

Drumhill

maochairl manachain

MOHILL RE-MEMBERED



JUBILEE



2000

941
71 LMO

Front Cover shows the four churches of present
day worship in the Parish of Mohill.

Cover Design by Dick Hinchy
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maothaíl manacháin

MOHILL RE-MEMBERED



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Foreword



This Jubilee Year has exceeded expectations in the communities. Among the lasting benefits of this year of celebration will be the many written accounts we will have of life in days past and records of present happenings. I am delighted to learn that the Parish of Mohill is doing something for itself in this regard.

Faith and culture have been so intertwined that one could never write the story of a community without reference to the Christian Churches. To quote one example, one of the big dates in the calendar for Mohill people in times past was the 25th February, the day of Manchain Fair. Once the largest fair in Connaught, it got its name from Mohill's very own Patron Saint, St Manchain. Even the business life of Mohill came under his patronage. It is my hope and prayer that the re-telling of the story of our ancestors will ensure that tidal change, which affects our culture to-day, will not wash away our most precious memories.

I congratulate those who have written and published this book for Jubilee Year 2000.

+ Colm O'Reilly

Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois.
17th May 2000.



In recent years there has been a surprising upsurge in the researching and writing of local histories, perhaps as a reaction to the trends of a technological culture that has been cut adrift from the past, and the consequent fear that the local story may be lost forever. The existence of such ancient writings as "The Annals of Lough Key" suggests that ours is not the first generation to have such anxieties. Whatever the reason, telling the story is one of the most powerful means of fostering a sense of corporate identity and building up community life.

From the point of view of faith, the re-discovery of our common heritage can do nothing but good, and I heartily welcome the appearance of this record of the Faith story of Mohill.

+ Michael H.G. Mayes

Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh
17th May 2000.

A Dream Within

It is awesome to think that a huge oak tree is the realisation of something that emerged from the small acorn. We might call what was in the acorn a plan or dream. The tree did not grow at random, it was shaped by circumstances such as storms and sunshine, but the main thrust of its growth came from the dream built into it from within. The tree's growth is always being directed by this plan of God deep within it.

Our lives too are directed by a dream God has built into us, but the fulfilment of our dream is not automatic. We have to get in touch with our dream and decide to take responsibility for its realisation. The quality of what we do in life will depend on our ability to listen to our dream.

There is a record of the oak tree's growth written in its rings. Likewise there is a story, a record, a sketch of how our dream unfolds, engraved in our minds and hearts. This publication is an effort to reflect on the history and story of many generations in Mohill, how they took the initiative and responsibility to realise their dreams, ambitions and expectations. The names of people and places, events and organisations mentioned in this book remind us how a dream can become a reality when people possess dedication, determination, creativity, imagination and the capacity for hard work. We recognise and acknowledge their achievements and their willingness to make a difference in the parish of Mohill and its surrounding areas. In these pages we recall and retell the story of different generations, communities and organisations that followed their dream, who were excited by life and all its possibilities.

To follow your dream is the most creative and soulful thing you will ever do, the bringing of the seed to full flowering and fruition is our task during life, a task that is guided and inspired by the Spirit's gift of love.

The dream within each person finds expression in different ways. During the last few months the committee have discovered how that dream manifested itself in the history of this parish. A 'dream' that was deeply rooted in a rich Christian heritage and cherished in family life:-

A dream that inspired priest, religious and lay people to preach, teach and give witness to the 'Good News'.

A dream that prompted those in the caring profession to care for the downtrodden, the weak, the poor and the vulnerable.

A dream that challenged teachers to provide education and skills, wisdom and knowledge for the younger generation.

A dream that encouraged people to enjoy life, to take part in sport or to perform on stage, and so bring joy and laughter to others.

A dream that cultivated a pride in, and love for, the land, its animals and the whole world of nature.

A dream that brought people together in a voluntary way to comfort and console the cares and concerns of others.

A dream that inspired new enterprises, and gave people an opportunity to work in the local community.

A dream that focuses our thoughts on the good and positive, and so enables us to grow spiritually and emotionally.

A dream that releases the hidden treasure within each person by sharing with Christians of other Churches.

The dream within and its unique character and richness finds splendid expression in this wonderful publication which gives a colourful and accurate account of the life, events and memories of people and parish life. I welcome this publication in this Jubilee Year and I hope that you will treasure it and enjoy it.



A large number of people and groups contributed enormously to this publication and all of them gave of their time, talents and expertise voluntarily. I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all the contributors who shared their experiences and insights openly and honestly. I am deeply grateful to those who spent time seeking out information, photographs and all who supported and contributed financially to this publication. I appreciate and express my sincere thanks to the Jubilee Committee Editorial Team and Finance Committee namely - Tony O'Reilly, Michael Whelan, Jim Reynolds, Michael Cumiskey, Harry O'Flynn, Thomas Melia, Liam Ellis, Eileen Boyle, Maureen Lynch, Mary Carleton Reynolds, Ann Early, Kathleen Cashin, Lourda McGowan, Francis McGowan, Sylvester Kivlehan, Gerry Beirne, Luke Early and Pdraig Browne.

The above mentioned have worked extremely hard and have spent many hours attending meetings, collecting photographs, researching and writing articles, and deliberating on the most suitable material for inclusion in the book. I hope their choice and recommendations meet with your approval.

We have done our best to put together a rich compendium of accounts that give a flavour of the past and present life of our parish. It is not in the strict sense, a history, nor does it pretend to be comprehensive and complete, and so allowance should be made for omissions, factual errors and other shortcomings. This publication is in essence an act of remembrance, which in turn, hopefully, will enable all of us to re-member ourselves, re-make ourselves anew - this is always a necessary and salutary process. By reading this publication we declare our solidarity and gratitude to all who have taken responsibility to follow the good force of that process and dream. May we be inspired by their vision and courageous spirit, and we declare our gratitude for the way that work has been continued in this publication.

Patrick Kiernan C.C.
(Chairman Mohill Jubilee Committee)

Mohill Jubilee Committee



Mohill Jubilee Committee

Back Row: Fr. Pat Kieran, Micheal Whelan, Maureen Lynch, Micheal Cumiskey, Kathleen Cashin, Liam Ellis & Tony Reilly.
Front Row: Jim Reynolds, Eileen Boyle, Ann Early, Mary Reynolds & Harry O'Flynn
Inserted in Photo: Thomas Melia, Lourda McGowan.

Jubilee Finance Committee

Luke Early, Gerry Beirne, Padraig Browne, Sylvester Kivlehan and Francis McGowan

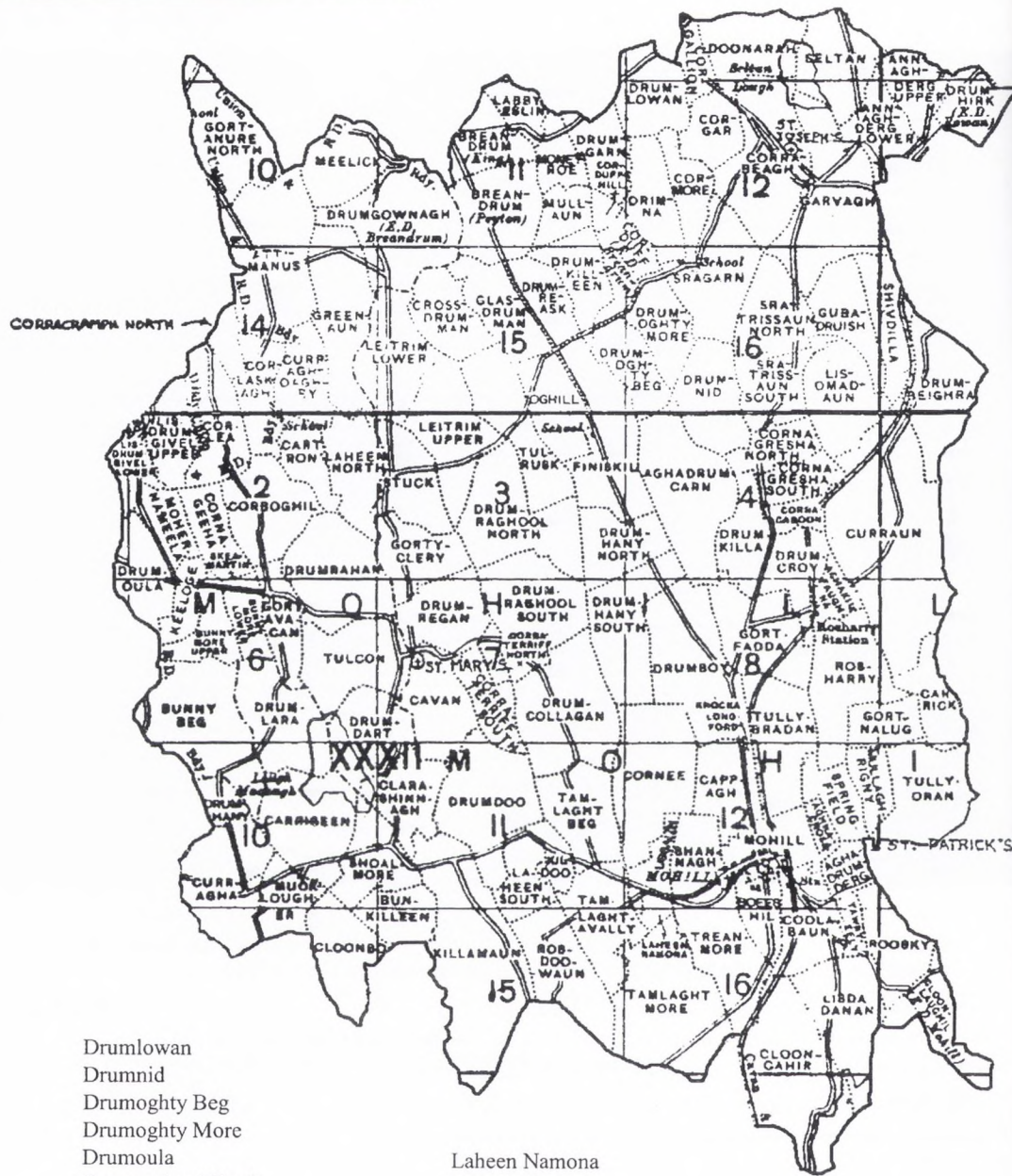
The Editorial Committee gratefully acknowledge all those who have contributed in anyway to this book.

Our special thanks goes to Séan O'Suilleabháin and Staff, Leitrim County Library, Leitrim Genealogy Centre, Canon James Prunty, Aughavas, Rev. Laurence Graham and Mr. Edwin McCormack, Longford Methodist Community, Margaret our typist and Caroline, Mick & Staff at Carrick Print 2000.

While every effort has been made to verify details in this publication, we sincerely regret any errors or omissions.

MOHILL

- Aghadruncarn
- Aghadrungerg
- Aghakilfaughna
- Aghinacross
- Annaghderg Lower
- Annaghderg Upper
- Attimanus
- Boeshil
- Breandrum (King)
- Breandrum (Peyton)
- Bunkilleen
- Bunnybeg
- Bunnymore Lower
- Bunnymore Upper
- Cappagh
- Carrick
- Carrigeen
- Cartron
- Cavan
- Clarashinnagh
- Cloonbo
- Clooncahir
- Cloonlaughil (E.D. Mohill)
- Coolabaun
- Corboghil
- Corduff (E.D. Breandrum)
- Corduff Hill
- Corgallion
- Corgar
- Corlaskagh
- Corlea
- Cormore
- Cornageeha
- Cornagresha North
- Cornagresha South
- Cornee
- Corrabeagh
- Corracaboon
- Corracramph North
- Corraterriff North
- Corraterriff South
- Crossdrumman
- Curragha
- Curraun
- Curraghoaghry
- Doonarah
- Drimna
- Drumbeighra
- Drumboy
- Drumcollagan
- Drumcroy
- Drumdart
- Drumdoo
- Drumgam
- Drumgownagh (E.D. Breandrum)
- Drumhany
- Drumhany North
- Drumhany South
- Drumhirk
- Drumkilla
- Drumkilleen
- Drumlara



- Drumlowan
- Drumnid
- Drumoghty Beg
- Drumoghty More
- Drumoula
- Drumraghool North
- Drumraghool South
- Drumrahan
- Drumreask
- Drumregan
- Finiskil
- Garvagh
- Glasdrumman
- Gortanure North
- Gortavacan
- Gortfadda
- Gortnalug
- Gortyclery
- Greenaun
- Gubadruish
- Keeloge
- Kildoo
- Killamaun
- Knockalongford
- Labbyeslin
- Laheen Namona
- Laheen North
- Laheen South
- Leitrim Lower
- Leitrim Upper
- Lisdadan
- Lisdrumgivel Lower
- Lisdrumgivel Upper
- Lisomadaun
- Meelick
- Mohernameela
- Mohill
- Moneyroe
- Mucklougher
- Mullaghgrigny
- Mullaun
- Oghill
- Roosky
- Rosdoowaun
- Rosharry
- Seltan
- Shannagh
- Shivdilla
- Shoalmore
- Skeamartin
- Springfield
- Sragarn
- Sratrissaun North
- Sratrissaun South
- Stuck
- Tamlaghtavally
- Tamlaght Beg
- Tamlaght More
- Tawnyceely
- Treanmore
- Tulcon
- Tulrusk
- Tullybradan
- Tullyoran
- Ussau

The Parish of Mohill

Co. Leitrim

Michael Whelan

The word Mohill in gaeilge is Maothail and means 'a soft spongy spot'. The town is called Maothail Manacháin from St Manachan who founded a monastery here as early as 500 A.D. The site was where the Church of Ireland stands today and it probably stretched across the river to where the Carolan Home now stands. Every monastery had a church, school, mill, house of hospitality, little huts for the monks etc. The only remaining memory of St Manachan was, until recent times, the big fair called Monaghan Day, held in the town on Feb 25th each year.

In the early 1200s the monastery was taken over by the Augustinian Order and they remained in charge of the monastery until the monasteries were closed in the time of King Henry VIII in the sixteenth century. The monastery and its lands eventually passed to the Crofton landlord family as well as the town of Mohill and a large portion of the surrounding country. The Crofton family held those lands until the early part of the 20th century. The Clements family (Lord Leitrim's family) owned various townlands in the parish of Mohill but it was the Crofton landed family who owned the town.

The principal family name around Mohill was Mac Raghnaill, later anglicised to Reynolds. The family sprang from the ancient tribe known as the Con Maicne Moy Réin. Raghnaill (from the Norse, Reginald), was probably an important family name at the time surnames came into use - about the time Brian Boru was fighting the marauding Danes.

The districts of Eslin and Gorravagh are part of the parish of Mohill. The parish (19,000 acres) is the biggest in the diocese of Ardagh. There are 127 townlands on the Ordnance Survey map and the population of the town is about one thousand while the rural division holds about another thousand.

Hyde Street gets its name from Rev Arthur Hyde who was a Church of Ireland minister in Mohill from 1816 until 1870, 54 years. This Arthur Hyde had a son, also Arthur, who became a Church of Ireland minister and he had a son named Douglas. Douglas was born at Kilmactranny, Co Sligo, but brought up at Frenchpark, Co Roscommon. This is the Douglas Hyde who figured in Irish history as the founder of the Gaelic League in 1893 and who was elected President of Ireland in 1938. Douglas spent a lot of his boyhood years around Mohill. The Hunt Hall is called after Rev Fitzmaurice Hunt who succeeded Rev Arthur Hyde and was married to his daughter.

The present Catholic Church, St Patrick's, was built in 1885 and the spire was added in 1936. The church was built when Canon Donohue was parish priest of Mohill. It was also Canon Donohue who had the residence of the parish priest erected. The first Sisters of Mercy came to Mohill in 1879 and the present convent is sited close to the site of the old church.

Turlough Carolan (1670-1738) was a great composer of music for the harp. He lived at Mohill when he married Mary Maguire of Tempo, Co Fermanagh about the year 1720, and it was here his family was reared. He was blind and made his living by playing the harp and composing musical pieces at the houses of the rich. A statue to his memory was erected at the lower end of the town and was unveiled by Dr Hillery, President of Ireland, in August 1986.

The workhouse was situated where the creamery now operates.

It was built by the English government in the early eighteen forties and was intended to give shelter and food to the homeless. It had accommodation for 800 but during the Famine (1845-'47) it held far more than that. It was a harsh place and many died there. Those who had no one to take the 'remains' were buried in a little plot not far away called Bully's Acre.

The Night of the Big Wind did not do as much damage to the town of Mohill as it did to other towns. It took place on Sunday evening, 6th January, 1839.

Both Eslin and Gorravagh are part of the parish of Mohill. In olden times the present parish of Bornacoola was part of Mohill parish. Mohill, therefore, stretched to the Shannon and there were some townlands in Co Longford. In Eslin there was a R.I.C. barracks at Coraterriff and a church at Cavan. The church at Cavan, district of Eslin, was built in 1843 by Rev John Eivers and there were two schools, Eslin and Cartron. We are not sure of the exact year when Gorravagh R.C. church was built but we are told that it was built on a site given by Lord Leitrim who owned the townlands in this district. There was also a R.I.C. barracks here. There were two schools in this district also, Finiskill and Stracarne. They were amalgamated with the schools in Mohill in 1975.

The train, known as the Narrow Gauge, ran past Mohill where it had a stop. Mohill railway station house and offices are still standing and are in good repair. The Narrow Gauge line reached Mohill from Dromod in 1887 and continued towards Ballinamore and Belturbet. It was especially useful on fair days for transporting cattle towards the North of Ireland and towards the Midlands. It closed in 1959. The iron rails and wooden 'sleepers' were sold.

The R.I.C. barracks for Mohill town was situated in Glebe Street where Gilmartin's butcher shop now does its business. Mohill GAA club was called the Faughs (Fág an Bealach). Eslin club was called 'Sarsfields' and Gorravagh GAA club was called the 'Brian Borus'. Gorravagh is the only club to win 'four-in-a-row' in the Leitrim (senior) G.A.A. County Championship. It won in 1924, 1925, 1926 and 1927. Mohill won the first Co Championship in Leitrim in 1890 and Eslin won the second in 1891.



Pictured at Corpus Christi Procession; Maye Logan-Crowe, Anita Kelly, Eileen Kelly.

The Mercy Sisters and Secondary Education in Mohill

1949 - 2000

John Moran

An inspector from the Department of Education visited St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy primary school in Mohill in May, 1949. He praised the excellent work which the Sisters were doing and offered them a new challenge. When he suggested that the sisters might extend their commitment into the provision of secondary schooling for the girls of Mohill and surrounding areas, he could not have anticipated that his idea would find such an immediate response. Spurred on by her own restless energy, and never one to resist a challenge, Sr. Clare Fox set about the task of creating a new school which would become St. Joseph's Secondary Top. Just a few months after the inspector's visit, the dream became a reality with thirteen desks in a room on the premises of the Convent.

Sr. Clare's enthusiasm found ready support in her many talented and hard-working colleagues at St. Anne's Convent of Mercy. Sr. Stanislaus, Sr. Therese, Sr. Aloysius, Sr. Ignatius, Sr. Aquin and Sr. Oliver all contributed to the success of the new school in its fledgling years. Through its first decade of existence, the school gained in popularity and reputation, attracting girls from Mohill, Annaduff, Aughavas, Bornacoola, Cloone, Gortletteragh and Fenagh. Fourteen years after the establishment of the Secondary Top, Sr. Clare took on yet another new challenge when she decided to open her doors to the first group of boys in 1963. In this ground-breaking development, St. Joseph's was years ahead of most other convent secondary schools. This courageous venture into the uncharted waters of mixed education was consolidated by the amalgamation with the Boy's School which had been set up by Fr. Ignatius MvLoughlin at Lough Rynn. Fr. Ignatius and his 'Rynn Boys' arrived on the convent campus in 1966.

It was not only among the students body at St. Joseph's that the transition from an all-female institution to a mixed school became apparent. The Sisters were joined in their noble enterprise by many lay-teachers, both male and female. Many of the students who attended in the mid-sixties will remember Mrs. Doyle, who taught French and Geography. Mr. Tony O'Connell became the first male lay-teacher at the school in 1966. It was around this time that the school came to be known as Marian College, although even to the present day a student is likely to be asked whether he or she is 'going to the Convent'.

The cohort of lay-teachers at Marian College grew rapidly in numbers, and while Matt Gaffey and Art Ridge joined Tony O'Connell to build a formidable Galway contingent, the Leitrim flag was kept flying by Anthony Canning, Nancy Donnelly (now McWeeney), Aidan McIntyre and Maura Reynolds (now Farrell). Like most second-level colleges of the time, the school gained considerably from the radical changes introduced under the O'Malley plans in 1967. The 'Yellow Buses' and 'Free Education' opened new opportunities for the young people of Leitrim. It was an exciting time for Sr. Clare and for the staff and students of her beloved school. The little academy that had grown from its makeshift first home in a couple of rooms at the convent, gradually extending to the Lourdes Hall and the first 'Pre-fabs' in the convent garden, found a more permanent campus with

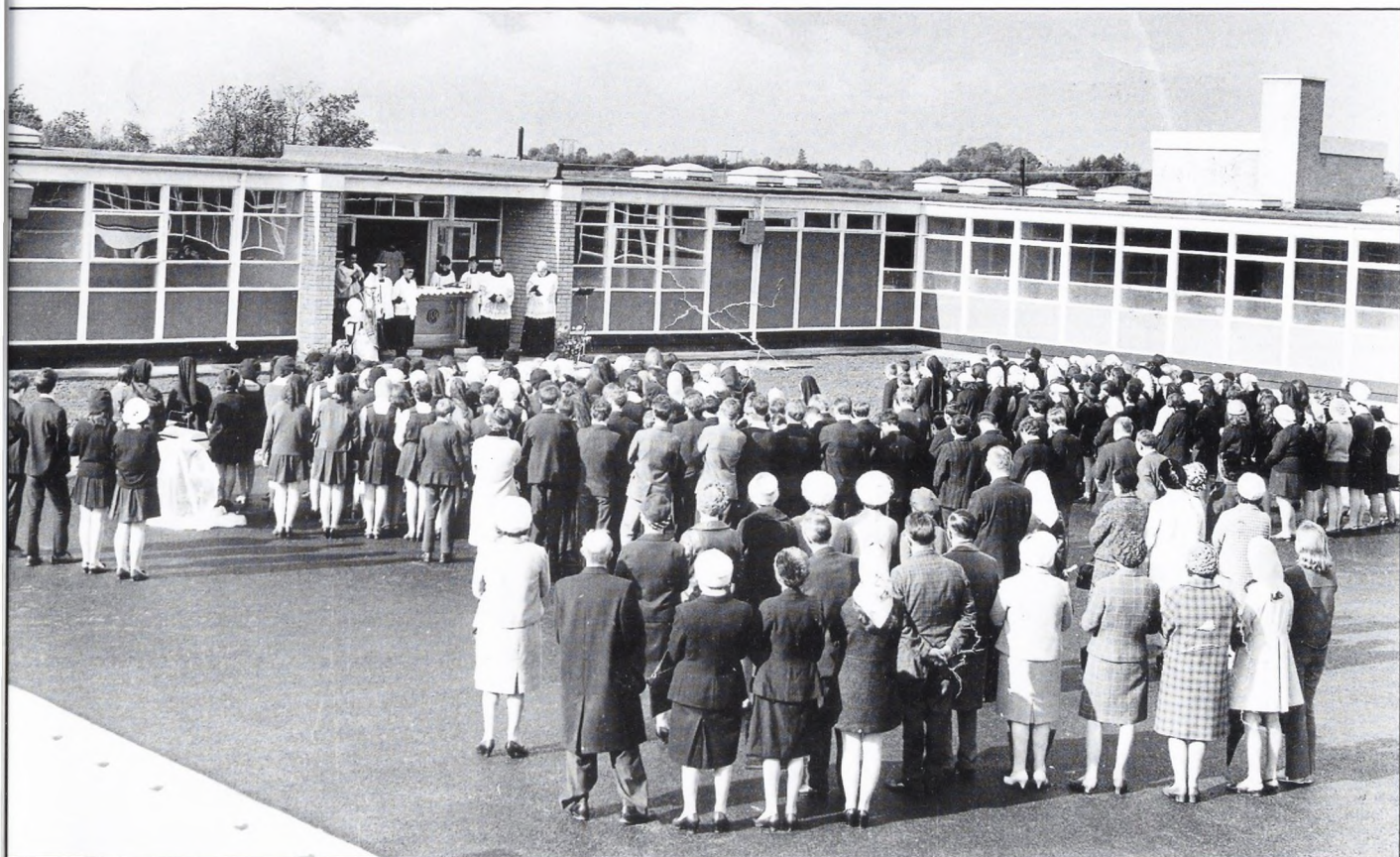
the opening of a new School-building by Minister Brian Lenihan in 1969. The then Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Dr. Cathal Daly, blessed the new school which was intended to have a functioning life of around fifteen years.

The seventies continued the trend of increasing enrolments, and the staff increased in proportion. New teachers during that decade included Jack Beirne, Padraig Reynolds, Mrs. Evelyn Kiernan, Mrs. Mary Brennan, Mairead Mulherin (now O'Reilly), John Moran, Francis Butler and Seamus Mulhern. The former Lourdes Hall became a Woodwork Room in 1979 - this was one of the first fruits of a determined effort by the staff and by an active new Parents' Association to extend school facilities, particularly in the area of practical subjects. Thirty years after setting up the school, Sr. Clare stunned her staff and students alike with the shock announcement of her retirement in 1979. She was succeeded by one of the 'second generation' of teaching sisters at the Convent of Mercy, Sr. Goretti McDermott - but despite her youth, the new Principal had over fifteen years of solid teaching experience at Marian College behind her. As the Mercy Sisters in general moved towards a more centralised structure, Marian College was no different from other Mercy schools in experiencing the phenomenon of the 'moving sisters'. New arrivals in the late seventies and early eighties included Sr. Ciaran O'Reilly, Sr. Maura Conlon and Sr. Mary Reynolds. After the arrival of a new Science teacher, Raymond McHugh, in 1980, the lay staff remained largely unchanged for the rest of that decade - all schools were affected by the economic difficulties of the time. Sr. Goretti's departure for Newtownforbes in 1985 was universally regretted, and marked the end of her short six year tenure as Principal.

Sr. Oliver Kelly was a reluctant but nonetheless very popular and effective successor to Sr. Goretti. She decided to hand over the



Mother Stanislaus and Marcus Clements at Lough Rynn



Convent Secondary School Opening 1969

reins to Sr. Ciaran O'Reilly in 1986. It was especially during the eighties that the school demonstrated its commitment not only to the provision of the standard academic menu, but also to a much broader philosophy of education. Sporting successes on the football fields and basketball courts went hand-in-hand with participation at the highest level in public speaking and debating contests. The 'Fifth Year Concert' became an annual highlight of the school calendar. Towards the end of the decade, a Board of Management replaced the traditional one-person system. Sr. Ciaran died very suddenly after a brief illness in May, 1990. Her untimely death, like those of

so many young past students of the school, was a painful reminder that the story of any such college is a mixture of joy and sorrow.

The nineties brought many changes to Marian College and to the Convent of Mercy. Sr. Clare Fox, who had spent some years in the U.S.A. following her retirement as Principal, was killed tragically in a car accident in Co. Offaly in 1991. Sr. Emmanuel Farrelly came to Mohill as Principal in 1990. She was a committed and resourceful leader in the best traditions of her order and she prepared her school to cope with the many new developments in education. Sadly, her term was cut short by illness after just four years. It was also a time

of transition for the lay staff. Tony O'Connell, who had become the first Vice-Principal in the mid-seventies, returned to his native Galway in 1994. Two other long-standing members of the staff, Jack Beirne and Evelyn Kiernan also retired. If the eighties had seen few staff changes, more recent times have transformed the landscape of the staff-room. The list of names will give some idea of the extent of that transformation, Sisters Catherine Whyte, Una Duffy and Mary Doherty; several new lay teachers like Sheila Reynolds, Mairead Coyne, Elizabeth Hargaden, Dympna Hanly, Mary Quinn, Elizabeth McCann-Flynn, Brendan Fox and Angela Hargaden. Teachers currently employed in a temporary, part-time, substitute or specialist capacity are as follows: Leisha O'Connell, Ursula Creegan, Julie-Ann Smith, Edel Farrell, Lesley Gilheaney, Oona Treanor and Martina



Monsignor Thomas Sheeran R.I.P., Sr. Angela, Sr. Ignatius R.I.P, Sr. Celine



The Convent Centenary Committee

Back Row: Bernie Reilly, Alf Rowley R.I.P., Sergeant O'Boyle, John Dolan R.I.P., Rev. George Balfe C.C., Christy Clyne, Jacky Browne R.I.P., J. McKeon R.I.P., Nicholas Cauley.
 Middle Row: Liam Ellis, Maureen Lynch, Mary Farrell, June McDonald, Tina Slevin, Mammie Duignan, Helen Faughnan, Annie Cox, Gerry Canning R.I.P.
 Front Row: Monica Scollan, Olivia Gilmartin, Sr. Ciaran R.I.P., Bridie Duignan, Ellen Dolan, Imelda Donnelly, Lourda McGowan.

McWeeney.

The school could not function effectively without the excellent service of its secretarial and maintenance staff. Mrs. Doreen Honeyman has worked as Secretary with no less than six different Principals, and she is currently sharing her duties with Mrs. Anne Coggins. Kevin Britton is an exemplary caretaker in the service of his old school.

Sr. Emmanuel's illness prompted the appointment in 1995 of the first lay-principal, Matt Gaffey. Around the same time, Art Ridge succeeded Tony O'Connell as Vice-Principal. The school adapted to changes in the educational environment by introducing new programmes like Transition Year and L.C.V.P. It appeared that a strong new administrative team would guide the fortunes of the school for many years to come. However, at the time of writing, Matt Gaffey's tenure has been interrupted by illness, and Sr. Helen Keegan is the Acting-Principal. Sr. Helen has taken on the task with the same wholehearted devotion that characterised all her predecessors. The staff and students look forward eagerly to the building of a new school - this project is due to begin during the next year or so. It will be the first major building project at this site since the construction of the new Library and General Purposes Room in 1984.

Marian College remembered its fifty years of history with a Jubilee celebration in October 1999. Ordained past-students and former Chaplains of the school joined in celebrating a Special Mass. The principal celebrant was Fr. Mark Bennett, who had been ordained only a few months before. Another past-student, Fr. Philip Baxter preached the homily, and he was joined on the altar by a third former pupil, Fr. John Kiernan. The other celebrants were Fr. Pat Kiernan and Fr. Cathal Faughnan who have both served as school chaplains, and Canon Sean Rooney. While it was a time for

numerous happy recollections, there was also sadness and grief for those who have gone home to the Lord, with so many having been plucked away in the very prime of life. The absent faces of beloved deceased friends, students and staff alike, are a reminder that school should be concerned with so much more than the mere transmission of knowledge.

Someday, a comprehensive history of 'The Convent' Secondary School may be written. For now, we must be content with a summary of some of the highlights of fifty years of a school which grew out of the courageous vision and sense of Christian mission of the Mercy Sisters. That vision welcomed over two thousand students of different religious persuasions into a system of education which strive to do justice to the Christian message. Many of the heroes and heroines of this story must remain nameless, and more than a few have been unintentionally omitted. The Convent-building at St. Anne's may have recently been vacated by the remaining sisters, but the generous spirit that gave true life to that building still lives and breathes in remarkable women like Sr. Therese, Sr. Aloysius, Sr. Martha, and Sr. Aquin, who have all played 'starring roles' in an epic story, and in the younger generation of teaching sisters like Sisters Mary and Nora, who are well capable of keeping the torch alive in these challenging times. Our first and last thoughts today and always are with our deceased former students and teaching colleagues who enriched our lives for a time, and whose memories will always be cherished. Go dtuga Dia solas na bhFlaitheas doibh go leir agus go dtreoraí se ar scoil agus gach a bhaineann le ar bhealach a leasa i gconai!



1st Year Marian College - 1965

Back Row (Left to Right): Mary McGowan, Triona Tyrell, Gertie McNamee, Irene Shanley, Brid Mitchell, Geraldine O'Rourke, Sheila Gilhooley, Mary Reynolds.
 Middle Row (Left to Right): Pauline McLoughlin, Christine Beirne, Mary Fox, Teresa Conboy, Brid Winters, Marian Wynne, Noeleen Stenston, Imelda Cox.
 Front Row (Left to Right): Martina Kelly, Brid Gilbride



Marian College Staff - First Staff Photograph

Left to Right: Matt Gaffey, Sr. Clare, Tony O'Connell, Aiden McIntrye, Sr. Aloysius, Nancy Donnelly, Mother Teresa, Mrs. Doyle, Sr. Goretti, Art Ridge, Anthony Canning, Sr. Oliver.



◀
Third Year Girls Basketball Team with
Ms. C. Bracken (coach)



▶
Second Year Girls Basketball Team



Convent Secondary School, (Lough Rynn Boys) 1966

Back Row (Left to Right):
Middle Row (Left to Right):
Front Row:

P.J. Gill, A. Foley, J.P. Reilly, S. Gilloley, G. McGovern, T. Melia, D. McAlinden
O. Gilloley, B. Gordon, M. Dunleavy, K. Kilrairie, J. Boyle, S. Reilly, G. Wynne.
M. Foy, I. Gildea, E. Brady, A. Faughnan, S. Baxter.

Mohill and the Narrow Gauge

Harry O'Flynn

For over seventy years the Cavan and Leitrim Railway played an important role in the social and economic life of Mohill. For thousands of emigrants the Station House was the start of their long journey and indeed most of the shops and businesses in the town depended on the train to deliver the goods. The success of the large cattle fairs in Mohill was due largely to the transport services provided by the C & L, and during the war years and afterwards, coal from the Arigna mines was railed to Dromod and thence all over the country.

The C & L Railway linked with the M.G.W.R. at Dromod, passing through Mohill, Ballinamore, Ballyconnell and on to Belturbet, where it linked up with the G.N.R. Work on the foundations of the line commenced in 1885 and by August 1886 rails had been laid almost the whole way from Dromod to Mohill. By September 1886 the ballast engine was able to reach Mohill town, completion of the line to there having been delayed in getting a foundation for a bridge in Drumard, where it was necessary to go down thirty feet into the bog.

However, there were setbacks during the construction of the line. A grave incident occurred at the Clooncahir, or Wood Road crossing, on March 15th, 1887, and was the most serious accident in the life of the C & L. On that Wednesday evening, Collens' (the contractor) ballast engine had hauled four wagons from Fenagh to Mohill (where the workmen 'passengers' alighted) and on past Clooncahir to unload sand. On the way back, the engine was propelling the wagons which, again, had a complement of workmen. It was very dark and there was no light on the train. Even so, Driver Francis Early saw fit to drive his train at about 18 mph. About 200 yards from the gates at Clooncahir the train struck a donkey which was standing on the line. All the wagons were derailed and the unfortunate labourers finished up under a pile of debris, three being killed and four injured.

The first engine crew consisted of Driver Barber and Fireman O'Hanlon who, with Guard Henshaw and Engine No 2, Kathleen, worked the first revenue-earning train on September 6th. On that day, all eight available wagons were used for a 'pig special' from Mohill Fair to Dromod and Belturbet. On the engine were directors Stewart and Hewson, as well as both the C & L and Collens' engineers. Just before the October pig fair there was some doubt about the legality of running specials before the line had been inspected but, after consideration, specials were run to Dromod and Belturbet. This was on October 5th and on the following day the Board of Trade inspection of the line was carried out by General Hutchinson. Apart from some reservations about the signalling, he had no complaints about the construction and agreed to the opening of the line.

On October 17th, 1887, the line was opened for goods traffic, but the inaugural train included a composite coach carrying such distinguished passengers as Lord Kingston, Col. White, George Stewart (directors), as well as James Barton, James Ormsby Lawder, and traffic manager Broughton. There

was no hitch in these proceedings, but things were a little different when the line was opened for passenger traffic on October 24th. As the midday train was going from Dromod to Mohill the engine broke down on the bog, just under two miles from Mohill, and the twelve passengers were stuck. An attempt to bring the engine to Mohill having failed, Lord Kingston and the traffic manager, who had been on the train,



James Flynn, Carigeen, Eslin Bridge, the last Station Master in Mohill, pictured at his desk on closing day, Tuesday March 31st, 1959
Photo Courtesy: Michael Kennedy, Cavan/Leitrim Railway

set off on foot to telegraph to Ballinamore for a relief engine. Two hours later the second engine reached the disabled train and took it in tow. But still all was not well; a short way from Mohill the train halted again and a few of the (inevitable) bystanders 'raised a shout and a cheer' by attempting to shove the train into the station. However, the delay was brief and all went well from then on.

Though traffic exceeded expectations, the financial dreams of the promoters never came true. For the first five years the line had an operating deficit and there was no surplus until 1893. Even then, expenses were ninety-seven per cent of the receipts and the baronies again contributed heavily towards the shareholders' dividends. Matters showed a sudden improvement in 1899 but, even so, the ratepayers were to pay throughout the independent life of the C & L and, indeed, for some time afterwards. But at least the line never did badly enough to suffer the final ignominy of passing into the ownership of the ratepayers.

One of the C & L's strongest personalities arrived at board level in 1892. He was the Rev J.G. Digges, MA, who lived at

Clooncahir, near Lough Rynn, and was a shareholder in both the mining company and the C & L. Although he kept very quiet for his first few years on the board, Mr. Digges had a mercurial temperament and was to earn high repute as a first-class trouble-shooter. The C & L made good use of this characteristic in later years and whenever it wished to fight anyone or anything, it handed the job to Mr. Digges.

Life on the C & L was quiet enough at first, but things soon hotted up as the Irish political temperature rose. A prelude to a great deal of patriotic action was the carrying of a national flag on the front of an engine the whole way from Belturbet to Dromod in 1918. In July 1919, and despite the Executive Committee's almost complete ban on special trains, the company received permission to run a 'twelfth of July' Orangemen's special, and an abortive attempt was made to derail the train near Garadice.

In April 1920, a more successful effort was made to derail a train. On the 13th, a 27-ft rail from each side of the line was lifted and thrown into an old quarry in the section between Adoon and Rosharry. At 7.30 a.m. on the 14th an empty train of seventeen wagons and a van left Ballinamore for Dromod, where cattle was awaiting transport to Belfast. The driver was Simpson McAdams and he had his favourite engine, the King. When the train ran into the broken road, the engine was completely derailed but all the wagons remained on the line. No driver in Ballinamore was willing to go out with the breakdown gang and the engine was not re-railed until the following day, normal services being resumed at midday on the 16th. The cattle waiting at Dromod had to be watered and forwarded on the Midland via the Cavan line. Similar damage to the line had been done on the bog between Mohill and Derreen and the telephone wires were cut both there and at Staghall Bridge, near Belturbet, in connection with an attempt to burn the military barracks at Belturbet. Two months after this, when the Arigna Valley line had just been opened, there were reports of interference with the points.

In mid-1920, mailbag raids became an everyday occurrence. Informers who corresponded with Dublin Castle were not unheard of and the Leitrim men of the Irish Republican Army kept a careful eye on His Majesty's Mail. The C & L men were proud to play their part in any move for

freedom and actively joined in the doings of the time, helping to the extent of pointing out the letter-bags! The favourite spot for 'examination' of the mails was Derreen.

By winter 1920, the national struggle for freedom had grown to great proportions and this was reflected in the activities of the C & L men, who were nothing if not loyal Irishmen. They stuck to their principles, often at great personal cost. The Crown Forces in Ireland had been reinforced by an auxiliary group – the 'Black and Tans' – and its members were based throughout the land. They often chose to travel by train, and in the C & L area this meant they marched down to Mohill station. However, they never got very far; as soon as the military got on the train, the engine men got off, refusing to go any farther. Immediate dismissal was the penalty for this very courageous action and some of the C & L men were without work for months.

The station at Mohill had two timber platforms, with its buildings (similar to those at Dromod) on the down side. Although always a staff station, it was not a crossing-place until 1891, as the loop was not long enough. The up platform had a small shelter and, at the Dromod end, a water tank. The first tank dated from the opening but was replaced in 1892 by one from Arigna. In 1920, it was joined by a tank originally placed at Ballyduff but which had been used in the building of the Arigna Valley Railway. A third tank on a concrete base was installed just inside the goods yard in 1927, bringing the total capacity to 1,000 gallons. There were never any water facilities on the down platform and thus engines of down trains had to go across the road for water. Up to 1921 the water was hand-pumped, but an oil-engined pump was then provided; in turn, in the 1930s, it was superseded by the town supply.

Goods facilities were poor at first, although a store was built for the opening and a crane, by Manistry of Dundalk, was added in 1890. Originally, there was only the single store road but a short siding was laid at the back of the stationhouse in 1890 and another, parallel to the store road, in 1896. All were considerably lengthened at later dates. The station was signalled from two ground frames, one at the gates and the other at the Dromod end of the loop; both had wooden protective shelters until about 1925.

Immediately beyond the station gates there was a stiff climb at 1:57 past Hill Street gates and then a reverse curve; the line then levelled somewhat before rising again at 1:36 to reach Gortfada Crossing (7 miles). From February 1888 to January 1901, market trains stopped at Gortfada, although the name Rosharry was always used. Just under half a mile farther on, the line reached the actual Rosharry gates, and trains called here from 1901 until December 31st, 1920, by which time it had been decided that receipts did not justify the stop. At both Gortfada and Rosharry trains used simply to stop at the house, as there was no platform at either place.

Past Rosharry, the line rose to a peak at the '9' milepost. It then dipped and rose sharply to enter Adoon Halt (10 miles) at 1:40. Adoon had a shelter on the platform on the up side.



12.20; Dromod - Belturbet 28.05.53 at Mohill
Photo Courtesy; Michael Kennedy, Cavan/Leitrim Railway



Mohill 17.05.50; 10t with goods for Dromod
 Photo Courtesy; Michael Kennedy, Cavan/Leitrim Railway

The halt-keeper's house was 135 yards on the Dromod side at the gates, but it was not feasible to have the platform there on the account of the gradient. In December 1887, the stationmistress complained about the bad road from the house to the halt and it was reported that her husband declined to let her carry out the traffic work for the small pay proposed. (The C & L invariably referred to the women halt-keepers as stationmistresses. They earned 1s a week for issuing tickets and got five per cent commission on receipts, as well as a free house.) In the halts the booking-office, with its ticket window and drawer, was situated in the house and not the shelter. Receipts were sent to the controlling station in locked leather money-bags, of which there was one for each halt with its name inscribed on a brass plate.

In the 1940s, a telephone was installed and Adoon was used for a while as a temporary block post; otherwise it was never a staff station, although there was a proposal at the start to cross trains using the long siding then there. (Construction trains were, in fact, so crossed.) The siding was little used and was removed in 1894. Afterwards, however, the need for a new one grew and an up-facing siding was brought into use in July 1902. It ran in behind the passenger shelter and was protected by a trap point; it was comparatively little used in latter days.

Right from its beginning, the line was taxed to the utmost in coping with the livestock offering at the great fairs. Almost all the main stations on the line provided a deal of cattle traffic, most of which was channelled north through Belturbet.

Mohill held pride of place – each year there were two great fairs, February 25th and October 19th. The former is 'Monaghan Fair', the name (not at all obviously) being derived from Manachan, a local patron saint whose feast-day is February 25th. The fair, right to the closure, provided great business for the C & L and at one time nine or ten specials used to bring 120 wagons of stock from the station. Usually, the last train brought horses. 'Monaghan Day' made heavy demands on the C & L wagon stock and a quick turn-around of trains was called for.



The 6T Train at Mohill
 Photo Courtesy; Michael Kennedy, Cavan/Leitrim Railway

The last really big 'Monaghan Day' on the C & L was in 1945, when 106 wagons of stock were handled. MONAGHAN FAIR 1945 – UP ROAD

STATION	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
BELTURBET				A9.30	2.05	3.20	4.05	5.00	8.00			
BALLY-CONNELL					2.20	3.40	4.20	5.20				
BAWNBOY				2.25	3.45	-	5.25					
BALLINA-MORE					3.00	4.20	5.00	6.00	9.00			
			B		-	-	-			8.30	9.30	11.30
		9.30										
MOHILL	9.00	10.00	12.05	4.00								
	9.40	10.30	12.20	-								
DROMOD	10.00	10.50	12.40	4.20				10.30				

WAGONS	E	10	10	14	E	E	E	E	
GUARD	McKeon	Gilheany	Whelan	Boyle	McKeon	Gilheaney	Whelan	Fitzpatrick	Wisley

STAFF	Ticket to Mohill		Staff whole way		Staff whole way		Staff whole way		Staff to B'boy		Staff to B'cnll		Staff whole way	
Ticket to			Staff to D'mod				Ticket to B'more		Ticket to B'more				B'more	
	D'mod						Staff to							

DOWN ROAD

	9	10	11	12	13	14	
DROMOD	10.00	10.50	12.45	-	A2.00	5.00	CROSSINGS
MOHILL	10.20	-	1.05	2.00	2.20	5.20	
	11.00	12.15	1.30	dep	2.35	5.30	2/9 Mohill
BALLINA-MORE	11.50	11.30	12.45	2.00	2.30	3.02	6.00 3/10 Mohill
	11.50	1.05	2.20	3.00	3.40	6.30	
BAWNBOY	12.10	1.25	2.40	3.20	4.00	6.50	4/11 Bawnboy
BALLY-CONNELL	12.30	1.45	3.00	3.40	4.20	7.05	
BELTURBET	12.50	2.05	3.20	4.00	4.40	4.40	7.20 5/12 B'connell 5/13 Bawnboy

Wagons	10	14	14	10	14	10	
Guard	Boyle	Mc-Keon	Gilheany	Wisley	Whel'n	Fitz-patr'k	A = Regular
Staff	Staff to B'more		Staff to Mohill		Staff to Mohill		Ticket to B'more
	Ticket to B'nboy		Ticket to B'more		Ticket to B'more		B'boy
	B'cnll, B'bet B'boy		Staff to B'boy		Staff to B'cnll		B = Double headed
	Staff to B'cnll		Ticket to B'cnll		B'bet		B'more to Mohill
	B'bet		Staff to B'bet				

E= Empty Wagons

Special excursions were also a feature of the C & L Railway. Most of the excursion business was built up over the years and occurred on regular annual dates. A large proportion of the travellers were pilgrims who made yearly visits to places of devotion served by the line.

The most important was some four miles from Arigna, at Kilronan, beyond Keadue. There was St. Lasair's Holy Well, to which there was an annual pilgrimage at the beginning of September. The 'Lasser' excursions were often extremely heavy, reaching a peak in 1900 when no fewer than 1,499 people travelled, 766 of them on one train.

The Lasser traffic died away, however, and there were no pilgrims in 1912.

A second place of pilgrimage was Drumshanbo, to which, at the beginning of each August, the C & L issued return tickets at single fares. This traffic lasted right up to the closure, and even in the 1950s packed trains of two coaches and a few vans ran out on the tramway on the 1st and 2nd of August.

The largest isolated excursion was run in June 1910 for a meeting in Longford. Stations from Arigna to Dromod were served and altogether five specials carried 1,466 people, over 700 of whom joined at Mohill. After the amalgamation with the G.S.R. in 1925 the excursion traffic steadily diminished and nothing like the crowds of earlier days were ever carried again.

Mails and parcels also helped the C & L receipts. Parcels were always carried and the line had its own distinctive issue of railway stamps. Mails were not at first carried but from 1892 until the closure some trains brought the mailbags, and connections with the day and night mails were made at Dromod.

Far and away the most important commodity carried by the C & L was coal. Even in pre-extension days it was valued as traffic, and once the valley was opened up business boomed. The demand for coal reached a peak in 1926 during the British General Strike, when much was sent north through Belturbet. So busy was the line that the G.S.R. decided to send culm (low-grade coal) in cattle wagons. This, however, was a decided failure; even where there were no interfering floor battens, two shovellings were necessary to unload. Two or three specials ran each day and twenty years later the number of trains trebled. In the days of the Second World War, the line was again over-worked.



Mohill Train Station

Photo Courtesy: Michael Kennedy, Cavan/Leitrim Railway

The most difficult coal train duties went to the old C & L men, who often started a day's work with a 5 AM trip to Derreenavoggy and then worked through to Dromod before returning to Ballinamore.

After the war, the main coal customers were the Irish Sugar Company and the Drogheda Cement Factory, and it was these concerns which unwittingly kept the C & L going strong until past its seventieth birthday.

By the early 1950's, the future was looking bleak for the Narrow Gauge Railway. It was losing £40,000 a year, expensive modernisation was required and its biggest source of revenue, the coal traffic from Arigna, had gone due to the opening of the coal fired power station by the E.S.B. at Lough Allen.

From the beginning of 1959 the writing was clearly on the wall – closure was a reality.

The last two days of official operation, Easter Monday and Tuesday, saw augmented trains on all lines and the very last train, to Dromod and back to Ballinamore, was a grand affair indeed – double-headed, with all the available coaches and vans crowded to overflowing. The last train rolled through Mohill Station on Tuesday, March 31st 1959 – the end of an era lasting 72 years.

The last Station Master in Mohill was the late Jimmy Flynn, a native of Corigeen Eslin Bridge. The station house and its surrounds were his pride and joy; and indeed the gardens and buildings were always in immaculate condition. When the C & L shut down in 1959 he was transferred to the mainline track at Dromod but continued to live in Mohill until his death in 1975. The Station House and surrounds are now in the care of the trustees of the Mohill Heritage and Railway Restoration Society, whose aim is to link Mohill and Dromod once again with a Narrow Gauge Railway. Wouldn't

it be nice to see the steam trains rolling into Mohill again! (Most of the information used in this article is taken from the book "The Cavan and Leitrim Railway" by kind permission of the author Patrick J Flanagan)

Mohill Country Markets Ltd.

Country Market Ltd. Is a Co-operative society founded in 1946. Each market is an integral part of Country Markets Ltd. And is a branch market of the society. The Society's aims are to market members home and garden produce as well as traditional crafts.

Mohill Country Market first opened its door to the public in 1991. It has filled a vital space in modern day living by producing fresh and organic fruits and vegetables, free range eggs, homemade butter, jams, bread and cakes to an ever increasing number of customers. Located at O'Malleys Lower Main Street its doors open each Friday between the hours of 10am-4pm.

Both tourists and locals alike recognize the value of this enterprise where quality produce are sold at affordable prices.

Present day members are: Rose Keegan, Maura Faughnan, Margaret Reilly, Maura Casey, Tess Duignan, Maureen Kelleher McNally, Bridie Mc Intyre, Bridgie Canning, and Kathleen Fitzpatrick.

Maura Casey

Dr. Maureen Kenny nee Canning

This citation was given at the recent conferring of an Honorary Doctorate of Laws *Honoris Causa* to Maureen Kenny, nee Canning by the National University of Ireland

At the beginning of every academic year, students flock to third level institutions around the world. For some it is a return to familiar surroundings, for others it is a venture into the unknown:- will they fit in, will they be accepted, have they made the right career choice.

This drama has been acted out in different academic institutions for centuries. It was the same at University College Galway in 1936. The numbers may have been smaller, but the scene was the same.

Onto this stage walked Maureen Canning, a seventeen year old student from Mohill, Co. Leitrim. She was intelligent, full of life, confident in her own ability, and a scholarship winner.

Her confidence and determination had been nurtured by her mother, a former primary school teacher, who was widowed at the age of 27, had three young children to rear, until Maureen married George Canning. For her the education of her family was crucial. Education she would say is the great liberator and equaliser. She made sure that her children went to school and that they always had books to read. Maureen, the eldest was awarded a scholarship to the Longford Convent of Mercy boarding school, but because she wanted to attend the All Irish St. Louis College in Monaghan this scholarship had to be refused and the college fees found to send her there. With her secondary schooling now behind her she was determined to succeed in the world of academia.

He was from Galway, a townie, a popular, sophisticated, second year Arts and Law student. The late Desmond Kenny liked to tell people that he was born on October 13, 1917 and that the other miracle that took place on that day, happened in Fatima.

They met on her first day in UCG and "that was that". For the next four years they were inseparable. In 1940 they graduated with degrees in Arts and Commerce.

They had fallen in love in Galway and had fallen in love with Galway. They decided to make Galway their home. They also decided to start a business in the education world, the

world of books. The premises was simply called "The Book Shop, High Street".

The Galway of the 1940's was a very different place from what it is today. It was economically depressed and



Cannings of Glebe Street, Mohill

suffering from population depletion. Money was scarce. While the thirst for knowledge was great, books were a luxury many people simply could not afford. To keep their dream alive Desmond went to work in a local textile printing factory as personnel manager. This experience gave him a great insight into marketing and the export business, which he was to put to great use in later life.



Mrs. Maureen Kenny nee Canning (Kenny's Bookshop, Galway)

Today Kenny's Book Shop and Gallery, the creation of Maureen and Desmond, is a Galway landmark with a world-wide reputation. They saw their role as one of promoting young Irish writers and artists. They have fulfilled this role in spectacular fashion, specialising as they do in Irish books and printed material of Irish interest. The Irish book parcels sent regularly to more than one thousand three hundred customers on five continents, are legendary. Among their clientele is the Library of Congress in Washington, the Boston, the New York and other major public libraries, numerous Universities, scholars and private collectors. They satisfy a world wide interest in Irish literature and culture.

In 1997 the Atrium linking the Bookshop and the Gallery received the RIAI Regional Award for capturing the essential quality of the quintessential book shop. That same year Kennys commissioned over one hundred portraits of Irish writers. Dr. Patrick Hillary, then President of Ireland, opened this exhibition called "Faces in a bookshop"

Desmond and Maureen's six children and twenty one grandchildren have all worked or are working in the business. This for Maureen is another dream come true.

Nothing can compare with a visit to a real book shop, and to the smell and feel of real books. We are in a new millennium, however, there are new challenges and opportunities facing everybody. There is now a Virtual Kenny's Book Shop on the World Wide Web. It was the first book shop in Europe and only the second in the world to be established in Cyberspace. In 1994 it won the European Commission Internet Award.

I will give the last words to the children of Maureen and the late Desmond Kenny.

"They have given us values: - the importance of family, charity and perseverance, a love of things Irish, especially books. They have taught us that the work of Irish writers,

painters and artists is as good as can be found anywhere. They have given us a rich legacy"

Dá bhri sin, is mór on onóir dom Máirín Uí Choinnigh a thoirbhirt don chomhairle mar Dhoctúir Oinigh í nDlí, agus guím ort, a Cathaoirligh, an chéim sin a bhronnadh uirthi.

I have the honour, therefore to present Maureen Kenny to the Council for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws Honoris Causa, and I ask you Chairman, to confer that degree upon her.



Gerard & Monica Canning, Glebe Street

MOHILL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL



Mohill Storytelling Festival

Organized by Mohill Chamber of Commerce 1997.

Pictured here is storyteller Jack Lynch.



Mr. Tom Kenny, Galway

at the official opening of a wonderful exhibition of modern Irish Art which was brought to Mohill by Kenny's Art Gallery for part of Mohill Storytelling and Arts Weekend

St. Patrick's Parish Church

Mohill

Monica Scollan N.T.

In the early 1800's the Catholics of Mohill worshipped in a rural church on the outskirts of the town. The site of the old Parish Church is now the Convent Cemetery. By the year 1885 it had long been considered that this old church should be replaced by a building which would be more in accordance with the wants of the parish. The undertaking was not attempted until Fr. Frances Donohoe P.P. succeeded to the parish in 1881. He immediately set to work at the arduous task of fund raising in a town which housed at least 200 people in its workhouse at the time.

On St. Patrick's Day 1885, the then Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock presided at the laying and blessing of the foundation stone for the new Parish Church, which would be erected in honour of St. Patrick. It would be a House of Prayer "suitable for the workshop of the Great Architect". Sufficient funds were not available at the time for the completion of the edifice, but Fr. Donohoe liberally assisted by his parishioners who contributed generously despite the social and economic hardships of the time. A collection at the foundation – laying ceremony yielded on August, sum of between of £400 and £500. Immediately after the laying of the foundation stone, work commenced on the building under the supervision of the distinguished builder, Mr Hughes, with Fr Donohoe acting architect on the site.

The parish priest was never absent from the scene of operation except when parochial duties demanded, and owing to his outstanding zeal and dedication, the splendid building for Divine worship was raised in twelve months- an outstanding accomplishment even by today's standards.

The Leitrim Advertiser of March 18th, 1886 commended the trojan work of the parish. "Never has the erection of a building of such dimensions and beauty been so energetically proceeded and it is a fact to be wondered at that Mohill Roman, Catholic Church was erected in twelve months.

The people of Mohill were justifiably proud of their new church and they had the gratification of attending at its consecration exactly one year to the day after work had commenced on the building. The Ceremony of Consecration was performed on March 13th, 1886 by the Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock, with Fr. Martin celebrating High Mass, assisted by the local curates Fr. Farrell C.C Fr. Geraghty C.C and Fr. Casserly Fr. Gabriel O Farrell O.P, a native of the parish presented the sermon. He hailed the new church as "a monument of self sacrifice", which celebrated a great religious revival in a country which had suffered "an avalanche of persecution ... tortures and the most infamous of laws at the hands of British soldiery." The new church of St. Patrick was indeed a magnificent building situated behind a frontage of trees, commanded a pleasing prospect on a hilltop site overlooking the town.

