

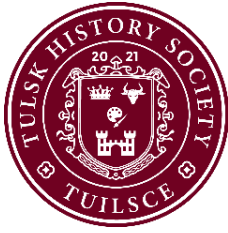


TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY

Newsletter No. 6

September 2022

Tulsk History Society historytulsk@gmail.com



Members: John Higgins (Chair), Cathal McCormack, Mary Kelly, Mike Lennon (Secretary), Catherine McGuire, Eileen Beirne, Noel Sheerin (Archivist), Maeve Hanley, Jim Dockery, Jody Moylan (PRO), Therese Hanley (Treasurer), Joe Donoghue, Melissa Keigher, Eithne Jones, Mary Cregg, Lorna Keaveney, Mick Beirne, Mike Higgins, John Quinn, Manus Tiernan, Edward Flanagan, Tina Galvin Beirne, Marese Feeney, Milo

Lowry, Marty Brady, Mary Conry, Thomas A. Burke.

WELCOME to all our readers to our Autumn newsletter, our third of 2022. How time flies! It's been an eventful year so far, to say the least, with our successful Open Day last month - for National Heritage Week - being a great way to round off the summer. Our report of the day follows below, with a picture diary to boot! Now firmly established, THS looks forward to the coming months, with the imminent Ogulla Shrine project being our next big venture. One of the most interesting and exciting aspects of the society is rediscovering old stories, and personal histories, that have been lost (or have not been highlighted before). Our findings last year of an epic tale involving the now forgotten Lally family of Steil townland, led us down a rabbit hole of discovery (Cathal McCormack begins a short series on the family in this edition). We will also be covering the D-Day exploits of Ogulla's Mike Rogers in the not too distant future (stay tuned!), after that story has been finally brought to light after all these years. THS now has 27 signed up members, and our mailing list is always being added to. If you wish to join the society, or simply wish to get in touch, our contact details follow at the end!

Noel Sheerin begins this month's edition by looking back at the Táin Bó Cuailgne walk of 40 years ago, which helped to finance the purchase of the current Tulsk Lord Edwards GAA grounds. Then, after the aforementioned report of our Open Day, Melissa Keigher and Mike Lennon remember a popular local activist and Clashaganny man - James Edward Flanagan - who passed away in 1929. Mike Lennon follows with a history of Kilmurry school, while some Kilmurry contributions to the Duchas folklore collection are also reprinted. Cathal McCormack's 'Man of Steil' (cover story) rounds off the issue and looks at the boxing exploits in the USA of Joe Lally - one of Steil townland's greatest descendants. Attached at the end is a scanned version of the first edition of our new print bulletin - The Tulsk Morning Howl. We hope you enjoy the read!

THS

GAA CLUB 140 MILE WALK 1982 *by Noel Sheerin*

IT IS HARD to believe that it is now 40 years since Tulsk Lord Edwards GAA Club completed a 140 mile walk to raise funds to help finance the purchase of its new grounds on the outskirts of Tulsk Village where it still remains today as a great amenity for the boys and girls of the parish and beyond.

The club had set up a 14-person development committee whose chairman, Pat Burke, formerly Killina, now living in Roscommon, came up with the novel



Club Development Committee 1982 (organisers of event)

Back Row: L-R Sean Mannion, Haulie Beirne, Pat Burke, Seamus Conway
 Middle Row: Martin O'Connor, Seamus Collins, John Flannery RIP, Jimmy Flanagan, Jimmy Beirne
 Front Row: John Joe O'Connor, Mickey Hunt RIP, Peter Carney RIP, Kevin Kennedy RIP, Noel Sheerin

idea of re-enacting the walk of the 'Táin Bó Cuailgne/Brown Bull of Cooley' legendary tale as learned in school. This story is about a somewhat jealous Queen Maedbh and her warriors capturing and then walking the Bull of Cooley back to Rathcroghan to challenge the White Bull

already in the possession of Ailill, her husband. After deep discussion on the logistics involved the committee agreed unanimously to go ahead with this unique fund-raising venture.

