

The Master delighted in teaching us about Douglas Hyde, our first President, his writings and his poetry. I can recall being taught "An Gleann Inár Tógadh Mé", which I proudly recited as part of the competition for An Fainne: "Mar cos an ghiorraidh do bhí mo chos, mar iarann gach alt is fé..." And how proud our Master was to see us receiving the silver Fáinne, all entirely due to his teachings.

A great favourite of his was Goldsmith's "Village Schoolmaster." He loved to recite it, he loved to teach it, and we loved to listen to him: "A man severe he was, and stern to view, I knew him well, and every truant knew" ... "the day's disaster on his morning face" ... "full well they laughed with counterfeited glee, at all his jokes, for many a joke had he!" And at times Master O'Dwyer would insert his own version: "and even the story ran that he was ENGAGED!" The inclusion of such humour only helped to add to our enjoyment of the lesson.

And of course we learned the Geography of Ireland, both the Irish and the English names of counties, cities, towns, rivers, mountains etc. Again, the Master had his own method and style in ensuring that most of what he taught would stick in our young minds. He would name the principal towns in County Roscommon as: "Ros Comáin Mainistir na Buille, Ailfionn, Caisleán Riabach - and Ballinlough thrown in!" To a young mind this was funny, and was something that the same young mind would see as a must for learning and repeating. Practically unknown to ourselves, we were learning much of the basics of each subject, in a manner in which the knowledge would stay with us for the rest of our lives. And then one day we learned a very strange word: "Mnemonic." Master O'Dwyer explained to us that it came from a Greek word meaning 'to be mindful', or to remind us of something. As examples he taught us some phrases, and by taking the first letter of each word in each phrase, we could remember certain lists which would otherwise be very difficult to recall. For example, it is difficult to remember the names of each of the bays in the south-west on the Kerry/Cork coastline. Our Mnemonic for these bays is "T.D. Knew Better Days." In other words: Tralee, Dingle, Kenmare, Bantry, Dunmanway.

Jimmy O'Dwyer's second great love was football. Having been a star player on some great Mayo teams, being a member of the team which played Kerry in the All-Ireland Final of 1932, and having toured the U.S.A. with the Mayo team in the 1930s, it was with great pleasure that he



Taken outside Jim Jordan's house in Devlis - L-R: Unknown, Unknown, Mrs. Loftus, Mrs. Jordan, Unknown, Ms. Givern, Jim Givern, Mrs. Cribbin, Mr. Cleary, Tom Murray and Mr. Cleary. (Courtesy Mrs. Noreen Horkan)

watched and instructed, as we played in the field beside the school. Despite the handicap of an old knee injury, he still managed to demonstrate to us the art of controlling and kicking the ball. He took great pleasure in taking on the Ballyhaunis Town School team. Having as the backbone of our team such great footballers as Seán Moran, Joe Webb and Michael Murphy, no opponents were going to have an easy day on the football field!

Thanks to the foresight and efforts of Eileen Lyons and Eileen Grogan, a Reunion of Past Pupils of Coolnafarna National School was organised, and held on Friday 5th August 1994. Reference was made to this reunion in the 1994 Annagh, and a group photograph was produced inside the back cover. The Mass in St. Patrick's Church had past pupils as Celebrants, Readers, Offertory Procession members, Eucharistic Ministers, Choir and Narrator. A video was taken which can be handed down to posterity. A social followed at the Manor House and the whole night was a credit to the organisers: Eileen Grogan, Eileen Lyons, Seamus Sloyan, Matt O'Dwyer, Kevin Lyons and Bill Comer. It was a great pleasure to meet again some of the people who attended the school during my years there, many of whom I had not met for forty-six years. They included Seamus Sloyan, Billy Comer, Maureen Comer, Noreen Kelly, Mary Dyer, Mickey Regan, Seán Moran, Columba Jordan, Noel Dalton and the late Joe Webb. This special gathering turned out to be the last time I met Joe, and his

untimely death brings back many memories of our journeys together on the road to Coolnafarna and of his great talent on our football team.

It was a wonderful surprise to meet Margaret Dyer once again. Margaret was in my class and we had not met since we left the school. She is now Sister Pius and is resident in Castlebar. She had been in the Convent in Westport for over thirty years during which time she was Reverend Mother. One of the first things I asked her was of the day she broke her arm. It was an event that seemed to stick in the mind of most of us who were pupils at that time. Master O'Dwyer carried her to Ballyhaunis on his bicycle for treatment. We all had great sympathy for her when she returned to school some days later.

I left Coolnafarna school in 1948 well prepared to face the next chapter in my life, fortified with the knowledge, manners, and confidence that Master O'Dwyer had instilled into me during my years there. I can still see him standing at his desk at the window, or at the fire or beside the blackboard, enthraling us with his descriptions of moments in history, or wonderful places in the big world, or explaining how to move a decimal point with one stroke of our pens!

In those days in the 1940s, all through my life since, and even now at the present day, I link Master O'Dwyer with Oliver Goldsmith's Village Schoolmaster: "And still their gaze and still their wonder grew, that one small head could carry all he knew."

