

Lifford Old Courthouse

Presents
Special mid-term events

With The Ramblin Scallywags Puppet Theatre

Create Your Own Puppet Show

on Wednesday 19th or Thursday 20th February 2003
from 10am - 5pm

Make a hand puppet! Make it perform and most exciting of all make it come alive!

All in one fun-packed day!!!

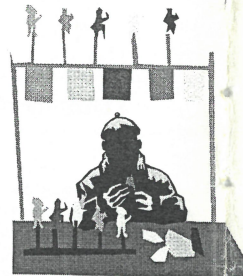
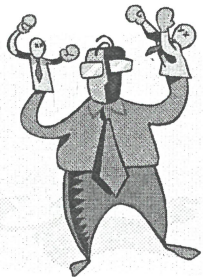
To book for one of these great days ring (074) 41733.

Cost per workshop: €15 per child – price includes all materials, meals and snacks.

Suitable for ages 5 – 11 years.

(Note for parents: If you want to drop your child off early – doors will open at 8.30am and your children will be entertained until the workshops begin.)

Booking Essential.



Castlefinn Pipe Band (circa 1930)

Free Issue

Lifford Association for Tourism, Commerce & Heritage Ltd.

**LIFFORD DURING THE
ASSIZES
ROOMS TO LET**



In the mid 18th century, with the opening of the new Courthouse and the establishment of the Spring and Summer Assizes, life in Lifford changed, especially when the travelling circuit judges arrived. "For a day or two before the opening of the Assizes, all available accommodation in Lifford was taxed to bursting point as Court officials, barristers, solicitors, jurymen, police and litigants sought lodgings for the three or four days over which the sittings usually lasted".

There were several places, of various sizes, where the visiting throngs could find a bed and a bite to eat. At the top of the pecking order, the judges stayed at some of the 'big houses' in the area such as Drumbooy. For the likes of lawyers, policemen and witnesses there was a choice of hotels. One of the oldest was called 'The Rookery', named after the large colony of birds which nested in the trees near the building. Built in the early 18th century on the

site of Lifford Castle, it is believed to have been connected to the adjacent Courthouse by means of an underground passage. It continued to be occupied until 1967 when it was finally 'tummelled'. While it was being demolished an interesting insight into 18th century building practices were revealed when "it was discovered that the inside walls were all composed of turf, neatly whitewashed over". The building which occupies the present site is known locally as 'Bannigan's Store' and is currently used by the Co. Council as a storeroom.

Another substantial hotel was added to the town by the mid 18th century. Known first as Lifford House, it is attributed to Michael Priestley, the architect responsible for Lifford Courthouse. It was this hotel which became the base for the Grand Jury while the court was in session.



When the railway network linking Strabane to both Derry and Belfast was completed in the 1850's the Grand Jury really arrived in style before they booked in. After they alighted at Strabane they "were taken by horse-carriage the half-mile further to Lifford, accompanied by a military band". In 1878, when the business changed hands it became known as Argue's Hotel. From those days until the present, the building

**HARKIN'S BARBER
SHOP**



Letterkenny - Pearse Road

Lifford - Butcher's Street

OPENING NEW SHOP

1st March, opposite

VILLA ROSE
MAIN STREET

BALLYBOFEY.

Tues-Sat 9.00-5.30.

ARBIGAIL'S FLOWERS

28 Upper Main St,

Letterkenny

074 22414



On Valentines Day,
say it with flowers.
interflora Agent.

**HARTE'S
BAR**

MAIN STREET

LIFFORD

074 41628



FEBRUARY

SAT 1ST MAD ARABS

FRI 7TH HAYFEVER

SAT 8TH FLIGHT OF EARLS

FRI 14TH FOCUS

SAT 15TH DAVY WILDERS

FRI 21ST ADONNUSBLUE

SAT 22ND PHILIS

FRI 28TH

"NIGHT AT THE RACES"
FUNRAISER FOR THE LIFFORD/
CLONLEIGH COMMUNITY LINK
GROUP

could still be assembled at a moments notice.



(Extracts from an article by Catherine Rynne in *The Evening Press*, November, 1969)

DID YOU KNOW?

