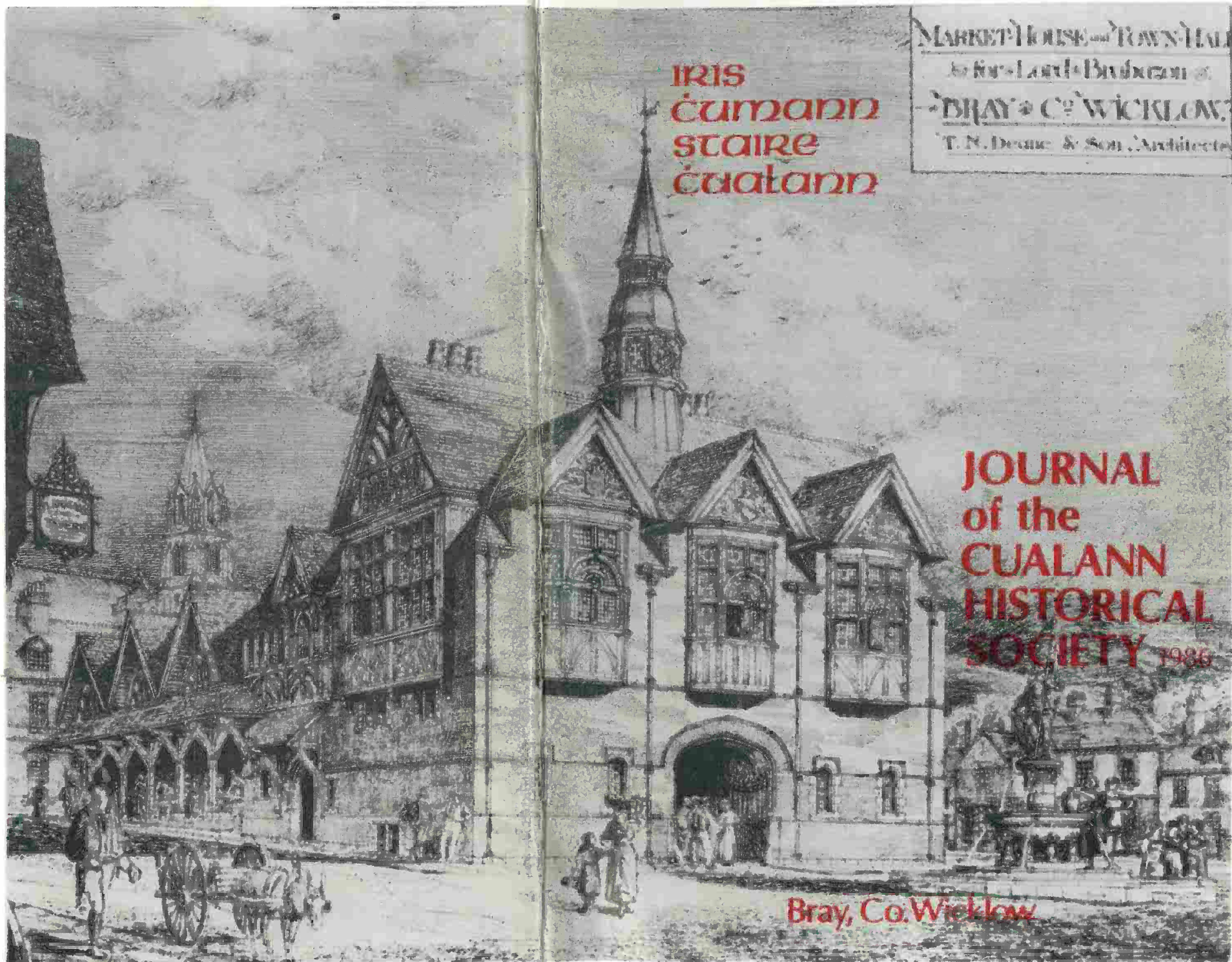


Bray Town Hall and Market House as designed by the noted 19th century architects, Sir Thomas Newenham Deane and Son. The original drawing is in possession of Bray Public Library; a photographic copy is displayed in the Heritage Centre Museum.



IRIS
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staire
cualann

MARKET HOUSE and TOWN HALL
as designed by Sir Thomas Newenham Deane & Son
BRAY & CO. WICKLOW
T. N. Deane & Son Architects

JOURNAL
of the
CUALANN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY 1986

Bray, Co. Wicklow

PREFACE

The first edition of the Cualann Historical Society Journal proved such a success that it was inevitable a second addition would have to be published. It appears amidst an unprecedented upsurge in local history in Bray. One is inclined to believe that if the local church mouse wrote his memories there would be a queue to purchase them. Once again I am pleased that we were able to inveigle a cross section of people to put pen to paper to record interesting facets of Bray and its environs. This year the intention was to acquire a wide range of articles covering the social, cultural and nationalistic aspects of the town's past. I hope we have achieved this blend with the submissions from our contributors. Our thanks are extended to; Jim Brophy, Peter Tynan O Mahony, Brian Cantwell, Ross Connolly, Mary Davies, Malachy O'Brien, Claire Crowther, P. P. O'Reilly, Nancy Mahony, James Scannell and Gemma Hussey, Minister for Social Welfare. To the printers, Vincent Byrne and Co. for a first class publication.

One contributor who is sadly missing is Christy Brien. Christy had promised to write an article for the Journal but died before its completion. He was undoubtedly the foremost historian in the town with an encyclopaedic knowledge of local history, always forthcoming and generous with information and material. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Anyone with photographs or articles which they would like to be considered for next year's Journal should forward them to me.

Arthur Flynn

Editor.

JOURNAL OF THE CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1986

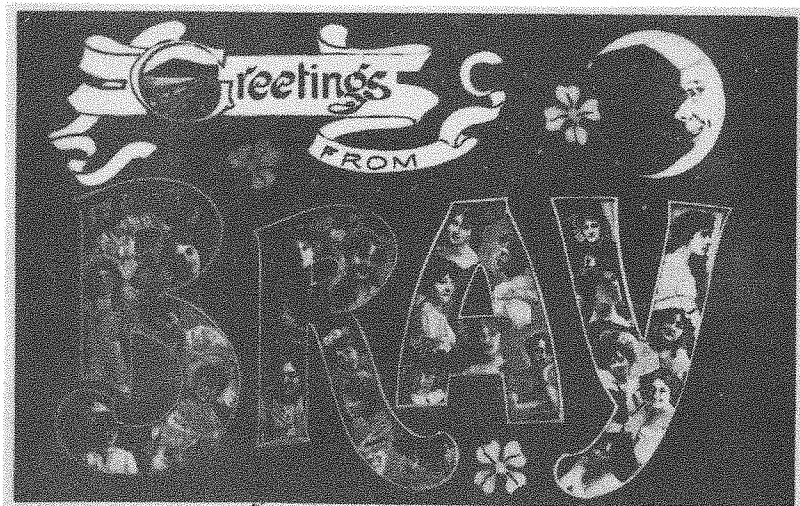
Editor **Arthur Flynn**

Editorial Committee: **Claire Crowther, Arthur Flynn, Jim Lynch, and James Scannell.**

Cover Designed by Peter Tynan O Mahony

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An Eason Post Card, post-marked "Dublin pm 7 30 Ju 22 09"



"All my own work!" The Taoiseach, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, displaying the handbill he printed on a small hand-press when he opened the Bray Heritage Centre on Monday, 8th July, 1985. In the picture are Arthur Flynn, Liz McManus and Peter Tynan O Mahony.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Interest in local history has grown increasingly popular in Ireland in the last ten years. This interest and enthusiasm for the people and objects of times past has been reflected in the number of local history societies which have been founded throughout the country and the number of excellent journals being published by these societies.

Here in Bray the publication and launch by the Cualann Historical Society of our first journal, "Bray Journal 1985" coincided with the opening of Bray Heritage Centre by An Taoiseach. Dr. Garret FitzGerald on Monday 8th July, 1985 in the former Council Chamber of the Town Hall during Bray Seaside Festival Week.

The Heritage Centre has proved to be a most successful venture attracting interest from towns people and visitors alike and is managed by a Committee representing the following bodies:

Bray Urban District Council

Bray Library Committee

Cualann Historical Society.

The latter provide the artefacts and the volunteer workers to man the Centre whilst the U.D.C. in general provide the premises and look after the heating and lighting.

The Centre has become a most useful contact point between our Society and the people of Bray and North Wicklow.

Visitors to the Centre comprise all ages, backgrounds and interests. Many are visitors to the town with a reasonable proportion of them being from abroad. The goodwill and enthusiasm shown by them for the project is most rewarding to all who have put in so much work in the Centre. The local success of the Heritage Centre is now firmly underlined by the announcement that the Centre has won an Endeavour Award for 1986 from Bray Chamber of Commerce.

The many and varied activities of the Cualann Historical Society in 1985/86 included a most enjoyable and interesting visit to West Wicklow by arrangement with members of the West Wicklow Historical Society, summer walks in the vicinity of Bray and a monthly lecture programme through the winter. Social events included the wettest garden party of July 1985, an entertaining and enjoyable annual dinner in January 1986 and a most rewarding fashion show in April, 1986, in aid of the Heritage Centre. An exhibition entitled "Toys of Other Days" was staged in the Heritage Centre at Christmas 1985 and proved very popular.

Considering all of these activities our editor and his editorial Committee are to be congratulated on taking on the task of producing this journal.

Colm McCormack, Dip. Arch., MRIAI

OBITUARY

Mr. Christopher Brien



It is with regret we record the passing of our esteemed President and founding member, Mr. Christopher Brien. He died, aged 80, at his home 14 Father Colohan Terrace, Bray, on Thursday morning, 22nd May, 1986.

Christy, as he was known to all, was acknowledged foremost as a local historian and raconteur, and indeed by dint of age and vast research experience he was the doyen of historians in the north Wicklow area.

He was an intrinsic man in all he did. Throughout the span of his mature life he observed the passing scene with a sharp eye, recorded his impressions in notebooks and on occasion set down his observations in lecture form or in snatches of writings.

He was a Bray man, born and bred, and was immensely proud of his roots. His father, known as the 'Teezer' Brien, was the assistant weigh master in the Town Hall. Educated at St. Peter's national school in Little Bray Christy's early jobs were delivering newspapers and as an assistant to the bread roundsman. Later he became a butcher's porter and worked for one firm, Clarkson's in the Main Street, for 35 years.

In his youth he joined the Fianna boy scouts and was active in the Republic movement for a number of years during the transition to independence. A protege of Jim Larkin, he was a founding member of the Bray branch of the Workers' Union of Ireland and voluntary organiser of the Federation of Rural Workers. For more than 40 years he was a member of the Bray and District Trades Union Council and served in various capacities. He was

made a life member of the council and attended its annual meeting on the Sunday prior to his death.

He was by nature a gentle man, but on occasion he was caught up in violent situations. An incident with strike-breakers during the Bray butcher porters' dispute in the late 1940s landed him in the courts along with the late Sean Dunne.

He was active in numerous local societies. He played the bass drum in the old St. Kevin's Pipe Band. He notched up two famous 'last journeys'—the last horse-drawn excursion from Bray to Glendalough in 1920 and the last train from Harcourt Street to Bray in 1958.

Historical study was Christy's inherent and abiding interest. Over the years he amassed a great deal of documents and other material, particularly photographs and postcards. He was a generous mentor to the many who sought his advice and help. One example of this generosity was the donating of his postcard collection to St. Thomas's Community College some years ago.

In 1977 Christy and a handful of people equally devoted to the cause of local history established the Cualann Historical Society. He was involved also in the original Old Bray Society and was pleased to see its revival last year.

His long efforts to awaken a sense of history and pride of place in the towns people led in no small measure to one significant development—the Heritage Centre in the Town Hall. For him it was a dream come true. One recalls Christy's obvious delight on meeting Dr. Garret FitzGerald at the opening of the museum a year ago and being asked by the Taoiseach if he still gave his lectures and what was he then writing. It was a tribute to Christy's fame.

His writings have appeared in various newspapers, journals and other publications. One excellent series, under the title "Bray's yesterdays", was published in the 1970s in *Eistigi*, the newsheet of Croabh Chualann Conradh na Gaelige. His booklet "In the Lands of Brien" is a short but valuable history of the Catholic parish in Bray. He will be remembered also for his parodies on local events and personalities.

He was made a life member of Bray Camera Club for his services as a historical adviser.

He married his sweetheart, Ann Brady, on 30th January, 1932 and they had a family of two sons and four daughters. They in turn brought 18 children into the world and now there are two great grandchildren. To his widow and all his family we extend our sympathy.

Christy is sadly missed.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.

Peter Tynan O Mahony

THE GREAT ACHIEVERS

By Jim Brophy

It happened on Sunday, September 11, in 1904, by the banks of the Lee in the city of Cork. The story had started on a Sunday afternoon in September 1902 at Terenure in Dublin and had developed to crescendo point two years later. We are talking about the All Ireland win spearheaded by the Bray Emmet footballers in the early days of the present century. And you are wondering why that win was credited to Dublin rather than Wicklow.

Bray has always been a buffer zone between Dublin and Wicklow, a kind of a no-mans-land at both sides of the Dargle valley. Bray started their GAA career in Wicklow and played there for 15 years before they entered Dublin. Why did they enter Dublin? Because it was only down the road to places like Dun Laoghaire, Foxrock, Cabinteely and Stillorgan, where powerful sides were looking for matches every Sunday.

Transport was a major problem in the early days. There was no bother going North from Bray, but it was a very different story when you faced South. Annacurra, Rathnew, Ballyknockan and Avondale meant long journeys with a train service not geared to suit all places. Organisation was far better in Dublin, mainly because teams were much closer to each other and administration was less difficult. And, so, reluctantly, Bray Emmets threw in their lot with Dublin in 1899.

