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Cover design and water colour painting by Andria Wright

Chairperson's Report

by Patricia Spellacey

The Heritage Group had a busy year (2019). Derek Clarke was busy again with enquiries about ancestry by visitors from abroad. On the Fair Day Weekend our little office in the Courthouse was also busy with people wanting to know about the group and what it entails.

The Freedom of Duleek was given to Michael Wyemes who has been a member of the Group since it first started and researched a lot of records and contributed so much to the group. Sadly, he passed away shortly after. Thankyou for all your hard work and time Michael. Rest in Peace.

A service was held at the Croppy Boys memorial on August 22nd and the blessing and prayers was given by Father John, with refreshments in Kathleen McGranes house after.



Photograph taken at the Deenes (left to right) Phil Kelly, Phylis Noonan, Sinéad Fulham, Derek Clarke, Andrew Wright, Catriona Dillon, Jim Curley, Kathy McGrane and Pat Spellacey.



Kathy McGrane and Father John Conlon at the Croppies memorial.

We had our usual yearly walk of the Commons on August 24th, but the weather kept people away.



Pat Spellacey, Catriona Dillon, Derek Clarke and Andrew Wright after the walk on the Commons.

There was a big turnout for Culture night which was held in Carranstown Lodge and the theme this year was Migration/Immigration.

With talks from the people who have come to live here in Duleek from Poland, Romania and displayed their many talents such as decorating bottles into Brides, Grooms, Bridesmaids etc. and wonderful paintings.

We ended the year with a Christmas Tree within St Cianans church grounds for the community to tie a yellow ribbon on in remembrance of passed loved ones.

My Forever Home

by Patricia Spellacey

I came to live in Ireland in 2008, and many people have asked me 'why'? I tell them my son married an Irish girl. It was a difficult decision at the time as I was caring for my elderly mum.

But, mum being mum, at the age of ninety decided she wanted to come too. The first two years had their ups and downs healthwise for her and she passed away in 2011 of a stroke. I eventually moved to Duleek. To be near my son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. Its not easy moving from the country of your birth. I became depressed to the point of regretting moving and blamed my son for everything.

Fortunately, I had, and still have lovely neighbours who sensed I was unhappy and done everything they could to make me feel welcomed within their community. I now belong to the Duleek Women's Forum and Duleek Heritage Group.

Finally, I feel settled and feel that I have found my FOREVER HOME.

A Final Note on 2020

Unfortunately, due to the covid pandemic, Duleek Heritage Group were unable to have any group meetings or social gatherings, such as Fair Day, Culture Week, our yearly walk over the Commons, and publication of the Annals for 2020 and the first half of 2021.

Hopefully in 2022 things will be back to normal and we can all celebrate our social gatherings again.

Until then, Duleek Heritage group wishes everyone the best of health, stay safe and look forward to seeing you in the not to distant future.

A Bolt From The Blue

by Catriona Dillon

The virus Covid-19 hit us like a bolt from the blue. January and February had been mild months with rain. There had been rumblings in the far -east since December and January. In late February Italy was in the eye of the storm. Mid- March saw the first cases of the virus in Ireland. By late March the county was in total lockdown. Everything was cancelled for the foreseeable future. “Stay at Home” we were told. New words and phrases entered our vocabulary—cocoon, self- isolate, slow the virus, flatten the curve, Lockdown, pandemic, staycation, P.P. equipment, quarantine, ventilators, wear masks, sanitize hands.

The sun come out and lit up our lives. The earth was a blank canvas waiting to be filled with life and colour. I had a large garden badly in need of a makeover, a big fruit and vegetable garden to manage and glass- house to be dug and planted. I embraced my new life-style with gusto like a hermit crab casts off his shell and enters another. The restrictions were doled out in small doses. I learned to appreciate what was at my doorstep, as I live cradled between the gentle hills of Bellewstown and the Nanny river as it meandered its way to the sea at Laytown. I explored three local graveyards building up a picture of the local history.

The birds that I had fed all winter rewarded me with their beautiful singing, I saw the first swallows of the year whoop with joy when they saw their old nests still intact. I heard frogs jump into the pool to lay their spawn as I worked nearby. I read some wonderful books which I had saved up for the “rainy day”. I did my tai-chai and wellness exercises to music. I did have some sad and down days, missing my old life and fear for the future.

I became acutely aware of nature’s awakening from bud to bloom. Spring appeared dressed in yellow, Furze bushes with their coconut aroma, shy primroses in our ditches, buttercups and cowslips in our fields and golden daffodils on the roadsides and in our gardens. I got 6 new rescue hens. It was very rewarding to see them flourish in their new life of freedom. Summer made her entrance dressed in white. Our senses were assailed by hawthorn in our hedgerows and apple blossom everywhere. Devil’s bread with their lacy flowers adorned our ditches and daisies appeared in our lawn. Meanwhile the virus wreaked havoc particularly among our elderly and most venerable. Fear and anxiety became the new pandemic. My life was stripped back like the de-cluttering of a room before decorating.

As time moved on and the restrictions were somewhat lifted I began dipping my toes back into my old life. We came to terms with the” new normal”. On the whole it was a time of learning new ways, realizing that we are not in control and appreciation of what we have.

Duleek Fair

by Catriona Dillon

Duleek Fair was started by King Edward in the year 1342. Of course it was a very different affair back then. The green or the big tree didn't exist. The lime tree having been planted to commemorate the visit of Mary and William before the battle of the Boyne in 1690. Ireland was an Agriculture country thanks to it's temperate climate influenced by the Atlantic regime. The land was very well suited to growing crops. The people of Duleek and surrounding towns and villages came together in mid summer to celebrate with each other and to sell and exchange the fruits of their labour. Animals too were brought to the fair. Native cattle in black and brown sporting massive horns. They were driven by foot from miles around. These were much smaller than today's breeds. There were birds and fowl of all kinds in make-shift cages and some tied together by their legs to stop them escaping. Sheep and goats were tethered to bushes and small trees. Some were tied together similar to "a three legged race". Their owners hoping to make a sale.

Of course the fair was also a social occasion. The girls dressed in their summer best hoping to impress the young men who eyed them appreciatively and maybe would ask them to the dance which was held later in the evening. The fair was a rare occasion when the people of Duleek came together to spend time eating, drinking, dancing and celebrating their culture.

The Fair was re-enacted by Duleek Heritage Group in the year 2008. It is a very different occasion nowadays. It is a time when the community come together to show off and celebrate who we are today. It takes place on the first week-end in July, mainly on the green, spilling out on the adjoining streets and green areas. Local communities and business have stalls displaying services and goods. Some sell their wares. Most are manned by volunteers showing the best of what Duleek has to offer. The G.A.A, Soccer and Athletic clubs run competitions for children of all ages. There is a dog show, a duck-derby on the Nanny and a vintage car show. Art, Drama and culture are featured in various displays and competitions.

Each year a worthy citizen is made a "free man" of the village for their contribution to the community life of Duleek. Last year I am proud to say that the award went to our own Ben Ryan for his great work in preserving the history and culture of the area. This entitles him to graze his sheep and goats on the green and free drinks in all the pubs." Well done" Ben.

Weather permitting the music and dancing continues well into the night,

Margaret 'Molly' Brown Socialite

by Patricia Spellacey

Born to poor Irish immigrants, Margaret rose from rags to riches. Her husband became one of the most successful gold miners in America. She became an energetic and influential campaigner for education, human rights and women's right to vote. Margaret survived the sinking of the Titanic and by the time she reached New York had been elected chair of the Survivors' Committee and raised almost \$10,000 for destitute survivors. To her lawyer she wired, 'Water fine and swimming good. Neptune exceedingly kind to me and I am now high and dry'.

The story of 'the unsinkable Molly Brown' became legendary. Her first class cabin ticket cost £27.14s. 6d. The amount paid was almost the same as the amount it would have cost to employ a lady's maid for a year.



Duleek Knot

by Patricia M Spellacey

Though synonymous with the Duleek Cross, which was erected in the ninth century, the history of Duleek dates back to the time of St. Patrick and a monastery established by his disciple St. Cianan.

The Irish High Crosses are part of Ireland's legacy to Western European Art of the Middle Ages and the one at Duleek, though only 1.82 metres high, merits particular attention.

High Crosses or Celtic crosses are found throughout the country on old monastic sites. Some were probably used as locations for religious ceremonies while others simply marked out boundaries. The earliest crosses were made of wood and metal and were probably much smaller than the great stone monuments that survive today. The stone crosses are believed to date back to the ninth century and imitate the wood and metal one that predated them. What makes the Duleek one special is that it contains elements from so many different Celtic art themes — knots, spirals, mazes — and has been an inspiration to jewellers and artists around the world.

The features on the cross combine Celtic and Christian themes. On its west face are a number of figure sculptures, most notably a crucifixion scene as well as scenes depicting the early life of the Virgin Mary. Another scene may represent the Holy Family, perhaps the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. On the same face an event from the history of the monastery is also depicted. Adamnan, a monk, visited the tomb of St. Cianan where the latter's body uncorrupted. Despite the warnings to the contrary he touched the saint's body and subsequently lost an eye. Adamnan fasted in penance and miraculously his eye was restored. This event is depicted on the top of the cross. The south side contains a winged creature while the east face and the sides of the cross have some interesting geometrical designs. The centre of the cross has seven raised spirals believed to represent the dance of heavenly bodies around the sun, long before Copernicus put forward his heliocentric theory. This sandstone cross was constructed in the 9th century and at the time it was believed that there were five planets plus the sun and the moon. The Duleek Knot, named after the pattern found on the south cross, is found in many old druid and pre Christian patterns. Its symbols represent the sun and the forces of nature — earth, air and water, while a cross indicates an integration of Christian and druidic beliefs predated them. Also known as the Protection Knot with interlocking triquetras (symmetrical triangular interlaced arcs used in metalwork and stone crosses) indicating unity and perpetual strength. Duleek's significance predates this cross by about 400 hundred years. It founded by St. Patrick who sent his disciple St. Cianan here to build a church and establish a monastic settlement.

Its name in Irish, Daimhliang Chianain translate as "the churchstone of St. Cianan". His church was regarded as the first stone church in Ireland and unfortunately no trace of it remains. Cianan was baptised by Patrick around the year 450 and died in 488.

Due to its proximity to the eastern seaboard, Duleek was attacked many times by the Vikings. In terms of importance as a monastic settlement it was on a par with Armagh, Clonard and Clonmacnoise. The settlement included a hospital, almshouses and sanctuaries.

Duleek is situated in an area rich steeped in history. A few miles to the north are the famous chambered cairns of Newgrange, Knowth and Dowth, which are reckoned to be more than 5,000 years old. Tara the seat of the High Kings is a little over ten miles to the south west, while the ancient monastic settlement of Kells is about 20 miles to the west. The Hill of Slane where St. Patrick lit the famous Paschal Fire is only eight miles away.

Monks accompanying the body of Brian Boru and his son-in-law to Armagh for burial after his death at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 have rested here. Some time later the O'Kelly family built an Augustinian Priory at Duleek.

In the late 12th century the Norman, Hugh de Lacy built himself a castle nearby and granted Church of St. Cianan to the Augustinians of Gloucestershire, just a few short years after the Normans themselves had ransacked priory.

Saint Brigid

by Catriona Dillon

Brigid of Kildare, Saint Brigid, early Celtic goddess, nun, abbess, Mary of the Gael, patron saint of Ireland, these are some of the names and titles associated with Saint Brigid. Brigid was born around the time of Saint Patrick in Faughart, near Dundalk in Co, Louth. She was named after the Celtic goddess Brigit. Her father was Dubhtach, chief of Leinster was a pagan and her mother was a servant in his house. The feast day of St. Brigid is February the first the first day of Spring. It is said that the first day of February was the Pagan feast of Brigit, the goddess of Spring. When Christianity took hold February 1st became St, Brigid's day.