After several weeks of meticulous planning it was decided to complete the walk from Cooley Kickhams GAA Club (outside Dundalk) to Tulsk Village over the period August 18th - 21st 1982.

About 50 volunteers in all, wearing either warrior costumes (hired from Dublin) or specially designed t-shirts (printed in Boyle), took part in the exercise on one or more days. While most of these were club members, others were there simply to support the effort which they saw as being beneficial to their local community as well as providing a social outlet in a novel way for all those

involved. While most participants remained for the whole journey others came and went as their work or home demands allowed.

The journey involved pulling a purpose-built 4-wheel carriage with an



The Brown Bull on his carriage

equally well designed real-size stuffed bull as its passenger onboard. Four volunteers at a time navigated the carriage for about 3 miles before a new team took-over the task. At the same time the remaining volunteers carried plastic containers to collect money along the route from passing motorists and onlookers. A rotating 'Queen Maedbh' fronted the group while a leading car carried a loud-speaker to inform the puzzled viewers of what was going on. A signature tune was the catchy sound

played on entry to each town and village enroute. A Garda escort was provided on approach to each town. Obviously permits were sought and granted in advance by the different Garda divisions affected.

The overnight stops were in Drogheda's O'Raghallaighs GAA Centre, Kinnegad GAA Centre and Mostrim GAA Club (tents). Throughout the journey a small caravan on tow was used for all the catering required at each stop. The burgers, sausage rolls, rasher sandwiches, teas and coffees were thoroughly enjoyed by all the hard-working volunteers.

Each night after a shower and change of clothes in the respective clubhouses/gyms the group retired to a chosen bar for a night-cap of choice before settling for a well-earned sleep in preparation for the next days journey.

The four stages were from Cooley - Drogheda (42 miles), Drogheda - Kinnegad (34 miles), Kinnegad - Edgeworthstown (36 miles) and finally Edgeworthstown - Tulsk (28 miles).

The closer the entourage got to Tulsk after leaving Edgeworthstown the bigger the crowd and the more generous the donations became. This was particularly noticeable once the bridge in Tarmonbarry was crossed. It would be no exaggeration to say that someone from each inhabited roadside house along the way offered a donation. Notes were now starting to replace coins at an ever-

increasing rate. One can never forget the huge gathering as Strokestown was approached nor the unforgettable crowd that greeted the exhausted crew as they eventually arrived in Tulsk, to be marched by the Raheen Pipe Band through the village before hoisting the Bull onto the balcony of the old handball alley, then situated where Rathcroghan Visitors Centre now stands, incidentally with its own Bull of Cooley now clearly on display.

A great night of celebration was had by everybody involved. Many of the people who participated on that journey have since passed away. Those volunteers who are still alive will know exactly who these individuals are and no doubt moments of reflection in their honour will be held appropriately on this, the ruby anniversary of that most fulfilling and unforgettable event which raised the gigantic sum of 6,000 pounds which helped fund the purchase of the club's new home at Corbally.

It is now wonderful to see the level of activity that is taking place from week to week at Tulsk Lord Edward's Club with so many young boys and girls actively involved in the various sports under the GAA banner. The multitude of volunteers, young and not so young, who participated in that historic walk 40 years ago should be very proud today, wherever they are, of the fruits of their "labour" so visible in all the activities that take place throughout the year at Páirc an Tiarna Edbhaird.◇



L-R: Vincent Connolly, Jimmy Mannion, Jimmy Beirne, Eddie Cunnane



Back Row: Deirdre Hunt, Ann Mannion, Majella Kearney, Alice Mannion, Anne Sheerin, Ann Carlos, Lettie Hynes
Front Row: Mary Conway, Marella Fallon, Mary Flanagan

A SUCCESSFUL HERITAGE WEEK OPEN DAY

THE HISTORY SOCIETY enjoyed a very successful open day on Sunday 21 August last. Having aimed, some months out, to unveil our cemetery directory during Heritage Week, we successfully made our deadline thanks to a great deal of hard work and effort. Likewise, the official opening of our office at the Macra Hall, with the accompanying exhibition and slideshow, was a demonstration of the work THS has been putting in since our inception in March last year.

