

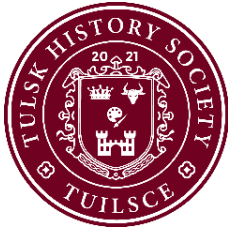
Tulsk History Society



Newsletter No. 17

June 2025

Tulsk History Society historytulsk@gmail.com



Members: Eileen Beirne (Chair) Mike Lennon (Secretary) John Higgins (Assist. Chair) Mary Kelly, Marese Feeney, Catherine McGuire, Noel Sheerin (Treasurer), James Dockery, Jody Moylan (PRO/Archivist), Therese Hanley, Joe Donoghue, Manus Tiernan, Milo Lowry, Marty Brady, John De Nash, Melissa Keigher, Tina Galvin Beirne, Tom Rogers, Breege Hyland, Marty Nolan.

Welcome to the June 2025 edition of our newsletter – or the ‘Summer Edition’ as we sometimes like to call it.

Since our last online publication in March a lot has happened. One of the highlights was our annual Quiz Night at O’Connor’s, which proved to be a great success. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who came along and supported Tulsk History Society – whether through entry fees, raffle tickets, or spot-prize donations. Thanks also to O’Connor’s for once again hosting the event so well.

Our cemetery recording team have been hard at work since spring. They’re now nearing completion of the fieldwork at both Baslick and Toberelva graveyards. This dedicated group of volunteers continues to do invaluable work, creating a record that will serve the community – and future generations – for years to come.

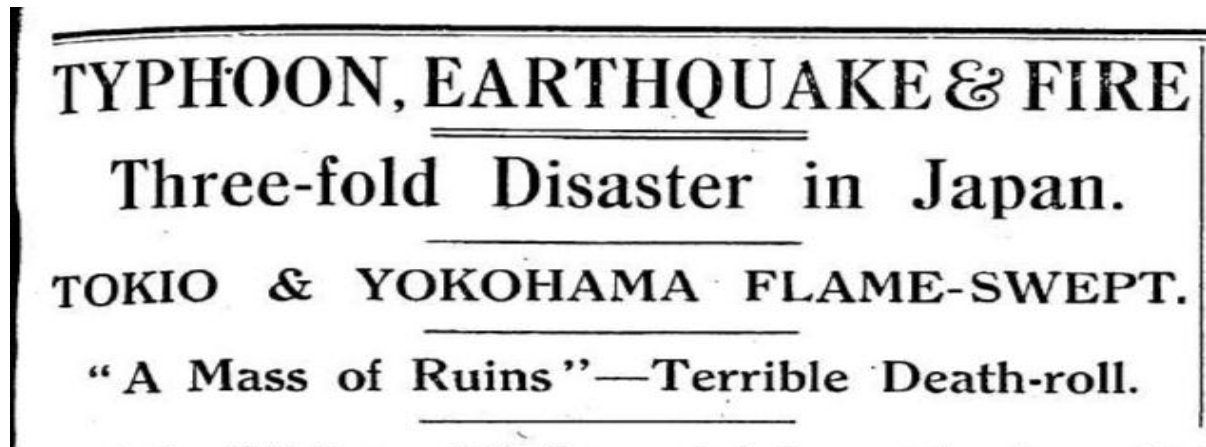
In May, we distributed the latest issue of *The Tulsk Morning Howl*, which is enjoying a steady rise in popularity. Its focus on the modern history of the parish – much of it overlooked or forgotten – seems to be striking a chord. We hope that through the *Howl*, we’re helping to shine a light on a part of our past that deserves to be remembered.

Looking ahead, we’ve got a busy summer planned, with various activities set to get underway soon. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for the latest updates.

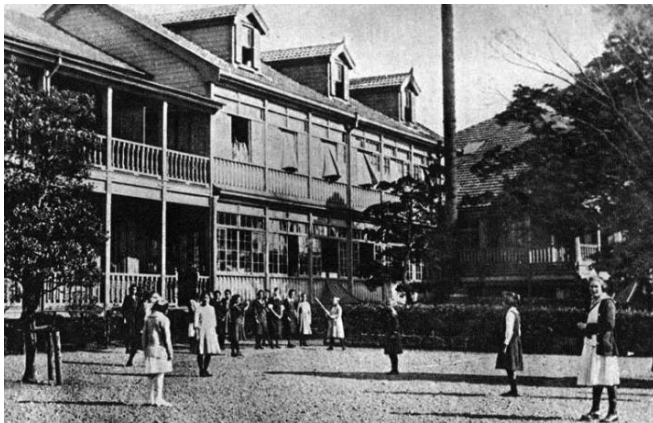
In this month’s edition Mike Lennon takes our readers to Japan, where the very interesting and tragic story of a Tulsk parish native unfolds in 1923, after a typhoon, fire and earthquake cause devastating damage. Melissa Keigher has another nice tale of Tulsk people abroad, with her focus this time on Castleplunkett native Jane Moran, who moved to Queensland, Australia in 1884. We re-print two parish-related stories from the Duchas Folklore Collection of the 1930s, while a special picture feature on the summer paintings of Roderic O’Conor (one such picture graces our cover) marks the current season. We then take a deep dive into the Ancient Order of Hibernians Tulsk Division 670. Founded in 1911, Jody Moylan traces the organisation’s lifespan through reports and notes from the local (and some not so local) newspapers. Details on how to join THS follow at the end of this month’s issue. We hope you enjoy the read!

THS

TULSK NUN DIED IN 1923 JAPAN EARTHQUAKE by Mike Lennon



At 5:30 am on Saturday, September 1st, 1923, while at prayers in their Yokohama convent, the Infant Jesus Sisters noticed a slight tremor, a not unusual occurrence that was regarded as a sort of seismic safety valve. The convent complex included the Saint Maur International



Saint Maur before the earthquake

School which was home to about 100 Japanese orphans and foreign female students. As it was Saturday, the children were scattered throughout the buildings or in the playground and most of the nuns were in the chapel preparing to recite the Angelus when at 11:58 am a 7.9 Richter scale earthquake began to shake the Tokyo-Yokohama region with destructive force. High winds ignited leaking gas pipes causing rapidly moving

fires to burn down two-thirds of the homes in the region. A devastating tsunami followed what became known as The Great Kantō Earthquake. An estimated 143,000 lives were lost. More than two-thirds of the houses in Tokyo and Yokohama were burned down, leaving more than three million people homeless.

