REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/67

Romantic Hidden Kerry by Thomas Francis O'Sullivan

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Romantic Hidden

Kerry

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 4 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/67 contains contains material relating to the publication, *Romantic Hidden Kerry* (1931) by T F O'Sullivan including a small number of photocopies from the book, a handwritten index¹ and references to Earls of Desmond related material found in the work.

The author of the book, Thomas Francis O'Sullivan was born in Glin, Co Limerick in December 1874. He was educated in Listowel and began his career as a journalist working for *The Kerryman*. In 1907 he joined the staff on the *Freeman's Journal* and was that paper's London correspondent 1916-1924:

He actually covered the Treaty negotiations. He joined *The Irish Press* after it was established in 1931. He left the staff in 1937 and from then until his death in November 1950 he did freelance newspaper work and spent a lot of his time doing research work in the National Library.²

O'Sullivan was chairman of the Munster Council from 1903 to 1906 and was a member of the Central Council. He was also involved in the '98 Memorial Committee in Tralee and spoke at ceremonies commemorating the Manchester martyrs.

His brother, John Francis O'Sullivan, was also a journalist.

O'Sullivan wrote the *Story of the GAA with Portraits* (1916) evidently the first history of the association in which he is described as 'Ex-Trustee and Vice-President of the Association, Ex-President Munster Council, Ex-Hon Sec Kerry County Board and Ex-Capt and Sec Listowel F.C.' Another work, *Irish Footprints in the Temple*, was delivered as a lecture in the Carnegie Library, Listowel in 1917 during the course of which O'Sullivan revealed the following:

Since October last it has been my lot to reside almost permanently in London. During that period my work was entirely in the English House of Commons ... I commenced a series of investigations into the Irish historical associations of the city ... I first reverently turned my footsteps to the Temple with which the names of so many distinguished Irishmen have been identified for almost four centuries and my address tonight is the result of numerous visits to those historic buildings.⁴

O'Sullivan commenced his lecture with the history of the foundation of the Knights Templar in London and in Ireland, and opened with lines from J[ohn] F[rancis] O'Donnell's poem, 'Goldsmith's Grave':

I love this quiet Temple nook, This ancient haunt of wren and rook, Thick writ with legends like a book. Dark-circled in the town it lies, Above it loom the misty skies, Outside the songs of commerce rise.

Ten paces from the battling street Lurks the old-fashioned, quaint retreat, A land of murmurs loud and sweet.

Afar the yellow river gleams, Within there is a sound of streams, An island lulled in dreams it seems.

There, open to the sun and rain, There, alien unto tears and pain, There, whilst the seasons wax or wane,

Rich-hearted Goldsmith takes his rest, Earth's silent, unobtrusive guest, Between the sunrise and the West.⁵

'What a litany of great names come almost unbidden to the lips of the student' he said:

Oliver Goldsmith, Edmund Burke, William Molyneux, Theobald Wolfe Tone ... what mingled feelings of pride and sorrow and shame do these names evoke. Surely there are some of them that Ireland would never willingly let die?6

Thomas Francis O'Sullivan died on 14 November 1950. The following was recorded in the *Irish* Press, 17 November 1950:

The remains of Mr Thomas F O'Sullivan, the journalist and author, were removed from Miss O'Donel's Nursing Home to the Franciscan Church, Merchants' Quay, Dublin last night. Chief mourners: Mrs Mary A Powell, Tralee (sister); Michael, Eugene, Dr George and Thomas Powell and J J O'Sullivan, Manchester (nephews); Mrs M K O'Sullivan, Listowel (niece) and Mr Liam Skinner, Irish Press (cousin). The funeral takes place this morning from the Franciscan Church, Merchants' Quay after 9 o'c Mass arriving at Listowel at 7pm and Tralee at 8pm. The funeral will take place tomorrow to Rath Cemetery after 10 o'c Mass at St John's Church, Tralee.

¹ In this document are entries such as Ginkle besieging Limerick in 1691, and Capt John Zouche at Dun an Oir in

² The Kerryman, 30 October 1981. He was also chairman of the Press Gallery.

³ A copy of this book is held in IE MOD.C14.

⁴ Published in 1918; a copy of Irish Footprints in the Temple held in IE MOD/A23. It may have been planned as a series for it is headed 'Irish Associations of London No 1'. Other works include The Young Irelanders with plates including Portraits (1944) and Fenian Memories by Mark Francis Ryan edited with an introduction by TF O'Sullivan (1945). Further reference see entry in Dictionary of Irish Biography. See also 'Gleanings on T. F. O'Sullivan's Romantic Hidden Kerry' in *The Catholic Bulletin*, Vol XXII, October 1932, pp777-8.

⁵ Verse in full in *Penny Readings for The Irish People*, Vol IV, Dublin 1885, pp261-264. Print of same in IE

⁶ He also named Henry Grattan and his great rival, Henry Flood, John Philpot Curran, Thomas Moore, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Lord Chief Justice Whiteside, Lord Cloncurry, Lord Cairns, Robert Nugent afterwards Earl of Clare; A M Sullivan, Lord Charles Russell 'to mention only a few of the more notable men of Irish birth who have been associated with the famous buildings'. Full report, The Kerryman, 13 October 1917; print of same in IE MOD/A23.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/67/67.1-67.4

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Romantic Hidden

Kerry

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 4 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/67/67.1

Six page A4 document contains handwritten index to *Romantic Hidden Kerry* with particular reference to Castleisland related material in the publication

IE MOD/67/67.2

One A4 document entitled 'Romantic Hidden Kerry / The Desmond Tragedy 1569-1583' contains handwritten notes on the latter found in the book

IE MOD/67/67.3

Twenty-five page A4 document contains photocopies of pages from *Romantic Hidden Kerry* (two A5 pages per document) viz nos: 53-80, 92-97, 109-115 (Kerry MPs and the Union), 401 (Burnham House). Most pages marked with highlighter

IE MOD/67/67.4

One published note containing bibliographical detail about *Romantic Hidden Kerry* and one notebook page with creator's jottings and references from *Romantic Hidden Kerry*

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/68

Rugby

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Rugby

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 6 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/68 contains material relating to rugby in the 1990s including handwritten results cards and newspaper clippings, two Rugby World Cup tickets and Irish Rugby Football Union regulations and fixtures booklets for the years 1990 and 1991.

Michael O'Donohoe was a keen sportsman. In the 1950s, during his college years, he played football for Erin's Hope (the St Patrick's Training College team). Later he participated in local and county sports, playing for Castleisland Desmonds and the Kerry football team.¹

He was just as keen a spectator, as evidenced by a quantity of sports related material in the collection about basketball, pitch & putt, soccer (including the 1986 World Cup in Mexico) and cricket. The material, dating mainly to the 1980s and 1990s, includes results cards, regulations, programmes and yearbooks. There is a particular focus on rugby.

The Castleisland Rugby Club was established in 1926. In March of that year, Tralee travelled to Castleisland to meet a team 'picked from the surrounding district by Mr E Galwey-Foley'. The Castleisland team named at that time was as follows:

Full, Stokes; three-quarters, McCarthy, Kelliher, Kidd and Brosnan; halves, Reid and O'Connor; forwards, Hannon, Corkery, Curtin, Anderson, Lynch, Cornelius, Clarke and Shanahan.²

Castleisland and Killorglin Rugby Clubs numbered among those who offered condolence to the relatives of James J Corcoran, founder of the Killarney Rugby Club and his team mate, Maurice J Fitzgerald, great grandson of the Liberator, who both died in a motor car accident at Brennan's Glen in 1929.³

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet entitled as above.

¹ Michael also played billiards, bridge and snooker. *The Master's Legacy*, a short film about Michael's life and the history of the Michael O'Donohoe Memorial Heritage Project can be viewed on the project website. The film was produced by John and Michael Reidy in 2015.

² Report in *Kerryman*, 6 March 1926. The Tralee team were named as M Walsh, Conway, Aherne, Fitzgerald, Ryle, Walsh, Revington, T Healy, Downing, Talbot, Davis, Mulcahy, Hobbs, Savage and F Slattery. The Tralee club had been revived at a meeting in Benner's Hotel, Tralee in February. Officers elected were President, M F Morris, Committee: Messrs R N McClure, W A McClure, R D F Johnson, D J, M Aherne, Thos Slattery, Chas Downing, sol, W Smith and E Talbot. Captain Robt Walsh, vice ct T Ryle, hon sec and treasurer E T Fitzgerald, address 3 Basin View, Tralee (*Kerryman*, 13 February 1926). An image of the Castleisland Rugby Football team who defeated Tralee in the McElligott Cup final in 1931 named team members P O'Connor, D O'Sullivan, Joe O'Connor, P Twomey, M Hussey, G McNeice, J Corkerry, T Prendiville, J O'Connor, E Carmody, W Dennehy (cpt), E Shanahan. Secretary M J O'Sullivan, Assistant Secretary R Walsh and Treasurer M J K O'Connor (*Cork Examiner*, 15 April 1931).

³ Report of accident in *Kerryman*, 30 November 1929. A poem to Maurice Fitzgerald of Kinneigh by Wm M O'Brien, Killorglin was published in the *Kerryman*, 7 December 1929.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/68/68.1-68.6

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Rugby

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 6 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/68/68.1

Eleven results cards/sheets, handwritten, pertaining to rugby in the 1990s

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.1

One handwritten rugby results card with colour coding measuring approx 17 cm x 8 cm relates to the years 1990 to 1995

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.2

One handwritten rugby results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 17.5 cm x 10.5 cm relates to internationals, inter-provincials and A.I.L. qualifiers, year not given (but leap year)

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.3

One handwritten rugby results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 22 cm x 18 cm relates to 1990-1992

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.4

One handwritten rugby results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 19 cm x 16 cm relates to Rugby World Cup 1991

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.5

One handwritten rugby results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 16 cm x 10 cm relates to Insurance Corporation All Ireland League 1991-2

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.6

One handwritten rugby results card with colour coding measuring approx 20 cm x 9 cm relates to the years 1991 and 1992

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.7

One handwritten rugby results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 22 cm x 13 cm relates to the years 1992-1993

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.8

One handwritten rugby results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 32 cm x 16.5 cm relates to the years 1990-1993

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.9

One handwritten rugby results card with colour coding measuring approx 32 cm x 16.5 cm relates to the years 1993-1994

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.10

Two A3 sheets contain charts illustrating home and away games divisions 1-4, year not given

IE MOD/68/68.1/68.1.11

One handwritten results card written on both sides with colour coding measuring approx 40 cm x 16 cm relates to National Football League 1993-4

IE MOD/68/68.2

Two Rugby World Cup tickets

IE MOD/68/68.2/68.2.1

One Rugby World Cup ticket measuring approx 13 cm x 8 cm, Ireland V Zimbabwe at Lansdowne Road 6 October 1991

IE MOD/68/68.2/68.2.2

One Rugby World Cup quarter-final ticket measuring approx 13 cm x 8 cm, Winner Pool 3 v RU Pool 2 at Lansdowne Road 20 October 1991

IE MOD/68/68.3

Irish Rugby Football Union regulations and fixtures booklets for the years 1990 and 1991 published by the IRFU

IE MOD/68/68.3/68.3.1

One 44-pg A6 booklet, Irish Rugby Football Union All Ireland League Regulations and Fixtures 1990-1991 published by the IRFU with address by President, N J Henderson **IE MOD/68/68.3/68.3.2**

One 60-pg A6 booklet, Insurance Corporation All Ireland League Irish Rugby Football Union All Ireland League Regulations and Fixtures published by the IRFU 1991, contains address by President, Tony Browne and Managing Director of Insurance Corporation of Ireland Plc, John O'Hanlon

IE MOD/68/68.3/68.3.3

One duplicate copy of IE MOD/68/68.3/68.3.2

IE MOD/68/68.4

Four page results fax transmission from Irish Rugby Football Union relating to the Insurance Corporation League dated 4 August 1994 sent 15.09-15.12

IE MOD/68/68.5

Newspaper clippings relating to rugby results from the 1990s, publication not given

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.1

Newspaper clipping dated 19 March 1994 relates to Insurance Corporation League

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.2

Newspaper clipping dated 25 January 1994 relates to Insurance Corporation League

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.3

Newspaper clipping undated divisions two, three, four

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.4

Newspaper clipping dated 13 February 1994 relates to Insurance Corporation League

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.5

Newspaper clipping dated Sat 26 February 1994 relates to Insurance Corporation League

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.6

Newspaper clipping dated 10 January 1994 'All Ireland League results and tables'

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.7

Newspaper clipping undated 'Young Munster start with home tie'

IE MOD/68/68.5/68.5.8

Newspaper clipping undated 'Summary of Changes'

IE MOD/68/68.6

Two sheets of unused results card

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/69

Rugby and Soccer and Cricket

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Rugby and Soccer

and Cricket

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 5 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/69 contains material relating to rugby, soccer and cricket including match results, programmes and yearbooks for the period 1986 to 1998.

Cricket playing in Castleisland

In 1883, a 'very interesting game' took place:

On Saturday a very interesting game of cricket was played between the constabulary stationed in Castleisland and a detachment of the 37th Regiment, on the grounds adjoining the military barracks at Castleisland. The match terminated in a victory by 11 runs for the Royal Irish Constabulary, a result mainly due to the splendid cricketing of the brothers, John and Constable Robert Sealy and Sub-Inspector Taylor.¹

Lieutenant de Winton (for the military) was also praised for his cricketing. The lieutenant was Charles de Winton, later Brigadier General, who had enrolled in the 37th regiment in 1880.²

Another de Winton cricket association worth noting is that of Lady Gregory's granddaughter, Augusta Anne de Winton, author of *Me and Nu* (1970) whose father Robert Gregory played cricket for Ireland.³

Augusta's husband, Brigadier Robert de Winton, was assassinated in 1947.4

Hockey in Castleisland

It is worth recording that in late 1902, a hockey club was established in Castleisland for 'both ladies and gentlemen', annual subscription half-a-crown. Mr James Powell placed a field at the disposal of the club, and Mr Maurice Murphy provided a room for committee meetings. The history of the club is not known, but in 1926 a ladies only hockey club was formed in the town.

Items contained in an orange coloured document wallet entitled as above.

² Charles de Winton (1860-1943) sixth son of Venerable Henry de Winton, Archdeacon of Brecon, of the de Winton family of Wallsworth Hall. Other team players praised were Clements and Bishop.

¹Kerry Evening Post, 9 June 1883.

³ Augusta Anne (1911-2008) granddaughter of William Henry Gregory (1816-1892) and Isabella Augusta Persse, 'Lady Gregory' (1852-1932). *Me and Nu* describes the childhood experiences of Augusta Anne and her siblings, Catherine Frances (1913-2000; married name Kennedy) and Richard Graham (1909-1981). Their cricket playing father, Robert Gregory (1881-1918) who died during the First World War, was the subject of a number of poems by W B Yeats including *An Irish Airman foresees his Death*. Sam McCready's *Coole Lady* (2005) a play drawn on the letters and journals of Lady Gregory, was translated into Korean by academic, Dr Imsoo Ahn in 2007. It was the

ambition of Dr Ahn, who was employed in the English department of Kwandong University, Kangnung, to introduce Lady Gregory and her literary circle to an Eastern audience. Dr Ahn planned to translate the works of Lady Gregory but her untimely death in 2010 prevented this (further reference *The Obituary Book* (2013)). ⁴ Brigadier Robert William Michael de Winton (1908-1947), Commander of the 13th Infantry Brigade, was shot three times in the back on 10 February 1947 during a HQ guard inspection at Pula (Croatia) by 34-year old Maria Pasquinelli. He left a widow and infant son, William, born on 30 November 1946, who travelled from Australia to Ireland in September 2004 to open the Autumn Gathering at Coole Park. Brigadier de Winton was the eldest son of zoologist William Edward de Winton (1856-1922) of Southover Hall, Burwash (who was the first to discover that the black rat was the carrier of the bubonic plague) and his wife, Sibyl Laura Edwardes (1871-1955). William Edward was the son of Captain Robert Henry de Winton (1820-1904) of Hereford House, Clifton. Robert's siblings included Herbert William de Winton (1816-1880) of Windsor-ville Clifton and Charlotte Augusta (who died in 1901), children of Cann de Winton (Wilkins) (1780-1852) of Royal York Crescent, Clifton and Manor House, St George (Easton-in-Gordano), Somersetshire and his wife Mary, daughter of Thomas Evans of Bultloyd, Co Glamorgan (Mary died at Clevedon in 1840 aged 54. She was first married to William Williams Esq, with whom she had two children, William Evans Williams (1806-1870) of pwll-y-pant, Caerphilly and Mary Ann, who married in 1865 William Henry Gore-Langton (1802-1875), MP for Bristol).

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/69/69.1-69.5

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Rugby and Soccer

and Cricket

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 5 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/69/69.1

This item contains material relating to soccer

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.1

One card (Youghal carpets (Holdings) Ltd) measuring approx 40 cm x 23 cm contains handwritten information (written on both sides) relating to the Mexico World Cup 1986 with colour coding

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.2

One card measuring approximately 28.5 cm x 22 cm entitled 'Personal Record' contains handwritten information (on both sides) relating to the 1988 UEFA Championship

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.3

One card measuring approximately 33 cm x 18 cm contains handwritten information (written on both sides) relating to the 1990 World Cup

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.4

One card measuring approximately 18 cm x 8 cm contains handwritten information (written on both sides) pertaining to matches for the year 1994

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.5

One card measuring approximately 25 cm x 17 cm contains handwritten information (written on both sides) pertaining to matches for the year 1994

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.6

Two page A4 document containing a press release about Euro 96 Group 6 Fixtures communicated by fax from the Football Association of Ireland in 1994

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.7

One A3 chart contains A-Z of (competing?) countries, Argentina to Zimbabwe with notes on language, currency, etc. Information organised into columns

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.8

One card measuring approximately 25 cm x 17 cm contains handwritten notes on the World Cup France 1998

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.9

One illustration of maps of Ireland, UK and France on which is written four game pools and plan of semi-finals, quarter-finals and final

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.10

One newspaper clipping from *Daily Telegraph* dated 30 January (no year) 'Galwey will not forget absent friend and idol'. Contains report of replacement of Donal Lenihan with Mick Galwey

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.11

One newspaper clipping headlined 'World Cup '94 fixture schedule'

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.12

One full colour magazine supplement to *The Sun* entitled 'Football Football', 32 pages, issued free on Monday 26 August 1996. Pages 28-31 document 1998 World Cup

Qualifying Matches (Europe) with map

IE MOD/69/69.1/69.1.13

Loose card with jottings

IE MOD/69/69.2

This item contains material relating to rugby

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.1

One card measuring approx 28 cm x 17 cm contains results dated 1994-5 with consolidation of years 1990 to 1995 in chart form. Supporting newspaper snippets included

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.2

One card, handwritten on both sides, measuring approx 24 cm x 15 cm contains information on the 3rd Rugby World Cup South Africa May 25 to June 24 1995; see also IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.3

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.3

Duplicate of IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.2 with slight differences

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.4

One full coloured illustrated A6 sized booklet (six pages) Rugby World Cup SA 95 sponsored by Coca-Cola contains schedule and map

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.5

One full coloured pocket fixture guide to the Rugby World Cup 1995 South Africa sponsored by Heineken

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.6

One full colour illustrated pocket guide to the Rugby World Cup 1995 sponsored by Heineken

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.7

One full colour A2 poster, '1995 Heineken Rugby World Cup Match Schedule'

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.8

One A4 document of handwritten notes on competing countries

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.9

One A4 document evidently rough-work for creation of results cards

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.10

One A4 document contains handwritten notes on history of South Africa

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.11

Two cards with rough jottings

IE MOD/69/69.2/69.2.12

Two unreferenced newspaper clippings 'The Third Rugby World Cup'

IE MOD/69/69.3

One eight-pg A5 booklet, St Kieran's GAA Club Newsletter April 1997

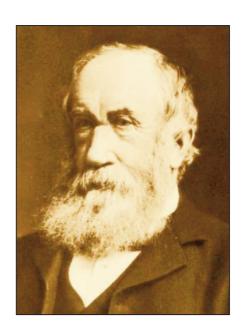
IE MOD/69/69.4

Two Annual Yearbooks issued by the County Kerry Cricket Club for the years 1992 and 1996

IE MOD/69/69.5

One A5 six-pg part coloured/illustrated leaflet, 'Murphy's Irish Open Golf Championship Official Draw Sheet 1997'





Depictions of Samuel Murray Hussey, notorious land agent

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/70

Samuel Murray Hussey

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Samuel Murray

Hussey

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 7 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/70 contains material relating to nineteenth century land agent, Samuel Murray Hussey, author of *Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent*.¹ A copy of Hussey's memoir is contained in this series, to which work creator made his own index.

Hussey genealogy is also noted, including Clarissa Hussey of Dingle, 'a most beautiful benefactress to the religious and charitable institutions of her native town' and one for whom 'High Mass would be celebrated annually' on August 18 for the repose of her soul.²

In his early years, Samuel Murray Hussey planned to earn his living farming:

He adopted farming as a profession after his school days; he learned farming in Scotland and returned to Kerry with the intention of farming on the scientific method he had learned. He found the land in Kerry so subdivided that it was impossible to obtain a farm of sufficient extent and so migrated to Cork to become assistant land agent to his brother-in-law, the Knight of Kerry, agent to Sir George Colthurst. This became the business of his life, he at one time received the rents of one-fifth of the whole county of Kerry.³

Hussey was described as 'the outward and visible sign of the distant or absentee landlords' for which 'he obtained the greater share of the hatred felt for the latter'. An example of this feeling was an attempt to blow up his house at Edenburn, Tralee in 1884.

In 1925, Castleisland's T M Donovan, in his *Rambling Reminiscences*, recalled how he often saw Hussey 'passing along the Tralee road with an armed policeman balancing him on the opposite side of the car and four policemen with rifles at the ready on a sidecar behind him. Out of those deep-set eyes he looked at one like a hunted animal.'

Samuel Murray Hussey, a descendant of Hubert Hussey of Castle Gregory, was the son of Peter Bodkin Hussey, 'a droll, sarcastic and amusing debater [who] dealt almost exclusively in irony ... he had a very rubicund and caustic countenance that was surmounted with a profusion of red hair and from his manner and aspect he was not unhappily designated as 'red precipitate'.'4

Samuel's mother was Mary, daughter of Robert Hickson, JP, DL of The Grove, Dingle. Samuel was one of nine children: John (drowned at St Malo); James, an officer in the 13th and 11th dragoons; Edward (1816-1882) a much respected magistrate in Dingle⁵; Robert (died in India); Mary (died at Bath when Samuel was born); Samuel Murray; Ellen (married Robert, brother of the Knight of Kerry and secondly to Col T A Tennant); Anna (died 7 August 1883 aged 69 buried at Mount Jerome); Julia, married Sir Peter George Fitzgerald, Knight of Kerry.