A large gathering turned out for the start of proceedings at 12.30 at Tulsk cemetery. Councillor Liam Callaghan officially unveiled the cemetery directory, while Cathal McCormack's informative introduction covered everything, from how the idea of the cemetery survey came about, to the Saturday mornings in late 2021 when up to 15 volunteers came out to carry out the important work of recording all graves and their inscribed information. The THS computer database - where the resulting information is stored - was also discussed, while all volunteers were thanked for the effort they put in. Milo Lowry was thanked for his fine contribution in the latter stages of the project, while Noel Sheerin was given his due acknowledgement for his planning of each weekly turnout.

Special thanks from THS is also due to all volunteers and those who contributed to the success of the cemetery project, who include: Mike Lennon, Kevin Barton, the Rathcroghan Visitor Centre, Jimmy Flanagan, Rita Fallon, Michael Conry, Michael Jones, Seamus Conway, Sean Monaghan, Michael Conlon, Bernie Connor, Darragh Kelly, Sandra Clarke Finan, Joseph Donoghue, Mary Cregg, Eileen Beirne, Marese Feeney, Therese Hanley, Cathal McCormack, Jody Moylan and John Higgins.

After the cemetery, the Open Day events moved to the Macra Hall at 1.30, with a large gathering also present. A number of wall exhibits shared space in the hall with a good sample of our library collection. Noel Sheerin was on hand to give an informal talk on Tulsk History Society's aims going forward, while his informative slideshow and reminiscences was very well received, and included contributions from the audience assembled. As well as officially opening our new office at the hall THS also launched the tri-monthly paper bulletin *The Tulsk Morning Howl* (re-published at the end here).

Additionally, the Macra Hall committee officially unveiled their new carpark on the day, with Joe O'Rourke's speech - on the history of the hall - being a fitting reminder of the great volunteer work that past generations of Tulsk people have carried out. By the evidence of current work, the hall is in good hands. Tea

and coffee (and biscuits and cake!) provided welcome refreshment with the day drawing to a close at around 4pm.

Tulsk History Society would like to thank Tulsk Cemetery Committee and Tulsk Macra Hall Committee for their cooperation and assistance. Thanks also to Joe Donoghue for providing the amplification.

Funding for the Tulsk Cemetery Information Panel was provided by Roscommon County Council.

Tulsk History Society office furniture and equipment was purchased with the aid of a Community Activities grant from the Department of Rural & Community Development ♦

OPEN DAY PICTURE DIARY





**POPULAR CLASHAGANNY PUBLICAN DIES IN DUBLIN, 1929 - by
*Melissa L. Keigher & Mike Lennon***

A TESTAMENT to the popularity of James Edward Flanagan - a Clashaganny merchant whose cancer took him at the early age of only forty-nine - was the fact that his remains were carried all the way from Tulsck church to Kilcooley Cemetery, in March 1929.

Death of a Popular Tulsck Man - from *Roscommon Messenger*, 16 March 1929.

The death occurred last week in a Dublin Hospital of Mr. James Flanagan, Merchant, Clashaganny, Tulsck. The deceased was a great all-round sport, ever ready with his voice and purse to further the interests of football, coursing and athletics, and was one of the most popular men in Tulsck Parish. A remarkable proof of his popularity was shown when his funeral took place on Tuesday last his remains being carried all the way from Tulsck Catholic Church to Kilcooley Cemetery, a distance of over two Irish miles on the shoulders of stalwart Tulsck men.

Not just one, but two obituaries, were posted in the *Roscommon Messenger*: one published the 9th of March, the other just a week later, on the 16th. Both described James as having been an avid sportsman with a strong interest in coursing and Gaelic football.

