

UNCOVER & REDISCOVER YOUR LOCALITY

A Donegal County Museum
and Donegal Volunteer Centre
Community Project



UNCOVER & REDISCOVER YOUR LOCALITY

In December 2020, Donegal County Museum was delighted to partner with Donegal Volunteer Centre to create the 'UnCover & ReDiscover Your Locality' community project.

This community project encouraged the project participants to find out and share with us what they had they uncovered or rediscovered about their locality and their ancestors. Heritage is a very broad term and includes natural, built and cultural heritage. The varied and eclectic submissions we received came from all over County Donegal, England and the USA.

We would like to thank all those who participated in this project, joined us for the Zoom sessions or viewed these recorded sessions online and a very special thanks to all those who sent us their submissions.

We would especially like to thank John Curran and Eamonn Bonner from the Donegal Volunteer Centre who enthusiastically encouraged, organised, supported and participated in the project.

Funding for this booklet was provided by the Community Resilience Fund as part of the Healthy Ireland KEEP WELL campaign. Healthy Ireland is an initiative of the Government of Ireland with funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund and the Sláinte care fund delivered by Pobal.

For more information see

www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/healthy-ireland

For information on Healthy Donegal visit:

www.donegalcoco.ie/community/healthydonegal/keepwellcampaign

www.donegalcoco.ie/community/healthydonegal

www.facebook.com/HealthyDonegal

www.instagram.com/healthy_donegal/

www.twitter.com/HealthyDonegal

We hope you enjoy this booklet!

Caroline Carr
Donegal County Museum

DONEGAL VOLUNTEER CENTRE

Donegal Volunteer Centre is a service that matches up people thinking of volunteering with non-profit organisations looking for new volunteers to get involved.

Donegal Volunteer Centre offer the following services:

- A Free Volunteer Placement Service - we offer a free volunteer placement service to organisations.
- A database of opportunities for volunteers to view volunteer opportunities in their locality.
- Email and telephone support with our staff on the how, why and where of volunteering.
- Support, advice and information on Policy Issues to volunteer involving organisations.
- Training on involving volunteers.
- Help with developing new projects involving volunteers.
- Advice and information around best practice issues when involving volunteers
- Garda Vetting Service for organisations who do not have access to their own Authorised Signatory.

Visit www.volunteerdonegal.ie

or call John / Eamonn on **074 91 26740** for more info on how we can help you volunteer.

DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM

Donegal County Museum is based in an old stone building, which was once part of the Letterkenny Workhouse, opened in 1845. The exhibition in the first floor gallery tells the story of County Donegal from Prehistory to the Twentieth century. In the ground floor gallery we hold a series of temporary exhibitions throughout the year, which cover a wide range of topics.

The museum also hosts a series of talks and events during the year on topics as varied as history, geology, archaeology and flora and fauna.

Donegal County Museum, High Road, Letterkenny, Co Donegal, Ireland

Admission is free

Telephone number: **+353 74 9124613**

Email: museum@donegalcoco.ie



Find us on: **facebook.** Donegal County Museum



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FOREWORD

The team in Donegal Volunteer Centre were delighted to facilitate this project as a partnership between Donegal County Museum, Healthy Donegal and our myriad of volunteers across Donegal.

The project began as a suggestion from our Steering Group, to make peoples walks within their Covid-19 restricted 5km areas more interesting, by guiding our volunteers to UnCover & ReDiscover their local Heritage.

We reached out to get support from the Donegal County Museum for a few online sessions and such was the interest and enthusiasm from the volunteers and our friends in the Museum that we are now in a position to publish this miscellany of eclectic and wonderful stories, poems and pictures, all discovered by our volunteers and others who have contributed to it - we thank you all for your contributions!

We are indebted to Caroline Carr from the Donegal County Museum who has informed, led, supported and edited our efforts in publishing this booklet.

We are further thankful for the support and funding received from Healthy Donegal/ Healthy Ireland, which is a Government initiative which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in Ireland.

Lastly, as always, we are humbled by the efforts of our volunteers to engage with and support Community Projects like this.

Best Wishes from

John, Eamonn & Damien

Donegal Volunteer Centre



TOM QUINN & MARY LYNCH



Tom Quinn was born December 25, 1883 in Listannagh, St Johnston, Co Donegal.

Tom was in Court when he was 11 years old, he was on the licensed premises of Annie Lynch of Drumbeg, Raphoe during prohibited hours, this was the White Cross Inn.

Tom married Annie's daughter Mary Lynch on the 8 October, 1914 in St Johnston.

Tom was a Scutcher by trade and eventually bought a farm in 1935. Tom and Mary had 11 children, one son died in infancy. They are both buried in Raphoe.

On July 1921, Tom Quinn was listed as a member of H Company, Whitecross Division, No 2. Brigade, Northern Division of the Irish Republican Army.

In January 1927, Tom was a member of the AOH (Ancient Order of Hibernians) Division 186 in St Johnston.

The White Cross Inn was listed the Record of Protected Structures for County Donegal, Ref No 40906203.

Described as a detached three - bay two-storey thatched house built c. 1825 with six-bay single-storey outhouses to right-hand side, two-bay single-storey extension to left-hand side and extension to rear, c. 1985, now a public house.

The White Cross Inn was destroyed in a suspected arson attack in 2005.