Less than a year after their advent to Dublin a man from Wexford came to work as a saddler in Foley's of Castle Street in Little Bray. His name was Jack Dempsey from Monamolin, Gorey. He took an interest in Bray Emmets straight away and was not a week in the town when he wore the green and white jersey. He was an exceptional footballer, but more than that he was also a great club man and very soon the Bray Emmets XVII began to take a big impact in the capital.

The first signs of the rising tide came in September 1902 when Bray Emmets beat the existing All Ireland champions, Isles of the Sea, in the first round of the Dublin Senior football championship. They eventually fought their way to the final which was not played until May 1, 1903. This referred to the 1901 Dublin championship—the GAA was way behind time in those years. Everyone in Bray headed for Jones's Road (now Croke Park) when the Emmets took on Kickhams in the 1901 Dublin Final on May 1, 1903.

Winning the Dublin championship meant that a Bray Emmet selection would play for the All Ireland title of 1902. Bray beat Kickhams 0—11 to 0—6 and the celebrations excelled anything

that was ever known in Bray. Jack Ashford from Castle Street put in a sparkling performance on that occasion and Bill Casey, Anthony "Toe" Dunne, Jack Dempsey, Steeny Mulvey and Tim Leggett were all stars.

Now for the All Ireland! Progress was slow and another 16 months was to go by before the moment of glory. Bray were in charge of selecting the team and seemingly did a good job. They selected six of their own players—Jack Dempsey, Bill Casey, Anthony Dunne, Steeny Mulvey, Dave Brady and Bill Sherry. Tim Leggett and Amby Wall were included in the subs. The other Dublin players were drawn from Parnells, Geraldines, Keatings and Kickhams.

Strangely enough they beat Wicklow 1—16 to 1—0 in the first round and then beat Louth 1—6 to 0—2 in the semi-final. And so to the Leinster final against Wexford. They played them at Carlow on May 1, 1904, and were leading 2—4 to 0—2 when the pitch was invaded. The game was not finished, but Dublin were nominated to play Armagh in the All Ireland semi-final on June 5 at Drogheda. The Bray selection won 4—13 to 1—6 to qualify Leinster for the All Ireland final.

But what about that unfinished game with Wexford. "You must play it again," said the powers that were. Kilkenny was the venue fixed and Dublin set off for the Suir on June 12, 1904. They won 1—5 to 0—5 and a great hosting from the Dargle side went wild as the Emmet selection qualified for the All Ireland final against Tipperary. Once again Kilkenny was the setting for the home final against Tipperary on July 24, 1904. There were thrills, spills and many stoppages in this game before Bray went on to win 0—6 to 0—5. Everyone from the Vevay Road to Broderick's Well was among the big gathering and again the celebrations went on for weeks.

But Bray had yet to win the All Ireland proper. In those days when you won at home you had to face the exiles from London before you were crowned as All Ireland winners. One never knew what to expect from London teams. It depended very much on how many footballers had emigrated during the previous couple of years. Jack Dempsey made many enquiries about the strength of this London side. A Mr. Golden who had Enniskerry connections wrote to Dempsey from London and told him they were a very good team and very confident. Dempsey lost no time in preparing his men for the final test.

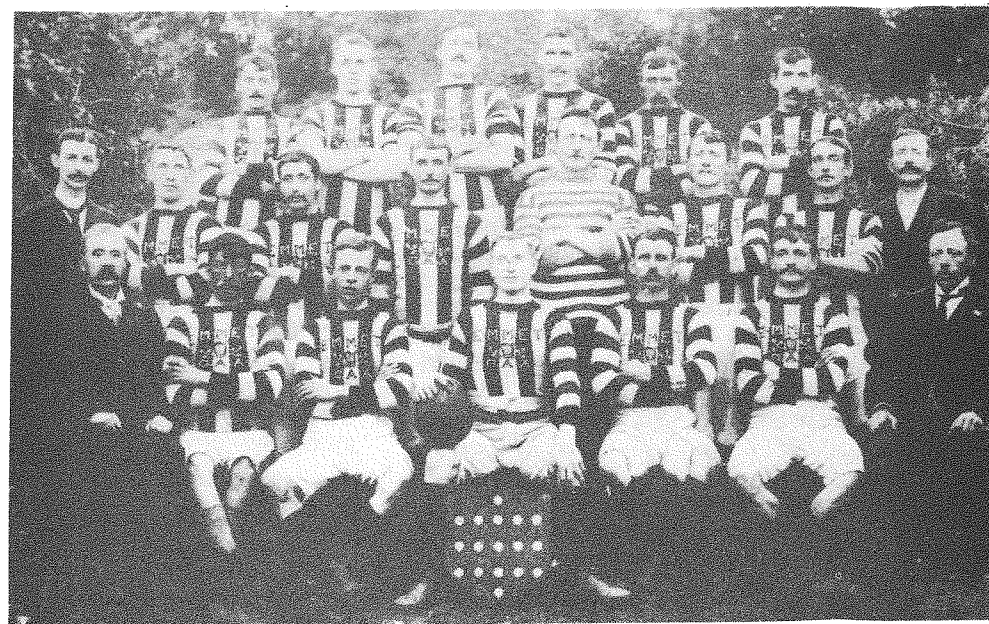
The match was played in Cork on Sunday, September, 11, 1904, and thousands made the journey from Bray, Dublin and Wicklow. It turned out to be an easy win, 2—8 to 0—4, in favour of the Bray selection. The dream had come true and Bray would never be the same again.

The credit for that great win went mainly to Jack Dempsey as player and administrator and also to Ned Byrne (grandfather of present Councillor, John) who did an excellent job as Secretary of the club in the early years of the century. The team that won the Dublin championship for 1901 made it all possible and they

included the following—Jack Dempsey, (captain) Bill Casey, Dave Brady, Tom O'Sullivan, Joe Black, Jack Ashford, Anthony Dunne, Mick Byrne, Steeney Mulvey, Jack Cunningham, L. Flanagan, Matt Cranley, Tim Leggett, Tom Murphy, J. Egan, Hugh Byrne, Amby Wall, Wm. Sherry, W. Devlin, P. Thomas, J. Conron, J. Rooney.

Relatives of many of those players still remain including Caseys, Mulveys, Dunes, Byrnes, Cranleys, Flanagans, Leggets and Egan. Emmets remained a powerful force in the Dublin championships for many years afterwards and were only pipped by Geraldines in the 1911 final. They returned to Wicklow in 1934 and won two Wicklow Seniors in 1934/35. They have been firmly entrenched in Wicklow since and are going quite well at the moment.

Among the other people who led Emmets through the glory years were J. J. Clarke, (President) Harry Lyons, (Treasurer) J. J. Healy and Johnny Grennan.



Bray Emmets G.F.C., winners of the County Dublin Championship in 1901. Seated (from left) J. J. Grennan (President), L. Flanagan, J. Cunningham, Jack Dempsey, M. Cranley, T. Legget, J. J. Clarke, (Vice President), Centre row: H. Lyons, A. Dunne, P. Doyle, S. Mulvey, Mick Byrne, M. Byrne, T. Duggan and N. Byrne (Hon. Secretary), Back row: J. Garvey, M. Casey, T. O'Sullivan, J. Black, J. Ashford, J. Conaron.

(Photo Bray Heritage Centre)

OCCUPATIONS NOTED ON SOME NORTH WICKLOW MEMORIALS

By Brian J. Cantwell, FIGRS, RFSAI

There are a large number of references to professions, trades and occupations on memorials to the dead in county Wicklow graveyards and churches. The abstracts below are all taken from volume I, *Memorials of Dead, N. E. Wicklow*, which I published in 1974. Copies of that volume and the other three covering the county can be consulted in the Bray U.D.C. library, also in the county library H.Q. in Greystones and other branches.

The late Canon Scott, author of *Stones of Bray*, drew a plan of St. Paul's churchyard in Bray, numbering each plot. He then, under the relevant number, gave all the information he could find on the persons buried, also the precise inscription on the memorial stone. The material of a biographical nature is most interesting, to say nothing of its importance to the family historian. Through the courtesy of Rev. Richard Large, late Rector of Christ Church, Bray, I was permitted to inspect Canon Scott's MS. and incorporate it in vol. I. op cit. Canon Scott's register numbers follow all St. Paul's entries. Thus, a person seeking further information on any particular interment can check back to source. Direct quotations from the MS. are in inverted commas. Transcriptions from other graveyard or churches are from personal observation.

There are a large number of references to clerics, military and naval personnel and the legal profession. These, for reasons of space, I omit.

I use the following abbreviations: ob. = died, bu. = buried and a. = aged. These abstracts are in precise form, the full inscription can be consulted in the published volume, which, incidentally, is not on public sale.

BLACKSMITH

Bray, St. Paul's
Samuel SMITH, ob. 27 July 1919, a. 89. 'Sam of the Forge'. (246). Other references to his family spell the name variously SMITH and SMYTH.

BODY SNATCHER

Bray, St. Paul's
Lucinda McKAY, ob. 4 Nov 1833, a. 32. Scott has an intriguing comments: 'It is said that Mrs. Kay's body was stolen the night after the funeral by body snatchers. A heavy sarcophagus now covers the grave ' (27) See also Scholastic, below.

BREWER

Bray, St. Paul's
Edwd. WILLIAM, New Court, ob. 22 June 1763, a. 63. Brewer of the City of Dublin. (287).

COACHMAN, CHAUFFEUR, CARMAN

Bray, St. Paul's
John BANNISTER, ob. 31 July 1925, a. 83. 'John Bannister the carman obtained this ground & apparently it was then thought to be unoccupied'. (A child, Hannah J. Hempenstall, a. 7 months, was bu. here in 1864) (50).

William SNELL, ob. 28 Jan. 1877, a. 12. Son of coachman, Carig Brea. (60).

Powerscourt Demesne

William KING, ob. 22 March, 1946. 'Head Coachman and afterwards Chauffeur at Powerscourt for 43 years.' I find this an interesting example of the transition between the horse age and modern times.

COASTGUARD

Bray, St. Paul's

Lieutenant Thos. D. J. DABINE, ob. Aug. 1848, a. 64. For many years commanding the Bray Coastguard Station. (399)
Commander A. W. FORBES, R.N., bu. 29 Dec. 1864, a. 71. In charge of Bray Coastguard Station in 1858. (22).

Lieutenant James TANDY, ob. 22 Jan. 1835, a. 45. Chief Officer Coastguards. (209).

Powerscourt Demesne

James MASTERS, ob. 9 Oct. 1862, a. 74. Coastguard Service COLLECTOR OF CUSTOMS & EXCISE

Powerscourt Demesne

Thomas UNDERWOOD, ob. 27 June 1859, a. 68.

FORESTER

Enniskerry, St. Patrick's

Robert TURNER, ob. 14 April 1879, a. 73. Forty Years forester at Powerscourt.

HOUSEKEEPER

Enniskerry, St. Patrick's

Mary WHITE, ob. 21 Nov. 1872. For many years housekeeper at Powerscourt.

MERCHANT

Bray, St. Paul's

Richard COPINGER, Fleet Street, ob. 20 May 1779, a. 64. 'Not entered in Register. Probably from the character of the stone was Roman Catholic'. (229).

Delgany Old

Samuel CHAPMAN, ob. 29 Sept. 1756, a. 61. Merchant of Dublin.

Samuel LAWRENCE, Tuckers Row, ob. 15 Oct. 1796, a. 40. Merchant of Dublin.

Newcastle Ch. of Ireland

George Godfrey HOFFMAN, born in Dantzic, ob. in Dublin 16 Aug. 1809, a. 74. 'Resident Merchant in City of Dublin.,

MILK WOMAN

Bray, St. Paul's

'Hamilton the Milk Woman. Probably?? Sarah Hamilton, Main Street, ob. 18 Nov. 1882, a. 70.' (72)

NAVY—MERCHANT

Bray, St. Paul's
David SMITH, bu. 3 Oct. 1876 a. 'about' 23, and James ACKLES, bu. 19 Oct. 1876, a. 23. The former was Steward and the latter Mate of the ship 'Leonia', wrecked at Bray. They came from Gothenberg and Nova Scotia respectively (4).

PAINTER

Bray, St. Paul's
Robert MARTIN, Main Street, ob. 9 Nov. 1885, a. 64. 'Painter, etc.' (157).
Samuel SMITH, ob. 18 Feb. 1935, a. 69. 'the painter.' (112)
Powerscourt Demesne
Mark FIELDING, of the City of Dublin, painter, erected a memorial to his uncle, Robert WALKER, Ballineskin who ob. 19 July 1770, a. 84.

PARK KEEPER

Powerscourt Demesne
Mary SCOTT, ob. 9 July 174., a. 56. She was wife of Thos. Scott, park keeper (on memorial it may be 'parkeeper').

PLUMBER

Bray, St. Paul's
Alexander BRENNAN, ob. 16 July 1780, a. 77, of City of Dublin. 'Mr. Brennan was one of the tenants in the Cock Walk from 1768 to 1780. Big Bray.' (398).

SADDLER

Bray St. Paul's
'Parker the Saddler'. 'Probably, Charles J. Parker, Main Street, a. 10, ob. 27 April 1871, who must have been a child of the saddler in the Main Street'. (383)

SCHOLASTIC

Bray, Christ Church
Richard Hastings BOOKEY, Head Master of Aravon, 1894-1924. The tablet erected by Old Boys of the School.
Caroline Elizabeth REILLY, ob. 17 Feb 1927. Principal of the French School, Bray.

