

Palmerstown

An Ancient Place



NESSA O'CONNOR

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An Ancient Place

by Nessa O'Connor

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE ÁTHA CLIATH THEAS



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LE CUIDIÚ AN CHOMHAIRLE OIDHREACHTA

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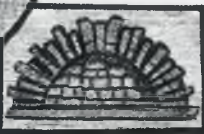
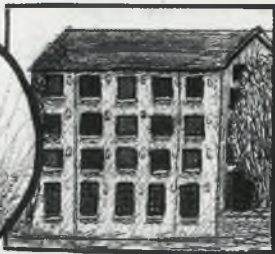
Painting of the old village by Tom Cullen, by kind permission of Clare Boyd and Liz Murphy.



To Molly

in memory of her mother

Nessa O'Connor



Foreword

This book – its historical detail, its comprehensive content and its marvellous pictorial references – is a fascinating record of the history of Palmerstown and its surrounding areas. This is an area whose history has seldom been recorded and publicised and the Mayor and Members of South County Dublin Council are delighted to be associated with its publication and recognise the tremendous work by its author, the late Nessa O'Connor.

The Council has an ongoing commitment to support projects of an historical and educational nature, and this book has additional relevance as Palmerstown is within the Council's administrative area. South Dublin Libraries are pleased to be in a position to support the publication and look forward to seeing the final book on the shelves.

Ms. O'Connor is remembered through her work. She dedicated her time, even when ill, to work on this historical research and her achievement is to be congratulated. I congratulate also, all those others who have worked hard to bring this project to fruition: her mother and many friends and supporters.

*Mayor Marie Ardagh
South Dublin County Council, 2003*

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We are very grateful to the people who may have assisted Nessa by providing information and loaning historical materials. Accordingly we apologise if any name has been omitted.

Introduction

The sad and untimely passing of Nessa O'Connor, the author of this book, is not only a great loss to her family, as a loving daughter and mother, but has also robbed Palmerstown of its most dedicated historian. Artistic by nature, and with a love of things old, there was nobody better to assemble the myriad of jigsaw pieces which go to make up the history of an area. Palmerstown and the Liffey Valley is a place rich in historical detail and human interest. Also, once free from the concrete jungle of suburbia with its ever-expanding road network, Palmerstown is bordered by the valley of the River Liffey, which is surprisingly unspoilt, and is a place where nature has been allowed to take its course. Foxes and badgers, trees and hedgerows thrive alongside the river, creating an oasis for the benefit of us all.

Nessa's interest, inspired and aided by her parents, Nuala and Hugh, evolved through several articles and exhibitions before developing into this book. The value of such local histories is immeasurable for they provide the basis of understanding the wider history of an area. Without detailed local knowledge – some of it handed down verbally – combined with thorough research and the study of maps and records, the big picture of the history and development of County Dublin as a whole would be full of gaps and would remain lost or incomplete.

We are all grateful to Nessa for her great dedication and hope that this beautiful publication will keep alive her memory.

Peter Pearson
May 2003

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From Taylor and Skinner, 1783

Chapter 1

Early settlement – Ancient remains – Derivation of ‘Palmerstown’ – Saint Guaire – The Palmer’s Hospital

Palmerstown is a parish situated in the Barony of Uppercross and Newcastle in the county of Dublin and the province of Leinster. Situated six kilometres (four miles) west of Dublin city on the road to Lucan, the town is bounded on the north by the River Liffey. The existence here of such antiquities as a ring barrow and the site of a cyst or stone burial box, both of which are found in Mill Lane, testifies to the very early settlement of Palmerstown.

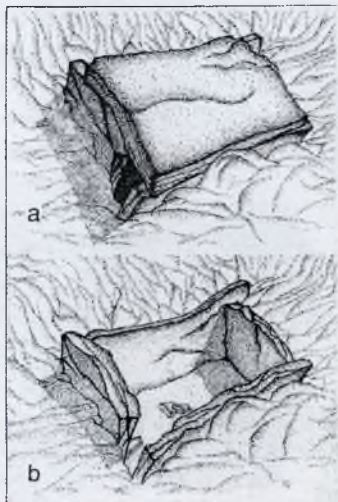
The Ring Barrow

A form of prehistoric burial mound, the ring barrow is situated on a small summit in former barley fields adjoining Mill Lane. Known locally simply as ‘the Clump’, the ring is fifteen metres in diameter and is surrounded by brambles and bushes. Prehistoric burial mounds such as these, marked by a *tumulus* or earthen mound, take several forms and may date from anywhere over a period of 3000 years from the Neolithic to the Iron Age. The majority, however, date from the European Middle Bronze Age (circa 1800 BC to 750 BC) and take this simple mound form. The use of the barrow as a feature of Bronze Age civilisation spread to the Celtic people and survived until the Iron Age. Flat tombs superseded the barrow among the Celts around 300 BC.

...For they broke it open in situ before the cliff fell, to seek for treasure, and finding only bones, destroyed it.

Dr Frazer on the discovery of a cyst at
Mill Lane, 1868

Isolated cyst graves are generally found by accident when a plough or bulldozer removes the capstone. They contain burials which are usually cremated, and often a pottery vessel. Right: cyst grave q. with capstone, b. without capstone.



Discovery of a Burial Chamber and Urns

In June 1868 the museum of the Royal Irish Academy received from one of its members, Dr William Frazer, portions of three earthen vases, recently discovered. These specimens of early pottery had been found at Palmerstown, in the limestone quarry beside the old graveyard in Mill Lane.

Early in June of that year when some labourers were excavating stones from the west side of the quarry, a fall of the bank exposed a stone cyst or burial box. This primitive grave consisted of a broad slab of stone surrounded on three sides by flat flags. Covering the cyst were two slabs lying side by side, the chink being closed by a third slab that formed a roof over the chamber.

Within the cyst, deposited mouth downwards, was a vessel measuring about twenty-five centimetres (10 inches) in height, the mouth of which was about seventeen centimetres (7 inches) in diameter. Made of coarse baked earth of a bright orange colour, the ware was extremely compact, almost stone-like in consistency. The vessel was ornamented with parallel and vertical lines and rough chevrons of herringbone pattern. The interior was coated on the bottom and along the sides with a crust of black carbonaceous matter. The jar contained fragments of bone, which were dry and liable to crumble easily.

Of pure white in colour, the pieces were evidently of considerable age. None of the fragments measured more than five centimetres (2 inches) in length. They included three portions of a human skull, part of a toe, part of a finger, a tooth fang, a lower jaw, a thighbone and ribs. Scattered among the bones were oyster shells. Dr Frazer concluded that it was impossible to ascertain whether the specimens had been charred, boiled or burned, as bones would, over time, present a similar appearance.

Another large vase was discovered a few days later by the workmen but it was embedded in earth without any surrounding stones. This red clay pot was of unusual bulk, its mouth measuring twenty-eight centimetres (11 inches) in diameter. The great pot was burnt on three quarters of its surface. Inside the vessel were soft black bones, evidently human remains, but they crumbled when exposed to the air. When the workmen found these pots contained only bones, they amused themselves by breaking them into pieces.



Ornamented shards of Bronze Age Vessel, 1869, Mill Lane. This is a sketch of the third vessel found by labourers and subsequently restored by Dr. William Frazer.

Some of the larger fragments and some bones were given to Richard Gray, the County Surveyor, who placed them at the disposal of Dr Frazer who then visited the locality and gathered the remaining fragments with the help of the workmen. In arranging the pieces, he found fragments of a third vase, which the men had not noticed. It had probably fallen down from the side of the quarry and been thrown into a heap with the others among the stones being broken for road repairs. This third small vase had a mouth of ten centimetres (4 inches) in diameter and was made of a bluish clay with burns of a yellow brown. The pot was ornamented with a crossbar pattern. Unfortunately, much of the material was carried off before Dr. Frazer reached the quarry. The remaining fragments were sketched and deposited by him in the museum of the Royal Irish Academy.

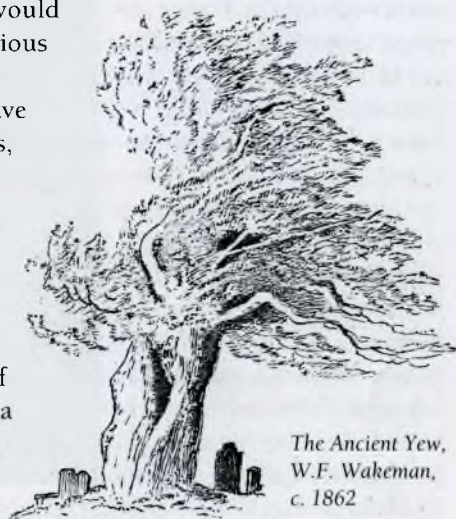
From Pagans to Christians

The quarry that yielded the burial cyst and urns is found at a very short distance from where the next site of ritual burial is found in Palmerstown, namely, the Christian graveyard. The ring barrow, the cyst burial place and the early Christian site are all contained within a bare few acres, representing a continuance of burial rites over several millennia, spanning many generations and a range of religious practices.

A Sacred Place

Together with its situation, one selected to serve the greatest number of people, the ground upon which the early church was built would also have been chosen as an auspicious one in the eyes of the faithful.

As these early Christians would have adhered to some ancient pagan beliefs, the presence of yews, trees revered as sacred by pagan people, would have been a favourable sign. In both the Celtic and Christian traditions the evergreen yew represents everlasting life, the undying spirit and is a symbol of immortality. Also considered as a magical wood, the *white wand* was traditionally made of yew by the Celts.



*The Ancient Yew,
W.F. Wakeman,
c. 1862*

While it was undoubtedly their longevity and mystery that gained the great reverence shown to the yew in ancient times, as a poisonous tree, a deference born of practicality may also have been at work. Perhaps their druids made use of the fact, gaining some medicinal value from the yew or employed its properties in more sinister activities. Perhaps owing to the fact that almost all parts are extremely toxic, the yew is also associated with mourning, sadness and other matters funerary.

With the coming of Christianity to Ireland, the Mill Lane site was integrated into the foundations of the early Church and yew branches, perhaps once used in pagan ritual, became a Christian symbol.

Tig Giúire

In common with many townlands in Ireland, it was the ecclesiastical foundations of Palmerstown that gave its name to the parish. The old Irish name of Palmerstown, *Tig Giúire* describes the ancient church in Mill Lane. Also spelt *Tech Guaire*, in modern Irish it is *Teach Iúbhaire* meaning Church of Yews.

Tig or *tech* with the general meaning of 'house' came to be used frequently in early Christian times to denote a church, thence *Tig Giúire*, the Church of Yews. The name can be found also at Killoe, in Longford, i.e. as *Cill Eo*, also meaning the Church of Yews.

The placename was later corrupted by the Danes to *Stagori*, showing a familiarity with the place by the Norsemen, who would have sailed up the Liffey to Leixlip in their remarkable longboats. Perhaps they encamped at *Tig Giúire*, and there adapted the Gaelic name for the place to *Stagori* according to their own language, the prefix '*sta*' meaning 'place'. Indeed, Samuel Lewis, in his history of Dublin city and county of 1837 says that a battle is



The belfry of Palmerstown ruined church.

said to have been fought at Palmerstown between the Danes and the Irish. Lewis names the location of the battle as 'Cruise River'. The placename is most likely a corruption of *Cursis Stream* i.e. the hamlet of this name which lies west of Palmerstown village.

Saint Guaire?

Tigh or *teach* as a prefix often appears in conjunction with a saint's name and some have concluded that *Tig Giúire* means the House of Guaire, an unknown saint. Of the more famed bearers of the name during the early Christian period in Ireland, there was a Connaught king called Guaire the Hospitable who was distinguished in Irish literature as a paragon of generosity. Indeed his Irish dictionary *Foclóir Gaedhilge agus Béarla*, of 1904, Dinneen gives 'guaire' as a word for a generous man, evidently derived from the historical king. As for the chapel of *Tig Giúire*, beyond merely applying that explanation to *Tig Giúire*, we have no evidence that there was a saint of that name associated with Palmerstown.

Others have taken *Tig Giúire* to refer to the House of Lepers for the Leper Hospital of St Laurence founded here at an early date. The interpretation stems from reading the modern Irish for *Tig Giúire*, i.e. *Teach Iubhair* as the same as the Irish for Leper House, i.e. *Teach Lobhair*. On paper, they look similar but *iubhair* is not sounded as *lobhair*, their first letters, 'i' and 'l' giving very different pronunciations. Phonetically they are roughly pronounced as 'goora' and 'lowr' (or 'lovar') respectively.

Dinneen's dictionary gives two other explanations for *guaire*. The first entry describes it as 'a sand-bank above a high water mark' which would not be without resonance in Palmerstown as there are numerous sand deposits along the banks of the Liffey. In fact, the Liffey Sandpit Company on the Strawberry Beds and at Waterstown gave work to many locals in providing for the building trade in the first half of the twentieth century. The second entry, as we have seen, records *guaire* as 'a generous man', a meaning evidently derived from qualities associated with the legendary Connaught king. The last entry gives 'rough hair' or bristle as an explanation for *guaire*. Well, if we ever had a St Guaire, perhaps he was a bristly fellow...

Signposting

Tig Giúire appeared with its English counterpart on road signs until recent decades. One example was posted at the railway bridge from Clondalkin and read 'Palmerstown, *Tig Giúire*, 2 Miles'. Regrettably, the original place name was later displaced by the official *Baile Pámar*. This lamentable piece of Béarlachas appears in various spellings. The old name is still commemorated,

however. Near Dominic Street, in Dublin City, a side street called Palmerstown Place maintains its Irish form as *Plás Tig Giúire*.

The Ancient Yew

Yew trees are the oldest living things in Ireland. Among the very old yews there are some that are undoubtedly as old as the early Christian era, surviving hundreds of years and some up to a thousand years. Yews thrive in limestone areas and flourish here in the old Mill Lane churchyard. Within the graveyard, to the north side of the church, until about 1885, in a state of decay, stood one of the oldest remaining yew trees in Ireland. It is conceivable that this venerable old yew was planted at the foundation of the ancient church.

The ancient tree's deep shadow spread over the graves and monuments of many generations, until its demise in the 19th century. By then the tree was hollow and, though of considerable girth, its roots had been undermined by grave diggers and during a storm it fell. For some time afterwards the fallen yew provided an ample supply of firewood to the neighbouring villagers.

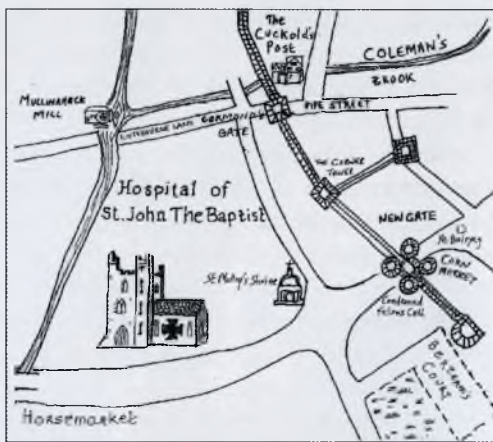
The Palm and the Yew

Perhaps it is from this yew and its contemporaries that Palmerstown derives its modern English name. The term 'palm' has been popularly applied for centuries to the branches or sprigs of the yew tree, which in the northern countries substitutes for the true palm in celebrating Palm Sunday.

The earliest known recorded reference to the placename appears in about 1220 when the chapel, that is *Ecclesia de*

Villia Palmerii, was returned as being in the possession of the Prior and brethren of the Hospital of St John the Baptist Without the New Gate of Dublin. Other versions of the Latin name were used during that century, among them *Villa Palmeris* or *Palmaris* and *Ville Palmery*.

Palmaris can be translated from Latin as 'full of palms', perhaps here denoting a yew-filled churchyard. It is thus conceivable that while supplying



Medieval map of Cornmarket area in Dublin

a religious emblem to the people of the district, the yew could also have given its name to Palmerstown as it did in its Irish form, *Tig Giuire*.

It is noteworthy that while having no knowledge of the Gaelic name, the antiquarian, W.F. Wakeman, also puts forward this explanation of the name of Palmerstown, in his 1892 account of the old church. 'It is much to be regretted that the original name of Palmerstown appears to be hopelessly lost,' he declares but goes on to speculate:

Possibly from this tree the place derives its present title. We all know that the yew furnishes the emblematic palm which on Palm Sunday is used to decorate the altars of the Catholic churches in Ireland. It is also worn in the hats or bonnets of the peasantry in honour of the event which that festival commemorates.

It seems more than likely that for many generations this tree supplied the people of the district in which it stood with the leafy symbol referred; and that it has given name to the place from which the noble family of Temple derive their title.

The Palmers' Hospital

When the Hospitallers gained possession of the lands of *Villa Palmeris* is not known but they were probably given it in the twelfth century by the crown, under which it held them at a yearly rent of half a mark. The church was given to the hospital by Milo le Bret, its Anglo-Norman owner at about the same time.

The Hospital of St John the Baptist, Ireland's first hospital, was founded in about 1180 by Aelred, called 'the Dane'. Stated to be an *Ostman* or Norse citizen of Dublin, Aelred was a 'palmer' or pilgrim of the Holy Land. Pilgrims returning from Jerusalem were known as Palmers because of the palm leaf they wore as an emblem of their place of pilgrimage.

The Cruciferi

With his Dublin wife, Aelred founded the hospital in what is now Thomas Street in Dublin. It was modelled on a hospital established in Jerusalem in the middle of the twelfth century. The community of Hospitallers had converted at an early date to *Fratres Cruciferi* or Crouched Friars, consisting of brethren and sisters, who gained their designation from the cross they wore on their habits. In its early days in Ireland it was called 'the Palmers' Hospital' but before long it was recognised under its dedicatory name. The hospital held much of the lands of Palmerstown until the Dissolution of Religious Houses by order of King Henry VIII in 1539.

Chapter 2

*Architectural development – Villa Palmeris – Viscount Palmerston –
St James's Church – Tigh Guaire – Monuments and memorials –
Jean Baptiste Perrin – Tristan and Isolde*

Villa Palmeris

From the early Latin renderings of the name of Palmerstown, we may clarify whether the 'proper' name of the town is Palmerstown or Palmerston, an area of some debate among the present inhabitants as well as in official quarters. In its original sense, the *villa* of *Villa Palmeris* would refer not only to a mansion or residence but to a country estate including farm buildings and other dwellings, built or occupied by a person of substance, in this case the Hospitallers of St John the Baptist. Such a territory, having a common organisation where tithes are exacted, corresponds to the modern town or civil parish.

The estate is described in 1286 as the *Vill of Palmerstoun*, the term *vill* meaning a community consisting of a number of houses or buildings and their adjacent lands. Thus we see that the name *Palmerstown* is a description of a particular area of administration, that is, a *town*. Although *Palmerystoun* and *Palmeristoun* appear, the use of *-ton* to abbreviate *-town* was a common enough corruption in legal documents such as the justiciary rolls during the mediaeval period.



Palmerstown, c. 1940, showing ring-barrow to the right of the hospital.

The Keeping of the Rolls

The King's men recording the receipt of rents, tithes and fines accrued in favour of his majesty in Ireland would be accustomed to the many place-names in Britain finishing with the affix or termination of *-ton*, an Anglo-Saxon term meaning 'stockade'. At a time when English language spelling was of a considerably arbitrary nature, niceties such as discriminating between *-town* and *-ton* would have been of little concern. As the centuries wore on, many variations of the name of Palmerstown would appear.

In order to distinguish it from the Palmerstown at Fingal, Palmerstown west of Dublin was called variously *Palmereston by Anilyfy*, *Palmeriston by Aniliffe* and *Palmereston upon Anilyffy* during the sixteenth century. By the seventeenth century, the preferred spelling was *Palmerstowne* and simply *Palmerstown* by the eighteenth century.

Viscount Palmerston

The more anglicised an area, the greater the degree of corruption of place-names within and without the Pale. The departure from the original place-name that later took place in official quarters came about for a number of reasons. Not least among these was the adoption – and later modification – of the placename, as a noble title by one of the family of Temple. Henry, the son of Sir John Temple, late of Palmerston, became the Right Honourable Lord Viscount Palmerston in 1723.

Sir John Temple had lived at Palmerstown since 1666 and had become chief advisor to William of Orange, returning to England, having resigned his post of Attorney General for Ireland subsequent to the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. The title of *Palmerston*, adopted by his son, was one that would endure over 140 years although only held by three people. The third of these was the renowned Henry John Temple who was British Prime Minister for almost ten years until his death in 1865, at which time the title became extinct. Owing to society's familiarity with the name, the title was rendered [Viscount] *Palmerston*, in keeping with the everyday idiom of the aristocracy.

The Ordnance Survey

Although the placename was recorded as *Palmerstown* in almanacs and other publications well into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, an exchange was taking place in more official quarters. With the advent of the 'first uniform study' of placenames by the Ordnance Survey (1820 onward), *Palmerston* was increasingly used and began to be interchangeable with *Palmerstown*.

When Ordnance Survey maps were produced in 1837, *Palmerston* was officially given as the placename by surveyors who were predominantly members of the British army. It is understandable how *Palmerston* as a placename could be casually recorded by soldiers so familiar with their statesman's name. They would also be accustomed to placenames ending in *-ton*. It must have been a commonplace error – what Wicklow native does not know Blessington as Blessingtown?

Meanwhile those unaware that the Temple family *took* their noble title from the place and not *vice versa*, began to associate (perhaps in a vague attempt to garner some prestige for their place) the town with Viscount Palmerston, though none of that title had ever lived in Ireland. The consequence of these events is that while the residents believe themselves to be living in *Palmerstown*, official sign-posting oftentimes, though by no means always, tells us that *Palmerston* is the name of our native place.

Thomas Hibernus

In 1290 there prospered in Palmerstown a scholar named Thomas Hibernus. A native of the village, Hibernus was another 'palmer' or former pilgrim. Also called Hibernicus, it was said that he was 'a deep clerk' and one who 'read much, as may be easily gathered from his learned works.' Hibernus wrote numerous religious books, among them *De Christiana Religione*, *Flores Bibliae* and *De Tentatione Diabol*. A number of Hibernus's works are to be found in the National Library of Ireland.

'St James's' Church

At the close of the 13th century, when Palmerstown was valued at 10 marks, the tithes were considered insufficient to pay a chaplain. The church was undoubtedly used in the 15th century as we find more than one bequest left to it, but after the Dissolution of 1539 there is no mention of services being held in it. During the 16th century the church, then known as St James's, was leased to various lay owners without any provision for the supply of a chaplain.

In 1543, John Ryan, a Clerk of Dublin gained the tithes of the rectories of both Palmerstown and Irishtown to be held for 21 years at a rent of forty-seven shillings. Richard Manwarynge, a gentleman, had a lease of the tithes of corn and hay of the chapel of St James in 1574.

Four years later the rectory of Palmerstown was in the possession of one Con O'Coffie, the tithes amounting to twelve 'coples' of corn. O'Coffie would hold the lease for 21 years at a rent of £10 10s, on condition he did not transfer the property without license under the Great Seal to 'any except they be



Palmerstown ruined church, possibly once known as St. James.

English both by father and mother or born in the Pale.' By 1581 the lease of the rectory of Palmerstown and the tithes there and at Irishtown were granted to William Kelly, a surgeon, for a period of thirty years.

The chapel was returned to religious ownership when in 1615, the Rev Simon Swayne took charge of the vicarage, succeeded in 1629 by the Rev John Lenox. By 1630, however, the chapel was ruinous and deemed extinct as a place of worship. The Rev Lenox was then succeeded, apparently as caretakers, by the Rev Thomas Chantrell in 1639 and in 1643 by the Rev Gilbert Deane. With the exception of Chantrell, these clergymen were also in charge of Ballyfermot where liturgical services had ceased by 1615.

A Fine Situation

The graveyard and church are finely situated on a hill overlooking the river Liffey, reached by the Churchyard Lane approaching the end of Mill Lane. As the historian John D'Alton remarked in 1838:

The church is in full view of the business and the enjoyment of life – the mills of Palmerstown and the Strawberry Beds of Knockmaroon on the opposite bank.



