

1975

HISTORY OF CLONASLEE

COLLECTED BY THE

Boys of Clonaslee Boys School



5th & 6th Class Clonaslee BNS 1975



Clonaslee Hurling Team 1910
Clonaheen Feis.

Back Row: Owen Dunne Dan Molloy John Large Jim Naughton Tom Kean
Tommy Blake Paddy Kean Peter Doolan Jim Mc Cann
Centre Row: Lar Costello Bill Conroy Bill Dunne Joe Kennedy
John Troy Tom Higgins Jim Egan
Front Row: Mick Dunne Mick Mc Cann(Capt) Hugh Mahon.

THE PARISH OF CLONASLEE

The parish of Clonaslee or to give it its old name Kilmanman lies in the barony of Tinnahinch. It is in the north-western angle of County Laois. One half of it is good for ploughing and the other half is good for grazing.

There is an old chapel in Kilmanman. It was named after St. Manman. St. Manman built the church in the seventh century. Later it was knocked down. Then another one was built and it is said the Danes attacked it. There is a graveyard around the old church and long ago the graveyard stretched around the fields all around Kilmanman. There are supposed to be 8,000 people buried there. The old bell of Kilmanman is at the back of the present church built in 1813. Kilmanman is a place where everyone interested in history goes to find names on tombstones.

All the O'Dunnes of Brittas are buried in the vault. The vault is a dark room under the church. There is an old rusty gate leading into it. My grandfather, my great grandfather, my great grandmother, and my sister are buried in the graveyard. Very few people are buried there now.

About two miles from Kilmanman, St. Manman built a monastery in Lahoil and called it Corrigreen. There is a tunnel going from Kilmanman to Corrigreen which St. Manman used. There are very few buried in Corrigreen now. A spur of solid gold was found there long ago. There is a barrow there called 'The Giant's Grave'. Catholic clergy celebrated Mass in Corrigreen just after the Penal Days.

THE OLD MILL

There was an old mill where Oliver Hyland's forge is now. The ruins of the old wall are still there. The mill pond stretched from there to the back of the new houses across the road. That is how the Mill Pond Bush got its name. The old mill is long since gone.

RESEARCHED BY DECLAN MAC CANN.

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THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

St. Manman's church was built in the year 1813. In 1771 a chapel was built in the village of Clonaslee. The old chapel was a humble thatched building. It stood close to the site of the present Catholic church. The district chapel in the Penal Days was called the old chapel of Brittas. It stood inside the former demense wall of Brittas. The first church built in Clonaslee was that founded by St. Manman in the seventh century. St. Manman is the patron saint of Clonaslee.

RESEARCHED BY MATTIE CONROY

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THE CHURCH BELL

The bell which stands in the front of the church was brought here from the church of Daingean in Co. Offaly. The old bell set at the rear of the church bears the date 1720. It previously hung in front of the church until it was renovated in 1955. St. Manman's church was built in 1813 when the pastor was Rev. Thadeus Dunne. The three altars are made of Clonaslee cut stone. The main altar was a gift of Rev. John Egan, P.P. Los Angeles in 1955. The altar of the Sacred Heart was donated by the Sacred Heart Sodality in 1957 and the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary was the gift of Elizabeth Kennedy of Delmar, U.S.A.

RESEARCHED BY JOHN JOE MAC EVOY

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CLONASLEE SCHOOL 1824

John Maher was the teacher of Clonaslee School in 1824. The School opened on the 9th of January 1824. It was held every day except Sundays and holydays. He was a Catholic. He was born in 1781. He taught spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, english grammar, book-keeping angles, measuring and algebra. He was educated in the county of Laois. He was only on his first year in 1824, he had not been paid yet and is uncertain what he would be paid. The only pay he expects is that from the children. He is paid the following: spelling 2/2 (IIp), reading 2/2 (IIp), writing /3/3 (I6p), arithmetic 4/4 (2I½p), all per term. 6 children are taught free. John Maher's own house is used for the school. It was very small. There were only two rooms. He had to teach the children in one of the rooms. It was only thirteen feet by fourteen feet. It was a comfortable house. He paid three pounds yearly rent for the house. He is not connected to any society. It is not visited regularly by any protestant or catholic clergyman. Boys' attendance is 55, girls 23. Protestant 6, Catholics 72. The school was on for a part of the winter of 1823. 15 in 20 could read. In general it took a child 6 months to read. The books are : 6 Primmers, 46 Spelling Books, 10 Reading made easy, 1 Meditation, 1 On Love of God, 2 Robinson Crusoes, 1 Tales of the Castle, 1 New Testament, 3 History of England, 1 Scripture History, 1 Captain Bligh and many more books. No steps had been taken to make Protestants of Catholics or Catholics of Protestants. Samuel Dunne had three children by a Catholic woman. But she was not his wife. He said the children were to be brought up as Protestants.

John Maher said the school had been gradually increasing with pupils. He believed it would continue if he had more room. The parents thought he was a good teacher. They regretted that he had not any more room. He was a very hardworking man. Both religions were taught daily in the school.

RESEARCHED BY JIMMY MAC REDMOND from a report in 1824.

CLONASLEE CHURCH OF IRELAND SCHOOL 1824

There was a school opened in Clonaslee in 1817. Henry Webb the teacher was 32 years of age. The school was open every day except Sundays. He was a good person. He was educated in Ballyfarrell in Co. Offaly. The year's income was 34. There were two acres attached to the school for the teacher's use. There were four rooms in the schoolhouse. Two of the rooms were thirty feet long and twenty feet wide. One was for the boys and the other was for the girls. There were also two rooms twenty feet long and fifteen feet wide. The walls were built with stones and bricks. The school would have cost about £300. General Dunne was the patron. He used to visit the school. The attendance in the year 1824 was : in Summer 26 boys and 14 girls, in winter 30 pupils came. In the winter of 1823 30 pupils came. 10 pupils could read. It took 9 months to make a pupil read. The books they had were: 5 New Testaments, 10 copies of Mrs Trimmer Abridgement of Scripture, History which relates to the Old Testament, 4 copies of Gough's and Voster's arithmetic, 2 Aesop's Fables, Entertainment Medley, Arabian Nights, 17 small books, the alphabet, spellings and xxx reading.

RESEARCHED BY JOHNNY CONROY SHRADUFF



In the year 1810 Eliza Martin opened a school in the townland of Brocca. She was a catholic born in 1774 the year before Daniel O'Connel was born. She was 50 in 1824. She had a good character and was educated in the parish of Clonaslee. Her Income was a promised 2d. The School was 13 feet by 10 feet and was her own home. It was not connected with any association and had no visitors or patron. The attendance of the school in Summer 1824 was 6 pupils all catholics 3 boys and 3 girls. In the winter of 1823-24 there was no school probably because it was too cold and in the summer of 1823 8 went to school 3 of the pupils read. In the school there were 6 primmers and 3 universal spelling books.

RESEARCHED BY JIM KENNEDY.

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BALLYMACRORY SCHOOL 1824.

Daniel Smyth opened a school in Ballymacrory in 1824. He was a Catholic. His income was about £6. The school was built with much mud and stone. The attendance in summer 1824 was boys 24 and girls 16. They were all Catholic. Nobody told him to build it. He built it on his own accord.

RESEARCHED BY RAYMOND HOGAN.

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CORBALLY SCHOOL.

Dunne

John (Dunne) was the teacher. He was 50 years of age. He was educated in the town of Mountmelick in the county of Laois. He was paid £6 per year by the parents of the children who went to the school. The walls were built with stone and Lime and the roof was tatched it was 18 feet long and 15 feet wide. It would have cost about £12. In Summer 1824 there were 26 boys and 12 girls there were 2 protestant 36 Catholics. In the winter of 1824 8 children went to school. There were 6 Universal spelling books 4 Arithmetics one new testamit and 6 Catholic

RESEARCGED BY LIAM MURRAY.