Samuel married his first cousin, Julia Agnes Hickson (daughter of his mother's eldest brother John) at St James Church of Ireland, Dingle in August 1853 at which time his residence was in

Cork.⁶ The couple had two sons and five daughters.⁷

The eldest son, John Edward Hussey (1856-1905) JP and High Sheriff of Kerry married Gladys Marianne Child Buckley (1877-1922) of Carmarthen and had Hubert Murray, who was killed in action in 1918⁸ and Eileen Merlyn, who married Major Edward William Polson Newman in 1923.⁹ John Edward Hussey died as a result of an accident in July 1905:

On Sunday evening Mr John Edward Hussey JP of Edenburn House, Gortatlea, Co Kerry and son of Mr Samuel Murray Hussey, DL, the famous Kerry land agent, met with an accident which subsequently proved fatal. It appears that deceased, who was staying with his wife and family at Inch Strand, near Annascaul (Kerry) was walking along the edge of a cliff which overlooks the strand and sea ... he suddenly lost his balance and toppled over the cliff, landing on the top of his head on the hard road, fracturing his skull ... The funeral will leave Inch at 11 am on Thursday for the family burial place at Dingle.

John Edward's widow was found dead in her flat some years later:

The deceased was the widow of John Edward Hussey, a land agent in Ireland, who died in 1905 and she had an income of over £700 ... deceased had been living with a man named Thomas ... Mrs Hussey made a will last year leaving £3000 to Thomas and the rest of her property to her daughter ... pronouncing a verdict of death from syncope due to alcoholism the coroner made some scathing comments on the conduct of the two brothers whom he described as parasites. He said that an educated, delicately brought up woman was found lying dead with bottles all over her place. ¹⁰

Samuel's second son, Maurice Fitzgerald Hussey, JP (1858-1917) married Mabel Meux-Smith and had issue Maurice Henry Murray (1896-1964) and John Edward (born 1902). Maurice senior acted as agent over the estates of Lord Dillon in Co Mayo. He was also a well-known figure on Irish racecourses. He died after a short illness at Adare, Limerick on 14 February 1917:

Mr M F Hussey was better known to the previous generation than the present one ... some twenty years ago he had several horses in training at the Curragh, Michael Dennehy and D Shanahan in turn training for him, while latterly he has been acting as manager of Lord Dunraven's stud at Fort Union, Limerick. Last season he won a race with Ashworth at Tralee ... In his younger days Mr Hussey was in the front rank of amateur riders and amongst other races he won the National Hunt Cup at Punchestown on his own horse, Lord Hugh. Other useful animals he owned from time to time were Wise Chief, Ambition gelding, Clear the Way, and Deliverer ... A fellow county man, in Michael Dennehy, trained a number for him including the wonderful pony Welcome, whose name is still perpetuated by the Welcome Plate at the Curragh. 11

Samuel's eldest daughter Mary (1856-1896) married in 1883, at Ballymacelligott Church, James Ormsby Sherrard (1845-1884), Captain 86th Regiment (and later Major 1st Staffordshire Regiment) son of Rev W N Sherrard of Kilcullen, Co Kildare and Kilbogget, Co Dublin. The couple had one son, James Ormsby (1884-1960) born in the year of his father's death from fever, at Assouan, on 9 September 1884. Mary married secondly at Simla (Shimla) on 1 June 1894 to the author of *Diary of a Journey Across Tibet*, Captain Hamilton Bower of the 17th Regiment of Bengal Cavalry (later Major General), son of Admiral James Paterson Bower. Mary died at Shimla two years later, 13 November 1896.¹²

Second daughter Charlotte, born in 1864, was the first secretary and editor of the Kerry Archaeological Society. She died in 1956: 'Miss Charlotte Hussey of 61 St George's Square, London formerly of Babington Road, London who died on April 20th last, daughter of the late Samuel Murray Hussey JP of Edenburn, Co Kerry left £1,381 gross, £1,296 nett'. Probate was granted to her nephew, Edward Newton Trotman-Dickenson of Kennets Beech, Beauworth, near Alresford, Hants, 'the sole executor'.

Eileen Margaret (1865-1921), Samuel's third daughter, was described as 'the pretty young lady who represented Kerry in the Beauty Map of Ireland'. The 'Beauty Map' was part of a quest to find 'the prettiest thirty-two ladies in Ireland'. The map, engraved with portraits of 'the lady belonging to each county' was issued as a supplement to the Christmas issue of *The Lady of the House* magazine in 1892 by a process 'only worked in Ireland, a fact which adds not a little to its interest'. Eileen Margaret died in London on Christmas Day 1921 at which time her address was 18 Elvaston Place.

Fourth daughter, Florence Barbara (1869-1945) married Donald Nicoll (1858-1943) in Dublin on 17 December 1891. The bride, who 'looked charming in a dress of richest white velentine, made en Princesse, with trimming of old Brussels lace, tulle veil, fastened with diamond stars, and coronet of orange blossoms', was given away by her father:

The bride was attended by Master Sherrard, in page's costume of the time of Charles I. The best man was Mr John Nicoll, brother of the bridegroom. After the ceremony a reception was held at Maple's Hotel, limited to the immediate relatives of the bride and bridegroom owing to a recent death in the family.¹³

In 1898 Mrs Nicoll hosted a meeting at 44 Hyde Park Gate to further the cause of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. Mrs Nicoll died at Winchester on 17 March 1945; her husband died on 15 February 1943.

Samuel's youngest daughter, Julia Agnes (1871-1945) appears to have worked as a British Red Cross nurse during the First World War. She died unmarried on 29 Nov 1945; probate was granted to Major David Patrick Nicoll.

Samuel Murray Hussey died at Aghadoe House on 8 November 1913:

The deceased gentleman, who was in his 89th year, was the oldest magistrate in Kerry and the best known of Irish land agents. Among a number of landed proprietors whom he represented were the Earl of Kenmare, Lord Headley, Sir George Colthurst and Sir Edward Denny. The late Mr Hussey may be said to have borne a charmed life. Few men in Ireland have been made the recipients of so many threatening letters, and fewer still perhaps, have had so many attempts made upon their lives ... How little effect these repeated threats and the many attempts made to give practical effect to them have had upon him is shown by the fact that he has died peacefully in his bed. 14

Hussey's remains were taken by train from Killarney railway station to Dingle railway station via Tralee. The station at Dingle 'was crowded with local people who joined the procession to the church; a large concourse of mourners assembled at the different towns through which the remains were taken'. The service was celebrated by the Bishop of Limerick and Ardfert following which the coffin was taken to the family vault for interment.

A summary of Samuel's will was published in the Kerryman, 24 January 1914:

Mr Samuel Murray Hussey JP DL left personal estate in the United Kingdom valued at £23,000 3s 1d and probate of his will dated 14th February 1913 has been granted to Mr Francis McGillicuddy Denny of 17 Denny St, Tralee, Co Kerry and Mr Peter David Fitzgerald of Mondellihy, Adare, Co Limerick. The testator left £200 to the Representative Church Body of Ireland for the Sustentation Fund of the parish of Ballymacelligott, £200 to the said body for the Sustentation fund of the Parish of Dingle, £200 to the Protestant Orphan Society, £50 to his butler John Wallace, £500 to his wife, Mrs Julia Hussey, £1,600 to his daughter Charlotte, £1,600 to his daughter Eileen, £1,800 to his daughter Julia, £500 from settled funds, and a further £500 to his daughter Florence, £1,500 charged on his real estate, a further sum of £1,000 for her education upon trust for his grand-daughter, Eileen Merlyn Hussey, £1,000 to his daughter-in-law, Mrs Mabel Hussey, £500 towards the education of his grandson, Hubert Hussey, and the residue of his estate subject to a few other bequests, he left to his son Maurice Fitzgerald Hussey.

Samuel Murray Hussey's widow survived him by less than two years:

We regret to announce the death of Mrs Hussey, widow of the late Mr Samuel Murray Hussey, which took place on Monday last at Southampton. The deceased lady who had reached an advanced age was daughter of the late Mr John Hickson, DL, of the Grove, Dingle.¹⁵

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet entitled as above and sub-titled, 'Edenburn Explosion Nov 21 1884'.

¹ A good number of tales are told of Hussey in The Schools' Collection. One recalls his grandson, Jimmy 'Sherrald' who 'often travelled to and from India. People often tried to get a look at the big placard in front of him when travelling. It contained his name address and details of changes during journeys. This was a source of great curiosity' (An Clochar, *Baile Mhic Ealgóid*, Tráighlí, The Schools' Collection, Volume 0443, Page 149)..

² IE MOD-70-70.5. Clarissa Hussey was Samuel's aunt.

³ The Obituary Book (2013).

⁴ The New Monthly Magazine and Literary Journal, 1828 Pt II, p398. A brass memorial tablet was erected in Dingle Church of Ireland to the memory of Peter Bodkin Hussey of Farranakilla, Dingle, brother of Miss Clarissa Hussey. Hussey ancestry in Burke's Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland (1912), 'Hussey of Edenburn', p338: 'Hubert Hussey of Castle Gregory, Co Kerry, died, according to a post-mortem inquisition, 3 February 1610, seised of several lands near Dingle in that county. His eldest son, Nicholas Hussey of Castle Gregory married Katherine Gerald, and was father of Meiler Hussey of Castle Gregory, born 1583, who was found by the inquisition to be aged 27 at his grandfather's death; he married Frances, daughter of Capt Thomas Spring, the first of that name who settled at Kerry, by Annabella his wife, daughter of John Brown, the 'Master of Awney' and had issue ... Walter garrisoned Minard Castle against Oliver Cromwell's forces and was blown up with all his men ...'.

⁵ Samuel Murray Hussey erected a memorial tablet in St James Church of Ireland, Dingle to his brother Edward and Edward's sons Peter and Edward Robert. Edward married Julia, daughter of Rev Robert Hickson of Duagh and Honoria Hewson. Julia Hussey died at Duagh Glebe, Inchymagilleragh West, Co Kerry in 1853.

⁶ Samuel had a number of addresses there including Inchbeg, Ardum, Cloghroe House, Inniscarra, former residence of Joseph Capel Fitzgerald Esq and Rathpeacon. His addresses in Kerry included Dingle, Thursillagh/Tursillagh, Aghadoe and his 'seat', Edenburn, where he took up residence in early 1866.

⁷ The deaths of youngest daughter Barbara at Rathpeacon on 16 April 1862 and a third son at the same place on 23 December 1866 were also recorded.

⁸ 'Second-Lieut Hubert Murray Hussey, MC, South Staffordshire Regt who received his commission on May Day 1917 has been killed in action. He was educated at Dean Close School and Sandhurst' (*Gloucestershire Echo*, 23 August 1918).

⁹ Eileen Merlyn was the first British woman to fly over Abyssinia. Major Newman (1887-1967) editor of Oxford University Press 1945-52, was author of *The New Abyssinia* (1938).

¹⁰ Western Daily Press, 14 January 1922.

¹¹ Kerry Evening Post, 21 February 1917. 'The remains of the late Mr Maurice FitzGerald Hussey were laid to rest in the Adare Churchyard on Saturday last, 17th inst. The chief mourners were Mr M H M Hussey (son, who married Noella Edwardes) and Mr Donald Nicoll and Mr P Purcell Gilpin (brothers-in-law)'. Among those who

sent wreaths were employees of Mondellihy Stud and House (see *Limerick Chronicle*, 24 February 1917). M F Hussey left estate of £13,525 to his wife.

¹² Major Hamilton Bower, later Sir Hamilton Bower, who remarried to Miss Maud Edith Ainslie, died at Edinburgh on 5 March 1940 leaving three daughters.

¹³ Kerry Weekly Reporter, 26 December 1891. The death of the bridegroom's father, Henry John Nicoll, merchant tailor, of Brightling Park, Hawkhurst and 44 Hyde Park Gate had occurred on 13 March 1891. The couple had issue Donald Alexander (1893-1941), Mary Barbara (1894-1986) Violet Murray (1897-1989) David Patrick (1903-1964) Margaret Florence (1905-1994). Donald Alexander of Oxney House, Wittersham married Agnes Mary Clare Andoe in 1918; Mary Barbara married Brigadier Arthur Foulkes Baglietto Cottrell, DSO, OBE; their son, Donald William Foulkes Cottrell, RAF, was a casualty of the Second World War (see Mast High over Rotterdam by Lionel Russell); Violet Murray, who married Edward Newton Trotman-Dickenson, was mother of Sir Aubrey Fiennes Trotman-Dickenson; Margaret Florence married Raymond Alister Trustram Eve, 60th Rifles, third son of Sir Herbert Trustram Eve; David Patrick died at Edenburn Nursing Home, Jamaica in December 1964. Probate to Denis Mortimer Mountain.

¹⁴ The Obituary Book (2013). A tablet inscribed to Samuel Murray Hussey and his son John Edward Hussey who died in 1905 erected in St James Church of Ireland, Dingle. Hussey's *Reminiscences* can be read online at archive.org. It has been reproduced and is widely available. A description of Hussey during the land disturbances was given in part six of T M Donovan's 'Old Times in Castleisland Rambling Reminiscences' published in the *Kerryman*, 25 April 1925: 'I often saw him passing along the Tralee road with an armed policeman balancing him on the opposite side of the car and four policemen with rifles at the ready on a sidecar behind him. Out of those deep-set eyes he looked at one like a hunted animal.'

¹⁵ Killarney Echo, 31 July 1915.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/70/70.1-70.7

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Samuel Murray

Hussey

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 7 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/70/70.1

One spiral-bound photocopy of *The Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent Being Those of S M Hussey* compiled by Home Gordon (1904). Three hundred and three pages, some marked with highlighter

IE MOD/70/70.2

One five-page document contains hand-created index to *The Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent*

IE MOD/70/70.3

One six-page document entitled 'Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent' contains creator's handwritten notes on the publication with references to page numbers

IE MOD/70/70.4

One four-page document entitled 'Sam Hussey' contains creator's handwritten notes on the author of *Reminiscences of an Irish Land Agent* extracted from the book

IE MOD/70/70.5

One eight-page handwritten document entitled 'Samuel Murray Hussey' contains genealogical material including notes on Hussey's aunt, Clarissa Hussey

IE MOD/70/70.6

One handwritten document entitled 'Sam Hussey Evictions' contains notes on same extracted from the book with references to page numbers

IE MOD/70/70.7

One three-page document contains notes on Hussey extracted from his Reminiscences



Above: Death of the Earl of Desmond in 1583 as depicted in Martin Haverty's *History of Ireland* (1867) Below: Johnnie Roche photographed in 2015 at Glanageenty, to which place Rev Carmody's research traced the Earl's last moments



REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/71

Seigniory of Castleisland, The

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Seigniory of Castle-

island, The

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/71 consists of a study of Rev James Carmody's article, 'The Story of Castle Magne' from which is extracted an account of the last moments of Gerald, 16th Earl of Desmond.¹

It commences with the Earl's concealment at a place called Glounaneenta² (Glen of the cattle sheds) in March 1583, to the severing of his head – 'a prize more valuable than the cattle' – on 11 November that year, when it was delivered to Captain Cheston.³

It concludes with the division of the Earl's land, and understanding of how the Seigniory came about:

Arrangements were made for the distribution of Desmond's lands ... The lands were first surveyed, and divided into Seigniories of 6,000 to 12,000 acres. This done, the Earl was declared attainted and his lands confiscate at a Parliament held on the 28th April 1586.⁴

Rev Carmody, former curate of Castleisland, parish priest of Miltown and Rathmore and brother of Monsignor Carmody, Tralee, was born in Ballymacelligott, the parish in which Glanageenty is located, about 1845. This perhaps explains Rev Carmody's interest in and meticulous research of the history of the Earl of Desmond.

Rev Carmody was a supporter of the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language. His work was commended by the society in 1902:

Our respected parish priest, Rev James Carmody, is not only a staunch supporter of the Irish cause but is heart and soul in the movement. He sets a good example himself by regularly reciting the Acts before Mass and by addressing most of the people he meets in Irish. He requires the Irish to be taught in all his schools, visits them regularly, and makes most minute inquiries concerning the progress of the language. He has also established a system of prizes among the Irish classes in all his schools.

Rev Carmody died on 1 January 1926 at The Presbytery, Rathmore:

Born at Ballymacelligott 81 years ago, he was for a number of years parish priest of Milltown before he was transferred to Rathmore ... The deceased pastor was brother of the late Monsignor Thomas Carmody, Dean of Kerry, who died two years ago and uncle of Rev George O'Callaghan, parish priest Causeway. Canon Carmody was upwards of 50 years in the Sacred Mission.

The will of Canon Carmody, which included a sum for the disabled priests of the Kerry diocese, was published in *The Tablet*, 21 August 1926. Canon Carmody's effects, which included 'a splendid four-seater Dodge motor car' were advertised to be sold by public auction on 28 January 1926.

Items stored in a brown coloured document wallet entitled as above and sub titled 'Kerry Archaeological Magazine KAM Rev James Carmody'.

¹ Additional notes on the Earl's last days in IE MOD/23, IE MOD/39, IE MOD/42.

² A number of spellings pertain including Glanageenty, Glanagenty, Glenaginty. Glenaginty, Glenageenty, Glenan na Ginthe. The latter is given in O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters which he translates in Latin as 'Sylva cunei, in rei memoriam locus qui tune ejus sanguine perfusays adhuc sanguineo colore fertur esse affectus'.

³ 'The Earl's head was carried to Castlemaine and thence forwarded to Queen Elizabeth who caused it to be impaled in an iron cage on London Bridge; and his body having been concealed for some time by the peasantry was ultimately interred in the little chapel of Killnama to the east of Castleisland. Whether it is where the supposed grave is now the hut was or no is doubtful but the most probable thing is that the hut was where it is said his castle had been and it is not at all unlikely that O'Kelly gave him his first blow here and ultimately cut off his head at the spot where the grave is now supposed to be' (discussion of Earl's last moments, 'A Ramble through Glanageenty' by J.S.P. in Tralee Chronicle, 27 September 1870). Captain Thomas Cheston of Mildenhall, Suffolk was described as having an extraordinary spirit above his birth & education wherewith he being no ways content forsooke both Father & Mother & unknown to 'em both betook himself to martial adventures in foreign regions where he profited so much that in a few years, both for discretion understanding and valour above his age, he became employed in many good places and services ... for his good service in Ireland his great valour and desert in bringing in the head of that Arch-Traitor of Ireland the Earl of Desmond, that ever renowned Queen Elizabeth commanded these arms in this sort to be granted to the said Captain Thomas Cheston' (Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History, 'A Suffolk Captain of the Time of Queen Elizabeth' by Colonel J H Josselyn, Vol XI, Part 1 (1901), pp 47-49). 'A Kerryman called Kelly, 'a butcher', earned £93.6s 8d 'hedd monie' for striking off the Earl of Desmond's; Captain Thomas Cheston hit the jackpot - £120 - for carrying it ceremonially on the point of his sword to Cork' (The Severed Head and the Grafted Tongue (2014) by Patricia Palmer, p25). Captain Cheston married Jane, daughter of Richard Aungier Esq, JP (Richard was 'murdered in his house in the Inn November 1597') and his wife Rose, daughter of William Stewart of Cambs. Captain Cheston of Mildenhall Esq had issue Richard, Thomas, Rose and Jane.

⁴'3 February 1585-6, a warrant of Privy Seal granted Sir Walter Raleigh three seigniories and a half of the forfeited estates of the Earl of Desmond. These comprised 42,000 acres of land, extending from Lismore to the sea at Youghal and containing (with many others) the manor and castle of Inchiquin' (from 'The Old Countess of Desmond', Vol II of *Vicissitudes of Families* (1869) by Sir Bernard Burke, p292).

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/71/71.1-71.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Seigniory of Castle-

island, The

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/71/71.1

One six page handwritten document contains notes on an article, 'Story of Castle Magne' by Rev James Carmody published in 1908 and 1909 (see below) with page references

IE MOD/71/71.2

One photocopy of selected pages from article, 'Story of Castle Magne' by Rev James Carmody published in the *Kerry Archaeological Magazine* in 1908 and 1909 (Vol 1 pp17-37 Oct 1908; pp49-79 April pp119-41 Oct 1909). Pages marked with highlighter; page numbers copied are 64-65, 72-79, 136. The article was reproduced with permission of the Kerry Archaeological Society in *The Kerryman* (part I, 6 May 1933)

IE MOD/71/71.3

One A3 document entitled 'Death of Gerald, 16th Earl of Desmond, 11 Nov 1583' contains selected sections of article described in IE MOD/71/71.2 pasted together to form a composition of the Earl's last moments

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/72

Sources

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Sources

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 11 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/72 contains notes on sources of local history research including publications, maps and directories, an index to the register of electors in Castleisland, a 1996 Development Plan of the town and details of local nineteenth and twentieth century newspapers.

Material includes a small number of photocopies from Castleisland's first newspaper, *The Taxpayers' News*, 'the paper that is not afraid to tell the truth'.

The journal was published monthly from December 1957 until about October 1960 from a butcher's shop in Main Street owned by politician, Charlie Lenihan. The newspaper was edited by Castleisland sports journalist, Con Houlihan (1925-2012). Con described the mechanics of the publication:

We hadn't our own printing works, we had to search around. Some we found too costly, others were too timid, they were paranoid about libel. Eventually we found a grand little man called Tommy Hayden, who owned and managed Marian Press ... We usually posted our material on Monday morning. I went on the first train from Tralee to Dublin on Wednesday morning to do the proofs.

The newspaper folded following a suit for libel. Con explained how it came about:

On a certain Monday Charlie had business in Dublin. We didn't send our material by post – Charlie took it with him. I couldn't prevent him, I feared the worst. He added a piece of his own – in it he referred to a fellow county councillor as a crook in politics and in his profession ... a libel action was inevitable ...that was the end of *The Taxpayers' News* (*Independent*, 26 June 2008).

In an article, 'The back pages of village life' published in the *Herald*, 4 May 2011, Con provided background to Charlie Lenihan's role in the publication:

The Taxpayers' News was owned by Charlie Lenihan. His father had emigrated to Alaska from a small mountain-holding and made a fortune there ... When he came back home he bought a splendid farm and a manor house [and] opened a butcher shop and milk business in the town ... He was the pioneer of silage making in our part of Ireland.