A Notorious Wall

The present graveyard covers about half an acre and is entered by a gate in the south wall. The graveyard was not enclosed by a wall until very late in its history, however, and the churchyard would have originally extended much further than its present area. At the end of the 17th century the church field was described as stretching from the north of the town near the Liffey to the South side where the public highway came through Palmerstown.

The existing surrounding wall has been described as somewhat 'notorious' because, when building it, those responsible robbed the old church of a large portion of its masonry. In an attempt to preserve the privacy of the graveyard in 1876, the Poor Law Guardians constructed the boundary wall using building material obtained from the south wall of the church, resulting in a large gap. The gap was straightened and pointed during a Board of Works clean-up of 1978 and serves still as a doorway to the ruin, succeeding the original, primitive doorway in the centre of the west gable. The lintel of this primitive door, which had survived perhaps almost a millennium, was destroyed by vandals in recent years.

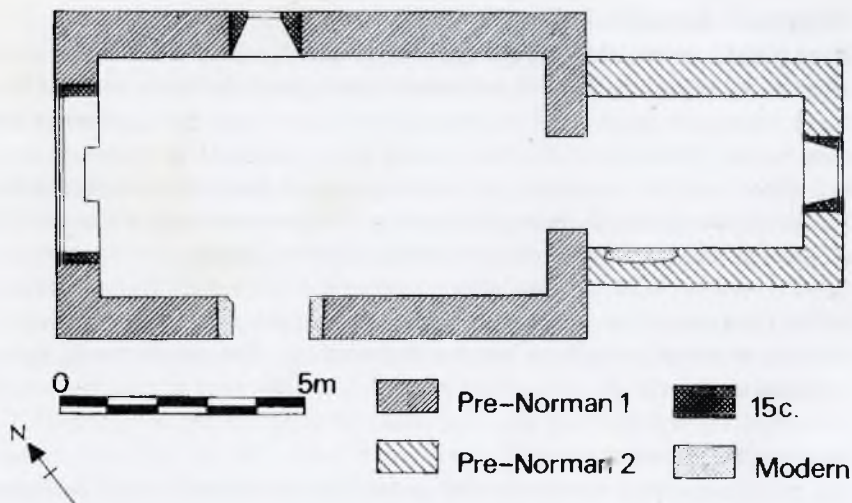
A Pre-Norman Church

The church ruin pre-dates the coming of the Normans to Ireland in the twelfth century and probably replaced a wooden structure on the site. The building consists of a nave and chancel, the former measuring 9.0m x 5.0m (29' x 16'6"). The chancel measures 4.32m x 3.10m (14'9" x 10'6"). These are all internal measurements. The walls average 0.64m (2'11") in thickness and are constructed with randomly coursed large blocks, mainly limestone.

Tig Giúire was originally a single-cell church, having a west door, to which a chancel was added in the pre-Norman period. It was altered in the Anglo-Norman times and altered again in the late mediaeval period and again during conservation in 1978 to its present form. The changes can readily be detected, among them the very large window in the western gable over the original doorway. The latter is found stopped up with solid masonry.



Chancel arch of the ancient church in Mill Lane.



The bell turret with its single flat-headed aperture is also a later addition. The eastern window of the chancel was originally round-headed but was altered to a flat-topped aperture during the fifteenth century. A similar window occurred in the south wall of which there is now sadly no trace. In the north wall is a window bordered outside with flat punch-dressed stones with holes for glazing bars and possibly a mullion.

Alen and Eustace Monuments

Within the chancel until recent decades lay a large fractured slab, the Alen monument, in memory of Mathew Alen, the last of that family to hold the grange of Palmerstown. The inscription on the memorial stone, destroyed during the mid 20th century, read:

Here lyeth the Body of Mathew Alen of Palmerstown Esq. who departed this life July ye 14th 1645. This stone was laid here by his daughter Madam Alice Alen.

In the south wall of the chancel was a monument, described in the Memorial Journal as a large fractured slab in a projecting frame, above a vault. Interred in the vault were the remains of Lady Grace Shuckburgh who died in 1677. The ashes of Elinor and Edmond Keatinge were also interred there. Elinor was the sister of Sir Maurice Eustace, who succeeded Mathew Alen on his death in 1665. A fraction of the frame of this memorial slab now remains and the vault has been filled in.

Wakeman Account

In an article on Ante Norman Churches in the County Dublin written in 1892, W. F. Wakeman described the Mill Lane church for the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries. His sketches however were executed some 30 years earlier. When he revisited the thickly sown graveyard, he found that ivy had spread over the 'venerable pile' and the original doorway was now almost hidden by ivy. In commenting on doorway, he compares it with that of the ancient church of Holm Patrick off Skerries, County Dublin.

The choir arch... is sustained by imposts plain and square and in every respect similar to those of the doorway of O'Ruairc's tower of Clonmacnoise.

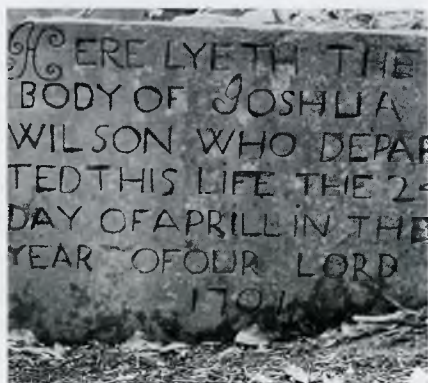
Later Alterations

The picturesque ruin of the old church lay thickly covered in ivy until the late 1970s when, as part of a Dublin County Council scheme, it was restored and the surrounding graveyard cleaned. The scheme resulted in some questionable alterations to the church, notably, partially blocking up the cut stone window, changing the shape of the bell turret, filling in the vault, removing some headstones and using industrial debris to fill gaps in the structure.

A stile in the south wall of the graveyard placed there in the nineteen forties was also removed which seemed more to encourage potential vandals to break down the walls to gain entrance, than to prevent damage. The most recent and perhaps the worst damage yet by vandals was the destruction of the original primitive doorway whose lintel is now broken rubble lying among the rest of the rubbish and charred debris scattered in this ancient place.

Surviving Monuments

The inscriptions of the 41 surviving monuments were recorded shortly after the restoration scheme was carried out. There are now 39 monuments with inscriptions remaining, including several very badly fractured stones. The oldest stone now remain-



One of the many ancient gravestones, showing beautiful lettering.

ing, well preserved in a secluded spot, is that of Joshua Wilson who died in April 1701. Wilson had interests in Palmerstown Mills in the 17th century, which, following his death, were carried on by his son, who also bore the same name.

Poignant Memorials

The inscriptions found on many of the tombstones of the cemetery here give a poignant reminder of the level of infant and child mortality of the past. The numbers of children who died young or in infancy remembered here is heart-breaking. Of the remaining inscriptions recorded in 1978, seventy children were commemorated on nineteen gravestones. A single stone commemorates the short lives of the children of Charles Warburton and his grieving widow. Of fifteen children borne to his wife, just one son survived to mourn his father, who died in 1807. Also interred with these fourteen siblings were the seven children of Mr James Walsh, son-in-law to Warburton.

Jean Baptiste Perrin

In that picturesque part of the Strawberry Beds, where one can cross the Liffey by a ferry, access can be gained to the old churchyard of Palmerstown where, partly smothered in weeds and fallen leaves, may be traced the epitaph of Judge Perrin's father.

*Secret Service under Pitt,
W. J. Fitzpatrick, 1892*



A photograph dating from the 1920s showing the ferry in action at the Strawberry Beds.

The above extract was one of the clues that in 1992 guided Jim Perrin, a native of Australia and descendant of Judge Louis Perrin, to Dublin to trace his ancestry. A chance meeting in Mill Lane with the author brought him to the old churchyard in which his ancestor, the father of Louis Perrin, was buried. No trace of the headstone of Jean Baptiste Perrin was to be found, however, nor was his among the monuments recorded in 1978. Nevertheless, by a piece of good fortune, the author was aware that the inscription had been noted down in 1838 by the historian John D'Alton as:

John Perrin Esq. of Leinster Lodge in County Kildare who died in 1818.

A Huguenot, Jean Baptiste Perrin settled in Ireland at Waterford where he may have had a connection with the Perrins already settled there. He married Mary Daly and had two sons, Louis and Mark. Both Louis and Mark Perrin were Dublin University Alumni, the former entering the King's Inns in April 1801. The family were by then resident at Chapelizod, as Louis's admission papers show. His father, now John Perrin, had leased Bellgrove, a large house on the road to Lucan, at St Laurence, near Chapelizod. Perrin later leased a parcel of land called Ballygraw from Gilbert Fleming, also in Chapelizod.

A professor of French, Perrin usually resided in Dublin but would sojourn for months at a time in the houses of such gentry who wished to acquire knowledge of the language.

Perrin's French Grammar and other texts were in standard use in the early part of that century and remained very familiar in later years. Jean Baptiste Perrin's name is mentioned in connection with resolutions to invite the French to invade Ireland. His son, Louis — the Right Honourable Justice Perrin of the Irish Bench — was an attached friend of Robert Emmet whom he embraced in the dock. On the night Emmet was sentenced to death, it is said that Louis came home to his family bathed in tears.

Chapelizod

Tradition holds that the ancient church in Mill Lane marks the original site of the chapel of Isolde to which the village of Chapelizod, *Séipeál Iosoilde* owes its name. It is held that the church here was built by Isolde's father, King Aengus, as Chapel Royal to his monarchical site, *Dún Aengus*.

In Dublin's City Hall, there are a number of frescoes under the cupola of the rotunda, depicting incidents in Irish history. One such shows Tristan ask-

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Advertisement for Perrin's French Grammar, 1803

ing Aengus, the Irish king, for the hand of Isolde on behalf on King Mark of Cornwall. The scene is described as taking place on the forecourt of the king's residence, Dun Aengus on Palmerstown Green. The tragic love story of Tristan and Isolde is described by Irish enthusiast Frank McCartney as:

A tale of a knight who is rendered disloyal to his king by the seductions of love, a saga of potions and poisons and of true love interrupted by Fate and human machinations.

The legend has been commemorated in the music of Wagner's operatic masterpiece *Tristan und Isolde* and by the poetry of Swinburne. Further Dublin place names chronicle the legend: Isolde's Tower, Isolde's Fort, Isolde's Well and Exchange Street (*Sraid Iosoilde*). As do so many Irish tales, the legend balances delicately between fact and fiction; so too with the origins of the name of Chapelizod.

The Holy Well

At a short distance from the old churchyard in Mill Lane was a Holy Well. *Palmerstowne Well* is recorded by Dr Rutty in 1757. Dr Rutty also recorded *St Laurence's Well* in the Palmerstown area at that time. The location is described 200 years later in the *Holy Wells of County Dublin* as a pool about eight feet in diameter surrounded by some bushes and overhung by an ash tree. It was then used for cattle drinking. One local informant said it was called *St James's Well*.

The Ancient Church under Threat

In 1981 the old church and graveyard came under threat of destruction from an increase in dumping at the nearby quarry. The retaining walls of the old Churchyard Lane were razed as countless dump trucks rolled heavily by the ancient graveyard, quickly creating a muddy quagmire in their path and undermining the surrounding wall of the old churchyard.

Through the action of locals,



Bellarmino wine jug found in archaeological waste near Mill Lane during the 1980s.



Some of the many poignant headstones which stand in the cemetery.



however, the media were brought to the scene, resulting in a television report by Radio Teilifís Eireann as part of their news bulletin, including interviews with locals and other interested parties. Television coverage was complemented by photo articles in the national newspapers. Following the publicity, the destruction of the historic site was curbed and soon after brought to a halt.

An Uncertain Future

The ancient church at Palmerstown is the only clear example in southwest Dublin of a pre-Norman church surviving almost completely to be adapted and re-used in Norman times. In very recent times some important features of the church and graveyard have been destroyed, most notably the aforementioned lintel of the primitive doorway as well as numerous significant memorial headstones and table graves. In spite of continuous acts of vandalism upon the church and the monuments in the surrounding burial ground, the fabric of the church is comparatively well preserved in terms of the south-west region of Dublin.

Pilgrims' Grave?

In the summer of 1954, in the course of excavations for building purposes human remains were discovered on a site at no great distance from the old church, the graveyard and church being on higher ground and surrounded by a wall. Newspaper reports and local informants of the day suggested that the skeletons were of unusual height and build, physically powerful with

healthy teeth. About seven skeletons were uncovered, the bodies having been buried in a pit, seemingly in a haphazard manner – ‘faced everyway’. It was claimed that some skulls had been trepanned, i.e. a hole deliberately made in the cranium, a practice believed in ancient times to release disease.

The reports gave rise to some speculation that the bodies were those of returned Crusaders who had contracted cholera during the Holy Wars of the Middle Ages. The idea arises from equating the Crusaders on their military expeditions with the pilgrims or *palmers* of the Hospital of St John the Baptist. The Hospital, whose members also adopted the cross of Christ on their clothing, was originally established for the relief of the Crusaders as they attempted to recapture Palestine from the Muslims. Following their journey of religious devotion to the Holy Land, the palmers returned to Europe and some of their number became landowners of Palmerstown. It is more likely to be the bodies of these pilgrims, crusaders for the religious cause in their own right, who were uncovered during that excavation.

The discovery may, on the other hand, have exposed the burial ground for the Leper House of St Laurence founded very early in the district.

Chapter 3

The Leper Hospital of Saint Laurence – Palmerstown Fair – Murder at the fair

Leprosy was prevalent in Dublin in mediaeval times and required two establishments for the relief of those suffering from the disease. The other was the Leper Hospital of St Stephen near the city of Dublin. The townland of Saint Laurence, lying between the village of Palmerstown and that of Chapelizod was then the site of the House of Lepers. The establishment had a chapel attached to it but early in the 15th century the religious house was dissolved and its possessions reverted to the crown. In 1427 King Henry VI granted the custody of the 'Leper's House near Palmerstown' to John Waile as well as all the dwellings, outhouses, lands and tenements there, at the yearly rent of three shillings.

The lands and the ruined chapel were subsequently leased to various persons and proved a valuable property owing to the profits of a fair held upon them on Saint Laurence's day. In 1541 it was found on inquisition that the Hospital of Kilmainham possessed the chapel of St Laurence. In 1561 it was considered crown land and was leased as the ruined chapel, called St Laurence, near Ballyfermot with 84 acres there and the profits of a fair.



A Palmerstown cornfield, c. 1930s, with view towards Riversdale and present day toll bridge site.



"Fair Fight" from a sketch by Samuel Lover. Fairs were often rowdy events and Palmerstown was no exception.

In 1603 Sir Oliver Lambert, knight, had a grant of the chapel, the glebes and tithes there. Five years later the King granted ruinous chapel to Sir Robert Newcomen with the land and the profits of the fair. Newcomen was an Englishman resident at Ballyfermot Castle who came to this country in 1585. He was designated 'surveyor and purveyor of her Majesty's victuals in Ireland' and was praised in both countries for his 'fruitful success in executing his business.' He was honoured with a knighthood in 1605 and in later years was created a baronet.

No remains of the Leper Hospital of St Laurence nor its chapel are known to exist. The fair, which derived its name from this long forgotten leper house and townland, survived and continued to flourish.

Palmerstown Fair

By the eighteenth century the fair was commonly called *Palmerstown Fair*. Sold to John Dexter, Gentleman, in 1734 by Henry Viscount Temple, the location of the annual fair was at a short distance from Palmerstown Demesne. The fair green was situated on the south bank of the Liffey between Palmerstown and Chapelizod. The Ordnance Survey of 1837 shows the green adjacent to St Laurence Manor. This old house, once part of the hotel at St Laurence was demolished in recent times.

The fair, at which cattle and horses were sold, usually took place on August 21st and was a place of great resort for Dublin's citizens. It was also the scene of some disgraceful occurrences. Indeed, at the height of its fame, Palmerstown Fair was regarded as second only to the historic and infamous Donnybrook Fair for scenes of drunkenness and fighting.

In the year 1737 the Ormond and Liberty Boys, two noted factions of the

time, met there and, as the Dublin Intelligence reports, engaged in a fight with the result that several of them were wounded. One man, whose legs had had to be amputated, died the next day.

Murder at the Fair

The notoriety of Palmerstown Fair spread further with an incident that took place in 1738. The fair took place on August 9th of that year and among those attending and drinking at a local public house with several companions was Henry, 4th Lord Santry, a young man notorious for his irresponsible behaviour. After some hours, the rest of the company having left, a row broke out between Santry and another man, Humphreys. During the altercation the nobleman twice attempted to draw his sword, but failing to do so stormed out of the room in a temper.

In the passageway he encountered Laughlin Murphy whom he pushed aside, swearing he would kill the next man who spoke. Protesting his rough treatment, Murphy spoke and was stabbed by Santry for his indiscretion. He collapsed minutes later, blood gushing from his wound, crying out “*I am killed!*” At this, Lord Santry made a hasty departure on horseback but not before tipping the man of the house with a four pound piece. His unfortunate victim died on September 25th of that year.

Lord Santry was tried for his crime in the House of Lords on 27th April 1739. His defence was that Laughlin Murphy’s death had been caused by disease. The trial was the first to be held in New Parliament House, now the Bank of Ireland, at College Green in Dublin. It caused quite a sensation and because of public interest the Lords used the Commons Chambers to provide more spectator accommodation.

The Attorney General described Murphy as a man who with a good deal of industry and difficulty maintained himself, his wife and three small children, in his employment as a porter and carrying letters and messages.

Dr Thomas Randle, Bishop of Derry wrote:

Poor Santry was tried on Friday ... the noble prisoner, young and handsome, most decent in his behaviour... When the twenty three peers returned to give their opinion, their countenances astonished the whole House and all knew, from the horror of their eyes and the paleness of their looks how they were agitated within before they answered the dread question - “Guilty, upon my honour.”

The peers unanimously recommended Lord Santry to the royal mercy, which was seconded by the Lord Lieutenant. The King granted him a reprieve and

subsequently a full pardon. He was however compelled to forfeit his rank and leave Ireland for the remainder of his life.

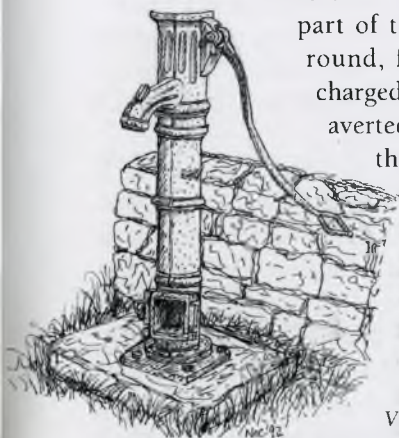
Despite such occurrences, the fair appears to have continued for at least another century. In 1851 it is reported as still being well attended and the Chapelizod gossip columns of that year gives an account of a more light-hearted event at the Palmerstown Fair.

The vicar of Chapelizod apparently took a lively interest in the military education of the yeomanry corps commanded by Captain Sir Richard Wilcocks. He offered therefore, a gold medal to be shot for, at a distance of a hundred yards, on Palmerstown Green. It was a great occasion and all the beauty and fashion of three villages adorned it with their presence. There stood the captain to see fair play and encourage the nervous while his sergeant Ned Bullard was ready with a jeer and a joke for everyone who shot wide of the mark.

The target stood on the slope of the hill, the competitors, armed with muskets, had bunches of gay ribbons in their three-cornered hats, while the spectators stood in groups, separated from the marksmen by a wide, clear sweep of green sward. The dress of the visitors, was both bright and gay: fine scarlet and gold waistcoats, sky-blue and silver, pea-green lutestring [silk], pink silk linings, flashing buckles, and courtly wigs, all corresponding suitably with the varied dress and fashion of the ladies of the period.

The zealous parson rode up and down the line exhorting the brave to fear none but to remember that the eyes of their countrymen were upon them and to acquit themselves like men. As to the day's marksmanship, at least nine out of the hundred shots that were fired struck some part of the target. The victor was one Pierce Butler, 'a round, fat oily son of St Crispin* who had never discharged a bit of lead from a musket barrel before.' With averted eyes he raised the gun to his shoulder, pulled the trigger in an agony of desperation and falling back among his fellow competitors, exclaimed "Hould me up!"

It was some time before he could collect his scattered senses to comprehend that the cheers were announcing that he had pierced the bull's-eye. When the great fact was made clear to him,



Village pump, Mill Lane which was in use until the 1960s.

* St Crispin, patron saint of shoemakers.

his spirits rose promptly and he strutted forward to where the vicar's niece, a charming young lady of eighteen, invested him with the trophy.

A Gay Rural Sight

Joseph Sheridan LeFanu gave a retrospective account of the 'gay rural sight' that was Palmerstown Fair at the close of the eighteenth century where the country folk gathered with the gentry to witness competitions of sport:

There were half a dozen carriages, and a score of led horses outside the fair green, a precious lot of ragamuffins, and a good resort to the public-house opposite, the Artillery band rousing all the echoes round with harmonious and exhilarating thunder within, the stranger so found himself upon the renowned fair-green of Palmerstown.

Chapter 4

The Union of Parishes – Penal Times Chapel – St Mary's – St Philomena's

Under an arrangement made in 1615 the parishes of Lucan, Aderrig, Kilbride, Kilmahuddrick, Esker, Palmerstown, Ballyfermot, Clondalkin and Drimnagh were formed into one parish known as the parish of Clondalkin and Lucan.

The holders of *Ecclesia de Villia Palmerii* at the end of the 17th century were named as St John's Without the Newgate, although they had lost possession of the demesne more than a century earlier. In 1680 the Rev Oliver Doyle was named parish priest of Palmerstown. In 1697 a list of Dublin priests, secular and regular, was drawn up ordering all those on it to leave the country or be transported. Those who returned would suffer death for treason. Among them was

Father Doile, liveing in the parish of Escher and officiating in the whole union of Palmerstowne, Chaple-Izod, and Ballyfermott, Secular. No regular can bee [sic] found in these parishes.

Ordained at Salamanca in Spain, Fr Oliver Doyle is found registered as parish priest of Castleknock in 1704. The parish priest of Palmerstown in that year was Fr Francis Edwards aged 34 years of Kezar's Lane, in 1714 the Rev Richard Fox and in 1744 the Rev Christopher Coleman. The Rev John Twigge, a resident of Palmerstown was in charge of the vicarage of Chapelizod from about 1703, with the Rev Paul Twigge as curate.

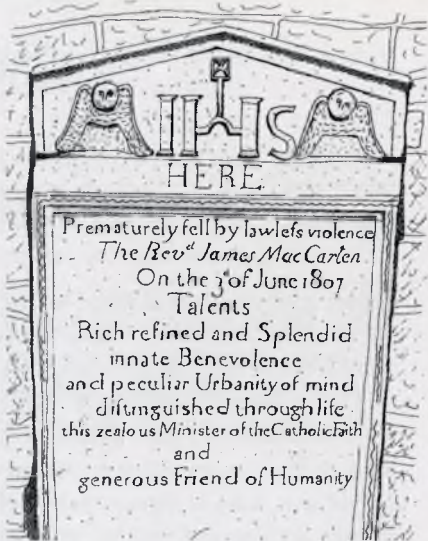
The Mass House

In 1731 there were three mass houses recorded in the parish of *Chappell Izod* in the care of the Rev Callaghan and the Rev Fair. One of these mass houses was very likely in Palmerstown and the reference may be to the old church in Mill Lane, the forerunner to the early nineteenth-century chapel-of-ease.

About 1765 Lucan and Palmerstown were detached and made into a separate parish of which the following priests were in charge - in 1770 the Rev Michael Hall (or Nall), in 1786 the Rev Andrew Toole and the Rev Michael Ryan. In 1800, the parishes of Clondalkin and Lucan were reunited with the Rev John Dunne as incumbent in that year.

Murder of Fr McCartan

On June 3rd 1807, the Reverend James McCartan, a clergyman of Lucan and Palmerstown, dined with Lord Donoughmore's steward at Palmerstown House, having held a station for a few days previously in the neighbourhood. Returning home at about ten o' clock Fr. McCartan was fired upon and killed by one of a gang of robbers. His attackers were later apprehended and executed for the murder. A monument inserted in a wall near the village of Lucan commemorates the place where he fell.



