



Department of Labour
Teamwork Project

St. Maelruans and Tallaght



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By the St. Maelruans
Teamwork Project
Tallaght.

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ST. MAELRUANS TEAMWORK PROJECT

This project was a part of a Department of Labour Teamwork Scheme which took place in the Tallaght area between July 1985 and July 1986.

The scheme was initiated and managed by the Tallaght Youth Service which is promoted and funded by the Co. Dublin Vocational Education Committee and administered and delivered by Foróige, the National Youth Development Organisation.

This booklet, is a popular version of a comprehensive historical report based on St. Maelruans graveyard which was researched, written and compiled by the Teamworkers on the St. Maelruans Project.

St. Maelruans and Tallaght

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St. Maelruans and Tallaght

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A hand-drawn map of the Dublin region, showing the River Dodder and surrounding areas. The map includes labels for various locations: Ballyard, Greenhills, River Dodder, Tynon Castle, Tempelogue Mills, Belle Vista Mills, Samuel House, Firhouse, Harriet Mills, Harriet Mills, Oldbawn, Oldbawn House, Oldbawn Mill, Allenton House, Mt. Pelier House, O'Leary House, and Lenasmole. The River Dodder is highlighted in black, flowing from the top right towards the bottom left. The map is oriented with North at the top.

HELL FIRE - NOB

Introduction

The St.Maelruans Teamwork Project Tallaght, was set up in July 1985. The Project was a Teamwork Scheme funded by the Department of Labour and managed and administered by the Tallaght Youth Service. The purpose of the project was to give young people work experience which would help them gain permanent employment while at the same time giving them an opportunity to make a worthwhile contribution to their community.

The aims of the Project were to complete a ground survey of St.Maelruans Graveyard and produce maps to scale of it. Added to this it was intended to embark upon a short historical study of the Graveyard in the wider Tallaght context. A list was to be made of all persons buried there, whether in a marked or unmarked grave. This list was primarily for record purposes as, at the time of the Project's beginning, the Graveyard was under considerable threat of vandalism. At the end of the day it was proposed to have a complete record of what had been in St.Maelruans Graveyard in 1985. This record was to be presented at the end of the Project in the form of a comprehensive report with maps, photographs and drawings.



Picture of the team in July 1985. Left to right: Back row - Paul Pujolas, Michelle Foley, Domhnall Sheridan. Centre row - Anthony Griffiths, Kelvin Duffy, Marian Hartnett, Anne Delaney. Front row - Martin Smith, Kevin Byrne, Lorraine Whelan, Judy Gough and Regina Allen.



Kevin cutting back bushes covering gravestones 1985.

The people chosen to work on the Project in the initial stages were all between the ages of 17-25 years, and at least 6 months unemployed. These were recruited through the National Manpower Service in Tallaght and were all living locally. No specific skills were demanded, but it was hoped to have some interested in history, some with art abilities, some with office skills and at least one with an interest in survey or measuring.

At the official beginning of the Project on the 22nd. July 1985, there were 12 Teamworkers and 2 Supervisors. The first 6 weeks of the project were spent clearing the undergrowth in the Graveyard to allow for the reading and recording of inscriptions and to facilitate the survey work. Nobody had specific duties or responsibilities in these weeks as everyone took part in the clearing and recording. Everyone got the chance to learn the skills of typing, filing, filling out record cards, and generally how to work as part of a team.

The very serious work was yet to begin. The photographer and the two artists began as soon as possible to record visuals of the most interesting Gravestones. We were lucky enough at this stage to have a Teamworker with an interest in professional photography. She was prepared to take full responsibility for the photographic needs



Kelvin uncovering a gravestone 1985

Lorraine and Anthony reading and recording inscriptions 1985





'Michelle sketching a gravestone' 1985.



Paula Flanagan, the team's photographer in the initial stages 1985.

of the Project. The drawings and sketches, completed by the two artists, have been used as exhibition material and will remain with the proper authorities at the end of the project.

A computer was purchased in the first week of the Project and the Teamworkers were all taught the basic skills of a Word Processing Programme. They were given time to practice their typing and computer skills with each producing his/her own Curriculum Vitae. A programme of help from National Manpower was embarked upon with guidance officers making themselves available to anyone who was unsure which direction they wanted to go workwise at the end of the Project. In addition, time was allocated throughout the Project to developing job finding skills.

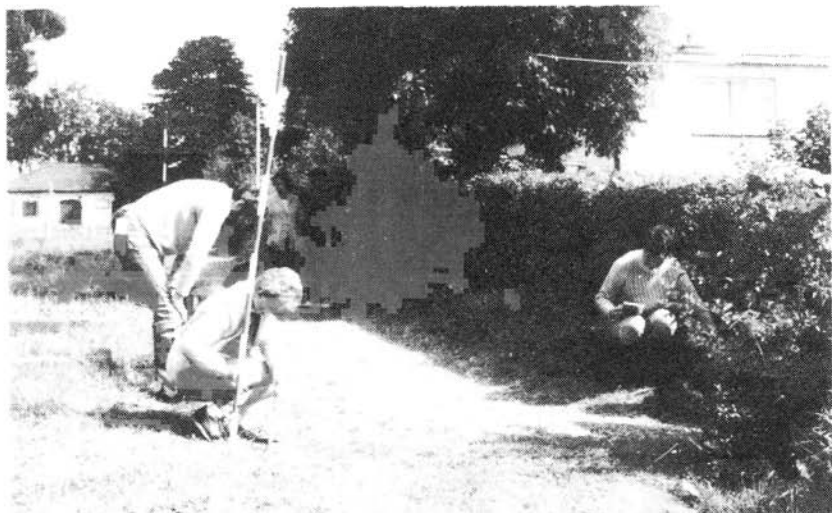
When the initial clearing of the Graveyard was complete, the difficult task of surveying began. With advice and encouragement from Bill Doran, the Team began their first faltering steps at survey. Boundaries had to be plotted and each gravestone was given a number. The gravestones were measured and drawn on scale maps. A plan of the entire graveyard was drawn on the scale of 1:250, this included the Church and boundaries with every gravestone, cross, slab, tree and bush drawn. It provided a very comprehensive aerial map of the graveyard. The graveyard was divided into sections. There are altogether ten sections, nine of

which are drawn in 1:100 scale. One very large section is in 1:150 scale to keep all drawings on A1 size sheet. These will remain as reference maps in years to come. The survey was a very slow and exacting business which was frequently held up by the past years bad weather.

Record Cards were made out for each gravestone to provide a register of names as reference for the Team as the Project progressed. The slow process of putting the inscriptions on computer began when the weather broke at the end of September 1985.

Some research was embarked upon and the National Library was visited by some members of the team in a bid to build upon the Parish Burial Register. Unfortunately there are huge gaps in the Burial register, and there are no records at all before 1915. Anyone unable to erect a fairly durable stone monument has an unmarked grave, as wooden and iron crosses rot and rust away after a period of years. In effect without the registers we can only guess at the numbers buried in St.Maelruans before 1900.

By Christmas of 1985, the Project had two exhibitions to its credit. One as part of the Tallaght Trade and Leisure Fair in October 1985. This provided the opportunity for the Team to actually have the public look and ask questions about the work in hand. The Team themselves prepared the exhibition and a handout which explained the Project was made available. By this stage only 5 of the original



'Teamworkers learning the skills of Survey' 1985.



'Lorraine checking the registers' 1985.

team remained. The rest had found jobs. Three replacements had been taken on and the number working on the graveyard was to remain at 8 for the remainder of the Project. The Project had by this time split into three parts, but this will be dealt with later.

In the initial stages, there was some press coverage of the Project, by the local and national newspapers, with headlines about people doing "grave-work" etc. Throughout there has been a great local interest in the Project, and many visitors came to find out the location of a relations grave which was not known to them. This gave the Team the ideal opportunity to test the progress of the work. Many called also with information that would be of help to the Project on the subject of local history. An exhibition was held in Castletymon Library for 2 weeks in an effort to make the Project known to as many locals as possible. Added to this was a talk on the Project and the work to date. The Team also participated in a short piece for the RTE programme *Newsline*.

The Research which included looking at records and books in several libraries in Dublin County and City was something of a daunting task to begin. We had to confine the research to the Tallaght Area.

By the beginning of 1986 the Team was split into groups. The early days of everyone changing and trying different work



Loreto School Museum, John Kenna and Patrick Troy.

experiences had to end, as people found their own niche in the work at hand. Of 8 workers, there were 3 surveyors, 4 researchers and one artist. Each group was responsible for specific areas of work. These groups were not mandatory but based more on what people wanted and liked to do. The survey maps were being prepared and the art work on the graveyard was finished. A catalogue of gravestone types was prepared by our remaining artist, and completed over a period of three months. This will be part of the overall report.

St.Dominics Youth Project. From left to right: Ken Dunne, Denise Russell, Lisa Mangan, Marina Whelan and Tony McConnell, the initial team.





St. Dominics Youth Project, the present team. Left to right: Ray Flanagan, Michelle O'Brien, Siobhan Somerville and Gregory Gough (presently on the Museum Project).

By the end of March 1986 the Project had in effect completed the gathering of information be it measurements, drawings, or historical fact. The report it seemed would be a good deal more cumbersome and weighed down by detail than had been anticipated initially. It would be more along the lines of a corpus of information suited to further research than as reading material for all. It was, at this stage, decided to embark upon the production of this book. This book represents edited down pieces of historical interest to the people of Tallaght. It's aim is to be informative about items of local interest which may not be known to many, outside those who have lived in the village for more than 30 years. The findings of the Project will be left as reference material with the proper authority for the benefit of all, but the Team wanted in some way to express the work that had been carried out and make it immediately accessible to all.

On the job front, the Project has had a reasonable success rate. The first members of the Team began to get jobs from the fourth week of the project onwards, and by the end of September the original twelve were down to 8. Replacements were necessary, as mentioned earlier. At this time, it was decided to create two more parts of the overall St. Maelruans Project. The other two sections were made up of a Museum Project at Loreto Boys National School and a Community Project also based in Loreto to develop youth work in the St. Dominics area.

The aims of the Museum Project were to Clean, conserve and catalogue the items in Loreto School Museum. The objects in this Museum have been collected within the community over a number of years and were, in the main, made up of stray finds of mostly farm implements found at the time of the housing developments in Tallaght. These objects represent Tallaght's fairly recent rural past, and are made up of farm tools, blacksmith tools, shoemakers tools, and an assortment of household items ranging from gramophones to an open fire crane with pots and cauldrons to hang on it. These items have since been cleaned, labelled, numbered and catalogued. The Museum Project have had two quite successful exhibitions. These provided a chance for the people of the area to come to see what the Project was achieving. The number of people employed on the Museum Project has been 5 out of which 3 were replacements. A catalogue list of items in the Museum will appear as part of the report on the St. Maelruans overall Project at its conclusion.

The St. Dominics Community Project employed the five people with one of the original supervisors, Padraig Rehill. The Aim was to provide information on youth work in the area and to start new groups by recruiting adult leaders. They carried out a survey of youth activities and groups in the area and produced a Directory which listed these. This Directory will be delivered to every household in St. Dominics. Some new clubs have been started and added to the list. Out of the original 6 people working on the St. Dominics Project 4, including the Supervisor, have got jobs and been replaced during the year.

At the end of the Project it is hoped, that all the Team will be in jobs. Throughout the year, 15 people have left for jobs and they have been replaced, always keeping the number of teamworkers at 15, so that over 32 people have had the opportunity for work experience, of which 4 teamworkers and the supervisor remain from July 1985. By this Project, people with different interests and likes have had a chance to work on something they will not necessarily find employment at. They have had the chance to learn some new skills and produce something that they feel is worthwhile and of value to their community, while at the same time getting valuable work experience. Youth Directory, the Museum Catalogue, the overall St. Maelruans Project Report, with maps and visuals will be supplemented by this book, and all will be a lasting testimony to the work of the team.

Regina Allen.

The Parthalons and the Greenhills

Few place names around Ireland must have had as many alterations to their spelling throughout the years as Tallaght. It has appeared as Tam lactense, Taulaute, Tamhleacht, Tamhlact, Tallow, Tallaught, Tavlaght and the present widely accepted Tamhlacht.

Tamhlacht roughly translated means a "burial place for a plague or pestilence". It is believed that this is exactly where Tallaght's name originated. Tallaght's first reference, in the annals of the Four Masters records a tribe called the Parthalons being destroyed by a terrible pestilence. It is believed that an ancient tribe who once lived in a place called Sean Mhagh, which means the Old Plane in the valley of the flocks. Here that tribe was hit by a terrible disease which claimed in one week, the lives of 4,000 women and 1,000 men. The total number of dead was 9,000. These all died in a very short period of time.

The historical occurrence has been recorded thus "In Sean Mhagh Eadair, Parthalon became extinct. 1,000 men and 4,000 women of one weeks mortality, by Tamh" (The Book of Invasions).

These people were the descendants of a great tribe which had arrived in Ireland from Greece many generations before. Their leader was known as Prince Parthalon and it was due to certain circumstances that he, and some followers had fled Greece, According to the Annals of Clonmacnoise the Parthalons who settled at Dublin had come from Mygdonia, in ancient Greece.

Parthalon had been involved in an attempted overthrow of the King and Queen of Greece who were also his parents! He had been trying to secure the throne for his brother, but was opposed by most of the Royal Court. It led to many arguments and resulted in the Prince attempting to overthrow the Monarchy and murder his father and mother. This plot failed. Parthalon with a small number of his followers was compelled to leave his home country to seek a land where they could settle and call their own.

After fleeing Greece they sailed to Ireland via Sicily and landed on the Coast of Munster. They are said to have arrived in the month of May. Their first landing party consisted of four men and four women including the leader himself. The Leabhar Gabhala gives the names of these people and also records the presence of ten daughters and their husbands, some attendants and some oxen. The area of Assaroe was chosen as the initial settlement because it

was a fruitful area and provided the travellers with food and shelter. From here they made their way to an area near Howth.

