

KEADY : 100 YEARS AGO.



WITH EXTRACTS FROM

THE PARISH RECORDS, 1780-1870.



BY

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PREFACE.

OME years ago a series of articles—"Keady : 100 Years Ago"—appeared in the "Ulster Gazette" and "Armagh Guardian." These have been re-written, and much new matter added. The extracts from the Parish Records — voices out of the past — speak for themselves.

My best thanks are due to Francis Joseph Bigger, M.R.I.A. (who, in many ways, — by written word and deeds — has shown us the proper spirit in which to approach the past) for very kindly reading the proofs.

H J. DOBBIN.

RATHCARBERY HOUSE, KEADY,
Christmas, 1921.

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KEADY: 100 YEARS AGO.



THE TOWN OF KREADY (*Ceide* or *Ceidach* flat-topped hill), in the Parish of Keady (described in a family document (1724), in the writer's possession, as being "situate and lying in the Manor of Toaghy (1), and County of Armagh"), lies in a cup-shaped hollow surrounded by hills, and viewed from the highest of these, **Drumbunion** (863 ft.), it has the appearance

(1) Dr. O'Donovan, the great Irish archaeologist, says—"Toaghy, once a territory, now a Manor, which comprised the N.W. portion of Armagh, the property of Owen MacHugh (O'Neill) MacNeale More, and used by him to give unto the captains of his gallowglasses for their entertainment and Bonagh." Toaghy was forfeited with other lands of "The O'Neil," and the Manor granted to **Trinity College**. The memory of this great and princely family is perpetuated in the townland of **Racarbry** (Rathcarbry), once the property of Carbery O'Neil, and on part of which a portion of Keady is built.

Con O'Neill, of Toaghy, was M.P. for the City of Armagh in King James's Parliament, 1689. The tithes of the forty-eight townlands of Toaghy went to the Culdees of Armagh; they also, at one time, held the Rectory and Vicarage of "**Derrinoose**" ; so, apparently, at that period, they were the spiritual advisers of the people of Keady.

The Manor (still held under Trinity College) came into the possession of the Farnham family through the marriage of the Hon. Barry Maxwell (afterwards Lord Farnham) with a daughter of Robert King. This Robert King resided at **The Castle, Ravenhill**, about a mile from the town. Not a trace of the building remains though some of the walls were standing within the memory of men now living.

This Lord Farnham was the last **Lord of the Manor**, as he divided the Manor and sold a portion of it. His **Senechal** was Samuel Cuming — a character sketch of him appears in **Dr. Dickson's "Narrative."**

In 1863 the remaining portion of the Manor was divided into several lots and sold by the Fox family (kinsmen of Lord Farnham), the principal lots being purchased by William Kirk, D.L., Annvale.

of a snug, compact, and picturesque town, well sheltered on all sides with its protecting barrier of hills.

The present town, with its modern business premises, has a very different appearance from the Keady of 1818, with its small old-time houses, mostly all of which were thatched.

A very good description of the town in the early part of the last century is given by Coote (*Survey of Armagh, 1804*). He says :—

"The only town or village west [south-south-west] of Armagh and about 6 miles distance is Keady, where there is little else to recommend it in its present state than a very good Church.

"Its natural situation is favourable, having a fine stream, the river Callan intersecting the town.

"On this water are numerous Bleach-greens and Mills from hence to Armagh ; this appearance of wealth and commerce is very engaging, and the busy scenes on these banks are enlivened with many ornamental improvements The river Callan flows between lofty banks contiguous to the village of Keady, or rather in a deep and narrow glen ; in these banks are indications of several minerals, as lead-ore, manganese, and ochres. . . . The country in this vicinity toward Monaghan is wild and rude, but reclaiming fast.

"Land, within these 15 years past, has nearly doubled in value, and is now set at the average rate of 16/- per acre, though without limestone ; it has been within the memory of the present age almost all in heath and absolute waste."

