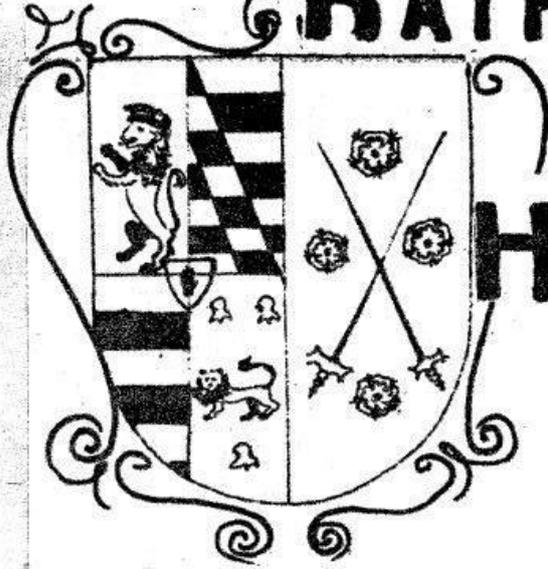


1976 .



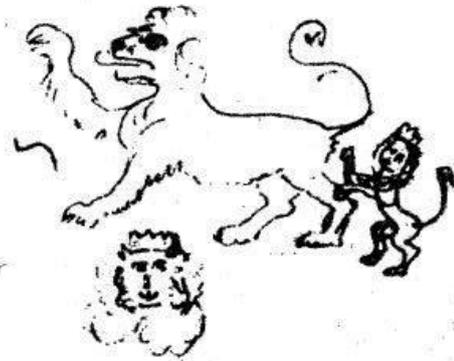
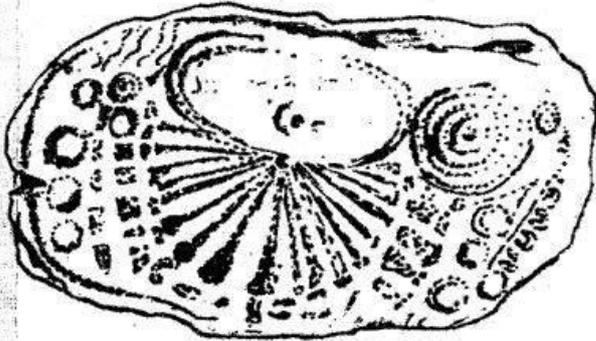
RATHMICHAEL



HISTORICAL



RECORD.



**THE JOURNAL OF THE RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.**

Rathmichael Historical Record

1976 Contents

Editorial	Page	1
Summer visits and Evening Walks		6
Field Archaeology		13
Winter Meetings		15

Contributions

1.	Loughlinstown House	23
2.	A Whiff of the Past	36
3.	Since First I made my Count	46

Committee for the Year 1976.

Mrs. Kathleen Turner (President)
Mr. Ian Booth; Dr. H.S. Corran;
Mrs. Joan Delaney; Mrs. Joanna Bonar Law;
Mr. James McNamara; Mr. Conway Maxwell;
Mr. Brian Murphy; Mr. Paul O'Dwyer;
Mr. Richard Pilkington; Mr. Gerard Slevin.

Course in Field Archaeology-:

The second course in Field Archaeology was held in the last week of August 1976. Once again the weather was wonderful, the Course well attended and a great success. We were delighted to hear that the 1975 students were invited to go down to Co. Clare this summer where they spent two interesting weeks working on a site under the direction of Liam de Paor. Already the Course is proving itself and producing results. We look forward to welcoming another group of students in 1977.

Ballyman Dump

This project is to go ahead despite protests from all quarters. The Co. Wicklow dump has already caused an ugly scar on the side of hill across the valley as viewed from the Ballyman Road.

The original combined Dublin and Wicklow scheme as propounded by the Dublin County Council engineer would have filled the whole valley of the County Brook from the point where this stream crosses under the Ballyman Road near Phrompstown to the point where it used to cross Thornhill Road at Vallombrosa in the form of a water-splash. However because of the vigour of the criticism and objections the scheme was considerably modified and a new proposal submitted in August 1976. This proposal would divide the rubbish tip into two parts which would be separated by an arena or sunken area containing a section of the original valley and stream together with the ruins of the pre-Norman Ballyman church, burial ground and holy well.

A picnic area (!) and car park associated with the western section of the tip (which it is planned to use first) would nevertheless seriously affect the site of a second and less well known ancient church.

This church, of which only an indistinguishable heap of stones remains, may be seen just off a road leading to Fassaroe from the Ballyman road not far from its junction with the Enniskerry/Scalp road. All that is known of it may be summed up as follows:- Canon Scott in his "Stones of Bray" discussing the patronage or dedication of Ballyman church, states that, while its holy well bears the name of St. Kevin, a Bishop Sillan is connected with the place (and also with Glendalough), and he suggests that possibly this other little church, marked Annahaskey church on the O.S. map, may be the Cillepscopsillan (church of Bishop Sillan) mentioned in Strongbow's charter of 1173. Annahaskey, as Scott points out is, of course, the name of a townland - not the dedication.

Today the townland in which the site of this church is situated is called Monastery, but most probably it originally formed part of the adjacent small townland of Aghnahaskin just over the County border in Dublin. Canon Stokes believes that the name Monastery dates from the time when the Anglo-Norman Abbey of St. Thomas owned the land.

Ballycorus Chimney

At long last through the united efforts of the Shankill Community Association and the Rathmichael Historical Society, a preservation order has been put on the chimney of the old Ballycorus Lead Mines. No longer need we wonder whether we are going to see it there each day as we look up.

Shangahagh Dolmen

Unfortunately, as a result of the compulsory purchase by Dún Laoghaire Corporation of the lands of Loughlinstown House (q.v.), intensive building is taking place in these once-peaceful fields. A layout plan has been seen showing proposed houses all around the Dolmen, and some in fact within only 40 feet of it.

This hardly seems the proper treatment for this ancient monument which will immediately lose all the dignity of its previous rural setting, and, worse still, will almost certainly be subjected to serious vandalism. This Society must therefore strongly protest at this callous approach and pose the question as to whether in future everything is to be sacrificed to the ever-spreading lava-flow of featureless Suburbia, and every acre valued only as a building site?

Summer Visits

Sunday, May 23rd

Delgany & Kilcoole.

Delgany

A lovely summer day. First we went to Delgany where we found the old churchyard in a terribly neglected state. (A neighbour told me that the only people who ever attempted to clear it was a party of visiting German students). There is a considerable number of large 18th century tombstones in good condition, the inscriptions very clear and easy to read. We found this also at Kilcoole and it would seem to point to a once flourishing and prosperous community in this area. Two hundred years earlier Archbishop Alen (1530) comments on Delgany; "This is a rectory and a mother church with its five chapels, and a most principal church in the whole Barony of Rathdown, etc."