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COOLAGH SCHOOL 1824

The teacher's name was John Dowling. He was born in 1802. He was a Catholic. He was a good person and was taught in Co. Offaly. He was not connected with any association.

In the summer of 1824 there were 18 boys and 13 girls in the School. 31 were Catholics. Only 3 out of 20 could read. It took about 10 months to teach a child to read. In the school there were only 4 copies of Fenning's spelling books, one volume of the adventures, 10 primmers, 5 Catholic Cathechisms, 2 Voxter's arithmetic. The school opened in 1822.

RESEARCHED BY KEVIN HOGAN.

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CLONASLEE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE SCHOOL 1824.

The Reverend Thomas Dunne Parish Priest opened a Christian Doctrine School in Clonaslee. Its curate was the Reverend William Keenan. It was open on Sundays and Holydays throughout the year. The hours of attendance in Winter were as follows, 10 to 11 o'clock in the morning. In Summer the hours of attendance were 3 to 5 o'clock in the evenings. The lessons were held in the Chapel of Clonaslee. This School was in connection with the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrement and Christian Doctring established in 1790, out of which Masters and Mistresses were appointed by the Parish Priests and members of the Parish. The average attendance in Summer 1824 was boys 240, girls 200. They were all Catholics. In the Winter of 1823 only 200 pupils were present. In the Summer of 1823 there were only 400 boys and girls present at the school.

The Library consisted of 10 Volumes of Pious books with ample catechism.

RESEARCHED BY LIAM CONROY.

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CLONASLEE BOY'S SCHOOL

The present boy's school was built in 1952. Before that the old school was in Chapel Street. It was built in 1832 one year after the first National School was built. At that time it was for boys and girls. In 1910 the girls' school was built and then the school in Chapel Street was for boys only. When the new boys' school was built in 1952 John Dunne owned it. Then in 1955 Hogans came into it.

RESEARCHED BY DECLAN MC CANN.

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CLONASLEE GIRLS' SCHOOL

This school was opened in 1910. Some of the first girls to come to Infants in the then new school were: Lizzie Breslin from Glenkeen, Kate Hennessey, Dora Westman, Kathleen Foynes, May Reddy and Lizzie Troy. Before this all the girls had gone to the same school as the boys.

RESEARCHED BY JOHNNY CONROY.

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AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN MR. BRICKLEY (FIRST HEADMASTER OF CLONASLEE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL) AND WILLIAM CARROLL

W. Carroll: Can you remember the day the school was opened ?

Mr. Brickley: The school was opened on the 11th October 1937.

W. Carroll: Who were the builders of the school ?

Mr. Brickley: The Foynes Brothers, James Foynes of Brocca and his late brother Denis.

W. Carroll: Who opened the school ?

Mr. Brickley: The school was opened officially by the then minister for education, the late Mr. Derrick in Spring 1938.

W. Carroll: Who sold the plot for the school ?

Mr. Brickley: The plot was sold by Mr. Furlong of Ashbrook.





PLACENAMES OF CLONASLEE

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- Afoley : Ath Foley : The Ford of the Foleys.  
 Augha: The field for horses. Each :horse  
 Ballykaneen: Baile Coinin: Townsland of the rabbits.  
 Ballinakill: Baile na Cille :The townland of the Church  
 Ballinahemmy: Baile na h-Ime: Townland of the lime kilns.  
 Ballinahown: Baile na h-abhann; townland of the river.  
 Ballinalug: Townland of the hollow.  
 Ballyfarrell: townland of the Farrells.  
 Ballymacrory: townland of the Mac Rorys.  
 Barradoos: Barra Dubha: the black peaks.  
 Bollair: Bo lair: The cow pasture.  
 Bunastick: Bun na staice: The bottom of the stack.  
 Boyle: Bo Fhail: the cow cliff.  
 Brogula: the townland shaped like a boot.  
 Brittas: named after Brittas O'Dunne.  
 Brocagh: townland of the badgers.  
 Capparogan: the red plot or field (cappagh; field)  
 Cappasteen: the little field.  
 Castlecuffe: the castle of Cuffe Coote.  
 Caislean Mhic Dhuibh: castle of the devil's son (castlecuffe)  
 Clarahill: Clar coille: the woody tableland.  
 Clonaslee: Cluain na Sli: the meadow by the way.  
 Cloonagh: Cluain Each : the meadow for the horses.  
 Clonaghmore: the big meadow for the horses.  
 Clonabeg: Cluain Each beag : the little horse meadow  
 Clonlyn: Cluain lan: the full meadow  
 Coolnaboughlan: Cul na bo cluain: the back of the cow meadow.  
 Coolagh: the back of the hill.  
 Coolnabanch: Cul na Bainse: the back of the park.  
 Derrinray: Doire Tra; the oaks on the strand.  
 Corbally: Cor Baile: the odd townland.  
 Cush: the soft land.  
 Coolnamoney: Cul na mona: the back of the bog.  
 Garryheather : the upper plots.  
 Glebe: the tableland.  
 Glendine Gleann Doimhin : the deep glenn.  
 Glenkeen : the upper glen.  
 Gorrough : Garbhach : the rough land.  
 Graiguefulla: the bloody hamlet or village.  
 Graigue : the hamlet or small village.  
 Killart : the church of Art.  
 Killmanman: the church of Manman.  
 Larragin: the hillside  
 Rathcoffey: Coffey's Rath.



Reary : the fort of the kings.  
 Ross : the peninsula or piece jutting out.  
 Scaroon : the scar in the rocks  
 Shracullen : the field by the river where holly grows.  
 Tinnahinch : Ti na h-Inse : the house at the river mouth.  
 Derries : the oak groves  
 Fordress : the ford of the waterfall.

RESEARCHED BY MISS POWLES.

THE STORY OF OUR SURNAME.

THE STORY OF OUR SURNAME.

- McCann: The McCanns were lords of Cinnal Aonghusa or Clann Breasail on the south side of Lough Neagh in County Armagh.
- Rogan: The name O'Hogan is a Dalcaissian family who came from Coserach, the uncle of Brian Boru and had their home in Tipperary.
- Conroy: This name should be Conrahy or Mac Conn Reatha (son of Conn the Runner). After the massacre at Mullaghmast Conn O'Dunne was sent with an urgent message to his homeland of Myrogan. His first stop was at Clonrocher Castle, two miles west of Portlaoise. He continued his journey in haste delivering his terrible message and from his furious pace he became known as Conn Reatha and from him the Conroys are descended.
- McEvoy: The McEvoy's were one of the seven septs of Laois. The name comes from the Irish Mac Shiodhbuidhe and probably means the son of a woodman.
- Kellys: Kellys were one of the most powerful families in Connaught and ruled over wide territories in the counties Galway and Roscommon which they held down to the reign of Elizabeth. Then they were dispossessed and dispersed throughout Ireland.
- Hyland: The name Hyland means a wolf. Hyland was a common surname in Laois and Offaly from where it spread to other parts of Ireland.
- Kennedy: The name of at least two families in Ireland. One of them comes from Cinnacrog, a nephew of Brian Boru, and they came from East Clare. The second family were a branch of the Li Maine in Galway. The name is now very common throughout Ireland.