The Saint Maur complex was destroyed in ten minutes. Eyewitness accounts by a surviving nun and a lay teacher described their miraculous escapes after being buried in debris. Both



Saint Maur after the earthquake

were pinned down but managed to crawl free when a second great shock moved some of rubble above them. The extent of death and injury soon became apparent. Fires were raging throughout the complex and, as a surviving teacher said later, “it became a matter of saving ourselves or perishing with them, so we were sorrowfully obliged to abandon them to their fate.” The death toll at

Saint Maur was 28 orphans, 6 boarders and 10 nuns, including four from Ireland. A further sixteen Infant Jesus nuns were killed in other convents during the earthquake.

One of the victims was Sister Michael, formerly Alicia Dufficy, from Clooneigh, Tulsk. Alicia



was born in January 1891, the daughter of Richard Dufficy (1839-1924) and Alicia Giblin Dufficy (1852-1930). After finishing school, she joined 20 other staff working as a drapery assistant in John J Fitzgibbon's department store in Castlerea. In June 1914, Alicia responded to a religious recruiting call and joined a French order of nuns – the



Sisters of the Child Jesus – which was founded in the 1670s. Responding to the need for English speaking nuns in Asia, the order established convents in Weybridge, Surrey in 1892 and at Drishane in Millstreet, Co. Cork in 1909. As well as its boarding school, the Drishane convent set up a sawmill, a

brush factory, a knitting factory and had a farm. Its main mission, however, was to seek vocations. After joining, Alicia spent part of her novitiate in Millstreet and trained as a teacher in the Weybridge convent. She was professed a nun with the name Sister St. Michael (Sr. St. Michel in French) on August 15th, 1916. Soon afterwards, she was assigned to teach at the Saint Maur International School in far-off Yokohama.

Alicia was in the chapel when the strong earthquake demolished the building in seconds

MARY KEEGAN	1854-1923
DUNSTAN KEEGAN	1868-1923
PIERRE SIFFERLIN	1879-1923
SEBASTIEN MUNEUVRIA	1868-1923
WILFRED SWEENEY	1873-1923
ETIENNE SEGUIN	1875-1923
HELENE VAN DER HEYDE	1874-1923
MICHEL DUFFICY	1891-1923
GERTRUDE MATSUDA	1863-1923
EUGENIE SHIKADO	1923

followed by gas ignited fires which engulfed the debris. The survivors who crawled from the rubble of nearby buildings were unable to help. They were ordered to evacuate and taken on ships to convents in other parts of Japan. A memorial stone stands in the Yamate Foreign Cemetery in Yokohama where the remains of the nuns were buried. Soon afterwards, the nuns returned to

Yokohama and commenced the re-building of their convent and school. The school now occupies five modern buildings on its original site and, after 153 years, is the oldest international school in Asia and the second oldest in the world.

Back in Clooneigh, Alicia's brother, Richard (Dick) Dufficy married Sarah Lennon of Cloonmurray in 1935. They named their first-born daughter Alicia after her aunt who was killed in Yokohama. The family tradition was repeated when Alicia and her sister Christina became Mercy nuns in the 1950s. Using her father's name, Alicia as Sr. Richard taught music in Boyle schools while Sr. Christina took up a nursing career and served a matron of the Sacred Heart Home in Roscommon for many years. After suffering severe cardiac failure, Christina received a heart transplant in 1992 and continued to live a fruitful life over the following thirty-two years. During the final twenty years of her life, she ministered as a pastoral assistant in Athleague and Fuerty. Sr. Richard died in January 2024 and Christina followed her eleven months later in December 2024. ♦



Alicia & Christina Dufficy

Tulsk Remembers the Great Famine 1845 -1849



**Join Tulsk History Society for our Heritage Week Event
Sunday 24th August**

More to follow

CASTLEPLUNKETT GIRL SETS SAIL FOR NEW LIFE IN AUSTRALIA

by Melissa L. Keigher

Castleplunkett native Jane Moran – the eldest child of one-time Fenian, William Moran, and his wife Bridget Igoe – left her home and set sail from Ireland aboard the S. S. Dorunda, arriving in Queensland, Australia on 21 October 1884.

What enticed young Jane to embark on such a long journey is not yet confirmed. However, there exists one significant clue: Jane's ticket tells us that she travelled as an assisted emigrant on what was known as a 'remittance ticket', suggesting someone in Queensland had assisted her passage. Considering Jane would shortly on arrival marry 32-year-old Mounted Constable and County Tipperary native, John Fitzgerald, we may presume Jane and John likely knew each other before her emigration.

Of note, Jane declared herself to be only 17 years old at the time of her trip, yet birth records confirm she had only just celebrated her nineteenth birthday the month prior. Perhaps the fare was cheaper had she declared herself a minor.

