

1



DUCKETT'S GROVE – BURNED 1933

The burning of Duckett's Grove in 1933 was a tragedy, representing the greatest loss ever to County Carlow's significant architectural heritage of grand houses. The departure of the Duckett family, many years earlier, was an equally great family tragedy. Georgina Duckett, widow of William Duckett, whom she married in 1895, had one daughter Olive from an earlier marriage. William died in 1908. Mother and daughter left Duckett's Grove for Dublin in 1916. After the contents were sold in 1923 the two never again spoke to one another. A court case over Mrs. Duckett's will, in which Olive was left one shilling, ended with an award of one third from an estate first valued at £97,000.

2



THE TOWERS GATE LODGE

At the main entrance to Duckett's Grove stands one of the finest entrances to be seen anywhere in these islands. Mark Bence-Jones described the Towers as "one of the most stupendous castellated gateways in Ireland; with a formidable array of battlemented and machicolated towers and two great archways leading onto two drives". Built in the 1850s The Towers was designed by John McDuff Derick and castellated additions to the main house were designed by Thomas A. Cobden. Opened as a pub in the 1960s, with additions to the rear, these have since been demolished and the building is now in disuse.

3



FRIARSTOWN CHURCH – BURNED 1331

Hatred of the descendants of the earlier Norman invaders and in turn the Knights Hospitallers, led to many attacks on property by local tribes in the 14th century. One of the worst was an arson attack on Friarstown Church in 1331 when a priest and a congregation of 80 people were burned to death. The Pope ordered the Archbishop of Dublin to excommunicate those involved. Canon French of Clonegal, suggested an explanation for the attacks – "we must remember the wild times and the exasperated feelings of the Irish tribes who had been driven from their rich lands, and the Hospitallers were fighting men, who doubtless had often punished the Irish severely".

4



KNIGHTS HOSPITALLERS OF KILLERIG

The Knights Hospitallers established a monastic settlement in Killerig in the late 12th century, having come to Ireland with the Normans. The Hospitallers, who were armed (note illustration on the left) would have little in common with religious orders as we know them today, combining as they did, soldiering with their religious lives. The Hospitallers and the Knights Templars, both military orders, were founded in Jerusalem to protect pilgrims to the Holy City. In Ireland the Normans used the order's military might to subjugate the Irish. Killerig continued as a monastic settlement until the suppression of Irish Monasteries by King Henry VIII 1537.

5



BALLYGOREY TREATY – 1395

After King Richard II landed his forces in Waterford in 1395, resistance by Leinster chieftains was short lived and a truce was hastily agreed. Ballygorey lay in a corridor of level ground on the vital route between Munster and the seat of power in Dublin. The site was overlooked by two strategic Norman Castles at Friarstown (left) and Killerig. The truce was signed on 16th February 1395. The English delegation was led by Thomas Mowbray, Earl Marshall of England and the Leinster Chieftains by Art McMurrough. The Latin document, was translated into Irish by Brother Edmund Vale, Master of the Hospitallers at nearby Killerig. The original treaty document is kept at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

6



SIGNACARE NURSING HOME AT KILLERIG

Most of us natives were at the 'need to pinch myself' when we looked across the old Dillon farm and saw greens and not green fields, fairways and not friesians, and the talk then was about good shots and not good sheep. Just as the 21st century was dawning a golf course was developed, followed by a 42 bedroom hotel. Today the golf course is closed and the hotel is a nursing home in the Signa Group.

7



THE CISTERCIANS IN GRANGEFORD

When Dermot McMurrough founded the Abbey of Baltinglass for the Cistercians in 1148, he granted the Order extensive tracts of land in Carlow, Wicklow and Kildare. These grants included 3,500 acres in Grangeford and surrounding townlands, where the Order established a community of lay brothers in the latter half of the 12th century. These outfarms were called granges, derived from the latin word 'grangia' meaning barn. The buildings in Grangeford included a refractory, dormitory, a calefactory, stables, an oratory and possibly a guesthouse.

8



GRANGEFORD BRIDGE 1921

Disruption of communications was a key tactic of the Irish Republican Army during the War of Independence and one of many local examples of this policy was the blowing up of Grangeford bridge in 1921. Grangeford B Coy had a membership of over twenty and their guerrilla war effort followed the nationwide pattern of attacks on isolated police barracks, troop carrying lorries, raids on public buildings and bombing roads and bridges. One of the first actions involving IRA men from Grangeford was an attack on a Royal Irish Constabulary patrol in Tullow on Sept 8th, 1920 in which two policemen were killed.