- Culliton:** Son of Coolachan (sleeper). It was the name of an old family in Carlow and Wexford. The Culliton family I am related to has been in Heary for about 100 years.
- MacRedmond:** Mac Macnoian: Son of Redmond. A personal name introduced by the Normans. A name of a branch of the Bourkes.
- Carroll:** A very common Irish personal name. There are several distinct families of which O'Carroll of Eily is best known. They come from Cearbhaill, lord of Eily who fought at Clontarf. Eily is part of the present Offaly.
- Leonard:** This surname is very rare in Ireland, nearly all our Leonards being of native origin.
- Moynes:** A family of this name settled early in Meath. This name often occurred in the list of mayors of Limerick in the 13th and 14th centuries.
- Fitzpatrick:** The principal family of this name are the Mac Giolla Patricks of Ossory. In early times they ruled over all of Kilkenny and some of Laois. Branches of the family settled in Clare, Cavan, Leitrim and other parts of Ireland.
- Doyle:** Dubh Ghall: the black foreigner: Doyle is a very common Irish surname and doubtless of Danish origin, but it is mostly found in the maritime counties of Leinster and Munster. It is also found a lot in the neighbourhoods of old Danish settlements.
- Murray:** Murray means seaman, mariner and also a lord. The Murrays came from Mayo, Roscommon, Westmeath and Cork.

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A BISHOP FROM GRAIGUEFULLA

In a small house at Graiguefulla, Clonaslee was born the second bishop of Albany, U.S.A. Little was known of his career until two U.S. visitors to Clonaslee promised Rev. Fr. Thomas Ryan P.P. that they would make enquiries on their return. True to their word they did so and their research has shown that Bishop Conroy was a great worker for God. Bishop Conroy attended the last Vatican Council in 1870.

When returning to his diocese in 1870 Bishop Conroy visited his birthplace and offered Mass in the house where he was born. Bishop Conroy was the immediate successor of Most Rev. Dr. McCloskey as bishop of Albany.

The house in which he was born was Rourke's of Graiguefulla. There is a photograph of Bishop Conroy still hanging on the wall.

RESEARCHED BY WILLIAM CARROLL.

1. To John Kerevan contractor to keep in repair for three years 886 perches of the road from Mountmellick to Frankford, between General Dunne's gate and the bounds of King's County, 5cwt of broken stones per perch per annum at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d per perch per annum £3-4 -7 $\frac{3}{4}$
2. To James Peyton to keep in repair for two years 541 perches of the road from Mountmellick to Parsonstown, between James Johnsons of Brittas and the bounds of Castlecuffe. £2-19-2
3. To Thomas Bell to keep in repair for one year 925 perches of road from Parsonstown to Mountmellick, between James Hanleys in Rosenallis and Tinnahinch bridge, 2 ton of broken stones per perch., at 2s 6d per perch. &£28-18-1
4. To Daniel Fisher, to keep in repair for three years, 607 perches of road from Mountmellick to Parsonstown between Tinnahinch Bridge and Gorrough Bridge, 15 cwt of broken stone per perch per annum at 8d per perch per annum. £5-1 -2
5. To James May, to keep in repair for three years, 450 perches of the road from Mountmellick to Parsonstown, between Gorrough Bridge and the pond of Shraduff, 15cwt of broken stone per perch per annum. £3 19 8
6. To William May, to keep in repair for three years, 624 perches of the road from Parsonstown to Mountmellick, between the bounds of the Kings County and Mr. Baldwins of Castlecuffe, 8cwt of broken stone per perch per annum at 4d per perch per annum. £ 2-12-0
7. To Andrew Keating to keep in repair for three years, 886 perches of the road from Mountmellick to Frankford between General Dunes Gate and the bounds of King's County at 8d per perch per annum being so much left off by mistake last assizes. £5-17-4
8. To William Condon, to keep in repair for three years 636 perches of an embankment on the road from Parsonstown to Phillipstown, between William Dunne's of Brocca and Patrick Hanafys of Cush at £15 per annum. £7-10-0
9. To William May, to make 122 perches of a footpath on the road from Tullamore to Clonaslee, between John Leonard's house at Brocca and the Chapel Gate at Clonaslee. To be finished on the first of October. £7-12-6
10. To William May to keep in repair for three years, 617 perches of road from Roscrea to Tullamore between Coolagh House and the bounds of King's County, 8cwt of broken stone per perch per annum at 3d per perch per annum. £3-17-1

DESERTED CHILDREN

11. Off the parish of Rosenallis: To Messrs Richard Bailey and James Fitzgerald for the support and maintenance of five deserted children for one year ending Summer Assizes £13-0- 0
12. Off the parish of Kilmanman: To Messrs Thomas Lane and Joseph Lane for like, of one deserted child for one half year £2-0-0
13. The cess payers (ratepayers) in the Barony of Tinnahinch in the year 1845 were: 1. John Davis, Johnsgrove, 2. Rice Meredith Junior, Rearymore, 3. Patrick MacEvoy, Castlebrack, 4. Pierce Malone, Derry, 5. John Hipwell Ballyhuppahawn, 6. John Conroy Ballinakill, 7. Robert Deverell, Maclone, 8. William Delany, Roskeen, 9. John Holton, Scaroon, 10. Richard Davis, Corbally, 11. Patrick Mooney, Monaquid, 12. Henry Webb, Clonaslee.

EXTRACTS FROM 'SUMMER' ASSIZES 1845'

II

These extracts were taken from a book called 'Summer Assizes 1845'. It was found in the attic of my uncle's (Louis Culliton) house when they were knocking down part of it. There were Merediths living in the house before my uncle's grandfather bought it. Rice Meredith Junior's name was written on the back of the book. He was one of the ratepayers in 1845.

RESEARCHED BY BRIAN CULLITON.

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THE FIRST PUB IN CLONASLEE )--AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. POOLE.

INTERVIEWER: MICHAEL CULLITON.

M. Culliton: How old is the house?

Mrs. Poole: About two to three hundred years old.

M. Culliton: When did it become a pub?

Mrs. Poole: A licence was got for it first in 1672. Before that it was a post office owned by two Miss Webbs.

M. Culliton: Was there anything else sold there?

Mrs. Poole: Groceries were sold here then.

M. Culliton: What were the general measures at that time?

Mrs. Poole: They were the same as they are now, but at that time it was the custom to buy half a gallon of porter and share it around.

M. Culliton: Was there anyone else working here at that time?

Mrs. Poole: It was a family run business.

M. Culliton: Was there any difference in the opening and closing times?

Mrs. Poole: At that time a bonafide traveller (someone who lived more than three miles away) could get a drink at any time of the night.

M. Culliton: How was drink delivered?

Mrs. Poole: The breweries delivered by horse and float and the whiskey came full proof and had to be diluted down and it came in bulk by barrell.

M. Culliton: When was the petrol pump put up?

Mrs. Poole: In 1956 or 1957.

M. Culliton: Why did your grandfather send away for a hotel licence?

Mrs. Poole: It was necessary to accomodate travellers and it was the only way he could get a pub licence.

M. Culliton: Was your grandfather in Australia before he got a hotel licence?

Mrs. Poole: He had spent nine or ten years there and then he came home.

M. Culliton: Have you any record of prices then?

Mrs. Poole: Yes. From old bills: a cwt of flour cost 9/3 (48p) in 1910, a pint of whiskey cost 2/8 (14p), in 1910.

M. Culliton: Have you any from before 1910?

Mrs. Poole: There's one here for 1890. A pint of whiskey cost 2/4 (12p), half a barrell of porter cost 16/6 (83p), half a cwt of flour cost 7/6 (37p).

M. Culliton: Thank you very much Mrs. Poole.

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THE WATCH HILL

There is a hill near our house called Watch Hill. This is because people used to watch from there for the soldiers during the Penal Days when Mass was said. I went up there once and you can see for miles around. There is a big pot up there. It is overgrown with grass and weeds. It was used in the time of the Famine to boil Indian meal. It was a 'famine pot.'

