale.<sup>2</sup> He and his wife now made their home at Palace Row at the bottom of Newry Road and it was here that Fannie died on 28 September 1899. Robert was a comfortably off widower who on his wife's death record described himself as a 'gentleman' and when he completed the 1901 census recorded his occupation as a retired farmer.<sup>3</sup> He died on Easter Sunday 1908 at his Belfast residence 43 Wellesley Avenue and the couple are buried in St. Mark's churchyard, in Armagh.<sup>4</sup>

In the years following 1894 and the sale of his plantation, farm and Woodford House the property would be divided, sub-let and sold off in sections to developers. Nevertheless, even in 2021 some of the mature Beech trees still survive near the roadside at the entrance to Greenfield manse, giving some sense of how rural and wooded the Newry Road would have been 150 years ago.

### Plot 72

In the valuation records the plantation is referred to as 72A&B and when the Church of Ireland was disestablished in 1870 it was transferred to the Church Temporalities Commissioners who then became Boyd's landlord. In 1873 they mortgaged the Mensal lands of the See, which included 72A&B together with parts of Ballyheridan, Drumarg and Parkmore townlands, to Archbishop Marcus Gervais Beresford. After his death in 1885 his will instructed his trustees (who now held the property), to sell it at a 'time that might seem expedient to them'.<sup>5</sup> The intention was to pay off



the mortgage and hold any profit in trust for his son George D. Beresford, who at 54 years old, was also one of the trustees and executor to his father's will.<sup>6</sup>

**CITY OF ARMAGH.**

**BUILDING GROUND FOR SALE.**

**TO BE SOLD BY PUBLIC AUCTION, on**  
the Ground, on *Wednesday, 15th June, 1887,*  
at the hour of *Twelve o'clock, noon,* all that Lot of  
Ground, the property of **GEORGE D. BERESFORD,**  
Esq., adjoining the **NEWRY ROAD,** and ex-  
tending from the end of **PALACE ROW** almost  
to the end of the **DEMESNE WALL**:

This Ground is held in Fee, free of Rent, and  
has been divided into Lots as follows:—

**LOT 1,** adjoining **PALACE ROW,** has a frontage  
to the **Newry Road** of 202 feet, and extends in  
depth 71 feet.

**LOT 2,** Frontage 202 feet, Depth 68 feet.

**LOT 3,** " 202 " " 70 "

**LOT 4,** " 225 " " 71 "

**LOT 5,** " 225 " " 73 "

**LOT 6,** " 224 " " 70 "

**LOT 7,** adjoining **Mr. Riggs' Cottage,** has a  
frontage of 584 feet, in depth 70 feet, and contains  
3r. 30p.

**LOT 8** contains 3r. 3p.

**LOT 9** contains 2r. 22p.

The first Six Lots have been laid off as suitable  
for Double Villas, admitting of a Garden at the  
end of each.

The high and healthy situation of the ground,  
commanding an extensive and beautiful view  
across the Palace Demesne on one side, and as far  
as the Tyrone and Derry Mountains on the other,  
and overlooking the Folly in the rear, and its  
proximity to the City of Armagh, render it most  
suitable and desirable for Building Ground.

It is the intention of **Mr. BERESFORD,** as soon  
as convenient, to thin away the Trees in the  
Demesne immediately in front of this Ground for  
the purpose of improving the view.

For further particulars and conditions of Sale,  
apply to

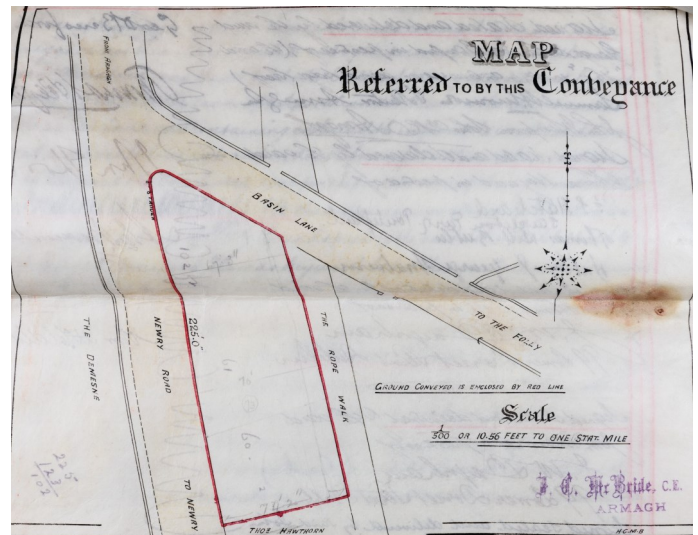
**SAMUEL H. MONROE,**  
Solicitor for Vendor,  
Russell Street, Armagh;  
or to  
**MATTHEW A. BELL,**  
Auctioneer, English  
Street, Armagh.

**21st May, 1887.**

Advert from Ulster Gazette 28 May 1887 advertising building ground on Newry Road for sale

They acted on 15 June 1887 and 72A&B was auctioned in nine lots. The advert pointed out that 'The first six lots have been laid off as suitable for Double Villas, admitting of a garden at the end of each'. The healthy location on the outskirts of town with fine views of the palace demesne were also noted as selling points. There was even a promise from George Beresford that he would thin

away the trees at the edge of the demesne 'for the purpose of improving the view'.<sup>7</sup> The first three lots, each 202 feet in length, ran uphill as far as Folly Lane and lot 4, covered a further 225 feet above Folly Lane.



Map from deed showing plot 72H bought by John McClelland in 1887.  
©Armagh County Museum collection

If we now focus in on lot 4, which was bought by John McClelland for £30 and assigned the valuation reference 72H, we can see how this small part of Boyd's plantation developed.<sup>8</sup>

## John McClelland

John McClelland was born around 1833 and owned a long-established wholesale business and public house in English Street, Armagh. It was centrally located next to Jenny's Row in a building that for most of the twentieth century was where another local institution, the Rainbow Café flourished.<sup>9</sup> He is recorded there in both the 1901 and 1911 census returns and unusually his wife Margaret with two daughters are recorded at the family residence on the Mall at 2 St. Mark's Place in the same records.

Remarkably, he was still running the business aged 79 in 1911 but in August that year advertised the premises for rent or sale. John died on 3 July 1913 and left an unusual will, in which he was careful to name his wife and daughters as executors but despite having an estate worth over £16,000, did not name any beneficiaries. The lease for the Newry Road property was not included in his estate because he had already sold it to James Farr for £55 in June 1902.<sup>10</sup>



## James Farr

James Farr had been born on Barrack Hill in 1867, the son of a carpenter. However, by 1901 he was a 37-year-old 'Solicitor's Managing Law Clerk' at J.E. Peel & Sons in English Street and was also working as a journalist and part time editor of the Ulster Gazette.<sup>11</sup> He had married Anna Isabella Neill on 4 April 1900 in Armagh's Methodist church, Abbey street and they had moved into a house on Barrack Hill.<sup>12</sup> By 1909 they had moved to Railway street into a large semi-detached house called Normanville. This house no longer stands because it was demolished in the early 1980s when Lonsdale Road was made.<sup>13</sup>

He was comfortably off and had ambitions beyond the solicitor's office as can be seen in the 1911 census. It records him employing a general domestic servant, Ellen Simpson and by 1918 he had successfully competed against twelve applicants to be appointed commercial teacher in connection with Keady, Tandragee and Bessbrook Technical Schools. Presumably he was now teaching full time, travelling between schools and had left his career as law clerk behind. He had always been keen to share his office skills and as long ago as 1888 offered shorthand tuition classes from the family home at 8 Barrack Hill.<sup>14</sup> When James died on 13 August 1925 he was Principal of the County Armagh Regional Technical Committee and like Robert Boyd he is buried in St. Mark's graveyard.<sup>15</sup>

When he bought the Newry Road property from McClelland in 1902 it was described as 'building ground' but unlike the previous owner, who left it undeveloped for fifteen years, Farr lost no time erecting houses there. It was James who with William Whitsitt in 1903, first built on plot 72H.