Submitted by Mary Browne



ST JOHNSTON SCHOOL NO 2



St Johnston National School No 2 was built around 1880, the first inspection was on the 17th of October 1883. The principal was Mr Rodger McGinley, assistant teacher was Ms Ellen McGinley. In 1909 a party was held in the school for about 90 local children for New Year's Day to encourage them to attend school. By the 1920's the school was in bad condition and a new school was built in 1931. Mr Sean McBride became principal



of the New School, called St Baithin's School. He wrote the song Homes of Donegal.

When the old school closed the building was used for parish functions. The Silver Circle Draw was held in there, the local Social Services used the building as a laundry for the elderly people living in the community, the first automatic washing machine in the area was there, and local people came to see the machine used. The local AOH group stored their musical equipment in the building, First Communion tea was served there too.

The parish priest allowed the Sacristan and his family to live there. The last member of the family died in 2005, the building has been deserted since then.

Submitted by Mary Browne

THE SHRINE BUNDORAN



Bernie Finlay, a gentle and very religious man, suffered from a severe medical condition which deteriorated as he reached his sixties. As he had a particular devotion to Our Lady, he made a vow that if his prayers were answered and he recovered, he would build a Shrine dedicated to her at the bottom of the garden.

He did indeed recover and true to his word commenced construction of this Shrine in 1955 and which is still standing today. It was built exclusively with volunteer labour on the understanding that all those who contributed in any way to its construction would

be rewarded by having their names recorded on a scroll placed in a time capsule in its base. A list of the price of everyday commodities was also included.

The Finlay household in the Ross was known as 'A Rambling House' and on certain special religious occasions all those in the house were 'invited' outside to the Shrine in the garden to participate in the Rosary and the subsequent 'Trimmin's' that to a young lad seemed to go on interminably.

Submitted by Brian McNulty

THE ROSS ROCK BUNDORAN

In the year 2000, during the construction of the present Loughlin's Cottage, it was decided to relocate the rock from its original position directly in front of the house to an alternative site. During the process of transportation, the heavy rock broke from its moorings as it were, landing solidly as if by its own choice in its present position, where no doubt it will remain for many generations to come.

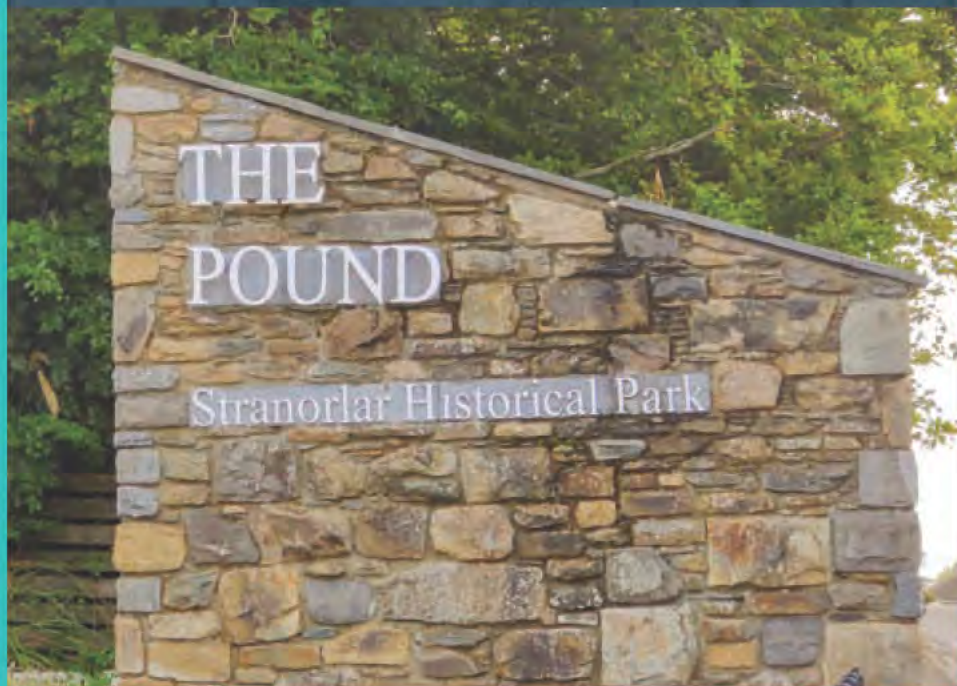
In 2012 'The Ross Rock' was painted green and gold in recognition of the Senior Donegal Football Team who were playing in the All Ireland final that year. It was a good omen as Donegal was victorious. Subsequently, stone seating and tree trunks were added to keep the rock company.

In 2020 with the onset of Covid 19, the pastoral delights of the country walk around the Ross Rock has become a favourite for tourists and locals alike and the Ross Rock has become a landscape feature that provides a perfect backdrop for family photographs, gaining for itself a deeper significance with each passing year.

**Submitted by
Brian McNulty**



THE POUND, STRANORLAR HISTORICAL PARK



Within my Covid-19 5 km limit, on the East of Stranorlar is The Pound. It was established c. 1630 and was used to house impounded animals seized by landowners for non-payment of rent. If the rent remained unpaid, the animals would be sold and the money received offset against the tenant's debt. If the rent was paid the animals would be returned.