Bray. St. Paul's
Marie de BEAUX, bu. 1 Aug. 1879, a. 27, teacher at the French School. (207)
John HUGHES, ob. 6 March 1867, a. 9, of Purcells Fields. 'Was a nurse child: attended Bridge Schools, & after his death the children collected money to erect a small cross, which stands against the wall at head of grave.' (38)
James McKAY, ob. 5 Nov. 1833, a. 41. Schoolmaster and Parish Clerk in Bray. He was husband of Lucinda, mentioned under 'Body Snatcher'. (27)
William Digby SEYMOUR, bu. 19 May 1875, a. 22. 'Died at Oceanville, Bray, from the result of an accident.' (345)
John WHYTES. ob. 20 March 1746, a. 16. 'A Student of Trinity College, Dublin.' (283)

Enniskerry, St. Patrick's
Joseph EGLINGTON, ob. 17 June 1873, a 48. A tutor.
SERVANT

Bray, St. Paul's
Christian, ALLISON, ob. 9 Dec 1857, a. 69. Housekeeper at Kilruddery. (313)
Richard JOHNSTON, 1 Sydenham villas, ob. 19 May 1875, a. 73. '... was attendant (and his wife cook) to old Mrs. Horner, 1 Sydenham villas.' (366).
Ellen (Nellie) NEVILLE, bu. 20 Dec. 1877, a. 96. 'Was maid of the Inn at Woodenbridge in the Rebellion of '98.' (199)

Derralossary
Henry HARDING, ob. 23 Aug. 1911, a. 73. Servant with the Frizell family, Castlekevin.

Enniskerry, St. Patrick's
Job WARDELL, ob. 31 Dec 1900, a. 78. Servant to William, 11th Earl of Meath, for 53 years.

Powerscourt Demesne
Mackey BROOK, ob. 21 Nov. 1879. 24 years servant of Charles Stanley, Viscount Monck.
STEWARD & GARDENER

Bray, St. Paul's
William ALLISON, The Commons, ob. 14 Jan. 1873, a. 85. Steward at Killruddery. (313).
BRADY. 'Children of Brady the gardener, now working at Mrs. Caldwell's, 1898. William Brady, Vevay House, aged 3½ Jan 12 1881. Ellen Brady, Shanganagh Castle Lodge, aged 2 June 16 1882'. (36)
Haretta Louisa RICKERBY, ob 7 Oct 1881, a. 25. Wife of Henry Rickerby, gardener, Galtrim Gate Lodge. (158)

Powerscourt Demesne
Alexander ROBERTSON, ob. 26 Oct. 1872. For 23 years Land Steward at Powerscourt.
TAILOR

Bray, St. Paul's
Henry BRODERICK, ob. 17 Apr. 1847, a. 65. 'Father of old Edward and Henry the lame tailor.' (380a)
WOOLCOMBER

Bray, St. Paul's
William BURNET, ob. 4 Feb. 1799, a. 79. 'Under the floor in front of the chancel arch a headstone lying flat—with inscription . . . Register gives Wm. Burnet, wool-comber, of Pimlico, Dublin.' (395) It is to be hoped that this, as well as other memorials and interments within the church, have been preserved during present use of the church for lay purposes.

I end with a short verse from St. Paul's:
*The grass is green the rose is red
Here lies my name now I am dead
Mary Saunders.*

Scott records that Mary died 3 April 1807, aged 13. (387)

THE FIERY UNION MAN FROM BRAY

By Ross M. Connolly

Joe Metcalfe was one of the most colourful characters to serve in the Irish Labour and Trade Union Movement, both nationally and in Bray. A native of Bray, he was a small man, with fiery red hair and a moustache, and an equally fiery temper. Yet in the latter years of his life he was probably known to most people in Bray, and in Little Bray where he lived, as the innocuous rent collector for the Town Council.

Joe first came to prominence in the Dublin Trade Union Movement when he was attached to the Irish Transport and General Workers Union in the early years of this century. He was treasurer of the union in the stormy days leading up to the General Lock-Out by the employers under William Martin Murphy of the workers of Dublin in 1913. When the bitter struggle petered out in 1914, described then as a "draw battle", Big Jim Larkin, the General Secretary of the Union decided to embark on a tour of the United States to raise funds. In later years Joe Metcalfe would recall meeting Big Jim at Westland Row Railway Station (now Pearse Station) as he was about to depart and handing him a bag of gold sovereigns for his expenses. Currency notes had not come into vogue at that time.

Joe appears officially in the records for the first time when the Irish Transport and General Workers Union re-organised after the 1916 Rebellion. At the annual general meeting of the Dublin No. 1 Branch on the 21st January 1917 (this was the premier branch of the union and effectively its General Executive until proper rules were adopted later), John O'Neill was elected Secretary and Joe Metcalfe his assistant. He was re-elected again in January 1918, and also appointed a trustee of the branch. Early in 1919 Joe left the No. 1 branch to organise his native Co. Wicklow for the Union, although a branch had existed in Bray since 1911, and the Union had also organised workers in Kynoch's Munitions Factory in Arklow during the period of the Great War.

When the "Bray and Kingstown Trades and Labour Council" was established in April 1917 to co-ordinate the activities and policies of all the trade unions operating in Bray and Dun Laoghaire (then known as Kingstown), Joe was not mentioned amongst the attendance; however, when the Council subsequently affiliated to the national body, the Irish Trade Union Congress, the two delegates from the Bray Council to the next annual Congress were Edward Byrne (grandfather of the present Councillor John Byrne) and Joe Metcalfe. Two years later in 1919, he was prominently

identified with the Council to the extent of being in the centre front row of a photograph of union delegates along with well-known national figures in the Movement such as Tom Johnson, Cathal O'Shannon and Tom Foran. This photograph was taken outside the new Trades Hall which the Council had opened in the Main Street.

On the 24th and 25th October of that year, the Irish Labour Party and Trade Union Congress called a special Congress of Trades Union Councils throughout Ireland to consider policy and tactics in the forthcoming Local Elections. Each Trades Union Council was to nominate candidates and a programme was adopted covering housing, rents, feeding of schoolchildren, education, direct labour, municipal restaurants, allotments, municipal industries and food supplies. Even by to-day's standards it was a far-sighted programme. Joe Metcalfe was duly nominated for the Bray Urban Council and in the elections which took place in January 1920, he was one of 334 Labour candidates returned throughout the country. This was the foundation of Labour representation on the Bray Local Authority, and which subsequently went on to capture six of the Urban Council seats and dominate the Local Authority for many years.

In April of that year, when a General Strike was called to force the British Government to release over the hundred men held without charge or trial, Joe was active in Bray in ensuring a complete close-down of the town. Again when Congress called a one-day stoppage of mourning and protest over the execution of Paddy Moran (a delegate of the Trades Union Council) and three others in Mountjoy by Crown Forces in reprisal for the Bloody Sunday assassination of British spies, Joe was to the forefront in organising the strike.

With the end of the Anglo-Irish War, he threw himself into the work of trade unionism in Bray and Co. Wicklow. The late Councillor Davey Sayers, himself a life-long member of the Post Office Workers' Union, recalled once standing in the Main Street of Bray chatting to Joe. A strike was in progress at the time and while they talked a lorry of the strike-bound firm, driven by a 'scab' went up the street. Suddenly, without warning, Joe took off on foot in pursuit, running like the wind until he overtook the lorry. He was a small man, but undeterred by danger to his life or limb, he jumped onto the running board and bodily hauled the strike breaker from the cab! On another occasion, during a strike in Wicklow Town, the strikers were baton-charged by the police. Joe, of course, was in the forefront, and for his pains received a blow from a police baton which affected his hearing for the rest of his life, an affliction he turned to good account in after years.

His fiery temperament was exemplified in another incident when he learnt that a rival trade union was "poaching" his union's members on the works for the new water reservoir on the Vartry at Roundwood. The rival union was in fact the Agricultural and General Workers Union which had been formed by Sean Etchingham of Wexford (a strong IRB man) and James Everett of

Wicklow in 1919. Jim Everett was to go on to become Labour Deputy for Wicklow until his death, reaching Ministerial Office in 1948 and the 1950s. He was also uncle of the present Minister for the Environment, Liam Kavanagh. At that time, however, as far as Joe Metcalfe was concerned, he was an interloper. Speeding to Roundwood, legend has it that he peeled off his coat and "squared up" to the taller, more robust Jim Everett for daring to take his members! The outcome of the confrontation is not recorded, but Joe had the ultimate victory when the Agricultural and General Workers Union was subsequently absorbed into the Irish Transport and General Workers Union.

Joe settled down in later years to become the Town rent collector, but continued his activities, political and trade union. He became treasurer of the Trades Union and Labour Council in which role he was noted for stopping errant members in the Main Street and reminding them in his loud 'deaf' voice that their subscriptions were overdue. When the response was an excuse Joe would turn his famous deaf ear to the member who either had to shout very loud or pay up! Needless to say Joe was a very successful treasurer.

He was also the recipient of a remarkable tribute in his own life-time. The original Trades Hall, opened by the Trades Union Council in 1919, stood on the site of the present offices of the Bank of Ireland in the Main Street, opposite Brighton Terrace. Expanding its services, the Trades Council acquired a new premises beside the old Royal Hotel and opposite the old Court House at Bray Bridge. This was appropriate as the rear of the premises looked out on a cluster of artisan houses known as Woodbine (now occupied by the Royal Hotel car park), and one of these houses had been the venue for the first meetings which set up the Trades Union Council in 1917. In a remarkable gesture to Joe, the Council named the new Hall after James Connolly, the Labour Leader executed in 1916, and himself; so the Connolly-Metcalfe Hall stood as a testimonial to his services to the Movement in his own life-time. Eventually it had to be sold and was acquired by Mr. Cavey of the Royal Hotel. The old Hall was demolished for an extension programme embodying a ballroom and re-opening as the Royal Starlight Hotel. Recent reconstruction has seen the site of the old hotel (which was formerly Quin's Hotel—a stagecoach stop) turned into shops and offices, with the present hotel occupying roughly the site of the old Connolly-Metcalfe Trades Hall.

The split in the Irish Labour Movement which took place in 1944 was a sad blow to Joe Metcalfe, who now found himself once again opposing his old adversary James Everett. He had broken away with four other Deputies to form the National Labour Party. Although the breakaway Party was formed of Dail Deputies who had all been sponsored by the Irish Transport and General Workers Union, Joe held to his allegiance to the Irish Labour Party. He worked ceaselessly for re-unification and helped establish a Unity Conference which was held in the former

International Hotel (since destroyed by fire) in Bray. All the Labour leaders on both sides of the divide came together under the chairmanship of James McCrea of Carnew, later a Labour Senator, but the conference failed. The pressure of political events in 1948 when Fianna Fail were defeated after sixteen years in Government, brought about unity in the Labour Party for which Joe had worked so hard. Sadly he had died before his cherished ambition was realised. The Labour Movement—and Bray—had lost a real fighter.



DELEGATES OF THE BRAY AND KINGSTOWN TRADES AND LABOUR COUNCIL — JULY, 1919. Included are (front row seated) Thomas Johnson (1st left), Thomas Foran, Joseph Metcalfe, Bray Secretary (7th), Cathal O'Shannon (8th), Mr. Hegarty, 'Kingstown' Secretary (10th). Also included are John Murphy, James Murphy, John Dunne, Edward Byrne, M. McCarthy, A. Early, P. Quail, J. O'Neill, T. Mills (?), James Ryan, Martin Connor, J. Dunphy and Messrs. Brien, Timmins, Nolan and Meaney.

THE POBJE FAMILY OF BRAY

By J. A. Claire Crowther

On Christmas Day, 1828, a marriage took place in St. Paul's Church on Main Street in Bray. The bridegroom, a young man called Charles Pobje and his bride, Miss Anne Baggerley, both belonged to Bray Parish. It is probable that Charles' parents, Henry and Mary Pobje, were present in the Church as were his brothers, Joseph and Henry Junior. As Charles and Anne each arrived at St. Paul's, they must have passed the old yew tree outside the South door. We know that it was there at the time because tests carried out by Department of Forestry officials about 1977 established that the tree was then well over 200 years old. The new bridge over the River Dargle had not yet been built, nor had the chancel extension been made to St. Paul's Church. At the marriage ceremony the Reverend W. C. Plunkett officiated and the witnesses who signed the register were Bernard McCowan, Henry Pobje, John thers and J. W. Kay. Unfortunately the name of the third witness is illegible.

From the Burial Register we learn a little more about the Pobje family. Charles' parents were born approximately in the years 1771 and 1772, judging from the ages given at the time of death, as follows:

1830; 20th June: MR. HENRY POBJE (aged 59) of this Parish.
Signed: John Hunt.

1845; September 4th: MARY POBJE (aged 73) of Newtown Vevay
Signed: Henry R. Linton, Curate.

Charles' brother, Henry, had also married because the Baptismal Register carries an entry:

1843; 14th November: BESSY, daughter of HENRY AND JANE POBJE, Rathmichael Glebe. Signed: J. Hunt.