RESEARCHED BY BRIAN CULLITON

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1. Kedagh Dunne was made parish priest of Rosenallis, Rearymore and Kilmanman in 1678. He was born on 3rd of February 1645. He was ordained at Navan in 1669 by Dr. Patrick Plunkett, Bishop of Meath. He lived at Cappard. His sureties were Bryan Dunne of Corbally, Barony of Tinnahinch and Roger Conrahy of Skerry also of Tinnahinch. Roger Conrahy was a farmer. Fr. Kedagh died on the 6th of July 1714 and was buried at Reary churchyard.
2. Rev. Bryan Dempsey succeeded him. After ten years he was moved to Monastrevan where he died on the 8th of December 1754. He was then 67 76 years old and was buried at Harristown, Monastrevan.
3. The Rev. John Keenan became P.P. when Fr. Dempsey left. He lived at Derry in the parish of Rosenallis and died on the 10th May 1734 and was buried in Reary.
4. The Rev. Valentine Dunne presided over the parish from 1737 to 1780. He was a native of Clonaslee and he lived near the castle of Coolnamoney. He was a chancellor of the diocese of Kildare. He died on the 22nd May 1780. He is also buried at Reary. In March 1770 the parish of Mountmellick was formed over which Fr. Thady Dunne was made P.P.
5. The Very Rev. Dr. Patrick Dunne V.G. became P.P. on the death of Fr. Valentine Dunne. He was changed to Kilcock in 1793 and died there in 1796. On the removal of Patrick Dunne the parish was divided into two parishes, Clonaslee and Rosenallis.
6. John Stapelton D.D. was made P.P. of Clonaslee. He lies buried at Clonaslee church and on his grave is the following inscription: He died on the 23rd of August 1810 at 60 years of age.
7. In 1811 Fr. Thady Dunne who had been P.P. of Rosenallis since 1802 received charge also of Clonaslee which was again united with Rosenallis. He was a native of Clonaslee and was born about 1768. His studies were in the College of Lombard in Paris. On his return he was on duty in Dublin. In 1802 he was made P.P. of Ballon in Carlow but he immediately, with the consent of the Bishop exchanged parishes with James Conran then P.P. of Rosenallis. In 1813 he built the present big church in Clonaslee. He died on the 6th of April 1828 at the age of sixty and was buried at Reary. When he died the parishes of Clonaslee and Rosenallis were again separated.
8. Rev. Michael Graham who had been curate for a long time was then made P.P. of Clonaslee. He died on the 11th of August 1848 and was buried in the church where an inscription after recording the date of his death says that: "by his will he left £300 to improve the education of the poor of the Parish".
9. The Rev. Richard Cullen was the next P.P. He died in March 1844.
10. Rev. Andrew Phelan was his successor. Fr. Phelan died in 1847.
11. Rev. Richard Buggy was the next P.P. He died in October 1864.

PARISH PRIESTS OF CLOWASLEE 1678 to 1975(continued)

13

12.Next P.P. was Fr.Michael Kenny who died on the 4th October 1884.

13.He had for his successor Rev.Thomas Moloney who died in 1903.

14.Rev.P.Maher retired from illness 1903 - 1907.

15.Rev.Thomas Byrne was P.P. from 1907 to 1913.

16.Rev Fr.Murray was P.P. from 1913 to 1947.His house went on fire and he was burned in it.

17.Rev Fr.Thomas Ryan was the next P.P.He was changed to Abbeyleix.

18.Rev Thomas Mahon was the next P.P.

19.The present pastor is the Rev.Fr.Kehoe P.P.

RESEARCHED BY PAUL DOYLE MARCH 1975.

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AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN WILLIAM CARROLL AGED 12 AND HIS GRANDFATHER AGE 84

William Carroll: I'm going to ask you about prices when you were young. How

much was a pound of butter?

Mr.Culliton: It was seven pennies (3p) a pound.

W.Carroll: How much was a pint of stout?

Mr.Culliton: You would get six pints for a shilling (5p).

W.Carroll: How much was a house?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay £70 for a three roomed house.

W.Carroll: How much was a cart?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay £2.10s for a cart.

W.Carroll: How much was an ass?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay £3 for a good ass.

W.Carroll: How much would you pay for a horse?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay £8 for a horse.

W.Carroll: How much was an ounce of tobacco?

Mr.Culliton: 3d (1½p).

W.Carroll: How much was the tax on a house?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay 6s. (30p) tax on a house for one year.

W.Carroll: Who owned your house in Brocca before you?

Mr.Culliton: Ned Conroy of Graigue owned it before us.

W.Carroll: How much was a cock of hay?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay 6s. (30p) for a cock of hay.

W.Carroll: Did you breed your own chickens?

Mr.Culliton: Yes, we bred our own chickens.

W.Carroll: What did ye feed them on?

Mr.Culliton: We fed them on turnips or potatoes.

W.Carroll: How much were chickens a pair?

Mr.Culliton: They were 2s. (10p) a pair.

W.Carroll: How much was a pig?

Mr.Culliton: You would pay £4 for a reared pig.

W. Carroll: How much was a suck pig?  
 Mr. Culliton: You would pay 7s. (35p) for a suck.  
 W. Carroll: What would you feed them?  
 Mr. Culliton: Mainly pollard or potatoes.  
 W. Carroll: How much was a loaf?  
 Mr. Culliton: It was 6d (2½p) for a 6 pound loaf.  
 W. Carroll: How much was sugar a pound?  
 Mr. Culliton: It was 2d (1p) a pound.  
 W. Carroll: How much was a pound of meat?  
 Mr. Culliton: It was seven pennies (3p) a pound.  
 W. Carroll: Thank you very much.

INTERVIEWER: WILLIAM CARROLL.

THE STORY OF OUR HOUSES 1975.

MY HOUSE BY JIM KENNEDY FONAISTICK.

Our house was built in 1968. It was built by Thomas O'Rourke. My Daddy plastered it and my Uncle Tom did the plumbing and electrical work. We moved into it on January 24th 1969.

MY HOUSE BY TOMMY CONROY BROCCA

~~Our house was built in 1933. Mr. Jim Foynes built the house. It had four rooms in it at first. We added a room to it in 1961 and a kitchen and a bathroom. My grandfather and grandmother did not live in it when it was built. They moved into it in 1935. The house was built of riversand, stones and mortar. The materials then were not as good as they are now.~~

MY HOUSE BY PAT HYLAND BALLINAKILL

Our house is 300 to 400 years old. Conroys lived in this house before Daddy bought it. There were four generations of Conroys. Martin Conroy who lived here sold the site for the present Boys' School to Fr. Murray P.P. There were 8 Conroys in family. One of them joined the British army and was last heard of around Dublin. Daddy bought the house in February 1957.

MY HOUSE BY BRIAN CULLITON REARY

Our house was built in 1962. It was built of cement and bricks, I think. There was a piece with a flat roof added on about 3-4 years ago. There was a back kitchen added on last year.

MY HOUSE BY LIAM MURRAY COOLINABOUGH DAN.

Our house is about 200 years old. People by the name of Gilligan lived here before my grandfather did. The time my grandfather lived here there were crickets behind the fireplace.

MY HOUSE BY WILLIAM CARROLL SHRACULLEN.

We moved into our old house in 1949. Bill Westman owned it before us. John Howard built it. It was badly built because at that time times were not so good. It was built for a workman. We left it in 1969 and moved into our new house.

MY HOUSE BY JOHNNY CONROY

My house is about thirty years old. The walls are solid. We are the only ones to have lived in it. The name of the townland it is in is Shraduff.



## MY HOUSE BY JIMMY MC REDMOND CLONABEG

Thomas Rourke's grandfather built our house. It was built about 20 - 22 years ago. There are no bricks in it. It is cork lined. Thomas Rourke the builder brought the lime down in a pony and cart.

## MY HOUSE BY LIAM CONROY AFOLEY§

Our house was built in 1911. My father bought it from the late Thomas Martin in 1964. The house is 6 3 years built. There are some bricks in the house.