Use of The Pound continued until 1870s and the introduction of the Land Acts, which empowered the tenants to become landowners and reduced the control of the landed gentry. The practice of impounding animals in place of rent arrears ceased in the early

1900's. Local merchants and the Courts continued to seize animals from debtor farmers and hold them until the debt was cleared or reduced.

Another practice was grazing "the long acre" (along the grassy roadsides). The police force and Courts took a dim view of this practice and impounded animals found along the roads in The Pound.

The importance of The Pound is shown in the street running along it known as Pound Street to this present day.

Submitted by Kathleen Phelan



In 2010 the Stranorlar Town Action Group undertook a project to commemorate The Pound and two of Stranorlar's residents by erecting bronze statues in their memory, Left: Isaac Butt (1813-1879), the Father of Home Rule, and Right: Frances Browne (1816-1879) the Blind Poetess of Ulster.



ARRANMORE 1931-1933

MEMORIES OF YOUNG ROSE WARD JOSEPH

When I was 3 and Frank was 4, my mother decided to take us from the USA to Ireland to show us off to her family. We lived with my Grandmother Rose O'Donnell Sweeney (1873-1946) in Ballintra, Arranmore.

She had a small cottage that consisted of 3 rooms with a tamped earthen floor and a large black hearth. My Grandmother was the healer of the island. She prepared poultices and herbs for healing various diseases, she delivered babies and she prepared the dead for burial. Once a month if the sea was calm, a doctor or nurse would visit the island.



We had Saturday night baths in front of the hearth and used the barn for the toilet. Whenever Frank or I needed a haircut, a bowl was put on our heads, and our hair was cut around it. The Sweeney Uncle's took us up into the mountains on a donkey and a cart where they cut turf for the fireplace. I also remember visiting relatives on tiny Inishkeeragh Island for Sunday dinners.

Submitted by her Daughter, Peg Romberg



MY WORLD WAR II HERO

My Great Grandfather Rex bravely fought in World War II. His journey to survival was not an easy one.

Throughout his time in service he fought in Italy, worked as an Anti-Air Gunner and even trained the Greeks to fight the German and Italian forces. When the British forces became overwhelmed by the German paratroopers he managed to escape on a Naval Ship. This journey to safety was not without its challenges. Rex was on board one of the many boats that was bombed by German dive bombers (also known as Junker Ju 87's.) Thankfully Great Grandfather Rex was evacuated to a smaller lifeboat and overtime brought to safety when rescued by a British Naval Forces Ship.

Before he left the army, Great Grandfather Rex was promoted to Captain and dressed with numerous medals including – The 1939-1945 Star, The defense medal and the George IV medal for efficient service. As a family, based in Marblehill, Dunfanaghy, we are very proud of our connection to global history.

**Submitted by Reuben, 4th Class
Ballymore National School, Ballymore,
Dunfanaghy, Co Donegal.**



MY GRANDDAD SEAMÚS AND THE MUCKISH CROSS



In the early 1950's the first cross was erected on top of Muckish Mountain. My Granddad, Seamús Harkin, from Creeslough was only 12 years of age. He is pictured here in the front row, second from the left.



In 2000, my Granddad was heavily involved in the work to erect a new cross on top of Muckish Mountain. Here he is pictured to the right with a group of men at the top of the mountain.

**Submitted by Tommy, 6th Class.
Ballymore National School,
Ballymore, Dunfanaghy, Co
Donegal.**

GRANNY ENA

Georgina Wasson (fondly known as Granny Ena) was born on June 23rd 1926 in Ramelton, Co Donegal. She was the daughter of a housewife and a ploughman. She grew up in a school house. She lived downstairs while the school operated upstairs. This meant that she could never take a day off school!

Growing up she played hop scotch, hide and go seek, marbles and she helped her mum make rag dolls. Granny Ena left school at the age of 14 and started her working life as a maid. Later she got a job working as a housekeeper for the owners of the world famous Oatfield Sweet Factory. While life was tough, hours were long for little money Granny Ena lived a very happy life.

Granny Ena married Thomas Jacob, a gardener, and together they had one daughter - my wonderful granny, who sadly passed away earlier this year. Granny Ena is now 95 years young and lives in my family home. She has endless stories to tell from the years gone by.

**Submission by: Conor, 6th Class
Ballymore National School, Ballymore,
Dunfanaghy, Co Donegal**



ANNIE YOUNG'S GATEHOUSE



Standing high above the road
View the tracks below
Hear the train in the valley
Trail of smoke as it goes.
Waiting, waiting, waiting
Keeping an eye on the time
High on the mantelpiece
Hear the big clock chime.
Out through the door
Steps for nimble feet
Lined with box hedging
Always trimmed and neat.
Swing the gates shut
The train driver salutes
Climbing onwards through the hills
Cloghan Station on the route.
No longer gates to close
No railway line to mind
No train ever passes
Only memories left behind.

Submitted by Pearl Hutchinson

Above the Glenmore gatehouse for the wee Donegal railway that ran past St John's Church Kiltteevogue. One of the pillars can be still seen where the gates were. The railway track ran past the front of the church and is still clearly visible. Annie Young was the last Gatekeeper who lived in the railway cottage.

BOB - OUR MOST LOVED OLD ENGLISH SHEEPDOG

Bob was our much loved Old English Sheepdog who we were blessed to have for 11 years. He was the most wonderful faithful companion to our 3 children and really like our fourth child.

