

*The Irish
Counties Journal*

Spring 1989

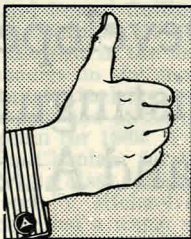


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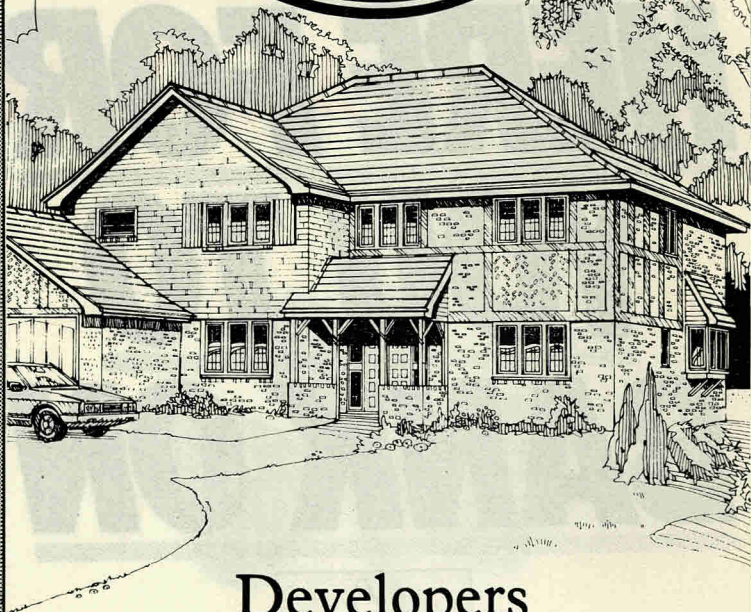
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Mr. Joe Collins	Mrs. Bridie Shaw	Miss Nancy Bonney,

Vice-Chairman: Mr. Tommy Egan. Tel. 01 739 3865
Press Officer: Maura Davis 01 748 7910



Committee:
Jim Commane, Michael McMahon, Pat Costello, Bill Boswell, Una Stevens,
Philomena Egan,
Hon Auditors: John Corry and Andy Murphy.

A Happy New Year to all our friends in other county associations and to the association on the Costa Del Sol.

We held our A.G.M. on January 29, and even though the weather was mild, as has the whole of winter been, we had a small turnout. The officers are as above for another 12 months and I am pleased to welcome Madeline Behan and Fergal Collins who were elected to the committee for the first time. Both are new emigrants and its heartening to see them taking an interest in the association's affairs straight away. There are still vacancies on the committee which we hope to fill shortly. We are fortunate to have several Priests from Clare serving in Westminster Diocese and at the A.G.M. Fr. Michael Coonly was chosen to be our Chaplain for 1989. I would like to thank Fr. P. J. Doody who had been our Chaplain for the past few years, for his help and especially for offering Mass for us at our A.G.M.'s. This year he was unable to attend and Fr. Michael came and offered Mass at very short notice, and I extended a warm welcome to him.

As you all know the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade takes place from Horse Guards Parade on Sunday, 12th March, leaving at 11 a.m. for Mass at noon at Westminster Cathedral. I exhort all Clare people to turn out in large numbers and fall in behind the Clare Banner. The Mass of St. Patrick will be offered by Bishop McMahon of Brentwood, a Clare man.

I know the Festival seems a long way off but we always need plenty of stewards and helpers, so if any Clare people feel they can



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33rd Annual Report

WELFARE REPORT

Foreword

The emigration problem from Ireland is getting worse each year. The growth of new arrivals at the Centre shows a dramatic increase since the early 80's — a growth from 797 in 1982 to nearly 3,000 in 1987; not to mention a further 3,000 new arrivals who were accommodated through our hostels and their contacts.

There are no exact figures available on the current emigration level, the Irish Government gives an estimate of approximately 30,000 per annum over the past two years. However a very revealing, accurate and significant figure has been given to me for an area in the West of Ireland. The census shows that a population of 42,000 at the end of 1986 had decreased to 39,500 by the end of 1987 — 70% of whom are reported to have come to London. This gives a figure of 6% emigration or one in seventeen. If this figure were to be reflected countrywide we are in a situation comparable to Famine emigration and there is a zero missing from the official figure.