There is an extraordinary rock, remarkable in the Irish history of these parts. It is called Doon Rock and on it the O'Donnells, who were formerly chieftains here, were always inaugurated. Immediately under the rock is the holy well of Doon frequented by thousands. It would be an endless task to mention all the virtues of this water and all the cures it can perform, but it has one peculiar quality which I think ought not to be omitted. It is a remedy against infidelity in husbands. Any lady keeping a bottle of it well corked under her bed may rest in perfect security.

Reply to the North West Society by the Rev Mr Hastings, 1820.



GALLEN'S BALLYBOFEY

074 31053

web.

gallens@finnvalley.ie

LOUNGE

**Old Time Dancing every
Monday night 9 – 11 p.m.**

Live Music Every Week- End

BACK BAR

*Traditional Irish night
every Wednesday*

OFF - LICENCE

FOR

ALL YOUR NEEDS

AND

VINEYARD

WORLD WIDE SELECTION of
WINES

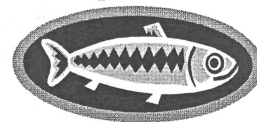


Gallen's

"The Place To Be"

has appeared in many guises, including a tea-blending warehouse, the head office of a newspaper, a bank and finally, a pub. Presently known as The Gateway, rumour has it that it is to be re-converted to its original use as an hotel.

For those not so well off, and who wished to enter town without the hullabaloo, less salubrious but equally accommodating premises were also available. One of these was known originally as Sharkey's Tenements where, if you were in luck, a bed and a decent meal could be obtained at reasonable rates. Writing in 1821, John Graham commented "Mr John Sharkey keeps a small but much frequented house for the accommodation of those who resort to the Assizes, sessions and gaol of Lifford from all parts of the country. Such are the happy days in which we live that when a shoal of herrings visited our shores in the spring of 1821, Sharkey was able to give plentiful dinners to his guests at two and a half pence a head".



Although prices have gone up a bit since then, Sharkey's, now the Central Bar, still offers B&B thereby continuing a tradition established nearly 200 years ago. Of course, it wasn't all-serious in those early days. Others saw it as an opportunity to make a few bob and

have a bit of 'craic'. Sometimes, however, things could get too lively. In September 1766 for instance, Lifford Corporation felt it had to put the foot down as matters were getting out of hand:

"Whereas the erecting of booths or tents at the time of the Assizes held in Lifford hath been generally productive of riot and disorder by encouraging drunkenness and quarrel, we therefore...to prevent such inconvenience for the future and preserve peace and good order in this corporation do order that in time to come no booth or tent be permitted to be erected and in case such should be erected by surprise or otherwise, that the person permitting the same on his or her ground shall forfeit 3 shillings and 4 pence for every such tent..."

And from that day to this there has never been another punch-up in a tent in Lifford Diamond.

KEEP LIFFORD TIDY

Lifford, or Liffer as it used to be called, was granted Corporate status by a Royal Charter from King James I in 1613. Six other towns in Donegal also became Boroughs, along with Lifford, at the same time - Killybegs, Carndonagh, St Johnstone, Donegal, Ramelton and Ballyshannon. The newly founded Corporations were empowered to make bye-laws, impose fines, enforce Weights and Measures

accounting for the predominance of the surname to this day and for the strange Scottish dialect which continues to be spoken.

Words still quite commonly used include "maun" for must, "nicht" for night, "acht" for eight and "stanes" for stones. Or a person might refer to "up a been the deck", meaning "up above the ditch" and call a stretch of still water a "shough".

Some more instances of special words were "hame" for home, "wains" or "wee kilts" for children, "tangs" for fire tongs and "speckly" for the sort of home-made bread made out of corn and raisins.

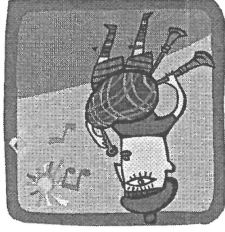
The language was still very much in use by the children, and their teacher, another Crawford, remarked how a child, late for school on account of a heavy shower, had spoken of being held up by a "duke of shoor".

There are about nineteen families of Crawfords in the village itself, all related to one another, with about a further thirty families of that name living in the surrounding countryside.