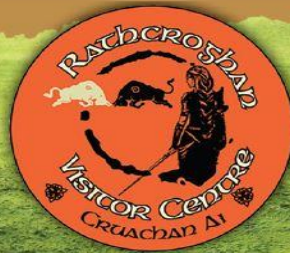
Unsurprisingly, the attendance at James' funeral was reputed to have been one of the largest and most representative of the county seen in years; with attendants arriving from all parts of the county. Although James had never married, he was deeply connected to his community. No doubt this was in part due to having helped his widowed mother Teresa Flanagan, nee Mooney, run the family-owned pub and grocery since his father Thomas' untimely passing from heart disease in 1891. James had only just turned thirteen at the time of his father's death, with the family having already endured significant loss: only three of James' eleven siblings having survived past childhood. Thankfully, despite the family's deep sorrow, the Flanagan local would become known in the area for holding lively dances, often enjoyed until the wee hours of the morning.

Eighteen years after the death of his father, James officially assumed the family business, just a few months after his mother Teresa's death in 1917. He wore full mourning regalia at her funeral, being not only a Brother, but also one-time Secretary, for the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH).

As the eldest surviving child, James would run the family shop until his own passing in 1929, when his younger sisters, Christina and Margaret Anne, known then simply as 'Misses Flanagan', assumed proprietorship.

Margaret Anne continued on as proprietress for decades after her older sister died in 1934, eventually handing the pub over to her nephew Thomas Morahan, son of their sister Matilda, in the late 1970's. Thomas' son David Morahan the took over, before selling to Ray Devine in 1985. It remained with the Devine family until it closed for business earlier this year.

This is just one of many interesting family histories THS will be highlighting. ♦



BRINGING IRELAND'S PAST AND LEGENDS TO LIFE



Rathcroghan, Cruachan Aí, is known as the Ancient Capital of Connacht, where the festival of Samhain (Halloween) is said to originate. This majestic landscape is the oldest and largest unexcavated Royal Site in Europe, and home of the Iron Age Warrior Queen Medb. Experience Rathcroghan's rich archaeology, mythology and history through our interpretive rooms and expertly guided tours. The Rathcroghan Visitor Centre, the home of our museum, is located in the medieval village of Tulsk, Co. Roscommon.

Rathcroghan Visitor Centre is open all year round, so why not book a place on one of our tours by visiting our website.

www.rathcroghan.ie

Cruachan Aí, Tulsk, Castlerea, Co. Roscommon, Ireland
Phone: 00353 (0)71 9639268



@Rathcroghan

2021
Travellers'
Choice



KILMURRY SCHOOL 1858-2019 by Mike Lennon

ACCORDING to an application for funds to pay a teacher and buy books submitted by Richard Irwin to the Commissioners of National Education in



March 1859, there were three ‘hedge schools’ within three miles of the school established by his wife, Mary Irwin, in February 1858 in Kilmurry townland, but it was originally known as Rathmoyle National School. The inspector who investigated the application noted in his report that *‘the people have a remarkable predilection for the ordinary hedge school and hence there is, as yet, an unwillingness to send their children to a national school.’* However, with over 70 children already enrolled, the application was approved. The slated school building was described as *‘excellent in every respect’* and cost the Irwins nearly £200 to build.

The first teacher was 17-year old Catherine Kelly, whose previous experience was as a monitor for two years in Roscommon Convent School. She was joined by Bridget Concannon in 1864, who was an unpaid monitor, and was appointed as an assistant a year later when there were 117 on the roll - with a daily average attendance of 61. Initially appointed as a sewing and knitting ‘work mistress’ in 1872, Mary Beirne of Caltra, Elphin, then 22, began a long career in the school. She was the principal from 1875 until retiring in 1911. She had previously served for three years at Castleplunkett National School where her future husband, Thomas O’Donnell, was the principal. The 1872 application to

the Board of Education for her salary reveals the name of the school had changed from 'Rathmoyle' to 'Kilmurry National School'.