9



NEOLITHIC SITE AT BAUNOGENASRAID

Prehistoric discoveries at more than a dozen locations in this immediate area, including those made during excavations at the neolithic burial at Baunogenasraid, would date the arrival of the first settlers here between 2000 and 3000 B.C. Dr. Barry Raftery of U.C.D. directed the archaeological digs at Baunoge in August and September 1972 and again in April 1973. Artefacts included neolithic pottery, human bones, a flint scraper, flints and a lignite pendant. The first of three cist burials was discovered in Killerig in 1872 - all dating from the Bronze Age (2000 to 500 B.C.).

The Path to the Present

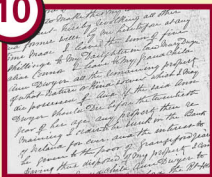
A History of Grange, Co. Carlow



"We can chart our future clearly and wisely, only when we know the path which has led to the present" - Adlai Stephenson, U.S. Presidential Candidate, 1952.

● GENTRY
 ● SPORT & ENTERTAINMENT
 ● RELIGION
 ● WAR & POLITICS
 ● EDUCATION
 ● BUSINESS

10



JAMES DWYER – CHAMPION WRESTLER

According to the late Fr. John Lawler, a curate in the parish of Ballon-Rathoe in the early 20th century, parishioner James Dwyer of Grangeford was informally crowned Champion Wrestler of Ireland on many occasions in the 1830s. At six foot three inches, and weight to match, Dwyer was a formidable opponent and according to contemporary reports – “wrestlers from all parts of Ireland met James to try conclusions with him, and all of them returned to their respective homes sadder but wiser men”. When Dwyer made his will in 1868 he implored his landlord the Earl of Bessborough to leave his wife and daughter in occupation of their 26-acre farm after his death.

11



SIR JOHN THORP

Sir John Thorp was appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Seychelles in 1958, and is seen here being greeted on arrival by Chief Secretary Ian Woodroffe (right). A distinguished career in the British Colonial Civil Service took him to Kenya, St. Lucia in the Caribbean and eventually the Seychelles, where he died tragically in a drowning accident in 1961. Kingclough, in Grangeford, where Sir John's niece Claire and her family still lives, came into the possession of the family in the early 1700s and is the oldest inhabited house in the area. Samuel's late wife Rachel wrote a number of books including *Pullet on the Midden* and *Wait Now*.

12



THE ROCHE – BREWERS

Alice Roche, pictured with her husband Professor Charles McNally, J.P., was a member of one of Carlow's best known brewing families. Brewing and distilling were two important industries throughout Co. Carlow for many centuries, both depending on and supporting a strong agricultural economy of which grain growing was a significant component. Tullow, a town with a small population, had two breweries during the first half of the 19th century. A distillery in Graiguecullen was producing 35,000 gallons of whiskey annually and Carlow town had five breweries. The Roches had extensive farming interests at Rathbawn and Rock View.

21



MEDIEVAL SLAB – STRABOE

This medieval slab, one of the few designated national monuments in the area, is thought to mark the grave of a Knight of the Military Order of Hospitaliers from the nearby monastery at Kilerig. The Order controlled nine small churches within a few miles radius of the monastery. All that remains of the Straboe church (Temple Buidhe or The Yellow Church), is part of a gable wall. Tradition suggests Straboe may have been a town and early Ordnance Survey maps show the site of an old castle a short distance north east of the grave slab.

20



KILLERIC CHURCH

The oldest of the area's Celtic Churches at Kilerig derived its name from its founder St. Eric. The adjoining graveyard contains a rare latin cross, reused as a headstone in modern times, explaining the inscription "T.K." with a cross in relief. In Celtic and post-Norman times missionaries came into the area. From the late 1800s large numbers of missionaries from Grange have gone to four continents and continue to work among some of the most politically and economically oppressed peoples across the world. For local people their ordinations and professions brought a sense of unequalled community pride.

