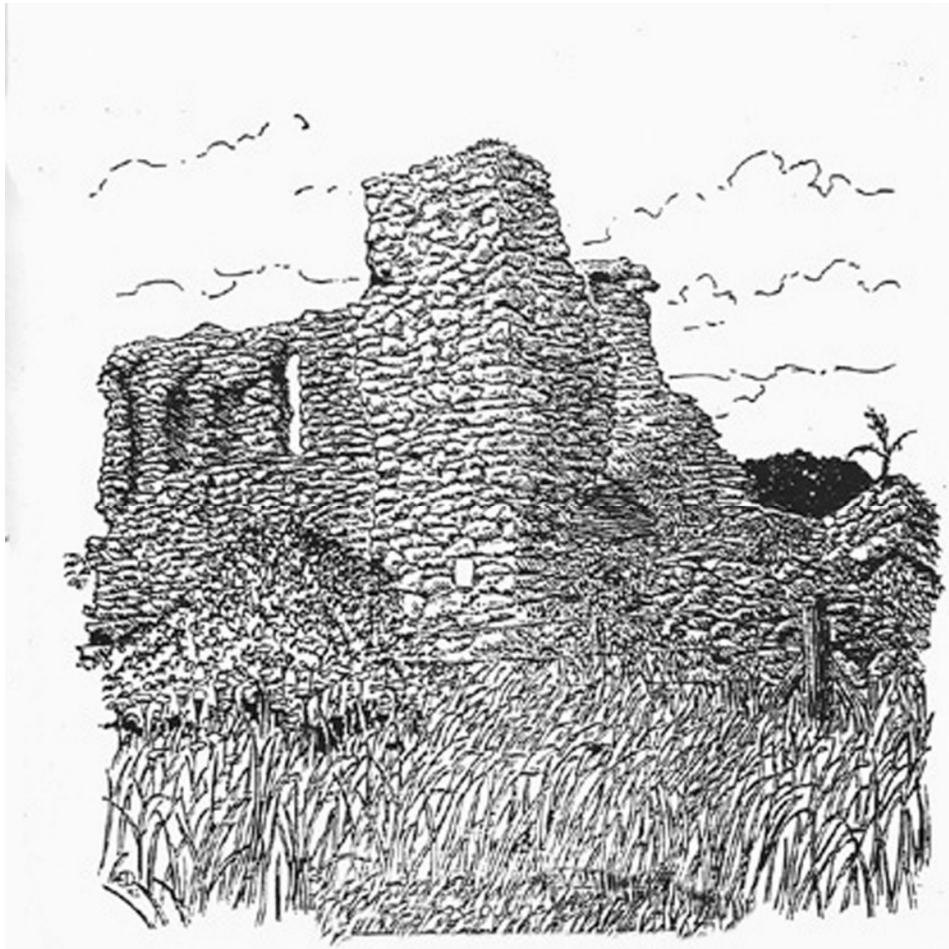


Greystones Archaeological & Historical Society

JOURNAL



Kindlestown Castle (South East)

Volume 1: 1992

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Acknowledgements

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Contents of Journal Volume 1

This was the Society's first journal. Published in 1992, it was edited by Patrick Neary. The list of papers contained in the journal is below. Just click on a title to access the full paper.

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The Society's website at www.greystonesahs.org has material from earlier volumes of our journals, details of our activities and much, much more. Pay us a visit!

Editor's Foreword

Patrick Neary

This is the first publication of the G.A.H.S. and as such joins a large number of similar publications from societies throughout the country that have contributed greatly over many decades to the rich storehouse of published material recording local history and archaeology.

With the continuing urbanisation of the area progressing at an alarming rate, many archaeological sites fall prey to development and are lost to scientific investigation. This loss of non-renewable assets will result in a future cultural impoverishment, and it was because of the perceived threat to our local archaeological and historical heritage that this society was formed.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the help and assistance of The Greystones Town Commissioners for providing the venue and liquid refreshments for the launch, Industrial Print Ltd., Bray, for allowing us to use their copying machinery, and the members of the Society for their support over the last three years.

Chairman's Report 1990

Annual General Meeting, March 29th 1990

Since this Society was formed on 5 Dec. 1988, we have held lectures, outings, and run a highly successful Competition for Primary students in Greystones. We have also been successful in our bid to host the Annual Spring Seminar of the Federation of Local History Societies. When we look at the aims and objectives of our Society as set out in the Constitution we have reason to feel that, while we have enjoyed noticeable successes, there remain some areas in which more effort need to be concentrated.

The first object of the Society is to preserve and protect the sites of Archaeological and Historical interest in the North Wicklow area. Unfortunately the damage to, and destruction of, archaeological sites continues unabated. The rath behind the Christian Brothers school has been built over, but at least there was an archaeologist from the Office of Public Works present before construction began and two trial trenches were dug but nothing was found.

The damage caused to the large ringfort at Coolnaskeagh by the landowner resulted in the loss to future archaeological excavation of one of the best examples of a ringfort to be found in this area.

I noticed only this week that a new track has been constructed in Kindlestown Wood which covers the area where one would expect to find the continuation of the inner bank of the hillfort, if there is in fact a hillfort on Kindlestown Hill.

Two houses have been built in close proximity to Killincarrig Castle, making any future development of this building into a local heritage centre much less likely. A new house is also being built very close to Kindlestown Castle and, as far as I am aware, there has been no professional archaeologist involved in either development.

A large amount of land has been eroded on the Cliff Walk at the site of the village of Rathdown, so anything which may have been there has been washed away.

The preservation and protection of sites will always be a difficult aim to fulfil but it is important that we should do our best to keep a watchful eye on the sites and immediately inform the Office of Public Works whenever we notice a site being endangered or threatened.

The second object of the Society is to gather and record information pertaining to local archaeology, genealogy and local history and to publish this information regularly. At present we have not addressed this aim but we hope that we can generate enough interest among the members to get some articles submitted for publication.

It is with our third objective that I feel we have achieved most success. This is to actively promote interest in, and an awareness of, our archaeological/historical heritage and to liaise with all relevant representative groups to further this aim. This we have done by organising walks, tours, lectures and the Primary Students' Competition.

Our first event was a field trip to Kindlestown Hillfort which was held on the Wednesday after Christmas, 1988. Approximately 30 people attended this Walk, at which Mr. Richard Pilkington gave us the benefit of his extensive knowledge regarding this type of monument.

In March, more than forty people took part in the walk down to the ruined church at Ballynerrin and the remains of Ballygannon estate.

On 1 April we went on a coach trip to Glendalough and Glenmalur. The weather was wet and misty, which obscured the spectacular views, but nevertheless most of those who came enjoyed themselves.

OLD GREYSTONES AND ANCIENT RATHDOWN

For Archaeology Weekend in May we repeated the walk in Greystones of the previous September and visited Ballyremon Commons and the Downs Village. Mr. Michael Toolan and Mr. Stephen Casey interpreted the sites for us on Ballyremon. Again both events were well supported and the weather was kind.

In July we went on a coach tour to the National Heritage Park at Ferrycarrig outside Wexford and, on the return journey, visited the Museum in Enniscorthy and went up to the top of Vinegar Hill. Our last field outing was to the historic village of Newcastle and over fifty people attended this walk which was led by the Rev. Jennings.

In the Spring Mr. Pilkington presented an illustrated lecture entitled:- Archaeology in Ireland since the arrival of man. This was an excellent introductory lecture for our members and helped to put a lot of information into a more understandable context for us.

In October we had a lecture and slide show from Judith Flannery entitled "The History of Delgany". Here we saw on slide some very familiar places and learned some more about our local history.

The November lecture was given by Mairead Dunleavy on Historic Costume, again accompanied by an excellent slide show.

Mr. Brian Cantwell delivered the December lecture, again illustrated, on the Memorial Inscriptions in Co. Wicklow. Mr. Cantwell has researched and published his findings on this fascinating subject and the books can be referred to in the Library.

In January, Mr. Joe Loughman entertained us with his famed slide show which drew a capacity crowd to the room in the Burnaby Hotel, and in February Stephen Casey gave an illustrated talk on Archaeology in the Calary area. For me the most satisfying event was the competition we organised for Primary School students in which we invited them to submit a project on any local sites. Seventy-two Children entered, the largest number of which attend St. Brigid's school. The judging of this Competition was very difficult indeed, but the clear winner was Pamela Butler who submitted a project on Kindlestown Castle. The entries for this project went on display during the month of December in the Greystones library.

A sum of money was given to us by an anonymous donor with which we bought the cup which is a perpetual trophy for the local Young Historian of the Year.

This event, which was our response to Local History Week, is arguably the most important contribution we have made towards raising the awareness of our archaeological and historical heritage and our liaison with the primary school teachers was highly productive towards furthering this aim.

The next big function we are hosting will be the Spring Seminar of the Federation of Local History Societies, which will be held on May 12.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of availability of a suitable premises, we are forced to transfer the venue from Greystones to the Royal Hotel in Bray, but this is a circumstance which is beyond our control. The theme for this Seminar will be the Emergency Years.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the members for their support over the last sixteen months and I would especially like to thank the officers of the Society - Sean Daly, Vice-Chairman, Ann Sheeran, Hon. Treasurer, and Aileen Short, Hon. Secretary, and the committee members, Jim Brennan, Ray Cranley, Joe Kearney and Joan Jones, who have worked so hard to make this Society a success, and Mr. Michael Toolan, our Hon. Auditor.

Thank you.

Patrick Neary, Chairman
GREYSTONES ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Chairman's Report 1991

March, 1991

In the past year the Society has run a number of events, including lectures, outings, the Young Historian of the Year competition for Primary School students, and has hosted the Spring Seminar of the Federation of Local History Societies.

We must measure our successes against our constitutional aims and in this respect I feel that we are growing more effective.

Our first aim is to preserve and protect sites of archaeological and historical interest in the North Wicklow area, and at present there is an ongoing campaign to preserve the site of St. Crispin's Cell and its environs from housing development. This campaign was initiated by the Grove Residents Association last autumn and initially they approached us to enlist our help. I was asked to speak at their first public meeting on 17 Sept. 1990 held in the La Touche hotel and give a summary of the history of the site. In my talk I suggested that the site probably dated back to the Bronze Age, but it now seems that it dates even further back, into the Stone Age. Due to the incessant rain of the past weeks, large sections of the cliff have fallen down on to the North Beach and Stone Age artefacts are reported to have been found in this landslide. If these finds are confirmed, then we have indeed got a remarkable site on our doorstep which may be of national importance.

We were also asked to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála regarding the proposed development and, in our submission, we stressed the need for three specific archaeological tests to be carried out. These tests are:- Phosphate analyses, which indicates areas where human activity occurred; a resistivity survey which indicates areas in which archaeological features are likely to be found, and testing by magnetometer which shows where fires have been sited in the past.

We also made the Bord aware of the historical report about Col. Tarrant burying the remains of all the corpses which he had disinterred while razing the graveyard, in a mass grave, and suggested that, as a matter of priority, this mass grave should be located and excavated, so the remains can once more be laid to rest observing the appropriate religious rituals, and that the headstones should be recovered and recorded.

These examples illustrate our commitment to our primary aim and I am certain that as time progresses we will gain more knowledge, experience and expertise in protecting and preserving sites.

The second aim of the Society is to gather and record information pertaining to local archaeology, genealogy and history and to publish this information regularly. We still have not published anything but we decided to address this problem in a very straightforward way. We are going to ask the people who lecture the Society for their permission to publish their lectures, along with brief reports of our activities throughout the year and the winning entry from the Young Historian of the Year competition, in order to have an annual publication. We already have the agreement of Mr. Seamus O Saothrai to permit us to publish his recent lecture, which should ensure the success of our first publication.

Again, it is with our third aim that I feel we have had most success. This is to actively promote interest in, and an awareness of, our archaeological/historical heritage in general, and to liaise with all relevant representative groups to further this aim. This has been achieved by organising walks, lectures, coach tours and the Primary Schools competition.

Last Spring, in one of our most successful tours, we went by coach to the Boyne Valley and visited Newgrange, Monasterboice, Mellifont and Tara.

OLD GREYSTONES AND ANCIENT RATHDOWN

In the Autumn, we had a series of tours around Co. Wicklow, visiting neolithic sites on the first, Bronze Age sites on the second and Iron Age sites on the third. These tours were very successful and those who took part reported a great sense of satisfaction and enjoyment with them.

Last month we visited the National Museum and viewed some of the treasures on display there.

In May we hosted the Spring Seminar of the Federation of Local History Societies, for which the theme was the Emergency 1939-45. Because of the lack of a suitable venue in Greystones we were forced to hold this event in Bray and I feel that this detracted somewhat from the impact which could have been achieved had a suitable local venue been available.

We had a lecture by Mr. Eoghan O'Regan on the Life of Cardinal Newman, in November, followed in January by an illustrated talk on the history of Greystones by Mr. Seamus O Saothrai, to which I have already referred.

Our Christmas walk was to Ballygannon and Ballynerrin and, even though we had done this walk 21 months earlier, we still managed to add to our local knowledge and enjoy ourselves.