During the year we made every effort to warn prospective emigrants of the importance of necessary preparations but so much of our Radio interviews and Press coverage seems to have fallen on deaf ears. The report shows that most of our new callers arrived without proper identity, no money and no contacts in London to help settle in to their new environment. It really is a traumatic experience for a 15-18 year old to find himself/herself alone in London. With our hostels full to capacity almost all the time, the Community Care workers have to rely on contacts with Irish landlords/landladies to find a place for a lonely youth to drop luggage and stretch out on a bed for the night.

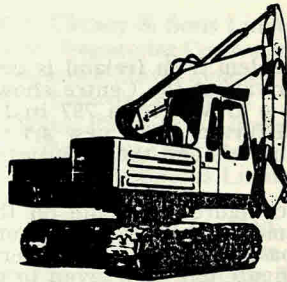
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

from

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IRISH CENTRE — (Cont. from Page 5)

Finding suitable accommodation is becoming more difficult and expensive and we wonder what extra problems will confront us when the new Housing and Social Security Acts become law in April 1988. The prospects are not very bright — accommodation could become even more expensive while the new immigrants will have to wait for benefits to be paid in arrears.

One dreads to look into the future and guess the implications of further proposed legislation for the young Irish immigrant. The 16 and 17 year old will be completely rejected by the DHSS and only receive benefit if on a Youth Training course. Proof of age, identity and date left school will be critical. The New Education Act and Poll Tax now being debated in the House of Commons will have many concealed financial implications.

It seems that the young people of Ireland are depressed, dejected, frustrated and very pessimistic about the future prospect at home. They head for London in the hope of a brighter future. While the vast majority of Irish Youth are well educated our report shows that there are still large numbers — almost two thirds of our clients — who have missed out on their education and arrive in London without any qualifications. Many of them are forced to survive on DHSS benefits or take manual and menial jobs which do not pay a living wage.

1987 was a difficult year for us all — Camden Council has had big financial problems with severe cutbacks, closure of homeless persons Unit, problems over its Bed & Breakfast facilities and eventual refusal to house some Irish homeless families who were given travel warrants to return home. After meetings with the Chairman of the Council, the Chairman and Director of the Housing Department we are hopeful that Irish families will not be singled out for harsh or illegal treatment. The adverse publicity which Camden Council has received may have prevented some clients approaching us for assistance.

During the year we have had a dramatic change in personnel among our Welfare staff. We welcome our newcomers and wish every success to those who have gone to other areas to continue to provide help and assistance to young Irish people.

In October Fr. Denis Cormican arrived. We wish him many happy years at the Centre in his work of helping people in their spiritual welfare. (to be continued)

(CLARE ASSOCIATION — Continued from Page 3).

help on the day itself, July 2nd, please contact any of the officers or committee members. It's hard work but great fun too. We can't have another washing this year, even though last July was a terrible day we all enjoyed ourselves.

I hope to see many of you at our Bacon and Cabbage Dinner Dance on March 4th, dancing to music by Expressway, a band from West Limerick. Tickets £10 each.

A very happy St. Patrick's Day to you all. —JOE COLLINS.

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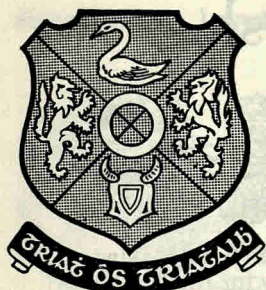
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Westmeath Association in London



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Vice-Chairman: Mr. Cyril McKervy.

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Assistant Secretary: Mr. W. Stenson.

Tel. 01 609 2909

Treasurer: Mrs. T. Curran.

Tel. 01 672 7809

Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. D. Kennedy.

Tel. 01 672 5263

P.R.O.: Mr. Pat Looney

Tel. 01 672 0888

The Annual Bacon and Cabbage Supper was held on Saturday, January 14th in the Irish Centre, Camden Town. The meal was excellent, with lots more on offer, and the music, The Ben Brothers Show Band from County Clare, had the supporters on the floor all night. Indeed, many more Westmeath people could have attended, but the support from other counties was excellent, including 'St. Boniface Social Club', Tooting, whom came by the coach load. Not forgetting Mrs. Dunning and her Offaly team.