When we went out for a walk, he deliberately had to be in-between my wife and I. At night he would open the kitchen door and creep up the stairs and sneak over to lie on the floor beside our bed.

He will always be sadly missed.

Submitted by Aubrey Oliver



GHARDÍN ADHRADH TULACH A'BHEAGLAOICH



D'fhás mé aníos i dteach atá ag amharc díreach trasna ar reilig agus teach phobal ón 13ú haois. Díreach taobh amuigh den Fhál Carraigh tá Reilig agus Teach Phobal Tulach a'Bheaglaoidh. Bhí sé i gcónaí ráite linn gan a bheith ag súgradh sa ghairdín beag a bhí suite ó thuaidh ón reilig mar d'fhéadfaimis cur isteach ar na haingil atá curtha ansin. De bharr seo bhí mé den tuairim gur plota speisialta a bhí ann do leanaí. Leis na scéalta is déanaí ar an topaic seo, sna meáin, agus an tionscadal seo, thosaigh mé ag smaoineamh ar an ghairdín seo arís. Más reilig leanaí atá ann ba chóir é a mharcáil i mbealach éigin.

De bharr go bhfuil an píosa talamh seo scartha ó na páirceanna timpeall air fuair mé an fóilió chun seic a dhéanamh an raibh an plota mar chuid de thalamh na reilige. Fuair mé amach go bhfuil fóilió ar leathligh ag an ghairdín beag seo.



Leis an t-eolas seo bhí mé cinnte gur píosa talamh speisialta a bhí ann. Le roinnt fiosrucháin, idir comharsa agus mo thuistí féin, d'fhoghlaim mé gur ghairdín adhradh a bhí ann sna hamanna pionóis.

Ag seasamh sa ghairdín tá sé soiléir gur thug an spás seo príobháideacht don té a bhí ina sheasamh ann ach le cois seo thug sé neart pointí faire soiléire timpeall na háite.

Aighneacht ó Seán Ó Cuireáin

THE ROAD OFT TRAVELLED

LOCKDOWN 2020-21

While erecting ham radio masts, we found a horseshoe. Whose and how long ago? We considered who had journeyed down our road. (Back of Muckish), R256.

It's the 1500th anniversary of Colmcille who used this route. He copied the Scriptures and so we coordinated the printing of 7,000 Irish /English Gospels for today's pilgrims.

Along this road are Fiddler's Bridge and the Bridge of Sorrows. What were the immigrants' dreams and those left behind?

Nearer Falcarragh the road becomes Station Road. We walk the old railway path. What were the passengers' thoughts and dreams?

In 2020 a new flight simulator programme included Carrickfin Airport. We flew over Muckish quarry, whose sand that made glass for Royal palaces. What of the miners and their daily climb?

Each journey needs exploring. How else did lockdown affect us?

Lockdown cancelled our 'Christmas by the Fireside' evening of carols and craic. Instead, we produced a CD and a YouTube link. 30 attendees became over 600 worldwide and €3000 was raised for local causes.

Submitted by Alan & Rosemary Armstrong



Christmas by your fireside

AN INTRODUCTION TO STEEPLE TOWER



Childhood memories of excited children flood into my head as I take the route from the Kilross entrance towards the Steeple Tower at Mullaghagarry woods. It's over 50 years since I regularly took this route with my family, choosing nowadays the other starting point at Gortletteragh.

The climb to the Steeple through the woods offers some fantastic views of the surrounding countryside. The Bluestack mountains can be clearly seen, making a spectacular backdrop!

Arriving at the Steeple we make our way up the winding staircase to the top.

Amazing views take your breath away and on a clearer day Errigal could be seen in the distance!

The Steeple tower was built in 1810 as an observatory by the estate owner at the time, Sir Henry Steward of Tircallan, who himself was an astronomer, and used it to study the stars.

As we leave the Steeple behind and continue our journey through the woods I'm happy to have revisited this family route to the Steeple and will certainly return another time.

Submitted by Margaret O'Neill



"Making out way further into the woods the sounds of "wait for me" and "I see you" fill the air with a warm feeling that comes over me as I remember happy times spent in these woods!"

EDWARD DOHERTY

COREFRIN BALLYBOFEY

Killed 2nd June 1921 during the War of Independence

						Attendant	John's chamber	1921	Resident
1821	Third June	Eddie Doherty	M	S	21	Laborer	Widow of James Doherty, Certificate received 4th March, due to her ill-health, from a military local hospital by the Military Surgeon in the execution of their duty.	1921	Resident
418	Stramadan	James						1921	Resident

This young man was totally innocent and was never involved in any way with the IRA. He was the son of James and Margaret Doherty. James Mc Carron, a IRA Volunteer, was shot during an ambush on British Soldiers at Trusk Lough and as a result the British Army was searching all houses in the area. Edward was in a back room of his house and heard the soldiers coming, so he jumped out of the back window and ran to the home of John and Mary

Mc Menamin, my Grandfather and Grandmother. He kept running and was shot at their gate. My Grandfather took out a pillow to place it under his head but he was beat back with the butts of their guns.

John had saved Edward before by hiding him in the manger in the stable at the head of the big black stallion, and when the soldiers went to go in, the stallion kicked the door and they ran.

