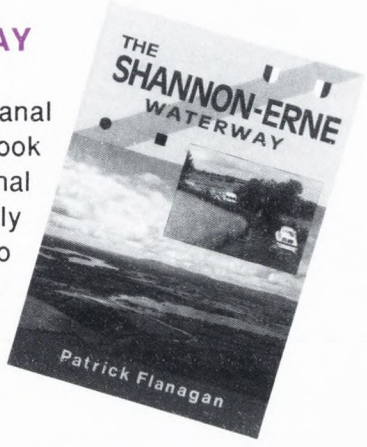
BOOKS ABOUT LEITRIM

Book Revws

Brief Reviews By Sean O Suilleabháin

New publications, once a rarity, are now coming out on different aspects of Leitrim at a continuous rate. These are some of the 1994 publications.

THE SHANNON - ERNE WATERWAY
Patrick Flanagan



If the restored Ballinamore - Ballyconnell Canal is a splendid job, so too is Patrick Flanagan's book on the Canal. Patrick wrote the history of the canal in the early 1970s and at that time he surely never thought there would ever be a need to revise it. However strange things do happen sometimes and the restored canal deserved a new revised edition and Patrick Flanagan has provided that.



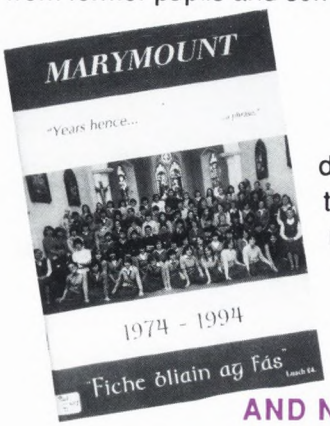
CAVAN & LEITRIM RAILWAY: GUIDE BOOK AND STOCK LIST

The group of people working on the restoration of the old Cavan and Leitrim Railway at Dromod are doing excellent work and they produced this booklet to further their cause. It gives a short history of the old railway and details of the collection of old railway stock they are building up.

DEIREADH RÉ: CARRICK-ON-SHANNON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL 1932-1994



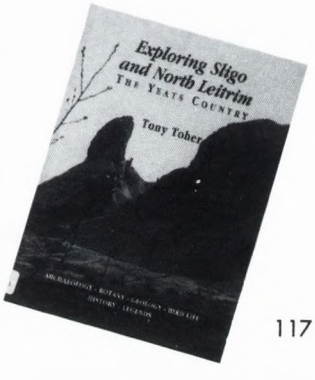
The new Community School in Carrick-on-Shannon meant the demise of two old schools in the town. The Vocational School produced an excellent publication on the 60 plus years of their school's existence. There are some lovely interviews from former pupils and some good photographs.



MARYMOUNT 1974 - 1994

Not to be outdone, Marymount College also produced an excellent publication on their school's history. Brilliantly produced and with a wealth of material on all aspects of the school's history.

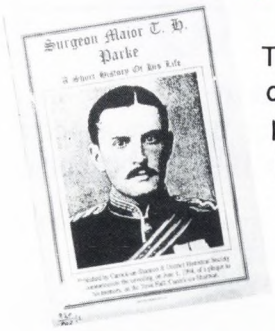
EXPLORING SLIGO AND NORTH LEITRIM
by *Tony Toher*



Last year the North Leitrim Glens organisation brought out a book of walking routes through North Leitrim. This book details some North Leitrim Routes too.

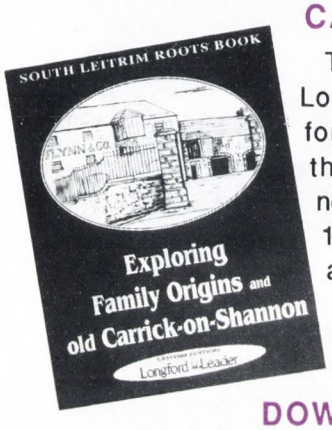
SURGEON MAJOR T.H. PARKE: A SHORT HISTORY OF HIS LIFE

by ***Des Smith***



This booklet was published to coincide with the unveiling of a plaque at the Town Hall to the memory of Thomas H. Parke. It is published by Carrick-on-Shannon and district Historical Society who erected the plaque.