## MY HOUSE BY JOHN JOE MAC EVOY COOLNAMONEY

Our house is very old. Before we lived in it John Howard lived in it and before him a family called Mays lived there.

## MY HOUSE BY THOMAS MAC REDMOND CLARAHILL

Our house is about a 100 years of age. Before we lived in it Mr. and Mrs. Downey lived there. They were uncle and aunt to my grandparents. Mrs. Downey kept her hens in a press in the kitchen.

## MY HOUSE BY JOSEPH FITZPATRICK BALLINALUG

Bill Gorman lived in our house before we did. He went to Australia. He died there. We moved to it in November 1964.

## MY HOUSE BY PAUL TOYLE BROCCA

Our house was built in 1958, 17 years ago. It was built 6 years before I was born. O'Rourke's built it first but Murrays built on the extension in 1969 six years ago. It was built of concrete blocks.

## MY HOUSE BY MICHAEL CULLITON BRITTAS

Our house was built about twenty years ago. We were the first to live in it.

## MY HOUSE BY EDDIE LEONARD

I heard that our house was a thatched house long ago. Mahers owned it before us and they had it for 7 years. Before Mahers owned it Joe Conroy owned it. He was the hearse driver and it was a horse drawn hearse. There is a shed at the back of our house called the hearse shed. The house is about a 100 years old.

## MY HOUSE BY MATTIE CONROY GRAIGUE§

Our house is about 300 years old. There used to be a family called Davis living there. The next family to live there was Keegans. My father's uncle, Edward Conroy lived there then. It is still in the Conroy family. Around 1922 it was believed there was a man buried in a field in Graigue. It is believed that there was a graveyard at one end of the house. The bottom story of the house used to be partly underground. The hall door was upstairs. But in later years the ground was bulldozed from around the house and the front door was moved to the ground floor.

## MY HOUSE BY JOHN PAUL JUNNE BROCCA

Our house was built about three hundred years ago. Before we came to it Murphys lived in it. Before that Corbets lived in it. It had three rooms. It had a galvanise roof but before that it had a thatched roof. It was built of mud and stones. We are building a new house now. We are going to use the old house as a cowshed.

## THE STORY OF OUR HOUSES(contd)

## MY HOUSE BY DECLAN MC CANN CHAPEL STREET

Before our house was built there was an old house there built in the 18th century. My father was built in it in 1923. So was my Uncle Jim R.I.P. There was only a kitchen and bedroom in it. The old house was shut up and in 1958 my father knocked it down and built our house. If you dug up our lawn you would see the kitchen flags of our old house.

## MY HOUSE BY CHRISTY KENLY SCARON

Our house was built about 1945. It was built by the Land Commission for two old people, Mary and Paddy Brophy. They never lived in it. They stayed in their old thatched cottage. They left the house to us when they died.

## MY HOUSE BY KEVIN HOGAN CHAPEL STREET

Our house was built in 1832. It was a school for a hundred and twenty years. The school was built of stones. The boys and girls brought in sticks every morning for the fire. John Dunne bought it when the new boys' school was built. Then we bought it. Mr. John Bates was headmaster of the school for a long time. Mrs. Frank Dunne was teaching in the school for a long time too. One of the teachers had had vegetables in the school garden.

## MY HOUSE BY PAUL MAHER MAIN STREET

The Post Office is a very old building. I do not know when it was built. Miss Guinan owned it once. She was the post-mistress for several years in Clonaslee. After Miss Guinan's death Miss Josephine Cleary was appointed postmistress in Clonaslee. She later married Mr. Kavanagh. Mrs. Kavanagh retired from the post office in 1956. Mr. Dermot Connolly then became postmaster in Clonaslee. He was appointed postmaster for Abbeylisk and my father became postmaster for Clonaslee in 1958. Mrs. Poole's house was the post office a long time ago.

## MY HOUSE BY MIKE FOYNES BRACCA

Our house was built in 1615. Dunnes lived in it first. The Malongs lived in it then. Then the Brad's lived in it. Our house was never knocked down.

## MY HOUSE BY MARTIN DUNNE TINNAHINCH

Our house was built in 1805. There was a room built on to it in 1965. There was a porch built on to it in 1967.

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LOUGH ANNAGH

Lough Annagh was the only natural lake of any size in Laois. Some of the lake was in Offaly. It was three-quarters of a mile in length and half a mile wide. The lake was drained in 1850. When it was drained a crannog was found in it. There was a causeway from the shore to the crannog, known only to the people who lived in it. Any slip on the causeway would mean death because the causeway was very narrow. Another way out to the crannog was by boat. Several dugout boats were found by Colonel Dunne when he was draining the lake. The boats were twenty two feet long. The tool or tools used in making the boats must have been very sharp because the woodwork was very thin and smooth. It is said the crannog was used by the Irish in the rising of 1641 from where they went out at night to raid. There is hardly any water in the lake now.

RESEARCHED BY TOMMY CONROY.

The family of the O' Dunnes of Brittas is a very old family. From time immemorial the family has settled in Hy Regan or now the Barrony of i Tinsinch. Until 1923 when it was taken over by the Land Commission. The $\frac{1}{2}$ tribal lands still remained in their possession though greatly reduced by forfeitures and confiscations.

They were one of the familys from Offaly descended from Ros Failighe son of Gathaii Mor. King of Ireland. State paper show that they were a powerful tribe and as far back as 1329 they with the O'Dempseys made a raid into the territory of Melaghlin O Connor when 200 of the farmers and 60 of the latter were killed. Their territory though isolated was covered with thick forests on the south like a wall by the Slieve Bloom Mts and was an object of desire to the Norman Invaders.

They Intermarried with the O'Neills, O'Mollays, O'Carrolls and Fitzgeralds and Le Poers and the connections thus gained often use in trouble times.

In 1379 David O'Dunne who was chief was treacherously killed he was succeeded by Rory who died in 1427 who was followed by Lyneagh O'Dunne. Around this time the Castle of Castlebrack was built as the home of the Taniste. While Tinnahinch remained the chief residence of Tadgh Mac Lenagh. Tadgh Og Tadgh Rua Tadgh Og Fusus succeeded each other down to Tadgh Rogha son of Tadgh Og Ruscus at the end of Elizabeths reign when Tanistry was abolished for surrendering and regrant (which meant surrendering your land to the king and he gave it back but keeping some for someone else) Tadgh Rogha on Jan 16th 1609 surrendered his land to the king and in march got a regrant of a portion considerably less than that held by his ancestors.

The grant shows the rents and sustoms to which the chief was entitled from minor O'Dunne families called Campynny. The total rent's and customs were money 47s. Beeves 36 Cronachs and (~~customs-were-money~~) of oats 432. Cakes of bread 268. Dishes of butter 89, basins of malt 76, basins of wheat 12, quarters of beef 4, Horse bags diet 68s. The chief was also entitled to a death duty for every camphynny and certain t~~ss~~nsland had to render hook-days and plough-days. The land's seemed to have been over 15,000 statue acres.

When Tadgh Rogha got the re-grant his brother Charles T.C.D. tried to have him dispossessed as being to weak such an estate and succeeded in having Tadgh's children excluded from the property in 1640. Three years after Tadghs death his nephew Barnaby Og obtained from Charles I an estate in Common Sorcage (Subject to the conditions of the plantation) one being that he should not style himself. Fox or O'Dunne. This estate comprised many of the townland held by Tadgh Roaha. That ended the direct line The inheirtence howerer was continued through Barnaby Og. The son of Brian of Meelick of Brittas third brother of Tadgh Rogha. Barnaby had to fly from Brittas He took refuge in Dysart Enos and escaped his enemies. About this time the O'Dunnes took and burned Castlecuffe a castle built by Sir Charles Coote on part of the Dunnes estate given to him.