There were various raffle prizes, as well as travel vouchers; gifts from Board Failta, and B+I. A great night was had by all. As usual support came from Ballynacarrgy, — Leo Penrose, wife Eileen and family, they never let us down, and Bill Cashin with Mrs. Cashin; our Chairman and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, Castlepollard; from Moat President Dan Fox and daughter Mary; and Mrs. Kane, cousin of Joe Dolan's, told me that 'Multy' is her home town. Building contractor Harry Nolan, 'Collinstown Constructions' brought a team of his workers with him. Old friend and association founder, Bill Stenson and Mrs. Stenson sends best wishes to all in Westmeath. A notable absentee was another founder member, Bill Attwell, due to a family bereavement (see sympathy). However, old friend Joe Brown, Athlone did come and Bridget Fagan with her husband. Bridget is sister of Sean Marshals the well known leader of 'Na Fianna' Showband, Rathowen. All the supporters are looking forward to the Annual Dinner Dance on Saturday, 20th May, 1989 in the Grosvenor Rooms, Walm Lane. Make a note in your diary.

Special Thanks.

A special thanks to John O'Sullivan, Chairman of St. Boniface Social Club, Mitcham Road, Tooting and wife Mary, for attending the function and bringing a large crowd of club members with them. Also for his personal announcements from the stage throughout the years in order to help our association. We will be always grateful to you John. John and Mary come from Mitchels Town, County Cork.

The Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. was held on Sunday, 26th February at The Bull's Head. A report will appear in the next issue.

Sympathy.

Sympathy is extended to the Hanley and Talbot family, also the Dempsey family, London and Attyconnor, Kilbeggan, on the death of brother Dan Dempsey in Dublin. Also to 'old' founder member Billy Attwell on the passing of his sister Mrs. Battle in London. The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is being offered for the repose of their souls. May they rest in peace.

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The Waterford Association, London



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Chairman: Mr. Billy Allen
Tel. 267 8100

Vice-Chairperson: Mrs. Kitty Groves
Tel. 01 359 5994.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. Mary Allen, [REDACTED]

Asst. Hon. Sec.: Mr. Bill Aulsberry,
[REDACTED]

Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Sharon Whitehead,
[REDACTED]

Membership Secretary: Kieran Kieley

I hope Christmas and New Year went well for you all. Our Bacon and Cabbage Supper on December 10th was an outstanding success and enjoyed by everyone. Likewise our Annual Dinner and Dance, at which we were very pleased to welcome back Dr. Michael Russell. As usual it was lovely to see Bishop Henderson. He who never fails us. The Mayor and Mayoress of Waterford, Councillor Brendan Kenneally and Mrs. Kenneally. The Mayor and Mayoress of Camden, Councillor Bill Budd and Mrs. Budd who hosted a reception at the Mayor's Parlour, Camden Town Hall, prior to the dinner at which the two Mayors exchanged gifts. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Queally represented the Chairman of Waterford County Council. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Hurley, Manager County Council, Waterford. Frank Hayes represented the Irish Embassy. Michael Doody, City Manager, also attended. Fr. Scully was there for the Irish Centre, and accepted a £500 cheque to help towards the redecoration of the McNamara Hall and the Foyer. Fr. Jim Kiely said grace. Jim Kirby represented Aer Lingus. Past Chairmen and their wives Mr. John O'Keeffe and Mr. Jim French. Very much missing were the Butlers, but we have since heard that Nellie broke her ankle, get well soon Nellie. It must be the first year that the Stafford family were not with us, you were sorely missed. The Annual raffle was very well supported and our sincere thanks to all who bought tickets and to the sellers. The tickets were good value at 50p each, the total value of prizes were around £900.

The A.G.M. on Sunday, January 29th was an informal affair, our President (bless him) took time from his busy schedule to spend the afternoon with us. All the officers are back in harness for the coming year and we are delighted to welcome to the committee four new young arrivals. Nicky and Mary Cummins, Mary Power and Robert Delaney. We thank them for joining us and all our members including Norah and Jim French. Mr. Michael Power, who has been coming to the A.G.M. for years and has now joined our ranks. We now look forward to the year ahead with confidence and the support of a good committee. 1988 proved a very successful one for us regarding welfare in all we distributed a sum of £7,603 to various charities, that to me is what our Association is all about. We are not concerned with having a large bank balance, money lying there when there is a need amongst our people. I would like to add that we this year have helped people from as far as Donegal and Leitrim as well as our own Waterford people. It has been said we are a soft touch, I would not go along with that, we are what we are renowned for, 'A Gentle county' there-