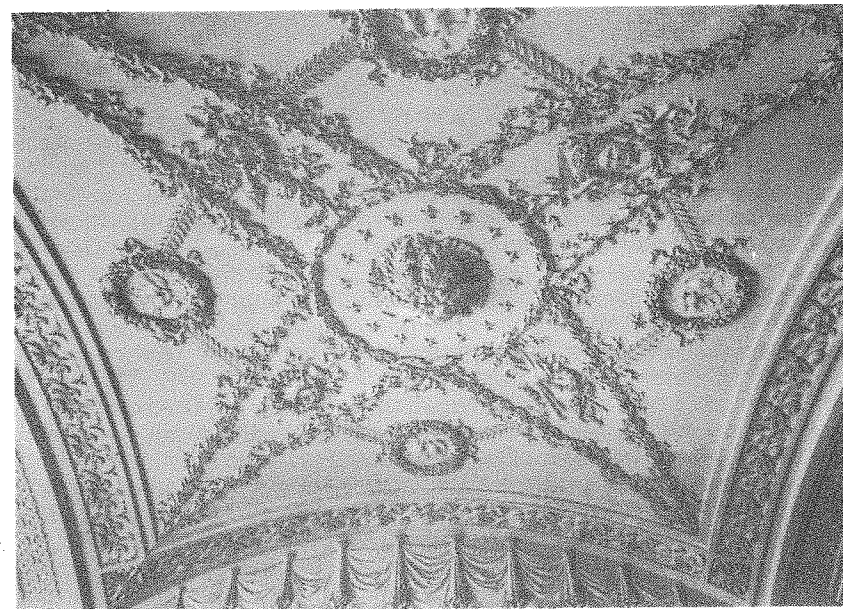
The Reverend John Hunt of Rathmichael and Bray lived in Rathmichael Glebe House, in Bride's Glen, close to the junction with Cherrywood Road, Loughlinstown. It is interesting that this address was given for Henry and Jane Pobje.

Returning to the bride and groom of Christmas Day, 1828, in the fullness of time they had at least three children, Anne, Henry and Frederick. We have no idea why, but when their daughter Anne was about ten years old, Charles and Anne emigrated to Australia. They sailed on the ship "Albert" and arrived in 1842. The names of those who certified that Charles and his family were of good character were:

John Hunt, Cherrywood.

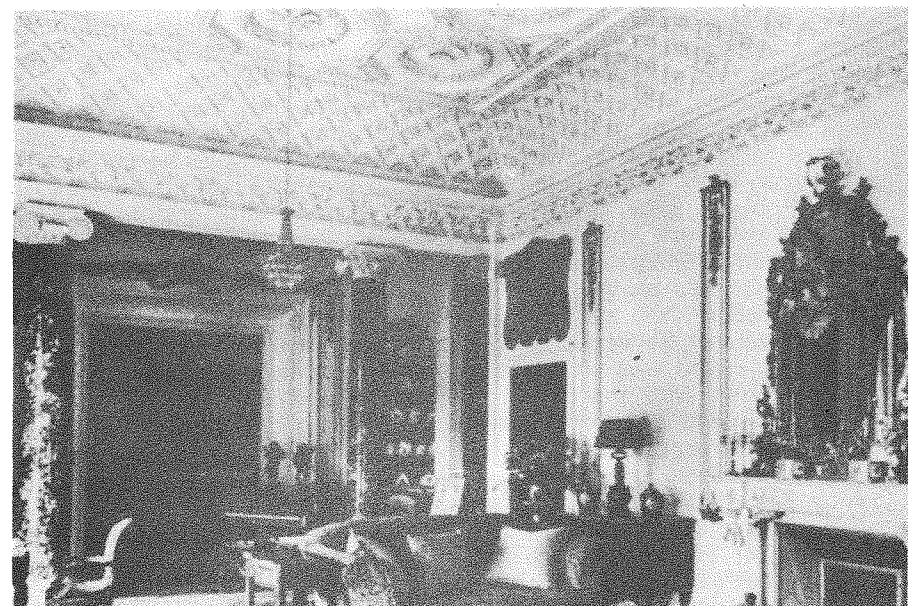
H. R. M. Peile, Newtown Vevay, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

Thomas Darby, Bray.



Ceiling by Henry Pobje

(Photograph by Jonathan M. Gibson of "Country Life")



Ceiling by Henry Pobje

The Thomas Darby mentioned was probably the surgeon of that name who lived in Bray at the time.

About the same time as the Pobje family left Bray for Australia, a young Armagh man, Thomas Lappin, married his first wife, Margaret Heaney of Drogheda, and emigrated with her to Australia. They sailed on the ship "Sir Edward Paget" which was out of London, but called at Cork. Thomas and Margaret Lappin arrived at Fort Jackson, New South Wales, Australia on the 14th February, 1842. The passenger list of the "Sir Edward Paget" described Thomas as "Cabinet-maker in Certificates—a Carpenter" and Margaret as "Dressmaker". Sad to say, Margaret Lappin died in 1845, leaving Thomas with their small daughter, Mary Matilda.

Meanwhile, Anne Pobje was growing up and when she was about seventeen years old she married the young twenty-seven year old widower from Armagh on the 24th April, 1848. They had nineteen years of married life together, bringing up Thomas's little daughter by his first marriage and having eleven more children. In 1854 Henry Pobje, Charles' brother, also emigrated to Australia and at the present time grandchildren and great grandchildren of these brothers from Bray flourish in Australia.

One of the joys of family history research is that real people are so interesting and delightful surprises frequently turn up when one is tracing a family. A great great granddaughter or our bride and groom of 1828 mentioned in a letter that Charles had worked as a plasterer when he arrived in Australia. This information stirred the memory of a remark by Mr. Peter Aspell while he guided members of the Cualann Historical Society around Killruddery. While admiring the beautiful ceilings in the reception rooms, he mentioned that they had been the work of a local man. A quick telephone call confirmed that the name of the local man, which had not meant anything at the time, was Pobje.

For some time the 10th Earl of Meath had been planning large scale changes to Killruddery and by June 1820 the Architect, Richard Morrison, had drawn up plans for the work to be carried out. When work commenced the stucco plasterer employed was Henry Pobje of Bray, father of Charles, Henry Junior and Joseph. Some of the work was done by a Mr. Gilligan, who was probably an assistant to Henry. The ceilings in Killruddery indicate what a gifted artist was Henry Pobje and further research reveals that he was probably the son of a very artistic father. In "A Dictionary of Irish Artists" by W. G. Strickland there is an entry referring to an A. Pobje who was an artist and wax modeller. This gentleman had exhibited with the Society of Artists in Dublin in the years 1810 and 1815. A. Pobje was also gifted in creating properties for theatrical productions. For Crowe Street Theatre in 1810, Mr. Pobje and other "mechanists of the theatre" created a peacock which "strutted across the stage in the usual manner of the real bird". The entry goes on to say that Mr. A. Pobje was probably father of Mr. Henry Pobje of Bray, Stucco Plasterer, who left three sons, Charles, Henry and Joseph.

Mr. Strickland adds a description by Sir Thomas Drew,

Architect, of one of these brothers, whom we can only suppose to be Joseph, since Charles and Henry Junior had gone to Australia. According to Sir Thomas Drew, he was "the last survivor of the tradition of refined architectural modelling in Dublin. He was in the employment of one Hogan, Master Plasterer of Great Brunswick Street in 1862/3 when he executed fine work with the old skill under me in the Provincial Bank, College Street. He was by breeding a 'gentleman-workman', of foreign appearance, well educated and spoke French; a very interesting man".

There is no doubt that further research will reveal more information on this interesting and gifted family, who lived in Bray for a while and left such beautiful reminders of their craft as the ceilings in Killruddery.

References: Parish Registers of St. Paul's Church, Bray.
"A Dictionary of Irish Artists" by W. G. Strickland.
Lord and Lady Meath.

Thanks to: Rev. D. Godfrey, Rev. S. Allen, Lord and Lady Meath,
Mrs. H. Bull, Australia,
and Mr. C. N. Pobjoy.

Photograph by Jonathan M. Gibson of "Country Life".

CHRIST CHURCH ORGAN,

January, 1905

The organ which was erected in the Church some 40 years ago has just had a thorough cleaning and overhaul at the hands of it's builders. Beside new reed stops, a new pedal board of up to date pattern has been fixed, to give greater facility to the player.

The instrument is almost historic, for during it's long period of service, many organists proceeded from it's key-boards to the domain of musicians of note.

Amongst these may be mentioned Messrs C. G. Merchant, Hamilton Harty and Dr. Figgis.

It is a great credit to Messrs Telford and Telford that their work has lasted so well throughout so many years and is today practically as good as new.

Messrs Telford and Telford are just completing a very large instrument for Queenstown Cathedral.

THE CASTLE OF BRAY

K. M. Davies

Unlike those towns where a medieval cathedral, as in Kildare, or a substantial Anglo-Norman castle, as in Trim, has survived to the present day, Bray has no buildings still standing to remind us of the settlement and its people in the centuries that followed the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland. For the best part of 500 years after the area was granted to Walter de Ridelsford, Bray seems to have been a small town—or, indeed, a village by our standards—serving as a centre for the farmlands of the manor of Bray. In this settlement there were three buildings of great importance to the life of the medieval inhabitants. The church catered for their spiritual needs, the corn mill ground their staple cereals and the castle provided them with some degree of safety in troubled times.

We know roughly where these vital buildings stood, but, in the case of the first two, not a great deal more. The medieval church has long since disappeared, although St. Paul's Church, dating back to the seventeenth century, may occupy much the same site. The Anglo-Norman corn mill, and its successors, was probably located roughly where the most recent mill buildings stand today. There are only occasional references to 'a corn mill' or 'a water corn mill' to go on, however, and the structure may have been only a simple wooden one, although the mill-race running alongside the Dargle River may be an enduring feature. But the third building, the Anglo-Norman castle—or, at least the stone castle that may have succeeded an original wooden structure—survived well into the eighteenth century. This stone castle stood between the present Herbert Road (opposite the car park) and the old barracks building in Church Terrace.

We do not know for certain either when it was built or exactly when or why it was demolished. (As will be seen, the popular belief that the stones were used to build the barracks is not supported by fact.) But enough pieces of information do exist to build up some impression of its appearance and setting.

No description seems to have survived of the original castle, built by Walter de Ridelsford at the end of the twelfth century, but it may have been a simple wooden structure on top of a defensive earthwork. It seems likely that it was built on much the same site as the later stone castle is known to have occupied. Like many others of its period, it was strategically positioned on high ground to overlook a ford, in this case the lowest crossing point of the Dargle River in the vicinity of the present bridge. It also served to protect the mill, which lay below it on a narrow strip of low ground. The rocky bluff on which the castle stood rises some 20 metres (60 feet) above the level of the river. Upstream its occu-

pants looked out on the marshy floodplain that was later to become Bray Commons (the People's Park area of Little Bray), while downstream there was a view of the Dargle River discharging into its estuary. If the main threat of attack in the following centuries had come across the river from the north the castle would have been a well-sited one, and Bray might have developed some strategic importance. But the main danger in the medieval period came from the Wicklow Mountains to the south-west, from the territories of the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes, and on this side the land sloped gradually uphill away from the river and offered no protection from attack. That this was an important factor, certainly for the later medieval period, can be seen by the fact that in 1459 it was considered necessary to build another small castle across the river in Little Bray to defend the route over the ford from raiders coming from the south. It would appear that by this period, at least, Bray castle had become of little defensive importance.

Only a few early references to the castle have survived. The de Ridelsford mention of 'my castle' in a grant of about 1225 and the rent roll of 1284 in which 'Robert the baker' holds 'a tenement under the castle' are both well known. When Geoffrey Crump was granted the manor of Bray for a term of 20 years in 1335-6 he obtained favourable terms in consideration of 'repairs to the castle of Rokelscourt', but although this is sometimes taken to refer to Bray castle, the best opinion would be that it refers to Oldcourt. Canon Scott in *The Stones of Bray* speculated that the original wooden castle would have been destroyed when Bray was burnt by the 'southern Irishmen' in 1314 and that the stone castle was then built to replace it. There does not seem to be any firm evidence for this idea, but at any rate a stone castle was built, probably at some time in the 1300s, and from 1538 onwards the picture is clearer.

In that year William Ashpole was granted the castle and water mill of 'Muche Bree', with 'all houses, gardens, tenements and curtelages (yards) . . . lying and being within the bawn next the said castle'. A second deed has also survived, dated 1576, which also mentions both the castle and the bawn. We can imagine, then, the settlement at Bray at this time with its thatched cabins and a few more substantial stone houses grouped around the church, the mill and the ford, and dominated by the sturdy tower of the castle. Around the castle, and encircling the bawn enclosure, there will have been a defensive wall probably made of stone. The inhabitants and their animals could take refuge inside this wall when attack threatened.

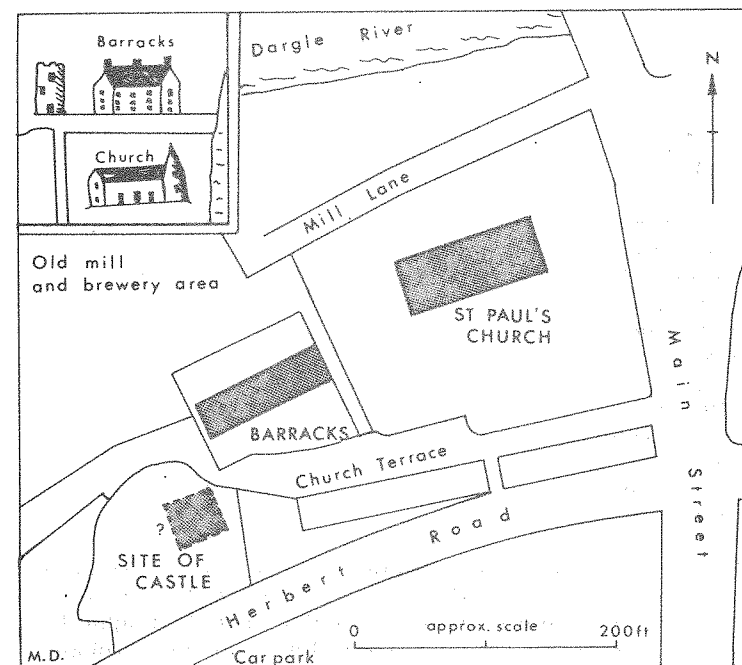
The best written description that has survived arises from litigation in the year 1625, when a dispute over responsibility for repairs to the castle and mill arose between Lord Brabazon (soon to be the 1st Earl of Meath), who had acquired the properties, and Edward Walsh who had acted as guarantor when his brother William had taken out a repairing lease eleven years before. The castle was described as containing 'three rooms of forty foot square a piece' with 'three ancient floors in the said castle which

do need new flooring and repairing and that there is no strong or convenient stairs whereby to ascend or go to the said floors or not such stairs . . . sufficiently repaired as they ought to be . . . ' A certificate was provided by three carpenters that the necessary repairs would cost '£30 English'—a considerable sum at that time—and judgement against Edward Walsh was given for this amount. Whether the repairs were carried out is not recorded, but it is likely that they were since the castle is specifically mentioned in several assignments of the town and manor of Bray over the next forty years. It fell permanently into the hands of the Meath family when the lands of Bray were partitioned between Edward, 2nd Earl of Meath and Oliver, Earl of Tyrconnell, in 1666.