Memorial Stone of Fr James McCartan

Clondalkin Parish

In 1821, Clondalkin parish included Lucan, Palmerstown and part of Chapelizod and was five and a half by three and a half miles in extent. The population was returned in 1831 as 1533 of which 1440 were Catholics. The parish was then ranked as a curacy in the union of Chapelizod and in the Catholic arrangement as in that of Clondalkin. With the help of the zealous Fr. Smyth, first parish priest of Sandymount (1829), the parish priests of Palmerstown and Blanchardstown managed to enrol between 30,000 and 40,000 in Temperance Societies before 1840.

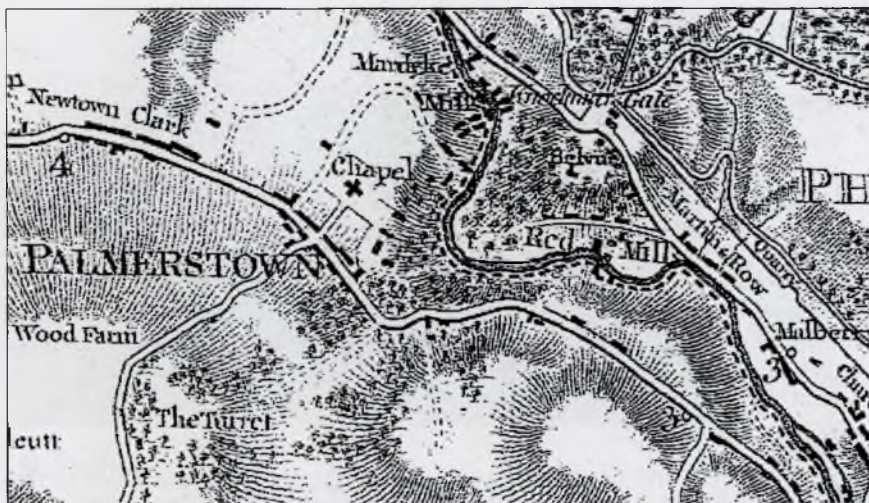
Lewis describes the parish arrangements in 1837:

It is a rectory in the diocese of Dublin, forming part of the union of Chapelizod, the tithes amount to £170. In the R. C. divisions it is part of the union of Lucan, Palmerstown and Clondalkin and contains a chapel; the parish priest – the Rev Mattias Kelly – is rural dean over his own union and those of Maynooth, Celbridge and Saggard.

The Pre-Emancipation Church

The pre-Norman church in Mill Lane was a forerunner of the early nineteenth-century chapel-of-ease. The chapel was discreetly situated at the end of Chapel Lane, located opposite Kennelsfort Road, until its demolition in the middle of the present century.

Built in a cruciform shape, the chapel was completed during the time of the anti-Catholic Penal Code. It was one the Earls of Donoughmore, who



Taylor's map of 1816, showing the Chapel of Ease with its cruciform plan.

occupied Palmerstown House until the middle of the last century, who donated the site for the chapel.

Both Richard and John were ardent supporters of Catholic Emancipation and campaigned for the entrance of Catholics into Trinity College. One donated the site on condition that it be returned when the chapel was no longer used for religious purposes. Completed at least thirteen years before the Catholic Relief Act of 1829, the chapel appears on a map of 1816.



*The Chapel of Ease before its demolition in the 1950s.
Photo by Fr. Scantlebury, SJ.*

A Chapel of Ease

Weston St John Joyce describes the location in 1912:

Approached by a lane from the high road is a pretty chapel-of-ease, with a small belfry bearing a clock which has long ceased to record the flying hour, and in front of the entrance is a lime tree with a circular seat around the trunk.

The lime tree was planted in front of the chapel to create the impression that the chapel was not on a public thoroughfare, which would have been in contravention of penal law. The lime tree flourished until the chapel was demolished in the early 1950s.

A Bell for a Belfry

In 1915, Patrick William Molloy of Riversdale House presented a bell to the church. Engraved on the bell is the donor's name and those of the recipients, the Rev James Canon Baxter PP VF and the Rev Michael Traynor CC. At some date early in the century, the belfry of the old chapel collapsed and the bell was erected on the lime tree instead to call the parishioners to worship. The belfry was later replaced in concrete.

The Chapel Interior

The chapel was entered by a tiled hallway where stone carved water stoups were fixed in the walls. The cruciform chapel was separated within into a number of different galleries, to the rear, on the right and left sides of the chapel and the centre or main gallery. Several named pews existed in the main gallery for those who could afford them.

Major features of the chapel included stained glass windows and elaborately framed Stations of the Cross. A wooden rail surrounded the altar and the statue of an angel was mounted on either side. Among the statuary were the Sacred Heart, the Pieta and the Blessed Virgin, adorned with many candlesticks. A tiny crib decorated the side altar all year round.

The chapel ceiling was vaulted, with plasterwork cherubs completing each vault ending. An egg and dart motif decorated the length of each vault. The wall was partially covered with wooden panelling and above the dado was adorned with lozenge-patterned paper of a deep red featuring a *fleurs-de-lis* motif in gold. Brass plates on the altar wall commemorated the departed, including Captain Ralph Tyrell who died in the First World War. Also remembered in the chapel were members of the Lawlor and Hackett families.



*Interior of the
Chapel of Ease
which dates from
Penal Times.*

St Mary's

The Ordnance Survey designates the chapel as 'St Mary's' but there is no official record of this title. The seating capacity of the old church has been estimated at about two hundred. During the late 1930s, the population of Palmerstown began to increase beyond all expectations and the need arose for the provision of more church accommodation. The new St. Philomena's Church replaced the chapel-of-ease as a place of worship by 1948 and, sad to relate, this charming old chapel was demolished some years later.

St Philomena's

The opening of St Philomena's church in that year followed a decade of fund-raising by the Palmerstown Church Building Fund, including the donation of the site and £4000 by the Misses Fitzpatrick of Riversdale. The church was opened and blessed by his Grace, the Most Rev Dr John Charles McQuaid, Archbishop of Dublin, on October 31st 1948.

A Simple Church

The new church was given a simple modern plan by architects Robinson, Keefe and Devane, with a main nave approached from the front entrance porch, and the Sanctuary enclosed by altar rails at the opposite the end. The rails and pulpit were constructed in marble and the sanctuary gates were in gilt bronze work.

There were two side altars with the sanctuary and a pulpit on the left-hand side as viewed towards the altar. The High Altar had a table supported by two columns with a low reredos or screen covering the wall at the back of the altar. A tabernacle with bronzed gilt doors was set on the table in the centre. All were constructed in marble with bronze gilt insignia to the front. The



The construction of St. Philomena's Church, 1948.

seating capacity was designed for 430 people in the Nave and approximately 73 in the choir. Among other fittings, which were brought up from the old church and re-used, were the statuary and the bell.

A more detailed description of the church can be found in the Golden Jubilee publication of 1998. The celebrations of fifty years of the Church of St Philomena took place in October/November of that year and were attended by President Mary McAleese.



Bell being transported from the old Chapel of Ease to the new St. Philomena's.



Duncan's map of 1821 showing the castle at Irishtown

The survey also describes such cabins occupied by the Irish as 'very wretched', being made of mud and straw. These were thatched with straw or grassy sods and without windows or chimneys because of the tax of two shillings payable on the latter.

Later in the century, we read of the principal or *Capital House*, surrounded by a great bawn and entered by an arched gateway, near the already ancient church. During the seventeenth century when Palmerstown comprised 916 statute acres, we read of the haggard or stack yard and great stable, part of Irishtown Castle. Called simply the *Stone House*, it was indeed a very habitable house containing a comfortable eleven chimneys, the chief house at Palmerstown having just nine hearths.

The Registry of Deeds

In the 18th century, a more detailed picture of day-to-day life on the land at Palmerstown emerges with the establishment in 1707 of the Registry of Deeds. Most major land transactions since that year are recorded. The documents detail the boundaries of the land by ditch, road or river.

A landscape of stables, cowhouses, granaries, orchards and dairies present a lively picture of the activities of farmers and the streams, wheels, kilns and forges reflect the daily labour of a village of millers and mongers.

One of these, Joshua Wilson, who died in 1701, had owned the Great or Large Corn Mill as well as fourteen acres called Calves Park. Wilson also had the Church Field in his possession, with the tenement and garden there, situated north of the town near the Liffey and bounded on the south with the public highway leading through Palmerstown.

Thomas Hudson, a farmer of Palmerstown, worked twenty-four acres of land including an orchard and a garden. The land with its houses, stables and outhouses was let to him by William Yarner in 1716, with clauses that required Hudson to give his landlord two chickens every Christmas Eve and allow him free access to the quarry. Hudson would also maintain all the fruit trees in the orchard.

In 1723, Dennis Farrell a yeoman of Colcot had a grant of the Cowyard with three tenements of stone and lime there as well as a potato garden. With this came

the free liberty and privilege of grazing that part of the townlands of Palmerstown called Quarry Hill, to stub the same and make any garden or gardens thereon, with full liberty to burn or otherwise use the roots, bushes and brambles as he shall cut down.

Also granted to Farrell by his Palmerstown landlord, Mathew Lafitte, was the Oat Field, the Round Field, Purcell's Park, the Pound Field, the Brick Field and the Potato Garden lying between the Long Walk and the Lane leading to the Brick Field from the road containing about 43 acres. Later that year Lafitte gained land on the south side of the road from Palmerstown to Dublin containing Ashpark, Longwalk Wood, Furrypark, Woodfield, Triangle Park, Oatfield Park, Pursell's Park, Fishpond Park and Huttensfield, containing almost 80 acres.



Rocque's map dating from the mid-1700s showing a large pigeon house. Pigeon houses were then an important source of food.

Lafitte was then also in possession of the Pigeon House, Brewhouse, Cyderhouse, Cowhouse, Grainary, Coach-house, Dearyhouse, stables, out-houses, gardens, orchards, fields and groves belonging to the Great House of Palmerstown, containing 17 acres 2 roods 18 perches, plantation measure. Other parcels of land named, in 1734, are the Corner Meer Field, adjoining the upper part of St Laurence measuring 11 acres, the Long Field called the Black Ditch between the Corner Meer Field and the Great Meadow, containing 20 acres.

First Industry

The foundation in Palmerstown of a religious house during the early Christian era indicates that the first mills were established on the banks of the river Liffey there at that time. From the earliest times the location of virtually all types of industry, such as textiles, lumber milling and iron manufacturing, depended on a suitable water source such as the Liffey. There is ample evidence of watermills in Ireland as early as the sixth century, many of them connected with monasteries.

By the seventh and eighth centuries, corn mills operated by waterpower were commonplace throughout the country. Most of the Irish mills were operated by small water wheels set at their side. The wheel rotated horizontally through the impact of the running water on a series of cupped blades. Larger mills were vertical, fed from a head race and millpond, the pond providing storage for a period of continuous operation.



This OS map, c. 1860, illustrates the wide variety of industrial activities in the Mill Lane area.

Early Mills and Weirs

As we have seen, from about the middle of the twelfth century the lands of Palmerstown were in the possession of the religious house of the Hospital of St John the Baptist. Palmerstown Grange was then one of the most highly valued of the Dublin monasteries and among the assets of the property was a watermill. At the beginning of the fourteenth century we read of the weir at Palmerstown when at Easter time 1306, the Sheriff commanded that a new weir on the Liffey at Lucan be pulled down as it was affecting the smooth running of the water.

A weir or wall built across a river holds a stretch of water above at a constant level and allows the surplus to flow over the top. Early weirs had three purposes – fishing, diverting water into mill races to develop power and to improve navigation by raising the water level. The level of the water on the weir at Palmerstown, and other weirs between Leixlip and *Chapel Isalde*, had been raised and the course of the water narrowed from its customary breadth of at least 16 feet, thereby hindering the passage of boats, firewood and fish.

The offending weir constructed ‘in prejudice of the King and deterioration of his weirs and fisheries’ by Roger Smalris, the bailiff of John de Hausted, was to be torn down. The Sheriff order all the other weirs reduced in height, the course of the water widened and returned to their previous state ‘and that said injurious things be wholly put away.’



The mill race with the old Scutch Mill.

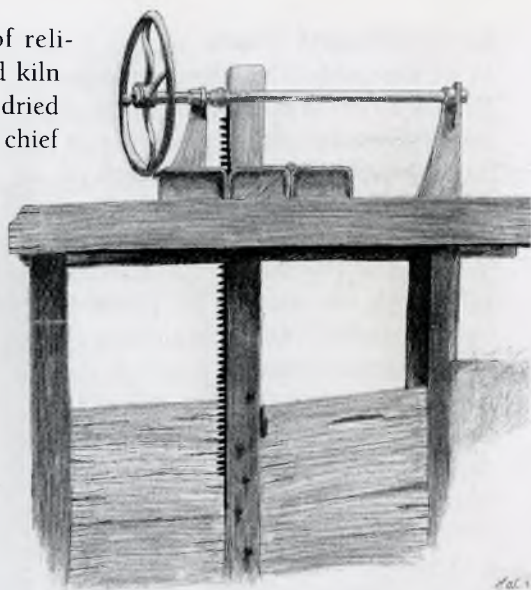
Sluice gates at the New Holland weir on the Liffey, the source of the mill race which extends to 1.78 miles.



Following the dissolution of religious houses in 1539, a mill and kiln in which corn was ground and dried is described as belonging to the chief house of Palmerstown.

The Mill Race

Early horizontal water wheels were gradually replaced by larger vertically rotating wheels, which turned through the action of a stream beneath. The construction of a mill race allowed the water to enter the wheel at any point on its circumference and the mill race in Palmerstown was recorded as early as the seven-



Drawing by Nessa O'Connor of the sluice gate.

teenth century. Although the uses of mills changed frequently according to the social and political demands of the times, the Mill Race remained in constant use as a source of water power until as late as the 1960s.

In 1713, James Twigge leased the plating mill and shop, to two ironmongers with:

The use and liberty of all passages, yards, waters, watercourses and pounds and the liberty of using the water.

The Water Supply

In the event of water scarcity during the summer months, the water was only to be used for eight hours in every twenty-four, from four in the afternoon to midnight. If water was plentiful, it could be used constantly as long as it did not hinder the working of the Slitting and Blade mills. Those who leased the property were also obliged to maintain the tools, equipment and mills in perfect working order and to contribute a quarter of the cost of scouring the watercourses. They were also bound not to convert the mill to corn, tuck or leather working.

From the head sluice gate at New Holland Weir below the present Hermitage golf club, the Mill Race runs roughly parallel to the River Liffey for one and seven eighths of a mile (3km) to where it rejoins the river at the



Photo dated 1889 showing the Liffey, Mill Lane area and various industrial buildings.

out-flow between the Pitch and Putt course in Mill Lane and the old mills on the river side. Five single-arch stone bridges span the Mill Race, and throughout its course are arrayed a number of overflows, sluice gates, arches, tunnels, millponds and a rettory.

The Rettory

Situated in the hollow of a former millpond, above the outflow of the Mill Race to the Liffey, is a *rettory*. The structure is a brick built cylinder of about eight metres (26 feet) in diameter and approximately four metres (13 feet) in depth with a surrounding exterior wall height of a little over two metres (6 feet). The retaining brick clad walls are approximately sixty centimetres (2 feet) in thickness.

Described locally as a 'flax steep', the rettory was employed in the linen industry in the preparation of linen fibre for spinning. The material was separated from flax stalks using a method referred to as water retting, involving submerging the stalk bundles in water weighed down with stones or wood. The retted stalks were then dried in the open air after which the woody pieces were beaten or scraped out in a process called scutching. The Scutch Mill was a large mill on the Liffey at Mill Lane, evidently given over to this purpose during the nineteenth century.

Before the rettory was built it is probable that *dew* retting was employed in the production of linen where the harvested stalks are spread in grassy fields. The adjacent greens (now used as a pitch and putt course and football field) were undoubtedly used for this process. The action of air, dew and bacteria

would break down stem material spread on the grass. As this method generally produces a poorer quality fibre, a rettory would have been a great advantage to the linen business carried on by Mrs Mary Wheatley and her family in Palmerstown from the early eighteenth century onwards. The rettory was probably constructed at an earlier date, however, judging by the pattern of the brickwork which is known as 'garden wall' course and is a style of brickwork that was in use until the end of the seventeenth century.

Overlooking the rettory and millpond is the ruin of a small oil mill, covered in ivy. Here linseed oil was produced as a by-product of the flax industry. Remnants of the original brick chimney of the oil boiling house can be seen as well as a very large entrance doorway, probably built to accommodate cartloads of flax fibre arriving at the mill. The building formerly had another wing and the roof was capped with a large vent.

Iron Working

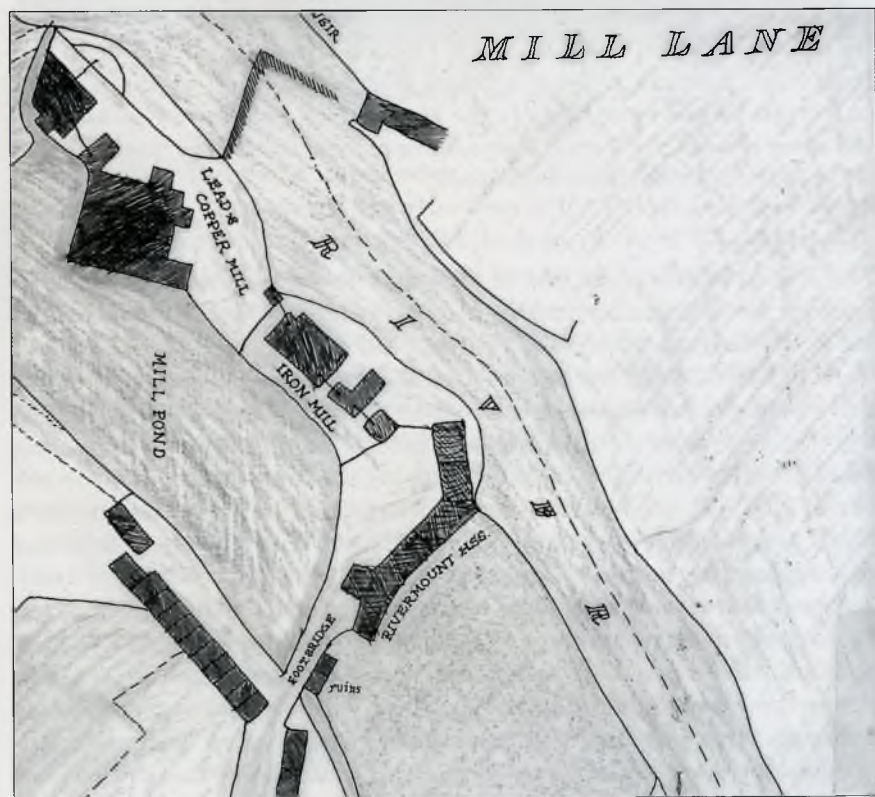
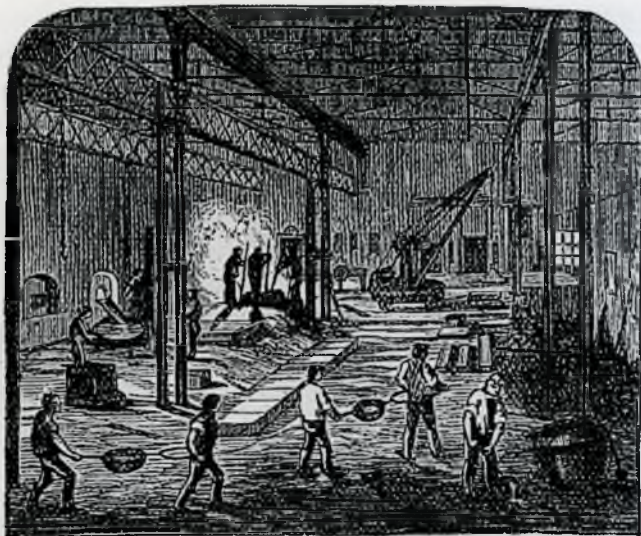
In the past iron smelting required a proximity to a fast flowing stream or mill race as making use of water-powered bellows greatly improved production. Thus ironmongering, in the form of smelting, slitting and plating, was a primary industry in Palmerstown with foundries established very early in the locality. A number of businesses, such as the Plating Mill, included a 'shop' on the property, leased to two ironmongers in 1713. The shop is most likely a *workshop* rather than simply a retail establishment, although it is very probable that finished merchandise was sold.

Benjamin Bradley, an ironmonger, had a slitting mill, shops and houses on the Liffey, all leased from Joshua Wilson, a gentleman of Palmerstown (apparently a son of Joshua Wilson of Palmerstown Mills who died in 1701, buried in the old churchyard). In 1712 Bradley, a Londoner, sold his lease to Theophilus Jones for £500. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, there were 17 wheels in operation for the iron works owned by Mr Blair.

Tangible evidence of such an extensive operation exists in the *clinkers* found around Mill Lane, which were often used as capstones on old walls in the area. When cinders and other impurities of the molten metal combine in the furnace in the smelting of iron ore, the *scoria*, or clusters of debris created, when cooled, are known as clinkers. Pieces of these could also be added to great advantage to the recipe for making glass. The middle of the nineteenth century saw the iron industry go into decline, as did many other businesses. By 1840, one Thomas Porteus owned the iron mill, spade-forge operated in 1885, but by the end of the century the iron foundries were for the most part idle.

Right: 19th century etching showing an iron foundry such as might have existed in Mill Lane.

Below: A drawing showing the extent of industrial activity in Palmerstown (originally including iron, cotton and copper mills) in the associated village which comprised at least 40 dwellings.



Linen Printing

One of the earliest and most successful linen printing factories in Ireland was established at Palmerstown. Reference to this type of work in connection with Ireland is first found in a petition of 1693 proposing the introduction of

The Extraordinary invention of staining and printing all colours on all manners of linen, calicos etc. never found out in our Kingdom of Ireland.

There is, however, no evidence that this project ever materialised. One of the first established works, started with the help of the Trustees of the Linen Board, was at Ballsbridge. Its founder, a man called Chappell, had made enquiries as early as 1719. Wages were paid by the Trustees for tools and a printcutter from England but by 1735 the Board decided that the venture would receive no more funds. Apparently, Chappell was an incompetent and there were complaints about his work. It is from two petitions made almost thirty years later that we learn of the introduction of *The Art of Stamping, Staining and Dyeing Linens and Imitation Callicoes (Indian Cloths)* to Ireland at Palmerstown. In his petition for Parliamentary aid of 1763, Samuel Grant stated that his father had come from England and settled near Dublin and started that business, carrying it on for several years until his death. Grant stated that he was brought up in the business and had learnt new skills by travelling abroad. The Trustees gave him a place at Ballsbridge, probably that which was originally leased to Chappell.

Mary Knabbs

The second petition was that of Mrs Mary Knabbs of Palmerstown, also applying for Parliamentary aid. In this, she states that her father had started the works 42 years earlier, that is in 1720, and was the first to do that kind of work in Ireland. After his death her mother, Mrs Mary Wheatley, who was also a publican, carried on the business. Mrs Wheatley died suddenly in 1753 and a dispute arose as to who should inherit the 'great linen and printing business' being carried on by her. Basing her claim on the fact that she and her mother had managed the linen works together prior to her mother's death, Mrs Knabbs eventually managed to have a settlement made in favour of herself and her husband.

That which Mary Knabbs did not inherit she purchased from her brothers. Newspaper reports of the day reveal that although neither mention it in their petitions, Mrs Knabbs and Samuel Grant were brother and sister and also that the early works referred to by Samuel Grant as having been erected by his father was the original establishment at Palmerstown.

In establishing her right to Parliamentary aid, Mary Knabbs gave an



The three principal mills were (left) the Cotton Mill; (centre) the Logwood Mill demolished in the 1960s and (right) the Old Mill. The Cotton Mill was gutted by fire 2001.

account of her business at Palmerstown, which includes evidence from several witnesses and is preserved in the minutes of the Dublin Society of March 1763. Mary Knabbs took over the 20-acre property when her mother died and had between eighty and one hundred men in her employment. The business had an annual turnover of about £8000.