Our most recent event, which was the visit to Altidore Castle, was a rare opportunity to see this historic building, with its tapestries, pictures and papers, and complemented our visit to Kilruddery House last July when Mr. Peter Aspel gave us an informed guided tour.

As the Constitution requires that a new Chairman be elected by the Committee at its next meeting, I would like to express how much I have enjoyed these past two years and to wish my successor the best of luck, and offer my full support.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the members for their support over the last year, and I would especially like to thank the officers of the Society: Jim Brennan, Vice-Chairman, Ann Sheeran, Hon. Treasurer, Aileen Short, Hon. Secretary, and committee members Joan Jones, Pat Brennan and Sean Daly, who have worked so hard to organise the events which make this Society a success, and our Hon. Auditor, Mr. Michael Toolan.

Patrick Neary, Chairman
GREYSTONES ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Old Greystones and Ancient Rathdown

By Séamas Ó Saothraí

A paper read on Wednesday 16 January 1991 at a meeting of Greystones Archaeological and Historical Society in the La Touche Hotel, Greystones

Introduction and Summary

Although Greystones is essentially a modern and rising town the immediate locality boasts such antiquarian remains as the Elizabethan Killincarrig House, Kindlestown Castle and Rathdown Castle. Two of these are in ruins and the third entirely obliterated, but drawings of all three are extant. St Crispin's Cell still stands, close to the site of Rathdown Castle and village, half a mile north of the harbour.

Ancient Rathdown, which features in both the Annals of the Four Masters and the Book of the O'Byrnes, had begun to fade from folk memory before Greystones became the 'noted fishing place' it was at the close of the eighteenth century. But the fishermen's dwellings were widely scattered and no village, properly so called, existed well into the 19th century. Expansion began with the coming of the railway in 1856.

Between 1864 and 1889 the fishermen left their boats and took to house-building. Places of worship and a schoolhouse were built too, so that, with a population of five hundred a century ago, the foundations were laid of what has officially been the Town of Greystones since 1954, with its own Town Commissioners and some ten thousand residents in the greater Greystones area.

Prefatory Note

When I asked to read this paper to the Society my inclination was to remove from it that part relating to the decline and demise of the Irish language in these parts. As some of you are aware, I dealt with that subject separately and in greater detail in my closing address to the second La Touche Legacy Seminar last October. A by-product of that address is another paper which I shall, God willing, be reading on 15 May to the Bray Cualann Historical Society on Price of the Place-names, the centenary of whose birth occurs this year.

I felt that one of the shortcomings of this paper, 'Old Greystones and ancient Rathdown', was the absence from it of any reference to old roads and rights of way. I foolishly believed that I could insert a section on that subject in place of the deleted piece on the Irish language, and still keep the paper's duration to one hour. I found however that the subject was so wide and indeed complicated that I'd have to try to write a separate paper on it. That I may yet do, if God spares me.

So this evening's address, then, is largely 'the mixture as before' - largely, I say, for I've had to make several corrections since the paper got its first airing at the first La Touche Legacy Seminar in 1989. The paper as read at the Blackrock Teachers' Centre Seminar in St Brigid's National Schoolhouse, Greystones, on 2 July 1990 carried some corrections and was fully annotated. I had to make some further corrections before reading the paper to the Probus Club of Greystones in the bridge-room of the Burnaby on 16 October 1990. And there are more corrections still in this, the fourth reading of the paper, thanks largely to research done and discoveries made by the Grove Residents' Association, whose efforts to save St Crispin's Cell and its environs deserve the highest commendation and the staunchest support. That the paper still contains mistakes I have no doubt. These mistakes are of course my sole responsibility; but I'll be most grateful to any of you who may be able to help me correct them.

The Grey Stones

The original place-name, 'The Grey (sometimes Gray) Stones', as it is marked on old maps and charts applied only to the reef or rocks jutting out into the sea, little more than a couple of minutes' walk from where we're gathered at this moment. Nearly all the other local place-names are Gaelic in origin or derivation and one local writer thinks it probable that 'The Grey Stones' was a name given by English-speaking sailors to this landmark on the coast [\(1\)](#).

'The Grey Stones' are Cambrian, a term defined as the geological system, well represented in Wales, next to the Archaean. These rocks date from remote antiquity. It's all explained in the very first chapter of the *Stones of Bray* by George Digby Scott, MA (1865-1950). Canon Scott regarded the application of the term to these rocks of ours, at Bray and Greystones alike, as 'another injustice to Ireland' [\(2\)](#), for the word Cambrian in its primary meaning relates, not to Ireland, but to Wales and the Welsh. Those interested in the geological aspect should also consult the *Book of Bray* (index, s.v. Geology of Wicklow region), published by Blackrock Teachers' Centre in 1989.

At what stage of the place's growth the definite article was dropped and the two words 'grey' and 'stones' joined together we don't know. We do know, however, that The Black Rock in County Dublin, The Glenties in County Donegal and The Moy in County Tyrone are other place-names which lost their definite article, in their official Anglicised form at any rate. The late-lamented Noel Kennedy, MA (1913-1987), lecturing to the Greystones Literary Society twelve years ago, said that about the first decade of this century there lived in Bray an old man who always referred to Greystones as 'The Stones' [\(3\)](#). Some older native Greystones to my acquaintance pronounce the name, not Grey-stones (equal stress) but Gry-stow-ens, laying rather more stress on the second part of the name, which they make disyllabic. I mention this, not from any desire to draw attention to the peculiarities of local speech (which anyway is a separate study), but because it's a pronunciation which like many another local one may, I'm greatly afraid, be lost by the end of the century.

'The Grey Stones' extend along the irregular indented sea frontage which is nearly a mile in length to the South Beach near the station, where, looking southward from the end of Marine Road, one loses sight of the railway line at the approach to Ballygannon Point. At the northern extremity of 'The Grey Stones' is the present harbour, originally a fine natural indentation which, says our local historian, 'afforded the only shelter for fishing boats between Bray Head and Wicklow Head; but', adds Samuel French (who died in 1978), 'in early times there was no town, not even a village' [\(4\)](#).

There is no record of human habitation on 'The Grey Stones' till very late in history, but, strange to relate, there was once a flourishing village only half a mile north of the present harbour of Greystones. Its name was Rathdown. That settlement sprang up around Rathdown Castle, which in course of time gave its name to the barony. Today we have Rathdown Road, still called by many Jinks's Hill, Jinks being a local version of the surname Jenkinson. Here from an old photograph given to me by my good neighbour, Eddie Doyle, is Mick Jenkinson's cottage. The cottage, on Jinks's Hill, is long gone; but the surname still survives in Greystones.

Rathdown Park was built within the last quarter of a century. We're told that the townlands of Upper and Lower Rathdown, together with that of Killincarrig, comprise a (maritime) land lying between Bray Head and the Three Trout River, which enters the sea at Ballygannon and forms the boundary between the baronies of Rathdown and Newcastle [\(5\)](#). These three townlands also comprise the parish of Greystones in the Church of Ireland division.

It was brought to my notice only recently that a small neck of the townland of Templecarrig intrudes between Upper and Lower Rathdown.

Down Ennis's Lane

The hamlets of 'Redfoard' and Rathdown are marked on Senex and Maxwell's *Map of Ireland* 1712; but that map doesn't show either 'The Grey Stones' or Windgate. According to the *Down Survey of 1657* Rathdown Castle was in ruins, yet the drawing of it reproduced by Canon Scott from the same survey shows the façade, including the battlements, apparently intact (6). The former Wicklow County Librarian, Brigid Redmond, MA, remarks that a hundred and twenty years after the *Down Survey* the castle 'appears to have been rebuilt, as it is shown with chapel and village in *Taylor and Skinner's Road Maps of Ireland* 1777. The village stood to the north-west of the castle and had paved streets and a clear spring well' (7).

Exactly half a century after George Taylor and Andrew Skinner's volume of maps appeared, that is, in 1827, the Rev. G.N. Wright, MA (c. 1790-1877), had a sad tale to unfold as he strolled down that ancient bóithrín known locally as Ennis's Lane (but called Rathdown Lane by St John Joyce (8)). Ennis's Lane is named after the Ennis family who held land under Peter La Touche in the townlands of Upper and Lower Rathdown (9) and who are buried in Killadreenan cemetery, Newcastle (10). In the modern part of Ennis's Lane is the cemetery opened in 1882, to which for very many years there was no road - only a right of way. About 1950 the County Council when laying a public road here erected the present entrance gates and walls. In Weston St John Joyce's day, old Ennis's Lane (or Rathdown Lane) was the shorter way to Greystones (11).

Now, let's get back to the Rev. Mr Wright. George Newenham Wright was a minister of the then Established Church. He was 'professor of antiquities to the Royal Hibernian Academy' and he wrote a number of dependable guide-books. A discerning present-day antiquary, Kathleen Turner, who wrote a history of Rathmichael parish, describes Wright as 'the noted traveller ... who left so many useful notes for us...' (12). The Rev. G.N. Wright walked the old bóithrín from Lower Windgate to what's now The Grove, emerging at the entrance to the eighteenth-century house and farmyard, then Ireland's and later Ennis's. We've mentioned Redford Cemetery - the one opened in 1882. Now let's hear what Wright has to say about another cemetery, or quondam cemetery, which was perhaps even more ancient than the parish cemetery of Delgany itself:

To the right of the road leading to Grey-stones, at a distance of about one furlong, is seen the small chapel or cell of St Crispin ... it is now unroofed, and the walls clothed with ivy: the adjacent ground does not appear to have been used as a cemetery, although the body of a seaman, washed on shore near Rathdown Castle, was interred here ... (13) (Joyce says this burial took place 'early in the last century' (14)).

And from Wright's general description of the Rathdown area we learn what befell the sacred acre of which there was then no vestige left:

Wild and deserted as the whole of this district, from the Windgate road to the beach, now appears, with scarcely a comfortable residence, and no arborical vegetation, it was once the site of the village of Rathdown, and surrounded by baronial and ecclesiastical edifices. The castle, St Crispin's cell, and the parish church, were within short distances of each other and of the village. Upon the final deletion of the village, Col. Tarrant, the proprietor, razed the tombstones, disinterred the bones in the church-yard, and recommitted all to the earth again in one large pit dug for the purpose, after which he erased the church itself. Thus has all the greatness of Rathdown passed away; nor would even this historic sketch be found to perpetuate its memory, if chance had not directed the Wicklow Guide to the cottage of a peasant, then in his 96th year, near Grey-stones, in whose singularly tenacious memory the traditions of Rathdown still lived, and where they also were fondly cherished (15).



St. Crispin's Cell

The 'parish church' mentioned by Wright appears to have been one of a number of chapels listed by Canon Scott of Bray as having belonged to Delgany. Indeed it would seem from what both Wright and Scott say that such a chapel existed as well as and at a short distance from St Crispin's Cell. St Crispin's Cell seems to be post - Reformation but there are indications that there was a settlement of much greater antiquity here. Interestingly, the

name Crispin was early adopted as a surname in England and Dr Reaney, the standard authority on British surnames, says it was the name of the patron saint of shoemakers, and that Crispin was martyred at Soissons about the year 285 [\(16\)](#). As to the second and apparently earlier place of worship at Rathdown, Canon Scott was of the opinion that it was the castle chapel, included under the rectory of Delgany [\(17\)](#).

The 'Col. Tarrant' referred to by Wright as having allegedly desecrated Rathdown churchyard has given me some trouble. His name is on Taylor and Skinner's map as occupying Rathdown in 1777. He was there in 1803 [\(18\)](#) and is again mentioned as the beneficial occupier in 1806 [\(19\)](#). But when did he arrive on the scene? And did he leave or did he die? No Tarrant gravestone is recorded in Brian Cantwell's 'Memorials' and I haven't been able to find any Tarrant will. So what became of this officer whose surname and rank only are recorded? We learn from records preserved in the Registry of Deeds in Dublin that Charles Tarrant, a captain in the Corps of Engineers, acquired by deed of assignment from Christopher Plunkett a parcel of land at Rathdown in April 1771 [\(20\)](#). He also acquired by deed of assignment from George Warren a further parcel of land and a dwelling house in the same townland in November 1774 [\(21\)](#), giving him some forty acres in all, as well as the house. Going through my old volumes of the *Irish Sword* recently I discovered that Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Tarrant, 'who was major of the company of Royal Engineers in Ireland ...', prepared in 1793 a report, complete with drawing, on Athlone Castle [\(22\)](#). It would be interesting to know where Tarrant, the senior officer of Engineers, was employed during the 1798 insurrection.

In February 1807 Charles Tarrant, 'late of the city of Dublin but then of the city of London in England, esquire, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Engineers ...', assigned by deed to Redmond Boate, surgeon, some property of his in Dublin [\(23\)](#). We needn't pursue Tarrant's career beyond his settlement in London, other than to remark that when he died at an advanced age in 1819 he held the rank of major-general. I should add that his name is miscopied 'Farrant' in the typescript *Ordnance Survey Letters* prepared at Bray in 1928 [\(24\)](#).