Both Delgany and Kilcoole were reported in 1630 to be in ruins, but Delgany must have been rebuilt as it was in full use when, in 1789, Mr. Peter La Touche of Bellevue offered to build a new church for the parish. Practically nothing but the foundations of the old church remain today as Mr. La Touche was permitted to make use of its stones for the building of the new one.

In the middle of the graveyard a short way from the NW corner of the church, stands the shaft only of an ancient cross about 5'9" high. An inscription, of which only the merest traces can be seen, was recorded by Petrie in his "Christian inscriptions in the Irish Language" as reading "OR DO DICU OCUS M(AEL)ODRAN SAIR" (Pray for Dicu and Maelodran the mason).

Kilcoole

Here both church and graveyard are kept in perfect order. The church is locked, the key being with Mr. Delaney who lives in a bungalow high above the church on a hill. This church is very unusual, if not unique, in having three compartments. As well as the nave and chancel, there is an atrium or ante-chamber at the west end of the nave. Just inside the nave is an old Font on a rough stone pedestal and, near the chancel, a very irregularly shaped granite slab having a crude cross with narrow rounded shaft and arms carved on it. About 7' from the ground the walls of the nave curve upwards, which may indicate a stone roof.

The name of this church seems to call for some explanation - Kilcoole or Cill Comghaill? Canon Scott and others assumed it to be Cill Cuil (the church on the corner) mentioned in the Annals, and Scott also found a reference in the AFM to a Cill Cuile Dumha (the church on the corner of the mound) which, he considered appropriate to its situation beside the hill, the Rock of Kilcoole. Whence, then Cill Comghaill?

The name Cill Comghaill occurs in an early list of churches (1170) placed between Rathmichael and Killadreenan (Newcastle). It does not appear again, but two other churches are mentioned in medieval lists, namely, the Churches of Shankill and Kilcowyl. Which of these represents the earlier Cill Comghaill - if either? Older scholars relying on Archbishop Usher's statement that "the church which today (17th century) is known as the Church of Shankill was formerly called Cill Comghaill believe it to have been situated near Rathmichael. Although no trace of it remains if, as tradition suggests it was sited close to the Archbishop's Castle of Shankill, it might well have been used for worship by the staff of the Castle, who understandably, would have dropped its, to them, strange Celtic name and called it the Church of Shankill.

More recently scholars who ignore Archbishop Ussher's statement are obliged to resort to a possible clerical error, to prove this argument that the original Cill Comghaill was this church near Newcastle, its name altered to Kilcowyl through a misspelling.

Sunday, June 2nd

Swords.

Another warm summer day. We arrived at Swords at 4 p.m. and were shown round the Archbishop's old manor-house or castle by Mr. Buckley...hall, kitchen, soldiers' quarters, Constable's tower and the chapel. Everything very well kept. The late H.G. Leask says that this castle was built about 1200 A.D. Something over a hundred years later we get a description of it which states that it was of stone, castellated and roofed with shingles. As Shankill Castle also belonged to the Archbishop of Dublin and was most likely built in or around 1215 A.D. it was, in all probability, very similar. It is therefore of great interest to us to see what is left of Swords, especially as nothing remains of any of the other castles belonging to the Archbishop, e.g. Tallaght, Finglas, Castlekevin, etc. While the ruins of Shankill show nothing of its early date, it must always be remembered that its situation, was far more vulnerable than that of Swords, lying as it does, so close to the mountains which were the strongholds of the O'Byrnes and O'Tooles, and subject to frequent attacks.

Like Rathmichael, Swords became a Prebendary Parish of St. Patrick's Cathedral. It used to be known as the Golden Prebend, doubtless on account of its rich crops of golden grain.

Of a 6th century monastery founded by St. Columba, only the Round Tower remains - another comparison with Rathmichael.

St. Doolagh's

On the way home we stopped at St. Doolagh's but were not able to get into this strange little church and had to be content with looking at the exterior, the Well and the Cross at the gate.

A good description of this Church and of the Well as it once was is given by Joyce in his "Neighbourhood of Dublin".

This is Nathaniel Hone's country, rich pasture lands with cows grazing peacefully in flat fields spread out under great skies.

Saturday, July 24th

Loughcrew and Kells

The round trip from Rathmichael to Loughcrew and back is about 120 miles and it makes a very interesting day's outing. We met at 11.00 a.m. at the Schoolhouse on Saturday instead of the usual Sunday in order not to interfere with Sunday church-going and brought packed lunches.

Kells

At Kells we stopped there to look at the magnificent 10th century crosses in the market place and the churchyard. These crosses with the old round tower and St. Columcille's house are all that remains of the old monastery.

Visitors interested in the High Crosses and the Biblical scenes they portray should first go into the gallery of the C. of I. church and study the fine photographs of the crosses displayed there with explanations of the scenes carved on them.

As at Swords, here too is the bell tower of a medieval church with a steeple by Thomas Cooley, architect of the City Hall, Dublin, added 1783.

An interesting object in the church-yard is an old sundial placed against the SW corner of the church. I only know of five of these sundials at church sites in this country - they are said to have marked the canonical hours - i.e. prime, terce, none, sext and vespers.

Loughcrew

The weather being very kind we enjoyed a picnic at the base of Carnbane East before ascending by the west col!

We inspected the various cairns and went into the passage grave in Cairn T to see the many decorated stones which seem to carry themes with somewhat different emphasis to those with which people are familiar at New Grange - although perhaps more akin to the decorations now being revealed at Knowth.

Those of the party with some knowledge of the site filled in the historical and archaeological background for the members who had not been there before and also indicated the various special features of interest on the hill, and several discussions ensued. The magnificent views from the hill were seen to advantage and enjoyed. Most of the party contented themselves with visiting this one hill, but some of the more energetic also went up Carnbane West to inspect the equally important Cairns on its summit.

Saturday, September 18th

Avondale

Saturday was chosen this time in order to avoid the usual Sunday crowds at this popular place. As it takes about 45 minutes to get to Rathdrum, we met half an hour earlier, at 2.30 p.m. Very disappointing weather, dull and drizzling, although it improved slightly. Partly owing to lack of time and partly to the weather, having seen over the house, we chose to do only the shorter walk of the two suggested, instead of the longer one down by the river, and thereby missed so much, as can be seen since reading the booklet *Avondale*. Intending visitors who do not already know Avondale should get and study this booklet in advance. It gives all kinds of fascinating tit-bits of information about trees - indigenous and otherwise - as well as animals, etc. The name of Ireland's Augustus Henry who introduced so many trees (and numerous plants, e.g. lilies, etc. also) from China, receives special mention; and, in this connection, we would like to remind members of the Society that a neighbour in Old Connaught, Miss Sheila Pim, has written a most interesting biography of Professor Henry - "The Wood and the Trees".

Evening Walks

The idea of Evening Walks was introduced by Joanna Law and had two objectives:-

1. To provide an opportunity for newcomers to the district to get to know the area in which they have come to live, and
2. to offer a possibly more convenient time for those whose Sunday afternoons are dedicated to visits from relatives, etc.