As Mary O'Donnell's retirement approached in 1910, the school authorities ordered a report '*as to the further necessity of the above named school in view of Rule 179.*' This rule was invoked because the average attendance was hovering around 25. Writing to the inspector who carried out the review, Mary pleaded for the school to remain open, stating that she had '*no interest except that of the education of the children of the people whom I have taught and amongst whom I have lived for nearly thirty-six years.*' She pointed out that local farms were being purchased by the Congested Districts Board and were being divided into smaller lots, with new houses being built for new tenants with young families. She went on to name families whose children would be attending in future. Thanks to Mrs O'Donnell's efforts, the school got a provisional reprieve '*until the needs of the locality are known when the migrant families have been settled for some time.*' The influx of new families did secure the future of the school. Monaghan native Mary McCluskey, later Mrs Dan O'Rourke, replaced Mrs O'Donnell in 1911 and was joined by her sister, Tess McCluskey, in 1915.



Mary Beirne O'Donnell

Following the death of Mary Irwin in 1861, a succession of family members took on the role of managing the school. However, at the end of World War I there were no longer any Irwins living in Rathmoyle. The nominal school manager, Arthur John Irwin, was a British Foreign Service officer in Siam (Thailand) and his brother Valentine was an insurance executive in Dublin. The Board of Education expected the manager to visit the school frequently and this was clearly not happening in Kilmurry. In August 1920, Arthur John Irwin wrote to the Board nominating Rev. Thomas Lavin as his replacement, and thus ended

the long association of the Irwin family with the school and the start of the custom of the Tusk parish priest being the manager.

The teaching staff expanded to three in 1926 when Miss Conry joined, being replaced in 1935 by Catherine O'Rourke, who was a niece-in-law of the principal, Mrs Mary O'Rourke. Coinciding with the opening of the newly built Kilmurry school in Lisalway townland in 1945, Mrs O'Rourke retired and was replaced by her brother, Benny McCluskey. Benny had married the aforementioned Catherine O'Rourke in 1944, which resulted in the teaching staff being all



The bell from Kilmurry school (1858-1945)

members of the McCluskey family - Benny and his wife and sister Tess. The next change occurred in 1962 when Tess retired and Kathleen Heneghan came onboard. Caddlebrook National School closed and was amalgamated with Kilmurry in 1967 and its teacher, Mrs Rabbitte, also transferred to Kilmurry to replace Kathleen Heneghan who moved to Brideswell N.S.

Benny McCluskey's retirement in 1972 saw the arrival of Mary Mannion as principal. Her husband, Laurence Mannion, was the principal in Castleplunkett. Benny's wife, Catherine McCluskey, retired in 1976 and was replaced by Mary McCaffrey. Mrs Rabbitte retired 1978 and Mary O'Connell moved to Kilmurry from Castleplunkett N.S. The school was reduced to two teachers in 1994 with the departure of Mary O'Connell. Principal Mary Mannion retired in 2002 and Colm Naughton took her place. However, he left a year later when Mary McCaffrey retired. They were replaced by Martina Naughton as principal and Maeve McCafferty as her assistant. They continued to teach in the school until 2015 when Lorraine Toman was appointed principal supported by Grainne

Keane. By September 2018, there were only eleven pupils on the roll which led in June 2019 to the inevitable closing of Kilmurray school after 161 years.

Footnote - I wish to acknowledge Mary Gormley's Tusk Parish in Historic Maigh Ai, Manus Tiernan (great grandson of Mary Beirne O'Donnell) and Mary Kelly as invaluable sources for the information in this article. Caddlebrook National School will feature in the next edition of the E-Newsletter. ♦

Kilmurry National School entries to the Duchas Folklore Collection 1937-39

CONTINUING our occasional feature on Tusk parish entries in the Schools' Folklore Collection from 1937-39, we here reprint the testimony of an unnamed contributor ('My Parish'), and James Dockery of Glenvela ('Fernhall'), whose contributions are both from Kilmurry National School. The folklore collection was an initiative between the Department of Education and the Irish National Teachers' Organisation. Senior Primary School children recorded in excess of 750,000 pages of local history and oral tradition from across the 26 counties of the Irish Free State. This includes some 18,000 of the children's original school exercise books. The priceless archive gives much insight into local life that would otherwise have been lost.