After thirty years in Ireland Parthalon died in Battle, thought to be near Moy na-n-Alt in Meath and three hundred years later the remnants of his tribe perished in the plague believed to be an act of God as punishment for the actions of Parthalon in Greece. The Annals of the Four Masters, the Leabhar Gabhala and the Annals of Clonmacnoise state that this occurred near Tallaght. The Annals of the Four Masters also record that in A.D. 986, Druidical or Magical sickness caused by Demons was rampant in Ireland, especially along the east coast. Both plagues may be connected. It is believed that the Parthalons were buried around Tallaght, especially the Greenhills and Tallaght Hills.

The Greenhills road was once known as the "Highway to Tallaght". The area around the Greenhills has often been excavated and ancient remains have been found there especially those interred in Cist Graves (a stone line burial). It is believed that whoever was buried around the Greenhills, lived in Ireland in the pre-Christian era and the area has often been called an urnfield (place with numerous burials cremated with an accompanying



"The Death of the Parthalon Tribe"

cinerary pot or Food Vessel), because of all the burials there. During the excavation of a Tumulus near Drimnagh in 1938, three phases of burial at the site were revealed. The primary burial was a cist burial at the centre of the mound. The secondary burials were a cremation with a Food Vessel in the side of the mound and a cremation with a Cinerary Urn at the apex of the mound. This mound had been used obviously by different peoples at different times for ritual burials.

Indeed traces of ancient pathways leading up to the hills from Tallaght, have been found throughout the ages. Victims of sickness or plagues were often buried in one place and the area fenced off. On the side of Tallaght hill, (to the south of the village), there were many pagan graves and burial mounds. At one time the hills surrounding Tallaght were covered, it has been said, with the tombs of ancient races of Ireland. Included in these were stone circles, mounds, cairns, cists and pillar stones. A cairn is a burial covered with a mound of stones.

At the back of the site of the old Bawn Paper Mills Handcock claims that there was an ancient boreen which was used for carrying bodies to the top of Mount Pelier, Seskin etc. for burial. At the head of the path is a circle of large stones, cairns and other burial sites. Near a place called Cnoc an Ralain there was a Cairn, which was badly damaged when opened for gravel. A similar fate befell a cairn on Sliabh Toghall when a flagstone covering a grave was carried away. Other burial grounds were destroyed whilst road-making was in progress.

Throughout Tallaght, there has always been finds of burials while development was taking place. At Balrothery several skeletons were found by workmen, and it was reported. One skull was dated and turned out to be one of the oldest type in Ireland. Throughout Tallaght there was also evidence of Pagan worship in the form of a Cromlech/Dolmen (Druids Altar) on Mount Venus.



"The cist grave at the centre of the Drimnagh Tumulus 1938."

Sacrifices are said to have occurred at these altars! These may have been however, the remains of early burials and were thought to have ritual qualities by the early Christians.

Throwing further light on the idea of Tallaght being an important burial and ecclesiastical site, is the evidence of many monasteries, wells and fonts in the area. A Holy well has always held a pride of place with Irish communities. Indeed many of the Pagan Irish worshipped wells as Gods and later gave them the names of holy saints. Visits were often paid to wells and gifts were left. Today's "patron day" celebration would be a survivor of this.

On Tallaght hill there was a holywell known as Tobar na Cluas (or the Ear Well). The water from this well was especially helpful for head or earaches. On Kiltipper Mountain was St. Paul's well which was revered by the people of the area now regarded as Killinarden Estate. St. Columkille's Well is the most well known in Tallaght and is even visited to this day! This well is said to be very good for eyesight and it was believed that water from the well could not be boiled.

Near Tymon Castle was the Fairy Well which was overshadowed by the nearby Limekiln Well. This once fed water to St. Patrick's Cathedral. There was also a well known as Pipers Well and one near Balrothery on the land of a farmer known as Ledwich. Many people flocked to the well and damaged Ledwich's fences. He covered in the well. On his way home he had an accident, which many people believed to be divine retribution!

Finally, in St. Maelruans Graveyard there was a well and there still is a font. The well was covered in when the Glebe House was built. This well was incorporated under the House to serve a water pump in the kitchen. It has never really been found as the area of the House is now used for burial. The Font is unusually large and rough in shape. It was used by pilgrims rather than for baptismal services and has often been recorded as St. Mollrooney's Lossit. It was visited by pilgrims and those who bathed their feet during the celebration of St. Maelruans Festival. The name Mollrooney came from a belief that the patron saint of Tallaght was an elderly lady! There have been many claims made about the Font. One is that water is always to be found to some degree in it, regardless of how dry the weather. Another story runs that the monks used the font to prepare food, particularly beer. This is a little hard to believe as the monks in St. Maelruans time were not allowed any form of beer.

The Greenhills and the Tallaght area are full of relics of the ancient and Christian past which can still be seen and appreciated. The area appears to have been continually used by religious people, whether it be Pagan burial or Monastic settlement.

St.Maelruan and his Monastery

There is no definite date available as to when Tallaght was founded. It is believed to have been during the reign of King Donnchadh which was from 766-792. When the patron saint, St.Maelruan arrived in the area around 770, there was a small abbey in Tallaght known as Tamlactense Monasterium. He enlarged the monastery and set up a group of monks known as the Céili Dé or Culdees, translated Friends of God.

These monks led a very strict life and obeyed the regulations set down by the Culdee movement to the word. St.Maelruan's Rule, was recorded by a monk called Mael Dithruib and demonstrates the harshness of life in these early religious settlements. St. Maelruan often referred to as "The Bright Sun of Ireland"¹ insisted that there be two fast days per week: Wednesday and Friday. All that could be taken on these days was bread and water. On Sundays in Lent those undergoing strict penance were allowed a sip of milk.

This rule extended to the local community. When a pregnant woman was dying the baptismal service was read aloud over water and the woman made a confession for the child. Then the unborn baby was usually called Flan or Cellach and the woman drank the Holy water which constituted a Baptismal for the child. Locals had to abide by the rules on food and drink also. No ale was drunk at Tallaght, as St.Maelruan detested drunkenness and its results.

There were many arguments between St.Maelruan and other more liberal monks such as Dublitr. They often disagreed on issues such as drinking and music. Dublitr came to St.Maelruan to ask for permission to allow his monks drink beer during the festivals at Tallaght. St.Maelruan refused saying "as long as I shall give rules and as long as my rules are observed in this place, the liquor that causes forgetfulness of God shall not be drunk here". Another time St.Maelruan was heard saying that music was banned at this monastery as the monks' ears were not "lent to earthy music that they may be lent to the music of heaven".²

One of St.Maelruan's favourite sayings was: "Do not eat till thou art hungry, do not sleep till thou art sleepy. Speak to no one lest there be cause".³

¹ Handcock W.D. "History and Antiquities of Tallaght,...

² Gwynn "The Monastery of Tallaght".

³

ST. AENGUS

Another famous monk who lived at Tallaght was St. Aengus or Aengussius Hagiographus, as he was otherwise known. From infancy he had devoted himself to a religious life and the practice of mortification. He was renowned for whipping himself while in a tub of iced water tied to a stake, and other acts. Educated by the Abbot of Clonelagh (Malathgenius) St. Aengus is said to have been the most educated man in Ireland and he retreated to a place called Dysertenos (Desert of Aengus) in Co. Limerick.

This retreat soon became known to all and pilgrims began to flock to the area. This disturbed him, so he went to the Monastery at Tallaght under an alias. It is said that while there he severed his hand while chopping wood and stuck it back on without any medical attention! There are many stories of St. Aengus' piety and dedication.



A Culdee at work at St. Maelruan's Monastery.

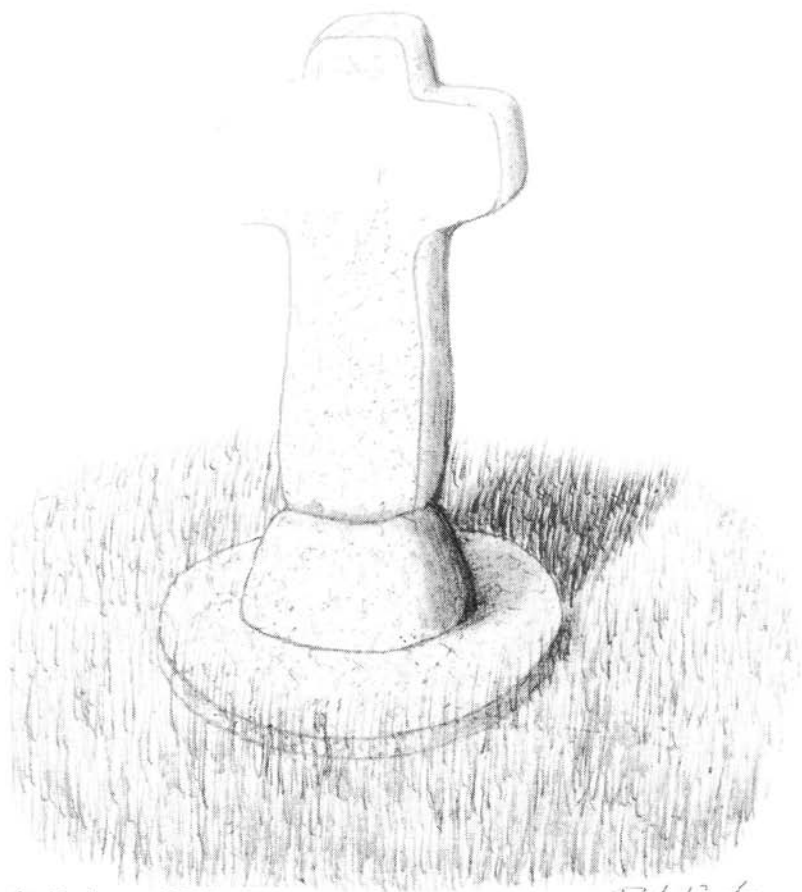
When St. Maelruan discovered who Aengus really was, they became great friends writing important religious works such as the Martyrology of Tallaght, Festilogium of St. Aengus and the Feilire of Aengus. It has been said that the Stowe Missal was written at Tallaght during the saints' lives. Under St. Maelruan, Tallaght flourished and was mentioned in the Annals of the Four Masters. However, after the Viking invasions of Dublin, Tallaght was devastated in 811. Maelruan was dead only a short time when this happened. The Monastery was later rebuilt.



The Norman built tower at St. Maelruans, 1985.

Today the ditch and bank are the only visible remains of the Monastery of St. Maelruan. This makes up part of the boundary in the older section of the Graveyard. There is a Norman built tower which was once the entrance to the Church. It also functions as a Bell Tower and nowadays the bell is used for special occasions such as weddings.

There are many stories connected with the Font situated at present in the foreground of St.Maelruans Church. This was once known as St.Mollrooneys Lossit. This Mollrooney was none other than St.Maelruan but at one time the people were confused about the identity of the saint. One story told is that many people believed him to be an aged woman known as Mollrooney! During the celebration of St.Maelruans Festival local people and pilgrims



St. Maelruans Griddle of Loaf.

Paul Dwyer

would visit its font to bathe their feet. They were enraged when an army Captain allowed his horse to drink water from it. There is another story which attributes magical powers to the font. There is supposed to have been a curse that would fall upon anyone who interfered with it. At one stage a hole was made in the bottom to let the water drain away. The man who drilled this hole is said to have had his hand wither within a year of completing this work.

A very old cross known as St.Maelruans Cross or, St.Mollrooneys Griddle and Loaf can still be seen in the old section of the St.Maelruans cemetery. It is thought to be early Christian in date. It is so called because the base resembles a loaf on a griddle. Another cross was once situated on the old Village Green (which was opposite today's A.I.B.). Locals were puzzled as what ever became of it. Some years ago it became known that one of the Archbishops had used it in the building of his Bath House. The site of this Bath house can still be seen today. It is the ditch directly in front of St.Mary's Dominican Church in the Village. The water from the river had been re-routed to service the Bath House (see Page 71).

The present St.Maelruans Church was built in 1829 with funding in the form of a grant from the Board of First Fruits on the site of the old one. The previous church was quite historical and had the



Photo courtesy of the National Library.

St. Maelruans Church with the font in the foreground.

remains of one of the Archbishops of Dublins wife interred there. The roof had been torn off by a Captain Alland who built a house in Kildare using the materials. This gentleman seemed to have made a career of shocking the locals in Tallaght. It is probable that Churches have been continually built on this site from St.Maelruan's time, to the present.

Long after St.Maelruan was dead the people of Tallaght held an annual festival in his honour. This was on the anniversary of his death which was the 7th. of July 792. An effigy of the Saint was carried in a procession led by a piper and a collection was made amongst the locals for the celebrations. However, this was stopped in the 1870's by the Dominicans who disagreed with what followed the celebrations like the drunkenness as they felt it was a slander on the saint's memory.

Houses and Castles in Tallaght

OLD BAWN

Old Bawn House was built by the Archdeacon of Dublin, William Bulkeley in the 17th. century. Bulkeley and his family had come from Wales in 1635 to Old Bawn, which was a wild and desolate place at that time. Bulkeley applied for a grant to build the Mansion and before very long, the building of Old Bawn was in process. However, only six years later, in 1641, the House was damaged by a terrible fire which also ruined livestock, out-houses and land. The Bulkeleys then applied for a grant of 3,000 pounds to rebuild the House which they received without much delay.

When Old Bawn House was rebuilt it was an even more magnificent building than before. It was recorded that a family of great power and wealth lived there and that 30 people inhabited the house. Most of this thirty was made up of servants such as a cook, diary maid, porter, brewer, cookboy, scullion boy, footman and boys for cattle.

The Archdeacons family consisted of himself, his mother, wife, sister-in-law, son, daughter and cousin. The mother was quite old and had a great longing for lamb. In those days it was illegal to slaughter lambs, so in 1652 she received a licence permitting her to have three lambs per year slaughtered.

The Archdeacon himself was of middle height, slender, and had brown hair and a grey beard. His wife was tall, slim and had a long face. The son was named Rowland and was a student in Dublin. Later Sir Richard Bulkeley resided at Old Bawn. He was a great scholar and was part of a society called the French prophets. He was so involved with this group, that he was intending to sell the house and divide the money with the group. In 1710 he died and the house became the property of Mr. William Worth.

In the mid 1800's the old site was occupied by a paper mill owned by the McDonnell family. The most valuable part of the house was the great chimney piece which is still preserved in the National museum to this day. It is very ornate and believed to depict a scene from the building of the Walls of Jerusalem.

