

Some Everyday Buildings from the Castleisland District

p.24 The Crown Hotel

The Crown Hotel has been a feature of Lower Main St. Castleisland for over a century. During the latter part of the 19th century, the hotel was owned by Mr. Maurice Murphy, an active member and strong advocate of the policies of the Land League. During the Land War, the balcony of the hotel was used as a platform to address the large gatherings of people in the streets below.

1886

Michael Davitt, in 1886, addressed a large gathering from here, urging them to refrain from the worst of the moonlighting atrocities then at their height. Other visiting dignitaries also made use of this facility including Mr. De Valera in the early 1950s. This balcony was replaced by a smaller one in the 1960s.

A History of East Kerry T.M. O'Donovan p.93

1880

The first Land League meeting in Castleisland was held on the 10th October 1880. The main speaker was Mr. Joseph Biggar M.P. - "the veteran obstructionist of the House of Commons" who was introduced by the chairman Fr. Arthur Murphy C.C.

Fr. Kieran O'Shea - Castleisland Church + People p.27

1880

10 Oct. 1880 a huge land meeting was held in Castleisland. It was estimated that up to 15,000 people gathered in the street in front of the Crown Hotel where they were addressed by Joseph Biggar M.P. and Arthur O'Connell M.P. Within a few days a branch of the League was formed.