For various reasons only two were undertaken this past summer:

1. Wednesday, May 26th.

Meeting at 7.30 p.m. at Rathmichael School we drove to the foot of the Rathmichael Lane where we parked the cars and the walk began. From the old graveyard, up to the hill-fort past the site of the Rathmichael Fair held there throughout the 18th century. Then down through the pine-scented silence of the forest to the lane with the Rathmichael cross. And so back to the cars along the Ferndale and Rathmichael roads.

2. Wednesday June 23rd,

We drove to Tully old church where we were surprised to find that steps had been made into the wall opposite the roadside cross to make it easy to get into the field with the West cross - a very welcome aid. From there to Brennanstown dolmen where for good measure we were shown an old millstone down by the stream. The evening finished with a visit to the old Glebe House.

This is not strictly speaking a walk 'within the meaning of the act' but we were hoping to arrange a number of walks for the summer months - it all takes time!

Field Archaeology

After the Course in Field Archaeology held in 1975 many of those who participated wished to stay together as a group, and so they have formed a sub-group within the Society. Some enthusiasts have been practising surveying and measuring monuments, and are at present making a contour survey of the hill fort at Rathmichael.

During the week-end following Easter, George Cunningham organised a visit to Roscrea. About twenty members of the group were shown a great number of interesting sites near Roscrea and George gave a fascinating talk with slides and drawings - some of which had been done as projects by school children,

During the first and second weeks of August Liam de Paor allowed those who had taken part in the Course in Field Archaeology to excavate at the site he is directing on Inis Cealtra in Lough Derg. There were eight the first week and ten the second. They started from the beginning, taking off the sod and excavating to boulder clay in one place. They did their own planning and washing and entering finds. This was a marvellous experience for all those who took part. They were physically tired at the end of each day but were mentally stimulated and had a tremendous feeling of achievement.

A second Course in Field Archaeology was held at Rathmichael from 23rd to 27th August 1976. The attendance was good and the week got off to a very good start with a lecture by Dr. Michael Herity who stayed on after the lecture when there was a lively discussion. The weather was marvellous and one most enjoyable day was spent measuring and planning at Ballyedmonduff Wedge Grave. As in 1975 Dr. George Eogan allowed the group to visit Knowth the day after he had given a lecture about his excavations there. We also went to Tara that day. Mr. Thomas Delaney of the Ulster Museum gave a splendid lecture about his excavations at Carrickfergus.

The Society wishes to thank those who made this course a success again - Mr. Marcus Ó hEochaidh, the Director. The lecturers Dr. Michael Herity, Dr. George Eogan and Mr. Thomas Delaney. The Building Centre of Ireland for lending pictures of National Monuments, and Cement Limited for once again sponsoring this project.

Joan Delany

Winter Meetings 1975/76.

Wednesday, November 12th 1975

**The Development of Ballybrack in the
19th Century
by Paul O'Dwyer.**

The lecture started with a spirited rendering of a verse of the Kilruddery Hunt Song which, describing a day with the Earl of Meath's famous foxhounds, demonstrated the wildness of the countryside in the 19th century when huntsmen and hounds were able to pursue their quarry from Bray to Glenageary, Killiney and Dalkey, up hill and down dale.

Development did not start till the 2nd decade of the 19th century, and took time to gather momentum. In 1835 progress was marked by the building of a church in Ballybrack - the Parish Church (C. of I.) of Killiney, given by Sir Compton Domville, who owned so much property in the district. Twenty years later, another landmark was the Church of SS Alfonso & Columba.

The extension of the railway line from Kingstown to Killiney in 1854 sharply accelerated the process of development, and from then to the end of the century villas were being built and tradesmen and artisans began appearing in Ballybrack.

Instead of slides, Mr. O'Dwyer used photographs and newspaper cuttings to illustrate his talk.

Wednesday, January 28th 1976

**Ellan Vannin
by Dr. H.S. Corran.**

Dr. Corran's talk, illustrated with excellent slides, gave us a very interesting picture of the Isle of Man, so well known to the speaker.

Wednesday, February 25th

Films

Two Irish producers were represented - Kieran Hickey and our own David Shaw-Smith, and both very generously lent us the films which they had available:-

The Light of Other Days (K. Hickey) is a study of transport in Ireland from the middle of the last century till the advent of the motor car and charabanc, skilfully reconstructed from the old Lawrence collection of postcard photographs taken by his photographer, John French.

The Faithful Departed (also K. Hickey) "All these have once walked round Dublin". A look at the Dublin of James Joyce at the turn of the century, this is another very skilful reconstruction based entirely on John French's photographs, with nostalgic musical accompaniment.

Connemara and its Ponies (David Shaw-Smith) - This beautiful and lively film centring round the breeding and life of Connemara ponies is made memorable by the beauty of some of its sequences. The sensitive and sympathetic approach to nature and wildlife experienced in this film is, I believe, one of the hallmarks of some of the best Irish film-makers.

Village (David Shaw-Smith) - This is an evocative recreation of the vanished life of a village, now in ruins, situated in a remote area of the West of Ireland. Whilst the camera explores the present remains, the sound-track recalls the vanished past.

Wednesday, March 24th

**Heraldry: Art and Science
by Mr. Gerard Slevin, Chief Herald.**

The lecturer dealt with the beginning of heraldic practice in Europe some 800 years ago, showing how the continuous human need for representational identification had, in this instance, taken on a colourful and, in time, strictly controlled form which has exercised a remarkable fascination over the minds of successive generations. The basic components which may appear in what is termed 'an achievement of arms' were illustrated and described; the shield on which the arms properly so called are placed, the crest which began its life as a device affixed to the helmet and is still often so depicted, the supporters which maintain the shield on either side, the scroll beneath bearing a motto. The most frequently found charges on the shield, the geometrical shapes (cross, saltire, chevron, bend, etc.) which are called "ordinaries" were briefly displayed. Also illustrated were some of the "monsters" or creatures of fantasy which are so characteristic a feature of the art of heraldry, and some of the enormous number of other objects, animal, vegetable and mineral which have been happily absorbed into the domain of heraldry.

Particular attention was drawn to certain aspects of this wide and complex subject. Armorial science is a very useful ally to the historian. The arms on a seal, on a building, on a monument may be all-important evidence. The marriages and descent of families may be discerned when more than one coat of arms is found on the same shield, as in the case of impaled and quarterly arms. The work of heraldic officers has brought into being archives of very great value to the historian; the series of manuscripts known as Funeral Entries which is preserved in the Genealogical Office is an excellent example.

The lecturer drew attention to a number of long-established native Irish coats of arms appertaining to well-known families, and remarked on the quite frequent recurrence of certain themes - the tree, the human hand, heavenly bodies - suggested that a thorough attempt to establish the origin and significance of these charges would be a profitable field of future study.