From an early age Brigid showed magical powers, It is said that when poor people called she gave them provisions from the stores only to have them replaced before anybody noticed. Lepers and others with life threatening diseases was cured by her hands.

Many powerful young men sought her hand in marriage, as she was very beautiful. Brigid wasn't having any of it and decided to give her life in the service of God and of others. When the king of Leinster recognised her holiness Dubhtach set her free.

Many stories are told about St. Brigid. It is said that she asked the King of Leinster for a piece of land to build a convent. He didn't at all take her seriously and told her he would give her a piece of land the size of her cloak. Brigid spread her cloak on the ground and it grew and spread til it covered half of Leinster. The king was in awe of her power and have her a plot of land. This was the first of many convents that she founded throughout the country.

The story goes that Brigid was sitting at the deathbed of a chief (possible her father) she prayed with him and he became interested in her beliefs. She picked up some rushes and fashioned a cross. The chief was baptised and became a Christian before he died. St Brigid crosses became a symbol of protection and were hung in homes in case of damage by lightening, wind etc. These crosses are still made in schools coming up to February 1st.

It was thought that Brigit's spirit passed over the land on St Brigid's eve, 31st January. Young girls used leave ribbons or pieces of cloth on the ground to be blessed by the Saint. These was used to protect their virginity or to protect them in pregnancy, This custom is still popular at St, Brigid's shrine in Faughart .

Brigid is said to have died in the year 525 aged 72. She was buried at her first monastery in Co Kildare, Her body was later moved to be interred with St Patrick and St Columba in Downpatrick, Co Down.

My Gardening Life

by Alfred Woods

When I was very young about 7 or so having a dinner of new potatoes: on the first day of Bellewstown Races, which occurred on the first week of July, was very important. My mother always told us about her father having a lovely bucket of "Queens" left at the door before getting ready to walk to the races. No cars or even bicycles as we know them now.

My father and uncle Pat would, every Spring, after a lot of friendly persuasion from mother leave down the hammer or sledge, pick up the digging fork and spade and prepare a small plot beside the house for potatoes. Four or five drills raised and almost filled with well-rotted farmyard manure, potatoes dropped and drills closed - job done. Netting wire erected to keep the hens out and I was sent off to purchase some cabbage plants to put in one of the drills. 4 or 5 drills of seed potatoes and one drill of cabbage was par for the course. This was done shortly after St. Patrick's Day. The 20 drills in the field to keep the family going for the winter would have to wait until the frost was over — mid April or so. This bit of gardening activity was usually referred to as the "Agony in the Garden."

Meanwhile Mr. Brennan (Principal) and Mr. Irwin were busy teaching the boys how to prepare and plant potatoes in the Irish language. "Ag cur ná prataí. " Not an easy task — preparing the seed. "Ní mór do aon súil amháin a freagail ar gach sciollach ar a laigean." This was the early forties, "The Emergency" was in full swing — the revival of the Irish language was top of the list at school and the cane was used to persuade us to "Love the Language".

There was a great pool of gardening knowledge in the old school in Duleek. Most village people grew fruit in their garden and every house had a garden at the side and back. The children earned money pulling fruit and the older ones helping in planting or digging or pulling weeds.

No chemical weed killers in those days. The beginning of the summer holidays coincided with the start of the raspberry pulling season so the main topic of conversation coming up to July 1st was - Who are you pulling with this year? How much a pound is he paying? What's he like to work for?

Lorries came from Dublin firms to collect fruit: Lambs Fruitfield Farm.

Sheil and Byrne and local family Moss Brothers amongst others. During the War Years and for a few years afterwards fruit was a good business but when foreign fruit came back into the shops the demand for Irish fruit waned

Inevitably on one occasion a Price War arose between growers and buyers and strike action was taken. On the evening the Dublin lorries were due the secretary of Duleek Fruit Growers took a

trip on his bicycle to see if anyone was "scabbing" and lo and behold Old Benny was standing at his gate with a "flat" of raspberries beside him.

Secretary - an ex RIC man says "Benny are you scabbing?"

"Ah no indeed sir I am just giving those few raspberries to Mr Lambe because I promised them to him and I wouldn't break me word. Mr. Lambe supplied me with the canes last year and he being such a decent man I couldn't let him down" replied Benny.

"Be very careful Ben that Mr. Lambe doesn't turn out to be a wolf in sheep's clothing" says the secretary as he mounted the bicycle and moved off.

Electricity was on its way and men got jobs erecting poles and wire to carry the current to every house in the country. Billy Butlin started building one of his holiday camps at Mosney and Slane Mills needed people to turn out the material - wool - to make the clothes for an ever changing Ireland. The tractor, cars and lorries were taking over from the horse and Slane Woolen Co. had a bus collecting workers in Duleek to run their factory on the banks of the Boyne in Slane.

With jobs came money and the wee thatched houses and indeed large thatched houses were being replaced by the modern houses we live in today. As I remember the Slane bus I also recall a lorry with a tarpaulin covering it and a couple of bare planks for seats collecting workers to pull fruit in Lambe's Fruitfield farm in Donabate. Many years later in 2020 a great controversy occurred when their neighbours Keelings sent an aeroplane to Bulgaria to collect workers for their fruit harvest. The necessity to send that aeroplane to a foreign land to be collect workers prompts me to remember the great contribution our educators have made to the success of our educational system and the country at large. The people involved in educating our youth have dragged us protesting and kicking and screaming to a very high level, capable of filling the needs of modern businesses and leading our country to international success. Dare I mention names? Donogh O'Malley and Drogheda educated Ken Whittaker. Donogh was Minister for Education when he introduced free education for all and Ken advised the government that free trade was the road to success and how right they both were.

I digress - my minimal gardening life continued and my mother had her few Queens right up to 1998 when the Good Lord took her to His own garden. She was born with the century and almost made it to the next. May the sod rest lightly over her and Dad. If I got the choice of my parents, they are the two I would choose-no others.

The family built a new bungalow nearby and Kathleen and myself moved over in the year 2000. Everyone in the family put their shoulder to the wheel and in October 2000 we lit the house up. Then I decided I could do a bit more gardening than the few "Queens" for Bellewstown.

With a small garden to the front and a good big one to the sides and back the possibilities were great. A lot of digging and preparing and planting prepared my resolve that I needed a garden tiller.

An Italian machine with a Honda engine was purchased and my gardening life really begun. A section was paled off for gardening and the rest was grazed by a horse I was training at the time. I grew onions, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, parsnips, peas and beetroot for table use and wallflowers, sweet William, anthurium and calendula. Not forgetting dahlias and asters with a few rose bushes from home thrown in.

A busy spring with lots of sweat and petrol. But it was worth the effort because I had a fine crop of both flowers and vegetables thanks to the fresh grassland, rotavator, plenty of farmyard manure and a little bit of knowhow and plenty of good advice. All planted the old way. Raised drills half filled with farm yard manure a shake of lime and drills closed back and smoothed on top except the potato seed which were placed in the drill before closing.

All this caused a bit of stiffness in my back for a week or so but after the muscles got used to the change in work. No problem. I enjoyed it and watched it all grow during the summer and kept fit by pulling the weeds, claying the potatoes and clipping hedges. The onions were very big and straight and looked very well and I thought to myself I might take those to a show.

The only show of garden and farm produce I had ever visited was in the Sliver Beach Pavilion in Gormanstown around 1942 or so. I saw an advertisement in a newspaper that a show would take place in Oldcastle the following September and I sent for a brochure, which arrived by return post. It catered for all sorts of farming and horticultural activities as well as horse and pony activities, dog classes, art and crafts and even a class for the best boiled potato!

I entered my onions, beetroot, potatoes, peas and carrots and duly arrived in Oldcastle on the appointed morning and tabled my produce. When the judging was over my onions got nothing - disappointment - dismay. I thought they looked as good as the best. On inquiry I was told they were green onions. They would need to be pulled and placed in the sun on a wire mesh to ripen and get a nice shiny brown skin and the tops trimmed and neatly tied.

In twenty years of showing since I only ever won third prize for onions. I could never get that beautiful brown skin or perfect top necessary to win. But when I looked at the other classes my beetroot and potatoes had won their classes and the peas and carrots were placed in theirs. I was amazed and delighted. I have been showing and sometimes winning with all sorts of veggies except onions, for 20 years now and enjoyed it all immensely but it is hard work.

Growing and showing is great fun but preparing on the day before the show I found stressful and very hard on the garden. Matching up 5 potatoes or 4 beetroot or 6 pods of peas is not easy. And if not well matched - no prize. There is nearly always the elusive one to make the number when half a drill of potatoes might need to be dug to get the match or the odd carrot or parsnip the same. But the red rosette is worth all the effort.

This spring of 2020 is the best I have ever seen. Weeks and weeks of beautiful dry summer weather to prepare the soil and get the sowing done. Clay like flour is every gardener's hope and a good sowing usually means a good harvest and 2020 is certainly competing for top place. My potatoes, onions, broad and runner beans, parsnips and beetroot are the best I have ever grown..

A couple of severe frosts in mid-May killed some broad beans and runner beans but half survived and look good. No headfruit - otherwise OK. But no shows, I didn't realise I would miss the showing so much, but friends and neighbours are enjoying lots of potential prize winners on their dinner plates.

It's an ill wind that doesn't blow good to somebody as the old saying so aptly put it.

Last year 2019 the big agricultural show in Virginia staged a couple of classes confined to Men's Sheds. so at our tea break one Wednesday morning I suggested we should make a few entries. A tray of veggies and a wooden item. After much discussion and debate the meeting said yes and three people were appointed to carry it out. We had some raised beds with potatoes and some vegetables in An Tobar yard and we made a wee wheelbarrow for - 'Any item in wood'

By the way I forgot to mention I joined Men's Shed in An Tobar near Navan about 5 years ago and attend every Wednesday for work, tea, chat and craic. I wouldn't miss it for the world. The "work" is easy and the craic is mighty. To make a short story shorter the tray of vegetables from An Tobar fortified by a few from my garden won its class and got a beautiful red rosette and the wheelbarrow In another class got me blue rosette 2nd - hurray for An Tobar with its gardeners and carpenters. We were planning our usual St. Patricks Day parade participation and travel and show plans when Covid-19 put a stop to everything and we haven't attended An Tobar since.

Some of our friends didn't agree to close down and had a few meetings among themselves in An Tobar. They didn't seem to realise the seriousness of the situation and the fact that our age group is at great risk. Our very lives might depend on keeping Covid-19 free.

I am so delighted to have the garden to keep me occupied and interested all spring and summer and to have so much produce to share. I would love to share my interest with some friends but they never seem to have time or inclination to get the coat off and get digging.

Mr. Brennan often told us when I was going to school that "The Commons" of Duleek extended to 170 acres. This is rough grazing land where local people grazed cattle and horses, goats and geese. If a few acres were paled off and allotments created for locals it might awaken some interest. The land in the area is very good for growing all sorts of garden crops and has been growing vegetables for centuries. I never realised that gardening was such a healthy occupation for both mind and body and how beneficial it is for the whole family until Covid came along. It also benefits the

finances by providing lovely fresh healthy produce at first cost and remember - no potato ever tastes as well or is as floury as the potato you grow yourself. That goes for all vegetables.