## William Whitsitt

William Whitsitt was born about 1840 in county Monaghan and with his two brothers ran a long-established ironmongery and house furnishing business in Market street from at least 1880.<sup>16</sup> William continued in business after the partnership with his brother James was dissolved in 1909 and although he had a residence above his shop he later resided in more refined surroundings at Hartford

Place on the Mall.<sup>17</sup> William ended his days at the regency town villa, The Pavilion where he died in 1920 aged 81.<sup>18</sup> Whitsitt was 25 years older than his fellow developer Farr but they had known each other for many years and as long ago as 1883 shared the stage in the Tontine rooms singing at a temperance concert when James was 16.<sup>19</sup>

## Fairview terrace

There was a slow but steady increase in the number of houses in Armagh between 1891 and 1911, by the latter date there were 125 more than there had been twenty years earlier.<sup>20</sup> This aggregate total does not reflect new house building such as the redevelopment of old slums like Banbrook Hill but it does reflect what we see from contemporary maps, that dozens of new suburban houses were being erected.

Banbrook and nearby Lonsdale Street were built as artisans dwellings to accommodate working families but Farr and Whitsitt's houses were intended to attract a slightly more affluent tenant. This is clear from evidence given at a 1906 enquiry concerned with council borrowing for housing developments which is worth quoting.

*Have any been built on Newry Road? - Yes; but they are not houses for working class men.*

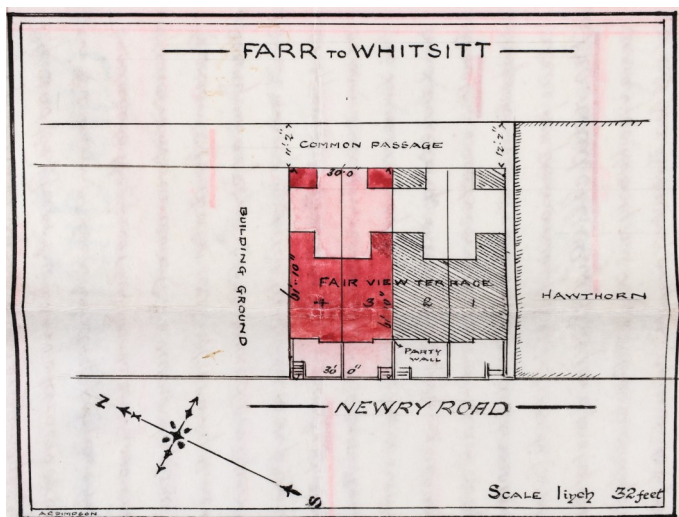
*Haven't there been a number of cottages built there? - No.*

*What kind of houses are they? - Mr Farr and Mr Whitsitt built houses there at over £200 each.*

*What are they let for? I don't know, but they are considerably higher than any working man could pay, 5s or 6s. [shillings].<sup>21</sup>*

The four houses were named Fairview Terrace with a Rateable Annual Valuation set at £10.00 but a year later reduced on appeal to £9.00. The name suggests that George Beresford had kept his promise to clear away the curtain of trees around the perimeter of the demesne allowing a prospect of the archbishop's palace from the new houses.<sup>22</sup> They were designed in the popular Domestic Revival Style which was influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. Their architectural elements such as red brick ground floor, rendered first floor over

bays and mock medieval timber framing were what the Edwardians imagined a small medieval residence might have looked like.<sup>23</sup>



1904 plan showing 1 – 4 Fairview Terrace from deed that transferred No's. 3 and 4 from Farr to Whitsitt. (34.2017.1337) ©Armagh County Museum collection

The Valuation Revision books allow us to look at the occupants of Fairview Terrace as they come and go and we can now take a closer look at No.1 and some of the people who lived there. It was a modest but not small, two up two down dwelling with a small scullery and outside privy in the yard with a small front garden.

### No.1 Fairview Terrace

There is no space in this article to catalogue the lives of everyone who lived or was associated with the house so I am exploring the people whose names appear in the Revision Books.

The first tenant mentioned was Sarah Kirkpatrick in 1907 but we know next to nothing about her. Several people of that name appear in the records but none with clear associations to Armagh. An unlikely possibility is Belfast factory worker Sarah who with her sister Lizzie was arrested in Newry in August 1907 for disorderly behaviour. When they were found guilty and could not pay the ten shilling fine they were conveyed to Armagh Gaol.<sup>24</sup> It is unlikely she would have had the money to rent No.1 so it looks like someone else of that name lived there but who she was we have yet to discover.

### William Jemfrey

William Jemfrey who, with his second wife Elizabeth and their four children, lived at No.1

from 1909 to 1911.<sup>25</sup> He was a baker, born about 1864 and had lived in Belfast with his first wife Sarah and family from his marriage in 1884. Tragically two of their children died in infancy and in 1895 Sarah also died at their home in Bowness Street between the Crumlin and Shankill roads.<sup>26</sup> William continued to live and work in Belfast and by March 1900 had remarried Elizabeth Murray a stone mason's daughter.<sup>27</sup>

It was most likely that work brought him to Armagh although in a sense he was coming home for he cites county Armagh as his place of birth in the 1911 census. There are a few more Armagh connections; their daughter Margaret was born in Portadown in 1900 and when another daughter, Elizabeth died of Tuberculosis in 1907 it occurred at Lisabrague near Poyntzpass. The 1911 census is more specific about William's occupation, he now describes himself as a 'pastry baker'. Perhaps he was attracted to one of the city bakeries or hotels.

After giving up No.1 Fairview Terrace in 1911 the family of three daughters and two sons moved into a house at Winder Place, Lisnally lane. This residence suffered the same fate as James Farr's nearby and was demolished to make way for Lonsdale road in the 1980s. It appears they were soon attracted back to Belfast where the family settled and William died in 1946 aged 82. According to a tribute in the Belfast Telegraph, much regretted by members of the Belfast Operative Bakers Society.<sup>28</sup>

### Walter Pledge

If we cannot connect our first tenant, Sarah Kirkpatrick, to Armagh prison that is not the case for Walter Pledge who was born in 1854 and grew up in Brighton, Sussex the eldest son of a master butcher. By 1871 he was a private in the army (48<sup>th</sup> Regiment), based in Chatham barracks, Gillingham.<sup>29</sup>

Ten years later corporal Pledge married Kerry woman, Nora or Honora Foley in Tralee. By the time his daughter Mary Ellen was born in 1887 he had left his military career behind and was working as a warder in Cork prison. Fourteen years later in 1901 he was in Waterford with Nora, four sons and two daughters working in the gaol there.