19



POLITICAL CONNECTIONS

Between 1910 and 1950 four politicians – three born in Grange – took seats in Dail Eireann, Seanad Eireann and the British House of Commons. Michael Molloy from Straboe was the last M.P. to represent Carlow in the Commons (1910-1918). Thomas Bolger of Downings, defeated Michael Barry, brother of Kevin Barry, in a Dail bye-election in 1925. Tom Reid, Mount View, after a career in the Colonial Civil Service, held a Labour seat in Swindon (1945-1953). Dr. Robert Farnan, former owner of the 300 acre site of the 2006 World Ploughing Championships, was appointed to the Seanad on three occasions 1938, 1951 and 1957 by his friend Eamon De Valera.

18



DISNEY OF DOWNINGS

Following Dorothy Leonard's discovery of Disney tombs in Clonmelsh cemetery, south of Carlow town, genealogist Paul Gorry linked the Carlow Disneys with Walt Disney's family in America. During the reign of King James II the Disneys lost their lands in England and after arriving in Ireland, settled first in Kilkenny and later in Carlow. In the 1852 census Frances Disney was listed as a tenant farmer in Downings with 81 acres. Walt Disney was aware of his Carlow roots and according to local historian Martin Nevin, he visited Leighlinbridge in 1930. He had opened his first Hollywood studio in 1923.

17



GRANGE G.A. CLUB

Founded on March 25th, 1888 the Grange Club was one of fourteen represented at the first County Convention held in Tullow in the autumn of that year. Like many clubs its history is laced with more defeats than victories, but despite a sometimes shrinking base, the club, during the past 40 years has repeatedly climbed to the top in its quest for football glory. A new clubhouse and grounds were officially open by G.A.A. President Jack Boothman in 1996. He is seen here third from the left with Club Chairman, Paddy Halligan; County Board Chairman, Jim English; Leinster Council Chairman, Jim Berry; Monsignor, Brendan Byrne, P.P. and Club Secretary, Jimmy O'Toole.

16



GRANGE CHURCH

It is intriguing to consider if the thoughts of the Duke of Wellington (Arthur Wellesley - left) were partially focused on the parish of Tullow, when as British Prime Minister, he got the Catholic Emancipation Act through the House of Commons in 1829. Tullow was the home of his 42 year old illegitimate daughter Jane, a Catholic. When Jane Barnwall (left) became pregnant in 1787 after a brief affair with Arthur, she married a member of the Hanlon family of Grangeford. The child, named Jane Hanlon, married William O'Callaghan, a businessman in Tullow. They had four children, one of whom joined the Brigidine Order. The Duke's daughter died on Christmas Day 1867, aged 80 and was interred in Grange cemetery.

15



GRANGE SCHOOL

In 1823 primary education was introduced in Grange when one hundred pupils started attending classes in the newly built Catholic Church (1822). A small school was later built in the grounds of the Church. When the national school system was introduced in 1830, local curate Fr. John P. Clancy was the first applicant in the country to seek finance for the payment of teachers in Grange school. He secured the signatures of ten Catholics and ten Protestants for his application and a yearly grant of £8 was approved. The lease for the present school site was signed on July 7th, 1883. The cost was five shillings and the yearly rent one shilling. Illustration by pupil Emma Byrne.

14



MOUNT VIEW – THE COLDITZ LINK

Reichmarschall Goering boasted security was so tight at the World War II prisoner-of-war camp at Colditz that it was escape-proof. The Nazi Generals had not bargained for the ingenuity of a second generation Grangeman, who was masterminding the first escape attempt within weeks of his arrival. Patrick Robert Reid, whose father John Reid was born at Mount View, Grange, was first arrested in 1940 and had spent two and a half years as Escape Officer in Colditz before his own successful escape. He wrote several books about his experiences, on which a film and a BBC television series were based. He is seen here second from the left with fellow escapees Dick Howe, Rupert Barry and Jack Best.

13



MATT McCORMACK – HORSE TRAINER

The area's most famous and successful ambassador in the field of sport is British based racehorse trainer Matt McCormack from the Rathbawn Road. He was only seventeen when he left for the north of England where he got a job as a stable lad in 1957. After a succession of jobs with leading trainers he opened his own stables at Wantage in Oxfordshire in 1980. His most famous charges included Horage, Star Video and Quel Espri, working with top jockeys Lester Piggott, Steve Cauthen, Stephen Crane and Pat Eddery. Matt, seen here with Ray Cochrane, at Doncaster, is now retired and living in the south of England.