In 1779 the house had many windows and hearths. The chimney stacks were built in brick and plastered into sunken panels. The gardens at Old Bawn were always well kept and at one time reindeer were bought from Lapland to roam the estates. However, the

weather was far too mild and they all soon died. In the gardens there is also a tree called the Informers Tree. During the rebellion in 1798, four rebels were arrested and were about to be hanged. However, one of them turned informer on his comrades and was pardoned. The other three unfortunates were hanged and the tree reserved for the fourth was from then on known as "Informers Tree".

There is a story believed among some locals that at the dead of night the Archdeacon appears at Old Bawn in a coach drawn by six headless horsemen. It is believed that should you see the ghost, death will come to you within a year!

ALLENTON HOUSE

This house which was near Killininney, was built by Sir Timothy Allen who was the Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1762. He died in 1771 and a memorial to him was erected in St.Maelruans Church, Tallaght. Allen built his house on lands formerly owned by Walter de Ridelsford, who was a very powerful man at one time. There was a monastery and mill on the lands at one time and before becoming the property of Allen, they were owned by the de Merisco and de Ashbourne Families. (These like de Ridelsford were members of the first Norman families to divide the land after the conquest in the 12th.century).

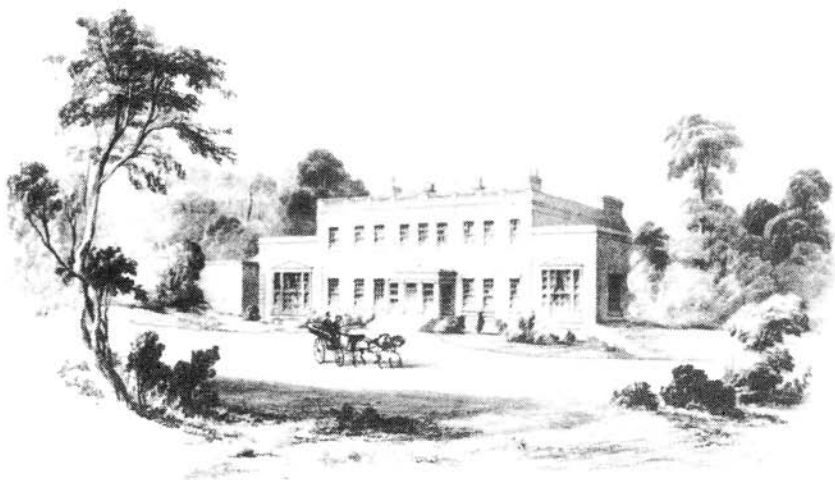
The house was built on a vaulted chamber and faced west. There was many outhouses at the back and the main door was very large.

Allenton House, however, met the fate of many other historical residences in the 20th. century. It was destroyed despite the best efforts of the Tallaght Historical Society, an Taisce etc. and the destruction received a lot of coverage in the Newspapers. One such article was the Irish Times 26.6.1984. (Available in the Report on St.Maelruans Project).

NEWLANDS HOUSE

Newlands was once a large mansion which housed the Chief Justice of Ireland, Lord Kilwarden. Lord Kilwarden lived on the estates and spent much of his time in the magnificent house until he was murdered in Dublin during Emmet's Rebellion. The insurgents had stopped his coach and the Lord identified himself in the hope of being allowed to go free. However, a man called Shannon stabbed him in the stomach and Kilwarden died instantly.

The estates of Newlands were once owned by Arthur Cole who was a wealthy relative of the powerful Earl of Ranelagh. After the murder of Kilwarden, Newlands became the property of the Hon. George Ponsonby Shaw who was the Chancellor of Ireland.



Newlands House from a sketch in the 1700's.



A recent picture of Newlands House shortly before its destruction.

The lands are currently occupied by the Newlands Golf Club which was formerly called the Robinhood Golf Club. Until recently the manor was used as a club-house but it was demolished to make way for a newer more modern one.

DELAFORD HOUSE

Not far from Allenton House was Delaford House. It was once an Inn before Alderman Birmingham decided to convert it into a residence. This was done in the 18th. century with the result that the back part was much older than the front. When extended, the house was two storeys high and was well known for its fanlight which was 12ft. wide. The walls were painted pink and the joinery was white.

SALLY PARK

Nearby was Sally Park owned by the Earl of Clanwilliam. It was purchased by W. D. Handcock's Grandfather and remained in the family for three or four generations. It was not very large but was luxuriously furnished. The gardens were very impressive and had conservatories, trout ponds and large lawns to their credit.

ORLAGH HOUSE

This house was built in the 18th. century by a very wealthy tobacco manufacturer called Lundy Foot. He was also a magistrate and was responsible for the execution of the Kearneys (mentioned elsewhere). In Co. Kilkenny he was attacked and hacked to death. After Foot's grisly death, Carew O'Dwyer became the owner of Orlagh. He was an important official in the Four Courts and often entertained VIP's at Tallaght including Daniel O'Connell. After O'Dwyer, a Scotsman named Brodie owned Orlagh and finally it was in the possession of a religious group (Augustinians) who built a large spire and converted the dining room into a chapel.

FIRHOUSE

The place Firhouse was known as Firrhouse in the 18th. century. Where it got its name, nobody is sure but it may have come from the Fieragh family who lived there. It has also been suggested that the name came from an Inn in the village which bore the picture of a Fir tree on the sign. Firhouse in the last century was described as a dirty old village inhabited by stone cutters and their families. These men would make a living by breaking stones for road making at a rate of 1 shilling and 6 pence per ton. The stones usually came from the quarry on Mount Pelier. The stone breakers sometimes spent their time drinking and fighting. On Saturday nights, they would spend

time drinking and then fights were arranged between local boys and challengers from the mountains. These were not mere brawls, but competitions of strength. Many of these fights were very serious as a lot of men would bet large amounts of money on certain fighters.

Once there was a particularly serious fight involving a Firhouse fighter and a fighter from the City. The fight had been going on for quite a while when word was spread that Fr. Doolin was on his way. This priest was respected and feared in the community and the crowd soon dispersed. The Firhouse lad escaped by climbing up a sewer but the other fighter was not so fortunate. The priest caught him and he whipped him until he could hear cries for mercy. This was one of the last fights held and soon afterwards the village was cleaned up and new cottages were built.

Beside Firhouse was the demesne of Knocklyon. After the Anglo-Norman invasion, these lands were granted to Walter de Ridelsford. The Castle was later built and had many occupants including Piers Archibald in the 17th. Century. He was a catholic and was related to the Archibalds of Jobstown. Both English and Irish lived at Knocklyon and even though it was a small village about 19 people inhabited the area in the 18th. century.

MOUNT PELIER HOUSE AND THE HELL FIRE CLUB

Mt. Pelier House was built in the 18th. century by Lord Ely. The house was also known as Dollymount after a relation of Henry, Earl of Ely, the very beautiful Dolly Monroe. It was quite large, two storeys high and had the Ely Coat of Arms over the Hall door. There was also two high Towers at either end of the house and many trees were planted around it as protection from the weather. At the back of the house there was many outhouses which were needed for dogs who were used in the hunting and shooting parties held there. When the Ely's left the house Jack Kelly lived there and the proceeded to chop down the many trees, strip the lead off the roof and let the house fall into a terrible state of disrepair.

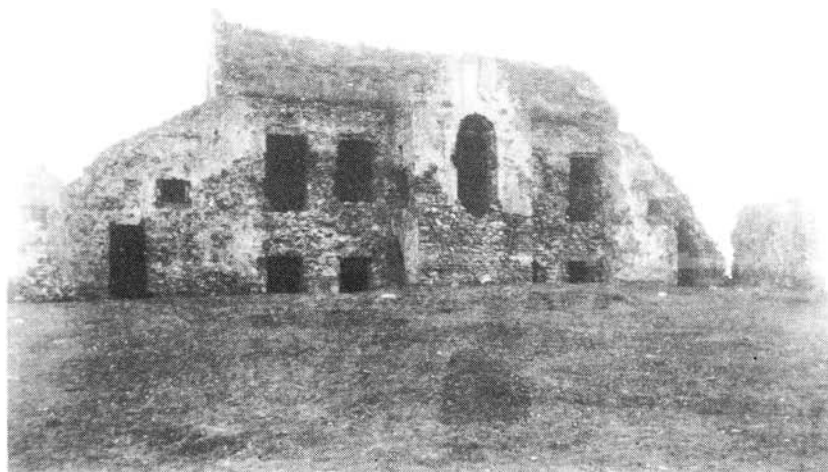
Further up the mountain was the very famous house known as the Hell Fire Club. This house was originally built by William Connolly who was the Speaker in the House of Commons with the intention of it being a hunting and shooting lodge. There was a Cairn near the site chosen for the Hell Fire Club but it was demolished to make way for the lodge. Locals believed that anybody living in the lodge would from then on be possessed by the Devil. The house was surrounded by a small thick wall and the door was reached by a set of stairs. The house had two large rooms and a hall on the upper floor. The two

rooms were 16ft. square, had two large fireplaces and two large windows. The lower floor consisted of a kitchen and a servants hall.

The roof was very well built but was badly damaged in 1849 when the Queen was in Dublin. Tar-barrels were lit on the roof in celebration of the visit. The gentry of Ireland formed the Hell Fire Club and these venues were always used for gambling purposes. Many important people visited there including the King of England. Heavy gambling took place there and one member lost so much money that he left the club and proceeded to kill his favourite horse and groom.

The club members also had a black cat called "The Panther" which frightened off the locals. The lodge was called the Hell Fire Club because it was believed that in the 18th. century the devil attended their meetings. There are many stories about these visits perhaps the most common relating a man playing cards at a table with some friends. He dropped the Ace of Spades and bent down to pick it up when, to his horror, he noticed that one of the men at the table had hoofs rather than feet!

By 1779 Mt. Pelier House was in a terrible state of decay. The club had moved its venue to the Templeogue House and the Eagle Tavern amongst other places and the house was deserted.



Hell Fire Club around 1900.

Photo courtesy of the National Library.



A recent picture of the remains of Mt. Pelier from the air.

Eventually it became the property of the Archbishop of Dublin, Charles Cobbe. He was the last person to live there, and he died there. Today the house is kept safe by the Board of Works and the view from Mt. Pelier (or Pelia) attracts thousands of people each year.



Photo courtesy of the National Library.

Mt. Pelier House around 1900.

TEMPLEOGUE

Templeogue at one time consisted of a small village with two large houses. The lands of Templeogue were part of the Archbishops Manor and were owned by the Harold family. The lands were also later owned by Richard Talbot and many generations later they passed into the hands of the Domviles. Templeogue House was probably built by the latter when they lived there. In 1686 the lands were leased to the wealthy Domville family. Domville had received the lands after he served King James II as Clerk of the Crown and Hanover. He was succeeded by his son Sir Compton Domville who represented Dublin in the House of Commons.

Underneath the house there was many tunnels and channels through which the Dublin City water supply flowed. Lord Santry, Domville's nephew had been sentenced to death for the murder of one of his servants. Domville insisted that should his nephew hang,

he would cut off the water supply. Santry's life was than saved. In 1842 the Editor of the Dublin University Magazine lived at Templeogue. C.J. Lever was a man with a special affection for card playing and he often played at Templeogue into the early hours of the morning. He died in Trieste in 1872 aged 62.

James Knighting, a man who is said to have swindled the Great Southern and Western Railway Company out of thousands of pound, also lived at the house and he gave the poor of the area a lot of the money.

CYPRUS GROVE

Nearby was Cypress Grove, which was occupied in the 18th. century by the Jocelyn's. In 1795 young Lt. Jocelyn of the Royal Navy was present when there was an attempted robbery on the house. He confronted the burglars and wounded one of them with his sword. Later he identified the man who also confessed to a robbery at Dublin Castle. He told how himself and some others had bribed the sentry into loaning them the keys, so that they could make reproductions. As a result of this confession, many criminals were apprehended in Dublin. Charles King was also an owner of Cypress Grove and whilst there, the gardens were kept in a beautiful state.

SPAWELL

Near Templeogue there was a house known as The Spawell House. It was a three storeyed building with high pointed gables. It had many windows, well kept gardens and was situated close to the Chalybeate Spring (Spawell).

The entrance to the Spawell was near the old Templeogue church and was protected by an avenue of old Elm trees. The Spawell was famous throughout Ireland as the wealthy of Dublin would gather there frequently to picnic and drink from the spring. It was so popular that samples of the water was sold in Dublin, and advertisements were often placed in Newspapers celebrating the availability of the Spawater to the citizens of Dublin. The Dublin Journal and Dublin Gazette carried the most frequent advertisements which attracted large crowds to the area. It was sold in Dublin for 2p a bottle and sellers often found themselves lacking in enough bottles to sell.

Sick people would flock to the well themselves mostly on Sundays. Crowds would leave Dublin at 6a.m. to arrive there at 8p.m. Cock fighting and boxing were attractions that interested many. However between 1749 and 1751 the Spa became neglected

due to a loss of strength and because the taste had faded. On being drawn the water was fresh enough but within an hour it had turned a murky colour. Less and less people were using the Spawell and within a couple of years it was covered over and forgotten.

TYMON CASTLE

The lands of Tymon once were the site of a Castle built in the 15th. century. It was built with one lower chamber and two upper chambers. It was built on a ridge surrounded by the marshy lands of Tymon (O'Mothans Land) during the reign of King John.

The Castle had a winding staircase which led up to the very top where the inhabitants had built a facility for pouring boiling water etc, on beseigers below.

In 1547 the Castle was described as ruinous and badly in need of repair. Between then and 1965 it received many repairs and alterations including the brickwork being altered, larger windows being made and a second doorway being added to the North Wall. In 1779 again the Castle was in ruin. The historian Austin Cooper visited it and found that a very poor family were living there and the roof was completely destroyed.

The lands of Tymon had been sold to James Sedgrave in 1552 by King Edward VI for £1078, 15s, 10d, and the village cost an extra 15s 4d. Sedgrave held the lands until they were owned by Sir Charles Wilmot who sold them to Archbishop Loftus of Dublin. In 1770 the lands were owned by descendants of Archbishop Loftus and by this time the lands had been drained and there was two chimneys in the Castle.