Walter obviously went where employment opportunities arose, which a few years later brought him to Armagh. He is recorded at a few addresses in the city, moving from Barrack Hill to George's Street and then in 1909 to Cathedral Close.<sup>30</sup> By 1911 he was renting No.1 Fairview Terrace and occupied the house for four years when, at the age of 60, he moved out and the next tenant moved in.<sup>31</sup> It does not appear that his wife was with him in Armagh because his household in 1911 does not include her but reveals Walter employing a domestic servant, sixty-year-old Margaret Casey.<sup>32</sup>

His son John who was a sergeant in the army also set up home in the city with an address in Market street and on 7 January 1910 he married 18 year old Mary Atcheson at St Malachy's chapel. We must presume that, now in his sixties, Walter retired from his job in the prison and seems to have left little trace in the records. When he died on October 26 1936 his address was 29 Howard Street South, Belfast.<sup>33</sup> His wife Honora, died three hundred miles away in Killarney County Home (former workhouse), in 1942 aged eighty. I have not been able to find out how long Walter remained in Armagh but by 1915 there was a new tenant in No.1.

### **Mary Gibbons**

Mary Gibbons's name is first associated with the house in 1915. Back in 1891 she had married her policeman husband Martin, in the country chapel of Boherquill county Westmeath when she was 24. She had grown up on the small family farm in the townland of Corralanna about a mile away. For most of the 1890s Martin and Mary lived in Boyle, county Roscommon. Records for Mary are much scarcer than those for her husband whose name pops up frequently in the Petty Sessions records as constable Gibbons. He was prosecuting dog owners for allowing their animals to roam the streets of Boyle unmuzzled and arresting intemperate citizens for being drunk and disorderly. His diligent enforcement of the law paid off and by 1903 he was acting sergeant then in 1905 was promoted to sergeant.<sup>34</sup>

By 1908, aged 49 he had retired with his family to Clifden, Co. Galway and was receiving between £3

and £4 a month constabulary pension.<sup>35</sup> Their family were still young and the 1911 census shows them in Clifden consisting of two daughters and three sons. The eldest Kathleen was 14 and Christopher was only three months old. By April 1912 they had moved to Armagh and like Walter Pledge it was the gaol that attracted Martin north.<sup>36</sup> When Martin died at No.1 Fairview Terrace on 30 August 1916 he was described as an Assistant Prison Warder.<sup>37</sup> Among the few scraps of evidence of their presence in Armagh is a record of their youngest son Christopher starting school at Mount St. Catherine's on 16 March 1914.<sup>38</sup>

It must be supposed Mary and her family lived on in the house for another couple of years because the Revision books don't record a new tenant until 1918. It appears the family left Armagh for Dublin around then because when their daughter Kathleen married in 1921 her address is Upper Gardner Street in the city.

### **James A Fluke**

James Alexander Fluke lived at No.1 for two years between 1918 and 1920. He was born in 1896 and grew up on his parent's farm in Tray townland on the slopes of the prehistoric site of Haughy's Fort just a few miles west of Armagh city. The house is no more and alterations in the road layout in the early twentieth century have obliterated the site of the farm buildings. Although James appears to be an only son the farm did not fall into his hands but instead passed into the possession of an Alexander Menary in 1919. However, when his mother Sarah died in 1914 she left James a 24 acre farm she owned near Killylea together with her other personal property.<sup>39</sup> The Killylea farm was already tenanted by a relation so James moved into town and married his wife Elizabeth Donald in December 1916. After the couple's short stay at Fairview Terrace they moved to Lonsdale street where they remained during the 1920s and 30s. Among the few other meagre facts we know about James is that for many years he worked driving a coal lorry for John Kelly Ltd. of Moy.<sup>40</sup>

### **Maria Gallagher**

The next name in the revision books is Maria Gallagher, appearing at No.1 between 1920 and



1925. Maria was born on Barrack Hill about 1865 and her father, William Bryans was sexton of St. Mark's church nearby.<sup>41</sup> In 1881 she married Robert Jones, a printer, at the Grange parish church near Armagh and by 1887 they were living in Banbridge with a young family.<sup>42</sup> In January 1890 their daughter Maria was born just four weeks after her father Robert's death on 29 December.<sup>43</sup>

By 1901 Maria was back in Armagh living on Barrack Hill and now married to James Gallagher who like Walter Pledge and Martin Gibbons was a prison warder.<sup>44</sup> Her calling was, like William Jemfreys, a culinary one; the 1901 census describes her as a cook but we don't know who her employer was. Might she have worked in the prison kitchen feeding the prisoners while her husband guarded them? Fairview Terrace was an obvious and convenient address for anyone with a job in the prison and the 1911 census reveals that James Frazer who lived at No.2 was also a prison warder.

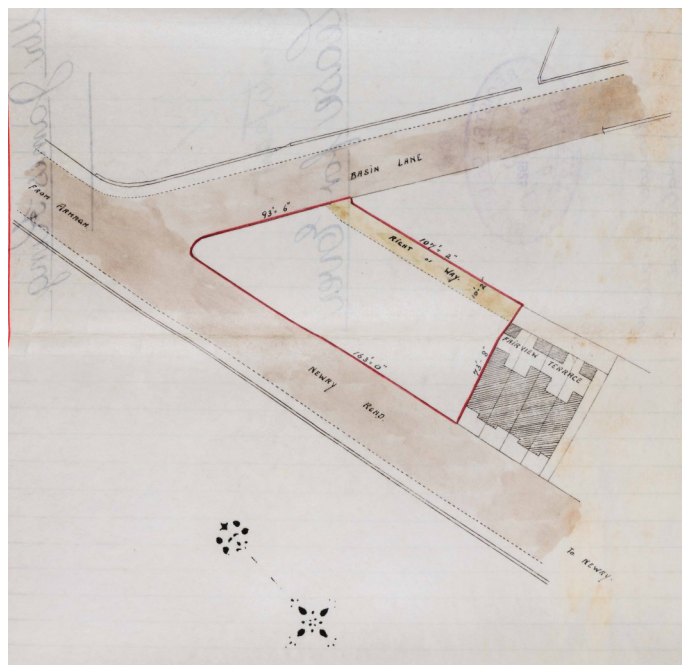
## The Landlords

Now that we have explored the lives of some of the first tenants of No. 1, what about the property, that when we last looked back in 1903, was occupied by just the four houses of Fairview Terrace?

In 1904 James Farr conveyed No's. 3 and 4 Fairview Terrace to William Whitsitt and in 1910 in consideration of £300, leased numbers No's. 1 and 2 to William Neville of Drumadd. Then in 1923, two years before his death, Farr sold the remainder of the property between the terrace and Folly Lane to James King for £100 as building ground and the following year sold his remaining interest in the property (the ground rents) to John Halligan of Drumart near Loughgall for £125.