Con described himself as co-founder of *The Taxpayers' News*:

Charlie might never have started the paper if I hadn't encouraged him. He certainly wouldn't have gone into the venture if I didn't come in too. So I can claim to be a co-founder of Castle Island's first and probably last publication.¹

Con was the first to publish a poem by Listowel playwright, John B Keane:

It was the first time ever that John B Keane saw some of his work in print. It was a well-crafted poem to his girlfriend Mary O'Connor, whom he eventually married.

An example of the wit that endeared Con to his readers was published in *The Taxpayers' News* in March 1958. He imagined Sir Winston commenting on the Kerry rates: 'Never were so many done for so much by so few'.

Con Houlihan, who worked in the field of journalism for sixty years, was born in 1925, the youngest of three children of Michael and Ellen Houlihan of Reineen (an area in the townland of Dooneen, Castleisland). His siblings were Diarmuid (known as Gerry) and Marie. Con joined the Irish Press group in 1973 writing for *Evening Press* until it closed in 1995 when he moved to the *Sunday World*. He also wrote for *Irish Independent* and *Hot Press*. He was honoured in his lifetime with a bronze bust, unveiled in Castleisland on 16 January 2004 and in 2011 a sculpture was erected outside The Palace Bar in Dublin.

Con died on 4 August 2012 at St James' Hospital, Dublin and was buried at Kilbannivane cemetery, Castleisland.

Charlie Lenihan of Woodville, Gortatlea, Castleisland died in hospital in Cork on 24 August 1971:

Charlie Lenihan was a councillor among councillors and while he might have been over-zealous on occasions in fighting the cause of a person whom he believed to have been wronged he did so forcibly and in a manner which endeared him to the people of Kerry. We have lost one of the greatest personalities of our time and one of the finest councillors (*Irish Examiner*, 1 September 1971).

Con Houlihan published an appreciation in *The Kerryman*, 28 August 1971:

Charlie Lenihan was a folk hero long before he officially entered politics. There are times that try men's soul and certainly the nineteen-thirties in Ireland were such. In that sour generation when farming was a dirty word, Charlie was an inspiration to the people of the Maine valley; he approached agriculture in a bold and optimistic spirit and experimented with techniques that were then considered heretical.

The National Library of Ireland holds copies of Vol 1, Nos 1-11 of *The Taxpayers' News*.

Items contained in a green coloured document wallet entitled as above.

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¹ The *Maine Valley Post*, Castleisland's first online newspaper, was founded in August 2013 by John Reidy, photographer and Committee PRO for the Michael O'Donohoe Memorial Heritage Project, The paper recently covered the death of Arthur Lenihan, son of Charlie Lenihan ('The late Arthur Lenihan, Woodville, Gortatlea', *Maine Valley Post*, 31 March 2015). Other publications issued in the town in recent years include Gina McElligott's *In and About Castleisland* newsletter which spanned the period 1994-2010 (see 'Gina Donates 'In & About' Collection to 'The Library', *Maine Valley Post*, 11 April 2014) and *Sliabh Luachra Outlook*, established circa 2006.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/72/72.1-72.11

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Sources

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 11 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/72/72.1

Three page A4 document contains handwritten notes on sources available for local research including books, maps and directories

IE MOD/72/72.2

One A4 document contains list of schools in the Castleisland district; information organised into three columns with the headings: School, PP (Parish Priest), Church

IE MOD/72/72.3

Sixteen page A4 document contains expanded handwritten notes on sources including local newspapers

IE MOD/72/72.4

Eight page A4 document contains notes on publication, *Tracing your Kerry Ancestors* (1994) by Michael H O'Connor. Page one is a coloured diagram illustrating the period (1830 to 1941) covered by local newspapers

IE MOD/72/72.5

Two page typed A4 document entitled 'Kerry Newspapers in Stock - Print and Microfilm' issued by Tralee local library

IE MOD/72/72.6

Two copies of a four page A5 leaflet issued by Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society. Gives objects of the society and contents of issues 1 (1968) to 9 (1976). One leaflet is coloured yellow, the other blue

IE MOD/72/72.7

One A4 document 'Index to register of electors for polling district Castleisland', Anglore to Tullig

IE MOD/72/72.8

Five page typed A4 document, 'Castleisland Development Plan' includes draft map dated 1996

IE MOD/72/72.9

Five page typed A4 document issued by Tralee local library circa 1995 contains list of sources; includes 'provisional list of topics' and events at Castleisland local library

IE MOD/72/72.10

Three page A4 document contains handwritten notes on various subjects from local publications with particular focus on the Earl of Desmond

IE MOD/72/72.11

Item contains a number of photocopies from the newspaper, The Taxpayers' News from 1958-60

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.1

One A3 black and white photocopy of the cover of *The Taxpayers' News* dated March 1958, Vol 1 No 4. Headline is 'Kerry County Council Estimates Meeting, Mr O'Connor drops a Bombshell'

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.2

One A3 black and white photocopy of the cover of *The Taxpayers' News* dated April 1958, Vol 1 No 5. Headline 'Our Nineteen Million Pounds Civil Service'

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.3

One A3 black and white photocopy of page six of *The Taxpayers' News* dated June 1958, article entitled 'Tales of Currow' includes image of the old church there and an architect's drawing of the new

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.4

One A4 black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* April 1958, contains an image of prize-winners at the Kerry County Championship Billiards' Tournament held at St Mary's Hall, Castleisland which included Michael O'Donohoe

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.5

One A4 black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* dated on the reverse Jan/Feb 1959. Contains article on 'The Sponge Road' and a proposal by a councillor to erect barriers outside schools following an accident to a child coming out from school

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.6

One A4 black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* dated on the reverse March 1958. Contains an obituary to Maurice Burke, a member of staff of McElligott and Sons, Castleisland

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.7

One black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* dated on the reverse Sept/Oct 1959. Contains poem entitled 'Kerry Footballers' by J.J.S

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.8

One black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* (undated) contains article on the Castleisland Merchants' and Bankers' Cattle Mart

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.9

One black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* (undated) contains article on 'foreign games'

IE MOD/72/72.11/72.11.10

One black and white photocopy from *The Taxpayers' News* dated on the reverse Jan/Feb 1960. Contains article, 'North Kerry League Championships'



Above: Historic Market House and below, an early image of New Line, Church Street Castleisland



REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/73

Streets, Lanes and Houses

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Streets, Lanes and

Houses

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 15 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/73 contains material relating to the property and occupants of Castleisland town and its vicinity in the nineteenth century as given in Griffith's Valuation and other sources with some notes on contemporary businesses and proprietors.

Areas covered include Barrack Street, Barrack Lane, Limerick New Road, Spout Lane, Main Street, Church Lane, Tralee Road, Chapel Lane, Chapel Street, Chapel Quarter, New Line and Pound Lane.

Pound Lane

Creator added to his notes the recollections of T M Donovan's *History* who described Pound Lane as once 'full up to the brim':

Thank goodness most of the dwellers in Pound Lane have long ago gone out into the comfortable labourers' cottages now lining the roads in all directions.¹

Donovan described how in the early nineteenth century, landlords 'made a clearance of all their small tenants, evicted them, and threw themselves and their families on the side of the road':

Many of them came into the town of Castleisland, then a village, and made their mud cabins on what is now called Pound Lane. As a boy of nine, seventy years ago, I knew well the hard-working decent men who lived in these small thatched cottages in Pound Lane. Most of them were the sons and daughters of the evicted men who built them.²

In the late nineteenth century, Pound Lane had become 'a slum' but some cottages were still occupied in the 1930s and 1940s:

Many of the old cottages fell to pieces or were demolished but about a dozen still remain and are occupied by poor people ... many of them were condemned as unfit for habitation and the occupiers are threatened with the fate of their grandparents – eviction.

Old and New Chapel Lane

The history of old and new Chapel Lane dates to the eighteenth century:

In or about the year 1766 the Rev Darby Shanahan built the thatched chapel in old Chapel Lane and Rev Maurice Fitzgerald built the first stone and slated church in New Chapel Lane, now Church Street.³

New Line and Barrack Lane

A story is told of the New Line and Barrack Lane and how one Henry Williams and his father John, dyers, used to carry the dyed cloths from the New Line via the Main St and Barrack Lane

to the old bridge to wash them, 'once Henry wheeled his cart past the police barracks with his dyed cloths covering a barrel of guns. He had nerve'.⁴

Powell's Road

Killarney Road led to 'the well-known Powell's Road':

For the townsman confined indoors by his business a walk round Powell's road is just the refresher he wants as it is just the length the doctor ordered – three miles.⁵

Market House

Notes are also found on the Market House which dates to 1747. Creator recorded that 'each of the six [seigniory] had a share in the old Market House' (IE MOD/1/1.1/1.1.1) which was built from local materials:

They built a market house with an assembly room out of the debris of the great Castle.⁶ Out of the same material they erected an infantry barrack for 100 men whence and by aid of their assembly room some of their friends got husbands for their young ladies from among the officers.⁷

The Market House, which closed in 2014, was purchased by J K (John Kerry) O'Connor from Lord Headley c1907. Michael's notes on J K reveal that the property had earlier been in the hands of the family of Miss Ellie Burke 'for 150 years'.

Castleisland in the 1990s

To some of the town's businesses, creator added contemporary notes of his own. For example, of the old post office, he wrote, '1917 Miss H Edgeworth, 2 sisters, 2 recluses ... post office transferred to Heffernans (Kennelly's Chemist Shop) Renovated in 199?'.

Dan Nolan, chemist, relocated to his premises after 'the fire across the road' and Jack Reidy's and Kingdom House were burned during the Troubles.⁸

¹ From T M Donovan's six-part 'Old Times in Castleisland: Rambling Reminiscences' published in the *Kerryman* in 1925 (Part 2, 28 March). The demolition of 'a thoroughfare called Pound-lane, Castleisland' was ordered by Mr Balfour in 1890 owing to the insanitary state of the houses. The Sanitary Committee refused to comply because the step was recommended by T W Russell, MP (*Lancashire Evening Post*, 12 May 1890).

² The Kerryman, 16 August 1941, 'In a Rich Munster Valley'.

³ Ibid. 'Maurice Fitzgerald was the nephew of the Penal Days parish priest of Castleisland (1781-1830), the Rev Maurice Fitzgerald, whose memorial tablet is now hidden from view in the new parish church. Since 1766, this parish church built in 1884 was the third since the Penal Days when Mass was offered in the Glen-an-Affrins or in mud cabins in the bogs or mountains.'

⁴ Kerryman, 25 April 1925, 'Old Times in Castleisland, Rambling Reminiscences'.

⁵ 'Old Times in Castleisland: Rambling Reminiscences' published in the *Kerryman* in 1925 (Part 4, 11 April). In another article, Donovan wrote, 'The black road and the Knockaunban road, now bohereens, are in dry weather used as a circular walk by our townspeople instead of the longer walk round Powell's Road. What memories even the mention of these two walks will bring to the minds of Castleislanders far away in foreign lands!' (*Kerryman*, 11 October 1930, 'English Settlers in East Kerry'). Michael O'Donohoe Memorial Committee Chairman, John Roche, recalls how Powell's Road once used to be 'black with people walking it'. The road leads past former Powell residence, Sandville, the story of which is contained in John Roche's article on moonlighters (IE MOD/A20/2 (26)). The old Roche homesteads are also located in this area.

⁶ Tralee Chronicle and KIllarney Echo, 5 December 1873. The Market House was rebuilt in 1825 of stone and lime and slated with rooms for an agent's office, school and reading, petty sessions and caretakers apartment. The middle under part was the market House (IE MOD 45/45.1/45.1.6). There is an image of Market House Corner in the nineteenth century in Castleisland Church and People (IE MOD/6/6.1/6.1.20) and another, in the same source, taken c1914 (IE MOD/6/6.1/6.1.15). In this year it was remodelled (IE MOD/14/14.2) and in 1997, it was renovated and extended (IE MOD/14/14.2). A sketch of its history was published in the Maine Valley Post, 26 July2014, 'The Market House 1747-2014'.

⁷ Ibid. For many years Lord Brandon occupied apartments in the barracks of Castleisland by permission of the government; his glebe house he leased to Mr Chute. In 1819, when Oliver Stokes Esq was Barrack Master, an action of trespass *vi et armis* was taken against Lord Brandon by Edward King, who kept a tavern at Castleisland. King claimed Lord Brandon had assaulted him and dragged him down the stairs of the barracks after the nobleman was irritated by the noise from King's winnowing machine (*Saunders's News-Letter*,17 August 1819). Castleisland barracks was advertised for sale or lease in 1820; a list of freeholders in Kerry published in 1829 revealed that the barracks was the property of Francis Twiss Esq of Bally-M'Egogae.

Note: Bally-M'Egogae (Bally-M'Engogue, Ballymakegoge, BallymacEgoge, Baile Mhic Thaidhg Oig) probably relates to the townland of Ballymackegoge at Fenit which developed as a spa and health resort in the nineteenth century. Properties included two *Spa Lodges* (one later named *Barnacle House*, residence of the Jeffcott family), two Sea Views (one later named Glenmore, residence of Mr James Johnston, leading member of the Kerry Coursing Club and son of Mr Johnston of Ballygarran); Eden Cottage (later Seafield, associated with the Donovan family notably Nicholas Donovan, DL (1815-1877) and his brother Sir Henry Donovan, JP (1823-1886). Both highly regarded for their services to the town of Tralee, 'had Sir Henry not taken up the project of the Fenit pier and railway, in all probability it would have fallen through'. St John Henry Donovan, JP (1863-1916) was the only son of Sir Henry; St John died at Seafield on 4 February 1916. Miss Frances Donovan of Seafield and of the Order of Sisters of Mercy laid the corner stone of the convent at Moyderwell in 1878. The contents of the house were sold by Mr H B Donovan in 1930. Some genealogy in funeral report of Nicholas Donovan published in Cork Examiner, 13 November 1877); White Lodge; Bay View; Oyster Hall (residence of solicitor Daniel Supple Esq. Daniel Supple senior and junior died in January and March 1845 respectively (the lady of Daniel Supple junior had triplet daughters in 1833). The property was subsequently leased by Miss Arabella Supple before being sold in 1852 and purchased by William John Neligan for £1,400. The Supple family grew black minion potatoes at Oyster Hall); Massyville; Ivy Lodge; Rock Villa; Bath Lodge (and a coast guard station abandoned for more suitable premises c1848). See Kerryman, 5 December 2002, 'Spa should capitalise on Well's reputed curative powers'.

⁸ An image of the burned out Kingdom House can be seen on the Rhyno Mills website (www.rhyno.ie).

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/73/73.1-73.15

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Streets, Lanes and

Houses

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 15 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/73/73.1

Seventeen page document contains handwritten notes on Barrack Street and Barrack Lane extracted from Griffith's Valuation and other sources

IE MOD/73/73.2

Twenty-two page document entitled 'Bawnluskaha' contains handwritten notes on same including Limerick New Road and Spout Lane extracted from Griffith's Valuation

IE MOD/73/73.3

Nineteen page A4 document entitled 'Cahereen East Main Street' contains handwritten notes on occupants extracted from Griffith's Valuation and Donovan's *History* and includes notes on current/recent occupants, for example Paddy Hussey, Drs Paddy and Maureen Daly, Helen Hussey and Aeneas Leane, Fountain Bar Kingdom House, The Poets Inn, The Pound Shop, the River Island Hotel, Teddy McCarthys

IE MOD/73/73.4

Twenty-three page document entitled 'Castleview: Church Lane, Main Street' contains hand-written notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation with notes on some current/recent occupants including Dave Geaney, Skevena's, old forge and shop: 'Paddy Reilly's wife Nano made lovely bulls' eyes'; Sportsworld

IE MOD/73/73.5

Four page document entitled 'Castleview Pound Lane Tralee Road' contains handwritten notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation and other sources on this locality

IE MOD/73/73.6

Two page document entitled 'Castleview Not Part of the Town' contains handwritten notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation

IE MOD/73/73.7

Two page document entitled 'Chapel Lane' (west Chapel Quarter, east Tombwee) contains hand-written notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation with colour coding

IE MOD/73/73.8

Five page document entitled 'Chapel Street' contains handwritten notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation

IE MOD/73/73.9

Two page document entitled 'Chapel Quarter Main Street' contains handwritten notes extracted

from Griffith's Valuation

IE MOD/73/73.10

Two page document entitled 'Knockananlig' contains handwritten notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation

IE MOD/73/73.11

Four page document entitled 'Main Street Tonbwee' contains handwritten notes extracted from Griffith's Valuation with colour coding

IE MOD/73/73.12

One A4 document entitled 'Market House' contains handwritten notes on same extracted from Donovan's *History*

IE MOD/73/73.13

Thirty-four page document entitled 'Moanmore Main Street' contains handwritten notes on same extracted from Griffith's Valuation and Donovan's *History*. A document has been created for each business address as it existed in the 1990s, for example Walsh's Electrical, La Femme, Wheels

IE MOD/73/73.14

Six page document contains handwritten notes on occupants of New Line, Barrack Lane, Pound Lane, Main Street, Castleview, Chapel Lane and Church St in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries extracted from standard nineteenth century sources including Griffith's Valuation and directories

IE MOD/73/73.15

Seventeen page document appears as rough work in the research of the above

IE MOD/73/73.15/73.15.1

One notebook contains jottings which present as rough work in research of the above

MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/74

T M Donovan

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/74

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: T M Donovan

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 8 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/74 contains a copy of T M Donovan's *A Popular History of East Kerry* (1931) with creator's handwritten index thereto, notes on the content of the book, genealogical notes on Donovan and a copy of an article by Donovan published in the *Westminster Review* in 1902.

Teacher and author, T[imothy] M Donovan, who lived most of his adult life in Australia, was born in Castleisland c1863, son of Michael Donovan and Ellen Lenihan (or Linehan), the third of six children.¹ He attended school in Castleisland and wrote an account of his experiences there:

Archdeacon O'Connell built the beautiful parish church in Castleisland and also that of Cordal. He also built the present Castleisland National School ... I had the doubtful honour of being the only boy in the national school whom he personally flogged and yet when I knelt by his bedside on the morning he died the tears flowed copiously for the loss of a good friend and a wise spiritual father.

In a description of Powell's Road, Donovan revealed the following about his ancestry:

The limestone peninsula of Anna juts out into the big bogs of Annabeg and Annamore ... near Anna is Ballygree where my great grandfather, Thade [Timothy] Donovan, had a farm between Lady Northcote and Mr William Powell of East Sandville. His son John Donovan and the latter's six sons were born and reared at Ballygree but lest I should be accused of foolish pride at the fact that my people were living between such grand folk I hasten to add that a goodly share of the Donovan farm was cut-away bog and I dare say that some of the six brothers were glad to get work from their big Protestant neighbours.

In the same article, Donovan recorded the demise of his family in Castleisland:

When reaping the Protestant corn my uncle John used to act as leader of the meitheal ... the eldest of my uncles, Timothy, after whom I am called, was foreman and lodge keeper to Cardinal Wiseman in London. The Cardinal was nearly successful in making a priest of his eldest son John but in the very last year of his college course a young lady intervened and carried him off to the States ... the children of all the six Donovan brothers of Ballygree went to the United States and I, after living forty years in Australia, am the last of the family of Castleisland.²

Donovan left Castleisland for Australia in the 1880s when he was in his mid twenties:

My old mate and dear friend Jack Brosnan and I left Castleisland, Co Kerry in August 1887. The ship bound for Australia was to leave from the London docks at Blackwall so we went to London, via Cork and Bristol ... We were emigrants nominated passages from a friend in Brisbane, Jack Riordan.³

In May 1888, Donovan was appointed teacher of a small country school in Queensland, and was subsequently promoted.⁴ His career in Australia is open to research.⁵

In 1916 Donovan was granted seven months leave of absence during which he returned 'to see my old mother in the New Line in Castleisland':6

After a two months' voyage we arrived in Castleisland about the middle of May ... what a joy to breathe my native air once again, to meet old school mates, to kneel near the grave of my father. But the joy of all the joys was once more to hear my mother's cry of welcome.⁷

Donovan remarked on his mother's piety and how, after her death, he wrote a sketch about her life for the *Catholic Advocate*:

I have travelled the globe right round nearly five times and I have been in many lands – in every state of the Australian Commonwealth and through the United States, from 'Frisco to New York and I have never met a man or a woman, priest or nun that loved Our Saviour more heartily and more humbly. Although a poor peasant woman she had the honour of giving a learned Jesuit Father and a hard-working Presentation Nun to the service of God.⁸

Donovan's first book, *A Popular History of East Kerry*, was a culmination of earlier articles. In two letters to the editor of the *Kerryman* in 1930, he outlined his publishing plan and sought subscription:

If I get any encouragement from East Kerrymen and women at home and abroad I would consider the project of publishing all my contributions to *The Kerryman* on the history of Castleisland and East Kerry in book form.⁹

Donovan made 'no claim to deep research or perfect accuracy ... nearly all my facts have come to me through *King's History of Kerry* and through the late Mr Jeremiah Nolan of Castleisland who died a few years ago at the great age of 91'.¹⁰

One of the more memorable sketches from *A Popular History* was Donovan's depiction of John Mitchel entering the Maine Valley in the mid nineteenth century (p71). In 1941 Donovan revived the scene again:

More than 100 years ago an English artillery officer, standing on the high road near Mount Eagle, said it was the finest landscape view in all Munster; and John Mitchel, coming down the *Caol-na-Sprida* from Cork said it was "a valley worth fighting for". ¹¹

Donovan was in poor health during the composition of his second book, *God's Glorious Universe: Excursions to the Stars* (1932). He described how during a two week vacation at Kenmare he had to attend Cork for medical treatment:

Last year when I was writing my book, *God's Glorious Universe*, little I thought that the radium I described in one of its chapters would be used on my own body before a year had passed. Under the care of Dr James M O'Donovan, a professor in University College Cork a plaque of radium was applied to my face in order to cut away a growth that if not cleaned off might ultimately finish me off.¹²

Despite this, another book, a work of fiction, was in progress and was published in 1933 under title *The Two Mothers, or, Renunciation*. It was reviewed in a local newspaper: 'What Mrs Pender, Carlton, Griffin, Sheehan and Kickham have done for other parts of Ireland Mr Donovan is doing for dear delightful old *Ciarraighe* ... we are given a study of the emotions of a typical Irish woman whose one ideal is to see her son a priest'.¹³

A fourth book, *Revolution: Christian or Communist* (1937) was reviewed in the *Irish Examiner*, 16 June 1937.