Explaining that her Green could work a great deal more than she had to do, Mrs Knabbs produced an account of the linens she had printed from the year 1755 inclusive showing how her business had increased. She already had above 7000 'brought in' for the beginning of this Season she said. Before they had come to Ireland this kind of work was done in 'wax-work' which involved the application of a 'resist' of dye.

The first witness, Mr Daniel Simpson, who had known the family for 30 years had leased to them the 20 acres on which the works were situated. When a dispute arose among the children Mrs. Knabbs was recommended to him by various linen dealers as 'the properest person' capable of carrying on the business with 'spirit and vigour'.

Lewis Laurent, a dealer, was sure that the family was the first to perfect the manufacture in Ireland. He had dealt with Mrs Knabbs for eight years and with her parents for about twenty years before that. He got Mrs Knabbs to

print six or seven thousand pieces a year for him and he never imported chintzes. He thought that hardly a yard now came in for each piece that had been imported before this business was begun and the work was as well done here as in England. As much as £1100 had been paid for printing in the last year by all the printers, he stated.

Another dealer, Edward Braughall, said that when he first became an apprentice 35 years earlier, the dealers all imported their printed goods from Holland, mostly by smuggling but some also 'in the ordinary way'. In contrast, he now exported many pieces abroad such as his £400 worth in Spain. Summing up, Braughall produced an account of all the cottons and linens printed for him by Mrs Knabbs since 1754 inclusive, amounting to the sum of £2275 10s 8d and stated that she printed more than any two yards in Ireland.

Her work was so esteemed that many linens were sent from Cork for her to print. Mrs Knabbs said that she did a great deal of work for Cork, particularly for Moses Newsome and Abel Fuller. Summing up Braughall said that she did the same kind of work in wood as was done at Drumcondra in copper 'so well that you would not distinguish them' and that the demand was so great that if she had a fund she could employ £10,000 a year in the work.

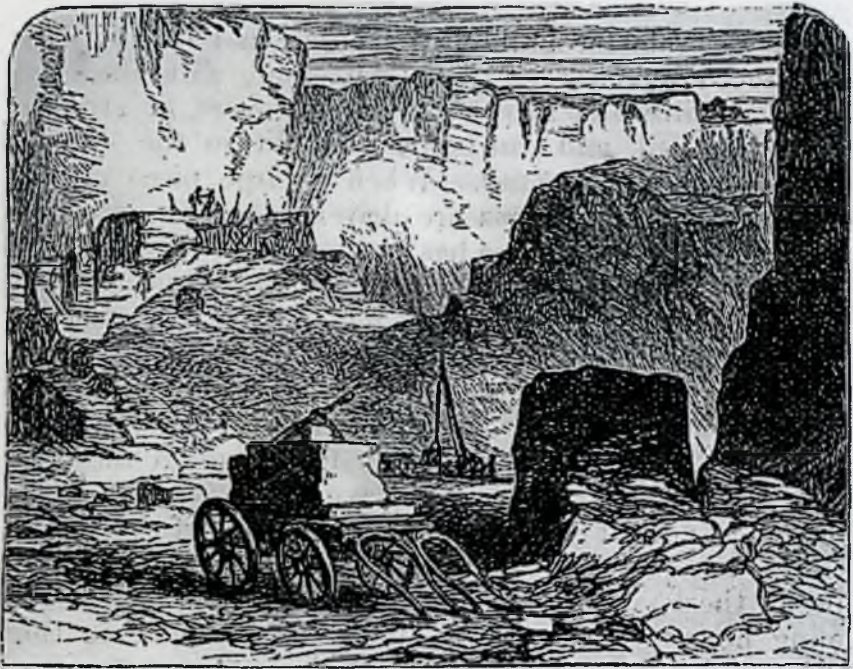
The evidence closed with that of Patrick Ewing who had known her parents when they were first to do that kind of business in Ireland and he remembered how her father worked in waxwork before he worked 'in colours'. The Dublin Society allotted Mary Knabbs £271 17s 13d for the trouble she had taken with her petition.

William Robinson

Further testimony to the early origins of linen printing in Palmerstown can be seen in the old graveyard in Mill Lane where the inscription on a stone ledger reads as follows:

Underneath this stone lieth the remains of William Robinson of Beggars Bush, Callico Printer, who from his sincere attention to business, honesty in dealings and desire to please, not only brought to perfection one of the first printing manufactury's in this kingdom but also established to himself a character free from blemish and died sincerely beloved, regretted by all who knew him, March ye 23 1781 in the 63rd year of his age.

It is not known whether William Robinson originated from the city or from the less well known 'Beggars Bush' which existed in the Palmerstown area west of the hamlet of Cursis Stream. South of the Road and the Hermitage, the townland appears as 'Begar Bush' in 1762 and as 'Beggars Bush' in 1816.



Stone was the principal building material until the 20th century, and quarries such as those at Palmerstown were an important source of employment.

Quarrying and Building

Supplying building stone and bricks to the industrial undertakings at Palmerstown were the quarries of Mill Lane and Quarryvale and the Brickfields. Of the Mill Lane quarries, one was situated in the woods of Palmerstown Demesne and the other was at a short distance from the old churchyard on the hill overlooking the Mill Race.

As well as providing building material through the centuries, limestone has been extracted from this quarry for paving, road-making and repairing. The quarry provided stone for the town's once familiar landmarks now concealed with ages of ivy and brambles – stone bridges, pillars, monuments, tunnels, arches, walls, weirs, mills, houses, pubs, the coach-house, the chapel-of-ease, and in its earliest days, the ancient limestone Church of Yews.

Limestone was also burned in kilns in the area as lime was once commonly used in agriculture, in bleaching and in making mortar for the building trade. Before becoming a site for dumping in recent years, the cut stone face of the quarry was plainly visible but was gradually covered by industrial waste.

Early Workings

Early eighteenth-century leases document the day-to-day workings of the quarry. In 1716 the quarry was let to a Palmerstown farmer, Thomas Hudson, with houses, stables, an orchard and a garden. As part of the lease Hudson was obliged to allow his landlord free access to the quarry. Later Quarry Hill and the Brickfield would be leased by Dennis Farrell in 1723 with the liberty for himself and his workmen to cart away such quantities of stone as he had occasion to use in building on the property.

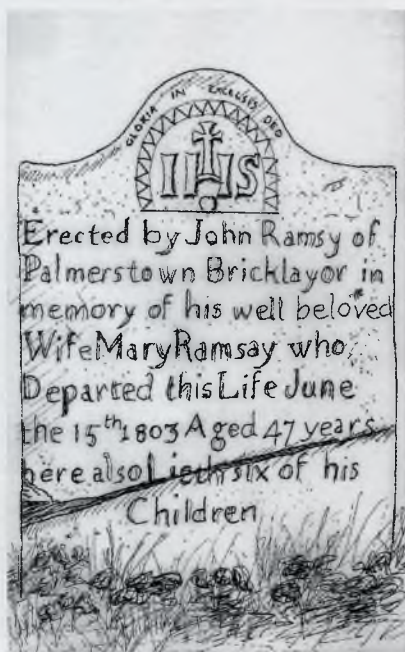
Farrell was obliged by his landlord, Mathew Lafitte, to pull down, rebuild and repair the three stone tenements there so to make them tenantable using £25 of his own money and £25 to be put up by Lafitte. He was also to provide a supply of one thousand new bricks to be used for the purpose.

Monuments in the old churchyard commemorate the tradesmen who helped build Palmerstown. An eighteenth-century stone remembers Mr Michael Brown, a Bricklayer of Brittain Street. An early nineteenth-century stone, erected in memory of his wife in 1803, names John Ramsy of Palmerstown as a *Bricklayer*. Another stone, erected as a monument to his aunt in 1808, names John Broderick of Great Strand Street as a Stone Cutter.

The quarry here has also provided limestone for the building of perhaps one of the most picturesque landmarks in the vicinity – the Clock Tower at Farmleigh. The tower was completed by 1880. The Victorian metal ‘White Bridge’ on the Liffey below was also apparently constructed at that time, as its gateway shows the same cut stone designs.

The Clock Tower at Farmleigh

This landmark, familiar to so many as ‘the Clock Tower’, was actually built principally as a water tower and was erected between the years 1870 and 1880. The latter date is found carved into the stone lintel at the entrance doorway. The Water Tower stands some two hundred feet (60m) from the



John Ramsy's memorial to his wife, Mary, a fine tombstone which was vandalised in 2002.



The Farmleigh Clocktower was built of stone from the Palmerstown Quarry

apex to the roof. The vane, in the form of a cockerel, reaches a further six feet eight inches (2m) in height. At ground level, the walls are four feet (1.2m) thick reducing to about two feet six inches (0.75m), causing the interior of the tower to be remarkably dry. The height of the drop from the tower to the bank is said to be in the region of eighty feet (38m).

Above the balcony on the tower, the space is separated into two storeys, which are serviced by a circular iron stairway of 148 steps. The lower storey houses a water tank of 30,000 gallons capacity, the chief purpose of the water tower. Water was pumped from Mill Lane on the opposite bank, across the White Bridge in pipes to the tower and hence to the big house of Farmleigh. The second storey houses five bells, one of which weighs five tons and sounds the hour with the four smaller bells sounding the quarters.

The Water Tower clock, with two faces each measuring thirteen feet (3.9 m) in diameter, must be wound each day using three sets of gears by manual action. The astronomical instrument maker, Sir Howard Grubb, who had his factory at Rathmines Road, made the clock mechanism or escapement that controls the energy from the weights to the pendulum, and it is the same as that of London's Big Ben of 1854. Following ten years of neglect, the clock was restored in recent years and those parts not maintained were remade and replaced. Refurbishment also took place at the beginning of the new millennium as part of the government's restoration of the entire Farmleigh estate and the bells of the clock tower sound each hour once more.

The engineering department of St James's Gate Brewery undertook the construction of the tower with Mr Wilson as clerk of works. Limestone from the quarry on the opposite bank in Palmerstown was used in the construction of the tower and granite dressings were applied to the balcony supports, the interior stairway and so on. Gravel and sand were supplied by Michael

Tracey of the Lower Road on the Strawberry Beds. The principal mason at the site was Patrick Connolly. Others who worked on the construction of the Tower included James Campbell, Patrick Murray, John Finnegan and Mr Palmer who was the manager at Farmleigh.

Edward Clarke vs. Trade Unions

In the latter half of the eighteenth century 'combinations' or trade unions and the use of work tickets among the journeymen weavers of Dublin gave rise to much discontent among employers. In a letter of October 1800, from a cotton manufacturer to the Chief Secretary's Office at Dublin Castle, about the extent of combination among the workforce, Edward Clarke is named as an employer who 'through his exertions [had] totally annihilated the root of combination' at his factories at Palmerstown.

Clarke had managed to rid himself of the committee of the Journeymen's Association who issued work tickets to their 'Lawful Brothers in Trade'. Any person found to be working at a reduced price would lose their ticket and be deemed exempt from the trade by the Association. It was alleged that cotton industry wages in Ireland were then substantially higher than in British centres. In order to overcome the power exercised by these societies in the capital, Parliament encouraged the development of manufacturing outside the city. Here the employers, such as Edward Clarke, would have more control over their workforce.

Extensive calico printing works were owned by Clarke at Palmerstown. Six mills were operated for this purpose and also three wash mills. By 1787, the business was on a very ambitious scale, Clarke having rendered his printing works 'very complete'. He associated his business with that of O'Brien and Comerford of Balbriggan, 'for the purpose of carrying on the United Business of Manufacturing and Printing on an improved and extensive plan'. Weekly deliveries were made from Palmerstown to their city warehouse at 19 Merchant's Quay, at 11am on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Calicoes and Linens

The stock consisted of a large assortment of garments and furniture calicoes and linens, mostly printed from copper plate cylinders and other new and expeditious machinery. Clarke was employing this new machinery soon after its introduction into England and buyers had the benefit of new patterns as practised in London or Manchester. They later moved to number 23 Merchant's Quay where there was an additional delivery on Mondays. Company advertisements appeared in the *Dublin Evening Post* until about 1793. Edward Clarke retired to his works at Palmerstown and the company's

Calico printing
works in the 19th
century



name appeared in directories as Printers and Manufacturers from 1800 until 1815 at Merchant's Quay and other addresses.

A print of 1795 depicting Palmerstown House (from *Scenery of Ireland* by Jonathan Fisher) also illustrates Palmerstown Mills and the Mill Race at that time. Among the mills pictured are very likely the premises of the Great Linen Business established by the family of Mrs Mary Knabbs, a property which was probably afterward taken over by Edward Clarke to house his similarly extensive business.

Other Early Mills

The early years of the eighteenth century saw a variety of other industries thriving at Palmerstown. Joshua Wilson owned 'two stocks of mills for milling cloth' which in 1717 he leased to John Byrne, a clothier from Dublin city, together with an apartment in the house adjoining the mill, part of a garden and a stable.

Byrne sold his lease two years later for £200 to Tristram Fortick, a saddler, also from the city. This noteworthy man apparently lived for many years of the eighteenth century at Jones's Road in a house called Fortick's Grove, now the site of Clonliffe College. Fortick's gardens were a curiosity with figures of men, animals and birds in various attitudes, cut in box and yew. The gardens were open on certain days to Dublin's citizens. On Lower Gardiner Street there also stood an alms-house founded by Tristram Fortick, the sign reading:

This Charity House was built and endowed in the year 1755 by Tristram Fortick, a citizen of Dublin, late of Fortick's Grove, in the Co. of Dublin, Esq., for the use of reduced women who had lived in good repute.

Tuck and Corn

In 1721 Joshua Wilson leased the Great or Large Corn Mill and the use of the watercourse to two merchants, together with the cellar, dwelling house and garden there and ground in front of the mill. The lease excluded sole use of the passage from the Tuck Mill near the Corn Mill to the water but granted the privilege to graze the field called the Lyon Yard belonging to the Mill and adjoining to the 'bridge foot'.

A group of mills in Palmerstown, commonly called Norris Mills, were leased to various persons by Henry Viscount Palmerston during the early years of the eighteenth century. Because of the intended marriage of his son, Richard Wilding, a gentleman of Palmerstown, made a settlement in October 1722 of these mills and lands adjoining to his heir. The property was to be held by Richard junior, from the day of his marriage to Margaret Crosthwaite, to benefit them and their future children under the terms of a lease made by Henry Temple in 1713.

Mill Buildings

Mills built before 1800 were still small, employing 100 – 200 workers at most. We can get a good impression of how the Mills of Palmerstown looked in the eighteenth century from a drawing of 1795 showing the mills at the lower part of the Liffey in operation and the 'watercourse' or Mill Race running alongside.

A slitting mill, shops and houses on the River Liffey near Palmerstown are described in 1712. Between the slitting mill and the plating mill was a small house, the Plating Mill Shop and two dwelling houses where Timothy Anseon and his servant, Mr Williams lived. Here too were the passages, yards, watercourses and pounds employed in the workings of the mills.

At this time, there was an island in the Liffey beside the Palmerstown Mills, which was big enough to accommodate garden plots. Though mapped in the early part of this century and recalled to living memory, all traces of the island have now been swept away by the Liffey currents.

In 1721 the Great or Large Corn Mill was let to two city merchants, Elijah Charles and Joshua Henzell with the watercourse, the dwelling house, cellar and garden there with a piece of ground in front of the mill and 'the privilege to graze in the park or field called the Lyon Yard next adjoining to the bridge foot.'



A view of the mills and cottages at Palmerstown by Jonathan Fisher in 1795.

The Mid-Eighteenth Century

The industrial undertakings in Palmerstown in the mid-eighteenth century included the French Mill, the Linen Mill, the Plating Mill, the Brickfields, the Logwood Mill and the Big Skin Mill. At the beginning of 1757 Henry Delamin of Palmerstown, a delph and earthenware manufacture, received a grant for building mills in Palmerstown. William Ingham, a printer of calico and linen, died intestate at Palmerstown in 1777.

Mardyke and Later Mills

Originally a three-storeyed building, Mardyke mill was situated on the north bank of the Liffey at Glorney's Weir, appearing on a map of 1803. The weir was named for Mr Benjamin Glorney who had interests in the lands there and at Waterstown in 1829. The weir and its owner's name are remembered in the lines of a poem by Winifred M. Letts found in *Songs from Leinster*, a volume first published in 1913.

Glorney's Weir

*At night when the world was sleepy and still
I'd wake, maybe, in the depth o' the dark
And think of the river below the hill
That flows so fast by the ruined old mill.
Never a sound beside I would hear,
But the water roaring at Glorney's Weir.*

*The Liffey
with the
largely
demolished
Mardyke
Mill and
Scutch Mill
(right).*



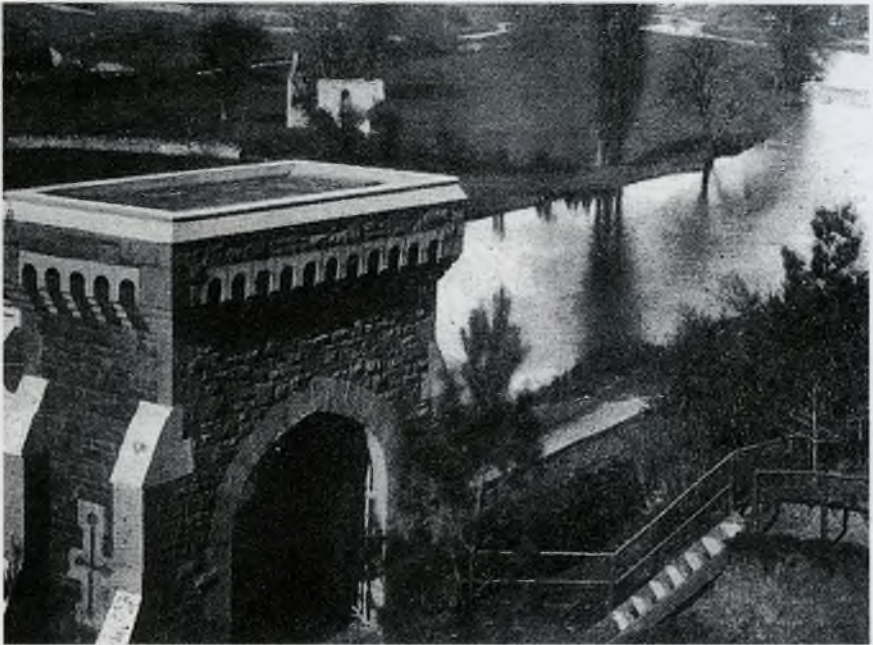
*I'd think to myself how day would come soon
The water-hens wake, and the wagtails sir,
The kingfisher flash in the light of the noon
From the willowy banks of Knockmaroon.
But through the day you could scarcely hear
The voice of the river at Glorney's Weir.*

*I'd wake in the depth o' the dark, maybe,
When the friendly voices of day are still
But the river would lift its song for me,
Down from the mountains, off to the sea.
And glad was I in the night to hear
The roar of the waters at Glorney's Weir.*

D'Alton describes the location in 1838:

*In a fine valley immediately under the hill is Mardyke, a flour mill in which
starch blue and mustard are also made.*

In 1839, James Macken owned Mardyke, also called Palmerstown Flour Mill, which in later years would become a corn mill. The building now consists of a single disused storey. The mills of Dunkirk had operated at Waterstown but had apparently fallen into decline by 1816. A map of that year bears the inscription 'Old Mills' on this spot.



Above: Dunkirk mill (across the Liffey) which stood behind Waterstown House with the gate-house of the Guinness bridge in the foreground.

Below: Taylor's map of 1816 showing the the Mardyke Mill and the 'Old Mills' at top left.





The old village at Mill Lane was once the main residential area of Palmerstown.

The Nineteenth Century

By 1801, the time of the Union, six mills were employed here for printing by Edward Clarke, as well as three wash mills. Mr Blair operated seventeen wheels at the iron works, Mr Lawless had a Skin and Corn Mill while Denis Thomas O'Brien owned two oil mills. Described in his obituary of 1814 as 'an eminent merchant...munificent, pious and charitable', Denis O'Brien had had a partnership in an oil and dyewood mill, had owned a Rabbit Skin mill and leased numerous pieces of land at Palmerstown.

O'Brien would later transfer the lands and rentals to his son, John, as part of his marriage portion. John O'Brien had married, in 1805, Anna Maria Ball, a lifelong friend of Mother Mary Aikenhead and there is evidence that the O'Brien family fortune was used to help found her Irish Sisters of Charity. John O'Brien would lease the mills and other properties in Palmerstown for years to come.

A further six mills, for various uses, owned by Mr Joseph Archer were recorded in Palmerstown in 1801. Lead and Copper works were established in the town in 1821, apparently by John O'Brien. Later, in 1837, large cotton mills were also owned by O'Brien, employing about 120 people. Apart from this mill and the flourmill on the Liffey, all other industries – the printing works, iron works, oil and dyestuff mills and the wash mills – had been discontinued by that year. The following year D'Alton reports that only the lead and copper works before alluded to were still in operation.

The Decline of Industry

In his *History of County Dublin* of 1838, John D'Alton takes the opportunity to explain the reasons for industrial decline throughout the country, then so evident at Palmerstown which he describes as:

...A village that only tells of ejected societies, workless weavers and homeless vagrants.

He begins by remarking that the failure of so many factories could too hastily be attributed to '...the impossibility of coping with English capital and English machinery.' Upon cooler investigation, however, he says, it might be found referable to

the want of skill and attention on the part of the employers and ... Of temperance and honesty on that of his workmen.

D'Alton describes combinations or unions, which seemed to have gained a foothold once more since Edward Clarke's time, as 'baneful and unkindly', but goes on to say:

The associations of artists and tradesmen to improve their...business, and to maintain their fair station...should not be censured, but when, as too frequently, this connexion... blindly demands an increase of wages, which the master cannot afford, or the rejection of...machinery which would multiply



The Oil Mill which remains intact and is of uncertain date, stands on the site of earlier mill buildings.

PALMERSTOWN AND RED MILLS,			
STEAM MILLS AND OFFICE, 32, 33 & 34, POOLBEG-STREET, DUBLIN.			
SACKS CHARGED FOR IF NOT RETURNED.	5.	23/9	1873
	For Mr. <i>Erington</i>		
	<i>12K Poolbeg</i>		
	<i>Pass</i>		
	From JAMES MACKEN & SON.		

Factory docket
from James
Macken & Son,
dated 1873.
(Illus. courtesy of
Daniel Gillman.)

his products, then it is but a self-deception to attribute the fall of manufactures to any physical inability to maintain them; it is not the want of trade excludes the workman, but the wilful and stubborn ignorance of the workman excludes the trade.

McGarry and Sons

With his sons Henry and Bernard, Michael McGarry had combined the lead mill, of which he had possession as early as 1840, with the oil and logwood mills by the year 1854. McGarry and Sons would later operate a spade forge as well as taking over the copper mill and maintained a city outlet at Cooke Street in Dublin. Before the turn of the century, the Lead and Copper works had changed to a Scutch Mill. A factory docket of 1873 belonging to James Macken & Son shows the association between Palmerstown Mills and the Red Mills near Chapelizod. At the close of the nineteenth century, one account describes the Palmerstown mills, iron foundries and printing works as 'long silent' but for a few establishments.

Chapter 6

*Village life – The ferry – The footbridge – Early schooling
– Palmerstown Female and Male National Schools
– School requisites and lessons – Teachers and inspectors*

In his *History and Topography of Dublin City and County* of 1837, Samuel Lewis describes the village as irregularly built with dwellings of 'a humble character'. The parish comprised 1,465 statute acres of which seven were in the village, the total valued at £3594 per annum.

In the following year, D'Alton describes Palmerstown as

...This ruinous hamlet ... a fit resting place for the ravens of Mahmoud.

The context of D'Alton's allusion to 'the ravens of Mahmoud' suggests that he imagined a vulture-like menacing of a destitute village. The parish then comprised 1517 acres, three roods and seven perches in five townlands. The population was returned in 1831 as 1533 inhabitants, including '...a section of



The old village at Mill Lane today.