By this date, too, it had appeared on a map for the first time—the Down Survey map of about 1657. Here the castle is shown as a simple tower standing on raised ground. It appears again on a Pembroke estate map of 1692, and for a third and, apparently, final time on Jonathan Barker's map of 'Great Bray' in 1762. Barker shows the building as a three storey, square tower, which accords well with the 1625 description.

The castle did not survive for long after it was recorded on this last map, however, for it had gone by the time of the first Ordnance Survey map in 1838. It is curious that there does not seem to be any record of when or why it was demolished. Canon Scott was responsible for the suggestion, often since repeated as fact, that the stones of the castle were used in the building of the barracks in about 1700, and that it was 'then that all traces of the old castle disappeared'. However, Barker's map serves to show that this could not be the case, and that the castle and barracks stood side by side for at least sixty years. The canon was probably correct, none the less, in supposing that the stones were used for building purposes. Bray expanded considerably in the years between 1762 and 1838 and good stone must have been in demand. Since the castle was the property of the Earl of Meath, and under his eye, so to speak, it is more likely that it was systematically demolished, rather than that it disappeared piecemeal as it might have done in a more isolated position. Perhaps such a quantity of dressed stone was employed for enlarging the corn mill or the nearby brewery—both substantial buildings by 1838—or perhaps it was incorporated in other of the late eighteenth century or early nineteenth century buildings in Bray. It would be fascinating to know.

It may be that not only was the castle demolished in the period between 1762 and 1838, but that its site was quarried. The 1st edition six-inch map of 1838 shows an enigmatic feature which Canon Scott interpreted as the knoll on which the castle had stood, but a much larger scale map of the same date, the unpublished town plan at five feet to the mile, labels the same feature as 'quarry'. This quarry was not, however, shown on the more accurately surveyed map of 1870 (published by the Ordnance Survey at ten feet to the mile), which gives no indication of any feature on the site. The 1870 map does, however, show in detail



The site of Bray Castle, Inset: part of Barker's map of 1762 (redrawn)

the curved boundary wall, different in character from most of the other property boundaries nearby, which may represent part of the north and west sides of the bawn wall. This curved wall is built on a rock foundation with old masonry visible at its base. The stonework now encloses a quiet private garden, where once it must have been at the centre of activity and bustle. It may be that this unobtrusive feature represents one of our last links with medieval Bray.

NOTE: The site of the castle shown on the modern 25 inches to one mile Ordnance Survey map was taken from Baker's map of 1762, and is not exact.

Sources: Meath deeds, nos. 3, 11, 16, 21, 161, 254; *Statute rolls*, 37 Henry VI, 24; *Calendar of documents of Ireland, 1252-84*, 560; *Chartulary of St. Mary's Abbey*, 29; 'Map of Great Bray in the county of Wicklow surveyed in 1762 by Jonathan Barker'; Ordnance Survey maps; G. D. Scott, *The Stones of Bray* (Dublin, 1913; reprinted 1984). Thanks are due to the Earl of Meath for giving me access to the Meath papers.

FILMING HENRY V

By Arthur Flynn

Film-makers were always reluctant to tackle Shakespeare's plays as possible film projects but Laurence Olivier believed that they would have good potential at the box-office. His first venture was Henry V in which his intention was to cast Vivien Leigh as Princess Katherine but she was under contract to David O. Selznick who refused to allow her to appear in 'insignificant roles'. Unable to obtain the services of William Wyler as director Olivier was forced to take on the mantle of director, associate producer and the title role himself. He rewrote much of the Bard's text and added a spectacular Agincourt battle sequence.

Film production in Europe at the time was greatly hampered by the outbreak of the second World War, but Ireland's neutrality brought at least one benefit in so far as where extensive exterior filming was virtually impossible in Britain and France it was readily available here. The absence of black-out restrictions made it impossible to shoot outdoor night scenes. Extras, labourers and horses were also more easily procurable than in England.

Olivier explained his reason for choosing Ireland. 'The greatest problem of all was finding a spot in England to film the battle. After all, this was the spring and early summer of 1943 and it was impossible to find anywhere that wasn't buzzing with aeroplanes or covered with modern military defences that would have looked odd in fifteenth century France. Where could we find a really poetic countryside?' The eventual answer was Lord Powerscourt's estate, four miles west of Bray, which was made available to the film unit. Olivier was enthusiastic about his find. 'A dream lay-out exactly the place I had visualised to suit the fantasy of Shakespeare the little hills, adjacent woods, positions for the French and English camps and a half mile run for the camera track. Finding it was an absolute fluke.'

Every movement in the battle scene was planned in detail as Olivier and a small team worked closely together. On the walls of Olivier's office were tiny reproductions on 35mm film of meticulous drawings of every shot in the action sequence. Included were scenes of the French knights floundering in a marsh, English archers and foot soldiers behind stakes, long shots of the French charge and a close-up of cow's head.

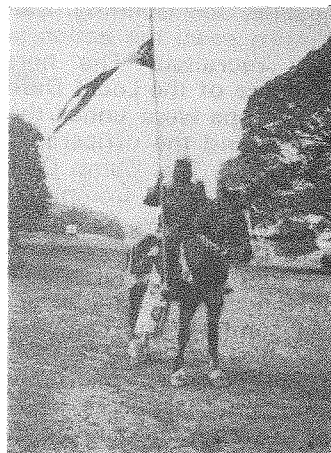
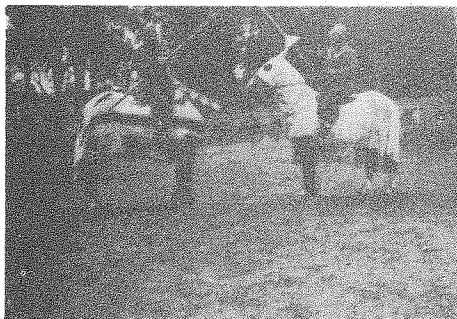
The extras were a diverse and motley crew as they were not allowed to shave or have a haircut for the duration of their contracts. Consequently, out of costume and dressed in civvies they looked like riff-raff. Many stories and reminiscences are still related to-day by the scores of Bray people involved in the project. Locals taking part included Michael Manweiler, Jim Doyle, Brian O'Brien, Pierce and Frank McKenna, Matt Cullen, Frank Hastings,

Sean Walsh, Tim Conroy, Eamonn Martin, Kevin O'Leary, Jack Kinsella, Joe Gunning, Sam Murray and Malachy O'Brien.

To swell the action scenes 510 footmen and 164 horsemen were recruited. The horsemen were mainly unemployed and members of the Local Defence Force (LDF) from nearby counties. The troops were under the control of Camp Commander John J. Hyland and the officers, N.C.O.'s and men were subject to army discipline. The Camp Commander was paid £17.17.0 per week, his Second in Command £10.10.0, N.C.O.s £4 a week and footmen £3 a week. The horsemen recruited from the 26 counties were paid £1 a day, double that of the others. The setting was like that of an enormous army camp with horsemen and footmen sleeping and eating in separate tents but sharing the same food and comfort. The general atmosphere was jovial and relaxed and was like an extended picnic. Horace B. Hammond, a Dublin archery expert instructed the hundred assorted tradesmen, merchants, labourers, students and butchers to fire the long bow for the dramatic sequences where the French army faced the hail of English arrows. Horses were removed from under ploughs, milk carts and even racing stables to accommodate the filmmakers. Local farmers were paid £3.10.0 a day for the use of each horse. This new source of revenue to the unemployed in particular was a welcome bonus. Chain mail knitted from wool by girls from the Institute for the Blind was later sprayed with aluminium paint. Many of the costumes from the film were later used by Shelagh Richards in her production of Saint Joan in the Gaiety Theatre.

For war years food supplies were plentiful and the weekly consumption was 20,000 eggs, 500 gallons of milk, 75 gallons of cream, 5400 pounds of meat and 3500 cabbages. Chief Wilfred Riordan and his assistants worked daily from 4.45 a.m. until 10 p.m. to appease the appetite of the enormous throng. The camp bar opened three nights a week, but those who had leave passes (issued on alternate nights to footmen, nightly to horsemen) patronised the three pubs in Enniskerry, or took the bus to Bray. Both towns profited from this influx of bearded men, whose total weekly salary cheque amounted to over £2000. Enniskerry, with a population of 370 became a boom town and was unable to cope with the demand for supplies. The village's single taxi, owned by Joseph Troy drove visitors several times a day to the location. 15,000 people applied to see the filming but permits were issued sparingly. Security was tight on the gates and all permits were checked.

The weather was unsettled, brilliant blue skies being followed by banked clouds and squalls of winds and rain. Thus Olivier, after patiently rehearsing hundreds of horsemen and extras, had often to postpone shooting. He said, dejectedly 'the trouble is that the horses are inclined to get tired and the horsemen to forget. Hatless, dressed usually in a leather lumber jacket, riding breeches and golf stockings, and carrying a megaphone, Olivier appeared to be everywhere at once, instructing, coaxing, demonstrating how he wanted a scene enacted, 'Mr. Olivier' as they



called him was often challenged to demonstrate stunts or actions before they would attempt them. One leap onto a horse from a height proved extremely painful for Olivier but he had to conceal his discomfort or the extras would have refused a similar feat. Despite the frustrating weather and the enormous responsibility of his first directing job, Olivier maintained an even temper. When rehearsing extended formations of horsemen his voice flowed from a platform in waves of politeness—'Everybody please half except Section 8—I'd like you to try it at a steady trot this time, please'. After each day's shooting he ordered a glass of Guinness for every 'extra' on the house. For this gesture and his general attitude he was popular with the men. On one occasion the Dublin detachment of the LDF threatened strike for extra pay and Olivier assembled the entire ensemble and convinced them to withdraw the demand.

While he was filming in Ireland Olivier was unaware that finance to keep the film going was in real danger of running out. The production company, Two Cities, had to approach the Rank Organisation for extra funds. Rank advanced them £300,000, but emphasised that there would be no further payments. The final budget was £475,000. The actual battle cost £80,000 to film and represented fifteen minutes of screen time in a film lasting two and a half hours. The acting from the entire cast including Robert Newton, Leslie Banks and Rene Asherton was superb with Olivier himself winning an Academy Award. Along with Olivier the credit went to director of photography, Robert Krasker and the mood catching score of William Walton. The actual Battle of Agincourt segment deservedly belongs with the great moments in cinema history. Its critical success encouraged Olivier to make other Shakesperian classics including Hamlet, Richard III and Othello.

Laurance Olivier was to return to Bray to appear in two further films at Ardmore Studio, 'Term of Trial' and 'Inchon'.

GROWING UP IN BRAY:

By Gemma Hussey, T.D.

Minister for Social Welfare, born Gemma Moran, daughter of Jim and Patricia Moran of Rogan's Chemist, Quinsboro' Road, Bray.

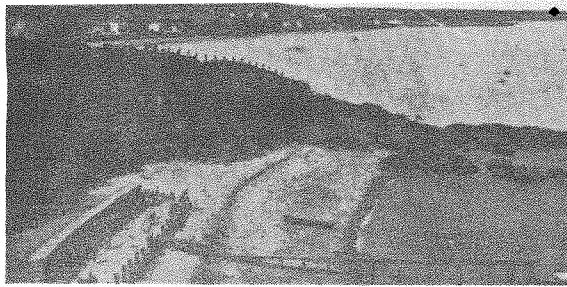
The sea along Bray promenade never seemed cold when I was growing up. No question, then, of heated pools or chlorine—red eyes. As soon as school released us in June, until the waves got greyer and colder in September, it was our full-day occupation, to swim, chat, and join in whatever was going on in or about the Bray Swimming Club. Simple enough in physical facilities it was too . . . large green wooden gates closed over to provide a 33 yard patch of the "prom" which became our own kingdom, our territory, our playground and our field of battle for life and often for teenage love . . . Two wooden slatted platforms jutting out into the sea marked the 33 yards of our swimming "space".

In high summer, July and August our green gates became very significant because of the descent of what seemed like half of England and the whole of Northern Ireland on our town. We retreated behind the gates and generally behaved in an isolationist manner which neither Bord Failte nor my Bray Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee Colleagues would approve of today! Bray Cove Swimming Club, nestling under Bray Head, was a world away and were our deadly enemies.

We competed against them at swimming galas, and thought ourselves superior . . . I'm delighted to see the present work being done to bring "the Cove" back to its former glory—but I don't see our generation of Bray youngsters hopping into the cold sea water.