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Dorunda

NO.	SURNAME.	CHRISTIAN NAME.	ADULTS.				CHILDREN.				REMARKS.
			MALES.		FEMALES.		CHILDREN, 1 TO 12.		INFANTS, UNDER 1.		
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
	<i>Remittance</i>		11	11	25	18	9	12	2	1	
	<i>Lochan</i>	<i>William</i>							1		
	<i>Minter</i>	<i>William</i>			12						
	<i>Moran</i>	<i>Pat</i>			20						
	<i>Naher</i>	<i>Henry</i>			29						
	<i>Mellie</i>	<i>John</i>			26						
		<i>William</i>			35						
	<i>Monks</i>	<i>George</i>			19						
	<i>Marston</i>	<i>Emma</i>				32					
		<i>Emma</i>							6		
		<i>Florence</i>							4		
		<i>Edith</i>							3		
		<i>Agnes</i>							2		
		<i>John</i>									
	<i>Moran</i>	<i>Jane</i>			17						
	<i>Morley</i>	<i>John</i>			15						

Over

1884 SS Dorunda Ship Passenger List

Together, Jane and John settled in Taroom, a town in the shire of Banana, just northwest of Brisbane where they would have two children: first-born Mary Jane, in 1887, and son John in December 1888. Tragically, their infant son John Jr. never had the opportunity to meet his father, having been born three months after his father's death. Jane's husband, John Sr., then aged just 34, died of 'congestion of the lungs', a

symptom that could have been caused by pneumonia, tuberculosis, or possibly congestive heart failure.

Jane's husband's death left her newly widowed and pregnant at the age of 23. She must have felt terribly alone and homesick for her parents and six younger siblings (Bernard, James, Mary, Catherine, Thomas and William) were all back home in Castleplunkett. Thankfully, just a few weeks after the birth of her son, John, Jane inherited her late husband's estate, valued at £245. This amount may seem rather small; however, its current spending power is approx. £40,000. Though this would not have lessened her grief, it undoubtedly provided her some necessary relief, knowing that that she would be able to provide for herself and her children.

By 1890, Jane had met another officer, Police Sergeant Francis William Burgess. They wed in the Autumn of that year and went on to have 8 children together – becoming a blended family of two parents with 10 children.

After 40 years of marriage, Jane (Moran) (Fitzgerald) Burgess died 22 May 1935 at Cripp Island, a suburb of Brisbane, Queensland. Her gravestone honours her native home of Castleplunket, County Roscommon. May she and her family rest in peace.



The Burgess family headstone at Nudgee Cemetery, Brisbane, Queensland, where Jane (Née Moran) of Castleplunket reposes

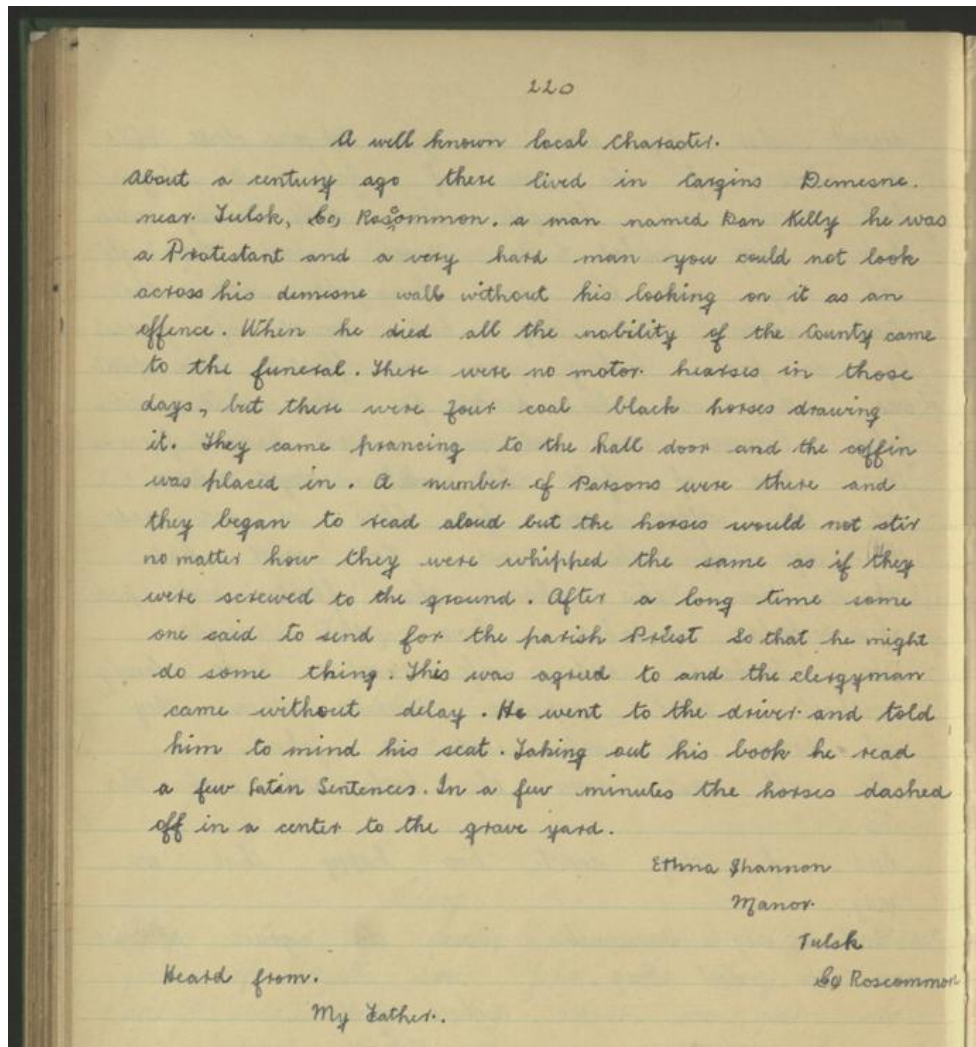


Note on the ship: The Steamer SS Dorunda which Jane set sail on in 1884, is pictured left at Port Said in Egypt. The ship became briefly infamous in 1885 after a cholera epidemic onboard claimed sixteen lives. The ship was wrecked off the Portuguese coast in 1894, ending its 19-year service (built in Clyde, Scotland in 1875).