I now want to deal briefly with the owners and occupiers of Rathdown Castle and manor. The castle is said to have been built on the site of a rath made by Eireamhon, first Milesian king of Ireland, anno mundi 3501 (503 BC), at Ráth Oinn in Críoch Cualann, now known as Rathdown. It's Ráith (Ráth) an Dúin in the *Leabhar Branach* (c. 1575) [\(25\)](#) and both versions are given in the Rev. Dr. Hogan's *Onomasticon* [\(26\)](#). Fr Dinneen's *Irish-English Dictionary* equates Ráth Dúin with Rathdown; but the generally received version in Irish is today Ráth an Dúin. Ráth Oinn is rejected out of hand by Dr Price in his *Place-names* [\(27\)](#).

There's still research to be done on Ráth Oinn, I would suggest, for it may well have been a separate settlement.

When the Normans came Donall Macgiollamocholmóg - one chronicler urges us to pronounce it MacLemogue - son-in-law of Diarmaid MacMurrough, king of Leinster, had his seat here. In 1400 John, descendant of Donall and son of Diarmaid, was still lord of the manor of Rathdown. Later the FitzGerald's were in possession. It would appear from Archbishop Alan's *Repertorium Viride* of 1530 as interpreted by Canon Scott that Richard FitzGerald, son of the earl of Kildare, had a castle and chapel in the town and barony of Rathdown in that year (28). Richard forfeited these soon after, when they were, with the castles and manors of Powerscourt and Fassaroe, made over to Peter Talbot, a vigorous defender of the Pale. Noel Kennedy put it concisely when he wrote: '... In 1536 Henry VIII's government pushed the Pale south of Bray and established a family called Talbot in the lands and castle of Rathdown' (29).

Talbot's descendant in course of time also forfeited Rathdown, which was, with Old Court and other adjacent property, granted in 1666 to Richard Edwards, a Welshman, and Elizabeth his wife. The Edwardses were settled at Old Court, near Bray, which, says Canon Scott, they continued to hold until the middle of the nineteenth century, '... and their memory is preserved by a very large burial enclosure at St Paul's Churchyard' (30). Eighteen of the name are recorded in Mr Cantwell's *Memorials*, the earliest being David, son of Richard, who died on 9 July 1668: the last was James Kynaston Edwards of Old Court, who died aged sixty-nine on 22 February 1850 (31).

The Rathdown Estate of some three hundred acres seems to have been pretty well carved up by the time the last of the Edwardses departed. In 1777 there were two seats called Rathdown quite close to each other. One of them was occupied by Captain Tarrant and the other by Miss Morres (32). The Morres, Morris or Morrice family were no newcomers to Rathdown. Arthur Morrice was here at least as early as 1669 (33). In 1837 a seat called Rathdown was occupied by W. Morris, Esq., while Mr. W.W. Ireland occupied the farm on which St Crispin's Cell stands - Tarrant's former property (34). In 1852 Eliza Morris held, with house and offices, two parcels of land in Rathdown Lower, parish of Delgany, amounting in all to seventy-three acres approximately, while Andrew Morris held nearly one hundred and fifty-two acres, also with house and offices, in Rathdown Upper. The immediate lessor in both cases was Peter La



J M Synge

Touche (35). There are Morris'es in Greystones to this day and the Masseys, who were also in Rathdown at the time of the Hearth Money Roll (1669), still flourish in the area.

The Rathdown House which was once a Morres, Morris or Morrice residence was the house in which Mrs Kathleen Synge and her children spent the summer of 1884, when the future playwright and poet was thirteen years old (36). They were here for 'three or four months' (37). John Millington Synge (1871-1909) spent all but one summer of his formative years in Greystones. The Rathdown House where the Synge's stayed was demolished only recently. The land is now a serviced site for housing development. One entrance pier bearing

the name 'Rathdown' survives: it may be seen from the lay-by close to the 'Welcome to Greystones' sign and nearly opposite Johnson & Staunton's. On the cap of the other pier, which has been thrown to one side, is the word 'House'. The residence occupied by Charles Tarrant from 1771 till 1806, also called Rathdown, is now believed to have been the old farm

OLD GREYSTONES AND ANCIENT RATHDOWN

buildings opposite The Grove houses, or else the old manor house on whose foundations the present sewage treatment plant is thought to have been built. The castle was evidently north of that part of Ennis's Lane which reaches from The Grove to the sea. The two seats called Rathdown are clearly marked on *Taylor and Skinner's Map of 1777*. Sleater's *Topography* puts the location of Tarrant's residence at twelve Irish miles from Dublin and one mile from Kilruddery gate (38). The *Post Chaise Companion* of 1803, whose distances are also given in Irish measure, says: 'two miles and three quarters from Bray, on the left is Rathdown, the seat of Captain Tarrant; and nearly opposite to it, at a distance of about half a mile, is Temple-carrick, the seat of Colonel Rawson' (39). In the fourth, undated edition of the same work, we find yet another Morris, forenamed Lewis, occupying Tarrant's former residence (40).

Eugene O'Curry found and described vestiges of the walls of Rathdown Castle in 1838 (41). These 'finally disappeared during the building of the railway in the years 1854-1856, when the stones were used to build bridges and the old limekiln' (42). The limekiln, which survived into the last quarter-century, has now disappeared, having evidently given way to the sewage treatment plant, now obsolete, we're told (43). We'll close this part of our narrative with two short quotations. The first is from Joyce's *Neighbourhood of Dublin*, the first edition, 1912:

On a slight eminence and facing the lonely sea-beaten shore stood the ancient castle of Rathdown. ... The village of Rathdown stood a short distance to the north-west and in draining one of the fields there during the last century, the remains of a paved street were discovered. Adjoining the site of the castle is a clear spring well which probably supplied the household with water (44).

William J. Burne wrote ten years later (1922):

Close to the castle stood the town of Rathdown, once a place of considerable importance but, like the castle, now only a memory. The name is still applied to the barony, however, and strangely enough a small hamlet of new cottages has sprung up in recent years near the site of the old town (45).

That hamlet, as Burne chose to describe it, is The Grove (erroneously rendered 'An Fáschoill' in Irish on the signboard), which though very close to the present railway line, is a peaceful and a pleasant place. I've been told that these neat houses were built as farm workers' dwellings in the opening years of the present century (1902-3). The building contractor is said to have been the father of Simon and Ben Doyle, farmers. *A Walk in Greystones* (September 1988) records that planning permission was granted for one hundred and nineteen houses in Rathdown and that an open space of undefined extent was to be left around St Crispin's Cell (46). This arrangement seems to have been set aside and permission granted instead for ninety-one dwelling houses. Further to comment on the proposed scheme would I feel be inappropriate. It's not strictly history but it will be some day.

The Fishermen

'A noted fishing place': that's what Greystones was when William Wenman Seward, attorney (died 1806), brought out his *Topographia Hibernica* in 1795. It grieves me to have to tell you that Seward has been misquoted by at least three recent writers. Seward didn't describe the place as 'a noted fishing village', for there wasn't even the semblance of a village here in Seward's time, nor indeed until well into the nineteenth century. The error can be traced back to a booklet published about twenty five years ago. It's hardly necessary to inform members of a society which has for its object the study and the fostering of local history and antiquities that failure to consult prime sources is the sure way to perpetuate errors. William J. Burne recorded Seward's remarks faithfully in the 1922 *Guide to Greystones and District*, even if he

(or his printer) did misspell the title of Seward's book. The misspelling was copied by several later writers, even as late as 1989.

'The herrings first brought into Dublin', wrote Seward, 'are usually taken by the fishing boats of this place' (47). Seward's is the first topographical reference to Greystones that I've met with and it's not a little remarkable, I think, that within the space of five years two other writers should have mentioned the herring fishery. In 1796, a year after Seward's most useful work appeared, John Ferrar, the Limerick-born historian of his native city (48), was a guest of Peter La Touche while writing his *Tour of Bellevue*. Ferrar wrote:

On coming out of Delgany church we ... could see the herring boats at sea. This fishery might prove an inexhaustible fund of wealth to the nation; our parliament has done much to encourage it, but more is wanted (49).

How much more was wanted is plain from the *County Survey*, written in 1800 by Robert Eraser and published in the following year. The courageous Fraser didn't mince his words:

Adjacent to this harbour (he means the natural indentation at the northern end of The Grey Stones) is a plain (sic) which might be formed into a convenient village, into which the fishermen scattered on the coast might be with great advantage collected, and under a benevolent land owner freed from the heavy oppressions to which we found them subjected, in being forced to pay for their cabbins (sic) and a patch of land a most exorbitant rent, amounting to the rate of four and five guineas an acre. And by having some improvement made of this harbour, they would not be exposed to the losses to which they are so frequently subjected, by having their boars beat (sic) to pieces by the surf on the beach, which also prevents their pursuing their industry, but is the occasion of numbers annually perishing, in returning from the fishing ground (50).

One of the points to note from Fraser's remarks is that the fishermen's dwellings were 'scattered on the coast'. Samuel French tells us that in early times the fishermen lived in dwellings as far apart as Windgate and Delgany, Killincarrig and Blacklion (townland of Kindlestown Lower), and that a preventive water-guard station was located at Blacklion (51). The reason for the water-guard station was to prevent smuggling, for as Noel Kennedy sagely remarks, 'Fishing is not the only thing you can do with a boat. There was on Bray Head', continues Kennedy, 'a large well-concealed smugglers' cave called the Brandy Hole: it was destroyed when the railway was built (52).

A quarter of a century after Fraser's Survey appeared George Wright, in describing Greystones as 'a little wild headland', added that there are seven families residing here, all employed in the fisheries, and also a preventive water-guard' (53). Somewhat earlier Alexander Nimmo, FRS (1783-1832), the Scottish civil engineer, was employed by the Fishery Board to make surveys of the harbours of Ireland, and build harbours and piers at various points on the coast (54). Nimmo reported favourably on the natural advantages of Greystones and estimated the cost of erecting a serviceable pier; but nothing seems to have been done at the time.

When the first edition of Lewis's *Topographical Dictionary* came out in 1837 it referred to 'the small fishing hamlet called The Greystones, where is a coast-guard station, which is one of those that form the district of Kingstown' (55). Professor Freeman, the noted historical geographer who died in 1988, also remarked that in pre - famine times Greystones was 'a tiny hamlet with a coastguard station', adding that it was 'not then/as now/within the outer suburban area of Dublin' (56). How the coastguard station differed from the earlier water-guard station at Blacklion I'm unable to say; but it was located at what is now the Garda station, Kenmare Terrace on Trafalgar Road, which is much closer to the sea than is Blacklion,

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was where the coastguards lived. Trafalgar Lodge was the residence of their commander, according to Noel Kennedy, who also says that after the Treaty of December 1921 the coastguards disappeared [\(57\)](#).

Towards the end of December 1838 Eugene O'Curry visited on behalf of the Ordnance Survey 'the little village of Greystones' [\(58\)](#) but he didn't state, no more than did Samuel Lewis the previous year, how many dwellings or residents there were, or how the fishermen fared. It's only when we consult the *Parliamentary Gazetteer* of 1844 - 45 that we get any precise information on this point. Here's a short extract from the *Gazetteer*:

GREYSTONES. a headland, and a fishing village. ... A quay and a breakwater on the north side of the headland were planned by Mr Nimmo ... but ... (the plan) has not, we believe, been adopted. A great number of row-boats employed in the fisheries must here be hauled on shore when the wind blows from any point between north and east-north-east. Though the inhabitants of the village are only a coast-guard party and the families of 5 or 6 fishermen, the number of fishing craft belonging to the place amounts to about 3 half-decked vessels with 18 men, and 31 open sail-boats with 186 men [\(59\)](#).

So there were some two hundred fishermen scattered over this area immediately before the famine. And only five or six of those lived in what was slowly coming to be recognised as the 'village' of Greystones. In 1846 parliament passed an 'Act to encourage the sea fisheries of Ireland by promoting and aiding with grants of public money the construction of piers, harbours and other works' [\(60\)](#) but as far as Greystones was concerned the act might as well never have gone on the statute book.

The people of north-east Wicklow were hard-hit during the famine, especially, as Professor Freeman records, in and around Kilcoole and Newcastle [\(61\)](#). But as long as the harvest of the sea could be gathered in, the fishermen of Greystones and their families wouldn't want. The next decade saw the dawn of a new era.

Before we move on from the great famine to that new era of development, expansion and comparative prosperity in the little Greystones community I want to say a few words about the ancestral language. Daniel Corkery (1878-1964), teacher, professor, artist, thinker and writer, wrote that the scourge of Black '47 fell mostly, almost entirely indeed, on the country's four million of Irish speakers. 'After '47 what struck the visitor was the unbroken silence. That silence overtook the language' [\(62\)](#).

I've been asked a number of times both here in Greystones and in various parts of the island of Ireland, especially in Gaeltacht districts during my years as an itinerant broadcaster, when the Irish language died out in County Wicklow. In the absence of firm evidence it would be idle to speculate when Irish ceased to be the everyday language of this area, which was, as you've seen, on the fringe of the Pale. Donn Sigerson Piatt, MA (1905-1970), as a young man did a study of Gaelic dialects of Leinster. In his findings published in 1933 he had this to say under the heading of '19th century: Wicklow':

Many rumours of recent Irish in Co. Wicklow exist, in spite of the emphatic denial of the Statistical survey of 1801 that such existed even then. Andrew and Hanna Byrne of Glenealy, who both died in 1830, are the last absolutely authentic native speakers I can find (any account of) in that area. A Mr S. Burke in Glenmalur spoke Irish until his death in 1884, but his parents immigrated from Connacht. ... In the Aughrim area Irish seems to have lasted nearly to the famine [\(63\)](#).