So, the summers were simple, the fun very innocent by today's standards I think; the biggest treat of the week was to have two shillings to spend on an ice-cream and the juke box in Mezza's cafe—on the way home to the Herbert Road. Holidays?—none of us expected such a thing:—"wasn't the whole world coming to Bray for their holidays, why should we go away from it?"—anyway, my parents were working too hard all summer and money was scarce—But I should say I never thought of myself as disadvantaged, Bray had everything I wanted. A week with our cousins in Greystones, or even one summer foray to Carlow, was the extent of our ambitions.

For some reason which I can not recall, my elder brother decided to coach me their 10 year old sister to sing "Ghost riders in the sky" in the Bandstand Talent Competition. Half-way through I completely forgot the lines, to the chagrin of the brothers. The shame of it . . . However, there was consolation in the performances on the Little Flower Hall Stage, directed by Annette Hynes (only a



A Valentine Post Card post-marked "Bray 5 pm Au 2 08"

fraction older than her pupils). They were mostly dancing which didn't involve remembering lines. But calamities were never far away—our gala performance of a troupe of little girls dancing to "the Chocolate Soldier" or some such tune, was thrown into chaos by a faulty repeating tape machine, or record player. As we stumbled around the stage, imprecations were hurled in a hiss at the mechanical culprit—The Brother again!

I wonder has the early penchant for drama got something to do with the later involvement in politics? They say we're all prima donnas in Dail Eireann.

Junior School at Miss Brayden's (where a little boy called Garret FitzGerald had passed through some thirteen years earlier) was happy and fruitful.

Lucy Brayden was a clever, kind, and outgoing woman. Her little school near the Florence Road never saw corporal punishment and I was frightened and surprised by the stories of leather straps in other places where friends went to school. Then we went on to Loreto Convent, feeling very important to be in with the "big girls". Convent schools in those days were very difficult from the free and easy establishments we have today, but the essential care and flair of the Loreto order never changes, and the magnificent conservatory looking over the sea remains a symbol of my young days.

Winter entertainment seemed to revolve a lot around the two cinemas—the Royal and the Roxy. Since the entrance of the Royal was directly opposite the parents' chemist shop (Rogan's) on Quinsboro' Road. It was tricky enough trying to slip in, and twice as risky if the companion was of the opposite sex! My very earliest memory of going to the cinema was to see Walt Disney's "Pinocchio"; it's a comment on the difference between now and then, that I found it all too terrifying and ran home weeping when Pinocchio's nose started to grow and branches grew out of it;

Looking back, then, we were a privileged lot of youngsters, growing up in the 40's and 50's in a seaside town, a strong community and far enough from Dublin to preserve our individuality. I'm interested—and glad—to see the community spirit of Bray re-asserting itself today. A lot may have changed, but it's essentially the same town. A day rarely passes when I don't feel proud of representing my home town and county in Dail Eireann.

CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, F.R.C.S.I.

By Myra E. Leeson

In front of the Royal Hotel in Bray, stands an obelisk shaped monument to Dr. Christopher Thompson, erected by grateful Bray people to a man who caught a fatal illness while caring for sufferers in an outbreak of "Cholera".

Christopher, son of James Thompson, a Dublin rate collector, entered Trinity College Dublin on 18 October, 1830, when he was only fifteen. In 1839 he qualified as a doctor with an M.B. degree. The same year he obtained an L.R.C.S.I. from the College of Surgeons. He was then living at 26, Upper Mount Street, Dublin.

On joining the Royal Medical Army Corps, Dr. Thompson was posted to the 43rd Light Infantry, at Queenstown (now Cobh). Later he became Assistant Surgeon to the Rifle Brigade and travelled with the regiment working in the General Hospital Portsmouth and Hospital of the 1st Rifle Brigade, Aldershot, England.

On his return to Dublin Christopher Thompson's medical career developed further. In 1859 he obtained M.D. and in 1873 became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. He was a member of the Obstetrics Society, Dublin and contributed to Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medical Science Vol. XXX an article on Arteritis, with details of his case histories and the treatments carried out.

By the early 1870s Dr. Thompson was living at 9, Duncairn Terrace in Bray, so the people of the town would have come to know him well before the outbreak of "cholera" in the Boghall area in 1876. He volunteered to care for the people who were ill and as a consequence, contracted the disease himself. On 16 December 1876 he died and was buried in St. Paul's graveyard, across Main Street from where his monument stands. In fact the disease from which Dr. Thompson died and which is recorded on his death certificate, was Typhoid Pneumonia. It is likely that this was the disease affecting the Boghall residents. Following a meeting in the Royal Hotel (formerly Quin's) on 26 January, 1877, attended by friends of Thompson's, including Sir. R. Stewart, Rev. J. G. Scott, Mr. Joseph R. Sutcliffe, Manager of the Hibernian Bank, Bray, Captain Mostyn R. A., Novara House, and Dr. George H. Wyse, it was proposed that a memorial be erected as a testimony of the regard of the inhabitants of Bray, and that this memorial should be placed in a public position in the township of Bray. The inscription reads:

"CHRISTOPHER THOMPSON, F.R.C.S. Died December 1876
In Testimony of his Worth".

References: The Custom House, Dublin, P.R.O., Kew, Surrey, England, Trinity College Dublin, The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, The Royal Army Medical Corps Museum, Aldershot, British Medical Register, Bray Library, Office of Public Works, Copy of Paper on Arteritis.

CORKE ABBEY: ASPECTS OF ITS HISTORY

By Nancy Mahony

Corke Abbey, the area located north of the Dargle river in Little Bray is to the modern reader synonymous with the recent occupation of the large manor house by the Frame family, and the development of the industrial complex of Solus. But the recorded history of Corke in the old parish of Connogh, now Connaught stretches back 900 years to the Norman settlement, and if we accept the suggestion of Eugene O'Curry, the 19th Century Scholar and Antiquarian, the area has an even earlier identity.

Both Francis Elrington Ball in *A history of County Dublin Part III 1905*, and Canon George Digby Scott in *'The Stones of Bray'*, recount the O'Curry theory. The Canon gives a more amplified account. He says that O'Curry, who described the antiquities of the Bray area in his Ordnance Survey Letters 1837, was told that Corke Abbey had been built on the site of an ancient abbey. When he was shown the site of an old burial place adjacent to the then manor house—where it appeared headstones and tombs had often been uncovered O'Curry suggested that it had once been a Celtic Monastic Settlement. O'Curry consulted and found in the Irish calendars a Saint named Curcach of Cill Curcaighe remembered on 21st July, and suggested that Corke Abbey had been originally Manister—Curcaight. We do not have definite evidence to support O'Curry's theory. It is also likely that the name Corke is derived from the Irish description for a marshy place—Corcaigh. Such is the derivation of the city of Cork—it was built upon the marshy reaches of the Lee where St. Finbar established his monastery a thousand years ago.

From various sources we find that Bray identified in Norman times as Bre or Bree became the seat of the manorial government for the possessions near Dublin of the Knight, Sir Walter De Ridelsford, who was rewarded for his part in the conquest, a sizeable tract of land covering parts of North Wicklow, and South County Dublin and Kildare. These lands had previously been owned by religious foundations Dr. Elrington Ball tells us that the lands of Corke extending along the seashore from Little Bray to the lands of Shanganagh, then called Kiltuck were in 1200 owned by the Crown and were held under it by Fulk De Cantilupe. The property passed on lease to the Priors of the Holy Trinity owners of Kiltuck and then to Geoffrey De Lysenham.

The manor of Bray was included in the possessions assigned to the Crown by the De Ridelsford's descendant, Christiana De Marisco, and before 1290 had passed by grant to Sir Theobald Butler, an ancestor of the Ormonde dynasty.

In the Bruce invasion in 1313 Bray, Arklow and Newcastle

were burned by the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes. The lands around Bray lay waste for many years. In 1314 Sir Hugh de Lawless was appointed Constable of Bray but resigned his commission five years later because the devastated lands were still uncultivated and unprofitable. His only personal advantage from the custody of the manor had been a gift of two salmon. A line of Military outposts was arranged around the Pale—from Drogheda to Bray where the Pale was specially open to the attack of the insatiable wrath of the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes who had been condemned to a life of hardships in their mountain fastnesses.

The manor of Bray was leased in 1334 to Geoffrey Crump at a rent of £6 1s. 8½d. per annum and a regular garrison was maintained as a defence against the local Irish. In 1402 a force of Irish was defeated in a pitched battle near Bray. This period saw a proliferation of castles and the enactment of the depraved things behind Poynings Law.

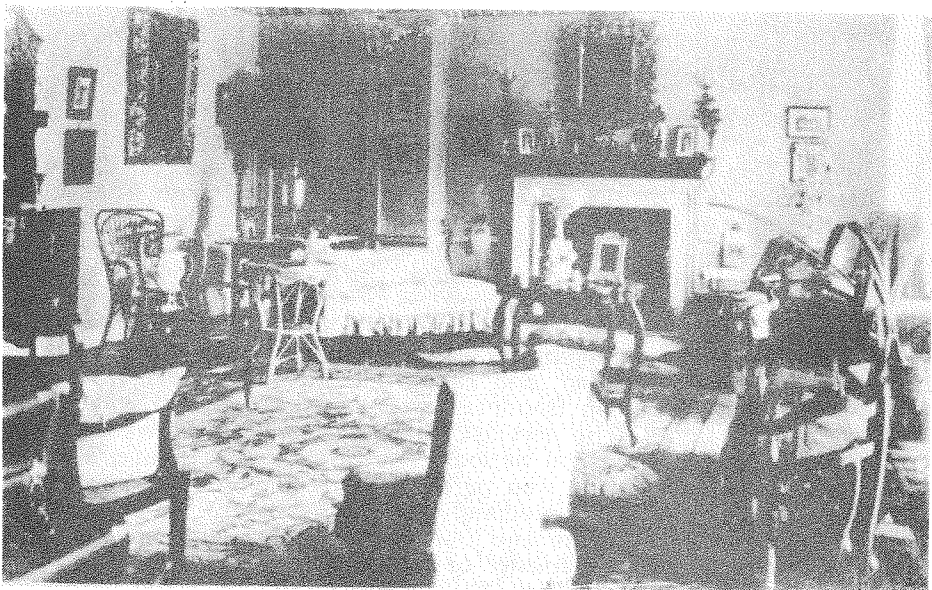
The lands of Old Connaught and Corke as well as those of Shanganagh were at the beginning of the 15th Century, owned by Aveline Lawless, and later on by Hugh Lawless and seem to have been occupied by the Harolds. In 1460 custody of the property of one Walter Harold, at Old Connaught was granted to John, son of Reginald Talbot. In the 16th Century all the lands in the parish of Old Connaught came into possession of the Walshes except those of Ballyman. These after the dissolution of the religious houses, were granted to Peter Talbot, the defender of the Pale, mentioned under Rathmichael.

The Walshes of Shanganagh were in possession of the lands of Old Connaught and Corke, and we find in Corke in 1566 William McShane Walshe and Edward Walshe; in 1590 Walter Walshe and in 1599 Edmond Walshe who died in that year. The manners and customs of the time are curiously illustrated in a pardon granted in 1655 to a number of the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. This document recites that William Walshe of Corke described as a gentleman assisted by a kern, had taken from an Irish widow at Glencullen a brass pan, two gallons of butter, three sheep, a nightgown, two gowns, and a cloak for which offence, William Walshe had been arrested at Old Connaught by the sub-sheriff. As the latter was bringing his prisoner along the highway to Dublin, he was set upon near Shanganagh and his prisoner taken from him by a number of the neighbours described as gentlemen, yeomen, horsemen, and kerns, and including John Walshe of Shanganagh, James Goodman of Loughlinstown, and Edmond Walshe of Corke. The services of these delinquents were too valuable to the Crown to be lost. The offence was treated as a light and trivial one; a free pardon was forthwith issued to all concerned and almost immediately afterwards, two of the principal offenders—John Walshe and James Goodman were appointed Commissioners for the muster of the Militia.

In 1615 we find Mrs. Mary Walsh at Corke, Early in the 18th Century a Mr. Arthur Bushe resided at Corke. He was a collateral ancestor of the famous orator and lawyer, Chief Justice



Corke Abbey House, Corke Abbey



Corke Abbey, Drawing Room

Bushe, an officer in the Revenue Department. He was succeeded by his younger son, the Rev. John Bushe, who was for some years Vicar of Bray and who died in 1746 at Corke. Towards the end of the 18th Century, the Right Hon. Theophilus Jones resided at Corke. In 1803 we find Walter Jones Esq. M.P. for Coleraine at Corke Abbey. Colonel, the Hon. Edward Wingfield, son of the third Viscount Powerscourt resided at Corke Abbey apparently as early as 1811. Colonel Wingfield held some seventy acres. In 1819 his daughter married Sir W. Verner. In 1830 it was the estate of Mr. Magan, under whom it was held by Colonel Wingfield. It has a pretty glen, groves of magnificent old trees, and in the openings, fine views of the Bay, the Wicklow mountains and the town of Bray, liberally varied. In 1920 David Frame sold Bray Head House to the Presentation Brothers, and purchased Corke Abbey from Sir Richard Verner. The house had a large Ballroom and Kathleen Frame-O'Brien remembers the parties and balls held there and also as a child, recalls ringing the bell near the Rose Garden to call the farm workers from the fields. The Frame family lived in Corke Abbey until 1935, when David Frame started the first lamp factory in Ireland, producing electric lamps, car lamps, drinking glasses, and neon signs. They also produced their own gas during the emergency years. For many years Solus was the largest employer in the town of Bray. In 1936 David Frame was in South Africa. A fortune teller told him he would get very rich from part of the land. He laughed and forgot about it until one day his workmen were digging in the field and found sand there. He started a sand pit, and sure enough it did make him rich. Industrial Yarns stand on the site today. In 1948 David Frames son, David built a fine red brick house in what was the Rose Garden, and farmed there until 1970, when he sold the house and land. In 1982, Nypro Ltd. took over part of Solus and in 1984, Garveys of Drogheda bought the lamp section, it is now called Solus Lamps Ltd.