Once a Porthall team went to play a game of soccer in Northern Ireland. They were jokingly told to watch out because there were nine Kellys in the opposing side, to which they were able to reply that the Kellys had better be careful too for they were facing eleven Crawfords. It is said that a whole team of Crawfords

A DUKE OF SHOOR HELD UP THE CRAWFORDS' WEE KILT

Stop a native of Porthall near Lifford and the chances are he'll be a Crawford. If the conversation is anyway lengthy, he'll probably bring in some word or phrase which would make an etymologist prick up his ears in delight and might remind the literary man of Rabbie Burns. For here there is a pocket of old Scots dialect that is not being allowed to die out. It is more ancient than the language used in many parts of Scotland and students have come from Glasgow and Edinburgh universities to study it. Another unusual thing about the district is the number of Crawfords living there.



Behind all this is an interesting history. In the 16th century, Finola MacDonnell or *Inion Dubh*, came from Scotland to marry Hugh O'Donnell. Before leaving home, she gathered up a hundred of the tallest men she could find as a personal bodyguard. Over eighty of these were named Crawford. They eventually settled in this area, thus

for every offence forfeit the sum of 3s 4d...



31st Oct. 1765.

"Whereas some of the inhabitants of the borough of Lifford have cleaned the streets of Lifford and in the public roads leading thereto to the nuisance and annoyance of the other inhabitants and travellers... be it enacted that every person offending herein shall for every offence forfeit and pay the sum of 3s 4d..."



On occasion, legislation was passed which extended beyond animals and cleanliness to include certain people:

13th May. 1720.

"This day, Wm Glackin, for the liberty of having a horse grass on the Common of Lifford, is to carry away all crippled beggars that shall from time to time come into the town and that he shall keep them in his own house until such times as he like..."

I wonder, what would have happened to any crippled beggar

legislation and to return two members to Parliament. They were finally swept away by the Municipal Corporations (Ireland) Act in 1840. The following extracts are taken from the Minute Book of Lifford Corporation 1716-1783, the only document in existence with any details of their activities. Judging by some of the bye-laws it appears they had a 'Tidy Towns Competition' in those days too.

13th Feb. 1717. *"Ordered... that every inhabitant in the borough or town of Lifford do every Saturday night have their doors clean from time to time and every inhabitant so failing shall pay 1/-..."*

November, 1721.

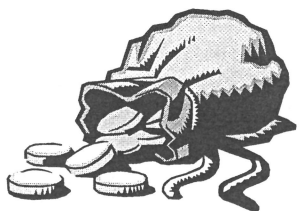
"It is ordered in court that the sum of 5/- sterling be apportioned and levied of the inhabitants of this borough and laid into the hands of the warden who is to hire a man to clean the streets..."



31st Oct. 1765.

"Whereas several inhabitants of the borough of Lifford keep hogs which they suffer to go at large without ring or yoke contrary to law, for remedy whereof be it enacted that every person offending herein shall

who asked him for his money. He took out the hundred farthings and threw them down into the rocks below. The robber looked down and saw the shining farthings and he thought they were sovereigns and he went down for them. When Barney saw the robber among the rocks he galloped his horse and reached his master's house with the money."



This story was written in 1937 by a pupil at Boyagh National School. It was collected as part of a national survey conducted by the Irish Folklore Commission. The story is, in fact, based on real events as Barnesmore Gap in the 1700's was notorious as a place for ambush and robbery. In June, 1774, for instance, *The Derry Journal* ran this account:

'On Wednesday last, as Mr James Ferguson, shopkeeper in the town of Donegal, was coming to Ballybofey he was attacked at the Bridge of Barnesmore by two men and a woman. They first stabbed his horse, and then himself, with a knife, and dragged him some distance off the road, when they cut open his saddle-bags, and from thence took 68 guineas in gold, 10 English shillings, 24 ounces of broken

silver, and 2 silver watches. Providentially the horrid transaction was discovered by a boy who was looking after some cattle on the mountain; otherwise Mr Ferguson might have soon died of his wounds without any assistance, and the robbers escaped justice; but the same day, they with two of their accomplices, were taken at an alehouse not far from the spot where they committed the cold deed, and all committed to Lifford gaol. Mr Ferguson's recovery is very doubtful, and the horse is dead.'

