



THE TULSK MORNING HOWL

May 2025

Bulletin No. 12

Tulsk Notes (Co. Roscommon.)

Coursing.

Coursers are having a bad time of it this season, as hares are very scarce. The Drimna Downs are without hares this season. In fact you would travel the whole day long without seeing a hare. It is said that disease infected hares in many districts and completely wiped out the whole colony.

The Dance.

The dance organised under the auspices of the Football Club on Sunday night last was a huge success, merry makers attending from a wide area.

The Bridge.

The rebuilding of the bridge over the Tulsk canal has at last been completed, thanks to Mr. Ignatius Kelly, who engineered the job where so many others had failed. Mr. Kelly employed all his own gang that worked under him on the Congested Districts Board. A seven-ton roller was sent across the bridge a fortnight ago, and then a twelve-ton followed and the building withstood the test. This is certainly a great tribute to Mr. Kelly's engineering, and he was known to the old Congested Districts Board as the most efficient ganger they had.

The Potato Crop.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable reports regarding the potato crop, prices at all the surrounding markets are moderate. In Castlerea and Roscommon potatoes can be purchased at 6s. and 7s. per cwt.

Above: *Roscommon Herald*, 22 November, 1924

Roscommon County Convention.

A consultation relative to holding a County Convention for Roscommon was held at Strokes-town on Tuesday, 13th inst., between delegates from the Tulsk, Ballyoughter, Kilbride, and Kilrutan branches of the National League. Delegates were present also from several parishes where branches have not yet been formed. All agreed as to the urgent necessity for the Convention, and a resolution was passed to that effect, and urging the men of Roscommon to make timely preparation, calling on all the branches in the county to consider the subject at their next meeting, and pledging the branches represented to do all in their power to carry out the Convention successfully and with credit to Roscommon. It was arranged that all the surrounding branches should send delegates to Tulsk chapel on Sunday, June 1, to consult with the Tulsk branch, and form a permanent committee, and to make the required arrangements. Branches will please take notice of this. All letters and communications are to be addressed either to Messrs. P. Clabby and J. Flannery, hon. secs., Tulsk, or to Mr. P. Mangan, Tulsk.

Above: *The Irishman*, 24 May 1884. Relates to news of the Irish National League of the 1880s, which focused on land reform and Home Rule for Ireland. The INL was founded by CS Parnell

IRELAND'S OPPORTUNITY.

Mr. John Redmond, M.P., speaking on Sunday at a Nationalist meeting at Tulsk, County Roscommon, said that during the last session the Irish Parliamentary Party had obtained the greatest measure of Land Reform ever passed for Ireland by the English Parliament, and, with common prudence on the part of the people and common honesty on the part of the landlords, a few short years would see an end to the Irish Land question. This desirable result, however, would never be attained so long as the rich lands of Connaught were allowed to remain in the hands of a small ring of graziers, while the people were huddled together on bog and mountain, in squalid misery and chronic famine. Amid the wreck of English political parties, the Irish party remained impregnable, and would hold aloft the banner of Home Rule until the right of self-government had been conceded to Ireland.

Above: *The Chepstow Weekly Advertiser* (Wales), 17 Oct., 1903

A ROMANTIC STORY.

In the year 1848 a poor tailor, residing in the village of Ardkillan, lost a heifer, it having been stolen. Two men were arrested and tried—one was acquitted, the other found guilty, and sentenced to seven years' transportation. To the authority in Australia this man's good conduct was remarkable; it procured him employment, he was entrusted with a gang, and ultimately with the duties of book-keeper. At the end of three years the authorities gave him his liberty as the reward of his merit. He was fortunate in the bush as a shepherd—more fortunate in the diggings as a gold seeker. He was last week in England disposing of a cargo of his own wool, and this week the inhabitants of Tulsk were astonished by the anxious inquiries of a well-dressed gentleman, who wished to see one Betty Conolly, a woman remarkable for poverty, patience, and good conduct; he found herself and her children in a bog cabin—he saluted her with 'God save all here—do you know me, Betty?' She eyed him calmly for a moment—'My own John', she cried, and fainted in the arms of her husband. The scene that followed may be imagined—hope and joy tumultuous in either breast—the past a shadow dark—the present all in sunshine. This is not 'a story written for the papers'; it is all true. The returned convict is the owner of £50,000 and as many thousand acres.—*Roscommon Messenger*.

Above: *The Glasgow Courier*, 17 July, 1856

GOLDEN JUBILEE

A special Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated in Tulsk, County Roscommon, to mark the Golden Jubilee of the ordination of the Archbishop of Mobile, Alabama, U.S., His Grace, Most Rev. Dr. T. J. Toolan, who is of County Roscommon parentage.

The Parish Priest, Very Rev. J. Kilmartin, sent a message of congratulation to His Grace on behalf of the priests and people of Tulsk parish.

As recently mentioned in the *Standard*, Dr. Toolan is a frequent visitor to Ireland.

Above: *Catholic Standard*, 6 May, 1960

TULSK NEWS.