The nave was capable of accommodating five hundred persons with the two side aisles affording accommodation for another five hundred. From the dedication day successive parish priests carried out the necessary repairs and improvements to

the church.

In 1936 the parish celebrated the golden jubilee of the dedication to divine service of St Patrick's Church with Very Rev Conon Reynolds P.P Ballinahown, Athlone, (a native of Gortletteragh, who was present at the laying of the foundation stone) celebrating High Mass in the presence of the Most Rev. Fr. McNamee, Bishop. After fifty years the church was in need of repair and renovations. To mark the jubilee, the then Parish Priest, Very Rev. Canon M.J. Masterson, announced plans to erect a bell tower and steeple, a new sanctuary and altar rails. The marble sanctuary was added and a grand organ presented to mark the occasion- this organ was removed in later years. Various improvements, interior and exterior were carried out in Canon Wall's time as P.P. in the sixties. These included replacing the floor and ceilings, the addition of the side door, new confessionals and a Mortuary chapel was donated.

The priests were buried outside the main entrance but when the church was renovated they were re-interred at the side of the church.

The tree-lined grounds were levelled and replaced by a carpark and the Marian Shrine removed. Later, in May 1966, a commemorative Baptistery was erected at the rear of the church. In 1982, to mark the golden jubilee of the ordination of the then Parish Priest, Rt. Rev. monsignor Thomas Sheeran, born in Mohill in 1907 and ordained in Maynooth in 1932, the people of Mohill installed chimes in the belfry. In 1986 Mohill parish celebrated the centenary of St. Patrick's Church.

In the not too distant past and in accordance with ecclesiastical rules, the altar rails were removed and the altar set in position where the priest can face the congregation while saying mass. There were also extensive and desirable improvements carried out to the church and its environs under the zealous Parish Priest, Canon Hubert Fee.

The late Monsignor T. Sheeran was the first P.P. to be buried in the local cemetery amongst his own beloved parishioners with whom he had a very genuine affinity.

The faith of the parishioners of Mohill is very strong and St. Patrick's Church is a magnificent edifice, a truly fitting and reverend place of worship and a perpetual monument to all Mohillians, many of whom have gone to their eternal reward.



St. Patrick's Church, Mohill

Reminiscences of a former Parishioner

Gerald P. Higgins

Each time I visit my place of birth and upbringing at Currawn, Mohill, and attend Mass in Saint Patrick's Parish Church, I cannot help reflecting on the enormous amount of strenuous work which must have gone into the building of the Church one hundred years ago. It was a huge undertaking at the time, bearing in mind the heavy manual work involved and the poor circumstances of the Catholic population of the area who had to provide the labour and finance the undertaking.

The building of the Church was the brain-child of Very Rev. Canon Donohoe, P.P., V.F., who played an immense role throughout the various stages of planning, construction and who will always be remembered for his foresight and commitment to the completion of the project.

Canon Donohoe was born in August, 1844 near Athlone. He was educated in Saint Mel's Diocesan College, Longford, and the Irish College, Paris, where he was ordained for the Irish Priesthood in 1870. He was appointed in the same year to his first Curacy of Mohill, where he served for three years.

In 1880 he returned to Mohill as Parish Priest and he saw that structural alterations were necessary to the Churches and National Schools in the Parish. Having consulted with Parishioners, a decision was taken to build a new Church in Mohill, and he immediately made preparations for building operations to commence under his personal supervision.

On Saint Patrick's Day, 1885, the foundation stone was laid of Saint Patrick's Parish Church, by Most Rev. Doctor Woodlock, in the presence of a large number of clergy and Laity.

Canon Donohoe was the Architect himself, and drew up plans for the proposed building. He assumed full responsibility and employed tradesmen and labourers for the various jobs connected with the construction. He sought and obtained a vast amount of voluntary labour from Parishioners who would work for a week at a time, some with their horses and carts, helping with the construction of the building. He did not give the work out to contract. When time permitted, he himself was on the site carrying out heavy manual work.

The building of the Church continued for a period of twenty-one years, until completed, and on Saint Patrick's Day, 1906, it was opened and dedicated to Divine Service. The steeple was not built at the same time as the Church but was added several years later.

Canon Donohoe was also responsible for building the National Schools at Mohill and Finiskill, and this work took place at the same time as the Church was being built. The school at Finiskill was completed in 1886 and that at Mohill a short time later.

Gorvagh Church, which was built in 1800, and Eslin Church were also in need of improvements, and were renovated by Canon Donohoe.

Canon Donohoe also took a deep interest in politics, and when the Irish Party differed over Parnell's leadership in 1892, he was arrested on a Bench Warrant for disobeying a summons to give evidence against the Parnellites who attempted to storm the anti-Parnellite platform at a meeting in Carrick-on-Shannon at which he was a speaker.

He was lodged in the Prison at Carrick-on-Shannon. On the following day he was brought before the Court, the Authorities declined to prosecute and the distinguished prisoner was set free.

When Canon Donohoe arrived back in Mohill he was accorded a warm welcome, and a torchlight procession paraded the streets. He was in favour of every movement which tended to improve the conditions of the people.

On the 17th July, 1905, Canon Donohoe died at the relatively early age of 61 years. He was deeply regretted not alone in Mohill but throughout the Diocese where his piety, wisdom and patriotism were well known and appreciated.

The Canon Donohoe Memorial Hall, which was erected by the people of the Parish after his death, and Saint Patrick's Church, are fitting monuments to his memory.

Saint Patrick's Church occupies a special place in my mind. It was here I attended and served Mass during my formative years. I have a clear recollection of my Mother making up a Soutane and Surplice for me, and my sister, Teresa Mary, learning me the Latin in preparation for Mass Serving.

On Easter Sunday, 1944, I set off with other members of my family in the ass and trap for Second Mass in Mohill. I had with me a new suitcase in which I had packed my Soutane, Surplice and canvas shoes, all set for my first time to go on the Altar.

It rained heavily on the way to Mass. As I sat in the trap I kept a firm grip on the case, which I kept on my knees, so firm, in fact, that it became soft with the rain and one of my fingers practically went through it.

I duly headed for the Sacristy where I met the well experienced Mass Servers, Mike Joe Winters, Pascal McKeon and Aiden McGovern (May God grant them Eternal Rest), and others. Father Pat O'Donnell (Black Pat as he was affectionately known), arrived and talked to me. He explained that as it was Easter Sunday, the Altar Boys would be wearing red coloured Surplices, and as mine was black I could not go on the Altar to assist in serving Mass that day, but to come back on the following Sunday when I would be facilitated. Initially, I was disappointed but did as he said and continued to serve Mass for several years both in the



The Grotto, Church Grounds, Mohill

Church and at house Stations.

I learned about the Holy Family Boys' Sodality from my new friends the Altar Boys, and they encouraged me to enrol as a member. I attended their next meeting in the Convent of the Sisters of Mercy, approached Sister Mercy, who was in charge of the Sodality, and was accepted as a member. I was delighted when she issued me with a Scroll, Medal and Ribbon and told me that my Special Saint would be Saint Augustine.

I asked Sister Mercy about Saint Augustine. She said that he is one of the best Saints in Heaven, but that before he died he did not lead a very good life. He was drunk a great deal of the time and was not very holy, but that before he died he changed his ways and then led a very good life preaching the word of God and writing about the life of Christ.

She also told me that according to Saint Augustine, sin could be committed by Wilful Thought, Word, Deed or Omission, and that I was always to remember this. I have never forgotten. May God reward her and rest her Soul.

I have one extraordinary memory of Saint Patrick's Church, Mohill, and that goes back to Christmas Day, 1944. At that time our alarm clock had stopped working, and as it was during the years of the Second World War it was impossible to have it repaired or to get a new one.

After the usual excitement in our home on Christmas Eve, we retired to bed with the intention of getting up early to attend the First Mass at 7.30 am on Christmas morning. As we had no time-piece we decided that we would watch out for a light in Willie Harmon's house, as we were fairly sure that he would be going to the same Mass. Willie was our neighbour and he lived a couple of fields away from us.

During the night Mam looked out the back window of her bedroom and saw a light shining in Willie's house. She called me and my sister, Annie Joe, and having got ready we set off for Mohill in our ass and trap. There were lights in some of the houses on the way, and even though we did not see anybody on the roads, we felt that we were on time for mass.

Having reached Mohill, I tied the ass at Michael Cox's Forge and walked up to Saint Patrick's Church with my Mam and sister. There was nobody to be seen and the Church doors were closed. We stood around and after a while I leaned back against the main entrance door to get some shelter from the cold night wind. To my amazement the Church door opened when I pressed against it. The three of us then went into the Church, closed the door behind us and sat in a seat.

The Sanctuary Lamp hanging from the roof in front of the Altar was flickering and this was the only light in the Church. We remained seated for some time.

I knew from serving Mass that there was a big clock hanging on the wall in the Sacristy, and I decided that I would go and see what time it

was. I walked up the aisle, through the gates leading to the Sanctuary, opened the Sacristy door and went in. I ran my hand over the wall until I felt the light switch, switched on the light, looked at the clock and to my astonishment saw that the time was 4.15 am.

When I told my Mam and sister they could hardly believe it. We talked about going back home, but Mam said that it was Christmas Day, that we had come to attend 7.30 am Mass and that we would wait and go to the Mass.

There was no heating in the Church, and to ease the cold we were feeling we went up on the Pulpit. Mam was reluctant to do so. I had been on the Pulpit a few times leaving up books and holy water while serving Mass, and I knew that it would be warmer there than sitting on a seat in the body of the Church. Eventually she agreed. Mam sat on the soft kneeler while Annie Joe and I sat on the carpet covered floor. We rested against the padded surround of the Pulpit, watching the dancing flame in the Sanctuary Lamp as it dimly lit the Altar area, and dozing off for short periods.

I paid a couple of further visits to the Sacristy, checking on the time, and when 7.00 am was approaching we went outside, closing the door behind us.

The Sacristan duly arrived and entered the Sacristy. He walked down the centre aisle and opened the Church doors. We went in, attended 7.30 am Mass, went home and had breakfast and were non-the-worse of our experience. In fact we enjoyed it and it made that Christmas a very special one for us.

In later years when Mam mentioned that memorable night, I told her that when the time comes for her to be carried in and left overnight in the Church, she will not be a stranger because she will already have spent a night there in the presence of God. She smiled and said iThat's the right way to look at it. That time came all too soon.

Since then I have wondered many times how the main door of the Church came to be ajar, so as to afford us shelter from the cold of that Holy Night fifty-five years ago

✠

"Inbilemus Deo. Salutari Aostro."

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, MOHILL.

THE
GOLDEN JUBILEE OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH
Will be Celebrated on the 17th March, 1936.

THE SOLEMN MASS (of which Very Rev. Canon Reynolds is the Celebrant) will begin at 11.30 a.m.

His Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. McNamee,
BISHOP OF ARDAGH AND CLONMACNOISE, will preside, and preach the Special Sermon.

Contribution in Aid of the Renovation Fund will be made after the Sermon.

Dinner will be served in the Convent School at 2.30 p.m.

Your presence at the Solemnity and Dinner, is earnestly requested.
A reply before Saturday, 14th March, will be appreciated.

M. J. MASTERTON, P., V.F.

25-7-36 (FEAST OF ST. MANCHAN).

Invitation to Golden Jubilee of St. Patrick's Church 1936



John McKeon, Corrick, Mohill
who until recently travelled by ass & cart to do his weekly shopping

A Brief History of Mohill Vocational School

Gerry McGee & Paddy Keating

Shortly after the passing of the Vocational Education Act in 1930, and under this act, the establishment of Co. Leitrim V.E.C. classes in what was then known as continuation Education, started in what was then the Old Work house in Mohill in 1932.

Forty Five students attended these classes, made up of boys and girls in the 14 to 16 age group, and were conducted by Peadar O'Gríofa, then a young teacher from Connemara – Peadar's salary was £120.00 per year, which included lodging allowance.

Classes were held four afternoons per week from 3.30pm to 8.30pm and the subjects offered were Irish, English, Maths, History and Geography, and later Book Keeping and Business Methods. Class fees were two shillings and six pence.

The late Molly Kerrigan from Bornacoola took over from Peadar, who moved to Cloone and then on to Keshcarrigan.

Classes later transferred in June 1938 to two rooms in Frank Mitchell's house in Upper Main Street, the rent being fifteen shillings weekly. These classes continued into the early 1940's under the guidance of Miss M. O'Toole, when an extra room was rented in Mitchell's at five shillings per week.

At that time, woodwork was introduced for boys, and classes were conducted in the now demolished Legion Hall on Station Road.

In the early forties classes transferred to the premises known as the Castle, which was rented from Mr. T. Casey at £65.00 per annum, with the school having the use of the Lawn for football, camogie, Etc.

In the meantime a site was purchased for a permanent Vocational School for the sum of £200.00. In 1942 a plot at the castle was rented for the introduction of Gardening. Also in 1942 Paddy Keating took up duty as Woodwork Instructor.

In 1943 P.K. Mc Donnell took over as Rural Science Teacher and a new course known as "Winter Course for Young Farmers" was introduced, the main subjects being Agricultural Science and Building Construction.

An interesting note from the archives was that in December 1944 teachers were granted ten shillings and eight shillings respectively as an Emergency Bonus.

In 1945 Miss M. Keegan was employed as a Commerce Teacher (part-time) at five shillings per hour, and in October of that year P.K. Mc Donnell was appointed Teacher in Charge in Mohill with a salary increase of £20.00 per year. He was promoted to Headmaster the following year.

There were no official Department of Education examinations for day students at that time, but many students took exams in single subjects which were known as T.I.B. exams. House exams were conducted for which V.E.C. Certificates were granted.

Use of the Castle Building as a School was discontinued in 1948, and the school moved to the out-buildings at Lough Rynn Estate. Group Certificate exams were introduced in 1949, all subjects under one certificate.

Building of the new Vocational School commenced in 1950, the contract being awarded to P. Kennedy & Sons, Gorvagh, for the sum of £10,941.18 shillings and six pence halfpenny.

The premises at Lough Rynn were vacated on 1st May 1951 and the new school was occupied on that date, under the Headmastership of P.K. Mc Donnell.

The late Michael Beirne was appointed caretaker on May 5th 1951 and the official opening of the new school was conducted by the late Sean Moylan, then Minister for Education, in October 1951.

Metalwork was then introduced as a subject and taught by Mr. Brian Madden. In 1955 a new Woodwork Room was added to the school and in 1965-66 new Domestic Economy, Commerce and General Subject rooms were added. In 1957 Paddy Keating was appointed as Headmaster.

The Inter Certificate syllabus started with the introduction of Free Education in 1966, and students sat their first exams in 1969.

The Leaving Certificate syllabus started in 1971, thus giving the school full second level status. Students sat their first Leaving Certificate exams in 1974.

In 1971 Gerry Mc Gee was appointed Vice-Principal. In 1982 Paddy Keating retired as Headmaster and Harry O'Flynn was appointed.

In 1988 Gerry Mc Gee retired as Vice – Principal and Tony Ward was appointed. In 1999 Harry O'Flynn retired and James Keogh, the present Headmaster was appointed.

In the sixty-eight years since the first classes were conducted in the Old Workhouse, many teachers and students have passed to their eternal reward. May they rest in peace.



Mohill Vocational School Staff

Back Row: Left to Right: P. Byrne, S. Gillen, J. O'Donoghue, M. Gannon, T. Ward.
Front Row: Left to Right: G. Magee, M. Beirne, P. Keating, B. Kelly.

Mohill Students are Top Scientists

Mohill Vocational School has once again emphasised its position as the county's top scientific school, taking two awards in the Are Lingus Young Scientists Exhibition in the RDS last weekend.

Eighteen year old Michael McGrath took joint second place in the Biological and Ecological Sciences Individual Senior while Alan Crossan, Paul Faughnan and Michael Cunniffe took third place in the Environmental and Social Sciences intermediate group category.

The third entry from the county, Patrick O'Beirne, from Marian College in the town was also highly commended.

The third project from the county, "Water as a Fuel" from Patrick O'Beirne of Marian College was also highly commended by the judges in the prestigious event.

This is the third year in succession that a project from Mohill Vocational School has featured among the award winners, with Michael taking a category title last year and his brothers Declan, featuring the previous year.

Michael who will sit this Leaving Certificate in June carried on the theme of last year's winning project.

In 1987, Michael had studied the life style of the mud snail, one of the vital elements in the development of the liver fluke.

This year however, he examined how the snail could be curtailed by the use of its natural predators. He chose the march fly, two species of which he studies in the laboratory. He found that it was possible to curtail the growth of the mud and thereby delay the development of the liver fluke by using the fly.

However, the mud snail is a prodigious breeder and the introduction of these flies into the environment, would only curtail its growth.

Michael's future would seem to be in the scientific field, but he admits to being unsure as to what career he will pursue when he leaves school, but he did express a preference for biotechnology, especially in research.

The other project was a study of the Wild Mink. The boys discovered that there are now over two million mink in Ireland, a population that has grown since the first recorded escape from a mink farm in 1961.

The problem that a local meat factory and some farmers were having with mink inspired the boys to study the creature.

They were helped in their project by a number of people including Brian McCauley and Hugh Cooke, Garda John Donohoe, Pat Warner and Chris Gavigan.

All four students are taught by Mr. Michael McGrath, who said that they had all worked hard and shown great dedication while working on their projects.

But the modest Mr. McGrath claims none of the credit for his students successes.

"It was hard graft and dedication on the part of the students which gave them these awards. They were very interested in their subjects", Mr. McGrath said.

School Principal, Mr. Harry O'Flynn told the Observer, "This is a very prestigious competition and we are very proud of the fact that for the third year running, projects from Mohill

Vocational School have won major awards. When one considers that over 1000 students were competing for prizes in this year's competition, the true merit of our successes can be properly gauged. In fact the success record of Science teacher Mr. Michael McGrath must be unique because every project which he had entered to date in this competition has succeeded in winning a major prize.

"Great credit is due to Michael and his project students because to achieve success in this competition involves many hours of diligent research, and meticulous experimental detail and analysis. It is very encouraging that the students efforts have been crowned with success and this is in no small way due to the dedication, motivation and hard work of both staff and students and the excellent team spirit in the school.

"Leitrim Observer, Saturday 16th January 1988"

Mohill's Winning Historians

Six Inter-Cert students from Mohill Vocational school travelled to Dublin on Friday last to collect their prizes in the Irish Times young historian awards.

And the six students who researched and investigated the life and times of Francis McCann, a map maker and surveyor, who lived between 1786 and 1815 in the townland of Drumlara, were praised by the Education Minister, Paddy Cooney for their achievements.

The group won both the county awards and the junior award in the four section national prizes, and considering 277 similar historical local projects were completed for the competition the school has every reason to feel proud. The students received £100 and trophies designed by students in the National College of Art and Design.

The six students - John Creamer, Treanmore; Pat Duffley, Drumkievley; Des Duignan, Collabawn; Liam Higgins, Laheenamona; Michael Kavanagh, Treanmore and Michael McGrath, Rooskeythompson - spent several weeks working on the project with history teacher John O'Donoghue. The project will now be kept as part of the county's archives in the county library, Ballinamore.

Leitrim Observer



Mohill Vocational School - Tour to France 1979



Fourth Year & Leaving Certificate Class 1991

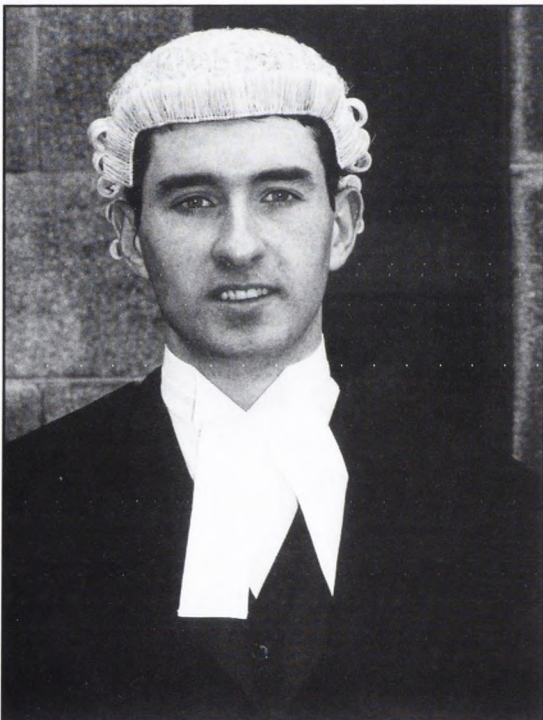
Back Row (Left to Right): John Gannon, Tony McGill, Paul Faughnan, John Conboy, Michael Cuniffe, Declan McGrath, Francis Guckian, Barry Mitchell, Hugh Daly.
 Middle Row (Left to Right): Tony Cassells, Colin Conboy, Noel Dolan, John McWeeney, James Lohan, James Faughnan, Patrick McNamara.
 Front Row (Left to Right): Veronica Bohan, Mary O'Brien, Clare Diffley, Joan Daly, Noelle Heeran, Annette Colreavy, Fidelma Beirne.



Junior Girls Football Team - Vocational Schools Champions 1997
 pictured with Pat Donohoe (Leitrim Footballer) and trainers D. Conboy and V. McGuinness



Tara McCabe (Captain)
 is presented with her trophy by Pat Donohoe



Declan McGrath of Rooskey Thompson, Mohill, son of Michael and the late Patricia McGrath a distinguished past pupil of Mohill Vocational School who was called to the Irish Bar recently. Declan was also called to the New York Bar earlier this year and is currently lecturing in Law at Trinity College.



School Debating Team
 Naomi Dowds, Tracey Costello, John O'Flynn, Trevor Sweeney.



Constructing the St. Patrick's Day Float 1997;
 James McGovern, Conor Gordon, Gavin McGovern, Brian Gallogly, Niall Mulligan, Kevin Fitzpatrick.



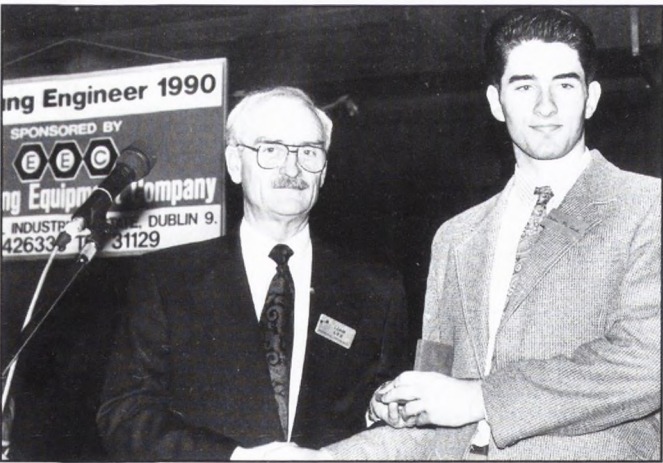
**Mohill Vocational School - First Year Football Team
Winners of the Brady Cup**

Back Row (Left to Right):

Tony Ward (Coach), Brendan Flynn, Gary Wynne, Declan McNamara, VAI Fitzpatrick, Joe Barry, Declan Creegan, Alan Canning, Damien McGuinness, Colin McGuinness.

Front Row (Left to Right):

Damien McHugh, Gerard Gildea, David Faughnan, Gavin Mitchell, Seamus McGuire, Ian Dolan, Trevor Howard, Gerard Moran.



Liam Lee presenting Declan McGrath with the Young Engineer Gold Medal for achieving the highest leaving certificate marks in engineering in the country.



Gerald Higgins testing the Water Pump at Currawn.



The Penal Cross
Found on the land of Frank McWeeney, Aughadrumderg.



**The Rowan Dispensary,
Gorvagh.**

Dr. Enda Cadden, making one of his regular Tuesday and Friday visits during the period 1963 - 1973

June 29th, 1989

Pictured are "Young Historian" prizewinners from Mohill Vocational School who were presented with their awards by the Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke at a recent Ceremony in the Mansion House.

(Left to Right): Padraig Flynn, Gortagh; Donall McCrann, Cloone; Declan McGrath, Mohill; Kieran Conefrey, Cloone; Michelle McGrath, Mohill; Minister Mary O'Rourke, John O'Donoghue, Teacher; Derek Mitchell, Cloone.



Jon Bolger, President of the A.S.T.I. presenting Michael McGrath with a perpetual trophy for Best Project in the Biological & Ecological Sciences.



Canon Sean Rooney, Michael Comiskey & Bernie Reynolds at Mohill Boys School Reunion August 1999



Pictured Mr. Paddy Logan (R.I.P.), making a Presentation of Mrs. Eileen Kelly on the retirement of her husband Master J.J. Kelly as Principal of St. Michael's Boys N.S.

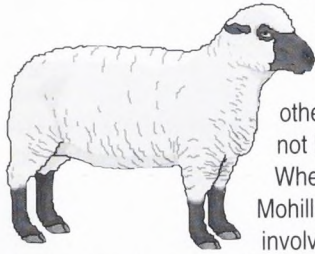


Mohill Agricultural Show Ltd

1927 - 1999

Liam Ellis

The first Agricultural Show in South Leitrim was held in Mohill on 29th October 1844. "The South Leitrim Society was established for the purpose of improving the general condition of the farming and labouring classes, by the introduction of an improved system of husbandry upon the small farms, by giving encouragement to rural manufacturers suited to the circumstances of the country, and by awakening a spirit of emulation, that may lead to the increase and more profitable employment of the population of the district".

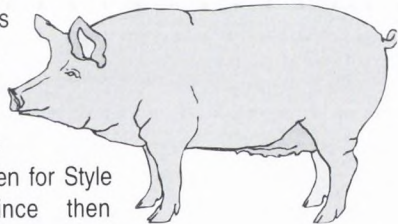


Between 1844 and 1909 other shows took place, the number is not known.

When Canon M.J. Masterson came to Mohill as P.P in 1924 he quickly became involved in local activities. By 1926 he

had laid out a framework for reviving an Agricultural Show Society. On Wednesday 31st August 1927 the first show as it is today was held in the Workhouse grounds and buildings, and in Higgins field (now McIntyres' Garage). This laid the foundation stone for Mohill Agricultural Show Ltd as it is today. There were 207 entries at the 1844 show. The 1927 show

attracted 1170 entries consisting of Cattle, Horses, Sheep, Swine and Poultry. The most innovative class was for the best Donkey and trap driven for Style and Appearance. Since then successive generations of town and country people in the area have endeavoured to adhere to the aspirations of the 1927 show and its illustrious committee.



After 9 successful shows, in 1935 the committee commenced negotiations to purchase land from Mr. Sodan and Mr. McKenna on the Dromod Road. On the 22nd April 1936 it was proposed to purchase the lands at a cost of £260 - thus began The Park as we know it today. It was some years before the Show was held in the new grounds. The work involved in levelling the Park and building the exhibit sheds, as they are today,

was under the leadership of the late Tom Devine BAg, Hort, Horticulture Inspector in Mohill. Town and

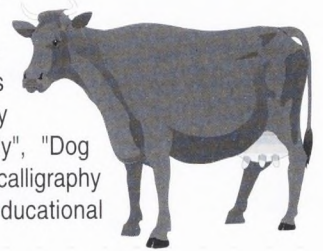


country contributed very generously to this work. Today we remember with pride and gratitude the mammoth task the committee of the day undertook and so successfully

accomplished.

The facilities had been put in place, and despite the constraints of the "war years" and the occasional wet day the show prospered. Music was supplied by the Garda, Army, and more local Bands. The format remained the same, but as the years went by new classes and attractions were added.

Unfortunately the Horse and Pony jumping events had to be discontinued, but new interests emerged, notably "The Bonny Baby", "The Best Dressed Lady", "Dog Show" and a variety of photo and calligraphy exhibits, together with many educational helps.



Naturally there were changes in the committee, many passing to their eternal reward. The Joint Secretaries Mr. F. Flynn N.T. and Mr. M.J. Kenny were succeeded by Mr. M.H. McGowan who carried the very responsible task for 33 years until 1982. He in turn has been replaced by his equally competent daughter Lourda and Mrs Aideen Heuston.

Today as Mohill Show approaches it's 74th consecutive show it attracts Cattle and Horses from the length and breadth of the country. It has entries of just under 200 and is a very active member of The Irish Shows Association

The committee greatly appreciate the very generous sponsorship it enjoys and the sincere interest of town and country. It is deeply grateful to the judges, exhibitors, spectators and stewards who so willingly give of their time and energy. The committee remembers with pride and gratitude the founding fathers who had the determination and foresight to establish The Show in 1927 and all successive committees who have maintained that tradition to the present day.



Pictured at Irish Shows Association Function Athlone 1983 to honour Harry McGowan who served as Secretary of Mohill Show for 33 years.

Left to Right: Harry McGowan, Mae Logan-Crowe, Lourda McGowan, Aideen Abbott-Huston, Noeleen McGowan, Johnny Duignan (R.I.P.), Johnny Rowley, Madge Casey, Michael Casey, Peggy Ellis, Liam Ellis.



**Function to raise funds
for Biafra 1965**

Back Row (Left to Right):
Paddy Keating, Rev. Fr., McNulty,
Michael Farrell (R.I.P.) Joe Dorr (R.I.P.),
Enda Cadden (R.I.P.),
Rev. Fr. Declan Dorr (R.I.P.)

Front Row (Left to Right):
Monica Keating, Mary Farrell,
Peg Cadden, Maura Dorr (R.I.P.)

Mohill Show Committee 1986

Back Row (Left to Right):
Cathal Duignan, Sean McGuinness,
Ted Tuthill (R.I.P.), John James McKeon,
Michael Casey, Bernie Faughnan
(R.I.P.), Liam Ellis, Joe Leogue,
Jim Wynne (R.I.P.), Vincent Duggan,
Gabriel Moran, Michael Beirne (R.I.P.)

3rd Row (Left to Right):
Stanley Scott, Luke Early (R.I.P.),
Charlie Crowe, P.J. McNabola,
Dr. Michael Farrell (R.I.P.), Sean Kilrane,
Chris Reynolds, Josie Nicholson (R.I.P.),
John Boddy, Tom Lynch.

2nd Row (Left to Right):
Patsy McManus (R.I.P.),
Johnny Duignan (R.I.P.),
Harry McGowan, Aideen Huston,
Robert Logan (R.I.P.), Lourda McGowan,
Jim Gannon (R.I.P.),
Bridie McGowan (R.I.P.)

Front Row (Left to Right):
Hugh Cooke, Frances McGlynn,
Mae Logan-Crowe, Bridie McIntyre,
Maureen Kelly, Maura Casey,
Peggy Ellis, Johnny Rowley,
Gerry Moran.



Milk Race

V. Morrisson (R.I.P.) in fairisle Jumper in front



Kate Gilchrist (centre) Drumdart with her daughter Mary and son Jack

HISTORY OF GORVAGH DISTRICT

Tom Melia

The half Parish of Gorravagh covers 6,000 acres divided into 48 town lands. The existence of Crannogs at Selton and Funshinagh, a ring fort at Finiskill, and small forts in other town lands indicates that people have lived in the Gorravagh area for centuries. The late Canon Masterson was convinced that St Patrick passed through Gorravagh. In Dromoughty More Tobar Patrick and Tobar Muire were important sites of pilgrimage. As far back as the eighth century the monks from Fenagh Abbey maintained a vigil at the wells during the pilgrimage season of 17th. To 25th. March and 15th. August to 8th. September. During penal times large crowds came to pray at both the holy wells. Sadly both wells are now neglected and over grown. By 1600 Gorravagh was still sparsely populated with large areas of Forest remaining. The plantation of Ulster in 1607, Cromwell's campaign of 1648 and the aftermath of the battle of the Black Diamond in 1795 saw a large number of refugees settle in Leitrim. The plantation of Leitrim In 1621 and the Cromwellian campaign of 1648 also brought a number of settlers and refugees into the area. The failure of the 1641 rebellion brought the introduction of the penal laws, during the next 150 years Catholics suffered great persecution because of loyalty to their faith. A lone bush on Sean Reynolds land in Drumhanny marks the spot where a priest was killed while saying Mass. Fr Phelim Conlon P.P. Mohill 1708 - 1735 used to say Mass beside the house of John Logan R.I.P. Annaghderg. An old crab tree marked the exact spot. Fr Conlon had a hiding place less than 100 yards away in a limestone cave, which was later dug away to form a lime kiln.

Despite all the misery of Penal Times the population expanded rapidly. At first the people farmed the land in common and lived in small villages such as those at Doonarah, Drumlowan, Drumreask, and Glasdrumman. These communal farms were later divided into smallholdings by the landlords who saw it as a chance to increase rent. This subdivision led to endless disputes between neighbours over fences and rights of way. During the 18th and 19th century poteen making became widespread as the people struggled to pay the rent, this led to many clashes with the revenue police the most noted being the battle of Drumcollop in 1795.

The 17th and 18th century saw the destruction of the remaining forest cover with the landlords taking all of the good trees and the iron ore work at Castlefore using up 50 acres of forest per year. The end of the forest was a disaster for the natives as it deprived them of a source of food, housing materials and firewood.

Potatoes, oats and cattle were the main produce of farmers around Gorravagh before the famine. Heeran's Cornmill and Kiln was in operation at Corgallion. The Canning family ran a corn mill and Kiln at Corgallion which continued working until 1965. Loughlin Canning, the miller was tragically killed in 1947 in an accident at the mill.

In Annaghderg Andersons had a corn mill and kiln and a mill for making frieze cloth which was the style of cloth worn in the 1800s. The mill passed into ownership of the Dwyer family some time after Patrick Dwyer married Catherine Logan only daughter of the owner. The mills ceased production around 1900. In the 1800s a tannery was in operation at Meelick.

The relief act of 1782 marked an easing of the penal laws and Catholics were allowed to set up schools. By 1826 schools had started at Breandrum, Gorravagh, Sratrisaun, Drumboy and Aughadrumcarne.

By 1841 the population of the area was almost 4,000 with many people living in dire poverty in one room mud-walled huts. The famine

of 1845 - 47 decimated the area with the poorest suffering most. In 1851 the population had halved because of death and emigration.

Despite continuing emigration the latter part of the 20th Century brought a gradual revival mainly as a result of the hard wrought



Jack Bohan and his wife Sarah pictured with the photo of the 1927 Championship Team. Jack was one of the key players on that team

reforms won by Daniel O'Connell before his death in 1847 and the reforms won in the 1881 Land Act in which many local farmers played an important part. The 1898 Local Government Act was surely one of the events of the century because for the first time even the poorest Catholics had some say in the running of their lives. It broke the power of the Protestant ascendancy.

The Dispensary and R I C barracks were built at Gorravagh, Mrs Connell started the Post Office at Corrabegagh. The hall was built by the Ancient Order of Hibernians; schools were built at Sragarn, Finiskill, Cornagun, Acoon, and Glostermin. The opening of the narrow gauge gave farmers access to new markets. In the 1880s William Murphy bought Mrs Mc Partlin's shop, Liam, Sean and



Canon James Wall P.P.

Leaving Gorravagh Church with John B. Egan and P. Cassells 1963



Gorgvagh Dance Committee IFA 1964

Back Row: Tommy Ellis, Edward Doherty R.I.P., Bernard Heeran, Michael Shortt, Joseph Dywer.

Front Row: Molly Canning, Michael Logan, Mel Logan, Lena Canning, Malachy Canning

Meehaul built up a thriving business employing up to 30 people during turkey season. Molly Canning and Mick Murray gave many years of service at Murphy's.

Gorgvagh was well served by tradesmen down the generations. John Mulligan and his son Patrick were coopers in Drumoughty Beg as were John and James Donnelly in Laura and Glostermin. Jack "curley" Reynolds, Adoon, was the last cooper in the area. Thomas Reynolds had a forge at Sratrissaun and his son Frank set up beside the dispensary where Heterington's forge was many years earlier. In latter years Frank worked in the forge near his house at Corrabeach. Tom Rourke's forge was at Fushinsagh crossroads. Paddy Kennedy and his son's did building work nation wide. Jack Heeran assisted by Jimmy Moran and Pat Gannon built many houses locally and further afield.

Jack and Richard Ellis were bootmakers in Drumkilleen. Frank "Ogie" Reynolds from Drumoughty was a carpenter. Pee Woods Laura was a builder and amateur actor. Michael Reynolds, Drumbeera founded a building firm and his sons have developed it into a thriving hardware and construction business. Willie Bohan and Fintan Moran are also successful builders.

Stephen Egan has a furniture factory at Glasdrumman and Paddy Flynn Seltan, specialises in making hardwood windows and doors. Vincie Flynn has developed a lovely herd of pedigree Limousin cattle in Breandrum King.

At the start of the 20th Century many small shops opened locally selling mainly tea, sugar, tobacco, and in later time paraffin oil. During the Second World War there was a desparate scramble for such necessities as flour and tea. Among the shop owners were, John Bohan, Sratrissaun, Reynolds' in Knockroosk, Harkins, in Drumcollop, Mick Leavey and Tuppenny Higgins in Drumreask, Michael Flynn, Breandrum, who also had a mobile shop. Tom Branahan and Bridget Ellis in Glasdrumman, Ellis' also ran a small bakery.

In 1920 Gorgvagh R I C barracks was burned and the next night the hall was burned by the 'tans. On 11.3.1921 six I R A volunteers were murdered at Selton Hill by the British army Two weeks later Willie Latimer an innocent local Methodist farmer was murdered in retaliation on orders from Dublin. Some years earlier Willie had single handed prevented the eviction of a local Catholic family. In May 1921 James Moran, Currawn, was badly injured at Gorgvagh by the British army.

Before 1940 nearly all marriages were arranged by matchmakers and with large families the dowry had many stops on the way. The payment of the dowry along with rent, rates and drainage demand caused more hardship to many families than some landlords caused in the 19th Century. The housewives of that generation were the driving force of the country, while most men refused to do any house

work, the women were expected to help with all the work on the farm, while rearing large families. They also had to share their kitchen with pet pigs, suck calves, clocking hens, and crickets at various times during the year. Very often it was their income from hens that saw the family survive.

Paddy Kennedy rebuilt the hall in 1926, many plays, concerts, and ceili's were held there. The local band under the direction of Paddy Donnelly practised in it and the Gorgvagh branch of Macra Na Feirme which was founded in 1949 also held meetings there. After the opening of Fenaghville in 1947 by Patsy Conboy the hall went into decline. In recent years Ceili's have been held there. The closure of Gorgvagh Post Office in January 2000 marked the end of more than 90 years service to the community by the Wryne family. Mary Wryne continues the fine family business tradition, producing household soft furnishings and in the process giving very valuable employment in the area. Among the Post men who served in the area were Pat Joe Fox, Tom Pierce, Johnny Duignan, Michael Shortt, Johnny, Tom, Joe, and John Wryne. The dollar bill and ten-shilling note in the post from our emigrants were especially appreciated during the hardship of the economic war. Handball was a popular past time in the area in the 30s, 40s and 50s with large crowds gathering every Sunday at the alley on Paddy Casey's land in Ohill.

Dr Muldoon's car was a novelty after the First World War. In the 20s and 30s Mike Bohan's gramophone and Master Flynn's radios, the caley houses, the dances and plays in Gorgvagh Hall with rows after them were antidotes to the misery of the economic war.

Ten elections between 1920 and 1935 added to the bitterness of the civil war. The shooting of Paddy Reynolds T D from Drumoughty on 14.2.1932 in an incident at Foxfield stunned the local community. The pony and trap and the bicycle were the main forms of transport. Joe Wrynn's Ford Taxi was the only motorcar in the area. The late 40s and 50s were bleak years around Gorgvagh as emigration robbed us of many fine people. Patsy Conboy's Fenaghville and Cathal Flynn's exploits on the football field helped to relieve the gloom. In 1963 electricity came to most of the area and our way of life changed forever. In the 70s two-group water schemes supplied water to the area and ended the hardship of many trips to the springwell or driving cattle to pools in the summer.



Frank "the Smithy" with Declan Doherty 1961

For farmers the changes have been dramatic too, Jack Bohan's and Michael Flynn's threshers put an end to the torment buffing and winnowing of the oats. The Ferguson 20 and 35, the PZ and the rotary mower took the slavery out of farming. Baled silage ended the heartache of haymaking, so aptly described in lines from John McGahern "each cloud that drifted into the blue above as we watched as apprehensively across the sky as it were an enemy ship" Events out side there control conspired against local farmers, the disastrous summers of 1924, 50, and 85 and E.E.C. regulations signalled the decline of the small farmer. The latter half of the Twentieth Century marked a recession in the Gortvagh area. The railway closed in 1959, in the 60s the dispensary, Cannings Mill, and Michael Flynn's shop also. The national school closed in the 70s, Murphy's shop closed in 1985, and in the 90s we lost McGarty's, John Flynn's, Johnny Wrynn's, Shottt's, Conefrey's, Micky Wrynn's. The Post Office closed in January 2000. All our small shops are long gone, the milking cow's and the pigs are gone too. Not many hens are left either with no need for

John Nutley anymore. The turkeys are gone too as is the bustle of Murphy's yard at Christmas time, and the trip to Maria Cassells, Drumgarne and Maggie Jane Moran's Stragarne is just a memory now. Brussels and the multinationals is our 21st Century Lord Leitrim.

In a generation so many well loved families are gone from us; The Smithy Reynolds, McGivney, Moran, Fox, Donnelly, Horse breaker and Dickey Cline, Shanly Biddy Hip, Mc Crann, Earley, Kennedy, Doonan, Oats, Mike Mulligan, Barry, Masterson, Kellegher, Willie Grier, Connor, Pat Cassel, Connon, Heslin, Harkin, McWeeney, Mulvey, Rodden, Hubert Reynolds, Joe and Frank Healey, O'Donnell, Michael Healey, Paddy and John Wrynn, Leavey, Greenan, Boyle, "Harry" "Horn" "Ogie" Casey and "Frankey" Reynolds, Kelly, McGuinness, Whelan, Maguire, Harte, Ward, Ton Doonan, Mike Kennedy and Master Flynn. All the state agencies are turning their back on small communities like Gortvagh. Even the Good Friday Stations have been stopped in Gortvagh which perhaps signals a threat to the future of the only remaining focal point in Gortvagh.

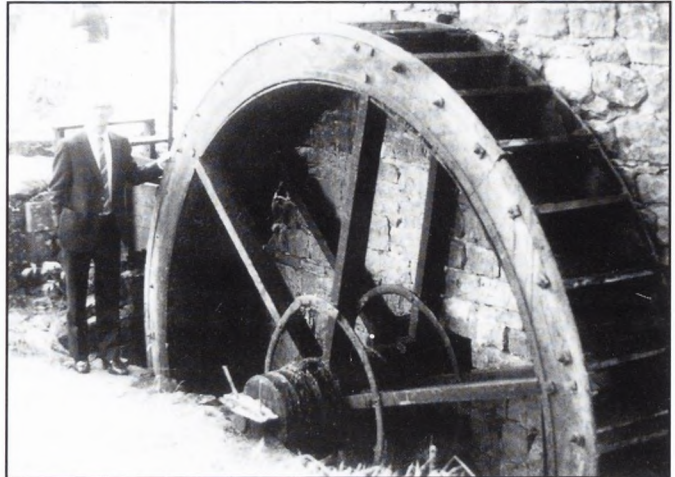


The Gortvagh Fife & Drum Band 1946

Back Row: 3rd from Left; J.P. Monaghan, Michael Murray, Pat "Grump" Murphy, Jack O'Neill & Tom Reynolds
 2nd Row: Michael Logan, Paddy Donnelly Jr., Paddy Donnelly Sr., Jim Curran, John Curran, Jimmy Reynolds
 Front Row: Mike Joe Walsh, John Canning, John Everitt, Hubert Holohan, Tom Reynolds, Jim Monaghan, Charlie Cunningham & Frankie Reynolds and supporters who lead the Kerry & Leitrim teams in the Junior All-Ireland Semi-Final at Carrick-on-Shannon in 1946.
 Missing from Photo: John Wrynn, J.P. Canning.



Frank & Mai Cassells - One of the Gortvagh Shamrocks Team



Malachy Canning at his Restored Mill Wheel in 1980

Gorvagh Schools

The 1782 Relief Act allowed Catholics to set up their own fee paying schools, but the window tax introduced in 1799 meant that both pupils and teachers had to endure terrible conditions in the schools. In the 1826 schools report four fee paying schools are listed in the Gorvagh area. Thomas Gralton with 197 pupils in a small cabin at Breandrum. James McGuire with 60 pupils in a cabin at Strattrissan. James Masterson with 24 Catholic and 2 Protestant pupils at Aughadrumcarne. Edward McCabe with 70 Catholic and 11 Protestant pupils in a well finished cabin at Drumboy.

On the 29/11/1831 the Chief Secretary for Ireland gave instruction for a new system of National School Education to come into force which it was hoped would be non-denominational but both Catholic and Protestant Clergy saw the new regulations as an opportunity to get funds for their own schools.

In October 1832 a number of Local Catholic and Protestant parents including Michael Mulvey, Luke Mitchel, James Murphy, Daniel and Thomas Earley, Francis Flynn, Michael Murphy, John Ellis, Laughlin Canning, John Duignan, Pat Travers, John and James McCullogh, George and William Lattimer, James Noble and Thomas Rodden successfully applied to have a school at Drimna affiliated to the new education board. The school was housed in a thatched cabin measuring 16 2/3 'x 11'. Bartholmew Hoyer who had worked for the Catholic Clergy for 10 years was the schoolmaster with his wife Mary helping the girls to read and spell. 40 boys and 20 girls paying 1/- a quarter were on the rolls.

On 01/01/1840 an independent school at Drumboy whose patron was John McKiernan affiliated to the Board. The schoolmaster was Edward McCabe aged 48 years and Mary Ann Moran aged 20 was his assistant. 100 boys and 65 girls were on the roll books.

In June 1875 the school at Currawn had Margaret Hargaden as principal and Bridget Dolan as monitor. The school closed on 31/03/1905 because of poor conditions and a large decline in the



Elizabeth Mahon

number of pupils attending. Mrs Hargaden was still Principal and Mrs Higgins her assistant at the time of closure.

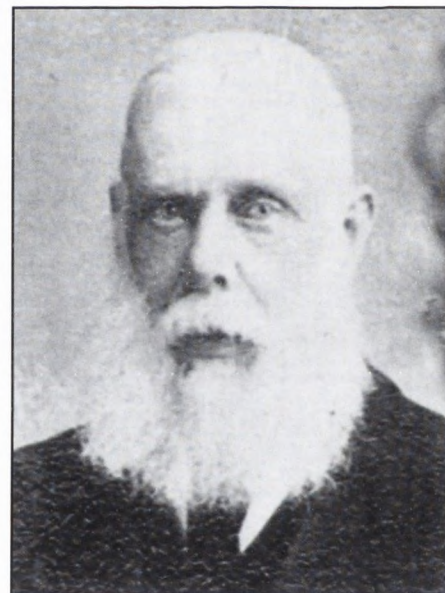
A school at Funshinagh in Kiltubrid Parish also served the northern end of the Gorvagh area for a number of years. Sragarn school was established in October 1855 and affiliated to the Education Board on 30/05/1856. The school was not

vested and had the landlord La Touche as Patron who appointed

the manager, his agent William Waugh was manager for a number of years before resigning in July 1893 when Canon Donoghue was appointed manager. Thomas Mahon from Ballinaglera was the first Principal of the new school with a salary of £14 and books for 150 pupils. He transferred to Eslin School on 01/01/1861. During the late 50's and 60's a variety of assistants and monitors were employed at the school, including Thomas Craddock, Elizabeth Corr, John Tighe, James McGarty, Pat Duggan, Michael and Pat Boyle, Margaret Flynn. In June 1872 142 pupils were on the rolls with John Foley as Principal and Elizabeth Geelan and Mary Ann Foley as assistants.

The school was later divided into male and female schools with Patrick Masterson as principal of the boys school and Mrs Gillen as principal of the girls school. Mrs Gillen died on 15/04/1900 and Patrick Masterson retired on 30/09/1900 after 40 years service in the school.

Both schools were amalgamated on 01/10/1900 when Charley Flynn aged 32 was appointed principal. Charley who had completed his teacher training at St. Patrick's College was previously assistant in Mohill. Rose Ann Healy, Drumboy was his assistant. Sragarn became a top class school under the guidance of Charley Flynn, he also prepared his



Thomas Mahon

nephews John, Frank, Joe, Charley and Frank Heeran for entry into training college. Because of the large increase in pupils a new school was built in 1917 in Peter Morans' field at Sragarn crossroads just across the road from the old school. Terese Flynn wife of Charley also taught in the school for a number of years before her death in 1924 when she was replaced by Ellie Jane McGuinness, Josie Cox, Miss Whitney, and Gretta Mahon all taught there in the 1920s.

In January 1923 150 pupils were on the rolls when Jack Flynn, Drumdart came as locum for his uncle Charley who was unwell. Jack was assistant from 01/05/1923 until 30/06/1931. Charley Flynn junior Sragarn also joined the staff.

Mrs. Ellis, Mohill came from Lisduff N.S. in 1929 and taught until her death on 09/03/1941 when she was replaced by Mrs. Flynn from Mohill who was teaching in Cloonturk. Charley Flynn retired in 1933 and was replaced by Frank McGuinness, Drumboy who died in 1943 and was replaced by Tom Pearse, a Kerryman, who was assistant in Mohill.

When Mrs. Gallagher was appointed principal in the late 1940s. Sragarn had become a one teacher school because of a fall in numbers attending. In the early 60s Mrs. Millie McNally joined Mrs.

Gallagher as assistant and was transferred to Mohill Boys School on 30th June 1968. Sragarn School closed in the early 1970s.

Michael Boyle started a school in the townland of Oghill on a site opposite the house of Paddy Boyle R.I.P. In 1886, he was appointed principal of the newly built Finiskill N.S. with a salary of £35. And his assistant Mary Foley had a salary of £27. The school which was built on the land of Tom Boyle had a lease of 3 lives from the Croftons cost £333.6/- to build. And had dimensions of 33'2"x 17', 10 x 11' 3 . A grant of £222.4/- was obtained from the education board.

Kate Grey was appointed assistant on 1.6.1904. Master Boyle retired in 1910.

Other teachers in Finisklin School were Neillie Healy and Master Monaghan. Frank Mc Guinness was Principal for a number of years before transferring to Eslin National School and his wife Ellie Jane was his assistant before going to Sragarn School in

1924. Mae Reynolds, Eslin spent almost 20 years teaching in Finiskill between the early 20s and the early 40s. Philip McGuinness was principal between 1930 - 1933. Charlie Flynn, Sragarn was Principal for 7 years before his death in 1940. He was replaced for short periods by Masters Reilly and Murray before Mrs Gretta Flynn, Drumdart became Principal in 1942. Madge O Rourke, Fenagh did some short relief work for Mrs Flynn. Miss King was assistant for a short period in the late 40s. Mrs Flynn retired on 30.6.1964 and was replaced by Monica Scollan, Drumboy who was later joined by her sister Olivia. Finiskill school closed on 30.6.1975. Cornagun and Glosterman schools in Fenagh Parish and Atoon in Cloone Parish also had pupils from the Gorgagh area. Mrs Murphy (nee Flynn) taught for many years and her nephew Charlie Flynn, Selton was principal in Atoon for over thirty years and he was later replaced by his daughter Eilish.

Adm RP Fr. Dominicus Joannes Geelan, Mohill, comitatu Leitrim, die Julii, anno 1890, Natus est. Ordinem ingressus post primam studio litterarum humaniorum apud Universitatem Regalem Dublini fructuose se applicavit. Studiis Philosophicis Tamlacateperactis et ad cursum Theologiae prosquendum Roman missus, ibi die 15 Julii anno 1917, sacrum Presbyteratus ordinem receipt. Casa autem valetudinis mox in Patriam reversus per annum circiter et dimidiu studia Sacra ad normam Canonum absolvens, Tamlactae commoratus est. Expletis studiis brevique tempore in conventu S. Mariae Corcaige mansit donec anno 1921, ad Collegium nostrum Neopontanum assignatus est. Munere docendi durante, official Professoris, prioris atMagistri Scholarum principis humillime accepit felicissime obibat. Infirma autem valetudine cogente, prius officium Prioris (AN1928) posteaque, Magdalenae Poontanae assignatus est. Post hac e domo nostro Ulyssipone in Lusitania , ubi ad convalescendum per paucos menses degerat, in Hiberniam, ut Syndici provinciae vices susciperet anno 1938, revocatus fuit. Paulo post, Superior domus nostrae Pontanae renuntiatus, sexenni sapienter administravit. Prior Provincialis die 13 Movembris,anno 1946, electus, rei oeconomicae ministrum peritum se probavit missiones quoque nostras speciali quadam cura indesinenter adjuvabat. Acerbo omnium maerore, ante finem sui officii, in mort quievit die 25 Aprilis anno 1949.



Mohill Boys' School Golden Jubilee Celebration

Past Pupils (Left to Right): Charlie Britton, Luke Early, Kevin Britton, Philip Baxter, Eamonn Duignan, Gerry Casbin



Mohill Boys' School- Launching Golden Jubilee Book August '99
John McGahern & Luke Early

Saint Joseph's Church

Corrabeagh, Gortvagh

Tom Melia

St Joseph's church was built around 1837 in the townland of Corrabeagh on a site donated by Lord Leitrim. J. McGreal, grandfather of the late Frank McGreal, was the stonemason and the stones came from Wynnes's and Canning's quarries in Corgar. The roof of the chapel was taken to Gortvagh from Sligo by Thomas Wryne, Corgar and Michael Murphy, Selton. It was a remarkable achievement for the people of the area considering the poverty that afflicted them at that time. The original Church was a simple barn type building with a door on the north side. In pre famine Ireland the house station was the principal form of religious practice in rural areas. Baptisms and Marriages were celebrated in the home or in the priest's house. Funerals were also from the home.

In the early years of Gortvagh Church with nearly 4,000 people living in the area it was always overcrowded. Many people were so poor and badly dressed that they would not come the whole way to Mass, some came as far as Moran's Hill and prayed there. It is likely that the church was used as a school and for meetings in the early years. The synods of Thurles in 1850 and Maynooth in 1875 saw religious Practice become Church centred. The Thurles synod decreed that all Baptisms and Marriages take place in church and it urged priests that confessions be heard in church and women's confessions to be heard in a confessional. The Maynooth synod put restrictions on house stations. To comply with those decrees 2 side aisles, a confessional and an altar were added to the church

In 1916 Fr. John Kiernan erected a small sacristy and the bell. William McGuinness and his father erected the stone walls around the church and hung iron gates, which were made in Kelleghers Forge Bohey. In 1928 Paddy Kennedy erected the two galleries in pitch pine and placed the statue of the Sacred Heart, donated by Charley Flynn N.T in memory of his wife Teresa on the left hand side and the statue of St Anthony donated by Kate Bohan in memory of her Mother Maria Higgins on the right hand side. Felix Cannon made the railings to protect the base of the statues.

In the 1930s porches were added to protect the 3 doors and the Statue of St Joseph was placed on the front porch. Around 1960 the Kennedy's put a new wooden floor in the church which was donated in memory of Mrs Teresa Murphy, Gortvagh. Some years after Vatican II Tommy and Joe Flynn, Drumlowan transformed the Altar, which was originally donated by John McWeeney, Breandrum in memory of his parents. In 1974 Jimmy Stenson, Carrick-on-Shannon along with local voluntary help re-constructed the Church including a new roof at a cost of £10,000. Bishop Cathal Daly performed the re-dedication ceremony.

The stone wall was removed in 1981 to make way for a car park. Sonny Whelan assisted by Michael Logan, John Patrick and Malachy Canning, and Mickey and Johnny Wryne erected a block wall around the church.

In 1987 under the guidance of Fr Columbia McCole a large number of volunteers were cajoled to carry out extensive repairs on the Church including a new Sacristy, toilet, ceiling and wiring. Local tradesmen who worked at the Church were Sean McWeeney, Sonny Whelan, Paddy Flynn, Gerard Conefrey, Tony Donnelly, Michael Logan, Pdraig O'Neill, Noel Whitlow, Don and Steve Flynn. A new grotto was erected beside the church. On the Sunday 11th October 1987 St Joseph's Church was re-dedicated by Bishop Colm O' Reilly with Fr Cyprian Conefrey preaching the sermon.

Mrs Catherine Flynn and Mary Kate McGarty, Corrabeagh were caretakers of the church for many years. After Mary Kate's death an altar society was formed. Paddy Kelly provided the music for the choir for many years.

St Joseph's Church is unique in that its congregation has always come from 4 parishes and because of the serious decline in the population around Gortvagh it is only with the support of the people from Fenagh, Cloone and Kiltubrid that the Church can stay open. Many Priests and Nuns who were born in the neighbouring Parishes would have attended mass regularly in Gortvagh including Sr. Anne Donnelly, Sr. Anthony Donegan, Fr. Brendan Heeran, Cornagun and his 6 sisters who joined the convent, Sr. Rita, Sr. Christine, Sr. Margaret, Sr. Sheila, Sr. Zita, Sr. Fidelma.

We always had a great variety of Priests, to celebrate Mass in Gortvagh during the summers of former years, among them were, Fr. P. and Fr. Pat Joe Moran, Fr. Jim Tubman, Fr. McCool, Fr. Cyprian, Fr. Willie Conefrey, Fr. John Flynn, Fr. Berney Heeran, Drumcollop, Fr. Tom McLoughlin, Drumroosk and his wonderful sermons. Perhaps Johnny Wryne was right to say we had great Priests in Gortvagh long ago.