Submitted by Joe Crawford

FROM MY GRANDMA TO NEW YORK MEMORIES OF OATFIELD SWEETS

As child living in Mayo my first memory of Oatfield sweets was when my grandmother Kate gave me a packet of Oatfield sweets thus beginning my love of sweets from Donegal.

The Orange Chocolate was my favourite, chocolate covered with a hard shell of sugar. There was assorted mix too that had several varieties in one pack - all with own names

In my youth, Oatfield sweets were always on shelves in our shop and always a best seller as I always bought loads of them! Us kids would swap sweets eg like Emerald for Colleen.

After finishing studies 1986 I went to New York, USA.

After one GAA game in Celtic Park the post match refreshments included all the drinks, treats and sandwiches and Oatfield sweets and us, the senior club players all made a dash for the sweets first and never minded the other food on table. Oatfield sweets reminded all of us of home,

Imagine - our biggest chat was about Oatfield sweets from Letterkenny Donegal!

What a treat!

Submitted by Patrick McCarthy



Me and My Grandmother Kate on my First Holy Communion Day



Donegal County Museum Collection

MY COVID - 19 JOURNEY 2020

The Covid had us all in the house- we could not go to mass or the pub for a wee pint of beer. And we did not get to go out to enjoy ST PATRICK'S DAY or EASTER or Christmas or NEW YEAR EVE for a few beers too. I would just go for a cycle and get some shopping for the house. That was all you could do with out going out side your 5 km zone.

You could not go meet up with friends at all. Or you could not go for a meal at all as well. I would just go for walks or a cycle just to pass the time. Then I would just watch TV or go on my laptop or tablet for a wee minute or to.

Submitted by David O'Brien



Crossroads, Falcarragh, Co Donegal

TWIN TOWNS

The hustle, bustle, noise in the Twin Towns has disappeared.

Where has everyone gone?

I ask myself daily as I go on my 5 km walk.

Time, peace, and quiet has given me the opportunity to admire the lovely old commercial and residential buildings which have been present for over one hundred years and are very visible if you take the time to look.

Take one building daily and study it from the top. You will be amazed, delighted, at what you see and the questions you will want to ask.

For me it was the Architecture which is truly lovely, different to anything we would build today.

All around this area many more lovely old properties still exist, where several generations have lived, making great memories then and now.

Submitted by Anne Fairman



Matrimony Tree, Ballybofey Bridge

Local folklore tells when a couple were engaged to be married, two different varieties of tree would have been planted next to one another. After their marriage, these would have been grafted together and would grow as one.

The Twin Towns of Ballybofey and Stranorlar are joined by a bridge, sharing a historic friendship.

Commissioned under the HEART project and was supported by Donegal County Council Public Art Program under the Per Cent for Art Scheme.

See more <http://donegalpublicart.ie/images/heart-brochure.pdf>

A MAN OF THE SOIL, ROCKS AND SEA



Milford man Dan McHugh, a native of Coole Cranford Co. Donegal was district superintendent with the department of agriculture. Joined the department in 1941 after a team in Ballyhaise Agricultural College Cavan and Albert College Dublin.

Employment was in many counties in Ireland, Leitrim, Monaghan, Lough, Cavan and Donegal and in each county took a keen interest in its history. In 1963 he was appointed chief county officer in Cavan of the Civil Defence; he was secretary of Cavan Ploughing Association, Secretary and founder member of Cavan Tourist Association.

He returned to his native Donegal in 1971 were again joined many organisations, secretary of Mulroy Bay Development Co-operative, he retired from the department in 1982 but still took a keen interest in many projects both in Cavan and Donegal as well as being an active

member of Milford tidy Towns, an Taisce and Historical Society.

Everything outdoors was what it was all about. The local history, the benchmarks on the old ordnance survey maps, the bridges, the railways and the old homesteads. Yes, most certainly a man of the soil, rocks and sea.

Submitted by Martin Mc Hugh his son.