Just for a moment picture the scene on a beautiful spring evening of a family walking to begin their planting in an allotment. Dad wheeling the wheelbarrow with spade and digging fork and a few seed potatoes or cabbage plants and children with their little spades and sea buckets and of course mam with the basket on her arm full of goodies because a garden snack is the grandest party of all. A hearty appetite always follows a bit of gardening and where better to admire your work and chat with neighbours than on a few upturned boxes in the allotment. The only tea to compare with garden tea is a cup in the hay field and meadows are virtually a thing of the past having all turned into silage fields. Dragon's Den was a very popular programme on Telefís Eireann up to quite recently and Gavin Duffy was a very prominent member. The Dragons support many budding entrepreneurs who applied for help and guidance and one of those was a man who grew sunflowers. The sunflowers produces a large amount of seeds which are very high in health giving ingredients when processed in a special way. Well packaged and very attractively presented they made a very healthy and energy giving snack. He grew 8 to 10 acres of sunflowers on the bank of the nanny which were an unusual and beautiful sight when in bloom. The setting of this "garden" was perfect. Bounded on one side by the river and on the other by the beautiful stone wall which runs by the roadside of the Duleek - Julianstown Road. On fine sunny days crowds came to see the beautiful sight and one Sunday evening I took the family to see the display and the grower was there and started selling the sunflowers which grew around the headlands and corners of the field. Stragglers we would call them. A true entrepreneur!! When the seeds were harvested they were sent to county Cavan for processing and packaging. On enquiry I was told they were going to the premises that a firm known as "Bo Peep Jam" used to take the raspberries collected by Moss Brothers in Duleek fifty or sixty years previously. I thought this was a rare and beautiful coincidence. For the next "Fair Day" in Duleek I got out a vintage rotavator from the fruit growing times and built a wee trailer for it. I got a fruit barrel or raspberry barrel in which the jam raspberries used to be collected. some raspberry canes with their crop of fruit intact and lots of sunflowers in bloom. A brief history to make the connection of the sunflower and the raspberry completed the display. I thought it was quite good but alas very little interest was shown. As my old school teacher - Mr. Irwin - used to say "public memory is very short" - "politicians depend on it."

The raspberries for jam were collected and delivered in small wooden barrels holding about one hundred weight - 112lbs. The berries for display and table use were collected and displayed in punnets holding one pound and twelve punnets contained in a light wooden box was known as a flat, flats and fruit barrels were all made from wood but now they are all plastic so the wooden ones are very scarce.

I have enjoyed my "gardening in retirement" over the past twenty years or so together with an odd spot of ballroom dancing. Mr. Covid has certainly put a stop to the dancing but hope springs eternal and god willing - a few snowdrops will herald a whole new gardening year and Covid-19 will be conquered and if the old bones will permit I hope to enjoy it.

Autumn 2015 on losing my mobile in the garden

One morning fair in the clear cool air
My frustration was exceeding
The mobile from my pocket slipped
While I was doing some wedding
I want to know that should it grow
Could I sell some cell-phone seedlings?

An Old Photograph

by Ita O'Boyle



Among my late father's 1 papers, I found this photograph, inscribed on the back: **James** and **Kate Geraghty**. To residents of Duleek, the location is obvious, on Main Street, Duleek with the iconic tower and steeple of St. Kienan's Church in the background. The bare trees indicate that the photograph was taken in winter and it features a couple and a young boy in front of a thatched cottage with two windows to front and possibly a small flower patch adjacent to the front door. The house looks well maintained, neatly thatched and whitewashed. The young boy is standing next to a horse in harness and a pony trap sits close by; the ownership of a pony and trap indicating relative prosperity. The photograph was probably taken in the early years of the twentieth century.

Who were **James** and **Kate Geraghty**?

The late Peter Moss offers some insight into **James Geraghty**:

1 Enda O'Boyle 1926-2007

'Opposite the Garda Station lived James Geraghty who was a Wheelwright. He operated the old pitsaw. The pit was about four feet deep and had large posts surrounding it to support a platform, onto which, by means of wooden skids, was rolled a large ash log. The one man in the pit and one on the platform worked the pitsaw up and down to cut the log into slabs about four inches thick. These slabs were, in turn, cut with a bowsaw to the required size and shape for the felloes and spokes of the wheels. Mr. Geraghty made wooden wheels for all kinds of vehicles; some of his wheels were fitted to six-ton, horse-drawn wagons, and some to the old barn threshing mills. He ceased working about 1925. 3

James Geraghty and Catherine Connor

The Census of 1911 records **James** and **Kate Geraghty** in the village of Duleek with two unmarried children, 29-year old Anne and James Jr., who was fifteen; all members of the family were born in Co. Meath. **Kate Geraghty** (50) recorded that she had given birth to five children in her marriage of 31 years and three were still living. **James Geraghty** declared that he was 68 years of age and a Carpenter. The family was living in a two-roomed thatched cottage with a workshop. No occupation was recorded for their 29-year-old daughter, Anne and young James Geraghty (15) was school-going. All members of the family could read and write.

A decade earlier, the Census of 1901 records **James** (47) and **Kate** (40) **Geraghty** in Duleek with children, Anne and James. It is noted that there is a discrepancy in the age of James as recorded in the Census returns of 1901 and 1911. This is not unusual. In the early 20th Century illiteracy was widespread and those born before the introduction of Civil Registration in 1864 often did not know their true age. The introduction of the old age pension in 1908 to those over 70 years of age also led to exaggeration of age. Applications for this pension were initially checked against the 1841 and 1851 census records, which were then still in existence. (They were later lost in the fire and explosion in the Public Records Office in the Four Courts in 1922.) The 1911 Census returns can often show exaggeration of age, in anticipation of proving eligibility for the old age pension.

The marriage of **James Geraghty** and **Catherine Connor** was not officially registered. 4 (Irish Civil registration started in 1845 with the recording of non-Catholic marriages and civil

2 Felloe: rim of a wheel into which the outer ends of the spokes are attached

3 Peter Moss, *Trades and Occupations in Old Duleek*, Annala Dhamhliag, 1975

4 The Priest was designated (as now) a registrar of marriages and should have registered the marriage

weddings held at local register offices. From 1 January 1864, all births, all marriages and all deaths had to be registered and although it was compulsory to register all such events, in the early years compliance was not complete and non-compliance is estimated at 10-15%.)

Duleek Parish Registers record their marriage in Duleek Catholic Church on 16 February 1878. Both Bride and Groom were from Duleek and Patrick Mooney and Agnes Bird were witnesses. No further information was recorded in the Parish Registers. 5

The following children have been identified for **James Geraghty** and **Catherine Connor**: 6

Catherine b.5 December 1878; bp.8 December 1878; Sponsors: Patrick Geraghty and Agnes Bird
Anne b.26 June 1880; bp.27 June 1880; Sponsors: Patrick McKeon and Catherine Gaynor
John b.15 April 1883; bp.17 April 1883; Sponsors: John Heade and Ellen Dunne
Mary b.7 October 1888; bp.11 November 1888; Sponsors: Peter Geraghty and Mary Madden
James b.20 March 1896; bp.21 March 1896; Sponsors: James MacKenna and Bridget Lacey

7

James Geraghty died in Duleek on 23 May 1927 at the recorded age of 80. Cardiac Failure and Bronchitis were recorded as cause of death and his son, James, was the informant. His widow, **Catherine Geraghty** died on 2 August 1944 at the recorded age of 79. Old age was recorded as the cause of her death, as documented by Emily Geraghty, her daughter-in-law.

LIBER MATRIMONIORUM						
INFRASCRIPTI SPONSI ANNO DOMINI, 1878 JUXTA RITUM S. R. ECCLESIAE						
No.	Nomina Sponsorum.	Cognomina.	Eorum Residentia.	Nomina Parentum.	Eorum Residentia.	Denuntiationes. (a)
1	Henedy	Petrus		File	Concha	
	Caffrey	Catharina		File	Pierston	
2	Geraghty	Jacobus		File	Duleek	
	Connor	Catharina		File	Duleek	

5 Duleek Parish Registers; www.registers.nli.ie

6 Information retrieved from Duleek Parish Registers and www.irishgenealogy.ie

7 Bridget Lacey was my Great Aunt, daughter of John Lacey, RIC Constable and Catherine Lacy and the family lived on Main Street, Duleek, neighbours of the Geraghty family.

ANNO DOMINI, 1878

MATRIMONIO CONJUNCTI SUNT AB INFRASCRIPTO PAROCHO VEL VICARIO.

Impedimentum (A)	Die Mensis	Nomen Parochi vel Vicarii (C)	Testes adiacunt	Forum Residentia	Observanda, si quis sint: a. p., si quis ex sponsa fuerit concubitus ad fidem, vel aliter matrimonium conjugum, etc.
	die 4 ^a Feb ^r	J. Goughan	Petrus et Catharina Connor		
	die 16 ^a Feb ^r	J. Goughan	Petrus et Catharina Connor		

16 February 1878, Marriage of Jacobus (James) Geraghty and Catherina (Catherine) Connor

8

(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Library of Ireland)

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.

No. of Form A.

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND RESIDENCE.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	SEX (not English) and AGE.		BANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.		WHERE BORN.	TOWN LANGUAGE.	Usual and Double Surname, if different from the above.
				Male.	Female.		Married.	Single.			
1. James Geraghty	Head	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	65		Carpenter	Married	31	3	29	Co. Dublin
2. Kate Geraghty	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		62		Married	31	3	29	Co. Dublin
3. Anne Geraghty	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		29		Single				Co. Dublin
4. James Geraghty	Son	Roman Catholic	Read & Write		15	Scholar	Single				Co. Dublin
5.											
6.											
7.											
8.											
9.											
10.											
11.											
12.											
13.											
14.											
15.											

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 19 Edw. VII., and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

James Geraghty, Signature of Head of Family.

1911 Census, Duleek, James and Kate Geraghty and Family 9

(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives of Ireland)

1901 Census, Duleek, Geraghty Family 10
(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives of Ireland)

Catherine b.5 December 1878; bp.8 December 1878; m.25 April 1911**Thomas Connor**

Catherine Geraghty (31) and **Thomas Connor** (34), (both with an address at Gormanston at the time of their marriage), married in Stamullen on 25 April 1911. **Thomas Connor** was the son of **Patrick Connor** (who was deceased) and both were Labourers; **Catherine Geraghty**, daughter of **James Geraghty**, a Carpenter, was a Servant. Joseph Canaan and Annie Geraghty (sister of Catherine) were witnesses. No further information has been positively identified for this couple.

Notulæ Numerus.	Anno Domini 1878		Natus.		Ex Parentibus legitimo Matrimonio junctis.	Habituatus in
	Reipublicæ Romanæ.	C. civitas.	Dies.	Mostris.	Nomina Parentum.	Domicilium.
54	Grady	Catharina	5	Decr	Jacobus Grady et Catharina Comer	Duckett

Rite fuit Baptizatus		A quo Infanscripto Parochia vel Vicaria		Patris et Matris nomen et a Sacerdoti levatibus		Circumstantiae ex Rit. Rom. appendice, e.g. si fuerit adultus, vota servatus, sub conditione vel privatim baptizatus, expositus, &c.	
Die	Mens.	Nomen Parochi vel alterius Baptizantis		Nomen Patris			
8 Dec		R. Kelly		Catherine Geraghty		Catherine Geraghty was baptized in Duleek by Father Kelly on 8 Dec 1878	

8 December 1878, Baptism of Catherine Geraty (sic.) 11

(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Library of Ireland)

Anne b.26 June 1880; bp.27 June 1880

Annie Geraghty, with an address at Balsaran, Duleek, died, unmarried, on 22 August 1961 in St. Joseph's Home, Trim with Hypertension and Hemiplegia recorded as the cause of her death. She is buried in the family plot in the Old Graveyard, Duleek.