Piatt had no information to impart about Irish in north-east Wicklow; but Samuel French's statement that 'Greystones fishermen were well known in Peel, Isle of Man' [\(64\)](#) set me thinking that, in pre-Union times at any rate, these Wicklowmen and Manxmen may well have

conversed with each other in their common ancestral tongue, whose dialects differed only slightly. I've had to discard that theory for want of any bit of firm evidence.

Robert Fraser who compiled the *Surveys of Wicklow and Wexford* was a Scotsman, a son of the manse, a graduate of Glasgow University and a Fellow of the Royal Society (65). So patently honest was he and so spirited was his defence of the Greystones fishermen that one can hardly regard him as a hostile witness when he comes to comment on the Irish language. Fraser wrote in 1800:

It is very remarkable that although the Irish language is common in all the counties around, in the county of Wicklow the Irish language is unknown. Nor did I find any of the natives of this county, even in the most remote vales in the midst of the mountains, accustomed to speak the Irish language (66).

Wright of the guide-books, who would, I think, have been no less well-disposed than Fraser, wrote in 1827 of the total extermination of the Irish language: '... in most other counties', he said, 'the peasantry converse in their native language only' (67).

In the census of 1851 (after the famine) there were one hundred and thirty-five people scattered throughout the county who acknowledged that they spoke Irish. They were all bilingual (68). The number admitting to being Irish-speaking rose to one hundred and seventy-six in the census of 1891 (69), that is fifteen years after the Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language was founded and two years before the Gaelic League was established.

Can anybody explain to me why the older native Greystonians always call the ten Strand Cottages by the obviously Gaelic name of 'The Bawn'? My own theory is that there may have been a bábhún (walled enclosure, bawn, bailey) extending from Rathdown Castle to here; or else a bábhún in the secondary meaning of that term - a bulwark or breakwater. Perhaps the latter is the more likely explanation. I've heard that the original official name was 'Fish Row' and a resident, Patrick Doyle, said he had title-deeds which proved this to be so (70). The local authority erected at considerable expense a nameplate in Irish and English for Strand Cottages. The plate was removed from its frame soon after its erection.

The Railway

About the time of the opening of the railway link with Dublin in 1856 attention began to focus on the attractions and advantages possessed by Greystones as a seaside resort, or watering place, to use the term current at the time. Some few years were to elapse however before the owners of the land and others interested in the district fully realised its potential and possibilities. The land in the immediate area was all owned by two families, both of them of some note, and it was the development of the two estates of Burnaby and La Touche that was the chief factor in the making of modern Greystones. Samuel French, who was a solicitor, wrote in his booklet on Greystones that the lands of Rathdown granted to the Welshman Richard Edwards and his wife at the Restoration continued in the possession of their descendants until they were purchased by the La Touche family. 'The titles of the present La Touche and Burnaby estates are', he says, 'rooted in these grants and letters patent of King Charles the Second' (71). I'll not



David La Touche

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attempt to outline the history of the La Touches here. because Judith Flannery's history of Delgany parish and the La Touche family is now readily available. I read in a recent issue of the *Bray People* that Eamon O'Brien's study of the Burnaby family has appeared in a Roundwood journal; but as few of you may yet have seen it I'll say a brief word about the Burnabys and their connections.

The famous Colonel Frederick Gustavus Burnaby (1842-1885) is the subject of a notice in the Dictionary of National Biography and of at least four separate biographical studies. Born in Bedford, he was the son of a clergyman and he joined the Royal Horse Guards (The Blues') in 1859, attaining the rank of colonel in 1881. Soldier, adventurer, traveller, balloonist and writer, his brightly-written *Ride to Khiva* (1876) at once made him famous. In a year it reached its eleventh printing and about the year 1881 a cheap (sixpenny) 'people's edition' appeared with a note: 'the 50th thousand'. Burnaby married in 1879 Elizabeth, only daughter and heiress of Sir St Vincent Bentinck Hawkins Whitshed, Bart ([72](#)) of Killincarrig House (now the Woodlands Hotel), and by her had one son, Harry St. Vincent Augustus Burnaby. The colonel, who was killed in action in 1885, was lord of the manor of Somerby in Leicestershire, hence Somerby Road in Greystones. What is said to be the oldest house on the Burnaby Estate, Khiva, Whitshed Road, derives its name from Colonel Burnaby's book. He also wrote a less well-known work: *On Horseback Through Asia Minor*.

It's a pretty well-established fact that the railway station was built exactly across the boundary line between the La Touche and the Burnaby estates, so that neither owner could have a grievance. Indeed that same boundary used to be marked on the seafront and elsewhere by rows of wooden posts. If time permitted I'd tell you about the extension of the railway line from Bray to Greystones between 1854 and 1856, and about the difficulties encountered in tunnelling through Bray Head, when the services of the celebrated engineer. Isambard Kingdom Brunei (1806-1859), had to be retained. I picked up a bit of the local lore when living in Bray thirty years ago. My wife and children and I used to visit then an eighty-year-old man, James McGarry, retired principal teacher of St Peter's National School in Little Bray, whose paternal grandfather, a stone mason, worked on the building of the tunnel. John Vance, the Bray shoemaker now in his seventies, was a pupil of Master McGarry's school, and he says that all the McGarrys (of James's family) were stone masons. The authoritative work on the railway line is the *Dublin and South - Eastern Railway* by W. Ernest Shepherd (Newton Abbot. 1974).

We can learn much from the *Census of Ireland* about how Greystones grew following the opening of the railway. I needn't repeat the figures here: they're in the book commissioned by Greystones Presbyterian Church for its centenary in 1987. The book is still in print and copies may also be consulted at or borrowed from Greystones Library.

When the village began to grow leaders of the various Christian denominations, conscious of the need for places of worship, set to work. Members of the then Established Church living in or near Greystones were the first to build. For the sake of convenience I'll list all the churches with their dates of opening and consecration, which in some cases, I should add, differ from their dates of construction or completion:

1864 St Patrick's Church of Ireland

1867 St Kilian's Roman Catholic, Blacklion

1887 Presbyterian Meeting-house

1895 Temporary Roman Catholic edifice: roof blown off in storm 1903

1907 Christian Brethren's Ebenezer Hall

1908 Church of the Holy Rosary, La Touche Road

1984 Hillside Evangelical Church serving Ebenezer Hall worshippers

A schoolhouse was begun in 1879, as we read in an issue of the *Irish Builder* of that year [\(73\)](#): it was replaced by the spacious St Patrick's National Schoolhouse in Carr's Bog (otherwise known locally as 'the Circus Field') in 1975. An extension was officially opened quite recently by the Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke. There had been a much earlier schoolhouse, 'supported by subscription' and mentioned by Lewis in 1837: it's marked on the old Ordnance Survey map. And we learn of a two-room schoolhouse on the site given by Thomas Phelan in 1857 for St Kilian's Church, Blacklion [\(74\)](#). The donor of the site was presumably the Thomas Phelan who in 1852 held land and a plantation in the townlands of Kilmurphy North and Kilmacanogue South [\(75\)](#). The old 'Male National School' near Blacklion House was replaced by the Christian Brothers' Scoil Náisiúnta Chaoimhín on Rathdown Road in 1949. That old schoolhouse, where many old and not-so-old Greystonians imbibed their early lessons, was later a shop run by a Miss Bradshaw (in the sixties): later still an Enniskerry man named Ned



La Touche Hotel (circa 2004)

O'Brien, who did building and repair jobs, came home from England with his wife and children and settled there. He didn't stay long. The house and two cottages close by with galvanized iron roofs were all demolished soon after O'Brien's departure.

I may as well list the Greystones hotels now too. The La Touche began a hundred years ago as the Grand Hotel [\(76\)](#). You can see the original name on postcards from the very early years of this century: in

general they show the rear of the building, for it fronts onto the sea. I mentioned Killincarrig House - the one build by the Whitshed family. There are or were five Killincarrig Houses in all. Judge Cherry - Richard Robert Cherry, the Lord Chief Justice - lived in one. Then in 1923 it became the Clyda (or Clydagh) Hotel [\(77\)](#). A neighbour of mine who was born here says he remembers the Passionist Fathers living there afterwards, but this is disputed by two older Greystonians who say that the fathers never in fact took up residence, because of a restrictive or disenabling clause in the lease.

The building was subsequently the International Hotel and it was a military base during the Emergency, when Major Vivion de Valera, who had lived in Greystones as a child, was the officer in command. He was later a TD and head of the Irish Press group of newspapers. Leslie Doyle, who while a medical student served in the Local Defence Force (later An Fórsa Cosanta Aitiúil) here, tells me he remembers Major de Valera lecturing to the Greystones LDF in the La Touche Hotel. Another officer who served here during the Emergency was Lieutenant Lionel O. Booth, who was, I believe, a member of the Booth Poole motor factor family. He was later a captain and afterwards also a Fianna Fail TD. When the International became the Woodlands I don't know, but the Woodlands it is to this day. The other hotels, whose dates I'm unable to give you, were: Braemar, Trafalgar Road; Golf, Portland Road; Lewis's, Trafalgar Road (the Sisters of the Holy Faith bought Lewis's which was beside the convent, in 1955, to convert it

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into a boarding school. This boarding school was closed and the building demolished in 1972 to make room for the present primary school, St. Brigid's); Railway, opposite the station (now the Burnaby); Seapatrick, off Church Road; and Trenarren, also Church Road.

I got the names of those hotels mostly from old directories; my information about house-building, however, comes from the booklet by Samuel French, whose profession made him familiar with property, probate and title-deeds. The development of Greystones in the quarter-century following the opening of St Patrick's Church in 1864 was chiefly the work of local men who had been fishermen until that industry became 'a bad trade'. Fishermen, yes; boat builders too, for many boats were built by local shipwrights who gained a reputation for building lucky boats. It's extraordinary how much we owe to these fishermen-builders, when we come to reflect on it. I remember many years ago spending a month in Arklow with my wife and first-born child and discovering in what high regard the fishermen and boat builders were held there. They were the real old stock. They're almost an extinct breed here in Greystones now, more's the pity.

Fishing was, as I've said, a bad trade here from about 1864 onwards, so in autumn, winter and spring the fishermen forsook their boats and employed themselves in building; 'but', says Samuel French, 'when summer came the call of the sea was too strong and they stole away to the boats. There was good trade to be done providing pleasure boats for the visitors and teaching them to fish for plaice, mackerel and pollock with hand lines and long lines. The fishermen also fished from the shore with seine nets whenever the fish came in shoals' [\(78\)](#).

Most of the houses on both Church Road (which has long been the principal thoroughfare) and Trafalgar Road were built between 1864 and 1889. The Young Women's Christian Association rented Coolnagriena on Trafalgar Road in 1890, when it must have been a new or fairly new building. They bought it out in 1928 and have recently refurbished it. With the expansion of the village several roads and a couple of bridges had to be built too, as can be seen by a map facing page 12 of Samuel French's booklet. St Patrick's Church had to be extended three times - in 1875, 1888 and 1898. St Kilian's Church was enlarged in 1886, as was the Presbyterian Meeting-house in 1899.

The Harbour

That the potential of Greystones as a harbour long remained unexploited is evident from the fact that Anthony Marmion of Dundalk, in what we may call his seminal work, the *Maritime Ports of Ireland* (first edition 1855), failed to make any mention of Greystones. Not alone did he exclude the place from his main text: he didn't even allude to it in his note about harbours of refuge on the east coast - this in spite of the fact that a number of writers from Captain Robert Fraser onwards, as well as Nimmo the engineer, had acknowledged and drawn attention to the natural advantages of Greystones.

I can find no evidence that anything was done about the harbour till the 1880s. You'll recall that the fishing failed about 1864 and that the fishermen took to house-building. At any rate somebody set the ball rolling - possibly the local MP, William Corbett, who lived in Kilquade [\(79\)](#) - for we learn that on 16 October 1886 a royal commission was appointed to inquire into Irish public works and in particular harbour, inland navigation and railway facilities. Its first report was issued on 9 April 1887 and its final report on 4 January 1888 [\(80\)](#). We find Weston St John Joyce remarking in the second edition of his *Rambles Around Dublin* (1887) that 'there is a small pier in course of erection here' (in Greystones).

Then the *Irish Builder* of 1 December 1888 reported that, pier or no pier, the movement of shingle was causing the harbour to be filled up so rapidly that there was every prospect of its being filled up completely in a short time. In the House of Commons, went on the *Irish Builder*,

William Corbett, MP, asked the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, William Lawies Jackson (afterwards, briefly, chief secretary for Ireland: ennobled as Baron Allerton), if it was a fact that many unavailing attempts had been made to get a groyne built to the north, to stop the travel of the shingle; if his attention had been drawn to the evidence given before the royal commission in 1887, in which the harbour, as designed, was described as 'a trap to catch the shingle': and what steps the government proposed to take? Jackson replied that 'the Board of Works were considering a plan to stop the movement of the shingle'.