MY PARISH: - I am living in the Parish of Baslick. This name is handed down to us from the time of St. Patrick. When St. Patrick came to the hill of Oran which is on the way to Roscommon He looked towards Castleplunket and saw a hill where He said He would build a Basilica. A Basilica is a certain kind of Church. The hill on which the Saint built the Basilica is beside the Church of Kilmurry where I go to Mass. This is how the Parish got its name. There are the ruins of an old Church which is supposed to be the Basilica in Fernhall.

FERNHALL: Fernhall is the name of a small townland near where I live. It is not known how it got its name but that there must be a lot of ferns growing there at one time.

There was a man by the name of Irwin living there about one hundred years ago. A pot of gold was buried there and a man from Castleplunket found it. It happened that this man was in America and dreamt three night after each other about this gold. He came home and stayed digging for three days for the gold. At the end of this time he went back to America and is said to have brought the gold with him.

Entries are from: The Schools' Collection, Volume 0244, Page 269 (My Parish) & The Schools' Collection, Volume 0244, Page 275 (Fernhall), by Dúchas © National Folklore Collection, UCD.◇

MAN OF STEEL by Cathal McCormack

Just as the grave was closing over poor old Paddy Lally in Tulsk cemetery, the cheers of the Washington fans made the walkin ring as his grandson, Joe Downey (Joe Lally), administered the terriblest whacking to Tex Stovall, the Mohawk Indian, that ever was given a pugilist.' (from 'A TULSK MAN'S VICTORY' - Roscommon Messenger, 3 January 1925)

THE ABOVE EXTRACT, from the Roscommon Messenger in January 1925,



Joe Downey (Lally), boxing champion

caused a great deal of interest when put up on the Tulsk History Society members' WhatsApp group. Little did we know at the time what was about to unfold, as our research into 'Joe Downey' deepened in the coming days and weeks.

It was relatively easy to find out that Joe Downey was a formidable boxer: records of his fighting exploits can be found very easily to this day by looking up 'Joe Downey

boxing' with an internet search. Joe Downey boxed professionally in 1923 and 1924, and won one of the most prestigious boxing titles at the time - the All



The old Lally homestead, Steil

Navy Middleweight Championship - after defeating numerous very credible opponents. We knew from the Roscommon Messenger article that Joe Downey was ‘poor old Paddy Lally’(s)’ grandson. However, we assumed that his mother had been Lally as his name was Joe Downey. We later found out that ‘Joe Downey’ was a stage name, taken on so that his mother would not find out about his boxing exploits, and his real name was, in fact, ‘Joe Lally’. This discovery unearthed a whole new chapter in the wider Lally family story.

We found out that Joe was born and raised in Bloomfield, New Jersey, USA, while his father, Michael Lally, was born in 1867 in Steil, Tusk - the son of ‘old Paddy Lally’.



Joe in his naval uniform, including medals

In addition to being a boxing legend, Paddy’s grandson had a very distinguished military career. In May 1917 Joe enlisted in the US Navy where he served with the US Navy Armed Guard aboard vessels carrying armed supplies to US Forces in England, Scotland, France and Italy during World War One. He also served for the US Navy throughout World War Two, and went on to serve in various parts of the world such as Manila, Japan, Honolulu and Guam before retiring from

active duty in 1951. During his time in the US Navy Joe Lally received a commandment from the US Navy's highest office for showing exemplary conduct and bravery.

In 1973 Joe Downey became a resident of the United States Naval home in Philadelphia and later transferred to the US Naval home in Gulfport, Mississippi, where he died in 1995 aged 97 years.