He dealt also with the use of heraldry by corporate persons - cities, schools, institutes - and noted the increasing number of such bodies in Ireland which are eager to avail themselves of this ancient and ever-lively craft.

Monday, November 29th

**An Introduction to the Archaeology of
South Co. Dublin
by Mrs. E. O'Brien**

A resume of the lecture which was illustrated by slides is given below: -

Megalithic Remains in South Co. Dublin.

In recent times it has become evident that man has inhabited our island for about 9,000 years, but so far, apart from some evidence for pre-Neolithic occupation at Dalkey Island, the oldest known evidence for man's presence in the South Co. Dublin area are the megalithic monuments known as Portal Dolmens, dating from about 2,500 B.C. These monuments are generally accepted as being derived from the older Court Cairns (c.3,000 B.C.) found mainly in the North and North/East of Ireland. The main characteristics of the Portal Dolmens (or Portal tombs) are their very pronounced portal entrance stones, and enormous capstones. Few of these tombs have so far been excavated, but those that have been, have yielded similar finds i.e. Neolithic pottery, leaf or lozenge shaped flint arrowheads, and hollow scrapers. The

burial rite was cremation, and the tombs were communal. Examples of this type in our area are Kilternan Dolmen (excavated 1956), which has a capstone approx. 22 ft. long, and 13½ ft. wide at its broadest end, estimated to weigh about 40 tons. Brennanstown is another fine example and here again the capstone is estimated to weigh over 40 tons. Other examples include Mount Venus in Rathfarnham, which is in a collapsed state, and Larch Hill which is also collapsed.

Living here at about the same time as the Portal tomb builders, i.e. C. 2,500 B.C. - 2,000 B.C. were people of a different culture, who built Passage Graves for their dead. The finest examples of these are of course to be found in the Boyne Valley in Co. Meath, at Lough Crew on the Meath/Cavan border, and further west in Sligo, but there are some to be found on the hilltops around South Dublin and North Wicklow. As the name indicates, the tomb normally consists of a passage, ending in a burial chamber, the whole covered by a round mound. The burial rite here was also cremation, but the grave goods are quite different from those of the Portal tombs. Finds from Passage Graves usually include decorated pottery, bone pins and pendants, and stone/chalk balls - the absence of weapons, i.e. arrowheads etc. is notable. In many cases passage graves are decorated with ornamental stone carvings, the finest of which are again to be found in the Boyne Valley. Examples of these monuments in the South Co. Dublin area are the site known as the Fairy Castle, near Ticknock, Slievethoul, Seehan near Ballynascorney, Seefin in Nth. Wicklow, and of course Montpelier Hill, where the Hell-Fire Club is reputed to have been built with stones from the destroyed passage graves nearby.

Shortly after about 2,000 B.C. metal-using people began arriving on our shores, heralding the start of the Irish Bronze Age. Along with their new metal technology, these people also introduced a different form of burial monument, the main type of which is known as a wedge shaped Gallery Grave (or Wedge tomb) - the name being derived from the roughly wedge shape of the tombs. There are about 370 known examples of Wedge tombs in Ireland, mainly in the South and South East of the country, there are also some in the Sligo/Donegal area, and a few in the Dublin/Wicklow area. A classic example of the Northern type wedge tomb is the monument at Ballyedmonduff. When this site was first recorded in the 1830's it was apparently still covered by a mound or cairn, but by the time the excavators started work on it in 1945 the mound was gone, and a considerable amount of damage had been done to the tomb. The main gallery here is 26' long and is divided into, an ante-chamber, a main chamber, and a separate end chamber - these are surrounded by two separate outer walls, and finally a kerb. The finds included fragments of Beaker pottery, some fragments of coarse ware, some flint pieces and a perforated polished stone hammer. The date given for this monument is about 1,700 B.C.

At Kilmashogue, above Rathfarnham, there is another example, quite similar to Ballyedmonduff, but in this case the covering cairn was re-used by later Bronze age people, who inserted cist burials into it. The main monument must have fallen into disuse before the later burials took place, because these late bronze age people also put one of their burials into the ante-chamber, using it as a form of cist.

An example of a wedge tomb which still retains its cairn or mound, is to be found at Laughaunstown, near Tully church. The mound is roughly oval in shape, and measures 14m. long, 12m. wide and 1.2m. high. The hollow on top suggests that the mound has been interfered with in the past. Some of the kerb stones are visible at the base of the mound.

At Carricrollogan there is an example of a more simple wedge shaped tomb - similar to the type often found in the S/W. part of the country.

As the Bronze age progressed, traditions changed, different forms of burials came to be used, and the megalithic tradition of earlier times seems to have been abandoned.

References;

1. P.R.I.A. Vol 66C (1968)
2. P.R.I.A. Vol 55C (1952)
3. P.R.I.A. Vol 56C (1954)
4. J.R.A.A.I. Vol 104 (1974)

Loughlinstown House

“Old and ruinous and ingeniously situated to avoid one of the sweetest prospects I ever saw”. This was how Mrs. Delaney saw Loughlinstown House less than 100 years after its erection by the first Sir William Domvile in place of the medieval castle on his newly acquired property. In 1752 she and the Dean were on their homeward journey to Dublin after a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Ussher near Wicklow. They had ordered dinner at the well-known inn at Loughlinstown whose landlord, Owen Bray, was celebrated in song for his venison and claret as well as for his fabulous feats of horsemanship with the Earl of Meath’s Kilruddery Hunt. The inn, since the early 19th century converted into a private house (Beechgrove) is still there. Mrs. Delaney found it “very good and pleasantly situated”.

Always interested in her surroundings, while waiting for dinner to be prepared, she seized the opportunity to take a look at Mr. Domvile’s place, the entrance to which was (and is) just opposite the inn. She noted her impressions as follows:- “There is a natural terrace on the side of the hill on which the house stands of almost 1 mile at least. The part I saw of it is a gradual descent from that to the highway, but at such a distance as not to incommode you with noise or dust; part of the bank is quite green and smooth like a slope in a garden - the rest covered with shrubby wood and fir trees. Across the valley where the road runs is a river over which is a bridge and a bank divided into fields with little cabins; hedges and trees rise on the other side, overtopped with mountains whose deep purple make the verdure of the nearer prospects appear to great advantage”.

Loughlinstown House remained in the possession of the Domvile family for 300 years until in 1963 it was sold to Mr, John Galvin, American multi-millionaire of Irish extraction. In 1976, most of his land having been requisitioned by the Dún Laoghaire Corporation for Council house building, Mr. Galvin sold out. Today the house is in the possession of the E.E.C. no doubt for use as a Conference Centre.

Not as well-known as perhaps it deserves to be, it is not a large house and must have been smaller before rebuilding in the late 18th century when the present front was added. The back portion, originally the front, is a charming Queen Anne style. Certainly an interesting house, and by far the earliest undefended one of any size to be built in the area.