The Irish Association of the Costa Del Sol and Associates

Tel.: Malaga 385099

Once again a very happy St. Patrick's Day to all county associations, especially Clare, Westmeath, Kildare, Fermanagh, Cavan, Wexford and Waterford; to all the subscribers of those associations who help to keep their associations in the public eye. I know it's not an easy task. To the advertisers in the Irish Counties Journal, the wonderful Clare companies of Clancy's, Whelans, and Devines; as the old saying goes: "They are well got", but don't forget their origins. The support of all of you to Elizabeth helps to keep the Journal going and this is heartening to me in my retirement that all my years of hard work has not been in vain. Those of you who come to Torremolinos for holidays will be interested to know that after years of badgering we now have our own town hall or pueblo, previously we were attached to Malaga. A stone's throw from where we live there's a new town hall to be built with lovely gardens. In January, 1989 the Junta de Andalucia (Andalucia is the Provence) handed over to the municipality the first social grant of 3,000,000 pesetas towards the repairing of pavements and street lighting. Those of you who travel by car or hire same on arrival will be happy to know that the notorious stretch of motorway on the coast road between Benalmadena and Marbella is expected to be safer for the coming summer season. The work, at a cost of 5,000 million pesetas with dual carriageway, pedestrian footbridges, flyovers, underpasses, slip roads, etc. will certainly make this part of the N-340 much safer in the future.

Salvador Dali — R.I.P. Salvador Dali who died recently was buried as he requested in the place of his birth, Figueras in the province of Gerona. His embalmed body was laid to rest under an unpolished, plain stone weighing one thousand kilos.

Colwyn Bay Festival.

Any of you who happen to be in Colwyn Bay, Wales; try to make it your business to attend the International Festival of Folk Dancing which runs from July 8th to 16th. You will have the joy of seeing a wonderful group of Spanish dancers in their beautiful costumes. They are called Grupo Jarazmin and are located here in Malga. They have been frequently called upon to represent Spain in many countries, although only founded just ten years ago. This will be their first visit to Wales. They have no official grant or sponsors and usually have to find their own return fares. I can promise you they are well worth seeing.

Visitors.

We were pleased to see Elizabeth, Tim, Shirelle, Brody, and our new grandson Jedd (don't ask me where they get these names from) for Christmas. It's nice to know they make the effort to come for a visit as often as possible and enjoy it so much when they do.

At present we have Tim's brother Greg on a respite from his travels, having travelled through Europe and Tunisia and will in the near future be on his way to Morocco and Casablanca then back to Spain to do some travelling around same before returning to London.

Welcome back to Stan and Barbara, Malcolm and Rita and young Rita, to Lynda and Bill, Kathleen and Jim, Mary, Lillian's son Doughie who paid us a visit before going off to America. To Henry and Ivy, hoping that Ivy will be better soon from her recent illness, to Margaret who visits us four or five times a year (how the rich live), not forgetting Molly and Alf from Liverpool. To Ann from Cork who is searching for an apartment here for the winters, she enjoys being among us so much there is also the sun of course.

Congratulations.

Congratulations to our model girl Irene and her husband Berno on the birth of a daughter, her first, who is to be called Marielle after her mother and our grand-daughter Shirelle. By the way David Bailey's daughter is called Paloma after Irene's surname or maiden name. Shirelle is to be Marielle's god-mother.

SPANISH LESSON (pronunciation in brackets).—
Donde (Dohn-Deh) Where. Porque (Pour-Keh) Why. Cuanto (Kwahn-Toh) How Much. Como (Koh-Moh) How. Que (Keh) What. Quien (Kee-En) Who. Cuando (Kwahn-Doh) When. Do be careful to study how much and when, notice the very small difference.

A big welcome back to our friends Bill and Joyce, and to their son Bill, who travels out regularly.

That's all for now folks,

— JANE T. SMYTH (Mrs).

STOP PRESS. — **The Greek God.** We are pleased and proud to welcome the arrival of Sean Walter Smyth. Born to Tom and Rena in Athens on February 11th. Sean Walter weighed in at 3½ kilos. Mother and baby doing fine, and father bearing up too! This is our fifth grandchild, but the very first to carry on the Smyth name. Congratulations and well done.

STOP PRESS — It is with great sadness that we report the death of Kathleen Walsh on the Costa Del Sol — (Details in next issue).

WATERFORD ASSN. — (Cont. from Page 11)

fore we are the 'gentle people'. If we are in a position to help our Irish people from wherever they come, we will do so.