John b.15 April 1883; bp.17 April 1883; d.bef.1901

Catherine Geraghty (nee **Connor**) recorded in the Census of 1911 that she had given birth to five children with three surviving. It is assumed that **John Geraghty** was one of the deceased children. His Death Certificate has not been identified and the death may not have been officially registered.

Mary b. 7 October 1888; bp.11 November 1888; d.2 March 1893

Mary Geraghty was four years old when she died on 2 March 1893 with debility recorded as the cause of her death.

James b.20 March 1896; .21 March 1896; m.27 January 1937 **Emily Doran**

James Geraghty married **Emily Doran** in St. Cieran's Catholic Church, Duleek on 27 January 1937 with Thomas Patrick McIvor and Kathleen Sherry as witnesses. **James Geraghty** was a Carpenter, like his father. **Emily Doran**, Station Road, Duleek, was a Nurse and the daughter of **Thomas Doran**, a Contractor.

James Geraghty, Kings Gate, Duleek died on 6 January 1957 and **Emily** was widowed almost seventeen years when she died on 12 October 1973. Both are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Duleek.



Geraghty Surname

Oireachtas is a word for an assembly and it currently used for the national parliament or legislature of Ireland. *Mag Oireachtaigh* translates as the son of the member of the assembly and there are many variants, e.g. Geraghty, McGeraghty, McGarrity, Garrity, Gerrity, Garritty, Heraghty, among others.

The surname arose in rather an unusual way. At first it was *Ó Roduibh*; at the end of the twelfth century one of these was *Oireachtach Ó Roduibh* and it is from this *Oireachtach* their present surname is taken. They were a Hy Many sept in Co. Roscommon and Co. Galway in 'O'Kelly's country'. Its head was one of the "four royal chiefs" under O'Connor, being on the same line of descent as O'Connor himself. They are prominent in Connacht records up to the year 1300 and there were several mediaeval bishops of the name. The Chief of the Name, called *MacGiriaght* in the "Composition Book of Connacht", was seated in the barony of Athlone in 1585. The analysis of the present population distribution indicates that Geraghtys are mainly found in Co. Galway." ¹²

Gravestone Memorial, James and Emily Geraghty, Holy Cross Cemetery, Duleek 13

¹² www.irishancestors.ie

¹³ www.irishgraveyards.ie

Geraghtys in Duleek – Carpenters



James Geraghty was a Carpenter, as were several other Geraghtys in Duleek and it was common at the time for families to pursue similar trades and occupations. Unfortunately, as the marriage of **James Geraghty** was not officially registered, neither his father's name nor his occupation is known. (Official Marriage Certificates record fathers' names of both Bride and Groom along with their occupations; they also record the addresses of the Bride and Groom at the time of the marriage.)

The Census of 1901 records **John Geraghty**, a 60-year Carpenter in Gillinstown. He was unmarried and living with a younger sister, Catherine (37). **Patrick Geraghty** (57) was also a Carpenter and living in the village of Duleek with his wife, Mary and 19-year-old son, Matthew, who was a Railway Porter. Another Carpenter was **Peter Geraghty**. Both he and his wife Mary were 30 years old and living in Prioryland, Duleek with their young family. There are several Geraghty headstones in Duleek Old Graveyard. Of particular interest is the following:

*This Stone and Burial Place Belongeth to Michael Gerathy Carpenter
And His Posterity*

Here Lieth the Remains of the Above Michael Gerathy

Who Departed This Life February the 10th 1790 Aged 42 Years

Here Also Lieth The Remains of His Mother

Catherin Gerathy Who Departed This Life September the 8th 1784 Aged 71 Years 14

It is tempting to propose that **Michael Geraghty** (sic.) may have been an ancestor of **James** and **Patrick Geraghty**.

Patrick Geraghty and Mary Callaghan

Patrick Geraghty was also a Carpenter and he married **Mary Callaghan** from Carnes in Duleek Catholic Church on 18 November 1866 with Thomas Courtney and Anne Burke as witnesses.

LIBER MATRIMONIORUM						
INFRASCRIPTI SPONSI ANNO DOMINI, 1866 JUXTA RITUM S. R. ECCLESIAE						
No.	Nomina Sponsorum.	Cognomina.	Eorum Residentia.	Nomina Parentum.	Eorum Residentia.	Denuntiationes.(a)
12	Geraghty	Patricius	Duleek			
	Callaghan	Maria	Carnes			

ANNO DOMINI, 18						
MATRIMONIO CONJUNCTI SUNT AB INFRASCRIPTO PAROCHO VEL VICARIO.						
Impedimentum.(b)	Die Mensis.	Nomen Parochi vel Vicarii(c)	Testes adfuerunt.	Eorum Residentia.	Observanda, si quis sint: a. p. si quis ex sponsa fuerit conversus ad fidem, vel alius indicatus conjugatus, etc.	
	18 ^{mo} Novembris	P. Geraghty	Thomas Courtney Anne Burke			

18 November 1866, Marriage of Patricius (Patrick) Geraghty and Maria (Mary) Callaghan
15 (Reproduced by kind permission of the National Library of Ireland)

As with the marriage of **James Geraghty** and **Catherine Connor**, this marriage was not officially registered and no relationship can be definitely established between Patrick and James Geraghty. However, it is noted that they both acted as sponsor for the other's oldest child and share a Family Plot in Duleek's Old Graveyard.

The following children have been identified for **Patrick Geraghty** and **Mary Callaghan** and there may have been other children:

James b.12 April 1867; bp.14 April 1867; Sponsors: James Geraghty & Eleanor Neill
Patrick b.28 October 1868; bp.1 November 1868; Sponsors: Felix Ryan & Bridget Callaghan
Peter b.16/12/1870; bp.
Thomas b.18/12/1870 16 Sponsors: John Geraghty & Mary Fox
James b.12/08/1872; bp.14/08/872; Sponsors: Patrick Maginn & Mary Anne Caffrey

15 Duleek Parish Registers; www.registers.nli.ie

16 This child was baptised Thomas. His Birth Certificate records that his name is Peter

John	b.20/08/1873; bp.24/08/1873; Sponsors: Thomas Finne & Catherine MacKeon
Michael	b.5/11/1875; bp.7/11/1875; Sponsors: Thomas Courtney & Margaret Fitzharris
Matthew	b.26 April 1881; bp.28 April 1881; Sponsors: James Warren & Jane Bird
Thomas	b.28/11/1883; bp.2/12/1883; Sponsors: Patrick Geraghty & Margaret Fitzharris

It is noted that two children were named James. It is assumed that the first named child died in infancy, it not being uncommon at the time for a child to be named after a deceased sibling.

When the Census of 1901 was recorded **Matthew Geraghty**, a Railway Porter, was the only child still living in the family home with parents, **Patrick** and **Mary** (nee **Callaghan**) **Geraghty**. A decade later, the Census of 1911 records a widowed **Mary Geraghty**, a Caretaker, living alone in Duleek. Although not required of widows, she recorded that she had given birth to eight children and six were still living.

Patrick Geraghty Sr. died, aged 62, on 3 May 1904 at Royal City of Dublin Hospital with Cancer of the Neck recorded as the cause of his death. **Mary Geraghty** (nee **Callaghan**), ‘*Widow of a Carpenter*’, died in Duleek on 26 April 1919 at the recorded age of 74. ‘*Probably Old Age*’ was documented as the cause of her death and her son, Patrick (with an address at Ashbourne) was the informant.

[illegible]

1901 Census, Duleek Town, Patrick and Mary Geraghty with their son, Matthew 17
(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives of Ireland)

Children of Patrick Geraghty and Mary Callaghan

James b.12 April 1867; bp.14 April 1867; d.bef.1872

Two children were named James and it is assumed that the first named child died in infancy. No death certificate has been identified for this child.

Patrick b.28 October 1868; bp.1 November 1868

Patrick Geraghty graduated from St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra and became a National Schoolteacher in 1889.¹⁸ He was appointed Principal of Ashbourne National School in that year, a position he held until his retirement in 1934. ¹⁹ He also acted as President of Navan National Teachers' Association.

He married **Johanna Mulvaney** (daughter of Edward Mulvaney, Harlockstown, Ratoath) in Ratoath Catholic Church on 22 April 1890 with Edward Armstrong and Matilda Troy as witnesses. **Johanna Geraghty** (nee **Mulvaney**) died on 19 February 1899 when aged 39. ²⁰ **Patrick Geraghty** remarried Mary Anne Crinion, daughter of Michael Crinion, Knockmoney, Slane on 18 September 1900.

The Census of 1911 records **Patrick** and **Mary Anne Geraghty** in Ashbourne town with seven children. His oldest daughter, Florence (12) was born to his first marriage and the younger children were born to **Mary Anne Crinion**.

Patrick Geraghty died in Ashbourne on 22 February 1937, following a Cerebral Haemorrhage. **Mary Anne Geraghty** died on 13 Aug 1952 and both are buried in Killegland Cemetery, Ashbourne, County Meath.

¹⁸ NAI, PCO/10/1; List of Teachers Employed by the Commissioners of National Education on 31 March 1905

¹⁹ www.decsash.ie

²⁰ The cause of death is illegible on the Death Certificate.

A gravestone in St. Mary's Abbey (old Graveyard), Duleek carries the following inscription:



Johanna and Patrick Geraghty, Ashbourne 21

Died the 19th February 1899

His Parents, Brothers, Cousins and Relations

Also his Father, Patrick Geraghty

Died 3rd May 1904

Annie Geraghty

Died 22 August 1961 22

Patrick Geraghty, Principal, Ashbourne National School 23

ASHBOURNE

THE Profession took place on Saturday last, August 26th, at the Presentation Convent, Kilkenny, of Miss Nellie Geraghty (in religion, Sister M. Joseph Anne) daughter of Mr. Patrick Geraghty, N.T., P.C., and Mrs. Geraghty, Ashbourne, Co. Meath. The Most Rev. Dr. Collier, Bishop of Ossory, officiated at the ceremonies. Miss Geraghty, after leaving her father's school, finished her education at the Convent of Mercy, Navan, and subsequently, after finishing her training course, at Carysfort College, Blackrock, taught as an Assistant Teacher in Newcastle and Clondalkin, Co. Dublin, Marino Schools, Clontarf, and the Schools of the Presentation Convent, Kilkenny.

DEATH OF MRS GERAGHTY, ASHBOURNE.

We very much regret to have to record the death at an early age, of this esteemed lady, wife of Mr Geraghty, teacher of the National School, Ashbourne. After an illness of only ten days, she passed away on the morning of Sunday, 19th February. The funeral took place on the following Tuesday in Duleek cemetery, the great number of those attending amply testifying to the high esteem in which she had been held. The chief mourners were Mr Patrick Geraghty, husband; Master Geraghty, son; Mr Thomas Mulvaney, brother; Masters Edward, Gerald, and Valentine Morgan, nephews; Mr Patrick Mulvaney, cousin. The Rev P Flynn, C C, Ratoath, was the officiating clergyman.