Left - Right: Tommie Kelly, Miss Reilly, Paddy O'Shea & George Smullen (in door), John McGarry, Katie McGarry & Josie Nicholson.

Gorvagh G.A.A.

Gorvagh Brian Boru's made their debut in 1889, they took part in a tournament in Fenagh on 16.11.1889 beating Mohill by 0.1 to 0.0 but lost to Fenagh in the semi-final by 0.4 to 0.1. Gorvagh took part in the championship of 1890 and 1891 but the G.A.A. went into decline until 1904.

In 1904 Brian Boru's were reformed and their first game was against Eslin Sarsfields in Gorvagh. They competed in the 1904 and 1905 championship with little success.

In 1907 Gorvagh had wins over Cloone, Ballinamore and a walk over from Bornacoola in the delayed 1906 championships. The final against Fenagh took place in Ballinamore on 29.3.1908. In a tough game Gorvagh were leading by 0.4 to 0.3 when a melee developed after 40 minutes. After Gorvagh left the field the referee awarded the game to Fenagh. Among the Gorvagh players that day were Willie McGuinness, Berney Wrynn, Artie Shaw, Tom and Matt Wrynn, James and Charlie Flynn whose brother John was Fenagh's star. After the debacle of 1908 Gorvagh went into decline when Charlie Flynn went to training college in Dublin where he played club football with Erins Hope and Keatings and with the Dublin senior team from 1911 to 1913.

In 1917 a new club called SHAMROCKS emerged with players from Gorvagh and Cornagun. Shamrocks were unbeaten in the 1917 junior championship beating Kiltyhugh in the final on 10.3.1918. This team which sadly only lasted for one year was one of the best ever in Leitrim with top class players in Jack and Mike Bohan, Frank Cassells, Frank and Sonny Murphy, Pee Guckian, John Murphy, Perk, Tom, Pat, Danny and Michael Heeran.

In 1923 the Gorvagh club was reformed. 1924 to 1927 were the glory years of Gorvagh football winning 4 county titles in a row a feat, which is unequalled since then. Among the great players on the team were six Murphy cousins John Curran, Pee Guckian, Paddy Boyle, Mick Casserley, Mick Bohan, Packy Flynn, The 'Gunner' Reynolds, Berney, O'Neill, Jack Bohan, James Reynolds and Pee Murray. Gorvagh beat Fenagh in the 1924/25/26 finals and Annaduff in the 1927 final. Gorvagh lost to Annaduff in the 1928 final by a single point, the absence of Jack Bohan that day because his brother was seriously ill in Dublin cost Gorvagh a fifth title in a row. Mick Casserley, Berney O'Neill, Jack Bohan and Pee Murray starred in Leitrim's Connaught championship win of 1927. 1931 saw the break up of that great Gorvagh team.

On 24.8.1935 Ballinamore beat Gorvagh by 2.2 to 1.2 in the Leitrim minor final. Gorvagh won the 1937 south Leitrim Junior title but they lost to Glenfarne in the county final.

Funshinagh fielded a junior team between 1938 and 1944. They played their home games in Breandrum King, among their players were; Matty Bohan, Peter Harkin, Tommy Beirne, Paddy Wrynn, Johnny and Willie Grier, Michael and Stephen Flynn.

Gorvagh won the 1947 Leitrim Junior League title and the South Leitrim Junior championship but lost again to a Glenfarne selection in the County final. Caillan Conefrey won a Connaught Junior medal with Leitrim in 1946.

Because of the huge rise in emigration, after the war Gorvagh was unable to field a team after 1949. Joe Wrynn attempted a revival in 1967 with a minor team. July 1968 marked a final appearance of a Gorvagh team losing to Ballinamore in the minor championship. Cathal Flynn was our sporting hero in the

1950's and '60's. He won minor medals with Fenagh in 1950 and 51. In 1952 alongwith his cousin Turlough O'Flynn, Drumdart, Cathal won a Leinster Colleges medal with Franciscan College, Multyfarnham beating St Mels in the final, in which Cathal had the game of his life scoring 1-7 out of 1-8. Leo Kenny R.I.P scored the other point. 1952 was a memorable year for Cathal he captained The Leitrim minor team having turned down the chance to play with Westmeath who won the Leinster Minor title that year. In 1952 Cathal also made his debut for Leitrim seniors against Cavan in the league carrying on a great family tradition, his father Charley, and his uncles James, Frank and Joe all played senior football for Leitrim. James's grandson Padraig also from Selton is now a regular with Leitrim. Cathal later played club football with Sean McDermott's in Dublin. He was Leitrim's top scorer between 1956 and 1966 with an amazing tally of over 40 goals and 360 points in 90 games over this period. The 1958 Railway Cup was one of the highlights of his career, in the semi-final played in Ballinsloe on 16.2.1958. Cathal and Packy McGarty scored 1.9 out of Connaught's total of 1.11 a feat which was memorable in more ways than one because they were both left behind in Dublin and had to hire a car at the cost of £5 to get to Ballinasloe. In the final on 17.3.58 Connaught beat Munster by 2.7 to 0.8.

Recently the Leitrim Observer published their Millennium team; and it seems extraordinary to me that Gorvagh natives Jack Bohan, Paddy Murphy, John and Charlie Flynn failed to win a place on the team. John Flynn and his brother Charlie were the driving force behind the G.A.A. in Leitrim in the troubled times between 1908 to 1929. For the past 50 years Gorvagh players have found a happy home with the Fenagh club. On 17.3.2000 Fenagh ably assisted by Padraig, Niall and Brendan Flynn, Sean Logan, Darragh Barden and managed by Don Flynn and Hubie Reynolds all from Gorvagh won the Leitrim Senior League breaking a senior hoo-doo that lasted since 1932.



Gorvagh Team 1947

- Back Row: Joe Wrynn (Post Office), Micky Wrynn(Stracarne), Caillan Conefrey (Donarae), Thomas Logan (Annagderg), Ned Donnelly (Keshcarrigan), Michael Logan & Michael Joe Reynolds
- Second Row: Paddy Wrynn, Mike Wrynn (Gorvagh), Mickie Reynolds (Glostermin), John Wrynn (Post Office), George Murphy, Annagderg, Pat Murphy (Annagderg), Jimmie Reynolds (Gorvagh)
- Third Row: Mike Joe Walsh (Cornagher), John J. McCale (Sarsfield), Joe Keegan (Ballinamore), Josie Conefrey (Donarae), T.P. Ellis (Glostermin), Tom Reynolds (Smithy)

A School Boy's Memories of the Carnival of the Early 40's in Mohill

Liam Ellis

In those early forties "the war years" long before anyone used the word "An Tostal", or "The Festival" we had "The Carnival" in Mohill. It lasted for at least eight days and possibly more if we had a church holiday mid-week. There was little distraction for boys growing up at that time. Cowboys and Indians and a bit of football were the Old Faithfuls. The four big fairs, "Monaghan Day, The 8th May, The 19th October, The Big Market Day" provided days off school and despite warnings and threats, perhaps an excursion 'round town'.

We had however three moveable feasts that were not church holidays. Duffys circus arrived in May and placed the big tent and their supporting equipment in the Fair Green or in Cumiskey's field. The Carnival took place in July or in early August. We had Mohill Show day on the last Wednesday in August.

McMahons Amusements were the highlight of the carnival for the children and those in their early teens. Dances and fortune telling provided attraction for the mature teens and older. The "Wall of Death", the "Blazing Inferno", the man clad only in a pair of football shorts who lay on a bed of sharp pointed nails, and a collection of stalls housing various games attracted all ages.

McMahons two steam engines belching black smoke and pulling several trailers made a very impressive entry to Mohill, (nothing about emissions in those days). If the weather was warm their traction wheels tended to lift the tar on the approaching road. Long after their departure their tracks were plainly visible and in the pony and trap of the day easily felt. They usually arrived mid-week but could be a bit late because of the scarcity and poor quality of the coal. I think the organising committee had to guarantee so much coal, otherwise it could be a bit like Percy French's "are you right there Michael, are you right", "Will we be there before the night". The remainder of the week was taken up erecting Chairoplanes, Bumper Cars, Swinging Boats and numerous games. The latter promised wonderful returns for a successful participant. Meanwhile the committee was busy ensuring complimentary attractions, i.e., Bands, Fortune Telling, the Wall of Death, the blond Bombshell and the Bed of Nails were all sure to attend.

Sunday afternoon eventually arrived and while McMahons loud speakers blared all the popular songs of the day a fantastic parade of local wit, talent, and current affairs assembled at the convent and proceeded down Main street over towards the Station and back to Hill Street, then Water Street, Glebe Street, Hyde Street eventually arriving and dispersing in the park where all was a sea of colourful bulbs over the various amusements.

The extended week literally flew. Presses, drawers and clothes were carefully turned out for pennies, 3p pieces, 6p pieces, a find of 2 shillings or a 1/2 a crown was like winning the lotto today. But what fun, challenge and enjoyment they provided in the park. Money just vanished but it was worth it all. A spin in the bumper cars left many dreams of a future Stirling Moss. The chair-o-planes on the other hand, were a test of stamina and just how dizzy were you when you again set foot on the ground. A stern attendant carefully supervised the swinging boats and any attempt to go high invited immediate vacating, however it was all part of the fun.

For all, there was the thrill of the chase, watching the motorcyclist climbing the wall of death or the blond bombshell plunge up over and through the blazing inferno and then out into the clear air again. Regrettably while in Mohill, the blond bombshell had a mishap with her bike just as she was approaching the flames, her motor bike skidded. She was injured, and I believe never again rode through the flames. Such an accident cast a shadow for the remainder of the carnival. The organising committee had no easy task ensuring safety and attendance by all entertainers and in the case of the bands that there was a suitable replacement. On one occasion they were faced with a different dilemma. The fortune teller with the "Second Sight" lost her voice and had to abandon her gifted post. A desperate hunt took place for a substitute but to no avail. However at the 11th hour a local person was persuaded to give it a try. A very talented make up artist from the drama group was enlisted and on completing her work it was agreed that the new fortune teller could not be recognised even by her husband.

The substitute was extremely lucky to be well versed in the past and the future, births, marriages and deaths of the locality. Accordingly she proved to be extremely gifted with extraordinary "second sight". After the night the queues grew longer every night, the money rolled in. The committee gave a great sigh of relief and everybody lived happily for the remainder of the carnival. Of course the following years brought their problems when the "genuine article" was vaguer and less informed. Where's last years one was the cry of the week and the queue gradually dwindled. Things have changed, the carnival gave way to a week of marquee dancing and the spectacle of the mighty steam engines and their gleaming brass supported canopies and huge barrel generators have passed by. I think those few lines from "the old school clock" can best sum up ones memories of bygone days.

*Well years have passed and my mind
has been filled
With the world, its cares and ways.
When again I stood in that little school
Where I passed my boyhood days.
But my old friend had gone and
there hung a thing
That my sorrow seemed to mock.
As I gazed with a softened but sorrowful heart
On a new fashioned digital clock.
'Tis the way of the world, old friends pass away
And fresh faces arrive in their stead.
But yet mid the bustle and strife of this world
We cherish fond thoughts of the dead.*

History of Eslin District

Jim Reynolds

Eslin I.C.A.

Eslin I.C.A. was formed in 1988 with a membership of twenty-four ladies. The guild have been very active since it's formation and through the years it has proved to be a very enjoyable social outlet for it's members. In the late eighties and early nineties, six and eight week classes in crafts, interior design, keep-fit, first aid and personal development were held in Eslin Community Centre. The meetings are held monthly and through the years the committee have organised talks on gardening, community alert, drugs, women's health, flower arranging and cookery. Members have attended a one day course in I.C.A. headquarters at An Grianan and two members of the guild were fortunate to obtain scholarships to An Grianan enabling them to enjoy a week of classes and entertainment in very comfortable surroundings. A grant from the Community Support Scheme for the Elderly was obtained by the guild in 1996 and sensor lights and security locks for the senior citizens in the guild were purchased and installed. At the end of each year a night out is arranged and guild members enjoy a meal and a sing song at a chosen venue.

Eslin Foroige Club

Eslin Foroige Club was formed in April 1999. Eslin is fortunate to have a large number of young people in the 12-18 age group and it was a result of this that Foroige was formed. The present committee are as follows, Chairperson Carol Reynolds, Vice Chairperson Lorraine McLoughlin, Secretary Lynda Cunningham, Assistant Secretary Niall Mulligan, Treasurer Scott Hunter, Assistant Treasurer Peadar Flynn, P.R.O. Colm Stenson. There are approximately forty members in Foroige. The club are fortunate and indeed grateful to have nine adult leaders because without their support it would not be possible to have a club. The adult leaders are, Enda Stenson, Sean McCabe, Francis Foley, Grainne Bohan, Ray Bohan, Jean McLoughlin, Kathleen Hunter, Alison Dolmin and Michael Gildea. Members have been involved in fund raising for equipment for the centre and they have also been involved in a clean up in the area and were prominent in the very successful Millennium celebrations held in Eslin. Games so far have been confined to the inside of the Community Centre but with the new basketball and soccer facilities provided at the extension of the Community Centre the club look forward to enjoying games outside in the longer evenings. Members are very appreciative of Eslin Community Association for the provision of these facilities. Meetings are held on Friday nights from 8 to 9.30 p.m. and the club yea runs from September to May.

Eslin's Link to the Penal Days

The penal laws dating from 1695 was aimed at the destruction of Catholicism in Ireland. Education was also made impossible, as Catholics could not attend school. No Catholic could vote, own land or hold any office under the crown. The practise of the faith was outlawed and priest hunting was carried out often as a sport.

In the townland of Drumhanny north on the farm of Sean Reynolds stands the sight where a priest was killed saying mass. A hawthorn bush marks the spot where the execution took place, this is known as "Friars Bush".



Friars Bush, Drumhanny

Eslin Creamery

The Eslin co-operative and Dairy Society was formed in the first decade of this century in the year 1908. Sir Horace Plunkett had been encouraging Irish farmers to form co-operatives societies and two residents of Eslin, John Flynn, the local teacher and Thomas Reynolds, the local grocer, were sent to Ballymote to make enquiries. They brought back a favourable report. A committee was formed which included the following members: John Crowe, Tom Reynolds, James McHugh, Frank McGuinness, John Reynolds, Patrick Flynn, William Jones, Peter McLoughlin, Patrick McLoughlin, Tom Moran, Tom Gilchrist, Tom Kane, Tom McLoughlin, William McNulty and Johnny Rua Wynne. The society was financed by shareholder's subscriptions of £1.00 each.

The creamery was built by Michael Bruen of Drumraho. Initially it was merely a separating station where the cream was separated from the milk before being sent elsewhere for manufacture into butter. Eventually a dairy was added so that butter could be manufactured on the premises. The water supply was a deep well in a convenient building. The well was excavated by the McCaffreys of Drumdart - Johnny and his two sons, Mickey and Jimmy. It was 21 feet deep and



Eslin National School 1929

approximately 10 feet in diameter. It was dug in one week and the McCaffreys got £10 for their work.

The first manager was Terry Dolan from Ballinamore, and his "engine driver" was John Marshall from Drumdart who was paid 6/- a week. Terry Dolan did not stay long and the next manager was Bernie Lavin from Coolatooma near Jamestown. His helper was Bernie Matthew Wynne. In those years the society flourished. Milk was collected from the surrounding areas of Annaduff, Gorbagh and Bornacoola, and brought on long carts to the creamery. Supplies were in general small and the average supplier provided five to six gallons per day.

When the dairy was built, Annie McGann of Drumlara was employed as dairymaid and she supervised the manufacture of the cream into butter. When she left, she was replaced by Miss Byrne. In 1919, Bernie Lavin resigned and went to Kilnaleck in Co. Cavan to manage the co-op there. He was replaced in Eslin by a young man from Cork named



Frank & Anne Reynolds 1912

MacKessy who stayed for a brief period. On his leaving, Edward Sharkey was appointed manager in 1920.

The separated milk was given back to the farmers and proved very useful for feeding animals. The Eslin Co-operative Society also sold light hardware, goods, fertilisers, etc. and their business flourished until

some of the Mohill traders set up a Central Creamery in the town. The Eslin Society faded out and manager Sharkey went to Mohill while the remaining workers were left unemployed.

The loss of the creamery was a tremendous blow to Eslin area and transfer to Mohill was deeply resented by the local people. The Mohill Central Creamery was a failure – it only lasted two to three years and was taken over by Kiltoghert Co-op Society. The Eslin shareholders lost their share deposits and the machinery in the creamery was dismantled and taken to Mohill. The creamery building itself was purchased by the local shopkeeper, Tom Reynolds, and converted into a dancehall.

Written by the Late Jack Flynn N.T. 1987



Denny Reynolds (Eslin P.O.) with his son Don and Michael "Tailor" Reynolds in the Background.



Eslin Drama Group from the '50's

Back Row (L - R): Joe Gilchrist, Tomas Moran, Michael Reynolds, James McGuire
Front Row (L - R): Anne Joe Costello, Nancy Mulligan, Kitty Reynolds.

ST. MARY'S Church, Eslin

St Mary's church Eslin is located in the town land of Cavan and was built by the late Canon John Evers P.P Mohill in the year 1844. The Reynolds family who were freeholders gave the site free.

In its construction a great amount of free labour was given. Only a few tradesmen were paid such as stonemasons and carpenters. Their wages were made up of pennies and halfpennies that were taken up at the weekly collection. The remainder was drawn from Parish funds. Its high pitched roof was supported by three queen posts trusses. These were made of pitch pine assembled on the ground and lifted into place where they were anchored into the walls. Eight tall lancet window's, three on either side and one on each gable brought an abundance of light into the building.

A short distance up the road stood an old thatched church when penal laws against Catholics were being relaxed. Subsequently a national school was built on the site bearing the date 1869.

A priest by the name of Thomas Smith lived in the townland of Cavan. He travelled from place to place on horseback attending to the needs of the people.

St Mary's was refurbished by Fr. Brendan Manning in the year 1912. A bell tower was constructed and the present bell was installed which bears the name of Canon Felix Doherty the then Parish Priest of Mohill. Renovations were carried out through out the years. Bishop Cathal Daly rededicated the church in 1980.

Within its sturdy beams and walls lie the thoughts and prayers of the many generations of people that came to worship there.

Francis McGann

1786 - 1815

It is now over a century and a half since this great man died in the flower of his manhood. He was a distinguished and learned man, a credit to Leitrim, Mohill and Drumlara, his birthplace.

He was born in 1786 and the Keville family lived in the place in later times, his father was Peter McGann and his mother was Mulvey from the mountain at Aughacashel. Francis got his first lessons from Hugh McDonnell, a hedge schoolmaster who taught in a place called 'The Rock', where later on, there stood the car-house of Pat McGann. From Owen Reynolds (The Bright Star) who kept school at the Green of Mohill, Francis later developed his talent for mathematics in particular. He then went to Parson Kane of Drumsna for a course in the Classics and afterwards he finished his education at the school of a very famous teacher named Baggot.

This James Baggot was a well-known mathematical scholar and he also dabbled in astronomy matters. He was a correspondent of La Place (1749-1827) who formed the theory of Spherical Harmonics and into the bargain a United Irishman and received Lord Edward Fitzgerald on the latter's tour of Ireland in 1789. He was active at the time of Emmet's rising and incurred the suspicion of Dublin Castle, he lived chiefly at Ballingarry, Co. Limerick and it is more than likely that he taught in many more places. He is believed to be in Doneraile, Co. Cork when Francis McGann was his pupil. Baggot died on the last day of August 1805 at the early age of 35. When young McGann returned from Munster perhaps in 1804 he became a land surveyor of repute and one of the ablest mappers.

In Ireland, he mapped Bonnybeg for Samuel Span Lawder in 1812 on dried and pressed skin, he surveyed and mapped the Eslin and Killamaun rivers and marked the boundaries of townlands at Attymanus and Gowel.

He refused a job with the British Army in India, indeed no more than his teacher Baggot he was a patriot as well as being a scholar. He became head of the 'White Rocks' Society, a party which stemmed from the United Irishmen in 1798. It was as spokesman for that society that he made his final speech of protestation to Peyton's tyranny at Keshcarrigan.

His untimely death in the snowdrift at Kilnagross at Christmas time of 1815 brought mourning to many. His funeral to Mohill was large. A fir tree at Kilnagross and a fitting ballad by John COX Thomas McCrann served in the Congo in 1962/63 with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force.



Carol Singing in the American Bar, 1975



Left to Right: Joe Dugdale, Annette Kivlehan, Fran McGuinness, Dolly Reynolds, Eamon Costello R.I.P., Berdnadette Clyne, Mary McIntyre.



THE ESLIN BRASS AND REED BAND 1914

- Front (sitting) - James Gray (Finiskill), Michael Larry Reynolds (Leitrim Lower),
 2nd Row (sitting) - Jimmy McNabola, Michael Shanley, Michael Reynolds, Bartley Moran, Patrick McLoughlin (Dan), P. Reynolds, Michael Donoghue (Corlea) and Paddy McGuinness
 3rd Row: Eddie Gallagher, Jim Ward, Jack Moran, Frank Moran, Sarsfield Faughnan, Tommy Little, James McCrann, John Murphy, Charlie McNabola, Pat Gray and Master John Flynn.
 Back Row: Master Michael McLoughlin, Charlie Mulligan, Patrick McLoughlin (who carried the banner), and Thomas Reynolds (the local grocer)



Brothers Jack & Richard Ellis who were Bootmakers at Drumkillellan and Main Street, Mohill

Past Schools and Education in the Eslin Area

Jim Reynolds

The Catholic Emancipation Act, 1829, and The National Education Act, 1831, opened up a brighter future for the Irish Catholic people who had been ground under by the Penal laws for the previous one hundred years and denied all education. After the Famine years, 1845/1847, hedge schools were established all over the country. In the early 1850's Hughie McDonnell set up one such school on the rock in Drumlara. In Griffith's survey of 1857 McDonalds house is mentioned as being of no value. The area of the garden was three roods. The annual valuation was five shillings. However this is the first school we have any record of in the Eslin area.

When Hughie McDonnell died, his son Alec continued teaching in the hedge school on the rock. He eventually moved from Drumlara to Lough Erill crossroads. He had school there before moving to Drumdoo where he had a school in a little house belonging to the Moran's.

BOYS SCHOOL

The National School was established at Cavan, Eslin at the time. Alec, as a learned man, was appointed as teacher there. However, habits, which he had developed as a hedge schoolmaster, did not conform to the new rules and he was transferred from Cavan to Greenaun where he set up a small school at Corrafoora Hill. Here, he was giving trouble to the manager, Canon Evers. McDonald accepted compensation, left the school and went to America where he remained for some years. His relations sent him back to Co. Leitrim again. On his return he established another hedge school in Curragha. He died in 1877 at Mohill Hospital.

The day's work in Curragha began with the master writing a headline in the pupil's copies with a quill pen. The scholars copied this sitting on wooden forms with their copies on their knees. They wrote with pen and ink. They used a fourth class book called "Reading Made Easy". They never got further than "LSD" in arithmetic.

Alec's failing was drink. He went to Mohill every Thursday and never missed a market. The scarcity of tobacco on Wednesday was responsible for the low attendance on that day. The sickness, which followed the visit to the market, was the main reason for no school on Thursday and Friday. The school week was Monday and Tuesday. He married Bidy Canning from Drumdart. When she died he married Catherine Rourke who outlived him.

Master Mahon, a native of Ballinaglera, was the first teacher in the Old Cavan School in 1866. His wife was also a teacher. He originally taught in Stracarne, Gortvagh, before coming to Cavan. He was a very successful teacher. He taught until the 1890's when he retired. He is remembered as being a big venerable looking gentleman, immaculately dressed in black. He wore a cut-away coat, and tall hat. He had a flowing white beard.

Master Mahon was replaced by Master John Flynn who had been assistant teacher in Mohill.

Master Flynn had as his assistant Michael McLoughlin. Master Flynn died in 1926 and was replaced by Frank McGuinness who had been principal teacher in Finiskill School. Master McGuinness later changed from Cavan to Stracarne and was replaced by his nephew Phil McGuinness. The new Eslin school was opened in 1943 and Phil taught there until the early 1970's when the children were transported to the national schools in Mohill.

GIRLS SCHOOL

Mrs Mahon was principal of the Girls school. On retirement she was succeeded by Margaret McCabe of Mohill who became Mrs John Flynn. She had as her assistant two Brogan girls, A Miss Healy and a Miss Grey who eventually became Mrs McLoughlin. Mrs Flynn retired in 1930 and was succeeded by Mrs McGuinness who was principal for a short period. Mrs Morahan then taught in the new school until the 1950's. She was replaced by Miss Moffat from Dromod who is now Mrs. Gray.

GREENAUN/CARTRON SCHOOL

In the northern end of the Eslin area a school was established in the townland of Greenaun, in Banaher's meadow. The first teachers we have any account of there are Andrew Moran and his wife. Mrs Shanley worked for a while in Greenaun School and when the new school was erected in 1900 she became principal. The numbers in the school were small at first but in 1912 Miss Katie Wynne from Drumcolligan was appointed as assistant teacher. Mrs Shanley retired in 1931 and was replaced by Mr. Jack Flynn, Drumdart. Mr Flynn had been assistant in Stracarne. Miss Wynne retired in 1958 and Mr. Flynn retired in 1963. The pupils of this area were transferred to Mohill National Schools like their neighbours from the Eslin School in the early 1970's.

Jack Flynn N.T.



Teachers Mohill Boys School 1999

Helen Feely, Miriam McGowan, Leo Donlon, Millie McNally, Siobhan Moffatt



Mohill Sports Complex Lord Mayoral Campaign

Back: Lloyd Donnelly, Christy Clyne, Gerry McGee, Jim Faughnan R.I.P., Tommy Donnelly R.I.P., Paddy McWeeney, Mick Keane, Luke Earley.
 Front: Imelda Donnelly, Maureen Lynch, Malachy Hanberry (Lord Mayor), J.J. O'Rourke, Chris Reynolds.



Thomas Cassels, Leitrim Upper, Eslin & Jim Reynolds, Stuck, Eslin.
 Taken in New York.



Picture from McTaggart's Studio 1912
 Back: J. McMenamin, Mary McTeggart, B. McKiernan
 Front: K. McTeggart, T. McTeggart, D. Gray



Holy Wells in Mohill Parish

Before the coming of Christianity to Ireland, the people of Mohill parish, like the rest of the country, were a spiritual race. They enacted their rituals, paid homage to their dead and worshipped their gods.

When St. Patrick came to Ireland in the 6th century AD, they changed their worship and embraced Christianity with open arms. It is from this time that the tradition of holy wells has its origins, and indeed countless wells all over the country are dedicated to St. Patrick. These wells became a focus for the new Christian faith. They were holy places where people gathered to pray and the water in them was seen as pure and life giving and symbolic of their baptism.

There were many holy wells associated with Mohill parish and while the tradition of Pattern days or Pilgrimages has more or less died out, the older generation will retain vivid memories of these days.

In 1934 the National Folklore Commission collected information on local history from schools all over the country and the following accounts of holy wells relate to the Mohill parish.

Holy Well in Crossdrumman

There is a holy well in the townland of Crossdrumman in the parish of Mohill. It is situated at the bottom of a big hill in a lonely spot, about two miles from the nearest Church. It is about three yards up from the river, there is a white thorn bush growing over it and there is a heap of stones around it.

The well is dedicated to St. Patrick, the days of pilgrimage are Monday and Thursday and it is used for curing warts. Prayers are recited at three different places at the well and each time the prayers are repeated a stone is thrown into it. The prayers recited are 3 Our Fathers and 3 Hail Marys'.

Eliza Jane Banaghan, Cartron National School, 19th July 1934.

St. Patrick's Well in Drumlara, Eslin

The well is on the top of the hill overlooking Lough McHugh, convenient to an old fort on the side of the road, about 100 yards west of it. There is no church beside it. Some 40 years ago a large ash tree about 8 feet in diameter grew near the well. It fell then and the trunk was left untouched beside the well until it crumbled away. The well is dedicated to St. Patrick and there is no special day for an annual Pattern, the usual prayers are a Decade of the Rosary and the Creed, there are no special offerings. The benefits are temporal and on completion of the prayers pieces of cloth are affixed to the bushes near the well. The water is drunk and carried away by those visiting.

In 1845 a local man washed fresh pork (Griskins) in the well and the water left the well and sprang up 200 yards left of the old spot near a large lone whitethorn bush in McHugh's field. St. Patrick is reputed to have rested at the well after crossing the Shannon on his way to Fenagh. The Pilgrimage was discontinued about 1880'.

As told to Jack Flynn NT, Drumdart, by Owen Mc Gann, Killamaun, in 1934.

The Blessed Well

Drumoughty-More, Gorbagh

The Blessed Well is situated in the townland of Drumoughty-More, Gorbagh in the Parish of Mohill. Tradition has it that St. Patrick rested and prayed at this well on his journey from visiting the High King of Tara to the West of Ireland. There was great devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, in my younger days during the 1930's and 40's when almost all the people of the locality visited the Blessed Well between 15th August and the 8th September. They prayed fervently at the well and tied a piece of ribbon or cloth on the big bush which

grew over the well. They also brought home a bottle of water from the well, this was used to sprinkle on anybody in the household who was sick, and for any animal that was sick on the farm, such was their belief in the Blessed Well. There was also a standing stone beside the well. The writing on the stone was hard to distinguish, but part of it read "Erected by MARK MELIA in honour of St. Patrick"

As a small boy I remember the old people telling me that the hills around the well were all dotted with small tents where people had come for many miles away and stayed praying between the two Ladies Days, (15 August / 8th September) such was the devotion to this Blessed Well.

Paddy Duignan, Drumreask, 22-11-1999.



Paddy Duignan at Tobair Muire, Drumoughty

Mohill's Choral History

Maureen Lynch

Step back in time to the early Christian Monastic settlement in Mohill and you may hear 'The Tuneful voices of Christ's servants sweetly modulated, singing the praises of God in Ecclesiastical melody'. These are quotes from St. Gildas (c.500-70) monk and first British historian. Another historian Giraldus Cambrensis (1147-1223) describes the Irish music that the Bishops, abbots, and saints sang and played on their cithara (harps) as having particular charm 'Being quick and lively, albeit sweet and blithe in tone' we may surmise that St. Manachan and his monks were no different from their Celtic counterparts as described by these famous historians, and that they sang their psalms for hours during the day and long into the night. After each psalm it is said that the monks knelt and prayed, 'O God, come to my assistance, O Lord make haste to help me'. Close your eyes again and go back in time and you may hear the monks sing 'Deus meus, aduva me, tabhair dom do shearc, a Mhic dhil De'. This hymn is often sung by the present church choir but it was written by Maol Iosa O'Brolchain around 1086 and could have been sung by the ancient monks. A nice little thought that may connect past and present, but it is only imagining, for alas there is very little information about early Celtic church music.

We have a little more knowledge of the 20th century thanks to some valuable information from past choir members whom we shall acknowledge later.

The Churches in Mohill were never without their singers. The Church of Ireland according to their tradition never needed a choir as such, since the whole congregation has always joined enthusiastically in the ceremonies, but it can always manage to produce very competent organists. The present organist is Mrs. Patricia Grace O'Malley Bradshaw, Incidentally her nephew Robert Logan is the organist in the R.C. Church.

The Roman Catholic congregation on the other hand finds it very hard to sing out in Churches, so it is important that they have a fairly good choir. This may be the reason that over the years Mohill has produced great choirs. Our present incumbents carry on a proud tradition that hopefully will be continued when we are all singing with the angels.

Mrs. Eileen Kelly wife of J.J. Kelly N.T. can recall some of the names of people that sang under the baton of Sr. Saviour in the 20's. Bridget Fanning, Baby Kenny, Veronica Rogers, Angela Redican. During these times the very melodious choir sang in the balcony with Sr. Angela at the organ

Dermot Dunleavy a

retired Judge and great entertainer tells how in 1920 he sang with the children's choir in the Convent from the age of five. When they went to the Boys School the boys continued to go to practice in the Convent with Sr. Angela- later to become Mother Angela. During the 30's Mother Angela also had an adult choir and it included among others Josephine Dunleavy, Lily Kelly, Rita Agnew, Maureen O'Rourke, Kitty Redihan, Mabel O'Neill, Josie Winters, Helen Moore, Kathleen May Winters, Eileen Kelly, Baby Kenny, Bridget Fanning, Patsy and Marie McTaggart, Phylis Kelly (Hughes), May Masterson, Cissy Kilkenny, and May Rowley.

Mother Angela's successors were Sr. Attracta and Mother Stanislaus, both fondly remembered by all our readers as both ladies lived long and happy lives, They conducted a mixed Choir of Adults and Children. Sr. Attracta played the organ on the balcony while Mother Stan conducted.

There were also great male singers in the group and Mrs. Eileen Kelly can recall many of their names. Aidan McGovern, Jack Gillen, Joe Moore known affectionately as 'The whistling soprano', Michael J. Kenny, Hughie Moore, James Winters, Dermot Dunleavy, Gerard Dunleavy, Eamonn Costello, J.J. Kelly, John F O'Sullivan, Mike Joe Winters, Joey Cullen and Sean Meehan. They were an exceptionally good choir specializing in four part harmony, and very much respected throughout the county

About the year 1940 John F O'Sullivan with the help of the nuns formed the Mohill Carol singers. Most of them have now alas passed away and may they all rest in peace. The Carol Singers sang all over the county in aid of St. Vincent De Paul. Harry McGowan was one of their collectors and he could extract money from Scrooge with his quick wit. Leo Agnew and Larry Moran also helped and Canon Masterson always treated the singers to a party in his house later. They sang in Drumshanbo, Newtownforbes, Arva, Longford, and elsewhere, never failing to pay Lady Granard a visit at her Castle in Newtownforbes. The



The Millennium Choir 2000

Mohill, Carrick and Longford together in perfect harmony

Carol Singers sang every Christmas for over twenty years and are fondly remembered in the town. Dermot Dunleavy has an old recording of the group, which he intends to make available. In later years many singers came and went, the Reilly family Treanmore, Kitty Kelly, Teasie Cumiskey, the Casey boys, Michael McGuinness, Peter Gordon, the Rowleys, the Kennys, and many more.

In 1964 the organ was removed for some reason, never to return. The Grotto and some lovely trees were also removed about the same time.

When Mother Stan took ill in March 65, Sr. Angela was obliged to take charge of choir duties. With the invaluable assistance of Sr. Goretti both nuns immediately set about the task of reorganizing matters with great gusto. Recognizing that a modernization of Church Music was at hand and that the Latin Hymns of old were becoming less popular, it was suggested that in future all hymns would be rendered through the medium of English. This suggestion was slightly unpopular among the more senior members i.e. the Latin group, and those who regarded the transformation to English as being too demanding, gradually this group exited, to the great regret of all concerned. Soon the girls from the Secondary and National schools were called upon and a new era dawned with Sr. Angela and Sr. Goretti the principle architects of the planning and construction of the new and modern Church Choir, which despite many crises has gone from strength to strength over the years, and of which Mohill is justly proud.

The choir sang at the two masses on Sunday, Joe Crossan was the organist for the early Mass at 9.30 and Sr. Goretti played at 11.00. When she retired as Principal of Marian College in 1985 Robert Logan took her place, and he has been playing the organ since.

This choir sang at all the big Feasts and important occasions. When the convent celebrated its Centenary they were superb. They also sang at Benediction and High Masses. Sr. Angela remembers that for every High Mass they were paid the princely sum of £1.00 and she recalls how they bought a tape recorder for the school with the proceeds.

So as to be more involved in the ceremony of the Eucharist Vatican 2 advised choirs to be as near the altar as possible. Hence the balcony was abandoned for many years

During this period there were flirtations with Folk Groups which were very pleasant and attractive to the young people, Michael Dunleavy now a Dominican Prior in Rome, was very active with this type of Church music, but when Michael joined the seminary there was no one to continue the good work so it fell by the wayside. Eugene Fitzpatrick, Petra Gaffey, Mary McIntyre, Fran McGuinness, Anette Kivlehan, Gerry Beirne, Renee Fitzpatrick, Shirley Casserly, were some of the people who sang with this Folk Group.

Fr. McCole started another adult choir with percussion instruments, but the young people moved on and so did the choir.

When Sr. Angela transferred to Longford in 1989, Sr. Nora took over and with the help of Robert

Logan, she trained the girls. Thankfully she decided she also wanted adults in the choir, so young and old, men and girls have been happily singing together since. Lately everyone was delighted when they went back to singing in the balcony with the lovely new electric organ.

The present set of singers as I have said, carry on a proud tradition that maybe was started in early Christian times. It is one of the nicest choirs in the county and they really pull out all stops for the big occasions.

Jubilee year 2000 has so far been very memorable as Longford, Carrick and Mohill choirs have joined to form the Millennium Choir. This magnificent group has performed at all three venues in January, and more is to come during the year. We hope that in Mohill, 'The Tuneful voices of Christ's servants sweetly modulated, singing the praises of God in Ecclesiastical melody' will continue, 'Forever and ever, Hallelujah! Hallelujah'.

The Rynn Singers

The Rynn Singers were formed in 1992 when a group of twenty girls from St. Joseph's Primary school were asked to participate in the Community Games at county level. Sr. Nora, Mary Scollan, and later Siobhan Lavin three teachers from the Convent School were their mentors. Sr. Immaculata from Granard played the accompaniment on the piano, and this group has stayed together since, some are now in 2nd and 3rd level education. Twenty-two others have joined them over the past few years.

The group has participated in many choral activities with exceptional success.



Rynn Singers

- Back Row: Sr. Nora, Orla Duigan, Erin Reynolds, Catherine Scollan, Lisa Gillhooley, Linda Cunningham, Mary Scollan, (Choir Mistress), Sinead Stenson, Lorainne Beirne, Bernie Egan, Brigid Conboy, Grainne Baxter.
- 3rd Row: Fiona Reynolds, Siobhan Costello, Maeve Kilraine, Ciara Reynolds, Deirdre McCabe, Clara Beck, Nicola Logan, Eimear Gillhooley, Claire McLoughlin
- 2nd Row: Eimear McCabe, Deirdre McDermott, Eimear Beirne, Mary Monaghan, Lisa Hunter, Emma Heeran, Kim Taylor, Brenda Stenson, Kelly Kilraine
- 1st Row: Mairead Stenson, Lorainne Murray, Louise Reynolds, Faye Reynolds, Magella Gilmartin, Deirdre McGuinness, Roisin Kelly, Michele McLoughlin

Their achievements include;

- Community Games Silver Medalists in 1995, '96, '98.
- All Ireland Slogadh Wexford, Bronze Medalist 1995,
- Sligo Feis Ceoil has been the scene of many triumphs. In March of last year 1999 they came home with five firsts.
- In 1996 they sang in the Point Depot with the great Daniel O'Donnell, and later that year they represented Connaught with distinction in Millstreet, again with Daniel.
- For three years '96, '97, '98, they have helped the 'Children in need' fund by singing at the Hallelujah Christmas Concert in the Point Depot.
- In 1997 and '98 the group took part in the youth section of the International Choral Festival.
- They have sung with the Band of the Western Command and the Garda Band at the Goal Concert in the Backstage Theatre in Longford in 1997, '98, '99. This was a great experience for the young ladies.
- Gay Byrne's Radio Carol Service in St. Patrick's Maynooth was another highlight, in '97, and in '98 it was memorable when Gay came to Drumshanbo before Christmas.
- The Carrickmacross Choral Festival and Navan Choral Festival have seen the Group perform again with many successes.
- Attending the M.I.A. workshops in King House in Boyle

opened up new doors. The teachers and the girls worked with classical composer John Buckley singing two of his compositions in the Church of Ireland Boyle for the Arts Festival, and again singing one of his pieces in the Concert Hall for the launching of the Secondary School Music program.

And so the dedication and enthusiasm continues with all those involved. All the success demands co-operation between choir members, parents, and teachers. The three directors Sr. Nora, Mary, and Siobhan are grateful to all concerned, and it goes without saying that the parents and choir members are in return appreciative of the great work being done by these ladies.

The Marian Singers

This was a group of singers formed by Ian Lee in the 70's many members of the present day choir were in it. They sang at concerts in Mohill and Ballinamore. For various reasons they broke up after a year or two.

Choirs in Eslin

In the 40's Fr. O'Donnell P.P. started a choir in the church in Eslin. Mary Reynolds a teacher in Ohill School was the organist, Fr. McCormack also encouraged the singers when he was appointed to the parish, they sang at Missions and on special occasions. Nowadays Cormac McGill organises a group of singers for Christmas and other events.



A Day out in the 30's at Lough McHugh

Front Row: (Left to Right):
Centre (Left to Right):
Back Row (Left to Right):

Charlie Foley, Tom McHugh, Jim Moran, Tommy Mulligan (cap), J.J. Keville, Pat McHugh, Austin McGuire.
Barry Keville, Jim Foley, Francis Bohan, Michael Bruen (top of head), Jim McHugh, Joe Hagan.
Annie Reynolds, Ellie Reynolds, Anna Bohan, Bartley Foley (standing up), Mike Moran, Cavan.

Photo taken at Lough McHugh by Mollie Reynolds (R.I.P.)



Choir for Confirmation 2000
 Back: C. Scollan, L. McDermott, S. Stenson, M. Lynch, F. McGuinness, O. Logan, G. McLoughlin, K. Britton, E. Stenson, S. Egan, A. McGuinness.
 Middle: L. McLoughlin, L. Cunningham, C. Beck, P. Doyle, C. Reynolds, B. Mitchell, M. Scollan, M. Kelly, M. McIntyre, A. Kivlehan, R. Logan (organist).
 Third Row: Sr. Nora (conductor), E. Callaghan, J. McDonald, Lorraine McDermott.
 Fourth Row to left: D. McCabe
 Front Left: N. Casey.

Almost every Thursday night for the last ten years the adult choir has enjoyed the hospitality of the nuns and the cooking of Teresa Callaghan and Rose Reynolds. This picture was taken a few days before the convent closed its doors for the last time.



Back: Luke Earley, Al McGuinness, Annette Kivlehan, Mary Scollan, Robert Logan, Sr. Nora, Eilish O'Callaghan, Mother Teresa, Breege Gallagher, Sr. Mary, Enda Stenson, Mary McIntyre, Olga Logan, Petra Gaffey, Dolly Reynolds.
 Front: Ciara Reynolds, Sinead Stenson, Erin Reynolds, Catherine Scollan, Lorna McDermott, Grainne Baxter, Deirdre McCabe, Sr. Acquin, Sr. Martha.

Missing from the photo are:
 June McDonald, Maureen Lynch, Lorraine McDermott, Patrice Doyle, Samantha Harte, Nichole Casey, Linda Cunningham, Gerry McLoughlin, Kevin Britton and Lorraine McLoughlin.



All-Ireland Finalists in Scor na nOg, '98, '99
 Lorraine McDermott, Eimear Flynn, Patrice Doyle, Lorna McDermott, Grainne Baxter.

Three Hundred Years of Traditional Music

Fr. John Quinn

South County Leitrim, with Mohill town at its centre, can boast a long and rich tradition in Irish music. Carolan lived within a few miles of the town in the years following his marriage in the 1720's. The harp continued to be the premier instrument throughout the 18th Century with the Fannings and O'Beirnes of Fenagh to the fore. The 19th Century however, saw the uilleann pipes and fiddle take the place of the harp. When William Forde was collecting old airs in the 1840's, he got almost 200 from Hugh O'Beirne of Fenagh, 87 of which were published later by P.W. Joyce. A fiddler called McCaffrey and Mick O'Beirne, both from Mohill also contributed airs to Forde's collection, now kept in the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. Renowned pipers spanned the 19th Century, Gusty Nicolls of Aughavas and his pupil James Quinn of Cloone, Stephen Grier and his pupil William Mulvey, both of Gortletteragh. Grier left a wealth of manuscripts containing about a thousand, mainly dance tunes to Mulvey, whose family has carefully preserved this treasure store and generously shared it with the young musicians of today. The fiddle tradition, strongly influenced by the teaching of Thomas Kiernan, Drumlish, and later Peter Kennedy, Ballinamore, in the mid to late 19th Century continued on into the 20th Century. Drumreilly

was particularly rich in fiddlers like the Reillys and Alex Sutherland, who taught widely and committed hundreds of tunes to writing, much of it now in the archives of the Irish Folklore Commission in U.C.D.

Only a small amount of this vast repertoire found its way into the published collections of the 20th Century. James Earley, a pupil of James Quinn, and Peter Kennedy's children, James and Ellen, contributed to O'Neill's collection. The Mohill area is represented by tunes from Jimmy McKiernan and William Higgins in Brendan Breathnach's *Ceol Rinne na hEireann* Volumes 1&2 and the later posthumous volume has some tunes from the Grier manuscripts. But, by and large, only a small portion of a large tradition has been published.

Today we have a young generation of musicians and more and more they are using local sources to promote the local tradition. This latest revival is showing fruit in the recent brilliant commercial recordings by John Lee "The Missing Reel" and the McNamara Family "Leitrim's Hidden Treasure", and we look forward to more to come in the same vein.



This photograph of a Comhaltas group was taken in the early to mid 60's.

Back row: Francis Joseph McHugh R.I.P. Attymanus, Garda Brendan McMahon R.I.P. Tommy Aherne R.I.P. Willie Higgins R.I.P. Boeshill, Jim Staunton R.I.P. Bornacoola Jack Conboy R.I.P. Bornacoola, Michael Staunton Bornacoola.
Front row: Stephen Faughnan R.I.P. Treanmore. Charlie Heslin R.I.P. Drimeen, Peter Colum Bornacoola, Tommy Hacket R.I.P.

Photo courtesy, Fr. John Quinn

Turlough Carolan 1670 – 1738

Gerald P. Higgins

Turlough Carolan, that well known Irish Harper-Composer, was born in the year 1670 near Nobber, County Meath, where his father was a blacksmith. In 1684, when he was 14 years of age, his family moved to Ballyfarnon, County Roscommon, where John Carolan – Turlough's father – was employed by the McDermott-Roe family who lived at "Alderford", Ballyfarnon.

Ms Mary McDermott-Roe took an interest in him and had him educated. When Turlough was 18 years of age he contracted small pox, a disease which was usually fatal at the time. His life was spared but he was left permanently blind.

Turlough's blindness, in a way, was a blessing because it awakened in him a hidden gift for music. It was then that his patron, Ms Mary McDermott-Roe, saw to it that he was trained in the Irish Harp. She had him apprenticed to a harper who was a relation of hers. She maintained him during his three years of study and when he reached 21 years of age provided him with a harp, a horse, a guide and sufficient money to begin his professional career. He started on his way as an Itinerant Harper.

At first he was not considered to be a great musician, mainly because he was an adult when he started studying, and when it was suggested to him that he try his hand at composing he did so and composed Sheemore and Sheebeg. It was then his fame spread throughout Ireland and his career took off.

The way Turlough made a living was to travel from big house to big house and from castle to castle, entertaining the households and the friends of some of the most famous and wealthy people in Ireland at the time.

Often as a special favour he would write a tune in honour of the man of the house or his wife or daughter. He called these tunes "Planxties". He was very successful and people would often delay weddings and funerals until he could be present to play the appropriate tune.

In 1720, Turlough Carolan married Mary Maguire. He was then 50 years of age. Their first family home was a cottage on a parcel of land near Mohill, County Leitrim, where they settled. They had seven children, six daughters and a son. In 1733 his wife Mary died.

Turlough Carolan was one of the last Irish Harpers who composed and a significant number of his works survive in single line melody. He started playing the harp when he was 18 years of age and became very skillful at it, but his fame developed from his gift for composition and verse.



The Carolan Monument

When Turlough

Carolan was a very young man, before his blindness, he met and fell in love with a young woman named Bridget Cruise. Bridget was part of a noble family and Turlough's family was of skilled labourers, so a match could never be made. And even though he went on to live a very successful life, he never forgot Bridget and wrote three "Planxties" in her honour. He met her again near the end of his life when he was on his way to a Religious Retreat in County Donegal.

In the year 1738, feeling ill, he returned to the home of his patron, Ms Mary McDermott-Roe. It is said that his final composition was to her Butler who brought him his last drink. He died on the 25th March, 1738, aged 68 years. He was buried with much ceremony in the cemetery at Kilronan. A plaque in Saint Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, honours him as "The last of the Irish Bards", the man who brought to a close the centuries-old tradition of the Wandering Poet/Minstrel. Carolan's wake is said to have lasted for four days.

Harpers from over a wide area attended the wake and played their harps continuously. His funeral was also impressive with a large number of Priests taking part in the ceremony.

In the early 1980's a Committee, known as the Carolan Memorial Committee, was formed to raise funds with a view to commemorating Mohill's most famous traditional musician and composer. They decided to have a suitable memorial put in place and commissioned the well-known sculptor, Oisín Kelly, to carry out the work.

In 1986 the bronze monument depicting Turlough Carolan playing his harp, was erected on a plinth at the Market Square, Mohill, and on 10th August, 1986, His Excellency, Doctor Patrick Hillery, President of Ireland, visited the town and in the presence of a large gathering of people unveiled the memorial. It is a fitting tribute to the memory of Turlough Carolan and the time he spent with his wife and family living in the Mohill area.



Pictured at the unveiling of the Carolan Monument 1986

John Ellis T.D., President Patrick Hillery, Fr. Eugene Cox R.I.P., Ted Nealon

The Famine and Workhouse in Mohill

Jim Reynolds

Potatoes were introduced into Ireland in the mid 1700's, rooted not only in the soil but deep in Irish history. The Great Famine of 1847 was severely felt in Mohill and the surrounding areas while shiploads of grain were being exported to England to pay for exporting rents to absentee landlords.

Irish Landlords were not noted for careful management of their estates. Many were only interested in hunting, drinking and building large houses. They let their land in parcels to middlemen on long term lease.

During the 18th century a new method for dealing with Irish property was adapted, large tracts of land were let at fixed rents to single individuals on long term lease and he sublet this as he chose. This was the middle man system. This led to misery for a lot of people. The landlord rid himself of responsibility and assured himself of a regular income. Holdings were split into smaller and still smaller fragments until families were attempting to exist on plots of land less than an acre.

In Mohill the rent required by landlords was oppressive. The landlords or his agents did not take into consideration the low productivity due to the over working of the land. When rents fell in arrears evictions were common. Families were evicted onto the roadside and the agent and their henchmen left their small thatched cabins in a heap of rubble.

Some landlords were more compassionate than others were and an extension of time on payments was sometimes granted

In the Devon Report of 1844 it stated that the yearly rent for Mohill town was seven thousand-pound. This was paid to Sir Morgan Crofton of Lakefield (who rarely lived there). The Crofton family were the owners of Mohill town.

The population of Mohill Parish was 11,700 in 1841. The Devon Commission whose terms of reference were to enquire into the living conditions of the people and their occupation of land, visited Leitrim in July 1844. The Commission sat in Mohill and in Carrick-on-Shannon and took evidence from a cross-section of people. Their findings stated that the conditions of certain people e.g. labourers and cotters lay wretched beyond belief.

D.R John Duke a dispensary doctor in Mohill stated:

"I am obliged to visit these people and go where no gentlemen would go, they have no bedsteads, they are lying in straw, they have no blankets to cover themselves. Often straw bedding is wet as dampness seeps through the earthen floors. Children are undernourished often naked; fever is on the increase. Their houses were often one room. The walls were constructed of bog sods and clay. The roofs were thatch with rushes straw or reeds, with a hole in the roof to release the smoke. The people had been accustomed with coping with near famine conditions in previous years; notably in 1817-1821. In the autumn of 1846 the dreaded blight wiped out the entire potato crop. Flocks of wretched people searched through the potato fields for fragments of edible potatoes".

The winter of 1846 was most severe, heavy snow fell in early November and icy winds blew from the east.

Meanwhile public work schemes were under way. Roads were being built and drainage work was seen carried out on the river Shannon under the supervision of The Board of Works. In September 1846 30,000 people were employed, this figure leaped

to 300,000 by the end of the year throughout the country. Their wages were 8- 10 old pence per day. Men began to faint with exhaustion and there was a rapid increase in the number of deaths on works from starvation, aggravated by exposure to cold snow and drenching rain.

In the summer of 1847 the Work Schemes were replaced by Government Soup kitchens. A Soup kitchen existed in Lower Main Street Mohill. This was set up and run mainly through the organising efforts of local clergymen of all denominations. The people detested the method of distribution. Each person was required to bring a bowl or a pot and stand in line until his/her turn.

The poor law or workhouse system had been introduced into Ireland in 1833, following this 130 workhouses were built throughout the country. George Wilkinson from Oxford in England was appointed architect to draw up a standard set of plans and supervise the building of the workhouses. His salary was £600 per annum. The style was Jacobean English period, with lofty towers, high-pitched roofs and pointed gables.

Mohill Workhouse was built between 1838-41 on a seven-acre site belonging to the Crofton estate. It accommodated 700 people. It was situated where the Creamery and Hyde terrace are today. The walls were built of Limestone quarried locally. The inside walls were unplastered just white washed. The ground floors were made of lime mortar on top of stone and shale. The final cost of the building was £3000.

Its first admission was on the 8th June 1842. The Board of Guardians who administered the system was made up of wealthy farmers and businessmen. Its chairman was Lord Leitrim. They laid down strict regulations for its running. It directed that no person should be sent to the workhouse except those who were sick or unable to maintain themselves. On entry the people were segregated by sex, age and physical condition and were sent to separate wards. Families were allowed to meet for short periods once a week. Everyone had to work: the women in the kitchen while the men broke stones and chopped wood.

The diet of the workhouse was oatmeal and milk for breakfast. For dinner three and a half pounds of potatoes and buttermilk was given. The Adults received no supper while the children got bread and milk. Paupers who disobeyed regulations were flogged or denied their food rations. Transportation orders were served on those who continued to disobey orders.

On the 11th of June there were 139 paupers in the Workhouse. By December of 1846 the numbers had reached 800. Two cartloads of orphans (about 25 in all) were turned away because the workhouse was already overcrowded. The fever hospital, which adjoined the workhouse, contained 95 seriously ill patients of which 14 died in June 1847. Death became a way of life in the workhouse. Dead paupers were taken after short prayer service on a cart to Bully's acre and buried without a coffin in an unmarked grave.

The system under which this terrible condition came about in Ireland was one of centuries of successive conquests, confiscation's and punitive legislation. Ireland was a broken and conquered country: the Irish peasant a dispossessed man, his landlord an alien conquer.

The Eucharistic Congress

Jim Reynolds

On that Sunday in June 1932, a vast number of people travelled to Mohill to join the Eucharistic Congress from all the surrounding parishes.

The Mohill priests involved were Canon Michael Masterson, Fr. Kilduff and Fr. McKenna. Fr. Kilduff gave Benediction at the old tree lined entrance to the church grounds and the people walked in prayer around the town carrying the Blessed Sacrament.

Michael Logan, Annaghderg, Gorravagh was an altar server on the day, also Joe Flynn, Drumboran, Michael Kennedy, Stracarne, and further altar boys sadly deceased, Pat Murphy, Annaghderg, Charlie Flynn, Breandrum, Joe Wrynn, Sattrissaun, Jim Flynn, Drumboran, James Murphy, Shiodella. All these mass servers were in the Gorravagh area.



Eucharistic Congress June 1932
Photo Courtesy of Luke Early

Told to Mae Logan Crowe by Michael Logan, Annaghderg, Gorravagh.

St. Vincent De Paul Conference

Sean McGuinness

The Mohill Conference of the St. Vincent De Paul Society was established on November 29th 1926 by Canon M.J. Masterson P.P., with the following being the first members: Edward Geelan, P.J. Coleman, J.J. Kelly, Frank Mc Guinness, Michael John Kenny, Tom Smyth, Francis Browne, Frank Flynn, Joseph Ellis, Bernard Mc Kiernan, Jim Mc Veigh, Frank Mullen, John Gallagher, Paddy Mc Kenna, James Donnelly and Tommy Ryan.

It was proposed to host the weekly Meeting after 11 o'clock Mass every Sunday and this practise still remains up to the present day.

Various fund-raising events were organised by the Conference over the years, but their main source of income is the weekly collections after Mass. As well as distributing financial and material assistance where needed within the Parish, the Conference funded a Home Management Programme with Sr. Catherine White in the late 80's and assisted the FAS Programme that worked on the Old Cemetery.

As well as the founding members, others who were loyal and committed members of the Mohill Conference and who have now also gone to their eternal reward are Charlie Cumiskey, John McGowan, Dr. Joe Dorr, Jim Flynn, Larry Moran, Paddy Logan, Jim Mulhern, Dr. Michael Farrell, Jim Gannon, Joe Crossan and Joe Conway – may they

all rest in peace.

The Mohill Conference distributed £14,000 in 1999 - £9,000 collected locally and the remainder received from the National Headquarters Education Grant.

New Members will be most welcome at any Meeting after 11 o'clock Mass in the Canon Donohoe Hall each Sunday.



Conference Members 2000

Back Row left to right : Fr. Pat Kiernan, Dr. Arthur Dolan, Michael Crossan, Sean Mc Guinness, J.J. O'Rourke, Tony O' Reilly, Liam Ellis

Seated left to right: Harry Mc Gowan, Canon Sean Rooney, Bridie Murphy

Inset: Paddy Keating

Unavailable for Photograph: Kathleen Conway, Pauline McKeon Seamus Ward, Jim Rogers Michael Mc Grath.

Mohill Town

by Mary Kelly 1998.