In 1638 a devout Catholic was at Tymon and he was buired in St.Maelruans Graveyard where his inscription reads:

HERE LYETH THE BODY
OF NICHOLAS REALLY WHO DECEASED
THE 10 OF OCTOBER 1673 AGED 52
HIS SON BARNABY REALLY OF SAG
GARD IN THE COUNTY OF DUBLIN.
CAUSED THIS TOMB STONE
TO BE PLACED HERE FOR THEM
AND THEIR POSTERITY 1677.

KILNAMANAGH CASTLE

About a mile from the old Tymon Castle was the village of Kilnamanagh where there was once a Monastery, a Castle and a church. Kilnamanagh has more than one meaning, perhaps the most commonly accepted being Cell Manach na nEascrach or the

Church of the Monks of the Esker.

The monastery at Kilnarnagh was run by a great scholar called Eugenius Lochranus who educated many people including the famous St. Kevin. The monastery at Kilnarnagh was several hundred years older than the one at Tallaght and it may have been destroyed by the Danes in the 9th. Century.

When all traces of the monastery were gone, a Castle was built there. The castle was always in good condition and as late as 1836 Eugene O'Curry noted that some of the outhouses still remained. The roof of the Castle was very strongly built and in the 19th. Century the insides were still quite well sheltered. Once there was a moat surrounding the castle but this was covered in. Whilst this was happening many oyster shells were found and it is believed that these dated back to the days of the monastery as oysters were an important part of the monks diet. Close by Kilnarnagh Castle was Hogshawes or Egshawes Castle.

The masonry on the walls of Kilnarnagh was far too fine to befit a castle and they may have been the remains of a large house or mansion built by one of Cromwells soldiers. Also near to the castle was a group of old stones believed to be the headstones of some graves. There was no official record of a graveyard until about 1778 when a farmer named Farrell was building a kitchen-garden and he came across a large amount of human remains. He was so taken aback by the amount of skulls and bones, he stopped where he was. Later in 1830 his son was also digging and the same thing happened to him. He was also forced to discontinue. The Farrells were wealthy farmers from Kilnarnagh and they were buried in St. Maelruans where their headstone is the highest in the graveyard. Their inscription reads:

I.H.S.
ERECTED BY
MARGARET FARRELL
KILNARNAGH
IN MEMORY OF
HER BELOVED HUSBAND
PATRICK FARRELL
DIED 31ST. JANUARY 1872
AGED 69 YEARS
ALSO THE ABOVE
MARGARET FARRELL
WHO DIED 22ND. JANUARY 1891
AGED 74 YEARS
R.I.P.

Many other families farmed in the area and these were the Hawkins, Doyles, Crosbies, Corcorans, Floods and Dunnes.

In the 19th. Century a barn was built at Kilnamanagh and again large remains of bodies were found. It is probable that these are the remains of the monks at the monastery, but because Kilnamanagh is so close to Greenhills, the area may be covered with remains of the Parthalon tribe, according to the legends.

KILLINARDEN

Up until about the 17th. century there was a church on the hill now occupied by the Killinarden Housing Estate. The church and hill itself were dedicated to St.Paul and there was a well on the mountain called St.Pauls Well. The mountain itself is known as Kiltipper Mountain which means the Mountain of the Holy Well. Killinarden House was situated close to todays Knockmore Housing Estate. It was also known as Mount Hastings after the Hastings family who lived there until the 19th. Century. Then the Twomeys owned the land followed by the McGarrys. During World War II the McGarrys built a huge and magnificent Orchard which won acclaim throughout Ireland. Some of the trees from the orchard were still growing until about 1978.

KILTALOWN HOUSE

Not far from Knockmore and Mount Hastings was the small demesne known as Kiltalown. It was here that Mr. J. Robinson built a large house on the site of one built years before by a Mr. Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter when building Kiltalown destroyed the ruins of an ancient church which has been there for hundreds of years. He was a partner in Bolton, Humphries and Co. and was quite wealthy. Ben Bradley who had been put in Jail for fraud had a son named Tom who lived at Kiltalown. Tom Bradley made a fortune from money lending and he had many houses in Dublin. Kiltalown House is still standing today beside what is known as Kiltalown Housing Estate.

JOBSTOWN

The lands of Jobstown were once an estate which was part of the Archbishops Manor known as Rathmintin. In 1266 Joseph Fitzwilliam received lands in Tallaght, but it was not until 1326 that the family was connected with Rathmintin.

Jobstown Castle became the property of Ralph Aubry in 1326 and then for 300 years it remained in the Fitzwilliams possession. In 1442

Stephen Fitzwilliam gave the castle to his brother and a cleric called Elliot. Elliot applied to Archbishop Tregury for a reduction in rent as he found the Castle too expensive to maintain from his wage as a Dublin Castle Official. Eventually the rent was reduced. In 1578 William Fitzwilliam lived at Jobstown with his wife Margaret Goulding. Fitzwilliam was a powerful man and was related to the Commissioner of the Muster of the Militia in Dublin.

In the 1650's Jobstown Castle was dilapidated and in 1662 Gerald Archibald of Kilmacud paid Garrat Nichold to repair the Castle. By 1644 Archibald was living in Jobstown. A while later the lands were mortgaged. There was at that time 26 people on the land in 6 cottages. Perhaps the most famous person to live at Jobstown was William Russell. He gained fame as a reporter for the "Times" in the Crimean War. His reports of the horrors of the war and the terrible life of the common soldier led to an Army Reform Bill and a public outcry. He was later knighted Sir William Howard Russell.

BELGARD CASTLE

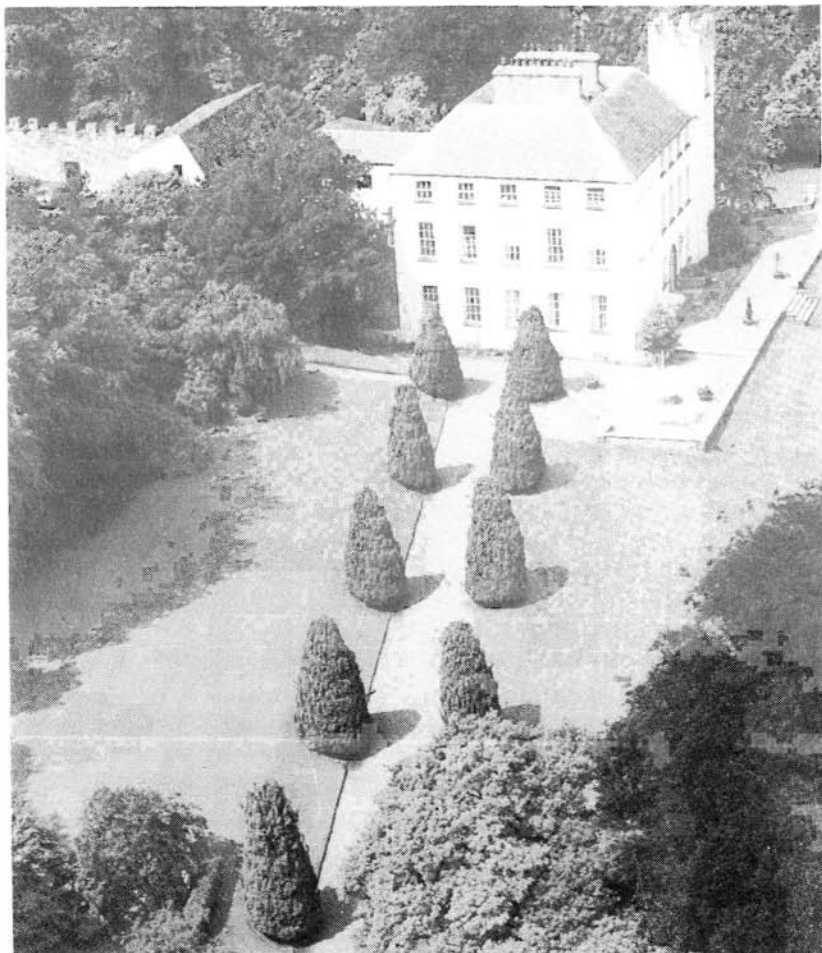
When the Normans had conquered Dublin they set up many strongholds in the area directly surrounding the City. Places such as Tallaght were suddenly surrounded by many of the Towers and Castles built by the Normans to keep the Irish out of Dublin and the Norman settlements. Tallaght became the summer residence of the Archbishop of Dublin and a castle was built in the very centre of the village to house him. Later, when the Irish had become increasingly hostile a large wall was built around Dublin and parts of Wicklow which came to be known as the Pale.

Tallaght was chosen as one of the garrisons of the Pale and stronger Castles were built around the demesne. Belgard Castle became one of these garrisons built not only for protection, but also as the residence of one of the most powerful families in Ireland: the Talbots, the Talbots had received large amounts of land in the Dublin area and they had originally set themselves up in Malahide Castle. It was a branch of this family which came to live in Tallaght. The Talbots de Belgarde always kept in contact with the Talbots de Malahide.

In 1414, the Kings Lieutenant of Ireland was John Talbot and in 1419 the Archbishop of Dublin and Chancellor of Ireland was Richard Talbot. For many years Belgard Castle was the scene of many confrontations between the Talbots and some local tribes outside the Pale such as the O'Byrnes and the O'Tooles. One such Talbot was Robert Talbot who was fighting the Fitzgeralds in Dublin. He was invited to a peace conference near today's Arbour

Hill. When he got there he was set upon but he escaped when his horse jumped a 20ft. wall. Later in 1523 he was visiting his friend the Earl of Ossory at Christmas, when the Fitzgeralds confronted and killed him at Ballymore Eustace.

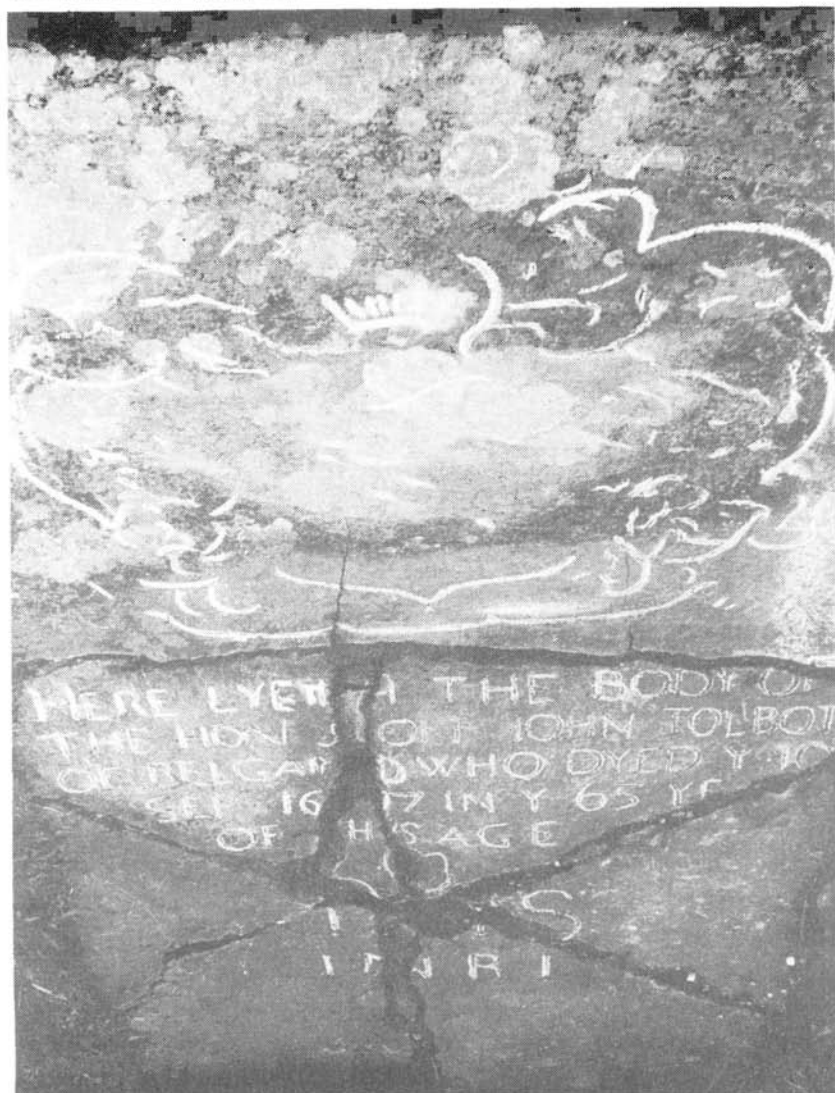
In 1580 Gilbert Talbot of Belgard allowed the forces of the Earl of Kildare and Sir Henry Harrington to gather at Belgard Castle during Viscount Baltinglass' rebellion. The forces met at Tallaght before setting out to destroy the enemy. The Talbots had always been staunch Catholics and this led them into conflict with other powerful families in Ireland and England.



Belgard Castle, a recent photo courtesy of Roadstone.

Belgard Castle, a recent Photo.

John Talbot had joined the forces of King Charles I to oppose Cromwell. After Cromwell's victory, Talbot fled Ireland and went to fight in Flanders where he made a name for himself as a great colonel. When Charles II was made King of England, Colonel John Talbot was reinstated at Belgard but was brought into war again on the side of the Catholic Confederates (under King James II) against William of Orange. He fought at the Battle of Aughrim and the Battle of the



John Talbot's gravestone in St. Maelruans. 1985.

Boyne at his own expense, but again he had fought on the losing side. He was included in the Articles of the Treaty of Limerick and returned to Belgard where he died in 1697 and was buried in St. Maelruans Graveyard.

After his death Belgard passed into the hands of the following families in the following order: the Dillons, Trants, Kennedys, Barts and Maude families.

The Castle is now the Head Office of Roadstone who are to be commended for the work they have done in preserving the Castle and grounds to the extent that there is still some remains of the building once so noble that Cromwell himself could not destroy.

THE ICE HOUSES

Around Glenasmole there was once a set of buildings known as the Ice Houses. These were smallish rectangular buildings where people were employed to produce ice for the wealthy of Dublin, particularly in the summer. They usually had thatched roofs and the yard was always covered with pools of water from chipped ice that had been raked out into the open. Local people were usually paid about 5 shillings and 6 pence per day to work in the Ice Houses which was of course were always kept at a very low temperature to keep the water frozen.