James King was a joiner and building contractor with a business in Dobbin Street, Armagh and by 1925 he had built a further four house adjoining Fairview Terrace, making the eight house terrace that is familiar today.<sup>45</sup>

Meanwhile in 1911 William Neville had taken out a mortgage for £250 with the City Life Assurance Company on the part of the property that No's. 1 & 2 stood on. However, by 1915 had fallen in arrears so the mortgage company took proceedings against



1923 map from deed showing part of plot 72H transferred from Farr to James King on which the latter built a further four houses, (34.2017.1337). ©Armagh County Museum collection

him. Neville paid off his debt but the next year transferred his interest in the property to the company. In 1919 they in turn sold it to Drusilla Wright for £295 who with her husband Charles Alexander Wright lived for a while at No.1. Shortly afterwards they left Ireland for Africa and became farmers in the Karuna Estate, Moiben, Kenya, growing flax.<sup>46</sup> It appears that prior to leaving Drusilla auctioned the property which was purchased by Joseph Stinson in 1924.

Stinson like other owners rented No.1 to a series of tenants until the next milestone in the story of Fairview Terrace. In 1964 Hugh Grant purchased No. 1 not to profit from its rents but to live there with his family.

When the author and his wife bought No.1 in 1987 it was 83 years old and had passed through many hands and been lived in by many families just a few of whose stories I have space to tell here. This year (2021) Fairview Terrace will be 108 years old and if it stands for another 100 years, perhaps someone then will write the rest of its story and follow the lives of those who will live here after I am just a name on a deed of transfer.<sup>47</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup>Headstone in St. Mark's graveyard, Armagh; Irish civil marriage record (1858), and birth records of his children, (1865 & 1870) on <https://>

civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie; Ulster Gazette 29 May 1858; *ibid.* 11 November 1871.

<sup>2</sup>Ulster Gazette 15 May 1875; *ibid* 3 November 1894; Belfast Telegraph 8 February 1882; Sixteen acres of Boyd's farm is now occupied by the housing development, Ashley Avenue and Ashley Gardens.

<sup>3</sup>1901 census of Ireland, <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

<sup>4</sup>Irish civil death records accessed at <https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie>

<sup>5</sup>Armagh County Museum collection, Deed of conveyance, McClelland to Farr 1 June 1902, (34.2017.1337)

<sup>6</sup>George De LaPoer Beresford (1831-1906), elected MP for Armagh city in 1875 and was the last person to represent the borough before the seat was abolished in 1885.

<sup>7</sup>Ulster Gazette, 11 June 1887

<sup>8</sup>Armagh County Museum collection, Deed of conveyance, 12 Dec 1890, (34.2017.1337); PRONI Valuation revision book, VAL/12/B/10/4E

<sup>9</sup>The Book of County Armagh, George Henry Bassett, (1888), p141

<sup>10</sup>ACM collection, Lease McClelland to Farr 1 June 1902, (34.2017.1337)

<sup>11</sup>1901 census of Ireland online; Note on photo from DP Martin collection in Armagh County Museum, (82.2012.609); Belfast & Ulster directory 1913.

<sup>12</sup>Irish civil marriage record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>13</sup>Ulster Gazette 28 August 1909

<sup>14</sup>Ulster Gazette, 4 February 1888

<sup>15</sup>Belfast News-Letter, 15 August 1925

<sup>16</sup>Ulster Gazette, 25 October 1879

<sup>17</sup>Ulster Gazette, 11 December 1909; 1911 census.

<sup>18</sup>Irish civil death record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>19</sup>Ulster Gazette 20 October 1883

<sup>20</sup>Census of Ireland, 1911, Area, houses, and population... Province of Ulster BPP 1912-13 CXVI [Cd.6051] 2, (The number increased from 1559 houses in 1891 to 1684 in 1911.)

<sup>21</sup>Armagh Guardian 13 April 1906

<sup>22</sup>Valuation Revision books PRONI, VAL-12B-10-8A\_M

<sup>23</sup>Pers. Comm. Philip Smith, Historic Environment Division

<sup>24</sup>Irish News & Belfast Morning News, 28 August 1907

<sup>25</sup>Valuation Revision books, PRONI, VAL-12B-10-8B\_M p76; 1911 census

<sup>26</sup>Irish civil death record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>27</sup>Irish civil marriage record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>28</sup>Belfast Telegraph, 18 November 1946

<sup>29</sup>1871 England census

<sup>30</sup>Ulster Gazette 2 October 1909

<sup>31</sup>PRONI Valuation revision book VAL-12B-10-8B\_M, p76

<sup>32</sup>1911 Census of Ireland

<sup>33</sup>Belfast Telegraph 27 October 1937

<sup>34</sup>The National Archives of Ireland; CSPS 1/8865-889, Petty Court sessions, 4 May 1905; Weekly Irish Times 18 February 1905.

<sup>35</sup>Royal Irish Constabulary pension records accessed on [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)

<sup>36</sup>RIC pension records, piece 48, entry 2964; accessed via [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com)

<sup>37</sup>Irish civil death record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>38</sup>Roll Book, Mount St. Catherine's National School, p94

<sup>39</sup>PRONI Online will calendar for Sarah Fluke late of Tray.

<sup>40</sup>Belfast Telegraph 21 July 1932

<sup>41</sup>Irish civil marriage record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie); 1901 census.

<sup>42</sup>Irish civil marriage record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>43</sup>Irish civil marriage record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>44</sup>Irish civil birth record on [Irishgenealogy.ie](http://Irishgenealogy.ie)

<sup>45</sup>1911 Census of Ireland; Valuation Revision Book, PRONI VAL/12/B/10/15A, p72

<sup>46</sup>Belfast Telegraph, 14 March 1924

<sup>47</sup>Deeds of No.1 Fairview Terrace in author's possession

# The Armagh Company I.R.A., (4<sup>th</sup> Northern, Division, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armagh Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Battalion Armagh Company 1917 – 1923)

by Gregory Knipe

This article acknowledges and records the contribution of and participation in the Irish revolutionary struggle from 1913 until 1923 by the men and women of Armagh and surrounding district. Their engagement was as members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade – 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Battalion (both IRA and Fianna Éireann) and their female colleagues in Cumann na mBan (Armagh Branch – Mid-Armagh District).

*(For a comprehensive profile of individuals and events refer to Gregory Knipe, The Fourth Northerners, Litter Press. 2021.)*

## Historical context

The political violence that broke out in Ireland between 1916 and 1923 has its beginning in the demand for Home Rule by Irish Nationalists. Home Rule was the demand that the governance of Ireland be returned to land and an Irish Parliament. Ireland had its own parliament up to 1800 when it was overturned by the Act of Union. By 1914 the British government was prepared to concede Home Rule for Ireland.

When the Home Rule Bill was brought before the British Parliament the Ulster Volunteer Force led by Edward Carson and with a membership of around 85,000 decided to resist the Bill by using force.

The Irish Volunteers were established in 1913. It had around 200,000 members. After the failed Easter Rising of 1916 the Volunteer organisation began to reform and eventually changing its name to the IRA. By 1917 the IRA became more organised with Cathal Brugha as Chief of Staff and Michael Collins as Director of Organisation.