Donovan utilised newspapers and periodicals to opine on public affairs. His letters and articles were published widely. In this letter to the editor in 1915, Donovan exhorted on local politics in Kerry:

Bribery is rampant. It is a most scandalous fact that councillors are bought and the ratepayers are sold to the highest bidder. Sometimes a bottle of whiskey, sometimes a £5 note, and sometimes a life billet for a friend or relative. Worse still the river is tainted at its source. Many voters are bought for a treat or a crown or a bonham. The origin and font of power the polling booth is gerrymandered in face of and in spite of the laws against bribery and corruption ... When a councillor takes a bribe he is surely dipping his hand feloniously into the taxpayers pocket as a pickpocket is when he steals a copper from the man in the street.¹⁴

Donovan recalled how 'even as a boy I had the itch of writing to the papers'. On one occasion that he did so, the result was not as he anticipated:

A certain hotel-keeper, then posing as a great land-leaguer, allowed his two side-cars to take members of the RIC to an eviction ... So I wrote a pretty hot letter to the editor denouncing the inconsistencies. Instead of printing my letter he handed it to the hotel-keeper and I got a severe thrashing from my father'.¹⁵

The thrashing did not put him off. His contributions to the press were prolific and poetic:

To Die in Holy Ireland

To die in holy Ireland, amid the friends I love Would be a crowning gift and grace from our dear Lord above, But, O, to die for Ireland and see her once more free, Would make my hope in Heaven be far more dear to me.¹⁶

An article, 'Roger Casement's Last Adventure, Details of the Kerry Part of this remarkable 1916 Exploit' (*Kerryman*, 16 December 1933 & *Derry Journal*, 14 December 1934) included a note about Captain Monteith.

Little is known about Donovan's personal life. Notes in the collection reveal he married in 1892; no known children were born of this marriage, which Donovan described as 'twenty years of great happiness'. His wife died in 1913 and he married secondly in 1922 in order to qualify for a school with a residence in Queensland:

It was a "made match" to a woman I knew nothing of. She turned out to be a nervous wreck: the doctors called it "major hysteria" which I later found, was "a ducas" – a family failing. My life with her was a living purgatory. 17

In 1926 Donovan returned to live in his native town and in the years that followed, was described as 'easily Castleisland's doyen intellectual. History, philosophy, fiction, sociology, all have been enriched by his versatile pen'.¹⁸

Donovan died in Castleisland on 13 June 1950. Notwithstanding his considerable contribution to the press and indeed to literature, just a short notice appeared in the local press:

The death took place at his home in Church Street on Monday of Mr T M Donovan, aged around 90. He taught for many years in Australia and returned to his native town where he became interested in journalism. He wrote *A History of Kerry* and other books. He was a brother of the late Fr Donovan, SJ. The funeral took place to St Stephens's on Tuesday. He is survived by his widow to whom deep sympathy is extended.¹⁹

An un-catalogued box of Donovan papers is held at the National library of Ireland (reference number PC 896). The material was deposited in the 1960s; details of depositor not known. It is not currently available to researchers.

Items stored in a green coloured document wallet entitled as above.

Long ago there lived a man named Sean Com in *Craol na Spride* about two and a half miles from Castle-island. He was married to a woman who was bold and wicked. One night they had an argument and she was

¹ Irish Genealogy records six children born to Michael and Ellen Donovan in Castleisland following their marriage there on 18 September 1859: John 13 October 1861, unnamed 1863, Timothy 1865, Mary 1868, Ellen 1871 and Michael 1875. In his article published in the *Westminster Review* in 1902, Donovan referred only to four: 'My old hardworking mother is still living in Kerry ... Her four children are in foreign parts'.

² *Kerryman*, 27 Sept 1930, 'The English in East Kerry'. In a separate article, Donovan described how his grandfather, John Donovan was arrested by the yeomen in Castleisland in 1798 (Letter to the Editor, 'An Island of slanderers', *Kerryman*, 2 March 1929). In *A Popular History of East Kerry*, he wrote, 'There is no Donovan at Ballygree today because John Donovan was evicted by a ruthless agent' (pp59-60). A record of a number of Donovan's cousins including Arthur Lenihan of Woodville is contained in creator's notes. The following might also be of use: Mrs Ellen Tiernay died at Arlington Mass 9 April 1927, maiden name Donovan, born in Castleisland 79 years ago. Went to States via Fenit 61 years ago ... surviving her three sons, eldest Daniel B Tiernay chief of the Fire Department and six daughters, two in religion, sister Aloysius of St Joseph's Academy and Sister Joseph Patricia of Roxbury. The late Mrs Tiernay was first cousin of the Rev J Donovan SJ MA St Asaph, N Wales, of Mother M Francis, Presentation Convent Tweed River, NS Wales and of Mr T M Donovan Castleisland.

³ 'An Irishman Down Under', *Kerryman*, 29 May 1926. Prior to their departure, Donovan described how they 'were not overburdened with ready cash' and that 'the loss of a new pair of breeches left in the train at Gortatlea was no

⁴ 'An Irishman Down Under', Kerryman, 19 & 26 June 1926.

⁵ In 1920 his address was Mackay, Queensland and in 1925, State School, Dundowran, Maryborough. In 'An Irishman Down Under', *Kerryman*, 24 July 1926, Donovan described an earlier trip home 'while at Freeston' to visit his family.

⁶ 'An Irishman Down Under', *Kerryman*, 24 July 1926. Five weeks of his visit were spent in Glenbeigh. In a subsequent article, Donovan wrote that he planned to return to Australia January 1918 ('An Irishman Down Under', *Kerryman*, 7 August 1926).

⁷ 'An Irishman Down Under', Kerryman, 24 July 1926.

⁸ ibid. Donovan's brother, Jesuit Father and Greek scholar, Rev John Donovan, SJ (Society of Jesus) was author of many works including *The Logia in Ancient and Recent Literature* (1924). Rev John Donovan died in Tralee in 1933 (obituary in *The Tablet*, 15 July 1933). An account of his literary achievements was published in *The Kerryman* (24 November 1928, 'Distinguished Kerrymen', p10). His sister was Mother M Francis, Presentation Convent, Tweed River, New South Wales, Australia. The article referred to published in the *Catholic Advocate* (year not known) was entitled 'An Old Irishwoman'. The *Catholic Advocate*, owned by Hibernian Newspapers Ltd, was established in Brisbane in 1910 and folded in 1930. It was followed by the *Catholic Leader*. See http://trove.nla.gov.au/work/19160350?selectedversion=NBD4760767.

⁹ 18 and 25 October.

¹⁰ He added that Jeremiah 'saw O'Connell passing through the town or putting up for the night at the Brandon Arms Hotel kept by a sister of Mr Roche of Sandville, then coroner for East Kerry in the house now owned by Mr Patrick Buckley BA' (*Kerryman*, 27 Sept 1930).

¹¹ 'In a Rich Munster Valley', *The Kerryman*, 16 August 1941. *The Schools Collection* reveals that *Craol na spride* was so called 'because a sprid was supposed to be seen there long' (*The Schools' Collection*, Volume 0448, Page 065, Mary Hurley, student of Student of Scartaglen school). A student of Moyderwell school in Tralee gave a fuller account:

so bad-tempered that she struck him with the tongs and shortly afterwards he died. After a while she pined away and died. When she died her ghost was often seen. One night a man was coming home late from Castleisland and she appeared to him. She knocked him in the flat of his back on the road and killed him. In the morning the body was found and the people guessed what had happened. The next night a group of men went to the place about twelve o'clock and she appeared to them again. The men gathered round her and killed her on the spot. Never since was she seen there. It is called Caol na Spride still (*The Schools' Collection*, Volume 0440, Page 273-274; story by Sheila O'Rourke from Mrs O'Rourke, Ballymacdonnell, Farranfore).

¹² *Kerryman*, 27 May 1933. The book was reviewed in the *Irish Examiner*, 30 November 1932: 'Fruit of forty-five years study of the stars as an amateur helped by the possession of a plane-sphere, a small telescope and Sir Robert Ball's Guide to the Heavens'.

¹³ Kerryman of 2 & 9 December 1933. Mrs Pender, better known as Mrs M T Pender, author of *The Green Cockade* (1898) *The Knight of Glencar. Or, Out with the Connaught Clans* (1914) and other novels and short stories including *Red Hugh O'Donnell* and *Last of the Irish Chiefs* was born (circa 1850) Margaret Teresa O'Doherty, daughter of Daniel O'Doherty of Ballytweedy, Killead, Co Antrim (who claimed descent from Sir Cahir O'Doherty, Lord of Inishowen). She married Mr Owen Hugh Pender (1847-1915) 'a respected member of the linen trade' and had issue including John Justin, HM Inspector of Factories (died suddenly in September 1905); Daniel Eugene (died in Belfast on 16 February 1899); William Sylvester (1879-1950) and James, a member of the Catholic Truth Society who died in October 1957. Mrs Pender's daughters included Nora, Margaret, Isabel Valentine and May Ethena. Mrs Pender's twenty-three year old grandson, Flight Lieutenant Owen Raymond Pilsworth, RAF, educated at Ampleford Benedictine College Yorkshire, son of Major Raymond Pilsworth of Thomastown, was reported missing in 1941. He is recorded on the Alamein Memorial, Egypt (see find-a-grave.com) date of death, 25 June 1941. Mrs Pender's residence in 1881 was Glengormley House; she wrote the following in her family bible:

January 13, 1881. How time flies. This old book is here yet and me too. I see some old and some new entries here, this is another. Margaret Theresa Doherty Pender has three sons and two daughters, two of the boys are at school and the rest at home. I have sent three poems to 'The Nation' and 'The Freeman' as my contribution to the cause of Irish liberty. 'Tis a wet and cold foggy day and Willie, with a yellow, curly head is running around the floor with Nora and Maggie. I have an ulster to make for Nora and a coat for John to go to school. Twenty years ago, my Mother was doing the same for me - dear Ma. Owen is at work. I have a box of geraniums inside the window and a box of snowdrops and crocuses outside Glengormley House. Do you want to know what I am like? I have on a red petticoat and black jacket with canvas slippers - working gear. My hair is tossed about my brow, I am not old looking and I don't feel old. Willie is pulling me, I must stop (reference Whitewell/rootschat.com).

In her literature, Mrs Pender excelled in 'the wonders of old-time war strategy ... and descriptive detail of the struggles against the invader' (*Irish Independent*, 19 March 1920). Mrs Pender died on St Patrick's Day 1920. Obituary published in *Irish Independent*, 19 March 1920. A sketch of Mrs Pender in *Aonac Mór, Book of the Bazaar* The Official Guide and Souvenir In St Joseph's New Schools, Crumlin October 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1914. See also Georgina Clinton and Sinéad Sturgeon's entry in Dictionary of Irish Biography.

¹⁴ Kerry Weekly Reporter, 26 June 1915. The editor added: 'Mr Donovan was the Dublin correspondent of the *Queensland Catholic Advocate* and has contributed brilliant articles to the leading English and Australian magazines ... He was for many years in Australia where he was a State School Teacher and Justice of the Peace [from 1909] ... He returned to his native Kerry last April [holiday] expecting to find a people enjoying the beneficent results of good local government but was pained and disappointed when he discovered the uses to which the new powers are put in Kerry'. Of holidaying, Donovan wrote, 'I have been in many cities of the world – in all the capital cities of Australia – in London, Dublin, Liverpool, Paris, New York and San Francisco but ... I would rather a holiday in the capital of the old Kingdom than in any of these great centres of commerce' (*Kerryman*, 11 April 1925, 'Old Times in Castleisland, Rambling Reminiscences').

¹⁵ 'An Irishman Down Under', Kerryman, 29 May 1926.

¹⁶ Kerryman, 4 September 1920. The poem was submitted from Queensland to which he added a footnote, 'The Beighy and Lake Coomasahern are at Glenbeigh where I spent a delightful holiday in 1916'. His writings include a series of articles for the Kerry Weekly Reporter during a holiday in Ireland in 1916 (The Parting of the Ways, 12 August; Local Government in Kerry, 19 August; Mountain, Lake and Sea, 26 August; England's Strange Ally, 30 September; Irish Nationality, 30 December). In the same year (18 March 1916) he submitted an article to the Kerryman, 'Amateur Theatricals in Castleisland, An Appreciation'. 'Old Times in Castleisland, Rambling Reminiscences' in six parts was published in the Kerryman in 1925 (Part 1, 21 March; Part 2, 28 March; Part 3, 4 April; Part 4, 11 April; Part 5, 18 April; Part 6, 25 April), a foretaste of his History. Other articles include, 'Queensland and its Resources' (Cork Examiner, 16 & 23 June 1894); 'Our Parish Church' (Kerryman, 24



Above: Tomo Burke stands outside Donovan's former residence in Church Street and below, John Joe Tangney and Johnnie Roche look out upon the 'valley worth fighting for' A likeness of T M Donovan appears on p134



December 1926); 'The Past Pastors of Castleisland' (*Kerryman*, 29 October 1927); 'Past Parish Priests of Brosna', (*Kerryman*, 23 August 1930); 'At the Back of the Reeks' (*Kerryman*, 27 May 1933); 'Death of Captain Moonlight, A Hero of the Land War of the Eighties' (*Derry Journal*, 21 August 1935); 'The Pastors of Castleisland' (*Kerryman*, 28 November 1936); 'A Trip to Tralee, Changes the Years Bring' (*Kerryman*, 12 August 1939). A series of stories, 'Around the Turf Fire' was published in the *Kerryman* in 1927 and in the same year, fifteen chapters of 'The Heavenly Visitor, The Realt-Aird-Mor, Kerry in the Old, Old Days' was serialised in the same publication.

17 IE MOD/74/74.8. Donovan married Hanora O'Connor of Cangullia, Carker, Scartaglen and the couple lived at 8 Church Street, Castleisland (this numbering has changed over the last 30 years). Hanora died on 13 July 1953 and was buried at Kilsarcon on 1 August 1953. There is currently no information on Donovan's first marriage.

18 *Kerryman*, 21 Nov 1936.

¹⁹ *Kerryman*, 17 June 1950. Date of demise taken from death/burial records in the collection (IE MOD/15/15.7). In 1944 Donovan wrote a letter to the press about the state of St Stephen's churchyard, where he was laid to rest (IE MOD/74/74.4 (2)).

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/74/74.1-74.8

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: T M Donovan

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 8 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/74/74.1

One xeroxed copy of 229-pg *A Popular History of East Kerry* (1931) measuring 36 cm x 24 cm, 29 pages copied two-sides containing four book pages to a page, comb-bound in red plastic, the covers formed of a dark brown upholstery fabric. Copy quality is inky and poor, pages are worn along the edges. The binding is damaged and in poor condition. A number of pages have become loose; some pages are marked with highlighter

IE MOD/74/74.2

One eight-page handwritten A4 document contains index to A Popular History of East Kerry

IE MOD/74/74.3

One A4 handwritten document entitled 'Timothy M Donovan' contains notes from *A Popular History of East Kerry* with references to page numbers and includes a sketch of the Donovan family tree

IE MOD/74/74.4

Nine page document contains handwritten notes on Donovan genealogy (note: creator has in some instances utilised the backs of letters as writing material including Past Pupils Newsletter, School Basketball 99-2000 and a Castleisland Desmonds GAA Club Lotto Draw ticket). Includes Donovan's letter to the editor of the *Kerryman* dated 28 May 1944 (reprinted in *In and About Castleisland*) regarding the old graveyard in Castleisland and the graves of members of his family. In the *Kerryman* of 17 July 1948, Donovan reminisced on the old church:

I said the Protestant Church was closed because the pastor had resigned and his manse was sold. I made a mistake for services are held in the church by a neighbouring parson for the few remaining Protestants – about a dozen. When I was a boy in the seventies of the last century the church had about 150 worshippers attending its services. The little street leading to it used to be filled with cars, sidecars, phaetons and two horse carriages full of landlords, their agents and bailiffs ... The Penal Days Catholic Pastor of Kerry is buried in this old cemetery, Father Darby Shanahan.

IE MOD/74/74.5

One photocopy of Donovan's six-page article entitled 'Landlordism: In a Kerry Village' published in *The Westminster Review*, January 1902. Copy marked with highlighter; orange stamp on the back suggests it was obtained from the British Library. The article concludes, 'My grandfather [Lenihan – inf J Roche] made one of those hill-side farms in Kerry for present-day landlordism – I would be only too delighted, here from Queensland, to drive a nail in its coffin. My old, hardworking mother is still living in that Kerry village. Her four children are in foreign parts. She is alone; because not one of the four could get a decent living at home'. An editor's note published in the *Kerryman* 28 March 1925 alongside an article by Donovan ('Old Times in Castleisland, Rambling Reminiscences') outlined Donovan's contribution to the *Review*:

When the *Westminster Review* was in its heyday, Mr Donovan was one of the gifted band of literary workers who helped to make that publication famous. He is also a regular contributor to the Queensland Teachers' Journal and his literary efforts have appeared as far afield as the United States in which country ... he has travelled rather extensively.

IE MOD/74/74.6

Five page A4 document contains small number of pages copied and edited from *A Popular History of East Kerry*

IE MOD/74/74.7

One A4 copy of pages 1 & 2 from *Sliabh Luachra News* Vol 3, Issue 1, containing article, 'Straw Boys Ruin Castleisland Weddings' by T M Donovan from his *Popular History*

IE MOD/74/74.8

One photocopy of a handwritten note by Donovan marked 'private' giving details of his two marriages but dealing mostly with the second. Details of its acquisition not known



ANNO QUINTO

GEORGII IV. REGIS.

Cap. 31.

An Act for dividing, allotting, and inclosing certain Lands and Waste Grounds, called the Town and undivided Lands of Castle Island in the County of Kerry.

[17th June 1824.]

MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/75

The Castleisland Act

IE MOD/75 REFERENCE CODE

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: The Castelsisland

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/75 contains one photocopy of 'Anno Quinto GEORGII IV. REGIS' (The Castleisland Act) 1824. The Act is explained in a letter from Daniel O'Connell to his wife dated 25 March 1824:

I came here [Tralee] yesterday about one o'clock to attend a consultation with Lord Headley, etc, on an act of parliament for dividing Castleisland among the six gentleman of whom Lady Headley, his mother, is one.

A nineteenth century correspondence about the costs incurred in processing the act which included O'Connell 'being brought over specially to London to attend consultations' described Castleisland before partition as 'principally old with thatched houses and small cabins which scarcely contained a single good house':

When the partition was made, the unlucky and unhappy proprietors had to pay near £7,000 for dividing a then miserable village and 650 acres of land.1

One hundred and fifty years on from O'Connell's letter to his wife, it was edited and published by his great grandson, Maurice Rickard O'Connell (1922-2005) wherein Maurice commented, 'the act does not appear to have aroused any public interest'.²

It did, however, arouse the interest of Michael O'Donohoe who – as is evident from a letter in the collection from Dick Spring, TD – went to some lengths to secure a copy of it.³

Items stored in a green coloured document wallet entitled as above.

¹ Letter to the Editor of the Kerry Evening Post from John Leahy dated 21 September 1863 (Kerry Evening Post, 26 September 1863).

² The Correspondence of Daniel O'Connell (Vol III) 1974.

³ IE MOD 75/75.1/75.1.1. The Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Michael O'Donohoe that the GEORGII IV REGIs document was traced eventually 'to the Kings Inn Library in Dublin'.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/75/75.1-75.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: The Castleisland Act

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/75/75.1

One photocopy of 'Anno Quinto GEORGII IV. REGIS Cap. 31' (The Castleisland Act) from unreferenced publication, pp682-703, some pages marked by creator with highlighter. It is described as follows:

An Act for dividing, allotting, and inclosing certain Lands and Waste Grounds, called the Town and undivided Lands of Castle Island in the County of Kerry [17th June 1824.]

IE MOD/75/75.1/75.1.1

One A4 letter addressed to Mr Michael O'Donoghue, 11 Barrack Street, Castleisland, Co Kerry from Dick Spring, TD, Office of the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dublin, dated 31 May 1996: 'Dear Michael, I am enclosing a copy of GEORGII IV REGIS. We traced it eventually to the Kings Inn Library in Dublin'

IE MOD/75/75.2

One A3 photocopy of p57 from *The Correspondence of Daniel O'Connell 1824-1828* (Vol III, 1974) edited by Maurice R O'Connell, Professor of History, Fordham University, Irish University Press for the Irish Manuscripts Commission, in which Daniel O'Connell states, in a letter to his wife from Tralee dated 25 March 1824, 'I came here yesterday about one o'clock to attend a consultation with Lord Headley, etc, on an act of parliament for dividing Castleisland among the six gentleman of whom Lady Headley, his mother, is one'.

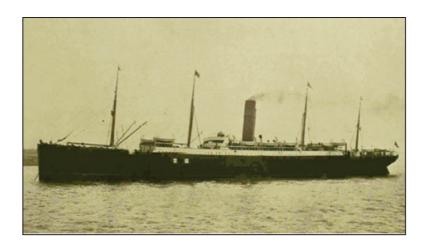
The editor of the Correspondence and co-author of *Daniel O'Connell: the Man and His Politics* (1990), Maurice Rickard O'Connell (1922-2005), expanded on his remark in a footnote: 'On 20 February 1824 a petition was presented to the House of Commons on behalf of Jane Lady Headley and William Meredith, Dicksgrove, Co Kerry, as part owners with Henry Arthur Herbert, a minor, Muckross, Co Kerry; David Crosbie, a minor, Ardfert Abbey, Co Kerry; William James Crosbie, Florence, Italy; and Richard Boyle Townsend, Castle Townsend, Co Cork, of the town of Castleisland, Co Kerry and adjacent lands, comprising 1.022 acres. The petitioners sought an act of parliament for the division of this property among them. Eventually a bill was introduced to the Commons on 22 March and, after much alteration, received the royal assent on 17 June 1824 (5 Geo, IV c.31, private). The act stated the owners of the property to be Henry Arthur Herbert, Frances and Mary Anne Crosbie, Jane Lady Headley, William Meredith, Richard Chute of Chutehall, Co Kerry and William Townsend (Mullins), second Baron Ventry. The act does not appear to have aroused any public interest'.