We are now preparing for the 'St. Patrick's Day Parade' which will be held on Sunday, March 12th. Forming up at Horse Guards Parade at 11 a.m. to reach Westminster Cathedral for 12 o'clock Mass. The next big event is the London Irish Festival on Sunday, July 2nd at Roundwood Park NW10. Ideas for the Waterford stall would be appreciated.

On a more personal note I would like to thank the Officers of the Council of Irish County Associations for their presentation to me at their A.G.M. of a beautiful plaque in recognition of my years a secretary, this came as a complete surprise, a most pleasant one.

Dates for your diary for 1989:— Bacon and Cabbage Supper, Irish Centre, April 22nd; Annual Dinner·Dance, November 4th; Bacon and Cabbage Supper, Irish Centre, December 8th (Friday) - Annual Raffle will be held at this function.

To our bereaved friends and relations, we offer our sincere sympathy. Holy Mass has been offered for the repose of the souls of their loved one by our President, Bishop Charles J. Henderson.

May I conclude by wishing you all a very happy St. Patrick's Day.
— MARY ALLEN — Hon. Secretary.

WESTMEATH ASSN. — Cont. from Page 9)

Notes for your Diary.

Sunday, 12th March: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Horseguards Parade.

Saturday, 20th May: Annual Dinner/Dance in the Grosvenor Rooms, Walm Lane.

Sunday, 2nd July: The Annual Roundwood Park Festival. We need you there for stewardship. — Call me on 672 0888 for details of all above.
— PAT LOONEY, P.R.O.

IRISH ADVICE CENTRE

55 FULHAM PALACE ROAD, HAMMERSMITH, LONDON W6 8AU
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John is a sixty-eight year old Dubliner, who has lived in Hammersmith for the past forty years. He's a friend of mine since I was a child, and was always popular with the children of the area. Although quite severely wounded in the last War, he enjoys nothing better than relating some of his war-time experiences.

Dunkirk is his favourite; also his most poignant. He still carries the head-wounds to this day. He is proud of his achievements and his courage, and a glint comes into his blue eyes when mention is made of his old Regiment, the Irish Guards.

Sitting now in his squalid dimly lit room, he has the appearance of a pathetic figure. He becomes very melancholic when mention is made of his family and home. 'I haven't been home for over thirty years', he says. 'I had, in fact, lost total contact with my family, until my sister eventually after months of searching, found me here in Hammersmith. The poor woman! She got an awful fright! I did too! John used to live in a clean and comfortable flat in the Borough, until he was 'conned out of it'. After fourteen years he was forced to leave it because the landlord wanted to sell. The latter promised to find him another place. He did!

Through a crack in the ceiling the rain seeps through. The floor boards are rotting in the cramped room. On a peeling radiator he has laid out all his ties. He used to be meticulous about his appearance.

Now? Not really!

I have many regrets. Probably my biggest one is that I never married. I love kids and would give anything to have had a family. Maybe I was in such a rush to come over here in the first place; then the War, and the wounds. I never really gave enough thought to settling down'.

As he's talking, I wrench myself up to keep warm. The window is broken and newspaper fails to block the freezing draught. I wonder how he manages to wash, with no hot water and no sink. There's a bucket in the corner and a towel thrown over the chair. London 1987?

'I don't know what's going to happen to me', he continues. 'My sister wants me to come to Dublin and find a place there. Maybe I should. But I've sort of lost all hope of things ever being better. It gets harder each day, because I have to motivate myself to keep going.

I often tell the lads in the pub, that I'd love to be back in the Army. There were some great times too'. He pauses for a moment. Then adds: 'Maybe I'll go back to Dublin'.

And I sing to myself: 'Ring-a ring a rosy, as the night declines, I remember Dublin City in the rare 'ould times'.

"I HAVEN'T BEEN HOME FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS", HE SAYS. "I HAD, IN FACT, LOST TOTAL CONTACT WITH MY FAMILY, UNTIL MY SISTER EVENTUALLY, AFTER MONTHS OF SEARCHING, FOUND ME HERE IN HAMERSMITH. THE POOR WOMAN! SHE GOT AN AWFUL FRIGHT!"

The Kildare Association London

Patron: Most Rev. P. Lennon, D.D., Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin.

President:
Mr. P. Casey
Tel.: 09322 27650

Secretary:
Mrs. R. Davis,

Chairman:
Mr. P. Phelan
Tel.: 609 4463

We hope you had a nice Christmas, and our best wishes to all for a peaceful and happy New Year, also that we can look forward to better things for the Association in 1989. We would like to thank the supporters of the Dance on 18th November and look forward to a much better attendance for the Ceilidhe and Old Time Waltz on Friday, 24th February. Also a reminder of the Annual Dinner on Saturday, 13th May, at the Irish Centre, and we hope the Kildare T.D. will be able to come. Coming also is the St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, 12th March, where we hope many of our people will walk with the banner.