The recent work on the harbour had cost the taxpayer twelve thousand pounds; so what was to be done about a groyne? The *Irish Builder* reported exactly a year later that on 20 November 1889 the Financial Secretary had himself visited Greystones, accompanied by his private secretary and the two highest officials of the Board of Works. They were met by a deputation including the MP, William Corbett; James Price, civil engineer; and Cathcart Dobbs, JP, both of whom lived here, and another local man, W. Jones. Jones said 'the harbour was a failure and that a north groyne was the only solution'.

Well, they got their groyne. Samuel French lists everything that was done between 1885 and 1897 and tells us the total cost - twenty thousand six hundred and seventy- eight pounds and some shillings and pence (81). Soon after the pier was built it became evident that the harbour, whose entrance faced north-northeast, the point from which our storms come, was unsafe. Heavy swells rolling into the harbour endangered the boats moored to the wharf or anchored there: in the face of the gale they were trapped and couldn't put to sea, to ride out the storm. Then a terrible tragedy occurred.

There exists a broadside ballad, now rare, called *The Heroes of Greystones*, with an introductory note as follows:

On Friday night, 14 October 1892, a heavy sea and north-east gale prevailed in the Irish Sea, during which the schooner *Mersey*, which was moored alongside the jetty at Greystones, threatened to break up where she lay, and the owner resolved to let her drive on the beach. John Doyle and William Doyle, with Herbert Doyle, son of the latter, went out along the jetty to cast a rope to the vessel and, having done so, were returning when a great wave came and engulfed them. They had often gone out to save life and were famed for their bravery. John and William Doyle left large families, for whom a subscription is being made.

There were many tearful eyes at the funeral service in St Patrick's Church for the three Doyles, whose descendants are still in Greystones.

The Anchor amusement centre and restaurant at the harbour was originally a lifeboat house, and between 1871 and 1896 there were two lifeboats, the *Sarah Tancred* and the *Richard Brown*. William Doyle who was one of those drowned was coxswain of the *Richard Brown* (82). In 1911 three schooners moored in the harbour were wrecked in a storm. Thereafter marine insurance for boats coming to Greystones became unobtainable, according to Samuel French, and, writes he, 'the pier was left to the tender mercy of the sea' (83) whose fury only The Grey Stones could withstand.

Another near-tragedy connected with Greystones relates to the very end of the First World War. On 15 September 1918 the schooner *Joseph Fisher*, owned by William H. Dann of The Beach (who in the 1922 Directory was described as a high-class grocer and wine merchant), was bringing a cargo of coal from Garston near Liverpool to Wicklow when it was sunk by a submarine off the Codling lightship. The crew of four drifted in an open boat for sixteen hours until they were rescued off the Isle of Man and landed at Peel (84). Greystones fishermen weren't behind in coming to the rescue either. In August 1867 when there was a railway accident due to coastal erosion they were quick to arrive on the scene and offer help (85).



Old Greystones Harbour

The harbour, having ceased or been unfit to serve any commercial purpose, fell into decay. The groyne disappeared and with it about one third of the pier. Only the boat-slip and the dock remained. Despite belated efforts to encourage it, the tide went against the local fishing industry, which wasn't able to compete with steam trawlers landing their catches much nearer to the Dublin markets. In 1968 the base of the Kish Lighthouse was purchased by Greystones and towed here to give protection to the harbour [\(86\)](#). Fortunately, we're able to end this short account of the harbour on a hopeful note, for there's a proposal - or should I say a decision? - to build a marina here. Let's hope that if and when that happens the harbour will at last come into its own, marking the beginning of a new era for the Greystones of the twenty-first century.

Conclusion

I want to finish with a few remarks and facts about the first four decades of this century in Greystones - that is, down to the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. Most academic historians are, I believe, agreed that nothing is history until at least fifty years after it happens.

The early years of the century seem to have been uneventful, apart from a public meeting of the boatmen, fishermen and inhabitants held outdoors in September 1905 to discuss the restoration of the harbour. Old postcards show how the harbour looked then. In the same year the Christian or Plymouth Brethren were founded here. The Holy Faith Sisters came in the following year, 1906. In 1910 three noteworthy things happened. These were: the building which is now the County Library headquarters and branch library was completed; the *Greystones Electric Light and Power Company* was set up on Hillside Road: it was taken over when the ESB was established by statute in 1927; and Greystones featured in *Porter's Post Office Guide and Directory of the County Wicklow*, a publication brought to my notice by the County Librarian, Joseph C. Hayes, DipLib (CGL1), FLAI.

The latter, for the historian, is a most valuable publication, not only for its *Greystones Commercial List* and list of *Greystones Private Residents*, but also for the advertisements it contains (pp 78-86). The commercial list numbers eighty-six (of whom nineteen were Evanses), while the list of private residents runs to one hundred and fifteen. One of the residents in 1910 was J.J. Hazlett, MA, principal teacher of Greystones National School. Mr. Hazlett lived at Seamount and he was still occupying the teacher's residence in La Touche

Place twelve years later (87). Miss Anne Sherlock conducted Greystones High School for Boys and Girls at Burrishoole, La Touche Road. There are fifteen Greystones traders' advertisements. I have made a classification of the residents according to trades and professions, but I don't want to confound you with too many figures. Besides, I think my time must be up so I want to draw this paper to a close.

I can't let the occasion pass, however, without recording Weston St John Joyce's prophetic utterance, as I call it. Joyce, whose father and uncle, Patrick Weston Joyce and Robert Dwyer Joyce of Glenosheen, County Limerick, were teachers, writers and members of the Royal Irish Academy, wrote in 1912:

Greystones ... extends inland from the sea in a south-westerly direction to within a short distance of the hamlet of Killincarrig, which it threatens to absorb, as also, in time, the more distant village of Delgany (88).

And isn't that precisely what has happened!

The *Guide to Greystones and District* was published for the *Greystones Improvement Association* by the County Printing Works, Wicklow, Ltd. It's undated, but we've learnt that it appeared in 1922. Its editor was Samuel Eves Pim of Belmont, Somerby Road, whose daughter Doreen became prominent in the Greystones Literary Society, founded in 1923. And we know that William J. Burne (BURNE) was the anonymous author of the introductory historical chapter. Mr. Burne, a Dubliner who lived at St Agnes, Whitshed Road, was first secretary of the Literary Society. The Guide lists all the roads and residences. There were in Greystones then three hundred and seventy-eight occupied residences, including that of E. de Valera, TD, Craig Liath, Kinlen Road. Mr. de Valera had been renting the house at £58.00 a year from 1917 (89) and his children attended St David's Junior School. Craig Liath was formerly named Howbury and was later renamed Edenmore. It was sold at auction on 27 June 1990 for one hundred and thirteen thousand pounds. I'll let the late Noel Kennedy tell of the case of mistaken identity:

During the civil war between the Free State and anti-Treaty republicans Mr. de Valera lived in Kinlen Road and sometimes travelled to Dublin by train on republican business. The Free State authorities decided to arrest him but the Greystones Civic Guards arrested instead the Church of Ireland Archbishop, Dr J. A. F. Gregg. Dr Gregg was tall, dignified, intellectual and aloof: his younger clergy referred to him as 'The Marble Arch'. It was natural for a young inexperienced civic guard to suppose that this was the elusive Mr de Valera masquerading under a cunning disguise. Dr Gregg was held at the Golf Hotel - a small private hotel on Portland Road that no longer exists - and a retired clergyman named Mr Gage Dogherty who lived on Killincarrig Road was sent for to identify him (90).

A couple of writers say that over thirty houses had to be evacuated on Strand Road in 1928 when the action of the sea undermined them. According to the 1922 *Directory* there were only twenty-eight houses on Strand Road and if three were left standing (they're still there) then only twenty-five can have been vacated. The residents were housed on higher ground with the aid of government grants. Some of those who as children moved with their parents from Strand Road are still with us. Their houses were swept away, not in 1928 when they were vacated, but between 1929 and 1932 (91). The *Irish Times* of 24 January 1930 recorded that 'the town of Greystones suffered severely from the recent storms'.

Carrig Eden overlooks the Grey Stones, close to the front of the La Touche Hotel. Originally two semi-detached private houses, East House and West House, they'd been renamed Ferney East and Ferney West by 1922. They were thrown together to make the Christian Endeavour holiday home in 1936. This brought about a great increase in the number of visitors to

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Greystones, especially from Northern Ireland. But somehow Greystones wasn't destined ever to become a holiday resort in the sense that neighbouring Bray once was. It did indeed gain popularity as a place of retirement but it's now chiefly a dormitory town for many who earn their living in the capital.

Finally, on a personal note: I got my first sight of Greystones in 1937, when as a small boy I was sent by my Dublin grand-aunt into Scott's pharmacy for a bag of lavender. She gave me a threepenny bit to pay for it. I must stop now, for the war broke out in September 1939 and the story of Greystones over the past fifty years or so must await another pen and another day. Those of us who lived through the rationing, the black - out, the glimmer-man and the general austerity of those years know that that war changed Greystones, Ireland and indeed the world.

Acknowledgements

I am most grateful to Florence French and Caroline Kennedy for allowing me to quote from their late husbands' writings, and to the County Library staff for their unfailing patience and courtesy. Emer Singleton helped with information about Charles Tarrant's last days. William A. Irwin told me everything I know about Bedford Cemetery in Ennis's Lane. Nuala Murphy kindly shared with me her childhood recollections of the laying by the County Council of the new roadway from Redford Bridge to The Grove.

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Biographical Note

Séamas Ó Saothraí has lived in County Wicklow for over thirty years. He served in the Army during the Emergency and later while a civil servant in the Department of Education attended evening lectures at TCD. His writings and translations have been published by the Stationery Office, by RTE where for fourteen years he worked as a staff journalist, and by the Royal Irish Academy where he was dictionary archivist until his early retirement.

A former registrar of the National Gallery and the author of its centenary history in Irish, he has addressed local historical societies in places as far apart as Bandon in County Cork and Cushendall in the Glens of Antrim.

He received the Piaras Béaslaí Commemorative Award in the 1991 Oireachtas Competitions for a biography of the Rev. Dr William Neilson, linguist and Gaelic grammarian. More recently he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries.

Colonel Burnaby

By Eamon O Brien

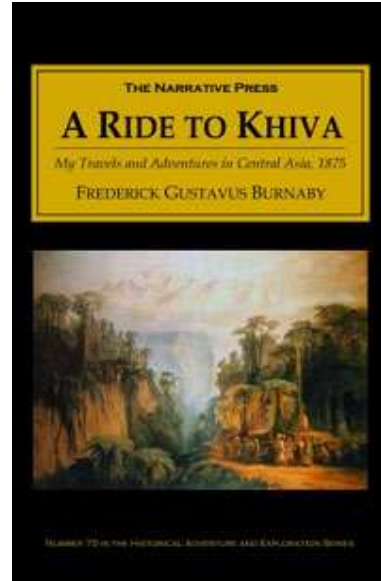
My interest in the history of the Burnaby was aroused as follows.

I remember coming down from the Greystones Golf Club and gazing into the garden of a quaint old world house with the unusual name of *Khiva*. When I consulted my encyclopaedia I found a good explanation. 'Khiva, a mysterious city in far off Turkistan in Asia Minor'. This city was forbidden for foreigners to enter and made famous by the publication of a book by a Colonel Fred Burnaby in 1875 entitled 'A Ride to Khiva'.

When I read the book I found it a thrilling tale of quite extraordinary adventure in which Burnaby showed wonderful courage and ingenuity, in fact at times he avoided death by a hair's breadth.

Later on after many month of endeavour I managed to procure an out of print book entitled 'The Life of Colonel Fred Burnaby by Thomas Wright, published some years after his death. I found both books very interesting for one like myself who lives in the Burnaby estate and I must try to convey to you the results of my research.

As far as I can see Burnaby only paid a 14 day visit to Greystones in all his life and that visit was to meet his Irish fiancé's relatives. He proposed marriage during the London Season to a young and beautiful Irish heiress, Miss Elizabeth Hawkins Whitshed, an only daughter and a ward of court. Her father had lived in Killincarrig House in Co. Wicklow. She was a girl of piquant beauty and possessor of charming manners and intellectual gifts. The marriage took place in London on June 25th 1879.



The younger Fred Burnaby

When Burnaby married into the Hawkins family the estate then became known as the Burnaby estate. All the roads in the estate are named in relation to the Burnaby family like Portland Road (an uncle of Colonel Burnaby), Whitshed Road after Colonel Burnaby's mother's maiden name, Vincent's road after a Burnaby relation who took part in the battle of Cape St. Vincent, Somerby Road after the name of the family house in Bedford, England.

Now let us look into the background history of the Hawkins Estate as it was

known then to all the locals prior to the marriage. Much of the Greystones area, I reckon, was

owned by the Walsh family of Old Conna and Shankill. When the insurrection of the native Irish in 1646 failed they were dispossessed of their lands and many were exiled. A free grant of land was then given by the British Crown to a Colonel Hawkins of England. He farmed the land and built the Killincarrig House now in ruins near the old mill house. Later on he built a new Killincarrig House which will now be the new Greystones Golf Club. The Hawkins and Whitshed families were later united by marriage; I often wonder was this Hawkins family any relation to the famous seadog Admiral Hawkins who raided the rich Spanish gold cargos in the Spanish Main.