For the origins of Loughlinstown House we must go back to the mid-13th century, when the land came into the possession of a family named Goodman - probably the same whose name occurs for the first time in connection with the trial for murder of his brother-in-law in the Archbishop’s Court of Shankill, during the episcopate of Archbishop Luke (1228-55). The family, English in origin as the name indicates, had come to Ireland with, or not long after, the Invasion of 1170 and had been granted land on condition that it was held for the Crown.

In course of time its members had come to hold positions of responsibility in the county. Despite this, however, over the centuries they had intermarried with their Irish neighbours and were frequently in trouble with the Government for lawless and irresponsible behaviour, often in company with the Walshs of Shanganagh Castle just across the river from them. They illustrate perfectly the well known phrase - “Ipsis Hibernis hiberniories”.

At some stage - the date is not known - the Goodmans built a castle on the Loughlinstown (then and through out the Middle Ages known as Laughnanstown) property, Much later a

Survey taken in 1654 under the Commonwealth regime valued the land at £100-150 and noted “there is on the premises one Castle and a strong Bawne; one mill in use worth in the year 1640 ten pounds - an orchard and a garden”. Later again when forfeited the property was advertised as “a most desirable estate with a fair pleasant river running through it”.

After the Reformation the Goodmans remained staunch supporters of the old Faith. A century later on the outbreak of the 1641 Rebellion (which was to coincide with the Civil War in England between King and parliament) James Goodman and his son of the same name who were then in Loughlinstown Castle, were both deeply involved in all the attacks on their Protestant neighbours (whom they regarded as interlopers) and, in particular, the attack on the Rev. Simon Swayne in his Rathmichael Glebehouse, all of which may be read in the MSS known as the 1641 Depositions in the library of TCD.

James the elder joined the Confederate Army in which he had the title of Provost-Marshal; it was not for this, however, but for the murder of one of his tenants in Bray that he was finally executed during the Commonwealth, his property forfeited to the Crown. Eventually Loughlinstown was granted to General Edmund Ludlow, Cromwell’s Master of the Horse in Ireland, as part of his perquisites. Ludlow was living in Monkstown Castle, one of the many forfeited by the original owners who had played a prominent part in the Rebellion, for which they had been deported to Connaught leaving their castle homes to be taken over by the victors.

Ludlow gave Loughlinstown to a follower, John Lambert, who was only able to enjoy it for less than two years when, in 1660, King Charles 2nd returned to England and the whole situation changed almost overnight. In very many cases the original owners of the forfeited castles were permitted to return to them, the temporary owners having to relinquish them. The Goodman clan had all disappeared from the scene so Loughlinstown Castle was again without an occupant, but it was shortly to have one of a very different kind.

On his return to England the King lost no time in appointing an Attorney-General for Ireland whose terms of reference were to sort out and settle all the claims and counter-claims arising out of the recent rebellion and the subsequent confiscations, etc. This almost impossible task was entrusted to a 51 year old lawyer, William Domvile, practising in London, and before coming over he was knighted by the King.

Sir William Domvile, Kt. came of a very ancient Norman family who had come to England with the Conqueror in 1066. He was no stranger to Ireland in which country he had been born, his father Gilbert, having come over in the opening years of the 17th century. Gilbert Domvile married Margaret, daughter of Dr. Thomas Jones Archbishop of Dublin (see his great monument in the N. aisle of St. Patrick’s Cathedral) and settled in Dublin near that Cathedral. By all accounts the King’s choice of an Attorney-General seems to have been an excellent one. Sir William Domvile performed it so well that he was granted in compensation for all his work and money spent in the royal cause “the Castle, Towne and Lands of Laughnanstown, including 457 acres, which the King found was in his gift. Where the Goodman’s old castle had stood Sir William Domvile built a modern house as his country residence while keeping his father’s town house, and both were well furnished in the style of the day. Dr. F.E. Ball, writing early in this century, lists some of the furniture, etc. in both houses, details which he must have got from Sir William’s will. It is fortunate that he noted them for the will, like so many others, was destroyed in 1922 and but for Dr. Ball we would never have heard of “the large hall, the great parlour and the little parlour with their tapestry hangings and Turkey-worked chairs, the drawing room and its looking-glasses, the great bed-chamber over the little parlour with its curtains and valances of red-wrought flower work, nor of the Spanish tables and stands and the portraits of the Duke of Ormond (with whom Sir William was on very friendly terms) in the town house. His herd of black cattle and flocks of sheep as well as

his saddle, coach and draught horses, etc. also mentioned, show that Sir William was able to lead the life of a country gentleman without fear of raiders from the mountains. Times had indeed changed. In 1677 Sir William was granted a licence to hold a Fair in Loughlinstown on the Feast of St. James and the day following.

Sir William died in 1689 and was succeeded by his eldest son, also Sir William. His second son, Thomas, must be briefly mentioned. He settled in Templeogue and was created a baronet. In 1690 when the Barnewalls left Shankill Castle he rented the castle with its lands and the lands of Rathmichael from the Archbishop of Dublin for the sum of £75 a year. It was Sir Thomas' son, Sir Compton Domvile, Bt MP & PC, who brought Santry Court into the family by inheritance from a nephew (the 4th Baron Santry) who died young. Santry Court was to become the principal seat of the Domviles, although the title ceased to exist.

Sir William the 2nd was living in Loughlinstown House when the struggle for supremacy between King James 2nd and William of Orange was being fought in Ireland and he must have seen the King's army encamped in the neighbouring townland of Lehaunestown (Medieval Laughanstown) after his flight from the Boyne. The King is said to have gone up the hill to Puck's Castle to visit Peter Lawless, and the writer of these notes has been told by a friend that she was shown the silver left with the Lawless family by the King for safe-keeping while he sought refuge in France. The Domvile family have a tradition that James planted a tree on the avenue at Loughlinstown and the daughter of Major Herbert Winnington Domvile who was living there in the early years of the century remembers the tree being blown down and how pleased they were to see shoots springing up!

We now come to the year 1698 when Sir William 2nd died and his son, another William (but untitled) inherited. Mr. William Domvile, who remained a bachelor all his life, did not live in the house which stood empty and apparently uncared for during most of the 18th century. His name is said to have appeared on a list of permanent absentees from his native land, and when Mrs. Delaney saw the place in 1752, as mentioned earlier, she remarked that Mr. Domvile always lived in England. At one time when he and Dean Swift were both in London they became good friends. Swift admired the young man very much and mentions him several times in the *Journal to Stella* - "he is perfectly as fine a gentleman as I know". They wined and dined often together, sometimes at more expense than was agreeable to Swift! Was it, perhaps, jealousy that prompted Swift later to declare himself "unable to understand how a man of birth and spirit could be satisfied with appearing behind a crowded court, merely adding to the string of coaches in Hyde Park, attending an occasional opera and losing his money at a chocolate house, condemning himself, in fact, to remain in insignificance in London when he might be living in distinction in his own country and at half the expense". Was this an allusion to Mr. William Domvile?