Chapelized cut off by the River'. The reference is to the Strawberry Beds, long considered part of Palmerstown and easily accessible by the Liffey ferry connecting both communities.

The Ferry

As early as 1816 there was a ferry servicing the crossing between Palmerstown and the Strawberry Beds. Recorded on a map of that year, the ferry was located beside the Old Mills of Waterstown. Twenty years later two ferries appear; the original at Waterstown and another at a crossing just above Glorney's Weir, to the Strawberry Beds. The latter ferry would to operate daily to the Lower Road for the next hundred years

By the mid-1920s the number of passengers using the ferry was about twelve persons each way daily, bringing in an income of twelve shillings weekly to the ferryman. To some residents a simple ferry seemed inadequate and a question of providing a footbridge on the river arose at that time.

A Footbridge on the Liffey

Receiving a deputation comprising the Reverend Condron and several other residents urging the necessity for the erection of a public bridge over the river, the Roads Committee of Dublin County Council carried out an inquiry into the matter commencing in August 1926. Members of the committee inspected the ferry and questioned the ferryman and other



Above: Ferryman, 'Grandfather' Michael Treacy Senior c. 1930

Below: Boating on the Liffey: the author's father, Hugh O'Connor, John Murray, Nelis Hanlon, Mary Maguire, Esther Dobbin and Ena Kemp c. 1950.





The bridge belonging to Lord Iveagh, which linked his lands on both sides of the river and carried the water pipe from a pump house to the top of the tower at Farmleigh. This attractive, latticed bridge now awaits restoration.

local residents of the vicinity on the necessity for a footbridge or road bridge across the Liffey.

Continuing their investigations on the spot, the committee examined the private footbridge belonging to Lord Iveagh, which entered the grounds attached to his residence at Farmleigh at the Lower Road. The temporary use of the footbridge pending the building of a new bridge was under consideration. Lord Iveagh, who had recently procured a new boat for the ferryman said he would be very slow to hamper the ferryman in making his livelihood by allowing the public to use his footbridge. However, a plan to compensate the ferryman by the County Council on the opening of the private footbridge was favourably considered by his Lordship.

Ultimately the County Council concluded, that as the cost of providing a footbridge had been estimated at £3,000 and a road bridge at £12,000, to embark on such an expenditure would be preposterous. As it was, the Council had also been advised that the construction of a footbridge, even if it were considered necessary, would be illegal.

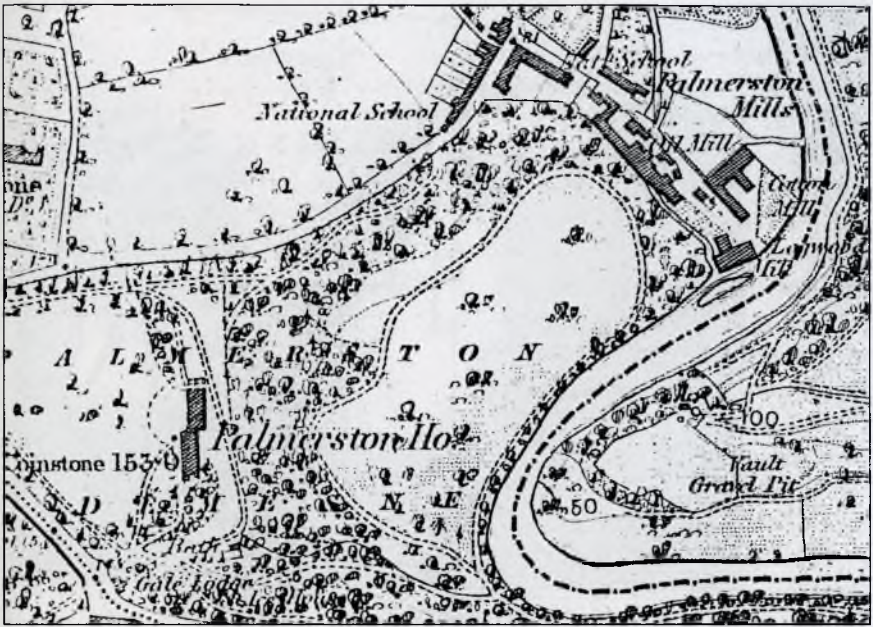
The Roads Committee could not recommend such expensive work and it was decided that the matter be postponed until inquiries had been made as to the right of the Council to erect a footbridge. The County Solicitor would later inform the Council that in his opinion the council had no power to construct the proposed footbridge in any case as it would not connect two public roads. The ferry continued to operate up until the 1940s.

The Poor House

Little is known of the work of this house, established in the parish by the beginning of the eighteenth century. The premises were in the possession of John Eastwood at the close of the seventeenth century. Eastwood may have established the poor house as a private act of charity, perhaps influenced by the Dublin Workhouse Act of 1703, as in Ireland no public system of poor relief was created by Parliament until near the middle of the nineteenth century. In 1707 a third of the Poor House garden was let to Morgan Mullholland of Palmerstown Garden.

Early Schools

The earliest known school in Palmerstown is the Female School marked on a map of 1816 and situated in Mill Lane. The erection of such a schoolhouse would have placed considerable strains upon community resources. Parochial funds would have the most significant source but landlords frequently contributed sites especially those devoted to opposing proselytising schools. The most noteworthy local landlords in Palmerstown, the Earls of



Ordnance Survey map from 1843 showing the old National School on Mill Lane.

Donoughmor, were ardent supporters of Catholic Emancipation and, as we have seen, one of them donated the site for the Penal Times Chapel in the upper village.

As President and Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, Richard Hely Hutchinson was already patron to the Freemason Female Orphan School, off Charlemont Street in Dublin, where the daughters of their deceased members were lodged, fed, clothed and educated. As well as providing the site for the Chapel-of-Ease it is possible that the Earls facilitated the establishment of a local Catholic day school. The free school, attached to the chapel, would have been accommodated by the donation of a site or a pre-existing building at that time. The ruin of the female school is found backing onto the boundary wall of the former demesne of the Earls of Donoughmore, neighbouring the pigeon house of the estate.

By 1821 there were two Free Schools in Palmerstown, both situated in Mill Lane and managed under the guardianship of Anthony O'Brien. In each of these male and female Charity Schools were almost one hundred children who received the benefit of education and the most destitute pupils were clothed. A charity sermon was given to the Palmerstown schools on the first Sunday in September.

The National School Board

The number of pupils in the Mill Lane schools was returned in 1834 as 110, increasing to 150 children by 1837. The schools were then in receipt of £20 per annum from the Board of National Education in Dublin. The National Board was entrusted at that time with providing an education to the children of the poorer classes of all faiths. Literary, moral and religious instruction would be given to the children without subjecting their parents to any expense.

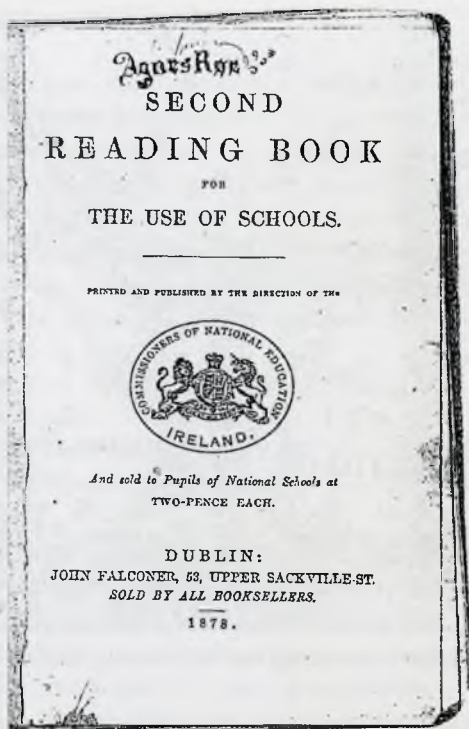
Although schools did offer some free places these were limited and pupils were expected to pay some school fees. These varied from 1d to 2d per week depending on the subjects. The total amount of school fees

received at Palmerstown Female school for 1856 was four pounds, ten shillings and eight-pence. The school was then educating eighty-five pupils of which thirty-five were boys.

As a system of mixed education where separate religious instruction would be given to the children by their respective pastors, the National System was condemned from both Catholic and Protestant sides. The composition of the schools gradually modified, becoming exclusively denominational on one side or the other. By the mid-nineteenth century less than 1% of National School pupils were Anglican or Presbyterian. By 1880 National Schools in Leinster were practically, although not nominally, exclusively attended by Catholic children and conducted under the patronage of the clergy of that church.

An Orderly Classroom

At school in Palmerstown lessons were taught from Monday to Saturday and although the classroom was orderly, attendance was irregular and often unpunctual. In providing an education to children who were also among the





The old schoolhouse for girls, one of a pair which stood in Mill Lane.

mill workers of this busy industrial village, the school authorities could expect some pupils to attend for half time only, if at all. Children working at home and on the farm lead to further absence with attendance fluctuating in line with seasonal employment.

Instructions for filling out the daily report book gave specific instructions regarding Mill Children who attended for half time. A separate roll book and report book was to be kept with morning and afternoon attendances recorded on opposite pages. If a pupil had thirteen entire weeks consecutive absence recorded against them they would be struck off the rolls. Any pupil which the teacher was satisfied would not return to school again would also be struck off.

Pupils attended lessons at the Mill Lane Schools from many surrounding townlands including Cursis Stream, Quarryvale, Redcowfarm, Saint Laurence, Collinstown, Ballyfermot, Fonthill, Irishtown, Johnstown, Mill Lane, Palmerstown Upper and Lower, Woodfarm, and Yellow Walls. However, although their many names appeared on the roll books the average attendance at these schools during the mid-nineteenth century was just 50%.

The School Timetable

The children were divided into *drafts* in accordance with proficiency, not age and taught accordingly by a single teacher. A timetable or programme of the

day's lessons was required, by the inspector. This was to be suspended in a conspicuous part of the schoolroom and the teacher expected to conduct the school according to those arrangements. On more than one occasion the teacher was reprimanded by the inspector for deviating from the timetable. A typical commentary would be that of September 1874:

Find religious instruction going on at two and a quarter o'clock today although according to the time table that time is appropriated to Secular Instruction. The arrangements actually observed ought to be set for the on the Time Table and not be departed from except with due authority.

By the 1850s the programme included selections from the Bible read twice weekly, instruction in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, divisions of money, Roman numerals, definitions of parts of speech, grammar and the days, months and seasons of the year. In 1861 the inspector suggested that all competent pupils should, from time to time, 'try three times in each week to write Bills and parcels.'

History and Geography

In the higher forms geography was taught and the children standing before the map were expected, without hesitation, to name and trace the continental boundaries and their large divisions and to know the chief rivers and cities in each continent. Their texts were *The Epitome of Geographical Knowledge* and *Professor Sullivan's Introduction to Geography and History*, assisted by *Fleming's Atlas and Outline Maps*. Knowledge of the geography of Ireland was often found to be inadequate, however, with Class III judged very poor on the map of Ireland in 1861.

Needlework

Industrial training in the form of sewing, knitting, crochet and embroidery was also part of every girl's education. Specimens of needlework were considered 'fairly executed' in 1856. Although none were sewing at the time of that inspection, four pupils had been knitting, one could embroider and two had fashioned some items in crochet. The children's accomplishment in needlework often depended on whatever materials they could bring with them and it was therefore suggested that the children make up and repair their own and their sisters' clothes as far as possible. Ninety minutes of drawing was also recommended weekly and drawing was presented for first time in 1895 showing very satisfactory proficiency.

A Visit from the Patron

As complaints had been made that the managers, clergy, gentry and others interested in the welfare of schools seldom visited them, the teacher would invite visitors to record their names, the date and the number of pupils found present. The patron of the Female National School, Bernard McGarry of Ashtown, looked in upon his charges on April 6th 1856 and noted in the Daily Report Book:

I have this day visited the school and found forty children. All appeared clean and comfortable and the rooms in good order.

No doubt the children would then be intent upon their various books of lessons, perhaps holding a pointer to the one of the maps of Asia, the United States or of England, all fixed to the wall. Two sheets of illustrations to *Patterson's First Steps to Zoology* also adorned the schoolroom. As the lessons of the day moved from secular to religious instruction, a thirty-hour American clock kept time.

Palmerstown Female National School

Palmerstown Female National School is described in 1856 as a simple stone and brick building with a roof of slate. A painted signboard on the external wall identified the school. The inscription would remain indistinct for many year, however, as it was not renewed in spite of continuous urging by the visiting inspectors.

Internally the schoolroom measured twenty-nine feet (8.7 metres) in length and fifteen feet (4.5 metres) in breadth, with a ceiling height of just under eight feet (2.4 metres). The pupils were accommodated in five long desks and two *forms* or benches, each measuring between eight and eleven feet (2.4 to 3.3 metres) all arranged upon a plain boarded floor.

The whole was heated by an open fireplace, the fuel for which was paid in part by a small grant from Board of £2.00. This sum was designated for the purchase of coal, the repair of the 'out offices' i.e. the outdoor toilets and general cleaning. The single outhouse or office serving the premises at the time was in a constant state of disrepair. The inspectors complained of flooding, the ceiling giving way, and of the walls requiring a whitewash. Expressing the hope that the out office would be repaired and that a screening wall or hedge of evergreens be constructed so as to conceal it from observation, the inspector also noted in 1857 that a door was much required.

In 1879 the inspector stated that it was desirable that the end window looking onto the playground be 'muffled' or that a wall be built in front of it



Photo, c. 1890 of children at Palmerstown. The logs are believed to have belonged to Strahan & Co., a furniture factory.

to screen the toilets of the Rev McDonagh's school from view. His reference was most likely to the out offices of the Male National School located less than thirty yards away.

Palmerstown Male National School

In 1858 the patron of the boys' school was the Rev J. Moore, the Parish Priest of Clondalkin and thereby of Palmerstown. The schoolroom and premises were considered very indifferent during the winter of 1860. Desks, which should have been repaired some years earlier, were probably still unmended. With gradual improvement, the schoolhouse was found to be tolerably well kept some six years on. Repeated recommendations for white washing were ignored.

New School Requisites

On the schools' receipt of the triennial grant (recurring every three years) we could have expected to find the teacher's plain cupboard packed with newly acquired school requisites. In 1856 the order consisted of various books of lessons amounting to eighty copies, 48 small copybooks, 50 arithmetical table books, 400 slate pencils, 100 slate pencil holders, ink stands and powders, a gross of steel pens nibs as well as a gross of holders for these.

Dozens of 'tablet lessons' were also ordered, consisting of arithmetic, reading and writing exercise sheets mounted on pasteboards. We can imagine

these stacked high on one shelf and the school slates stacked on another. The teacher's personal reference books would have been arranged separately: *Dawes Hints on Secular Instruction*, *Fleming's Atlas*, *Zoology for Schools*, an introduction to *The Art of Reading*, the *First Book of Arithmetic*, a bookkeeping text, Professor Sullivan's *English Grammar* and his *Introduction to Geography and History* as well as several copies of the professor's *Spelling Book*.

Reading Indifferent, Spelling Bad

In spite of the grant for new school requisites the schoolroom was often in want of basic necessities such as a blackboard, chalk, slates and books. The lack of materials, as well as poor attendance, contributed to occasional reports of unsatisfactory progress among the children.

The visiting inspector found that the four boys and two girls who made up the first class of 1867 had no slates on which to write sums declaring that 'None could add the simplest numbers.' In second class, reading was fair but only one knew the outlines and parts of speech. Among the seven boys and four girls, three or four of them had copybooks far too advanced for them and only six could work out easy subtraction sums.

The Visiting Inspector

The inspectors, who visited each school about every quarter, would examine a number of different aspects of school life. Spending about two hours on the premises the inspector would observe the mode of teaching, scrutinise discipline and order, note the supply of books and other teaching apparatus, inspect the school accounts and the condition of the schoolroom. Although any deficiencies he observed – the absence of a clock, an easel, a timetable or up-to-date maps – were brought to the attention of the teacher, it often remained some years before the situation was rectified.

Later we see that the provision of new requisites did help remedy the shortcomings of the school, as we see from the inspector's remarks of 1877:

I am glad to find all have books. Seems to be improved since ruled slates have been used. Teach these children to repeat their tables rapidly. In reading and repetition of the verses pupils were fairly accurate and distinct and not wholly wanting in expression. Writing in copybooks is careful but is too coarse. Pupils silent and steady in class.

Old Maps

With pupils continuing to rely on old maps and on sharing books, however,

proficiency in geography was low. Remarking upon this in 1856, the inspector urged that the pupils of third class should have geographies of their own. In 1887 the inspector discovered a classroom map of the world to be more than fifty years old, observing that it predated the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 – 1901). New maps of the World, Scotland and England were obtained three years later, in 1890.

The Teachers' Lot

Fulfilling the demands of a teaching method where several classes were mixed was surely a formidable task and the teachers' efforts did not always satisfy the inspector as the remarks of June 1876 show:

I regret to find the posting of the account very much in arrears. The teacher explains that this has arisen from her infirm health and the fatigue she underwent in preparing the children of the schoolhouse for some months for their confirmation last month. I hope that Miss Cooney will hereafterward be punctual in making all the entries.

Two years on the Inspector appears pleased to find the documents properly prepared for that occasion. However, the books of 1887 were once again not in order and the Inspector declares:

School accounts most inaccurate. I regret to find them quite untrustworthy. The teacher appears quite unable to offer any reasonable explanation of these errors and discrepancies.

Apart from their duties as educators, teachers were apparently held in some degree responsible for the appearance and general tidiness of the children. The Inspector instructed one teacher to give more attention to the personal cleanliness of the children. In 1879 the same inspector was pleased to find the pupils clean and neatly dressed, the room properly swept and dusted and the school free of unnecessary noise.

In the early years of the schools' National School status, the salary actually awarded to the teacher was often less than the teachers' stated income. The Commissioners of the National Education saw their grant as a contribution towards salary rather than the total amount, assuming the balance to be paid through local fees. Thus through grants paid by the Commission a national schoolteacher ostensibly drew a salary in 1856 of £20 per annum, paid quarterly. The payment increased by an additional £2 four years later to £22 per annum in 1860.



The Village School in present-day Palmerstown, now a parish centre.

A New Schoolhouse

As attendance became more regular, the schools became overcrowded and fell into disrepair. By 1880 one of the Mill Lane schoolhouses was deemed very unsuitable and a grant for the building of a new schoolhouse was applied for in the same year. The Male National School and playground were recorded as in ruins by 1885 and a house was in progress on the site. It appears as though the boys' school, then in the possession of Patrick Duffy, had been abandoned and all the children transferred to the female school.

John O'Brien was the owner of the Female School then and the house was occupied by Mary Ann McDoole, probably as schoolteacher. It appears that until such time as the new schoolhouse was completed lessons proceeded in a somewhat haphazard manner. The inspector reports in 1888:

These classes are so mixed up together that it is difficult to judge their proficiency. Infants should be formed into drafts...[they are] not fit to be taught in one...three will probably be sufficient. Pupils examined in II class were quite unfit for it.

In 1891 the proficiency of the children examined compared very unfavourably with the previous year. The inspector remarks:

Illness may partly account for this. I hope that the building of the new school may be proceeded with at once. Attendance is irregular and unpunctual.

Palmerstown National School

As well as being funded from local sources the new premises would be built from government grants, to be vested in local trustees with a fixed right of possession. The building was constructed on the corner of the main road of the upper village and Palmerstown National School opened its doors on May 16th 1892. The new schoolhouse was contained in what is now the hall of the present Parish Centre.

A letter to the Reverend J. P. O'Byrne from the Education Office informed the then incumbent patron of the school that the Commissioners had sanctioned the change from a female to a male principal with the appointment of Mr Edward Balfe.

Mrs Bridget Balfe would be engaged as assistant teacher. The salary for the principal amounted to £53 per annum, with results fees also to be granted. A free stock of school requisites to the value of £4 was also granted, on condition that a stock of requisites for sale to the pupils to the value of £1 5/-, be purchased. A salary of about £7 18s would be paid to the assistant per quarter and a class monitor, if any, could expect to earn £1 5s for the same period.

It is evident that the provision of a new school premises improved conditions greatly for both teachers and pupils. The classes of the new National School were evidently carefully and efficiently taught and over the coming years the inspectors were generally very favourably impressed by the work of the school. Finding seventy children present on his visit in May of 1893, the inspector enthusiastically reports:

I am very pleased to see such a fine attendance of very orderly children this morning.

In the summer of 1896, John J. Radley was assigned principal and as the nineties progressed, the school received continuous high praise:

In all subjects both ordinary and extra, the answering has been excellent. Tonic-Sol-Fa introduced for the first time this year has been taught with exceptional success. The girls are proficient in sewing and knitting. Tone and discipline are good and the schoolroom is maintained in excellent order. (1897).

This school continues to be conducted with excellent efficiency. All classes were considered most satisfactory and in the examination, results 88% were passes with merit. (1899) The general tone of the school is most satisfactory. The room is kept in excellent order the pupils are neatly dressed and their deportment is most becoming in every respect. (1899)



The class of 1940-41

The Revised Programme

At the turn of the century a new programme was introduced to elementary schools and a suitable timetable – introducing regular drawing, singing and object lessons – was to be prepared. The inspectors urged that the teachers begin work on the lines of the Revised Programme as soon as possible. Proficiency was found to be good in drawing and needlework in the next few years, though the inspector proposed that the singing might be softer and sweeter.

A New Principal

The excellent progress of pupils continued apace, undoubtedly assisted by the appointment in July 1905 of the ‘zealous’ Miss Mary O’Sullivan, who had trained at Carysfort College. The visiting inspector – Mr A. N. Bonaparte Wyse – considered the 56 pupils present large for a single teacher but he found the painstaking Miss O’Sullivan had ‘brought good methods and much earnestness to bear upon her instruction which is conducted on intelligent and practical lines’. Thus, although irregular attendance of the pupils continued to be a matter of concern as a hindrance to their effective preparation, the inspector found their general progress satisfactory.

Housekeeping

Internally the school was considered in fair order during this period, the house neat and well kept, although neither the walls nor the wood work had

been painted or lime-washed for some years. The playgrounds had in general an uncared for look, thistles and other weeds being in evidence. The privies were often discovered in an objectionable state and these, the boundary walls, the roof, the eaves and windows were always in need of minor repairs. As the condition of the grounds had apparently not improved greatly by 1916, the inspector was of the opinion that it would much enhance the good instruction the children received if they were also trained to take an interest in keeping neat the school plot.

The inspector also added that scribbling should not be permitted on the walls. In the matter of disobedience such as this, the Corporal Punishment Book records the administration of a number of 'slaps of a thin cane'. For throwing stones, four slaps were given, the same amount administered for a pupil's leaving school without permission. A pupil who had told a lie received two slaps of the cane.

Adverse Circumstances

The most relentless of the adverse circumstances affecting the teachers' work logged by the inspectors at Palmerstown National School was the issue of insufficient classroom accommodation. This remained an outstanding need for decades. The floor space of the new premises was quite inadequate with enough space for just 53 pupils.

Visitors would find two teachers at work in an overcrowded room. In the early part of the twentieth century it appears that the building may have originally consisted of a single schoolroom from which two classrooms and the central hallway were later produced. However, the Principal may have had her own classroom for more senior pupils while the assistant and a monitor prepared a number of classes in one room. However, this circumstance is unlikely to have produced concerns about doubling up, as a monitor's working hours were limited to three per day.

In any event, in 1911 the inspector made the rather obvious suggestion that when funds allowed, a classroom should be built. He found the pupils crowded into the desks for Miss Galvin's drawing lesson as four dual desks were urgently required. With a marked improvement in attendance the school qualified for a full assistant by 1914 and a 'double bi-partite' system of organisation was suggested, i.e. each teacher has two groups and has one in desks and the other on the floor as a general rule. The inspector warned against allowing pupils to stand too much, however:

Every second lesson should, of course, not be a standing lesson and there should never be two consecutive standing lessons.