Later on came the La Touche family, so the Greystones area of land was mainly owned by the Hawkins and the La Touche families.



Elizabeth Burnaby (nee Whitshed)

About the year 1802 the British authorities in Dublin feared an invasion by the French Republican forces, Admiral Whitshed was given the task of building defences along the coast: hence the few Martello towers which are to be seen today. So the Irish interest in the affairs of Colonel Burnaby is very centred around his Irish connections with his Irish bride living in Killincarrig House.

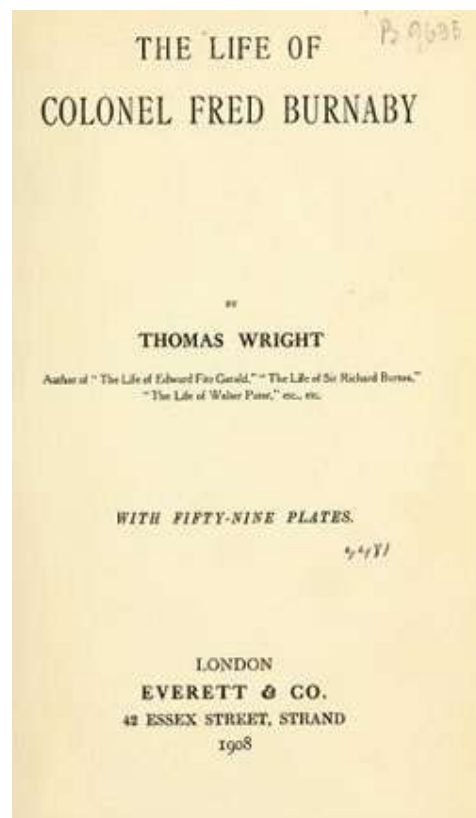
The marriage over, the young couple journeyed to Algiers but on route near Marseille they were snow bound and Mrs. Burnaby became ill. In Algiers she was diagnosed as being in the first stages of TB. On the doctor's orders Colonel Burnaby took his young wife to Switzerland where she benefited from the Alpine air and spent a lot of her life there during which she compiled some books on Alpine fauna. So much for Mrs. Burnaby, née Hawkins.

Now let us turn the narrative to relate the affairs of the gallant Colonel Burnaby himself. He was indeed a 100% English gentleman of the Queen and Empire type: brave, enterprising, adventurous, an intrepid traveller, a good linguist and author.

The Battle of Abou Klea

As part of the campaign to rescue General Charles Gordon besieged in Khartoum, Colonel Burnaby received orders on 28th December 1884 to move to Korti, a place between Debbah and Merani in Sudan.

On January 8th he reached Korti, where he learnt, to his joy, that a few days previous an Arab messenger had brought in a slip of paper, some two inches square, containing the following cheery message, 'Khartoum all right. December 14th. C. G. Gordon.' The messenger had added that Gordon looked well, while his men, who knew that Lord Wolseley was advancing to their aid, were in excellent spirits. Next morning Sir Redvers Buller, as Chief of the staff, placed Burnaby in charge of a convoy of grain, which was to be taken to Gadkul, and instructed him to join General Stewart's column if possible. He overtook the



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column at Gadkul very early in the morning of January 13th, and while handing over the convoy of grain he enquired: 'Am I in time for the fighting?'

'Oh yes, was the reply, 'we shall not march out till four.'

The advance commenced at the time expected, and on the evening of the 15th a halt was made near a high hill.

Next morning the column started again before daybreak, but owing to the difficulty of carrying forage, only a few of the officers, including Sir Herbert Stewart, Lord Airlie, and Frank Rhodes, were mounted. Burnaby was on a grey polo pony named Moses, which had been lent him by Lieutenant Percival Marling. Lord Charles Beresford rode a mule, his blue-jackets were on camels, but the rest were on foot. Would they reach Khartoum in time to save Gordon? That was the great question. They halted some four hundred yards from the foot of the bleak and rugged ridge which forms part of the caravan route to Abou Klea; and then General Stewart and his staff, including colonel Burnaby, went forward to reconnoitre. On topping the ridge they could see, by aid of their glasses, the army of the enemy so disposed as to dispute the further advance of the column; and, having returned to his men, the general gave the order for a zereba to be formed, while pickets were placed on the hills. The soldiers slept in the zereba in their great coats with bayonets fixed; for during the whole of the night could be heard the distant sound of the tom-tom, while the bullets of the enemy hissed overhead, or dropped into the square, mortally wounding several men, including Lord St. Vincent of the 16th Lancers. Twice during the night the pickets were driven in and the men called to arms.



Burnaby, who wore a big pilot jacket lined with astrakhan, had been appointed by General Stewart to the command of the left flank and rear of the square, and he virtually discharged the duties of a brigadier general. To Mr. Bennet Burleigh, who was by his side during the earlier part of the night, he expressed his satisfaction at having arrived in time for the approaching battle. 'I have got to that stage of life', he observed, 'when the two things that interest me most are war and politics; and I am equally exhilarated and happy whether holding up to odium an unworthy politics again on my return, for, next to war and fighting, there is more fire and go in that than in anything else. Besides, wars are going out of fashion. Politics give me a course and stir my blood.'

They talked together by the hour, joking and laughing - Burnaby championing the Tory cause, Burleigh, the Social Democratic; indeed, General Stewart, more than once, asked them to be silent.

'Do you think', said Captain Hipposley, to Burnaby, 'the enemy will come on and attack our entrenchment?' 'No such luck,' replied Burnaby. 'We shall have to go forward and attack them' - and then, his mind running on the intolerable thirst from which the column had suffered, and

the immense hordes of the enemy, he added, 'At home it is wine and women, but out here, from what I can see, it's men and water.'

A little later, however, he felt convinced that the enemy would make an attack, and having quitted his companions, he joined General Stewart, with whom he visited the various corps in the zereba, as well as the small posts which had been made with the aid of biscuit boxes. Addressing Corporal J.R. Payne as a senior non-commissioned officer, he said, 'Are your men awake? Is their ammunition ready?' And on receiving a satisfactory reply, he passed to another company, to whom he said 'Don't fire, men, until you see the whites of their eyes.'

A little later Mr. Burleigh learnt that Burnaby had been appointed by General Wolseley second in command - that is next to General Stewart - and that on reaching Metamneh, he was to be named governor of the town. Early in the morning Burnaby rode up to Lord Cochrane (now Lord Dundonald), whose men - a squadron of the heavy camel corps, made up of the 1st and 2nd Life Guards - occupied a slight hollow, and asked whether he might put his mount among them. While Lord Cochrane and Burnaby were sitting together on some rising ground, and looking in the direction of the enemy, a bullet whistled between them and towards some men who were lying behind, one of whom was named Murray. After remarking that it was a close shave, Lord Cochrane asked the men for the bullet, but Murray replied, 'I think, sir, I have the best right to it, as it has gone through my pocket'; so he kept it. Shortly afterwards someone said, 'They seem to be hitting a good many of our men'; on which Colonel Burnaby observed, 'You can't make omelettes without breaking eggs.'

A few minutes later while he was chatting with another officer and Mr. Melton Prior, the bullets of the enemy again came unpleasantly near. 'The rascals are firing at us from those hills on the right,' said the officer as a bullet whistled between him and Burnaby. 'We may as well be killed here now, as elsewhere later on.'

About 7 in the morning General Stewart ordered an advance, and gave instructions to drive the enemy from the wells. The column left the zereba at 7.30, and about 9 the bugle sounded the halt. A square was formed with the Guards in front, the Mounted Infantry on the left, the Sussex Regiment on the right, and the Naval Brigade and the Heavy Cavalry in the rear, while in the centre were the camels carrying ammunition and litters for the wounded, and the Gardner guns. A movement forward was then made, amid a fusillade from the hills, but although the enemy had excellent weapons, namely, Remingtons, taken from Hicks Pasha's slaughtered army, they were bad marksmen, most of the bullets going too high.

Reports then came in that the enemy's scouts were seen coming round the hills above the left flank; and the 19th Hussars were sent forward to drive them back.

'Where's your double-barrelled shot gun?' inquired Mr. Burleigh of Burnaby.

'Oh,' was the reply. 'As the sentimentalists and their friends at home made such an outcry on account of my using it at El Teb, I have handed it over to my servant.'

That was a mistake,' said Mr. Burleigh, 'I should have seen them did first. These cruel devils of dervishes give no quarter. It is not even the sword of Mahomet, but defilement and butchery in the name of the Mahdi. So it's their lives or ours.'

'It is too late now,' said Burnaby. 'I must take my chance.'

In the meantime, owing to the fact that many of the camels had been wounded, the rear of the square was unable to keep pace with the front, consequently a gap was left - a condition of affairs which the officers tried in vain to remedy, and while the British were in this predicament, the Arab forces poured over the mountains like swarms of bees. Nearer and nearer they approached, and with banners waving, tom-toms beating, and the tremendous

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shout of 'Allah Akhbah', they poured towards the gap in the square, sweeping over the undulating ground that lay in their path like a vast wave of black surf. There must have been fifteen thousand of them: enormous Sheiks in patched jibbehs, Dervishes, ferocious thick-necked Baggara from the Nuba plains, tremendous black woolly-haired warriors, with iron rings on wrist and neck, two edged swords and shields of crocodile hide, emirs on horseback; in short, representatives apparently of every tribe and nation in the Sudan.

The British tried their utmost to close the gap, the skirmishers fell back, while the rifles in the square kept up a continuous fire, and the shrapnel guns belched forth their deadly streams. General Stewart moved about the left flank, Colonel Burnaby was near the gap, and Lord Cochrane and Lieutenant-Colonel Lord Binning, were distant from him only a few yards. The rifles of the Guards and the Mounted Infantry mowed down the black masses of the enemy like corn, but those in the rear leaped over the piles of dead, many of them reaching the square, so there was much hand to hand fighting. To add to the terrible confusion, in the midst of the struggle part of the British ammunition caught fire, so there was at once a crackling of boxes and continuous explosion of cartridges behind our soldiers, and a furious enemy in front; but even this was not all, for the Gardner guns jammed, and the soldiers' bayonets, being too long, became softened by the continuous firing, and consequently lost their effectiveness.

Colonel Burnaby, who still rode the pony, Moses, had restrained his own command as long as possible. 'Don't fire yet,' he shouted, 'you'll hit our men' meaning the skirmishers, who were still pouring in ; and the foe was within 150 yards when the first volley was fired from those



near the gap. The left flank of the square then fell back a few feet, and there was some confusion. Colonel Burnaby, instead of falling back with the others, stood his ground, and then seeing some skirmishers being struck down by the Arabs he dashed to their rescue, doing deadly execution with his revolver and a huge sword. As he rode forward a Sheik charged him on horseback, only, however, to fall by an English bullet. But behind the Sheik were spearmen, and one of them, suddenly dashing at Burnaby, thrust a spear blade into his throat. Checking

his pony, and pulling it backward, Burnaby leant forward in his saddle and parried the rapid and ferocious thrusts, but the length of the Moslem's weapon - eight feet - put it out of his power to retaliate effectually. Still he fenced smartly, and there was a smile on his features as he drove off the man's awkward points. At this moment another Arab ran his spear into the Colonel's right shoulder, but he had scarcely done so before he was bayoneted by a young soldier named Laport. In the confusion Burnaby received another throat wound from the first Arab, causing him to fall from his saddle, and half a dozen Arabs closed on him. In spite of the wounds he leapt to his feet, sword in hand, and slashed at his foes, while Sir William Gordon Gunning, and young Corporal Mackintosh, of the Blues, who was instantly cut down by an Arab, rushed courageously to his assistance. Half a dozen Arabs were now about Burnaby; he struck at them 'with the wild strokes of a proud brave man dying hard, but he was quickly overborne,' and he fell bleeding, helpless and dying into the arms of his servant Buchanan, who had just reached the spot. Private Wood, of the Grenadier Guards, ran out, raised his head, and offered him some water.

'No, my man.' said Burnaby, pushing back the bottle. 'Look after yourself.'

'Oh, colonel, I fear I can say no more than god bless you,' said Wood.

In that fearful melee fell also Captain Darley, Lieutenants Wolfe and De Lisle and Majors Atherton and Carmichael, all of whom had found themselves like Burnaby outside the square - brave men every one. These events took place in even less time than it has taken to describe them; and then the whole thing was blotted out by the masses of the enemy, the scene becoming, to use Lord Dundonald's words, a veritable pandemonium - every man fighting for dear life, in the confusion a few of the Arabs, finding all their efforts in vain, began to turn and ride off the field. With cheer upon cheer the English hailed their victory, dearly won as it had been, and volley after volley was sent into the flying foe.

Terribly wounded as Burnaby was, he still lived, though life was fast ebbing away; among the sounds that last reached his ears were the cries of victory. At that moment Lord Binning ran up and knelt at his side. Burnaby opened his eyes, gently pressed his comrade's hand, and was gone.