Chorus

*Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way,
It's great to be in Mohill for the Christmas Holidays.
Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells, Jingle all the way,
Hurry down to Mohill town and stack up for Christmas Day.*

Logans on the Main Street they're the butchers of supreme,
With Hugh and Peter always there to serve your Christmas meats,
There is turkey, beef, and lamb with rolled and boned ham,
You won't be disappointed when you get to Mohill town.

Chorus

Super Valu values you, Mace values you too,
With Kieran "Under the tree at Spar" and "Centra's got it all for you"
Stensons and Mohill Hardware for all your hardware needs,
Ans don't forget the creamery to get your animal feeds.
Call to Gallaghers carpets the best shop in the West,
So come on down to Mohill town, it's there you'll get the best.

Chorus

A&D Selection that shop that's got it all,
With stocking fillers that will please, both the big and small,
Call to Gannons drapery for your thermal wear,
With Noleen and Bridie always there to sell their goodies there,
With Val and Chris across the street
It's there you'll get your Christmas treat,
So come on down to Mohill town and stock up for Christmas day.

Chorus

Fiona's lovely bakery whose cakes are such a treat,
And don't forget The Garden with veg. and fruit to eat,
The Undertakers Miko and Luke are always on hand,
And Clare is on the ready with Christmas wreaths so grand.
Callaghans Bar and grocery shop where the atmosphere is great.
And Peter's on the corner where you can drink from early till late.
Call into the Chemist when all your shopping is done.
It's there you'll get nice perfume, if you're out to have some fun

Chorus

Donnelly's Barber Shop on Main Street whose shop is always neat,
Imelda is the proprietor, no nicer could you meet,
Huston's Filling Station for all your motor needs,
And the Garden Centre for shrubs and flower seeds.
Let's not forget the other shops I haven't time to mention.
As I'm off to the Post Office to collect my double pension.

*That poem was written in 1998 by Mary Kelly from Aughrim and broadcast on
Shannonside Local Radio station at Christmas that year.*

This next poem, written by Archibald Bradshaw, is also entitled Mohill Town and was probably written in the 1930's, it gives a nice run down on the businesses in the town at that time.

Mohill Town

by A.O.E.B. (Archibald Bradshaw).

We'll sing you a song, and we'll sing with good will.
It's all about our little town of Mohill.
Through peace and through war, it has weathered the test,
And proved it's the best little town in the West.

To the North we are linked up with Ballinamore.
To the South we are close to Lough Rynn, s shady shore.
And just to the East lies the city of Cloone.
To the West Boyle and Carrick are reached very soon.

From Treanmore we travel to Mullaghrace.
From the Creamery down to jthe Fair Green we pace.
On streets good and wide, and the toepaths are fine.
All due to the work of Colreavy and Clyne.

Our landmarks are many – we've lots of stray goats.
And a splendid new mill for the crushing of oats.
Erected quite recently by Mr. Crowe.
But the real driving power is the one known as Co.

Our Creamery forges ahead at full steam.
It's dealing with millions of gallons of cream
Jack Kelly each month pays out cheques by the score.
But suppliers complain that Kiltogher pays more.
Another great asset for which we give thanks.
Is the fact that we're furnished with wonderful Bank,
If an overdraft's needed, or a loan-so they say,
Just tap Mr. Beatie, or Mr. McVeigh.

Our Show every year has been one huge success,
Great men at the helm, sure it could not be less,
Frank Flynn and Kenny- what treasures we've got,
In the Rector, the Canon, Tom Gannon and Knott.

The Civic Guard Barracks with flag pole complete,
Is in the West end, at the top of Main St..
And Sergent O'Connor knows law by the yard,
But to give him his due, he's not frightfully hard.

George O'Malley supplies all the best makes in cars,
Canning Brothers and Dolan stock beer and cigars'
Hart and Gannon turn out most excellent suits,
Gibson, P. Henry and Bradshaw sell boots.

A wonderful project – the Presidents Dream –
In other words known as the Great Shannon Scheme,
Is now close at hand, and we fervently hope ,
They'll pay all that's due to our friend Mr. Cope.

Our railway is good ,and the service is sound,
The trains – given time – cover plenty of ground.
Lots of nice building, and big wooden gates-
Though sad to relate they are charged on the rates.

Another thing too causes much discontent,
And that is the fact that we have to pay rent'
But the fellow we'd like to attack with an axe,
Is the blighter who worked out the first Income tax

BLACKSMITHS

The blacksmith has played a central role in the lives of Irish people for centuries. The smiths were kept busy making weapons as the Irish were continually at war with invaders and very often fighting among themselves. They also played a central role in the 1798 rebellion making pikes for the United Irishmen with many of them killed by the English in the aftermath of the rising. Farmers also relied heavily on the blacksmith up to the 1950s. In the 19th Century the loy, shovel, spade, grape, and slane were all made by the smithy. The introduction of the scythe around 1850 was a big advance for farmers as it was so much easier to cut hay and oats. After the famine as farm sizes increased working horses became plentiful. In later years many families acquired traps and sidecars.

During the first and second world wars Blacksmiths did trojan work for the farming community. In an era of rationing and compulsory tillage every piece of scrap iron in the countryside was gathered to make shoes for horses and donkeys and to repair ploughs and mowing machines and also to make slanes. The forge was a great meeting place for farmers on wet days and in the evening, as most smiths were well known for their ability as storytellers.

The arrival of the Ferguson 20 tractor and the Volkswagen motor car and the E S B changed rural life forever and sounded the death knell for many of the traditional crafts including the blacksmith. Johnny Heterton from Fenagh was the last blacksmith in the area and one of his ancestors had a forge at Gorravagh. Tom Reynolds had a forge at Sratrisaun and his son Frank set up beside the Dispensary at Gorravagh. In later years he moved the forge up beside his house in Corrabegh. Frank retired in 1969 and he died in 1972. Joe Conefrey now owns his house. Edward Devine had a forge in Coolabaun. In 1916 he bought the chains that disappeared in Cloone before the battle of Ballinamuck and he got one horseshoe from each link. His daughter Maureen married her neighbour Michael Beirne.

Michael Cox from Fenagh had a forge beside where James Madden's surgery is today. Tom Cannon's forge was in Upper Main St. beside Brady's bar. Tom was married to Bidy Bohan, Mullaun and his son Felix also continued at the trade.

In the 19th century Burbages had a forge on the Cloone road. Jimmy Gilmartin from Eslin had a forge at Station Road and his brother Joe had a forge at Lisdrumgivil in Eslin.

Down the road from the old Cavan School, Eslin Bridge was where Frank Gallagher had his forge.

Michael Mahon's forge was at Hyde St. During the War of Independence the section of the British Army which was billeted at Hyde St. also had their own smith. Despite his republican sympathies Michael was forced to do work for the British. On one occasion a number of soldiers brought their most contrary mule to be shod hoping to cause trouble but at that time Michael had Stephen Gormley working with him who had a great ability to calm even the most difficult animal so the British were disappointed. In 1923 Michael returned to his native Kiltubrid and sold his house to Marcella Ellis from Drumkilleen.

75 years ago hundreds of people flocked to a tent beside Tom Rourke's forge at Funshinagh cross-roads to see the first ever silent films shown in the area. Now we have silent films in every house as the T.V. has put an end to the ceili house.

Arus Carolan

Margaret Reynolds

Arus Carolan was built in the years 1974 - 1975. It was a 40 bed residential unit. The unit opened on the 4th October 1976. Residents are taken from the local area covering Mohill, Bornaoola, Gortletteragh, Annaduff, Cloone and Aughavas.

In October 1998, two respite rooms were allocated to the unit, leaving it with 38 long-term beds and two respite beds.

The respite beds give carers a break for two weeks which allows them to go on holiday, attend weddings and family outings, which they badly need when caring for a sick person day in day out. Since this was started at Arus Carolan to day, we have had about sixty using the service.

In Arus Carolan we do a lot of activity work with the residents. In the last few years, they have performed a nativity play, an old country station, a harvest thanksgiving and Old Leitrim Wedding. Each week, bingo is held here and quizzes are a daily routine for the residents.

We try to have Arus Carolan home from home for our patients and this is achieved both by the commitment given by our staff and the support we get from the local community.

Paddy Reynolds T. D.

Paddy Reynolds, RIP was the only native to be elected to Dail Eireann. Paddy who was born in Drumoughty Beg, Gorravagh on 10th March 1888 immigrated to America where he married Mary Smith from Drumreilly. They returned to Drumreilly where they had a farm for some years before setting up a business at Main Street, Ballinamore in 1926. Some of their children attended Sragarn N.S while staying with their grandfather and their uncle and aunt Ritty and Annie in Drumoughty Beg.

Paddy won a seat for Cumman nGael in the general Election held in June 1927 polling almost 4,000 votes on the first count in his first election campaign.

In the run up to the 1932 General Election there were bitter exchanges between supporters of both parties locally. On Saturday 13th February 1932 several people were arrested in Ballinamore before De Valera addressed a Fianna Fail rally in the town. On the following day Paddy Reynolds and Patrick McGeehan, a detective who was a native of Donegal, were shot dead at Foxfield, near Fenagh in an incident not entirely related to politics.

In the postponed Sligo-Leitrim election Mrs. Mary Reynolds, widow of Paddy was elected but she was defeated in the 1933 election. Mrs Reynolds regained her seat in the 1937 general Election and retained it until her retirement in 1961. Her son Pat Joe was elected to the Dail in 1961 and since that time Pat Joe was elected to the Dail and in later times his son Gerry have represented Leitrim in the Houses of the Oireachtais continuously up to the present time.

Thomas Smyth M.P.

Tom Smyth a native of Tooman in Gortletteragh lived in Glebe St. Mohill for almost 20 years. He was an Irish Party M.P. in the House of Commons between 1906 and 1918. He was also chairman of Leitrim G.A.A. County Board in 1907.

A Brief History of Mohill Enterprise Centre and its Developers

Nicola Murphy

Mohill Enterprise Centre is owned and operated by Mohill Community Development Association Ltd. (M.C.D.A. Ltd).

M.C.D.A. Ltd is a limited company which was formed by members of the local community development group Mohill Community and Development Association.

The community group is in existence since 1985 and the limited company was incorporated on 25th April 1996 to address the dual problems of long term unemployment and population decline within the town of Mohill and surrounding hinterland.

An action plan was developed aimed at enhancing employment opportunities and job creation in the Mohill area. Firstly a survey was conducted locally which was aimed at providing everyone with the opportunity to express their views and ideas for the future of Mohill and how continuing problems of unemployment together with poor infrastructure and emigration could be alleviated.

Through consulting with local people the development of industrial workspace units through the establishment of the Enterprise Centre received much support.

Another area that was to be developed was computer training for marginalized groups.

The local community contributed very willingly to the project and a substantial sum was gathered within the community itself.

The group then set about sourcing funding for the project which was obtained from Enterprise Ireland, Interreg and the International Fund for Ireland.

Construction of the Enterprise Centre began in January 1997 and a manager funded by the Programme for Peace and Reconciliation was appointed in June 1997.

The Centre was completed in early 1998 and currently five of the six industrial units are occupied by local start up businesses as follows.

"Costello Cleaning", "Abbeycrest Furniture", "Joe Reynolds", "Jimmy Conboy Engineering" and "O'Neil Artistic Iron Crafts".

In December 1998 Mohill Computer Programme began its first year of operation, this project is based in the administration block of the Centre and it is a full time course in Microsoft Accredited Computer Training. This programme is exclusively for individuals from marginalized backgrounds from the town of Mohill and surrounding areas. Mohill Computer Programme is funded by ADM/CPA through the special support programme for Peace and Reconciliation, FAS, the VEC, Arigna Leader, Leitrim Partnership and the Department of Social Community and Family Affairs and is currently in its second year.

There are a range of evening classes in computers offered to the general public from beginners to the European Computer Driving Licence level and anyone can take part.

The centre also runs part time day classes for

Community Employment Schemes and members of the public as well as a Teaching Diploma in Information Technology which is accredited to the Joint Examining Board in London.

Approximately twenty jobs have been created within the Enterprise Centre which is an excellent achievement for an area such as Mohill.

The Official Opening of Mohill Enterprise Centre took place at the centre on Monday June 28th 1999. Present at the Ceremony were members of the General Public who contributed so willingly to the project when funds were being gathered in the early stages of the project, representatives from the various funding agencies mentioned above were also present. The day was a great success and it marked an outstanding achievement for a local community development group who work on a voluntary basis.



Pictured below at the **Official Opening** from Left to Right are :

Fr. Patrick Kiernan, Rev. Paul Twomey, Mr. Gerry Mc Gee (Chairperson M.C.D.A. Ltd.) Mr. William Mc Carter from International Fund for Ireland and Mr. Noel Davern T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and Food.



Town Developers Association 1962

Back Row: Tony O'Reilly, John O'Sullivan R.I.P., Bill Boddy R.I.P., Jim Guckian, Paddy Logan R.I.P., Chris Reynolds, Eamonn Duignan R.I.P. Jim Gannon R.I.P., Walter Dugdale R.I.P., Pascal McKeon R.I.P., Patsy McManus R.I.P., Kevin Brady R.I.P., J.J. Kelly N.T. R.I.P., Robert Logan R.I.P., Mick Cox R.I.P., George Booth R.I.P.
Front Row: Aidan McGovern R.I.P., Jack Kelly (R.I.P.)



**The Conefrey family
Doonera, Gortagh**

Pictured on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the ordination of Fr. Cyprian and Fr. Willie Conefrey in July 1991 at St. Joseph's Church, Gortagh.

Left to Right: Joe, Jim, Fr. Willie, Rose O'Neill, Fr. Cyprian, Angela Ryan, Kevin Conefrey.

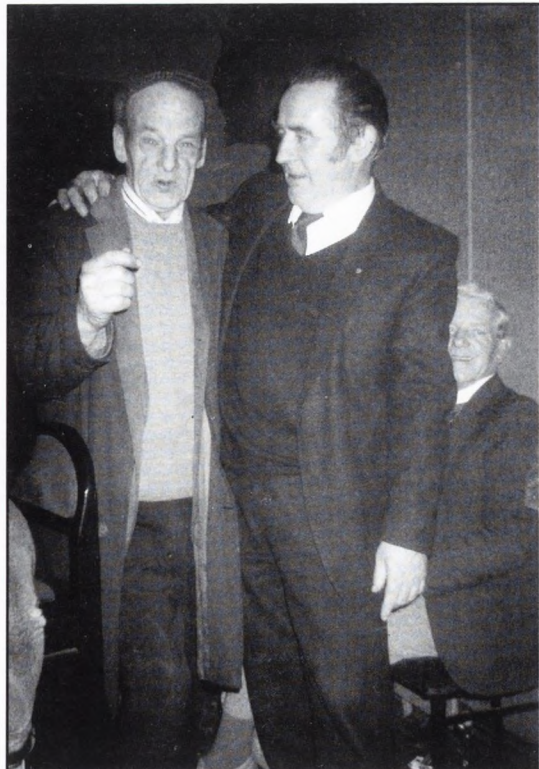
Meehans of Mohill with Catherine Wynne behind the counter



Mohill Festival
Children's Fancy Dress



Pakie Foley & Alf Rowley
"A word of Wisdom"



1942

- Front Row: Mary Moffatt, Pascal McKeon, Mike Joe Winters, Gerald O'Malley, Joe Moore, Aidan McGovern, E. Humphrey.
 2nd Row: Vera Clifford, Rita Casey, Patsy McTaggart, Una Rowley, N. Reynolds, Claire McGovern, Aileen McKeon, Eileen McConville, Dorothy Gordon.
 3rd Row: Marie McKeon, Marie McTaggart, Pat O'Malley.

Mohill Prayer Group

Marie Beirne

Mohill Prayer Group had its beginnings in the mid 70's when Sr. Angela and Sr. Goretti invited Fr. Michael Ryan and team to come from Ferbane, where there was a thriving Prayer Group, to help start a prayer group in Mohill. The Prayer Group is one of 15 in the diocese and belongs to a worldwide movement of the Holy Spirit known as the Charismatic Renewal. This movement began in the Catholic Church in 1967 and was seen as a direct answer to Pope John 23rd's prayer for the Holy Spirit to come upon the church as at a 'New Pentecost'. Prayer groups spread like wildfire all over the world and eventually reached Mohill. Paul VI said this movement of the Holy Spirit was "a chance for the church" and Cardinal Sunens called it "a river of grace on the face of the church".

Many people from different areas have been members of Mohill Prayer Group over the years. Among the early leaders were Sr.'s Angela, Goretti and Margaret McCaffrey, then from Gortvagh and Petra Gaffey. Musicians included Ian Lee, John Drummond and Michael Dunleavy (now Fr Michael) one of two vocations to religious life, from the prayer groups, the other being Sr. Gerardine Rowley from Fenagh, a Good Shepherd sister, now based in Dublin. Our present musicians are Al McGuinness, Finola McGowan (Mohill) and Chris Cronin (Annaduff) and their ministry adds life and joy to the meetings.

The Prayer Group runs 'Life In The Spirit Seminars' each year. This is a seven-week course, open to all, which brings people to a place of receiving the great grace of 'Baptism in the Holy Spirit'. This is a life-changing experience, which releases the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives and empowers them for service in the church. This grace also fills people with a deep desire to pray, read scripture and a great love for the mass. It brings great healing, inner freedom and new life. It is the 'something more' that people are seeking in their lives.

The Prayer Group runs masses for healing, renewal days, ecumenical days of prayer and has an intercessory group which meets on Sundays to pray for the needs of the parish, for individuals and for peace in the world. Many great speakers have visited us over the years – Fr Jack McArdle, Joe Dalton, Frances Hogan, Rev. Cecil Kerr, Fr. Benny McHale and more recently Rev. Lawrence Graham from Longford. One of our regular attendees at the Prayer Meeting, while he lived in Clonturk, was Fr. Tagdh Kenny.

We meet each Wednesday at 8.15pm in the Canon Donohue Hall. There is a great unity and family atmosphere among the group members. The meeting opens with the rosary, followed by prayer and praise of God in word and song. This is followed by a deep and healing silence of the Holy Spirit and then there is sharing and teaching of the Word of God in Scripture, followed intercessory prayer, a closing hymn and the essential cup of tea, 'chat & craic'. Many people's lives have been changed and healed by the Power of the Holy Spirit as young and 'not so young' gather on Wednesday nights. Members come from Mohill and many different towns and counties nearby and everyone is so very welcome.

If you come, you can be sure of a great welcome, a listening ear, the prayers and friendship of the group, the offer of New Life in the Holy Spirit and most importantly the powerful healing presence of God because "Where two or more are gathered in his name, He is there".

"Come and See" (John 1:39)

Pat Moran

Curraawn, Mohill

Gerald P. Higgins

Pat Moran died on the 1st January 2000 aged 98 years. He was the oldest person in the parish at the turn of the century and as we welcomed a new Millennium.

During his long life he displayed the values, the personal strengths and resources that typified a rural community in the West of Ireland. Pat was a man of great kindness, compassion, respect for and loyalty to his neighbours, a sense of humour and a capacity to be at ease with himself in any company.

Pat took an active part in the fight for Independence and endured much in the process. In the period leading up to the establishment of the Civic Guards – as the Garda Siochana force was then known – he was appointed to patrol the Mohill area nightly to ensure that good order was maintained. It can therefore be justifiably stated that Pat Moran was the first Guardian of the Peace in Mohill after the formation of the state.



Pat Moran

Pat successfully applied for appointment to the Civic Guards and was offered the rank as Sergeant, but due to family commitments it was not feasible for him to leave home at the time and he was reluctantly obliged to withdraw his application and decline the offer.

At Mohill Railway Station he personally met and welcomed the first three members of the Civic Guards to be allocated to the town of Mohill and he assisted in conveying their belongings to the Canon Donohue Hall where he arranged temporary accommodation. He took a pride in this and developed a close friendship with and respect for the Gardai which continued throughout his lifetime. He felt privileged to experience the 75th Anniversary of the foundation of the Force in 1997.

He was invited by An Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Aherne T.D. to attend the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony in the Royal Hospital, Kilmalsham in 1997 and 1999.

Pat was a founder member of Mohill Agricultural Show Society in 1927 and had the distinction of having attended the show each year up to and including 1997, the 71st Anniversary show. He was also an ardent follower of the G.A.A..

Pat was a man of the highest Christian values. He always placed his trust in God and gave witness by the life he led for almost a century. In days gone by he collected the Priest's dues in his local area and took an active part in arranging Station masses in different houses.

May God now reward Pat for a life well lived and may he bring him into the happiness of his eternal house.

Ni bheidh a leitheid ann aris. Ar dheis De go raibh a anam dhis.

MOHILL MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Dolly Reynolds

The Mohill Mental Health Association was set up in 1975. Delegates from the Ballinamore branch, who were already in existence for some months lent their support and were present at the first public meeting, which was held in the Canon Donohoe Hall on May 12th 1975. The following committee was set up: Chairperson, Anthony Canning, Vice-Chairperson, Sean McGuinness, Secretary, Loretto Byrne, Assistant-Secretary, Fran McGuinness. Others present were: Mrs. McGarry, Fran McGuinness, Noleen McGowan, Mrs. P. Casey, Mrs. J. Britton, Joe Britton, Christy Nolan, Mrs Mary Clyne, Peggy Fehilly, Annie Cox, Mrs. P. Reilly and the Ballinamore delegates, John O'Connor, Sister Eileen Brady, Peter Crossan and Margaret Kellet.



Some members of Mohill & Ballinamore Mental Health Association. Included in the picture is Dr. Gunne, Sligo and Mr. John McGoldrick, Sligo, Mental Health Development Officer for the North West.

The Mohill branch is affiliated to the Mental Health Association of Ireland, whose aims are to develop enlightened attitudes to mental illness, to help the mentally ill and to promote mental health. The Mohill Association held seminars and film shows to educate the public on aspects of mental health. It organised visits to St. Columba's and later Ashbrook House to befriend those residing there from the local community. Books and gifts were sent at Christmas in an effort to continue these contacts. Socials and outings were organised for the patients.

The national association organises a Public Speaking Project for post-primary schools. Mohill Mental Health Association is active in promoting this competition locally and both the Marian College and Vocational School take part. It is a source of great pride for the area that Marion College, with their tutor Art Ridge has won the All-Ireland Public Speaking Project outright on three occasions in 1985, 1987, and 1990.

Finance was also a problem for the association. In its early days, it received donations from the Musical Society. Other fund-raising activities included carol-singing, sponsored walks and church-gate collections.

Among the many prominent members of the Mohill Mental Health Association through the years were: June McDonald, Mrs. T. Gordon, Dolly Reynolds, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Dolan, Gerry Canning and Orlaith Gallagher.

Present members are: Chairperson, Sean McGuinness, Secretary: Dolly Reynolds, Treasurer, June McDonald. Other committee members are Pauline McKeon, Maureen Rowley, Ms. M. Clyne and Mrs. Tess McGuinness.

The Mohill Mental Health Association has continued its good work over the past twenty-five years. Its role in promoting an awareness of the importance of mental health is even more necessary in the frantic world of the Celtic Tiger.



P. Doherty's Car, a native of Gortvagh

Mohill District Hospital & The Marist Sisters

In 1966 St. Patrick's answered an urgent appeal by Leitrim Board of Health to staff the District Hospital at Mohill, a small market town some eleven miles from Carrick-on-Shannon.

Until 1922, Mohill District Hospital, a typical nineteenth century building, had been a Fever Hospital adjacent to the local Workhouse both of which were in charge of Sisters of Mercy. As in the case of Carrick-on-Shannon, these institutions were closed by the native Irish Government and the inmates were transferred to Manorhamilton.

The former Fever Hospital was reopened as a District Hospital complete with a small operating theatre and labour ward. Until 1966 this hospital was staffed by lay personnel.

MARIST SISTERS TAKE OVER CONDEMED HOSPITAL

By that time the building was in such a state of dilapidation and the amenities had been so neglected that the Department of Health in Dublin condemned the hospital. Furthermore, the Matron, Teresa Moran, was due to be married and, mainly because of the state of the place, it was impossible to find a replacement. The work being done in St. Patrick's Home, Carrick-on-Shannon, was appreciated. Therefore Leitrim County Council approached the community there in the hope of getting a nursing Sister for Mohill.

After having visited the District Hospital, Mother Livinus Hunt, Superior in St. Patrick's, considered it to be in such a dreadful condition that she was loathe to ask any of the community to take it on. Eventually she did bring up the matter to Sister Concepta McCarthy who volunteered to give her services to Mohill in a missionary spirit, and she set out for her new field of apostolate on 19th June, 1966.

A NEW LOOK

Sister Concepta McCarthy brought valuable missionary experience to Mohill. After qualifying as a State Registered Nurse in the Mater Hospital and obtaining the certificate of the Central Board of Midwives in Our Lady of Lourdes, Drogheda, she had gone to Fiji. There she had worked for five years as the only nurse in Namosi, a primitive and poor mission station extremely difficult to access.

The Mohill District Hospital, a grim two-storey building of grey stone surrounded by an acre or so of ground, was on a hill within easy walking distance of the town.

Not long after her appointment as Matron, a meeting with Managers and Engineers was convened, and Sister Concepta McCarthy was asked to present a Report on her impressions and requirements. As a result of this a carpenter and a painter were engaged to give the inside of the hospital building a new look.

On the domestic side, because of lack of efficient domestic staff, the hospital was nothing to be proud of. But the professional job on the thirty or so patients had

been well done and they seemed happy despite their enforced immobility.

With the backing of Mr. Rafter, Secretary to the Board of Managers, the new Matron lost no time in advertising for a cook. Mrs. Philomena Hanley, a woman in her thirties, was engaged as a cook. She was a delightful person and an experienced cook who soon raised the quality of the meals, and the physical condition of the patients improved. Additional nurses were engaged and also more domestic staff. An experiment advocated by Leitrim County Council, to house locally a large family of travellers and to contribute to their being self-sufficient rather than to continue eking out an existence on the streets, was sponsored by keeping one of them, a girl of seventeen, on the hospital domestic staff. The experiment proved satisfactory and when, before the end of the year, the girl in question, Mary, was married, it was the District Hospital that provided and made her trousseau as well as two Irish Barnbracks for the wedding breakfast.

Gradually the whole tone and standard of Mohill District Hospital was raised. The local Society of St. Vincent de Paul donated two television sets, which were installed in the upstairs wards.

While all these improvements were in progress, there was an unexpected visit from a representative of the Health Department, Dublin. He was impressed by what he saw, and it was proved to him that the Mohill District Hospital was indispensable to the growing local population and that with co-operation could be made a worthwhile concern. Extensions, for instance a recreation hall for staff and ambulant patients, were discussed but they did not materialise in Sister Concepta McCarthy's time, as she remained only fifteen months in Mohill. In October 1967, she was transferred to Our Lady's Homestead, Nymphsfield, Gloucestershire, a Marist centre for Childcare.



Staff of Mohill District Hospital

Back Row (Left to Right): Annie Cox, Mary Beirne, Tommy Clyne, Tish Gordon, Mary Taylor, Brigid McGovern R.I.P.
Front Row (Left to Right): Sr. Bertrand (R.I.P.), Sr. De-Lellis, Mel Logan, Elizabeth Burke.

MOHILL DISTRICT HOSPITAL 1972

Mohill's new Matron was Sister Bertrand Wims from St. Patrick's, Carrick-on-Shannon. For two years she was assisted by Sister de Lellis Galligan, a London trained nurse who had been in Mohill since December, 1966. On 1st April, 1969, she was replaced by Sister Marie Gratae Germaly, also London trained. The following October Sister Cormac McGuinness registered as holiday relief nurse in Mohill.

In addition to six lay nurses, a house doctor and a number of visiting physicians, the District Hospital medical staff included in 1972 a visiting physiotherapist and a visiting occupational therapist, both Marist Sisters from St. Patrick's. There is also a domestic staff of about nine.

Leitrim County Council have continued to pull their weight. Consequently, improvements have gone on inside and outside the hospital. Wards have been repainted in soft pastel shades, attractive matching curtains have been hung, personal lockers, chairs and new bedding have all been supplied.

From their wards patients are able to follow Mass celebrated weekly on a dark oak altar moved into position on the main landing. The old people love their Mass and are proud to say that they now have all that is necessary for it. They are encouraged to relax and to take their meals, weather permitting, on the well-kept lawn in front of the hospital where tarmacadamed paths and flowers help to make the immediate approaches to the building at least a bit more attractive.

MEETING THE PATIENTS

The thirty to forty patients are for the most part geriatric cases for whom the District Hospital is inadequately equipped. Yet for these people it is home and the staff, with the limited means available, try to create an atmosphere of home, to help them, as far as possible, to retain their independence, to let them feel they are useful rather than a burden to society.

All are encouraged and helped to dress smartly and to take a pride in personal appearance and behaviour. Thanks to the efforts of the visiting occupational therapist, knitting, sewing, basketry and reading have gradually become enjoyable pastimes.

It is common to find more able patients helping the less able in the wards, and doing odd jobs in and around the hospital. Margaret Cummins, who has a snug little corner in one of the small wards downstairs, gives a hand with the dinner wash-up. Her friend, old Mrs. O'Neill, passes round morning tea. Mary Flynn sees to the flowers on the bedside lockers. Cheerful Pat Flaherty, thrilled to be up and about after weeks of acute rheumatism, helps nurse with the meal trolley.

For those who are well enough to get to the Dining-Room on the ground floor, meals are happy gatherings when men and women mix freely and, as far as circumstances permit, enjoy menus suited to their tastes. The relaxed and friendly approach of the staff to the patients evokes a natural response from the latter who seem, by and large, content and happy people appreciative of what is being done for them.

Don Riordan, one of the oldest inmates, remarked in between puffs of a welcome

cigarette: "It's a very different place from what it was when I came here eight years ago. The Sisters have worked wonders. They're doing super work, God bless them". But the Marist Sisters continue to work in extremely difficult conditions, much that is essential in terms of space and modern equipment has still to come.

STAFF QUARTERS

Space is required to improve living conditions for the nursing and domestic staff. Many of latter live in their own homes. So do some of the lay nurses. But getting to and from the District Hospital can be a problem, especially in severe weather. Consequently, staff difficulties are quite common. The Marist Sisters live in a cottage on the hospital grounds.

When the Workhouse, adjacent yet separate from the Fever Hospital, was closed in 1922 the building remained derelict for some time. Round about 1935, Leitrim County Council had it demolished and replaced by thirty-six cottages.

These small compact dwellings are numbered one to thirty-six. Numbers two and three, touching on the District Hospital grounds, were run into one and served for some time as nurses' quarters. Marist Sisters lived there in 1972. The unpretentious two-storey cottage has a small sitting-room, a kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. All are well furnished and cosy. There is a tiny garden front and back, but there is no oratory. On Saturdays the Sisters hear Mass in the District Hospital. The rest of the week they have Mass in the Convent of Mercy, a comfortable walk from their cottage.

ANOTHER MARIST FOUNDATION

The District Hospital that was condemned by the Department of Health, Dublin, in 1966 has re-established itself in the eyes of that authority. It has also come to be looked upon as indispensable by the people of the Mohill district, who appreciate the splendid work that is being done. Dr. Daly, Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise, takes a keen interest in the hospital and visits the inmates whenever he is near.



Arus Carolan, Welfare Home, Mohill

Mohill Day Centre

Sr. Bridie McKeon

The end of March 1978 saw the closure of the District Hospital "St. Manachans". The last elderly resident was transferred to St. Patrick's Hospital in Carrickon-Shannon.

From April 4th 1978 St. Manachans operated as Community Care Centre & Day Centre for the elderly. Some of the staff remained; Matron Sr. Bertrand Wims, now deceased; Nurses Logan & McKeon; Mrs Jeannie Boyle, R.I.P., Cook; Mary Taylor & Bridget McGovern R.I.P., attendants; Mary Beirne, part time secretary; Mrs. Annie Cox, O.T. Aid and Tommy Clyne our driver, without whom we would not have been able to continue.

We got our admissions from the Public Health Nurses and the local GP's. Our catchment area was from Carrigallen, Killegar to Bohey up to Aughnasheelin. Transport was provided by the Health Board, an old ambulance converted. We had an average of 100 - 120 clients per week. As staff retired they were not replaced.

It is convenient for statisticians to define everyone 65 years or over as aged, but there is no definite age at which the individual becomes old. Old age is not a matter of years, some people remain young in their eighties while others seem old in their sixties. Illness in old age is usually due to illness and not to the ageing process.

For the housebound and isolated day services can be a lifesaver. It provides support for -necessary. To rehabilitate patients back to community following discharge from hospital and to prevent unnecessary and often traumatic admission to hospital.

A quality care service, which responds to peoples needs, cheaper than in-patient care and a good alternative to it. Day services provide nursing and social activities where the elderly can be given various treatments appropriate to their needs while enjoying a social day out. Given the multiple role of the Day Centre adequate staff and a good skill mix should be an important part of the Day Centre policy, through functional activity to facilitate and prolong independent living of the elderly in the community.

Social activities are an important component of Day Care. They add variety and quality to the lives of the elderly, learning new skills, reviving old ones, passing on of skills to others, an imaginative programme! At the same time acknowledging that each person is a unique human being and has a basic right to dignity, privacy and self-determination.

In September 1991 we were on the move again, Psychiatric services were taking over St. Manachans to use as a residential unit.. We moved to

alternative accommodation in the welfare home, Arus Carolan. Here our work was curtailed, space was very limited. May of 1994 we were closed completely for 6 months while the welfare home was extended. A lovely new Day Care Centre and Health Centre was constructed by the Health Board - purpose built. We were officially opened in June 1995.

We provide nursing care and social activities. A service that allows the older person easier access to medical, paramedical and ancillary services. We offer respite to the family from the burden of caring for a few hours. We provide services such as meals, showers, chiropody, wound dressing, blood pressure checks, blood sugar monitoring, continence promotion and health promotion. Clients needs are facilitated i.e. Shopping, visits to GP, chemist, medications are monitored and scripts renewed.

Social activities offered are cards, bingo, question time, crosswords, reminiscence therapy, sonas, singalongs, dancing, outings, painting, skittles, tossball and crafts.

Transport to the Day Centre is provided, wheelchair friendly. Where possible clients are encouraged to use their own transport.

We are staffed by one nurse and two care attendants. We cater for 100 - 125 clients weekly. We entered the new millennium with 5151 clients having passed through our door in 1999.

We continue to maintain our close working relationship with local GP's and Public Health Nurses from Mohill, Ballinamore and Carrigallen.

"You don't stop doing things because you're old, you're old only when you stop doing things" (T. Hird)



Ms. Martina Healy - Area Co-Ordinator
Bridie McKeon, Thomas Mulligan, Bridie McTiernan, Maura Dillon, Mrs. Mel Logan.

Ashbrook House

Dromod Road, Mohill

Geraldine McLoughlin

The building itself was built in 1941 as a fever hospital, attached to the local workhouse. Around the 1960's, it became a District Hospital, known as St. Manachans. All services were provided, including maternity and many local people were born there. The existing smoking room and dining room were the delivery room and maternity ward respectively, and the upstairs bathroom was a theatre.

It later became a Geriatric Unit, up until the mid-seventies when Aras Carolan Welfare Home was built and provided residential geriatric care. St. Manachans then became a Geriatric day facility downstairs with clinics, e.g. dental etc., upstairs.

In 1987 the right landing upstairs became the Mental Health day centre. In late 1991 the Geriatric day care and clinics moved to Aras Carolan and the Mental Health day services moved to Summerhill Lodge, Carrick-on-Shannon.

Refurbishment of the building then took place until the opening of Ashbrook House to its first residents on the 11th February 1992. Ashbrook House today is a nineteen bedded Residential Unit, part of the Mental Health Services, South Leitrim. It provides residential care for those who require nursing supervision. There are four short-term beds to meet the needs of those who require short-term care. Ashbrook House is staffed by qualified nursing and housekeeping staff.

The purpose of Ashbrook House is to give support, personal care and supervision in a localised facility which will assist those who reside there to remain in contact with family and friends. The facility also allows for total integration into the community and will avoid the effects of living for long periods in a distant location and hospitalised setting. It also provides some day care places for people living at home. At present there are 16 residents and 8 day clients.



Ashbrook House

Bell Ringers, Caretakers and Sacristans

When we celebrate a millennium, we are remembering the countless people whose lives have been touched and transformed by the Good News of Jesus Christ who is present with us until the end of time (Mathew: 28). In this Jubilee year, we remember St. Patrick, St. Mel and St. Manachan who brought the light of faith to our country, diocese and parish. We acknowledge the different generations of people who have passed on the faith by word and example and whose lives were a catalogue of giving and serving, caring and sharing. People who were content to live and love deep down in the heart of the Church. People who were willing to serve and take an active role in the preparation and celebration of various liturgies in the Church. We express our thanks to the Eucharistic Ministers, Collectors, Readers of the Word of God, Altar Servers, Altar Society, those responsible for the altar linen, the Choir Director and Organist and the many groups and individuals who continue to work quietly, silently and effectively behind the scenes. Your co-operation and gifts helps everyone to worship God and feel a sense of communal belonging in the Church.



Mr. Harry McCrann

The many priests who have ministered in this parish are deeply grateful to the wonderful men, women and young people who have helped and supported them in their work in St. Patrick's Mohill, in St. Mary's Eslin Bridge and St. Joseph's Gortvagh. The following Bell Ringers and Caretakers took responsibility for specific tasks over the years. Mrs McConvell, Mrs F. Bell, Mrs Conboy, Tommy and Maggie McDermott, Eileen Wynne and Thomas McGarty. In 1983, Canon Hubert Fee employed the first Sacristan, John McLoughlin, Shannagh. The present Sacristan Harry McCrann, Cappagh succeeded John McLoughlin. Harry carries out his duties in a highly efficient and conscientious manner and we are deeply grateful to him for his dedicated service in St. Patrick's Mohill.



Lakeview Nursing Home,
Lough Errill, Mohill. Opened 1991

The House Station

Tony O'Reilly

Here in the parish of Mohill, the stations came around twice a year, Spring-Autumn.

Our turn came around every five years, and the preparations would commence six months in advance. Outside and inside got a thorough Clean-up, sagging Gates, here once more standing to attention; grey walls became bright over night, Inside the House there was a complete transformation; nothing escaped the paint brush, floors were scrubbed and the windows were gleaming, new lace curtains adorned the parlour where breakfast was served following the station mass.

The vestment box arrived by Pony and Cart. The evening before everything was checked, Vestments, which supply lessons as in a written Book to the faithful E.A. The ALB- worn as a sign of purity, Girdle worn around the waist, maniple worn on the left arm signifies fruit of good works, Stole, represents the spiritual powers and dignity of the priest. Chausable is the emblem of the Royal virtue of Divine Love, The Column represents the scourging and the cross and the death of Christ out of love to us. Thus the night before held a special atmosphere of expectation.

Finally it's the big day, the priest arrives to a warm welcome, Mass was said in the kitchen, confessions in the parlour. It was a momentous occasion filled with faith, hope and love. After Mass a volunteer was sought for the next station, this was no problem, as we generally took it in turns.

As well as a religious event, it was also a social occasion as neighbours, friends had a wonderful time.



The Station - Aras an Carolan



Delivering the Station Box
Fr. Pat Kiernan & Matron Margaret Reynolds

First Woman Doctor of Divinity

A Mohill-born nun who has family connections in Cootehill, has become the first woman to be awarded a Doctorate of Divinity (D.D.) at Maynooth. She is Sister Clare McGovern, a member of the Mercy Sisters' Community at Moate, Co. Westmeath, where she taught at the local Convent School for several years before taking up theological studies in Rome and Maynooth. She is a grand-daughter of the late Patrick Boyle, Drumann, Cootehill, her mother being the former Miss Annie Boyle, She is a niece of Mr. Paddy Boyle, Church Street, and Aidan Boyle, Merchant, Market Street. Sr. McGovern has been appointed a lecturer in Dogmatic Theology at Maynooth, the first woman to ever hold a post.

Leitrim Observer, December 1974

130 Year old church blessed

A church in co. Leitrim which according to the records was built 130 years ago by Lord Leitrim for his "popish" subjects was blessed yesterday by the bishops of Ardagh and Clonmacnois, Most Rev. Dr. Daly. The church, St. Joseph's, Gortvagh, in the parish Mohill and has been reconstructed at a cost of £10,000.

When it was built originally local people brought the stones on their backs and the timber was brought over 40 miles from Sligo by horse and cart.

Mohill Medical Doctors

from 1865 to Present day

Dr. Arthur Dolan

The population of Leitrim in the mid nineteenth century was eight times what it is today. In spite of this there were just two medical practitioners in the Mohill/Drumsna area in the 1860's. A Dr. West is recorded as having a practice in the North Cloone area in 1865. He was a member of the minor landowning West family from Clarashinagh Hse. Eslin. He lived in a Georgian house in Cloone on the site where now stands the Church and Parochial house.

Doctor Arthur Lauder resided at "the Flanker" in Drumsna and was in practice there in 1865. His house which was an imposing Georgian residence stood on the left side of Drumsna Bridge and was demolished in the 1950's. He was a member of the Lauder family of Bunybeg House in Eslin. The walled garden is all that remains of this house and is located on the lands of Paul McHugh. I have in my possession a medical textbook which belonged to Arthur Lauder and is signed by him in 1865.

Doctor Lauder was succeeded by Doctor Soden who lived in Farnaught where Jimmy Mimmagh now lives and is laid to rest in Farnaught Churchyard. Several members of this family were in medical practice. A brother of his (according to Stella Booth) Caliph was an Apothecary in Mohill town. A Doctor Dobson practiced in Mohill around this time and was a confidante of the Third Earl of Leitrim who made several references to him in his recently discovered personal diaries. The late Larry Moran of Glebe Street had his pigskin saddle which he used when doing his rounds on horseback. He died in 1915 and is buried in the mausoleum in the old protestant graveyard in Drumsna.

Doctor Pentland practiced from the early twentieth century in Mohill up to the period of the Selton Hill ambush when he left for London. He died in rather mysterious circumstances when he was

run over by a lorry in Baker Street. His home in Mohill is where the Palmer family now live and when they were carrying out some restoration work on the house they discovered the medical ledger of Doctor Pentland for the years 1923-1927. I have had this ledger restored and rebound.

Doctor Redahan practiced in Mohill in the 1920's and 1930's and lived in the house where Phil Mc Guinness and her family now reside. He also looked after the local hospital and had a large obstetric and surgical practice as did his contemporary Doctor Dorr who commenced practice in 1925. A Doctor M.T. O Flaherty also practiced in Mohill in the period 1923-1925.

Doctor Muldoon practiced in Mohill during the 1920's and was shot dead outside what is now Baxter's supermarket by a local man in 1932. Doctor Duignan came to Mohill to practice around this time and resided at Coolebaun house where the Slevin Family now live. He also looked after many patients in the local Infirmary. He was Dispensary doctor in Gorravagh up to 1960 and died in 1962.

Doctor Duignan and Doctor Joe Dorr who died in 1963 were succeeded in practice by Doctor Maura McKeon Dorr who died in 1992 and Doctor Enda Cadden who died in 1996. Both of the aforementioned commenced in practice in Mohill in 1958. Doctor Geraldine Scollan Greene and myself commenced in practice in 1981 and 1983 respectively.

All of these doctors lived through periods of huge political and economic change over the past one hundred and fifty years and I hope to write a much more extensive article on this subject at a later date.

Medical Doctors who served in Mohill



Dr. Enda Cadden R.I.P.



Dr. Joseph P. Dorr R.I.P.



Dr. John Joseph Duignan R.I.P.

St. Joseph's N.S.

Monica Scollan N.T.

The history of St. Joseph's N.S. founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Mohill in 1890 is a replica, on a smaller scale of the Irish Congregation of Mercy itself, in its humble beginnings, its early struggle for existence and its gradual development.

The foundress of the Sisters of mercy in Ireland was the wealthy heiress of Coolock House, Dublin who died a pauper in a House of Mercy in Baggot Street, Dublin in 1841. She, Catherine McCauley was a charming young woman who abandoned an easy life and the pleasant company of her rich friends to spend her days among the ignorant, the sick and the poor in the hovels and tenements of fashionable Dublin.

The fire that was lighted by this noble woman kindled very rapidly. One hundred and twenty years ago, that fire was lighted in the town of Mohill thanks to the zealous and saintly Rt. Rev Dean Eivers P.P. who requested the then Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnois diocese, Rev. Dr. Woodlock, to plead for help from the young Convent of Mercy, Longford. Dean Eivers could only offer for accommodation an existing school for boys and girls to which Mr. Patrick Kelly, a Longford building contractor was adding a second storey.

Mother's Joseph and Aquin came from Longford to inspect the building and decided to let the Sisters come. Dean Eivers was delighted and on Easter Monday, 31st March 1880, he together with all the people of Mohill lined up on either side of the street to welcome Sisters M. Aloysius Martin, M. Agnes Ryan, M. dePazzi McDermott and M Stanislaus Tunney, when they drove into the town on a side-car. The local community were a loving, open people and they took kindly to the nuns. The nuns in turn helped them greatly even though they themselves barely had the necessities of life. Classwork continued downstairs in "The Convent" and the sisters lived upstairs.

In 1890, Canon Donohue had a new two-storey school built on the opposite side of the road to "The Convent". The debt incurred by this building was a heavy load on the good Sisters for many a day. This new primary school was officially opened and blessed on the 13th November 1890, the feast of St. Stanislaus. Shortly after it's

opening, as a result of the heavy debt, an annual parish collection in aid of the school was started and continued for many years.

In 1936, the primary school was extended to its present dimensions and in 1949 an innovative member of the Sisters, Sr. M. Clare Fox introduced a Secondary Top to the Primary School for day pupils from Mohill and surrounding districts. This move proved most successful. In 1953, many improvements were carried out on the school and grounds and much-needed amenities were added.

Owing to the decline in population in the area, the rural schools of the parish were closed in the 70's but their pupils and teachers continued their work in the town schools. Mrs. Gallagher, Stracarne, and Ms. Monica and Olivia Scollan, Finiskill N.S. joined the staff of St. Joseph's G.N.S.

As well, in 1976 a "Special School" was added to the Convent Primary School. All this led to further extension of the Primary School. This difficulty was quickly overcome when the sisters donated a good existing cedarwood building which was soon converted into a bright three roomed "Infant School"- "St. Oliver's". The year 1979 saw this building much improved by the addition of a General Purpose room and other amenities.

In 1997/98 further extensions were made. Sr. Marie Celine, principal, had three modern, spacious and well equipped classrooms added to St. Joseph's (for infants). A Basketball Court and an all weather Playing Field were also added and proved to be a big advantage to the pupils. The lunchroom was converted into three comfortable classrooms for special, remedial and travellers.

To mark the centenary of St. Joseph's N.S. in 1990 an Arboretum was planted where today a large variety of broadleaved trees can be viewed. Great credit is due to Sr. Marie Celine, who accomplished all this work during her principalship.

The successive principals were:

Sr. M. dePazzi
Sr. Aloysius Martin
Sr Berchmans Bermingham
Sr. Michael Condon
Sr. Stanislaus Gilmore
Sr. Marie Celine Keegan and the current principal is
Mrs. Brid Cahill McMahon.

In the early years lay teachers (Monitresses) taught in the school.

These included:

Maura Sheehy
Rose Gilligan
Rose Ann Healy & Katie Healy Grandaunts of Monica Scollan
Brid Gavigan
Evelyn Hawkes
Ettie Griffin (Mother of Sr. Rose Macken)
Rose O'Brien
Josie Flynn and
Sarah Gilmore who later became Sr. Stanislaus.

The school was ran and staffed by Sisters only but in the 70's lay teachers again joined the staff:

Mrs. Gallagher
Ms. Monica Scollan
Ms. Olivia Scollan



6th Class 1955

Top Row: May Wynne, Mary Tubman, - , A. Kelly, M. McCrann, E. Britton,
J. Donnell, L. Gray.
2nd Row: P. Bohan, - Reilly, Wynne, P. McGowan, Mary Lee, M. Reilly,
E. McCaffrey, D. Kenny.
3rd Row: A. McCard, R. Canning, P. Ward, M. Gallagher, M. Gordon, B. Sammon.

Mrs. Mary Scollan
 Miss Von Farrell
 Miss Carmel Browne
 Miss Siobhan Lavin
 Miss Maeve Daly
 Miss Clare Leavey
 Miss Rebeca Brady
 Mrs. Josephine Guckian

The Sisters of Mercy, though depleted in numbers (one Sister – Sr. Nora Keenan on teaching staff)-are confident that God will continue to bless and support their efforts and the efforts of all the teachers in the school as in the past.

In St. Joseph's School, our children can grow to understand the greatness of God to recognize and appreciate their own worth and to care for others. They are helped too, to take their place honorably in today's world.

The Sisters came to Mohill in 1880. The following is a list of Sisters of Mercy who have taught in St. Joseph's National School.

Sr. M Aloysius Martin	1880-1928
Sr. M dePazzi McDermot	1880-1882
Sr. M. Joseph Anne Martin	1881-1937
Sr. M Patrick O'sullivan	1887-1925
Sr. M Agnes McLoughlin	1889-1928
Sr. M. Xavier Quinn	1890-1942
Sr. M. Angela Costello	1890-1954
Sr. Margaret Mary Quinn	1891-1926
Sr. M. Clare Fox	1935-1991
Sr. M. Ignatius Dalton	1942-1995
Sr. M Oliver Kelly	1947-1998
Sr. M. Aquin Dunning	1951-
Sr. M. Angela Clarkson	1963-1989
Sr. Marie Celine Keegan	1963-1998
Sr. Sarah Mulligan	1967-1973
Sr. Grainne McWade	1975-1977
Sr. M. Berchmans Holloway	1981-1981
Sr. M. Berchmans Bermingham	1892-1958
Sr. M. Brigid Manning	1912-1968
Sr. M. Michael Condon	1912-1945
Sr. M. Mercy Keane	1926-1971
Sr. M. Patrick Kelly	1927-1961
Sr. M. Stanislaus Gilmore	1930-1993
Sr. M. Aloysius Nerney	1934-1999
Sr. Therese Ward	1982-1983
Sr. Sandy diCiano	1985-1986
Sr. M. Ignatius Walsh	1986-1992
Sr. Nora Keenan	1987-
Sr. Mary McGoey	1992-1997

We thank the Sisters from "St. Anne's" Mohill for their contribution to education and to the many needs of the people in and around Mohill.

"In iothlainn De go gcastar sinn".

Monica Scollan



6th Class, Mid 1950's

Top Row: Maura McGovern, G. Dolan, C. Scollan, - , P. McWeeney, Colette Moran
 2nd Row: Rose Conlon, - Reynolds, D. Beirne, K. Duignan, Ethel Barden, Eileen Duignan
 3rd Row: A. Conboy, Margaret Mitchell, Phill Beirne, Irene Heuston, E. Gannon, Helen Mitchell
 4th Row: Gertrude Geelan, Margaret Hackett, M. Doherty, D. Keating, M. O'Callaghan, Ann Kelly
 5th Row: Ann Mitchell, Margaret Mitchell, Bronagh McAlindon, J. O'Callaghan, Kath Wynne.



6th Class, 1959

1st Row: K. Duignan, H. McGowan, N. Conboy, M. McGarry, A. Conboy, D. Beirne, C. Moran, R. Conlon
 2nd Row: Síle O'Callaghan, M. Doherty, K. O'Callaghan, M. Hackett, C. Scollan, A. Doherty, D. Keville, M. McGovern



1960 Senior Infants - First Class Group

Picture Includes: Mary Nicholson, John Faughnan, Mary McLoughlin, Jacinta McGowan, Gillian Farrell, Sean Mitchell, Geraldine Mulligan, Teresa McHugh, Mary Bohan, Eileen Reynolds, Marian Early, Brendan Beirne, Jean Boyle, Paudge Wynne, Ann Boyle, Margaret Foy.



Sixth Class Group 1966 - St. Joseph's Convent N.S.

Seated : Marian Beirne, Loretta Kilrane, Margaret Mc Weeney, Marian Flynn, Bernadette Keville, Doreen Heeran, Eileen Reynolds, Antoinette Reynolds, Marian Mc Guinness, Geraldine Mulligan, Fran Mc Guinness, Teresa Mc Hugh, Mary Geraldine Reynolds, Gillian Farrell, Mary Moran,
 Standing: Mary Taylor, Mary Jo Early, Brid Creamer R.I.P., Sr. Ignatius R.I.P., Ann Boyle, Mary Nicholson.



6th Class, December 1959

Back Row (Left to Right): Mary Tighe, Mary Conlon, Mary Woods, Essie Derby, Eileen Hagan, Daria McCaffery, Patricia Keegan, Noleen Mitchell.
 Front Row (Left to Right): Lilly McGuire, Sheila Doherty, Martha Kelly R.I.P., Helen Ward, Sr. Ignatius, Alice Reynolds, Marel Barden, Dymrna Keville, Mary Murphy.



Convent of Mercy Mohill Senior Girls Choir
which sang at Liturgical Festival held in Carrick-on-Shannon 26th May 1956



Main Street, Mohill 1959-60

Holy Communion & Confirmation



First Holy Communion Group 1972 with Sr. Angela
 Picture includes: Aine McKeon, Michelle Cauley, Patricia Logan, Orlaith Gallagher, Nessa Cadden.0



First Holy Communion Group 1970
 Picture includes: Donal Gannon, Niall Cadden, Padraig McNally, Paul McGuinness.



Confirmation 1981



Confirmation Group 1973
 James Boyle, John McGuinness, Francis McGowan, Padraig Mulligan, Padraig McLoughlin, Martin Kelly.
 Front: Niall Cadden, Padraig McNally, Paul McGuinness



Confirmation Group 1973 with Bishop Cathal Daly
 Picture includes: Fiona Slevin, Niall Cadden, Francis McGowan, Geralyn Reynolds, Andrea McHugh, Martina Duignan, Mary Reynolds, Mary Logan and Sinéad Cadden



Confirmation Day 1983
 Bishop Colm O'Reilly with Sharon & Linda Maguire & Aisling Cadden, Right of Picture is John Lynch



1st Holy Communion 1979



1st Holy Communion 1976



◀
1st Holy Communion Class
May 2000



►
Confirmation Class 2000



◀
St. Michaels Boy's school - Mohill
Winners of the Three Teacher
Schools Final 2000
with trainers Gerry Beirne &
Luke Early and
School Principal Leo Donlon

St. Anne's Convent of Mercy

Mohill

Sr. Mary Doherty

Easter Monday 31 March 1880 was an outstanding day in the history of Mohill, when four Sisters from the Convent of Mercy, Longford, drove through the quiet town, to take possession of a small building on the hill. These sisters were: Sr. Aloysius Martin, Sr. Agnes Ryan, Sr. M dePazzi McDermott and Sr. Stanislaus Tunney.

They had come at the invitation of Right Rev. Dean Eivers, P.P. Mohill, who through lack of funds could offer but scant accomodation to the Sisters. He had renovated and raised a second storey on the existing one storey school.(The North West wing of the existing convent). The upper portion was to be the sisters living quarters for the next ten years, while the school work continued downstairs.

In November 1890 this less than adequate school, was replaced by the much needed new two storey building on the opposite side of the road.(The present Primary School) The school was officially blessed by Rev. Dr. Woodlock. It was thus that St. Joseph's Primary school began.

In 1936 a new addition was made. Owing to the decline in rural population in the 70's, the rural schools of the parish were closed but their pupils and teachers continued their work in the town schools. In 1976 a special school was added to the existing primary school. All of this led to a need for further extension of the Primary School. The difficulty was quickly overcome, however, when the sisters offered a good existing building, which was converted into a three roomed infant school.(St. Olivers). The year 1979 saw this building much improved by the addition of a general purpose room and other amenities. In 1997/98 a further extension was made. This consisted of three

modern classrooms, a Basket ball court, and a playing field. All of these together with the beautiful Arboretum planted on the occasion of the Schools Centenary celebration in 1990 leaves our students with a very beautiful school and surroundings today. Thanks to the foresight and dedication of Sr. Celine who accomplished all of these during her principalship. The successive principals were: Sr. M dePazzi, Sr. Aloysius Martin, Sr. Berchmans Bermingham, Sr. Michael Condon, Sr. Stanislaus, and Sr. Celine. Mrs Brid McMahon carries the torch into this new century. In early days the sisters were assisted in their work by many lay teachers(monitresses). These included Misses Maura Sheeley, Rose Gilligan, Brid Gavigan, Evelyn Hawkes, Ettie Griffin(mother of Sr. Rose Macken), Rose O'Brien, Josie Flynn and Sarah Gilmore who later became Sr. Stanislaus. These assistant teachers had lodgings with the sisters in the limited accomodation they had over the existing school in those very early days.

The Sisters integrated into the local community and did much to alleviate the distress and poverty which were widespread at the time. Through house visitation they brought spiritual and material help to many.

In addition to the work of teaching, the sisters-in 1882 -acceded to the request of the medical authorities to take charge of the Workhouse and school attached to it. At that time there were 300 patients in the workhouse. Sr. Clare Banahan was sent from Longford to do this work. Sr. Patrick O'Sullivan later took charge

of the school there. She was assisted by Sisters Aloysius Martin and Berchmans Bermingham. This good work they continued until its closure in 1922. In 1923 through the generosity of John Farrell, Esq., a new chapel was erected and the following year the convent as it exists today was completed. At this time also, there was a donation of land from the Burbage family, this was just another example of a kindly gesture experienced by the sisters from a parishioner.