IE MOD/75/75.3

One A4 document contains handwritten notes on The Castleisland Act



Above: the doomed *Titanic*Below: the *Carpathia*, which went to its aid



MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/76

The Titanic

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/76

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: The Titanic

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/76 contains material relating to the sinking of the Titanic on 15 April 1912 with particular focus on survivors from the Castleisland district. The disaster was reported in the contemporary press as follows:

The mammoth White Star Liner, Titanic, acknowledged as the largest and most complete passenger vessel in the world, when she left Queenstown on her maiden voyage last Thursday, has sunk on Cape Race, after a collision with an iceberg. New York, Monday. The Titanic sank at 2.20 this morning.¹

White Star officials reported that the steamer Carpathia, which went to its aid, was on her way to New York with several hundred passengers; there were 70 widows on board when it reached New York. Also on board was Daniel Buckley, from where he wrote to his mother at home in Kingwilliamstown (Ballydesmond):

Dear Mother – I am writing these few lines on board the Carpathia, the ship that saved our lives. As I might not have much time when I get to New York I mean to give you an account of the terrible shipwreck we had. At 11.40 pm on the 14th our ship, the Titanic, struck an iceberg and sank to the deep at 2.20 am on the 15th. The present estimation is 1500 lost, 710 saved. Thank God, some of us are amongst the saved. Hannah Riordan, Bridgie Bradley, Nonie O'Leary and the Shine girl from Lismore are all right. There is no account of Patie Connell (25), Michael Linehan from Freeholds, or Jim Connor, Hugh's son, from Tureenavonscane. However, I hope they were taken into some other ship. There were four of us sleeping in the same apartment. We had a bed of our own and in every apartment there were four lifebelts, one for each person. At the time when the ship struck I heard a terrible noise. I jumped out of bed and told my comrades there was something wrong but they only laughed. I turned on the light and to my surprise there was a small stream of water running along the floor. I had only just dressed myself when the sailors came along shouting, "All up on deck unless you want to get drowned". We all ran up on deck. I thought to go down again to my room for a lifebelt and my little bag. When I was going down the last flight of stairs the water was up three steps on the stairs, so I did not go any further. I just thought of Den Ring's saying, 'Stick to your lifebelts, and face a tearing ocean.' We were not long on deck when the lifeboats were prepared. There were only sixteen boats, and that amount was only enough to carry a tenth of the passengers. The third boat that was let down I went on it. There were about 40 men in it. We were only fifteen minutes in the boat when the big ship went down. It was a terrible sight. It would make the stones cry to hear those on board shrieking. It made a terrible noise like thunder when it was sinking. There were a great many Irish boys and girls drowned. I got out without any wound. There were a lot of men and women got wounded getting off the steamer. A good many died coming out of the lifeboats and after getting on the Carpathia. It was a great change to us to get on this strange steamer, as we had a grand time on the Titanic. We got a very good diet and had a very jolly time dancing and singing. We had every kind of an instrument on board to amuse us but all the amusement sank in the deep. I will write a note when I get to New York. Goodbye at present – Dannie.²

The recollections of Nora O'Leary, another survivor of the Titanic who described herself as 'only

a slip of a girl' who had never been outside Ballydesmond, were in contrast to those of Buckley:

I had gone to bed and was awakened by a crashing sound ... I went up to the deck and there seemed to be no panic. There were sailors running about but a boat was being lowered into the water. I said to myself that there must be some sort of danger ... I left whatever belongings I had and walked down the ladder and into the boat ... We rowed away from the ship and it was then I knew something dreadful was happening. You couldn't see a thing. I heard no screams – no noise from the ship we had left.³

Further reference *The Irish Aboard Titanic* (2012) by Senan Molony.

Items contained in an orange coloured document wallet entitled as above. Item IE MOD/76/76.3 removed to IE MOD/14 for improved storage.

¹ Kerryman, 20 April 1912.

² *Kerryman*, 18 May 1912. Cork born Buckley, who later enlisted in the US army, was killed in action in France on 15 October 1918. The song, Sweet Kingwilliamstown, is attributed to him; further reference *The Irish Aboard Titanic* (2012) by Senan Molony.

³ IE MOD/76/76.2.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/76/76.1-76.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: The Titanic

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/76/76.1

One handwritten note of reference to a letter published in the *Kerryman* in 1912 from Daniel Buckley of Kingwilliamstown, survivor of the Titanic. Letter written on board Carpathia 18 March 1912 (this letter, not in the collection, was published on 18 May 1912)

IE MOD/76/76.2

One copy of *In & About Castleisland* newsletter, Spring 1998 (12 pages) which includes a letter on p11 relating to the O'Leary family, one of whom was a survivor of the disaster: 'The Titanic has evoked special memories for Tom O'Leary, Upper Main St, Castleisland. His grandmother Nora was on the fateful voyage. She was fortunate to live a full life and die on 18th May 1975. RIP. The *Sunday Press* interviewed her in 1971'. Interview with Nora Herlihy reproduced in this document

IE MOD/76/76.3

One broadsheet reproduction of *The Times* newspaper, Tuesday April 16, 1912 (8 pages), headlined 'Titanic Disaster'

MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/77

They Hanged John Twiss

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/77

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: They Hanged John

Twiss

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 6 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

St Cyprian says that we are born with a rope around our necks, and as long as we live on earth we hourly approach the gallows

Liguori, Meditation IV

IE MOD/77 contains material relating to the history and genealogy of John Twiss of Castleisland who was hanged in Cork County Jail on 9 February 1895 for the murder, on 21 April 1894, of James Donovan, a caretaker of an evicted farm at Glenlara near Newmarket in county Cork.

Twiss, who resided with his sister Jane in a cottage at Ardmona, Cordal, was widely believed to have been innocent of the murder. A song, *John Twiss of Castleisland*, written by Eugene O'Meara of Ardmona, recorded the event:

Farewell my dearest sister Jane, your fond and last adieu, At the early age of thirty-five I now must part from you, For the murder of James Donovan I am now condemned to die On the ninth of February ninety-five upon the scaffold high. John Twiss from Castleisland, it's true it is my name I never did commit a crime, why I should deny that same I own I was a sportsman, with spirit light and gay, But paid spies and informers, my life they swore away.

Following the trial and conviction, which took place in Cork in January 1895, a reprieve campaign was organised and more than forty thousand signatures collected in Ireland and Britain. Lord Lieutenant, Lord Houghton and Chief Secretary John Morley, however, refused to intervene. An eight-stanza poem by the O'Connor poets of Kilsarcon records this episode:

When the awful news flashed forth next day Like fire throughout the land, When everyone said to himself, This sentence cannot stand, We'll petition Lord Houten, because we do believe That poor Joe Twiss is innocent, And him we will reprieve.¹

The poem also records Twiss's conduct on receiving his sentence when he spoke 'for nearly an hour'. His speech from the dock, published in the *Kerry Sentinel* and *Kerry Weekly Reporter* (12 January 1895) was composed mainly of questions and illustrated his absolute bewilderment in the face of the proceedings against him. Twiss wondered how the police, without a 'four-penny bit under their foot unknownst to them' could have brought such a case, 'you will never see a man as innocent as I am of the charge'.

He compared his circumstance to that of Poff and Barrett:

Two innocent men hanged here before – Poff and Barrett – and now they have me here hanging me wrongfully, the third man up from Kerry ... After the murder and the hanging of Poff and Barrett, it should be an eye-opener to all the juries of Ireland, to take a murder case into larger consideration than five minutes.²

He also alluded to police corruption: 'It is a frightful thing if I took bribery money and hanged innocent people. Death before dishonour. Hang me before you'll hang a man.'³

After the trial Twiss's sister Jane travelled to Cork where she met her brother in the prison in early February 1895. They spoke through the bars and their parting was described as 'most trying' to witness. 'He clasped her hand for the last time ... the girl was borne away by the nuns in an almost insensible condition'.

The nuns were the Sisters of Mercy of the Convent of St Marie's of the Isle who had supported Twiss during his incarceration. Jane also received friendship and support from a stranger:

She had never been much away from home and was quite lost and apparently without a friend. A Mrs M'Namara, wife of a saddler, in Dominick Street and herself a Kerrywoman, hearing of the miserable and solitary condition of the young woman, found out her lodging and insisted that she would accompany her home and stay with her as a guest. Here she has since resided in comparative comfort and amongst friends.⁴

Jane was described as 'aged nearly 30, has thin features, refined in expression and now much lined by suffering. She is tall and slender but apparently strong. Her dress was that of Kerry peasant girls, including the characteristic brown shawl with shoulder circle patterns woven into it. Her headdress was her light brown hair'.⁵

Jane was not among the hundreds who gathered outside Cork prison on the morning of 9 February 1895. At eight o'clock the tolling of a bell and the hoisting of a black flag told that all was over:

At a signal from the Mayor all that vast throng surging outside the prison walls dropped to its knees on the snow and prayers, fervent and long, were offered up for the peace of the troubled soul that had gone.⁶

In June 1895 Jane was appointed caretaker for Kilmurry and Kilmanihan graveyards, a position which had been held by her brother. She had a son, Denis Cronin (1901-1985) who in a memorial notice revealed his mother did not long survive her brother:

In remembrance of my dear uncle, John Joe Twiss, Ardmona, Cordal, Castleisland, Co Kerry, who was executed in Cork Prison on 9th February 1895 for Moonlighting; also my mother, Jane Twiss, died 18th November 1902, also my father, Michael Cronin, died 20th May 1936. Inserted by Denis Cronin, wife and family.⁷

A few years after the death of Jane, it was claimed that a man who was shot in Canada during a robbery made a dying confession to the 'Kilbane murder' in Limerick (September 1900) and also to participation in the Glenlara murder for which Twiss had been innocently hanged (*Kerry Sentinel*, 8 March 1905).

The following outlines Twiss ancestry:

Twiss came from among the people yet he was not of the people. He belonged to that fast-disappearing colony of Palatines that, driven by religious stress from Germany and France in the early part of the eighteenth century, were brought over to Ireland by some great landlords ... From this Huguenot settlement John Twiss was sprung. He was not wrong when he exclaimed from the dock, 'I belong to the blood of gentlemen'. His grandfather was William Twiss, a gentleman farmer who lived near Castleisland and was connected by blood with the Herberts and Blennerhassets and other families of high social standing in Kerry.⁸ His father was Robert Twiss, also a gentleman farmer ... He [Robert] married a Cork lady, Miss [Elizabeth] Hely of Donoughmore of the Hely-Hutcheson family. She was a pious Catholic and her early training of the three sons and two daughters of the marriage was responsible for their up-bringing in the Catholic religion. The eldest son, William, became a Catholic Missionary and chose Australia as the sphere of his labours. The decline of the family fortunes was reflected in the neglected training of the two younger brothers, John and George.⁹ They fell back into the position of labourers.¹⁰

A memorial to John Twiss was unveiled by his nephew Denis Cronin at Cordal on 5 August 1984, a year before Denis passed away.¹¹

They Hanged John Twiss, a book by Pat Lynch (not held in the collection) was published in 1982 (a compilation of his earlier articles published in the *Kerryman* newspaper in the 1950s). A fictional tale of events, *I Forgive them All: the Judgement of John Twiss* by Paudy Scully was published in 2007 (copy in IE MOD/A20/2 (25)).

The traditional song 'John Twiss from Castleisland' was recorded by Richard Prendergast of Keel, Castlemaine on his CD, *Songs from the Past* (proceeds to Down Syndrome Kerry) in September 2017 (copy in IE MOD/A29. See also *Murder, Mystery and My Family*, p657.

Items contained in a blue coloured document wallet entitled as above.

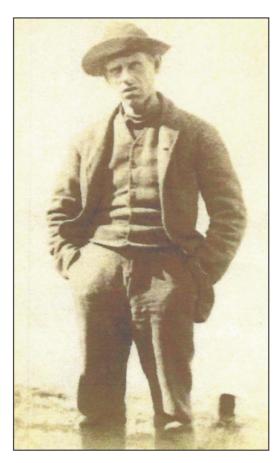
¹ The Schools' Collection, Kilsarcon School, Volume 0445, pp 405-410. Kathleen Leahy, Kilsarcon; told by Patrick Leahy, age 66. 'Joe Twiss a protestant lived in a cottage in Cordal ... The local tradesmen refused to work in the erection of a scaffold for his execution and the authorities had to bring men from Dublin to do the work'.

² See IE MOD/86 for further reference to Poff and Barrett. Deliberation was reported to have lasted less than one hour.

³ 'My recollection is that Twiss, before his execution, stated to my friend, Alderman P H Meade of Cork that he could not only have secured his reprieve but his release and a big monetary reward if he would give evidence that would enable the British Government to get one or two of their most powerful and dangerous enemies in Kerry – Maurice Moynihan and Michael Power' (*Kerryman*, 18 December 1926). A third name, Kennelly, was added to those two at the inquest (*Kerry Sentinel*, 15 March 1905). Moynihan and Power were described as Fenians; it may have been Maurice Moynihan who composed An Appreciation on the death of Michael Power in 1915, 'He was prosecuted in the Land League days for holding an illegal court and it goes without saying that he was imprisoned under Forsters' Coercion Act. During his incarceration in Limerick gaol one of his children died and it is a melancholy fact that all his family pre-deceased him' (*Kerryman*, 6 March 1915). Maurice Moynihan died at Ballyard, Tralee in January 1918 in his 52nd year; An Appreciation was published in the *Kerryman*, 19 January 1918. Further reference, *The Moynihan Brothers in Peace and War 1909-1918* (2005) by Dr Deirdre McMahon.

⁴ Kerry Sentinel, 13 February 1895. A fund to assist Jane Twiss was organised in Cork in March 1895 and £20 was raised.

⁵ ibid.



John Twiss c1894 Image courtesy Dr Paul Dillon

⁶ The Kerry Sentinel, 13 February 1895 & 15 March 1905. Jane remained in the convent with the Sisters of Mercy; the Mayor of Cork was Mr P H Meade, TC, who had worked tirelessly to try to procure commutation of the sentence and from whom Jane learned that a sketch of her brother's face had been made. John Twiss was attended at the gallows by prison chaplain Rev Father Canon P O'Leary. John Twiss's favourite book was *The Way of Salvation* by St Alphonsus de Liguori, a copy of which he left with his sister.

⁷ Kerryman, 8 February 1958. Notices also published in subsequent years.

⁸ William married Catherine Tuite through whom John Twiss inherited the tolls of Currans, Castleisland fair (*Flag of Ireland*, 16 February 1895).

⁹ 'George Twiss, brother of John Twiss, recently hanged in Cork Jail, was released from Tralee Prison on Sunday on a charge of assaulting a policeman and having a revolver ammunition in his possession ... he states that he was put into prison simply and solely for the purpose of preventing him from procuring evidence on behalf of his brother and showing up the way evidence was manufactured against him. He declares that he had no revolver ammunition when arrested but it was planted on him on the way to the barracks' (*Flag of Ireland*, 6 April 1895). A report about the Kilbane confession (see note 3) mentioned that 'George Twiss was accidentally killed in New York some time ago' (*Kerryman*, 6 May 1905).

¹⁰ Kerry Sentinel, 15 March 1905. 'John retained a shred of the patrimony but it was confined to the tolls of Curran's Castleisland fairs which he inherited from his mother and which brought him in the sum of £8 a year or thereabouts. He also drew a nominal salary as the caretaker of two small graveyards.' Another press report stated that Twiss was born in London in 1860 and had two brothers, William and George and two sisters, Mary and Jane. William went to Australia, Mary to America and the others stayed in Kerry (Kerryman, 27 April 1935, 'Kerryman hanged for murder in Cork. Full story of arrest and trial of John Twiss').

¹¹ Denis Cronin of Lower Dromultan, Currow died in Tralee at the home of his daughter Louise on 6 December 1985.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/77/77.1-77.6

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: They Hanged John

Twiss

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 6 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/77/77.1

One A4 document entitled 'Twiss' contains handwritten notes on the occurrence of the name in the Castleisland district in the nineteenth century from a number of sources including Bary's *Houses of Kerry* and Hickson's *Old Kerry Records*

IE MOD/77/77.2

One six-page document entitled 'John Twiss' contains material relating to the case of John Twiss of Cordal who was hanged in 1895. Material includes a poem published in *The Old Limerick Journal* entitled 'John Twiss of Castleisland'

IE MOD/77/77.3

One A4 document entitled 'They Hanged John Twiss, Pat Lynch, The Kerryman, 1982' contains notes extracted from this publication (a copy of which is not present in the collection) with page references

IE MOD/77/77.4

One five-page A4 document entitled 'Twiss' contains handwritten notes on John and George Twiss extracted from the *Kerry Sentinel*

IE MOD/77/77.5

Two page A4 document handwritten entitled 'Twiss' contains notes on the name as found in the nineteenth century press; includes Robert Twiss MD, William Twiss, Jane Twiss, John R and Mary Anne Twiss, Francis Twiss

IE MOD/77/77.6

One A4 photocopy from King's History, pp328-9 with reference to the name Twiss

MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/78

Tralee Board of Guardians

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/78

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Tralee Board of

Guardians

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The hive contains more than it can support ... the excess must either perish of famine or be destroyed by internal contests for food

- Robert Torrens, 1817

IE MOD/78 contains material relating to the Tralee Board of Guardians, 1879-1898.

An assessment of the level of poverty in pre-Famine Ireland can be made in the writings of nineteenth century political economist Colonel Robert Torrens. In 1839, he described Ireland as 'on the brink of famine'. He had warned as much almost a generation before.²

In May 1840, the first meeting of the Tralee Board of Guardians took place. Hon Edward Mullins was voted Chairman, John Hurly Esq, Vice-Chairman, George D Stokes, Deputy Vice-Chairman and Thomas O'Connell Clerk of the Board.³

One of the main subjects under discussion was a site for a workhouse in Tralee. At a meeting of the board three years later, the opening of the workhouse was still under discussion:

There is very sad destitution in our streets. This very day one old woman brought another wretched old woman into my shop for relief and I thought they would both have died there. Those gentlemen who have high walls and locked gates know nothing of those things. It is the shopkeeper in the town and farmer in the country who have to support the poor.⁴

Creator's study of the Board of Guardians relates to post-Famine Ireland of 1879-1899. It includes a compilation of members in Tralee and surrounding districts (Abbeydorney to Tubrid) with particular focus on the Castleisland district.⁵ A separate document records meetings held by the guardians for the period 1883 to 1899.⁶

Those identified from the Castleisland division are P H Leahy (1879), Terence Brosnan (1882-84) M P Kearney (1884), T Brosnan (1885-1887), M Pembroke (1888-1892), J K O'C (1890-1891), T O'C Brosnan (1892), C D O'Connor (1894), J K & M K Hogan (1895), J K & T O'C Brosnan (1895).

Creator drew attention to J K O'C and M Pembroke in the year 1891, when two guardians were elected to the Castleisland division, and to Patrick D Kenny and Thomas McEllistrim.

Patrick D Kenny, a tenant on a holding at Ballymacadam, Castleisland, was president of the Castleisland Land League. He served eight consecutive years for the Crinny district (1878-1885) and three for Kilmurry (1890-92). A portrait of him drawn in 1889 during proceedings of the Special Commission suggests a tall, hardworking man with a troubled expression.⁷ Thomas McEllistrim served four consecutive years for Arabella (1894-1897). He died in 1914 and from

him descended the Fianna Fáil politicians of the same name.⁸ His funeral, of 'immense proportions', took place at Cloghers parish church; Thomas McEllistrim was buried in the family burial place at Ballymacelligott:

It is with feelings of profound regret we chronicle the death of Mr Thomas McEllistrum, which sad event took place at his residence Ahane, Ballymacelligott, on Thursday last, the 22nd inst after a short illness ... Deceased was a member of a highly respectable and esteemed family and represented Arabella in the old Tralee Board of Guardians and in the Rural District Council for the past 25 years being one of the oldest members of that body. He was a sterling Nationalist and took an active interest in all local organizations having for their object the advancement of his fellowmen. He always proved himself a consistent friend to the poor.⁹

Items stored in a yellow coloured document wallet entitled as above and sub-titled, 'Records from 1840. Poor Law Act England 1834, Ireland 1838, George 2 1847, Tralee Board of Guardians 1879 onwards. 1896, 2 Apr Vote for fortnightly meetings. County Kerry 1606 James I (6) Kerry County Council 22 Apr 1899. Passed previous year'.

¹ Plan of an Association in aid of the Irish Poor Law (1838) by R Torrens, reviewed in the Tralee Mercury, 10 July 1839. The previous year Torrens had written to Lord John Russell showing the hopelessness of attempting to remove the diseases of Ireland by the Poor Law. 'Col Torrens's scheme if put in operation will be productive of the greatest advantage to this ill-fated land now a prey to the deepest and most wide-spread poverty and destitution. In conjunction with the new poor law, the operations of a well conducted system of emigration would be of incalculable benefit by affording unemployed labourers' and artizans who are willing and able to work the means of proceeding to a country where their exertions which in Ireland can scarcely keep soul and body together would enable them to earn a competence and independence' (Kerry Evening Post, 13 July 1839).

² A Paper on the Means of Reducing the Poors Rates and of Affording Effectual and Permanent Relief to the Labouring Classes (1817). Other works include the four volume The Victim of Intolerance or The Hermit of Killarney (1814) and Thoughts on the Catholic Question (1807 revised 1813). See Collected Works of Robert Torrens (2000) by Glancarlo de Vivo. Robert Torrens (1780-1864) was a member of a family of which Judge Robert Torrens and Generals Sir Henry and Sir Arthur Wellesley Torrens were conspicuous members. He was twice married, first to Charity, daughter of Richard Chute of Roxborough, Co Kerry and secondly to Esther Jane, daughter of Ambrose Serle. He was father of Cork born, Sir Robert Richard Torrens (1814-1884) whose childhood was passed 'at the seat of his maternal relation - Chutehall in the county of Kerry and his youth amidst the romantic scenery of Killarney' ('Men of Mark', Tralee Chronicle, 27 March 1863). Robert Torrens had two known daughters, Cherry Herbert Torrens, who married in Tralee Church on 19 October 1841 to Norcott D'Esterre Roberts Esq of Ardmore, Passage West, Co Cork (their daughter, Cherubina Herbert D'Esterre Roberts, married in 1869 to Francis Blennerhassett Chute Esq of Chute Hall and had three sons and two daughters, including Major Richard Aremburg Blennerhassett Chute (1870-1939) of Chute Hall and Dooneen, Co Limerick; Arthur Torrens Chute (1871-1924) of California (whose son was Arthur Sydney Torrens Chute) and Lt Challoner Francis Trevor Chute, Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action in 1914). Daughter Jane Austin Torrens married at St David's Church, Liverpool on 22nd February 1842 to William Gibson Esq of Glasgow and Inverleith Row, Edinburgh (she died at Clifton on 1 August 1865). Biography of Robert Torrens at www.historyofparliamentonline.org.

³ Kerry Evening Post, 9 May 1840. Kerry County Library holdings include Tralee Board of Guardians' minutes (1845-1922).

⁴ *Tralee Chronicle and Killarney Echo*, 12 August 1843. The workhouse (later utilised as St Catherine's County Hospital) eventually opened on 1 February 1844. See Peter Higginbotham's *The Workhouse, The Story of an Institution* in which the structure of the Tralee Poor Law Union, overseen by an elected Board of Guardians, is explained.

⁵ IE MOD/78/78.1 & IE MOD/78/78.2.

⁶ IE MOD/78/78.3.