*(The description/phases here are taken from the Mulcahy Papers, P7-A-17 pp 210-212 UCD Archives)*

## Structure of the 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Division of the IRA

The 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Division was established in March 1921 just before the Truce in July 1921 but had its origins in the structure already existent in the companies in Armagh, Newry and North Louth

The 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Division of the IRA consisted of 3 Brigades:- 1<sup>st</sup> North Louth Brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> Newry Brigade, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armagh Brigade: 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Blackwatertown Battalion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Lurgan Battalion

The 1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Battalion was not formed until after 11 July 1921. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1922 the unit strength was 380 all ranks. The Companies of the Battalion were located as follows:- Armagh, Ballymacnab, Derrynoose, Keady, Lislea and Madden.

Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> July 1921 an Armagh 'Independent' Battalion\* was reformed and companies were posted to different Battalions. On the 11th July 1921 the companies of the Armagh Independent Battalion were:- Armagh, Ballymacnab, including Markethill, Blackwatertown including Allistragh, Tullysaran, Middletown & Keady.

*\*As an independent Battalion it has the autonomy to decide operations/ activities on its own initiative.*

## Operations/engagements of the Armagh Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Armagh Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion

*(Names of Volunteers, where included. reflect those submitted to the Bureau of Military History)*

**February 2 1918:** Armagh Volunteers along with many other Brigades/Companies, engaged in electioneering work, canvassing voters, marking the register, providing transport, getting voters out to polling booths and taking charge at the polling booths.



**October 1918:** Arms raid on 'enemy' house in Lisnadill (Foy's) and also on 'enemy' house at Tullydoey, Blackwatertown (Major Proctor's).

**January 1919:** Arms raid on two 'enemy' houses in Drumcullen. (Stinson's and Wilson's).

**August 15 1919:** Raid on Cope's house near Loughgall. About 20 Volunteers from the Armagh Company, as well as a number from Ballymacnab and 4 from Blackwatertown engaged in the mission. Frank Aiken, Divisional O.C. was in charge of the raiding party along with Charles McGleenon, John Cosgrove and Harry McKenna.

**November 25 1919:** Protestant Rev. Edward Foy suffered a 'non-fatal' shot during a raid on his Lisnadill home.

**February 13 1920:** Orders were issued that a raid was to be carried out to capture Newtownhamilton R.I.C. barracks. Newry and other Companies were mobilised and sent to Newtownhamilton. John Cosgrove, Harry McKenna, Mick Toner, Peter McNally, Paddy Beagan and several others from the Armagh independent Battalion were involved.

**April 25 1920:** The mining of Irish Street Police Barracks. The battalion O.C. got a mine to blow up the barracks. This contraption consisted of a metal axel box of a horse cart. This was filled with explosives and clamped with iron plates at the ends. A fuse fitted with a detonator was Attached to the mine. On the night of this operation the mine was taken to outside the police barracks. A Volunteer using a sledgehammer broke one of the ventilators near the ground on the footpath in the barrack front wall. The mine was paced in the ventilator hole and the fuse lighted. As a safeguard for the men placing the mine a few Volunteers were placed with firearms on the opposite side of the street. When the fuse was set alight all the Volunteers cleared off. The explosion did more damage to the houses opposite the barracks than it did to the barracks. A lot of windows were broken in the area. Jim and Pat Garvey, amongst others were involved.

**May 3 1920:** Blackwatertown police barracks was burned.

**May 9 1920:** Newtownhamilton R.I.C. Barracks attacked and burned. Raiders, estimated to be around 300 arrived in the town and took up positions opposite the police barracks. All the roads leading from Newry, Armagh, Castleblaney, Dundalk, Markethill and Keady were blocked by tree-felling. James Short and Jim Garvey from Armagh were detailed to report to the town and to take orders from Frank Aiken who was in charge. All Armagh men were armed with revolvers and under orders to open fire if enemy forces came to the relief of the town. Participants from Armagh were Frank Hannaway, Frank Donnelly, Jim Garvey, James Short, Fank Mallon, John Hanratty, John McPartlin and Pat Loughran.

**May 20 1920:** Middletown courthouse was burned to the ground. Raiders arrived in the town and took up positions opposite the police barracks.

**May 1920:** Arms raid on 'enemies' house in Clady (Rock's). Two revolvers found. Arms raids on five houses in Lisnadill (incl. McBrides, Beatties and Drennans).

**June 4 1920:** Telegraph wires cut between Moy and Benburb and the Moy-Blackwatertown road was blocked with trees.

**July 22 1920:** Moy barracks burned.

**July 1920:** Sergeant Reilly of the R.I.C. was abducted outside the premises of Mr. Trodden, Irish St., Armagh. About a dozen men bundled him into a car and two shots were fired as the car moved through Navan St. The missing man was discovered blindfolded at Killylea. He was kept in an empty house overnight. The abduction appeared to have been a mistake.

**July 1920:** Attempt to blow up Callan Bridge Armagh.

**August 6 1920:** Inglis bread van driven by Wm. McCall was stopped and burned out by nine masked and armed men on the Tynan Rd. near Middletown.

**August 31 1920:** Telephone wire connecting Irish St. police station and Russell St. police

stations in Armagh City was cut.

**October 1920:** Arms raids on 'enemy' houses in Killylea (Hanson's), Tullynacreavie (Murphy's)

**October 1920:** Disarming of two 'A' Specials at Umgola by 6 members of the Armagh Coy.

**November 4 1920:** Inglis bread van burned at Middletown.

**November 1920:** General wire cutting over the area and raids on Mails at Derrynoose.

**December 1920:** Keady railway station burned. Roads blocked for attack on Glaslough Barracks. Raid on Mails in Armagh.

**January 11 1921:** Constable Compton, Lisnadill killed by gunshot on his way to collect the body of a local postman.

**January 15 1921:** An Inglis bread van held up and robbed at Bond McGeough's Hill and £15 was taken.

**February 3 1921:** Early on Friday morning an attack by 15 to 20 men was made on the recently re-opened Middletown Barracks. The attack lasted for about an hour with bombs being thrown and a fusillade of shots fired into the barracks from different directions.

**February 12 1921:** The Hibernian Hall in castle St. was visited by police who seized 100 bandoliers and 100 haversacks belonging to the National Volunteers which were stored for their safety.

**March 10 1921:** 2 Specials were attacked and disarmed near Armagh on the Monaghan Rd.

**March 16 1921:** Richill Station was burned to the ground. 40 men with arms and masks held up the station master Lavery and the signal man. The 'A' Specials from Armagh were called out but the raiders had gone. Participants included Joe Allen, James Mallon, John Allen, Gerald McAleavey, John Brannigan, Peter McBride, Dan Conroy, John McCourt, Frank Cullen, John McCrory, Tom Donaldson, Charles McGleenon, Mick Feighan, James McKee, James Finn, John Murphy, James Hackett, Frank Hagan, Hugh Toal and Peter Toal.

**March 25 1921:** James Connolly of Cathedral Rd. Armagh, who had been 'on the run' was arrested at Cushendal.

**March 28 1921:** 6 Armagh men were stopped at Carnagh by the police. On giving an unsatisfactory answer as to their intentions they were arrested and brought to Armagh in an armoured car. The men were:- Dr. McKee, Patrick McGuire, Irish St., Patrick Loughran, Ballycrummy, James Garvey Ballyrath, John Hanratty, Ogle St. and Frank Donnelly, Ballycrummy.