DUCHAS FOLKLORE COLLECTION – Clashaganny School (The Schools' Collection, Volume 0252, Page 220)

Collector: Ethna Shannon, Manor, Tulsk

Informant: Her father



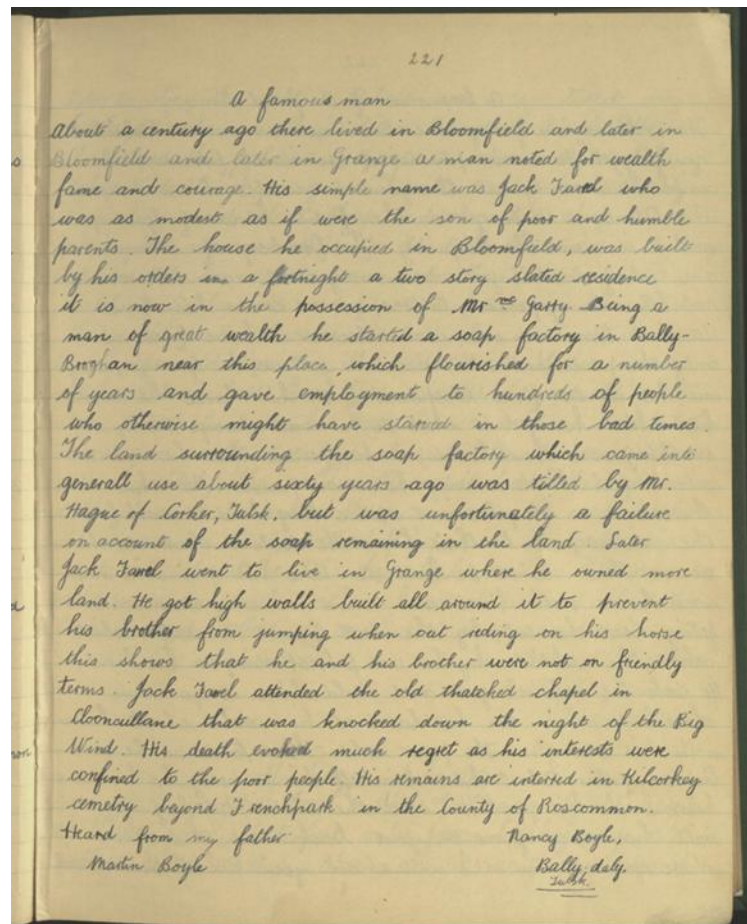
Transcription:

About a century ago there lived in Cargins Demesne, near Tulsk, Co. Roscommon a man named Dan Kelly. He was a Protestant and a very hard man. You could not look across his demesne wall without his looking on it as an offence. When he died all the nobility of the county came to the funeral. There were no motor hearses in those days, but there were four coal black horses drawing it. They came prancing to the hall door and the coffin was placed in. A number of Parsons were there and they began to read aloud but the horses would not stir no matter how they were whipped the same as if they were screwed to the ground. After a long time someone said to send for the Parish Priest so that he might do something. This was agreed to, and the clergyman came without delay. He went to the driver and told him to mind his seat, taking out his book he read a few Latin sentences. In a few minutes the horses dashed off in a canter to the graveyard. ♦

DUCHAS FOLKLORE COLLECTION – Clashaganny School (The Schools' Collection, Volume 0252, Page 221)

Collector: Nancy Boyle

Informant: Martin Boyle



About a century ago there lived in Bloomfield and later in Grange a man noted for wealth, fame and courage. His simple name was Jack Farrel who was as modest as if he were the son of poor and humble parents. The house he occupied in Bloomfield, was built by his orders in a fortnight, a two-story slated residence. It is now in the possession of Mr. Mc Garry. Being a man of great wealth he started a soap factory in Ballybroghan near this place, which flourished for a number of years and gave employment to hundreds of people who otherwise might have starved in those bad times. The land surrounding the soap factory which came into general use about sixty years ago was tilled by Mr Hague of Corker, Tulsk, but was unfortunately a failure on account of the soap remaining in the land. Later Jack Farrel went to live in Grange where he owned more land. He got high walls built all around it to prevent his brother from jumping when out riding on his horse. This shows that he and his brother were not on friendly terms. Jack Farrel attended the old thatched chapel in Clooncullane that was knocked down the night of the Big Wind. His death evoked much regret as his interests were confined to the poor people. His remains are interred in Kilcorkey cemetery beyond Frenchpark in the County of Roscommon.