⁷ *The Graphic*, 29 June 1889. A portrait of Daniel Fitzmaurice O'Connor, secretary of the Abbeydorney branch of the National League was also drawn and published alongside that of Kenny. Further reference to Kenny IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.160.

⁸ Thomas McEllistrim (1894-1973), Thomas McEllistrim (1926-2000) and Tom McEllistrim (born 1968) in office 2002-2011. A biographical article, 'An Irishman's Diary', describing Thomas McEllistrim's role in the War of Independence, in IE MOD/55.1/55.1.195. Tom M snr was married to Mary Fitzgerald (1895-1985) Boherbee and Tom M jnr to Marie Flaherty.

⁹ Full funeral report, Kerry Weekly Reporter, 31 October 1914.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/78/78.1-78.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Tralee Board of

Guardians

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/78/78.1

One four-page A4 handwritten document contains compilation of members of the Tralee Board of Guardians in surrounding districts for the period 1879-1898. Information is organised into columns by year, approximately six years to one page. Districts in the Castleisland area are highlighted. Districts are ordered alphabetically, Abbeydorney to Tubrid

IE MOD/78/78.2

One A4 handwritten document contains a refined list of board members from the Castleisland district extracted from IE MOD/78/78.1 with supporting documentation from the *Kerry Sentinel* (43 documents). Support material marked with creator's system of reference and highlighter

IE MOD/78/78.3

One A4 document contains handwritten notes on meetings held by the guardians for the period 1883 to 1899

MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/79

Visitors' Comments on Castleisland

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/79

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Visitors' Comments

on Castleisland

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 6 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/79 contains descriptions of the town of Castleisland published during the seventeenth to twentieth centuries. The material provides an impression of the town as a 'place of consequence' in earlier times to one of dilapidation in the early nineteenth century.

One of the earliest descriptions of Castleisland was given by Gerald, fourth Earl of Desmond who almost sang it as 'the sweetest island of Kerry'. A more contemporary description came from the pen of Castleisland's Con Houlihan, 'Not so much a town as a street between two fields'.

Creator was interested in what people had to say about the 'street between two fields'. He compiled visitors' descriptive accounts which gave varying impressions of the town as a 'place of consequence' to one of 'dilapidation ... owing to a dispute among the proprietors regarding the division of their respective interests'.

'Full of cow-dung'

One document described how a sixteenth century visitor 'went to view the Island, which is a high monstrous castle of many rooms but very filthy and full of cow-dung'. Another item focussed on the dramatic changes which occurred between 1822 and 1829. For example in 1822 there was 'no shop which could supply anything beyond a farthing candle'. Seven years later, 'several shops have been established at which clothing of all kinds and groceries can be purchased'.

Nineteenth Century Castleisland

An elaborate mid nineteenth century sketch of Castleisland was given by John Florence Purdon Macarthy. The document conveys a remarkable history of the town. Macarthy was addressing 'a spirit of change' in Castleisland:

Castleisland, the home of so many potent Lords Deputy ... architecture, arts, and arms distinguished this ancient place. But a spirit of change has passed over it, even within the last 50 years. With its wide street less macadamised than at present, it had far more numerous patrician families with greater diversity of fun and frolic.

Macarthy reminisced on duelling at Meanus, cock-fighting, dancing houses, scrumping, robbing geese for lime-kilns and the hilarities of local characters such as Firrheen Prendiville, John Talbot and John Saunders 'the wild man'.

Castleisland: The Castle

Macarthy wrote about the castle and its legendary goose:

This was the home of a very great scholar, an Earl, Garrilogh Filea (Geraldine the poet), fourth Earl of Desmond, a renowned magician, whose sail down from the upper parapets of that vast edifice ... supply pabulum to the sparkling legend of 'gé unn Illahn'.²

It was near the castle, recalled Macarthy, that a bonfire had been lit to receive 'the bride of Dr Harold after marriage'³ and where 'recently' part of the arch on the eastern high tower of the castle had fallen after 'defying the ruffers of nearly 1000 years'.

The fall of the castle wall put Macarthy in mind of the death of 'the Venerated Father O'Leary' who would be succeeded by Archdeacon O'Connell, 'a man venerable not so much by age and appearance as by piety, talent, knowledge'.⁴

Castleisland Landlords

Macarthy discoursed on the landlords of Castleisland including the 'late' Lord Headley who 'converted the desert into sylvan landscape' and Major Fairfield, 'a miracle worker in making the wilderness an oasis':

This brilliantly gifted and most attractive looking officer of the guards ... upon coming to the government of those estates ... opened up with vast toil and expenditure a continuity of mountain defiles where the wild birds had previous footing.

Major Fairfield built himself a residence in 'a picturesque recess' by 'a very remote mountain vale':

He called it Mount Eagle from Knockniolar (Hill of the Eagle) an enclosed theatrical glen on the way from Castleisland.⁵

Marshall Estate

The Marshall property was 'garnished with waving woods. This gentleman the personal acquaintance of Continental crowned heads is considered a kind and considerate landlord':

There are some, and perhaps Father Charles O'Callaghan of Clogher, who think that Mr Marshall's zeal for a future, outruns his concern for present worldly advantages in and out of season.⁶

Macarthy described Ballymacadam as the mansion house of the Marshall estate 'built and inhabited by the celebrated Ralf Marshal'.⁷

Castleisland and its hinterlands

Another residence, Knocknagore House, did not escape Macarthy's observations:

On the Tralee road is still seen a skeleton of Knocknagore House where a gang of formidable robbers got possession of the inside of the house and were in the act of binding and ill using the inhabitants, but a resident serving boy, Daniel Lyne by name, jumped out of an upper window before the house was rifled, and as this created the impression that he went for the army, then in the Castleisland barrack, the assailants fled precipitately.⁸

Elsewhere, Cordal 'belonged to the Twiss family', Tullig was 'a demesne of the Saunders' stock' and Scartaglin was 'famous for the neighbouring place of Carol Mohr O'Daly, the hero of Eileena-roon and of his descendant, the Bishop of Coimbra, who was Latin historiographer of the Geraldines'.

Williamstown (Ballydesmond), 'foundation of one of the greatest governments in the world', held many legends and traditions attached to the 'three or four ruined castles of ancient Geraldines who had lorded it there':

Certain secluded and quiet chapels, now burial-grounds, appertain to those approximating castles. They are connected by a neat rural bridge at cost to Mr Raymond, the proprietor. The Parliamentarian Colonel Phayre rushed into this valley from Cork in 1644 and swept away all the castles. The deed confirmed its title to Ardnagragh.

Macarthy added the history of Clydane:

The churches of Dysert and Killeentierna ... The former built by an O'Connor, the latter by Macarthy (Bailea) of Toernawhos and Clydane. Between the two and adjoining to Clydane is the coarse common Sliebh enig (mountain of a fair), used by cattle coming to the fair of Castleisland, until the neighbouring proprietors and Macarthy of Clydane, took it in and appropriated it about a century since.¹⁰

The essay concluded at the Market House, 'built from the materials of the castle', and 1798:

The once elegant and patrician assembly room, surmounting the Market-house, dispensary & magisterial sessions-room; and separated only by a road, stands beside the Castle, out of whose materials it was built – the barrack for 100 infantry ... It was in its officers' apartment that three non-commissioned officers of the yeomanry were murdered in 1798 ... It was in the same chamber that Dean Crosbie, the Lord Brandon, long resided until he removed to the Glebe-House at Kilbanavane, where his curate became a magistrate.¹¹

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet entitled as above.

John Florence Purdon Macarthy, son of Cornelius Macarthy of Clydane and Hannah, daughter of George Gilbert Purdon (Hannah died at Clydane 26 February 1843 – her siblings were Rowan Purdon Esq MD, Rev Richard Rowan Purdon FTCD, and Cherry, who married John Egan of Tralee) was probably born at Clydane. In June 1830 it was reported that 'our talented and accomplished young countryman, Mr Florence McCarthy of Clydane, Castleisland, was one of the successful candidates for sizarship at the examinations at Trinity College'. Following his education at Trinity College Dublin (his brother, Charles Purdon Macarthy, was also educated there), he was appointed principal of Sir John Ivory Endowed School, New Ross. At this time (1841) his address was Shantalla, Galway. In January of the same year he married, at Tralee church, Mary, daughter of 'late' John Sealy Esq of Rockfield House. About 1857, Macarthy set up a school in Tralee. His credentials were given as lecturer in the Great Feinaighan Institution, Luxembourg; lecturer in his own college chambers TCD; member of the college historical society; second master of the Old Galway College and translator of the Christian classics, Greek and Latin for the use of Catholic Collegiate Schools A dispute over a mis-directed letter heard in Tralee court in January 1861 revealed he had children and that his brother Charles kept a school in Strand Street, Tralee (Charles was found dead in his bed in James Street, Tralee in December 1877). In June 1861, Macarthy proposed a History of Kerry, 'In press History and Directory of Kerry and its Towns'. It appears not to have been published: a correspondent of the *Tralee Chronicle* wrote some years later (1865), 'what has become of Mr J F M'Carthy's manuscript history of Kerry?' Macarthy's address in 1867 seems to have been Church Street, Tralee. In

¹ The document was published in the form of a letter to the editor of the *Tralee Chronicle*, 4 December 1866 signed by 'M'. A challenge to an item in the letter by someone who signed themselves 'Killeen' caused a mild literary wrangle in the columns of the same publication during which 'M' gave his name as E C N Rolf (which presents as a form of palindrome of Florence). Eight years later, the laying of the foundation of the new railway house and the erection of the new national school in the town caused Macarthy to write again to the same newspaper under his pen-name 'Rolf'; the letter, published 26 May 1874, bore echoes of his earlier sketch.

1876, he advertised the resumption of his school in Tralee and among the testimonials he supplied was a translation into Latin of the song *The Irishman* by a former student, Hugh Brosnan, Tullig House (see note 9). Macarthy died on 11 April 1884 at 1 Church Street, Tralee in his 76th year 'after long suffering. American and Australian papers please copy'. Special thanks to Eileen Chamberlain for assistance in identifying 'M'.

- ² 'It was in this form', continued the author, 'that the learned sorcerer had swam with stream of the Mang ... This was an effect of his lady's screams, of his countess who was Eleanor Butler, daughter of the ninth Earl of Ormond'. Elsewhere Macarthy wrote, 'The base of the mountain called Ardnagragh (hill of forays) at the little pretty, retired, pensive-looking old burial-ground, contains all that was perishable except the head of Garret, 16th Earl of Desmond'. Further reference *The Legend of the Castleisland Goose* (2015) at www.lulu.com.
- ³ Macarthy added, 'A lady who puzzles Castleisland to reconcile how great ladylike common sense may be compatible with great personal advantages in one so young.' See IE MOD/37/37.3, IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.26 and IE MOD/58/58.16/58.16.4 for further reference to Dr Harold.
- ⁴Macarthy continued, 'At the ancient home of St Brendan he [O'Connell] has been a sort of miracle worker in the erection of temples for his religion and schools for youth'. See *Castleisland Church and People* (1981) by Fr Kieran O'Shea, pp48-53 (IE MOD/6): Jeremiah O'Leary (Father Darby) born 1788 appointed curate 1814 and parish priest 1830. Described as 'a true Christian gentleman'. Died at the Victoria Hotel, Killarney, owned by his nephew, on 19 October 1866. 'On leaving Castleisland all he possessed was £2'. Succeeded by Fr John O'Connell, born in Lixnaw in 1803. Built the parish churches of Ardfert, Cordal and Castleisland. Archdeacon O'Connell died in April 1885 and was interred in the new parish church of Castleisland 'which he had just lived to complete'.
- ⁵ Macarthy added, 'Here in lawless times dwelt a predatory rogue, *Philip Cead Bho*. In this den the bold rapparee held periodical fairs of the cattle he had abstracted from other counties, and thither owners among others might come and buy'. The legend of Philip Cead Bho is told in *Philip of the Hundred Cows* (2015) available at www.lulu.com online bookshop.
- ⁶ This alludes to an altercation between the two parties which is reproduced in *Killaha Ancestral Home of The O'Donoghue of the Glens: A Correspondence* (2016) available at www.lulu.com online bookshop.

⁷ Ralph Marshall, known also as Don Radolph Marshall, died of wounds in the Peninsular War at the Siege of Gerona in Catalonia where he had joined the Spanish patriots against Napoleon. An obituary to Marshall, who left a widow and young children, was published in Saunders News Letter, 16 December 1809. Ralph Marshall's eldest daughter and heiress, Elizabeth, married Robert Leeson, eldest son of Hon Robert Lesson, uncle and presumptive heir to the Earl of Milltown, at Marseilles on 12 January 1811. Elizabeth Marshall Leeson died on 7 October 1878 at 2 Almorah-crescent, St Helier's, Jersey in her 79th year. Marshall genealogy discussed in Killaha Ancestral Home of The O'Donoghue of the Glens: A Correspondence (2016). Ballymacadam, one of the Marshall properties, was leased in the nineteenth century; Bary's Houses of Kerry provides a number of associated names including Robert Madgett, who T M Donovan described as 'a great sportsman, and the man who by careful selection and breeding first originated the now famous Kerry Blues'. In the 1830s, Malachy Donelan Esq, stipendiary magistrate, was in residence. It was reported in February 1838 that 'During the height of the hurricane on Thursday last, a guard of the 85th Depot with two officers from Tralee marched for Castleisland by order of Malachi Donnellan Esq. Stipendiary magistrate, to prevent a riot of a most dangerous nature from a difference of opinion where a corpse should be interred'. Donelan's son was born at Ballymacadam in August 1838; in October Donelan was transferred to Sligo but died the following year: 'Mr Macdermott attorney and Mr Donelan Stipendiary Magistrate suddenly expired in Sligo last week' (Freeman's Journal, 11 May 1839). Donelan would seem to have been associated with the Donelans of Ballydonelan Castle. The history of this mansion was described in 1862:

Ballydonelan Castle once surpassed in the magnificence of its internal arrangements and furniture any other in the west of Ireland was partially destroyed by fire last week. It was one of the most ancient seats in Galway, the O'Donelans occupying it in the 14th century when they lived in all the style of Irish princes. The estate of the Donelans of Ballydonelan like many another in this country became heavily encumbered and a few years ago changed owners in the great Land Mart of Henrietta-street. Mr James Donelan, the collector of customs at the Port of Exeter ... is a lineal descendant of the O'Donelans (*Exeter Flying Post*, 17 December 1862).

The following might be of use: In 1830 the marriage took place of John Justice Cooper Esq to Frances, eldest daughter of M Donolan Esq and niece to Malachy Donelan of Ballydonelan Co Galway. In 1835, the Countess of Fingall died in her 62nd year, her remains buried at Killeen Castle, Co Meath, the vault of the Plunkett family. She was a sister of Malachy Donelan Esq of Ballydonelan, Co Galway (who predeceased her).

After Donelan, Ballymacadam was associated with the Roche family. William, only child of John Roche Esq, was married in 11 November 1845 at Bally-M'Elligott Church to Eleanor, only daughter of Thomas Rice of Abbey O'Dorney Esq; a daughter was born at Ballymacadam the following year. John Roche appears to have canvassed and won the position of coroner in 1857. In the early 1860s John Roche was in jail, perhaps for debt, as he was declared bankrupt in 1862, in which year the property was advertised for lease (John Roche, 'late district coroner for 25 years' died at Castleisland on 12 December 1881). Dr Harold's name was associated with Ballymacadam in the mid to late 1860s and in the 1870s, Richard and Ellen O'Connor were in occupation. In a letter to the editor in 1885, Mrs O'Connor responded to what she described as a libellous attack on her. Her

letter addressed the subjects of eviction and boycotting including the expulsion from schools in Listowel and Lixnaw of children named Browne, whose father had taken an evicted farm (*Kerry Weekly Reporter*, 13 June 1885 & *Kerry Evening Post*, 13 June 1885). Ballymacadam was advertised for sale in 1911 by the 'Misses O'Connor' after 'many years in their possession'. It was advertised for sale again in 1925 by John Leahy and in 1927 by David P Herlihy.

⁸ In a later letter, Macarthy revealed that the occupant was William Sealy: 'At this Knockanagore, within memory of many local inhabitants, and of Daniel Lyne, who was a lion in the drama, was enacted the almost concluding feat of the notorious brigands known as Peter Daly's banditti, consisting chiefly of disbanded soldiers after the battle of Waterloo. They awed a considerable portion of the county. They were annihilated when the late Harry Oliver shot one of them in defence of his life and property from a loft in his thatched house at Cooluinad, Bally-M'Elligott. At this Knockanagore, William Sealy, pronounced to be the handsomest man and most accomplished gentleman in Kerry after the late Knight of Kerry, was visited by those predatory nightwalkers. All the household valuables, gold and silver plate, watches, knives and forks, &c, were piled together for extraportation. Ladies and gentlemen were bound and gagged, when Daniel Lyne, a servant boy jumped out of an upper window at the risk of his life. At this a shot was fired, whereupon the gang retired with precipitation for fear of alarm at the military barrack here contiguous, which contained 100 infantry soldiers. That barrack is now the well-appointed and well-manned police barrack' (*Tralee Chronicle*, 26 May 1874).

Knocknagore: John O'Donovan's Ordnance Survey Letters (Field Books) record - in addition to the spelling variations of Knocknagore and that the well near Billarough Stream had 'the best water in Kerry' - that the proprietor in 1841 was Edward Herbert Kenny and that Knocknagore was occupied at that time by a farmer. 172 acres of land at Knocknagore, estate of John and Rowland Bateman of Oak Park, Tralee, were sold in the Incumbered Estates Court in 1851; purchased by Henry Herbert for £105. The land was ordered for sale in 1887 in the matter of the estate of John Kenney Herbert. In 1905, by the death of John Kenney-Herbert, son of John Kenney-Herbert, of Clydeville, Co Cork and Knockanagore, Co Kerry, the Kenney-Herbert Estates passed to his sisters, 'the last survivors of that ancient Irish family' - Miss Kenney-Herbert and her sister, Mrs Kearney, wife of the Rev Neville Kearney, vicar of Marton, Warks. Their father John Kenney, assumed by royal licence the name and arms of Herbert in addition to those of Kenney. See Kenney-Herbert of Castleisland in Burke's anded Gentry. Sealy: Michael O'Donohoe's notes on Sealy (IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.256) show a family association with other property in the area including Mullaghmarkey and Magh (Edenburn), evidently built by the family. An address to the Marquis of Anglesea in 1831 was signed by William Sealy senior and William Sealy junior of Magh; Arthur Sealy of Magh; Eusebius Sealy of Mullamarky; Wm F Sealy of Brickfield and John F Sealy of Glenville. William Fitzmaurice Sealy of Brickfield (Brickfield was part of the lands of Maglass also called Copperas lot or ground) was married to Catherine Eager, daughter of Thomas Spring Eager of Cottage. On her death in June 1868 at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin she was described as widow. William Samuel Sealy of Magh House married Deborah, daughter of William Collis Esq of Fort William on 6 October 1842. Two of their children died of Scartletina at Magh House within one day of each other on 2 and 3 March 1850. Wm Samuel, son of 'late' W S Sealy Esq of Magh died on 10 April 1878 aged 34. Deborah Sealy, widow, died in March 1901.

⁹ Account of John Twiss in IE MOD/77. Notes on the Saunders family in IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.251, IE MOD 58/58.27/58.27.1 and IE MOD/66. Tullig House was associated with the Young family in 1852, in which year and at which place occurred the death, on 19 December, from 'decline' of Gertrude, 'the exemplary wife of William England Young Esq and eldest daughter of the late Richard Taylor Esq of Rock Abbey, Askeaton, County Limerick' (*Kerry Examiner*, 4 January 1853). T M Donovan reminisced on the mansion: 'Very few nowadays know that the Tullig lands at one time belonged to the Chute family of Chutehall ... This house in the olden days was such a grand mansion that it had two entrances from the main roads ... Seventy years ago this big house was owned by Mr Patrick Brosnan, a brother of Canon Thade Brosnan's, one time PP of Caherciveen. His son Denis, a big powerful athletic man and his wife (nee Miss Keane, the handsomest woman in all East Kerry) ... In this generation the handsome Brosnan ladies of Tullig carried all before them' (*Kerryman*, 11 October 1930, 'English Settlers in East Kerry'). The legend of Eileen-a-Roon is included in *Nine White Deer and other Irish Legends* (2015) at www.lulu.com.

¹⁰ Macarthy added, 'The right to the retention of their part of it, long after the sale of Clydane, formed the subject of a lawsuit on the part of the Macarthies, in Tralee old Courthouse, some forty years ago'. Notes on Clydane in IE MOD/60 and IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.86.

¹¹ Macarthy continued, 'His son, Anthony Mahon, it was that induced Mrs Hodgins, a woman with £70,000 in her own power, to elope with him. This produced a law suit of great notoriety, while he was a surgeon in the Dublin artillery barrack ... His mother was Penelope, daughter of the late Capt Gun or perhaps sister. Anthony was first cousin of the O'Gorman Mahon, of Clare, and reared in Castleisland, made a great noise in many parts of the world afterwards. It may be added that during the most active vigilance of Lord Brandon and his magisterial curate, and within view of their Glebe House, several stands of arms, carbines, guns and blunderbusses were taken away at noon-day from Ballinahown, the residence of Harry Oliver, at that time. Oliver had not long before broken up the robber party mentioned already by shooting of them while lighting a candle at the kitchen fire of his thatched cottage at Bally-M'Elligott'.

Church of Ireland records show that James Mahon, son of William Mahon of Co Clare, ministered at Castleisland at the same period as Rev William Crosbie (*Church of Ireland in Co Kerry, a record of church & clergy in the nineteenth century* (2011).) Rev James Mahon, who died at the Glebe House, Castleisland on 26 December 1826, and his wife Penelope Gun of Rattoo, Co Kerry (niece of Lord Ventry) who died on 12 November 1836, had two sons, Anthony Staughton (or Stoughton) and William Gun (or Gunn).

The law suit alluded to was one of 'criminal conversation' brought in 1834 by Thomas Hodgens against Anthony Patrick Mahon. Thomas Hodgens married (legally, the first marriage was outlawed) in 1827 Anne, daughter of Henry Walker (died 1810) a Dublin 'contractor for lotteries'. They had two children, Henry Walker Hodgens (died 1843) and Thomas Walker Hodgens (1830-1867). In 1834, Anne Hodgens had a relationship with Anthony Patrick Mahon and they had two daughters, Anne (who died on 10 September 1861 at 15 Cavendish Place, London) and Penelope.