By the middle of the twentieth century the need for Second Level Education was being felt all over Ireland. The Sisters answered the call of the young people of Mohill. Sr. Clare Fox, from her sick bed, had a vision for Secondary Education in Mohill and in 1949 she started a 'Secondary Top'. Thirteen students enrolled that year. The Secondary Top evolved and developed, the number of pupils on roll increased but funds were low, so the Sisters found it necessary to give over a complete wing of their convent to provide the needed accomodation. Later they realised that nothing less than a complete new school would meet the needs of the student population, Marian College became a reality in 1969. It was officially opened by Minister Brian Lenihan and blessed By Most Rev. Dr. Cahal Daly. Successive principals were: Srs. Clare Fox, Goretti, Oliver, Ciaran, Emmanuel and Mr Matt Gaffey. Today Sr. Helen Keegan continues their good work.

Bishop Cathal Daly speaking at the Centenary celebration of St. Annes Convent of Mercy Mohill 15th April 1980 had the following to say, 'Rarely is a religious community so closely involved in the life the town and parish where they are situated, as is the community of the Sisters of Mercy of Mohill. Rightly are the members of this religious community held in high esteem and affection of the people of the town and parish. Mohill, past and present, owes much to the Sisters of Mercy of this community. Its people are proud of them, loyal to them, generous in support of all that they are trying to do for the building of God's kingdom'. Never did these words ring more true than in the last few months of last year, when we Sisters of Mercy were faced with the painful but hope-filled decision of closing St. Anne's Convent and having to part with life-long companions on our



St. Anne's Convent - 1964

Back Row: (L to R) :

Sr. Martha Bolger, Sr. Angela Clarkson, Sr. M. Celine Keegan, Sr. Oliver Kelly, Sr. Odran McKeon, Sr. Goretti McDermott, Sr. Aquin Dunnin, Sr. Aloysius Nerney.

Front Row (L to R):

Sr. Clare Fox, Sr. Stanislaus Gilmore, Sr. Thérèse Treacy, Sr. Brigid Manning, Sr. Attracta Manning, Sr. Michael Conolon, Sr. Ignatius Dalton.

Faith journey. Yes, a convent and a people held in much affection, closed on the 26th November 1999, but it was only a building that was closed. We know that these words could be written in reverse, for we too hold the people of Mohill in high esteem and affection, and want to offer them at all times only the very best. It is an extraordinary providence that our new home, beautifully built for us by one of Mohill's very own and past pupil of our school Vincent Moran, is located, commanding a view of our schools, the places where the sisters have laboured faithfully for the past 120 years.

As we take baby steps into this new millennium we have experienced one of the greatest events of Mohill's Cultural History -The Millennium Concert, a magical moment never to be forgotten, an event brought about by a Sister of Mercy - Sr. Nora Keenan, who was ably assisted by talented and generous choir members. Soon, we are about to see the present Marian College building, replaced by a new school building suitable for the development, not just of mind and body but soul and spirit of the students in its educational environment. To quote the architect, "We must create a built environment that allows for the development of the body, mind and spirit together. The process we engaged in, looked at cultivating and enhancing the student." And it too falls to the lot of a Sister of Mercy to carry this project to its

completion. We thank Sr. Helen Keegan for her generosity in making herself available for this momentous project. True to the Mohill spirit, we know that Sr. Helen will not be alone, but will also be ably assisted in bringing about this worthwhile task by the fine group of colleagues with whom she works.



St. Anne's Convent, 1964

- Back Row (L to R): Sr. Ignatius Dalton, Sr. Oliver Kelly, Sr. Celine Keegan, Sr. Odran McKeon, Sr. Aquin Dunning, Sr. Clare Fox, Sr. Maratha Bolger, Sr. Angela Clarkson, Sr. Aloysius Nerney, Sr. Goretti McDermott.
- Front Row (L to R): Sr. Attracta Manning, Sr. Michael Condon, Sr. Thérèse Treacy, Sr. Stanislaus Gilmore, Sr. Mercy Keane.



A recent photograph of the Mercy Sisters in Mohill taken on the occasion of Sr. Martha's Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Sisters of Mercy who served in St. Anne's Convent

Sr. Mary Reynolds

Served in Mohill 1985 - 1991,
Gortletteragh
Daughter of Michael and
Anne Conlon

Sr. Sandy di Cannio

1985 - 1986
Daughter of Gerry and
Josie di Cianno

Sr. M. Ignatius Walsh 1986 - 1992

Kilannin, Roscahill, Co. Galway
Daughter of Thomas Walsh
and Brigid Fahy

Sr. Catherine Whyte 1987 - 1995

Ardagh
Daughter of Terry Whyte
and Maureen Earley

Sr. Nora Keenan 1987 -

Tarmonbarry, Co. Roscommon
Daughter of Joe Keenan and Eileen
McDonald

Sr. Emmanuel Farelly 1990 - 1996

Aughavas
Daughter of Peter Farrelly
and Mary Alice O'Reilly

Sr. Una Duffy 1991 - 1998

Moate
Daughter of Thomas Duffy
and Kathleen O'Grady

Sr. Rose Macken 1991 - 1992

Templemichael, Longford
Daughter of Patrick Macken
and Rosetta Griffin

Sr. M. Aloysius Martin 1880 - 1928

Creeve, Streamstown,
Co. Westmeath
Daughter of Thomas and
Eliza Martin

Sr. M. Agnes Ryan 1880 - 1882

Mullingar
Daughter of James and Mary Ryan

Sr. M. de Pazzi McDermott

1880 - 1882
Carrick-on-Shannon
Daughter of Arthur and Ellen
McDermott

Sr. M. Stanislaus Tunney

1880 - 1900
Carrick-on-Shannon
Daughter of John and Ellen Tunney

Sr. M. Catherine McGovar

1880 - 1882
Newtownforbes
Daughter of Nicholas and Anne
McGaver

Sr. M. Joseph Anne Martin

1880 - 1882
Creeve, Streamstown,
Co. Westmeath
Daughter of Thomas and
Eliza Martin

Sr. M. Clare Banahan 1882 - 1926

Renny Lodge, Tusk,
Co. Roscommon
Daughter of Cornelius and
Margaret Banahan

Sr. M. Vincent Howley

1882 - 1926
Ennis
Daughter of Morty and
Mary Dowley

Sr. M. Catherine Flynn

1891 - 1950

Sr. M. Berchmans Bermingham

1892 - 1958

Sr. M. Kiernan Browne

1902 - 1935

Sr. M. Brigid Manning 1912 - 1968

Sr. Michael Condon 1912 - 1975

Sr. M. Columba Buckley

1918 - 1926

Sr. M. Gabriel Lynam 1920 - 1959

Sr. M. Mercy Keane 1926 - 1975

Sr. M. Ordan McKeon 1926 - 1971

Sr. M. Patrick Kelly 1927 - 1933

Sr. Marie Therese Treacy

1930 - 1932
The Heath, Portlaois
Daughter of John Treacy
and Henrietta Moore

Sr. M. Attracta Manning

1930 - 1994
Moylough
Daughter of Thomas Gilmore
and Mary cheevers

Sr. M. Aloysius Nerney

1934 - 1999
Stradbally, Laois
Daughter of Michael Nerney and
Elizabeth Nolan

Sr. M. Joseph Wall 1935 - 1941

Sr. M. Clare Fox 1935 - 1991

Ballymacmorris
Daughter of Thomas and
Catherine Fox

Sr. M. Agnes Langan 1941 - 1947

Sr. Ignatius Dalton 1942 - 1995

Carrickedmond
Daughter of Michael and
Brigid Dalton

Sr. M. Camilus Burke 1947 - 1953

Sr. M. Oliver Kelly 1947 - 1998

Boher
Daughter of Patrick Kelly and
Rose Larkin

Sr. M. Agvin Dunning 1951 -

St. Peter's Athlone
Daughter of James Dunning
and Sara Shine

Sr. M. Martha Bolger 1959 - 1999

Castletown, Geoghegan,
Co. Westmeath
Daughter of Thomas Bolger
and Ann Feerey

Sr. Maria Goretti McDermott

1962 - 1985
Cloone
Daughter of Thomas and
Kathleen McDermott

Sr. M. Evangelist Keane

1882 - 1909

Sr. M. Patrick O'Sullivan

1887 - 1889

Sr. M. Agnes McLoughlin

1889 - 1928

Sr. M. Xavier Quinn 1880 - 1942

Sr. M. Angela Costello

1890 - 1954

Sr. Magdeline Fahey 1892 - 1912

Sr. Margaret Mary Quinn

1891 - 1926

Sr. M. Angela Clarkson

1963 - 1989
Kinnegad
Daughter of Robert Clarkson
and Henrietta Treacy

Sr. Marie Celine Keegan

1963 - 1998
Cloone
Daughter of William Keegan
and Anne Reynolds

Sr. Sara Mulligan 1967 - 1973

Mohill
Daughter of Jim Mulligan
and Maureen Masterson

Sr. Grainne McWade 1975 - 1977

Drumlish
Daughter of Frank McWade
and Kathleen Keogh

Sr. M. Ciaran O'Reilly 1979 - 1990

Carracon
Daughter of James O'Reilly
and Anne Boylan

Sr. M. Berchmans Holloway

1981 - 1981
Clara
Daughter of John Holloway
and Elizabeth Gaynor

Sr. Therese Ward 1982 - 1983

Ardagh
Daughter of John Ward
and Myra Dinneen

Sr. Maura Conlon 1982 - 1991

Kilturbid
Daughter of Patrick Conlon
and Jane Ellen Hyland

Sr. Mary McGoey 1992 - 1997

Abbeyshrule
Daughter of Edward McGowey
and Elizabeth Rowan

Sr. Patricia Cummins 1994 - 1998

Clonbroney, Co. Longford
Daughter of John Cummins
and Kathleen Gaffney

Sr. Patricia Cummins 1994 - 1998

Clonbroney, Co. Longford
Daughter of John Cummins
and Kathleen Gaffney

Sr. Anna Burke 1994 - 1998

Clonguish, Co. Longford
Daughter of Patrick Burke and Anna
Mary Barden

Sr. Mary Doherty 1994

Killoe, Co. Longford
Daughter of John Doherty
and Margaret McCarthy

Sr. Helen Keegan 1997 -

Fenagh
Daughter of Hughie Kegan
and Mary McGrail

Sr. Gabriel Keane 1998 - 1998

Sr. Brendan's Mullagh, Loughrea
Daughter of Martin Keane and
Mary Anne

Mohill Legion Of Mary

Teresa O'Reilly

'I am all yours my Queen, my Mother and all I have is yours'. Those were the words used at the first Ceremony of our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium, Mohill on May 24th 1932.

The following are the names of some of our friends and mentors all deceased, R.I.P. Mrs. Mary Logan, Mrs. Mary Gannon, Mrs. Crowne, Mrs. Ellen Mc Gowan, Mrs. Masterson, Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Beirne, Mrs. Dorr. Mrs. O'Brian Flynn, Mrs. S. Gallagher, Mrs. Killian, Mrs. O'Connell, Mrs. R. Gallagher. In the childrens Legion- 'Our Lady of perpetual Succour' your prayers are requested for Valery Morrissey, Rosemary Crossan, Celine Keating and Patricia Nicholl. R.I.P.

The mens Legion 'Our Lady of the most Holy Rosary' was founded

Edgeworthstown

She is a life long member of Mohill Legion, she joined as a junior in 1932. We thank her for her dedication, and for the wonderful state of preservation she kept the pictures 1933-1940, and the first hand book of the legion. In this Jubilee year the president is Mae Logan Crowe, Vice Pres: Maureen Kelly. Secretary: Teresa O'Reilly, Assistant Secretary: Bernadette Clyne, Treasurer: Monica Mc Hugh. Thanks to all our members for the success of our Lady of Lourdes Praesidium here in Mohill and thanks to our founder Frank Duff who formed the Legion to be a sign of our Lady's Maternal Love for the world, and a means of enlisting all his children in the church's evangelising work. May the holiness of his life be acknowledged by the church for the Glory of Your name, Amen.



St. Vincent De Paul and Mens Legion Group at Donamon Castle

Back Row (L - R): Christy Nolan, R.I.P., Jim Mulhern, R.I.P., Damien Dorr, Jim Flynn, R.I.P.

Middle Row (L - R): Peter Gordan, Michael Crossan, Fr. McNulty, Sean O'Beirne, R.I.P.

Front Row (L - R): Frank Dorris, Paddy Logan, R.I.P., Joe Crossan, R.I.P.

on October 8th 1955. Paddy Keating was their First President. The following are the deceased members of the mens legion.

Jim Mulhern, Sean O'Beirne, Joe Crossan, Christie Nolan, Gerry Canning and Johnnie Rynne,

Spiritual Directors: Rev: Canon Michael J. Masterson, Rev Fr. T. Gilleran. Rev. Canon Wall, Rev. Canon Mc Loughlin. Rev. Canon Sheeran, Rev. Fr. Francis Gilfinnan, Rev. Fr. Gill, Rev. Fr. Gene Cox, Rev. Fr. Sean Mc Cormac.

Thankfully Rev. Fr. O'Hanlon is still interested in the Legion and doing good work. In the Mohill Legion we have meetings each Monday night in the Canon Donohoe Hall at 9pm.

We have twenty active members and twelve auxiliary members. Our work entails, house and hospital visitation, caring for sick neighbours, reciting the rosary each morning, after 10am Mass for peace. Attending to the flowers in St. Patrick's Church and in the general being that 'friend in need'.

You may be interested to know that we now have two and a quarter million active members in over 2,500 dioceses all over the world. The Cause of Beatification of three of our members has been introduced - namely Venerable Edel Quinn, servant of God, Frank Duff (our founder) and servant of God Alphonsus Lambe. Unfortunately I can also relate that many members of the Legion are suffering for their faith and membership.

Our thanks to Sr. Farrell, Sr. Carmel Crossan and Annie Cox for keeping safe minute books, roll call of the junior legion etc.

Annie Cox is now in retirement on Our Lady's Nursing Home



Mohill Girls Legion Group 1961

Back Row (L - R): Una O'Sullivan, Marie Clyne, Veronica Derwin, Dymrna Keating, Marie Doherty, Helen Mulhern, Martha Kelly, Sheila McGloin, Ann Doherty, Clare Mulhern.

Middle Row (L - R): Noeleen Barden, Bernadette Cosgrove R.I.P., Josephine Mulligan, Ann McGuinness, Angela Doherty.

Seated: Maura Guckian, Dolores Barden, Ann Mulligan, Geraldine O'Sullivan.



Liam Ellis & his Dog - Mohill Show 1940's

Mohill Legion Of Mary cont..

Dedicated to all deceased past-students and to our deceased Principals: Sr. Clare, Sr. Ciaran and Sr. Oliver.



Mohill Legion Group at Curia Meeting in Longford 1940

Picture Includes: Josie Dunleavy, Mrs. Gannon, Mrs. Crowne, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Nicholson, Martha Masterson, Miss O'Brien, Mrs. Beirne, Mrs. McGowan, Mrs. McBrien Flynn, Mrs. Gallagher.



Mohill Praesidium Legion of Mary 2000

Back Row (Left to Right): Canon Sean Rooney, Petra Gaffey, Eithne Cawley, Margaret Sweeney, Josephine McGovern, Monica McHugh, Mae Maguire, Peggy McGuinness, Tessie Duignan, Mrs. Moran, Fr. Pat Kiernan.

Front Row (Left to Right): Tom Lee, Lizzie Jane Hegarty, Mary Farrell, Teresa O'Reilly, May Logan-Crowe, Maureen Kelly, Peggy Ellis.

Inserted in the photograph are Margaret Ward, Carmel Crossan and Pauline Crossan.

The Pioneer Total Abstinence Association

Carmel Crossan

The Mohill Centre of the Pioneers was established on the 22nd. January 1924. The first Working Council consisted of seven members. These were Spiritual Director Fr. O'Donnell C.C., Secretary Laurence Moran, Treasurer John J. Kelly N.T. The other four members were C. Cumiskey, Joseph Ellis, Michael Cox and Patrick Stenson. There is no record available of the activities of the Centre between 1924 and 1944. From 1944 onwards a large number of members were enrolled both at adult and at junior level. The meetings were held at monthly intervals in the Canon Donohue Hall on Sundays after the 11 a.m. Mass. Great credit is due to those founder members. Later they went on to receive golden membership pins. By their loyalty they gave inspiration and encouragement to all those who came after them.

In the more recent past, various activities have been undertaken by the Pioneers here in Mohill. One particular event comes to mind i.e. the Annual Outing to the Spring Show in Dublin in May of each year. Mrs Annie Cox was instrumental in organising this and transport was usually provided by Donnelly's Bus Service, Granard. Those were the days! It is fair to say that Annie Cox played a major role in keeping the Pioneer Branch active here in Mohill for a great number of years. Other activities engaged in were Table Quizzes organised for both Adults and Juniors. These were very popular indeed. Our young pioneers have taken part in many quizzes at regional level these have always been very enjoyable occasions. During Fr. Columba McCole's time as Spiritual Director he introduced the idea of a Sports' Day for the Primary schools which proved a great success. Essay Competitions and Art Competitions take place every year, both at Regional and National level, these have been organised by our current President Raymond Sweeney. Our Young people have attended Young Pioneer Conferences in Bundoran and University College Galway. They are also members of the Regional Committee which meet in Claremorris four times a year. At Local Level they organised a Sponsored Walk which was very enjoyable and successful.

Pioneer membership is closely linked to devotion to the Sacred Heart. It has been the practice of the Mohill Centre to organise a special Mass on the Feast of the Sacred Heart in June. Various guest speakers have visited here to speak on the Pioneer Movement on these occasions, chief among whom were: Mr. Padraig Brady the first lay President of the Association, Fr. Bernard McCguckian S.J. (Central Director of the Association), Fr. Michael McGreil S.J. (Chairman of the Board of Management of the Pioneer Movement), Dr. Michael Loftus (Coroner for Co. Mayo) and Sr. Anna Burke Chaplain to Carrick on Shannon Community School, who along with our current Spiritual Directress Sr. Mary Doherty, were among the first group of Mercy Sisters to go on mission to the Diocese of Chipata, Zambia. On all of these special occasions members were enrolled and certificates, together with Silver and Gold pins were presented to faithful members. Other activities engaged in by the Pioneer members include the sale of the Pioneer Magazine, the sale of The Pioneer Calendar at

Christmas time and a Church Gate Collection which usually takes place on Temperance Sunday. As a preparation for the millennium we had Evening Prayer in honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the First Friday of every month. All of the above are well supported so let us take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support of all our activities down through the years.

Of course, the highlight, the high point for every Pioneer both in this country and abroad was the Centenary Rally held in Croke Park on the 31st May 1999. Pioneers from all over the world were there as was evident from the colourful banners and native dress in the procession from Parnell Square to Croke Park. It was truly a memorable occasion. Over fifty pioneers from Mohill went to Croke Park on that day some making the ultimate sacrifice of having to miss the important Leitrim Roscommon game!. There was a record number of coaches in Dublin on that day causing a major headache for the Gardai, the only consolation being that nobody was 'under the influences!'. The Procession of Pioneers from Parnell Square was a great spectacle especially as Pioneers from far and near were accompanied by Marching Bands and Banners which added to the occasion. Mr. Raymond Sweeney, both Regional and Local President of the Association, carried the Diocesan banner in the procession on that day while Sr. Mary Doherty had the privilege of being Eucharistic Minister distributing Holy Communion during the Concelebrated Mass. The GAA had kindly given the use of Croke Park free gratis on that day,

It should be pointed out that members from Mohill also attended the Golden Jubilee rally of the Pioneers in Croke Park back in 1948. There were thousands in attendance then but of course the number of pioneers at that time was much greater than at the present time.

Up coming events include :

A novena to the Sacred Heart in June of this Jubilee Year.

A Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine on the 16th July.

A Special International Teenage/Youth Seminar in Gormanstown, Co. Meath from the 30th July - 1st August.

The three-fold commitment that characterises the Pioneer way of



Junior Pioneer Members

Left to Right: Michael Monaghan, Dr. Mick Loftus, Harriet McCrann, Marie Conboy, Samantha Haste, Ciara O'Brien, Belinda Hamilton, Anita Hamilton

life is that of prayer, self sacrifice and public witness. Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Fr. Cullen saw in the burning love in the Heart of Christ the answer to all human problems. He was convinced that if Sacred Heart devotion could be harnessed and focused on the deplorable social and moral evils associated with the abuse of alcohol it could effect a moral miracle in personal, family and indeed life in society at large.

As I conclude, let me take this opportunity to thank all of you pioneers and non pioneers for your support in all our undertakings both spiritual and temporal.

The National headquarters of the pioneers can be contacted at the

website: www.pioneertotal.ie

During the past 75 years we have striven to nurture the tender plant of consecrated sobriety. We know its extraordinary power for good. However in the past few decades we have had the experience of hanging in there.

Marathon runners speak of a similar experience when they think they are not going to be able to go on. But they also tell us that if they hang in there tenaciously they get something called a second wind. Now, the beginning of this second century of the Pioneer Movement is a good time for a second wind. We look forward to new members and renewed devotion to the Sacred Heart. You will find us in the Canon Donohue Hall on the first Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. All are welcome.



Pioneer Golden Jubilarians

Left to Right: Alice Moran, Nellie McGowan, Bernie Faughnan R.I.P., Dr. Mick Loftus.

The Chairperson: Raymond Sweeney.

The Treasurer: Michael Crossan.

The Secretary: Carmel Crossan

Spiritual Director: Sr. Mary Doherty.

Young Pioneer Representatives:

Carmel Crossan and
Belinda Hamilton



Presentation of Gold and Silver Pins to Mohill Pioneer Members at Function in The Canon Donohue Hall 1974

Back Row (Left to Right): Michael Reynolds R.I.P., Eamon Duignan R.I.P., Fr. Thomas Flynn C.C., Pat Stenson R.I.P., J.P. Keane R.I.P., John Mahon R.I.P., Michael Beirne R.I.P., Willie Moran R.I.P., Johnny Wryne R.I.P., James Tubman R.I.P.

Middle Row (Left to Right): Maggie Canning R.I.P., Maura Duignan, Sheila Burns R.I.P., Mary Reilly R.I.P., - , Sheila Halpin, Noeleen McGowan, Mrs. Sarah Bohan R.I.P., Mrs. Kirwin R.I.P., Sr. Aloysius, Peggy Mulligan, Terry Beirne R.I.P., Molly Canning, Annie Cox.

Front Row: John Mulligan R.I.P., Paddy Hackett R.I.P., Jimmy Griffin R.I.P., Willie Tubman R.I.P.

Mohill Parishioners pictured at the Jubilee Mass in - St. Mels Cathedral on Sunday 21st May 2000.

Left to Right: Anne Beirne, Teresa Bohan, Phil McGuinness, Orla Palmer.



Finance Committee Jubilee 2000
Left to Right: Luke Early, Gerry Beirne, Padraig Browne, Sylvester Kivlehan, Francis McGowan.



Pictured prior to the Jubilee Mass in St. Mels Cathedral 21st May 2000

Mohill Parishioners

Back Row: Ann Early, Breda Stenson, Mrs. Peg Cadden, Mrs. Polly Flood, Mrs. Bernadette Clyne, Canon Sean Rooney.
Front Row: Brenda Stenson, Denise Stenson, Grace Stenson, Christy Clyne, Tommy Lee.



Aerial view of Mohill



St. Mary's Church of Ireland Parish

Rev. Paul Twomey & Hazel Tuthill

In the year 608 AD St. Manachan founded a monastery at Mohill and a commercial community grew around its walls, St. Manachan died in 625 AD.

A special mart was held annually on the 14th February to mark Manachan Day.

In the mid 13th century the majority of monasteries were either taken over or had been deserted. This monastery dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, was known as "St. Mary's Priory which is probably the reason for the present name of the Church, was later adopted by Canons Regular of St. Augustine who possessed large area of land in and around Mohill. In the 1400's AD St. Mary's Priory was mentioned in the 'Papal Annates' and also was mentioned in 'The Annals of the Four Masters' and 'The Annals of Lough Key'. The Mohill Monastery was dissolved in 1539 AD. In 1590 the Church stood on a 1-acre site with 2 stone buildings and a cemetery. By the year 1615 the church lay in ruins and there was no Incumbent. The only Remnant of the ancient abbey are gable ruins in the churchyard and part of a circular tower, which now stands across the road from the Hunt Memorial Hall.

In 1621 the monastic Abbey and its lands were granted to Henry Crofton. In 1680, the Croftons built a Protestant Church on part of the site of the old abbey. The Crofton landlords ran the estate from Mohill castle until 1902.

In the Vestry book starting from 1759 there are records of two meetings a year. The April meeting elected the Churchwardens and a meeting later in the year discussed the parish finances. On the 23rd of April 1762 the entry read 'to lay on money towards building a new church in the parish'. Every year from 1762 a sum of money was put aside £10, £20 or £50 a year. According to the records there was some indecision about whether to build a new Church or repairs to the old one. In 1769 it was finally decided to build the new church. The entry in the Vestry records of the 6th of April 1769 state "—to appoint a treasurer to receive the sum subscribed by different gentlemen towards rebuilding the church of St. Mary's Parish, and also the money raised off the Parish and to be raised for the purpose".

In 1815 the present St. Mary's Parish Church was completed.

REV. ARTHUR HYDE

(**** - 1870)

The renowned Hyde family made its own positive contribution to the parish of Mohill in the 1800's Rev. Arthur Hyde was rector of Mohill from 1816 to 1870, a ministry which lasted for 54 years. By his marriage to Frances Crofton daughter of Sir Hugh Crofton he had one son and four daughters, His son, also Arthur rector of Kilmactranny and later of Frenchpark was father of Dr. Douglas Hyde, poet, Scholar and first President of Ireland. Rev. Arthur Hyde took great interest in local community concerns and affairs during the cholera epidemic of 1833 he called in engineers, water diviners and other consultants for advice. He, at once, started to have wells bored and pumps erected to give a supply of clean water to the people of Mohill. He

also took a keen interest in the Agriculture Show in Mohill, which was first held in 1844. His son-in-law Ven. Fitzmaurice Hunt, equally contributed to the community of Mohill. Described as a Pastor strong and caring it was Ven. Hunt's fervent desire to build a hall for the benefit of the people of Mohill.

On the 13th February 1890, a site opposite the castle was obtained, it was a 99 year lease from the Crofton Estate at a rent of £2 a year. The ground rent was bought out in 1937.

The hall built in red brick and stone was to be two storeys high, 65 feet in length by 25 feet wide. A subscription list was then opened. Due to Ven. Hunt's failing health, no further progress was made with the building. After Rev. Digges became secretary, he actively set about raising funds until finally the fund closed on the 31st January 1892. Tenders were invited for the erection of the hall and Mr. McClean of Belturbet won the contract. The Hunt Memorial Parochial Hall with its elegant structure which is unique in dimension and ornamental in design was completed by the 20th April 1893.

Since then the Hunt Hall has served the community as a venue for social gatherings, entertainment, exhibitions and also incorporates the Hunt National School.

HISTORIC HOUSES

Rev. Aurthur Hyde, M.A., grandfather of Dr. Douglas Hyde, was for forty years prior to his death Rector of Mohill. He was very popular with all classes in the district and one of the streets of Mohill (Hyde St.) now bears his name. A monument to his memory was erected as the inscription stated, "by every class and creed". This memorial took the form of a fountain which later had to be removed, and it is believed that the tablet bearing the inscription is in the possession of the President. Rev. Hyde resided in the Rectory, Drumkillagh, about 2 miles from the town on the Ballinamore Road, where as a young boy, Dr. Douglas Hyde was a frequent visitor. Rev. Hyde died on the 10th August, 1870 and is interred in a vault which is constructed against the little gable wall is the sole remnant of the monastery which once occupied the site of the present Protestant Church in Mohill.

Dan Kennedy



St. Mary's Church, Mohill

BISHOPS GET TOGETHER IN MOHILL

The first Ecumenical ceremony ever held in Mohill took place on Sunday last in St. Mary's Parish Church when a Church of Ireland Bishop and a Catholic Bishop together performed a dedication ceremony.

Right Reverend. Dr. E.F.B. Moore, Ph.D., D.D., Bishop of Kilmore, Ardagh and Elphin, and Most Rev. Dr. C. B. Daly, M.A.D.D., Bishop of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise dedicated the Tower Clock, erected to the memory of the late Very Rev. George Holmes Gibson, Bolton, M.A., a former rector of the Mohill group of parishes. A plaque also erected in memory of the late rector was unveiled.

In a short address, Dr. Moore paid tribute to the late Dean Bolton.

The attendance at the ceremony included Rev. T.O. Sturdy, B.A., Rector, Mohill; Rt. Rev. Mgr. T. Sheerin, P.P., V.F., Mohill; Ven. Archdeacon A.M. Thompson, M.A., Boyle; Rev. Canon W. Slator, Rector, Carrick-on-Shannon; Rev. Canon J. Bond, M.A., Longford; Rev. D.W. Graham, M.A. Boyle; Rev. R.P.B. Mathews, Ballinallee; Rev. R.D. Holtby, Castlereagh; Rev. J.A. Montgomery, Tashinney; Rev. Fr., Conroy, C.C. Cootehill; Rev. Fr. F. Dobson, O.C.S.C., Moone, Co. Kildare; Rev. Fr. F. Killian, C.C.; Very Rev. J. Canon Butler, P.P., Drumlish; Very Rev. P. McGivney, P.P., Moate and Rev. F. Prunty, C.C., Carrick-on-Shannon.

Also included in the attendance were Mr. John O'Halloran, representing the National Co-Operative Council of Ireland and Mr. S. D. Loftus, representing the Christian Democrat Party of Ireland, both of whom travelled from Dublin to be present at the ceremony.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, blessings were imparted by both bishops.

Taken from Newspaper article, Sunday, 16th May 1971.



Rev. Paul Twomey



Glebe House, the former home of Sr. Arthur Hyde, grandfather of Dr. Douglas Hyde, first president of Ireland. Now the home and guest house of John and Marian Mooney



Senior members of St. Mary's Church

Left to Right: Ms. Percival, Charlie Crowe, Mrs. Boddy (Retired School Teacher)



Hunt National School

Back Row: Stella Johnston nee simons (Teacher), Sarah Reid, Billy Reid, Patricia O'Malley, - Duke, Ivan Harte.
Middle Row: - Duke, Eileen Reid, -, Olga O'Malley.
Front Row: Maudie Hunt, Benny Woods, Gerald O'Malley, - Woods.



Hunt National School in the '30's

Back Row: George O'Malley, Ivan Harte, - Duke,
Front Row: Sheila Johnston, Patricia G. O'Malley Bradshaw, Maudie Hunt, Violet Woods



◀
**Revd. Twomey with the youngest
 Parishioners of St. Mary's**

Back: Cecil Tuthill, Helen Dugdale, Revd.
 Paul Twomey, Carmel Crowe,
 David Dobson, Julie Bran.
 Children: Alan Tuthill, Sophie Dugdale,
 Alan Crowe, Jessica Dotson,
 George Marshall.
 Front Row: Alice Tuthill, Robbie Lloyd,
 Emily Dugdale, Heather Dugdale,
 Diane Crowe.

▶
Patricia Grace O'Malley Bradshaw
 Organist at St. Mary's Church with pupils Zara
 Feane, Joanne Booth, Amy Lloyd & Louise
 Huston.



Pupils of Hunt National School 2000

Front Row: Oisín O'Driscoll,
 Darren Booth,
 Zach Manek, Jayne Tuthill,
 Sarah Tuthill, Dawn Gilroy,
 Michelle Beirne,
 David Crowe.
 Middle Row: Lewis Carroll,
 Andrew McCormack,
 Rachid Drallo, Alicia Lloyd,
 Chloe Gilroy, Alan Gilroy,
 Louise-Dara Gilroy,
 Emma Tuthill, Karl Feane.
 Back Row: Nigel Howard,
 Mervyn Howard,
 Rafiou Diallo,
 Kelvin McCormack,
 Joe Booth,
 Zara Feany,
 Louise Huston,
 Joanne Booth,
 Amy Lloyd,
 Alice Booth.

▶



Pictured above is the Centenary Festival Service of the Mother's Union in the Diocese of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh held in St. Mary's Church on 7th May 1997. In the foreground are: Mrs. Margaret Jackson (Diocesan President), Mrs. Thelma Mehaffey (All-Ireland President) and Lady Christine Eames (World Wide President) **The Mother's Union** in this area dates back to 1897, when Mrs. Gertrude Clements formed a branch at Lough Rynn. This international organisation works towards justice, fellowship and the promotions of Christian Life.



A proud moment in the history of the Hunt Hall was the visit of President Mary Robinson on the 31st July 1993. Following her address which outlined Mohills Link with Irelands first President, Dr. Douglas Hyde, the President unveiled a plaque marking the Centenary of the building. Patricia Grace O'Malley Bradshaw presented The President with a painting by artist, Jimmy Reynolds.

Methodism in Mohill

Tom Melia

Methodism is the name given to a group of Protestant churches that arose from a movement in England founded by the Wesley brothers, John and Charles. John Godley (Lord Kilbracken) makes a strong case that it was William Mahon, brother of Mary Godley his great, great, great grandmother, that introduced John Wesley to "The Holy Club" while studying at Oxford in 1732 and led to the founding of Methodism in 1738.

World-wide Methodism has 38 million followers with 10 million in the U.S.A. where Robert Strawbridge from Drumsna was one of the founding ministers.

The present day Methodist Church in Ireland has a total community of 59,000 people, with 250 places of worship, in 78 circuits, on 8 districts covering the whole of Ireland.

John Wesley who was a charismatic preacher visited Ireland on many occasions. In May 1762 while preaching in Carrick on Shannon he stayed at the home of Glover Laird at Killukin. Wesley also stayed at Annadale house in Drumcong in May 1787 and 1789. Mrs Angel Anna Slacke was converted to Methodism on a visit to Dublin around 1780 and Annadale House became a centre of Methodism until her death in November 1796.

In 1799 The Irish Methodist Conference appointed Gideon Ousley and Charles Graham who were travelling missionaries to preach in part of Ulster and South Leitrim. Ousley drew large crowds from all denominations to his meetings at fairs and markets where the people were enthralled by his Bible reading, hymn singing and by his preaching on horseback on both Irish and English. In 1813 Ousley preached at Mohill and by this time a number of Catholics had converted to Methodism.

In the 1820's The Church of Ireland also appointed evangelical ministers in an attempt to convert Catholics but many of these preachers were virulently anti-Catholic clergy, which provoked a strong response from among the clergy most notably from Fr. Tom Maguire, P.P. Drumkeerin and Fr. John McKeon, P.P. Kiltoghert who became well known in the campaign against the evangelists. At the same time a number of secret agrarian societies were very hostile to the travelling ministers around South Leitrim. The end result was that most Catholics returned to their own Faith and that Methodism got most of their converts from members of the Established Churches.

In 1816 Wesleyan Methodists split from the Church of Ireland over the question of the authority of Methodist ministers to administer sacraments, but some Methodists who became known as 'Primitive Methodists' remained within the Church of Ireland. Mohill Methodists were members of the Primitive Methodist Society and they had a chapel in Glebe Street in the 1830s. In 1853 they built a Chapel at Upper Main Street. Around 1878 the Primitive Methodists joined the Wesleyans outside of the Church of Ireland. In 1886 a Manse was built for the minister adjoining the Chapel. In the 1890s there was on average around 70 Methodists living in the vicinity of Mohill and with such a small congregation it was a constant struggle to raise the necessary funds for the church. In 1890 expenses amounted to £167 including £120 salary to a married minister and with the Sunday collection for the year only £14 they had to rely on a grant of £80 from central funds to balance the books.

Among the Methodist families on the Mohill circuit at the end of the 19th century were Stratton, Monaghan, Lyttle, Coulter, Briggs and Soden, Hill St.; Humpneys, Lurga; Crowe, Lisdadnan; Huston,

Drumbore; Lawlor, Farnaught; Dobson, Drumhany; Jones, Laheen; McCullagh, Seltan; and Lattimer, Doonera.

Some of the ministers who served in Mohill included James Daly, John Hadden, Thomas Walmsley, D. Hewitt, John Coulter, Arthur Hynes, Alex Ludlow, G. Atkinson and James Johnson.

A typical week of religious practice for Methodists on the Mohill circuit would have included Sunday school at 11.30am and 5pm in the Chapel and also a prayer service on Tuesday at 8pm in the Chapel. Preaching services were also held in Lattimers, Doonera and McCullaghs, Seltan on Mondays at 8pm, and in Humphreys, Lurga; Crowes, Lisdadnan; Dobsons, Drumhany, on Wednesdays at 6pm, and a family service was held in Mrs. Jones, Laheen on Friday at 8pm.

The early years of the 20th century marked a decline of the Methodist community in Mohill and the emigration of all 10 remaining members of the Soden family, Hill Street was a bodyblow. In July 1907 the Manse was leased to Mrs. Anne Heaney for £35 per annum. In July 1915 it was leased to Mr. Corscadden, solicitor for 7 years at £36 per annum. The Manse was taken over by the Civic Guards on 30th May 1923 and was finally sold to the Board of Works in 1930. The Methodist Chapel was sold to Frank Flynn NT in 1921 for £350.

1935 saw the final demise of Methodism in Mohill when Mrs. Anderson, Main Street who for the previous 10 years had been the only Methodist living in Mohill ceased to be a member.

"Friend to all and foe to no-one" was the motto of Methodism. Life in Mohill is all the poorer for the loss of the decent and kindly people of the Methodist community.

Thanks to Evelyn Kelly and Patricia Gillheany (Leitrim Co. Library) and Edwin McCormack, Methodist Community Longford & Rev. Laurence Graham.



William Latimer - another signatory of 1912 petition for retention of school

Jackie Beirne

1932 – 2000

- AN APPRECIATION -

From Killyfad, Aughamore via circuitously St. Mel's College, U.C.D., Ballina, Nigeria, St. Saran's College, Ferbane, Jackie Beirne arrived in Mohill in 1971 to join the staff of Marian College. Then he was the new man on the block, when, on April 10th last, he left us for his just reward, he was a friend and colleague, exceptional in his many attributes.

His life was about family, education and community. He was active in all kinds of youth work and administered many FAS schemes that were beneficial for the parish. His belief in the value of sport was deep rooted himself an accomplished footballer in his youth, his zeal for passing on skills of the game never faltered in the many roles he undertook for club, college and county. He was a very competent and caring teacher, popular with all his colleagues and, of course, with the many students when he taught. The rapport between them was a wonder to behold. Jackie knew his students individually and always, always had something positive to say about them. One realised that his philosophy of education was his belief in the absolute value of the individual human being.



Dr. Jackie Beirne

In the staffroom, in the classroom and in the community at large, Jackie was highly respected, not just for his teaching ability, but for his wit and jovial personality. He was a very generous and warm-hearted person and he lived life to the full. After he retired from Marian College in 1994, he kept in touch with his colleagues and we delighted in his frequent presence among us. We greatly appreciated his infectious humour, tolerance and generous view of life. Only the day before he died, he had us laughing as he recalled old escapades and then, characteristically, he presented us with his copy of a book by Fr. De Mello S.J., a favourite author, and one that pointed to a deeper side of Jack's nature. The calm, balance and composure he exuded were built on the bedrock of a deep faith in God and a happy home life with his wife, Marie, and son, Daragh.

He will be sadly missed. The large crowds at his removal and funeral bear testimony to the huge regard in which he and his family were held. We thank God for the gift of his life. We sympathise with his wife, Marie, his son, Daragh, his brother and sisters. We praise Jack that he touched on lives in a way that made us better people. We will never forget Jack, the slow ambling gait and the casual throwaway "Be good" as he walked away.

*Ach, Jack, cile rud a gcuimhnim an feit
Ni thioctaid liom a dhearmod
Nach bhfuil tu anseo anois
Agus beidh cuimhre agam ort go brach.*

In debates and arguments, Jack could hold his own and indeed could be mischievously partisan in slugging matches, but deep down, he heeded

*Patrick Kavanagh's exhortation
"ignore power's schismatic sects
Lovers alone lovers protect".*

And Jack was one of life's lovers.

He loved his family, his pupils and his county.

Art Ridge

Dr. Enda Cadden

1958 - 1996

- AN APPRECIATION -

Enda Cadden departed this life at his home in Mohill, Co. Leitrim on the 11.02.96 surrounded by his family. He died as he had lived with a smile on his face.

Having qualified at UCG he completed his various residencies. He came to Mohill in 1958 at the behest of his friends Dr. Billy Donovan and Dr. Alec Percival. His original intention had been to pursue a career in obstetrics.

I had the pleasure of working with him of fourteen years. We were great friends. Enda was one of the great characters of his generation in medicine. He was a very witty man, a superb storyteller, a great family man, an avid reader, a stylish golfer and a truly dedicated man of medicine.



Dr. Enda Cadden

He was lauded by his peers as a fine clinician which is surely the ultimate accolade for any medical person. He had the keen ear of a Beethoven allied to the tactile virtuosity of a classical pianist. To watch him percuss an effused chest was to behold a great Conga player. His main clinical interests were in the field of cardiology and obstetrics.

He chose general practice because its great variety sustained him. He defined general practice as 'a form of theatre punctuated by some deadly serious moments'.

He had an ever watchful eye for the challenging clinical case. To life's less fortunate brethren he was a friend and a sympathetic ear. He supported them, cajoled them and laughed with them.

As a storyteller he was peerless. With his theatrical movements and perfect timing he regaled several friends socially with charming anecdotes culled from a lifetime in medicine.

He was a countryman with a countryman's interests. He was a golfer; golf was his sporting passion. To walk a golf course on a sunny day with the balls flying and the larks calling from above was for him, to sip the wine of the world.

In the last two years he defined his life as an 'ever decreasing spiral'. Even with the spectre of death hanging over him he never lost his joie de vivre. He still retained his devilish sense of humour and continued to visit his aged patients.

He socialised regularly and generally got on with living. As the curtain slowly descended on his eventful life, he departed life's stage with dignity to meet his Maker.

Peg his wife, his children Sinead, Niall, Nessa, Conor, Aoife and Aisling will miss him greatly. The brother Fintan will miss him too - won't we all!! May his gentle soul rest in peace.

Re-produced from the Leitrim Observer

Dr. Arthur Dolan & Joe Flynn

I.C.A. IN MOHILL

Peggy Reilly

The I.C.A. started in Ireland in 1910. However it was then called The 'United Irishwomen'. The name was given to it by the celebrated Carrick-on-Shannon born poet Susan Mitchell. The name remained thus until 1935. It was then changed to the 'Irish Countrywoman's Association' for fear of confusion with the United Ireland political party of the day. The society was the brainchild of Sir Horace Plunkett who wished it's primary achievement to be 'Better Living'. His purpose was to organise women in every district in Ireland for social service, to improve its domestic, and reconstruct its social life. The ladies of Mohill came together on the 7th Oct. 1957 to form a guild which has the notable distinction of producing three successive Federation Presidents, Mrs. Ena Fox, 1960-1963, Mrs. O'Connell, 1963-1964, Mrs. O'Connell died in office, and Annie Cox 1965-1968. There were 40 members enrolled in 1957, the fee was three shillings. The following officers and committee were elected.

President: Mrs. K Casey
Vice President: Mrs. Flynn N.T.
Treasurer: Mrs. Clarke
Secretary: Ms M Mulligan
Asst. Secretary: Ms. Mai Reynolds
Members: Mrs Lynagh, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Casey, Mrs. Petrie, Mrs Reid, Ms. Mulligan, Ms. Rynn, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Keating

Mrs. Cox, Mrs. Duignan, Ms.B Burns, Ms.E Burns, Mrs. McGuire, Mrs. McGovern, Ms.E Kenny, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. McGowan, Mrs. J Canning, Ms. Reynolds, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. E Cassidy, Mrs. Flynn, N.T.

Mrs. J Bohan, Ms. Stenson, Mrs. K Gallagher, Mrs. McGloin, Ms. O'Malley, Ms. Hoare, Mrs. Guckian, Mrs Mitchell, Ms. O'Sullivan, Ms. Crowe, Ms. Flynn, Mrs. L Ellis, Mrs. W Body, Mrs. Bradshaw, Mrs. J O'Sullivan, Mrs. Humphries, Mrs. G Tuthill

These were the ladies who gave so unselfishly of their time, energy, and talents, to promote and enlarge the Association throughout the county and to bring it into the sixties. The Guild has been thriving since, and in 1997 celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Members over the years have taken part in many competitions. The Elenora Gibbons competition which was a dramatic competition, was always a great favourite, while many took part in cookery and knitting competitions. Most of the members enter in the local Agricultural Show with great success

Brian Lenihan T.D opened a branch of the Country Markets, the sister organisation of the I.C.A- on 31st of July 1965. It lasted for years; the branch was re-opened in 1992 and is going strong since. It operates out of O'Malley,s Main St. every Friday, and the quality of their produce is of a very high standard.



Mohill ICA Group

Back Row (Left to Right): Mae Maguire, Patsy Reilly, Tessie Duignan, Peggy Reilly, Peggy Ellis, Lizzie Jane Hegarty, Margaret Quinn, Maureen Kelly, Bridget McGovern R.I.P.,
Seated (Left to Right): Teresa O'Reilly, Eithne Cawley, Annie Cox, Rose Keegan.



Photograph of women from Leitrim taken in the early 60's at an I.C.A. Federation Meeting in Doherty's Hall Drumshanbo.

Included in the photograph are.

Mrs. Mulligan Mohill, Mrs. Early, Bridie Agnew Mohill, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. Maguire Mohill, Mrs. Wheatley, Maisey Lee, Mrs. M Farrell Mohill, Nancy McGee, Teresa Reilly Mohill, Mrs. Moran Cloone, Nell Moran, Mrs. Roger Doherty Mohill, Rose Moran, Mrs. Kilraine Mohill, Mrs. Lee Mohill, Eileen Cassidy Mohill, Cissy Farrelly, Kit Aherne, National President. Ena Fox (ne Reilly) Mohill Mrs. K Casey Mohill, Mrs. McMorrow, Miss McGil, Teresa Lee, Monica Hazlette, Mrs. E Mooney, Mrs McManus, Mrs. Walshe, Miss Butler, Miss Gannon, Mrs. Howard, Nancy Woods resplendant in her lovely knitwear. Annie Cox and Mrs. O'Connell two Mohill I.C.A. stalwarts are standing on the far right of the picture.



I.C.A.

Picture Includes: Monica Keating, Peggy Bradshaw, Peig Cadden, Eileen Cassidy, Mrs. Clarke, Mrs. Maguire, May Reynolds, Mamie Duignan, Mena Hoare, Olga Logan, Maura Duignan, Eileen Sullivan, Mary Farrell, Kathleen McCormack, Mrs Jack Flynn, Maura Duignan, Noleen McGowan, Violet Tuthill, Mrs Petrie, Mrs. Kilraine, Ms. Burns, Mrs. Crowe, Miss Gibson, Mrs McGlone, Miss Stenson, Mrs Dobson, Mrs Guckian, Ena Reilly-Fox, Mrs Mitchell, Martha Nicholl, Mrs Moran (Cloone), Mrs Bohan (Glebe St), Annie Cox, Peggy Ellis, Mary McGowan, Kitty Reynolds, Miss Greene.



Mohill Ladies pictured at an I.C.A. Federation Meeting in 1967

Back: Myra Wrynne, Mrs. Lee, Kitty Reynolds, Mamie Duignan, Mrs. Mitchell (Cloone), Mrs. Peter Moran, Mrs. McGloin, Mrs. Roger Doherty, Mrs. Packs Gallagher, Eithne Cawley.

Front: Mrs. Maguire, May Reynolds, Annie Cox, Mrs. K. Casey.

Apostolic Society

During the 70's and early 80's a handful of energetic ladies from the town formed the Apostolic Society. They made vestments and altar cloths for the Missions, they even knit socks for the impoverished priests. Mrs. Clyne Glebe St. knit the socks, and they were greatly appreciated by the weary Missionaries. The vestments were made from any material the ladies could lay hands on. As well as new cloth and remnants there was also other materials like wedding dresses and bridesmaid's dresses used in the making. The ladies worked very hard sewing and cutting out these garments. They held fund raising events and exhibitions in Longford, Ballinamore, and at home in Mohill. The ladies made life a little easier for the priests abroad, and they were Mrs. K Casey R.I.P. Mrs. M Farrell, Mrs. M Kelly, Mrs. A Brady, Mrs. Clyne, Mrs. M Leogue R.I.P.



Memories - 'Out of Africa'

Irene Casey

Mohill lady Irene Casey challenges Mount Kilimanjaro - Africa's Highest Mountain at 19,450 Feet. Kilimanjaro is a dormant snow-capped volcano, which lies 3 degrees (330km) south of the equator in Tanzania, East Africa.

For a single moment the clouds parted and I was faced with a snow-capped mountain which reared high into the sky. Awe-struck I could only stare at its sheer magnificence. Then the realisation dawned.....we had arrived. Here was the challenge, Mount Kilimanjaro and I had to climb it.

After breakfast the following day our team of twenty-three "Irish Terracotta Ramblers" met the African porters, cooks and guides who would accompany us on our five and a half day climb to the top of the mountain. The atmosphere and excitement which intensified with our appearance outdoors was infectious. A colourful wall of porters were assembled to one side with sacks resting on their feet. Others grouped to the right surrounded by a jumble of packages and steel boxes. The guides smiled their welcome. Sounds of 'Jambo Jambo' rang through the air. This greeting in Swahili, the language spoken in Tanzania, was soon used by us too. Then the porters started to carry our luggage sacks in the African way on their heads. No more waiting it was time to climb and hopefully conquer Kilimanjaro.

THE CLIMB - MACHAME TRAIL (FROM WEST TO EAST)

Before the climb and on descent it is necessary to sign on and off the mountain. This allows wardens to know how many and how long climbers have been on the mountain. Kilimanjaro commands respect by all climbers and the only way to go to the top is slowly. Thin air/a decrease of oxygen in the atmosphere at high levels sets the slow pace or 'poli poli' as Tanzanians call it. This pace and lots of water to prevent dehydration (3-4 litres a day) helped me avoid the dreaded altitude sickness.

The different vegetation zones we encountered on our climb meant that each day posed fresh challenges and flora and fauna some of which verged on the bizarre. After five and a half days of climbing from dense rain forest to desert and volcanic rock to snow we reached the rim of the crater and the highest point in Africa.

We met no other climbers along the challenging and desolate Machame route. Even the local Chagga tribe did not inhabit the slopes of Kilimanjaro. The cry of birds and noise from animals heard in the rain forest faded to nothingness at higher levels. Our world was then one of eerie silence and heavy mist. Here weird flowers and lichen clung to dwarf trees and rocks. One sight which springs to mind is that of a beautiful red flower growing in solitude amongst rock. In this shady setting we felt like astronauts or actors in a science fiction film.

From day three upwards it got bitterly cold with temperatures dropping to -15oc when the sun set. Of course this was not ideal camping weather but we survived by wearing many layers of clothing and dreaming of exotic holidays in the sun. Some cameras simply froze and in spite of intensive defrosting tactics are still frozen.

Days on the mountain were long, approximately 8 to 10 hours climbing. Views of the summit were limited but spectacular when revealed. Team spirit and these views kept us moving but conditions were very tough and some people were sick. After ten hours of climbing on day 5 we had a few hours sleep before our night climb. Like the lights on a Christmas tree, our headtorches traced a broken line as one followed another up a lava scree slope to the crater rim. Their exhaustion turned to excitement, joy and then shock. From this height there were



Mount Kilimanjaro - Africa's Highest Mountain

unforgettable views of the open plains of Kenya and Tanzania and the ice fields and crater rim. Then African guides advised us to move to lower levels promptly. It was difficult to breathe at such a height, so everyone followed their advice quickly. Our descent took just one and a half days as oxygen grew more plentiful as we climbed down the mountain. We adopted a form of skiing, that is, we slid down steep slopes when the pressure on our knees was too great to permit a steady even pace. I was exhausted but happy. I had challenged 'Kili' (as I now familiarly call it) and won. Soon after presentation night arrived and we were awarded our certificates of success.

The anti-climax which followed is to be expected when one achieves great things, I have been told by another. On our arrival back to Dublin Airport there were no bands playing or no reporters waiting to capture our story.

Back home in Mohill this anti-climax quickly dissolved. Maybe it was exhaustion or it quite possibly was relief! Relief to be 'Out of Africa' with my memories of Kilimanjaro, the 1999 African Challenge complete and time to pen pictures with words of my experience in the fascinating and unforgettable continent of Africa.

Irish Terracotta Ramblers: The fund-raising arm of The Irish Brain Research Foundation and the national Council for the Blind of Ireland.

On 26th September 1999, Mohill lady Irene Casey was one of a 23-person team who undertook the Kilimanjaro Challenge for the above charities. Over £70,000 was raised by the team of Terracotta Ramblers.



Irene Casey & Fellow climbers

4th Leitrim Scouts

Mohill 1932 - 2000

Raymond Palmer

On Sunday October 16th 1932 at 3pm, the Investiture of the first Scouts of the 4th Leitrim Unit Group (C.B.S.I.) took place in the Canon Donohue Memorial Hall. Mohill Commissioner J.J. Dodd was in charge. Rev. Jas Wall C.C. Diocesan Chaplain and Troups from Athlone, Ballinmore, Drumshambo and Carrick-on-Shannon were present.

There was a scouting Jamboree held in Lough Rynn in Mohill in July 1960. It was organised by the Scouting Association of Ireland. The official opening was performed by the owner of Lough Rynn W. Clements. The cost of running the event amounted to £17,000. There were 700 Irish Scouts on camp with another 200 foreign visitors.

Some of the activities the 900 scouts did were, cruising on the Shannon, a display of Gaelic football and hurling in Mohill.G.A.A. park, sports, tent pitching etc. Evening entertainment was performed with camp fire singing each night and a production of Charley's Aunt was taking place in the Canon Donohue Hall, which the scouts really enjoyed. This production was performed by the Mohill Dramatic Society.

On May 10th 1993, a public meeting was held in the Canon Donohue Hall with a view to reforming the scouts in Mohill. It was attended by Regional Commissioner Mr. Tony Sweeney and field Dev. Officer, Mr. Joe Doherty. The following committee and leaders were elected, Chairpersons John Joe Doyle and Luke Early, Secretary Mary Flanagan, Unit Leader Kevin Britton, Leaders - Ann Mulligan, Lorraine Brown, Marion Donoghue and Teresa Hudson. Parents Council - Chairpersons Michael Crossan and Teresa Hudson, Secretary Mona

McCaffrey, Treasurers Maura Conally and John Joe Doyle.

The scouts held a meeting once a week and various scouting activities took place regularly, including camping trips to the Regional Campsite in Forest Park, Boyle.

In February 1997, girls were allowed to join the scouts as previous to that it was just for boys.

Scouting in Mohill is very active and every month the scouts do at least one activity, some include hiking, camping, water activities, pioneering, orienteering, mountaineering or fund-raising. The climax of the scout year is the Regional Shield. This is a weekend where scouts from each unit in the region "battle it out" to try and win the shield. Mohill have come second for the past two years but hope to win it this year

The leaders in Mohill are, Cubs - Mary O'Brien, Tommy Flanagan and Sharon McCrann, Scouts - Mary Taylor, Raymond Palmer and John Petree, Unit Leader - Raymond Palmer.



Mohill Scouts

Back Row: Linda Logan, Raymond Palmer, Mary Taylor, Miriam McGowan, Edel Palmer
Next Row: Stephen Conaty, Joe Joe Whearty, Kian Beck, Derek Wrynne, Brendan Kilraire
Front Row: John Palmer, Michael Beirne, Seadhna Logan, Jessie Gaffey, Simon Egan.



P.J. Cumiskey - Mohill Boy Scouts 1932



Youth Achievement Award Winners 1999

Back Row: John Petrie, Raymond Palmer, Mary Taylor, Martin O'Brien, Thomas Flanagan, Michelle Reynolds, Kim Taylor.
Front Row: Eithne Reynolds, John Palmer, Ciara O'Brien, Edel Palmer, Sean Earley.

MOHILL BROWNIE PACK

Geraldine McGuinness

Mohill
Brownies
New
Uniform



Mohill
Brownies
Old
Uniform



Mohill Brownie Pack was set up in 1984. It is a voluntary organisation. The uniform was a blue dress, yellow necktie and blue hat. In 1994 the uniform changed to a yellow sweatshirt, navy trousers, sash and necktie. The pack was taken over and run by Geraldine McGuinness and Audrey Reynolds in 1988 with Jennifer Logan joining us in 1995. Girls aged six to ten may join and take part in many activities e.g. camping at Moate Park in Co. Roscommon, working for various badges e.g. Nature, Fire Safety, Local Knowledge. We attend Mass every few months and the girls take part in the readings and bringing up of the gifts to the altar. We also take part in summer parades in the town. We have a full pack at the moment and we look forward to lots more activities in the future.



Presentation to Canon Hubert Fee on the occasion of his retirement in September 1992

Back Row (Left to Right):

Gerry Beirne, Eileen Boyle, Mel Logan, Harry McCrann, Christy Clyne, Joe Leogue, Sr. Celine, Harry O'Flynn, Annette Kivlehan, Dolly Reynolds, John Spollen.

Front Row (Left to Right):

Kieran O'Beirne, Molly Canning, Matt Gaffey, Canon Hubert Fee, Kathleen Spollen, Mai Lally, Rosie Doorley.