BALLINASCORNEY HOUSE

An alternative chapter has been given to a very important part of the history of this house ie. the visit of Robert Emmet to the Bagnalls. Ballinascorney House was also known as Dillons Lodge because it was used by the Dillons of Belgard as a hunting Lodge. A large part of the area was fenced in and used as a Deer Park. A General Tench once lived at the lodge. In 1852 he had retired from the Four Courts and moved out to Tallaght. He was paralysed from the waist down and was often seen about the area in a wheelchair.

Ballinascorney was the scene of the slaying of an Irish King. Many years B.C. King Conair Mór reigned in Ireland and banished all his enemies from the Kingdom. They returned however and invaded the lands of the King. They found Conaire being entertained at the residence of a Chief near County Dublin and the Wicklow Mountains called Da Derga and they killed him there.

HEATHFIELD LODGE

Heathfield Lodge was built on lands close to the present Glenasmole, which was an estate granted to the Luttrell family in the 16th. century. This land was farmed by English tenants who had

witnessed their crops being destroyed during the rebellion in 1798. The lodge was built by George Grierson the King's Printer, who was famous for printing Sir William Petty's Maps and Paradise Lost. He also built Woodtown House and it was well known that he threw large parties in his houses. He had a great number of friends and spent his money on a lively social life. When he died he left many debts which had to be paid by his sons George and John. They started the Dublin Daily Express Newspaper but this did not work and they had to abandon the project.

There were also three daughters who had visited many parts of the world. They returned to Heathfield Lodge and converted it into a Swiss Chalet. They thatched the roof and decorated the inside with oriental mats, plants, curios etc.

The sisters would travel about the locality and educate the people who could not read or write. For this they won the affection of the people of Tallaght. Alas one night the cottage caught fire and, the house was totally destroyed along with all the mats, plants etc. The sisters escaped to a nearby barn and were safe. The lodge was then rebuilt by another Grierson on a plan devised by himself. In 1775 the Archbishop of Dublin, Charles Cobbe owned Heathfield Lodge and in 1870 his descendants built many cottages for his tenants in the area.

Tallaght and the Trams

In the early 1800's travel between Tallaght and its neighbouring villages was much more restricted than it is today. People living in Tallaght travelled from Dublin by coach. This coach started from Hawkins Street and was owned at one time by a man called O'Neill. The driver was called Ned Keogh, and the coach passed through Templeogue, Tallaght, Corballis, the Embankment, Brittas and then on out to Blessington. Before the introduction of the Trams, Tallaght was a fairly isolated village. The people, therefore were very pleased when a plan was proposed in 1864, to construct a tran line from Terenure to Blessington.

In the 18th. and 19th. Centuries, Blessington was quite an important place. It was incorporated by the Royal Charter in 1666 and was the seat of Lord Blessington. Every month fairs were held in the area and they attracted large crowds from Tallaght, Templeogue and Terenure. The introduction of the Tram-Line would also have been welcomed as a benefit to Blessington Town and also to local industry such as the quarries i.e. the De Selby Quarry. The Aerodrome, which was situated at today's Cookstown Industrial Estate during World War 1, was also served by the tram.

Acts of Parliament of 1860 and 1871, gave powers to companies to lay tracks along the roads. The man chosen to construct the line was a Mr. Alex Ward. Later in 1880, some extra proposals were added to the above acts, which were under the title of the Dublin and Blessington Steam Tramway Company. These included the introduction of lighting along the lines.

On Wednesday 1st. August 1888, the first Tram left Terenure. It was a typical engine (known as a Kettle engine) which was painted green. These engines had a maximum speed of 14 m.p.h. These speeds were increased and improved upon over the years. The passengers cars were dark green and had the company crest painted on them. Travelling 3rd. Class on the tram was not a very comfortable experience, as there was no shelter on the sides against wind and rain. The smoke from the funnels belled in upon the passengers. First Class travel was however, a totally different story. The first class cars were sheltered and passengers were provided with cushioned seats and more comfortable surroundings. There is no real mention of Second Class travel on the trams.

Despite the safety precautions taken by the company, the first fatal accident occurred within a year of opening at Templeogue.



The steam tram at Tallaght in the 1890's.

Many other deaths occurred and white crosses were erected at places at which these happened. Indeed two people who died from accidents involving the Trams are buried in the St.Maelruans Graveyard and a report from the Dublin Evening Mail of Wednesday 14th. February 1894, described the circumstances surrounding one of these deaths:

FATALITY ON BLESSINGTON TRAM LINE

"Yesterday an inquest was held at the Meath Hospital on the death of John Murphy aged 16, stoker, in the employment of the Dublin and Blessington Steam Tramway who died in the hospital from the effects of an accident sustained on the Company's Line at the Lamb Station between Brittas and Blessington on Saturday.

Dr. Taylor deposed that the deceased had a compound fracture of the left leg which had to be amputated and severe flesh lacerations. Death was due to the shock of the amputation. Philip Deagan, driver of the tram was backing into the siding in order to take on a wagon at the Lamb Station. The deceased who was engaged in coupling the wagon missed attaching one of the grapplers and was knocked down. He was run over, the wheels of the carriage passing over his leg. The

engine was then moving at a slow rate. The occurrence was unavoidable.

The article then goes on to say the Jury found that John Murphy's death was caused by an unavoidable accident and was deeply regretted by all.

The inscription of his headstone is still in readable condition and it reads:

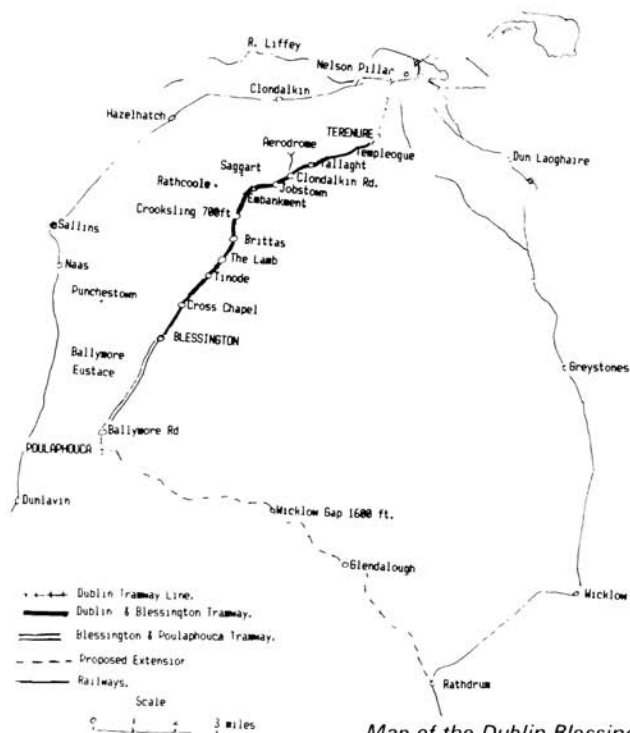
IN EVER LOVING MEMORY
OF
JOHN MURPHY
WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE
FEBRUARY 10th, 1894 AGED 16 YEARS
R.I.P.

THIS CROSS IS ERECTED BY THE
EMPLOYEES OF THE BLESSINGTON
STEAM TRAMWAY CO. AS A MARK OF
SYMPATHY WITH THE RELATIVES IN THEIR
BEREAVEMENT AND AS AN ENDURING MEMORIAL
OF ONE WHOSE BRIGHT INTELLIGENCE
AND HAPPY DISPOSITION WON THEIR
DEEP AFFECTION AND WHOSE TRAGIC
AND UNTIMELY DEATH THEY SINCERELY MOURN.

Despite the accidents and deaths on the line, the tram was a turning point in the history of Tallaght. It put Tallaght firmly on the map of Co. Dublin as an important village and the locality soon prospered and grew. The local people took more interest in the appearance of their area and money was made from selling fruit to tourists and people passing through. The booking office for Tallaght was Foxes Public House and refreshments such as sandwiches etc., were sold there. Despite many precautions taken by management, Trams often met head on even after the introduction of a tablet system within which a tram could not proceed to a crossing until an oncoming tram had passed through and handed over a special tablet to the driver.

The novelty of the trams began to wear off and the company began to lose profits. They tried to keep up with the times when, in 1925 the company introduced petrol cars on the line and purchased two efficient Ford Railcars to attract travellers.

But still the line declined. By 1927 the Blessington to Poulaphouca line had been closed and in 1929 when the Paragon



Map of the Dublin Blessington Tramway.



Electric trams at Terenure, around 1900.

Photo courtesy of the National Library.

Bus Company commenced operating motor buses in the area, the end of the trams was in sight. Between 1929 and 1931, less and less people used the trams and on Saturday 31st. December 1932 the last car to Blessington left Terenure at 6.15a.m. and then at 10.30p.m. the final car left for Tallaght.

Although it was very wet and windy that day both cars were full to capacity of people taking advantage of saying their farewells to a part of Tallaght's history which was coming to a close.

The Dodder and the Mills at Tallaght

No book on the History of Tallaght, could be complete without a look at the River Dodder and the City Watercourse. The source of the Dodder is near Glenasmole, and the area is noted among Dubliners for its beauty and solitude. Around this area one of the most popular attractions is the Dodder banks, not only for the general public, but also for painters and poets. Danby painted "The Deluge" here and Fitzgerald and Moyner also used this area for scenic landscape painting.

The Valley is often mentioned in books relating to the visits by the Fianna near Glenn na Smol. It was said to be one of the hunting grounds preferred by Fionn McCumhall. It is said that whilst on one of these hunting trips, he was put under a spell by the ugliest woman on earth. This resulted in his marrying the hag despite the best efforts of his comrades. Whilst here he is also said to have slain a monster called the Arrac of Glenasmole.

Before 1244, Dublin City's water was supplied by the Poddle which rose near Tymon. The Dodder was later chosen as a water supply, mostly because the population of Dublin was growing and a stronger river was needed to meet the growing needs of the city. The city had been expanding along Cornmarket and Thomas Street during the 12th. century. The Chief Justice, Maurice Fitzgerald told the City Sheriff in April, 1244 to find out where water could be got other than from the Poddle. When the Dodder was chosen, water was diverted to the Poddle in a two mile long man made canal called "The City Watercourse". The water proceeded to a reservoir near James Street known as the City Basin. King Henry III ordered that the work be completed by 1245. It was completed by this date.

In 1557 Richard Talbot was granted some cornmills at Templeogue. He was also given the task of caretaking parts of the watercourse on his estates. The people of Dublin were complaining in 1597, because the Talbots had been cutting off the water supply to the city whenever they wanted. The Talbots had agreed with the local mill owners that they would caretake the area and in return those same mill owners would give so much of their produce to the Talbots. Now and again however, some owners did not meet their quota and they would find that their water supply had been cut off. This also meant that the city people would be without a supply. There was nothing that could be done as the Talbots were

completely within their rights. Dublin Corporation intervened and on one occasion an inquiry was set up. The matter was resolved and the city retained its supply.

In 1854 a Mr. Mallet carried out an examination of the Balrothery Weir and the City Watercourse. After surveying the area he made some interesting conclusions and suggestions. In a report he recommended that a reservoir be built on the river so that the engineers could take advantage of the strong flowing river. Later in the 1860's it was proposed that some reservoirs be built very close to the mills at Tallaght so they could benefit from the extra water supply.

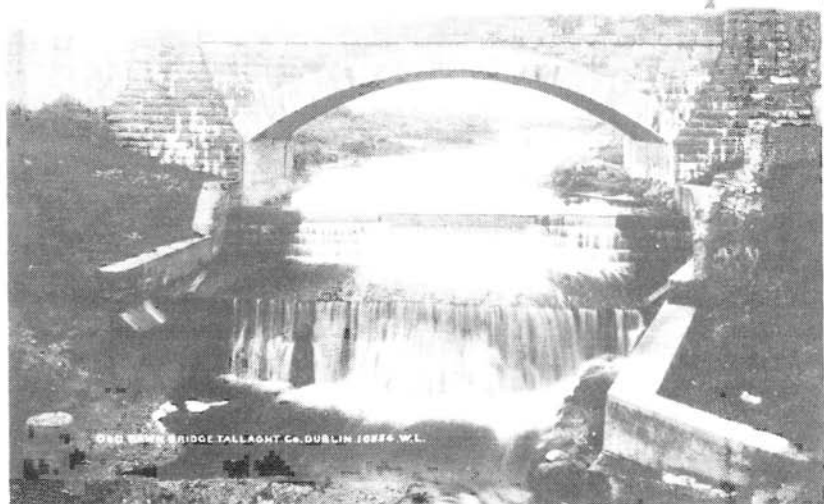


Photo courtesy of the National Library

Old Bawn Bridge at the beginning of the 20th. century.

An advantage of this would be the saving of 110 acres of good land.

However these proposals were not immediately carried out. Many alternative attempts were made to reclaim land around Kiltipper and Firhouse. Around this area there was constant flooding and bridges were swept away. By 1883 it was decided that Mallets report would be the best one to work on and the scheme was completed by 1887. Two reservoirs were built one for drinking water and one for the mills. These were at Glenasmole, they are there today.

The Dodder had at one time, many tributaries. These were (and to a certain extent still are):

1. A stream which rose near Featherbed Bog.
2. A stream which rose near Ballinascorney Gap.
3. The largest stream rose near Johnville and flowed through

Kiltalown, Jobstown, Brookfield, Whitestown and across the Tallaght Road.

4. A stream that rose to the left of Mt. Pelier House.

5. A stream which rose near Killakee and flowed past Orlagh, Columkilles Well, Ballycullen Farm, Mt. Prospect, Sally Park and then met the Dodder.

6. The last stream rose near Woodtown House.

The Dodder Valley has played host to many monastic settlements. Glenasmole was the site of a monastery set up by St. Santan in the 6th. Century. He has been called Son of the King of Britain in many books including the Book of Leinster. The monastery was known as Killnasantan. It was probably destroyed by the Danes just like St. Maelruans Monastery. Not far from the site of Killnasantan another religious group set up an abbey at Ann Mount. Around 1820 Maurice Collins and John Steward of the Order of Carmel founded a school to educate local Children. In 1827 the Carmellite Sisters arrive in Firhouse and despite the restrictions of the Penal Laws, set up a convent and a school, which served the Catholic people of Tallaght and Firhouse for years. In 1851, the school was given over to the Board of Education. The Carmellites are still in Firhouse.