Drogheda Independent, Saturday, 4 March 1899

Drogheda Independent, 2 September

1933

21 Johanna Geraghty died in 1899 and Patrick Geraghty is, in fact, buried in Killegland, Ashbourne

22 Annie Geraghty was the daughter of James Geraghty and Kate Connor

23 www.angelfire.com/ak2/ashbourne

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

No. on Form B. 12

FORM A.
RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2ND of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAMES.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	REMARKS.	AGE (last birthday) and SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.			WEDDED BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb: Does not speak Irish, indicate in Irish or English.
						Whether Married, Widowed, or Single.	Children born alive.	Children born dead.			
Patrick Geraghty	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	42	School Teacher	Married	10	6	6	County Meath	
Mary Anne Geraghty	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	37		Married	10	6	6	County Meath	
Thomas Geraghty	Son	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	12	School	Single				County Meath	
Thomas Geraghty	Son	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	8	School	Single				County Meath	
Angela Geraghty	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	7	School	Single				County Meath	
Ellen Geraghty	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	5	School	Single				County Meath	
Michael Geraghty	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	0		Single				County Meath	
Matthew Geraghty	Son	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	2		Single				County Meath	
Julia Anne Geraghty	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot read	1		Single				County Meath	
Mary Anne Geraghty	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	28	General Domestic Servant	Single				County Meath	
Mary Ellen Holden	Boarder	Roman Catholic	Read + Write	26	School Teacher	Single				County Meath	

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 18 Edw. VII. and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Patrick Geraghty, Signature of Head of Family.

Thomas Geraghty, Signature of Enumeration.

1911 Census, Patrick Geraghty and Family, Ashbourne, Co. Meath 24

(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives of Ireland)

MR. PATK. GERAGHTY, P.C., ASHBOURNE.

Widespread regret has been aroused, especially in County Meath, by the death of Mr. Patk. Geraghty, P.C., which occurred on Monday morning at his residence in Ashbourne. Deceased, who had formerly been a well-known National Teacher was, up to the time of his death, the popular Sec. of Messrs. C. J. Russell and Co.'s extensive auctioneering business, and in that capacity was widely known over a large area in these counties, particularly amongst the farming community. An able, honest and obliging citizen, he was held in the highest respect and esteem by all who knew him, and the deepest sympathy of a very wide circle of friends and acquaintances is extended to his bereaved widow and family in the loss they have sustained.

The remains were removed to Ashbourne Catholic Church on Tuesday evening and the funeral took place on Wednesday to the family burial ground at Killegland. There was a very large and representative attendance.—R.I.P.

LATE MR. P. GERAGHTY

Mr. Patrick Geraghty, ex-N.T., P.C., who has died at his residence, Ashbourne, Co. Meath, was a native of Duleek, Co. Meath, and was aged about 67. His entire career as a national teacher was spent in Ashbourne. He retired from the profession about two years ago. Mr. Geraghty was among the first Peace Commissioners appointed after the establishment of the Free State. He is survived by his widow and a large family.

Meath Chronicle, Saturday, 27 February 1937

Drogheda Independent, 27 February 27,

1937

Peter b.16 December 1870; bp.18 December 1870

Peter Desmond Geraghty, a Carpenter, migrated to the United States aboard the S.S. Etruria in April 1901. His application for American citizenship in 1908 records that he was 5'6" in height, of light complexion with Brown hair and Blue eyes. **Peter Geraghty** married **Mary Walsh** c.1895 25 and they lived in Queens, New York. He died on 13 Oct 1942 and is buried in Mount St. Mary's Cemetery, Flushing, Queens, New York. 26

Peter Geraghty was only one of several sons of **Patrick Geraghty** and **Mary Callaghan** who migrated to the United States.

James b.12 August 1872; bp.14 August 1872

No further information has been positively identified for James Geraghty.

John b.20 August 1873; bp.24 August 1873

John Geraghty married **Jane McKeever**, daughter of John McKeever, a Shoemaker, on 28 January 1901 in St. Cieran's Catholic Church, Duleek. Both Bride and Groom were from Duleek and Patrick J. Kevitt and Alice Clarke were witnesses. A Labourer at the time of his marriage, **John Geraghty** was recorded as a 'Railway Goods Foreman' when the Census was recorded in 1911, at which time, **John** and **Jane Geraghty** were living in Newtown, St. Mary's (Drogheda) with six children.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 4

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (last Birthday) and SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.		WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If deaf and dumb; Deaf only; Blind; Infirm; or idiot; or Lunatic.	
						Whether Married, Widowed, Single, or "Single."	State for each Married Woman entered on this Schedule the number of— Completed years the present Marriage; If an children born alive, write "None" in column 11. If less than one year, write "under one."				
John Geraghty	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Read & Write	37	Railway Goods Foreman	Married	11	6	6	6	Health
Jane Geraghty	Wife	"	Read & Write	29		Married	11	6	6	6	Do
Patrick Geraghty	Son	"	Read & Write	7	Scholar	Single					Do
John Geraghty	Son	"	Read & Write	7	Scholar	Single					Do
Michael Geraghty	Son	"	Do	7	Scholar	Single					Do
Mary Geraghty	Daughter	"	Do	5	Scholar	Single					Do
George Geraghty	Son	"	Cannot Read	3	Scholar	Single					Do
Elizabeth Geraghty	Daughter	"	Do	1							Do

25 Marriage Certificate was not identified

26 www.familysearch.org

1911 Census, John and Jane (nee McKeever) Geraghty, Newtown, Drogheda, Co. Meath 27
(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Archives of Ireland)

Michael b.5 November 1875; bp.7 November 1875

Michael Geraghty, a Shop Assistant, married **Catherine Reilly** (a Servant, daughter of Patrick Reilly, Drumcammill, Co. Louth) in Iniskeen Catholic Church, Co. Louth on 12 September 1897 with James Keily and Margaret Nugent as witnesses and their first child, Patrick, was born in Drumcamill on 13 December 1897.

The 1910 US Census records **Michael** and **Catherine Geraghty** with six children in Manhattan, New York, where **Michael Geraghty** is an out-of-work Saloon Bartender. The Census records that they migrated in 1898 and the five younger children were born in New York. **Michael Geraghty**, a Bartender by occupation, died in St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, New York on 3 August 1914 when aged 39 and he was buried in Calvary Cemetery, New York. Six years later, the 1920 US Census records **Catherine Geraghty** with her children in Manhattan, where she is a Laundress. **Catherine Geraghty** (nee **Reilly**) died in New York on 23 March 1956. 28



Geraghty Gravestone Memorial, Family of Michael Geraghty, Calvary Cemetery, New York

29

27 www.census.nationalarchives.ie

28 www.familysearch.org

29 www.billiongraves.com (subscription)

Matthew b.26 April 1881; bp.28 April 1881

When the Census of 1901 was recorded **Matthew Geraghty**, a Railway Porter, was the only child still living in the family home with parents, **Patrick** and **Mary** (nee **Callaghan**) **Geraghty**. He was a Waiter when he married **Catherine Connor**, a Domestic Servant in University Church, Dublin on 12 May 1907 with John O'Toole and Ellen Comerford as witnesses. He migrated to New York in August 1912 aboard the S.S. Baltic, travelling to his brother, Michael, who paid his fare. 30 Matthew subsequently furnished the fare for his wife, Catherine and daughters, Mary (3) and Catherine (11 months) when they followed in April 1913 aboard the S.S. Campania.

Thomas b.28 November 1883; bp.2 December 1883

No further information has been positively identified for **Thomas Geraghty**.

Michael Connor and Mary Shanny

Catherine Connor, wife of **James Geraghty**, was the daughter of **Michael Connor** and **Mary Shanny** and was baptised in Duleek Catholic Church on 27 July 1862 with Ellen Bannon as sole sponsor.

Nobis Numerus.	Anno Domini 1862		Natus		Ex Parentibus legitime Matrimonio junctis.	Habitantibus in
	Baptismi Nomen	Cognomen	Die	Mense	Nomen Patris.	Matris.
466	Catherine	Connor	27	July	Michael Connor & Mary Shanny	Duleek

Hic fuit Baptizatus		A quo Inscriptis Parochia vel Vicaria.		Patris adstantibus et a Sacro Fonte levatis.		Circumstantia ex Illi. Rom. apponenda, e.g. si fuerit adultus, recens conjugatus, vel conditione vel peccatis Baptizatus, expositus, &c.
Die.	Nomen.	Nom. Patris vel alterius Baptizantis.	Nomen Patris.			
27 July	Betham		a Ellen Bannon			

27 July 1862, Baptism of Catherine Connor 31

(Reproduced by kind permission of the National Library of Ireland)

30 Information from manifest of S.S. Baltic, accessed via www.libertyellisfoundation.org

31 Duleek Parish Registers; www.registers.nli.ie

The marriage of **Michael Connor** and **Mary Shanny** (or variants) has not been identified and predates Duleek Parish Registers, which records Births and Marriages from 1852. The following children have been identified for this couple and there may have been other children:

Patrick	b.20 May 1852; bp.23 May 1852 <i>Shanny</i> 32; Sponsor: Anne Mullen
Michael	b.1 August 1854; bp.3 August 1854 <i>Sherry</i> ; Sponsors: Peter Connor & Susan Clarke
Mary	b.13/03/1857; bp.15/03/1857 <i>Sheerin</i> ; Sponsors: Michael Smyth & Elizabeth Wallace
Richard	b.20/10/1859; bp.22/10/1859 <i>Shinan</i> ; Sponsors: James Morgan & Mary Cowley
Catherine	b.25 July 1862; bp.27 July 1862 <i>Shanny</i> ; Sponsor: Eleanor Bannon

No further information has been positively identified for **Michael Connor** and **Mary Shanny**.

A widowed **Michael Connor**, an Agricultural Labourer, is recorded living alone in Commons, Duleek in the Census of 1901 and he died the following year, aged 86, from ‘Senile Decay’ in Drogheda Workhouse Hospital. It cannot be positively confirmed that this is **Michael Connor**, the father of **Catherine Geraghty**.

The workhouse has been described as “the most feared and hated institution ever established in Ireland” and carries connotations of destitution and abject misery. When first conceived, in the early 1840’s, the workhouse served to offer assistance to the most destitute; if people could not support themselves, they could come into the workhouse where they would do some work in return for food. People had to stay and live in the workhouse and so the system was known as indoor relief.

However, the latter years of the workhouses in Ireland until their closure in the 1920’s saw the workhouses operating as cottage hospitals or infirmaries. Originally, the workhouse infirmary or hospital was just for the sick inmates and no qualifications were required for nurses and the level of care was very poor. From the 1860s, qualified nursing sisters began to make their way into the workhouses. Care of the sick improved greatly and the workhouse hospital was opened to non-inmates.³³

³² Mary Shanny is variously recorded as Shanny, Sherry, Sheerin and Shinan in Duleek Parish Registers. Further information on her family has not been identified.

³³ <http://irishworkhousecentre.ie/the-workhouse-story/>

O'Connor, with its variants Connor, Conner, Connors etc., comes from the Irish *Conchobhair*, from the personal name *Conchobhar*, perhaps meaning "lover of hounds" or "wolf-lover". This was one of the most favoured of early Irish names, and gave rise to the surname in at least five distinct areas, in Connacht (O'Conor Don), in Offaly (O'Conor Faly), in north Clare (O'Conor of Corcomroe), in Keenaght in Co. Derry, and in Kerry (O'Connor Kerry). 34

Children of Michael Connor and Mary Shanny

Patrick b.20 May 1852; bp.23 May 1852

The marriage was recorded in Duleek Parish Registers of **Patrick Connor** and **Catherine Monahan** on 18 November 1877 with Michael and Margaret Monahan as witnesses. As with so many nuptials in Duleek, this marriage was not officially registered!