**April 8 1921:** 'B' Specials came across a group of men in Armagh Demesne who were engaged in 'lamp signalling'. Shooting broke out and the I.R.A. retreated.

**April 11 1921:** Attack on Lisnadill Special 'B' patrol. Attempt to blow up Geary's Bridge on the Moy Rd. Armagh.

**May 1921:** A group of 40 raiders searched the district of Tynan for arms and equipment. A party of 'Specials' from the Caledon platoon was attacked. The Armagh – Newtownhamilton Rd. was cratered.

**June 17 1921:** An armed raid was made on the residence of Mr. T. Coote, Milford. Small arms munition and a Verey pistol were found. Frank Hannaway was subsequently arrested.

**Aug./Sept./October 1921:** Training camps operated in Killeavey, Derrynoose and Tullygoonigan.

**September 4 1921:** Michael Collins addresses a large meeting in Armagh City.

**March 1 1922:** About 60 Volunteers attacked the house of a 'B' Special at Todd's Corner. They were fired upon as they approached the house and Vol. Gerry Hughes was severely wounded in the head. There were 12 well-armed 'B' Specials in the house. The attackers eventually retreated. Participants included Joe Allen, Dan Conroy, Frank Cullen, Charlie Dougan, Frank Hagan, Peter McBride, Charles McGleenon, James McKee, Willie Murray, David Tennyson and Edward Toner.

**April 1 1922:** Near the village of Culloville an ambush took place resulting in the death of an RIC sergeant and constable.

**April 6 1922:** An ambush on a police patrol near Middletown was responsible for the death of Head Constable Alexander Compton.

**May 15 1922:** Patrick McGuire, Lwr. Irish St., Frank Donnelly, Ballycrummy, Patrick Vallely, Castle St., Eileen Cowan, Lwr. Navan St. and Elizabeth Newbanks, Upper Irish St. were charged with unlawful possession of service ammunition.

**May 19 1922:** Aborted plan for 'Northern Offensive'.

**May 22 1922:** Police raided the house of Frank Hannaway in Castle St. He had recently served 2 months as a political prisoner.

**May 30 1922:** At a special court of the Petty Sessions in Armagh, Patrick J. Hackett, a schoolboy from the Mill Row was charged with having in his possession at Drumcairn 11 rounds of revolver ammunition.

**June 20 1922:** Two 'B' Specials, William Mitchell and Samuel Young were ambushed and shot dead in the district of Keady.

**June 21 1922:** The Special Constabulary raided and searched several houses in Armagh. Amongst these were premises of James Mullan, publican in Thomas St., H.J. McKee, Ogle St., Patrick McKenna, publican English St. As a result of these searches the police arrested Frank McKee. Two large Sinn Fein flags were seized.

**July 1922:** Members of the 'B' specials who were on duty at the Deanery in Armagh were attacked by men carrying revolvers. Ambush on police lorry in Derrynoose. A training camp for officers was set up at Tullygoonigan.

**September 19 1922:** Ambush at Markethill. Two 'Specials' were slightly wounded.

**May 1923:** Order from Frank Aiken to 'dump arms.'

Many Volunteers joined companies in the town or townland where they were born and not at their current place of residence.

## **1<sup>st</sup> Armagh Battalion 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Officers**

### **Pre-Truce - 11 July 1921**

O/C.	Frank Donnelly, 15 Upper Irish St., Armagh
V.O/C.	Patrick Vallely, U.S.A.
Q.M.	Henry McKenna, Ballymacnab, Co. Armagh
Eng.	Eugene Loughran, Ballycrummy, Co. Armagh
Adj.	Hugh McKenna, Cathedral Rd., Armagh
I.O.	John McAnerney, Clones
M.O.	Tom Fearon, Belfast

### **Post-Truce - 1 July 1922**

O.C.	Frank Mallon (Brig. Adj. Acting O.C).
Adj./Q.M.	Hugh McKenna, Cathedral Road, Armagh.
I.O.	John McAnerney, Clones.
M.O.	Tom Fearon, England.
Eng.	Eugene Loughran, Ballycrummy, Co. Armagh.
Signaller	P. Fitzpatrick,
Q.M.	Pat Hughes, Castleshane.



# A short history of English Street, Armagh from early times to the present

by Stephen Day



Detail from Sheet 12. OS 6 inch = 1 mile. 1948 (Armagh County Museum collection)

## Early Christian & Medieval

The Ancient Hill of Armagh (Ard Macha) has been at the centre of history in the north of Ireland since long before Christianity arrived on the island. People came from all corners of the compass via inland tracks and rivers as well as from across the seas to worship, to trade and occasionally to wage war. It was located on a key strategic site in power struggles between tribes and between tribes and foreigners. However, it should also be noted that there were long periods of relative peace.

With early Christian settlement and the establishment of Churches and related buildings on 'the Hill,' Armagh became a centre for Christian worship and study. Beyond this the extensive slopes, just outside the old enclosure, were subdivided into three parts (Triana) named the Trian

Masan, the Trian Mor and the Trian **Sassenach** or **Saxan**. (It is thought that specialised secular functions took place in these areas, including the buying and selling of goods.) The latter area is the first indication of what might be called English settlement in medieval times and it corresponds to the area where English Street can now be found.

## War and Peace 1553 – 1714

Most traces of settlement in Armagh were destroyed or severely damaged as a result of wars between rival Irish chieftains and between the Irish and forces from England and Scotland and it is estimated that from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Church/Cathedral on the hill was destroyed seventeen times. The last two times were in 1566 in events leading up to the Nine Years war (1594-1603) and in 1642 during the Irish Rebellion (1641-1653). The War between King William III and King James II (1688-1691) proved to be the end of

major land warfare in Ireland. The intermittent and significant violence of these three periods had left its mark on Armagh (notably in English Street) and hindered its development. Consequently it would be difficult to map seventeenth-century Armagh with any accuracy. However, from 1700 onwards there was a sustained period of relative peace and stability which allowed the City to recover and grow.

One property that stood out was Dean Drelincourt's *'extraordinary good house (long since gone) built with lime and stone and slated. It is three stories high, besides cellars. There is a good brewhouse lofted over, a stable, a coachhouse and other convenient outhouses to it belonging. There are about eighteen rooms in this house and a very large garden and orchard – in the last about eighty trees.'* Ashe 1703: Most houses were nowhere near this size and did not have slate roofs but gradually the thatch on the smaller houses along the street would be replaced.

### **The Early Georgian Period (1714 – 1760)**

During the reign of George I (1714 – 1727) the period of recovery in Armagh began to get momentum. English Street was more or less rebuilt with mostly modest and functional houses and shops along the old lines of the road which led from Market Square out of the City where it branched off in two directions towards Loughgall and Dungannon. Generally speaking the better properties began close to the city centre from the junction with Market Street and gradually reduced in size and quality as they reached the outer northern edges of Armagh. Nevertheless, the majority, particularly on the north-east side of the street appear to have had a large allotment or garden to the rear of the premises for the production of food. A similar pattern emerged during the reign of George II (1727 – 1760). In 1759 the creation of Ogle Street & Thomas Street created a 'dog-leg' by-pass around the slopes of the ancient hill linking easier movement between Irish Street, Scotch Street and English Street. At this stage the entire street from Market Square to the northern outskirts (along part of what is now an extended Banbrook Hill) continued to be called English Street. This straightforward description

was to become more complicated in the next two centuries with Lower English Street, English Street and Upper English Street overlapping. There was and remains confusion as to where Upper English Street began and ended. (See recent tourist maps.)