EXPLORING FAMILY ORIGINS & OLD CARRICK-ON-SHANNON



This book by Noel Farrell from Longford is full of family details for the parish of Killoghert and the town of Carrick-on-Shannon. It contains details from the 1901 and 1911 census as well as a number of other sources.

DOWN ALL THE DAYS: THE STORY OF CARRICK ROWING CLUB

Carrick Rowing club is the oldest sporting club in Co. Leitrim, indeed possibly the oldest organisation in the County. Some believe the club was founded in the 1830's, there certainly is documented reports from the 1850's. This book is a wonderful read even if you know little about rowing and it is full of nostalgic articles about a club that is very much part and parcel of the Carrick-on-Shannon scene. Researched, compiled and edited by Des Smith, it contains over one hundred photos, old and new, many articles and some short stories.

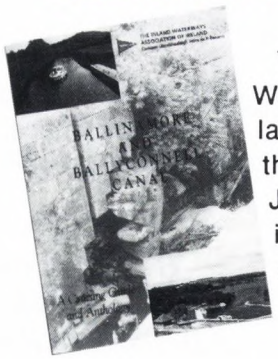


NAVIGATIONAL GUIDE TO THE SHANNON ERNE WATERWAY



The Office of Public Works have produced fine charts for those who are taking a trip down the Canal. Even if you never travel the Canal they are worth looking at.

CRUISING GUIDE AND ANTHOLOGY OF THE BALLINAMORE AND BALLYCONNELL CANAL



This book by the Inland Waterways Association of Ireland came out to coincide with the major rally on the Canal in June 1994. It contains much information on the towns along the Canal.

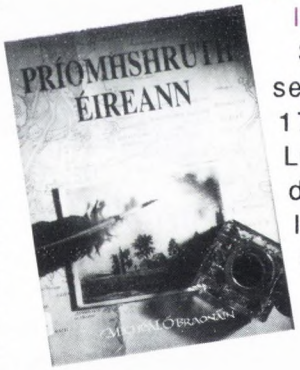
ST. JOSEPHS CHURCH LEITRIM VILLAGE



This small booklet was produced for the re-dedication of the church at Leitrim. It contains many nice articles and photographs of the area.

PRIOMHSHRUTH ÉIREANN

le ***Micheál Ó Braonáin***



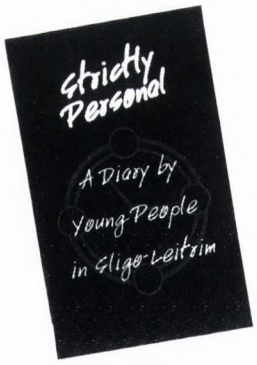
Scríobh Micheál an dán fada seo ar abhainn na Sionainne i 1794. D'fhoilsigh Bardas Luimní an leabhar seo leis an dán agus leagan Béarla de. Tá go leor áiteanna i gContae Liatroma luaite ann.

GLENFARNE GAA: *A Time to Remember*



Glenfarne GAA club re-openend their fine pitch in 1994 and produced a beautiful booklet to go with it. Many nostalgic articles from football days gone by.

A DIARY OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN SLIGO /LEITRIM



A most unusual and novel idea, this book in the form of extracts from diaries, contains many from pupils in Marymount College Carrick-on-Shannon.

Among other books not concerning Leitrim but by Leitrim writers were a new book from Séamus O'Neill of Carrigallen called **"Essential Spreadsheet Skills"** and a new edition of Michael O'Rourke's book on **Careers.**

Buying Local Publications

Many people find it difficult to get local publications because very often they circulate locally and are not available in shops. People will be glad to know that places that specialise in local Leitrim publications and have them for sale are Leitrim Genealogy Centre in Ballinamore and the Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre in Drumshanbo.

IN THE SHADOW OF BENBULBEN



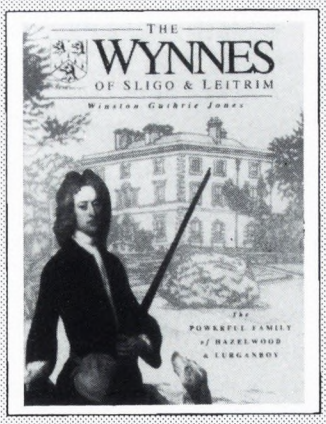
By Sligo man *Joe McGowan*, this is a collection of history and anecdotes of the northern part of the legendary 'Yeats Country' over looked by famed "bare Benbulben's head".