The town then consisted of Church Street (which included the present Market Street), Main Street (now Kinelown Street), Bridge Street, Madden Bow, some houses round the Pair Green (now Cow Pair), and a lane (1) leading to the Presbyterian Church (2) then lately built.

(1) The lane (mentioned in Dr. Dickson's "NARRATIVE") referred to is now the entry between the premises of W. S. Graham and G. M'Bride, J.P., in Market Street. It then led to the Meeting-House, but has been long closed to the public.

(2) The Presbyterian Church was built in 1803 at a cost of

St. Patrick Street (formerly Chapel Street), Davis Street (formerly Meeting Street), New Row, Lir Street (1) (originally Dobbin Street, changed to Victoria Street, and again changed to Lir Street), were not in existence at that date.

The aspect of the country round the town must have been anything but inviting. The hills were covered with heather and bog ; and turf was cut in those days on places that are now within the town boundary. Stuart, notes the large quantity of turf from Keady exposed for sale in Armagh market, and remarks that :—

"Turbary is scarce and dear." Dear ! at 2/- a load. In these days of coal strikes how one wishes those "dear" times were here again.

Coal ("Sea-coal" was the term then) was practically unknown ; turf being universally used for fuel by the Linen Bleachers (and, according to Coote, they used immense quantities) as well as the rest of the population.

Then, as now, Linen Manufacture (2) was the staple

over £1,000. The first minister was the celebrated Dr. W. Steel Dickson, well known in connexion with the rebellion of '98. The Government of the day refused him a share of the Royal Bounty (Regium Donum) on account of his political views. A full account of his arrest and imprisonment is given in his "Narrative." He retired in 1815 and died in Belfast in 1824. His grave in Clifton Street graveyard, Belfast, remained unmarked and uncared for until a few years ago when, through the generosity of F. J. Bigger, M.R.I.A. (the well-known Ulster Antiquary), a headstone was erected, with a suitable inscription, to mark the last resting-place of a man who had played a not inconsiderable part in the public affairs of his country, in the troublous times of the closing years of the 18th century.

(1). Changed to Rathcarbery Street, 1921.

(2)."In spinning linen-yarn some of the industrious females of this country have attained an almost unparalleled degree of perfection — a hank of yarn, spun by Catherine Woods, of Dunmore, near Ballynahinch, a girl about 15 years, which weighed exactly 10 grains, giving above 700 hanks to the avourdupois pound of flax. These would make a thread 2,521,440 yards in length, 17 lbs. 6 ozs. 3 drams of this yarn would contain a thread 24,912 English miles in length, equal to the circumference of the earth. [This would be about 8,400 leas or cuts per lb.—yarn almost as fine as the thread of a spider's web ; while the

industry of Keady ; but the operations of spinning and weaving were all carried out in the homes of the workers. Almost every house had its loom, sometimes 3 or 4, or more. As the price of a handloom was only about 30/- the cost of the plant necessary to equip a workshop was not very formidable. Coote, remarks how unhealthy the trade had become through the effect of the Window Tax :— "It is to be regretted that the weaver is obliged to shut up so many windows and chimneys of his house to evade the taxes, as in many of these cottages there is no admittance of air but through the door."

Steam Power and modern machinery were altogether beyond the conception of the linen trade of that date. Stuart, a very observant writer, says :— "It is not at all necessary to the advancement of that trade that either the spinner or the weaver should be collected into overgrown cities or congregated into crowded and unwholesome factories. Those branches of the linen business which are their peculiar concern can be perfectly well managed in their respective cabins."

"The linen weavers of Ulster, unlike the mere manufacturers of Great Britain, are free agents whose employments are diversified and rational. They are sometimes engaged in the labours of the loom and sometimes in the cultivation of their farms, and in this voluntary alteration of business they find health and recreation." These ideas regarding the Factory System and the weavers being free agents were exploded long ago, and nowadays we have workers congregated in our local factories which are, however, neither overcrowded nor unhealthy — quite the reverse.

finest spun by modern machinery is about 400 leas. The manager of a large flax-spinning concern, an authority on these matters, told me he was rather sceptical about this performance. He said that the feat would be impossible, even if the fibre used had been equal in quality to the finest Courtrai flax grown.]