The story of the great Joe Lally is just the first layer of what we unearthed in relation to the Lally family regarding their emigration from Steil to the USA. We will reveal more on the Lallys in subsequent newsletters.◇

TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY

Membership

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of our newsletter. The next edition will be circulated in December. New members to the society are most welcome. If you wish to join, please email us on historytulsk@gmail.com. Annual fees are €30 for adults and €10 for students. We hope you all have a wonderful Autumn!



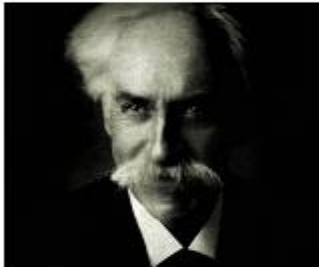


THE TULSK MORNING HOWL

August 2022

Bulletin No. 1

With great enthusiasm Tulse History Society brings you the first edition of our new bulletin. The title is a tribute to that great former resident of the parish: Percy French. Percy, as we all know, grew up in Cloonyquin, and in one of his earliest forays into writing he came up with his own youthful newsletter, which he named *The Tulse Morning Howl*. Now, just



over a century and a half later, we have chosen to name our own bulletin in honour of the great man. While our quarterly e-newsletter will focus on new writing (next edition to be circulated on 15 September), the *Howl* will republish old newspaper articles, advertisements and interesting facts. Additionally, we'll bring you a biography section—which begins overleaf with former Carronageelaun native Richard Flynn - as well as the latest THS news. For the purposes of clarity some articles will be re-typed (unedited, word-for-word), while others will appear in their original form.

In the spirit of our new publication we'll recall the words of American writer A. Whitney Brown: 'The past actually happened, but history is what someone wrote down'.

Accidental Fire—Burning of the House of Cargins. From *The Roscommon Weekly Messenger*, Nov. 27, 1852.

On Thursday night this large pile of building was burned to the ground. The illuminated horizon was clearly perceptible from Strokestown, while in the neighbourhood of Tulse



it was bright as at noon-day. A cloud of smoke still hangs over the ruins where not a vestige of the building remains except the blackened and tottering walls. It appears the caretaker was in the habit of lighting fires in the different apartments of the house—there were no fenders to keep in the falling sparks, and, at the time referred to, a consequence which might easily have been foreseen occurred. No one remained in the house during the night, the doors were locked and the fires left to take care of themselves as best they might. The bright glare of the immense conflagration, streaming through the windows in the neighbourhood, quickly aroused the inmates, and at about 5 a.m. there were near 200 people looking on, attempting to do anything was out of the question, the fire having by this time gained a complete mastery. Viewing the burning from beneath an old beech in the demesne of Cargins the scene is described as being dreadfully beautiful. The leaden gutters pouring in an almost continuous stream to the ground—The flames bursting through the numer-

ous windows and lapping upwards to the roof which at length fell in with a tremendous crash, bearing in its course the different floors. While the partitions, which were of wood, remained standing in their places though now burned into a glowing cinder, showing even the locks and handles of the doors with distinct minuteness, till shaken with a breeze or struck with a stone by a bystander they sunk from the height of three stories to the ground. The people in the neighbourhood are extremely concerned at this untoward event. Mr Drought, who it may be remembered lately purchased this demesne and had gotten possession of it on the 1st inst., it was hoped would have become a resident, and even though but so short a time in occupation he was giving considerable employment. It would take it is said something about £2,000 to rebuild the house. An addition lately erected escaped, having had a separate gable up to the top and the wind blowing in a contrary direction. The out-offices, which were thatched, also escaped, but the night being exceedingly wet may account for this. Cargins House was we believe one of the largest in this County.

CASTLEPLUNKETT, CO. ROSCOMMON.