### **George III (1760 -1820), George IV (1820 - 1830), William IV (1830 – 1837)**

Much improved building materials, building skills, building plans and exceptional architects led to a revolution in town planning and development during this period – the golden age of Georgian architecture. Armagh was no exception and the new Church of Ireland Primate, Archbishop Richard Robinson (1765 – 1794) played a key role in creating the essential public buildings that made up a modern Georgian City. He set the standard for others to follow and many of these buildings remain today. Some more intact than others. A lot of the houses in English Street were three stories, made of good stone and topped by slate roofs. Right up until the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century many of the people in commercial premises slept above the shop or offices. Many of the premises had ornamental metal, stone and wooden features and elegant doors and windows, typical of the Georgian period. This was especially so as a traveller progressed towards the town centre. Many of these features still remain but many have been lost over the centuries.

In English Street the following buildings of the late George II - early George III period are:-

**Number 11** English Street. This site originally had a building which was occupied by the Reverend Nathaniel Whaley in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and later by the Reverend Henry Jenny. It became an hotel, called 'The King's Head, in c.1769 under the ownership of Mr George Parks. In 1792 its name was changed to 'The Molyneux Arms' and a year later stage coaches began to depart from the building. There was another name change in c.1808 to 'The King's Arms' and in 1824 it became 'The Royal Hibernian.' In 1843 Thackery stayed here and Jenny's lane beside it still exists and leads to the Mall. The building became known as 'The Beresford Arms Hotel' in 1844. It was badly damaged by an IRA Bomb in 1972. (Demolished in 1990, restoration of the

façade of this building was achieved reusing much of the original ashlar stonework.)

**Numbers 45 -55 English Street.** ‘The Seven Houses’ erected by Dean Averell, then Rector of Tynan, who owned the land. They were obviously an investment but the various stories that they were built for occupation by his seven sisters, or even seven daughters, appear to be incorrect. (The end house of the row, at the junction with College Street, was burnt in a fire in 1955 and subsequently demolished. (In 2021 work began to rebuild it to its former elegance.)

**Numbers 63 – 65 English Street.** The Charlemont Arms Hotel. Before becoming an hotel it was the residence of a Dr. Atkinson. Originally called ‘The Caufield Arms’ it was renamed in 1763 when the Fourth Viscount Caufield was created Earl of Charlemont.

**Number 58 English Street.** The Armagh Tontine Assembly Rooms. (1794-1907) They served as the social, cultural and administrative hub for the citizens of Armagh and district for well over a century. Many nineteenth century national and global celebrities performed on its stage. General Tom Thumb, Oscar Wilde and Percy French to name but a few. (Quinn, K: 2017) (It became the City Hall in 1908 and was the centre for numerous historic meetings as well as many memorable dances for decades. A good few of our readers will have happy memories of being at events and functions there. Sadly, it was demolished by an IRA bomb in 1972.)

One gets a good overview of the diversity of persons in English Street and their professions and occupations by inspecting the *Directory of Armagh for 1819*. (Stuart)

*Haberdasher, Attorney’s Clerk, Land-Surveyor, Medical Doctor, Rector, Flour Merchant, Tanner, Confectioner, Preceptor of Music, Merchant, Accountant, Grocers, Publican, Carpenter, Grocer and Spirit Merchant, Soap Boiler and Tallow Chandler, Tailor, Pedler, Cooper, Stone Mason, Hair Dresser, Solicitor, Clock & Watchmaker, Huxter, Shoemaker, Fruit Seller, Nailer, Newspaper Business, Cabinet Maker, Butcher, Sergeant, Book Keeper, Baker, Whip Maker, Excise Officer, Dealer, Boot Maker, Skinner, Carrier,*

*Flax Dresser, Brewer, Gardener, Schoolmaster, Blacksmith, Clerk of the Peace, Royal Navy RN (Retired), Major (Military), Tin Plate Worker, Saddler & Harness Maker, Surgeon & Apothecary, Oil & Colour Merchant, Book Agent, Woolen Draper, Farmer, China, Glass & Earthenware Merchant, Hoteliers and their staff.*

## **The Victorian Period (1837) – (1901)**

The railway reached Armagh in 1848 and a new curving street was built to circumnavigate the steep approach over Banbrook Hill. (It is still called Railway Street though the station closed in 1957.) English Street was on the direct route from the railway station at Loughgall Road to the centre of Armagh and it benefitted greatly from passing trade by day trippers or people staying at the several Hotels en route. (Lower English Street was slightly truncated by this new arrangement at the Banbrook Hill end.) The City was also benefitting from a thriving linen trade and a growing market just adjacent at the large Shambles yard.

It was boom time for Armagh and for English Street and this was only slightly offset by the growing drift of commerce and business to the growing port and city of Belfast. The Northern Military Command Headquarters which had long been based in Armagh was relocated to Belfast and Belfast got the first University in the North (Queens) in the 1850s. (Since Archbishop Richard Robinsons time Armagh had campaigned for this honour and its location in the City would undoubtedly have benefitted English Street.)

*Bassetts County Armagh 1888 – A Guide and Directory* provides fascinating details of a thriving and diverse English Street along with advertisements showing drawings of various key shops, hotels and businesses. (Available in your local libraries.)

## **Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1902 – 1938)**

Various new enterprises appeared in the street. One example was in 1909 when Armagh City Steam Laundry Receiving Office opened at 38a Seven Houses, Armagh. The main works were at Tullyelmer and provided good employment for many. (Barden, 2017)



World War I (1914 – 1918) provided a boost to production of flax and other agricultural products. Most farmers in and around Armagh benefitted as did, linen manufacturers and businesses in English Street.

Partition/ Boycott 1920-1922 had a chilling effect on trade. Then the intermittent post war worldwide economic depression followed by the Wall Street crash of the markets in 1929 added to the challenges for businesses in English Street. However, the passing trade associated with the nearby railway station softened the impact.

*The Belfast and Ulster Directory 1932* shows that professional business and trade was still in a healthy state on the street. There was also now a concentration of hotels for those who wished to stay over in the City for business or to see the sights. In addition to the Beresford Arms and the Charlemont Arms Hotels there was also the Imperial Hotel, (Seven Houses - R.Loudan) and the Temperance Hotel, Lower English Street. (Just around the corner in Railway Street was the Railway Hotel.)