80th Birthday

Front row, L-R: Dan McHugh, Danni McHugh, Anna McHugh

Back row, L-R: Martin McHugh, Denis McHugh, Sean McHugh, Anne Marie McHugh

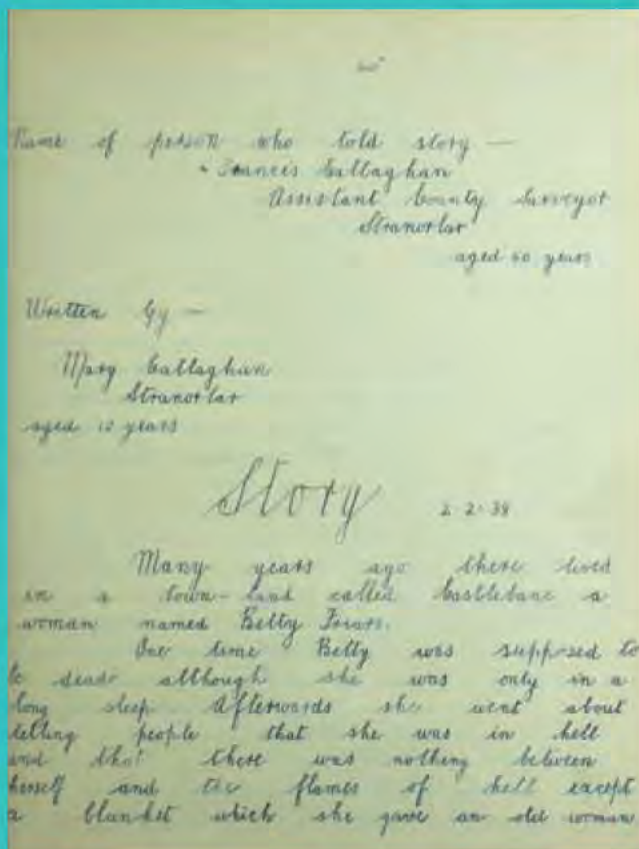
THE FRIERS FAMILY

The Friers family lived on a small farm, in the town's land of Castlebane, near Stranorlar for the 1800's. They were a Protestant family but Betty one of the family also respected the Catholic traditions. The Priest called on her, on his rounds. They lived in a single thatched house like most people in the 1880's. I know the site of the house located on that part of Castlebane that adjoins Knockfairtownland.

Anyway, Betty seems to be last surviving member of her family when her health began to fail. She eventually passed away with a few neighbours present. Local people came, prepared the house for the wake and laid out the corpse in the bed in the "offshoot" of the kitchen. Around 11 o'clock as the house was filling with people -didn't Betty suddenly wake and sat up in the bed. There was consternation and screaming among those present, when the atmosphere calmed down again, Betty requested a cup of tea and drank it at the fireside. The story goes that she lived for another six years.

The story was relayed to most young people by the elders on winter nights up to the 1950's.

Submitted by
Tony Gallinagh



Story collected by Mary Callaghan, Stranorlar National School as part of "The Schools' Collection, Volume 1096, Page 65 by Dúchas © National Folklore Collection, UCD

BÁD EDDIE EDDIE'S BOAT **MAGHERACLOGHER BUNBEG**

In 1977 the trawler Cara Na Mara was beached on the sand at Magheraclogher near Bunbeg to have 2 planks replaced that were damaged during a storm.

The Cara Na Mara (friend of the Sea) was never to leave the spot where it lay, and as the years passed by, parts were removed from it until gradually over the process of time it became just a hull.

The boat became a landmark in the area, being photographed from various angles as it lay in the sand and sea. It became part of a wedding photograph tradition for the nearby hotels and was featured in the music video by Clannad in their song with Bono 'In a lifetime'

A television documentary documenting the history of 'Bád Eddie was made for TG4 by local producer Sonia Nic Giolla Easbuig.



The Boat at Magheraclogher

Near Bunbeg, on the beach at Magheraclogher
there's a boat wrecked in the sand.

For years the wooden hull's been caught and held there,
it's a prisoner of the land.

It never sails on any tide,
appears along the coast – like something from a dream.
By day, the sun shines on the rusted metal winch.
At night, the moon pours silver light on each and every beam.

Will we ever know the reason why,
it's wrecked there on the beach?
Have all its stories and its secrets,
slipped away beyond our reach?



Submitted by Eamonn Bonner

IF YOU WEREN'T A DOHERTY, YOU WERE A MCLAUGHLIN, OR YOU WEREN'T ANYBODY

My Irish-American family has always known we were from Donegal, but lost most of the details. In the 1980s, my father, an uncle and a cousin all joined together in an effort to learn more. I got involved to review some key medical information about my great-great grandfather, Daniel McLaughlin, who served in the Irish Brigade of the Wisconsin Volunteers on the Union side of the American Civil War. He was the immigrant. His war records revealed an affidavit by his friend, Dan Doherty, about his ill-



health which enabled my great-great grandmother to get a widow's pension. In that affidavit, Dan Doherty stated that "I have known Dan McLaughlin since we were boys together near Whitehill, Donegal." That turns out to be crucial. By identifying a reasonably specific location, the genealogist in Donegal,

May McClintock, with the help of Neil Doherty of Kilmacrennan, was able to identify the exact location of the farm where Daniel McLaughlin grew up. My family and I had the pleasure of visiting that location with Neil Doherty as a guide in 1988. See photos. Such a unique pleasure!

My grandfather, John McLaughlin, grew up on the family farm in Doherty, Iowa. There was a saying in that area that, "if you weren't a Doherty, you were a McLaughlin, or you weren't anybody." My parents visited Donegal several times. They stopped into a pub in Buncrana, fell into warm conversation with the people there. In less than 30 minutes, a man from Buncrana repeated that saying, word for word! I have since learned how frequent those two surnames are in the Inishowen area! Great fun!

Submitted by John F (Jeff) McLaughlin



STONE DITCHES

There are stone walls or ditches to be seen everywhere throughout the county.

Built by hand, stone by stone to divide the land and to make family plots.

These stone walls are true survivors, they have none or very little maintenance done and have stood the test of time, surviving civil wars and world wars

They have outlived generations, have seen presidents and governments come and go

They stand still and still stand.

Stone Ditches

The early light falls down through gaps in ditches on frosted ground

In silent grey from another time
Old memories kept
they stand in line

And all by hand
each laid by hand
stone by stone divide the land

In empty fields
on windy hill
the lines of stone are standing, still

Submitted by Eamonn Bonner

MY COVID 19 LOCKDOWN



Carnisk Walk, my Covid walking aim is 10,000 steps. I walk from my home to Letterkenny road and after I pass St Mary's church, I take next right turn, right at junction, then right again at T junction and right again prior entrance to farmhouse, I then walk through the beautifully wooded road with Lennon River on my left to the Waterfall which was harnessed for Kelly's mills.