Kneeling:

Mary Reynolds, Lena Canning, Susan Cumiskey, Patricia McGrath (R.I.P.)

MOHILL PLAYGROUP

Geraldine McGuinness

Mohill Playgroup was established in our Parish in 1995 with the first Committee comprising Mary Beirne, Irene Reynolds, Mary Egan, Clare Mc Loughlin, Tina Molloy, Claire Quinn, Teresa Hudson and Mary O'Brien.

The Playgroup was first established in the present Resource Centre in Hyde Street with Teresa O'Rourke being the Leader. Volunteer helpers assisted with the smooth running of the Playgroup. A starting grant of £500 was obtained from the North-West Health Board and the Group continues to receive this Grant annually. The Parents involved carry out fund-raising activities each year. The Playgroup also receives financial assistance from Leitrim Partnership and the Catherine Howard Foundation and FAS.

In 1997 the Playgroup moved its operation to the Canon Donohoe Hall where it functions from today with Karen Shanley as Leader and Gene Kelly and Marie O'Connell as Assistants.

The present Committee Members are :

Chairperson; Jennifer Logan
Vice-Chairman; Christine Geelan;
Secretary; Josephine Reid
Treasurers; Breda Mulligan & Majella Higgins.



Some of Mohill Playgroup 2000

Pictured are Conall Gallagher, Caoimhe McGuinness, Josh Kelly, Eimaer Higgins, Christina McCrann, Evan Ward, Ciara Maguire, Niamh Maguire, Shannon Meehan, Keith Keegan, Shane McGowan, Paul Foy, Zak Gaffey, Cian Wynne, Jason Farry and Caoimhe Canning.

The Fate Of Young Mahon And His Monumental Tree

In the year 1844, H. Reynolds who lived in Breandrum, Gortvagh, was giving out meal on credit. A local man who was poor received a cwt. Weight of this meal and did not pay or perhaps could not. Reynolds had this man arrested and imprisoned at Carrick-on-Shannon, where the poor prisoner died shortly afterwards.

At this the local defenders known as the 'Molly Maguires' decided to take punitive action on Reynolds. Before going they drank a bottle of whiskey in Mick Boley's field, it was brought from Mohill by James Casey. The party went down by Eslin Bridge where the Police barracks was at the time (Corraterriff). Sergeant Chrystal and a company of the Peelers followed them at a safe distance. The Molly Maguires did not reach Reynolds' house, when the police were closing in on them on the brow of the hill near Tulrusk bog the Molly Maguires gave battle. Mahon was their leader and on moving from behind a clump of turf exposed himself to take aim with his gun, the weapon refused to work or did not carry far enough and on the return volley from the police Mahon was shot dead. The body was claimed by the police either for identification or in order to dishonour it by exposing it, or spiking the head. The Molly Maguires refused to surrender the head or corpse and by this time a crowd had gathered

and the police withdrew for the time being but were still determined to get their way at the suitable moment.

The result was that poor Mahon was buried temporarily and raised four or five times 'where he was buried tonight the police were there the following night'. It was suspected that one of the burying party was an informer so the number of mourners was limited to two. These two buried Mahon in Attymanus and made arrangements later to have the remains removed for burial in Cloonmorris graveyard. A man named Edward Costello of Corraterriff brought the corpse in a load of clover or hides to Bornacoola where Mahon was last rested in easy soil.

Mahon had a pledge (Fr. Matthew Pledge) and a medal indicating this was buried with him. His grave was opened again in 1872, 26 years later, when his brother Mick Mahon of Rosdwan, was being buried and the medal was found as bright as a shilling. On the spot where he was shot a fir tree was planted and it still served as his silent memorial. This Sergeant Chrystal was later transferred to Athlone and his furniture was removed in the dead of night by a man named Thomas Conlon.

Faith Healers

Maureen Lynch

Long, long ago before antibiotics, and steroids, by-passes and transplants, life was very fragile, what we look on as minor ailments now could prove fatal, and our ancestor's only means of survival was what is at present called Alternative Medicine. This consisted of a lot of herbs, a lot of faith, indeed most areas in those days had their own healers.

Despite great medical advances people have been faithful to these old remedies, and healers are in constant demand in rural Ireland, and especially in Leitrim.

The parish can boast of many healers past and present. Before we talk of the healers now living in our parish, we'll recall some very famous healers who have passed away and are in Heaven with the greatest healer of them all Jesus Christ.

A Mrs. Maguire from Drumboy had reportedly a great cure for skin cancer. She made up a paste, which she applied, to the growth and eventually the cancer fell off, the cure would not work if anyone other than herself touched it. Unfortunately the secret of her cure died with her.

A Mrs. McGuinness from Dumboy reportedly charged five shillings for her cure way back at the beginning of the century.

Kevin Foley in the Eslin Book talks of Jim McCrann who had the cure of the burn, the cure was carried out by licking the affected area and saying special prayers, Jim's wife Nan who is still alive has the cure for worms. She writes down a prayer and folds it into a badge shape. This badge is placed on the patient's clothes over the heart. When the paper wears away the worms are gone.

Willie Tubman from Gortvagh was another famous healer, his paste could cure many ailments, and people came to him from the Four Corners of Ireland. Willie died tragically some years ago.

We also hear people talk of Sonny Tiernan who lived in the town before moving to Drumkielvy, Sonny had the cure of 'The mote in the eye', and a cure of Glasabula, a disease of cattle.

Another famous healer, born in the middle of the last century, was a man called Peebles Grier from Gortvagh, a quiet small farmer he had the cure for the pink eye in cattle.

His aged daughter Letitia is a resident in The O'Carolan Home in Mohill.

Paddy Reynolds of Ohill had the cure of Erysipelas in humans and cattle.

Pee Kelly from Aughrim had the cure of warts, there were also many places in the area where you could get the cure of warts, to this day people come to the wart tree in Tullybradden, near the site of the ancient Holy Well. The affected area is wet by the stagnant waters in the fork of the tree, then a rag is tied to the tree, two more visits are required, and in no time the wart disappears.

Paddy Reynolds from Bunnymore had three cures, a cure for jaundice, the sprain and the thorn, there were hundreds more healers

all over the parish.

It is also worth mentioning that Brigid Flynn, the great-grandmother of Sean Boylan- herbalist and trainer of the Meath G.A.A- team, came from Gortvagh and is buried in Mohill.

Our most famous living healer must be Aidan Wrynne from Gortvagh; Aidan is a seventh son. The seventh son traditionally has great powers, when a worm is placed in the infant's hand not long after birth the worm will die, and so it was with Aidan. This type of healing goes way back long before Christianity. Unlike the other healers Aidan did not inherit his powers, but it came to him as a gift from God. It is a part of the natural healing process, working with the immune system. If the patient has faith and trust his cure will be



Linda Logan: One of the healers with the "cure of the sprain"

effective. Aidan feels it is very important to have the trust, As a child-healer people have always trusted him, it's not quite as easy to place complete trust in an adult. I think a lot of people have great faith in Aidan, and he holds successful clinics in many places throughout the country.

Vincent MacNabola from Eslin has the cure of the head, he measures the head with a black satin band, then he says special prayers, the patient must come back three times and then he's cured, he also has the cure of the sprain it works for humans and animals. These cures have been handed down to Vincent by his mother. The Boddy family have inherited the cure of kidney and gallstones from the late Bill Boddy R.I.P who got it in Cavan. The cure is not very palatable, but does its job very well, as many will verify.

There are a lot of people with the cure of the sprain, this cure can only be handed on from man to woman, some healers can make the cure over the phone, others tie strings around the affected area, while the laying of hands is another method used by healers. Susan Cumiskey, Michael Reynolds Hill St. Jim Foy Treanmore and Linda Logan all have the cure of the sprain, and all live in the town.

Michael Woods from Corrabegha, Gortvagh is a recognised animal bone-setter, as was his father and grand-father before him. While Pee Harkin of Glasdruman has the cure of Glasabula, or foot rot in cattle, which he inherited from Packie Reynolds also of Glasdruman.

Thomas Doherty Drumdoo has the cure of the burn. Thomas makes up a paste, which is applied, to the affected area. His mother



Peebles Grier
A famous healer from the past

History of the Crofton Estate

The third order of St. Francis, better known as the Franciscans, owned all the land, from Lisdadnan to Drumkilla including the Castle of Mohill, and the lands of Tullybradden. The Croftons first came to Mohill about the year 1650. The property belonging to the Franciscans was taken over by the Queen's army, and given to loyal members of the Crown, the Croftons were in that category. There was also a monastery in St. Mary's Church grounds which was also confiscated, Sir Morgan Crofton was the first landlord of Mohill, he was a very charitable and gentlemanly type of man, he did not believe in charging his tenants exorbitant rent, and he never turned any of his tenants out in the road, whether they paid rent or not. At that time the houses in the town of Mohill were all thatched. He had two men permanently employed thatching with oaten straw purchased from local farmers, at no cost to the tenant. He also provided a fair green where the farmers could sell their stock where stands the cattle mart now, and a butter market now in front of 'Swingers Nite Club', there is also a weighbridge in front of the Nite Club which can be seen at the present time. It was used by the farmers to weigh hay, straw, and cattle. He appointed a tolls collector to collect the tolls on fair and market days, the last collector I remember was Mr. Henry Nicholl.

Sir Morgan Crofton and Lord Leitrim had a game of poker in Rynn Castle, Sir Morgan got broke, but he backed Cloncahir House and land against a hand of cards, but Lord Leitrim won, and Sir Morgan was never able to redeem the property, and it remained part of the Lough Rynn estate until it was taken over by the Land Commission and given to Liam Ellis of Treanmore.

When Sir Morgan died, the property was taken over by his son, Sir Hugh Crofton who had just come of age. Sir Hugh was very friendly with Very Rev. Canon Donoghue, the then parish priest of Mohill, so much so that he gave the site of the present Catholic Church and Presbytery free of charge, Sir Hugh was a young man of very fine qualities, but died soon after coming of age and more is the pity. His death was a very severe blow to the town of Mohill and surrounding districts. His body lies at rest in the Crofton vault, situated alongside St. Mary's Church Mohill. After his death Messrs. Allen & Halpin, a firm of solicitors from Cavan was appointed agents to look after the affairs of the estate, and they continue to do so up to the present day (1988). Mr. Jeremiah Johnson was also appointed bailiff of the estate and he occupied the Castle of Mohill including the lands of Tullybradden. Mr. Johnson was an honourable gentleman of very high standing who carried out his duties in a just and fair manner as did his sons Mr. George and Mr. Berrie, when they took over from their father. Very Rev. Francis Donoghue represented the tenants at the buying out of their holdings everything was satisfactory enough except the turbary rights, which was not so popular at the time because the tenant could only cut and carry away, but had no right to the actual ground. There was a buying out certificate issued with each holding, and there was a paragraph with small print which stated the landlord reserve (this paragraph was incorporated in the middle of the certificate) the right to fish, shoot, and hunt on the said lands, now this right has never been revoked, and even though it is not exercised, it still stands.

At a later date the then Irish Land Commission took over the cutaway bog, for division among the tenants at a rent.

The estate still enjoys the services of a bailiff, in the person of Mr. John Wrynne of Gorravagh. Mr. Wrynne is prepared to deal with the most difficult situations to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

To the best of my knowledge and belief the above is a true account of life and times on the Crofton Estate.

By Larry Moran R.I.P 18th May 1988



Susan Cumiskey who has the "cure of the sprain"

gave it to him and he intends to give it to some of his daughters. People come from far and wide to Thomas, but his best customers are the travelling community who have great faith in him.

A great mystery surrounds this subject, some people are sceptical, but more and more we see people flocking to healers all over the world. Glenn Huddle one time Manager of the English Soccer team frequently sent his players to a healer. My own experience in this matter has been very positive, one of my sons has had thrush and shingles cured, while another has had ringworm successfully treated by a local healer. The people of Mohill have always shown great respect for the old cures and the variety of healers in the community. The healers themselves are custodians of a tradition that goes back thousands of year, and they have been handed the responsibility of keeping the tradition alive for the next few thousand years. May God bless their great work.



Thomas Doherty Cure of the Burn

Douglas De Híde

Tom Melia

Is mór an chúis náire dúinn i Maothail nach bhfuil níos mo déanta againn chun cuimhne Douglás De Híde a chur chun cinn. Bhí 'An Craoibhín Aoibhinn' ar cheann de na daoine ba mho cáil i stair na hÉireann i gcúrsaí polaitíochta, litríochta agus go háirithe i gcúrsaí cultúrtha na tíre.

Rugadh Douglás De Híde i gCaisleán an Riabhaigh sa bhliain 1860. Nuair a bhí sé seacht mbliana daois d'aistrigh a chlann go Tibohine in aice le Frenchpark, Co Roscomáin, nuair a ceapadh a athair mar reacthaire eaglaise ann.

Nuair a bhí Douglás ar scoil cónaithe i mBaile Atha Cliath buaileadh breoite é le brúitineach (measles) agus b'éigean do teacht abhaile go Tibohine. Bhí a athair agus a aintín mar mhúinteoirí aige sa bhaile. d'Eirigh sé cairdiúil le Seamus Hart nuair a bhí seisear fostaithe sa chomharsanacht mar maor seilge ag an tiarna talún in aice le Frenchpark. Bhí an ghaeilge go líofa ag Seamus agus bhí sé eolach i mbéaloideas na háite chomh maith. Bhí an ghaeilge ar a thoil ag Douglás i gcionn cúig de bhlianta agus é ag obair air gan cabhair. Is mar gheall ar an gcairdeas a bhí aige le Seamus Hart a d'fás spéis agus fíor-grá ann don teanga gaelach agus do chultúr na hÉireann. Chaith sé blianta ina dhiaidh sin ag bailiú staire agus scéalta béaloideas ó na sean daoine timpeall na háite.

Bhíodh an tOirmhinneach De Híde (sé sin a athair) cráite i gconaí le gúta (gout) agus bhí a mháthair tinn go minic agus dá brí sin chaith Douglás a lan ama timpeall ar Mhaothail. Bhí aintín le Douglás, Áine De Híde, pósta le Sean Kane i Maothail agus bhí aintín eile leis, Frances, pósta le Ard-déagánach Hunt, reacthaire eaglaise ar Mhaothail nuair a d'eirigh Arthur Hyde, a sheanathair, as an oifig in 1870. Ón dialann a choimead Douglás faighimid léargas ar an bhfíor-grá a bhí ag Douglás don cheantar timpeall ar Mhaothail agus ar Dhroimcille, áit a raibh cónaí ar a mhuintir.

Bhí Arthur, deartháir le Douglás, cráite le h-eitinn (T.B.) ar feadh roinnt blianta agus cailleadh go hóg é. hAdhlacadh sa reilig i Maothail é, reilig Naomh Mhuire.

Sa bhliain 1880 chuaigh Douglás ar an Ollscoil T.C.D. i mBaile Atha Cliath agus bhí sé in intinn a athar go rachadh se isteach san Eaglais, ach chuaigh sé leis an dlí agus glacadh mar abhcóide é sa bhliain 1888.

Ag an am céanna bhí díogras sa bhéaloideas agus sa teanga gaelach ag méadu go mór ann agus roghnaíodh é mar an chéad uachtarán ar Chonradh na Gaeilge sa bhliain 1893. Sa bhliain 1908 ceapadh é mar ollamh gaeilge i gColáiste na Tríonóide, ionad a choimead sé chomh fada le 1932, agus bhí sé ina uachtarán ar an gConradh suas go 1915. Bhí sé ar thaobh Cogadh na Saoirse cé nár ghlac sé páirt ann agus sa bhliain 1938 nuair a bunaíodh Bunreacht na hÉireann toghadh mar Uachtarán na hÉireann é. Chaith sé téarma mar uachtarán – troideadh an dara cogadh domhanda sna blianta sin – agus bhronn sé ómós agus gradam ar an oifig. Cailleadh é sa bhliain 1949 agus hadhlacadh é in aice le baile Frenchpark, i gContae Roscomáin. File, drámadóir, fear léighinn, tírghráthóir, fear béaloideas agus fear tí agus teallaigh abea Douglás De Híde. Is dóigh go raibh an ceart ag Lucy Sealy nuair a dúirt sí go mbeadh níos mo meas air mar gheall ar a ndearna sé i gcúrsaí litríochta ná mar a dhéanfadh sé dá mbeadh sé páirteach i gcúrsaí míleata ar son na hÉireann.

Elected Representatives From Mohill Area

THOMAS SMYTH M.P.

Tom Smyth a native of Tooman in Gortlettragh lived in Glebe St. Mohill for almost 20 years. He was an Irish Party M.P. in the House of Commons between 1906 and 1918. He was also chairperson of Leitrim G.A.A. County Board in 1907.

BEN MAGUIRE T.D.
Coolbawn, Mohill

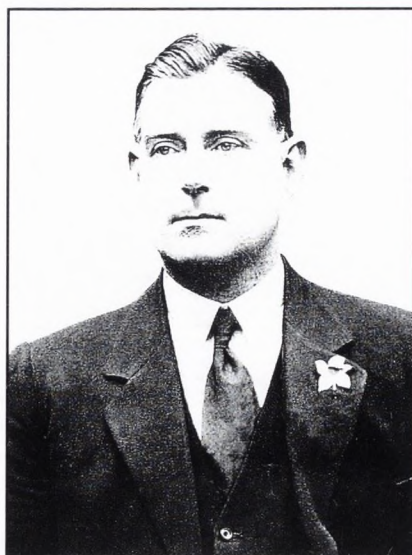
Elected Sligo-Leitrim	1927-1937
Elected Sligo-Leitrim	1937-1948
Elected Sligo-Leitrim	1951-1954

CHAIRMEN OF LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

Tim Ward	1921-1923
Pascal McKeon	1982-1983

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Thomas McGivney	1902-1920
Tim Ward	1920-1925
Frank McGinness	1928-1940
Michael Kilrane	1945-1985
John McLoughlin	1955-1960
Pascal McKeon	1967-1991
Pauline McKeon	1991-1999
Thomas Mulligan	1985-
Gerry McGee	1985-1991; 1999
Enda Stenson	1999-



Charlie Flynn
Gervagh

DRAMA IN MOHILL

Anthony Canning

*"Drama, song and dance, Shakespeare too
Ne'er came amiss...."*

The words of the Radio Eireann "Town Hall" presenter, Ian Priestly Mitchell come to mind when we review the part played by drama in the Mohill community.

Before the advent of television, the Canon Donohoe Hall was the centre of entertainment. The travelling shows stayed for a week and famous actors such as Ray McNally, Joe Lynch, Jimmy O'Dea and Anew McMaster held the audience spellbound. Many got their first taste of Shakespeare when they saw Anew McMaster in his superb role of Othello.

1900 – 1920's

The earliest mention of amateur drama in Mohill is in 1916, when it is recorded that the Musical Society performed the "Lord Mayor". Members of the cast included, C. Redahan, M.J. Kenny, Father J. Pinkman, T. Ryan, A. McGowan, E. Rowley and R. Kenny. The Mohill Dramatic Society was founded in the 1920's by Canon Masterson P.P.

"Professor Tim" was performed in 1928, with the following cast: J. Ellis, C. Redahan, Baby Kenny, May Higgins, J.J. Kelly, Tom McGovern, Josephine Dunleavy, F.M. Parker, T.F. Ryan, M.J. Kenny, B. Ellis, B. Nangle, C. McGovern, Canon Masterson directed.

"The White-Headed Boy" was the star event in the St. Patrick's night concert in 1929 and making their appearance were: Tom McGovern, Leo Agnew, Annie McGowan, Annie Kilcolum, R.A. McBrien, J.J. Kelly, Gerald Dunleavy, Joe Ellis, Josephine Dunleavy, Ursula Agnew, Baby Kenny. "Look at the Heffernan's" was presented in 1929.

The 1930's and 1940's

There are few references to dramatic activity in the 1930's and 40's, but "Heaps of Money" was staged in 1938 and "Charley's Aunt" - with Tom McGovern, J.J. Kelly, J.F. O'Sullivan, D.S. Dunleavy, Kitty Quigley, Maureen Cumiskey, M. Keegan, M. MCGarvey, P. Keating, Noreen McKenna, Eithne Maguire, May Rowley, - was a great hit with the audience in 1944.

The 1950's and 1960's

In the 1950's, the Dramatic Society changed its name to the St. Manachen's Players, with J.J. Kelly N.T. as the producer. Over the next few years, productions included: "The Money Doesn't Matter." (1958), "They Got What They Wanted" (1959), "Charley's Aunt" (1960), "Beautiful Dreamer" (1961), "Arsenic and Old Lace" (1962), "Tons of Money" (1963), "The Mummy and the Mumps" (1964), "My Wife's Family" (1965).

J.J. Kelly wrote two one act comedies "What's Yours is Mine" and "Beautiful Dreamer" which won the award for best play at the Cavan Drama Festival. Aidan McGovern won the best actor award at the same festival in 1961.

In 1969, the St. Manachen's players were briefly revived. "My

Wife's Family" was produced by Canon Rooney who was then C.C. in Mohill, in the following year, Art Ridge directed "The White-Headed Boy", Pat O'Malley-Bradshaw, Anita Shanley, Jack Canning, Monica Scallon, Joe Crossan, Maureen Kilrane, Jim Lalor, (who later won best actor award at many festivals) were prominent members of the Society at this time.

Others who gave great service "on the boards" in the 1960's were: Larry O'Sullivan, Patsy McTaggart, John F. O'Sullivan, Josie Winters, Tommie Donnelly, Deirdre Burns, Gerry Canning, Helen Moore, Peter Gordon.

The 1970's

In 1973, Garda Michael Casserly launched the Mohill Musical Society. During the next twenty-one years, the Society presented seventeen pantomimes. Michael Casserly, himself produced and acted in eleven of them. Tony O'Connell, (1976), Art Ridge (1977), Peadar Flynn (1991,'92,'93) and Sandra Vernon (1994) were other directors.

The first pantomime, "Cinderella" in 1973 was an instant success. Music, song, dance, comedy were intertwined with the traditional "Cinderella" theme.

The show was colourful, vibrant, exciting, with a broad appeal to young and old.

The community threw their weight behind this new project. The business people provided generous financial support, the local G.A.A. members constructed the stage and provided ushers for the performances. The I.C.A. and the Sisters of Mercy supplied refreshments for the cast, which numbered fifty. The audiences were enthralled and the show played to packed houses for an energy-sapping week.

Among the many memorable performances were Michael Casserly (as the prince), Barney McCauley and Vincent Reynolds (as the ugly sisters), Pat Stenson (as Dandini), Tony O'Connell (as Buttons), Olga Logan (as the Fairy Godmother), Margaret Gallagher (as Cinderella), Mike Joe Reynolds (as Rudolf).

Over the next ten years, the "pantomime" became an important social and cultural event in the local calendar and was eagerly looked forward to each year. The productions became more ambitious, with sparkling costumes, special lighting and sound effects. The introduction of a five-piece orchestra added a new dimension to the show. Pre-booking was essential at O'Beirne's and tickets for the final night were as eagerly sought as those for an All-Ireland final.

Some memorable highlights of the shows of the seventies were: Pat Gallagher and Patsy McGowan in the doctor-sketch and Phil Casserly as Snow-White (1975), Alf Rowley as Boy Blue (Bo-Peep 1977), Michael Solon as the Prince in Little Red Riding Hood (1976), Annette Kivlehan as Zeralda and Mick Keane as Prince ("Sinbad" 1978), Michael McGuinness as Sir Rodney (Bo-Peep 1977), June McDonnell as Princess Gwendoline, Gerry McGovern (Quackser), Gerry Stenson (Mackser), John Francis Reynolds ("The Dame"), and Sean McKeon (The King) in "Puss in Boots" (1979).

In addition to those mentioned, the following were prominent in the cast and chorus of many productions at this time: Bernadette Clynn, Dolly Reynolds, Marie Beirne, Mai Reynolds, Olivia and Monica Scallon, Fran McGuinness, Mary and Mena Mitchell, Breege Mitchell,

Pat Morrissey, Agnes Feely, Maureen Keane, Mary Stenson, Peg Beirne, Geraldine McGarry, Maureen Keane, Nuala Foley, M. Kennedy, Jihn McDonnell, T. McGuinness, Sean Colreavy, Kevin Mitchell, Stephen Kerr, Brendan Beirne, Mark Reynolds, David Cooke, Gerry Beirne, Brendan Foy, Enda Stenson, Seamus Callaghan, Tom Reynolds, Imelda Stenson, Noleen Foy, Mary T. Beirne, Veronica Foy, Jim Faughnan, Mary McHugh.

In the late seventies the Mohill Musical Society entered for "the Tops of the Town" competition and won the overall award in 1978 and 1979 as well as prizes for the best original item and best comedy item. Many of those listed above took part as well as such noted "comics" as Hubie Reynolds Gerry Beirne Oliver Higgins and Tish Dunleavy. In 1978 Father Gene Cox who was Assistant producer of many pantomimes directed Peg Of my Heart a stylish comedy which featured Margaret McCaffrey, Margaret Gallagher, Jackie Beirne, Mary Brennan, Nicholas Cawley, John Francis Reynolds, Pat o Hanlon, and Anne Burke who made a splendid stage debut in the title role.

The 1980's

The Pantomime tradition was continued in the early 1980's with "Rumplestilskin" (1980) and "Captain Prawn Puss" (1981). "The old reliables" continued to form the backbone of the company, but an infusion of "new blood" in the persons of: Mary McIntyre, Theresa O'Sullivan, Mary Reynolds, Regina McGuinness, Marian Lynch, Phil Duignan, Sandra Rowley, Isabel Boyle, Teresa and Breege Wynne, Aiden Hackett, Robert Logan, Geraldine McKeon, Deirdre McDonnell, Mary McKeon, Eamonn Moffat, Frank Cunnion, Pdraig Guckian; - added new vitality to the show.

In 1982, the Society celebrated it's tenth anniversary by staging a repeat of "Cinderella" with the same cast as in 1973, bar a few exceptions, most notably Eilish Callaghan as "Cinderella". "The Sleeping Beauty" followed in 1983, with many familiar faces including Frank Cunnion as "Dracula", Eamonn Moffitt as "The Lord Chancer", Dolly Reynolds as the "Fairy Godmother".

There was no show in 1984, but a rejuvenated cast and chorus presented "Old King Cole" in 1985. A break of five years followed. The rumours of the demise of the Pantomime format, like that of Mark Twain's death proved widely exaggerated, for in 1990, the Society was re-organised and soon rehearsals were in full swing again.

The 1990's to the Present

Some thought that the counter attractions of the small screen would be too much competition for the Pantomime, but they need not have worried. The long queues outside the hall, showed that the public's hunger for live entertainment was as strong as ever. The 1990 production of "Treasure Island" featured an influx of young, enthusiastic and talented members like Gerry McLoughlin, Caroline Moran, Cormac Rowley, Pdraig McLoughlin, Lucia Tyrell, Lynda Logan, Conor Murphy, Phil Doherty, John McGuinness, Debbie Lynch, Cathy Canning, Leo Reynolds, Deborah Kivlehan, Francis Gannon, Siobhan Lavin, Dermot Murphy, to name but a few.

Dick Whittington

Peadar Flynn made a successful debut as director with "Humpty-Dumpty"(1991) and followed this with "Robin Hood" (1992) and the "Wizard of Oz" (1993). The last pantomime of the decade was

produced by Sandra Vernon. Memorable performances were Pat Gallagher (as Long John Silver in Treasure Island), Gerry Beirne and Pdraig McLoughlin (as Squawk and Squeek in "Humpty Dumpty"), Peadar Reynolds (Tinman), Sean Reynolds (Scarecrow), Seamus McLoughlin (Lion), Conor Murphy (Crocodile Dundee)...in "The Wizard of Oz".

A glance at some of the programmes, shows that all sections of the community were represented. Here follows a sample selection, including some of the stage helpers: Charles Canning, Lucy Brennan, Noelle Canning, Sandra McDermott, Catherine Wynne, Bridie Carroll, Angela Malone, Regina McLoughlin, Claire Quinn, Sharon and Fiona Lloyd, Irene Keighran, Karen Lennon, Liz Moran, Claire Ward, Fiona Taylor, Doreen Mitchell, Sasha O'Brien, Frances Hackett, Leona Murphy, Jackie Brady, Par Beirne, Louise O'Brien, Suzie Gill, Clint Taylor, Noelle Farrelly, Patricia Canning.

Down the years, the Mohill Musical Society was fortunate to have the artistic and creative talents of choreographers, Marie Beirne, Phil Casserly, Annette Kivlehan, and Clare Quinn, as well as the musical skills of John F. O'Sullivan, Michael Solon, Ian Lee, Michael Dunleavy, Robert Logan, Mai Conroy, Christy Armstrong, Martina Hackett, who were Musical Directors of the various shows.

The Mohill Musical Society again took part in the "Tops of the Town" competition in 1993 and 1994 and were awarded the runner-up spot in '93.

Michael Casserly revived the Mohill Dramatic Society at the end of the 1990's. He directed (and again took part) in two successful productions: "The Field" (1997) and "The New Gossoon" (1998), which featured Pdraig McLoughlin, Frank Cadam, Annette Kivlehan, Peadar Reynolds, Des Foley, Seamus McLoughlin, John and Paul McGuinness, Jarlath Gallagher, Philip Casserly, Gerry McLoughlin, Dolly Reynolds, Mick Keane, Peadar Flynn, Father Pat Kiernan, Gerry Beirne. Many of these were veterans of many pantomimes and in this way they were continuing the high standards of Mohill dramatic tradition.

Conclusion

The above is but a short account of the part that drama played in Mohill life. Behind ever show / production there is a host of stories of missed cues, wrong entrances or no entrance at all, improvised lines, and various mishaps that occurred behind the stage. Unfortunately, space does not allow a recital of these humorous events.

We celebrate the literally hundreds of actors, actresses, musicians, comedians, singers and dancers who enriched our lives by their talented performances. There are also numerous others, who worked unselfishly behind the scenes, designing sets, promoting, working on costumes, and lighting - doing the thousand and one hobs that are required to stage any production. It is only fitting that their contribution should also be acknowledged.

It is regrettable that it was impossible to list more of the huge number who were involved in Drama in Mohill. Many of those mentioned have now gone to their eternal reward R.I.P., but no doubt they are still treading the "boards" in the heavenly halls of Paradise and entertaining the blessed, just as they did in the Canon Donohue Hall. This article is dedicated to their memory.

Footnote:-

The writer would like to thank John Palmer, (grand-son of J.J. Kelly N.T.) for the use of his project on "Drama in Mohill" which formed the basis of this article.



Mohill Musical Society 1976 - Red Riding Hood 1976

- 1st row: A. Bermingham, J. Bermingham, B. Gallagher, C. Keating.,
 2nd row: P. Stenson, J. O'Sullivan, S. McGovern, A. Canning, P. Gallagher, A. Rowley, M. Solan, M. Gallagher, P. McGowan, M.J. Reynolds, J. McDonald, S. McKeon, T O'Connell,
 3rd row: J. Gallagher, I. Stenson, M Reynolds, C. Keating, G. McKeon, N. Foy, M. McGowan, P Beck, M. Lloyd, J.McDonald, T. Lombard, A. Feely, D.Reynolds, G. Heslin, M. Keane, S. Wynne, P. Morrissey, S. Tyrell,
 4th row: G. Canning. O. Logan, M. McCaffrey, B. Clyne, M. Beirne, B. Solan, F. McGlynn, P. Gaffey, P.J. Reynolds, M. Keane.



Drama in Mohill
 "The New Gosssoon" Performed in Canon Donohue Hall in 1998

The Leitrim Resource Centre (*Mohill*) for the Unemployed

The Leitrim Resource Centre for the Unemployed is now an established part of the local community of Mohill and its surrounding area. The centre's establishment was encouraged by the Sligo Council of Trade Unions, under the auspices of ICTU, FAS and County Leitrim Partnership who felt that there was a pressing need to assist the unemployed, particularly the long term unemployed, those at risk of unemployment and the disadvantaged in South Leitrim. Drawing on the experience of our centre in Manorhamilton it was decided in 1997 to proceed with the setting up of the Mohill centre, which, since its inception been part of a network of similar centres throughout Ireland both North and South each supporting one another in the provision of support services and helping to identify and implement programmes from which the community will benefit.

The primary focus of the centre is to provide services to the unemployed, which include information on entitlements, job, educational and training options with a secretarial backup service, while also providing support and assistance towards securing sustainable employment and placements.

The function of the Centre in relation to its Project Workers is to broaden their skills base, through the provision

of training and work experience, specifically in the services industry, to enable them to secure full time employment.

In relation to the unemployed and the community as a whole, the function of the Centre is to provide a free comprehensive information service to include entitlements, educational, work and training opportunities,

In the past 3 years the centre has engaged in several projects which we are sure that have helped the community in one way or another. One major project the centre is currently involved in is the provision of a drop in point for the collection and recycling of disused drink cans. This project benefits the community in two ways (1) it helps to promote a clean environment and (2) acts as a small fundraiser to maintain the facilities. In addition participants from the project have become involved in the Community Watch, recently started in the town. A recent addition to the activities has been the establishment of the President's Award Scheme "Gaisce" for young people in the 15-25 age group. This we hope will lead to the establishment of an Adventure Club in Mohill and its surrounding area.

In this short article it is impossible to cover all the activities but interested persons are invited to call and see for themselves the work of the centre at Hyde Street, Mohill. Telephone 078 32043.



St. Patrick's Day Parade 1997



Official Opening of the Mohill Festival 1995



Bishop Hackett and Brother Frank 1980 in Knock



The Foley Brothers from Tulcon James (R.I.P.) & Patrick R.I.P.

The Clements Family

- Lough Rynn -

Dr. Arthur Dolan

The first members of the Clements family to come to Ireland were two brothers Daniel and Abraham who joined Cromwell's army as cavalry troopers for his campaign in Ireland. To join the cavalry even in the ranks, a man had to provide his own horse, arms and equipment. Hence the higher social calibre of the army to this day.

Both served in the campaigns of the 1640's - 50's and both were rewarded with land escheated from Irish rebels in County Cavan - Abraham at Kilnacrott Abbey near Lough Sheelin and Daniel at Rathkenny near Tullyvin between Coothill and Cavan town. Both probable acquired additional land from their comrades.

In England before the civil war, the family were yeoman farmers dealing in small quantities of land. They were devout Protestants and Daniel's father and three elder brothers emigrated to New England c. 1630 leaving two younger sons with relations in Leicester.

Like many of the new settlers Daniel married a lady whose surname has not been recorded giving rise to suspicion that she may have been an Irish Catholic. This is borne out by the fact that he states in his will very emphatically that none of his descendants may inherit any of his property if they were Roman Catholics. It also recoded that he showed kindness and gave help to fugitive members of the MacMahon family, a risky proceeding had he been caught.

Daniel's son, Robert, served as an MP for Cavan and had three sons. The youngest son Nathaniel followed his father into Parliament and was very successful. At the zenith of his career he virtually controlled the finances of Ireland, customs, army etc. and was also involved in banking and property development in Dublin. One of his sinecures was Warden and ranger of the Phoenix park with the right to build a house in the park for himself. This house originally called Phoenix Lodge was sold to the Government by his widow and now forms the centre block of Aras an Uachtarain. He married Hannah Gore, whose family had much political influence and through her acquired 10,000 Irish acres in the Mohill area subsequently the Lough Rynn Estate. He also had large holdings in County Donegal and some land in County Cavan near his brothers property at Rathkenny.

His eldest son was created Earl of Leitrim. His younger son Henry was also an MP and had the Cavan property Ashfield and also a house near Dublin.

The second Earl settled the Leitrim property on his eldest son Robert who took Rynn townland into lands as his Demesne and built a fairly modest house on a beautiful natural site near the ruined tower of the MacRaghnaill castle.

Both Robert and his younger brother William Sydney (afterwards 3rd Earl) believed implicitly that it was the duty of a landowner to reside on his estates, give employment and nominally see to the welfare of his tenants. This theory became almost obsessive. It is probable that they could see disaster ahead owing to the very rapid increase in population and the increasing dependance on the potato as a staple item of diet.

Mohill Credit Union

A Brief History

Eileen Boyle

In 1969 a group of people from the parish of Mohill came together to study the rules and regulations governing credit unions in Ireland. After 18 months of meetings in the Vocational School in Mohill, a meeting was held in the Canon Donohoe Hall and the following were elected to the first Board of Directors of Mohill Credit Union -

Paddy Keating, Willie Burns, Eamon Duignan R.I.P., Jackie Canning, Tim Slevin, Brendan Casey, John Hynes, Gabriel Moran and Sheila Burns R.I.P.

The Credit Union was established in 1971. Collections were taken up after Mass on Sundays in the Canon Dohohoe Hall.

During the late 1970's and 1980's as the membership continued to grow the then Board of Directors decided to look for office accommodation in the town. A premises was purchased in Green Road and converted to office accommodation. As the Credit Union progressed the opening hours were extended and the parishes of Cloone and Gortletteragh were incorporated into Mohill Credit Union.

In the early 90's again in response to the growth in membership a site was purchased from Leitrim County Council at Convent Lane in the town and the present Credit Union Building was erected. It was opened in December 1995 just over 25 years since the study group was formed. The Credit Union now has membership in excess of 1650, savings in the region of £2m with almost half of that on loan to members and is still run by a dedicated group of Directors which include some of the founder members.



Mohill Credit Union

Scenes of Mohill



◀ Mohill, 1954

Upper Main Street, Mohill ▶



◀ Main Street, Mohill

Lower Main St., Mohill ▶



◀ Green Road, '40's



The Monastery of Mohill

Michael Whelan

There is very little historical information about the monastery of St Manachan at Mohill, but we do know that there was a monastery founded by Manachan at Mohill as early as 500 A.D., for we are told in the Annals of Tighernach that Manachan died in 538 A.D. This Manachan is not to be confused with another Manachan who had a monastery at Lemanaghan in the parish of Ballinahown in Co Offaly, and whose shrine is still kept in the Catholic church of Boher in that same parish. The feast day of Manachan of Mohill has always been given as Feb 14th but when one adds 11 days as must be done according to the Gregorian calendar, adopted in England in 1752 A.D., this feast-day falls on Feb 25th, the date everyone knows as Monaghan Day, the great fair-day of Mohill.

About the year 1216 the monastery and the lands attached for its upkeep, Lisdadnan, Coolabaun, Cappagh, Tullybradan, Drumcroy, Gortfada and Drumkilla, were taken over by the Canons Regular of St Augustine, a religious order that was brought to Ireland by Malachy, Archbishop of Armagh in order to infuse new zeal into the church in Ireland. It was called St Mary's. Altogether we can count 81 such Augustinian houses that made their appearance in Ireland at this period, most of which lasted until the dissolution of the monasteries in the time of Henry VIII (1509–1547). The title Canons Regular means that the monks adhered to the Rule of St Augustine (regula is the latin for rule). However, the order differs somewhat from the Augustinian Order of today (OSA), although one could say that they are "ecclesiastical first cousins". The Augustinian Priory of Mohill was a dependency of the monastery of Abbeyderg, Abbeyshrule, Co Longford.

The Annals of the Four Masters, which is a year-by-year history of Ireland from pre-Celtic times until 1616 A.D., mentions Mohill monastery a number of times.

1330 A.D. The coarb of (St) Caillin, Gilla-na-naev Mac Celle, died in the monastery of Maethail.

1486 A.D. The Prior of Maethail, Farrell, the son of Robert Mac Rannall, died.

An interesting privilege that belonged to the monastery of Mohill was the right of sanctuary to a fugitive fleeing from his enemies as is stated in the Annals of the Four Masters under the year 1430 A.D.

Brian, the son of Tiernan Og O'Rourke, was slain by the sons of Melaghlin Mac Rannall, at Maethail-Mhanchain; and Donough Mac Tiernan was driven into the monastery of Maethail. Donough, however, came out of his own accord, for the sake of his people, on Mac Rannall's guarantee; and made peace between them; and an eric (compensation) was given to O'Rourke for the death of Brian.

In 1475 A.D. the Priory of St Mary at Mohill was stated to be 'conventual' and independent. On the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century the possessions included seven carucates or cartrons of land (about 560 acres). In 1590 A.D. the monastic possessions amounted to a church, two stone buildings and a cemetery of half an acre in area and three cartrons of land (about 240 acres). In the plantation of Leitrim under King James I the monastery and its possessions were granted to Henry Crofton. The Church of Ireland now stands on the site of Manachan's monastery and is also called St Mary's.

(The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance given him by Rev David Kelly OSA (Augustinian Provincial Archivist), St Augustine's, Taylor's Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16.)

Mohill and the War of Independence

Michael Whelan

Early in 1921 when the War of Independence was reaching fever pitch and Leitrim county had begun to play a considerable part in the struggle, the British military authorities dispatched a large regiment of soldiers into North Roscommon and South Leitrim. The regiment made Boyle its headquarters but companies were dispatched to Ck-on –Shannon, Drumshanbo and Mohill. The force was known as the Bedfordshire–Hertfordshire regiment and many in the ranks had seen action in the Great War (1914-'18). Shortly after its arrival a contingent from the regiment was ambushed at Sheemore, Ck-on –Shannon by an I.R.A. Flying column led by Sean Mitchell, a native of Drumreilly and a shop-assistant in Mohill. In the engagement the English force was routed, suffering a number of casualties, and was forced to flee back to Ck-on Shannon. However, just one week later, 11th March 1921, a group from the same regiment surprised and almost annihilated a unit of another I.R.A. column at Seltan in the Gortvagh district of Mohill, killing six members. The story of the tragedy of Seltan Hill is related in the booklet, Gortvagh 1677–1987, published in 1987. The Bedfordshire–Hertfordshire regiment used to send accounts of its activities in Ireland back home to its headquarters in England. These accounts were entered in a battalion magazine and are now very useful to historians researching the period. Here we publish the account of the battalion staying at Mohill as given by its regiment correspondent J.R.H. Ellery.

Mohill Notes

Leitrim Observer 1921

On the 25-2-21 we detrained at Carrick to re-embark on two Crossley tenders. When the drivers saw us together with our baggage their faces dropped, and they informed us none too politely that we were much too heavy and that it was absolutely impossible to take us, but, however, after a long altercation we managed to get a move on, and set off for Mohill with our hearts full of joy and our pockets full of emptiness. On arriving at that ... corner of the "Emerald Isle" we discovered that our quarters were the "Poor House", which under the circumstances one might say was very appropriate.

The first few days were spent in settling down and casting our eyes about the place, which proved to be a little better after a careful reconnaissance. Soon the work started and the troops got into the regular routine of life.

To turn to the sporting side of life, we started practising footer with the idea of showing the R.I. C. what we could do in that line, with the result that a match was arranged, but, unfortunately an enthusiast in putting a finish to his practice put a finish to the game by busting our one-and-only ball, which rather disappointed us.

The first detachment to be sent to Mohill did many odd jobs whilst there, one being acting as the local Fire Brigade when the Power Station was burnt to the ground. The 'Troops' were quite popular in Mohill on the whole, although by no means liked by the Sinn Fein element of the district, and we were almost sorry when relief came, although we wanted a change from the work.

A Mohill Poet

Michael Whelan

Bernard Grey was born and reared in Finiskill, a townland that lies along the Mohill-Keshcarrigan road less than three miles north of Mohill. Bernard began writing poems when he was very young, and a published volume (1909 A.D.) can now be seen in the County Library in Ballinamore. His poems are interesting in that they tell the story of some local incident or praise some local place. Bernard spent most of his life abroad - England and the United States - but returned home to his native Finiskill in his old age. Indeed, the poem given here is in praise of that same townland. He died in 1952.

My Own Loved Finiskill

*I know a spot beyond the wave, not far from Shannon's side
Where I have spent some happy hours,
where still my thoughts abide;
'Tis only an humble country place beside a murmuring rill,
'Tis the home that I was born in, my own loved Finiskill.*

*Though unworthy of a bardie's scroll it charms has for me,
I'd like to view those crystal brooks that flow on to the sea,
I'd like to roam through those green vales, not far from Logan's mill,
'Tis the idol of my nightly dreams, my own loved Finiskill.*

*Fond memory now brings to me some thoughts of bygone hours,
When with schoolmates gay I used to stray
along those shady bowers;
As the fleeting wind we were free from care, to roam we had a will,
While or dreams were all of Erin and our own loved Finiskill.*

*Like schoolboys we were wayward, then for learning were not bent,
We often lingered by the shades when we to school were sent;
Though our teacher bright would always like our
minds with lore to fill,
And the local school was standing in my own loved Finiskill.*

*Those schoolboys then so jovial are now all in manhood's train,
And I fancy that they often wish that they were boys again;
Some of them are in foreign climes, and some the soil do till-
The soil of this spot so dear to me, my own loved Finiskill.*

*I've seen some lordly castles, and I've viewed
some mansions grand,
I've seen the domes where once did dwell the rulers of our land.
But I'd sooner dwell in that little cot beside the murmuring rill
Than dwell in a mansion far away from my own loved Finiskill.*

*On this earthly ball this little spot to me the fairest seems,
Now home, dear home, you are indeed the idol of my dreams;
Green Erin's isle I love thee, and return to thee I will,
When the sun of freedom shines upon my own loved Finiskill.*



Bernard Grey (Poet)
Finiskill, Mohill Died 1952



Francis Bohan with Don Reynolds Eslin P.O.



Cannings Pub, Main Street 1969

Births, Marriages & Deaths

	BIRTHS	MARRIAGES	DEATHS
FROM 1905 TO 1909	367	81	
FROM 1910 TO 1919	859	221	
FROM 1920 TO 1929	782	176	
FROM 1930 TO 1939	845	127	
FROM 1940 TO 1949	1072	125	
FROM 1950 TO 1959	617	130	
FROM 1960 TO 1969	432	58	271
FROM 1970 TO 1979	391	123	344
FROM 1980 TO 1989	371	119	273
FROM 1990 TO 1999	258	91	339

1836 TO 1899 – RECORDED IN CATHOLIC REGISTERS.

Marriages: 1316
Deaths: 2392

	BIRTHS	DEATHS
Reynolds	920	283
Moran	274	82
Bohan	259	81

Baptisms

Mohill Roman Catholic baptism register commenced in 1836. Baptism statistics for 10 year periods from that date are as follows (we only have baptism records up to 1899):

From 1836 to 1845 inclusive: 2750 baptisms
From 1846 to 1855 inclusive: 1750 baptisms
From 1856 to 1865 inclusive: 1590 baptisms
From 1866 to 1875 inclusive: 1220 baptisms
From 1876 to 1885 inclusive: 1150 baptisms
From 1886 to 1895 inclusive: 1020 baptisms

We also compiled Census figures for Leitrim Roman Catholic parishes for the years 1841, 1851, 1991, 1996, and the figures for Mohill are as follows:

YEAR	POPULATION
1841	11,705
1851	7,736
1991	2,063
1996	2,090



The Murder of William O'Brien 1861

William O'Brien, a small local landlord lived in the townland of Cavan. He owned a small estate of which the townlands of Stuck and Gorticleary was a part. He served notice of eviction on all his tenants, as he wanted to use the land for his own livestock.

A wave of fear and anger gripped the whole Eslin area, as people had already paid their rents and were not in arrears. People met in their cabins in the dead of night to decide what measures they could take. A number of men in the area decided to take O'Brien to task. A plan was put in place and his movements were watched closely.

It was in the month of October and the tenants had not complied with his orders. William O'Brien had set in motion the plans for a forced eviction. He visited the RIC barracks in Corraterriff a short distance from his home.

Then the following day he went to Mohill on foot. On his way home a dark October evening a number of men attacked him on Drumdoo hill a half mile from his home. Seeing that his life was in danger O'Brien broke away from his attackers and made a run for it across the fields. He was hit to the head as he scrambled through a hedge. His attackers knew if he escaped, the hangman's knot would be their faith. They finished him off on the spot thus ensured he could not carry out his plans of eviction. The local constabulary found his body the next day and a murder investigation was set in place. Many local farmers were arrested and interrogated but no one was ever charged with his murder. This happened in the month of October 1869

Population Trends in the Parish of Mohill

Michael Whelan & Tom Melia

The population of ancient Ireland was by no means large at any time. Even as late as the mid- seventeenth century – Cromwellian times – the population was less than one million. It was from about 1780 A.D. onwards that Ireland began to experience an upward trend in its population. This trend began to exceleerate until by 1841 the population of the country had reached in excess of eight millions. The taking of the first full, official census by the government of the time began in 1821 and this exercise has continued on a ten-yearly basis (sometimes more frequently) ever since. In Co Leitrim the 1841 census reveals that Mohill as a parish had the highest population figure for the county with 11,688, almost half the total population of the county today. Kiltoghert was second and Cloonclare (Manorhamilton) was third. By 1851 the Great Famine (1845-'47) was over and the utter devastation that it left in its wake was reflected in a drop in population for Co Leitrim from 155,297 in 1841 to 111,915 in 1851. Mohill was no longer the leading parish, population-wise.

It suffered much more than other parishes, for while the average population fall for the county was 27 % the fall for Mohill was 34%. As the following table shows the population decline for the parish has continued unabated down to recent times. Happily, the census for 1996 shows a slight reverse and with the national economic situation showing such marked improvement it is hoped that Mohill in the next census will register a substantial population increase. As has been mentioned in a foregoing article on placenames, Cloonlaughil, Tullyoran and Mullaghriigny are partly in the parish of Gortletteragh, although the total census figure for each of those townlands appears in the figures listed below.

Census figures for each townland in the parish of Mohill

TOWNLAND	1841	1851	1861	1901	1926	1951	1971	1991	1996
AGHADRUMCARN	106	78	67	51	37	30	21	9	9
AGHADRUMDERG	28	25	38	59	59	59	32	24	20
AGHAKILFAUGHNA	10	7	15	3	3	15	13	6	5
AGHINACROSS	12	4	8	12	6	-	-	-	-
ANNAGHDERG LOWER	94	22	18	20	10	3	10	-	4
ANNAGHDERG UPPER	50	21	21	7	11	6	-	4	-
ATTIMANUS	135	101	89	83	68	49	19	10	6
BOEESHIL	23	6	17	119	40	-	4	48	46
BREANDRUM (KING)	81	52	51	31	32	18	5	14	17
BREANDRUM (PEYTON)	70	43	50	38	29	17	10	11	15
BUNKILLEEN	71	24	23	17	22	8	6	2	1
BUNNYBEG	94	25	29	13	17	9	2	5	4
BUNNYMORE LOWER	78	5	5	9	7	5	4	4	4
BUNNYMORE UPPER	53	39	3	7	9	3	1	-	3
CAPPAGH	49	39	16	10	23	26	9	124	133
CARRICK	42	41	45	36	24	24	9	7	6
CARRIGEEN	93	55	67	42	40	27	10	42	37
CARTRON	46	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-
CAVAN	56	42	26	38	26	12	12	10	15
CLARASHINNAGH	7	6	3	5	8	3	1	8	5
CLOONBO	60	41	40	28	17	8	4	6	6
CLOONCAHIR	21	9	5	35	23	19	9	7	8
CLOONLAUGHIL	13	3	4	11	8	2	1	-	-
COOLABAUN	34	38	23	55	48	37	46	41	44
CORGBOGHIL	34	23	13	13	15	9	10	7	6
CORDUFF	70	24	32	24	22	20	5	8	9
CORDUFF HILL	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CORGALLION	44	33	22	19	14	11	14	12	10
CORGAR	64	29	46	25	20	15	10	8	7
CORLASKAGH	65	43	30	7	30	25	11	14	16

Census figures cont...

<u>TOWNLAND</u>	<u>1841</u>	<u>1851</u>	<u>1861</u>	<u>1901</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>1996</u>
CORLEA	99	38	41	9	29	17	27	23	23
CORMORE	40	8	17	18	14	6	2	1	-
CORNAGEEHA	52	11	11	11	4	8	-	-	-
CORNAGRESHA NORTH	73	55	49	27	14	13	11	1	1
CORNAGRESHA SOUTH	83	28	40	8	18	5	4	10	10
CORNEE	104	60	67	43	32	23	16	17	14
CORRABEAGH	199	63	66	41	63	36	21	12	18
CORRACABOON	39	24	12	11	8	7	3	2	1
CORRACRAMPH NORTH	13	10	11	1	7	7	-	-	-
CORRATERRIFF NORTH	21	12	9	16	6	3	3	5	2
CORRATERRIFF SOUTH	25	20	33	30	17	8	10	4	4
CROSSDRUMMAN	50	45	31	25	29	13	8	12	13
CURRAGHA	100	69	69	36	19	6	8	4	6
CURRAUN	304	142	151	87	72	51	26	16	17
CURRAGHOAGHRY	74	38	23	17	13	13	6	5	4
DOONARAH	46	31	27	13	22	9	5	6	2
DRIMNA	69	25	37	34	20	15	12	5	3
DRUMBEIGHRA	89	41	55	31	26	14	12	9	12
DRUMBOY	315	163	161	77	66	59	34	55	39
DRUMCOLLAGAN	118	66	80	65	45	48	24	15	12
DRUMCROY	52	26	22	11	5	4	-	11	14
DRUMDART	81	40	51	35	24	15	9	10	9
DRUMDOO	240	74	83	62	53	25	26	42	34
DRUMGARN	59	38	49	21	22	7	12	7	7
DRUMGOWNAGH	151	10	25	18	25	17	18	16	17
DRUMHANY	46	36	39	11	11	12	6	5	2
DRUMHANY NORTH	36	20	27	31	19	23	6	11	9
DRUMHANY SOUTH	101	49	64	18	22	12	14	7	7
DRUMHIRK	39	28	21	7	4	9	2	1	1
DRUMKILLA	39	34	30	17	8	8	2	4	7
DRUMKILLEEN	75	13	16	15	15	11	5	7	6
DRUMLARA	183	78	66	45	37	202	16	6	4
DRUMLOWAN	90	34	43	32	30	12	15	6	5
DRUMNID	104	55	64	32	24	13	8	9	8
DRUMOGHTY BEG	37	54	46	53	31	9	10	4	5
DRUMOGHTY MORE	39	21	25	14	21	11	6	4	3
DRUMOULA	35	20	39	32	15	8	2	1	1
DRUMRAGHOOL NORTH	105	60	86	62	42	38	20	29	26
DRUMRAGHOOL SOUTH	123	86	90	59	47	26	22	4	4
DRUMRAHAN	75	50	45	30	15	11	4	16	17
DRUMREASK	66	23	39	28	18	7	6	2	3
DRUMREGAN	69	69	69	34	28	26	11	5	4
FINISKIL	139	90	80	61	37	37	9	19	20
GARVAGH	204	122	46	32	21	26	24	12	12
GLASDRUMMAN	82	50	49	36	32	22	26	20	17
GORTANURE NORTH	112	49	29	22	33	10	13	14	15
GORTAVACAN	24	11	14	3	15	9	17	8	10
GORTFADDA	80	49	44	22	11	17	12	30	37
GORTNALUG	48	33	28	17	16	21	4	8	8
GORTYCLERY	62	45	39	32	32	20	7	11	10
GREENAUN	88	70	48	24	28	9	9	8	7
GUBADRUISH	104	70	76	42	36	22	17	11	9
KEELOGE	30	24	20	7	8	2	2	1	3
KILDOO	39	7	6	8	9	16	3	3	2
KILLAMAUN	354	164	154	148	85	77	29	35	35
KNOCKALONGFORD	90	47	16	13	16	-	-	15	34
LABBYESLIN	17	14	9	14	10	10	7	10	10

Census figures cont...