The Dunnes also took a prominent part in the Catholic Confederation especially Danial of Tinnshinch upon his head was £400. Under the Cromwellian Plantations there were fresh forfeitures. Barnaby Og was permitted to retain part of his estate but that the property of the branches was confiscated. 18

RESEARCHED BY JIM KENNEDY.

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#### THE DUNNE PEDIGRE

1. Milidh Espainne was one of the first milesians to come to Ireland.
2. Eremon, In, Eibher, were three son's of Milidh Espainne.
3. Cathaoir Mor was king of Ireland in the second century he was son of Eremon.
4. Ros Faile was a son of Cathaoir Mor, who was killed in meath in 1,2,3.
5. Riagan was tenth in line (father to son) from Ros Faile.
6. Donn Meaming a hill or fortress was third down from Riagan.
7. Amhailgadh son of Donn was the first to assume the surname O'Duinn
8. Seineach 13th in line (father to son) from amhailgadh.
9. Teig Son and heir of Seineach (Teig Mac Seyney).
10. Teig Eldest son of Teig was chief of his name and married lady Margaret O'Neill Daughter of Sean O'Neill.
11. Teig eldest son of Teig and Lady Margaret became blind in 1593.
12. Teig of Castlebrack Prince of Origan and chief of his name.
13. Byran
14. Barnaby son of Byran
15. Terence of Ballinakill
16. Edward Dunne
17. Francis Dunne
18. General Edward Dunne
19. Colonel Francis died in 1878. He had two daughters now dead.

RESEARCHED BY JOHN CONROY BROCCA.

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THE COAT OF ARMS OF O'DUNNES

The coat of arms of the O'Dunnes was a sentry sleeping against a tree, being awakened by a lizarB crawling across his face. According to the legent a lizard saved the castle. And the red hand of Ulstar. The red hand is included in the coat of arms because one of hugh O'Neills sisters married one of the O'Dunnes. A Junior brach of the O'Dunnes were the Corbet-plunketts, one of whom was Cliver Plunkett, bishop of Armagh, according to a family tree of the O'Dunnes seen at Britt as before 1942. The main branch of the O'Dunnes were called the Fox O'Dunnes. One of the O'Dunnes took up a lawsuit against another O'Dunnes to stop him from taking the title of Fox. Also on the coat of arms was the war cry of "nullach abu", which means "the hill forever."

RESEARCHED BY MICHAEL DUNNE.

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Teige Oge O'Doyne, Son and heir of Teige O'Doyne, who was

chief of Ireland; Teige Oge married first about the year 1570, he married Margaret who was the daughter of Shane O'Neill, Prince of Ulster, who was son of Con O'Neill The first Earl of Tyrone. Margaret had a son his name was Teige Reagh O'Dunne who was born in 1577. Teige Oge was later divorced from Margaret and he married a daughter of Redmond Fitzgerald of the country Kildare. Teige Oge had several children with Redmonds daughter but nothing of their descendants has been discovered. Thady O'Doyne was making remarks about Teige Reagh not being fit to rule over so strong a county and (with the O'Neyles and Macluyer) so ready for a rebellion as Iregane was because of his said alliance with the O'Neyles and MacGuyers and that he helped the rebellion out of the North to Leinster and that he was in company with Brian Reaghe at the burning of his Magestys fort Phillipstown and at the burning of Kilcullen as well and that he was with Brian Reaghe when he was killed. Thady said to that he was in Conaght with Owny MacRorie (O'Moore) and robbing the town of Marbouroughe. He was now 37 years of age and had still been fighting will likely return to his wanted practice. Teighe Reagh would not be secure to rule over such a wild county and so ready for revellion. Margaret daughter of Shane O'Neill was being kept by the said Thady in his house and he had many sons with her. The first son was born before the parents were married and he could not inherreted the property after Thady died. It appears from an Inquisition taken at Murboroughe on 17th of May 1628 that this Teige Oge O'Doyne died on the 28th of October, 1637, when it was found that Edward Doyne aged 18 years and 2 months was his next relative and he had the right to his property. From this it appears that the issue of Teige Reagh, son of Margaret O'Neill and of his half-brothers, were set aside by the government but it has not been proved how this Edward Doyne was related to Teige Oge O'Doyne. Cormac who was the second son of Teige O'Doyne the III had a son Donnell who had the remainder of the Castle of Roskyne and 60 acres of land belonging to his grandmother Elizabet Fitzgerald; but there was no account of his descendants. Brian the third son had a son Baraby was his name or Brian Oge who obtained a patent from Charles I, for a considerable estate in the barony of Tinnehinch. This Brian Oge who was compelled to reject the O, and style himself Barnaby Dunne died on the 17th of November in year 1661, leaving a son whose name was Charles Dunne who lived in Brittas. Charles Dunne LL.D.YC.D. the fourth son of Teige O'Doyne did not have any sons he made his last will and testament on the 2nd of April 1617 and after his death his property in HY!Regan was claimed by his eldest brother who survived him by many years. In Lynchs MS. History of the Irish Bishops amongst those who are there stated to have been reconciled with the Catholic Church by father Roche Mc Geoghegan after wards Bishop of Kildare, was his own relative Richard O'Doyne. son of the lord of Dooregan who had been sent for his education to Cambridge, where he attained to the highest honours, but lost his faith. Returning to Ireland he was appointed PROVOST OF Trinity College, Dublin.

TINNAHINCH CASTLE

Tinnahinch Castle was probably built in the thirteenth century. At a court in Portlaoise in 1637 it was said that Charles Dunne owned Tinnahinch Castle. It was the chief stronghold of the O'Dunnes until it was attacked with artillery by Colonel Hewson. He was the Cromwellian co commander. After holding out it gave up in 1653 when it was blown up. This is why there is hardly a trace of it to be seen. The map of 1654 shows the town and castle.

RESEARCHED BY CHRISTY KELLY.

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THE BATTLE OF TINNAHINCH.

In 1691 a detachment of Jacobite troops, numbering 800, were sent from Athlone to capture the town of Mountmelloch, then held by Williamite forces. These forces consisted of 300 regular troops, 50 horse and some 120 militia raised by John Weaver of Ballymaddock, and commanded by Hopton Harris of Mountmellick. Hopton Harris was one of the many landowner's attainted by James parliament. James force of 800 regular troops was increased by 500 Raparees, who joined them on the way. On hearing of the approach of the Jacobite force, Major Wood with a detachment of regular troops and some horse, and Lieutenant Jarris with his band of militia left the town by night to take them by surprize. They divided there forces, Wood with his infantry and horse made a detour in order to catch the Jacobites, he found the enemy posted in a very good position on rising ground close to Brittas. He himself was in a precarious position, to advance was dangerous, to entrench themselves on the steep banks of the harrow. For untrained troops they held their position well and fought until help arrived from Mountmellick. When Major Wood arrived with his detachment of infantry and horse and attached the Irish in the rear, they werethrown into confusion and 150 of their men were killed and their chief officers taken w prisoner. They retreated the regular troops they e went back to Athlone, the Raparees sought refuge in the Sliabh Bloom Mountains. Many of the Miliary who had boren the fighting were slain and their leader Leutenant Harris was wounded.

RESEARCHED BY CHRISTY KELLY.

BALLINAKILL CASTLE CLONASLEE.

It was built sometime prior to 1534 because it was mentioned in that year. It was greatly strenghtened with a most and outworks in 1680 by Colonel Terence Dunne. It is still to be seen between the Gorrough and Clodiagh river, Terence O'Dunne w owner of Ballinakill Castle fought in the following wars. Boyne, Limerick, Athlone Aughrum in the years of 1689 to 1691. He was wounded at the battle of Athlone.