Heard from my father◊

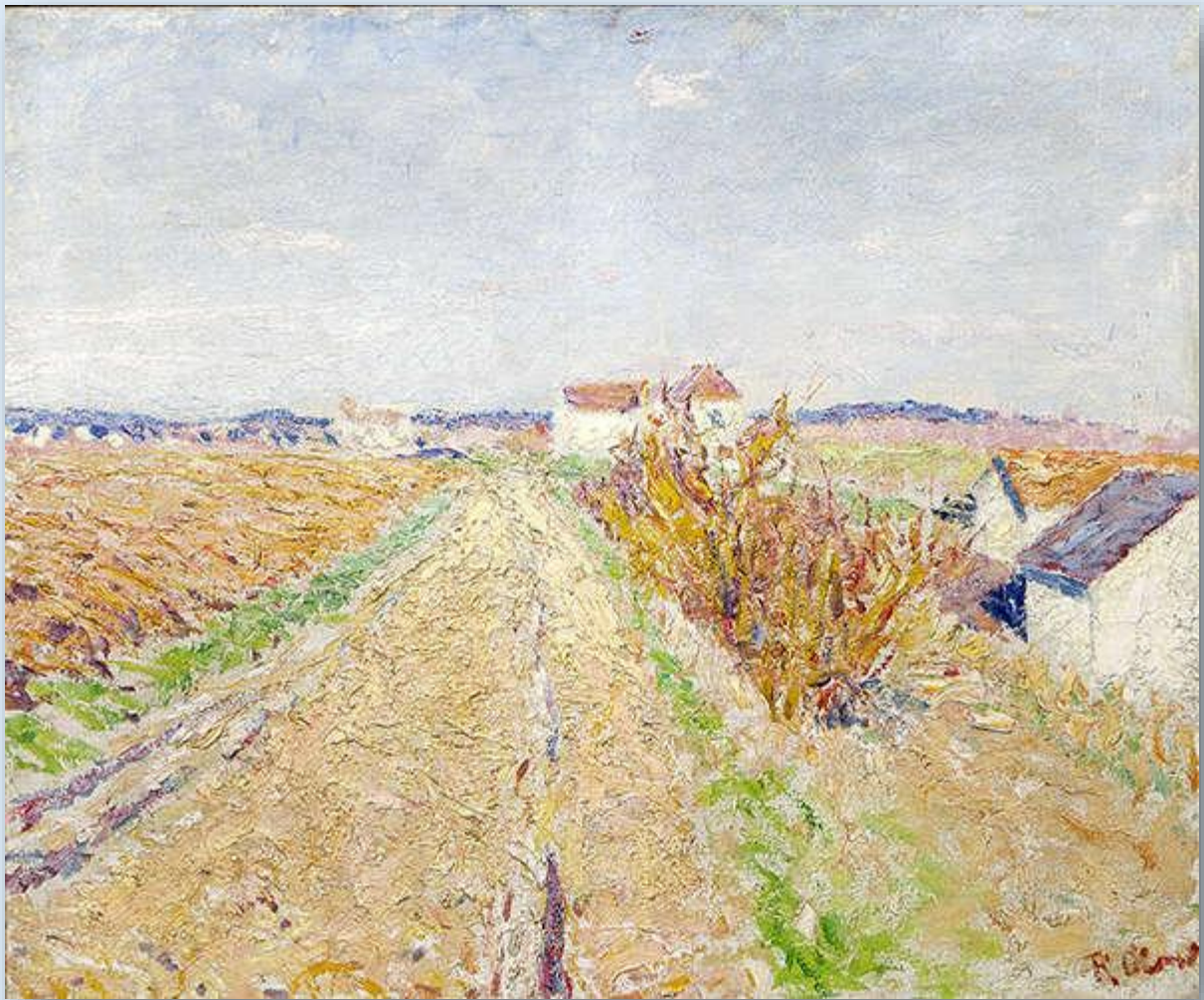
THE SUMMER PAINTINGS OF RODERIC O'CONOR



FEATURED over the next few pages are – in keeping with the season – a selection of the summer paintings of Roderic O'Connor (1860-1940). The Castleplunkett native painted all the following scenes in France, where he lived and worked for much of his life. He was known as a fine 'colourist', and these pictures typify that element of the great man's career. THS last year acknowledged O'Connor's life and work with a plaque in Tulske village, and we also draw your attention to the information panel erected in Castleplunkett village in 2022 – an event that may have gone under the radar. It is definitely worth a moment to stop, read and reflect upon.



Sunny Landscape, 1894



Road Leading to Grez was one of Roderic O'Connor's great early paintings in France, executed in 1889 when the painter was not yet 30. The artist colony of Grez sur Loing, was a place where O'Connor spent the best part of a year. This painting was first exhibited at the same exhibition as a number of paintings by Vincent Van Gogh, who took his own life that same year (1889). There are no figures in this scene, something noticeable in all O'Connor's landscapes.

The painting was sold by Adam's Auctioneers in 2014 for €210,000





Landscape with View to the Sea was painted by O'Connor in 1913 at the French port town of Cassis, a place he liked to travel to. Though not a materialistic man, O'Connor was heir to the Milltown estate, which allowed him to dedicate his life to his art and to travel as he pleased. The south of France was one place where he could tap into the bright colour that dominated a good portion of his pictures.

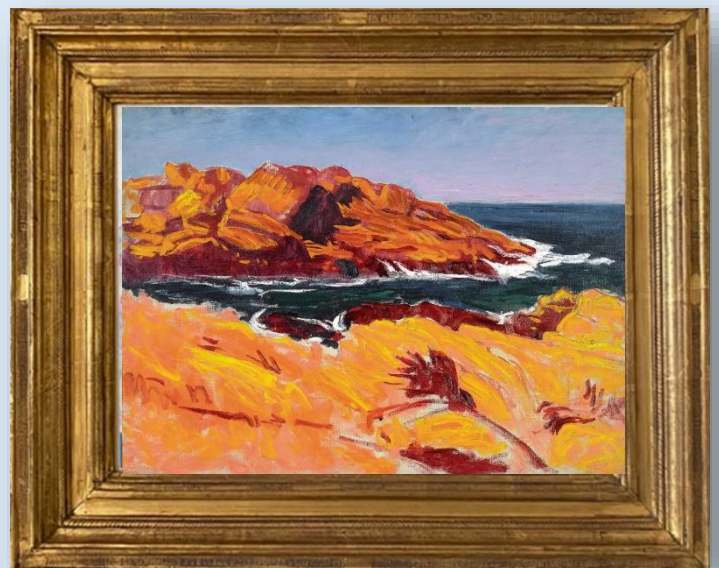
This painting was sold at Sotheby's London in 2022 for €32,000





Rocks and Foam at St. Guenole was a summer painting by O'Connor painted in 1893 when the Milltown native was in Brittany in northwestern France. This was a major part of the artist's life that began about the year 1891 and ended with a return to Paris in 1904. O'Connor painted a number of these seascape scenes with distinctive yellow, orange and reds dominating the pictures. These paintings have been some of his most popular and most sought after

This painting was sold at Sotheby's Paris in 2022 for €410,000



From the Newspapers

The Ancient Order of Hibernians – Tusk Division compiled by Jody Moylan

We here re-print a number of old newspaper articles tracing the lifespan of the 'AOH' in Tusk.

In the post-Famine years up until Irish independence (1850-1922) Tusk had a number of local branches of national organisations that followed, in some form or another, a nationalist theme. One such organisation was The Ancient Order of Hibernians, or 'AOH' as it was commonly known. Numerous notes and short articles on the Tusk Division 670 (branch number 670) appeared across the local newspapers from the year 1911, when the local organisation was founded in the summer of that year.

