



THE TULSK MORNING HOWL

August 2026

Bulletin No. 17

TULSK.

The little village of Tusk preserves its usual tranquility, and you are only reminded that it is inhabited at all by the occasional bark of a harrier from the kennel. A stranger would imagine, on nearing it about mid-day, that the inhabitants were taking their *siesta*. But, the moment the sound of his footsteps, or that of his horse (should he have one) echoed through "the town" he could remark two or three faces peeping out at every door or window, silently "taking stock"; and should he possess any peculiar trait, it would furnish 'gossip' for the coming week or fortnight. Such are the Tuskonians. They are the most 'gossiping' little people in the world.

In the hunting season, however, Tusk is a somewhat 'stirring' place, as the sportsmen 'meet' there on nearly every hunting day which attracts a large assemblage of spectators and youths who are inclined to test the speed of *shanks' mare*. It is frequently visited, too, by "gentlemen" having horses for sale, and indeed, on these occasions there is an unusual 'stir'; for the 'good souls' never leave with the "curse of the town."

Farmers were progressing very favorably with hay-saving, as the weather was very fine, from Sunday up to Wednesday night, when we had some rain. The rain pours down to-day (Thursday) at intervals, and there is no good prospect of a change for the better. It is feared that hay will suffer much from the moisture of the season.

There will, undoubtedly, be a late harvest, and we have only to hope that that may be the only loss which will be sustained. — *A correspondent.*

Above: *Roscommon Journal*, 25 August 1866.

HIGH PRICE FOR LAND.

On Thursday, the 14th inst., Mr. Thomas J. Burke, auctioneer, Mountbellew, put up for sale Grange Cottage, Tusk, by instructions of the owner, Mrs. McDermott. The house, offices and about 30 acres of land are situated within a half mile of Tusk. After some spirited bidding the premises were knocked down at £500 to Mr. Michael Finan, ex-sergeant, R.I.C., Ballintubber. Mr. Finan's numerous friends wish him success in his new home.

Above: *Roscommon Herald*, 23 April 1898.

ER. SATURDAY, MAY 20.

LAND PURCHASE ACT.

OGULLA ESTATE.

The tenants on the Ogulla estate of the Dowager Countess of Kingstown have agreed to purchase their holdings, and signed articles for same on last Friday with the agent, Mr Robinson. The terms were 6s in the £ on non-judicial and first-term tenants; and 4s on all holdings which have been in the Courts during the late years. The tenants seemed very well satisfied with their bargain, as with two or three exceptions they are all first-term tenants having sought the hospitality of the Land Court so far back as '89.

Above: *Roscommon Messenger*, 20 May 1905.

THE CHAPEL RENOVATION.

The renovation of the chapel is now drawing to a close, and when fully finished, will certainly be one of the finest churches in the diocese. The gallery is almost finished and the new stained glass window will be built in the course of another few weeks. The expense in connection with the decorations, &c., has been very great, and considering that the people of the parish bore the full tax themselves, it rebounds all the more to their credit that they never once quailed at the expense, and if need be, they are able and willing to meet another levy, and they won't miss it, nor have the missed.

Above: *Roscommon Journal*, 09 May 1914. This is about Tusk church.

The Castleplunket Meeting.

The war against the graziers is spreading far and wide;

And a mighty voice has spoken—"The lands you must divide."

On Sunday last a meeting was held in "Plunket town,"

And the clans in unison shouted—"Theranching must go down."

The boys of Ballybroghan did rally as of old To join the men of Baslick, the struggle to uphold;

They came in gallant order, a brave and fearless band,

With the old motto on their banner—"The people want the land."

The men of Ballinaheglish did muster to the fray;

In the hour of need and danger they always led the way.

The dear old flag above them—the band playing "Brian Boru"—

The men from this old border are firm and staunch and true.

From out the "kingly village" a mighty host did come,

To aid us in our struggle to make the graziers run.

With help at hand on every side if we are only true,

We'll chase our foes before us, and the ranchers soon subdue.

JAMES GERAGHTY.

Rathmoyle, Castleplunket, 1st July, '07.

Above: *Roscommon Messenger*, 06 July 1907. The poem reflects the 'Ranch War' period, when local communities campaigned to divide large grazing ranches among small farmers

Tulsk Notes (Co. Roscommon).

BY DR. JIM

Fishing.

Anglers are having a rare old time of it here at present. The lakes abound with trout, perch, and a few good specimens of the latter have been landed recently. The river, formerly the resort of devotees of the rod and line, has, since the inception of sheep washing in its waters, greatly deteriorated as regards fishing.