THE A O H.

On Sunday last a meeting was held in the League-rooms after last Mass for the purpose of establishing a branch of the A O H in the place. Mr G O'Reilly, Co President A O H, was in attendance, and laid down the fundamental principles of the Order, after which a goodly number became enrolled in the brotherhood. It is evident that a very successful branch has been accepted here, and should prove one of the best working divisions in the county. All who wish to become members should make application to any of the Brothers when their names will be submitted to the fortnightly meeting, and if desirable will in all probability be admitted to the Order. Next meeting will be held immediately after last Mass on to-morrow (Sunday) 9th inst, when all prospective members can have their names submitted to the meeting for admission.

Above: *Roscommon Messenger*, July 1911. on the establishment of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Tulsk. The AOH—a significant presence in rural Ireland at the beginning of the 1900s, particularly in nationalist and Catholic communities — functioned as a fraternal and mutual aid society, promoting Irish identity, Catholic values, and Home Rule politics. The AOH had close ties to the Irish Parliamentary Party and often worked alongside the United Irish League (UIL), which was the party's grassroots organization, and had a great presence in Tulsk.

MID-ROSCOMMON NEWS.

A STORM.

A fierce storm swept the Midlands on Wednesday night week which did considerable damage to hay ricks depriving many a haggard. This was followed by a snow fall which, however, did not last very long. This was the worst spasm of winter experienced so far.

GARDA CHANGES.

Sergeant P Fedlis, who has been stationed in Tulsk since the inception of the Civic Guards 4 years ago, has been changed to Co Dublin. During his stay in Tulsk he was a general favourite, and made a friend of everyone who knew him for his gentlemanly, upright qualities. His departure is very much regretted by the people of Tulsk with whom, as we say, he was immensely popular.

Above: *Roscommon Messenger*, 27 Jan., 1927

Remembering: Daniel Kelly (d. 1849), landowner and magistrate. From *A Dictionary of Roscommon Biography* by Mike Lennon.

A native of **Cargins House, Tulsk**, Daniel Kelly had an estate of 3,700 acres. He was member of the commission appointed in 1820 to oversee the construction of Roscommon Courthouse. Kelly was the High Sheriff of County Roscommon in 1820. In the Irish Catholic Directory of 1841, he was described as 'a highly respected liberal protestant' who donated the site for the new church in Tulsk Village. When the foundation stone was laid in 1840, he presented the pastor with £50 and a church bell. He arranged to have the inauguration stone moved from Carnfree to his house at Cargins for safe reasons. It was subsequently transferred to Clonalis House, Castlerea. He died in March 1849 and was entombed in Portahard Cemetery, Frenchpark. He was the last Kelly to reside at Cargins. The estate was sold in 1852 through the Encumbered Estates Court to George Warburton Drought. He was the father of Mary Gorges Kelly and a brother-in-law of Arthur French.



Above: The Kelly Mausoleum at Portahard cemetery where lies the remains of Daniel Kelly. 'Cargins' is engraved on the door

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ACTION OVER A HERD'S HOUSE.

Lord Crofton sought possession of a herd's house from Matthew Flanagan, Tomona, Tusk. This was an ejectment on title brought by the plaintiff against Mr Flanagan for the recovery of a herd's house at Tomona, parish of Ogulla, in the barony of Roscommon. In the lower court a dismissal was given from which decision the landlord appealed.

Mr Powell, B L (instructed by Messrs Burke and Son) appeared for the landlord. Mr Featherstonhaugh, K C (instructed by Mr P C P MacDermot) defended.

Mr Walter Watson, C E, deposed he surveyed the lands in the lease of 1861. The actual survey is 88 acres, 1 rood, and 2 perches.

James Beirne, the herd, deposed he remembered when his father was herding for Mr Lynam at Tomona. It is over thirty years ago. He knew a paddock, opposite Lord Crofton's Turlough. Tom and Mrs Cooke lived in the little house on the farm herding for Lord Crofton. Mrs Cooke left a couple of years before Mr Flanagan came. About the year '83 he got the place from the steward, Mr Somers, but he never herded for Mr Flanagan. In '88 he left it and went to herd at Moate Park. When he left in '88 his brother (Patrick Beirne) continued to herd for Mr Flanagan and Lord Crofton.

Cross-examined by Mr Featherstonhaugh, the witness said he was only herding the Turlough at £10 a year for Lord Crofton. His father was also a herd.

Mr John Rattery deposed he was steward for Lord Crofton in 1893. When he went to the place the premises were practically in the same condition as they are presently. He was nine years in the occupation of land steward. Pat Beirne was joint herd for Lord Crofton.

Mr Flanagan deposed his father purchased Lynam's portion of the land. James Beirne's father was the herd before he went to live at Tomona. When he came in '75 old Beirne was joint herd for himself and Lord Crofton. He gave him the grass of two cows, two acres of tillage ground, and Lord Crofton gave him £12 yearly to herd the Turlough.

Cross-examined by Mr Powell, the witness stated he went into the Land Court to get a fair rent fixed in both cases. He remembered making an affidavit.