Nationally, the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) was a complex and influential organisation in the early 20th century, with deep roots in Irish Catholic nationalism, fraternal tradition, and community organisation. A Catholic-only fraternity, it was often referred to as the "Green Orange Order" for its parallels with its Protestant counterpart. Like the Orange Order, the AOH combined religious identity with community solidarity and political influence. While better known for its prominence in the United States, the AOH in Ireland played a significant role in political and social life in rural Ireland in the years leading up to and during the revolutionary period. Founded to protect Catholic communities, promote Irish nationalism, support the Church, and provide mutual aid, it was rooted in earlier Catholic societies such as the Ribbonmen.

In the early 1900s, it was tied closely to the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP), serving as a grassroots support network that helped mobilise voters, control local political conventions, and reinforce party loyalty—particularly under the leadership of Joseph Devlin, who was both Grand Master of the AOH and a key figure in the IPP. The AOH's widespread mobilisation in local branches across rural Ireland – such as in Tusk – made it one of the most effective grassroots forces behind the Home Rule campaign prior to the revolutionary shift after 1916. It is apparent from the newspaper reports of the time that Tusk did not deviate from this, it being a community that was staunchly in favour of Home Rule after years of agrarian struggle, from the parish's Famine depopulation in the 1840s, to its Land War evictions and convictions (early 1880s), to its Ranch War anarchy and trouble (early 1900s).

TUSK NOTES (CO. ROS-COMMON).

A.O.H.

We understand that it is proposed to establish a Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Tusk in the near future Mr. George O'Reilly, County President, who has been approached on the matter, has promised to attend a meeting for the purpose at an early date, and we are certain that before many weeks have elapsed a progressive division will exist in the ancient borough.

From Roscommon Herald 17 June 1911 comes the first mention of the AOH in Tusk. In Connaught at this time there were 38 Divisions in Leitrim, 15 in Roscommon, nine in Sligo, three in Mayo, two in Galway.

TUSK NOTES (CO. ROS-COMMON).

The A.O.H.

On Sunday week, July 2nd, a meeting will be held immediately after last Mass at Tusk chapel for the purpose of incepting a Branch of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, when it is expected a large number will become enrolled in that most popular of all organisations. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. G. O'Reilly, Co. President, A.O.H.

A week later (from previous) a date has been set for the official formation of the AOH in Tusk (founded July 2nd, 1911). Outside the church was the location, the setting of many nationalist meetings of the period in Tusk.

ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.

Tulsk Division (Co. Roscommon).

On Sunday last a Branch of the A.O.H. was incepted in the ancient Boro' by Bro. George O'Reilly, County President, when a good attendance was present. The following officers were appointed:—Bro. P. Shanagher, Co.C., President; Bro. John Flannery, V.P.; Bro. James E. Flanagan, treasurer; Bro. Joseph A. Feeney, Recording Sec.; Bro. P. Lowry, Financial Sec. The County President, in a well-worded speech, having addressed the meeting, congratulated them on the move they had made in auguring a Branch of the A.O.H. in the place, and he felt certain that it would be a most successful Division, a credit to the ancient Boro', and to the organisation in general. A cordial vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Feeney, seconded by Bro. Flannery, to Bro. O'Reilly for attending, brought the proceedings to a close. Next meeting on Sunday next, 9th inst.—Secretary.

Report of the founding meeting of the AOH Tulsk Division, incepted by Strokestown merchant George O'Reilly with appointed officers named – some names remaining familiar to this day. The title 'Bro' refers to 'Brother', which Hibernians referred to each other as. This reinforced the AOH's identity as both a social and spiritual brotherhood.

A.O.H.
TULSK DIVISION, 670.
The usual monthly meeting of the above Division was held in the League Rooms on Sunday last. Bros. P Shanagher, C C, President, presiding. The usual routine business was transacted and monthly dues were handed in by all present. Five new members were proposed for initiation at next meeting, and members who have not complied with the rules regarding their attendance at meetings are called on to attend next meeting. This rule shall be strictly adhered to in future. It was decided to hold a special meeting on Sunday, 19th inst., when all members are required to attend.
SECRETARY.

As of November 11th, 1911, numbers joining continues to rise and adherence to the rules is again re-iterated

Tulsk Division (Co. Roscommon).

A meeting of the Tulsk Division of the A.O.H. was held on Sunday, Bro. P. J. Shanagher, President, presiding. There was a good attendance of members, and a good many new members were initiated. A resolution from our Aughrim Brethren congratulating the men of Tulsk on their advent to Hibernianism was read by the Secretary, to which suitable remarks were made by the members present, who all beg to thank their gallant Brothers of Aughrim for their kind expressions and patriotic and virtuous feeling towards us. Next meeting on Sunday, August 6th after last Mass. As this is Finance Day all members had better turn up.—Secretary.

Report from the start of August 1911, when the local AOH Division was gaining numbers. The 'Aughrim' referred to is that in Co. Roscommon (Kilmore parish) where one of the national stalwarts of the AOH, William Skelton, hailed from. The final sentence here, terse in nature, was in keeping with the organization's strict ethos.

TULSK A.O.H. AND THE IRISH PARTY.

Roscommon, Wednesday.

At the monthly meeting of the Tulsk division of the A.O.H., held in the League Rooms on Sunday last, Brother Peter Shanagher, C.C., in the chair, the following resolution was unanimously passed, and copies directed to be sent to Messrs. John E. Redmond and Joseph Devlin, M.P.'s.—"That we, the members of the Tulsk Division of the A.O.H., hereby express our unbounded confidence in the Irish Parliamentary Party under the distinguished leadership of Mr John E. Redmond, a statesman among statesmen; and we congratulate that gallant body in effecting the muzzling of the House of Lords, the hereditary enemy of Ireland; and we pledge ourselves to support that heroic body by every means in our power until the old harp and sunburst waves independently above the portals of College Green."