There are also many mysteries surrounding the Dodder and it's Valley, perhaps the most well known one being the Kinlan Murder. In the 1800's Firhouse was owned by Ponsonby Shaw. He had a ploughman named Kinlan. Kinlan had an arguement with a local farming family called the Kearneys. He insulted the entire family and greatly angered them. They were heard saying, if they got the chance they would kill Kinlan and get revenge.

Later Kinlan visited a local gamekeeper called Mr. Richardson. He stayed a while and then left having declined the offer of an escort home. After a while the Richardsons heard a gunshot and ran to where it seemed to have occurred. They found nobody but the Kearneys were put on trial. A hammer with blood on it was found in their house and despite the protest of a criminal expert (Lord Hale) the Kearneys were charged with conspiracy to murder. Their defence was McNally, but they were all found guilty and hanged at O'Neills near the banks of the Dodder. The youngest son escaped death because of his age. Kinlan's body was never found.

Along the Dodder and the Watercourse at one time was a lot of Mills manufacturing many goods. In the 1800's there was some mills near Corkagh Road which were owned by the Arabin family, some very wealthy people in the area. Some of the buildings were used for storing gunpowder. The buildings were erected in 1783. In 1787, there was a huge explosion. Bits of buildings were found as far away as Clondalkin and many people said that as many as 260 barrels of

gunpowder exploded!

There was three watercourses along the Dodder at one time:

Course 1:

A. Parchment Mills:

In the 1800's this mill burnt down and by 1837 the remainder was in ruins.

B. Old Bawn Paper Mills:

A large watermill was here before 1655. Later this was converted to a paper mill by the McDonnell family. The mill was still in use by 1878 and the remains of it were destroyed in 1976 for the building of the housing estates in the area.

C. Haarlem Mills:

Haarlem & Co. Calico Printers operated these mills in 1776 and by 1836 they had four mills in operation here, run by the McCrackens and the Neills.

D. Bolbrook Mills:

In 1760 Pierce Archibald owned these mills which employed 50 people at one time. The mill was later leased to J. Williamson and then it passed into Messrs. Batter & Co. and subsequently to Thomas Boardman. In 1875 Adam Boardman is named as the owner, Robert Boardman in 1893 and in 1910 the buildings were used to house farm animals. The Boardman family gravestone is in St. Maelruans Churchyard still.

Course 2-

A. Dominicans Water Mills

Built in 1880 based on a design by Br. John Perkins who had been an engineer at Old Bawn. The mill was used until the 1950's.

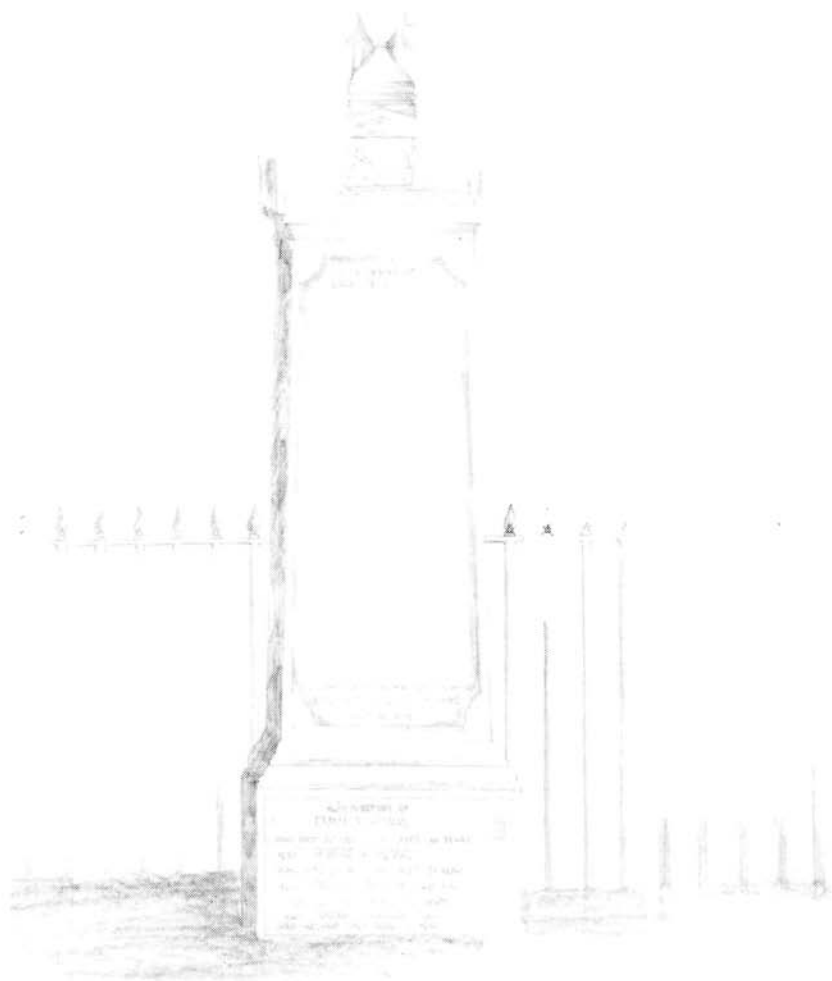
B The Manor Mill

This mill was situated close to the site of the present H. Williams in Tallaght. The Archbishops tenants once had their corn ground here. In 1801 the miller was called Newman and by 1849 the miller was Michael Mahon.

Course 3 - The City Watercourse.

A. Bella Vista Mills:

In 1719 the owners were the Ashworths but soon afterwards (1733) a Thomas Slater was appealing for a grant from the House of Commons which he received to develop and enlarge the mill. In 1836 Joseph McDonnell installed a steam engine and in 1876 the mill ceased operation.



The Boardmans Gravestone, they owned the Bolbrook Mills.

B Templeogue Mill:

Mills existed here as far back as 1655 and in the 1800's they were owned by the Burkes. Alas, in 1860 they burnt down and were rebuilt. By 1879 they ceased production in the hands of McGonchy & Co

C. Mount Down Mills:

In 1719 the mills were in operation as woollen makers. In 1952 Mr. P. Cullen received £20,000 from Dublin Corporation as compensation

for loss of water supply to the mill. In 1973 the area was filled in and the mills destroyed.

D. Cutlery Mill:

In 1844 it was known as the Millikins Mill. It was the smallest of all the mills and was not in operation for very long.

In the Annals of Tigernach and the Four Masters it is recorded that in A.D. 651 the sons of Blathmac were slain at the mill at St.Maelruans Monastery, Tallaght. So the first mill in Tallaght may have been at the monastery. The mills around Tallaght were all different shapes and sizes and manufactured different goods but basically they were composed of the same works:

Each mill had eight main parts:

1. Water
2. Upper Millstone
3. The Shaft
4. The Supporting Stone
5. The Shaftstone
6. The Wheel
7. The Axis
8. The Cup/Hopper

Next to agriculture the mills have been the greatest source of employment at one time. The Boardmans alone has 50 workers at their peak which was quite a number for a village of Tallaght's size. The Dodder therefore as well as providing a source of beauty and inspiration also had material values. Let's hope now that the employment aspect is gone we will preserve the beauty of the Dodder Valley as part of our Natural Heritage or years to come.

Robert Emmet

The Tallaght Connection

In St.Maelruans Graveyard, Tallaght, there is a headstone with the following reading:

THIS
STONE
Was Erected by Mrs. Rose Bagnall
In Memory of her Beloved Husband
James Bagnall of Ballinascorney, Co. of Dublin
Who Departed this life the 15th of
Feb.y 1797 Aged 60 Years also Her Son
John, Ann and Grandaughter Rosetta
Bagnall who Died young.

This is the headstone of the family who lived at Dillon Lodge near Ballinascorney Gap. The family had been in the area a long time, but undoubtedly the most significant part of their history was the arrival of Robert Emmet and some French Generals to their home after the rebellion in 1803.

After the failure of Emmet's rebellion in Dublin, he and some French officers fled to the Wicklow Mountains via Rathfarnham and Tallaght. Passing through Old Court they arrived at the home of John Doyle near Ballymeece. They decided to stay there for a night. When the party arrived at Doyle's house at a late hour, Emmet was still dressed in his Generals uniform with lace and epoulattes. He wore a military hat with a feather. The other officers were dressed in green and gold. There was 14 men altogether and all were armed with either blunderbusses or muskets. The General found Doyle drunk and already in bed. Regardless, they all slept at the house.

The next morning the rebels decided to make their way further up the mountains to Ballinascorney where it was considerably safer. When they had gone, Doyle found a proclamation under the table which belonged to Emmet. He gave it to Mr. Finlay the Baker to read and then gave it to Mr. Robinson the Barony Constable. The news that a party of rebels were in Tallaght soon spread in the locality. The locals were excited at this. Mrs. Bagnall the owner of a comfortable house and farm had a visitor who identified himself as a rebel by the name of Patrick Loughlin. He was a local carpenter and

he informed the Bagnall household that Emmet and a party of rebels intended staying at her house if invited to do so. She was at first anxious and wanted to know why she had been singled out as a host to the men.

"Sure I have nothing in the house for them nor even for my own children" she said. Loughlin advised her to get some provisions as soon as possible. He hinted that Dublin would soon be in chaos and food would be hard to get. "They'll get what they want" he boldly stated. Loughlin then asked if her tenant Michael McDonough, was home. Mrs. Bagnall followed him to the McDonough farm. The McDonoughs eventually agreed to allow the rebels to stay on the farm for some time. Later in the day, Emmet and the rest arrived. They were warmly welcomed by the McDonough family and some other locals. The party was escorted by some mountain men and was guided by a man called Commons.

The rebels brought their own whiskey, tea and sugar and their host provided them with a late supper of bread, bacon and milk. At about midnight most of the party set out for the Bagnall's home. Mrs. Bagnall was apprehensive and spoke to Emmet personally about her fears that the rebels might be caught at her house. Emmet reassured her and she offered them beds in her house. Emmet and



Bagnall's Stone. The Bagnall family headstone in St. Maelruans.

the more senior officers retired for the night and the others had a "hooley". Tom Duffy, Bagnalls servant and three local men killed two sheep and they all made merry in the house.

The next day Emmet left for Ballinascorney Gap to receive messages from supporters. He left sentries at Dillons Lodge. During the day, a man approached one of them asking to speak to James Devlin. He said, he had heard the authorities knew of Emmets whereabouts. Mrs. Bagnall was frightened, as anyone found sheltering rebels had their house burnt down as an example. She begged the party to leave and after much debate they left for the McDonoughs.

The following day Emmet received a letter, and he decided to disband the party with most of the men returning to Kildare. He went on to Harolds Cross. He was arrested there and put on trial. At the trial the prosecution claimed that those people from Tallaght who had come into contact with Emmet would be vital to their case.

Mrs. Bagnall was smuggled from Tallaght by coach at night under escort of a Mr. Bell along with her servant Tom Duffy. The people in the mountains had no time for informers, and as a result, when Mrs. Bagnall arrived at court she was very frightened and almost broke down in tears. Her testimony was not very helpful. For someone who was bound by a fine of £1000, she contributed little to the prosecution's case.

Questions to Mrs. Bagnall examined by Mr. Mayne:
(extract from "Robert Emmet" by Thomas Addis Emmet).

Q. Did any particular persons come to your house shortly after the rebellion broke out?

A. Not till the Tuesday following.

Q. What time of the night did they come?

A. Between eleven and twelve.

Q. Had they any arms?

A. They had.

Q. Were the clothes made in a military way?

Q. Yes, Sir.

Q. What it the colour of gold?

A. It was.

Q. What arms had they?

A. They had some blunderbusses.

Q. Did you hear them say anything about their title or rank?

A. No, I was so much frightened I cannot swear to any of them.

Q. Were you much alarmed?

A. I was indeed being a lone woman with some children.



Robert Emmet.

No cross-examination.

John Doyle, farmer from Tallaght also questioned by Mr. Mayne:

Q. Were there any particular persons at your place shortly after the rebellion broke out?

A. There was.

Q. You were in bed in your house

A. I was, I had drunk heavy and went to bed between ten and eleven and a party of men came up to my bed and I was so heavy asleep they were stirring and calling me and I could not waken at once. But when I looked up I saw a party of people upon which I lay close to. They desired me to take some spirits which I refused. They then lifted me over into the middle of the bed and I gave no assistance and two of them lay upon each side of me. I lay there between them for some hours and then I got up and stole out of bed. I found some blunderbusses and some pistols.

Q. How many persons were there?

A. There were 14 at breakfast.

Q. What time did they go away from you?

A. Between eight and nine in the evening.

Q. How was the prisoner dressed?
A. He put on a coat and a grey frock over it.
Q. Which way did they go?
A. Up toward the hill.
Q. Was any paper found after them?
A. Under the table they breakfasted at.
Q. To whom did you give that paper?
A. The Barony Constable.
No cross examination.

Constable Robinson questioned by Mr. Plunkett.
Q. Are you a Barony Constable anywhere?
A. Yes of Uppercross.
Q. Did he (John Doyle) at anytime hand you this piece of paper?
A. He did.
Q. When?
A. On Thursday at his home.

At this stage Lord Norberry turned to the Jury and said:
"The prisoner went to the country dressed in uniform. He proceeded to the neighborhood of Tallaght, in company with others in rebel uniform. Doyle identifies the prisoner in that situation beyond controversy and Mrs. Bagnall strongly corroborates. The prisoner at the bar during these periods passed under different names, he was Ellis, he was Hewitt, he was Cunningham and at last when made a captive, but not until then, he acknowledged himself as Emmet. He took particular pains to disguise himself at Harolds Cross".

At this stage the trial continued without any further reference to Tallaght or any persons from Tallaght.

Mrs. Bagnall returned to Ballinascorney. Robinson also returned to Tallaght and continued as the Barony Constable. Doyle however was forced to leave the country as he had informed on Emmet and had been paid the reward. He left Ireland for his own safety and under the advice of the government.