The following children have been identified and there may have been other children:

Michael	b.5 August 1878; bp.6 August 1878; Sponsors: William White & Margaret Monahan
Mathew	b.12 July 1880; bp.14 July 1880; Sponsors: James Brien & Catherine Barns
Mary	b.25 July 1882; bp.26 July 1882; Sponsors: John Conor & Anne Farrell
Catherine	b.11 November 1884; bp.15 November 1884; Sponsors: Hugh Ruddy & Jane Carroll
Patrick	b.17 March 1887; bp.20 March 1887; Sponsors: Bernard & Mary McGuinness
Nicholas	b.11 March 1889; bp.14 March 1889; Sponsors: John Lacy & Eleanor McKenna
Peter	b.20 April 1892; bp.21 April 1892; Sponsors: Peter Coleman & Catherine McKenna
Anne	b.17 March 1895 35
Joseph	b.4 February 1897
James	b.c.1899
Christopher	b.11 December 1901

The Census of 1901 records **Patrick and Kate Connor** in Duleek with eight children, ranging in age from 21-year-old Michael, to Joseph, the youngest, who was three. **Patrick Connor**, along with his two oldest sons, Michael and Matthew, were 'General Labourers'. No occupation was recorded for 16-year-old Katie and the younger children, except for Joseph, were school-going. The

34 www.johngrenham.com

35 Baptism Registers are not available from this date

family were living in a four-roomed thatched cottage with solid walls, designated a third-class dwelling.

A decade later, only the three youngest children were still living with parents, **Patrick** and **Kate Connor**. Peter Connor was a Labourer and Joseph and Christopher were still at school. **Kate Connor** recorded that she had given birth to twelve children and three had died.

Kate Connor died on 14 February 1937 at the recorded age of 77 with Cardiac Failure cited as the cause of her death. **Patrick Connor** died five years later, on 25 February 1942 due to 'Myocardial Degeneration'. Their youngest son, Christopher, was the informant for both deaths.

Children of Patrick Connor and Catherine Monaghan

Michael b.5 August 1878; bp.6 August 1878

When Patrick and Peter Connor migrated to the United States in 1912, they were travelling to their brother, Michael in Flushing, Queens, New York. No further information has been positively identified for **Michael Connor**.

Mathew b.12 July 1880; bp.14 July 1880

Matthew Connor died in Duleek on 20 July 1903. He was 23 years old and Tuberculosis was recorded as the cause of his death. Known as the 'White Plague', Tuberculosis was the greatest cause of death in the 15-25 age group in late 19th Century Ireland, stretching into the early 20th Century, with more than 11,500 deaths per year. This was at a time when, because of improved medical care, death from other diseases was on the decline. However, being prior to the advent of antibiotics, Tuberculosis was endemic in the population. 36

Mary b.25 July 1882; bp.26 July 1882

Mary Connor, a Servant, arrived in New York aboard the S.S. Majestic on 21 September 1899 and the ship manifest records that she was travelling to Mary Heeney, Flushing, New York, who had paid her fare. (Mary Heeney, nee Monaghan was an Aunt and she married Frank Heaney in New York.)

36 Ireland: Society and Economy, 1870-1914. UCC Multitext Project in Irish History. Movements for Political & Social Reform, 1870-1914. available online at www.multitext.ucc.ie

Mary Connor was widowed when she married Russell W. Davis on 22 February 1914 in Rye, New York with Patrick Connor and Catherine Rutledge as witnesses. ³⁷ She recorded her name as Mary McCall and 26 years old (she was, in fact, 32!). Russell Davis was born c.1901 in Newport, Rhode Island to a Scottish Father and an English Mother and the 1930 US Census finds Russell and Mary Davis in Rye, Westchester, New York where Russell Davis is a Chauffeur to a Private Family. They had no children.

Catherine b.11 November 1884; bp.15 November 1884

Catherine Connor also migrated to New York. No further information is known of her life there.

Patrick b.17 March 1887; bp.20 March 1887

Travelling to their brother, **Michael Connor** in Flushing, New York, **Patrick** and **Peter Connor** arrived in Ellis Island aboard the S.S. Adriatic on 12 October 1912. They both recorded that they were Grooms by occupation. The US Census of 1920 records **Patrick Connor** in Essex, New Jersey with his wife, Mary and one-year-old daughter, Catherine where **Patrick Connor** was a Foreman with a Phonograph Manufacturer. **Peter Connor** was also living with the family and was a Pipe-Fitter with the Public Services.

Nicholas b.11 March 1889; bp.14 March 1889

Nicholas Connor also migrated to the United States, arriving in New York aboard the S.S. Baltic on 23 October 1910, travelling to his Aunt, Mary Heeney (nee Monaghan). He became an American citizen in 1913 and the US Census of 1930 finds him in Queens, New York with his wife, Anna (nee Collins) and young family. He was a chauffeur with a Taxi Company.

Peter b.20 April 1892; bp.21 April 1892

Peter Connor travelled to the United States in 1912 with his brother Patrick. The 1930 US Census records **Peter Connor**, a Labourer with a Private Family, in Essex, New Jersey with his wife, Catherine (nee **McDermott**, b.1902 in Ballintemple, Co. Galway) and their young family. When he applied for American citizenship in 1943, he recorded that he had married Catherine in January 1923 and they had five children: their first-born, Patrick, was born in Long Island, New York in December 1923. Catherine (b.1927), Peter (b. October 1929) and twins, Thomas and Anna (b.1935) were born

³⁷ Her first marriage has not been identified

in West Orange, New Jersey. **Catherine Connor** (nee **McDermott**) died in New Jersey in 1961 and **Peter Connor** died in 1970.

Anne b.17 March 1895 and **Joseph** b.4 February 1897

No further information has been positively identified for **Anne** or **Joseph Connor**.

Christopher b.11 December 1901

Christopher Connor married **Mary Black** in St. Mary's Church, Drogheda on 23 October 1928 with Thomas Black and Annie Cassidy as witnesses. Christopher Connor died on 13 January 1992 and his widow Mary died two weeks later, on 1 February 1992. Both are buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Duleek.



Gravestone Memorial, Christopher and Mary Connor 38

Michael b.1 August 1854; bp.3 August 1854

Michael Connor was the son of **Michael Connor** and **Mary Shanny** and he married **Catherine Dunne** in Duleek Catholic Church on 9 August 1874 with Patrick Branagan and Margaret Monaghan as witnesses. 39

The following children have been identified and there may have been other children:

38 www.irishgraveyards.ie

39 Duleek Parish Registers. The marriage was not officially registered.

Peter	b.7 August 1875; bp.8 August 1875; Sponsors: John Connor & Margaret Dunne
Mary	b.10 March 1877; bp.11 March 1877; Sponsors: John Meadth & Jane Murtha
Thomas	b.3 May 1881; bp.4 May 1881; Sponsors: Laurence Hanratty & Margaret Magrane
Michael	b.21 March 1885; bp.22 March 1885; Sponsors: Peter Heeny & Emily Moore

Catherine Connor (nee **Dunne**) died on 28 March 1885, a week after the birth of her son, Michael, from Puerperal Fever. Death and disease caused by childbirth were commonplace before the introduction of modern antibiotics. Puerperal fever was a devastating disease. It affected women within the first three days after childbirth and progressed rapidly, causing acute symptoms of severe abdominal pain, fever and debility.

Michael Connor died on 27 July 1934 in Duleek with Senility and Cardiac Failure recorded as the cause of his death. His son, Thomas, was the informant.

Peter Connor married **Julia Clynych** in St. Columba's Church, Drumcondra, Dublin on 25 April 1909 with Nicholas Connor and Margaret Fagan as witnesses. The 1911 Census records **Peter** and **Julia Connor** with their year-old daughter, Kathleen in Duleek with Peter's father, **Michael Connor** and his unmarried younger brother, **Thomas** (27).

Mary Connor married **Michael Murray**, son of Christopher Murray, in Duleek Catholic Church on 31 May 1897 with Michael Farnan and Kate Connor as witnesses. The Census of 1911 records **Michael** and **Mary Murray** (nee **Connor**) in the village of Duleek with five children ranging in age from 12-year-old Catherine to Patrick, the youngest, who was three. Mary Murray recorded that she had given birth to six children in her marriage of thirteen years and one had died. The family were living in a two roomed thatched cottage with mud walls, designated a third-class dwelling. 40

No further information has been positively identified for **Thomas Connor**.

Michael Connor married **Mary Anne Hall** in St. Peter's Church, Drogheda on 15 September 1926. Mary Anne Hall was the daughter of Edward Hall, a Labourer, Magdalene Street, Drogheda. Christopher Murphy and Mary Kirk were witnesses. In later life, **Michael** and **Mary Anne Connor** moved to England where **Mary Anne O'Connor** (nee **Hall**) died on 21 January 1966 and **Michael Connor** was widowed over five years when he died on 25 August 1971. Both are buried in Corsham, Wiltshire.

40 This was typical of the houses in Duleek at the time



Gravestone Memorial, Mary Anne and Michael O'Connor, Corsham, Wiltshire 41

Mary Connor b.13 March 1857; bp.15 March 1857

No further information has been positively identified for **Mary Connor**, daughter of **Michael Connor** and **Mary Shanny** (and sister of **Kate Geraghty**).

Richard Connor b.20 October 1859; bp.22 October 1859

Richard Connor (brother of **Kate Geraghty**) and **Julia McGuinness** (daughter of Richard McGuinness and Ann Mallen), both from Duleek, married in St. Cieran's Catholic Church on 28 September 1884 with John Connor and Anne McGuinness as witnesses. They had one son, **Michael**, who was born on 14 August 1884 and baptised on 28 September 1884 with Joseph Kelly and Anne McGuinness as sponsors.

41 www.ancestry.com (subscription)

Richard Connor died in Duleek at the recorded age of 78 (b.c.1860) on 21 August 1938 with Bronchopneumonia and Hypertension given as the cause of death. **Julia Connor** (nee **McGuinness**) died the following year on 3 April 1939 with Senility and Myocardial Degeneration recorded as the cause of her death. Their son, Michael Connor, Drogheda, was the informant for both deaths.

Michael Connor (only child of **Richard Connor** and **Julia McGuinness**) married **Mary Collins**, daughter of John Collins, Drogheda, on 9 January 1924 with Peter Crinion and Bridget Clarke as witnesses. He became a senior representative of the Irish Transport Union and served as Lord Mayor of Drogheda in 1934. He died on 13 October 1964 in the Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda from Leukemia.

**PROMINENT LABOUR LEADER
BEREAVED**

**DEATH OF MR. RICHARD CONNOR,
DULEEK**

We extend our deep sympathy to our old friend, Mr. Michael Connor, former Mayor of Drogheda, and at one time a member of the Meath Home and Hospitals Committee which preceded the establishment of the Board of Health, on the death of his father, Mr. Richard Connor, East Commons, Duleek. The deceased had reached an advanced age. The funeral, which was largely attended, took place to Holy Cross cemetery on Tuesday afternoon.

Meath Chronicle, Saturday, 27 August 1938

OBITUARY

MR. M. CONNOR, DROGHEDA

Mr. Michael (Mick) Connor of 22 Thomas St., Drogheda, who died on Friday last, aged 80, was a former Mayor of Drogheda and, for over 40 years, one of the town's outstanding figures in the Labour movement.

The late Mr. Connor was born and educated in Duleek and he started his career in the cause of Labour as secretary of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union, which had its headquarters in those years in the old Labour Hall in Peter Street. He rose to unprecedented heights in this union and in the 45 years that he worked in the Transport Hall in Palace Street, he was known as a sincere and conscientious representative of

the working classes.

The deceased was, for ten years, a popular member of the Drogheda Corporation and in 1934 was elected Mayor of the town for a twelve-month period. During his term as the leading citizen, he welcomed the late Dr. Mannix of Melbourne to the town, and conferred the Freedom of the Borough on the eminent religious leader. The late Mr. Connor was a staunch member of the local branch of the Labour Party and on one occasion he contested a Dail seat in the Louth constituency.