TOWNLAND	1841	1851	1861	1901	1926	1951	1971	1991	1996
LAHEEN NAMONA	25	15	13	16	16	13	8	8	4
LAHEEN NORTH	84	9	6	4	5	8	4	6	6
LAHEEN SOUTH	119	34	29	6	14	4	2	2	1
LEITRIM LOWER	91	82	71	38	41	30	23	12	8
LEITRIM UPPER	114	58	65	63	48	38	20	14	10
LISDADANAN	129	103	85	41	48	17	26	32	29
LISDRUMGIVEL LOWER	65	23	23	15	13	8	7	7	7
LISDRUMGIVEL UPPER	45	21	22	4	2	3	1	1	1
LOSOMADAUN	141	72	77	15	28	20	13	4	3
MEELICK	78	46	36	30	24	21	10	2	2
MOHERNAMEELA	51	36	32	15	9	7	11	10	8
MOHILL	15	-	44	-	-	-	-	37	31
MONEYROE	29	14	16	11	10	12	11	3	4
MUCKLOUGHER	64	41	43	31	19	17	14	16	12
MULLAGHRIGNY	42	10	6	12	10	2	-	-	-
MULLAUN	47	37	34	12	10	13	5	2	2
OGHILL	64	49	48	27	31	17	12	16	13
ROOSKY	60	42	20	10	14	11	10	9	9
ROSDOOWAUN	102	61	38	44	30	29	26	23	19
ROSHARRY	144	112	109	75	42	24	20	2	3
SELTAN	35	35	30	23	17	9	8	8	7
SHANNAGH	102	74	87	37	12	2	17	9	6
SHIVDILLA	65	37	42	24	27	23	4	3	6
SHOALMORE	106	46	36	17	20	14	17	17	34
SKEAMARTIN	18	9	10	4	5	4	2	5	3
SPRINGFIELD	45	27	30	20	16	11	10	7	6
SRAGARN	164	80	102	73	54	28	21	11	8
SRATRISSAUN NORTH	77	64	63	55	27	23	18	6	6
SRATRISSAUN SOUTH	105	31	54	32	31	26	18	20	22
STUCK	78	70	46	34	39	21	20	13	13
TAMLAGHTAVALLY	134	105	119	57	53	31	18	18	17
TAMLAGHT BEG	88	61	65	37	26	21	26	32	33
TAMLAGHT MORE	214	95	88	40	47	38	46	40	80
TAWNYEELY	13	5	11	2	2	8	9	26	31
TREANMORE	163	70	87	31	145	111	103	117	146
TULCON	72	31	43	20	32	23	14	16	16
TULRUSK	72	27	35	27	26	14	-	-	-
TULLYBRADAN	37	9	11	23	8	5	-	3	3
TULLYORAN	53	35	38	19	27	13	12	7	10
USSAUN	39	33	28	22	5	12	4	15	14
MOHILL TOWN	1,626	1,217	1,123	793	653	744	680	439	418
MOHILL WORKHOUSE	1,101	157	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
MOHILL FEVER HOSPITAL	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	11,668	7,723	6,615	4,424	3,785	3,102	2,179	2,063	2,090

Note: It is difficult to arrive at an accurate population figure for Mohill town. Much of the 'built-up' area of the town today lies in the townlands of Cappagh, Knocklongford, Coolabaun, Boeeshil, Treanmore and Shannagh, and yet in the census returns given above these townlands register a separate population figure. Unfortunately, this is not so in every census. In certain census returns a portion of some townlands adjacent to the town have their inhabitants included in the town population. Much of the area locally known as Shannagh is, in the census returns of 1991 and of 1996, included in the town under the name Chapel Lane. In the census of 1901 it is stated that the townland of Boeeshil includes the inmates of the workhouse although in the census of 1851 the Workhouse is registered separately and in the census of 1951 the townland of Boeeshil registers no population figure at all. It must be remembered that many people who work either as employees or as self-employed people in business etc. in the town of Mohill do not reside there, or even in the parish, and are, therefore, not included in the returns.

Francis Canon Donohue P.P., V.F.,

Mohill. (1881-1905)

Tony O'Reilly

Many people who pass the Canon Donohue Memorial Hall know very little about the man to whose memory that community centre was erected. The man in question was Francis Canon Donohue, parish priest of Mohill from 1881 until his death there in July 1905. It was he who had the present church, on the height overlooking the town, erected, the parochial house and the curates' house, now the residence of the Caddan family. As well as that, he improved and extended the churches at Eslin and Gortvagh and completely overhauled the national schools of the parish. Canon Donohue deserves to be remembered by the Catholic people of Mohill, for he did a vast amount of parochial work during his twenty-four years' ministry in the parish. He was a native of Ballyboran, Mount Temple, Moate, Co Westmeath, was born in 1844 and was ordained in the Irish college in Paris in 1870. He spent the first three years of his priesthood as a curate in Mohill (1870-1873) and after terms as a curate in Ferbane, Clonbroney, Mostrim and Streete returned to Mohill as parish priest in 1881 when Rev Dean Evers retired from parish administration because of old age. On St Patrick's Day 1885 the foundation stone for a new R.C. church was laid on the site where it stands today, a site obtained from the Crofton landlord family. The old church which stood where the present Convent of Mercy is situated was demolished and the stones used in the new structure. Permission was obtained for Sunday Mass in the chapel at the Workhouse. Canon Donohue and the people of Mohill had the pleasure of seeing the new church blessed and dedicated by Dr Woodlock, bishop of the diocese, on St Patrick's Day 1886 exactly one year after the laying of the foundation stone. The erection of St Patrick's church was followed in the early years of the 1890s by the building of the present parochial residence, to be followed again by the erection of a residence for the curates. The erection of the curates' residence took place in the early years of the new century; in fact Canon Donohue was in the process of clearing off the debt on this house when he died. He had fallen into bad health some years previously and when he died he was only sixty one years of age. He was cousin of Bishop Hoare, bishop of the diocese 1895-1927. Canon Donohue's obituary, with black margins, is given in the Leitrim Advertiser - a paper printed in Mohill - in its issue of July 20th, 1905.

The Canon Donohue Memorial Hall

In the year 1911, the doors of the Canon Donohue Hall Mohill were opened for the first time at a cost of £700.00. It was built by Direct Labour by the people of the Parish.

Canon Donohue was Patron, and because of his dedication the Hall was named after him.

It was the place to Dance, and boys and girls travelled from far away places to trip the light fantastic to the strains of the most popular bands of the time 'The Melody Aces, Stephan Garveys Orchestra' and Des Furlong Showband to name but a few. All the noted travelling shows with the late Anu Mac Master, Hilton Edwards, The Carrickford Group 'McFaddens' and Mohill Dramatic Society which was founded in 1920 by very Rev. Canon Masterson P.P. were

all top billing. St. Monachans Players 1950-1960. Producers J.J. Kelly N.T. with first class performers. Then Mohill Musical Society was founded and down through the years Mohill Pantomime brought music, dance, song and laughter into all our hearts.

We must not forget the annual Bazar, you name it, Harry McGowan had it, and again this night was something else with something for everybody. Bingo, Whist Drives and in 1954 at the request of J.J. Kelly Grand National Films (Ireland) Ltd supplied an excellent film for May 12th 1954 entitled 'Old Mother Riley's new Venture' Tickets 1/3.

Films were held in the hall from 1953-1957. To this day the Canon Donohue has many uses, Basketball, Badminton, Concerts, Ceili, Dances, it is also used for meetings by 'The St. Vincent de Paul Society', 'Legion of Mary', 'Mohill Agricultural Show Ltd' and at the moment 'A childrens Play School'.

Brownies, Girl guides, Boy Scouts, Drama and Karate Classes are held weekly.

The District court is held there on the first Friday of each month since October 18th 1951, following a verbal agreement arrived at between the committee of the Canon Donohue Memorial Hall and the County Manager and Secretary of Leitrim County Council.

The rent for court and all other Co. Council Services, apart from Public Assistances services, the rent is to be £67.00 per annum.

For meetings of the Rynn and Black River Joint Committee £10 per meeting.

For all other public assistance services; the rent shall be £12.00 per annum.

The Co. Council is to continue as present to prepare the Court Room and Justices Room for each court date.

In conclusion I must not forget the sacred Concert in aid of the Mohill Convent Building Fund which was held on August 3rd 1924 in the Canon Donohue Hall. There was a choir of Sixteen Priests who rendered choice masterpieces of Religious Compositions by Casciolini, Halles, Mozart and Palestrina and solo items sung by singers of recognised ability.

It is no coincidence that to commemorate our Jubilee Year we had a concert here in St. Patrick's Church which was a joy to listen to and a credit to all concerned.

Thankfully in our 2000th year. The Canon Donohue Hall enjoys the laughter of Young and Old.



Canon Donohue Memorial Hall

SPORTS

Maureen Lynch

Mohill G.A.A.

A Brief History

On the 3rd of Jan. 1889 at a meeting in Glebe St. the 'Mohill Fag a bealach' G.A.A. club was founded the following officers were elected.

Chairman: Francis Reynolds
Vice-Chairman: Francis Little.
Secretary: Patrick Roddis.
Treasurer: Michael Grey.

The first match under the rules of the G.A.A. was played between the two teams from the parish, Eslin Sarsfields and the Mohill 'Fag a bealachs'. They were the two first clubs in the county and it is fitting that we mention their names here as this game heralded the birth of inter-club competition in Leitrim. The teams consisted of seventeen players aside. A goalie, four full-backs, four half-backs, and eight forwards.

Mohill team: Tom Finnegan, Michael Grey, John Doyle, Michael Costello, Patrick McCabe, Charles Teggerty, Francie Byrne, John Atanford, Patrick Harrahan, Patrick Duignan, Peter Duignan, Patrick Hopkins, Thomas McGivney, John McGennis, Michael McArdle, Francis Reynolds.



Gerry Canning pictured with Maureen Lynch, his mother Molly Canning and Stephen Flynn at the National Stadium when he won the All-Ireland Senior Scór in Recitation.

In 1890 Mohill won the first County Final. In 1891 Eslin beat Mohill in the second ever County Final, the game ended in a stick fight! The first of many between these close neighbors, thankfully in the last few decades we have become very civilized and have decommissioned our sticks.

After the initial surge there was a lull in activities all over the county for some years, but in 1904 the Mohill club were once again leaders in a revival. In Jan. 1904 we find the Faughs with hurling, football, and juvenile teams. Frank Flynn a local N.T. was the secretary of the club and John O'Neill of Main St. was the secretary of the new County Board. Games in those early days were played in Cornee on land owned by Tom McGivney.

There are many accounts of great Gaelic games and great Gaels that will hopefully fill a book of it's own in the new Millennium.

In 1914 we won our second county title, fortunately we have a photograph of the team and they also deserve a

mention. The captain was Patrick McKenna, he was one of Mohill's greatest servants, as a player, an officer, and a referee, he was Francis McGowan's grandfather and great-grandfather of Niall Faughnan both have been involved with the club and Niall looks like he may follow in his illustrious forefather's steps by getting involved in management in the year 2000. The rest of the team was as follows. Michael Geelan, Jimmy McGinley and Pat McDonnell (Bornacoola), Harry Keville (Annaduff). The rest were all locals Paddy Fitzpatrick, Johnny McGarry, Tommy Ryan, Tommy Kelly, Pakie (Darkie) Reynolds, James O'Rourke, L.Kelly, Dan McWeeney, Thomas O'Rourke, Pee Murray, Joe Mitchell, Paddy Curran.

A lean period followed until 1929 when we won our third title, the full team is not known but it included, Francie Clyne, Mick Cox, John O'Connor, Benny Higgins, Bob Shanley, Joe Daly, Fr. Sean O'Rourke, Paddy Cox, and James Fanning.

Games around these times were played in the field opposite Bridie Duignans and also behind Johnny Rowleys. On Phillip Casey land there too is a 'Football field'. Then in the 40's Mohill G.A.A. club obtained a 599yrs lease on the Showgrounds, with a stipulation in the contract that the field be available for three days in August for the Annual Agricultural Show, this arrangement has worked very well for both organisations over the intervening years.

During the '50's the legendary Pakie McGarty came to prominence and even though he won nothing with the club he was undoubtedly our greatest player. This year 2000 he was selected on the Connacht and Leitrim Millennium teams.

Eslin G.A.A.

In 1971 the club won the senior championship once again, since then we have won many underage titles but the senior title has evaded us. In 1999 with a very young team who have won every thing imaginable underage- we were promoted to senior ranks for the new Millennium.

To mention the names of all those involved since 1971 would fill another book. As the G.A.A. is a purely amateur organization these people get no reward, they are all volunteers, but I'm sure they have derived enormous pleasure from their great work, and the club is indebted to them.

The principal officers now are:

Chairperson: Patricia Canning.

Secretary: Brian Gordon.

Treasurer: Michael Gallagher.

Ladies G.A.A.

Ladies football is now an integral part of almost every G.A.A. club, and Mohill have been very successful at underage thanks to the great work of Tom Reynolds and his faithful band of helpers. The introduction of special rules for ladies has made their game very attractive to play and to watch. Gaelic football is now the most popular sport of the girls in Mohill.

Hurling

Mohill won Leitrim's first Hurling title in 1904 and again 1917. Mohill and Ballinamore met in the two finals of 1918 and 1919 but sadly we do not have the result of either games. In 1964 Pat Lynch an agricultural officer and a Kerryman, formed the St. Finbar's Club, drawing players from Mohill and surrounding parishes, they won the championship that year and went on to win 8 more Senior Championship, 4 Senior League, 4 under 16, 6 under 14 titles, until the Club became Gortletteragh in 1980. Another Kerryman Mick Keane did great work for the underage as did Peter Logan.

Eslin Sarsfields like the Mohill 'Fag a bealach' club, was founded in the year 1889, John Flynn from Drumlara and Pat Faughnan from Drumdart were very active in



Men of Eslin celebrating their championship win in 1988

the setting up of the club and were the County Board delegates that first year. The same year both clubs played the first game in Leitrim under the rules of the G.A.A, the initial game was held in Mohill and the return game was on the 'Rocks of Cavan' in Eslin. Great credit must go to Eslin for keeping the club going over the last one hundred and ten years. Their first ever team in 1889 was Patrick Ward, Johnny Regan, Michael Colreavy, Michael Wynne, Michael Ward, Patrick Carroll, Michael McConnell, John Dolan, C McGovern, Patrick Flynn, John Foley, William Kilcran, Owen Colreavy, Johnny Guckian, Patrick Colreavy, John Wynne. Eslin Sarsfields won their first ever County final in 1891, their opponents on the day were their fellow parishioners Mohill. The referee appointed was Tom Daly from Drumsna. As the last encounters between these clubs were not very amicable, the Leitrim Observer wrote beforehand: 'It is hoped that nothing will crop up during the match to leave a stigma of ill-feeling behind it...It is to be hoped that any dispute that may chance to occur will be left for settlement

between the interested parties without interference from the assembled spectators'. Alas everyone's fears were justified. After only twenty-three minutes a dispute arose and the crowd rushed the pitch, the game was abandoned and re-fixed for Kilmore on the instructions of the County Secretary 'If you play it near either teams' he said 'you can expect nothing but the blackthorn again'. Eslin's superior strength stood to them in Kilmore and they won their first Senior title



Eslin Junior Champions 1976

Back: J. G. McLoughlin, P. Duignan, E. Stenson, P. Wynne, J. Ward, T. Reynolds, T. Kennedy, G. Bohan, F. Bohan, M. Prendergast.
Front: P. Wynne, J. Reynolds, R. Bohan, T. McCaffrey, W. J. Higgins, J. L. Reynolds, K. Foley, B. Stenson, D. Reynolds.

that year, the score was Eslin 1-2, Mohill 0-2. The Co. Secretary presented Eslin with twenty-one silver medals and their captain Charlie McGovern was chaired from the field. The rest of the team was Matt Dolan, Frank Gray, Michael Wrynne, Michael Colreavy, Owen Colreavy, Michael Ward, Pat Ward, John Wrynne, Packie Carroll, Pat Kane, Bernard Kane, Terry McCaffery, Joe Harrison, John Harrison, Michael Bruen, Michael McConnell, Charles Flynn, Michael McGann, Joe Woods, Frank Blake.

Eslin also won the Senior title in 1916 and 1917. The team in 1916 was, Packie Wynne, Johnny Gaffney, John (Stiff) Mulligan, Johnny Egan, John McGuinness, John Faughnan, Mike Moran, Jimmy Kennedy, Mike John Reynolds, Pat Wynne, Pee Jack Reynolds, Jack Burns, John Moran, Sonny King, Michael Coyneen, Subs: Michael Gildea, Packie Conlon, P. Duke' Woods, Harry Keville, James McGinley.

In 1935 Eslin won the Junior championship and again in 1942, in 1943 they won the minor championship when they beat Fenagh in the final. I guess it would be safe to now say that on that day Eslin had a very experienced minor in the shape of Pat Stenson aged 30yrs, 'Those were the days my friend'.

The club struggled along without much success and indeed sometimes finding it hard to field a team. In 1971 they were Junior champions after a barren period of almost 30yrs. Since then they have won the Championship in '79 and '88 and the League in '84, but the going has been tough and the drop in population has really hit this small half-parish. The club purchased a field some years ago, and have plans to develop it, up until then games were played in Duignan's field. Mohill has always looked after the underage football for Eslin, but in the mid 90's, under 12 and under 14 teams were affiliated. In 1999 they won League titles at both levels and this year 2000 an under 16 team is registered, hopefully this will mean that the Eslin Sarsfields established way back in 1889 will continue to thrive for the next few hundred years.

Athletics

Mohill at present has a very active athletic club, with lots of success, and up and coming young people with great potential. This situation is in many ways due to the energy and persistence of two ladies Mary Taylor and Lucia Tyrell, who dedicate a lot of their time to the young, and not so young athletes.

Over the years athletic clubs have come and gone, indeed athletics are as old as man himself, and was here long before G.A.A. or Soccer, all the old Leitrim papers have mention of Sports being held in Mohill in the 1800's.

Nicholas Cawley, Molly Canning, Jim Rogers, Frances and Tommy McGlynn, and many others were involved in the sport in the 70's. Then in the 80's we had Mary Taylor, Luke Earley, George Taylor, Jim Boyle, Mary Armstrong and many others who gave valuable assistance.

During the last 10yrs Peter Gaffey has been the most outstanding athlete from the parish winning many school Regional titles, and doing his Club proud on many occasions. Jonathan Logan also represented his Club with

distinction and reached great heights at 800-200-and 60 mtrs.

Gavin McLoughlin is also proving to be a great talent, and in a recent competition was only 2 seconds behind Mark Smith who will take part in the Sydney Olympics 2000. Gavin only took up running in the last few years.

The present set of athletes are already making names for themselves, Joanne Tyrell ran with the National Squad in 1999, she has won numerous Connacht titles, and has acquitted herself very well at National level. Her sister Charlene specialises in walking and running, and was 2nd in Connacht and 5th in Ireland last year.

The up and coming stars are Laura Reynolds, Sinead Kelleher, Christine Quinn, Tomas Beirne, a specialist in the long jump, Amy Costelloe, Louise Reynolds, Katie Gordon and Ciara Keegan. We wish them every success.

The present officers are.

Chairman: Katherine Reynolds.
 Vice-Chairman: Claire McLoughlin
 Sec: Lucia Tyrell
 Asst. Sec.: Anne Coggins
 Treasurer: Claire Beirne
 Asst. Treas.: Geraldine McLoughlin.
 P.R.O. Lucia Tyrell.

Basketball

Mohill Basketball Club was founded in 1964 by Michael Keane and Tony O'Connell. The club started its training in the Canon Donoghue Hall. In 1966 Fr. Tom Murphy founded the Mohill Juvenile Club. The Senior Club consisted of some very colourful characters and there was many a night's craic had by young and old. As the time progressed, so did the club and the Hall became unsuitable for competitive Basketball. And so the club had to travel to Moyne to play their home games. At this stage, a Ladies Senior team was formed. The club also trained in the G.P. Room in Marian College.

The opening of a Sports Complex in the town was of tremendous benefit to the club, thus promoting the game



Juvenile Basketball team from 1966

Back: John Murphy, John Gordon, Pat Sullivan, Patk. Barden, Gerry O'Reilly, Seamus Callaghan, Gerard Shannon.
 Front: Jim Reynolds, Willie McHugh, Joseph Burns, Gerry McCrann, Martin Prendergast, Joe Boyle.
 Seated: Ronan Gallagher, Gerry O'Callaghan



Juvenile Basketball Team 1999

Back: Michael Monaghan, Colm Beirne, Brian Beirne, Shane Beirne, Ronan Gallagher, Donal Gildea, Paul Early (capt), John Farrell.
 Front: Luke Early, (coach), Gary Dolan, Shane Whitlow, Gavin Kelly, Darren Beirne, Paul McLoughlin.

further by involving more people. During the opening week the club were invited to play two exhibition games, the ladies team versus Oldcastle and the men's team versus Team West /Ballina.

The club has been extremely successful over the years in both the Cavan Area League and Roscommon District League. A number of players have gone on to play at national league level and many have won M.V.P. Awards. At the present time the club caters for school coaching Under 12, U-14, U-16, U-18 boys and girls teams and of course the senior ladies and mens teams.

The present-day committee of the club is as follows;

Chairman:	Luke Early
Sec.	James Boyle
Joint Treasurers	Kieran Moran, Paul McGuinness
Senior Ladies Coach	John McGuinness
Senior Mens Coach	Paul McGuinness
Youth Coaches	Luke Early, Kieran Moran
Club Colours:	Black and Gold.

By Luke Early



Leitrim BLE Chairperson Patricia Griffin presents Brid Mahon (Principal St. Joseph's Girls N.S.) with the Irish Rubies Trophy for winning the Leitrim Primary Schools, cross-country Championship. Also pictured are St. Joseph's athletes and County Board Treasurer Mary O'Donnell.

Mohill's Soccer History

Soccer has been around Mohill for a long time. The British soldiers introduced it to the natives in the middle of the 1800's, and they happily played it until the G.A.A. was founded in 1889. Then with this great upsurge of Nationalism in the late 20th Century, Soccer and Rugby were regarded as foreign games and Gaelic players were banned from participating in them. Thankfully these bans have all been lifted and players can now play any game they like.

The present Mohill Town Football Club was founded in 1975 by a group of young men who saw soccer as a growing sport in Ireland, and also as a great way for G.A.A. players to keep fit during the winter months. Some of those involved were Nicholas Cawley, Matt Gaffey, Art Ridge. In their first competitive season the Games were held in the Convent grounds, but midway through the year the Sligo District League deemed the pitch unsuitable. They then played all their games away creating great demand on time and finances. Mohill Town F.C. then joined the Longford area and District League. Mohill has continued in this League



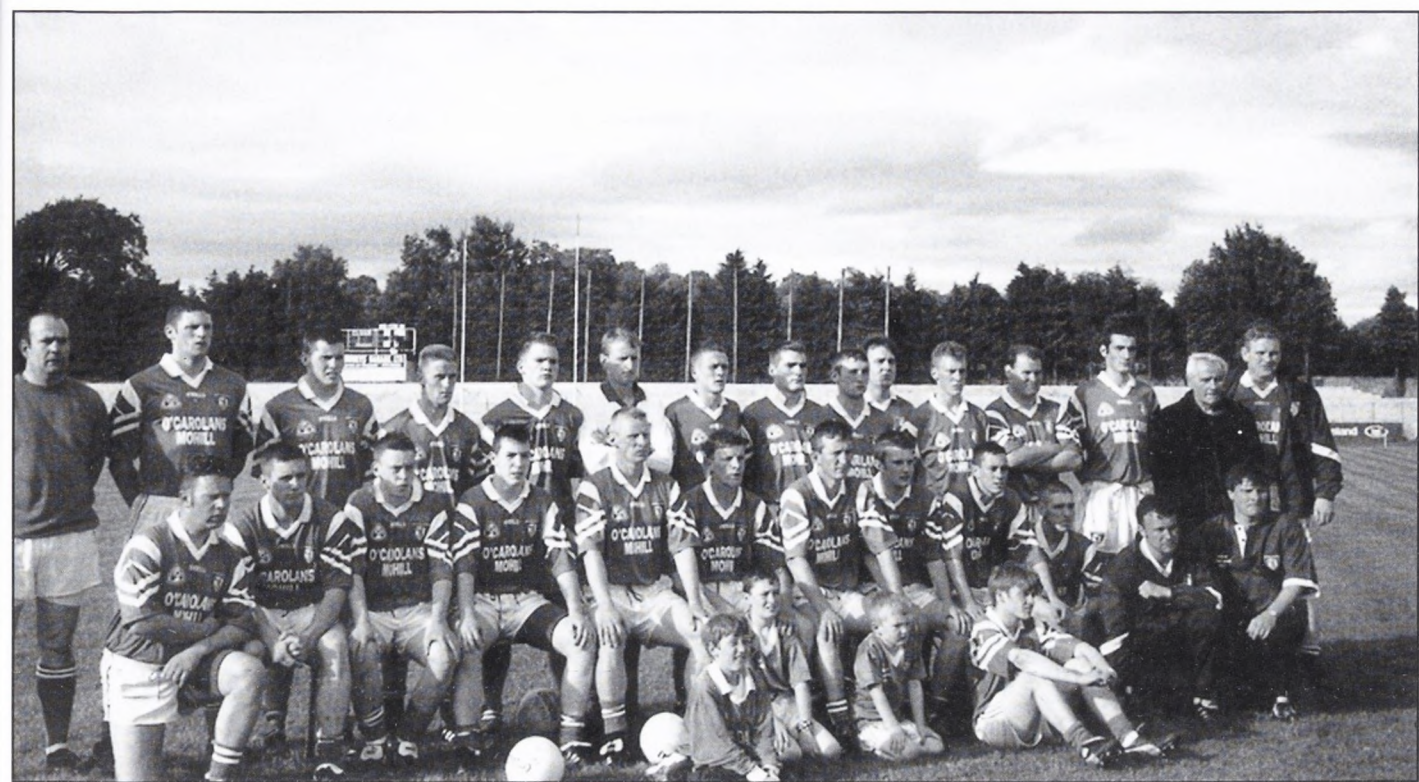
Community Games Soccer 1985

Back: Paul Walpole, Dessie Creamer, John Duignan, Greenan, Jarlath Carroll, Phillip Casey, Eamonn O'Toole, Stephen O'Carolan R.I.P. Front: Michael Lynch, Joe Beirne, Ciaran O'Carolan, Jason Brady, Stephen (Rocky) Clyne, John Casey.

with great success and immeasurable enjoyment until this year 2000 when they decided to suspend their membership until they could purchase their own grounds. There have been inspirational people who have kept the club going over the good and bad years, included in a very long list would be Tom Brady, Michael McCauley, Matt Gaffey, Nicholas Cawley, John Joe Doyle, Hubie Reynolds, Sean Browne, John Costello.

Over the years the club has won the League four years in a row and has been runners up four times. They have won the League Cup twice the last time in 1996 when they beat arch-rivals Carrick Town 2-1. However, their greatest achievement was 1990 in Athlone when they won the Subsidiary Cup, beating Carbury United in the Final.

This year an under 16 team managed by John Joe Doyle is currently doing very well in the Longford League. The talent is very promising and the future is looking good, hopefully we may add some more titles to the list in this Millennium year.



Intermediate Champions 1999

Back: P. Logan, P. McDermott, D. Canning, O. Wynne, S. Duignan, P. Gaffey, D. Scollan, P. Casserly, P. McKeon, M. McGuinness, D. Byrne, G. Scollan, M. Gaffey, (trainer), P. O'Toole,

Front: J. McGlynn, S. Canning, J. McGuinness, R. O'Carolan, G. Dugdale, M. Lynch, P. McGuinness, S. Kilrairie, H. Doyle, S. Clyne, S. McGuinness, J. Dugdale (trainer), J. Gaffey,

Mascots: J. Gaffey, P. Caroll, C. McGuinness.



Mohill Team celebrate their Intermediate Championship victory in 1999



Mohill U-16 Ladies 1998

Back: C.Reynolds, M. Duignan, F. Donoghue, L. Beirne, Lorraine McDermott, P. McGarry, T. Farrell, C. Armstrong, B. Conboy, E. Flynn, T. Reynolds (trainer),
 Front: K. Manning, G. Beirne, K. McGarry, B. Greenan, G. Walshe, D. Flynn, Lorna McDermott, B. Egan, J. Tyrell, E. Molloy.



Mohill U-14 Girls celebrate in 1998



Three Cups found in Meehan's attic in 1989 bt Brian Gordon. They are also seen here in a 1910 photograph



The Mohill U-11 Girls cross-country teams which competed in Galway at the Western Region Cross-Country Championships.



1910 Mohill Team with the three cups that were found in 1989

- Back: Pat Moore, Paddy McKenna,(Francis McGowan's grand-father), Michael Ward,(Seamus's father), Thomas Clyne(W.James's uncle), Jim Beirne (Ciaran O'Beirne's grand-father), Peter Earley, John Mulligan,(Kilamaun), Benny Smith,(shop boy from Monaghan). Dan McWeeney,(Teresa Bohan's uncle) Paddy McGuire,(Brian Gordon's great grand-father).
- Middle: Willie Keville, George Lyons,(Hackney driver, carriage maker near the C.O.I. school)William Rowley(Johnny's uncle), Tom Moore, Frank McWeeney(Michael's grand- father)
- Front: Paddy Gill, Batty Cryan,(Columba's father), Joe Beirne,(Ciaran's grand-uncle), Michael Geelan, James Geelan.



Sragarn National School 1926

- Front Row: Michael Wrynner, R.I.P., James Clyner, R.I.P., James Flynn, Joe Wrynne R.I.P., Michael Kennedy, Stephen Egan.
- Second Row: Row: Maggie Cassels, Frances Conefry R.I.P., Mary Flynn, Annie Egan R.I.P., Lena Fox, Rose Fox, Lizzie Bohan, Katie Monaghan R.I.P., Brigid Mulligan, Madge Dwyer, Mary Kate Wrynne Cassels R.I.P, Tisha Clyne R.I.P.
- Third Row: John Flynn, Tom Wrynne R.I.P., John Wrynne, Robert Masterson R.I.P., Michael Leydon R.I.P., Josie Dwyer, Michael Henry Dwyer, Mary Mulligan, Jimmy McGarry R.I.P., John Mulligan R.I.P, Pat Wynne R.I.P., Danny Kennedy R.I.P., Denis Leydon R.I.P., John Reynolds R.I.P.
- Fourth Row: Mrs. Ellie Jane McGuinness N.T., R.I.P., Tommy Ellis, Charley Wrynne, R.I.P., John McGarty, R.I.P., John Grier R.I.P., Pat Mulligan, Jimmy Wrynne, R.I.P., P.J. Kennedy R.I.P., Jimmy McCabe, R.I.P., Pat Cassels, R.I.P., Charley Cunningham, R.I.P., Pa Flynn, P.J. Cassels, R.I.P., Tom McCarty R.I.P., Jack Flynn N.T., R.I.P.
- Fifth Row: -- Cassels, R.I.P., Katie Ellis, R.I.P., Maggie Kate Bohan, R.I.P., Josie Reynolds, R.I.P., Annie Bohan, R.I.P., Brigid Ellis, Brigid Wrynne, R.I.P., Mary Kate Cassels, R.I.P., Mary Ellen Fox, Honor Fox, Lucy Conefry, Tilly Leydon, R.I.P.

Michael Gallagher

- AN APPRECIATION -

Michael became a familiar face around Mohill when he joined the staff of Bradshaw & Clarke in the early sixties. He soon endeared himself to everyone he came in contact with and became a very popular figure in Mohill. Mohill G.A.A. Club at that time had gone out of existence and Michael was the driving force in re-forming the club in 1964. Some of the players I spoke to yesterday still talk about getting transfer forms from him at that time. Michael also played with Mohill and there was always a great battle between him and Brendan for the number 2 jersey. Of course he was a lot cuter and always had the jersey on him before Michael appeared in the dressing room.

He was a very proud man indeed in 1971 when as chairman and selector of the team he watched the Bula lift the Senior Championship Cup for Mohill after a gap of 42 years. Michael at this time was working with Galco Steel in Quinns yard and he spent nearly 30 years there where he continued to play an active role in the community. He was very actively involved in the Credit Union, the Fleadh Ceoil Committee and many other organisations.



Michael was a great neighbour and a great friend. He was a very proud family man and with him they were always number one. He was Station officer with the local Fire Brigade service, a job he took great pride in. The turnout of his colleagues today and yesterday show the high esteem in which he was held.

Michael was a great G.A.A. man and was our Club Treasurer. Whenever he handed me a microphone he used to always say "whatever you say keep it short" and with that in mind I would like to say to Breege, Fiona, Catherine, Ronan, Seamus, John, Brendan, Annie, thank you for allowing us to share Michael for all these years.

On behalf of the club, all the other organisations he was associated with and his colleagues and friends you have our heartfelt sympathy. We will all miss him.

Michael, A Chara, Slan Leat.

Graveside Oration 29.05.00
by Brian Gordon
Secretary, Mohill G.A.A. Club.

▶
David Gordon and
Breege & Michael Gallagher (R.I.P.)
enjoying St. Michaels Boys
School Re-Union Dance August 1999



◀
Jim Reynolds,
Michael Gallagher (R.I.P.) ,
Packie McGarty & Luke Early
discussing the game of football
August 1999



The Placenames of Mohill

Michael Whelan

There are 127 townlands listed for the parish of Mohill giving an area of 19,000 acres, approximately. However Cloonlaughil, Tullyoran and Mullaghgrigny are partly in the parish of Gortletteragh. Many of the townlands listed are divided into Upper and Lower and some townland names occur more than once. When all this is accounted for the number of actual placenames is much less. The first comprehensive mapping of Ireland was done by the English government in the 1820s and 1830s, the survey team having completed its mapping of Co Leitrim by the year 1836. One of the members of the Ordnance Survey team was the great Gaelic scholar and antiquarian, John O'Donovan, whose task was to ensure that matters of antiquarian interest would not be neglected during the project and would be included on the various map sheets. O'Donovan's letters and O'Donovan's name-books are very valuable items of information and tell us many things about the Mohill of the 1830s.

The interpretation of townland placenames is a very difficult task, for many placenames have been corrupted over the years. The interpretation, therefore, of Mohill placenames cannot be guaranteed as being definite but great care was taken in this project to deal fully and comprehensively with each name. The placenames are given in alphabetical order.

Aughadrumcarn: *Achadh Droma Chairn*, the terrain of the 'cairn' or monumental heap of stones. This signifies a pre-historic grave. The townland is locally called Aughrim which, according to Colgan, is in latin, 'equi mons', the hill of the horse.

Aughadrumderg: *Achadh Droma Deirg*, the field or tract of land of the red-coloured hill ridge.

Aughkilfaughna: *Achadh Cille Fhachtna*, the terrain or field of the church of Saint Fachtna. According to John O'Donovan, there was, when he visited the place in 1836, a tradition that there had been a church here at one time. This townland could also be interpreted as Achadh Coille Fhachtna, St Fachtna's wood, from 'coill' meaning wood.

Annaghderg: *Eanach Dearg*, Red bog or Red Marsh.

A townland in the Gorgagh district of the parish. Tradition records that in the eighteenth century a Franciscan priest, Father Phelim Conlon, used to celebrate Mass at a spot beside the house of John Logan of Annaghderg. The exact spot is marked by an old crab tree just at the entrance to the garden. If on any particular Sunday the priest could not be there people would come and pray at the spot. The custom continued until after Penal Times. Logan's mill in this townland is still well remembered.

Attimanus: *Áit Tí Mánuis*, the site of the house of Manus.

There is a strong sulphurous spring in this townland. There was also a corn-mill and kiln here.

Aughnacross: *Achadh na gCros*, the terrain or field of the diverging paths. (i.e. cross paths)

Boeshil: *Both Íseal*, low-lying tent or hut. A portion of the town from the Canon Donohoe Memorial Hall down to Hyde St, the Dromod road and St Manachan's park lies in this townland, as did the old Fever Hospital (now Ashbrook House), the old Workhouse and the Workhouse cemetery, Bully's Acre.

Breandrum: *Bréan Drom*, The hill of the foul-smelling herbs or weeds. In 'landlord' times the townland was divided, Breandrum King and Breandrum Peyton, by the landlords, King and Peyton. In 1826 there was a 'hedge' school here attended by 197 Catholic pupils, though it was described as "a small cabin". The teacher's name was Thomas Galton. His income was "from 1/6 to 4 shs per qr." per pupil.

Bunkilleen: *Bun Coillín*, the 'bottom' land of the little wood.

Bunnybeg: *Buinne Beag*, The small watery place.

Buinne means stream or any flow of water, a term applied to watery or 'spewy' land liable to flooding. The great local scholar and surveyor, Francis McGann drew a map of Bunnybeg on a cured sheepskin. The townland borders Lough McHugh. The Lawders were well-known landlords here in former times.

Bunnymore: *Buinne Mór*, The large watery place.

Cappagh: *Ceapach*, a plot of land laid out for tillage. This townland which stretches right up to the town of Mohill was in early Christian times part of the lands attached to St Manachan's monastery.

Carrick: *Carraig*, a rocky place. Locally the townland is called Corrick.

Carrigeen: *Carraigín*, A small rocky place. This townland overlooks both Lough Errill and Lough McHugh.

Cartron: *Ceathramhain*, a land measurement varying from 80 to 160 acres. The national school in Cartron has been closed since 1975.

Cavan: *Cabhán*, a hollow place. The Catholic Church, built by Rev John Evers in 1843, is situated in this townland. The original church which was also in this townland was converted into a national school about the year 1846. In the registration of 'Popish Priests', 1704, Rev James Reynolds is given as living in Cavan.

Clarashinnagh: *Clár an tSionnaigh*, the raised land of the fox. The West landlord family, of whom Harry West was in later times M.P. for Co Fermanagh, lived here until about the year 1880.

Cloonbo: *Cluain Bó*, Pastureland for cows.

Clooncahir: *Cluain Cathair*, Cahir's meadow. It may well have a different meaning but there is nothing visible today in the townland to suggest any other translation.

Coolabaun: *Cula Bán*, the white-backed hill. Bán denotes green, grassy ground. It lies close to the town and is another townland that was formerly part of the lands attached to St Manachan's monastery.

Corboghil: *Cor Buachaill*, the round hill of the boys. Possibly the young boys of the neighbourhood gathered here to play. The fields here as in other townlands got their names from the people who lived in them e.g. Halfpenny's field, Richard's field, Soldier's field. There are spring wells and a spa well here. A man from Corboghil, Alec Simpson, fired the opening shots which led to the battle of Drumcollip in 1796.

(See *A Flame Now Quenched* by Rev Liam Kelly)

Corduff: *Cor Dubh*, the black round hill. Corduff Hill was locally known as "Healy's" hill and was noted for the quality of its 'spring' water.

Corgallion: *Cor Ghailleán*, the round hill of the standing stones. In this townland can be seen a Mass rock used in Penal Days. The corn mill, known as Canning's mill, is still in a fine state of preservation.

Corgar: *Cor Gearr*, the short round hill.

Corlaskagh: *Cor Lascach*, the round hill of the lights. This was a place where the land was burned, probably for agricultural purposes, and this may be the reason for the lights rather than 'will-o'-the-wisp' lights.

Corlea: *Cor Liath*, the grey round hill.

Cormore: *Cor Mór*, the big round hill.

Cornageeha: *Cor na Gaoithe*, the windy round hill.

Cornagresha: *Cor na Greise*, hill of the conflict. Apparently there was a battle fought here long ago.

Cornee: *Cor Neidhe*, Neidhe's round hill. There is a ring fort on this hill and the owner may have given his name to the place. The name Neidhe occurs in the Mac Rannaill pedigree. The townland has also been translated *Cor an Fhia*, the round hill of the deer. Father Phelim Conlon, acted as parish priest of Mohill in Penal Days and lived in concealment in Cornee bog. He used travel disguised as a piper and had as his companion the real piper called Conway. His hideout was dug out of the bog, and its roof was on a level with the ground and thatched with heather. It was so placed that it had to be approached on foot and no one could come near it unobserved. Father Conlon died here alone. Tradition states that the neighbours saw the bog lit up and heard beautiful music. When they approached the hut for an explanation they found Father Conlon dead.

Corrabeagh: *Cor Beitheach*, the round hill of the birch trees. Gorvagh R.C. church is situated in this townland. The site was given by Lord Leitrim in the 1850s.

Corracaboon: *Cor a'Chabuín*, While *cabúin* means an ignorant fellow it also means crowing hens and this may well be the meaning in this instance. In olden times the tenure for the townland was a capon or white 'rooster' and this may have had a bearing on the name of the place.

Corracramph North: *Cor a' Chreamha*, the round hill of the wild garlic. This townland lies in the northern part of the district of Eslin and borders the parish of Kiltoghert.

Corraterriff: *Cor a' Tairbh*, the round hill of the bull. In this townland there was a R.I.C. barracks.

Crossdruman: *Cros Dromáin*, a belt of small hills. They connect the hills of Leitrim Lower with Glasdrumman. In this townland there is a wart well.

Curragha: *Curracha*, marshy or wet land.

Curraghoaghry: *Cor an Uacaire*, the round hill of the blanket thickener. Blanket thickening was a very skilled trade in olden times and a rough woollen garment had to be worked on for a long time by a man skilled in this trade. Possibly there was a place in Curraghoaghry where this work was done. Alec McDonald, the last of the hedge-schoolmasters, had a school here.

Curraun: *Corrán*, rough marshy land. The eminent Canadian poet, William Henry Drummond was born here in 1854. There was a national school here in the 1830s.

Doonarah: *Dún a' Ratha*, the doon or fortress set on the rampart.

Drimna: *Droimne*, little hill ridges or ridged shaped land.

Drumbeighra: *Droim Beithreach*, hill ridge abounding in birch trees.

Drumboy: *Droim Buí*, the yellow hill ridge – probably from the reddish colour of the soil. There was a 'national' schoolhouse in this townland.

Drumcollagan: *Droim Colgáin*, the hill ridge of the thorn bushes.

Drumcroy: *Droim Crua*, the hard or tough hill ridge.

Drumdart: *Droim Dairt*, the hill ridge of the heifer. Ebenezer of the Slacke landlord family from Derby in England is recorded as living here at Lakeview House about the year 1750.

Drumdoo: *Droim Dubh*, the black-surfaced hill ridge.

In 1830 a 'minor' landlord, William O'Brien, living in the townland of Cavan decided to evict some of his tenants living in the neighbouring townlands. Some local people united together and decided that this type of abuse must stop. Every Thursday O'Brien went to the market in Mohill and returned home about 4 p.m. On one Thursday afternoon William O'Brien was ambushed by local people. A shot was fired at him, missed, and O'Brien ran towards Corraterriff R.I.C. barracks for sanctuary but before he reached it he was stoned to death.

Drumgarn: *Droim gCarn*, hill ridge of the Cairns or burial mounds.

Drumgowna: *Droim Gamhnach*, hill ridge of the stripper or milking cows.

Drumhanny: *Droim hEanaigh*, While this townland has been translated Tany's ridge it would appear from the topography of the place that a more correct translation would be the hill ridge overlooking the virgin bog or the marsh. There are two townlands of the name in the parish of Mohill. In Drumhanny North on the land of Sean Reynolds there is a 'lone' bush which is locally known as 'Friar's Bush'. Tradition tells that a priest was killed here while saying Mass in Penal times.

Drumhirk: *Droim Thoirc*, the hill ridge of the wild boar.

Drumkilla: *Droim Cille*, Church hill, Up until recent times the Church of Ireland rectory was situated in this townland. It is called the Glebe. Glebe signifies 'church land'.

Drumkilleen: *Droim Cillín*, the hill ridge of the little church. In this townland there is a spa well and an old fort or habitation site.

Drumlara: *Droim Larach*, the hill ridge of the mare. This is generally the meaning given but it might also be translated as the centre-point of a larger district from Lár, meaning 'centre' (of something). Francis McGann, the well-known historian and man of learning, was born here in 1786.

Drumlowan: *Droim Leamhan*, the hill ridge of the elm trees.

Drumnid: *Droim Nid*, the hill ridge of the (birds') nests.

Drumoughty: *Droim Uachta*, Ridge of the breast. Breast or bosom was often applied to a hill breast or mountain breast. The townland is locally pronounced Drumorthy, which could mean the hill ridge overlooking the bog from 'portach', meaning bog.

In this townland was a well, called Tobar Phádraig, St Patrick's Well. Beside the well is a standing stone and inscribed on it is the following "Pray for Mark Melia, by whom this cross was erected in honour of St. Patrick A.D. 1775". Previous to 1800 A.D. 'Stations' were performed around this cross and well, but owing 'to certain irregularities' they were stopped by ecclesiastical authority and were not revived.

Drumoula: *Droim Abhla*, the hill ridge of the apples.

Drumraghool: *Droim-rathúil*, the prosperous or fertile hill ridge. It has been translated as Droim Raith Chumhaill, the hill ridge of the fort of Cumhal but there does not seem to have been a fort in any part of the townland. In the extreme northern end is a small area called 'lug' from 'log' meaning a swamp.

Drumrahan: *Droim Ratháin*, the hill ridge of the small fort. During the Famine there was a 'stirabout' boiler here.

Drumreask: *Droimriasc*, the hill ridge of the moor or marsh.

Drumregan: *Droimriagáin*, Regan's hill ridge. In the early 1900s the Volunteer and Temperance hall was situated in this townland – in Moran's meadow.

Finiskill: *Fionn Ascal*, the fair or grassy angle of land. The national school for the district was situated in Finiskill but was amalgamated with the national schools in Mohill in 1975. In this townland on the lands of Padraic Reynolds there is a well-preserved ring fort.

Gorvagh: *Garbh Achadh*, the rough tract of land. Gorvagh is a district of the parish of Mohill and has its own R.C. church, St Joseph's, and a community centre. The local shop and post-office have been closed. In former times a R.I.C. barracks and a dispensary, Rowan Dispensary, were situated here. There were also two blacksmith's forges in this townland.

Glasdrumman: *Glas Dromán*, the green little hill ridge.

Gortinure: *Gort an lúir*, the field of the yew tree.

Gortavacan: *Gort an Mheacain*, the field of the wild carrot. In the registration of 'Popish Priests', 1704, it is stated the Rev Owen McHugh lived in this townland.

Gortfada: *Gort Fada*, the long field. This townland was part of the landed possessions of St Manachan's monastery.

Gortnalug: *Gort na Log*, the field of the hollows or swamps.

Gortyclery: *Gort na cléire*, the field of the clergy. Or it may have been church property.

Greenaun: *Grianán*, a sunny place. The national school for the district was situated in Greenaun until it was transferred to Cartron in the year 1900.

Gubadruish: *Gob idir dhá Rúisc*, a point of land between two swamps or marshes.

Keeloge: *Caológ*, a narrow strip of land.

Kildoo: *Coill Dubh*, the black wood.

Killamaun: *Coill an Iomáin*, the wood of the hurling. The townland was probably a centre where young men came together to play hurling. Coimisiún Logainmneacha give the opinion that the meaning of the townland may be Cill Lomáin, the church of St Loman - from some local saint who had a church there in ancient times.

Knocklongford: *Cnoc Longphoirt*, the hill of the fortification.

Labbyeslin: *Leaba Aislinne*, the bed or source of the Eslin river.

Laheen: *Leathín*, the small fertile half or portion. (as against the wild or unproductive portion.) In this townland the Jones family had a large estate.

Laheen namona: *Leathín na Móna*, the small half or portion which contains bog.

Leitrim (upper and lower): *Liath droim*, the grey hill ridge.

Lisdadan: *Lios Dadanan*, Dadanan's fort. Lios was the space or ground inside a fort, and 'rath' was the actual embankment or earthen ditch. Lisdadan was another townland that was part of the possessions of St Manachan's monastery.

Lisdrumgivel: *Lios Droma Gabhail*, the fort of the forked hill ridge.

Lisomadaun: *Lios Amadán*, the fort of the fools. This translation would appear less than credible and it may well be that the translation may be the hill ridge of the ghosts.

Meelick: *Mileac*, low, marshy land. According to scholars mileac is synonymous with imleac and is applied to marshes or wet land. There is the site of an old tannery in this townland and also a good sulphur spa.

Mohernameela: *Mothar na Maoile*, the patch of shrubbery of the bare hilltop.

Maoil generally means a hornless cow (commonly called 'mooleen') but in this case it may mean a bare hilltop.

Mohill: *Maothail*, A soft, 'spewy' piece of land.

Moneyroe: *Muine Rua*, the red brake or shrubbery. The foliage was probably of a reddish colour. There is a small waterfall in this townland from which eels were 'poached' in "harsher" times.

Mucklougher: *Muc Luachra*, Pig rushes. The rushes here were probably used for 'bedding' pigs.

Mullaghrioney: *Mullach Raigne*, Rigney's Hill or summit.

Mullaun: *Mullán*, A hillock. This term is often applied to the top of a low sloping hill.

Oghill: *Eochail*, A yew wood.

Rosdowaun: *Ros Duáin*, Duane's wood or point of land. Dubhán is the diminutive of 'dubh' and the name relates to a black-complexioned man.

Rosharry: *Ros Searraigh*, Sharry's wood or point of land. But 'searrach' also means foal and this may have been a place where breeding mares congregated.

Seltan: *Sailteán*, a place of willow or sally trees.

It was here a South Leitrim Flying Column was attacked by British Forces on the 11th, March, 1921 and six of its members killed. A monument, erected in 1936, now stands here to their memory. Seltan lough, on which there is a 'crannog' or lake-dwelling site, lies in the valley.

Shannagh: *Duibhleacht a' tSionnaigh*, the black grave or bed of the fox; probably a place frequented by foxes. The old name of this place was Doolaghtatony. The townland lies on the high ground overlooking the town where St Patrick's R.C. church now stands.

Shivdelagh: *Seimhdile*, a beetle (for 'bettling' clothes)

This was probably a place where women came together to wash clothes. The clothes were soaked in water and then beaten with a wooden beetle or mallet until they were partially clean. It was a common way of washing heavy clothes in former times.

Shoalmore: *Seol mór*, the great sail. In this case the word 'seol' is applied to the lie of the land from some resemblance, or fancied resemblance.

Skeamartin: *Sceach Mhartáin*, the lone bush of Martin. Locally the name is pronounced Skymartin. Martin may have derived from St Martin of Tours in France or, more probably, from a Celtic sept called Clann Mhartáin, a branch of the Conmaicne.

Springfield: *Cúl na Laogh*, the back hill of the young calves. This was the old name of the place. Springfield is a comparatively modern name. It arose from a house and farm that were named Springfield by the owner. Included in Springfield is Mullaghrace, a high hill overlooking the town on the eastern side. Mullaghrace means mullach an riasc, the summit overlooking the swamp or marsh.

Sragarn: *Sraith gCarn*, the holm or waterlogged place of the mounds or 'cairns'.

Locally the name is spelled Stracarne. The local national school was situated in this townland until it was amalgamated with the national schools in Mohill town in 1975.

Sratrissaun: *Sraith Dreasán*, The holm or waterlogged place of the briars or brambles.

Stuck: *Stuc or Stuca*, the place of the rock promontories.

Tamlaghavally: *Taibhleacht a' Bhaile or Taibhleacht an Bhealaigh*, the plague burial ground of the town or roadway. Taibhleacht is derived from támh or táimh, an unnatural death as from a plague, and leacht signifies a bed or grave. It was a place where people who died from a plague were buried, generally in a common grave. People who passed the way were accustomed to raise a 'cairn' of stones over the spot by placing single stones over the grave. Tamlaght Beg and Tamlagh More are of the same origin. Some great plague or pestilence has left its name on those three townlands.

Tawnyeely: *Tamhnaigh Aoiligh*, the green field where lime was obtained.

Lime was used as a whitener in Ireland. Hide-covered shields were often whitened with lime as were the outer defences of homesteads, and lime was used in the making of mortar.

Treanmore: *Trian Mór*, the big third. This was a term commonly applied to a measurement of land.

Tulcon: *Tullachán*, the little hill. This townland is at Eslin Bridge. Eslin creamery was sited in this townland in 1908 and when it closed down the building was converted into a dancehall.

Tullybradan: *Tullach Bradáin*, Bradan's hill.

The Clann Bradáin were a branch of the Conmaicne. It would appear that some members of the sept adopted the form O'Bardáin (Bardan), for so it is written in some of the Annals. Tullybradan was formerly part of the possessions of St Manachan's monastery. Tobar Ronan was a holy well in this townland.

Tullyoran: *Tullach Fhuaráin*, the hill of the cold spring water. Here there was a prehistoric grave, a dolmen, but the site has been damaged in recent times.

Tulrusk: *Tullach Rúisc*, the hill overlooking the swamp. Here a battle took place between the "Peelers" and the Molly Maguires. The body of Mahon, one of the Molly Maguires, was claimed by the police either for identification, or to dishonour it, by exposing it or spiking the head. The Molly Maguires would not hand over the body and Mahon was buried, temporarily, four or five times. Eventually his remains was removed out of the area entirely and interred in Cloonmorris graveyard. On the spot where he was shot, a fir tree was planted, which still serves as his silent memorial.

Ussaun: *Easán*, a small waterfall. In the Patent Rolls of James 1 the townland is spelled Assane.

The foregoing placenames were compiled in 1975 for the Teachers' Centre, Carrick-on-Shannon by Mr Matt Gaffey, a teacher (later Principal) at Marian College, Mohill.

Very little alteration has been made to the work in this publication.

Sources consulted were Placenames of Ireland, by P.N. Joyce, O'Donovan's Name Books and O'Donovan's Letters, Canon Pinkman's placenames of Co Leitrim, The Patent Rolls of James 1 and local information was obtained.



Hay saving in Drumdart during World War I 1914-1918

Back: Frank Flynn, Paddy Cumiskey (Postman, Eslin)

Front: Charlie Flynn, Gerald Flynn, Jack Flynn

Parish Priests of Mohill

DUNNE, Gregory Antony

P.P. Mohill, 1820 - 1825

Fr. Dunne spent many years abroad where he received his education and later worked as a professor in Franciscan Colleges. In 1790 he returned to Ireland and was appointed titular Guardian of Jamestown. In Aughavas he operated a school for boys in an old Chapel up until 1820. Died in 1825.

DOGHERTY, Michael

P.P. Mohill, 1825 - 1836

Matriculated in Maynooth as a student for the Diocese of Ardagh in 1813. At the Diocesan Synod of 1834 Very Rev. Michael Dogherty is listed as Vicar Forane. In 1836 he went as P.P. to Kilturbid. He died in Kilturbid in 1846.

MAGUIRE, John

P.P. Mohill, 1836 - 1837

Ordained in Maynooth in 1811. From 1827 - 1836 he was P.P. of Kilturbid. He died in 1837, aged 55. His headstone, erected by his brother Rev. Francis Maguire, is in the grounds of the Convent of Mercy, Mohill.

O'REILLY, Philip

P.P. Mohill, 1837 - 1839

Ordained in Maynooth in 1815. He went to America in 1852 for a period of two years on a fund-raising project for a parochial house in Mullahoran. He died in 1864, aged 80.

EIVERS, John William

P.P. Mohill 1839 - 1881

Ordained in Maynooth in 1826. P.P. Aughavas 1837 - 1839, where he built a new Church. As P.P. in Mohill he petitioned for a new National School in 1840. In Mohill he went on to be Canon, V.F., V.G. and eventually Dean. This put him on the side of the establishment, maintaining friendly relations with the local landlords and squires, getting rid of Curates who took an anti-landlord stance, yet he was generous and kind to the poor. In his will he left 10 guineas, which were to be paid annually at Christmas, to the poor of Newtownforbes. Died in 1891, aged 95, and is buried in the parish Church of Newtownforbes.

DONOHUE, Frances

P.P. Mohill 1881 - 1905

Served in Mohill as a Curate from 1870 - 1873, and later in Ferbane, Mostrim and Streete before coming back as P.P. to Mohill. Fr. Donohue was responsible for the building of St. Patrick's Church, Mohill and also National Schools at Mohill and Finiskill. He died in 1905 and is buried on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church.

DOHERTY, Felix

P.P. Mohill, 1905 - 1922

He was ordained in 1874. He served as C.C. in Gortletteragh, Kilturbid, Carrick and Gowel. He became P.P. of Cloone in 1894 - 1905. Died in 1922, aged 80 and is buried on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church.

MASTERSON, Michael J

P.P. Mohill, 1922 - 1960

Ordained in 1901. Spent 20 years in St. Mel's College as Professor and President. In 1921 he was made P.P. of Clonguish. Died in 1922, aged 83 and is buried on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church.

WALL, James

Fr. James Wall was born in Dromod in 1902, but his father who was in the R.I.C. later moved to Ardagh. He was ordained in 1928, and after a short time on the English mission he served in Athlone and Longford parishes before being appointed P.P. Mohill. Died in 1963, and is buried on the grounds of St. Patrick's Church.

MCLOUGHLIN, Michael

P.P. Mohill, 1964 - 1969

Ordained in 1927. He spent 15 years teaching in St. Mel's College before serving as C.C. in Cashel and Drumshambo. He was P.P. in Boornacoola before coming to Mohill. Died in 1969, he is buried in Mohill Cemetery.

SHEERAN, Thomas

P.P. Mohill, 1969 - 1983

Son of Michael Sheeran and Margaret Mackle. Ordained in 1932. Taught in St. Mel's College for 15 years. He served in Rathcline, Athlone, Ballinahown, and Moate before being made P.P. of Granard in 1968. Died in Edgeworthstown in 1983 and is buried in Mohill Cemetery.

FEE, Hubert

P.P. Mohill, 1983 - 1992

Son of Patrick Fee and Sarah Jane Moffett. Ordained in Maynooth in 1940. C.C. Limerick, Ballinalee, Gowna, Ferbane and Killenumery before becoming P.P. Kilturbid in 1974. Served on Diocesan Finance Committee for many years and on the Commission for Clergy Distribution. Retired in 1992 and is living in Ballyclare, Ferbane.

ROONEY, John (Sean)

P.P. Mohill, 1992 -

Son of John Joseph Rooney and Margaret Morris. Ordained in Maynooth in 1951. C.C. Gowna, Streete, Cloghan, Clonbroney, Bornacoola, Mohill and Drumlish before becoming P.P. Gortletteragh, 1983 - 1987, and Cloghan, 1987 - 1992. Served on Diocesan Council of Priests and on Diocesan Council of Catholic School Managers.

Curates of Mohill

KIERNAN, Kilroe

C.C. Mohill, 1825 - 1826

Ordained in France in 1820. 1826 - 1865 Adm. and P.P. Athlone, where he built St. Mary's Church. Died in 1865.

SMITH, James

C.C. Mohill, 1834 - 1838

Ordained in Maynooth in 1828. P.P. Cloghan, 1838 - 1849, Killashee, 1849 - 1854, and Cashel 1854 - 1860. Died in 1860, aged 58 and is buried in Newtowncashel.

GRALTON, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1835 - 1838

C.C. Murrhaun, 1838 - 1846, Kilronan, 1846 - 1849, Annaduff, 1849 - 1850, Cloghan, 1850 - 1852, Murrhaun, 1852 - 1854, and Gortleteragh, 1854 - 1864. He is buried in Annaduff cemetery.