**BUSINESS PREMISES
FOR SALE.**

I AM favoured with instructions by the Administratrix of Edward Mulligan, deceased, to sell by PUBLIC AUCTION, on the premises,
ON SATURDAY, 11th OCTOBER, 1921
(Fair Day).
(or previously by Private Treaty).
The Business Premises, and Residence situate in Castleplunkett, and known as "MULLIGAN'S," together with the Plot of Ground at rear of same. The Premises are held in Fee-Simple, Free of all rent for ever.
Further particulars in future advertisement or on application.
S. G. SENNETT,
Auctioneer and Valuer,
Roscommon.

301054

(above: *Roscommon Herald*, 20 Sept. 1924)

REMEMBERING: RICHARD FLYNN (1836-1905)

Richard Flynn was a native of Carronageelaun, Tusk village, and was distinguished in his time as a landowner and, more famously, as a horseman of some note. Pictured on his horse 'Shane



Rhua', Flynn won the stonewall jumping competition on his mount at the inaugural RDS Show in 1868, which took place on the grounds of Leinster House. His prize for the win was a gold mounted hunting crop he received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (Lord Abercorn). The newspaper, *Sport*, wrote on Flynn's death in 1905 that during those early days of the RDS Show 'hardly an exhibition passed without him securing a substantial share of prizes, particularly in the jumping competitions, in which he mostly piloted his own horses'. The gazette summed up by stating: *'To the end, he was heartily devoted to sport, and nothing gave him more pleasure than to discuss pros. and cons. of horse-breeding'*. Flynn was also a

Strokestown Poor Law Union Guardian, and a brother to Michael and John Flynn—distinguished in their own right, and two personalities we will return to. Richard died at the residence of his doctor and friend, Dr J.A. Coen, in Frenchpark in 1905.

TULSK PARISH TRIVIA

July 1845 – Rev. Michael Lennon had the tail of his cow cut off for condemning the actions of the Molly Maguires secret society.

September 1909 – Peter Dufficy, Corgarrow, Cloonyquinn advertised for a "competent bandmaster to train the Fife & Drum Band at Tusk."

September 1911 – John Padian, aged 105, died at Flaskagh, Tusk. He was in the 1847 uprising with Thomas Francis Meagher and fought at Killenaulle with John Blake Dillon.

July 1921 – The entrance to the Rathcroghan caves were closed by the military as they were suspected of being used by wanted men.

TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

Our first edition of the *'Morning Howl'* has come at a very busy and fruitful period for the society. While we are glad that it 'drops' during National Heritage Week, it is just one of a number of items that we have been focusing on of late.

Our survey of Tusk cemetery was the society's first major project and it has now reached its conclusion with the erection of a fine directory on the grounds of the historic cemetery and old abbey. The project, which involved much volunteer work last Autumn, has also seen us compile a unique THS survey that has been digitised and is available to view on our office computer.

The official opening of our office on August 21st has been another landmark moment for the society. After the purchase of office furniture, thanks to our successful application for a capital costs grant from the Dept. of Rural & Community Development, it was a natural step to acquire our own office, which came with the greatly appreciated support of the Tusk Macra Hall committee.

Both our archives and library have been growing, with the research and written work carried out by members of THS for our e-newsletter being a new and ongoing contribution to the history of the parish.

Next up will be our refurbishment project at Ogulla shrine, with our successful allocation of €5000 under the RCC and Boyle Municipal District Scheme 2022, creating a solid base from which to work off. Having more than 25 members, the help of volunteers, and much local support, Tusk History Society is heading in the right direction. We hope the *The Tusk Morning Howl*, with an expected four issues per year, will be a positive new addition.

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS AT

TULSK CARNIVAL

9th — 16th APRIL

Irelands Best Bands

Sunday 9th

TREVOR JENKINS

Tuesday, 11th

DONIE COLLINS

Friday, 14th

DAVE DIXON

Sunday, 16th

JOHNNY McMAHON

Tuesday, 18th

PREMIER ACES

(above: *The Leitrim Observer*, 8 April 1961.)