### **Immigrants in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Armagh**

During this period a few Germans began to settle in Armagh and some worked in English Street. The best known was probably Theodor Zwecker and his family who set up a high class hairdressers salon at the junction of Upper English Street and Market Street. There were also some French immigrants as well as a few Russian Jews. Some were listed as living as boarders in a house in Lower English Street in the 1901 Census. (Gartland, 2017) Later the arrival of Italians in Armagh in the 1930s enhanced international flavour for shoppers. The Fortes opened their first ice cream parlour/fish saloon, the 'Palm Grove' in Upper English Street opposite Woolworths. The Maglioccas (Malloccas) also opened a Fish Saloon in Upper English Street between the present day Bank of Ireland and the Ulster Bank. By 1950s the Cafollas had two cafes in Armagh, one at 37 English Street. Today the Macaris are the only remaining Italian business in Armagh. They came in 1950s and in the late 1960s purchased McNeice's Newsagents at 5 Lower

English Street. They also sold ice cream and in recent years have expanded next door. (Quinn, 2020) (The Chinese also came to Armagh in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century with takeaways and restaurants. One long standing one is at Lower English Street.)

### **World War 2 (1939 – 1945)**

Once again, the outbreak of world war provided an opportunity for increased business in English Street. British & Commonwealth Forces (and from 1942 Americans) were training in Northern Ireland for the invasion of Europe. There were several camps in and around Armagh which needed supplies and off-duty servicemen, particularly Americans, provided a useful injection of money to local hostellers and shops.

### **Economic Challenges (1946 – 1960s)**

Although the war ended in 1945, wartime rationing continued until 1953. Post war the economy was struggling with large national loans to be paid.

In 1957 the Armagh railway station closed along with all the remaining branch lines. This had a negative effect, particularly in English Street but the road network was improving, first with a larger main road to Portadown and then further improvements to the connections to Newry and Dungannon.

In 1963 the Armagh Fire Station was moved from Dobbin Street to new modern premises in a new large building located at 70 Upper English Street and the junction with Dawson Street beside the Shambles roundabout. (It closed and moved to a new purpose built building on the Loughgall Road in 2009) (Day, 2017)

Economically and socially there were signs that things were picking up in Northern Ireland in the latter half of the 1960s but change was too fast for some, much too slow for others. Political protest was beginning to boil over. *The Belfast and Northern Ireland Directory for 1969* shows a thriving and varied commercial community in English Street, Armagh. The two main hotels, the Charlemont and the Beresford continued to prosper as did various businesses in the 'Seven (now six) Houses.' Three of the six banks in the City were still located in English Street – Belfast Banking Co.

Ltd. (No.40), Provincial Bank of Ireland and Ulster Bank Ltd. (No7). Few would have anticipated the disaster that the next few years would bring.

### **The Troubles (1969 – 1996)**

The Shambles roundabout at the junction of Upper and Lower English Street and Cathedral Road became an interface flashpoint for demonstrators. These included some Civil Rights parades in the initial few years and some parades related to the Republican Hunger Strike protests in the early 1980s. Often there was confrontation with security forces as more violent elements tried to force their way into the city centre via Lower Irish Street and Upper Irish Street. From the early 1970s occasional IRA bombs caused significant damage to commercial properties and dwellings in English Street and sadly, as the Troubles trickled on, there were isolated cases of civilians and police being injured or killed by para-militaries in English Street – and elsewhere in the city. This had an inevitable chilling effect on business and social life along the street. The placing of security barriers (a ring of steel) around the town centre to prevent IRA car bombs getting in meant that Upper English Street was cut off from the rest of English Street by the barrier at the top of College Street. Despite the difficulties the mantra of the time was ‘Business as usual’ and, where possible, the residents and businesses in the street struggled on through good and bad. This continued right up to the 1990s.

### **Ceasefires & New Opportunities (1997 to 2021)**

On the 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011 the North South Ministerial Council Joint Secretariat was officially opened by First Minister Peter Robinson and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness in a new building at 58 Upper English Street. (It was built on the site of the Armagh City Hall which was destroyed by an IRA bomb in 1972. The site had been a car park ever since).

2021: Aonach Mhacha (Assembly of Macha) – Irish Language and Cultural Centre, 74-76 Upper English Street -Sraid na nGall was opened. (It was built on the site of the old Fire Station which had been moved to new premises on the Loughgall Road in 2009)

At the time of writing (2021) work had commenced to rebuild the end house of ‘the Seven Houses’ (at College Street junction) which had been destroyed by fire in 1955. All of these enterprises have raised hopes for regeneration along the entire length of English Street and beyond. Cherishing the past but also embracing the new opportunities of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Acknowledgements**

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# The mural at Culdee Crescent / Callan Street

by Mary McVeigh

When traversing the narrow road from Abbey Street to Castle Street it is impossible to miss the strikingly vivid mural on the gable end of Culdee Crescent facing down Callan Street. (See back cover) It has been photographed by many visitors to Armagh and has even featured on the front cover of a book: “A visual history of Northern Ireland’s Troubles,” published in 2015. Its author, Stuart Borthwick, an academic attached to Liverpool John Moores University when discussing his book in a podcast described the mural as the ‘most beautiful artwork’ he had seen.<sup>1</sup> However, he and others, including Professor Bill Rolston of the University of Ulster who has published a number of books on Northern Ireland’s murals, have given the wrong location for it.<sup>2</sup> They have recorded it as being at Upper Irish Street. This came to light in an internet trawl for information on it for an outdoor walk and talk organised by the history group.

Fortunately Sean McGerrigan of the Callan Street Residents Association was able to provide the necessary background. Particularly interesting was the fact that it was painted by two artists from across the religious and political divide. One was Danny Devenny, a Republican ex-prisoner from West Belfast and the other, Mark Ervine whose late father David was ex-UVF and a leading Loyalist politician. These men had already collaborated on a number of wall paintings promoting peace and reconciliation. Their first joint venture in 2007 was a revisioning of ‘Guernica’ one of Pablo Picasso’s most famous paintings which is regarded by many art critics as the most moving and powerful anti-war painting in history. It depicts the suffering of the civilian population of the area after being heavily bombed by Fascist forces during the Spanish civil war. The following year, to mark the tenth anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement and a decade of peace, they produced a mural: ‘Painting from the same palette’ which includes children bearing banners with two messages. The

first is ‘History is a rearview mirror’ and the second reads, ‘You must always check your back. Unless you keep focused on the road ahead you’re going nowhere’.<sup>3</sup>

These two artists were commissioned by the Callan Street Residents Association which encouraged the young people from the area to become actively involved in the project. Under the supervision of the artists they participated in the painting and they also helped select the subject matter. The mural depicts Niall, High King of Ireland in the ninth century who was drowned in the river Callan and Macha, the legendary Queen of Ulster from whom Armagh derived its name, Ard Macha, the heights of Macha. Sections of it illustrate aspects of the city’s sports and cultural interests as well as a drawing of Callan Street in the last century before it was rebuilt.

The mural was completed in 2014 as part of a neighbourhood renewal scheme with Peace Three funding. It is a significant piece of street art which will undoubtedly be of interest in the future which is why it should be recorded and its location accurately noted.

## References

<sup>1</sup>Podcast: Dr Stuart Borthwick discusses his love for political murals of Northern Ireland and his book, *The Writing on the Wall*, October, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015, [www.writingbooksandmusic.wordpress.com](http://www.writingbooksandmusic.wordpress.com)

<sup>2</sup><https://billrolston.weekly.com>

<sup>3</sup>Painting from the same palette, <https://the.troubles.omega.net>





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