He was a member of the Louth County Council, and as well as being Honorary President of the Drogheda Trades' Council, was a diligent secretary of that body for many years. Mr. Connor also took a keen interest in education and was a member of the Drogheda Vocational Education Committee. Best known, perhaps, in his capacity as organiser of the local

branch of the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union; he was personally instrumental in bringing hundreds of workers into the union's ranks. The deceased was a member of the National Executive Council of the union. For the past 15 years, he was a delegate to Royal Liver Friendly Society conventions in Britain and on the continent.

The late Mr. Connor was a member of the Old I.R.A. during the War of Independence.

An extremely popular and well-liked personality, he was treasurer of the St. Francis Men's Club in Drogheda for some years and he had taken an active part in the club's activities up to the time of his death. Mr. Connor was also a keen enthusiast of Gaelic football and attended many finals in Croke Park. A deeply religious man, the deceased was a tertiary of the Third Order of St. Francis, attached to the local Franciscan

Church.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Connor; sons, M/s. Richard, John, Michael, Peter Valentine and Anthony; daughters, Mrs. Brian McGuinness, Mrs. Geo. Workman, Mrs. Patk. Ferris, Mrs. John McQuillan, Mrs. Robt. Malone, Miss Theresa and Miss Clare Connor; brother-in-law, Mr. Thomas Collins; sisters-in-law, Mrs. Michael Kierans and Mrs. McGuirk; sons-in-law, M/s. Brian McGuinness, George Workman, Patrick Ferris, John McQuillan, Robert Malone; daughters-in-law, Mrs. Richard Connor, Mrs. John Connor, Mrs. Michael Connor and Mrs. P. V. Connor; grandchildren and other relatives.

Solemn Requiem Mass for the repose of the deceased was celebrated in St. Peter's Church by Rev. M. C. Walsh, c.c., assisted by Rev. J. Lennon, c.c., Rev. A. McInerney and Rev. M. Dorman, c.c.

The funeral, which took place to Holy Cross Cemetery, Duleek, was

attended by a large concourse of people and included the Mayor of Drogheda, Ald. Peter Moore, and members of the Corporation; representatives of the I.T. & G.W.U. from its Dublin headquarters, and officers of the local branch.

Drogheda Independent, 7 November 1964

MAYORALTY CONTEST

Labour Candidate Defeats A Republican.

Drogheda, Tuesday.—Councillor Michael Connor, a Labour representative, was elected Mayor of Drogheda at the special annual meeting of the Drogheda Corporation this afternoon.

The outgoing Mayor, Ald. Dowd (Fianna Fail) was proposed by Mr. Cullen, and seconded by Mr. P. Byrne. Ald. T. Burke (Republican) was proposed by Mr. F. Bateson and seconded by Mr. T. Carroll. Councillor M. Connor (Labour) was proposed by Mr. D. Blood and seconded by Mr. F. Dennis.

Ald. Dowd withdrew his nomination, and on a division between Messrs. Burke and Connor, the latter was elected by ten votes to eight.

Tributes to the outgoing Mayor were paid by the new Mayor, Councillor Connor, and by Ald. Burke and Councillor Cullen.

ON SATURDAY LAST, Mr. Michael Connor, 22 Thomas St., Drogheda, a former Labour Mayor of Drogheda, and Trade Union official, made his 14th trip abroad on behalf of the Royal Liver Friendly Society, when he flew out to St. Heller in Jersey.

Mr. Connor, who was accompanied by his wife, is one of 300 delegates attending the Royal Liver Conference. He will be on the island for about a fortnight.

Last year Mr. and Mrs. Connor flew to Edinburgh on the same mission.

Irish Examiner, 29 November 1933

Drogheda Independent, 16 May 1964

Late Mr. McGuinness, Duleek

The regretted death occurred at his residence of Mr. Thomas McGuinness, Downstown, Duleek. The late Mr. McGuinness, who had attained the great age of 88, had been ill for some time past. He was predeceased by his wife, Mrs. Margaret McGuinness, about 15 years ago.

He is survived by Messrs. Thomas McGuinness, Emmet Terrace, Navan; Patrick McGuinness, Richard McGuinness, Joseph McGuinness and Michael McGuinness, Downstown (sons); Miss Mary McGuinness, Downstown; Mrs. P. Moore, Larrix Street, Duleek, and Mrs. T. Martin, Donore, Drogheda (daughters). He was brother of Messrs. Richard and John McGuinness, England, and uncle of Mr. Michael Connor, Thomas Street, Drogheda, a former mayor of that town. Much sympathy is felt with the relatives in their bereavement.

There was a large attendance at the funeral which took place from St. Cianan's Church, Duleek, to Holy Cross Cemetery, do.

Obituary of Thomas McGuinness, brother of Julia Connor; Meath Chronicle, Saturday, 13

July 1963

Catherine b.25 July 1862; bp.27 July 1862

Catherine Connor, the youngest child of **Michael Connor** and **Mary Shanny**, married **James Geraghty** on 16 February 1878 in Duleek Catholic Church and this couple, along with their youngest son, are featured in the photograph introducing this article.

The family history of the Geraghty and Connor families is a common one and shared by many families, including my own, both maternal and paternal. It is a story of poor landholders – but not landowners in post famine Ireland.

It is a story of large families, poverty and subsistence. Poor living conditions and little or no health care led to high child mortality and the death of mothers in childbirth in the era before modern medicine and antibiotics became the norm.

Emigration was the outlet for many. From the devastating ravages of the famine in the mid to late 1840s many emigrated to the United States in search of a better life and lifestyle, and this wave of emigration persisted until the 1920s. Described as ‘Chain Migration’, early migrants provided the funds to bring other family members over to their new neighbourhoods and assisted neighbours and friends settle once they arrived.

It is the story of illiteracy supplanted by an educated people. It is the story of success despite the odds; the story of perseverance and resilience.

Thank you, **James Geraghty** and **Catherine Connor** for sharing your story, and ours.

Marriage Stones at Bellewstown

(by Séamus Bellew)

The recent comprehensive article, on the visit of George du Noyer in 1866 to Bellewstown, by Fiona Ahern has prompted a further examination of some of the Bellew ‘marriage’ stones. The fine investigative work by the late Enda O’Boyle and the relocation of one of the stones mentioned by Ahern merits revisiting the topic. In short ‘marriage stones’ commemorate a particular couple’s marriage by displaying the impaled arms of the husband on the left hand side and those of the wife on the right. The commemorative stones or plaques pertain to John Bellew (1522-1600) and of his three wives. John’s long life span and his three marriages allowed him to forge links with many well-known local families. The fact that his third wife had been married five times previously was not untypical at the time. He married in 1543 Margaret Plunkett, fourth daughter of Oliver, first Lord Louth. Margaret died about 1550. John then married Ismay Nugent who had been twice married before this. His third wife was Jenet Sarsfield, and John in turn was her sixth husband!

John Bellew of Bellewstown was appointed a Commissioner for the Preservation of the Peace, and good Government of the County and the Town of Drogheda, and the County of Louth during the absence of the Lord Deputy Sussex, in his expedition against Shane O’Neill, in the north parts of the Kingdom. John was seized of the Manors of Bellewstown, and Duleek, with many other lands and hereditaments in the County of Meath, which, by Recovery, and other valuable Assurances in the law, were conveyed to the Use of himself, and his wife Dame Jenet Sarsfield, for Life; and after, to the Use of him and his Heirs (Lodge 1754, iv, 166-7).

The Plaques Commemorating John Bellew’s Marriages:

Enda O’Boyle (1984, 114-16) has connected John Bellew’s three marriages with as many marriage stones. He did this by using the inscriptions beneath the coats of arms on each stone. John’s three wives were Margaret Plunkett, Ismay Nugent and Jenet Sarsfield, the latter resided at Dardistown Castle. Two of the plaques are now on the west- and east-facing sides of Bellewstown House (about one mile from Duleek). The third plaque is beneath the Barnewall cross at Sarsfieldstown (about one mile south of Julianstown on the N1).

The stone on Bellewstown House facing west has, within a wreath, the Bellew arms impaling those of Plunkett. Above the arms are the initials SIB and DMP for Sir John Bellew and Dame

Margaret Plunkett. The stone on the east-facing side of Bellewstown House has, within a wreath, the Bellew arms impaling those of Nugent. Above the arms are the initials IB and IN for John Bellew and Ismay Nugent. The stone at Sarsfieldstown has only the bottom third of the coat of arms. Clearly the ‘fretty’ indicates that we have the Bellew arms impaling some other arms. As we shall see it is reasonable to assume that the other arms are probably those of Sarsfield. The three stones each have an inscription below the coats of arms. The Bellew & Plunkett plaque and the Sarsfieldstown plaque are shown below. The three inscriptions are as follows:

THE □ ARMES	OF □ SIR	BELLEWE □
KNIGT □ AND □ HIS □ W	VES □ MAR(G)	VNKET □ ISMAY □
NVGENT □ AND □ IE	T □ SARS(F)	O □ REPAIRED □ THE
S □ STEPPES □ AND □	MADE □ THI(S)	(I)N □ THE □ YERE □
OVR □ LORD □ GO □ 1598		OF

Bellewstown Lodge (facing west) (facing east)

Sarsfieldstown

O’Boyle points out that all three stones together provide one complete inscription which should run as follows (the letters within the round brackets are uncertain):

THE □ ARMES (□) OF □ SIR (□ IOHNE □) BELLEWE □
 KNIGHT □ AND □ HIS □ W(I)VES □ MAR(GARET □ PL)VNKET □ ISMAY □
 NVGENT □ AND □ IE(NE)T □ SARS(FELD □ WH)O □ REPAIRED □ THE
 S □ STEPPES □ AND □ MADE □ THI(S □ DOOR □ I)N □ THE □ YERE □ OF
 OVR □ LORD □ GO □ 1598



The Bellew & Plunkett coat of Arms at Bellewstown Lodge The Bellew & Sarsfield Arms at Sarsfieldstown

It would be reasonable to assume that the arms impaling the Bellew arms at Sarsfieldstown belong to Jenet Sarsfield. The remaining part of the right hand side of the Sarsfieldstown plaque resembles the bottom of the fleur-de-lis, the sole charge in the Sarsfield arms. Other local evidence would also suggest that this is the case. Jenet Sarsfield is buried nearby at Moorechurch. Ahern draws attention to the Sarsfield coat of arms at Dardistown that depicts the sole charge of a fleur-de-lis. It is reasonably obviously that the right hand side of the Sarsfieldstown plaque shows the base of the fleur-de-lis. The plaque on the east-facing side of Bellewstown Lodge is now badly weathered and difficult to photograph.