The following news items concerning Corke Abbey and its late 18th Century owner are extracted from the Freemans Journal:-

23.5.1795, The Earl of Camden was present at a very elegant dejeuner given by Theo. Jones at his country seat at Corke Abbey near Bray to a number of the nobility and gentry.

9.4.1796, Lord Lieutenant on a visit with the Chancellor of the Exchequer at Avondale. They dined with Theo. Jones at Corke Abbey near Bray on their way to Dublin.

30.4.1796, An elegant morning fete was given by the Right Hon. Theo. Jones to a number of personages of the first rank, nobility and gentry at his beautiful villa of Corke Abbey near Bray.

26.7.1796, Another visit paid to Corke Abbey by Lord Lieutenant in which he went by water in the Dunleary Barge and was saluted by frigates off the coast as he passed along.

29.12.1801, Lord Lieutenant again visits Corke Abbey.

17.8.1802, The beautiful country residence of Corke Abbey, the seat of Theo. Jones is sold for £2,000 and 200 pounds a year.

JAMES JOYCE'S CHILDHOOD SWEETHEART

By Malachy O'Brien

Eileen Vance had long cool white hands too, because she was a girl. They were like ivory; only soft. That was the meaning of the Tower of Ivory, but Protestants could not understand it and made fun of it. One day he had stood beside her looking into the Hotel (Royal Marine) grounds. A waiter was running up a trail of bunting on the flagstaff and a fox terrier was scampering to and fro on the sunny lawn. She had put her hands into his pocket and he had felt how cool and thin and soft her hand was. She had said that pockets were funny things to have and then all of a sudden shed had broken away and had run laughing down the sloping curve of the path. Her hair had streamed out behind her like gold in the sun. Tower of Ivory. House of Gold. By thinking of things you could understand them.

The Vances lived at No. 4 (Martello Tce.). They had a different father and mother.

They were Eileen's father and mother. When they were grown up he was going to marry Eileen.

Eileen had long white hands. One evening when playing "tig" she had put her hands over his eyes. Long and white and thin and cold and soft; a cold white thing. That was the meaning of Tower of Ivory.

(Extracts from "Portrait of The Artist").

Now who was this Eileen Vance who inspired Joyce's youthful imagination as they roamed the strand at Bray about 1890 and who were the Vances who lived three doors away in Martello Tce., close by the harbour.

Eileen was the eldest of three daughters of James Noy Vance, who set up his Chemist shop at 92, Main Street, Bray in 1864. He was joined later by his brother, William. It has functioned as a Chemist's shop up to the present time.

James Noy Vance came from Cork of Huguenot stock. He started his career as a medical student but, before he could qualify, his brother died leaving a wife and five children. Vance gave up his medicine and qualified as a pharmacist setting up business at 92, Main Street. He died about 1916 having suffered a severe stroke. Before he died he took in a partner, George Wilson, from Greystones.

The Vances were a popular local Protestant family in the town and, from old records I have preserved, appear to have been talented, religious and musical.

The Joyce family were also very musical and many a sing-

song and concert was organised in either house at Martello Tce. Later the Vances lived over their Chemist's shop on the Main Street.

James Vance's medical training, allied to his pharmaceutical knowledge, gave him the reputation of being "as good as any doctor". He was a small dapper little man, resplendent in black frock coat and wore ponc-nez.

Alongside the well-to-do in Bray 100 years' ago there was the poor, who were extremely poor, and to them Vance was their 'doctor' and they often called him so. They had an innate fear of disease and a dread of hospitals.

In 1860 Vance made and sold his own paints, oils, varnish and colourings. Later he augmented his turnover by making his own brand of pills, potions, extracts and tinctures. It is interesting to look back at his old Formulary Book—he seemed to have his own remedy for every ill, human and veterinary—he was indeed a talented man.

Eileen Vance was born in Castle Terrace, Bray, on October 20, 1881 and died in 1983 within a few weeks of her 102nd birthday — I have a colour photograph of her celebrating her '100th' birthday in Saskatchewan in Canada.

She was a lovely child, pale of complexion with long fair hair falling below her shoulders, yet full of fun and fond of music, as were all the Vances. Her sister, Nora, was still playing the piano when aged 98 years in Montreal.

Eileen was sent to Miss Raynor's Kindergarten School in Bray where her fellow pupil was little James Joyce, four months her junior. They played a lot together and Eileen says that James first taught her how to read. Joyce's Governess at this time was the puritancial "Dante" Conway who disapproved of their friendship because the Vances were Protestant.

John Joyce (James' father) and James Vance were good friends, having a common love of music and singing Irish Ballads, with May Joyce accompanying them on the piano.

Recalling those days sixty years' later, Eileen described James Joyce as "very handsome, a little above the rest of us" and fond of practical jokes. She can remember Joyce beating her over the head with a child's wheelbarrow because she was Protestant and he was going to burn her in Hell.

He was nice to be with, however, and nice to look at, recalls Eileen. School days over, Eileen went to Waterford and trained as a nurse. Her mother, who was not strong, had died young, before she was 40.

In Waterford she married Bert Harris, and for a while had to look after James Vance who had suffered a stroke and was proving a difficult patient.

Bert and Eileen emigrated to Canada in 1923 and brought their three children with them. They settled in Saskatchewan, where Eileen got a job as a nurse in a Sanatorium.

They were both musical and joined a musical group to travel

all over the province to social functions where they would entertain their audience with Irish songs and dances.

When Eileen was 80, her husband having died, she married Dan Stoddard, a teacher, a lot younger than herself. Despite her age, she still had a great zest for living and was delighted to be invited to the James Joyce Symposium in Toronto at Easter 1971.

As she reached her 100 years she moved to Victoria Union Hospital and Stoddard came to visit her six days a week.

She still loved her Irish songs "Irish Rose", "Tipperary", and "When Irish Eyes are Smiling".

Autumn 1983 brought the sad news that Eileen had died within a few weeks of her 102nd birthday, thus ended a life that spanned over 100 years—a far cry from the days, when Bray, "the Brighton of Ireland" boasted of Dargan's Railway, the newly built esplanade, and the elegant victorian hotels and residences which still grace our town. A far cry from the days when Eileen and James Joyce played "tig" on the seafront and trotted off to kindergarden together.

The Joyce family spent 4½ years in Bray. They were happy years. When he came to write "Ulysses", was he influenced by the years he spent in our town, was he affected by his friendship with Eileen and the Vance family? Who can tell.

God knows Joyce had more than his share of sorrow and hardship after his family left Bray. When his student days were over, impoverished and embittered he turned his back on Dublin and choose exile in Paris, one likes to think that he could cast his mind back to those innocent happy days at Martello Terrace in beautiful, bracing Bray.



Eileen Vance aged 101 in May, 1982 with her second husband, Dan Stoddard, at Saskatchewan in Canada. She died in 1983.

THE WIDOWS OF WITHERED WOOD

By P. P. O'Reilly

It's a long way from Crinken to Galilee, from Shanganagh to the wailing wall in Jerusalem; from Woodbrook to James, the son of Zebedee the fisherman, to whom Christ said: "I will make you fishers of men".

The links are two widows, one of Woodbrook and the other of Corke Farm, Bray. The memorial is Crinken Church of Ireland, one of four noteworthy churches on the nine miles of main road from Bray to Donnybrook.

At the edge of Bray, opposite the Royal Hotel, still stands Saint Paul's though no longer used as a place of worship. Yet it was an important church in 1817, when Mrs. James Clarke became a widow. She was a stern lady, by all accounts, with a special respect for the Sabbath—so much so that she had a conscientious objection to taking out her coachman and horses on Sundays to go into Saint Pauls. There is also a suggestion that she had reservations about the Bray clergyman, who indeed left the Church of Ireland to become one of the founders of the Plymouth Brethren, which might have given him a place in history but might not have endeared him to Mrs. James Clarke. For indeed, her friend—the other widow, Mrs. Hannah Georgina Magan.

The Magan family owned much land in the Bray area. According to the reverend historian of the Crinken district, Mr. F. E. Bland, the original Magan came from Wales over 600 years ago. No "blow-in" there! He landed with a band of robbers on the Wicklow coast and seized the land, which included Crinken.

So it was, that when the two widows took a turn against the church of Saint Paul in Bray and realised they had no alternative church nearer than Killiney, one of the widows had land to give—Hannah Magan, descendant of the Welsh marauder. Mrs. Magan also contributed to the building fund for the proposed church but the other widow, Mrs. Clarke, took the lion's share of that responsibility with a noble contribution of over £1,500, which may sound small to-day but then was only £300 short of the entire cost of the building.

There was a problem however. No new church could be built within a parish boundary without the permission of the incumbent and, when he got to hear about the project, the Bray incumbent did indeed protest. That is why the church was built where it is to-day, one measured mile from Saint Paul's outside the Bray bailiewick.

It is known as the chapel of ease of Saint James, which brings us back to James the son of Zebedee the Fisherman and the name of Mrs. Clarke's husband.

The Reverend Bland noted that there is nothing in the church to remind us of Mrs. Clarke's contribution to its building other than that famous thought of Sir Christopher Wren and his cathedral of Saint Paul: "if you seek her monument look around you".

The church opened on Sunday, the 28 June, 1840, with a sermon by one of the trustees of Crinken, Rev. Canon Daly of Powercourt, who later became Bishop of Cashel but the first incumbent was John Winthrop Hackett, whose name was preserved in red brick and stone in the Hackett Memorial Hall, which was built across the road from the Church and has in recent months become the Shanganagh Marble Centre, which is servicing the new cemetery.

It adjoins the former parsonage, a private residence, when it was bought (as Crinken Lodge) about 1860, which has now reverted to a similar status with the name Askefield. The present parsonage and a new hall and sexton's residence, now nestle up against the church of Saint James, the son of Zebedee.



"One Measured Mile from Crinken"

Lawrence post card, Bray, 1900

KILCOOLE 1914

By James Scannell

The successful landing of arms and ammunition by the Irish Volunteers in July 1914 at Howth is a well known and documented event in Irish history.

Often overlooked is the landing by the Irish Volunteers of a further consignment of arms and ammunition at Kilcoole, Co. Wicklow on the night of July 31st/August 1st, 1914.

Originally planned to take place simultaneously with the Howth operation, Kilcoole took place a week after the main event, at a time when a Crown Commission was sitting in Dublin investigating the Howth Landing.

This article will focus on what happened on the beach at Kilcoole that fateful night.

To appreciate more fully the background against which the Kilcoole Landing took place, mention must be made of conditions prevailing in Ireland at that time.

The issue dividing the country at that time was Home Rule. The Nationalists wanted the promised parliament in Dublin to rule the country while the Unionists were completely against the idea and the danger of a civil war over the issue seemed a distinct possibility.

In Ulster, the Ulster Volunteer Force was ready to fight Home Rule and a parliament in Dublin by force if necessary.

The organisation had grown unchecked by the (British) government who turned a blind eye to their training and other activities. However with the formation of the Irish Volunteers in Dublin on November 23rd, 1913, with the principal aim "to secure and maintain the rights and liberties common to all the people of Ireland" the (British) government took fright and lest hostilities commenced between the two groups, placed a prohibition on the importation of arms and ammunition into Ireland on December 4th, 1913. Even with this prohibition, the two organisations continued to grow in strength and the danger of civil war increased.

The Ulster Volunteer Force had some arms and ammunition while the Irish Volunteers had none except personal weapons which members had. Both organisations engaged in smuggling operations to increase their stockpiles and to get round the prohibition on imports.

On April 24th, 1914 the Ulster Volunteer Force landed in Larne a consignment of 20,000 rifles and 3,000,000 rounds of ammunition with no opposition from the police, army or the coastguards. Some 700 vehicles were used to spirit the weapons away and showed that the Ulster Volunteer Force, by opposing Home Rule had the support of many people highly placed within

the (British) government who were able to ensure that the events at Larne took place without hinderence from the authorities.

For the Irish Volunteers this was too much. Following a meeting held in London on May 8th. 1914., Mary Spring Rice made the suggestions to her friends, the Childers, that the Irish Volunteers should purchase arms and ammunition in Europe and smuggle them into Ireland by fishing boat.

Erskine Childers agreed to take charge of the transport operations and in great secrecy the plan was put into operation.

By the end of May 1914, 1500 rifles and 45,000 rounds had been purchased in Germany—the plan was to ship the consignment back to Ireland in two ships. One lot would be landed at Howth and simultaneously the other lot would be landed at Kilcoole with the proposed date for this operation being July 25/26.

On July 12th. off the Belgian coast the consignment was brought out on the tug 'Gladiator' and placed aboard the 'Asgard' and the 'Kelpie'.

When loading had been completed the two vessels sailed for Ireland with the 'Asgard' arriving in Howth on time and unloading it's cargo.

The plan for the 'Kelpie' was that it was to meet with the steam yacht 'Chotah' into which the arms were to be transferred as it was larger than the 'Kelpie' and the 'Chotah' would then sail for Kilcoole.

When the two vessels met in the St. Tudwells Roads off the Welsh seaside resort of Abersoch, a number of difficulties were encountered and it was decided to leave the arms and ammunition on the 'Kelpie' and to put back the landing date for Kilcoole for one week.