From October 19th, 1911, this report refers to the Parliament Act of 1911 (August) which curbed the power of the House of Lords to veto decisions made in the Commons – a historic stumbling block for the Irish

struggle against British rule. In the push for Home Rule – led by John Redmond's Irish Parliamentary Party – the obstacle of the Lords, dominated by unelected Conservative pro-Unionist peers, had been removed, and Tulsk AOH were right behind it.

From January 13th, 1912

Tulsk Division, No. 670 (Co. Roscommon).

The usual monthly meeting of the Tulsk Division of the A.O.H. was held on Sunday last in the Assembly Rooms subsequent to last Mass. Bro. P. J. Shanagher, Co.C., presided. There was a good attendance of members present, all of whom paid their monthly dues. Two new members were admitted. A lengthy discussion followed in connection with the purchasing of a banner and it was decided to amalgamate with the U. I. League in the purchase of a large banner. Bros. Flannery, Flanagan, O'Kelly and Feeney, were directed to attend at the meeting of the League on to-morrow (Sunday) for the purpose of conferring with and making arrangements with that body, also to select a suitable motto. It was brought under the notice of the meeting that the band was very inactive latterly, and arrangements were made that for the future the roll of the drum

should be heard more frequently so as to prepare the boys for participating in one of the coming processions. A band parade will take place on Sunday week, 21st inst., and all the members of the band are expected to be in their places. The holding of a Hibernian Ball came under consideration, and it was unanimously decided to carry the project through, and all who are anxious to attend the dance (which will be the dance of the year) should at once become enrolled as members of the A.O.H. as it is very probable that none but members will be permitted to attend. Furthermore, considering the advantages they gain under the Insurance Bill (which comes into force next May, when all over 16 and under '85 must be compulsory insured) through being members of a benefit society such as the Hibernians, it is advisable that everyone should belong to some society, and there are no benefit or friendly societies around here only the A.O.H. Next meeting, Sunday, February 4th, 1912.—Joseph A. Feeney, Recording Secretary.

The Assembly Rooms described likely allude to the old school, which was once adjacent to Tulsk school. The first mention of a banner and the boys' Fife & Drum band – typical elements of AOH societies along with sashes and ceremonial regalia. All added to the expression of Catholic identity, solidarity, and nationalist pride especially during processions, feast days, and political demonstrations.

While being a member of the AOH had mutual aid benefits like sick pay, funeral grants and emergency aid (where the strict pressure to pay dues came from) the Insurance Bill referred to is the National Insurance Bill of 1911 (became law in July 1912) which provided health and unemployment insurance in certain circumstances. It would work to compliment AOH benefits. The 'Hibernian Ball' never took place, and the notes on the AOH Tulsk Division 670 go relatively quiet for the remainder of 1912. The following January things pick up, as can be seen below.

Tulsk A.O.H. Dance (Co. Roscommon).

The members of the Tulsk Division, A.O.H., gave what can be termed their initial dance on Saturday night last, and was a tremendous success from every point of view. The music for the occasion was supplied by Messrs. W. Egan, Hanly, Conlon and Kelly (violins); Mr. Rorke (flute). Dancing commenced at 9 o'clock, and was kept up till eight o'clock next morning, when all turned out "en masse" to Divine Service. The thanks of the Division are due to Mr. M. Egan, Doon, for the efforts he made to bring the musicians to the Hall. There were upwards of 70 couples present, and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. A feature of the occasion was the beautiful Hibernian banner, which was exposed on view at the head of the Ball-room, and was very much admired. The following ladies were present:—Mrs. P. Shanagher, Mrs. T. McDonnell, Mrs. J. McDermott, the Misses Shannon, Murray, Lenahan (2), McGarry (3), McCormack (3), Daly, Keigher, Beirne, McDermott (2), Flanagan (2), Clooncur, Connor, Larkin, Egan, O'Malley, McDermott (2), Corbeg, Cullen, Darcy, Flanagan, O'Boyle (2), Simpson, Connolly, Eustace, Rushe, etc., etc.

lowing ladies were present:—Mrs. P. Shanagher, Mrs. T. McDonnell, Mrs. J. McDermott, the Misses Shannon, Murray, Lenahan (2), McGarry (3), McCormack (3), Daly, Keigher, Beirne, McDermott (2), Flanagan (2), Clooncur, Connor, Larkin, Egan, O'Malley, McDermott (2), Corbeg, Cullen, Darcy, Flanagan, O'Boyle (2), Simpson, Connolly, Eustace, Rushe, etc., etc.

January 1913 – A description of the initial AOH Dance, and an insight into how the Order was as much about faith as fraternity

**A O H.
ROSCOMMON COUNTY BOARD.
IMPORTANT MEETING.**

Re the appeal from the Tulsk division for funds to erect a window in the Tulsk chapel, which will be dedicated to the A O H, the County Board decided to give £3 3 towards the fund. The County Board desires to remind divisions which have not yet responded to the appeal of the advisability of giving aid to this very commendable work; particularly when it is considered that the local parish priest of Tulsk, Rev Father Monaghan, as an advocate of Hibernianism is second to none in Connacht.

June 1913 – Tulsk Division of the AOH brought up at County meeting. When funding one of the stained-glass windows at Tulsk church the local AOH sought support from other divisions, though many were not forthcoming with funds (may have been a bone of contention, reading between the lines in several short reports)

TULSK NOTES (CO. ROSCOMMON).

The A.O.H. Demonstration.

The demonstration under the auspices of the A.O.H. and U.I.L., coming off at Strokestown on September 14th, promises to be the greatest on record, and already the Tusk Division are making preparations to constitute a turn-out second to none. The bandsmen are all requested to attend practice on Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays, otherwise they will not be permitted to participate in the procession. The same applies to those who have no badges. The procession will start from Simpson's Cross at 12.30 sharp.

August 1913 – Notification for a Home Rule demonstration in Strokestown with mention of the band and certain items of regalia. The AOH was known for its ceremonial attire, banners and drum bands, and Tusk Division 670 was no different.

A PRESENTATION.