Held in custody for three months the four men and their female accomplice were brought before the judge at Lifford Courthouse:

'On Monday last, the 22nd of August, at the Assizes held at Lifford, for the County of Donegal, Patrick Gordon and Henry O'Neil were tried and found guilty of robbing Mr James Ferguson, of the town of Donegal, and sentenced to be hanged on the 8th September next, at the bridge of Barnesmore, the place where the robbery was committed. At the same time, the wife of the said O'Neil was also tried for robbery, and found guilty; but she having pleaded pregnancy was examined by a jury of matrons, who gave their verdict that she was pregnant, whereupon her sentence was postponed until after her delivery. Two other men were tried for the same robbery but acquitted.'

found cleaning corn, in front of a dirty door, on a Saturday night?



THE DROWNING AT DUNMORE

By
Dominic O'Kelly

"In sincerest sympathy with the relatives of two middle-aged Downings neighbours, Georgie Buchan (40) and Denis McClafferty (45) who, with three young Killybegs men, John Byrne (30) James White (24) and Benny Armstrong (18) were drowned when their fishing trawler, the 'John Buchan' [built at Meevagh boat-yard by the skipper's father] capsized in a 60 m.p.h. gale off Dunmore East, Co. Waterford, on Monday afternoon, 10th February, 1958. - R.I.P."

What curse is o'er thee, cruel sea!
That robs us of the brave-
And gives our finest fishermen a
cold and watery grave?

On New Year's Day they sailed
away from old Tirchonai'll's shore,
Six trawler crews from Killybegs,
all bound for East Dunmore.

Those stalwart men who put to sea
and silver harvests reap,
Close night and day to eternity on
the wide unknown deep.

'Twas ten days after Brigid's Night
in Nineteen Fifty-eight
Five fishermen from Donegal met
with their tragic fate.

Our hearts now grieve for two
Downings men whose lives on earth
are o'er:
George Buchan and Denis
McClafferty - both drowned at far
Dunmore.

James White, John Byrne and
Armstrong - their fishing days are
done:
God rest the souls of these five
men...from Killybegs now gone.

Five weeks they spent on the
southeast coast...and many a
hundred crans
They caught and sold for far-off
climes and continental vans.

A full week's snow and later storm
with gales of fifty miles...
At the open pier of Dunmore East
they sheltered for a while.

Up-river then they said they'd go as
a sixty gale-force blew -
The 'Mairead' and 'Ros Aoibhinn'
led by 'John Buchan' tried and true.

BARNEY AND THE HIGHWAYMAN



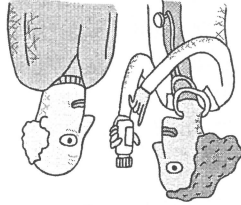
"Many years ago before there were any such thing as buses, trains, bicycles or motor-cars the people went to do their business on horseback. At that time there was no law or order in this country and it was full of highwaymen.

One time, there was a very rich man who lived between Stranorlar and Donegal. One day this old man sent his servant, Barney, to Donegal on horseback for one hundred pounds. The road to Donegal was long and lonely and there were no houses on it.

When Barney was going through the Gap he was stopped by a robber. The robber asked Barney where he was going and Barney said he was going to Donegal for money for his master. The robber told Barney to hurry, so Barney rode on until he reached Donegal. He asked the cashier for a hundred pounds and he put it in a safe pocket. He then asked him for a hundred new farthings, which looked like sovereigns. Barney got on his horse again and set off for home. When he was coming home, again he was stopped by the same robber

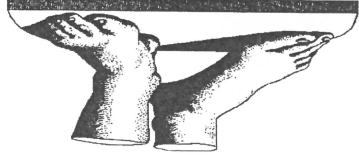
"OLD" IS WHEN...Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

"OLD" IS WHEN...You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of the police.

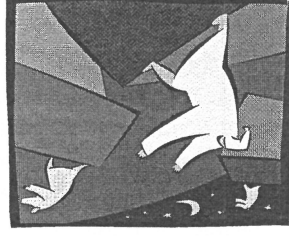


"OLD" IS WHEN...A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pacemaker opens the garage door.