The finest piece of cambric perhaps ever manufactured in Ireland was sold in 1794 in Lurgan market. It counted 2,700 warps and 3,000 woof, and was valued at £25 sterling. The extremes of the manufacture are from 700 to 2,400."— Stuart's, Armagh.

The Bleach-Greens at Annvale (1), Newholland (2), Darkley, and Tassagh gave employment to a large number of people ; the bleaching of a web of linen in those days requiring almost as many months as it takes days now. The bleachers attended the Armagh market and purchased the unbleached linen in the open air. A writer of that date says :— "The buyers stand on stools or forms and the webs are handed round to them by the weavers and examined in the full glare of day."

The Keady Linen Company's Factory (3) at Keady was then a grain mill owned by Lee M'Kinstry.

Several industries flourishing at this period have since become extinct, viz., Nail-making and Blue-dyeing. These were then important trades employing a good many people.

There was also a Chandler's Shop, a thing unknown to the present generation, where tallow candles, rosin slots, and farthing dips (all made on the premises) were on sale, as well as extinguishers, snuffers, and large candlesticks which stood on the floor. These latter were not unlike the modern standard lamp in shape, but not quite so elaborate, and were in great demand, as was also the then almost indispensable tinder-box. As paraffin oil was altogether unknown, a chandler's business was a thriving one, though most of the country people made their own candles and rush-lights.

The custom then universally practised of "raking the fire" obviated the use of fire lights. Many turf fires were thus kept alive for generations. In a house belonging to one of the writer's family the fire in the kitchen was kept continually burning for over 100 years in this way.

(1) David Bleakley founded the bleaching business at Tullynamallogue (now Annvale) in 1752.

(2) Newholland was then owned by the Holmes family, the pioneers of the bleaching trade in the district. A review of the bleaching trade early in the last century records that "the bleach-greens of Messrs. Holmes are the most considerable in the (Keady) district."

(3) This was originally the Manor grain mill, and tenants were bound by a covenant in their leases to grind the corn used on the premises at this mill, and in default to pay a penalty of 5/-.

Lead Mining was carried on very extensively in the district, the largest pits being at Curryhughes and Drumbunion. Coote, describes them as being "very rich lead mines," and states that "samples of the ore are in the Dublin Society's Museum." Fine specimens of quartz crystal were then occasionally met with in the neighbourhood. One described as "a magnificent and valuable specimen of pure quartz crystal" was found in "The Spout" (a glen near the town) by a girl named Peggy Corvan. It passed into the possession of the late Dr. Colvan, of Armagh.

There was a School close to the gate of the Parish Church, and the school garden now forms part of the graveyard. The scholars sat on "creepy" stools, and each brought a few turf every day as a contribution towards the heating of the school. There were no doubt "Hedge Schools," but I can find no record of them.

The Post Office was in Church Street (now Market Street), and the postage on a letter to Dublin was the modest sum of 8d. Needless to say the work of the postmaster was not very laborious.

The Mail Coach (1) from Dublin to Armagh passed through the town at 4.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays ; and from Armagh to Dublin at 6.30 a.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

It is very hard to realise in these days of motor traffic the difficulties of a journey to Dublin a century ago, and the cost of carriage of goods, when a horse and cart took a week on the road getting there ; but that the traffic was pretty extensive may be inferred from the fact that over 100 horses were employed for that purpose in Keady.

The fact that practically every web of linen bleached in Darkley had to be carted from Armagh, via the old Cross-keys, to Keady, and then up the Stony Brae to

(1) The route during the summer of 1818 was through Keady, up Church Street, and over the Man-o'-War, to Castleblaney, and not the official route, via Newtownhamilton, as given in the Dublin Directory for that year.

Darkley, will give an idea of the conditions of transport in those days.