Tullaghane Land League Heroine

BEHIND the modest announcement of the death of Mrs. Margaret Heneghan at her residence: Tullaghane, Ballyhaunis, on Wednesday, January 3rd 1940, lay an episode of history without parallel in the long, drawn-out and stubbornly contested Land War half a century earlier. The period was one when the callous writ of landlordism was expressed in terms of the battering ram, the bailiff, and the armed force of the British Court. In those memorable and stirring times, agitation on the Lord Dillon estate, which had widely flung ramifications in Connaught, resolved itself into a veritable war in which all available influences of landlordism were directed against the people, who always fought back against the repeated assaults.

Noted as a rendezvous for 'agitators, plotters and campaigners', the Heneghan homestead at Tullaghane, four miles from Ballyhaunis and situated on the Lord Dillon Estate, was singled out for special attention. For many months it was under the constant surveillance of the reconnoitring forces. Patrick Heneghan, the head of the house, was the chosen leader of the Land League and planner of campaign movements in the locality. He was subsequently arrested, imprisoned and banished into exile.

Ever by his side, ready and willing to share the worry, pain and punishment of her husband and colleagues, engaged in the struggle, was his wife, Mrs. Margaret Heneghan. She emerged as a heroine because she was prepared to pay the supreme sacrifice, if necessary, for the principles which she and the plain peasantry had espoused.

When the paid servants of the crown and landlord raided, in force, the village of Tullaghane, Patrick and Margaret Heneghan were taken into custody and conveyed to the Ballyhaunis R.I.C. depot under strong armed escort. At a session of Ballyhaunis Petty Sessions, they were both convicted and sentenced to a month's imprisonment in Castlebar jail.

When the finding of the court had

Tom Kelly Recalls An Unique Story

(From the *Conaught Telegraph*
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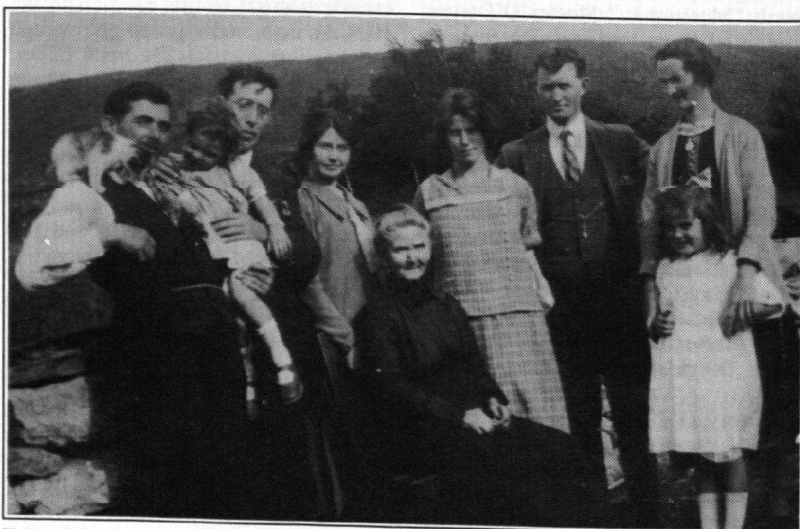
been pronounced, the solicitor for the defence pointed out that Mrs. Heneghan was nursing an infant daughter from whom she refused to be separated during the period of her incarceration. In the circumstances the defence asked for an amendment of the committal order to include the child so that it could accompany the mother to prison. This application was accepted and later husband, wife and child were conveyed to Castlebar jail under heavy escort. The infant daughter, who unintentionally played an unique role in the history of the period, in after years became Sister Mary Teresa Clare of the Dominican Community of nuns in New York. She died in 1926.

On the completion of their sentence, scenes of indescribable enthusiasm were associated with the demonstrations of reception for the liberated at

Ballyhaunis and Tullaghane. In the early hours of the morning of the release, a special reception committee proceeded to Castlebar to receive the party on gaining their freedom. At various points on the return journey, manifestations of welcome greeted them. At Ballyhaunis, where the houses were illuminated and bonfires blazes, thousands of people, led by the well-known Irish Nationalist, Mr. Dan Crilly, joined in the greeting and appropriate speeches were delivered by numerous speakers at the demonstration which followed.

As the party left Ballyhaunis for Tullaghane and home, the horses were taken from the cars on which they had been conveyed and the vehicles drawn by friends through four miles of countryside while bonfires blazed on hills for miles around.

It was a memorable occasion for many reasons, not the least of which was that it sounded the death-knell of landlordism in Mayo and other parts of the West of Ireland. Mrs. Margaret Heneghan went down in history as one of the most God-fearing, patriotic and valiant of Irish heroines who worked, suffered and sacrificed for causes and ideals founded on imperishable right. Her husband Patrick, died in 1917 after a life of exemplary husbandry and unselfish National effort for which, at one stage, he was forced to seek sanctuary in the United States where he spent two years in exile. She was also predeceased by a son: Mr. Thomas Heneghan, who died in Australia in 1910, and daughter: Sr. Mary Teresa Clare. She had four other sons: Michael, Patrick, James and Luke and five other daughters: Kate, Nora, Annie, Margaret and Ellen.



Taken in Devlis: L-R: Tom O'Malley, Noreen Cribbin (child), Jack Lyons, Delia Jordan, Mrs. Jordan (seated), Unknown, Jim Jordan, Mrs. Margaret Cribbin and daughter Mary.

(Courtesy Mrs. Noreen Horkan)