"OLD" IS WHEN...Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.



"OLD" IS WHEN...An "all nighter" means not getting up to pee!



One widow only ten months wed -
 her lover 'neath the foam!
 And another convalescing in a far-
 off nursing home!

We pray to God to ease the cross of
 those whose hearts are sore -
 Left lone and breadless by this sad
 disaster off Dummore.

What curse is o'er thee cruel sea!
 That robs us of the brave -
 And gives our finest fishermen a
 cold and watery grave?



ACTING THE GOAT!

Throughout the parish of Donoughmore are many of the circular enclosures called Danish forts. There is a tradition attached to one near the River Finn in the townland of Ballyartell which relates that a church was once going to be built on the spot but the structure was repeatedly thrown down by something in the shape of a goat that came out of the river.



Her skipper sailed these Western seas for more than twenty years, Nor Iceland nor the Hebrides for him had any fears.

Aboard this boat his father built, in the wheel-house Georgie stood, McClafferty, White and Byrne below in the cabin having food.

Young Lyons and Benny Armstrong out working as deck hands, When a mighty wave struck in astern - three hundred yards from land.

That wave was twenty-five feet high.. the trawler bold defied, But she somersaulted on its crest...with four men trapped inside

John Lyons grabbed a basket and he managed to keep afloat, Until the 'Mairead' sailed astern and saved him with a rope.

Since leaving school four years ago, young Ben had wrought at sea, To help his widow'd mother rear her younger orphan'd three.

Eight children of the Downings men, likewise the Armstrong three, Are helpless orphans here today because of the cruel sea.

Three mothers mourn their darling sons lost on the treacherous main... Three widows weep for partners whom they'll never see again.

Stranorlar- Redmond McCool and family, 9.

Shanreagh- John Wilson and family, 3.

We have seen a letter from Mr J. Mclean, Lloyd's agent at Islay, to John A. Smyth, Esq., Lloyd's agent here, of the date of 3rd May, giving an account of the loss of the Exmouth. It states –

“That forty-seven of the dead bodies have been washed ashore and decently interred. Having been at the time on my way to attend other vessels ashore in the island of Jura, I got two of my most particular friends, Messers Colin Campbell and hennery Campbell, to attend to this melancholy affair; and, on going to the spot on Saturday, I found a number of coffins ready made, which had been sent by the humane and Christian feeling of Mr Campbell of Islay for any other corpses which might be cast on shore. The two young gentlemen mentioned above deserve the highest praise for their services. They were often to the waist in water, picking up the dead bodies as they appeared, and seeing that they were coffined and interred”.

Fortunately this was the only ship that year to founder on the way to the New World. For those who made the journey and survived there was a whole new experience awaiting them in quarantine centres like the one on Grosse Ile in Canada.

I'll tell you about that place in the next issue!

DONEGAL SURVEY FINDS LINK BETWEEN HARD WORK AND ILL HEALTH.

In 1835, while collecting data for the Ordnance Survey, Lieutenant Lancy made the following remarks about the parish of Templecarn:

“The prevalent diseases are fevers and pleurisies which probably have their origin in the blood being heated excessively by labour, without using due precautions to guard against the effects”



OVER THE HILL

(Courtesy of Jean the Bean)

“OLD” IS WHEN...Your sweetie says, “Let’s go upstairs and make love,” and you answer, “Honey, I can’t do both!”



YOUR LETTERS



My brother Leslie has been sending me a copy of the Old Courthouse News since its inception. I have just received the most recent issue and I have started a file to accommodate the ‘News’. It is very interesting to read through these and reminisce.

Last evening while I was preparing dinner I was vaguely aware of Anne Robinson’s Weakest Link programme on the television. Although I was not fully tuned in, I was aware of a question about World War Two, to which the contestant correctly gave the answer ‘Field Marshall Montgomery’. This brought back a memory which prompted me to tell you about an incident while I was a pupil at the Hansard National School in Lifford.