On Friday evening the members of the A.O.H. met at their hall to present their secretary, Mr. P. Lowry with a suitable souvenir on the occasion of his recent marriage. The presentation took the form of a silver tea and coffee set suitably engraved, and was certainly a masterpiece of the silversmith's art, and reflected the highest credit on the donors. Certainly, Mr. Lowry deserved any recognition that could be bestowed upon him, as a more capable or efficient secretary it would be difficult to find.

In March 1914 Tusk AOH present secretary Peter Lowry with a gift on the occasion of his wedding. From Lisnaneane, Lowry was one of the most active nationalists in Tusk during this period

April 1914 Tusk AOH support the Irish Parliamentary Party's moderate position on Home Rule, after Ulster Unionists reject it outright. PM Herbert Asquith

TULSK DIV. A.O.H.

AN APPRECIATION.

Resolution unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Tusk Division of the A.O.H. on Sunday, 6th inst. :-

Resolved :- "That we, the members of this Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, again place on record our unabated confidence in the Irish National Party under the leadership of Mr. John E. Redmond, and that we fully appreciate the tolerant spirit they have displayed in accepting Mr. Asquith's proposals for the conciliation of our Protestant fellow-countrymen."

P. LOWRY, Secretary.

proposes compromise in the north – the first indication that the country would eventually become divided. World War One started a few months later and put everything on pause.

TULSK A.O.H.

The monthly meeting of Tusk Division was held on Sunday last, Bro. P. Shanagher, Co. C., President, presiding. Correspondence from the County Secretary was read and considered. Bro. Robert Hanns was admitted to the friendship of the Order; one new member was proposed for admission; members suspended for non-payment of dues should note that the time for reinstatement expires after the next meeting on Sunday, 21st February; sick benefits were ordered to be paid to two members.

P. LOWRY, Sec.

INSURANCE SECTION.

Insured members will, in future, correspond with the undermentioned,

P. LOWRY, Insurance Sec.

February 1915 – The AOH continues to enrol new members while sick benefits and its corresponding insurance element is also noted

Death and Funeral of Mrs Thomas Flanagan, Clashaganny.

It is with feelings of regret we have to announce the death of the above popular lady which took place at her residence on Monday, 15th inst, surrounded by all the members of her family. Although the end came sooner than was expected, there was no hope for her recovery, and despite the best medical aid, she peacefully passed away on the above-mentioned date, fortified by the rites of the holy Catholic Church, of which she was a devout member. The remains were removed on Tuesday to Tusk chapel. Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated for the happy repose of her soul on Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, and the cortege which followed her remains afterwards to the family burial ground at Kilcooly fully testified the esteem in which she was held. The Tusk division A.O.H., of which the deceased's son is a prominent member, marched in mourning regalia after the mourning coach, and, on nearing the graveyard, took possession of the coffin and bore it on their shoulders to its last resting place. May she rest in peace.

October 1917 – An example here of how the AOH were active in the community, and how nationalism was part of the fabric of the locality, in life and in death.

A.O.H. and SINN FEIN.
The majority of the members of the Tusk A.O.H. have left that organisation and joined the Sinn Fein Club.

ATTACK ON AN A.O.H. HALL

During the holding of their annual dance by the Tusk A.O.H. the Hall was assailed and "shelled." Some of the Hibernians threatened to fire on the disturbers, who were gathered in a large mob outside. Defiant shouts greeted this threat, and matters became so serious that a messenger was despatched to the Police Barracks for assistance. A number of police, in charge of the Sergeant, were soon on the scene, and order was restored. The dance then proceeded.

RANSACKED.
The old disused school at Tusk, which was utilised by the members of the A.O.H. for cooking purposes on the night of their annual dance was broken into the subsequent night and ransacked.

Notes on the Tusk AOH are scarce in 1916 but the Easter Rising and its aftermath had caused a shift in sentiment amongst many nationalists, from moderate to hardline. This was reflected in Tusk (reports here from late 1917 to early 1918) when many AOH members abandoned the Order and joined the local Sinn Fein Club. A divide had emerged, and the Tusk AOH's annual dance was 'shelled' in late 1917 (report on left) while a few days later a premises they used was ransacked (above). While the Tusk AOH Division 670 carried on for a few years after, this was the beginning of the end for the Order in the locality.

Summary

The Tusk Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), officially founded in July 1911, emerged during a high point for the AOH in Connacht, particularly in Roscommon and Leitrim. A mix of Catholic brotherhood and nationalist politics, the AOH was both a social network and a mutual aid society, offering support like sick pay and funeral assistance to its members. In Tusk, the division quickly grew in numbers and developed a strong presence, complete with banners, bands, regalia and public events. They aligned closely with John Redmond's Irish Parliamentary Party and backed constitutional nationalism, clearly marking national milestones like the 1911 Parliament Act, which reduced the House of Lords' power—a long-standing obstacle to Home Rule.

But the AOH was also known for its strict discipline and conservative ethos. Their processions, dances and meetings reflected the values of the time: Catholic identity, loyalty to the IPP, and orderliness, and the Tusk Division embodied that. Social events, like their dances, played a unifying role early on, but were later disrupted as the political mood in Ireland shifted dramatically after the 1916 Rising. In general, by late 1917 many members had drifted away from the AOH to join the rising Sinn Féin movement, and hostility towards the old Order became more visible—taking form in Tusk of a dance being shelled, and a premises being ransacked. Though the AOH Tusk Division 670 continued for a few more years, the energy had gone out of it. In the end, it couldn't keep pace with the changing tide of Irish politics, as militant nationalism replaced moderate, church-aligned groups like the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY

Membership

*We hope you have enjoyed the June 2025 issue of our newsletter. New members are most welcome to join the Society. If you wish to do so, please email us on historytulsk@gmail.com. Annual fees are €30 for adults and €10 for students. For those wishing to read our latest Tusk Morning Howl or view our cemetery records; you can do so by visiting our website at **tulskhs.com**. Until next time; enjoy the rest of your summer and we'll be back with more in September!*