It was built sometime prior to 1594 because it was mentioned in that year. It was greatly strengthened with a moat and outworks in 1680 by Colonel Terence Dunne. It is still to be seen between the Gorrough and Clodiagh rivers. Terence O'Dunne fought in the following battles: Boyne, Limerick Athlone and Aughrim in the years 1689 to 1691. He was wounded at the Battle of Aughrim. On his way home, being wounded and weak he fell off his horse. His horse came home to Clonaslee, jumped the gate which led to the castle and beat his hooves off the door of Ballinakill Castle. Terence was carried home by the O'Gormans who had fought in the same battle. He died at Killoughey, two miles from Clonaslee. He was buried in the ancient and historic monastery grounds of Killeigh of St. Sincheall, a sixth century saint.

RESEARCHED BY PAT HYLAND.

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GENERAL EDWARD DUNNE 1771 - 1844

General Edward Dunne is said to have sold out a considerable part of his estate to purchase the commission of general but he refused to go to the battle of Waterloo. It is said he had to stand his trial in England where he proved or attempted to prove that the letters which ordered him to prepare for the Battle of Waterloo were intercepted by his wife and he didn't see them. This however is considered not proved. Some even thought because he didn't go to the battle that he was a coward. This was strengthened in the minds of some by the fact that he allowed the rebels of Wicklow, under Garret Byrne, to be fired upon and murdered, on the Curragh in 1798 after they had laid down their arms. At the same time he received his own rebels of Dooregan to mercy at Tullamore. The General was known to his neighbours by the nick-name 'Shun Battle Ned'.

RESEARCHED BY PAUL DOYLE.

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THE O'DUNNES FROM 1844.

The Right Hon. Francis Plunkett Dunne who succeeded his father in 1844 was a Privy Councillor in Ireland, a Major-General in the army and private secretary to the Lord Lieutenant 1858-1859. He was M.P. for Portarlington 1847-1857 and for Queens County 1858 to 1868. General Dunne took a keen interest in the objects of

the Royal Society of Antiquarians, Ireland, and he was engaged up to the time of his death making collections of the history of the O'Dunnes.

He died not married on the 6th of July 1874 and was succeeded by his brother Edward Meadows Dunne of Brittas who married on the 12th September 1835 Marriane, daughter of Langford Rowley Hyland of Glen-daragh, Co. Antrim, and they had three sons.

Francis Plunkett Dunne of Brittas who succeeded was High Sherriff of Queen's County 1878. He married on the 22nd of October 1873, his cousin Frances Jane, daughter of Rev. Robert Dunne, by whom he had a son, Francis Plunkett who died young and two daughters, Alice Maud and Kathleen Plunkett.

Mr. Dunne died on the 2nd of October 1878 leaving his large place to his daughters to be divided equally. These ladies sold the Brittas estate in 1898 to their uncle Robert Hedges Dunne who died in 1901. The ladies got back Brittas estate and resided at Brittas House until the estate was taken over by the Irish Land Commission about the year 1923 or shortly before.

RESEARCHED BY TOMMY CONROY

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A LETTER FROM THE LAST OF THE O'DUNNES TO MR. JOHN TROY

June 23rd/49.

Dear Mr. Troy,

I am sending you to-day the inscription which I would like put on the memorial cross for the late Mr. Kinloch, Mr. Cottingham and my uncles.

Mrs. Upton would like a very small cross carved on top of the stone and particularly wants her father Colonel Kinloch's name spelt with an 'h': ~~Kinloch~~ ~~Kinloch~~ Kinloch and not a K.

Please also put 2 'Ts' in the Plunkett.

I am sending you a cheque for £1 - 10 - 0 for keeping Killyane in order and will send you this sum every 1st May.

I hope I have made everything clear.

Yours truly,

Kathleen P. Dunne.

IN MEMORY

OF

FRANCES JANE KINLOCH

DIED JULY 7th 1943.

WIDOW OF FRANCIS PLUNKETT DUNNE

DIED OCT. 1878 OF BRITTAS

AND OF LT. COL. KINLOCH

DIED FEB. 1916.

ALICE MAUD COTTINGHAM

DIED MARCH 14th 1946

WIFE OF A. D. A. COTTINGHAM

ELDEST DAUGHTER OF FRANCIS PLUNKETT DUNNE.

)))-----(((

FRANCIS PLUNKETT DUNNE

DIED AGED 3 YEARS

AND OF

ROBERT H. P. DUNNE DIED JAN. 12th 1901

FRANCIS P. DUNNE DIED FEB 1901

CHARLES P. DUNNE DIED JULY 1925.

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## CASTLECUFFE CASTLE

Castlecuffe Castle is two miles west of Clonaslee. Sir Charles Coote built the castle in the reign of Elizabeth I. The castle was very strong and hard to capture. The castle was first built as a manor house. The castle was the only castle in Clonaslee not owned by the O'Dunnes. It was given to Sir Charles Coote by the Queen in 1560. Charles Coote married a girl called Dorothea a daughter of Hugh Cuffe of Cork. The old name of the townland was Baile na Sagart which means the townland of the priests. The land where the castle was built was taken off Teig Og O'Dunne. When the Cromwellian War broke out Charles Coote declared for the parliament and Daniel Dunne declared for the Confederates. O'Dunne went out to Castle to set siege to the castle. He was unable to capture the castle. He went off and cut a large ~~tree~~ tree. He cut off the branches and blackened the tree with fire. He had the tree drawn up in front of the castle by a gun-carriage. When Coote saw it he surrendered. O'Dunne let Coote and his soldiers go to Birr where a relation of his was staying. O'Dunne took all



the riches and arms and then set fire to the castle. The castle was never rebuilt after that. Coote had another castle in Ballyfin. The castle is now Patrician College Ballyfin.

RESEARCHED BY TOMMY CONROY.

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SOME OLD CENSUS RETURNS

- 1765 The following account of Hyregan was sent in by the Rev. Thomas Hackett, Protestant curate of the parish, by order of the House of Lords in the year 1766.
An account of the inhabitants of the Union of Oregon containing the town of Mountmellick, the parish of Rosenallis, Castlebrack, Rearymore and Kilmanman in the diocese of Kildare and Queen's Co. Number of ~~XXXXXXXX~~ acres in the parish: 11,368. Number of Protestants: 1899. Number of Popish inhabitants: 5806. Popish priests: 5.
There is not one justice of the peace in the whole parish or barony.
- 1819 There were 2150 houses and 2240 families.
There were 1783 families employed in trade manufacturing.
There were 6379 males and 3622 females.
- 1831: The population of Kilmanman was 3186 and of these 2672 lived in the rural district.
- 1837 The parish contained 5817 statute acres of bog and mountain.
- 1841: The census gave 4565 living, 787 houses.

RESEARCHED BY PAUL MAHER

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THE LOW BACKED CART

The low backed cart was out in the 17th century. The two solid disc wheels lay under the body of the cart and were fixed to an axle not made of iron but wood. The wheels were not more than two feet in diameter. The number of horses in Ireland are said to have been reduced when the spoke wheeled cart took the place of the low backed cart.

Most Donegal farmers used the low backed cart up to 1821.

My uncle, Jimmy Conroy found a bit of a low backed cart. He found it in 1974 about fifty six inches down in the bog. So if a bog grows two feet every hundred years this bit of wood must be about two hundred and twenty five years old.

RESEARCHED BY JOHNNY CONROY.

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THE COUNTY BRIDGE

The County Bridge is between Cadamstown in the parish of Kinnity and Clonaslee. It is a bridge that joins two townlands, two parishes, two counties and two dioceses. The bridge was blown up in 1920 by the I.R.A. It was blown up not to let the Black and Tans across. The bridge was built up again soon after that. It was built by a man called Paddy Kennedy R.I.P. grandfather of Jim and Martin Kennedy who come to this school. There was a girl killed at the bridge in 1965.

RESEARCHED BY TOMMY CONROY.