Anne Hodgens, who died in 1870, left in her will the estate over which she had power to her daughter Penelope. Litigation commenced by Penelope's half brother, Thomas Walker Hodgens, who married in 1862 Mary Anne, daughter of Charles Harold Walker (and who had earlier, it was alleged, married Rosetta Taylor in 1856) and had Violet Mary Hodgens and Thomas Henry Hodgens, was continued, following his death in 1867, by his widow, Mary Anne, afterwards Mary Anne Breslin, wife of Edward, an hotelier in Bray.

Penelope Mahon died in 1878. The research of the Mahon family by Declan Barron of Newpark House, Ennis, suggests that Anthony Patrick Mahon was Anthony Staughton (or Stoughton) Mahon (Anthony Patrick has also been referred to as Anthony Parker Mahon). Anthony Staughton Mahon died at his residence, 39 Great Marlborough-street on 7 October 1871 aged 65. His brother, William Gun Mahon, obtained a commission in the Royal Marines in 1833 which he resigned in 1843. In the years that followed, he was repeatedly in court and imprisoned for swindling. In 1848, Anthony and The O'Gorman distanced themselves publicly from the errant William, Anthony from both his brother and his cousin. By 1858, William was three times an insolvent debtor. He was bankrupt in January 1863 but in February, an order of discharge was granted. William was married in 1837 at St Clement's Church, Strand, to Miss Eliza Duggan, niece of Dr James Duggan of Dublin, owner of the Shower Estate near Newport, Co Tipperary (William later claimed that he was underage and the marriage was invalid). He may have married again, for Charlotte Elizabeth Mahon, widow of 'late' Captain William Gunn Mahon and daughter of the late John Sessions Barrett, died at 53 Fern-grove, Liverpool on February 8 1891.

The O'Gorman cousin was Colonel James Patrick O'Gorman Mahon (1800-1891) JP DL MP, son of Phadraic Mor (Patrick Mahon) of Newpark, Ennis, Co Clare. He lost his only son, St John, in September 1883. In The O'Gorman's will, his great nephew, Charles Patrick Mahon-Hagan, was described as 'only next of kin'. Mr T F Butler of Infield, Barrow in Furness, described as a grandnephew, attended The O'Gorman's funeral.

Further reference: criminal conversation case outlined in Hodgens v Mahon, *Tralee Mercury*, 31 December 1834. See also Court of Exchequer, February 22nd, 1835: Crim Con New trial before the Chief Baron: Hodgens v Mahon (1835). Hodgens v Hodgens law suits heard in 1874 and 1875.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/79/79.1-79.6

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Visitors' Comments

on Castleisland

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 6 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/79/79.1

Four-page handwritten A4 document entitled 'Visitors to Castleisland' contains references to comments (and data) on the town in various published sources during the period 1686 (Humfrey Owen's account of the Seigniory) to 1904 (Cork & Munster Trade Directory). These include Sir Charles Smith, J C Pleydell, Francis Guy's Directory of Munster, Sir Richard Cox, Nicholas White, T F O'Sullivan, George Holmes (*A Tour in Ireland*), Charles O'Brien's Agricultural Report of 1800, John Carr (*Stranger in Ireland*), Richard Griffith's report, British Parliamentary Papers, T W Freeman, Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary*, *Tracing your Kerry Ancestors*, Slaters Directories 1846-1881

IE MOD/79/79.2

Two page A4 document contains handwritten notes on the assizes and barracks at Castleisland extracted from a number of published sources, with references thereto

IE MOD/79/79.3

One A4 document contains handwritten notes contrasting the improvements in the town of Castleisland during the period 1822 to 1829

IE MOD/79/79.4

One A4 photocopy of article 'Description of Kerry 1687', pp38-39, some sections highlighted; contains reference to Lord Herbert's 'pretty but small house'

IE MOD/79/79.5

One A4 photocopy from Valerie Bary's Houses of Kerry (p69); relates to Castleisland

IE MOD/79/79.6

Item contains four notes of assorted sizes with references to books (and other jottings) consulted in research of the above

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/80

Volunteers, Militia, Yeomanry, Fencibles

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Volunteers, Militia,

Yeomanry, Fencibles

MICHAEL O'DONOHOE **CREATOR**

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/80 comprises an overview of the military history in Castleisland in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries derived from a number of published sources with some support material, including an article by Pádraig Ó Snodaigh, 'Notes on the Volunteers, Militia, Yeomanry and Fencibles of Kerry' (1971).1

Further reference to the 1798 period in IE MOD/60.

Items contained in a brown coloured document wallet entitled as above.

 $^{^1}$ Ó Snodaigh, former president of the Gaelic League, is the husband of artist Cliodhna Cussen, authoress of AnDroch Shaol (1980), a copy of which is held in IE MOD/A20.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/80/80.1-80.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Volunteers, Militia,

Yeomany, Fencibles

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/80/80.1

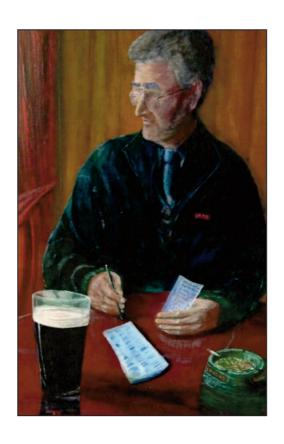
One A4 handwritten document contains chronological notes on military presence in Castleisland from 1680 to 1840 extracted from a number of published sources including Donovan, O'Sullivan and O'Shea

IE MOD/80/80.2

One photocopy of article, 'Notes on the Volunteers, Militia, Yeomanry and Fencibles of Kerry' by Pádraig Ó Snodaigh published in the *Journal of the Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society*, No 4, 1971, pp48-70. Creator has marked sections of interest with highlighter

IE MOD/80/80.3

Three page A4 document contains photocopy of article, 'The Volunteers of 1782' published in O'Sullivan's *Romantic Hidden Kerry* (1931) pp98-103. Creator has marked sections of relevance with highlighter



Above: Depiction of Michael O'Donohoe by John Reidy, editor of The Maine Valley Post, composed in 2014

Below: Family and friends remember Michael O'Donohoe at Kilbannivane cemetery on 26 September 2016, the 80th anniversary of his birth



REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/81

The Master

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: The Master

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 1 Item

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

Michael O'Donohoe, 'The Master'

IE MOD/81 contains one memorial card to Michael O'Donohoe, creator of this collection, who died at the Riverside Nursing Home, Abbeydorney on 26 June 2008 aged 71.1

Michael O'Donohoe was born in Tralee on 26 September 1936. He was the eldest of three children of Clare native, Matthias O'Donohoe (1898-1995) and his wife Catherine Cronin (1909-1978).²

Clare native Matthias, a Garda stationed in Kerry, spelt the family name Donohoe. Michael gave the following explanation:

My father came from Ballyvaughan – right in the middle of the Burren. He spelt his name Donohoe. Perhaps a parish clerk or parish priest wrote it that way and he was slow to argue with authority. Other branches of the family spell it Donoghue.³

Michael was enrolled in Castleisland Boys' National School in 1945, his address 11 Barrack Street, Castleisland.⁴ In 1948, he went on to the Good Counsel College, New Ross, Co Wexford, completing his Leaving Certificate examinations in 1954.⁵ Michael was subsequently a student of St Patrick's Training College, Drumcondra where he played for Erin's Hope, the college team.

Following his graduation from St Patrick's, Michael took up the post of National School Teacher in Castleisland at the school where he had received his own primary education. He participated in local sports, playing for Castleisland Desmonds and the Kerry football team. His other activities included billiards, bridge and snooker.

In 1988, Michael was appointed principal of Castleisland Boys' National School, retiring in 1991 after 35 years in the teaching profession. Still a young man in his fifties, Michael devoted his time to local history research.

Michael made regular visits to Tralee library where he carried out his detailed studies. Librarian Eamon Brown recalled the depth of Michael's industry as the two slowly made acquaintance.

Documents in the collection reveal that Michael, working on the threshold of the technological revolution, spent much time corresponding by letter and fax not only in search of information but also to share it. His correspondents included the late Valerie Bary, who expressed regret at not making acquaintance with Michael during research of her monumental *Houses of Kerry*.⁶

Another correspondent extended thanks to Michael for 'taking the trouble to meet me at the library before Christmas and for giving me the material'. The writer urged Michael to publish his

research.7

An account of Michael's life and the history of the Michael O'Donohoe Memorial Heritage Project was portrayed in a short film, *The Master's Legacy* produced by John and Michael Reidy in 2015.⁸ The film included the memories of Michael's sister, Breda Brooks, and acknowledged her invaluable role in the preservation of her brother's papers.

Michael, who never married, died at the Riverside Nursing Home, Abbeydorney on 26 June 2008 aged 71. He was laid to rest with his parents in Kilbannivane burial ground, Castleisland.

Item contained in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54).

¹ Michael's surname is given as 'O'Donohue' on the memorial card held in the collection (IE MOD/81).

² Siblings are Matthew and Breda. Material in the collection reveals that Michael's grandfather, also Michael O'Donohoe, was of Aghaglinny South, Gleninagh, Co Clare. His grandmother was Bridget, whose maiden name 'was a variation of Connole, Connollan, Connollen' (IE MOD/53). An image of Michael in childhood and others of family scenes were donated to the collection by Breda Brooks on 24 July 2015 (IE MOD/A21).

³ IE MOD/58/58.21.

⁴ Michael's schooling before this may have been in Farranfore, where his father, a Garda, had been stationed. Some time after the death of his father in 1995, Michael changed his address to 25 Main Street, Castleisland.

⁵ Special thanks to Aidan O'Brien, principal of Good Counsel College, for confirming attendance dates and other material including an image of the Good Counsel team who defeated St Finians, Mullingar in the Leinster Colleges' Junior Football Championship final at Carlow in 1951.

⁶ IE MOD/38.

⁷ IE MOD/60/60.3.

⁸ The film can be viewed on the collection website.

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: The Master

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 1 Item

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/81

One full colour Memorial Card measuring 14.5 cm x 11 cm to Michael O'Donohoe (O'Donohue on card) of 11 Barrack Street, Castleisland, who died on the 26th June 2008 aged 71 years; includes black and white image of creator and a poem entitled 'Footprints'

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/82

Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Patrick O'Keeffe

Traditional Music Festival

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 2 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/82 contains two information booklets about the annual Patrick O'Keeffe Festival in Castleisland in which the history of this festival is sketched by committee PRO, John Reidy:

Noted piper, Peter Browne arrived in Castleisland late in 1992 and began researching the life and times of O'Keeffe for RTE Radio 1. His findings led to the broadcast in November 1994 of a four-part documentary which looked at every aspect of the life of the wandering, musical genius. At the conclusion of his work in the Sliabh Luachra area in early 1993 Peter Browne's parting gift was to hint that Castleisland should remember the great man somehow. He suggested it could be done by means of a festival to mark the 30th anniversary of his death before the year was out ... That idea was first mooted in a pub [Charlie Horan's] run at the time by Mary Jones – a Glountane native [who] took up the challenge and became the first festival president in 1993.

An account of Patrick O'Keeffe (1887-1963) and reference to O'Keeffe-related material in the collection is contained in IE MOD/31. See also IE MOD/48.

Items stored in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54).

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/82/82.1-82.2

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Patrick O'Keeffe

Traditional Music Festival

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 2 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

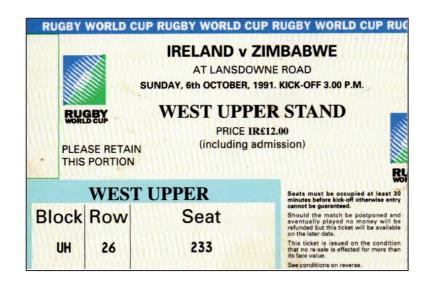
SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/82/82.1

One 24-page full colour DL sized programme for the Patrick O'Keeffe Traditional Music Festival 2004, 22-25 October, Bank Holiday Weekend. Contains welcome note from Chairman, Cormac O'Mahony; schedule of events for the weekend; images of Paddy Cronin, Jackie Daly, Máire Begley, Mary Conroy, Jackie Dan Jerry O'Connor, Cormac O'Mahony with Con Kelly, Heineken Area Representative; Evelyn O'Connell, Nicky McAuliffe, Máire O'Keeffe, John O'Looney and advertisements and good luck wishes from sponsors, local businesses and supporters. Also includes two page article, 'Unearthing the Genius of Patrick O'Keeffe' by John Reidy

IE MOD/82/82.2

Duplicate copy of IE MOD/82/82.1



REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/83

Pitch & Putt

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Pitch & Putt

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 1 Item

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/83 contains one copy of *Rules Book, The Castleisland Pitch & Putt and Sports Club*. The item is undated, but the history of the club can be traced to 1966:

Castleisland's pitch and putt club is to be officially opened on the weekend of May 7-8. The club, which has been developed on a site donated by Messrs W H O'Connor, Rhyno Mills, also includes tennis courts and a club house with bar and lounges. President of the club is Mr D D Twomey, solicitor.¹

Item contained in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54).

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¹ *Kerryman*, 16 April 1966. The history of Rhyno Mills is ably sketched at http://www.rhyno.ie/archive.html#history. Notes on mills in the collection see IE MOD/33/33.1/33.1.3 & IE MOD/33/33.1/33.1.4.

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Pitch & Putt

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

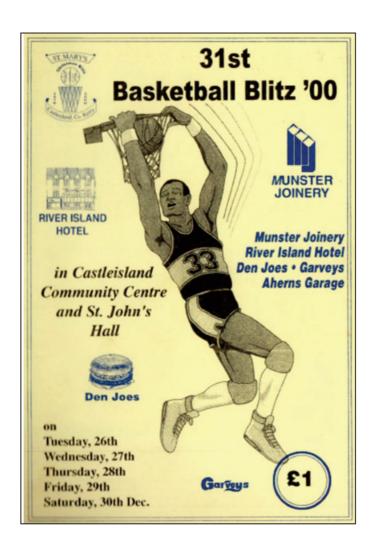
EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 1 Item

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/83

One 10-page booklet with pink coloured cover measuring 15 cm x 8.5 cm entitled 'The Castleisland Pitch & Putt and Sports Club Rules'. The booklet (undated), which contains 45 rules, was printed by Killarney Printing Works Ltd



REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/84

Basketball

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Basketball

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

I regret that I never played basketball in or for Castleisland. I might make a return. I can see the headline: 'Star comes back after 60 years' - Con Houlihan

IE MOD/84 comprises two Castleisland Basketball Blitz booklets for the years 2000 and 2001 both containing articles by Michael O'Donohoe (and others, including Con Houlihan).

A number of letters from St Mary's Basketball Club (invitations, acknowledgement of submissions, schedules, etc) appear in the collection and illustrate creator's keen interest in this sport in his later years.1

St Mary's Basketball Club, Castleisland, was founded in the 1950s.² The annual blitz is now something of an institution:

When it comes to throwing a party there is no group more experienced than the Castleisland Basketball Club. They've been doing it annually for the past 29 years in the form of their annual Christmas blitz. It began in what was once the famous Astor Ballroom, now a furniture store owned by Michael Conroy. But the action continues in the luxurious surroundings of the Castleisland Community Centre.³

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54).

¹ The letters do not form part of the main collection, but were utilised by Michael as writing material for his research notes. Other materials utilised include the backs of cigarette packets, calendars, wall-planners, posters,

² T Donnellan was secretary in 1957 when a vote of sympathy was passed to Brendan Nolan on the death of his

³ Irish Examiner, 24 December 1999.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/84/84.1-84.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Basketball

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/84/84.1

One A4 handwritten document contains notes on the basketball blitz. Presents as an incomplete article written for the blitz programme. The document was removed from IE MOD/1/1.3 to this folder on 19 May 2015. It is transcribed as follows; the numbers which precede each paragraph are an ordering system used by creator:

- 3 Then came the Blitz. I am sure that the history of the Blitz will be extensively covered elsewhere so I shall confine myself to a few observations. In a word the Blitz was mighty. The pleasure it has given down the years to parents and players and spectators is incalculable and no words of mine could adequately thank those concerned in the organisation down the years. I particularly enjoyed the herculean efforts of the young boys and girls. There was the agony and the ecstasy always generously appreciated by the spectators.
- 4 Another feature of the Blitz that gave me great pleasure was the discipline the strict adherence to time and the largely unquestioning acceptance of the referees' decision.
- 5 Finally a happy 25th birthday to the Blitz and its organisers. I am already thinking of what I shall write for the 50th.
- 3 Their games contained the whole spectrum of the emotions ranging from the agony and the tears of defeat to the ecstasy of victory always generously appreciated by the spectators. Children love an audience even the children who have started shaving. Mind you I might even include in that the children who have been shaving for years! The Blitz provides the perfect audience.
- 5 Coaches play an integral part in the game of basketball. A few savour the sweet taste of victory but for many their efforts go unsung. Then they have the referees to contend with. In this regard I can remember particularly an English coach who has been treated abysmally by refs over the past few years and yet he returns. I hope he's here again this year and for many years to come. Sport needs characters.

IE MOD/84/84.2

One copy of A5 booklet, black and white with yellow coloured cover, 108-pg 31st Basketball Blitz programme 2000. Pages 82-83 contain an article by creator, 'A Little Bit of History 1893' (subject is juvenile football in Castleisland). Booklet includes introduction by Honorary Secretary, Brid Kenny and messages from Chairman Tom Kenny, Scott McCarthy, CEO Irish Basketball and Pat Hartnett, PRO (pp58-59), schedule, sponsors list, advertisements and photographs. Articles are by Canon Denis O'Mahony ('And That's Really Sad' pp14-16), Denis Crowley ('St Mary's Girls Basketball' p17), Timmy Sheehan ('The Changing Face of Sport' pp30-31), Con Houlihan ('Did Basketball Originate in the States?' pp34-35), Fr Noel Spring ('Stickability' p43), Siobhan Long ('St Mary's Basketball Club 31st Annual Christmas Blitz Programme' p49), Dermot Hanafin snr ('Overheard Recently on the Banks of the Lee' p52), Pat Hartnett, PRO ('The Blitz Experience' p57), David Leen, The Kingdom ('Basketball heading for far flung places?' p66), Brid Kenny ('Community Games 2000' pp74-75), Michael Fleming,

Chairman ('Message from Kerry Basketball Board' p75), Bride Saunders ('Moments in Time' pp78-79), Michael O'Donoghue (sic) ('A Little Bit of History 1893' pp82-83), John B Pender ('Castleisland and Sport' pp84-85), Weeshie Fogarty ('A Glimpse of the Past' pp92-94), David Leen, The Kingdom ('Change in Rules set to Shoot Game in New Direction' pp100-101), Tommy Conroy ('Sport as it was and now' pp102-104)

IE MOD/84/84.3

One copy of A5 booklet, black and white with green coloured cover, 116-pg 32nd Basketball Blitz programme 2001. Pages 43-45 contain an article by creator, 'Lord Headley of Aghadoe'. Includes introduction by Honorary Secretary, Sile Kenny; messages from Michael Fleming, Chairman Kerry Area Board (p34), Debbie Massey, Chief Executive Irish Basketball (p67) and St Mary's Basket Ball Club Chairman, Tom Kenny (p78); schedule, sponsors list, advertisements and photographs. Articles are by Con Houlihan ('Con Houlihan – Guilty by Rumour' pp15-16), David Leen ('It's a Woman's Game!' pp24-25), Dermot Hannifin ('The Skellig' pp28-29), John B Keane ('Bird Watchers' pp32-33), Timmy Sheehan ('Basketball Snippets' pp38-39), Michael O'Donoghue (sic) ('Lord Headley of Aghadoe' pp43-45), Fr Noel Spring ('Ireland's Answer to the Olympics' p50), Pat Hartnett ('The Inside View' p56), J B Pender ('This Sporting Life' p62), Fr Kevin O'Sullivan ('Sowing the Seed' pp78-79), Tommy Conroy ('Let's put the simple little things back into sport' pp82-85), Canon Denis O'Mahony ('Join the Volunteers' pp88-89), Denis Crowley ('U-16 Girls Community Games Team 2001' pp92-93), 'Big Al's Notre Dame' pp101-102; Siobhan Long ('Christmas Blitz 2002' pp109-110), Tony Leen, sports editor, *Irish Examiner* ('Superleague Basketball' pp110-112)

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/85

An Spailpín Fánach

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: An Spailpín Fánach

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 2 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/85 comprises two versions of the song, An Spailpín Fánach (The Roving Spalpeen), one from Munster and the other from Connemara. The song dates to circa 1797:

The Irish name Spáilpin fánach , the 'Roving Spalpeen', designates one of the flock of migratory labourers once so common when tillage was more used in Ireland. The bard was one of those who had been dispossessed in the Penal times; he joined the roving Bohemian band but soon put away the sickle for the sword.\(^1\)

In an essay about bulls, an eighteenth century writer compared an 'industrious English artificer' to an Irish Spalpeen who 'careless and content sits beneath the shade of a spreading furze bush to watch a herd of oxen' and described it as an idyllic life for a philosopher.²

In 1860, Irish scholar and bookseller, John O'Daly (1800-1878) provided background to the song:

This song ... is the production of an itinerant potato digger from Kerry who suffered some hardship among the farmers of Tipperary and Kilkenny, a class of men who though willing to pay the highest amount of wages to their men, yet require adequate labour in return. However, the Kerry spalpeens, as they are called, are an object of hatred to their fellows of Tipperary where shoals of them muster from the Kerry mountains to earn a few shillings during the potato-digging season, and hire themselves far below the natives, for which they are severely punished.³

O'Daly revealed the song had its roots in Castleisland and that the ancestors of its author hailed from the borders of the river Galey:

The Spailpín Fanach

No more – no more in Cashel town
I'll sell my health a-raking;
Nor on days of fairs rove up and down,
Nor join the merry-making.
There, mounted farmers came in throng,
To try and hire me over;
But now I'm hired, and my journey's long,
The journey of the Rover!

I've found, what rovers often do, I trod my health down fairly, And that wand'ring out on morning's dew Will gather fevers early. No more shall flail swing o'er my head, Nor my hand a spade-shaft cover, But the Banner of France float o'er my bed, And the pike stand by the Rover!

When to Callan, once, with hook in hand,⁴ I'd go to early shearing;
Or to Dublin town – the news was grand
That the 'Rover gay' was nearing.
And soon with good gold home I'd go,
And my mother's field dig over –
But no more – no more this land shall know
My name as the 'Merry Rover!'

Five hundred farewells to Fatherland!

To my loved and lovely Island!⁵

And to Culach's boys – they'd better stand Her guards by glenn and highland.

But now that I am poor and lone,

A wand'rer – not in clover –

My heart it sinks with bitter moan

To have ever lived a Rover.