The Fenian Battle of Tallaght

COMMORADH CEAD BLIAN NA BHFININ, 1967
IN MEMORY OF
THE BOLD FENIAN MEN
WHO FOUGHT THE BATTLE OF
TALLAGHT, MARCH 1867
THREE OF THEM GAVE THEIR LIVES
IN THE HEROIC STRUGGLE.
DONATED BY THE DESCENDANTS OF ONE WHO TOOK PART
AND ERECTED BY
THE NATIONAL GRAVES ASSOCIATION.

This can be read on the plaque on the priory wall in Tallaght Village. It was placed there in memory of the men who took part in what has been called the 'Fenian Battle of Tallaght'.

The Fenian movement had been preparing all over Ireland in the years leading up to the rebellions in 1867. Unfortunately, the Fenian rising, which had been planned to happen simultaneously in different centres, went the way of so many Irish rebellions. It became a series of isolated incidents. This was caused by a lack of communications and command at the appropriate times. The police were also well prepared and informed as to what to expect. The story of the Fenians at Tallaght has to be seen in this context.

In the early months of 1867, there were rumours in Tallaght, that the Fenians were preparing for a rising in Dublin. Some people thought to be Fenians had been seen by locals drilling and marching openly in the neighbourhoods around Dublin. The police knew what was happening but they didn't intervene. They waited for a chance to find out who the leaders were and an excuse to arrest the rebels. Around the 4th. March, 1867, an excited messenger arrived in Tallaght to warn the police that the Fenians were marching on Greenhills. These rebels were thought to be headed towards Tallaght Hill. They were made up almost entirely of farm workers, labourers and some artisans from the area around Dublin. Their numbers had swelled as they marched towards Tallaght. They had attracted followers from Crumlin, Rathmines and Greenhills.

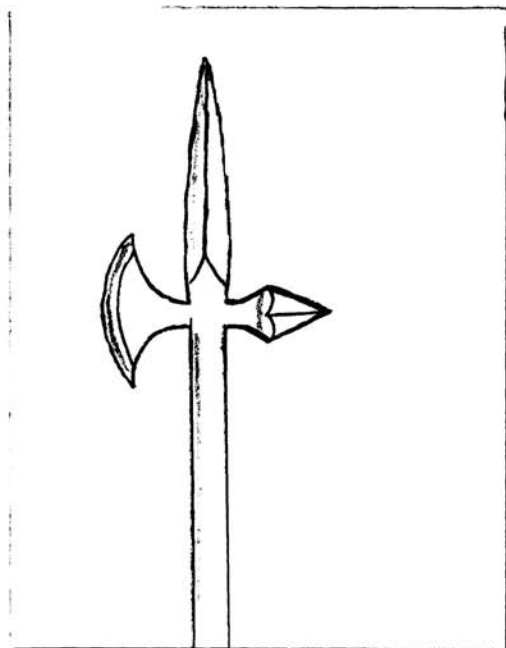
There seemed to be large bands of Fenians roaming in the Greenhills area as if gathering for some sort of rebellion or attack. The rebels appeared to outnumber the police at one stage of the day, and something had to be done if the situation was to be controlled. The first clash between insurgents and authority was

near Rathgar. Some men were carrying a large box of ammunition when they were challenged by the police. They were ill-equipped and badly organised so, at first sight of the police they dropped the ammunition and scattered.

Meanwhile in Tallaght the situation was worsening. The police had not expected so many rebels would pass through Tallaght. Finding themselves increasingly outnumbered, they barricaded themselves into the station and decided to hold fast. There was only 14 policemen in the station. These were led by Head Constable Kennedy of Tallaght and Sub-Inspector Burke of Rathfarnham. The police were becoming increasingly alarmed as news continually came in of the whereabouts of Fenians in the area. Stories were also circulating that the Fenians had captured Police Stations in the Wicklow area.

Nobody had anticipated such a large turnout of rebels. The police had been expecting some dozen or so locals to have some involvement. Hundreds were now nearing Greenhills and it seemed as if the Tallaght Station would be taken. If this happened there would be no way to halt the rebels.

Sub-Inspector Burke decided to take two men and go to Rathfarnham for reinforcements so that some sense of order could be imposed on the area. On the road to Rathfarnham, they



A Fenian Pike.



An Artists impression of the Fenian Battle at Tallaght.

confronted about 40 Fenians escorting a cart which was laden with cartridges, percussion caps and other ammunition. Sub-Inspector Burke ordered the Fenians to surrender. A man, possibly the leader, then attempted to strike the constable with his sword. The policeman, who was trained for this sort of attack, ended the incident by driving his bayonet into the rebel's stomach. When the rebel group saw this they dropped their load and fled into the forests. The injured man was later left at a farmhouse near Balrothery Hill for medical attention.

Back in Tallaght, Constable Kennedy was having his share of difficulties with the Fenians. A large number of them had succeeded in crossing the Greenhills. They had been ordered to halt but had ignored the police and carried on regardless.

When the police confronted them, a volley of shots came from the rebel ranks. The fire was scattered and injured nobody, but it allowed the police to see exactly where the insurgents were positioned. The police had been kneeling before this, and the gun fire had passed over their heads. They then opened fire in unison. This was followed by a long moment of silence but then an incredible amount of shouting and yelling filled the air. The Fenians broke ranks and began to retreat. The panic soon spread and they began to run in all directions to escape being captured by what they believed to be a large military body. Some even fought one another

amidst the total confusion and in an effort to escape.

The volley of fire had left some numbers injured. Two of these were critical and the next day, two bodies were found in a ditch where they had been left behind by the fleeing rebels. Also found were pikes, guns and other such weapons on the site of the battle.

A little while later (just after midnight) a group of Fenians from Roundtown approached. But when they saw what had happened just before, they fled also. Finally the last and largest party of rebels approached Tallaght. This was made up of the stragglers and the last of the Fenians. They were organised in a much better fashion. They were even mistaken by the police for military as the sound of their marching was so precise. The police pretended to the rebels that they were in large numbers around the area and prepared to open fire. The rebels replied by firing about 70 shots. They then fled dropping their weapons and most of their possessions in their haste to escape. The police later gathered 12 stands of arms including rifles, bayonets, pikes and daggers. The Fenians had been trained to march and use some weapons but had not been properly equipped to face the well organised force the police were convincingly presenting.

That night as many as 5000 men gathered on Tallaght Hill. The leaders were not present in great numbers so, with the earlier events and no real plan of action, the Fenians found themselves without any morale whatsoever. It was very cold on the hill and to top it all off it started to snow heavily, very heavily. At 2 a.m. on Tallaght Hill there was gathered a huge number of disenchanted, cold hungry Fenians whose only ambition was to return home and go to bed. On their way home they dropped their weapons everywhere and anywhere so that they would not be caught with incriminating evidence. Amongst these the police found swords, bullets and 20 pikeheads. The police held about 65 of the Fenians in the station that night and they could have held a lot more but for the lack of space.

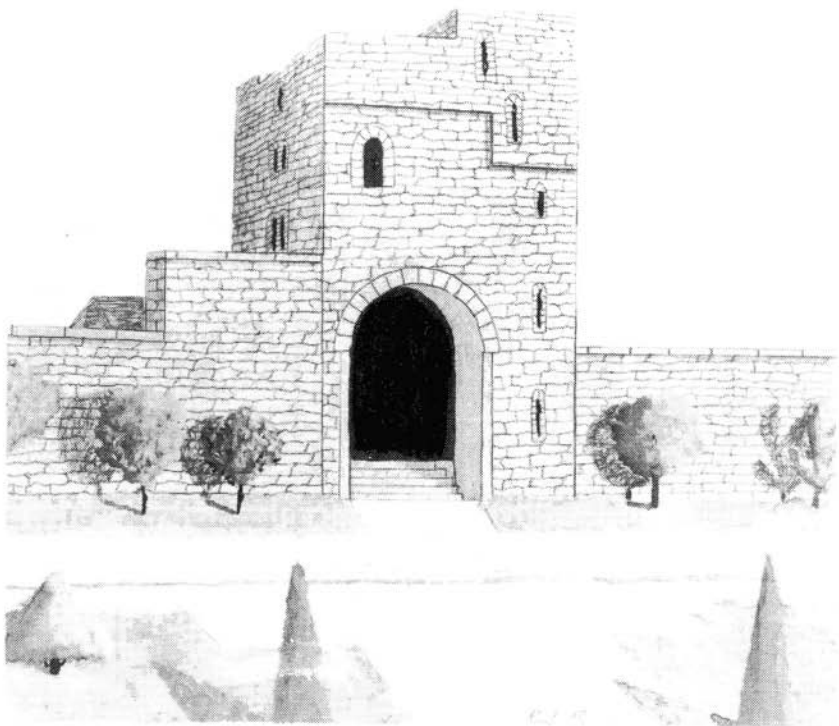
The next morning Lord Straithnairn (commanding the 52nd. Regiment, Scotts Greys and Lancers and the Royal House Artillery) ambushed some groups of Fenians near Crumlin Church where they had set up camp. They arrested about 83 insurgents and brought some of them to Corballis Station, Tallaght which was already well over crowded.

Mr. Clarkes Public house at Jobstown was crowded for many nights afterwards and the seats had to be taken out to cater for all the rebels who gathered to testify to their part in the "Fenian Battle of Tallaght".

The Palace, Castle and Priory at Tallaght

After the Anglo-Norman conquest, Dublin was granted to the Archbishop of Dublin by Pope Alexander III. The site of St.Maelruans Monastery was cleared out and Tallaght was chosen as the summer residence of the Archbishop's Palace. In that regard, Tallaght became an important area in the See of Dublin and also later on it was a stronghold of the Pale!

Under King Edward II, small towns such as Tallaght were raided by mountain tribes who would invade, plunder, kill and escape. The O'Byrnes and O'Tooles caused a lot of trouble around Tallaght and they were instigators of violence in the area. They "persuaded" tenants on the Archbishops land to stop tilling, paying rents etc. and this aggravated the local Baliffs to the extent that they petitioned for a grant to build a wall in the area. In 1310, the Bailiffs of Tamelag



Tallaght Castle from a contemporary drawing.

(Tallaght) received a Royal Grant to help them build a wall around their land. This wall was not enough to ward off the native Irish, so in 1324, the Archbishop of Dublin, de Bicknor decided to build the castle mentioned above. By 1350, the Castle was still not fully built and only contained a chamber for the Archbishop himself and a room for other clergy.

Some time before 1349 the Castle was finally completed but only 100 years later it was part of a list of castles in Dublin badly in need of repair. Even though the Castle had been built and the Pale wall was erected, the O'Tooles and O'Byrnes kept up the pressure against the Normans and their tenants. In 1332, the O'Tooles of Imaile (Imaal) gathered a small army and invaded Tallaght castle. They ransacked the Archbishops residence, killing many servants. They took many other people as slaves as well as 300 of the Archbishop's sheep. The Archbishop was enraged and ordered that some guards be sent in pursuit of the O'Tooles under Sir Philip Brett. Once outside of the Pale, Brett was in O'Toole country and he was confronted by the mountain men in a pitched battle. Brett and his men were slaughtered and the Irish escaped to freedom.

In 1356, the Lord Lieutenant ordered the Constable of Tallaght to make an agreement with O'Toole, who agreed to lend 80 men to the English Marching on the Irish Countryside. In 1357, Russell collected a levy to pay for O'Tooles services. This arrangement was enough to hold off the O'Tooles, but the O'Byrne and O'Nolan tribes continued with their campaign. 1378 saw the arrival of Mathew de Birmingham and 120 men at the Tallaght garrison to fight off the O'Byrnes. This was brought about, as in 1377, Walter de Wade had received £20 compensation for attacks on his manor by the Irish

Henry VI was King of England when Michael Tregury was made Archbishop of Dublin. Tregury was interested in the state of his Manor and Castle and he therefore insisted that the Castle receive many repairs and a general facelift. Archbishop Rokeby was another cleric interested in his demesne. He conducted a lot of business from Tallaght and often wrote to Cardinal Wolsely regarding the state of religion in Ireland. One of these letters is dated December 14th, 1514 and written to Lord Cromwell from Rokeby at "Talaute" (Tallaght).

Tallaght Castle was still being attacked by the O'Tooles as late as the 16th. century. In 1540 the Castle and other manors throughout the Tallaght area were not only robbed, but also badly damaged. In 1573 the Castle was invaded and many of the Archbishops servants were slain in the process. Loftus, the Archbishop of Dublin was very



"The Archbishops Palace at Tallaght" from a contemporary drawing.



An alternative view of the Archbishops Palace from a drawing around 1800.

angry at this and he petitioned the Lord Deputy for better protection. In 1641 the Irish Council sent 12 men and a Captain to Tallaght but they were later killed in an attack on the area.

In the 17th. century, Tallaght Castle was not used very often by the Archbishops. It therefore fell into a severe state of disrepair. During the reign of King George II, Archbishop Hoadley became Archbishop of Dublin. In 1729 he found the Castle in a terrible state and received a grant of £2,500 to make some major alterations. Rather than just repairing the Castle he tore the entire building down and commenced building what came to be the Archbishops Palace at Tallaght.

He spent a lot of time in Tallaght and he and his daughter did a lot of gardening in the grounds of the Palace.

The last person known to have lived in the Archbishops Palace was Rev. S.C. McCausland. Archbishop Beresford was in control of the Palace when a report concluded that the Palace was unnecessary and ought to be sold.

In 1822 Archbishop Magee sold the demesne to the Inspector General of Prisons, Major Palmer. Palmer pulled down all the Palace except a tower dating back to the days of the Castle. He then built Tallaght House which was a fine mansion which stood where the retreat centre in Tallaght is now situated. Before the Palace was pulled down, Palmers brother, the Rev. Henry Palmer salvaged the great chimney piece for the Church in Tubrid, Co. Waterford. The chimney piece was very large and contained the coat of arms of the Hoadley family, probably built in 1729. John Lentaigne bought Tallaght House from Palmer and he lived there until the demesne was sold to the Dominicans. Lentaigne had a huge collection of curios and antiques and he brought these with him to Tallaght. The collection included old coins, birds, animals, insects, Chinese and Hindu idols etc. He even paid for the remains of a whale to be brought to Tallaght from Co. Mayo. He had the huge skeleton erected in the gardens.