Keady shopkeepers got their supplies chiefly from Newry and Dublin.

Bakers' bread was sent once a week from Dundalk on pack-horses.

The nearest approach to Local Government (the Town Commissioners (1) were first elected in 1862) was the Parish Vestry, held annually on Easter Monday, when the parishioners met for the purpose of electing churchwardens and applotting the cess, and they had at the same time an opportunity of airing their grievances.

The office of Churchwarden (2) was not confined to members of the Established Church, and in Keady, as elsewhere, other resident parishioners were frequently elected wardens. This arrangement ceased when the Church was disestablished.

The records of the Vestry show that they paid for coffins for the poor, the nursing of orphan children, the conveyance of sick people to hospital; and in some cases provided pipes and tobacco for wakes.

There is an entry showing the payment of 9s. 2d. to a person in "great distress." Why not have made it the even 10s.? Of course all the parishioners were entitled to these benefits.

Among the annual disbursements were the following :—

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| The Parish Clerk (John Beatty) | ... | ... | £9 | 2 | 0 |
| The Sexton (John Hunter) | ... | ... | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Schoolmaster for teaching Sunday School (3) | | | | | |
| (Mr. Lennon) | ... | ... | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| Approvers' Fees (G. Cuming) | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Laundress for Church Linen (Aby. Rolston) ... | ... | ... | 1 | 10 | 0 |

(1) The first Commissioners elected were :— Henry Kirk, Thomas Small, Dr. John Dobbin, Joseph Graham, James Jelly, Henry Kelly, John M'Grath, Thos. Raverty, and Wm. Hoste M'Kean. These men served the town faithfully and well, and are still remembered with pride and respect by the old residents of Keady.

(2) See list page 26.

(3) The Temple Meeting-House Sunday School, founded by John Scott, had over 400 scholars.

At the Vestry, held in the Parish Church on Easter Monday in 1818, the Rector (1) (Rev. E. S. Roberts), presiding, John Rule and Jas. Kidd were elected churchwardens, the outgoing wardens being James Dobbin, jun., and Samuel Sturgeon. The Vestry clerk was George Cuming. His salary was £2 5s. 6d., while the churchwardens received one pound each. The Vestry thus anticipating Parliament in its payment of members by a hundred years.

It is really astonishing the number of people, considering the population at that date, that were buried by the parish in this and the previous year. It would lead one to conclude that nearly all the parishioners except the few well-to-do got "poor coffins." The prices of the coffins varied from 7s. 1d. to 11s. 6d.

At another meeting later in the year the sum of £2 10s. was voted to purchase 100 Copper Badges for the Poor.

The object of this seems to have been to put a stop to indiscriminate charity, and also to prevent foreign beggars poaching on the home preserves. Two men were appointed for each townland to recommend poor people for badges. John Kidd was appointed to procure the badges and also a book to enter the names of the poor recipients. One of the rules adopted by the Vestry was:— "That no drunkard, idle, or improperly behaved man or woman is on any account to receive badges. No person to beg on Sunday. The poor to be required to keep their persons and houses as clean as possible, and to attend public worship on Sundays." Another rule was — "That the Vestry will not give any charity to mendicants except those who have duly obtained badges from us. And, as if that were not enough, the unfortunate Badged-Beggars (2) were still further humiliated by the Vestry a few years later when it passed the following resolution :— "That no person should be assisted by them unless they

(1) See list page 25.

(2) It may be worth noting that — a wealthy man who died in New Orleans about twenty years ago was the son of a Badged-Beggar. A man, whose sister knew — told me that he seemed very eager to hear of anything concerning Keady in the days gone by. Apparently he was not aware of his father's avocation, and of course no one ever enlightened him on the matter.

have their badges suspended by a cord around their necks." There were probably few "jolly beggars" in those days ; at least one can't imagine any such folk going about with ropes round their necks. At any rate it is evident that Keady was not a poor man's paradise in those "good old days."