Outside Ramelton, Bught Rd along the River Lennon/Swilly Estuary where fortunate to live in these times of Covid. So beautiful on a sunny day when the tide is in. On your left the Glenalla hills, looking northwards views towards Rathmullan and the Inishowen mountain ranges.



Kelly's Mill Historic. Hoping regeneration of Ramelton will see restored. A photo from the past, the mill had peacocks which were an exciting view as a small child. I can still visit by taking the lane opposite the waterfall. The road joins the Kilmacrenan road for return to Ramelton.

Submitted by Marion Whelan

FANAD HEAD LIGHTHOUSE



It was built as a sea light and established on 17 March 1817

The design was by George Halpin Senior. He used a design similar to those at Mutton Island and Roches Point.

The lighthouse was built as a result of the Saldana being wrecked on the treacherous rocks below the Head with all lives lost.

The only survivor was a parrot, which was identified by a silver collar with the name of the ship on it.

A larger and higher tower, and new buildings were constructed in the 1880s at Fanad Head lighthouse.

The new tower was built close to the old tower. On 1 September 1886, a new light went into operation. Currently, the tower is 72 feet high and stands 128 feet above the water.

Submitted by Eamonn Bonner



OLD CHURCH DUNLEWEY

The Taj Mahal which means the “Crown of the Palace” is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. Commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan (reigned from 1628 to 1658). It was a memorial to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It was completed in 1653.

200 years later, another monument to love and loss would be completed by a grieving spouse this time in Ireland and in County Donegal, that of the old church of Dunlewey.

It lies silently at the foot of Errigal, the tallest of the Derryveagh mountain range and the tallest in Donegal.

A beautiful building, it is a lasting memorial to a great love affair. That of James Russell once the landlord of the Dunlewey estate in Donegal and his wife Jane.

James died on the 2nd of September 1848, heartbroken, his widow decided to build the church as a lasting monument for her husband.

Submitted by John Joe McGinley
www.wildatlanticweedore.com



AN TASGARD BHEAG



Ba ar an 26ú Iúil, 1914 a sheol an luaimh, an tAsgard isteach go Binn Eadair agus lasta armlóin ar bord aici.

Bhí ceathrar fear uirthi: Erskine Childers, Gordon Shephard agus beirt fhear as Oileán Ghabhla, Paidí Mac Fhionnlaioich agus Séarlas Ó Dúgáin (An Dúgánach) agus beirt bhan; Mary Spring Rice agus Molly Childers.

Ba ón eachtra sin, agus eachtraí eile mar é a shóilraigh Éirf-Amach na Cásca 1916.

Mar chuid den chómoradh a rinneadh ar Éirf Amach na Cásca i 2016 i nGhabhla, togadh macasamhail don luaimh chluiteach, An tAsgard, agus iniata le seo tá pictiúr don Asgard Bheag mar a thugtar uirthi.

Ba iad Coiste Forbartha Ghabhla a bhí i mbun an togra seo agus ba iad beirt cheardaí aitiúla, oileánach Éamonn Mac Aoidh agus Aodh Ó Gallchóir thóg an bád.

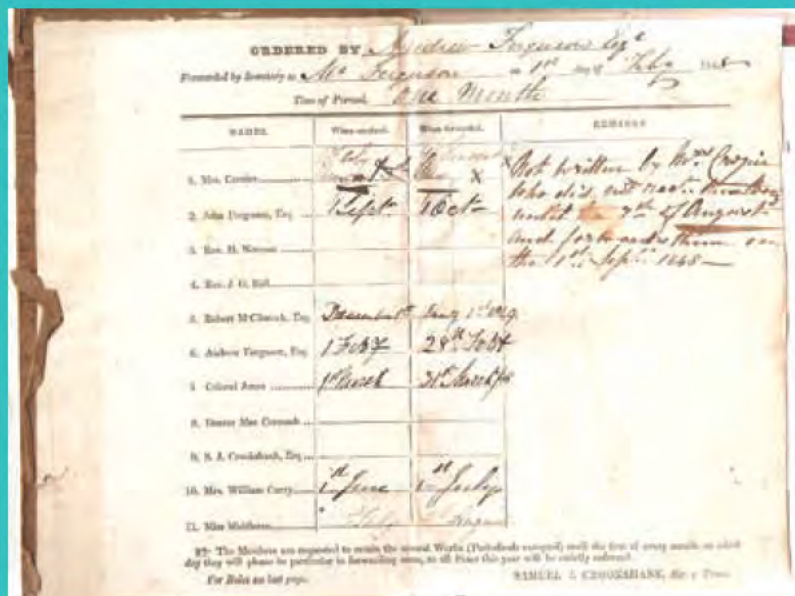
Aighneacht ó Máirín Uí Fhearraigh



THE BUNCRANA BOOK SOCIETY 1848

"Is there still an amnesty for returns?"

Submitted by Paddy Doherty



RADIO 'HAM' ENTHUSIAST AND THE SOVIET SPACEMAN!



Manus McClafferty who died at the age of 62 in February 2016, was an Errarooney man known throughout his home parish for his enthusiastic community spirit. Manus was a volunteer with the Pobail Le Chéile Community Development Project in Falcarragh for 14 years.