When in 1763 William Domvile died, his cousin, Sir Compton of Templeogue and Santry, inherited Loughlinstown House but, on his death five years later, the properties were again separated, Loughlinstown going to a nephew of Mr. William Domvile, the Rev. Benjamin Harrington, then Dean of Armagh, who took the name Domvile, and married his cousin, Anna Maria Pocklington, sister of Sir Compton's nephew, Charles Pocklington who inherited Templeogue and Santry and also took the name Domvile.

In 1773 the Rev. Benjamin (Harrington) Domvile became Rector of Bray and Prebendary of Rathmichael and lived in the Cherrywood Glebehouse built by his predecessor, Dr. John Lyon in 1751. He was only there one year when he died. His widow and a nephew of hers, Mr. Francis Savage, lived for some time in Loughlinstown House which, Dr. F. E. Ball tells us, was then rebuilt and the gardens laid out. The present front of the house dates from this time.

Twenty-two years later, in 1796, a tenant of some note took a life-long lease of Loughlinstown House. Mr. Justice Robert Day, as he was soon to become, was a native of Tralee - a nephew of the Knight of Kerry. One of his brothers became Mayor of Cork and ancestor of Primate Godfrey Day. Another brother was Archdeacon of Ardfert who, it is amusing to recall, possessed the somewhat unarchdiaconal accomplishment of writing drinking songs, a form of entertainment very popular at the time. One of his songs entitled "One Bottle More" had a great success!

Judge Day's town house was No. 5, Merrion Square, and Loughlinstown House was to be his country residence - a custom now very much in vogue. His biographer dwells on the attractions of the place - the long avenue between rich fields, its farm, its gardens and, above all, its lovely view, lying in a valley between the Dublin Mountains and the sea, with the purple Sugarloaf Mts. hanging over the valley on the SW. We are given a pen-picture of the judge as he goes on circuit seated in his open landau drawn by a fine pair of horses passing out of the wide gate to bowl along the country road where landaus were seldom seen - the liveried coachman in his wide cape and square hat seated on the lofty box. If the weather were fine, the judge might choose to ride instead of driving.

In his choice of a house it is probable that Judge Day may have been influenced by his friendship with Henry Grattan, then living in Enniskerry where, ten years before, he had purchased and rebuilt as a private house the old coaching inn, Tinnehinch, with money granted by a grateful nation. Grattan and Day had been friends since their College days in TCD, and later in London where they shared rooms while studying for the Bar. They also shared the same political views - Day helping Grattan to achieve his aim of a free Parliament for Ireland in which he sat for its 18 years, Together with the Hon. Valentine Lawless (later 2nd Lord Cloncurry) they organised the Volunteer Corps commanded by Lord Charlemont, to keep law and order and defend the country from invasion when it was rendered vulnerable by the withdrawal of troops to serve elsewhere. Day, however, although a patriotic Irishman (he had been brought up speaking Irish) always remained a loyal subject of the King, and, trained as he was in the law, he could not agree with the turn events were beginning to take in his view heading for bloodshed and anarchy, utterly abhorrent to him. He, therefore, gave up politics and devoted himself to his legal career, in spite of which he and Grattan were to remain firm friends till the latter's death in 1820.

Grattan must often have visited Loughlinstown House, as also another good friend of both, the Hon. W.C. Plunket (later Lord Plunket) of Old Connaught House, A closer neighbour was General Sir George Cockburn who in 1818 was restyling the house built by his father and naming it Shanganagh Castle. (The medieval castle of that name had been destroyed by fire in 1763). It is interesting to think that Sir Walter Scott, also a friend of Day, may well have visited him in Loughlinstown when staying with Lord Plunket in Old Connaught in 1825.

In 1818, at the age of 73 Day retired. Five years later his wife died and he decided to give up his town house which, not long before, had been the scene of brilliant parties in connection with the visit of the new King, George 4th, to Ireland. No. 5, Merrion Square, was sold for £2,500 and Day settled permanently in Loughlinstown where he interested himself in farming and country life. He also married again.

Day had lived through stirring times in which he had taken his part - he had seen the '98 rebellion and the famous military camp set up to deal with the rebels in the neighbouring townland of Lehaunestown, opposite his gate. Following on the rebellion and the Act of Union, there was the scare of a Napoleonic invasion which brought the building of the Martello towers along the coast not far off; the cutting of the Military Road with its barracks at strategic points in the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, to facilitate the capture of the rebels hiding there, and the setting up of local Defence Forces - the Kiltarnan Rangers captained by

Capt. Richard Anderson, and the “Rathdown Association” organised by Lord Cloncurry. The latter was described as an unpaid force for the Bray/Shankill area (so well known to Lord Cloncurry as a member of the Lawless family) and must have reminded Day of the famous Volunteers which he had once played so prominent a part to form for the very same purpose. Now he was going to enjoy his retirement in peaceful surroundings. His establishment at Loughlinstown consisted of 7 labourers, a steward, a gardener and two women gatekeepers. Four men servants and five maid servants formed the indoor staff. His livestock included sheep - (in his diary he noted the purchase of 20 for £37 and one bullock for £11/10/-), four horses, five cows, two plow bulls, two bullocks and seven heifers and calves.

Now and again he travelled. One year he went for a tour to France taking his own carriage, horses and servants the whole way. In 1826 he records in his diary boarding the new steamboat at Holyhead and landing 6½ hours later at Howth. In 1828 when planning a trip to Italy a list of some of the items considered necessary included pistols - pocket knife and fork - ink powder and pens - toothbrush - and, both wells of the carriage to be stocked with candles for the lamps.

Every Sunday he went to church - this was Monkstown (in which there is a Memorial tablet to him) which he must have seen change from its original style of the late 18th century to its present form given it by Sample in 1831. Sometimes he went to Cabinteely, and in 1836-he records in his diary attending “the dedication of the new Catholic Chapel there with General Sir George Cockburn and his son (Phineas), the parson and a few more heretics. The dear Miss Byrnes made room for Mrs. Day and self in their pew”.

When Day died in 1841 at the age of 96, Loughlinstown House was let to a Mr. Jacob West. Towards the end of the century – for the first time in 100 years - a Domvile appeared again in it, Major Herbert Winnington Domvile, head of the junior branch of the family.

References: -

Correspondence of Mrs Delaney.

Mem. Rolls -34-35 Eliz.

Archbishop Alans Register

Civil Survey 1654

Ball (Part 1)

A Whiff of the Past, (Some clay pipes from Rathmichael)

by Daphne K.P. Maxwell.



On sunny March days, well wrapped against the skinning East Wind, I set forth to a certain field in search of clay pipes. It is a leisurely occupation akin to looking for mushrooms; it brings one on the same sort of erratic course and arouses that same mild thrill when a find is made. It takes a while to get one's eye in, for pipe fragments which have lain for fifty and more years in the ground don't show up very well and look just like bits of old bone, having much the same shape and colour. Nevertheless I have, over the years, Spring by Spring, between ploughing and the start of growth, gathered a collection interesting not only in itself, but which provokes plenty of material for speculation and further research.