Hansard school was virtually one large classroom with less than a dozen pupils and one teacher, Miss Barnett from Bagnelstown in Co. Louth. The local Church of Ireland minister was Canon Duncan who lived nearby and he was on the school Board of Governors. Almost every day Canon Duncan would call briefly into the school. When he came through the door we all stood up and he said, “sit down”. We promptly sat and set our pens down, and I mean pens with nibs that we dipped in inkwells. We probably had as much ink on our fingers and lips as was in the inkwells. We loved to

see the Canon come in, as that was a few minutes when we could down tools. He was a small plumpish man, thin on top. He would stand and smile at us, then spoke a few words to the teacher. He would smile and say “get on with your work now” and he left.

One day he arrived with a very posh lady wearing a large fur coat. They walked straight to the front of the classroom, and the Canon introduced the lady to the teacher. The lady plonked herself in Miss Barnett’s chair at the front of the class and proceeded to talk to us pupils. I do not recall what she said but I remember she asked us this question, “If a herring and a half cost a penny and a half, how much would two herrings cost?”

I do not know if anyone answered as we were shy, country children and found the lady a little intimidating. Her next question was “Who are the best fighters in the world?” No one replied and she said, “Tut tut, don’t you know? It is the Irish, the Irish!” After the posh lady left we learned that she was Lady Montgomery from Moville, Co. Donegal, mother of Field Marshall Lord Montgomery. I recall this incident and many more from my youth growing up in the Diamond, Lifford with great nostalgia.

Laura Boyd (nee Shiels)
Whitehead,
Co. Antrim.

The following is a list of the passengers who were on board:-
Ballymoney- Nancy Forgrove, number; James Wylie.
Ballyshannon- Terence and Patrick Maguire.
Clonmany- John Devlin and family, 5.
Castleberg- Margaret Kealy, 4;
Dungiven- John McConnell, James and Isabella Boyd, James Kealy.
Derry- Lety Henderson.
County Fermanagh- Jane Flanagan and family, 8; James Caldwell, 9;
Kilmacrenan- Margaret McGettigan and family, 7; Patrick Kelly, 3; John McDermott, 7; William McElhenny, 2; Edward McGettigan, 6; James Bradley, Michael and Margaret McGinley, John Gallagher.
Letterkenny- Brian Donnell and family, 5.
Limavady- John Riddles and family, 2; Matthew Miller, Sarah Magill, 3; James Wright, Jane Harper and family; David Steen, 6.
Omagh- Anne Alone.
Strabane- Hugh McCrossen and family, 3; John Dixon, 7; Robert Blair, 4; Sarah Smith, James McCrea, 10.

all of them agree in saying that he was a person of great nautical skill, presence of mind, and the strictest sobriety.
 After a minute inspection of the chart by which the unfortunate vessel must have steered, the theory we have stated is, we think, the only one that can in fairness be adopted. In justice to the owners to the **Exmouth** and the memory of her unfortunate Captain, we have to make the following statement on the most indubitable authority. Before she sailed she was regularly inspected and surveyed by Lieutenant Ramsey, government emigration agent at this port, and accordance with the 12th section of the passengers act, and found by them to be tight, strong, and in every way well equipped for the service in which she was engaged. By her tonnage she might, by law, have carried 191 adult passengers, and she had on board 208, but, deducting those under one year of age, and counting every two of the children between one and fourteen years as one adult- which is in accordance with the terms of the act- the number, by legal computation, was just 167 1/2. There are Captains belonging, as Captain Booth did, to the port of Newcastle, and there are some of our own ship owners who also knew him well; and

Get the brain box going again! Our new season of 10-week courses willie Patton of The Raws, Castlefn, who used to be a member of the band before he took the Derry boat to Scotland. Apart from that, I know very little about the band. Perhaps some of our readers can help? If so, please contact Billy Patton at the Old Courthouse, Lifford. Tel. (074) 41733.

The photograph on the front page was lying around our house in Glasgow for years. It was an old postcard belonging to my father, Willie Patton of The Raws, Castlefn, who used to be a member of the band before he took the Derry boat to Scotland. Apart from that, I know very little about the band. Perhaps some of our readers can help? If so, please contact Billy Patton at the Old Courthouse, Lifford. Tel. (074) 41733.