The class of c. 1946-47

In later years, the pupils were sometimes brought into hall for lessons, as it was wide enough to accommodate a standing group. The arrangement whereby classes were taught outside on fine days in spring and summer was viewed as an excellent one in view of the overcrowded condition of the building:

I would suggest, however, that the classes should be taught behind the building and that a large blackboard be suspended for use at these outdoor lessons.

The school continued to be very successfully conducted in spite of the inadequate accommodation, the inspectors continued to be favourably impressed by the work carried the energetic members of staff who discharged their duties faithfully with regular and earnest instruction:

Much excellent work is done in this school notwithstanding the somewhat limited accommodation. (1919)

The usual highly satisfactory standard is maintained in the senior division. I am greatly pleased with the keen interest in the work and the unusual readiness to answer shown by the pupils in it. (1921)



The Scout Troop at Old St. Mary's, Palmerstown

By 1935 the principal, Mrs Tuohy (née O'Sullivan), continued in great favour with the inspectors and was awarded a 'highly efficient' rating:

Mrs Tuohy is a very earnest and skilful worker. Her methods are such as to ripen the intellect of her pupils. A very praiseworthy Irish atmosphere prevails.

Irish Language Classes

Irish had been taught from a surprisingly early date at Palmerstown and 'a good Gaelic atmosphere cultivated'. It is conceivable that it was taught as early as 1872 when a note was made that 'some Irish books from sale' were required by the school. In Mary O'Sullivan's day half an hour's tuition was set aside for extra instruction of the first to fourth standard in Irish at three in the afternoon on most weekdays.

In addition to her education at Carysfort College, the principal had attended Leinster College for two years and had received a certificate for passing her examination in an advanced Irish class. On inspection of Miss O'Sullivan's Irish tuition in 1909, creditable progress was found to have been made and the proficiency very satisfactory. The inspector recommended that



A Victorian family photograph of the Fitzgeralds of Mill Lane.

the pupils sign and date their Irish exercises and that they learn a suitable poem or song. A sustained effort was later made to make Irish the language spoken in the playground.

Craftwork

Drawing and other crafts continued to be given attention during the years leading up to the First World War, including paper folding. The equipment was incomplete in some respects and materials for weaving, knitting and needlework were needed. Senior girls who darned well were encouraged to bring their stockings to school to mend. Each branch of needlework was 'correctly taught' and a sufficient number of garments appeared to be made and specimens neatly arranged and sewn.

The introduction of elementary science was urged during the First World War and it was thought desirable that cookery should also be taught. Within a short few years the Principal had indeed established cookery and laundry courses for which a separate roll would be kept, featuring an impressive inventory of materials and equipment. The laundry utensils in the schools included three baths, (one large), two basins, three irons with stands and holders, a saucepan, a blanket, a sheet, soap trays, bowls for starch and miscellaneous cups and spoons.

Lessons in Laundry

Mrs Tuohy (née O'Sullivan), who had attended a course of instruction in laundry given by the National Board at Lucan, made out a detailed list of

these lessons. The syllabus of instruction included demonstrations – followed by practice of – washing flannels, stockings, white cloths, prints, handkerchiefs, linen, collars, lace and silk. Methods of blueing, starching, pressing, ironing and removing stains from such items were also shown as well as the ‘Care, Cost and Cleaning of Utensils’ and the making of ‘iron holders’.

Cookery Class

The demonstration lessons for the first year course in cookery, laid down by the ever-thorough Mrs Tuohy, in fact began with the practicalities of keeping a range clean and polished, laying a fire and whitening the hearthstone. The pupils then received a lecture in the uses of the by-products of the fireplace – cinders, ashes and soot. Next came a lesson in personal cleanliness and the teacher then demonstrated scrubbing wood, cleaning iron and enamel pots, knives and forks. When the children had practised these exercises to the teacher’s satisfaction, cookery lessons began in earnest. Each lesson consisted of a demonstration and practice in preparing a simple nutritious meal, often followed by a lecture related to the demonstration.

Having mastered laying the breakfast table with porridge, tea, toast and boiled egg, the students moved on to baking soda bread, boiling potatoes and making cocoa. A lecture on the treatment of cuts and burns accompanied this lesson. Boiled cabbage, potato and onion stew baked in a pie dish in the oven was next, followed by methods of cooking green vegetables and their nutritive qualities. A lesson in laying an invalid’s tray with gruel, whey and tea scones followed. Other classes demonstrated Colcannon, fried fish or chop and potatoes, rice pudding, lentil soup, bread and butter pudding and coffee making.

Physical Education

The physical aspect of the pupils’ education was not neglected. A ‘Health and Habits’ lesson was given weekly and inspection of nails by the teachers advised. Weekly exercising or ‘drill’ was included in the school timetable with an emphasis on games for the juniors encouraged. Maintaining good posture was regarded as important and the inspector declares in 1913:

It is wrong to tell pupils to walk on their toes. It makes pupils hobble and leads to the turning in of the toes and prevents an easy gait in walking.

In 1935 the inspector would advise practising some gymnastics so that the pupils ‘may learn how to stand, walk, sit and breathe properly.’ It was proposed that the exercise might take place during the time allotted to dancing.

The pupils knew the 'Walls of Limerick' and 'the Siege of Ennis' and danced them well.

Although by 1910 it was thought advisable to discontinue the use of slates, in actuality, their use persisted well into the school's remaining fifty-year existence.

The First World War

In 1917 the principal and assistant teacher were each paid a War Bonus of four pounds and five shillings. They were expected to give their pupils some knowledge of geography and history in connection with 'the Great War' at this time.



"The gang, 1938", a group of children in the fields above Rivermount.

Chapter 7

Transportation – Highways and coach houses – Brewers and innkeepers – The Deadman's Inn – Tramways

At the beginning of the eighteenth century intending passengers along the 'Great Road' through Palmerstown had the option of travelling by coach or by noddy car. The *Gentlemen's and Citizen's Almanack* of 1803 quotes fares for both modes of transport. By coach from Capel Street in the city centre to Palmerstown, then considered to be in the country, cost four shillings and a penny. For those of more modest means, travelling by noddy or jaunting car, the same journey cost one shilling, eleven and a half pence. Travelling beyond the village to Cursis Stream would raise the price to five shillings and five pence by coach or to two shillings, seven and a half pence by noddy.

The Milestone

Beside the coach house a worn granite milestone records the distances from Palmerstown to destinations of concern to both pedestrians and intending coach passengers. The south face, indicating the Great Road to Dublin, shows a distance of four miles while the east face denotes Chapelizod at one mile. The marks on the west face are indecipherable but the fact that there appear to be two digits suggest that the markings may record the distance to Mullingar, the ultimate destination of many coaching passengers travelling from Dublin in the last two centuries. The device on the sloping upper face of the stone is a benchmark. Above this mark are the letters GR for *Georgus Rex*, that is King George I, whose reign ended in 1727. The coach house was recorded as part of the demesne in the year 1723 and the milestone was undoubtedly placed there at the same time. Perhaps these were constructed as part of the initiatives contained in the many Acts passed by the Irish Parliament from the year 1716 onwards to repair and improve the highways of the kingdom. (In 1731 alone no fewer than eight Acts were passed for this purpose.) Both the milestone and the coach house feature on the Taylor and Skinner road map of 1778.



Brewers and Innkeepers

The early days of brewing and inn-keeping in Palmerstown are indicated in the existence of a variety of establishments suited to the work and in the presence of several houses of entertainment. In 1713, Thomas Simpson as part of his property, kept a Malthouse for storing and preparing barley and other grains for brewing. John Gibbon of Calves Park and the Church Field was a Brewer of Palmerstown until his death in 1722.

The Great House of Palmerstown had, as part of a long list of adjuncts thought necessary for the upkeep of a chief house, a Brewhouse and a Cyderhouse, recorded in 1723. These were no doubt supplied with ample amounts of fruit from the many orchards then in existence in the Palmerstown area.

Public Houses

With the advent of increased stagecoach travel and a demand for refreshments along the Great Road, an amount of public houses had been established in Palmerstown by the eighteenth century. The signboards of these inns bore the following names: *the Swan*, *the Red Lion*, *the Black Bull* and *the White Swan*.

The publican Mr. Mary Wheatley was most likely proprietor to one of the above named establishments. As the owner of the first linen-printing factories in Ireland, early in the 18th century, Mary Wheatley employed many men



Palmerstown House in 1948, known to date back to the 1790s and still a thriving business.

*The Old Inn
on the corner
of the old
Churchyard
Lane.*



and it is tempting to think of her as the landlady of the public house in Mill Lane. Documented simply as the *Old Inn*, it was situated on the corner of the old Churchyard lane, the present building largely unaltered since its construction around the end of the seventeenth century.

In 1839, Michael Hanlon ran a *Carmen's Inn*, possibly as part of the business of the Coach House, serving many a weary traveller on the road from Dublin to Mullingar. Vintners Richard Farrell and Margaret McGuinness were also in business that year.

The Deadman's Inn

The Deadman's Inn is said to have received its name following an incident that took place there in the winter of 1798. District Justice Norbury, better known as 'the Hanging Judge' who became notorious for sentencing Robert Emmet, was travelling by stagecoach to his manor in Clane late one November evening. Approaching the coach house in Palmerstown, the coachman slowed, intending to allow his feverishly ill companion to descend from the coach. Alert to this inexcusable delay and impervious to the coachman's explanations, the Judge roared at his driver to get on or he would see them both flogged and 'hanged for that matter!'

Alarmed, the driver pushed the horses on. As the coach reeled past Murray's inn, his shaky companion tumbled headlong into the dark wet night but the fearful driver dared not slacken. His unlucky companion was discovered lying dead from exposure the following day and was laid out overnight

The Pigeon House in Mill Lane is part of the oldest surviving house in Mill Lane.



at the inn. The inquest, conducted by the Royal Irish Constabulary, recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

The Pigeon House

...we catch a glimpse of the slade and river bank, which were then covered with furze and abounded in coneys [rabbits], and of the hedgerows and woods in which pigeons, then so carefully housed, found enjoyment.

Palmerstown Demesne in the 16th century, F.E. Ball (1906)

If kept by the farmers of the Hospital of St John the Baptist during the sixteenth century, pigeons would have been housed in a wooden structure. The pigeon house as part of a grange usually indicates a secular authority, however, and the dovecotes of wealthy estates were often made of stone. The pigeon house here in Mill Lane may have been built as part of a greater efficiency of farming introduced by the new landlord, Sir John Alen, following the Dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century.

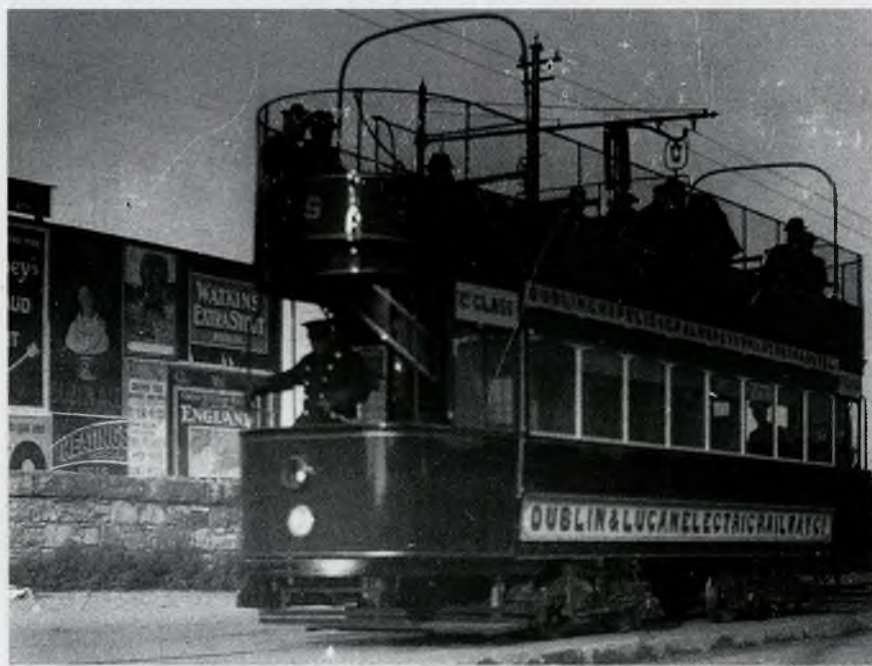
By the seventeenth century, nesting boxes for the keeping of pigeons for fresh meat were a regular feature of many farms. The building was certainly in existence in the early 1700s as an adjunct to the Great House of Palmerstown. The adjoining house has been dated to c. 1714 and both buildings are featured on the 1795 print of Palmerstown House and Mills.

Tramways

On November 1st, 1880 permission was granted to the Dublin and Lucan Steam Tramway to construct the narrow gauge line, which ran from the Phoenix Park to Chapelizod in 1881 and to Lucan by 1883. On June 1st 1881 the *Irish Builder* reported on its progress:

This tramway line is expected to be opened in a few days as far as Palmerstown. The line is a 3-ft. gauge and the starting point will be near the terminus of the city tramways. The steam tramcar ... will carry 42 passengers, 18 inside and 24 outside and when fully laden will be about eight tons in weight.

It has two boilers, one at either end, and these are built into the car. The engine has two cylinders, and, together with the machinery, are under the floor. There is a roof surmounting the top of the car, serving the double purpose of protecting the passengers from the weather and from the heated air escaping from the funnels, two in number. ... The car, as a whole, is narrower and lighter looking in appearance than the ordinary horse trams.



The Lucan tram.



Above: Daleview, a Victorian house which was swept away to make way for the Liffey Valley shopping complex. The adjoining 18th century farmyard was of great interest.

Below: The Pump House which provided water to the Water Tower in the Guinness estate at Farmleigh.





Above: Rivermount House with the Darling family who lived in the house in the late 1800s.
Below: Rose Cottage which sits picturesquely in the bank or wall of the Liffey.



An extension to Leixlip opened in 1889 but the steam tramway was short lived. Electric workings on a wider gauge started between Dublin and Lucan in 1900 and the Leixlip extension was abandoned.

The new tram to Lucan passed Palmerstown village hourly but the electric line in its turn lasted only twenty-four years and, after four years without any trams at all, the line had yet another gauge conversion and was reopened by the Dublin United Tramways in 1928. The new service did not itself survive and trams were substituted by buses in 1940.

Tram Excursions

Excursions by tram became a popular form of diversion for the citizens of Dublin before the turn of the century. The proceedings of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland records one such excursion taken through the Liffey Valley by members of its society:

We return to the tramcars and crossing the Liffey and proceed past St. Laurence to the village of Palmerston... Just before entering Palmerston, we pass Stewart Imbecile Asylum, once the residence of Lord Donoughmore, and then known as Palmerston House...The village has a decayed and old-time appearance. Its mills, iron foundries and printing works are long silent.

Getting out of the tramcars we proceed down a side road at the east end of the village, on the north side, winding down to a lower village with mills, chiefly silent. Here on the left, reached by a short lane, is the old Church of Palmerston, overlooking the river, with its ancient walls overgrown with ivy, which to some extent hinders a proper view being obtained of its, in part, primitive masonry...

Returning to the upper village, and entering the tramcars again we travel westward through the hamlet of Cursis Stream, passing many places once the demesne or residences of noblemen or persons of high position in the last century ... At length we reach Lucan...

The Post Office

In 1803, there was a General Penny Post Office Receiving House in Palmerstown. This office may have conducted business as part of the coaching service, in the old coach house at the entrance to Mill Lane. The keeper of the Post Office in 1839 was one John Robinson Byrne but by 1851, we are told that the nearest Post Office letter receiver is at Chapelizod.





The original post office left on Clarkeville Terrace with pillar box.

By 1905 postal services had resumed in Palmerstown village in the form of a wall letterbox at Palmerstown Mills but until 1916 the office at the Chapelizod end was Palmerstown's official post office. Thom's Directory of 1921 informs of a wall letter box at Clarkeville Terrace at the Sub Post Office. Mr T Dardis was then Sub Post Master.

Law and Order

In times of trouble, the citizens of Palmerstown depended upon the city police who had a station near Chapelizod Bridge in 1837. In later years Clarkeville Terrace in Palmerstown village was to become home to the Royal Irish Constabulary barracks. In 1851 the constable in charge at the police station was James English. In 1876 Constable Robert May made the Palmerstown RIC barracks his home and workplace. The Constabulary Barracks was reported vacant by 1915.

Clarkeville Terrace

This small but handsome terrace, originally consisting of four dwellings, was named for the Clarke family of Newtown Clarke House, later Riversdale. Clarkeville Terrace dated from about 1814, indicating the Regency architectural period. All but one of the Clarkeville Terrace residences was demolished in recent times.

Chapter 8

*Prominent houses and families – Lord Edward Fitzgerald –
Palmerstown House – Alen family – Sir Maurice Eustace –
Irishtown Castle – Sir John Temple – The Phoenix Park*

Newtown Clarke House

Better known as Riversdale and now contained in the former nursing home of the same name, Newtown Clarke House was one of several 'pleasing villas' in the locality besides the mansion of Palmerstown House. The house and townland of the same name were occupied by members of the Clarke family in the early part of the nineteenth century. Newtown Clarke House makes an appearance on a map of 1816, which may indicate an approximate date of construction, i.e. within the Regency period. Although Mrs Clarke appears in ownership in 1829 the house had already been renamed Riversdale.

Riversdale and Sir Guy Campbell

By 1837 General Sir Guy Campbell, who held the noble title of Baronet, was living at Riversdale. A member of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Campbell was a veteran of the Peninsular War, the six-year War of



Riversdale House pictured in 1980s.

Independence fought in Spain, which ended in 1814. Campbell was created a Baronet the following year. He married in 1817 but his wife, Frances Elizabeth, a young heiress, died just over a year later.

The second Lady Campbell was Pamela Fitzgerald, eldest daughter of Lord Edward Fitzgerald, whom he married in 1820. They had four sons, one of whom died in infancy. Sir Guy Campbell was the last private occupant of Drumcondra House, which he sold to All Hallows in 1841. Campbell was posted to Athlone at this time.

Lord Edward Fitzgerald

Lord Edward Fitzgerald's other association with Palmerstown was of a less favourable hue as he had once almost been arrested in the town. During the rebellion of 1798, having rode to inspect the line of advance on the Kildare side to Dublin, Fitzgerald was for some time stopped and questioned by the patrol at Palmerstown. Being well disguised, however, and identifying himself as a doctor on his way to a dying patient, he and his companion, a Mr Neilson, were allowed to proceed on their way.

In the vicinity are several handsome seats and villas, the principal of which is Palmerstown House, a seat of the Earl of Donoughmore, erected by his ancestor, the Right Honourable T.H. Hutchinson when Secretary for Ireland.

Thom's Directory, 1854

The Lands of Palmerstown

The stately residence of Palmerstown House, which overshadowed the village for many generations, is now contained in the vast mansion of Stewart's Hospital. The Right Honourable John Hely Hutchinson, who purchased the lands and buildings of Palmerstown in 1763, erected this spacious building. This mansion, the Hutchinson townhouse, is pictured in a print of 1792 as a central block with a single wing to which was added a new wing a hundred years later. The Stewart's Hospital authorities erected the new wing,



The Right Honourable John Hely Hutchinson



Hely Hutchinson's original Georgian house as shown by Fisher in 1792.

which, together with 'sundry improvements' made at the time, gives us the present appearance of the great house.

It is more than likely that Palmerstown House was built upon the foundations of the previous chief house, formerly occupied by various distinguished tenants. To speak of those occupying the main house is also to speak of the ownership of the lands of Palmerstown.



Stewart's Hospital, built in the late 19th century encased Hely Hutchinson's original house.

The Hospital of St John the Baptist

The Hospital of St John the Baptist Without the New Gate of Dublin was the primary owner of the property from about the late twelfth century until the dissolution of religious houses in 1539. In 1420 a William Stockingbrigg was also granted a chief rent of 6s 8d issuing out of Palmerstown by King Henry the Fifth. At the time of its suppression the Hospital of St John was in possession of a castle, thirty 'messuages' (each a dwelling house with its out-buildings, courtyard and any other land assigned to its use), a water mill, 260 acres of arable, meadow and pasture land and 60 acres in Irishtown, (within the parish of Palmerstown), as well as the rectory and the parish church there.

Dissolution

In April 1539 the crown issued a commission for the dissolution of religious houses. This authorised, amongst others, Archbishop Browne and Sir John Alen, the Lord Chancellor of the day to take possession of monasteries and convents in the King's name and to punish any heads of houses who refused to surrender. In the course of the next year, the commissioners travelled about the Pale closing the religious houses and seizing the estates.

Because it was probably beyond the capacity of religious communities to withstand the capture of their houses, there was evidently very little resistance to the closures and many of the members received pensions. Rather it is probable that those who were formerly in receipt of charity at these houses who suffered the loss of the monasteries most acutely.

For the tenants of the appropriated properties, however, the change meant little more than substituting one landlord for another. Their lifestyle would likely then have improved as new landlords often encouraged more efficient agriculture. Monastic buildings were seldom pulled down but were put to use as dwellings, barns and mills.

With the exception of services and rents of the manor of *Palmeriston* by *Anilliffe* and the lands of Palmerstown and Irishtown (and 'Whitiston in the parish of Palmereston by Grenoke', north Dublin), the property of the Hospital of St John the Baptist was leased to Thomas Luttrell in 1543.

The Alen Family

Along with their agricultural value, the lands and manor of Palmerstown by the Liffey provided then, as now, an attractive site for a residence and it was not left long without a tenant. The castle and lands here and at Irishtown were soon awarded, together with a watermill and a free fishery in the adjoining parts of the river, to Sir John Alen of Norfolk.

In 1539 Alen had applied to survey the revenue of dissolved religious houses of the Pale and, as we have seen, was among those commissioners appointed by Henry VIII to accept the surrender of these monasteries. While Henry sold most of the monastery lands to strengthen his treasury and pay for his overseas wars and ambitions, it seems likely that Sir John Alen received the lands of Palmerstown as reward for his endeavours in breaking up the monasteries.

Later in the century, we read of the 'Capital House', which stood near the church and was approached by an arched gateway. This house, the pigeon house and the great bawn built to protect the cattle, were probably improvements made by Sir John Alen to the former church lands, with the addition of a mill and kiln in which corn was ground and dried.

The Alens had succeeded to St Wolstan's in County Kildare in 1538, which became their chief residence and was then known as *Alen's Corte*. Sir John settled the lands of Palmerstown on his wife for life. As he had no issue, the remainder was settled on his nephews and later it is the descendants of his brother, William that we find in ownership. Besides other children, William had two sons, John and Mathew, who successively occupied Palmerstown. John Alen died in 1587 and Mathew died two years later.

Both were survived by their wives, Mary Carus and Amable Martin respectively. The former took Alderman James Janes as her second husband and the



Saint Wolstan's, Celbridge which was the Alen family home from 1538-1752.

latter married Alderman Patrick Browne, a resident of Kishoge in the parish of Esker. They were endowed with a portion of the Palmerstown lands and in 1601, it was agreed that Alderman Browne, a merchant, and his wife should build a castle on the lands of Irishtown.

Mathew Alen

Following Mathew Alen's death in 1589, he was succeeded by his son John Alen who died in 1604. He was succeeded in turn by his son Mathew who would compromise himself in the rebellion of 1641. Mathew Alen was indicted for treason and the lands of Palmerstown, including the interests of one James Alen, who had been declared an outlaw, were seized by the crown and passed out of the possession of the Alen family. By his wife, Ellis, Mathew Alen had had an only child, Alice, who died unmarried. Mathew Alen died in 1645 and was buried in Palmerstown churchyard. A tombstone to his memory was placed there by his daughter, Madam Alice Alen, in the chancel of the old church.

Irishtown under Siege

In 1642 the lands of Irishtown were being farmed by a member of the Ussher family whose representative was a yeoman called John Lawless. A garrison of ten men under the command of a sergeant was placed in the castle but by October 1642 the sergeant and half his men had been induced to join the confederate army and had left their post.

The defences of 'the Stone House' were put to the test on the same night as the soldiers left, when it came under attack. The yeoman related that the members of the depleted garrison were able to hold it although his master's corn in the haggard to the value of £400 and a great stable were burned. Despite these hostilities, the dwelling was still considered 'a Habitable House' in 1654, twelve years on. In later centuries when the remains of the old castle was clothed with ivy, old coins and bullets were found nearby.