To start with one might wonder how these pipe pieces come to be strewn around the fields. The answer is that they are there because of old-time farming practice and rubbish disposal methods. Pipe smoking was widespread and the clay-pipe a fairly cheap but easily broken article. In the 1850's the price apparently varied from one penny per dozen to threepence each whilst in 1900 the price of the plain variety was still only one penny a dozen.

Today when we hear combines droning throughout the country at harvest time or see tractors racing over the fields harrowing, seeding and rolling we find it almost impossible to realize how many people were needed to do such jobs in the days when all work on the farm was done by hand with only the horse to help, and when there was an abundant rural population. For instance potato planting could occupy nine, or on a large farm maybe sixteen, people. The ploughman opening the drill, the carter unloading manure, three spreaders following, and after them three planters and finally another horse-plough closing up the drills to complete the operation (see cover). Many of these people - women as well as men - are likely to have smoked clay pipes and it follows that many pipes would have been lost and others discarded when they broke.

It was also, until fairly recently, the sensible practice for all country houses to have in the yard a small enclosure or ash pit into which went, as well as the cinders, all the household rubbish such as broken crockery, glass, bits of ornaments and such like incombustible refuse. Once or twice a year, when manure was being carted out, the ash-pit would be emptied and the contents spread with the manure on the tillage fields. I find many of these odd pieces when pipe hunting and a fascinating study they make, but that must be another story. Presumably some of the broken pipes would also find their way on to the land in this way.

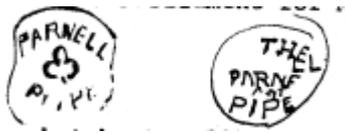
The pipe stems snap very easily into many pieces and the fragments recovered usually vary in length from about one and a half inches to less than a quarter of an inch. The bowls however are reasonably resistant to pressure, their rounded shape helping to mould them into the ground and thus saving them from further breakage.



DECORATED MOUTHPIECE .

The pipes themselves seem to fall into five categories which I name the Political, the Propaganda, the Souvenir, the Decorative and the Plain Pipe. As examples of what I call the Political Pipe I have the 'Gladstone' and the 'Parnell Pipe'. I also have a 'Grattan' one dated 1782 but I found it in North Co. Dublin. These pipes commemorate, as the names imply, figures prominent in politics at the time of their manufacture, and thus we could give a tentative date of about 1886 to the 'Gladstone' - Mr. Gladstone at about that time was struggling to win acceptance of his Home Rule Bill and consequently gaining some popularity in Ireland.

Mr. Parnell's pipe stamped with his name above a plain shamrock becomes the 'Parnell M.P.' Pipe after his election to Parliament for Meath in 1875.



The letters 'M.P.' are rather crude and give the impression of being a somewhat hasty addition. A kind of Hot Press.

Next there is what I term the Propaganda Pipe which I suppose you bought and smoked to show your support for a cause, as people today will wear paper caps on All-Ireland Match Days or proclaim their wish to "Save Enniskerry" or Sandymount Strand by stickers in their cars.

The illustration shows the Land League pipe with its harp and shamrocks upholding the 'Land War' of 1879-82, and the beautifully embellished Home Rule one of about 1893 also the raised Red Hand of Ulster with its criss-cross heart on the reverse of the bowl.

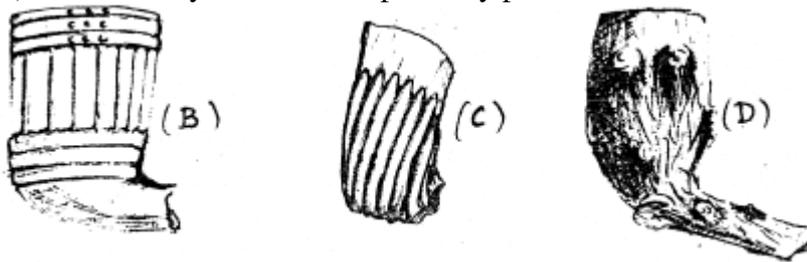


Of Souvenir Pipes I have so far found only two, the first of which is the butty little 'Bray Head Cutty' which, if not named after our own Bray Head, may have had some connection with Bray Head in Valencia Island, or perhaps the name of some sailing ship. The second is the well-designed pipe all the way from Glasgow with its skirls of thistles running from the stem up around the bowl. It was probably brought back from Scotland by some returning potato harvester.

40.



The Decorative Pipes show a high standard of workmanship especially for such a fragile commodity. See the curious barrel-like one with raised roping round it (a) and also the more restrained one with the delicate raised columns between plain bands at top and bottom (b), there is a pleasing graduated fluted fragment (c) and I have found three of the tree-trunk type (d) whose sturdy construction probably preserved them better than other finer models.



Finally we come to the 'Plain Pipes' which in a way are the most interesting of all, for on them is stamped a trade mark giving the name and address of the maker. Of such pipes found in this field, the majority were made by the United Trades Association of Dublin, their mark being two clasped hands,

Next most plentiful is a pipe with a trademark showing a crown placed above the capital letter 'L'. Following these there came the two Cunninghams of 135, Francis Street.

Altogether I have thirteen different Dublin trade-marks and one from Limerick. One of the many interesting things that emerges is that nearly all the Dublin makers are grouped in one part of Francis Street with one not far off in New Street at Mullinahack where there was a mill

of that name. For those not too familiar with Dublin, Francis Street runs about parallel to Patrick Street joining the Coombe and Dean Street to the Cornmarket.

This conglomeration of pipe makers follows the old system where each craft kept to its own street, as has been demonstrated during recent Dublin Excavations.



Even as late as 1935 there remained one pipe-maker in Francis Street, - McDowell in No. 17 - and today if you go to look you will still find that house on the Corner of Handkerchief Alley.



It is somewhat dilapidated but to the casual glance probably very much the same as it was when McDowell, and before him the Daly family lived and made pipes there. It is a little brick house with a wooden shop front, huddled together with a few others in a block not yet demolished. Across the street the Tivoli Cinema stands where Mr. Cunningham worked and a square cement-built factory has replaced another of his houses as well as that of Mr. Heffernan - No. 126 on the corner of Pendred's Court.

Pipe making was traditionally a family business which appears to have been carried on from father to son, as with the Cunninghams and McLoughlins, or husband to widow in the case of the Careys and Dalys. Mrs Carey not only manufactured pipes but was a 'pipe-clay merchant' also, about 1890.

The pipes I have found range in date from approximately 1823 throughout the century. The peak manufacturing period seems to have been the 1840's to 1880's. Being hand made the pipes vary in size and shape quite noticeably and are of different consistencies probably due to the type of clay used; some dry, coarse and thick others smooth and thin. They were rolled by hand and when dry enough were put into a mould until ready to have the hole bored by pushing a steel wire through the stem. Then the bowl was hollowed out by the rotation of a conical plunger. Finally they were baked in small kilns.