'CREATE YOUR OWN PUPPET SHOW'
 MID-TERM SPECIAL EVENTS

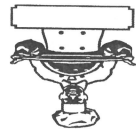
Following last year's Halloween and Christmas successes, The Ramblin Scallywags Puppet Theatre returns to the Courthouse with a couple of all-day workshops on the art of puppeteering. For details of their action-packed day of educational creativity see our advert on the back page.



Lifford/Clonleigh Community Link Group are holding a fundraising 'NIGHT AT THE RACES' in Harte's Bar on Feb 28th. For details tel. Mandi (41773) or Gillian (41733)

OLD COURTHOUSE EVENING CLASSES 2003

is as follows,
Tues. 4th Feb Spanish for Beginners 7.30-9.00pm €60
Beginners Guitar (12yrs plus) 8.00-8.45pm €90
Wed 5th Feb Painting 7.30-9.30pm €60
Reading Circle 7.30-9.30pm €60
Thur 6th Feb Dressmaking 7.30-9.30pm €90
Level 2 Spanish 8.00-9.30pm €100
 (Includes price of a workbook)
 NOTE: 50% deposit required to be secure your place. Remainder to be paid on 1st night
 For bookings phone 074 - 41733



What a terrific start to 2003 and Boy's O' Boy's are you in for a treat. If the road to the heart is through the stomach then you'll just love the new menu devised by our newly appointed highly experienced head chef. A modest man, who doesn't wish to be named at present, he puts his good name and

The Courthouse Restaurant

upon the immense number of wrecks that occur in our mercantile navy. On that subject we ourselves had prepared some remarks, which we find we must withhold for the present. But as to the censures, more or less grave, which have been pronounced on Captain Booth, we cannot allow ourselves to maintain silence even for a day. We have no wish to question the veracity of the survivors of the crew; but it is really not to be supposed that, in the gloom of the tempest and the cloud of the night, their observations of what was passing could have been very accurate; and what they have said of Captain Booth's intentions may be safely set down as their own conjectures. Of their liability to commit mistakes we may judge from this, that writers, in a perfectly undisturbed state of mind, have, upon this subject, made statements, of the inaccuracy of which they might have easily satisfied themselves by a little enquiry. For example, one of them assumes that the lights upon the Rhinns of Islay and Tory island are 100 miles distant from each other, whereas the distance is only 66, one light to the other bearing $W \frac{1}{4} N$; and another, seeing the Rhinns light, named "Orisay" on the chart – for so it is sometimes called from a rock near to it so named – mistakes that rock for the island of Oransay, which is considerably to the northward. Such errors as these are, in themselves, of

little moment; but become important by being speculated on as facts. The *Examiner* thinks that Captain Booth is only to be blamed for having tried to gain a harbour, when the wind set from the north, instead of keeping out to sea; but according to what may be called the intrinsic evidence of the case, his design was to keep out to sea until the storm subsided, which was frustrated by causes far beyond his control. The *Times*, again, makes its witnesses say what is manifestly absurd. It represents the *Exmouth*, on leaving the Foyle, as having run N.W. 19 hours; and then, the wind changing to the north, run 48 hours, her head being S.E. By our calculation, she could not have sailed during the 19 hours at a less rate than 5 knots per hour, or 95 miles in all. At the end of that time she would have been off Tory island, bearing S.E. $\frac{1}{2} S$, distance 60 miles. By the same calculation, during the run of 48 hours, with her head to the S.E. both wind and sea being in her favour, she would have sailed, even under bare poles, at the rate of at least 8 knots an hour, or 440 miles, had there been sea room in that direction, and must have fetched the Clyde in twenty – four hours! It is quite apparent to us then, under the circumstances, that when the wind shifted to the north, her sails having been blown away, the *Exmouth* must have lain to and drifted, which, from the state of the weather and current, could not have

reputation where it matters – on your plate. Why not pay us a visit and try it out for yourself. Our restaurant is open daily MON-FRI 9.00am – 5.00pm, with special lunchtime menu 1200-2.00pm and look out for the date of our re-launch of SUNDAY LUNCH. We'll keep you posted on the details.