However, he became known much farther afield in 1991 for his activities as a ham radio enthusiast, when he made contact with a Russian cosmonaut, who was onboard, the Space Station Mir while the Soviet Union was collapsing back home on Earth. Using only basis

radio equipment, Manus contacted the astronaut Sergei Krikalyov. As the Russian prepared to re-enter the earth's atmosphere, Manus was asked how he would feel. Manus replied he would be "over the moon!"

Later, their radio friendship was the basis of the Irish film, *Mir Friends*.

In Cloughaneely there is an annual schools art competition and volunteer award in memory of Manus.

Submitted by Rosemary Grain

THE LETTERKENNY WORKHOUSE GRAVEYARD

Donegal County Museum is housed in what was known as the Reception block of the Letterkenny Workhouse. When the Workhouse opened in 1845, it did not have its own graveyard and deceased unclaimed inmates were buried in the graveyards of Leck and Conwal outside Letterkenny. There were no burials in the area currently known as the "Famine Graveyard" beside the Museum during the Famine. In 1847 a committee was set up to locate a suitable burial ground in the vicinity of the Workhouse. This was delayed until 1868, when the plot adjacent to the Workhouse was purchased as a burial ground.



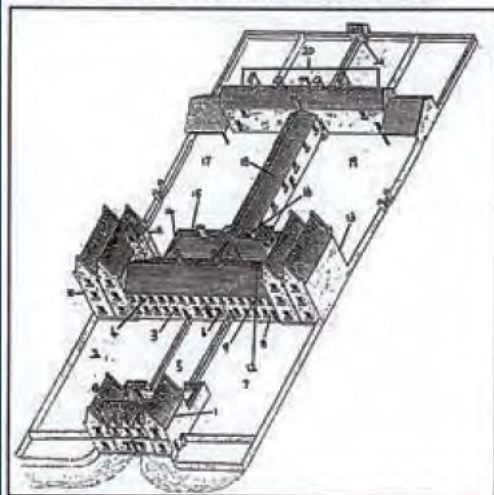
The Committee appointed to inquire about and select a piece of ground for a Cemetery for the Workhouse having made a report - The Board upon viewing the Workhouse grounds one selected a spot which they consider suitable for a burial place for a number of years - Resolved that the Clerk do direct the laborers to prepare the spot with a view of ascertaining whether there would be any objection to the arrangement -

Next Meeting of the Board to be held on Friday the 3rd day of July 1868, at Noon

W. Henry Chairman
 John Storey Clerk

Letterkeny Union Board of Guardians Meeting, June, 1869. Donegal County Archives

Plan Of The Workhouse



- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Reception Block | 11 Women's Dormitory |
| 2 Girls' Yard | 12 Men's Dormitory |
| 3 Girls' School Room | 13 Quarters for the Old |
| 4 Girls' Dormitory | 14 Able Bodied Day Room |
| 5 Master's Garden | 15 Laundry & Wash House |
| 6 Master's Quarters | 16 Mill & Kitchen |
| 7 Boys' Yard | 17 Women's Yard |
| 8 Boys' School Room | 18 Chapel & Dining Hall |
| 9 Boys' Dormitory | 19 Men's Yard |
| 10 Quarters for the Old | 20 Infirmary & Idiot Wards |
| | 21 Dead House |

A meeting of the Board of Guardians on 9th January 1869 resolved;

"The Guardians have inspected the grounds allocated for a cemetery and feel highly satisfied with its appearance, and desire to record their approval of the tactful manner in which the Master has completed its enclosure and laid out the grounds, and direct that the several chaplains be noticed that the cemetery is ready for interments".

In 1975, during road widening works, 72 skeletons were uncovered. These were reburied in Leck cemetery with an Ecumenical service.

Submitted by Donegal County Museum, Culture Division, Donegal County Council

DO YOU HAVE AN ARTEFACT OR A COLLECTION OF ITEMS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE TO DONEGAL COUNTY MUSEUM?

Donegal County Museum continues to develop and expand our collections and are always interested to hear about any objects relating to Donegal's past, which you may be willing to donate.

Every object can tell a story. This includes items made in, at some point used within or otherwise provenanced to County Donegal.

All objects accepted into the collections are acquired in accordance with our Collections Policy.

Not all objects accepted into the collections will be placed on display immediately.

Donated objects become part of the Donegal County Museum collection and may be used in future exhibitions.

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The UnCover & ReDiscover Project - Donegal County Museum and the Donegal Volunteer Centre take no responsibility for the content of the articles submitted to the booklet, nor do they necessarily agree with any of the opinions expressed.

All Submission Authors were expected to have checked for factual accuracy and to have obtained the necessary permissions for quotations and for the use of illustrations, photographs, etc.

Please note project promoters reserved the right to make editorial decisions.

This booklet was created as part of the **UnCover & ReDiscover Your Locality** community project, delivered by Donegal County Museum and the Donegal Volunteer Centre, as part of the Healthy Ireland KEEP WELL campaign during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

We hope you enjoy this miscellany of eclectic and wonderful stories, poems and pictures relating to County Donegal.

Funding for this booklet was provided by the Community Resilience Fund as part of the Healthy Ireland KEEP WELL campaign.