In pleasant Kerry lives a girl,
A girl whom I love dearly,
Her cheek's a rose, her brow's a pearl,
And her blue eyes shine so clearly!
Her long fair locks fall curling down
O'er a breast untouched by lover;
More dear than dames with a hundred pounds
Is she unto the Rover!

Ah, well I mind when my own men drove
My cattle in no small way —
With cows, with sheep, with calves they'd move,
With steeds too West to Galey;⁶
Heaven willed I'd lose each horse and cow,
And my health but half recover,
But it breaks my heart for her sake now
That I'm only a sorry Rover.

When once the French come o'er the main, With stout camps in each valley, With Buck O'Grady back again, And poor brave Tadg O Dalaigh. The Royal Barracks in dust shall lie, The yeomen we'll chase over, And the English clann be forced to fly, 'Tis the sole hope of the Royer.⁷

Indeed, Castleisland was identified in the following verse:

My five hundred good wishes to the home of my father and to kindly Castle Island, And to the boys of Cool; they used not to be slack at the time for turning up the gardens. But now as I am a poor stricken outcast in these strange lands, 'Twas a sorry day I ever got the title of Spailpin Fanach.⁸

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54).

¹ Description (and translation) by Dr George Sigerson (1836-1925) in *Bards of the Gael and Gall* (1907), pp187-189. Mrs J Sadlier alluded to the song in her book, *The Hermit of the Rock. A Tale of Cashel* (1885).

² Essay on Bulls by Taurus Mac Toro, Smithfield, 29 September 1785. He added: 'His unclothed legs drawn up towards his mouth and whilst his knees support his elbows, his fingers skillful touch a pair of jews harps that vibrate to his breath the song of Coolun'.

³ The Poets and Poetry of Munster (1860) by George Sigerson (under his pseudonym, 'Erionnach') and John O'Daly. He added: 'In the beginning of the present century many of the Kerry men had their ears, or one of them at least, cut off as a punishment for lowering the market wages. The mode of detecting a Kerry man from other Munster men was as follows. All the spalpeens, who slept huddled together in a barn or outhouse, were called up at night, and each man in his turn was obliged to pronounce the word goat in Irish; when the long, sharp tone of the Kerry man betrayed him, and immediately his ear was cut off. It is said that Eoghan Rua, the poet, had a narrow escape of losing both ears on one occasion'. Further reference to Eoghan Rua, see Owen Roe O'Sullivan, Son of Sliabh Luachra, Biographical Sketch of Kerry's Famous Bard with notes on Cronin of Rathmore House, The Park and Glenflesk Castle (2017) available at www.lulu.com (online bookshop).

⁴ O'Daly identified Callan in the county of Kilkenny. A folktale about Callan in Kerry, 'The Earl, the Monkey and the Battle of Callan', a legend of Thomas *An Apa* Fitzgerald, father of the first Earl of Desmond, is contained in *The Legend of Lough Brin and Other Irish Legends* (2017), pp39-42 (available at www.lulu.com, online bookstore).

⁵ In his translation, O'Daly states 'Castle Island is referred to here'.

⁶ O'Daly identified the river Galey or Gale in Kerry, 'for a description of which see Smith's *Kerry*, pp 213, 338. On its borders the poet's ancestors were located'.

⁷ *The Poets and Poetry of Munster* (1860) pp 76-80. The song was also published under title, An Spailpín Fánac to the air, 'The Girl I Left Behind' in the *Kerry Weekly Reporter*, 13 April 1895 ('An Teanga Gaedhilge. Beid an Gaedilge Faoi Meas Fos'. Translator not stated but perhaps 'Canon Burke', who contributed elsewhere to the page). Canon Ulick Joseph Bourke (1829-1887) was author of *Easy Lessons: or, Self-Instruction in Irish*.

⁸ Freeman's Journal, 5 July 1894. Review of 'Easy lessons in Irish' in the Gaelic Journal.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/85/85-1-85.2

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: An Spailpín Fánach

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 2 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

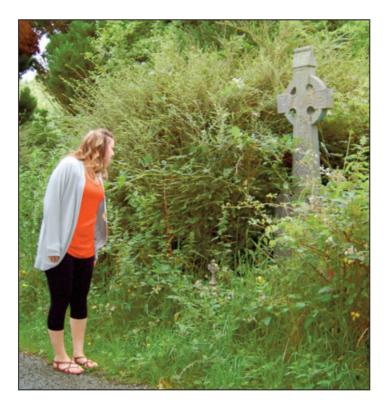
SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/85/85.1

One A4 sheet of music and words (in Irish) to Munster version of song, An Spailpín Fánach

IE MOD/85/85.2

One A4 sheet of music and words (in Irish) to song, An Spailpín Fánach, Connemara version. Introduction informs that 'the Munster version of this song is quite different'



Above: Memorial to Poff and Barrett at Dromultan Below: Site of former prison in Tralee



REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/86

Browne, Poff and Barrett

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Browne, Poff &

Barrett

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/86 comprises material relating to the murder of Thomas Browne, shot dead on 3 October 1882, and the subsequent conviction and execution of his neighbour, James Barrett and Barrett's cousin, father of four Sylvester Poff, for the murder. Both men were widely believed to have been innocent.

Poff and Barrett were hanged in the capstan mill yard of Tralee prison on 23 January 1883 at 8.05am; the press were not admitted to the execution or to the inquest. Edward Harrington of the *Kerry Sentinel*, who gained access as a juror. wrote that 'publicity was obstructed to a degree never before witnessed in Kerry':

The murder of Thomas Browne is avenged today but how can we dare to hope that it is not by a murder more awful ... we despise the petty malignity which at the present time assumes the garb of law. We gazed on the last life blood oozing through those lips that had just disavowed guilt. We saw the efforts at excluding the guardians of public justice, the representatives of the press.²

A report of the last moments of the condemned as Marwood, the executioner, prepared them for the scaffold, was pieced together:

When Marwood was loosening Poff's shirt, he displayed the brutal feelings for which he has lately become characteristic by rudely inserting his fingers and tearing open the collar in a very rough manner. He acted similarly with Barrett ... they proceeded slowly to the capstan yard to the rear of the main building. Here the scaffold was erected ... Fathers O'Riordan and O'Callaghan were on the scaffold with them ... The black flag to show that the law had been carried out was hoisted.³

Poff and Barrett, a seven-stanza verse in The Schools' Collection, records the event and details of the parties involved:

Thomas Browne was a farmer who lived in Dromolton about four miles from Castleisland. He was suspected of having intended to grab the land of Paddy Sean Og. Thomas Browne's assassins are not known but Poff and Barrett were charged with the crime ... Poff was a native of Gortatlea and Barrett was from Drumolton.⁴

Collection material includes accounts of the murder from various sources including *The Mysteries of Ireland*⁵ and Donovan's *History*:

A finer man than Mr Browne I never knew, physically or morally, he was a splendid specimen of an Irish farmer, a type of man that any country would be proud of ... I am

assured by an old Scartaglen moonlighter – an honest, intelligent, decent man, who ought to know, that Browne had never any intention of grabbing his neighbours farms. And if he had such an inclination, it can be stated at once that land-grabbing at that time was at an end – the moonlighters had made that certain. No one but a madman would then dream of grabbing his neighbours farm.⁶

It also includes a list of subscribers to a fundraising appeal initiated by John Stack for the family of Poff. The Castleisland committee included Jeremiah Roche, Thomas Kearney, Maurice Murphy, Jeremiah Sweeney, Edmond Wren, Maurice K Hogan and Jeremiah Nolan. Edward Harrington of the *Kerry Sentinel* numbered among those who contributed and who also assisted in raising money by house-to-house collection.⁷

The hangings did not act as deterrent:

At Munster Assizes at Cork today, John Hussey, Timothy O'Brien, Michael Hanafan, John Buckley, and Michael A'Herne, all young men of the farming class, were indicted on a charge of unlawfully assembling while wearing disguises and carrying arms at Castleisland on the 26th September. Each pleaded not guilty. This was a moonlighting case in which the prisoners were captured by the police in the main street, Castleisland, where the disguises were found concealed in a bag.⁸

In 1884, Earl Spencer visited Tralee. The most noticeable feature of his visit was reported to be 'the repetition of the insult that was offered at Castleisland by the hoisting of a black flag from the rooms of the Young Men's Society, the words 'Remember Myles Joyce' painted in large yellow letters on one side, and 'Remember Poff and Barrett' on the other'.

Twelve years after the executions of Poff and Barrett, John Twiss suffered the same fate. In his speech from the dock, he compared his plight to theirs:

Like Poff and Barrett, when I am dead and gone I am no loss at all ... The two men that killed Poff and Barrett are over in the free land of America and whatever way they are over they can't expect to be good or lucky ... Poff and Barrett were found guilty of murder and hanged in Tralee. I am found guilty of the Newmarket murder and will be hanged in Cork.¹⁰

The Poff and Barrett Story by the former editor of the *Corkman*, Patrick Lynch, was published in instalments in the *Kerryman* in 1955 and 1956. It included a song in four verses, *A Poff and Barrett Ballad*, which concluded:

And who can say what thoughts were theirs of whether their minds went back, Across the hills and vales of Cork to a well-remembered track, O'er a mountain slope where, in days gone by, they watched the sun go down, And throw long shadows through the vale, where Castleisland town Held fast to Fenianism and nursed the Land League seed; Where, as years went by, there did not die the dauntless Moonlight breed.

A celtic cross memorial to Poff and Barrett was erected at Dromulton by the National Graves Association in 1998.¹¹ It is inscribed:

In memory of
Sylvester Poff
Ballymcelligott
and James Barrett
Dromulton
Hanged by the British Government
on Tuesday 23rd January 1883
in Ballymullen Barracks, Tralee.
Innocent victims of British injustice
Erected by: The National Graves
Association of Ireland
at the request of
The Poff & Barrett Memorial Committee
Unveiled on 8th March 1998

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54)

¹ There had been no hangings there for 30 years. Ballymullen prison closed in 1920 and was used as a military prison until 1925 when it was handed over to the local authority. Kerry County Council subsequently utilised the premises as a machinery depot. In 1995, Dick Spring launched the Lee Valley Action Plan which incorporated the redevelopment of the prison site. Kelleher's Electrical, built on the site, incorporated the facade of the old jail. It was reported in 1996, 'Since the gaol is a preserved building, every care is being taken to conserve its unique character'. In a letter to the *Kerry's Eye* newspaper in 1999 (19 August), Peter Locke sketched the history of the prison, built in 1812, and recalled some of those who died there: 'tons of concrete and tarmac now cover their resting places'.

² Kerry Sentinel, 23 January 1883.

³ Ibid. Both men professed their innocence and Poff appealed for help for his children and family.

⁴The Schools Collection (An Clochar, Castleisland), Volume 0447, pp171-174. Told by Mr Brosnan, Moloughmarkey to Nellie O'Connor. Mrs Browne died in March 1911. Mrs Poff died at Castleisland on Good Friday, March 1910; two of her children predeceased her. A daughter Elsie married Mr T Lawlor of Lower Main Street, Castleisland. Poff's mother (aunt of James Barrett and aged over 90) was still living in 1910. James Barrett's sister married Daniel Daly and died at Dromulton aged 84 in 1953. Executioner William Marwood of Horncastle, Lincolnshire, died on 4 September 1883.

⁵ A note on this book, published anonymously in 1884, in IE MOD/41.

⁶ Donovan added, 'The assassin's bullet and the police lust for a victim caused the deaths of three fine Irishmen, ruined more than one happy home, soiled the souls of a few witnesses, and put three others under the risk of eternal damnation'.

⁷ IE MOD/86/86.3/86.3.1. A list of subscriptions from exiled Kerry people was published in the *Kerry Independent*, 30 July 1883. Poff's dying wish had been for help for his family. 'Poff leaves a wife and four young children ... and an aged mother and two adopted children – children of an absent sister ... James Barrett [unmarried] happens to be Poff's first cousin. Everyone who knew him believes that he was thoroughly incapable of committing the crime for which he is to be hanged' (*Kerry Independent*, 22 January 1883).

⁸ Lancashire Evening Post, 10 December 1886.

⁹ Flag of Ireland, 13 September 1884. Myles Joyce was hanged in Galway on 15 December 1882 in a case known as the Maamtrasna Murders. The Castleisland Young Men's Society was founded by curate Rev James K Fitzgerald, Brosna 'for the moral and intellectual advancement of the young men of Castleisland' (see *Kerry Sentinel*, 7 February 1879).

¹⁰ Kerry Weekly Reporter, 12 January 1895. Notes on John Twiss, IE MOD/77. As with Twiss, a confession was made to the murder for which Poff and Barrett were condemned by a man named Boder though it was not taken seriously (Kerry Weekly Reporter, 16 August 1884, 'The Scartaglin Murder').

¹¹ 'A memorial will be unveiled at Dromulton, Currow on March 8 at 11am to the memory of Poff and Barrett. A collection was carried out in 1968 to erect a memorial ... in March 1997 this money was handed over to the National Graves Association of Ireland by the Poff and Barrett Committee ... On the first Friday of March a Mass will be said in Currow parish church for Poff and Barrett at 7.30pm. Signed John Houlihan, Kerry Representative for the National Graves Association of Ireland' (*Kerryman*, 27 February 1998).

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/86/86-1-86.3

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Browne, Poff and

Barrett

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 3 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/86/86.1

Handwritten notes on paper of varying size (notebook, card and A4) mostly concerned with the murder of Thomas Browne on 3 October 1882

IE MOD/86/86.2

One A4 document contains notes on the murder of Thomas Browne extracted from the book, *The Mysteries of Ireland* with four supporting pages from that publication marked with highlighter

IE MOD/86/86.3

Four A3 prints from newspapers with items relating to the case of Browne, Poff and Barrett:

IE MOD/86/86.3/86.3.1

Two A3 prints from the *Kerry Sentinel* 16 February 1883 relating to the Poff and Barrett Fund

IE MOD/86/86.3/86.3.2

Two A3 prints from the *Kerryman* 7 January 1956 containing article on Browne, Poff and Barrett, 'Two Men from Kerry Sentenced to Death'. Includes a verse of four stanzas, 'A Poff and Barrett Ballad', the first verse of which runs:

The gas lights flickered and inn-signs flapped along the murky quay,

As I left the crowded courthouse in the fading winter day;

But the damp and the chill of the river mist, and the rain in the gusty wind,

Were naught to me as I struggled to lose that picture in my mind;

Yet, try as I might, it held its place on the silver screen of the brain,

And as I moved through the gathering dusk I lived it all again.

I saw once more the watching crowd, and the peelers grim and tall,

And the scarlet coats of the soldiery, and, there, brooding over all,

The black-capped judge who spoke the words that I heard with stifled breath,

And I shed a tear, though they showed no fear, when he sentenced them to death



Breda Brooks with Bernie Lordan outside the former RIC barracks in 2016

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/87

Barrack St/Lane, Main St, Scannell's Lane and Pound Road

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Barrack St/Lane,

Main St, Scannell's Lane and Pound Road

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 4 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/87 comprises information on households in the town of Castleisland including Barrack Street and Lane, Main Street, Scannell's Lane and Pound Road compiled from census and other records.

Street names can be wonderful caretakers of history, as shown in creator's essay on Creamery Lane. Barrack Street was of particular interest to creator as number 11 was his family home. The area takes its name from the military history of Castleisland. Creator published an essay on the subject in which he informed his readers that 'no where have I come across the exact date of the building of the barracks'.

In the 1930s, T M Donovan documented the changes:

Barrack Lane has felt the improving hand of time ... When the old Yeomen Barracks, now undergoing extensive repairs, will be completed, and the Bridewell opposite, which at present is being pulled down, is turned into residences, the old Lane will again be restored to its pristine importance and no doubt will be advanced to the status of a street.³

Pound Road, named after the enclosure once located there, was in 1878 described as 'decidedly the most unhealthy part of the town of Castleisland' where sickness was 'almost always' present: It is made up of a lot of small houses, about fifty-seven in number and only a few of the cabins have a second room ... the little houses are too small and confined for a single person to live in and yet there is no house without a family.

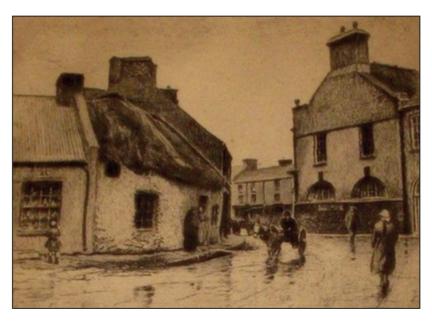
Barrack Street and Pound Road can be viewed on a map in the collection illustrating the town in lots. The street names have been marked in colour.⁴ Interesting is Rack Lane near the old courthouse, which may take its name from the 1798 period.

As well as the history thrown up by street names, creator compiled, from census and other records, information on households including Barrack Street/Lane (IE MOD/87/87.1). Main Street (IE MOD/87/87.2), Pound Road (IE MOD/87/87.3) and Scannell's Lane (IE MOD/87/87.4).

It is clear from one document (IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.253) that creator worked hard to discern the history of Scannell's Lane. It would seem to point to Jeremiah Scannell, one time proprietor of Scannell's Hotel, Castleisland.⁵

In 1901 Scannell's Lane had one stable, one cow house, four piggeries, two turf houses and a dye house. As is evident in the collection, hardly a brick or gatepost in the town escaped creator's attention.

Items contained in a yellow coloured document wallet, assigned above title (reassigned from IE MOD/54).



Depiction of corner of Pound Road by American illustrator Morgan Dennis (1892-1960) who was sketching in Ireland in 1923. He was in Ireland again in 1959 to prepare a series of illustrated articles on Ireland for the *Boston Globe* and the *Colombia* magazine.

¹ IE MOD/26. Essay published in a separate post.

² Essay, 'Barrack Lane' reference IE MOD/55/55.1/55.1.28. Creator moved to 25 Main Street in the late 1990s. Barrack Street was also the birthplace of Very Rev Cornelius D Buckley who ministered in Brooklyn, New York. He planned to retire to Castleisland in 1953, though it proved to be the year of his death.

³ A Popular History of East Kerry by T M Donovan, p193. Further reference IE MOD/63. Castleisland barracks, once located in Main Street, withstood several attempts to destroy it including one by gunpowder during the moonlighting period (1886) and another by armed civilians during the Civil War (1921). The following year, 1922, about 30 armed men entered the barracks and locked the police in a room taking arms, ammunition and explosives. In 1920, the barracks at Cordal and Scartaglen were completely destroyed by fire (*Killarney Echo*, 10 April 1920). The barracks, later the quarters of the Garda Siochana – one time workplace of creator's father Matt – was subjected to an arson attack in 2001 at which time the Garda vacated the building. A new Garda station on a new site on the Tralee Road opened in November 2011. The old barracks building remains.

⁴ Map held in IE MOD/32/32.1/32.1.4.

⁵ Also known as Castleview Hotel and Castle Hotel. Jeremiah's daughter Julia married Maurice M Hartnett who subsequently managed the hotel. The census of 1911 records two children born to the couple, Jeremiah Hartnett aged 6 and Michael Joseph Hartnett aged 4. Julia died at Castleview Hotel on 5 December 1916.

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/87/87-1-87.4

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: Barrack St/Lane,

Main St, Scannell's Lane and Pound Road

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 4 Items

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/87/87.1

Two page A4 document contains handwritten information on households in Barrack Street and Barrack Lane from a number of nineteenth and twentieth century records from the years 1853 (Griffiths) to 1911 (Census of Ireland). Information ordered into columns

IE MOD/87/87.2

Three page A4 document contains handwritten notes on households in Main Street (Killarney Road, Market Place, Castleview, Moanmore, Bank of Ireland, Robinson, Hegarty) extracted from the census records of 1901 and 1911 with supporting documentation

IE MOD/87/87.3

Four page A4 document contains handwritten notes on householders in Pound Road extracted from census records of 1901 with supporting documentation (of poor print quality)

IE MOD/87/87.4

One A4 document contains handwritten notes on householders in Scannell's Lane extracted from census records of 1901

REFERENCE CODE IE MOD/88

IRA

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: IRA

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 1 Item

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION Series

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/88 contains one broadsheet edition of the *Irish Examiner* newspaper, Friday July 29 2005 headlined 'Never Again: IRA Declares an End to Armed Struggle':

4pm 28.07.05 The leadership of Óglaigh na hÉireann has formally ordered an end to the armed campaign. This will take effect from 4pm this afternoon. All IRA units have been ordered to dump arms.

This followed the peace process of the 1990s. The name of the late Seamus Heaney (1939-2013) – whose works include *North* (1975) – is almost synonymous with the history of this period.

In 2003, a series of school exchanges took place between the north and south of Ireland, funded as part of the Good Friday Agreement. Schools in Kerry participated, as recorded in the following lines:

A School Exchange

I met a lad from Belfast. His name is Dane, he is tall, dark, with warm dairy-milk eyes and a stud pierced through his eyebrow.

He has a gentlemanly charm and manners to die for – and he is only 16.

We compared counties and I listened as his songful voice spoke of differences he'd seen; he said that here cars stop for you but in Belfast you stop for the cars!

He said he liked school (even though he's bunked a few times) and hoped to study law — maybe — and he has a little sister and good friends and that the scenery is nicer here and softer too, somehow.

He says he'll visit Kerry again for sure and when he left, he handed me the prettiest cut-glass vase, crafted in the North.¹

Item contained in a yellow coloured document wallet and numbered IE MOD/88 (reassigned from IE MOD/54). Removed to IE MOD/14 (charts) for improved storage.
¹ 24 October 2003. From <i>Made in Killarney: A Decade of Musing</i> (2010).

TITLE MICHAEL O'DONOHOE COLLECTION: IRA

CREATOR MICHAEL O'DONOHOE

CREATION DATES c1974-2008

EXTENT AND MEDIUM 1 Folder Containing 1 Item

LEVEL OF DESCRIPTION File and Item

SCOPE AND CONTENT

IE MOD/88

One 40-pg broadsheet edition of the *Irish Examiner* newspaper, Friday July 29 2005 headlined 'Never Again IRA Declares an End to Armed Struggle'. Front page chronicles (with illustrations) bombing campaigns and numbers killed from 1972 (Belfast Bloody Friday); 1974 (Guildford Woolwich bombs and Birmingham pub bombings); 1978 (La Mon Hotel fire bombing); 1979 (Lord Mountbatten and Warrenpoint); 1983 (Harrods Blast); 1984 (Brighton bombing); 1987 (Enniskillen); 1989 (Deal, Kent, marine bandsmen); 1993 (Warrington, Ball and Parry); 1993 (Shankill Road chip shop bomb); 1996 (Canary Wharf).

Item was stored in a yellow coloured document wallet and has been removed to the chart folder (IE MOD/14) for improved storage