Though I now have over one hundred pipe bowls or fragments there are at least four Francis Street pipe-makers not represented.

The earliest maker I know of was Charles Evans, who began selling his pipes in 1813. Next, Samuel Bushell who seems to have died after a year and was succeeded by his widow Julia who also either died or gave up after a further year. Joseph O'Connor, too, only made a very brief appearance as a pipe-maker.

As a result a pipe by any of these makers would indeed be a rare find, but who knows - maybe next spring!



“...Since First I Made my Count” (Part 2)

When I first knew Corbawn Lane it was a real country road – ½ mile or so, lined with beautiful beech trees arching overhead; exquisite in palest green in spring, and in autumn an explosion of gold, copper and bronze. Who planted these trees, when and why we do not know - any more than we know the origin of the lane's name?

In those days in the 1930's there was only one house – Eatonbrae, once the home of the Caldbeck family - on the left or N. side as you went towards the sea, and only five on the S. side - Dorney Court (formerly Claremont), Lisnalurg (Maryland), Clarebeg (now Thomond), Llanmawr and Clifden (now two houses Dunsandle and Sant' Alfonso with a third lately added).

There was no street lighting and no electric light in at least one of the houses. Even when it was installed at last, the paraffin lamps, a hangover from older days in the depths of the country, were to prove very useful in many later winters when storms of wind and rain tore down the weaker trees and cut off communication.

Mrs. Cholmondeley-Clarke lived in Clifden at the end of the lane and during her parties on summer Sunday afternoons cars and pedestrians crowded the lane.

Needless, perhaps, to say, that there were no buses - these did not appear until the '60's, as the children in the new houses to be built after the war grew in number over the years and had to go to school. There was no footpath and before street lighting came, walking after dark made some older folk nervous of falling into the deep ditch on the S. side. That this was no empty fear we can read in K. Tynan's "The Years of the Shadow" in which she talks of her life here during World War I when she spent 3 years in the house now called "Thomond". Two of her many distinguished literary visitors did just that - if I remember right. They were James Stephens (*The Crock of Gold*) and his wife! It was during her time in the Lane that the railway line was moved further W. to its present position, the old line having become dangerous owing to constant erosion. The old railway bridge still there at the bottom of the Lane was blown up - about 1952 I think - as considered a danger to those going to the shore.

It was 1950 when this peaceful picture began to be attacked, and like the Vikings of old, the developers descended on us. First to fall victim to the cement and concrete was Eatonbrae and here we owe a debt of thanks to the Pierce Fitzgerald family at that time living in a flat in the big house. They intervened with the developer on behalf of the beautiful trees growing there. In consequence of this, many are still standing, and make this one of the most attractive estates. Next came the bungalows on the same side of the Lane, to be quickly followed by the houses of Corbawn Avenue. Some doubt as to the correctness of calling an off-shoot of the Lane by a grander name was settled by the "Laners" refusing to be 'up-graded'. A little later came Seafield which everyone foretold would be engulfed in the sea in a few years and said it should not be allowed. The developer, however, as is the way of such, defied public opinion and authority and went ahead. In this case he was probably right as coastal erosion is reliably stated to be no more than 9" a year on average. A strong East Wind and a high tide are the necessary conditions and these do not combine so frequently.

Rathsallagh

A pause after this as if to gather breath then, in 1975, came a compulsion order on Shanganagh Park and soon nearly all the land between the railway line and the Ballybrack road and from Abingdon Park to Corbawn Lane was to become a sea of houses. Every day brought reports of more proposed buildings - a school, a railway halt, a supermarket, etc.

It was now only a matter of time - it had to come - and in 1976 the developers struck again, this time on the S. side of the Lane between the railway line and the sea, all around Llanmawr and between it and Clontra, Quinn's Road. The field between Llanmawr and Clontra used often to be flooded in the winter months and sometimes a flight of wild swans would settle on the water (by then a temporary lake) making a lovely picture as they glided silently and smoothly up and down and in and out. Seen through a thin screen of winter trees, a ballet come to life.

Old inhabitants of Shankill remember people skating on this lake nearly a century ago. Now all has gone. Where will the weary wild swans refresh themselves on their flight to the wetland of Wexford?

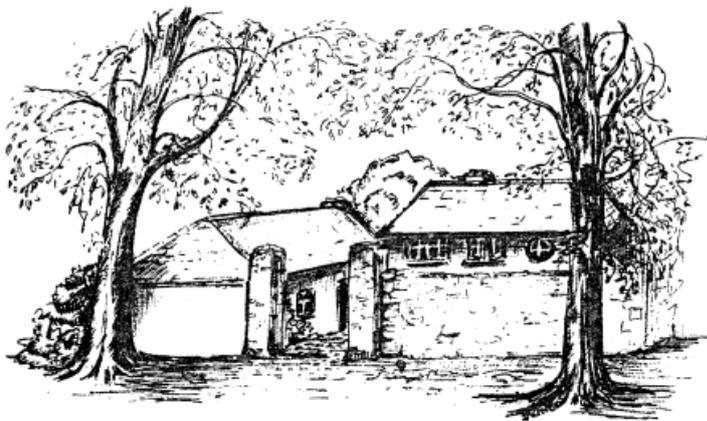
An Taisce is trying to save the Corbawn trees - still intact but for some at the top of the Lane - but for how long can they last? It is surely typical of something that the only part of the Lane which never had any trees is now baptized "Corbawn Wood"!

At the top of the Lane where the road junction once known as the Shanganagh cross-road has been brought up to date by an ingenious roundabout a few years ago. St. Anne's Church was built in the 1930ss. Old inhabitants say that the foundation stone was laid in 1933 but it was not ready for worship until 1938. Here again, as at Eatonbrae, timely intervention on the part of one family - in this case Col. and Mrs. Taylor of Lisnalurg - saved at least some of the trees which then grew on the land and which would otherwise have all been destroyed. At long last the people of Shankill, rapidly increasing in numbers, had their own church and did not have to go to Cabinteely, Little Bray, or Ballybrack on Sundays - quite an effort in those days when cars were as scarce as hens' teeth in Shankill.

Turning towards Bray along the main road as we cross the railway bridge we remember the days during the war when there was no petrol and we all met our neighbours on the train to Harcourt St. Station - neighbours who previously had been like ships passing in the night. Now the Harcourt Street line is closed for good.

On the crest of the bridge is another reminder of old and gone days - the twin houses on the right, in one of which was the old Post Office and telephone exchange,

Mrs. Nelson was the postmistress and a very good one too. Mr. Nelson attended Rathmichael Church where he sang in the choir, his powerful voice contending successfully with the organ!



CLONABLEISH YARD BUILDINGS . OCTOBER . 1977 .

When Miss Neville, the Assistant succeeded Mrs. Nelson we still had our own Shankill exchange and at times the exchanges (of another sort) between the subscribers and the P.O. operator were other than official!