The night of July 31/August 1st. found the 'Kelpie' in position off the beach at Kilcoole.

For a second time in the space of a week the Irish Volunteers were mobilised to land the consignment and throughout the evening the village of Kilcoole was alive as Volunteers and their transport arrived.

While all this was going on, two Greystones policemen, Constables Webb and Dalton were patrolling the railway line from Greystones to Kilcoole and noticed the 'Kelpie' anchored off the shore at Kilcoole.

Their suspicious were aroused as the 'Kelpie' was anchored at a spot which was known to be a poor anchorage point and so they decided to investigate the matter.

Just as they arrived at Kilcoole Railway station they were surrounded by ten men armed with batons who told them two policemen to come with them to Kilcoole village.

The policemen refused, the armed men produced revolvers and in the ensuing conversation the policemen discovered that the armed men were Irish Volunteers and decided in the interests of good sense to go with them to the village rather than be marched there under force.

While they were in Kilcoole village, they could see the place full of Volunteers as about 300 were mobilised for the operation.

The only inkling the inhabitants of Kilcoole had that something was going to happen was when the transport for ferrying away the arms and ammunition began to arrive and was parked in the grounds of the Holy Faith Convent.

Down on the beach the arms and ammunition were brought ashore using boats and skiffs and in order to speed up the landing process, some men waded into the sea and carried weapons ashore from the boats.

By 3 a.m. the landing operation was completed and the Volunteers armed themselves with any of the remaining weapons. Then they lined up four deep and marched to Kilcoole Village singing "A Nation Once Again", "Clare's Dragoons" and "God Save Ireland".

On arrival in the village they dispersed in the transport which was waiting for them and, on leaving, their last act was to release the two policemen.

Constable Webb manager to get the 3.30 a.m. train to Bray to raise the alarm but by then the Volunteers had made good their escape.

On the way to Dublin the second of two lorries broke down near Murphy's Public House on the Dargle Road and the arms and ammunition were hidden in local cottages and outhouses until they were retrieved the next day.

The fact that the second lorry had broken down was not noticed until the first lorry arrived in Dublin and the Volunteers realised something had happened to it.

A guard on the weapons and ammunition in Bray was maintained by Volunteers until they were collected the next day. The lorry managed to elude the police and their search parties.

As for the threatened civil war? Within a few weeks the First World War had broken out and this defused the tension in the country.

It's perhaps ironic that thousands of Irish and Ulster Volunteers could be found fighting in France side by side, for King and Country, their recruitment achieved through various political promises including Home Rule which were to be fulfilled when the conflict was over.

Sadly the majority never returned remaining in Flanders Fields where they fell.

Neither were the political promises kept.

The arms and ammunition landed in Kilcoole and Howth were kept stored until the Easter Rising and the War of Independence, forming the basis of the Volunteer's arsenal until more up to date weapons could be acquired.

On Kilcoole beach, a simple stone plaque is all that reminds the visitor of the events that happened there that historic night in 1914.

THE CONCEPT AND DESIGN OF BRAY TOWN HALL

By Peter Tynan O Mahony

THE ILLUSTRATION on the cover of this journal, is of the architects' visual concept for the Bray Market House and Town Hall as envisaged in 1879. The drawing is in the possession of Bray Public Library and a photographic copy, smaller in scale, is now displayed in the Heritage Centre museum.

The drawing tells us a great deal about the concept and design of the building and, indeed, reflects the tastes, aspirations and directions of the principals responsible for erecting the Town Hall—Reginald, Lord Brabazon, son of the 11th Earl of Meath, and Mary, Lady Brabazon, his altruistic wife and only daughter of Thomas Maitland, 11th Earl of Lauderdale.

Various records give the lead-up to the eventual opening of the building in 1884. In particular, the minutes of Bray Township Commissioners for the period, 1879 to 1885, are revealing; these minutes are bound in leather volumes and form part of the archives of Bray Urban District Council.

The commissioners were established under the Bray Township Act, 1866, and the board members, comprised of prominent citizens and businessmen, met fortnightly, and sometimes weekly, in the old courthouse to administer the affairs of a growing town and resort. They were preoccupied mainly with the annual rates, harbour, seafront wall, bathing-boxes, licensing cab-drivers, paving streets, water-supply and lighting. The board members, varying in number from 12 to 16, employed a small municipal staff—town clerk or secretary, engineer or surveyor, solicitor, various inspectors and outdoor workers.

In a letter to the commissioners, dated 22nd August, 1879, Lord Brabazon announced a wish to erect at his own expense a covered market in upper Bray at a cost not exceeding £4,000. The commissioners were delighted with the news and instructed town officials to meet and discuss the structure and site with the Meath agent and architect.

In subsequent deliberations the commissioners sought to extend their powers and the boundaries of the township. Two separate delegations were despatched to London to promote their case in an amendment to the 1866 Act.

The Earl of Meath became concerned over the commissioners' claims in the proposed Bill and in a letter, dated 10th April, 1881, written from Sorrento in Italy, Lord Brabazon warned that the Town Hall would not be built if the commissioners did not agree to his father's conditions. He wrote:

The following are the conditions upon which the Earl of

Meath will give his sanction to the erection of a market house in upper Bray and upon which Lord Brabazon will undertake the erection of same:

1. The withdrawal from the Bill at present before Parliament of all clauses tending to destroy rights belonging to the Earl of Meath and Lord Brabazon such as market rights, rights on the Esplanade, and shores and foreshores north and south of the Bray river.
2. The commissioners to obtain powers to rent from the Earl of Meath and his successors for limited periods the right of holding markets.
3. The commissioners to bind themselves to pay a rent of £50 per annum to Lord Brabazon and his successors for the use of the Market House when built, such payment to be continued during the period for which the Market House has been leased to them irrespective of the amount of dues or other monies obtained by the commissioners from the public for the use of the market.
4. The Earl of Meath retains the right of nominating a weigh-master who shall be paid by the commissioners.
5. The commissioners to undertake to keep the market house in repair inside and out during the period of tenancy.
6. The commissioners to defray all rates and taxes, if any, assessed on the market house.
7. The commissioners to defray all expenses connected with the management and maintenance of the market.
8. Should it be found necessary to take or lease any land for the purpose of building the market house or yard in addition to that in possession of the Earl of Meath, the rent which may be demanded by the proprietor for the use of such additional land to be defrayed by the commissioners during the period of their tenancy of the market house.
9. Lord Brabazon to have the right of erecting and maintaining a coffee-stall in the market without payment to the commissioners, and of leasing it to such person or company as he may think, and the commissioners undertake to permit such person or company to carry on business therein without payment, let or hindrance.

Negotiations were conducted and the commissioners withdrew some of the claims seen by the Earl of Meath as a threat to his proprietorial rights. The rent figure was increased to £90 at Lord Brabazon's suggestion; he offered to make a free present of an ornamental lodge in the People's Park—it would contain a parlour, kitchen, scullery, three bedrooms, outhouses and gardens.

In May 1883 it was announced that the Market House and the gardener's lodge were nearing completion. Lord Brabazon nominated the employment of one, Alfred Bailly, son-in-law of Lord Meath's coachman, as caretaker of the Market House and Town Hall. Bailly became caretaker on 23rd July, 1883 and one

condition of his service was that he would be responsible for the books in a public library in the building.

Lord Brabazon also urged the commissioners to appoint a competent gardener with a 'tidy wife' to occupy the lodge in the People's Park.

A further dispute arose between Lord Brabazon and the commissioners on the drafting of the lease. He wanted a clause in the deed reserving the use of the large hall (boardroom) on six days in a year. He also specified that no meetings were to be held within the building at any time 'for strictly political or religious controversial purposes'.

Finally the commissioners gave their seal to a lease in April 1884, and on 19th May held their first meeting in the new Town Hall. One of the first measures was to insure the building for a round figure of £6,200.

Town Hall	£5,000
Clock	£100
Stained windows	£500
Furniture	£500
Fountain	£100

Four months later, when Lord Brabazon had paid the bills, he advised the commissioners that the cost had exceeded the original estimate of £4,000. He gave the following summary;

	£	s	d
Buildings (Wardrop and Son)	5,366	7	6
Fountain (O'Neill & Co.)	177	6	6
Furniture (T. R. Scott)	157	15	0
Clock (Booth)	105	16	0
Glass (Heston)	151	5	0
Roads (Bray Commissioners)	95	0	7
Architect's commission	305	13	2
	6,359	3	9

The Brabazons gave the task of design to the leading architects of the day in Ireland, Thomas Newenham Deane and Son. Deane, a son of Sir Thomas Deane, the noted Cork architect, became head of the family firm in 1871. The National Library and the National Museum in Kildare Street, Dublin, constitute his best-known work; at the opening of the twin buildings in 1890 he also was knighted. He did much valuable work to protect national monuments.

The design of the Town Hall and Market House is essentially the handiwork of Edward Guy Dawber, a young assistant in Deane's office. Born at King's Lynn in Norfolk in August, 1861, Dawber was educated at the local grammar school and articled

to a local architect, William Adams. There he studied the 'quaint' old English-style architecture popularised by R. Norman Shaw and W. E. Nesfield in the 1870s.

Dawber migrated to Dublin and together with Deane's son, Thomas Manly Deane, worked on the design for Bray. The drawing of the building is entirely Dawber's; T. M. Deane's contribution to the actual drawing was the pargetted costs of arms of the Brabazon, Pembroke and Lauderdale families, and the fountain and its figure of an armoured knight. This element was changed and in its place the Brabazons chose a wyvern as a more fitting armorial symbol.

Dawber returned home in 1881 and became a highly successful practitioner. He was president of the Royal Institute of Architects, was knighted in 1936 and became renowned for his devotion to preserving rural England. In this field his interest may have been influenced by T. Newenham Deane.

William Garner, the architectural historian, speaks highly of the design and workmanship of the Town Hall. In his invaluable inventory of Bray architecture, he describes the building as being supremely picturesque.

The main facade, facing down the Main street, has tall narrow proportions; the side elevations are elongated. The facade is of three bays and two storeys, built of red brick with a central carriage arch containing elaborate wrought-iron gates, dated 1881.

Garner refers to the importance of the first floor emphasised by three large oriels with black and white painted half-timbering on the aprons; transom and mullioned windows each incorporating a large arch (known as 'Ipswich Windows') and crowned by pargetted coats of arms framed by gables. These windows are based on the windows of Sparrowe's House in Ipswich, built circa 1670.

At each end of the council chamber, on the return facades, are very large transom and mullion windows. The chamber is surmounted by a high-pitched red tile roof, a lantern clock tower and a spire.

The side elevations, which once were largely open on the ground floor—for market stalls—have slated canopies supported by timber brackets. On the first floor are wide windows in half-timbered gables. The rear elevation is similarly treated.

The main entrance, on the east side, has its own separate canopy over a gothic doorcase which leads to a stone staircase. Over the entrance is a small Ipswich window under a gable. In a corresponding position on the west side is an oriel window with a steep-pitched roof.

The council chamber, which now serves at the Heritage Centre museum, has an elaborate open timber roof and two tudor-renaissance oak chimney pieces containing carved panels representing Literature, Justice, Commerce and Agriculture. They were carved in 1882-83 by a London craftsman, T. Reynolds.

Another feature of the chamber are the 30 stained-glass

panels displaying the arms of the Brabazons and their wives, dating from Norman times to the 19th century.

One must pay due respect to the foresight of the Brabazons, Reginald and Mary. They were concerned to provide an architectural gem to serve as the hub of the municipal and commercial life of the town. It stands to their memory.

In another part of the building an inscribed plaque carries this exhortation:

Who traffic here beware no strife ensue

In all your dealings be just and true

Let conscience strictly in the scale be weighed

So shall ye call God's blessing on your trade.

SOURCES:

Minutes of Bray Township Commissioners, 1879-1885, Bray U.D.C. archives.
Bray: Architectural Heritage, by William Garner, National Heritage inventory, An Foras Forbartha, 1980.

Thomas Newenham Deane, biographical notes by Alfred Jones, The Irish Architectural Archives, 63 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

A Dictionary of Irish Biography, Henry Boylan, Dublin 1978.

Concise Dictionary of National Biography, vol. II, London.

Files of The Irish Times and Freeman's Journal, 1878-1886.

BRAY PETTY SESSIONS

January, 28th 1922

Presiding at the Bray Petty Sessions held in the Bray Court-house on Saturday January 28th 1922 Sir Albert Meldon announced the opening of the Irish Free State Court and Mr. Herbert Malley JP said that the court derived it's authority from the Provisional Government.

Committee 1985/86

Hon. President — Christy Brien
Chairman — Colm McCormack
Vice Chairman — Claire Crowther
Secretary — Arthur Flynn
Treasurer — Bobbie Irvine
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Committee: Colm McCormack, Claire Crowther, Arthur Flynn, Bobbie Irvine, Joe Loughman, Nancy Mahony, Kathleen Kinsella, James Scannell, Eva Sutton, Tom Sutton, Jim Lynch, Peter Tynan O Mahony..

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Society Proceedings

Colm McCormack	Restoration of Royal Hospital	October
Diarmuid Breathnach	Researching	November
Members Night		December
Dr. John Fleetwood	The Emergency Years in Bray	January
Annual Social Evening		January
Kieran Sheedy	Transportation of Michael Dwyer	February
Tom Dodd	Eucharistic Congress	March
AGM		April
Forum		May

Outings

West Wicklow	May
Vallambrosa	June
Old Conna and Old Rathmichael	July
Dargle Valley	August
Royal Hospital, Kilmainham	September