Above: *Roscommon Herald*, 08 August 1903.

EVICITION NEAR TULSK.

The Tenant's House Burned.

On last Wednesday week, 14th inst, the Sheriff's bailiff from Roscommon arrived on the Ardkeena property of Mr French, near Tusk, and immediately proceeded to evict from his house a tenant named Patrick Dooley, who happened to be a little backward in paying rent to his landlord. Peaceable possession was given up, and an emergencyman named Cooly, from Co Westmeath, who was escorted by police from Roscommon, and his furniture conveyed from some other place on a spring cart put in charge under police protection. On Monday evening last one of the police observed smoke issuing from the roof at the rear of the house, and on examination found that the roof was on fire from the interior of the building from a back room. The neighbours, assisted by the police, endeavoured to extinguish the flames, but did not succeed. It is not known how the fire originated, but much indignation is felt in the district at the property of the unfortunate tenant being destroyed in such a manner. The tenants on the property were negotiating for the purchase of their holdings, one of the conditions being that Dooley should be re-instated, but the arrangements are not completed.

Above: *Roscommon Messenger*, 24 June 1905.

Tulsk Petty Sessions.

The usual monthly Court was held here on Saturday last before Mr R L Brown, R M, (presiding), and Major A St G French, J P.

NO LIGHTS.

Constable John Reilly summoned Peter Dolan, of Briarfield, for not having a light on his cart on the 19th August.

Fined 1s and costs.

Same v Martin Murray, Tomona, for not having a light on his cart on 9th September.

Fined 1s and costs.

Sergeant Taylor summoned Matt Gordon, Ballydaly, for being without a light on his cart on 20th August at Grange.

Fined 1s and costs.

Constable Considine summoned Bernard Feeney, Ratalen, for a like offence on the 22nd August.

Fined 1s and costs.

Constable T Reidy charged P Shaughnessy with a similar offence on the 31st August.

Fined 1s and costs.

Same v Patrick M'Cormack, Ogulla, for not having a light on his cart at Carnageelawn on the 21st August.

Defendant—I was not late.

Chairman—Are you Pat M'Cormack?

Defendant—Yes.

Chairman—You are fined 1s and costs.

Defendant—Oh, that's too much, your worship (laughter).

A Reporter—Give it to me, Pat.

Pat—Go long (renewed laughter).

ASSAULT.

The case of Pat Owens, jun, v Francis Dooley for assault was marked no appearance.

Above: *Ros. Journal*, 19 September 1908.

Remembering: Roderick Dermot Beirne (1850-1928), retailer, developer and philanthropist. From *A Dictionary of Roscommon Biography* by Mike Lennon.

A native of Camogue, Tulsk, Roderick emigrated to New Orleans when he was 18 years old. After working there for some time, he set up a dry goods store in Arkansas before settling in Denison, Texas in 1882. There he set up another store and branched out successfully into real estate development. He used his valuable estate to set up the R. D. Beirne Trust, which dispensed help to families during the Great Depression of the 1930s and later to disadvantaged children. He retired in 1908, travelled extensively and spent winters in California. He died in Denison in August 1928.

TULSK HISTORY SOCIETY

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ILLNESS OF REV E MORGAN, C C, KILMURRY.

The rather serious and prolonged indisposition of the Rev E Morgan, C C, has occasioned sincere regret in Castleplunket district. His medical adviser has ordered complete rest, and in consequence there will be only one Mass celebrated at Kilmurry chapel until further notice. Since the advent of Father Morgan to the parish he has endeared himself to all classes, and fervent prayers are daily offered to the Throne of Mercy for his complete and speedy convalescence.

Above: *Roscommon Journal*, 16 April 1904.

RATHCROGHAN RELICS.

It is rumoured that Mr. Wm. Kelly has sold the fee simple of the site and mound of Rathcroghan to the Royal Society of antiquarians, who are about to commence excavations with a view to finding Queen Meave and her Ass-bion or Golden Crown, and Golden Chariot which are with her embalmed body in this great mound, called Mur Meava anciently. They will then excavate the Dumba of Carnfree, Tulsk, and all other mounds and Dooa in the neighbourhood. They are employing a large staff of labouring men."

Above: *The Roscommon Herald*, 15 September 1928

DROWNING FATALITY NEAR TULSK.