But it must not be assumed that the parish dealt more severely with its poor than other places. I believe that in Keady these rules were practically a dead letter, but in other parts of the country they were sternly and strictly enforced. This is not a pleasant picture of society in those days, but it brings home to us the awful condition of the poorer classes of the community **a Hundred Years Ago.**

Another item from the Vestry records deserves notice, although it appears in 1815 (3 years earlier than the period under review). A congratulatory address having been voted by the Vestry to the Rector (E. S. Roberts), in connection with the collection of Tithes, it was decided "that the same be published in the *Newry Telegraph*," and it was signed on behalf of the parish by THOMAS KIDD (1) and JAMES DOBBIN, jun. (2).

It may seem strange that the Vestry should insert this in a Newry paper ; but there was no newspaper published in Armagh at this time, and the *Newry Telegraph* (then under the editorship of James Stuart, the historian of Armagh) was the only paper circulating in the district. Wolfe's famous poem, "**The Burial of Sir John Moore,**" made its first appearance in print in this journal in 1817.

The Poor Law Act of 1834 relieved the Vestry from most of its onerous and sometimes thankless duties. The disestablishment of the Church in 1869 finally put an end to any civil powers it possessed at that date (3).

(1) Kinsman of D. Kidd, Tassagh House.

(2) The writer's grandfather (1780-1874).

(3) The last act of public importance of the Vestry was the appointment of **Overseers of Public Houses** (in accordance with the Licensing Act of 1836). These overseers had all the powers of Constables with regard to Public Houses. Any person elected an overseer by the Vestry and who failed to act was liable to a penalty of £1.

About sixty years ago the Vestry Book containing the minutes of the Vestry, 1780-1814, disappeared and is still missing. This is very unfortunate as it recorded the first meeting of the Vestry and contained many interesting facts in connection with the Parish. It was last seen in Rector Simpson's time.

The majesty of the law was upheld and enforced by one solitary Constable. The last to hold the office was a man named Rolston.

The Constable was a high and mighty personage in those days, wielding great power and authority (whether legally or not is another matter). He apparently possessed all the jurisdiction now exercised in Petty Sessions Courts in summary offences. In fact he dealt with all minor offences involving the punishment of being put in the Stocks ; all the graver offences being tried at Quarter Sessions. Petty Session Courts were not yet in existence.

The Constable's Deputy usually acted as Pound Keeper, an office not by any means a sinecure, as, owing to the bad fences, cases of trespass were an everyday occurrence, and the only redress was to impound the offending cattle.

The town was policed by the R.I.C. about 20 years later.

There were only two **Magistrates** in the parish, William Irwin, of Violet Hill (now Carnagh Ho.), and the Rector of Derrynoose, who held the appointment alternately with the Rector of Keady.

The **Parish Stocks** stood in the Market Square in front of the old Market-house. They were pulled down a few years before this, during a riot, when a famous local politician, who had been confined in them, was liberated by the mob, and they were never replaced.

A **Manor Court** for the recovery of debts under £2 was held monthly in the old Market-house, the Senechal presiding. These Courts were abolished about sixty years ago.

The **Old Market-house** served for many purposes. It was used as a Bridewell, a casual ward, and on one occasion, at least, as a cockpit.

Cockfighting was not then an offence, and was well

patronised by the bleachers and their workmen. It was prohibited by Act of Parliament about 30 years later.

The **Parish Church** (1) (St. Matthew's) must have looked very small and stunted in comparison with its present appearance, as it was not until four years later that the fine **Tower** and **Transept** were added to the original building. A small **Bell** (2) in a little belfry chimed the hours of service and of curfew. A Clock had been erected a few years before this, but for some reason, not stated, was afterwards taken down and sold. The **Trees** round the churchyard were planted in 1815 ; but the great beech half-way up the avenue must have been planted long before that.