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A fort is a high rise of ground on which grow trees and bushes. There is one in our pasture, some very ancient trees grow on it. About thirty white chorns and some crab trees. The branches of those are twisted in such a way that they appear to be there for a considerable number of years. In the summer time it is lovely to sit in the shade of the sun and yet more beautiful to look at them when all are covered with flowers. No one meddles with those trees as the old people believe the furies dwelled in those hills or raths. About eighty years ago a girl belonging to this place went out late one evening to cut nettles in this fort and the fuire came out and gave her a beating with the nettles. Those trees are a great cover for birds to build their nests in and to perch themselves on the branches to sing in the mornings. Larrigan townlands got its name from this fort on rath. This was collected by my father Peter Hogan in 1930.  
 Researched by Raymond Hogan.

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 AN OLD RATH

There is an old rath in Ben Egan's field. It is about sixty perchs from the high road. It is a circle surrounded by oak trees. Ben Egan is not allowed to plough inside the ring. Mrs Gaffney was churning one day and an old fairy women called in for a drink of milk. Mrs Gaffney put a grain of salt in it but the fairy refused to take it. She then asked for silver but Mrs Gaffney said she had'nt a bit of silver. "You have a sixpence under an egg stand on the dresser," said the fairy. Mrs Gaffney gave it to the fairy thanked her. Wrote by Denis Morris.  
 Reserched by John Paul Dunne.

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 HIDDEN TREASURE

An article written by Peter Hogan around 1930. There is suppose to be a treasure of money hidden in Ballafulla in Laurence Lynches farm. In a thicket of bushes there is a large stone which no one can move around this stone there is always a circle or path on the grass which seems as someone passes around it. Often times at night when people are passing the road leading to Killoughey lights or fire can be seen around this spot. The late old Daniel Doyle of Larrigan often told this to the young people.

RESEARCHED BY RAYMOND HOGAN.

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 A HEDGE SCHOOL

There was a headge school in Reary in Peter Redmond's fiels and the field is called Pats field, because the teacher who thought there was Pat Malone he had about fifteen pupils attending him and they used to have to bring four pennies every Monday and three sods of turf and two blocks of timber to burn a fire in the cold Winter days. The House was made of big Poles covered with straw under a shady tree.

Told by Mrs Dowling aged about 80 years and Joship Mooney Clonaslee.

RESEARCHED BY MICHAEL CULLETON

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Many years ago a lot of lime was burned in Clonaslee. There is one townland in Clonaslee called Ballyinahemmy which means Lime Kiln. Even to this day these old ruins standing still. The lime kiln are two feet in diameter and ten feet high. On one side there is a square hole which goes all across under the lime kiln. The floor of the lime kiln is about six inches off the ground. In olden times lime was always used for the building of houses. Cement and concrete are being made and we need hardly any lime.

BY ANDREW CONROY  
RESEARCHED BY TOMMY CONROY.

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#### HIDDEN TREASURE

About three miles south of Clonaslee on the top of the cut bog on the left side of the road as you go up there is a big round hole with a black thorn bush in the middle of it. On one side of it there was supposed to be steps there but when I was there I could see no trace of any. This place was called the Robbins Den and in it they used to keep their gold. In another place in western Tand there is a small road hill. It is said that some man buried gold there long ago and the Fairies took charge of it. Until this day no one could touch the gold. A man by the name of Kavanagh with some more men put in half a day digging for it. When they had reached the box one of the men hit it with a spade, then balls of fire came up out of the box and they had to run to Carrolls the fire followed them and they disappeared. The gold was never touched since.

Collected by Andrew Conroy from James Westman Glendine in about 1930.

RESEARCHED BY BRIAN COLLITON.

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#### A GREAT CLIMBER

About 55 years ago a man called Mick Tynan, nicknamed 'The Giant' put a tri-coloured flag on a tree at the cross of Coolagh and another one on top of Castlecuffe Castle which never could be got down until the wind blew it away. He put another on a tree in the chapel yard called a monkey puzzle which no one else was able to climb. Many people had tried to climb it and failed because it had big thorns all around it.

RESEARCHED BY JOHN CONROY

There was once a hedge school in Buckle Roe there was a master in it and his name was David Haughnessy. The Children had to bring a sod of turf that was to pay the master for his instructions. One day the Children had to bring four chamption potatoes each, one of them and a head of cabbage.

One day a boy came without bringing anything. The master told him to go home and get something. But the father said to him you might as well stay at home because you are learning nothing That night the father went and killed the teacher wgile he was f fishing at Killart bridge and he died at Killart under a bush and that bush is called Haughnessy's bush ever since.

Told to me by Jack Dunne Clonaslee aged 67 years. Written by Edward Smith Clonaslee.

RESEARCHED BY KEVIN HOGAN.

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A THATCHER AROUND 1930

My father is a thatcher. He thatches every four years or five. The first thing is done he gets the load of straw and puts it a certain height off of the ground and then he throws water on it. There are one or two men shaking it out and putting the head and butt even and to ether and putting it in little tidy small bundles so that it will be easily carried.

He gets the scallops when the sap is gone down in them. A scallop is a piece of and ash or a hazel stick which he gets in the wood and pares and sharpens both ends on it. He has 'all ready before he statrs to thatch. He has the scallops in a sheaf or a scallop holder and he has all ready and is ready to thatch. He has the ladder on the house and knee sheaf up middle ways in the ladder and the mallot along with the scallop holder, and a tiny bundle of thatch at the bottom of the ladder and he is ready to thatch. He thatches with oaten or wheaten straw he never thatches with barley straw because it is two short and weak. I carry the straw to him up the ladder in tiny neat little bundles and he puts on the thatch and gets the mallot and hits it a few wallops in the middle and bends it with his hands and makes a two grain fork out of it and puts it down through the little piece of thatch and continues doing that until he has the house thatched. To finish the house the thatcher puts a line across to the eve of the house and cuts it even across to finish the house. The above was written by my Uncle Bernard around 1930.

RESEARCHED BY GERRY McREDMOND.

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Fraughan Sunday on the last Sunday of July each year and in years gone by it was looked upon as the most enjoyable Sunday of the year. All the local people young and old assembled to a place where Fraughans grew to pick an the fruit and afterwards the evening was spent in singing and dancing. The local place around my place to pick Fraughans is on the cut on the portin of the Slieve Bloom Mts. It is covered with Fraughans and a whole lot of black on them and they are delicious to eat. Here the people from the neighbouring townlands assembled. Old people of seventy years of age down to the youth of tender years and the old Irish stories were gone through. The youth danced with all the delight of youthfull days to the old men and women. The youth danced to the music of some good old flute players. But the old men and women had to do the part as well. What a grand old sight it was to see the old Irish people dance, break downs and some good old Irish dances. The soft music of the flutes, and the merry laughter of the youth and the jolly old songs by the people who were something truly Irish. The women would appear with the white and check aprons, and the could lilt and sing.

This was written by James McCann around 1930.

LOOKE UP BY WILLIAM CARROLL.

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A LOCAL HERO.

There was a lad one time whose was Pail Phelan. He was the best in Ireland. But he was caught once, and arrested, in Rosenallis. He went with them quite peacefully till he got to Mountmellick square. "So llok out my boys, young Phelan cries for I am the mountain hare. He travelled very strong through Irishtown but the huntsmen soon saw him. They let loose their six black dogs. Some of them cross cutted him. While others laid a snare. For one long month they thought to hunt our charming Mountain hare. The sargents name was Barry boy's. And is to the present day. First he lost his title. Likewise reduced in pay. He wore three strips on his cuff. But now his jacket's bare. He may long lament. The day he spent Hunting the mountain hare.

Fatigued and tired he had a smile for every one he did meet. The hardest would tremble. When he was going through the street.

Written by Denis Morris.

RESEARCHED BY THOMAS McREDMOND.

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