Du Noyer

A detailed account of the visit by the artist, antiquarian and geologist George Victor du Noyer to Bellewstown in 1866 is provided by Fiona Ahern (2018, 147-62). Du Noyer presented his eleven volumes of watercolours to the Royal Irish Academy. Of interest in our context are his drawings No. 80 and No. 81. Both of these stones from Du Noyer's catalogue, are illustrated in figure 4 of Ahern's (2018, 158) article and these are reproduced again in du Noyer's watercolours. Du Noyer's drawing, No. 81 depicts the plaque bearing the Bellew & Plunkett arms along with the date of 1598. His notes point to the location in the wall of Mr Maxwell's house. In the water colours he describes it as a 'tablet

over the door of Mr Maxwell's Cottage near his farmyard, Bellewstown'. This is still in the same location as photographed above. Drawing No. 80 depicts the Bellew and Nugent arms and were described by du Noyer, as on the back of a garden seat at Mr Maxwell's House. **They carry the inscription 'This Barne was made | Sirr Iohne Bellewe | ...ght and Dame Isma | .. ent his wife in'. Clearly this inscription does not match or fit with O'Boyle's trio of marriage stones. This marriage stone is no longer at Bellewstown.**

O'Boyle successfully accounts for the Bellew-Nugent stone on Bellewstown Lodge that has the inscription 'of Sir | ves Mar(g) | t Sars(f) | made thi (s)'. It was on the bridge at Bellewstown when it was sketched by Austin Cooper in 1783. This drawing has been reproduced in *Cooper's Ireland* (Harbison 2000, 116-17). This Bellew & Nugent stone now at Bellewstown Lodge was not mentioned by du Noyer. So it must be presumed that it was not there when he visited Bellewstown House in 1866. O'Boyle further points out that work was carried out on the bridge over the River Nanny in 1884, so 'it was natural to expect that the plaque was removed from the bridge crossing the Nanny, which ran through the Bellewstown estate, and where better to erect it than on one of the buildings nearby?'.



The Bellew & Nugent coat of Arms at Duleek *The Bellew & Nugent Arms on Du Noyers' drawing No. 80*

So where did the plaque, on the back of the garden seat, drawn by du Noyer go? When I wrote an article (2004, 445), it was then described as a missing stone. Following the death of James Bellew

(1920-2010) 7th Lord Bellew of Barmeath in England, the stone resurfaced. So how did it end up in England? James's uncle, Sir George Rothe Bellew (1899-1993) held various heraldic positions and in 1950 he became Garter Principal King of Arms. He was tasked with overseeing the State Funeral of King George VI in 1952. He also played a key role in organising the Queen's Coronation. Bellew's successor as Garter, Sir Anthony Wagner, referred to him in his 1988 memoirs; he wrote that Bellew seemed 'in early years a temperamental, combative Irishman not easy to live with, though always possessed of great feeling for ceremonial and heraldic design and a skillful pen and pencil. In later years I have found him ever more charming'. In his retirement he lived at Farnham in Surrey, so it would appear that George, his brother or an earlier family member may have picked up the arms that once adorned the garden seat at Bellewstown. George's half-brother, Bryan Bellew (1890-1981), 6th Lord Bellew, used to periodically visit Bellewstown. So it would hardly take the sophisticated detective skills of Enda O'Boyle to piece this together! This marriage stone is now back at Barmeath.

Duleek Window

There is a similar Bellew & Nugent stone under the east window of the south aisle in the church at Duleek.. The inscription reads 'This Window was made by Sirr Iohne Bellewe Knight and Dame Ismay Nvgent his wife in the yeare of ovre Lord 1587. They must be one of the most commemorated couples, for there is a similar plaque on the bridge at Ballinacor (near Delvin, Co Westmeath) and one also on their tomb at St Nicholas's Churchyard at Dundalk. The inscription on the Dundalk tomb reads:

ERECTED BY THE FORTWORTH DAY OFF IVNE 1588 BY THE
 NVGENT HIS WIFE FOR THER BVRIALL VNT
 O WHOM GOD BE M
 APPOINTMENT AND AT
 ERCIFVL
 THE CHARDG OF [SIR IOHN BELLEW KNIGHT]
 AND DAME ISMAY
 THIS MONVMENT WAS

In a will dated 14 June 1589, John Bellew directed 'If I be buried in Duleek I will that my well beloved wife Ismay Nugent shall be moved thither at my charge' (National Archives, Bellew papers, 1121/1/10, p. 51). If Ismay's remains were removed from St Nicholas's, Dundalk to Duleek this might account for the dates of their deaths not being cut on the slab. Tempest's (1952, 279) article also concluded that the couple were likely buried at Duleek.

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Survey of Mollusca's at Newgrange

by Andrew Wright

The large passage tombs of Brú na Bóinne - Newgrange and its sister sites Knowth and Dowth are now part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They are Neolithic in age and are dated to be about 3000 years old. While all three sites have been excavated Newgrange and Knowth have been restored recently to their original appearance. Anthony Murphy on his web site <https://mythicalireland.com/> gives a good account of the tombs and has commented on the similarity between the ornamentation of the boundary stones - especially at the entrance to Newgrange and some of the common local snails of the area like *Discus rotundatus*. Whether this is true one cannot say, but in the excavation of Newgrange - see O'Kelly et. al. (1982) - a number of soils layers within the mound were discovered with substantial Molluscan remains. These layers were investigated, first by S. van der Spoel and a later, a more rigorous one, by Carol Mason and J.G. Evans in which they made shell counts on four samples (see table) from the soil layers. The reports they produce have been included as Appendices in O'Kelly et. al. (1982).

The soil layers are present as thin layers between rubble layers in the main mound and as a stone/soil layer which collected on the outside of the cairn's boundary stones - which was interpreted as "slippage" from the top of the main mound. The rubble layers are built with pebbles collected from the Boyne riverbank below the site - the excavation pit where they were collected can still be seen today.

For interest, count on molluscs on some recent soil samples from the area were taken, which could be compared with the Newgrange counts. Four samples were from mixed woodlands (mainly beech), one from light woodland, one from woodland on quarried stone from the building of the canal and one from a pile of stones in the author's garden that had been present for about ten years.

Carol Mason and J.G. Evans made shell counts on their four samples (see table) from Newgrange - their conclusions were that all the Molluscan fauna was formed in situ - with species like *Acicula fusca* and *Aegopinella pura/nitidula* generally found in woodland being quite happy in the stone pile if the conditions were right.

Table of sample counts

Species	Newgrange samples					Modern samples				
Sample	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Acicula fusca</i>		1			7					9
<i>Carychium minimum</i>									3	
<i>Succineidae</i>		2								
<i>Cochlicopa</i>	√	7	3	4	6	6	49	74	27	17
<i>Pyramidula umbilicata</i>			2							
<i>Lauria cylindracea</i>	√	22	56	3	16	242	12	8	3	3
<i>Pupilla muscorum</i>	√									
<i>Merdigera obscura</i>	√							1	3	
<i>Vallonia cf. excentrica</i>				4	2					6
<i>Acanthinula aculeata</i>								2		12
<i>Discus rotundatus</i>	√	233	139	120	332	8	16	0	2	16
<i>Vitrina pellucida</i>				1				5		
<i>Semilimax pyrenaicus</i>								7		3
<i>Vitrea contracta</i>		25	29	44	177	3	2	18	27	10
<i>Nesovitrea hammonis</i>				1	1					
<i>Aegopinella pura</i>					6		20	19	67	28
<i>Aegopinella nitidula</i>		12	8	5	40		3	20	2	10
<i>Oxychilus cellarius</i>	√	373	89	335	583	134	20	8	31	39
<i>Zonitoides nitidus</i>	√									
<i>Clausilia bidentata</i>	√	22	8	5	9	1	5		15	2
<i>Balea heydeni</i>						3	11	17	24	13
<i>Trochulus hispidus</i>		63	26	83	67			5		1
<i>Trochulus striolatus</i>						71	2	8	4	2
<i>Cepaea</i>	√	5	1	16	7	14		14	6	3
<i>Aspera cornu</i>						3				

Locations of samples

1 to 5 Newgrange passage tomb.

6 - Duleek, Meath, Ireland. Stonepile in garden. Sample taken 15/08/2019. Location: 53.652704N 6.410405E

7 - Oldbridge, Meath, Ireland. Mixed deciduous woodland with ferns/ivy on ground. Sample taken 19/03/2019. Location 53.715865N -6.373565E.

8 - Beauparc, Meath, Ireland. In moss covering rocks in light woodland next to River Boyne. Sample taken 08/05/2019. Location 53.690951N -6.593382E.

9 - Rossnaree, Meath, Ireland. Beech wood under grown with ferns on side of road. Sample taken 22/02/2019. Location 53.688277N -6.493707E.

10 - Oldbridge, Meath, Ireland. Established mixed woodland - beech - on Carboniferous shales and sandstones. Ground rocky in places. Sample taken 16/08/2018. Location 53.703863N -6.426994E

Comparison of the modern stone pile sample with the Newgrange samples shows that seven of the most common species at Newgrange - in terms of counts - are present in both - *Oxychilus*

cellarius, *Vitrea contracta*, *Discus rotundatus*, *Clausilia bidentata*, *Cepaea Cochlicopa* and *Lauria cylindracea* Comparing some of the species counts in the two samples – Newgrange favours *Discus rotundatus* – while the garden pile favours *Lauria cylindracea*. The two piles are not quite the same – Newgrange consist of rounded stones while the garden pile is of limestone rubble. *Oxychilus cellarius*, as usual, seems to be happy wherever it is! The modern stone pile has two additions *Trochulus striolatus* and *Cornu aspersum* which are not present at Newgrange but are unlikely to be absent from any stone pile today – my only conclusion is that they were not part of the local fauna at Newgrange times and introduce at a later date – certainly they both tend to be much more common as you go near to the coast – suggesting they naturally like a bit of warmth. *Trochulus hispidus* is common at Newgrange - perhaps it is replaced by *Trochulus striolatus* today in more "human" places. The Newgrange stones would be wetter as they were a buried stone pile as opposed to the standing pile in the garden. - which could also account for the large number of *Aegopinella nitidula*.

Comparison with the local woodland samples - on a positive note all of the species found at Newgrange occur today – including some less common ones - *Acicula fusca*, *Aegopinella pura* and *Merdigera obscura* and species like *Zonitoides nitidus* and *Succineidae* are still common along the riverbank today. *Vitrina pellucida* is recorded as opposed to *Semilimax pyrenaicus* – which is commoner in the area today suggesting that it is also a recent arrival. *Acicula fusca* and *Aegopinella pura* are common in the local woods - although for some reason unknown, rarely found together. On the counts of the woodland samples numbers of *Acicula fusca* are low suggesting that shells do not survive long, however the counts of *Aegopinella pura* are always high and generally the same or more than *Oxychilus cellarius* - this would indicate that if *Aegopinella pura* lived in the Newgrange rubble then the numbers of shells would have to be much higher.

The mound was built with alternate layers of cobbles (about a metre) and a soil/turf layer in between - probably to hold the cobbles together and provide a surface to walk on while stacking the next cobble layers. The mound was held in place by a series of very large boundary stons placed around its edge (see picture). In conclusion, within the molluscan fauna found in the Newgrange samples there are three faunal elements - the Molluscs that live in the mound's rubble layers after it has been built with an element of woodland species (*Acicula fusca* and *Aegopinella pura/nitidula*) and riverine species (*Succineidae* and *Zonitoides nitidus*) - which would fit nicely in the way the mound has been built - with the riverine and woodland Mollusca shells being brought in on the local materials when the mound was being built rather than living in the mound. The archology survey indicates that the some of the soil layers were made of turf - which would possibly indicate that the deforestation probably was recent as they included woodland species that would have been destroyed in cultivated soil.

On a general note the Boyne Valley is a rich haven for wildlife as it has about 120 (out of about 178 in Ireland) different species of molluscs, which include 8 of Endangered (E) species, 12 Vulnerable (VU) and 5 near threatened (NT) from the Irish Red List (Byrne et. al. 2009). Three species present - *Vertigo angustior*, *Vertigo moulinsiana* and *Myxas glutinosa* are protected under the EU Habitats Directive Annex II.

Some pictures of shells found in the Boyne Valley



Discus rotundatus - the most likely shell for matching the Newgrange patterns - also very common in the samples



Acanthinula aculeata, *Acicula fusca* (brown and white forms) & *Vertigo moulinsiana/lilljeborgi*