The author paints a vivid picture of growing up among the hardy seafarers of his native Mullaghmore and the book also ranges across topics from the Spanish Armada and de Cuellar's flight ; coffin ships & famine; gun runners and Land Leaguers, United Irishmen to Sir Frederick Hamilton's depredations on the surrounding countryside. The famous Fr Michael O'Flanagan's involvement in Cliffoney's land fight, the Civil War and the assassination of Lord Mountbatten at Mullaghmore are all dealt with.

Praise has been fulsome. Comments have ranged from, " a true labour of love ... a treasure trove of fact, anecdote, folklore and legend; a magnificent volume of research... packed with facts, figures, maps and photographs, stories, legends and history" by the the Sligo Champion to, "extremely well produced book, bulging with lively reading on the past," from Books Ireland.

Copies may be had from selected bookstores, from Drumlin Publications, Manorhamilton and from Joe McGowan, Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo. The hardback sells at £16.95 and paperback at £9.95.

THE WYNNES OF SLIGO AND LEITRIM



ON 22ND JULY, the Mayor of Sligo, Sheila Hanley officially launched a new book on the history of the Sligo-Leitrim area entitled "The Wynnes of Sligo and Leitrim" the book is a chronicle of the powerful Wynne Family who held the great estates of Hazelwood and Lurganboy. The Wynnes lived at Hazelwood in Co. Sligo but held extensive lands in Rossinver, Killasnet, Killanummery and Drumlease.

The author skillfully traces the fortunes of the Wynnes: from their Welsh origins to their acquisition of property in Ireland and finally to the sale of their lands in the 20th century. The relationship of landlord and tenant and the social, cultural and political contribution of the family are comprehensively explored in the work. A feature of the book is the appearance of previously unpublished letters of Sir Robert Reel, Land Palmerston and Lord Leitrim.

The author Winston Guthrie Jones is a Welsh speaking Welshman. Born in 1914 he was educated at the University of Wales and at Cambridge. During the Second World War he served as Captain in Royal Artillery, chiefly in the Middle East, Italy and Yugoslavia. Thereafter he practised at the English Bar, becoming a Q.C. in 1963. In 1978 he married Janet L'Estrange and now lives in Culleenamore.

Cover design of the book is by Sligo native Conor Gallagher of Eycon Graphics Dublin. "The Wynnes of Sligo and Leitrim" is published by Drumlin Publications, Manorhamilton.

The Book is priced at £4.99 and $ 15 US (incl. airmail post & packing) and is available in bookshops or direct from Drumlin Publications, Nure, Manorhamilton.

Úna F. De Breadún reviews...

St Molaise

of Inishmurray

by Denis Molaise Meehan, O.S.B.

Great credit must be given to Fr. Meehan who undertook the task of writing this 40 page pamphlet especially since the main thrust of its contents is to argue that Molaise of Inishmurray and Molaise of Devenish are one and the same man. Younger history scholars might be more reluctant to make such an assertion.

Being a member of the O'Meehan clan he dives into his subject with enthusiasm quoting regularly from the documentary evidence associated with Molaise. In the Donegal Martyrology compiled in 1950 by the celebrated analyst Micheál Ó Cléirigh (one of the Four Masters) seven distinct Molaises are listed and O Cléirigh distinguished Molaise of Devenish and Molaise of Inishmurray giving them different genealogies and different feast days (–Sept 12th for Molaise of Devenish and Aug 12th for Molaise of Inishmurray). However, Fr. Meehan while recognising Michéal Ó Cléirigh's martyrology concludes that it was the same Molaise who founded both Inishmurray and Devenish and goes on to say that "Everything fits except the genealogies and the feast days."!

In the early chapters he writes "Now the Meehans were coarbs not of Molaise of Devenish but of Molaise of Inishmurray without indicating how he comes to this conclusion. An interesting chapter follows outlining the significance of coarbship or erenachship. Other subjects treated are Inishmurray, soiscéal Mholaise the Meehans of Ballaghameehan and The Bog Oak statue.