And there he lay on this fatal field - a huge Sudanese spear with a blade sixteen inches long and four wide, covered with blood, crossing his body - probably the weapon that gave him his death wound. Poor Moses was found hard by stabbed in a dozen places.

There were also slain at Abou Klea, Major Gough, of the Royal Dragoons, Lieutenant Law, 4th Dragoon Guards, and Lieutenant Pigott, of the Naval Brigade, while Major Dickson and Lord Airlie were wounded.

Burnaby was buried about seven o'clock on the morning after the battle in a grave on some rising ground twenty yards north of the spot where he fell, and close beside the other officers and men killed in the battle, the burial service being read by Lord Charles Beresford. The spot was marked by a low stone wall and a large mound of stones. The immense hordes of dead Arabs were, by necessity, left unburied. Round the arms of the corpses were found leather bands supporting a little case containing a prayer in Arabic, composed by the Mahdi, who had declared that it would convert the British bullets into water. For long after the fight a great canopy of smoke hung over the battlefield, and vultures pounced upon the dead camels immediately they were deserted.

A small detachment having been left with the wounded, the British forces pressed on, and four days later they encountered the Arabs again at Abu Kru or Gubat near Metammeh, where Sir Herbert Stewart received a wound which a few days later proved fatal; and the chief command fell to Colonel Sir Charles Wilson. Among others who fell at Gubat were Mr.

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Cameron, the correspondent of The Standard and Mr. St. Leger Herbert, correspondent of The Morning Post, who are said to have been killed by the same bullet. They were borne to their grave by Mr. Burleigh, of the Daily Telegraph, Mr. F. Vilfiers, of the Graphic, Mr. Melton Prior, Of the Illustrated London News, Mr. H.H.S. Pearse, of the Daily News, Mr. Charles Williams, of the Daily Chronicle, and other sympathisers.

An attempt was made by Sir Charles Wilson to reach Khartoum by steamer, but on receiving the sad intelligence that Khartoum had fallen into the hands of the Mahdi, and that Gordon was dead, he relinquished the attempt, and returned with his wearied and ragged soldiers to the base at Korti, where the glowing praise which they heard from the lips of Lord Wolseley more than recompensed them for their sufferings. 'You have certainly done your best,' he said, 'and though you cannot get into Khartoum this year, you will next.'

As everyone knows, however, it took longer than Wolseley anticipated. It was not until December 1899, that British troops, under Kitchener, after defeating the Mahdi's successor, at the battle of Omdurman, finally reached Khartoum, and put a period to the wasteful and inhuman rule of Khalifa and Dervish.

Source: *The Life of Colonel Fred Burnaby*. Thomas Wright London 1908.

My Townland: - Its History and Archaeology

By Keith Barry and David Ward;

St. Kevin's School, Greystones

Our townland is Kindlestown in the Civil Parish of Delgany, in the Barony of Rathdown, in the county of Wicklow, in the Province of Leinster. All of these are historical and administrative divisions of Ireland.

The townland is the smallest administrative division in the country and all other territorial divisions are collections of townlands. The townland became the basic division in the 17th century. It was the unit used in the *Tithe Applotment Books*, *Griffiths Valuation*, and in the various Censuses. The Ordnance Survey was done in the 1st half of the 19th century, 1837 - 1841, using a scale of 6 inches to the mile, and is an important record of townland names, shapes and sizes. It created some new townlands by dividing existing ones, and it was probably then that Kindlestown got divided into Upper and Lower. There are approximately 64,000 townlands in Ireland today. They vary greatly in size, the poorer land often having greater acreage. Their boundaries usually coincide with either physical or manmade features, such as hill tops, running water, roads, ancient hedges, estate walls, etc. The majority of townlands were named at an early period. Often these names will refer to a permanent feature of their landscape such as carraig (rock), ard (height), cill (church), rath (fort). Sometimes names of former landowners are commemorated in place names, as in our own townland of Kindlestown.

Kindlestown today consists of two town lands: Upper and Lower. The area of Kindlestown Upper covers 177 acres and 10 roods. Its boundaries are: to the north: a line joining the Kindlestown Hill road, along the former northern boundary of Kindlestown Wood, to the Delgany/Blacklion road just beyond St. Kilian's Church and down to the T-junction. To the East: a line through the centre of the Blacklion/Delgany road, from Blacklion to the corner beyond the entrance to Kindlestown House. (This is also the border between Kindlestown Upper and Lower.) To the South: along a line from this to join the Delgany to Kindlestown Hill Road, which is the western boundary of the townland.

Kindlestown Lower has an area of 261 acres, 2 perches, and 30 roods. Upper and Lower together have an area just slightly more than the original 400 acres which stood with Kindlestown Castle in the 13th century. Its boundaries are triangular in shape. The western boundary is the same as the Eastern boundary of Kindlestown Upper. The Eastern boundary runs along the centre of the road from Blacklion to Kilcoole, to just beyond Kindlestown Cottages. The third side of the triangle joins this point to the Blacklion/Delgany road just beyond Kindlestown House.

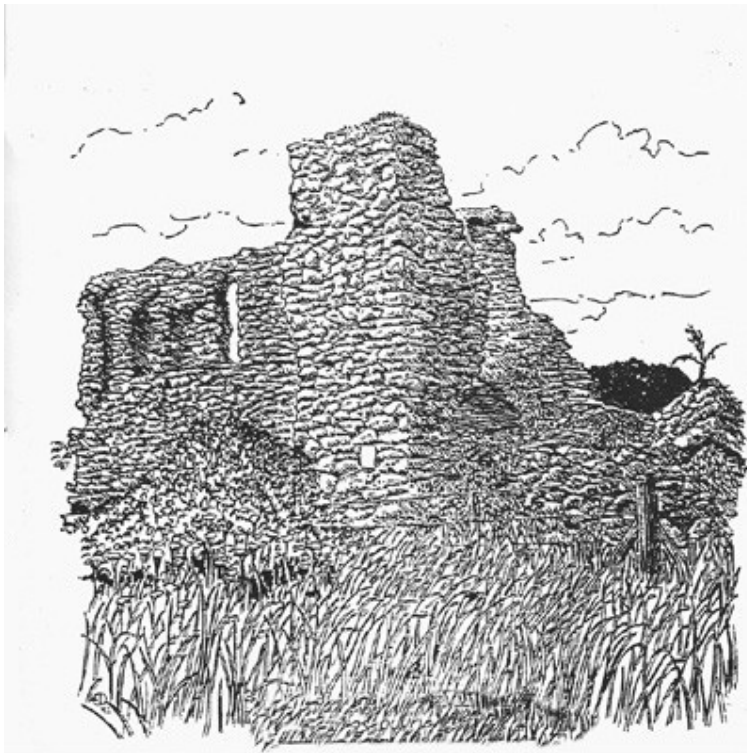
But long before this area came to be called Kindlestown it was part of the ancient Irish territory of Cualann or Crich Cualann which stretched from South Dublin and down East Wicklow between the mountains and the sea. The 4th and last wave of Celtic settlement came to Ireland from mainland Europe about 500 B.C. They were called Gaels or Goidels from the language they spoke which was the forerunner of modern Irish. Their basic unit of political organization was the tuath which became the geographical basis for many of our baronies. Heremon was, according to legend, son of Milesius, whose invasion of Ireland and defeat of the Tuatha de Danann represent the Goidels settlement in Ireland. *The Annals of the Four Masters*, written in the 16th century, record that in the remote pre-Christian era 'Heremon, one of the Kings of Ireland, built a rath on the sea shore at Rath-oinn in the territory of Cualann.' *The Annals of Clonmacnoise* record that the rath was built at Rath-onne in Crich Cualann. Rath-oinn is Rathdown, our neighbouring townland. It is the site of the rath and later

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castles, and is situated a few hundred yards to the east of the present day village of Redford. It eventually gave its name to the whole Barony. A recent aerial picture of Co. Wicklow has shown another rath site on top of Kindlestown Hill, near Shelagh's Well.

The principal tribe who held all the central part of the territory of Cualann for many centuries was that of the Ui Bruin, known as the Ui Bruin Cualann. During this period Christianity came to Ireland. In our area it may have been brought by St. Mochorog. He was said to have been a grandson of a King of Britain, and had his cell and left his name at deilgne-Morchorog, now Delgany, in which parish Kindlestown is situated.

Just before the arrival of the Normans in the 12th century, the Overlord of the Ui Bruin Cualann was Donal Mac Ghiolla Mocholmog. He was married to the daughter of Diarmaid McMurrough, King of Leinster, who had brought the Normans to Ireland. When the Normans were fighting the Danes in Dublin in 1171, Donal did a good job of sitting on the fence and helping the Norman Miles De Cogan only when he was certain to win the battle. He was rewarded by being allowed to keep some of his land in the Rathdown/Delgany area, but the remainder around Bray and south Dublin was granted, by King Henry 2nd, to Walter De Ridelsford, a Norman knight. The first stone castle built in Rathdown was built by the Normans in 1171. The Mac Ghiolla Mocholmogs, who later changed their names to Mc Dermott, were still in possession in 1400, and paid a yearly rent of two otter skins to the English crown.



Kindlestown Castle (South East)

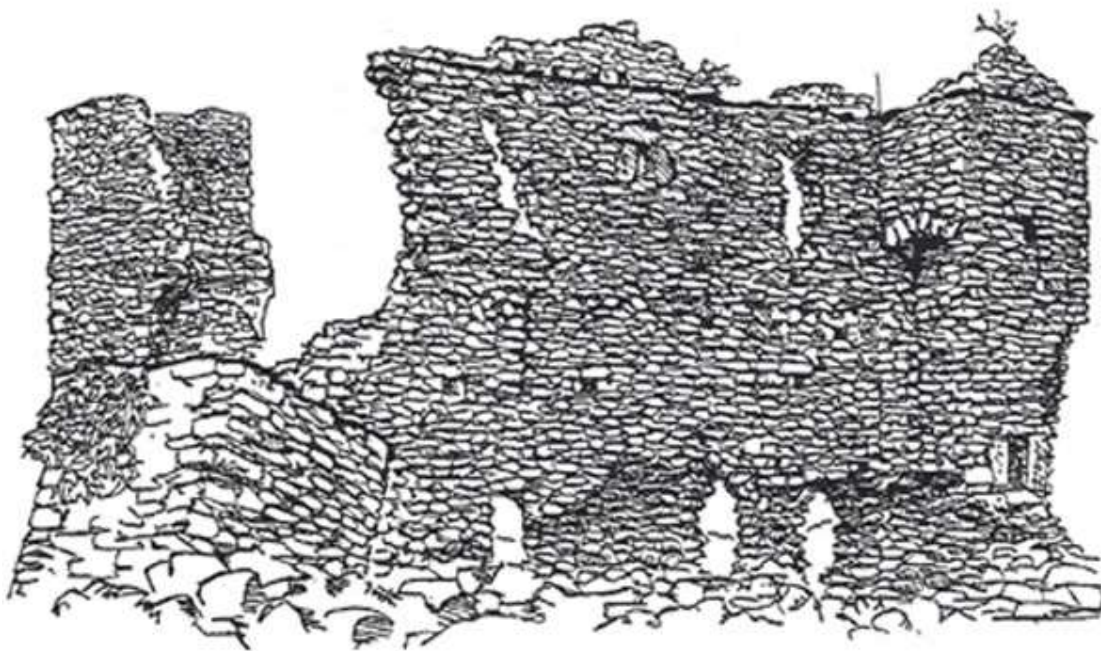
The Normans built their stone fortified castles around Ireland. Walter de Bendeville, who owned land in Delgany in 1225, is thought to have been the builder of Kindlestown Castle. Its ruins are in Kindlestown Upper, nearly opposite the present day St. Laurence's School. It must at first have had another name (Wally's Pile?) for it was not until it became the home of Albert de Kenley, who was sheriff of Kildare in 1301, that the castle and the lands around it became known as Kenley's town and through many spelling variations, to Kindlestown.

Albert de Kenley married the widow of Ralph Mac Ghiolla Mocholmog and had custody of his lands for his stepson, John. He

retained some of the land for himself as can be seen from a deed dated 1304. In 1301 the O'Byrnes had burnt down Rathdown Castle and the family may then have taken refuge in Kindlestown Castle. The next reference to Kindlestown Castle was in 1377 when the O'Byrnes captured it. It was recovered by Archbishop Wikeford, who was chancellor at the time, and later passed into the possession of the Archbold family.

The Archbolds were probably brought into the district by de Kenley. We hear of them in 1314, when some of them, who were accused of crimes, were given a pardon because of their good service in fighting the Irish. They were retainers of the Earl of Kildare, and they held Kindlestown Castle and lands throughout the 15th, 16th and 17th century. The *Calendar of Chancery Roils* mentions 'John Archebold of Kenleystoun' in 1399, the *Pembroke Estate Deeds*: 'Archbolds in Ballikinle' and again, 'Willam Ashpole of Kenleyston' in 1530. The Archbolds also held land in Killruddery and Bray, in Coolegad, Delgany, Newcastle, Templecarrick and Raheenaclogh. Around 1402 there was another attempt by the O'Byrnes to take over, but Donnacha O'Byrne was defeated by the Archbolds. Kindlestown Castle appears to have flourished during this time and we know from the *Inquisitions of James 1st* that in 1621 it was surrounded by 400 acres and had its own water mill. But the Archbolds had fallen on bad times and their estates had become heavily mortgaged. They had already sold Killruddery and Bray, when Edward Archbold, still a minor, sold Kindlestown, Temple-Delgany and Coolegad to William Brabazon, Earl of Meath in 1630.