In the Christmas issue for lack of any other news, we decided to remind you about the history of Kildare. Mullaghmast was the starting point, and a further instalment of this district will appear later. For this issue we will deal with the village of Rathangan. The article that follows bears no resemblance to the present day, as now it is a thriving industrious part of Kildare, and all credit to the people who have made it so.

RATHANGAN IN 1798.

The royal stronghold of the O'Connor Faly from which Rathangan takes its name was situated close to the present Edenderry road where a bank and ditch partly survived on the rath. The Fitzgerald castle which was demolished about 200 years ago took in the demense of Rathangan House. The castle was probably damaged during the wars of the 1640's and in January 1643 the military were instructed to repair the County of Kildare with troops of horse and foot and to go to Rathangan by easy journeys and in your passage to kill, slay and destroy all rebels and by fire or otherwise destroy all corn, turf and house belongings. When more peaceful times returned to the district later in the century a royal grant was given to the Earl of Kildare, to hold a weekly market in the town. At the beginning of the 18th century the Roman Catholic Chapel was within, the walls that now enclose the demense, where the high canal bridge now stands. The present church was built on the site of the 19th century church which succeeded the penal chapel. The protestant church replaces what may have been an Anglo-Norman foundation under the patronage of the Fitzgeralds. It was a ruin in 1760 but by 1837 was described as a neat edifice with a handsome tower. The family of Spencer was granted a lease for ever of Rathangan and given 1,929 acres in 1744. They

demolished the old castle to build the 'Big House' and they also built Rathangan Lodge. In 1798 Captain Spencer, agent for the Duke of Leinster, was in command of the local yeomanry, a member of which was John Doorly of Lullymore. When the united Irishmen became active, 26-year-old Doorly joined them, and it was he who led the attack on Rathangan on May 26th when the town was taken. Doorly was not present when the seventy-year-old Captain Spencer was piked to death on the stairs of his house, an incident which was not popular locally as he was regarded as a just agent of Leinster's. A couple of days later the Government forces recaptured the town, forcing the rebels into the bogs. About 60 United Irishmen were killed but Doorly escaped across the Boyne. After a few years he was caught and hanged. The construction of the Barrow Line of the grand canal brought much activity to Rathangan between 1783 and 1791. When the building works were finished and unemployment was rising (The prosperous cotton mills closed in 1786) the plundering of the canal boats became common. In 1817 it was said that the boats were being plundered more for the desire of plunder than from want, and the military were called to guard the boats which moved in groups. Though traces of oatmeal stolen from the boats was found in the streets, and some of the houses, there were not enough military to carry out a search. Money was raised locally to compensate those who were plundered and to help those accused of the plunder. Thirty years later some 2,525 tons of materials including 1,780 tons of manure came into Rathangan by canal from Dublin. As the 19th century came to an end, and the canals went into decline the port like many others also went into decline. When the passenger boats were operating a schoolmistress from the town advertised her school in neatly framed notices on the boats. She was a Mrs. McKenna who must have commenced teaching after 1824 as she is not listed in the three schools then in the town. They taught about 105 pupils in Summer and 70 in Winter, mainly Roman Catholics. The charges were from 2/2 to 6/8 per quarter. In 1858 Rathangan again became the property of the Fitzgeralds when the Duke of Leinster purchased it from Lord Harberton, one of which family had married a Spencer daughter. Two important literary figures came from Rathangan, namely the poet William A. Byrne (1872-1933) and the writer Maura Laverty (1907-1966). Byrne, who had been educated at Cambridge and who lectured at Fribury, and U.C.D., and who held the post 'Chair of English at U.C.G.', published a book of verse 'A LIGHT ON THE BROOM' and he contributed to *Carolviana*. Maura Laverty worked as a governess in Spain and as a journalist in Spain and Ireland. Author of several novels, one of which was banned and another of which was said to reflect on her life in Rathangan. She also wrote plays, one of which was adapted as a television series. She also wrote cookery books. Her novel 'Never no More' was the book at bedtime televised by R.T.E.

— R. DAVIS.

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Published by The Irish Counties Journal. Tel. 01 - 898 4994.