Bearing in mind the entire chapter which Philip O'Connell (in his book 'The Diocese of Kilmore') devotes to *"St Mogue in Drumlane and Rossinver"* it is difficult to comprehend how Fr Meehan could write the following in the introductory chapter "Thus the Meehans at Ballaghameehan up to the beginning of the nineteenth century were probably entrusted with the care of the 'old Church', the ruins of which still stand in the cemetery in Rossinver". The 'old church' in fact was the church of St Mogue (a contemporary and fellow student of St Molaise at St Finian's school in Conard) the coarbs of which were the Fergusons and not the Meehan St Molaises church, cemetery and Holy Well were located in Dernahemrick.

Unfortunately words such as presumably, conceivably, probably, possibly etc. abound throughout the work and serve only to remind us that there is no place for an act of faith in authentic history.

Illustrations are by Sinéad Meehan-Bradley.

BOOK PREVIEW

The Face Of Time

The Photographs of Leland Lewis Duncan taken in Co. Leitrim (1889 - 1894).

Introduction By: Liam Kelly.

Foreword By: John McGahern.

Publishers: Lilliput Press.

Publication Date: Autumn 1995.

LELAND LEWIS DUNCAN was born in Lewisham, Kent, in 1862. His father was a civil-servant. Duncan and his two younger sisters enjoyed a secure middle-class Victorian upbringing. In 1882 he entered the War Office as a clerk. He gradually rose through the ranks in the War Office and was awarded an M.V.O. and an O.B.E. for his services there. He was a private, courteous and sensitive man. He never married. His spare time was spent researching and writing history, gathering folklore and taking photographs.

His sister Carrie married their Irish first cousin, James Slacke, of Annadale in Co. Leitrim, and during the 1880's and 1890's Duncan spent most of his summer holidays there. The Slackes were one of the landed gentry families in the county. While in Leitrim Duncan listened to the stories of, and collected folklore from the servants and tenants at Annadale. But his greatest contribution to Irish History was this collection of photographs he took there between 1889 and 1894. He photographed the big house and the mud cabin, the well dressed planter's daughter and the impoverished peasant. He photographed and meitheal of men drinking Guinness after the rick of hay is finished and the straw-boy dressed for the wedding party. He photographed the woman at her spinning wheel, the barefooted postboy and the big-boned blacksmith. There are pictures of the narrow-gauge train and Arigna mines. This remarkable collection of approximately 200 photographs gives a complete social history of the county in late Victorian times.

ALSO FROM DRUMLIN

BETWEEN THE JIGS & THE REELS: The Donegal fiddle playing tradition — *Caoimhín Mac Aoidh* **£9.99**

THE NORTH LEITRIM HISTORY SERIES

No 1:	**Famine Times**	**£3.00**
No2	**Land League Times**	**£3.00**
No 3:	**Land War & Fall of Parnell**	**£3.50**
No 4:	**First Sinn Féin Election 1908.**	**£4.99**

Dromahaire: Story & Pictures **£5.00**

Memories: Lily O'Hagan (Leitrim poetry) **£5.00**

My Cousin Jimmy *(The story of James Gralton)* **£3.50**



An Old Country Priest Examines His Conscience

Life here is built on ritual –
Rituals of the Church, rituals of the land –
The codes by which men know where they stand.
    'Normal' is a blessing eagerly given,
    'God' an uneasy bedfellow treated
    As cautiously as a nosey neighbour.
Cushioned on a bed of petty expectations
My ways have grown lazy –
A comfort seeded in quiet seclusion.
    Weekly, I polish the platitudes
    For another Sunday stroll; sermons
    That soothe the surface of my solitude.
Christenings, weddings, sick-calls, funerals –
The season of my years – a world
That turns in ever-tightening circles.
    Sitting in a darkened box
    I am a blank screen on which
    My parishioners project forbidden lives –
Dark inner lives thriving in secret
Beneath the skin of respectability.
We are voyeurs to our own perversions.
    Have I failed them? Was I ever a part
    Of their lives? I did all that was required
    But never, regrettably, more than that.
Now, this once, I have to confess
That a life lived within its own limits
Is a life that never grows to know itself.
    I don't want to be another doting preacher
    Over-reluctant to meet his maker –
    Ending my days haunting some private purgatory.
But I have spent so long imitating them
My soul is a bazaar of cars and golf and hotel dinners –
God departed in a dust-trail of duty and inattention.
    To begin again now means the past is a joke.
    Can I cope, who is so unaccustomed to laughter.
    Oh, let me be foolish like never before –
Grant me the strength, if it is not too late,
To question everything I've done; to repent
The sin of having taken too much on faith.

Jim King.