In 1856, the lands and Tallaght House were sold to the Dominican Order. The Dominicans were so called, after a Spaniard named Dominic Guzman who was born in 1170. He died in 1221 after building up a large following. In the 19th. century the numbers of Dominicans in Ireland were sufficiently large to merit the building of a college for students. These students had been sent abroad to Lisbon to study prior to this. Tallaght was chosen as the site of the college and a large part of the College in Lisbon was sold to raise funds for the Irish venture. By 1857 the first Dominicans were in Tallaght. They altered the demesne and incorporated a retreat

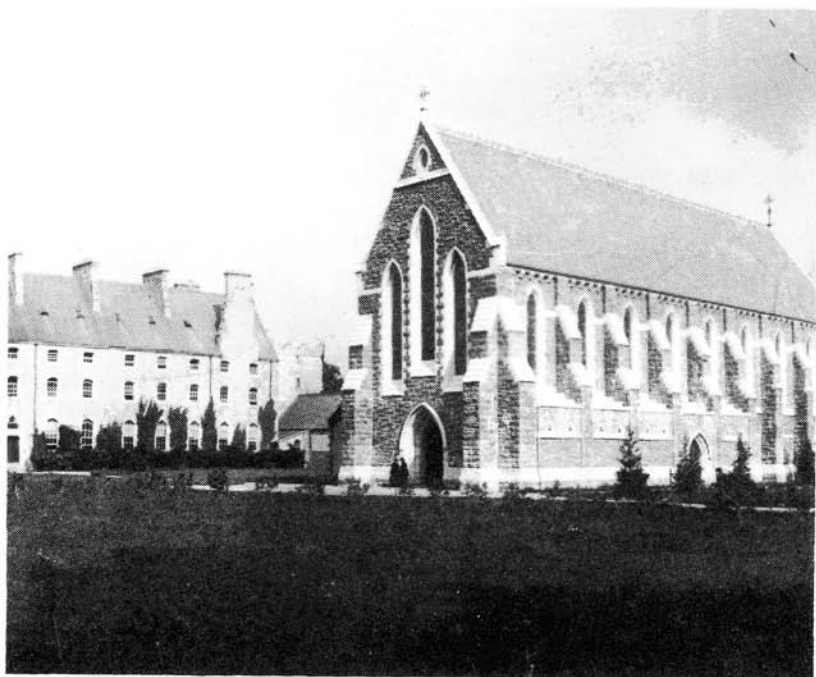


Photo courtesy of the National Library.

Picture taken in the late 1800's showing the Old Castle beside the Dominican Building.

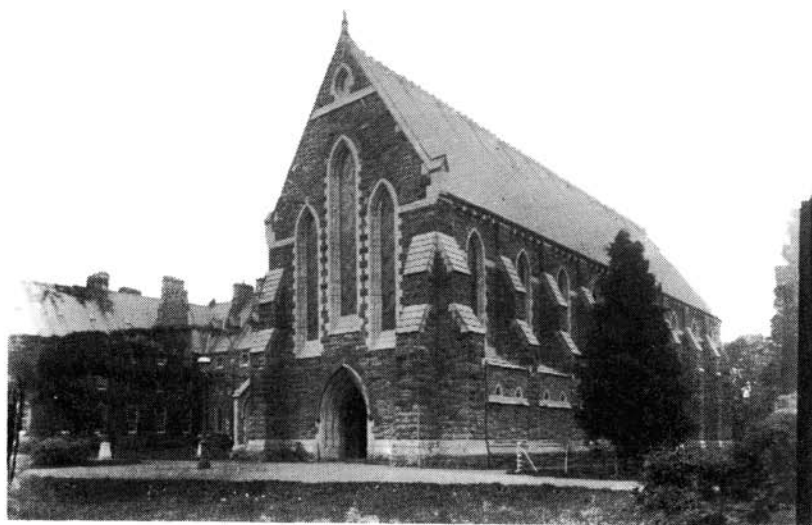


Photo courtesy of the National Library.

Dominican Church taken around 1900.



Interior of St. Mary's Dominican Church, Tallaght, around 1900.



A picture of Friars Walk at the end of the 19th. century, at the Dominicans in Tallaght.

house into Tallaght House. They also built St.Mary's Church and then later extended it.

The alterations to the gardens however, were minimal. The ancient walnut tree, St.Maelruans tree was left and still grows today. It is an immense tree split by a lightning storm. A part of the grounds known as Friars Walk is still beautifully maintained. The most famous parts of the grounds are the old rockery, the memorial to Fr. Tom Burke, Bishops seat and the nearby Archbishops Bathhouse. This is still visible today and was built by the Archbishop, using the materials from the old cross which mysteriously vanished from the village green opposite today's A.I.B. in Tallaght.

Towards the future in Tallaght

The face of Tallaght village has changed greatly in the past 20 years. This could be said and be belived to a great extent. Yet a picture taken around 1900 shows the main street to look very much the same as it does today. There are the obvious changes of course, the electricity cables and the telephone wires. The horse drawn carts have gone to be replaced by cars, trucks and vans. The line of the buildings in the main street has not changed though. The village has merely developed along with the rest of the country. With the development of Tallaght as an urban centre it has had to leave behind it's rural past and extend where necessary to deal with the growth of it's population.

St.Mary's Dominican Church had an extension put on to it, to accommodate the larger congregation when it became necessary. The old gates on the front of the priory are now gone, but the low wall in front of the Church makes a nice sight of grass and trees amid the traffic. The stream which had served the Archbishops Bath House is visible just inside the Priory Wall in the Main Street. The

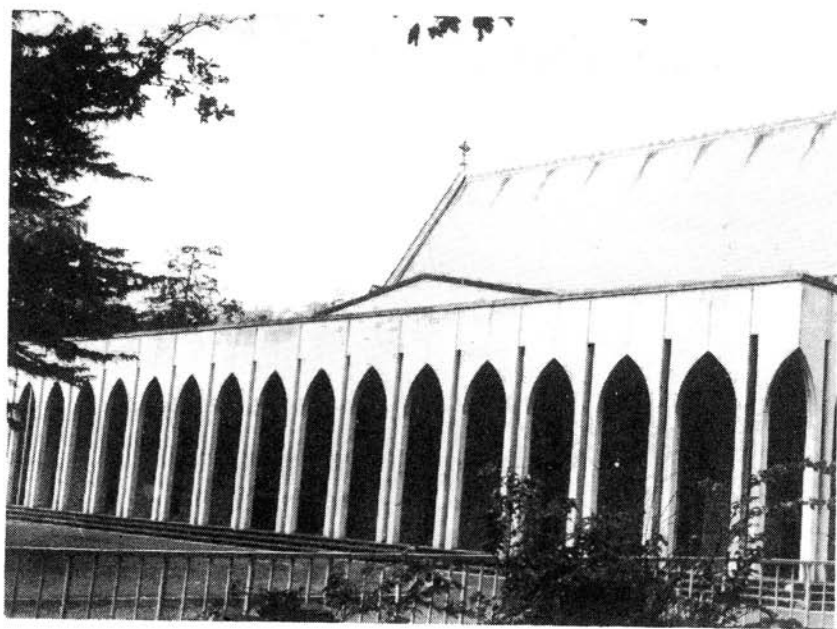


Photo courtesy of the National Library

Tallaght village around 1900



Tallaght village, June 1986.



St. Mary's with its extension, 1986.



The remains of the Archbishops bath house in Tallaght Village 1986.

priory itself has been extended a good deal in the past 100 years.

The tram line which once represented transport to the city is now replaced by buses to bring the grocery laden mothers and children home from the stop at the Welfare Office beside Molloy's. Jordans carpet shop and the Bagnalls chemist next door are the same building that is in the 1900 photographs. Bagnalls had the whole building then and sold groceries.

Riordans shop at the end of the village used to be next to the Blacksmith who was replaced by the AIB. The town square where the locals played cards, and where the town cross once stood is relegated to a small triangle at the top of the street to allow the flow of traffic unhindered. The Present Foxes Covert is the same building purchased by Mr. Molloy from Mr. Fox in the 1930's. When Mr. Fox owned this establishment it was the local public house and functioned as the centre for chat and local gossip in the village. It was also one of the ticket offices for the tramline.

Sometimes when an area is developed, its plan is changed so radically, that it no longer resembles the village it once was. This has not happened with Tallaght Village. The street plan has remained practically the same give or take a few feet. The houses on the side opposite the priory are still the same. The top of the village at AIB is the same with the Old Bawn road crossing the Bypass. The



The Old Police Station in Tallaght Village, 1986.

Police Station, soon to be vacated in favour of a new one better equipped for such a large urban town has been extended over the years as the necessity arose. It is to be hoped this building will be preserved in much the same condition and used because of its central siting within the village.

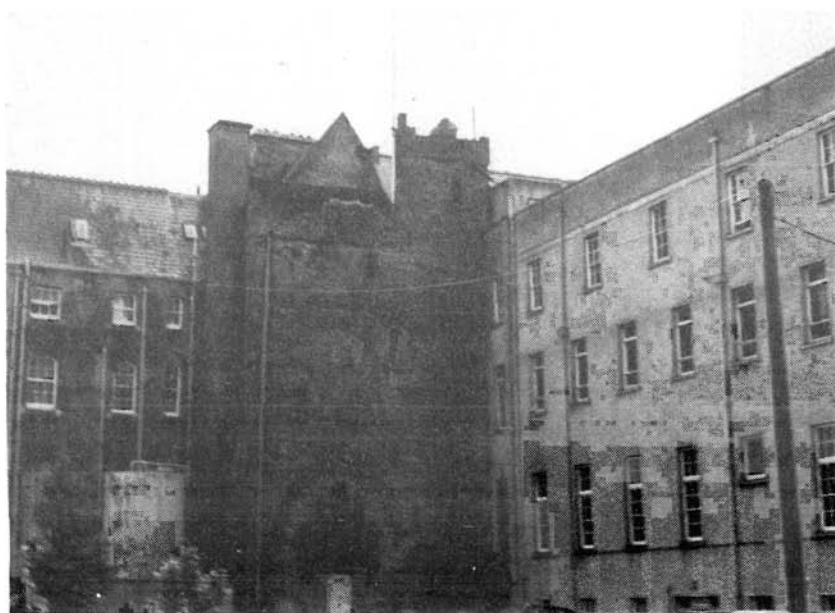
The bend in the road at St. Maelruans is much the same as it was 50 years ago when this was the old Blessington Road. The Church is in very good condition and kept very well. There was some difficulty with dampness some years ago and the plaster had to be removed from the walls in the interior. This solved the problem but the plaster was never replaced as the bare stone walls inside the church gave it great character. There is a memorial to W.D. Handcock a local man who wrote his history of "The History and Antiquities of Tallaght" in the 1870's. He was very interested in his area and its folklore.

St.Maelruans Graveyard has gravestones which range from 1658 to the present day. The Graveyard is still in use and the church is the focus of the local Church of Ireland congregation under the Rectorship of the Rev. Sidney Laing. The Graveyard is the focus for this Project, and is the centre around which almost all of Tallaghts history has happened.

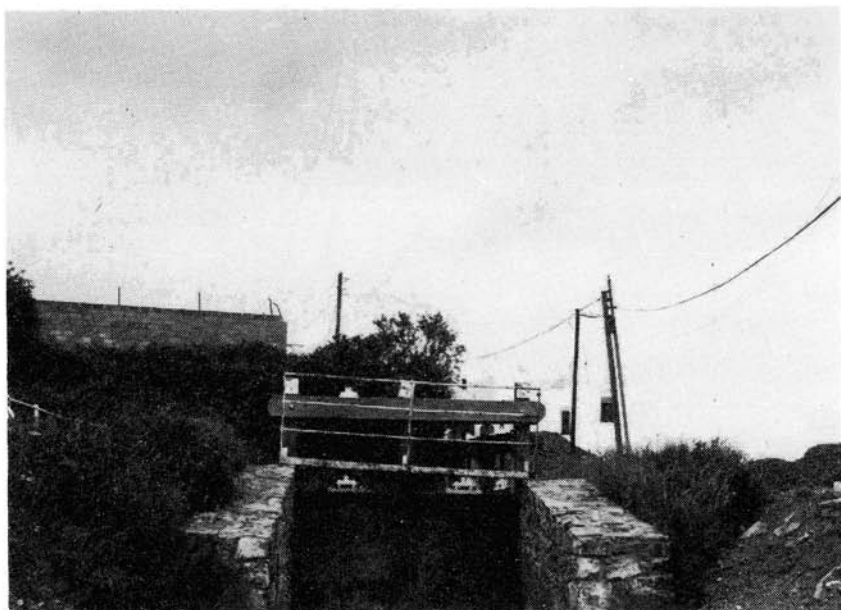
The first monastery on the site for all we know may have been built on an earlier site. Regardless the site has been the focus for the



The City Weir at Firhouse, 1986.



The remains of the old castle at Tallaght, incorporated into the Dominican building, 1986.



The old Sluice gates at Firhouse, 1986.

history of Tallaght throughout the ages and has been a part of every chapter of its past.

As a result of the construction of a new bridge across the Dodder at Firhouse the sluice gates had to be moved a short distance up stream. These have been preserved in fairly good condition. The city weir at Firhouse due a major clean-up soon, has lost one of its charm and remains a picturesque part of the Dodder.

From Old Bawn it is possible to see both St.Maelruans Church and St.Mary's Church both standing on a steep hill. This is somewhat difficult given the built up character of the area but is quite visible from the right angle. These are todays remnants of the once great defensive fortress at Tallaght, the site of the supposed Parthalon graves. It was also the scene of many a skirmish with armies who had been spotted long before they could get near enough to attack.

Present day Tallaght has much of it's past to recommend it. What was a self sufficient village, with the houses of the local gentry ranged in it's vicinity, has now become a thriving urban centre. the castles and houses of the local lords and clergy have vanished and been largely replaced by housing and industrial developments. Tallaght is now a growing and expanding town. Within the next 20 years it will have reached it's targets in development. The parks,

road improvement and development of amenities is going ahead, as is the work of the many community groups operating on a self-help basis for their areas. It can only be hoped that the Tallaght of the future will have as much to contribute as it's past.

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