EMIGRATION TO AMERICA



JAMES MCCAULEY

Continuing our series on the experiences of James McCauley. This interview was conducted by Sean O hEochaidh in March 1955 and transcribed as MS 1411 pp317-321. It is reproduced by kind permission of the Head of the

Department of Irish Folklore, University College Dublin and James McCauley's grandson, Peter Donaghy, Ballybofey.



"I was bred and born in the parish of Glenties in the townland of Meenaleenaghan, and when I was a youngster I mind seein' the neighbours aroun' the district leavin' in scores at that time an' goin' out to America. Both boys and girls went. The age at which most of these were at the time was aroun' thirty years of age.

The custom was in our place at the time – now I'm talkin' of seventy years ago – these boys and girls, or most of them anyhow, left home at ten, twelve and fourteen years of age and they went down to a hirin' fair in Tyrone, to the town of Strabane.

The' used to be a hirin' marked there for these youngsters – both boys and girls. The farmers used to come in on the twelfth of May – that was the day set for hirin' an' they would hire for the six months up until the twelfth of November. Those were the two set days for the year. They spent their time there with them farmers – the girls milkin' cows.

The Famine and the Exmouth

In some of our earlier editions of the 'Old Courthouse News' we have told you of the terrible years of the 'Famine' and all the awful things that went along with it, the bad weather of that year being just one of them. We have come across terrible tragedies in old newspapers from that time during our research. One such incident we told you about was the loss of the 'Exmouth', in April 1847. There were 208 on board when it set sail from Derry bound for Quebec. All on board died except for three of the crew.

LOSS OF THE "Exmouth" - We have given, from the 'Glasgow Herald' a very detailed account of this terrible shipwreck, as supplied to it by the three survivors of the crew. The 'Times', we observe, and some other London journals, have commented on the tragical occurrence, the 'Times especially using it as a text for a discourse



another brother or sister, and take them across, an' that was how most of them went away in them times.



. Moreover, them that was workin' or got employment before they went, it was only hardship, because the people that had them employed, whether they were able to afford it or not, they gave them very poor feedin'. I heard my own father sayin' that when he was young, he was hired for some mention of money but that wasn't the worst. I heard him sayin' that in the evenin' when the days work should be finished and he had to take the run of the mountain to see about sheep, he used to go into the cabbage garden in the summertime and blade down a few leaves of the cabbage and ate the cabbage stalks on his way up the mountain to help him over the course of the mountain?.



(To be continued)



left his wife and two young sons, and when he went to America he be to forget about her and he never returned nor she never heard anything more about him. That was the only one case of the kind that I know. As I have said, it was very rarely that a married couple would go away. Whenever they got married they settled down, an' they always tried to do the best they could. It was often a hard struggle, but they had to do their best and leave the rest to God.

In the majority of cases the boys went away first, and very often if they were great with a girl before they left home, after a year or two, and writin' to one another, he would send the girl's passage and the both of them would get married. I knew lots of boys who brought their lady loves out in that way.

The reason of course that so many of these boys and girls left this parish of ours in those days was because they couldn't get employment, or even if they did get getting' nothin' for it. It was next to workin' for nothin'. There was no wages but somethin' that you would be ashamed to mention. They heard about America then an' that there was plenty of employment, and a good number of dollars per week to be earned, and when the eldest boy of a family went out he wouldn't be long out there until he would see the good of it, and he would write for

Each farmer had it pointed out for them that each girl would have to milk eight cows. The boys then had to learn to cart with horses an' do the farming work. But when they put in a number of years at this they got tired of it, and they earned some little money, an' perhaps they seen their way of payin' their way to go to America.

Now these boys couldn't stay at home. Their farms were very small and they weren't able to support the large families that were brought up on them. The only thing left for them then was to leave home and try to earn their fortune in America. That was the reason they left so

young. When they would make up their minds to go an' pay their passage - the passage at the time, as far as I remember, was from three poun' to three poun' ten. There were no passports, no nothin' needed then. They just got a ticket and went on the nearest boat and that was all was to it.

Most of the people that I saw goin' to America were all single men and girls. Once a man got married and settled down it was rarely he left home, in my young days. I know one married man who left, an' he