SMITH, John

C.C. Mohill, 1837 - 1838

Received Deaconate, Maynooth, 1833.

SMITH, Thomas

C.C. Mohill, 1837 - 1846

Ordained in Maynooth in 1833. Was C.C. in Annaduff and Streete before serving in Mohill, and later he served in Gowna and Ballinahown.

BOHAN, John

C.C. Mohill, 1838 - 1859

C.C. Russagh, 1845 - 1846, Ballymachugh, 1859 - 1860, Fenagh, 1860 - 1861, and P.P. Fenagh 1861 - 1877. Died in 1877. Buried in Foxfield Church.

O'REILLY, Eugene

C.C. Mohill, 1846 - 1855

Ordained in 1845. Served as C.C. in Aughavas and Mullahoran before going as C.C. to his brother Fr. James in Rathowen in 1866, whom he succeeded as P.P. in 1871. Died in 1884 and is buried in Rathowen Church grounds.

O'FARRELL, James

C.C. Mohill, 1855 - 1860

C.C. Kiltubrid and Granard before being appointed to Mohill in 1855. In 1860 he left there to go to Mullahoran. Spent some time in England collecting funds for the completion of St. Mels's Cathedral, Longford.

DAWSON, Joseph

C.C. Mohill, 1859 - 1860

Ordained in 1857. Served in a number of parishes after leaving Mohill. He died C.C. Ballymachugh in 1883, and is buried in Mullahoran.

O'CONNELL, William

C.C. Mohill, 1860 - 1861

Ordained in 1840. He served in many parishes before being C.C. in Mohill. 1869 C.C. in Ferbane. Died in 1895 and is buried in Killoe.

LEE, James

C.C. Mohill, 1860 - 1865

Ordained in 1853. Had been C.C. in Ballymahon and Drumshambo before coming to Mohill. He was transferred to Ferbane in 1865. Died P.P. Abbeylara in 1879.

WALSH, William

C.C. Mohill 1861 - 1862

MCGIVNEY, John

C.C. Mohill 1862 - 1867

Served as C.C. in Kilturbid, Cashel, Cloghan, Ferbane and Gowel before becoming P.P. Rathcline in 1881. Died in 1904 and is buried in Lanesboro Church grounds.

O'BEIRNE, Frances

C.C. Mohill, 1865 - 1873

He was ordained in Dublin in 1854. He died P.P. of Cloone in 1885.

SHERIDAN, Patrick E.

C.C. Mohill 1866 - 1877.

Ordained in 1847. Served one year in Mohill before being transferred to Colmcille. Died in 1889 in Colmcille.

Smyth, John.

C.C. Mohill 1868 - 1869

Ordained in 1859. C.C. in Clonmacnoise and Mostrim. In 1878 he became P.P. of Bornacoola. Reconstructed Boornacoola Church in 1880. Died in 1895, aged 66.

DONOHUE, J

C.C. Mohill, 1871 - 1873

Served in Ferbane from 1873 - 1876.

BRIODY, John

C.C. Mohill, 1873 - 1878

Ordained in 1862. C.C. in Killoe, Aughavas, Cashel and Kiltubrid. In 1878 he was appointed P.P. Fenagh and in 1883 transferred to Killoe. Died in Killoe in 1899, aged 61. He is buried in Colmcille cemetery.

MARTIN, Terence

C.C. Mohill, 1874 - 1880

Ordained in 1870. He died P.P. Mostrim in 1924 and is buried in the Church ground in Mostrim.

LANGAN, Thomas

C.C. Mohill, 1879 - 1881

Ordained in 1878. Taught in St. Mel's College for a short time before being appointed C.C. Mohill. He was later P.P. in Abbeylara, Cloghan and Moate. Died in Moate as Monsignor and Dean in 1951, aged 98.

HIGGINS, Thomas P.

C.C. Mohill, 1878 - 1879

Ordained in Maynooth in 1876. Previous to Mohill he had served in Clonguish. Transferred to Ballinallee in 1879.

Curates from Mohill cont....

LYNCH, Thomas

C.C. Mohill 1879 - 1881

Fr. Thomas had been a member of the R.I.C. before going for the priesthood. Ordained in 1856 for the Diocese of Perth, Australia, he served there until 1868. Returning to Ireland on leave of absence he was adopted for the diocese of Ardagh. He served in a number of places before being appointed to Mohill. In 1881 he went to Athlone. Died in 1892 as P.P. Cloone, and is buried in Cloone old Church grounds.

MCGAVER, Anthony

C.C. Mohill, 1880 - 1888

Ordained in 1877. He left Mohill in 1888 for Legan. Died in 1933 as P.P. Kiltubrid.

FARRELL, James

C.C. Mohill, 1881 - 1884

Ordained in Rome in 1877. Transferred to Carrick Edmond in 1884. Died as C.C. Rathcline in 1905.

ALLEN, James

C.C. Mohill, 1884 - 1891

Ordained in Rome in 1881. Died as C.C. Legan in 1894, and is buried in Legan Church grounds.

SKELLY, Joseph

C.C. Mohill, 1888 - 1891

Ordained in Paris in 1873. Died as P.P. Clonguish in 1921.

O'HARA, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1891 - 1902

Ordained in 1884. P.P. Rathowen, Streete, and Mostrim. Died in Mostrim in 1933.

O'FARRELL, Charles

C.C. Mohill, 1891 - 1903

Born in 1855 in Ardagh parish. He left Mohill to become Adm. in Athlone. Died as P.P. Clonbroney, where he is buried, in 1913.

NEWMAN, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1902 - 1908

Ordained in Rome in 1894. Transferred to Carrick-on-Shannon in 1908. Died as P.P. Annaduff in 1928, aged 60.

DALTON, Edward

C.C. Mohill, 1902 - 1907

Ordained in 1902. He was later P.P. of Fenagh and Aughavas. Died in 1932, and is buried in Aughavas Churchyard.

DOYLE, Henry

C.C. Mohill, 1903 - 1907

Ordained in 1902. Served in Cloone previous to Mohill. Died as P.P. Gowna in 1954. Buried in Gowna.

MANNING, Bernard

C.C. Mohill, 1907 - 1912

Ordained in Longford Convent in 1894. Died as P.P. Drumlish in 1945, and is buried in Drumlish Church grounds.

MAGUIRE, Owen (Eugene)

C.C. Mohill, 1908 - 1913

One of the first Pupils to attend St. Mel's College in 1865. He left Mohill to become Adm. and P.P. of Abbeylara, where he died in 1924.

PINKMAN, John

C.C. Mohill, 1912 - 1922

Ordained in 1910. He went on to be Adm., Athlone and then P.P. Gortletteragh, Ballinahown and Moate. Died in 1963. Buried in Moate Church grounds.

KIERNAN, John

C.C. Mohill, 1913 - 1918

Ordained in 1907. In 1918 he went to Ballintogher. Died as P.P. Gowna in 1968, aged 87.

DUFFY, John

C.C. Mohill, 1918 - 1922

Ordained in 1902. He left Mohill to go as P.P. Fenagh. Died as P.P. Abbeylara in 1937, aged 64.

O'DONOHUE, Frances

C.C. Mohill, 1922 - 1928

Ordained in 1915, he spent seven years on the American mission and two years in Legan before coming to Mohill. In 1928, he returned to Brooklyn. Died as P.P. Cloghan in 1963.

CLANCY, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1923 - 1931

Ordained in Maynooth in 1905. He left Mohill to go as P.P. Fenagh. Died as P.P. Cloone in 1964. Buried in the old Church grounds, Cloone.

SHEERAN, Thomas D.

C.C. Mohill, 1926 - 1928

Ordained in 1922. Died as P.P. Ardagh in 1970, aged 73.

BUTLER, James

C.C. Mohill, 1928 - 1930

Ordained in 1915. He went on to serve in Drumshambo and Ballymachugh. Died as P.P. Drumlish, where he is buried, in 1973.

KILDUFF, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1930 - 1933

Ordained in 1907. Served as a Chaplain during the first world war. P.P. Ballymachugh in 1933. Died in Ballymachugh in 1935.

MCKENNA, John

C.C. Mohill, 1930 - 1936

Ordained in 1910. He had served in a number of places before coming to Mohill. He left on his appointment as P.P. Streete. Died in 1943.

DONOHUE, John (Jack)

C.C. Mohill, 1933 - 1943

Ordained in 1923. Died as P.P. Abbeylara in 1971, and is buried in the cemetery there.

O'DONNELL, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1936 - 1948

Ordained in 1920. He was a professor in St. Mels. College for 16 years. Died as retired P.P. Mostrim in 1988. He is buried in Edgeworthstown cemetery.

Curates from Mohill cont....

BOYLAN, Edward

C.C. Mohill, 1943 - 1945

C.C. Annaduff, P.P. in Cloone and Gowna. He died in retirement in Balliesboro in 1996.

KEARNEY, Hugh

C.C. Mohill, 1945 - 1947

Ordained in 1926. C.C. Gortletteragh and Mount Temple. He died as P.P. Gortletteragh in 1983, and is buried on the Church grounds.

FORAN, Tim

C.C. Mohill, 1947 - 1955

Ordained in 1933. He retired as P.P. Killenumery. Died in 1996.

Mac CORMAIC, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1948 - 1952

Ordained in Maynooth in 1919. In 1952 he was appointed P.P. Carrickedmond. Died in 1980.

GILLERAN, Thomas

C.C. Mohill, 1953 - 1962

Ordained in 1928, he had served in Drumsna, Carrick and Ferbane before coming to Mohill. In 1962 he became Adm. in Clonmacnois. Died in 1963, and is buried in Ballymacormack.

GILL, Bernard

C.C. Mohill, 1955 - 1961

Ordained in 1933. In 1955 he was appointed as C.C. Ballintogher, where he died in 1969.

BRENNAN, James

C.C. Mohill, 1961 - 1962

Ordained in 1961, he was appointed to Mohill almost immediately after ordination. In 1962 he was transferred to Abbeylara. Died as P.P. Cloghan in 1987.

GILFILLAN, Francis

C.C. Mohill, 1962 - 1967

Ordained in 1931. In 1967 he was promoted as P.P. to Shannonbridge. In 1969 he became P.P. Granard. Died in 1986, and is buried in Granard.

O'HANLON, Francis

C.C. Mohill, 1962 - 1964

Ordained in 1962. In 1964 he was transferred to Granard. Presently P.P. of Shannonbridge, Offaly.

MURPHY, Thomas

C.C. Mohill, 1964 - 1967

Ordained in 1958. He left Mohill to go to Leeds diocese in England.

ROONEY, Sean

C.C. Mohill, 1967 - 1972

Returned as P.P. of Mohill in 1992.

Mac CORMAIC, Sean

C.C. Mohill, 1967 - 1969

Ordained in 1940 for the African Missions. He served in Ogaja, Calabarr from 1951 to 1984, with a break of two years when he acted as C.C. in Mohill. In 1985 he was appointed C.C. Ballyfarnon, from which he retired in 1993, to live in Mohill. Died in 1997.

FLYNN, Thomas

C.C. Mohill, 1970 - 1978

Son of Thomas Flynn and Emily Bohan. Ordained in 1963. He was subsequently P.P. in Kilnonan and in Killoe before retiring in 1998 to become C.C. in Granard.

WALL, John

C.C. Mohill, 1978 - 1980

Son of John Wall and Margaret O'Shea. Born in New York. Educated in Maynooth. Ordained in St. Mels Cathedral in 1978. In 1995 he became C.C. in Cloone and Aughavas.

CORKERY, Eamonn,

C.C. Mohill, 1981 - 1984, 1988 - 1991

Son of Patrick Corkery and Kate Farrell. Ordained in St. Mels Cathedral in 1968. In 1991 he was appointed P.P. Dromard.

COX, Eugene

C.C. Mohill, 1972 - 1979

Ordained in 1954 for the diocese of Leeds. In 1967 he transferred to the diocese of Ardagh. Served in Aughavas before being appointed to Mohill. He was transferred to Ferbane in 1979, and was made P.P. of Dromard in 1981. Died in 1991, and is buried in Legga Church grounds.

BALFE, George

C.C. Mohill, 1979 - 1983

Son of George Balfe and Margaret Mulheir. Ordained in Maynooth in 1966. Professor in St. Mel's College, Longford for 12 years. C.C. Kilronan, 1966 - 1967, and later C.C. Rathcline, 1983 - 1991. In 1991 he was appointed P.P. Ardagh.

FLYNN, John

C.C. Mohill, 1980 - 1982

Son of James Flynn and Alice Donohue. Ordained in St. Mel's Cathedral in 1976. Served in the diocese of Ardagh in the following parishes, Templemichael Longford, Cloghan Co. Offaly, Ballymahon, and he also served in Knock, Co. Mayo.

HOGAN, Bernard

C.C. Mohill, 1984 - 1988

Son of Bernard Hogan and Mary Leavy. Ordained in St. Mel's Cathedral in 1974. C.C. Longford 1974 - 1978. On Diocesan Mission, Chipata, Zambia, 1978 - 1984 and 1988 - 1991. Diocesan Catechist and C.C. Clonturk and Colmcille. In 1996 he was appointed P.P. Ballymachugh.

McCOLE, Columba

C.C. Mohill, 1984 - 1989

Son of Joseph McCole and Mary J McGettigan. Ordained in 1984. C.C. Killoe, Mullinalaghta, 1989 - 1994, and C.C. Ferbane, 1994 - 1995.

McMANUS, John

C.C. Mohill, 1989 - 1990

A member of the Holy Ghost Order

KIERNAN, Patrick

C.C. Mohill, 1990 -

Son of Eugene Kiernan and Julia Hand. Ordained in St. Mel's Cathedral in 1988. C.C. Ballymahon 1988 - 1989, staff of St. Mel's College 1989 - 1990.

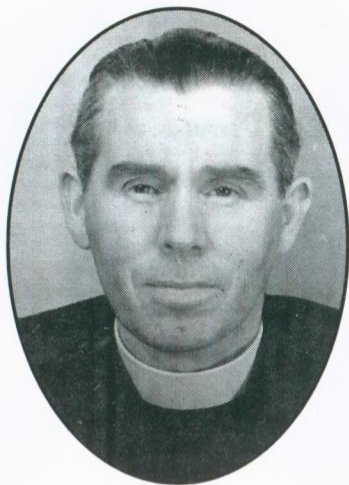
Mohill Clergy & Religious



Fr. Myles McGowan



Sr. Mary Bohan



Fr. Edward Gilchrist



Sr. Dympna Reynolds



Fr. Gilmartin



Sr. Francis Cassells



Rev. F. O'Flynn



Sr. Agnes Paula Conefrey



Rev. Patrick V. O'Flynn



Sr. Margaret Gildea



Sr. Tessie (Phillipa) Conlon



Sr. Ursula Reynolds



Sr. Mel McGowan



Sr. Kathleen Melia



Sr. Kathleen Healy



Sr. Gregory Quinn



Right Rev. Michael McLoughlin



Sr. M. Anthony McCaffrey



Very. Rev. Canon J.C. Wall

Mohill Clergy & Religious



Sr. Maur Quinn



Rev. Thomas Ellis



Sr. Helen Reynolds



Right Rev. Monsignor
Michael J. Masterson



Sr. Celia Winifred McGovern



Fr. John Kilcrann



Sr. Cornelius Noone



Br. Paul McKeon



Sr. Augustine Murphy



Fr. Francis Canon Donohue



Fr. Denis McGuinness



Sr. Pascal Reynolds



Monsignor Thomas Joseph Sheeran



Sr. Frances Higgins



Fr. Jim Tubman



Fr. John Mahon



Sr. Anna Healy



Fr. Michael McGowan



Fr. Charles O'Flynn

Mohill Clergy & Religious



Sr. Denise Dorr



Sr. Catherine Cassells



Fr. Willie Conefrey and Fr. Cyprian Conefrey at the occasion of their Golden Jubilee at Gortvagh Church July 1991



His Grace Archbishop Keith Patrick O'Brien and his Lordship Bishop James Monaghan with His Holiness Pope John Paul II



Rev. Ciaran O'Flynn

Sr. Gretta O'Flynn
& Rev. Henry O'Flynn



Mohill Clergy & Religious



Sister Una McLoughlin



Fr. Dominic Geelan



Sister Maria Paula McGovern



Fr. Gerard Ellis



Sr. Perpetua McKenna



Rev. Cathal Cumiskey



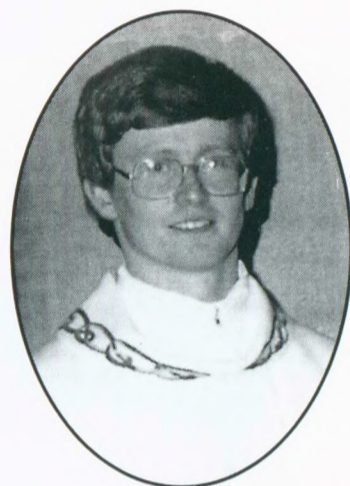
Fr. Cyprian Conefrey



Rev. P.J. Cumiskey



Sr. Philomenia Mahon



Fr. John Leogue



Monsignor Joe McGowan



Most Reverend John Francis
Hackett



Fr. Peter Vincent Moran



Fr. Patrick Moran



Canon Fencie McGowan



Canon Hubert Fee



Fr. Philip Baxter



Monsignor Tom Sheerin



Fr. John McGuinness

PRIESTS & SISTERS FROM THE PARISH OF MOHILL

BAXTER, Fr. Philip, Cappagh, 1950

Son of John Baxter and Elizabeth Conboy. In 1977 he was ordained in St. Patrick's Church, Mohill for the Capuchin Friars. He has ministered in Rochestown College Cork, Zambia and Tanzania and currently is based in Raheny, Dublin.

BOHAN, Rev. John, Corrigeen, Eslin Bridge, 1798 - 1835

Curate in Kiltoghert. Buried in Mohill Cemetery.

BOHAN, Sr. Mary, Moneyroe, 1934 -

Daughter of Jack Bohan and Bridget Flynn. Joined the Holy Rosary Sisters, Killeshandra in 1953. Assigned to Nigeria. Presently in Zambia as secretary to the Bishop of Monze.

BOHAN, Sr. M̄ary, Moneyroe, 1943 -

Daughter of John Richard Bohan and Tilly Leydon. Qualified in Social Work in 1976. Presently living and working in Ballyfermot as a social worker.

BOHAN, Sr. Mary Angela, Mullaun, 1900 - 1982

Daughter of Michael Bohan and Maria Higgins. Emigrated to America and entered the Monastery of the Visitation, Brooklyn, New York.

CASSELLS, Sr. Catherine, Corduff 1906 - 1998

Daughter of Peter Cassells and Catherine Murphy. Joined the Sisters of St. Dominic in 1930. Spent most of her religious life teaching in New York. Buried in Blauvelt, New York.

CASSELLS, Sr. Frances, Leitrim

Born 1962. Daughter of Jack Cassells and Una Kellegher. A member of the Blessed Sacrament Order. Professed in August 1994. Presently working in England.

CONEFREY, Fr. Cyprian, O.F.M, Doonera, Gortvagh, 1915 - 1992

Son of Thomas Conefrey and Marcella Ellis. He studied in Kerry, Belgium and Rome before his ordination in 1941. Died in Rosnoulagh, Donegal.

CONEFREY, Fr. Peter, Main Street, Mohill, 1880 - 1939

Son of James Conefrey and Mary McGivney. He was ordained in 1906. He became famous as P.P. of Cloone, founder of the Cloone Ceili Band and revival of Irish Crafts. He died in 1939 and is buried in Farnaught Cemetery, Gortletteragh.

CONEFREY, Fr. William, Doonera, Gortvagh, 1914 -

Son of Thomas Conefrey and Marcella Ellis. Ordained in 1941. Served in Birmingham until his retirement in 1999.

CONEFREY, Sr. Agnes Paula, Main Street, Mohill, 1874 - 1967

Daughter of James Conefrey and Mary McGivney. In 1895 joined the Loreto Sisters of Charity in America and served in China. Died in New Jersey.

CONLON, Sr. Philippa, Drumrigan, Eslin Bridge, 1916 -

Daughter of John Conlon and Anna Maria Cox. A member of The Sisters of Mercy She has served in Liverpool and the Isle of Man. Presently in Wales.

COSTELLOE, Sr. Mary Clare, Meelick, 1907 - 1991

Daughter of William Costelloe and Helen Prior. Joined the Sisters of Mercy Order in Longford in 1930. Buried in Longford Convent cemetery.

CUMISKEY, Fr. Cathal, Mohill, 1926 -

Son of Charlie Cumiskey and Katie Monaghan. Ordained in 1954. Taught in Redemptorist College in Limerick. He was Principal from 1971 to 1989. In 1990, he was appointed curate in the Redemptorist parish of St. Joseph's, Dundalk.

CUMISKEY, Fr. Patrick Joseph, Mohill, 1920 -

Son of Charlie Cumiskey and Katie Monaghan. Ordained in 1946. Now retired and living in New Zealand where he spent most of his religious life.

DORR, Rev. Declan, Station Road,

Son of Dr. Joseph and Mrs Mary Dorr. Joined the Holy Ghost Fathers in 1950. Ordained in 1958. He worked in West Africa for over 30 years and died in Ghana in 1991.

DORR, Sr. Denise, Holy Rosary, Station Road,

Daughter of Dr. Joseph and Mrs Mary Dorr. In 1958 she entered the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, Killeshandra. Trained for Nursing in London and completed her Midwifery Course. Worked in Sierra Leone as a nurse for 20 years. Presently working in Dublin as a Natural Health Therapist.

DUIGNAN, Pdraig, Laheen House, Eslin Bridge, 1940 -

Son of William Duignan and Christina Doherty. Ordained in Clonliffe for the Dublin Diocese in 1965. Served in the parishes of Finglas and Whitehall.

DUNLEAVY, Rev. Francis, Mohill

Son of John Dunleavy. He was ordained in 1940. He moved to the Diocese of Florida, U.S.A., where he took up duty in St. Patrick's Church, Miami Beach. After ten years, Fr. Franco founded the Church of St. Francis de Salles. He has now retired to Miami Beach and is hoping to return to Maynooth to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of his Ordination in June 2000.

DUNLEAVY, Rev. Michael, Mohill

Son of John Dunleavy. Ordained in Italy in 1932. He worked in the Diocese of Adgen, South of France until the Second World War broke out in 1939 and afterwards in America, England and Wales. Died in 1976 at the age of 70.

DUNLEAVY, Rev. Michael, Main St.

Son of Gerry Dunleavy and Rose Hagan. Educated in Marian College, Mohill and Milltown Institute, Dublin. Ordained a member of the Dominican Order in 1994. Presently in Rome as Prior of Irish Dominicans, and studying in University of St. Thomas.

ELLIS, Fr. Gerard, Main Street, 1930- 2000

Son of Joseph Ellis and Josie Cox. Ordained in 1954. Columban Missions to Korea.

Clergy from the Parish of Mohill cont....

ELLIS, Fr. Tom, *Main Street, 1905 - 1945*

Son of Richard Ellis and Eleanor Mahon. Ordained in Galway in 1930. Worked in China for 14 years.

FLYNN, John Joe, *Sragarn, 1906 - 1928*

Son of Charles Flynn and Teresa Kelliher. Entered Maynooth Seminary in 1924. Died while studying for the priesthood.

GEELAN, Fr. Dominic, *Mohill, 1890 - 1949*

Son of Edward Geelan and Margaret Flynn. Joined the Dominicans in Tallaght in 1908. Became teacher at Newbridge College, Headmaster between 1924 - 1936. Buried in Tallaght.

GILCHRIST, Fr. Edward, *Drumdart, Eslin, 1913 - 1990*

Son of Tom Gilchrist and Ellen McHugh. Ministered in Archdiocese of Edinburgh and retired as Curate in Moore Parish, Ballinasloe.

GILDEA, Sr. Margaret, *Corlasko, Eslin, 1922 -*

Daughter of James Gildea and Margaret Early. Joined the Sisters of Charity, Cork, in 1935. Now living in America.

GILMARTIN, Bro. Thomas., *Lisdrumgivil, 1908 - 1992*

Son of Bernard Gilmartin and Brigit Flynn. Joined the Christian Brothers in 1922. He is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

GORDON, Rev. Tom, *Main Street, Mohill, 1926 - 1996*

Son of Tom Gordon and Margaret Reynolds. Ordained C.C.S.P. in 1952 for the African Missions.

CANON GRAY, *Glebe Street, b. 1884*

Son of John and Brigid Reynolds. He was ordained in 1909. He taught in St. Mels College, Longford. A.d.m. Longford, P.P. Bornacoola and P.P. Ardagh. He is buried in Ardagh Cemetery.

HACKETT, Bishop John Francis, *Connecticut, 1911 - 1990*

Son of Tom Hackett and Anna Whelan. Bishop Hackett studied for the priesthood at St. Sulpice, Paris, where he was ordained in 1936. In 1953, he was consecrated Auxiliary Bishop to the Bishop of Hartford. He participated in the Vatican Council, 1962-1965. Bishop Hackett visited his family regularly in Mohill up until his death.

HEALY, Sr. Anna, *Breandrum*

Daughter of Michael Healy and Mary Ann Mollaghan. Joined our Lady of the Mission Order in 1939. Ministered in England, Wales and East Africa, in pastoral ministry in Bristol at present.

HEALY, Sr. Kathleen, *Breandrum, 1913 - 1977*

Daughter of Michael Healy and Mary Ann Mollaghan. In 1930 joined the Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions. Spent 20 years ministering to orphan children in India. Died in England.

HIGGINS, Sr. Frances Loreto, *Currawn*

Entered the Order of the Irish Sisters of Charity in 1952. She was attached to Convents in Dublin and Kilkenny where she was involved in childcare, and is now based at Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, where she assists in supervising a complex of apartments for elderly people. Sr. Loreto is a regular visitor to her home in Currawn.

KELLY, Rev. J.J., *Bridge Street, 1926 -*

Son of Christopher and Elizabeth Kelly. Ordained in 1951. Appointed P.P. of Clogher Road Parish, Drimnagh, in 1984 and continues in his ministry there today.

KILCRANN, Fr. John, *Corlasko, Eslin 1948 -*

Son of Jimmy Kilcrann and Rose Fanning. Educated at Blackrock College. Ordained in 1976. Presently ministering in Diocese of Sao Paulo, Brazil.

LEOGUE, Fr. J, *Station Road, 1960 -*

Son of Joseph Leogue and Mary Diffley. Ordained in 1986. Since ordination, he has worked briefly as a teacher in Summerhill College, Sligo and St. Mary's College, Galway as well as curate in Ballyrush/Castlebaldwin, Co. Sligo and Fuerty/Castlecoote, Co. Roscommon, where he now works.

MACALINNEY, Canon Thomas Edward, *Eslin, 1879 - 1931*

Son of Elizabeth Stenson and Edward MacAlinney. Ordained in 1903. Went on the Missions to South Africa. P.P. Spiddal 1914 to 1931. Buried at the Church in Spiddal.

MACALINNEY, Sr. Martha, *Eslin,*

Daughter of Elizabeth Stenson and Edward MacAlinney. Joined the Sisters of Charity. She celebrated her Golden Jubilee in 1950 and died in 1965.

MAHON, Fr. John, *Mohill, 1909 -*

Son of Michael Mahon and Margaret Donnelly. In 1929 joined Oblate Fathers in Cahermoyle, Limerick. Superior of Cahermoyle, St. Conleths and Belcamp College. Ordained in 1936. Professor of Philosophy for 13 years. Worked in the Channel Islands.

MAHON, Sr. Philomena, *Hyde Street, Mohill, 1914 -*

Daughter of Michael Mahon and Margaret Donnelly. Joined Our Lady of the Missions Order in 1929. Spent 46 years ministering to orphans and the poor in India. Now retired in London.

MCCAFFREY, Sr. Anthony, *Corraterrif, 1913 - 1998*

Daughter of Thomas and Jane McCaffrey. In 1937, she entered the novitiate of the Presentation Sisters in Virginia, Cavan. Taught in India for forty years. In 1979, she retired to Ireland, was assigned to Kilmacow, and was later transferred to Terenure, Dublin. Died in Edgesworthstown.

MCGIVNEY, Rev. Peter, *Coruee, b. 1857 - 1933*

Son of Philip McGivney and Bridget Duignan. He studied in the Irish College, Paris and was ordained in 1881. He died as P.P. in Carrickedmond in 1933 and is buried in Taghshinod Cemetery, Carrickedmond.

MCGIVNEY, Joseph, b. *Coruee, 1862 - 1958*

Son of Philip McGivney and Bridget Duignan, brother of Fr. Peter, Uncle of Fr. Peter Conefrey and Fr. Philip McGivney. He was ordained in 1895 at St. Mels Cathedral. HE retired as P.P. at Killoe in June 1950. He was laid to rest in Kileragh cemetery near Boyle in 1958.

MCGIVNEY, Philiplgnatius, *Coruee, 1906-1983*

Son of Thomas and Agnes Costello. He was ordained in 1930. He died as P.P. of Moate in 1983 and is buried outside the church in Moate.

MCGOVERN, Sr. Cecelia, *Drumhany, 1887 - 1973*

Daughter of Philip and Winifred McGovern. Emigrated to America. Joined the Sisters of Charity in 1934. Taught in schools in New York.

Clergy from the Parish of Mohill cont....

MCGOVERN, Sr. Clare, Mohill, 1931 -

Daughter of Tom McGovern and Annie Boylan. Joined the Sisters of Mercy in 1949. Has had a very distinguished academic career and was Major Superior of the Sisters of Mercy of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise 1984-1990. Is currently based in the Convent of Mercy Moate.

MCGOVERN, Sr. Maria Paula, Drumhany, 1882 - 1960

Daughter of Philip and Winifred McGovern. Emigrated to America. Joined the Sisters of Charity in 1904. Taught in Jamaica Plain and Waltham, Mass.

MCGOWAN, Fr. Michael, Tawlaughtmore, 1929 -

Son of Matthew McGowan and Mary Ellen O'Neill. Ordained in 1955. Served in the Dublin Diocese. At present is Parish Priest in Ballymore, Eustace, Co. Kildare.

MCGOWAN, Fr. Myles, Tawlaughtmore

Son of Matthew McGowan and Mary Ellen O'Neill. Ordained in 1945 for the Archdiocese of St. Paul, Minneapolis. Retired in 1991, to St. Paul.

MCGOWAN, Sr. Mel, Tawlaughtmore, 1931 -

Daughter of Matthew McGowan and Mary Ellen O'Neill. Joined the Sisters of Mercy in Moate. Worked in Nursing and Administration in St. Vincents Hospital, Athlone until retirement in May 1996. Now living in St. Peters Convent, Athlone.

MC GOWAN, Canon Patrick Alphonsus, Hill Street

Known as Fr. Foncie was born in Cloone Parish from where his parents moved in 1926 to reside in Mohill Town. Educated in St Mels College and Maynooth. Ordained in 1932 and served in Drumshanbo, Ballinahown, Moate, Longford and Ferbane where he died in 1982.

MC GOWAN, Monsignor Myles Joseph, Hill Street

He was the third son of John and Ellen Mc Gowan. Born in Drumadorn in the Parish of Cloone and educated in St. Mels College and All Hallows Seminary. Ordained in 1937 and ministered in the Diocese of Baltimore, U.S.A. He retired in Parkville, U.S.A in 1987.

MC KENNA, Sister Perpetua

Sister Perpetua was the eldest child of the late Paddy and Mary Kate Mc Kenna and was born in Castle Street, Mohill. Educated in Marist Convent, Carrick and Ursuline Convent, Sligo. Joined the Ursuline Sisters in 1936 and served in Sligo and Kenya, Africa. Now retired in Sligo.

MCGUINNESS, Fr. John, Shannagh Mohill

Son of Timothy McGuinness & Elizabeth Taffe. A member of St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan. Ordained 21/12/1940. Ministered all his priestly life in Nigeria and presently retired in Kiltegan.

MCGUINNESS, Fr. Dennis Drumbooy, 1916 - 1965

Son of Frank McGuinness and Lily Jane Daly. Ordained in 1942. Ministered as a priest in the Archdiocese of Birmingham. His final appointment was as P.P. in St. Joseph's, Wolverhampton. Died in 1965 at the age of 48.

MCGUINNESS, Rev. Philip, Drumbooy,

Son of Frank McGuinness and Lily Jane Daly. Ordained in 1938. He

celebrated his first Mass in St. Patrick's Church. Ministered as a priest in the Archdiocese of Southwalk. Died in 1990, in his 51st year of Priesthood.

MCKEON, Bro. Paul, Greenawn, 1919 -

Joined the Passionate Order in 1946 in the Graan, Eniskillen, Fermanagh. Spent five years in Botswana. In 1991 established the charity H.A.N.D.S. Presently in Down.

MCKIERNAN, Sr. Ann, Drumnid, 1864 -

Daughter of John McKiernan and Mary Mulvey. Worked in America. Died in England.

MCLOUGHLIN, Sr. Una, Drumgowna, Eslin, 1921 -

Joined the Franciscan Order in 1935. Assigned to work in America and ministered in New Mexico. At present in Tacoma, Washington.

MELIA, Kathleen, Drumkilleen, 1946 -

Daughter of Tom Melia and Brigid Ellis. In 1967 joined Columban Sisters in Co. Wicklow. Assigned to Mindanao Southern Philippines in 1976 where she taught for ten years. Is currently involved in pastoral and conservation work with a displaced tribe in Mindanao.

MITCHELL, Fr. Frankie, Mohill, 1924 -

Son of Francis Mitchell and Anna Maria Foy. In 1942, he entered the Seminary of the Holy Cross. Ordained in 1949. Served in Killester, Howth, Delgany, Athy, Dun Laoghaire, Loughlinstown and Ballybrack. Currently living and working in the Parish of the Guardian Angel, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

MONAGHAN, Bishop James, Shivdilla

Son of Edward Monaghan. Titular Bishop of Cell Ausaille and Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh 1970 ñ 1989. Bishop Monaghan died in 1994 and is entombed in the Crypt of St. Mary's Cathedral in Edinburgh.

MOORE, Fr. Hugh, Main Street, 1932 -

Son of Joe Moore and Josephine Kelly. Ordained in 1958 for the Holy Ghost Order (CSSP). Ministered in Trinidad and Kenya.

MORAN, Fr. Patrick, Corraleigh, 1906 - 1965

Son of Tom Moran and Mary Ann Tubman. Ministered in Sacramento and appointed Monsignor in Susanville, California.

MORAN, Fr. Peter, Corraleigh, 1909 - 1976

Son of Tom Moran and Mary Ann Tubman. Ordained in 1937. Worked in Nevada, America. Buried in Fenagh cemetery.

MORAN, Sr. Patsy, Drumrigan, Eslin Bridge, 1937 -

Daughter of Michael Moran and Mary Reilly. A member of The Sisters of Mercy she has spent her religious life in Africa. Presently in Kenya.

MULLIGAN, Sarah, Killamaun

Daughter of Tim Mulligan and Maureen Masterson. In 1967 joined the Sisters of Mercy. Later trained as a Home Economics teacher. Presently residing in Loughlinstown with her family.

MURPHY, Sr. Augustine, Selton, 1891 -

Daughter of Francis Murphy and Martha Hughes. Emigrated to America and joined the Presentation Order in California.

MURRAY, Sr. Perpetua, Killamaun

Member of Presentation Order, California.

Clergy from the Parish of Mohill cont....

NOONE, Sr. Cornelius, *Drumoula, 1900 - 1984*

Daughter of Pat and Elizabeth Noone. Joined the Marist Order in 1920. Served in England and Sligo. Died in Carrick-on-Shannon.

O'FARRELL, Fr. Gabriel, *Mohill, 1881 - 1948*

Son of John O'Farrell and Margaret Reynolds. Joined the Dominicans in Tallaght. Worked in Australia for 12 years. In 1938 became Prior in Dominic Street, Limerick and later Prior of the Black Abbey in Kilkenny. Died in Kilkenny.

O'FLYNN, Fr. Charles, *Breandrum, 1795 - 1877*

Son of William and Mary O'Flynn. Parish Priest in Cloone 1850 - 1877. Buried in Cloone.

O'FLYNN, Rev. Ciaran, *Drumdart, Eslin Bridge, 1936 -*

Son of John O'Flynn and Gretta Mahon. Educated in St. Mels College, Longford. Joined St. Patrick's Missionary Society, Kiltegan. Worked in Nigeria and presently ministering in Lagos.

O'FLYNN, Rev. Patrick, *Drumdart, Eslin, 1894 - 1961*

Son of John O'Flynn and Margaret Mc Cabe. Educated in St. Mels College Longford and Maynooth. Served in Lanesboro, Longford, Loughduff, Kenagh and Kiltubrid. Buried in Drumcong.

O'FLYNN, Rev. Henry, *Drumdart, Eslin, 1896 - 1972*

Son of John O'Flynn and Margaret McCabe. Educated in St. Mels College, Longford and Maynooth. Worked in America. Buried in Sausalito, California.

O'FLYNN, Sr. Gretta, *Drumdart, Eslin, 1901 - 1961*

Daughter of John O'Flynn and Margaret McCabe. Served in the Ursuline Convent, Sligo and the diocese of Kitui, Kenya. Buried in Sligo.

O'ROURKE, Fr. Sean, *Main Street, Mohill 1914*

Son of Matthias O'Rourke and Anna Foy. He attended Mohill Boys N.S. and St. Mels College, Longford 1927 - 1932. He represented St. Mels in both Gaelic football and handball. He went to St. Patrick's College, Maynooth in 1932 and was ordained in 1939. He served on the diocese of Southwark 1939-1950 and then ministered in Ballymahon, Streete, Ferbane, Longford and Newtowncashel. He retired and is now living in the parish of Moate.

QUINN, Sr. Gregory, *Main St., Mohill, 1905 - 1995*

Daughter of Patrick Quinn and Ellen Reynolds. Entered the Marist Novitiate at Chaville, France in 1923. Appointed Principal of Marist Primary School in Carrick-on-Shannon and later went on to be Headmistress of the Secondary School. Retired to Tubbercurry in 1971. Buried in Tubbercurry.

QUINN, Sr. Maur, *Main Street, Mohill*

Daughter of Patrick Quinn and Ellen Reynolds. Entered the Marist Novitiate in France in 1923. Volunteered for Missions in Fiji. Died in Sydney, Australia.

REYNOLDS, Rev Henry, *1862 - 1895*

Son of Michael Reynolds. Ordained in Longford in 1890. Ministered in England for four years. Died at the age of 33.

REYNOLDS, Fr. Matthew, *Drumhany, 1795 - 1867*

Died in Newtownforbes in 1867. Buried in St. Mels Cathedral, Longford.

REYNOLDS, Sr. Bridget, *Finskill, 1943 -*

Daughter of Patrick Reynolds and Elizabeth Bohan. Joined the Marist Order in 1969. Worked in Nigeria. Presently working in Dublin with C.O.R.I.

REYNOLDS, Sr. Helen, *Crossdrumman, 1925 -*

Daughter of Patrick Reynolds and Helen Reynolds. Entered the congregation of Our Lady of the Missions in Hastings, England and later went on to train as a nurse. Assigned to Kenya she now runs a clinic for the sick.

REYNOLDS, Sr. Dympna, *Breandrum, 1901 - 1979*

Daughter of Thomas Reynolds and Ellen McKeon. Entered the Loreto Convent Fermoy in 1925. Spent many years helping to run the boarding school in Fermoy. Buried in Loreto Cemetery, Fermoy.

REYNOLDS, Sr. Madeline, *Breandrum, 1901 - 1926*

Daughter of Thomas Reynolds and Ellen McKeon. Entered the Franciscan Convent Drumshambo in 1920.

REYNOLDS, Sr. Mary Pascal, *Breandrum, 1915 - 1988*

Daughter of Thomas Reynolds and Ellen McKeon. Joined Our Lady of the Missions Order 1932. Worked in Convents in Ireland and England. Died in Wealdstone in Middlesex.

REYNOLDS, Sr. Ursula, *Breandrum, 1906 - 1987*

Daughter of Thomas Reynolds and Ellen McKeon. Joined the Marist Order and taught in Marist schools in Charlestown and Tubbercurry. Worked in St. Patrick's Hospital and died in there in 1987.

SHEERAN, Rev. Tom, *Mohill, 1907 - 1983*

Ordained in 1932. taught for 15 years in St. Mel's College, Longford. Served in Rathcline, Athlone, Ballinahoran and Moate. In 1968 he was made P.P. of Granard before being transferred to Mohill in 1969. died in Edgeworthstown and is buried in Mohill cemetery.

TUBMAN, Fr. James, *Shivdella, Gortvagh, 1934 -*

Son of James Tubman and Elizabeth Canning. Ordained in 1960 for Salford Diocese. Presently in Lancashire, England as P.P. Colne.

WALL, Fr. James, *Dromod, 1902 - 1963*

Ordained in 1928. spent a short time on the English Mission and later went on to serve in Athlone, Longford and Mohill. Died in Mohill and is buried in St. Patrick's Church grounds.



PRIESTS who have worked in Mohill Parish



Fr. Gene Cox



Fr. Pat Kiernan



Fr. Sean McCormack



Canon Sean Rooney

Millennium Celebrations in Mohill



◀ New Years Eve 1999



Young boys and girls from the parish on New Years Eve 1999 - 2000
 Back: Sean Flynn, Emma Heeran, Martin O'Brien.
 Front: Kim Taylor, Louise McLoughlin, Lisa Hunter, Diane Britton, Aisling Conaty, Phillis McGarry.
 All made their Confirmation in April.

New Year Mohill 2000 ▼



Millennium Committee on New Years Eve 1999
 Back: Ray Palmer, Frank Barden, Angela Barden, Gerry McLoughlin, James Madden, Cecil Tuthill, Hazel Tuthill, Luke Early.
 Front: Sylvia Booth, Tina Slevin, Maureen Lynch, Nicola Murphy, Imelda Donnelly, Mary Reynolds,
 Missing from photograph Darragh Madden. ▶



Old & Young of the Parish



Tommie Mulligan

Drumhaney, Eslinbridge, Carrick-on-Shannon.
Born; 4th July 1909; Tommie was a farmer and had a family of three boys and three girls. He now resides in Arus Carolan, Mohill.



Mother Teresa Tracey

Mother Teresa Tracey was born on the 5th November 1910 in Heath, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. She joined the Mercy Order in 1930 in Newtownforbes. She has been in Mohill since 1932. She now resides in Shannagh Grove, Mohill.



Eugene Baxter, Mohill

Eugene was born in Drumreilly in 1906. He came to Mohill in 1972 and retired from farming and bought a grocery business which his son Gene now runs. Eugene lives with his wife Bridget Alice in Tawnyeely, Mohill.



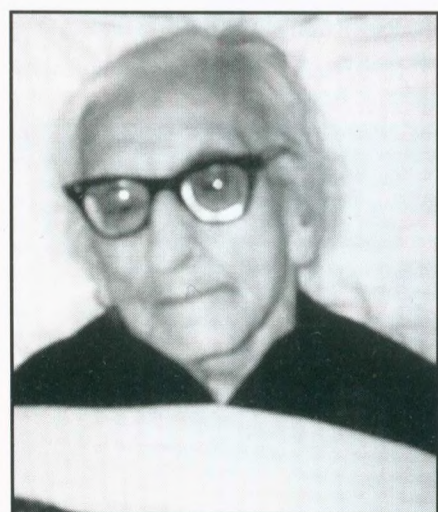
Dylan James Oliver Tyrrell
Born 19th January at 1.30 p.m. ; Sligo General Hospital; Weight 7lb 1oz, Parents Gerard Tyrrell & Lucia, Treanmore, Mohill.



Seán on the left and Evan on the Right
Born on the 8th December 1999
Parents John and Deirdre Harkin, Glosdrumin, Gortvagh; Twin brothers of Ethan Harkin.



Sophie Dugdale
Born 14th July 1999
Parents John & Helen Dugdale



Letitia Grier, Gortvagh, Mohill
Born 2nd March 1911. Letitia was born and reared in Gortvagh and spent her life on the farm. She now resides in Arus Carolan, Mohill.



Jim Guckian,
Born 1912.. Former draper, Bridge Street. Now residing in Hill Street.



Stella Booth nee Sadler
Born 1912. Born and reared in Mohill, she now resides at Broomstreet.



Michael McGarry
Crossdrumman
Born 11th April, 1911.

Mohill Jubilee Subscribers

MADDEN, James & Dara
Lough Rynn, Mohill

FEELY, Tony, Main Street, Mohill

CADDEN, Family, Droim Cille, Mohill

FITZPATRICK, Val & Carmel
Main Street, Mohill

ELLIS, Pdraig & Kathleen
Treanmore, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Annie, Boeshill, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Rose,
Hyde Street, Mohill

MAHON, Gerry & Mary
Hill Street, Mohill

NICHOLL, Eilish
Bridge Street, Mohill

MCDERMOTT, Dermot & Mary
Boeshill, Mohill

CASEY, Thomas & Maura
Castle Street, Mohill

BOHAN, Ray & Grainne
Gortavacan, Eslin

MCGOWAN, Family
Tawlaghtmore, Mohill

DOLAN, Rose, Coolabawn, Mohill

GILDEA, Michael
Corlaskagh, Kilnagross

BOLAND, Family
Corrabeigh, Gortavagh

HIGGINS, Liam
Laheenamona, Mohill

BOYLE, James & Bella
Treanmore, Mohill

BEIRNE, Vincent & Anne
Coolabawn, Mohill

FLOOD, Pauline, Hyde Street, Mohill

MCMANUS, Maurice
McLoughra, Mohill

MCEVOY, Tom,
Corrigeen, Eslin Bridge

PALMER, Ray & Orla
Upper Main Street, Mohill

CANNING, Anthony, Boeshill, Mohill

DONNELLY, Imelda
Shannagh Grove, Mohill

BLAKE, Michael & Mae
Leitrim Lower, Eslin

BOHAN, Cissie
Corrigeen, Eslin Bridge

CASEY, Michael & Madge
Springfield, Mohill

MCGOWAN, Harry & Noeleen
Bridge Street, Mohill

GALLAGHER, Seamus & Geraldine
Station Road, Mohill

KIVLEHAN, Sylvester & Annette
Shannagh, Mohill

HIGGINS, Pdraig & Bridget
Boeshill, Mohill

BEIRNE, Joe & Phyl
Lisdadan, Mohill

FLYNN, Peadar & Linda
Shannagh, Mohill

BAXTER, Eugene Snr.
Tawnyeely, Mohill

GUCKIAN, Jim & Anne
Hill Street, Mohill

BOHAN, Francis
Clooncahir, Mohill

MCLOUGHLIN, Pdraig & Claire
Drumnid, Mohill

BANNON, Seamus & Bridie
Tulcon, Mohill

MORAN, Maureen
Knocklongford, Mohill

WYNNE, Willie
Drumrahill, Eslin

DUIGNAN, Patrick
Drumreask, Gortavagh

DUIGNAN, Tessie
Treanmore, Mohill

FOLEY, James & Anne
Hill Street, Mohill

WALSH, Janey
9 Knocklongford, Mohill

TYRELL, Kathleen
Treanmore, Mohill

EARLY, Luke & Anne
Main Street, Mohill

O'TOOLE, Betty
Shannagh, Mohill

SISTERS OF MERCY
Shannagh Grove, Mohill

CROSSAN, Carmel
Shannagh, Mohill

MCNALLY, Millie
Dromod

HIGGINS, Gerald P.
Fort Mary Park, Limerick

KIERNAN, Fr. Pat
The Presbytery, Mohill

MOHILL 4TH LEITRIM SCOUTS

CLYNE, Tommy & Mimmie
Treanmore, Mohill

HILL, Tommy & Maureen
Ussaun, Mohill

DOHERTY, Thomas
Drumdoo, Mohill

MOHILL MILLENIUM COMMITTEE

SPRATT, C
Shannagh Grove, Mohill

STENSON, Enda & Breda
Drumrahan, Eslin

DUIGNAN, Rosaleen
Scollans Flats, Hyde Street, Mohill

LOGAN, Family
Annaghderg, Gortavagh

LATIMER, Mary K
Station Road, Mohill

CUMMISKEY, Michael, Susan & Catherine
Cluain Mhuire, Mohill

MCNAMARA, Family
Gortinure, Kilnagross

LOGAN, Hugh & Linda
Main Street, Mohill

HAMILTON, Bernard & Bernadette
Drumoughty, Gortavagh

WARD, Seamus & Margaret
Hill Street, Mohill

O'DONOHUE, John & Marian
Tawnyeely, Mohill

MCCRANN, Peter
Corlea, Kilnagross

MCGARRY, Teresa
Killamaun, Mohill

WARD, Sean
Rosharry, Mohill

FARRELL, Mary
The Chalet, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Sean & Mary
Drumhanny, Mohill

CASSELLS, Mary Alice & Family
Cornagresh, Mohill

BAXTER, Willie
Hill Street, Mohill

MORAN, Gerry & Anne
Drumrahill, Mohill

SLEVIN, Tim & Tina
Coolabawn Hse, Station Road, Mohill

MCKIERNAN, Kathleen4
Drumnid, Mohill

MORAN, Sean, Gortfada, Mohill

LOGAN, Olga
Corner Hse, Mohill

GILDEA, Michael & Eileen
Drumrahill, Eslin

BLAKE, Charles
Greenawn, Eslin P.O.

O'FLYNN, Harry & Dolores
Drumdart, Eslin

REYNOLDS, Joe & Cait
Tulcon, Eslin,

MCKEON, Pauline
Drumdoo, Mohill

KEATING, Paddy & Monica
Coolabawn, Mohill

KLACZYSKA, Mary
Lurga, Mohill

BOHAN, Moira
McLoughra, Mohill

HIGGINS, Willie
Laheenamona, Mohill

EARLY, Margaret
Tawlaght-a-beg, Mohill

MCINTYRE, Sean & Bridie
Hyde Street, Mohill

O'REILLY, Tony & Teresa
Main Street, Mohill

LYNCH, Tom & Maureen
Castle Gardens, Mohill

MCINTYRE, Paddy & Mary
Hyde Street, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Bernie
Leitrim Upper, Eslin P.O.

DOBSON, David & Rita
Drumhanny, Mohill

BEIRNE, Charlie
Rosduan, Mohill

COX, David & Mary
Cloone Road, Mohill

MC GARRY, Joe
Treanmore, Mohill

TOBIN, May
Treanmore, Mohill

MAHON, David
Rosduan, Mohill

MAHON, Michael & Maura
Rosduan, Mohill

MORAN, Willie
Tawlaghtbeg, Mohill

MCGOWAN, Francis & Geraldine
Hill Street, Mohill

BOHAN, Pdraig
Treanmore, Mohill

MELIA, Brigid
Drumkilleen, Mohill

WALSH, Gerard & Mary
Gortfada, Mohill

CASHIN, Gerry & Kathleen
Tulcon, Mohill

BAXTER, Eugene & Maura
Bridge Street, Mohill

CAWLEY, Nicholas & Eithne
Hill Street, Mohill

O'CALLAGHAN, Gerry & Teresa
Cappagh, Mohill

O'BEIRNE, Kieran
Main Street, Mohill

MULLIGAN, Vincent
Bunnybeg, Eslin

MORAN, Thomas
Clonturk, Dromod

Mohill Jubilee Subscribers

MCWEENEY, Paddy & Detta
Tawlaghtvalley, Mohill

MELIA, Family
Drumkillian, Gorvagh

GREENAN, Paul & Josephine
Main Street, Mohill

BRENNAN, Family
Esker, Cloone
ROWLEY, Maureen
Hyde Street, Mohill

CASHIN, Margaret
Shannagh, Mohill

O'CALLAGHAN, Eilish
Main Street, Mohill

FAUGHNAN, Family
Lisdadan, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Jim & Catherine
Stuck, Eslin

KILCRANN, James
Corlaskagh, Eslin

MCDONALD, John & June
Upper Main Street, Mohill

GILMARTIN, Pdraig
Lisdrumgildra, Kilnagross

CASSELLS, Thomas
Leitrim Upper, Mohill

STENSON, Josephine
Moher-Na-Melia, Eslin Bridge

REYNOLDS, Betty
Stuck, Eslin

CLYNE, Willie & Alice
Main Street, Mohill

MCGUINNESS, Sean & Tess
Drumhanny, Mohill

MCNABOLA, Francis & Maureen,
Corlea, Kilnagross

FOLEY, Francis & Margaret
Drumrahan, Eslin

LEE, Thomas
Knocklongford, Mohill

SHANLEY, Brendan & Marian
Meelick, Keshcarrigan

BOHAN, Brian
McLoughra, Mohill

MCGOVERN, Jim & Josephine
Shannagh Grove, Mohill

Kelly, Martin & Mary
Aughrim, Mohill

ELLIS, Family
Treatmore, Mohill

BEIRNE, Brendan & Anne
Killamaun, Mohill

MCGUINNESS, Phil
Shannagh, Mohill

BANK OF IRELAND
Main Street, Mohill

WHELAN, Thomas & Bridie
Stracarne, Gorvagh

CUNNINGHAM, Peadar & Marian
Drumdoe, Mohill

MELIA, Bridget, Drumkillian,

BOHAN, Leo & Christina
Gortavacan, Eslin Bridge

FAUGHNAN, Patrick
Cloonbo, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Frank & Mary
Killamaun, Mohill

GAFFEY, Matt & Petra
Cappagh, Mohill

MCGLYNN, Thomas & Frances
Ussau, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Michael
Hill Street, Mohill

BEIRNE, Gerry & Mary
Coolabawn, Mohill

MCGOVERN, Phil & Patsy
Drumhanny, Mohill

FLYNN, Maureen
Drumlowan, Gorvagh

KEANE, Michael & Maureen
Ash Grove, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Hubie & Irene
Sattrissaun, Gorvagh

GREENE, Rose
Main Street, Mohill

WYNNE, Rita
Corrateriff, Eslin

BROWNE, Marie
Lough Errill, Mohill

MCGRATH, Family
Rooskeythompson, Mohill

EGAN, Stephen & Mary
Glassdrumman, Mohill

KENNEDY, Joe & Geraldine
Oghill, Mohill

MCKEON, Veronica
Drumkillian, Mohill

ROONEY, Cannon Sean PP
Mohill

REYNOLDS, Chris & Dolly
Main Street, Mohill

ROGERS, Jim
Main Street, Mohill

SCOLLAN, Monica
Cappagh, Mohill

KELLY, Maureen
Lough Rynn, Mohill

Keegan Pdraig & Rose
Drumboy, Mohill

MULHERN, Eileen
Dun Mhuire, Mohill

COBBE, Claire
Killenard, Portarlington,
Co Laois

REYNOLDS, Kathleen Upper Main
Street, Mohill

FINNEGAN, Lily
Treatmore, Mohill

FLYNN, Don & Patricia
Breandrum, Gorvagh

CANNING, JP & Maureen
Gorvagh

WISELY, Michael
Towneymore, Mohill

WISELY, John
Towneymore, Mohill

GILCHRIST, Muriel
Eslin

KELLEHER, PAUL & Clíodhna
Drumdoe, Mohill

BEIRNE, Kevin & Mary
Sattrissaun, Gorvagh

MONAGHAN, Elizabeth
Sattrissaun, Mohill

FLYNN, Paddy
Selton, Gorvagh

DUGDALE, Joseph & Anna
Avondale, Mohill

MAGUIRE, Mae
Green Road, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Kathleen & Bridget
Corlea, Kilnagross,

MOHILL HARDWARE
Glebe Street

C & D MEDICAL HALL
Hyde Street, Mohill

DOLAN, Dr.Arthur & Geraldine
Boeshill Lodge, Mohill

WALPOLE, Patsy
Station Road, Mohill

**ST MICHAEL'S PAST PUPILS
COMMITTEE**

WRYNN, Rita
Sattrissaun, Gorvagh

O'REILLY, Michael & Kathleen
Green Road, Mohill

CANNING Malachy
Gorvagh

SHIVNAN, Family
Treatmore, Mohill

MCLOUGHLIN, Bridget
Drumgowna, Eslin

KANE, Harry
Lough Errill, Mohill

REILLY, Patsy
Lough Errill, Mohill

STENSON, Jimmy & Josephine
Moher-na-Meela, Eslin P.O.

STENSON, Gerard & Peggy
Hyde Street, Mohill

REYNOLDS, Michael & Sons
Carrick on Shannon

MC LOUGHLIN, Sr. Una
Tacoma, Washington, U.S.A.

WHELAN, Michael
Aughavas

MCCABE, Sean & Gabriel
Drumrahan, Eslin Bridge

FLYNN, Noreen & Cathal
Breandrum, Gorvagh

McGEE, Gerry & Anna
Glebe Street, Mohill

McGARRY, John & Moira
Crosdrumman

MOHILL ICA

LEITRIM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

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COMMERCE**

REYNOLDS, Bernie & Mary
Grove Hill, Mohill

DUIGNAN, Christine
Laheen House, Eslin

ANON per Fr. Pat Kiernan

CONEFREY, Joe
Corbeagh, Gorvagh

CONEFREY, Fr. William
Birmingham, England

GRIFFIN, Paddy & Maureen
Glebe Street, Mohill

ELLIS, Sarah & Thomas
Glosdrum, Gorvagh

MCGOWAN, Lourda
Bridge Street, Mohill

MCLOUGHLIN, Gerry & Dolores
Finiskill, Mohill

MULLIGAN, Family
Drumgam, Gorvagh

HUSTON, Aileen & Ivan
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