In March 1647, woods, which then stood upon the townland of Irishtown, were described as the property of Sir Maurice Eustace, Prime Serjeant at Law and Speaker of the Irish House of Commons. It is in an order issued for the protection of the woods, by James Duke of Ormonde, his associate, that we learn of Eustace's ownership. The citizens of Dublin were then pillaging the woods for firewood and the guards at St James's Gate were required to stop any person returning to the city with wood in their possession.

Sir Maurice Eustace

The family of Maurice Eustace, whose members held the noble titles of

Portlester and Baltinglas, arrived in Ireland at the time of the Anglo-Norman invasion. Although the family adhered to the Catholic faith in Elizabethan times, Eustace's father later embraced the reformed faith and sent his son to the college of the Holy Trinity near Dublin. There Maurice Eustace greatly distinguished himself, becoming a lecturer in Hebrew. Intending to take Holy Orders, he ultimately entered the legal profession and gained admission to Lincoln's Inn in London.

Returning to practise at the Irish Bar, his ability attracted the attention of the Lord Chancellor of the day, Adam Viscount Loftus of Ely and Eustace was recommended for the office of Prime Serjeant. When subsequently called to the Speaker's chair of the Irish House of Commons, he delivered a speech, which was regarded as incomparable for eloquence and erudition and received a knighthood as a reward.

In 1647, Eustace transferred his lands of Palmerstown, Saint Laurence and Irishtown to his brother-in-law, Henry Warren. When in July of that year Dublin surrendered to Parliament, Maurice Eustace was among those who remained faithful to the crown. Refusing to recognise the new authority, he was sent to Chester in 1648 where he was detained for seven years.

Eustace was permitted to return to Ireland in 1655 with the appointment of Henry Cromwell as Lord Deputy, who later spoke of Eustace as 'an eminent lawyer to whom he was beholden and owed a kindness'. Although the Palmerstown property was returned as forfeit in the Commonwealth Survey, no-one else is mentioned as resident in the chief house during this period and Eustace seems to have maintained a connection with Palmerstown as we find that his sister Elinor and her husband Edmund Keatinge, the parents of Chief Justice Keatinge, were buried in Mill Lane churchyard.

Irishtown Castle

At the beginning of the Commonwealth period Irishtown Castle was occupied by Edward Archbold, his wife and a large family of stepchildren named Byrne. Later it is a wealthy Englishman called Thomas Vincent that we find taking up residence at the house. We learn from his will that Vincent held the castle under a lease from Sir Maurice Eustace but when the lease was made does not appear.

Vincent's connection with Ireland was as mortgagee of the estate of Edward, third Lord Blayney, whose family was reduced to state of destitution as a result of the rebellion. Through the advances he made, Vincent became owner of the estate. However, Richard, fourth Lord Blayney, who succeeded his brother, recovered the property in 'a prudent marriage' with Vincent's eldest daughter.



Irishtown Castle today, which is situated near Sheancastle estate.

Under special provision in the marriage settlement, he also gained a home for himself, his wife, four servants and two horses in his father-in-law's house. The latter was induced to come to Ireland and became an alderman of Dublin and a member of the Restoration Parliament. Thomas Vincent enjoyed the friendship of many of his neighbours including Sir Theophilus Jones of Lucan and resided at Irishtown until his death in 1666.

Among the other principal residents of Palmerstown during the Commonwealth period was William Smith, who was possibly the Dubliner of that name who was mayor no less than seven times. Also in residence at Palmerstown was Walter Archbold, an old gentleman of 80 years of age. In addition, Daniel Hutchinson, one of the mayors of Dublin during this period, had an interest in the lands there. He was represented on his property by a bailiff and many farm servants.

Restoration and Maurice Eustace

After the Restoration, a Maurice Eustace is returned as occupant of the chief house, then rated as containing nine hearths. This may have been his nephew and namesake who was also knighted or possibly his natural son, also Maurice Eustace. Eustace the elder was nominated as Lord Chancellor of

Ireland not long after the Restoration. Such property as he possessed beforehand was returned to him and he acquired, by purchase or grant, new properties. Among the latter was Chapelizod where there was then a 'fair mansion' and it is this house and his town house in Dame Street that he occupied for the remainder of his life.

As he advanced in age, his health deteriorated and after a struggle with increasing weakness, Eustace died following a stroke in 1665. He had married in 1633 to a daughter of Sir Robert Dixon but left no legitimate children. His name is commemorated in Dublin's Eustace Street. He appears to have been succeeded by his nephew or natural son of the same name, already mentioned as a possible resident of the chief house.

Sir John Temple

The year after Eustace's death, however, a new owner appears at Palmerstown, Sir John Temple, Solicitor General for Ireland at this time. Before the rebellion of 1641, Mathew Alen had placed mortgages upon the lands of Palmerstown in favour of Arthur White of Leixlip but White died in 1642 and bequeathed the mortgages to his elder brother Nicholas, who after the Restoration established his right to them in the Court of Claims.

White subsequently sold them for a small sum because of legal and political complications concerning the mortgages to Sir John Temple. Temple was a distinguished member of a distinguished family. His grandfather was Sir William Temple, Provost of Trinity College. His father, Sir John Temple, was Master of the Rolls in Ireland for 40 years and the historian of the Irish Rebellion. On publication, Temple's book was condemned by the Irish Parliament to be burned.

Temple's elder brother, William was patron of Dean Swift. Among the descendants of Sir John Temple were Henry Temple, third and last Viscount Palmerston and Prime Minister of Great Britain. The title of Viscount Palmerston was conferred on Sir John Temple's son. As a noble title it endured almost a century and a half, although only held by three people and was extinguished with the death of the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston.

Sir John Temple was born in 1632 and with the appointment of his father as Master of the Rolls nine years later he came to Ireland. At eighteen he entered Lincoln's Inn as a Law Student and was called to the bar a few years before the Restoration. With this event Temple was appointed Solicitor General for Ireland.

He became a Member of Parliament and was designated Speaker in 1678 when Ormonde contemplated summoning a Parliament in Dublin. Ormonde honoured him with a knighthood in 1663. Palmerstown became Temple's

country residence and it is from there that many of his letters to Ormonde are dated. Temple gained a reputation in the legal profession and became well known in England, which he visited from time to time.

The Phoenix Park

When the Duke of Ormonde created the hunting ground that would become the Phoenix Park, it was evident that without a perimeter wall the stock of fallow deer running there would soon become a nuisance. It was his friend, Sir John Temple, who built the Phoenix Park wall, eight feet high, 527 perches in length and costing less than one hundred pounds. For this service, he was rewarded with two hundred pounds and a grant of lands between the wall and the river

Liffey at Islandbridge and Chapelizod. In 1675 a grant was made to Sir John of all the crown lands in Chapelizod not included in the Park, together with mills and weirs. He also gained the privilege of grazing six horses yearly in the Phoenix Park, at that time.

On the arrival of William of Orange, Temple became his chief advisor in Irish affairs and, after the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, he was appointed Attorney General for Ireland. It was, however, evidently his wish to live in England. He resigned his office and took up residence permanently at East Sheen near London, where he died in 1705. The Temple family retained their interests as landlords in the locality for many years after leaving Ireland. At the time of his death, Sir Richard Cox, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, temporarily occupied his house at Palmerstown.

Robert Wilcocks

Before long, Sir John Temple's son, who though he took his title from the place, disposed of his principal interest at Palmerstown to Robert Wilcocks, a



A large ornamental urn from the terrace of Stewart's Hospital.

gentleman of large fortune, connected with Mountmellick. Wilcocks died in Palmerstown in 1711 having directed that his body should be interred at Mountmellick with all possible funeral pomp and ceremony. As he left no issue, he bequeathed his property to his nephew and namesake, whom he desired be educated at Trinity College, Dublin and adopt the legal profession. In 1723 Robert Wilcocks leased the Great House to Mathew Lafitte of Palmerstown.

Also leased with the property were the Pigeon House, Brewhouse, Cyderhouse, Cowhouse, Grainary, Coach-house, Dearyhouse (dairy), stables, outhouses, gardens, orchards and fields belonging to the demesne, containing just over 17 acres. Lafitte also gained possession of a grant of land containing just over 79 acres south of the road to Dublin. The entire property was leased at an annual rent of £145.

In 1763 Robert Wilcocks and his son, who also bore the same name, sold their interest in the Palmerstown lands together with all the buildings and improvements there. Also transferred by formal deed at that time was ownership of pews in Chapelizod Church. The new owner was the Right Honourable John Hely Hutchinson, Prime Serjeant at Law in Ireland and subsequently Provost of Trinity College and the Secretary of State in Ireland.

Chapter 9

John Hely Hutchsinson – the Earls of Donoughmore – Palmerstown Demesne – the founding of the Stewart Institution – Stewart's Hospital

Hely Hutchinson

The stately residence now contained in the vast mansion of Stewart's Hospital was built by Provost Hutchinson. In 1762, the year before Hutchinson purchased the lands of Palmerstown, the house appears as a cruxiform on a map by Sir John Rocque. A print of 1792 depicts Palmerstown House as it was in Hutchinson's time, a large central block with a single smaller wing. Palmerstown was built as a town house; Hely Hutchinson's principal residence was Knocklofty in Clonmel.

Hutchinson made his first appearance in the House of Commons as member for Cork. Because of his impressive oratory, it was said that no member was ever more acclaimed or more in fashion. Along with his parliamentary fame he enjoyed a lucrative practice at the Bar and, in spite of some criticism, his reputation as a man of genius and as an active, well-informed statesman remained undiminished to the last.

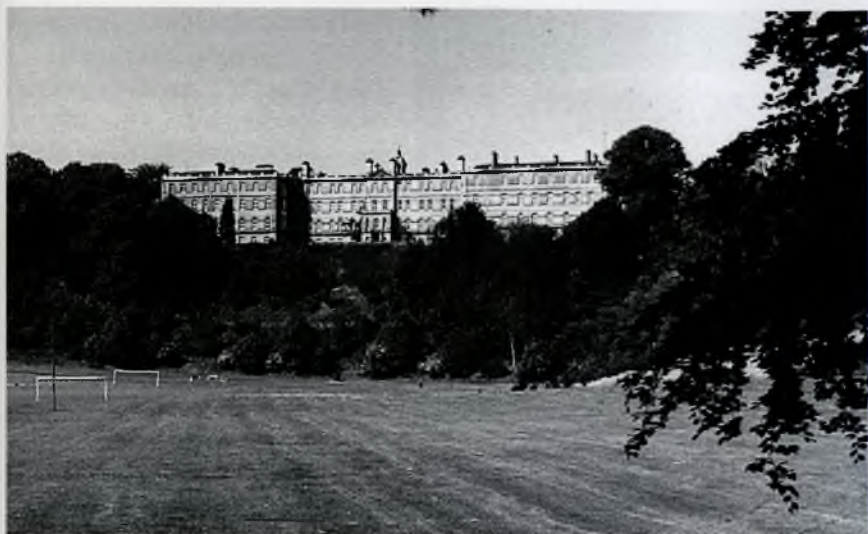
The Earls of Donoughmore

The peerage of Donoughmore was conferred upon Hutchinson's wife as a barony and descended to his eldest son in whose time the barony merged with an earldom. Palmerstown House, where the Baroness died in 1787, continued to be Hutchinson's principal residence until his own death in 1794, which took place in England.

Richard, first Earl of Donoughmore, who received his title in 1800, died in 1825 and his brother John became second Earl. As we have seen, both Richard and John were ardent supporters of Catholic emancipation and the site for the chapel-of-ease in Palmerstown was granted by one of the brothers.

Palmerstown Demesne

The house continued to be occupied by the descendants of Hely Hutchinson until the middle of the last century. Historian John D'Alton described the demesne in 1837:



The dramatic setting of Stewart's Hospital is emphasised by its situation overlooking a natural amphitheatre on a bend of the Liffey river.

Its majestic woods crowning the heights that overhang the Liffey still embellish the scene. The river, likewise, is here broad, deep and unbroken by a ripple, save when the springing trout, 'All wanton rise or urged by hunger leap'. Immediately about the house some pretty parterres of flowers and groves of ornamental shrubs amuse the eye, but in every other respect, the place exhibits sad traces of desertion and neglect.

The deep shady walks in which former politicians mused are clogged with fallen foliage. The channels where streams were taught to wander, are deserted by their waters, and their rocky falls, bare and parched, are now unconscious of cascades. The finest point of view in the demesne is from a glade beside the river, at the foot of an undisturbed rookery, whence the river, woods and elevated mansion house are seen in their best features.

Stewart's Hospital and Dr George Kidd

It is Dr George Kidd who might be regarded as the actual founder of the Stewart Institution. In 1866 Dr Kidd wrote a pamphlet about the condition of mentally handicapped children of Ireland and a meeting was held that year to call attention to their plight. The meeting took place at Charlemont House and was well attended. The outcome was a resolve to found a suitable institution to care for these children. After much labour, a sum of about £8000 was collected.



The commemorative plaque to Henry Hutchinson Stewart, founder of Stewart Hospital.

The sum however appeared insufficient and the plan seemed likely to be postponed indefinitely when Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart, wishing to retire from the management of 'the Asylum for Lunatics of the Middle Classes at Lucan' to which he had devoted his life offered to hand over his establishment as a paying concern and to help support the proposed Institution. This remarkable offer, together with a donation of £5000, at once solved the difficulty and the Institution started in a moderate way at Lucan. Since the 1840s, Dr Stewart had dispensed medicine to the 'Distressed Poor of the

Parish' through the Lucan Temporary Relief Fund, whose treasurer was his father, the Reverend Henry Stewart, and the doctor founded his asylum in that town at the old Spa Hotel.

Stewart's Hospital at Lucan

When Dublin's old House of Industry ceased to exist in 1839, the four hundred and seventy-seven harmless insane accommodated there were dispersed to an old barracks at Island Bridge and to the Hardwicke Hospital cells. On April 17th 1857 seventy female and thirty male patients were transferred from the Hardwicke cells to the care of Henry Hutchinson Stewart who had opened a new asylum at Lucan.

Following the hotel's decline from pristine splendour, the once famous Spa Hotel, a favourite haunt of eighteenth-century pleasure seekers, became an asylum under the guardianship of Dr Stewart. The new asylum would care for incurables of both sexes and of all ages, the ballroom serving as the reception hall during this time.

Palmerstown House

By 1869 the institution had moved to Palmerstown, to the great house of the same name, which provided much improved quarters. In 1873 the 'Government patients', maintained under contract at £25 a year each for five

years, were transferred to the Stewart Institution at Palmerstown. The last of these patients died in the year 1906.

The new house is described in the annual report of 1879:

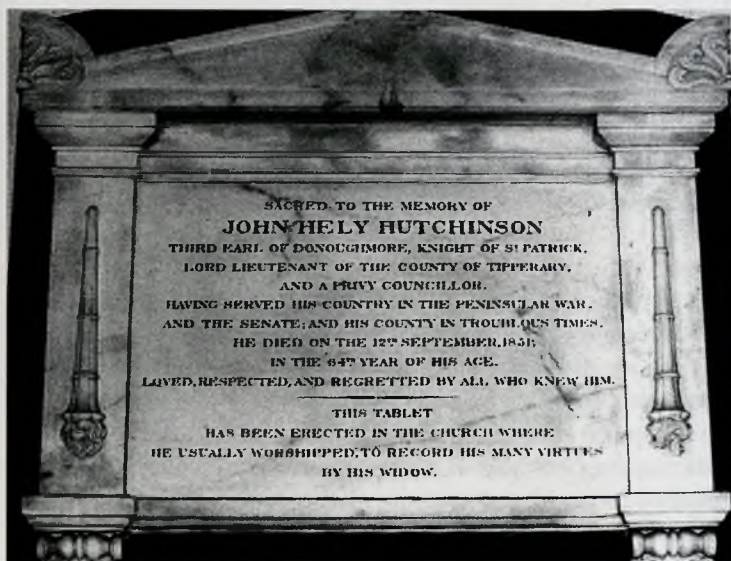
The accommodation the house affords is very good. The sitting rooms are lofty, lightsome and airy and command a beautiful view of the Liffey and the more distant Phoenix Park. The dormitories are spacious and cheerful with perfect ventilation. Standing as it does, one hundred feet above the water, surrounded by fine open country, it would be difficult to select a situation more conducive to health.

Dr Stewart

Aged over eighty years, Dr Henry Hutchinson Stewart died in December of the same year, after a long illness. Scarcely a year had passed in which Dr Stewart did not make liberal additions to his original donation. The hospital at Palmerstown was named for Dr Stewart in token of the many liberal gifts and great services received from him. In his will, a legacy of £2000 was bequeathed to the Asylum.

Terms of Admission

Children were admitted to the Stewart Institution either by election as Free Pupils (wholly or partially free) or as fee-paying pupils, their care and maintenance costing £40.00 per annum. If special attention was required, this



*Memorial to
John Hely
Hutchinson
in St.
Laurence's
Church,
Chapelizod.*

**STEWART INSTITUTION
FOR IMBECILE CHILDREN AND
HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL
DISEASES,
PALMERSTON, CO. DUBLIN.**

The above Institution is open for the reception of children of slow or defective intellect, by election of payment at fixed rates, according to requirements. Votes at Elections obtained by annual subscription of 10/6 or donation of £5 ss. and upwards.

**HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL
DISEASES.**

This Branch is separate from the above, and is open to Ladies and Gentlemen suffering from Mental Complaints at moderate rates, varying with accommodation required. The apartments are handsomely furnished, and command attractive views of river and mountain. Grounds extensive and well-wooded. Amusements suited to summer and winter. Sanitary arrangements up to date. Resident Medical Superintendent and trained Staff. Voluntary Boarders received. Lucan tram passes gate hourly. Telephone. Fully illustrated Prospectus and all information on application to Secretary. 40 Molesworth Street, Dublin.

The wording of this old newspaper ad. for the hospital, is couched in language which would be considered inappropriate today.

Children's Occupations

In 1879 there were 51 children and 83 adults patients at Stewart's Institution. Boys were occupied in road making, sand raising, wheeling, scuffling and general cleaning as well as mat-making and tailoring. One boy learned to make shoes, a pair of which were inspected and found to be made in a very creditable manner.

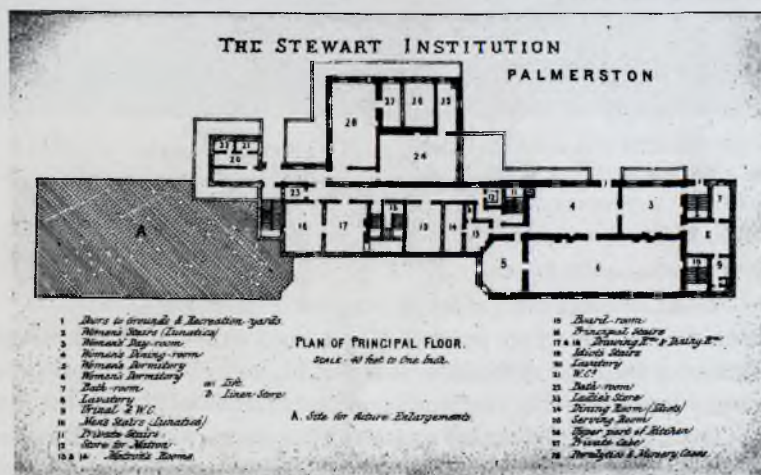
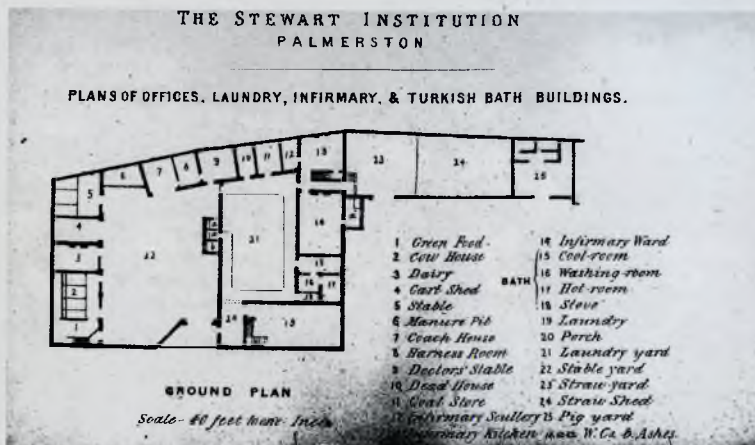
Work completed by the girls in schoolroom in 1897 included sleeveless jackets, babies' jackets, large and small knitted vests, knitted socks, girls' stockings, shawls, tea cosies, kettle holders, dolls' hats and boots, canvas work, card work (needle books), night dress bags, comb and brush bags, bread cloths, aprons, lined baskets and hemmed hankies.

Picnics and Outings

During the summer months weekly carriage drives were organised to places of interest within a radius of six or eight miles. Howth Head, Carton Estate and the Scalp were among the destinations for picnics and on the occasion of Queen Victoria's visit to Dublin an outing was made to the city. These outings were a great success and much appreciated especially when favoured with fine weather.

charge was increased. All payments were made quarterly in advance. Free pupils were clothed without charge but all others were charged for what they required.

The Stewart Asylum was intended for adult patients of the middle classes whose means allowed for their paying for 'all the appliances necessary for restoration to health, and for protection, but not for the luxurious accommodation of first-class private asylums.' Male and female patients were admitted on payment of £40 per annum and again those requiring special care were charged extra.



Indoor Entertainment

Indoor recreations included matinees at the theatre and constant dances, so much enjoyed by the whole household. To these weekly dances the gentry of the neighbourhood were invited. This contributed in greatly to the success of the evening as several of them were very good musicians and placed their services at the disposal of the assembly. Other entertainment for the winter months included magic lantern exhibitions, conjuring, concerts, cinematograph and Punch & Judy shows. Yet another source of amusement were the books and periodicals largely supplied through the kindness of friends or

purchased. Most of the important and illustrated papers arrived weekly as well as a fair number of comics.

The Annual Fete

The Garden Fete took place annually, then as now. A newspaper report of January of 1885 describes the event:

The Annual Fete of this Institution took place on Monday evening in the large hall of the buildings at Palmerstown near Chapelizod. The entertainment consisted of conjuring tricks, spiritualistic illusion and thought reading most cleverly performed by Professor Como, an artiste favourably known in Britain and Ireland, specially engaged for the occasion.

The children were given presents of toys and fruit and were entertained by music of the band of the Hibernian School, under the direction of Mr Bayley, bandmaster. The Fete was under the direction of Dr Pim the resident Medical Superintendent and Mrs Courtenaye, the efficient and esteemed matron of the Institution. The company separated shortly before 11 o'clock having spent a most enjoyable evening.

Church Services

Being a hospital for the treatment of disease, no religious distinction was made and the patients were visited by Protestant and Catholic chaplains. The annual report of 1896 describes the arrangements for attending services:

Our Chaplain attends every Sunday and holds a Service which is attended by the large majority of our inmates, where order and decorum are strictly observed, in addition we have the ministration of the Presbyterian Clergyman during the week. Such of our Roman Catholic inmates as are

STEWART INSTITUTION FOR IMBECILE CHILDREN

DAILY TIME TABLE.

6 o'clock.	Pupils' dressing bell.
7 "	Pupils making beds.
8 "	Breakfast bell.
8'30 " to 9'30 "	Household work.
9'30 "	Morning Prayer.
10 "	Senior Boys going to work.
10 " to 11 "	Drilling, 1st, 2nd and Nursery Classes.
11 " to 12'45 "	Lessons.
12'45 "	Preparing for dinner.
1 "	Dinner bell.
1'45 " to 2 "	Senior Girls engaged at housework.
" "	Junior pupils' recreation.
2 "	Senior Boys resume work.
2 " to 4 "	Lessons.
4'15 "	Senior Girls resume work.
" "	Junior pupils' recreation.
5'45 "	Preparing for supper.
6 "	Supper Bell.
6'45 "	Evening Prayer.
7 " to 8 "	Games, readings, or music.
8 "	Bed.