Martin Murray deposed he lived in the townland of Tomona. The first time he knew the herd he was living in Mr Lynam's house. There was no body living in the herd's house since the Widow Cooke left it.

Cross-examined by Mr Powell, the witness said he made a mistake by telling Mr Featherstonhaugh that no person lived in the herd's house since Cooke left it. Young Beirne lived in it.

A decree was granted.

Above: *The Roscommon Messenger*, 26 March 1904.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

QUARTER SESSION COURT.

TULSK DISTRICT

THE Public are requested to take Notice that all Processes of this Court, which should be served (up to, and inclusive of October Session, 1854) by JOHN LEAN, Process Server for his district are to be handed to, and served by THOMAS KELLY, jun., Process Server, Balintubber District, who will attend the Sessions and prove the service thereof, but this only applies to said October Sessions, 1854, where such further order will be made as may be fit.

By the Court

WILLIAM LAMBE.

Acting Clerk of Peace.

County Roscommon.

18th September, 1854.

Above: *The Roscommon Messenger*, 23 September 1854

RAID ON TRADERS' HOUSES.

The houses of all the traders in the Tusk district were raided by disguised armed men during the early hours of Monday morning in connection with the boycott of Belfast goods, which was ordered a few weeks ago. The raiders took all the goods supplied by the Belfast merchants. English goods were also taken. The roads were littered with packages and a large amount of stuff was pitched in the river.

Above: *Gloucester Citizen*, 17 May 1921

THE ASSAULT IN THE HUNTING FIELD IN IRELAND.

Mr. Baron Dowse and a City special jury continued on Nov. 6th, in Dublin, the hearing of the action in which Mr. Richard Flynn, of Tusk, County Roscommon, claims £1000 damages for an assault alleged to have been committed on him by Mr. Bernard Sweeney, of Cahir, in the same county. The defendant denied the assault, and paid £1 into court in satisfaction of any claim the plaintiff might have. Mr. Bernard Sweeney, the defendant, was examined by Mr. Bird, and deposed he was an extensive breeder and trainer of horses in Roscommon, and was secretary to the stag-hounds. He recollected going to hunt on April 7th. When the leading hounds crossed Castle Plunkett road after the deer, he saw the plaintiff cross the road with the leading hounds, not waiting for the body of the pack, or the master, or the hunt servants. Witness said, "Flynn was at his usual tactics of spoiling the hunt," and rode on, keeping an eye on him as well as he could, for fear he would injure some of the hounds. Subsequently witness saw the plaintiff out in front about a quarter of a mile ahead of the hounds. Witness came up and said he had no right to do that—that he was spoiling the hunt; that it was not the first time he had done so, and that he would do better to pay his subscription and to keep back. Plaintiff asked who would keep him back. Witness said he would were it not for the law. He held out his hand with the whip in it towards him, but with no threatening gesture, and did not touch him at all. Witness also put out his hand and said, "I will pull your nose for you." Witness rode on, and the body of the horsemen came up. He solemnly swore he never cannoned against or touched the plaintiff that day. At the next fence after that, when witness was riding at a wall, plaintiff rode at him and thought to cannon against him. He asked what he meant by that after he got over the wall. Witness had written to plaintiff for his subscription to the hunt about five months before, and he replied that he had better not waste postage stamps writing to him, as he would not pay any subscription.—After an hour's deliberation the jury found for the plaintiff, with £50 damages, and the judge gave costs.

Above: *The Monmouthshire Merlin* (Wales), 14 Nov., 1879

MR O'KELLY, M.P., AND MR DAVITT.

A meeting, attended by about 10,000 people, was held yesterday at Tusk, County Roscommon. Speeches were delivered by Mr T. D. Sullivan, M.P., and Mr O'Kelly, M.P. The latter repeated his condemnation of Mr Davitt's efforts to create a split in the Irish party, which, he said, were tantamount to stabbing Ireland in the back. He declared he would resign his seat for Roscommon if the county wavered in its allegiance to Mr Parnell. He advised farmers to take immediate advantage of the Arrears Act. Votes of confidence in Mr Parnell, Mr O'Kelly, and Dr Cummins were passed.

Above: *Dundee Evening Telegraph*, 20 November 1882.

CASTLEPLUNKET NEWS.

DEATH OF MISS ALICE MORAN, RATHMOYLE.

We announce with regret the death of Miss Alice Moran which occurred at her brother's residence, Rathmoyle, on Friday morning, 23rd June. The painful news of her passing away rather unexpectedly was received with regret by a large circle of friends and acquaintances. Deceased, who had attained a good ripe old age, never married, and was in rather infirm health for a considerable time. During her lifetime she made many warm steadfast friends by her kind and urbane disposition, and was held in high esteem by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance. On last Saturday her remains were conveyed to Tusk cemetery for interment. The Rev E Morgan, C C, Kilmurry, officiated at the graveside. May her soul rest in peace.

Above: *Roscommon Messenger*, 01 July 1905.