The 17th century was a period of wars and great unrest in Ireland. After the rebellion of 1641 many of the Catholic 'rebel' landowners lost their property, including the Archbolds, who still held 'Raheenaclogh' and 'Templecarrick', and Bernard Talbot, whose family had been granted Rathdown after the downfall of Fitzgerald in 1535. Neither of these regained their lands after the restoration of 1660 following Charles 2nd's return to the English throne.



Kindlestown Castle (North East)

There was more upheaval after Cromwell's conquest of Ireland in 1649 and the subsequent land forfeitures in 1652. When Cromwell was marching from Dublin to Wexford in 1649 we know that he spent at least one night in neighbouring Killincarrig House. There is a story that while he was there, his favourite horse was stolen by the Irish, so he marched across the hill to Kindlestown Castle, and finding that the garrison had fled to Arklow, ransacked it before marching on to Arklow, capturing its castle, and killing the inhabitants.

The *Down Survey* was published in 1657. According to it 'Rathdown Barony was not well inhabited - occasioned partly by the destruction of the ancient Irish inhabitants in the late

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Warres'. The survey found Rathdown Castle in ruins, Killincarrig House - 'the finest building in the half barony' but makes no mention of Kindlestown Castle. This was because it then belonged to the Earl of Meath who was 'no Irish rebel' and was not forfeited at the great confiscation.

Our next clue to the fortunes of our townland after these years of fighting and deprivation lies in the *Hearth Money Rolls of 1668*. This was a method of raising money for the Stuart Kings by taxing each hearth. A list was made out of those eligible for each county in Ireland. Fortunately the lists for Wicklow have survived. They are a form of census and also a record of social state. The entry for Delgany Parish, Kindlestown townland records six houses.

But what of Kindlestown castle? Was it uninhabited?

The next century was comparatively peaceful, although Catholics were forbidden by the Penal Laws to sit in Parliament, teach school or buy land. A map which was drawn of the Baker Estate in Delgany in 1775 shows a sizeable community of nine houses in the vicinity of the Castle. Many of the cottages are shown with smoke coming out of their chimneys where a hundred years before there were only two houses in the whole townland with chimneys. The Castle is shown. It does not appear to be in ruins but it was probably not still inhabited.

In 1777 Skinner's *Road Maps of Ireland* were published. It showed the large country houses along the roads and their owners. 'Kindlestown' was the home of Mr. John Bunn. This house appears as Kindlestown House on earlier maps but is called 'Glencarrig' in later ones. A later Kindlestown House is in Kindlestown Lower. There is a record of Mr. John Bunn as Churchwarden in Delgany in 1785 - 1788.

The same maps show Colonel Tarrant in residence in Rathdown and Mr. Edwardes in Charlesland. The Edwardes had been granted the lands of Upper and Lower Rathdown after the restoration and their descendants later sold the lands of Upper and Lower Rathdown to Peter La Touche. The La Touche Family of Huguenot Bankers, whose name is so closely associated with the history of Greystones and Delgany, came to live in their newly constructed mansion of Bellevue, bordering on Kindlestown, at around this time. The map also showed that there was a Post House and Coaching Inn at Blacklion House where the Veterinary Clinic is today. There is another reference in a private diary to a Mr. Fairbrother stopping to meet the Sheriff 'at Blacklyon ... an Inn'.

Wicklow was not a very prosperous place at the beginning of the 19th century. The 1798 Rebellion and its aftermath had left the land neglected and uncultivated, and poverty and political divisions were widespread. The year 1800 saw the Act of Union of Britain and Ireland and Dublin lost its Parliament.

The Census of Ireland statistics for 1821 give 174 houses and 1,125 inhabitants in Delgany Parish. (No figures for separate townlands.) We read in *The Story of Delgany* by Judith Flannery that the Dispensary District was set up in Delgany in 1837 and that there were outbreaks of smallpox and cholera at that time. There was a Fever Hospital in Newtownmountkennedy and there may have been a Cholera Hospital near Dromin. The 1861 Census statistics give us the following population figures. (The actual Census Returns for all of the 19th century were either pulped or destroyed by fire in the Customs House in 1922.)

	<i>Kindlestown Upper</i>	<i>Kindlestown Lower</i>
1841:	31 houses, 187 people	18 houses. 81 people
1851:	41 houses, 181 people	18 houses, 80 people
1861:	12 houses, 77 people	15 houses, 87 people
	(1 uninhabited)	(2 uninhabited, 1 being built)

The population of Kindlestown Lower remained fairly stable, but what drastic event occurred between 1851 and 1861 to cut the number of houses in Kindlestown Upper by over two thirds, and the inhabitants by over a half? The Great Famine (1847) was much less severe in Wicklow than in some other places and the local landlords were caring. Nor is there a history of evictions in the area. Perhaps it was emigration or infectious disease?

In 1838 the first Ordnance Survey Maps were made. This shows a Coast Guard Station, 'the preventive Water Guard stationed at Blacklion as a precaution and deterrent to smugglers', mentioned in Wright's *Guide to Wicklow* in 1834. Greystones itself was at this time just a fishing village of 7 families. As the century progressed, especially after the building of the railway in 1854 - 56, the village began to develop rapidly, under the direction of the La Touche Family.

In 1831, a non-denominational National School system was set up. It was thought that Blacklion had a two roomed school house before 1866 when St. Kilian's Church was built, both on land donated by Thomas Phelan of Ballydonagh. The *Parish Commission Report of 1870* describes the Blacklion Male National School, which was situated at the top of Church Lane, at the entrance of the present Applewood Heights. This is shown clearly on the 1909 & 1941 O.S. maps. But it was not on the 1838 map. With improved conditions for Catholics, new Churches were built, and the foundation stone of St. Kilian's Church was laid on the 14th of October 1866 by Mgr. Walter Lee, P.P. of Bray and Greystones. A statue of St. Kilian wrought by Herr Arnold Fussengang, an eminent Bavarian artist, was given to the Church by Mgr. Lee.

The *Census Returns* for all Ireland for 1901 and 1911 are available to the Public in the National Archives, and make very interesting reading.

These Returns give head of household and all other members and their relationship to the head. They also specify age, occupation, place of birth, religion, ability to read and write, language spoken, and whether deaf, dumb, blind or lunatic. Housing was classified into 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class, (depending partly on the number of windows to the front), and the number of years of present marriage and number of children born alive or otherwise. They give a clear picture of social class and education at that time.

The Census Returns for Kindlestown townlands, Upper and Lower, were filled on the night of the 20th April 1901 and the returning officer was Constable Henry Webb. He had to do a lot of the writing himself and to witness 'x, his mark' for many heads of households. In Kindlestown Upper, there were 13 inhabited houses and 2 uninhabited. There were 55 persons living there, 43 were 'Irish Church' and 11 were 'Roman Catholic'. Of the 11 R.C.'s all were live in servants. All heads of households were I.C. There were 5, 1st class houses, 7, 2nd class houses (average 3 rooms) and 1 3rd class house of 1 room only. Only one person, excluding small children, was said to be unable to read and write. Nobody spoke Irish. Nobody, apparently, had any physical or mental disability. Two thirds of the birth places of household heads were outside Wicklow. The largest house in the townland had 13 rooms and the greatest number of occupants was 7. The occupations given included 'income from land and property investments', retired colonel, farmer, servant, coachman, and gardener.

Mrs. Jane Reid was 83 years old. She lived in a 12 roomed house with 7 servants: a housemaid, a parlour maid, a lady's maid, a cook, a groom, a gardener, and a companion. This house was probably Glencarrig (called Kindlestown House in the 1838 O.S. map).

Frederick Kelly, aged 64, lived in a 4 roomed house. His occupation was given as land steward. This was probably the same Frederick Kelly who we read in *The Story of Delgany* won 'The Best Kept Garden Category' in the Delgany Horticultural Show on August 15th 1877.

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The Rev. Edward Young, 31 years, Curate, lived in Kindlestown Cottage, which was known as 'Curate's Cottage'.

Dr. Cuthbert Eccles, physician and surgeon, 39 years, had a 10 roomed house and 2 servants. By 1911 he had acquired one further room and two children. Was this the 'Dr. Cuthbert' mentioned in *The Story of Delgany* as 'the Dispensary Medical Officer, who in 1900 was honoured by receiving the Royal Humane Society's Testimonial for his heroism in plunging into the sea on June 24th and gallantly rescuing Mr. W.H. Lumley from drowning'?

In contrast, Kindlestown Lower had 34 houses, of which 30 were inhabited. The population was 145 people. 99 being R.C. and 45 I.C. There were 2 1st class, 6 2nd class, and the remainder were 3rd class houses. Only 8 householders could read and write although most of their wives and all of their school going children could. However, most of the men who were not literate were over 40 years of age. Only two heads of household belonging to the Irish Church were illiterate. Most had been born in Wicklow. Nobody spoke Irish, or was deaf, dumb, blind or mad.

In 1901 Dr. Robert Norman Thompson, physician and surgeon, lived in Kindlestown House with his wife Helen, 2 children, William and Cicely and 5 servants. He was the registered landowner for most of the remainder of the townland. He was not there in 1911.

There were 3 one-roomed houses, and 10 two-roomed houses. In some of these lived 8, 9 and 10 people. The occupations given were: engineer, farmer (one only), fish dealer, pig dealer, coachman, farm servant, labourer, gardener, boot maker, blacksmith, solicitor's clerk, stone mason.

Catherine Foley, a 59 year old widow from Co. Longford had a grocery shop. This may have been where Roche's pharmacy is today. The lease of this premises states that it must not be used for any Roman Catholic religious purpose.

John Thompson, whose occupation was coachman in 1901, was a boot maker in 1911. He may have lived in the house presently owned by Miss Lucy Sealy. She has heard the story that a small back window which she had filled in, was used by a previous owner, a shoe maker to hand out shoes to customers on the laneway which used to run from the back of her house down through what is now Applewood Heights, to the main road (O.S. maps, 1838,1901).

George Ludlow was a stonemason aged 76. Under his category 'ability to read and write' was the entry 'used to but can't now because of his eyes'.

Ambrose Byrne, aged 50, was a 'horse shoer' in 1901 and a blacksmith in 1911. The Smithy is shown in the 1901 O.S. map, near St. Kilian's church.

The oldest inhabitant of the townland was Sarah Kelly aged 80. Only 4 people were over 70. 7 were in their 60's. The youngest householder was 18 year old John Richardson.

In 1911 Kindlestown Upper had 12 houses and 60 inhabitants. The religious difference was not quite so marked, but only one head of household was R.C. Only 4 were unchanged since 1901: Cuthbert Eccles, Fred Kelly, James Law and Wm. Madden.

Miss Mary La Touche, aged 48, sister of Major Peter La Touche, who died in 1904 from a wound received two years previously in the Boer War, was living in Fair View, at La Touche Dower House. She had 'no occupation' and three servants.

In 1911 Kindlestown Lower had 25 inhabited houses, a school, and Catholic Church. It now had 3 1st class houses and only 6 3rd class houses. 18 of the 1901 heads of households were still there. How many of these names are still in the area? Byrne, Gunning, Whiston, Healy, Connor, Doyle, Thompson, Murphy, Bowen, Carroll, Lynch, Hempenstall, Hackman, German,

Grady, Geoghan, Webster, Harrison, Ludlow, Evans, Smith, Connolly, Downey, Thomas, Mc Guinness, Guiney, Quinn, Kelly, Pearte. In Kindlestown Upper: Cunningham, Rogers, Smyth, Connolly, Keddy, Cairns, Hamilton, Jobey, Murphy, Wynne, Fauldne, Barcroft, Bennett, Pearte, Parnell and Knox.

As we moved into the 20th century the whole area of Greystones continued to expand. The La Touche Estate was completed in the decade just before the turn of the century and the development of the Whitshed/Burnaby estate began. Over the years, the population of Kindlestown Upper has remained fairly stable. There was a small housing development built opposite St. Kilian's church in the mid 1970's. But the site of the ruined 13th century Kindlestown Castle is due for development in the near future. The owner of the 11 acre field in which the castle stands, has permission to build 11 luxury houses there. It is imperative that sufficient and stringent archaeological conditions should be attached to the granting of planning permissions for such sites and that proper excavations should take place first.

The population of Kindlestown Lower has increased enormously since 1900 with several new housing developments covering the previously open fields. Kindlestown cottages were built in the 1930's, Grattan Park in the late 1940's. Kindlestown Park was built in the 1970's, as were Beechbrook, Applewood Heights and Bellevue Heights. Kenmare Heights was built in the 1980's.

In his book *Greystones 1864 - 1964* Mr. Samuel French is mildly concerned about the 'modern bungalows' being built in the Burnaby and 'hoped that further development would not detract from the present peaceful residential atmosphere.' 'Further development' is still going ahead full steam, and we must all be concerned that it does not do so at the expense of our heritage.

Acknowledgements

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