Stewart timetable showing the day beginning at 6.00am.



Staff of Stewart's Hospital dating from the 1920s included two residents of Mill Lane, Robert McCable and John Gorman.

considered sufficiently responsible, attend the neighbouring chapel accompanied by a guardian.

Hospital Staff

During the year 1900, five of the female attendants received the Certificate for proficiency in Mental Nursing from the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain and Ireland. To present themselves for examination the attendants had to show evidence of two years experience unvaried good conduct and technical instruction from the Medical Superintendent.

The Farm

The farm comprised some fifty acres and was concerned with dairy produce, potatoes and other crops. A garden of three acres produced an abundance of vegetables of the season and all produce not consumed on the premises commanded the highest prices in the Dublin market. The annual report of 1897 declares:

Our spacious grounds are yearly growing in fertility and beauty, admirably suited to the exercise of all classes of inmates.

The New Wing

For a number of years the foundations of the east wing had been laid and finally the tender of the Collen Brothers of Portadown and Dublin was accepted for the completion of the entire works at the price of £13,900. Work commenced on the new wing in September 1894 with some modifications to the original design by architect John Lanyon. Special arrangement was made for escape in case of fire in the shape of a staircase to be added to the new wing. The apartments then occupied by the Medical Superintendent, Dr Pim, were changed to accommodation for patients while a separate residence was constructed for him, fully completed the following year.

Chapter 10

Modern Palmerstown – Waterstown House and Palmerstown Dump

Before the closure of the old church in 1948 and the development of housing estates, Palmerstown was little more than a country village serving the surrounding farms. Features of the village, recollected from the 1940s, include a hay barn, cowsheds, a well, ruins of a 'foal house' and the curiously named 'dog pond'.

The Wood Farm, which would later name one of the new estates, appears on a map as early as 1816. The Turret, from which Turret Road is named, and the dog kennels of Kennelsfort Road are also on this map. Palmerstown Avenue commemorates the long avenue of trees which once stretched from the top of Wheatfield Road to the old entrance of Stewart's Hospital. The trees were felled for fuel during the Second World War. At the turn of the century the village was described as having a 'decayed and old appearance'. By then the once thriving mills, iron foundries and printing works had long been silent. As steady employment in the mills declined from the middle of the century, the centre shifted from the lower village of Mill Lane to the upper village of Palmerstown.



No. 1, Woodfarm Cottages, one of a terrace of redbrick houses, which was built in 1914 in the Arts and Crafts style.

In 1921 the population of Palmerstown was returned as 186 with a total area of 1518 acres containing the townlands of Fonthill, Quarryvale, Irishtown, Johnstown, Palmerstown Upper and Lower, Redcowfarm, St Laurence, Woodfarm and Yellow Walls. Thom's directory of that year tells us that the village 'consists of neat cottages built by the County Council'. This terrace of redbrick houses in two blocks, known as Red Cow Cottages and Woodfarm Cottages respectively, was built in 1914. Between O'Toole's shop and the old coach-house was a row of randomly shaped cottages 'of humble character' and the grander Regency houses of Clarkeville Terrace, of which only one now survives.

Even in the 21st century industry is still a part of Mill Lane. In 1934 the old scutch mill was acquired as a printing ink factory which is still in business today under new ownership. Up to the 1960s Mill Lane was a haven of peace and tranquillity. Then the old mills were rented out to new industries and Stewart's Hospital closed their market garden. This land was used for a huge development of houses and recreational facilities for the hospital's residents and out-patients.

In later years, vandalism of the old graveyard in Mill Lane has reached epidemic proportions. Seventeenth century headstones have been smashed beyond recognition, walls have been daubed with graffiti and the granite surrounds have even been stolen from some graves.

In the late 1940s the new church of St. Philomena, as well as council houses and a group of shops were built in the village. This was followed by a large housing development on Kennelsfort Road Upper. The population increased



Red Cow cottages, dating from c. 1930s and the Lucan tram.

The 18th century coach house and stables of Hely Hutchinson's residence was used by the coach to Mullingar. The author's great-grand-parents lived in the upper part in the early 1900s.



with the development of new housing estates. New schools including St Lorcan's, St. Brigid's and Pobalscoil Iosolde Community School were built. Palmerstown is also the home of the Kings Hospital School.

Today the old village of Palmerstown has one pub, Palmerstown House, dating back to the eighteenth century. The village school was converted into Palmerstown Parish Centre which caters for a large section of our community and opposite it, stands Murphy's grocery shop which remains in business since the 1950s. Another small grocery shop, Joseph Fassnidge's, run by the grandson of the original owners, survives in Clarkeville Terrace. Vincent Byrne's Hardware Store and Daniel Kennedy's Steel Works are both run by members of families who were native to Palmerstown. Modern buildings in the village include a branch of Ulster Bank and an apartment block which was built on the site of the old R.I.C. barracks. In recent years the County Council have carried out some improvements to the village in the form of paving and street furniture. Palmerstown Shopping Centre and the new Palmerstown cemetery are located at the southern side of Kennelsfort Road opposite the Silver Granite Pub, alongside more housing estates.

The main road to Galway, known officially as the bypass, which bisects Palmerstown is perhaps the best known feature of the area. The massively wide, impersonal dual carriageway conducts a river of traffic to and from the city, and a little used pedestrian bridge provides the only link between new and old Palmerstown. To the south of the by-pass a second Palmerstown exists which is a largely residential area with a small collection of shops at Manor Road and the local Credit Union.



Waterstown House, an attractive Georgian residence, now derelict.

The Westlink bridge spans the scenic Liffey Valley and on the road to the west stands The Liffey Valley Shopping Centre. The noise generated by the constant stream of traffic across the bridge and to the shopping centre, pervades the whole area.

Waterstown House and Palmerstown Dump

Waterstown House, now a sad, vandalised ruin, dates from the mid-18th century and was probably built in association with the millrace which runs behind it. There was once a large stone barn and mill building adjacent.

Even as a substantial farmhouse, Waterstown is an important landmark in the district, and it has been designated as a protected structure. The damaged cut-stone doorcase still remains, and could be restored.

Situated at the bottom of the valley near the Liffey, Waterstown was the home of the late Mr. Don Harris, who operated a sandpit here for several years but afterwards ran it more profitably, in the 1980s, as a private dump. Locals remember swimming in the flooded sandpits before the days of the dump.

The site, which extended to about 23 acres, was bought by Dublin County

256
TEL: CASTLEMOCK 69.

Palmerstown,
Co. Dublin *10 Dec 87*

Mr. Don Harris
Waterstown House
Waterstown, Dublin 62

Please Receive from

LIFFEY SANDPIT CO., LTD.

Sand _____
Pebbles *as per* _____
Concrete Gravel _____
Stones *5 Tons* _____
Chippings _____

Don Harris

Council who continued to dump waste here for a further three years, despite mounting opposition from local residents. The inappropriate location of a dump beside the scenic river Liffey, combined with the fact that the landfill was never lined, gave great cause for concern. Among the thousands of tons of noxious waste which were dumped here over the years are also such treasures as a collection of ancient documents, one of which was found to be dated 1475!

Following its closure, the dump was covered and some landscaping done, but the full restoration of the Liffey Valley as an area of natural beauty remains to be completed. It is intended that a public footpath should run along the banks of the Liffey connecting Lucan and Palmerstown.

Palmerstown is ideally located at a short distance from the city centre while being adjacent to the principal roads which serve the rest of the country. Many busy motorists and even residents however are blithely unaware of the natural beauty and calm of the Liffey and its valley that lie so close at hand. Many rare species of flora and fauna have been discovered in the area. In the 1990s a Special Amenity Area Order for Waterstown Park and the Liffey Valley was granted by Dublin County Council. The Liffey Valley Park Alliance is a federation of 20 community groups, including Palmerstown Community Council, from the Liffey Valley area stretching from Chapelizod to Clane. It was formed in June 2000 to present a united front for the conservation of the Valley which is under increasing pressure from developers as Greater Dublin expands westwards into Kildare. Its objective is the designation of the Liffey Valley as a National or Regional Park.

Appendix 1

Monumental Inscriptions from Palmerstown, near Chapelizod, Co. Dublin

Transcribed by E.J. McAuliffe and Julian C. Walton

Palmerstown Church is described in the Shell Guide as "the remains of a small, early nave-and-chancel church with trabeate west door and plain, round-headed chancel arch and east window". It has recently been restored, and the surrounding graveyard cleaned, as part of Dublin County Council's excellent scheme.

The Alen, Keatinge and Wilson inscriptions were contributed by Lord Walter FitzGerald to the *Memorial s Jnl.* (VII., i, 46-48, 1907); we did not find the Alen or Keatinge monuments.

We copied all inscriptions on the site, withch together with the above makes a total of 43 inscriptions.

In the Church of Ireland, Palmerstown is part of Chapelizod Union. In the Catholic Church, it was until recently joined with Clondalkin; the Parish Register dates from 1798.

ALLEN: (given in *Memorials Jnl.*; described as a large fractured slab in the chancel).

Here lyeth the body of Mathew Alen of Palmerstown Esq. who departed this life July ye 14th 1645. This stone was laid here by his daughter Madam Alice Alen.

BEAHAN: This stone was erected by John Broderick, Stone Cutter, of Gt. Strand Street, Dublin, in memory of his aunt Ann Beaha who departed this life March the 18th 1808 aged 56 years.

BERRILL: In memory of William Berrill who departed this life on the 15th January 1887 aged 73 years. Also his wife Elizabeth who died on the 13th January 1871 aged 50 years. And their children Anne, Laurence and Michael who died young.

BRANIGAN: Sacred to the memory of John Branigan who departed this life 27th June 1876 aged 70 years. Also his beloved wife Catherine, who died 3rd April 1882 aged 74 years. Also their beloved grandson Edwd. O'Hara, died 24th Nov. aged 1892 (Sic.) aged 27 years.

BRODERICK: See Beahan.

BROOKS: See end of article.

BROWN: This stone and burial place belongeth to Mr. Michael Brown, Bricklayer (of Brittan Street, Dublin and his posterity. (18th century)

BROWN: Here lieth the body of Thomas Brown who died 16th April, 1814, aged 46 years.

BYRN: This stone was erected by Henry Byrne in me... his daugh... who dep... (18th century).

BYRNE: In memory of Garrett Byrne of Island Bridge who departed this life 10th March 1864 aged 48 years. Also his son John Byrne who departed this life 9th March 1881 aged 38 years. Also his beloved wife Mary byrne who departed this life 19th December 1983 aged 62 years.

Joseph Byrne died Jan. 1887 daged 36 years.

Charles Byrne died 9th June 1914 aged 73 years.

BYRNE: See Crosby.

CAREY: See Crosby.

CARNEGIE: As a tribute of affectionate remembaerane this monument was erected by John Joseph Carnegie to the memory of his beloved other Mary Carnegie of Chapelizod who departed this life on the 15th January 1853 aged 58 years. She died as she lived, respected and beloved. Reader, in charity pray for her soul.

CARPENTER: In loving memory of our dear daughter May Frances Carpenter, E. de M., who died 29th April 1931 aged 19 years. Thomas Carpenter died 4th March, 1939 aged 64 years. Mrs. Margaret Carpenter died 7th March 1954.

CARROLL: Sacred to the memory of Den()agh who died ... aged 55 years. And of his daughter Catherine and four sons who died young. And also of his beloved daughter Mrs. Mary Anne Carroll who died August 1847 aged 20 years. This small tribute of affection is (...) by Mr. Thos Carroll & Anne Carroll of Chapelizod.

CONDON: This stone and burial place belongeth to Mr. George Condon of Palmerstown for the use of him and his posterity. Herre lieth the body of his beloved wife Elizabeth Condon who died on the 8 of May in the year of our Lord 1775 aged 18 years. Likewise 4 of their children.

CRAIG: Erected by James Craig of Palmerstown, Co. Dublin, in memory of his beloved son Thomas Craig who dpearted this life 18th Nov. 1887 aged 2(...) years.

CROSBY: In loving memory of John Crosby of 13 Inchicore Road who died 25th Feby 1902 aged 40 years. Erected by his affectionate widow Mary Crosby. Also her father Terence Byrne died 6th Decr. 1891 aged 43 years. And her child Sarah who died 12th March 1895 aged 2 years. Her

son Terence Crosby died 25th Sept 1924 aged 32 years. Also Mary Carey who died 10th Nov 1928.

Lord have mercy on the soul of Elizabeth Reynolds who died 1st April 1935. And her little daughter Mary Monica who died young.

DILLON: In loving memory of John Dillon died 6th Dec 1913 aged 74 years.

Also his daughter Mary Teresa Dillon died 7th April 1892 aged 9 years.

Also his wife Mary Dillon who died 31st March 1926 aged 78 years.

Erected by his loving son Thomas Dillon of Johannesburg, South Africa.

DOWLING: In loving memory of Matthew Henry Dowling, 39 Main Street,

Chapelizod, who died 1st Feb 1938 aged 68 years. Also of our dear

mother Brigid Dowling who died 26th March 1941 aged 67 years.

Erected by his wife and family.

EUSTACE: See Keatinge.

FLOODY: Sacred to the memory of John Floody, Chapelizod, late Captain of

the Green Flags, who died 7th February 1893 aged 28 years. Also his

father James Floody who died 25th January 1873 aged 28 years.

GLYNN: (ledger) here lies the body of Mr. Joseph Glyn of Mary Street in the

City of Dublin, Builder, who departed his life on the 23rd May, 1791 in

the 63rd year of his age. Here also is interred his daughter, Mrs. Honoria

Walsh who died on the 23rd day of May 1801 in the 24th year of her age.

GUNNING: In loving memory of Henry Gunning, eldest son of Charles and

Annie Gunning, who departed this life Feb 7 1903 aged 11 yrs.

HALL: In loving memory of William Hall died October 27 1900. Also

Kathleen Hall died March 3 1903. Also his wife Kate Hall died March 7

1910.

HEAGARTY: IHS. John Heagarty age 4 yrs. (early 18th century)

HOLT: See Keatinge.

HUGHES: Erected by the members of the Chapelizod Brass Band in affection-

ate memory of their late Persient Patrick Joseph Hughes, beloved and

lamented by all who knew him. Died 22nd May 1886 aged 23 years.

JORDAN: See Mullhalan.

KEATINGE: (given in Memorials Jnl.; described as a mural slab in a project-

ing frame, in the south wall of the chancel, above a vault. Only part of

the frame is now left, and the vault has been filled in).

This monument is erected by John Keatinge Esqr., Ch: Justice of ye

Court of Com: Pleas, 2 son of Edm: Keatinge of Norraghmore in Com:

Kildare Esqr by Ellinor Eustace his 2 wife, daughter of John Eustace of

Harristown in ye Com: aforesd Esqr in memory of ye Ldy Grace

Shuckburgh ye relict of Sr. Richard Shuckburgh in ye Co: of Warwick

Kt. She was one of ye daughters of Sr. Thoas Hold of Aston-juxa-Birmingham in ye sd Com; Bart. After som years viduity on ye 27th 8r 1659 she intermarried wth ye sd Jn then a student at Lincolns Inn which whome having lived with much mutuall comfort and satisfacon she departed this life ye 12th Ap; 1677 & is here interred in a valt wherein are likewise deposited ye ashes of ye sd Edmd: & Ellinor who had both been formerly buried in this ground. & wn it shall please ye Almighty to put an end to his ye sd Jons pilgrimage, his desires now are yt his bones may be laid by theirs if conveniently it may be.

KENNEDY: This stone was erected by Michael Kennedy of Mountrath in the City of Dublin Gent in memory of his son Thos Kennedy who departed this life the 19th day of November 1801 aged 4 years.

KEOGH: In loving memory of Ellen Keogh, 7 Donohoe St., Inchicore, who died 27 January 1921 aged 58 years. And her children Peter and Bridget died young. Also Edward Keogh aged 9 years. Also Edward Keogh died 19th Feb 1869 aged 38 years. And his wife Bridget, died 28 Feb 1876 aged 47 years.

KINSELLA: In loving memory of John Kinsella, 93 Noth King St., Dublin, died 25th December 1920 aged 72 years. Also his son Edward J. Kinsella died 16th Jan 1937 aged 87 years.

Also their grandson Edward Francis.

Also their daughters Mary, Lizzie and Annie who died young.

LANGRON: Sacred to the memory of John Langron, late of Crane St. in the City of Dublin, Smith who departed this life 9th Novr 1812 aged 54 years. This stone is erected as a small tribute of conjugal affection by his disconsolate widow Honora Langron as a loving husband, a tender father and sincere friend. Also his father, mother, sister & several of his posterity.

MCDONNELL: This stone was erected by Charlis McDonnell of Palmerstown in memory of his beloved wife Mary McDonnell who depredd this life Decmbr 22d 1807 aged 30 years. Also two of his children who died in their infancy.

MULLHALAN: Anney daughter of Morgan Mullhalan wife of John Jordan died the 26th of March 1704.

NOLAN: In loving memory of William Nolan died 25 February 1925.

NOWLAN: (ledger) Under this stone lies interred the remains of Mr. Willm Nowlan, late of Gt. Brittain Street, City of Dublin, who departed this life the 6th of June 1812 aged 65 years. And four of his children who died young. As a small tribute of affection to their memory, his relict Mrs. Anne Nowlan has caused this tomb to be erected.

NOWLAN: (ledger) Sacred to the memory of Mr. James Nowlan of Essex Bridge departed this life 29 Decr 1816 in the 61st year of his age. Here also lie the remains of his beloved wife Mrs. Anne Nowlan and four of their children who died young.

O'HARA: See Branigan.

OUALLAGHAN: This stone was erected by Elizaeth Ouallaghan in memory of her husband William Ouallaghan late of George's Quay, who died 2 April 1782 aged 55 years.

RAMSY: Erected by John Ramsy of Palmerstown, Bricklayer, in memory of his well beloved wife Mary Ramsay (*sic.*) who departed this life June the 15th 1803 aged 47 years. Here also lie six of his children.

REYNOLDS: See Crosby.

ROBINSON: (ledger) Underneath this stone lieth the remains of William Robinson of Beggars Bush, Callico Printer, who from his sincere attention to business, honesty in dealings & desire to please, not only brought to perfection one of the first (?) printing manufactury in this kingdom, but also established to himself a character free from blemish and and died sincerely beloved, regretted by all who knew him, March ye 23 1781 in the 63rd year of his age.

SALMON: Erected by Patrick Salmon to the affectionate memory of his dear wife Bridget who died 18th Dec 1911 aged 30 years.

SHUCKBURGH: See Keatinge.

TOBIN: Erected by Thomas Tobin in memory of his beloved children Mary Tobin who died 10th of Septr 1868 aged 1 year and 6 months, Kate Tobin died 4th Decr 1874 aged 14 years.

TYNDALL: This stone was erected by Thos Tyndall in memory of his beloved child William Tyndall who departed this life March 6th 1819 aged 2 years and 6 months. Also Chrstr Tyndall who departed life April 12th 1821 aged one year and 3months.

TYRRELL: This stone was erected by Mrs. James Tyrrell of Island Bridge in memory of her husband Mr. Hugh Tyrrell hwo dpearted this life the 15th July 1784 aged 36 years. Here also lies interr'd the remains of five of their children.

TYRRELL: (ledger) Erected by Mr. James Tyrrell, Church St., Dublin, in memory of his beloved mother Mrs. Catherine Tyrrell who died 5th Novr 1807 aged 56 years. Also his beloved father Mr. William Tyrrell of Cardiffs Bridge who died 5 Novr 1826 aged 62 years.

WALSH: See Glynn, Warburton.

WARBURTON: (ledger) Underneath are deposited the mortal remains of Mr. Charles Warburton and fourteen of his children. Likewise the remains of

his son-in-law Mr. James Walsh and seven of his children. He departed this life the 20th day of Feb. 1807 in the 65th yar of his age. He was a man of the highest integrity and most ardent benevolence, with intellectual energies of the first order. He combined in himself the sublimest virtue and the most exalted morality. This tomb is erected to his memory by his deploring widow and affectionate son.

WILSON: Here lyeth the body of Joshua Wilson who departed this life the 24th day of Aprill in the year of our Lord 1701.

NAME UNCERTAIN (BROOKS): This stone and burial place belongeth to Mr. Thomas () rooks and his posterity. Here lyeth the body of Elizabeth his wife who departed this life September 2d 1773 aged 67 years.

Additions from D'Alton's History (1838):

PERRIN: John Perrin Esq. of Leinster Lodge in the County of Kildare, died 1818.

PARKER: Samuel Parker of Dowdstown, County of Kildare, died 1821.

Appendix 2

The Clergy of Palmerstown

1615 - 1948

1615	Simon Swayne
1629	Rev John Lenox
1639	Rev Thomas Chantrell
1643	Rev Gilbert Deane
1697	Fr. Oliver Doyle of Escher [Esker] PP
1701	Rev John Twigge
1704	Fr Francis Doyle PP
1714	Rev Richard Fox
1731	Rev Callaghan & Rev Fair
1744	Rev Christopher Coleman
1771	Michael Hall PP
1786	Rev Andrew Toole
	Rev Michael Ryan
1798	Rev John Dunne
1807	Rev James McCartan
1821	Rev John Dunne
1837	Rev Mattias Kelly PP
1837	Rev William Wilcocks
1851	RC Rev John Moore
1883	Rev James Baxter PP
1914	Rev James Canon Baxter PP VF
	Rev Michael Traynor CC
1927	Fr Condron CC
1948	Fr Willie Murphy CC

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Glossary

Alderman: historically, an appointed member of a county council, next in rank to the Mayor

Barony: a division of a county in Ireland

Benchmark: a surveyor's mark cut in rock or other landmark to indicate a starting point or guide in the determination of altitudes across a country. It consists of a broad arrow with a horizontal bar through its apex.

Coples: a corn measure.

Glebe: a piece of land serving as a part of a clergyman's benefice and providing income

Haggard: a stack yard for hay or corn

Kezar's Lane: this lane, of which nothing now remains, ran from Cornmarket to Cook Street in Dublin city. It was the site of the hall of the Guild of Carpenters, at the Cornmarket end.

Lintel: a horizontal beam spanning and carrying the load above an opening

Mark: a denomination of weight for gold and silver.

Mardyke: a watercourse (Old English merran to hinder)

Meer: Pond

Messuage: a dwelling house with its outbuildings, courtyard and any other land assigned to its use

Osier: willow with long flexible shoots used in basketwork

Out office: common name give to an outside lavatory

Scoria: Scoria is created in the smelting of iron ore when cinders and other impurities of the molten metal combine in the furnace to produce stone-like clusters. These clinkers were used as capstones in the Palmerstown area. They could also be added to the recipe for making glass. In 1758 Robert

Dossie recommended 50 lb. of scoria to 170 lb. ashes and 100 lb. of sand.

Tigh: *tigh* or *teach* meaning house in Irish was commonly used to denote a church in the early Christian period. Among the other Irish words used to describe a church are *cill*, *disert*, *teampuill*, *domhnach*, and *seipeal*.

-ton: Anglo-Saxon termination meaning 'stockade'. The classic definition of an Anglo-Saxon town was that it had a defensive wall or stockade, a mint and a marketplace.

Tithe: a tenth of the annual produce of land or labour, formerly taken as a tax for the support of the church and clergy

Trabeate: designed or constructed with horizontal beams or lintels

Work Ticket: a type of union card.

Yeoman: the holder and cultivator of a small landed estate



Above: The painting, by Tom Cullen, shows the old village atmosphere of Palmerstown.
Below: O'Toole's Grocery Shop which is featured in the painting above.



Palmerstown

An Ancient Place

This book – its historical detail, its comprehensive content and its marvellous pictorial references – is a fascinating record of the history of Palmerstown and its surrounding areas. In preserving and recording the past, the value of our local historians is immeasurable, for they provide the basis of understanding the wider history of an area. Without detailed local knowledge – some of it handed down verbally – combined with thorough research and the study of maps and records, the big picture of the history and development of County Dublin as a whole would be full of gaps and would remain lost or incomplete.

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