



# THE TULSK MORNING HOWL

February 2022

Bulletin No. 3

TULSK has been the birthplace of many celebrated people. Known famously as 'the birthplace of Percy French' (our bulletin title is from his early writing life) the parish has also been home to others who may not be as well remembered, but who made a significant mark in their own lifetime. One such person was Fr Thomas Lavin, who was the Tulsk Parish Priest from 1920 until his death in 1939. His interesting obituary from the *Sligo Champion* is reprinted here, word-for-word (which includes the title).

Also in this edition is an old report of the Rathcroghan Steeplechase from 1828. The annual race, though completely forgotten today, was one of the earliest formal race meets in the county, and was an important chapter in the history of racing in the province. Some old advertisements, trivia, and Tulsk History Society news make up the rest of the current edition.

**Obituary—The Late Very Rev. Fr. Lavin. THE BELOVED PASTOR OF TULSK**—from *The Sligo Champion*, 18 November 1939.

The unexpected death of the beloved pastor of Tulsk Father Tom Lavin, universally known as 'Father Tom,' occurred at the Co. Hospital, Roscommon on November 4th. The sad news of his death caused widespread sorrow. He was a member of a well known Co. Roscommon family that gave many members to the service of God. He was nephew of the late Rev. Pat Lavin., Drumcliffe, Sligo; uncle of the late Fr. 'Mick' Lavin, C.C., Frenchpark, and Fr. M.J. Kilbride, C.C., Sooeey, and Fr. T. J. Lavin, St. Joseph's, Derby. He was born in Cloonfour (parish of Castle-rea) in June 1865, began his classical studies in the famous 'Latin' School at Castle-rea, which he afterwards continued in Summerhill College, Sligo, and Maynooth. He was one of the leading classical scholars of his generation. An able theologian, ordained in Maynooth College in 1892, he was appointed curate in St. Mary's, Sligo, and afterwards served in the Mission in Strokestown, Ballyleague, Ballinaheglis and Rooskey, from whence he was appointed P.P. of Tulsk in June, 1920.

He was a gifted orator, an outstanding preacher and a man of indomitable courage, profound humility and charity. He took a prominent part in every national movement, was a keen supporter of the Gaelic League and G.A.A., and was responsible for the building and reconstruction

of schools and churches in the various parishes in which he worked.

He was always anxious about the welfare of the people, untiring in his assistance to relieve the poor and needy. Devoted to the sick and dying, he was a most zealous priest in his duties.

We now pray that God will give him his eternal reward.

The funeral left the Sacred Heart Church, Roscommon, on Sunday, followed by over two hundred cars for Tulsk, where the remains were received by Dean Cummins, Roscommon; Very Rev. Canon Currid, P.P., V.F, Strokestown; Very Rev M. O'Beirne, P.P., Four-Mile House. Rev. Fr. Gilmartin, C.C., Killina; Rev. T. Mahon, C.C., Kiltewan; Rev. Fr. Rhatigan, C.C., Kilmurry; Rev. J.P. Prendergast, C.C., Aghamore, Ballyhaunis; Rev. M J. Kilbride, C.C., Sooeey.

The thousands of Catholics as well as other denominations who attended both funerals testify to the esteem in which he was held.

Most Rev. Dr. Doorly, Bishop of Elphin, presided at the Office of Requiem Mass on Monday. The celebrant of the Mass was Rev. Fr. Kilbride, C.C., Sooeey (nephew); deacon, Rev. Fr. Gilmartin, C.C., Killina; sub-deacon, Rev. Fr. Lavin, C.C., Derby (nephew); master of ceremonies, Rev. Fr. Rhatigan, C.C., Kilmurry.

[continues with list of priests present, chief mourners including family, and messages of sympathy, from whom included the then Fine Gael (leader W.T. Cosgrave and Dublin Broadcasting Authorities)].