A drowning fatality of a very painful nature occurred at a place known as Cor-gorow about two miles from Tulsk (Co. Roscommon). From the facts supplied it appears that the deceased Patrick McNeive who was a pretty extensive farmer, was washing sheep in a small lake convenient to his residence and was aided by two men named Boland and Saunders. There is a small stand of about five feet wide which was covered by a few feet of water and then beyond this there is a place over eighteen feet deep. The mode of washing the sheep was to put a rope around their necks and then by means of a rake or pole push the animal out in the deep water while the person themselves walk along the strand. McNeive was thus engaged and was washing their sheep when a lamb jumped into the water. In pushing back the lamb he lost his balance and fell backward into the deep water, he shouted for help and as Boland jumped down to aid him he got stuck and was unable to reach the drowning man as he rose to the surface. McNeive then sank once more. Sergeant Begley who was on the scene with the utmost despatch on hearing of the sad fatality, and many others proceeded to drag the place where the poor man disappeared, and after many hours' hard work had to relinquish the task. A boat was then requisitioned from a lake some miles away and at 3 o'clock the body was recovered. The greatest sympathy is felt for the widow and young family of deceased on their terrible bereavement, and regret is expressed on all sides for poor McNeive who was liked by everyone that knew him.

Above: *Roscommon Herald*, 31 May 1913.

'CONNAUGHT

An old age pensioner named Michael Connor, who resided near Tulsk, was found dead in his bed. As his house was in a rather isolated place, he was not missed, and it is not known how long he was dead before the discovery was made.

A shower of aerolites fell recently near Simpson's Cross, and that a mysterious bonfire may be seen at night on the hill of Rathcroghan, the burial place of many ancient Irish Kings. Local Shanachies see in these happenings happy portents for Ireland's freedom.

The death has occurred at Rathmore, Tulsk, of Mr. Francis Connolly, at the great age of 92 years. Locally, he was recognized as a historian, genealogist and an entertaining story-teller. The funeral to Tulsk cemetery was of large dimensions.

Above: *The Irish News and Chicago Citizen* (Chicago, Ill.), 09 September 1921

The Feis Mor.

The committee of the Roscommon Gaelic League have proposed to hold a Feis Mor at Rathcroghan on the 1st Saturday, Sunday and Monday in August, and a meeting to consider this proposal will be held in Elphin on tomorrow (Sunday) 19th inst. It is many years ago since Father O'Flanagan promised what was termed "the hosting at Rathcroghan," when he contemplated organising a great Irish day on the Royal Hill of Queen Meave, but the reign of Terror put an end to these dreams and intentions, as it would not be safe to hold any meeting for the past two years at least. There is not in Ireland a more historical spot than Rathcroghan, the ancient capital of Connacht and the seat of the Connacht Kings. It even far exceeds Tara in historical and topographical scenery, for all you can see at Tara is the bone bell and the mere trace of the banquet hall. Here in Rathcroghan you have the ancient mound which inclosed the early Castle of Queen Meave, and which rears its summit high over all the landscape, and from it can be seen the greater part of Roscommon and parts of Sligo while Croagh Patrick is clearly discernable on a fine day. Then we have the numerous cairns of all the ancient Kings, Queens and fighting men, not only of Connaught but of all Ireland. Fergus Roy, the dethroned King of Ulster, sleeps close by the famous caves not far from Relyh na Righ and King Dath's pillar tomb. Oh yes, Rathcroghan is 'brimful of the grandest Irish history and it is time to have a hosting there in commemoration of the great hostings that were there in the days when the world was young.

Above: *Roscommon Herald*, 18 February 1922.

TOWN HALL, PORTRUSH.

THURSDAY, 15TH AUGUST.

MASONIC HALL, BALLYCASTLE

FRIDAY, 16TH AUGUST.

MR. PERCY FRENCH,

IN HIS HUMOROUS AND ARTISTIC RECITAL.

NEW SEASON'S PROGRAMME.

TO COMMENCE AT 8.15.

Reserved Seats, 2s 6d; Unreserved, 2s, Admission, 1s; Children Half-price.

Tickets and Plan of Hall at Miss Woods, Portrush; at Mr. SCARLETT's, Post Office, 1872

Above: *Northern Constitution*, 10 August 1895.

AUCTIONS

BY

GANLY, SONS, & PARKER,

COUNTY ROSCOMMON.

SELECT Auction of Cattle, Hay, Vehicles, Farm Utensils, for HENRY A. KEOGH, Esq., at the GRANGE, TULSK, on MONDAY, 18th OCTOBER. See Bills.

GANLY, SONS, and PARKER, Auctioneers.

Above: *Irish Farmer's Gazette*, 11 September 1875.