**Machinery Auction**  
 ON SATURDAY, 4th JUNE, 1977  
 Clearance Sale of over  
 25 Tractors  
 10 Balers, 17 Mowers (some Rotary)  
 13 Hayturners (all makes)  
 Buck-rakes, Loaders, Fork Lifts, Etc.  
 AT CLASHAGANNY CROSS, TULSK  
 (On Main Boyle-Roscommon Rd)  
 M. J. CROGHAN, Auctioneer & Valuer  
 Tulsk, Co. Roscommon

**SPORTING INTELLIGENCE**—from *The Dublin Morning Register*, 28 March, 1828.

The great steeple chase over the Rathcroghan course, Co. Roscommon, which excited so much interest, not only among the sporting circles in this country but at the other side of the water, was gallantly won, on Tuesday, the 18<sup>th</sup> instant, by Captain Charles French's (of French Park) gray horse, Tiger. Seven and twenty horses were entered for this race, at ten sovereigns each, to which Mr. French, the respected M.P. for Roscommon, added thirty; of those, however, thirteen only started. The distance was five miles, and several five feet walls and large ditches were jumped in the running. At the first wall all the horses baulked except Mr. French's (of Tuomona) mare, who thereby got a considerable lead; she, however, was speedily run into by Mr. Hearne's Cigar, and two of the French Park horses. The fifth last wall was taken in gallant style by Mr. French the member's horse Highflyer, who was closely followed by Mr. Ferguson's (a north country gentleman) horse, and Captain French's horse, Tiger. The fourth last wall was taken by Tiger and Highflyer abreast — Mr. Ferguson, who followed them, was thrown. The remainder of the race was beautifully contested by Tiger and Highflyer, running almost neck and neck together, and Tiger won by four lengths only. The next horses placed were Mr. French's Sportsman, Cigar, and Cliffe, Mr. Fitzstephen French's horse. The remaining eight horses came in (if at all) "longo intervallo". Although the weather was unfavorable, the concourse of persons was immense. Several sporting

characters from Melton Mewbray attended, as well as many officers and others from Dublin and other parts of the kingdom. All were highly pleased with the sport. The hospitibale mansion of French Park was filled with company, as well as all the other gentlemen's houses for miles around. Great sport was expected on Wednesday, when the lovers of fox-hunting were to receive a treat from the justly-celebrated French Park hounds.

#### SOME TRIVIA

**November 1835**—Tulsk Junction—The Grand Atlantic Railway Company published plans for a railway from Dublin to Blacksod Bay via Mullingar, Longford, Tulsk, Foxford, Ballina and Crossmolina, with a separate branch from Tulsk to Galway via Tuam. This plan was heavily advertised in both local and national newspapers.

**January 1852**—The birthday of Percy French has just passed. Born on 24 January 1852, this year marked the 169th year since his birth at Cloonyquin House.

**April 1908**—Patrick Flynn sought information about his uncle, George Flynn, who left Tulsk in 1873 and was last heard of living in Brooklyn, New York in 1902.

#### TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY NEWS

Though selling fast our newsletter collection—which came out at Christmas—is still available to buy from the society, or at local outlets; Tulsk Laundry & Drycleaners and Seamus Conway Butchers. We extend our thanks for their support.

The THS-led renovation project at Ogulla Shrine has seen much progress recently. After being granted funding through the Roscommon County Council and Boyle Municipal District Scheme 2022 we are happy to announce that it has already been put to good use. Work will continue in the coming months.

Upcoming for the Society will be our second AGM, due to take place in April. Our first e-newsletter of 2023 will be circulated in mid-March. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list, or would like to join the society, you can do by sending us an email at [historytulsk@gmail.com](mailto:historytulsk@gmail.com)

## TULSK CO-OPERATIVE LIVESTOCK MART LTD.

TULSK, CO. ROSCOMMON

### CATTLE SALES

Every Saturday for Bullocks, Heifers, Cows and Weanlings  
Special Charolais and Simmental Sales on Sat., 13th Sept.  
This sale will be run in conjunction with the usual  
Saturday sales. Charolais and Simmental Cattle sold first.  
Large number of stock on offer on Saturday. All cattle  
30 days tested. Transport available if required.  
Phone Tulsk 18.

Above from *The Drogheda Independent*, 7th September 1979