The "Old Chapel" (3) (1786), described in a con-

(1) The **Parish of Keady** was formed out of Derrynoose by Orders in Council dated 7th May, 1773, and 23rd September, 1773. Another Order united part of Derrynoose to it on 12th August, 1780. On 12th October, 1773, Trinity College gave a lease of a small plot of land (la. Or. 28p.) for a site for a church and burial-ground. The Parish has since lost three townlands, these being given to Armaghbrague on the formation of that Parish. The Church was built by Primate Robinson (Lord Rokeye) in 1775 (he was also the donor of a very fine silver chalice) and consecrated in 1782. The first rector, Rev. S. Close (a kinsman of Lord Farnham) was appointed in 1780. Up to Disestablishment the Rector was appointed by the Primate.

(2) This bell was replaced a few years later by one which cost £22 18s. 1d. The present bell was erected in 1869 at a cost of £109 8s. 0d.

(3) "A list of the names of the Popish Parish Priests as they are registered at a General Sessions of the Peace, held at Lurgan, in and for the said County of Armagh, the tenth day of July, 1704*, and were returned up to the Council Office in Dublin, pursuant to a clause in the late Act of Parliament, intituled, an Act of Registering the Popish Clergy."

Hugh Quinn, Tassagh, 45 years (P.P.), of Tassagh [townland in Keady Parish], received Orders in the year 1670, at Strokestown, from Dr. Dominick Burke, etc.
* * * * *

Daniel MacKeogh, Cavagh [Camagh], 51 years [P.P.], of Derrynoose, received Orders in the year 1680, at in the County of, from Dr. Mark Forstall, Popish Bishop of Kildare.

"Stuarts, Armagh" (Coleman).

*I think it may be safely assumed that Keady (there is

temporary print as a "plain cruciform edifice," stood in the graveyard, the entrance being near the late J. Campbell's premises in Main Street. It has long since been replaced by the fine and spacious Church of St. Patrick.

Previous to the building of the "Old Chapel" Mass, was often celebrated beside a well, still known as the "**Altar Well,**" a short distance from where the old Gas Works stood ; a rocky ledge served as an altar. When I was a boy an old man showed me where the priest stood, and told me that when he was a child his father brought him there one day and pointed out the spot where, a generation before, he himself, as a boy, had served Mass.

The handsome and imposing Convent of the Poor Clare's was not built till near the close of the last century (it was completed in 1879).

It is hardly necessary to say that there was no Bank in the town, though gombeen men were plentiful enough.

There was no public lighting (1) or cleansing (2). The domestic water supply was obtained from springs in Newholland and "**The Spout,**" and a well in Church Street.

Fairs (3) were held on the second Friday of each month as at present. About thirty years prior to this there were only three fairs in the year, viz., 4th April, 14th August, and 14th October.

practically nothing known about its early history) was not a place of any importance at this time (1704), else it would have had either a Parish Priest or a Rector, if not both ; but it had neither, and the erection of the (then) Parish Church in Madden (1709) confirms this assumption. Keady at the close of the 17th century was probably a collection of a dozen or so cabins.

(1) The town was lighted by gas in 1851.

(2) The streets were covered with all sorts of filth and garbage, and cows, goats, pigs and donkeys were permitted to wander anywhere and everywhere at all hours both day and night.

(3) Coote gives the following list of fairs in 1803 :— Jan 17, Feb. 13, Mar. 17, April 4, June 4, July 5, August 15, October 14, November 17.

The fairs were then looked on as being places of amusement as well as business, and in the evenings things must have been lively enough. This was the time when black eyes and broken heads were the order of the day. It was quite a common thing on a fair day to see three or four coats being "trailed" across the fair green in different directions and a fight going on at the same time.

Markets (1) were held every Friday, the principles articles being linen-yarns, brogues, nails and tinware. These were exposed for sale on standings.

A Patron, or "pattern," as it was usually called, was held every summer on Drumbunion (2), where games and dancing occupied most of the evening. It was largely attended, people coming from a distance of ten and twelve miles. The occasion afforded great facilities for match-making, which were taken full advantage of. The last patron was held about seventy years ago.

The statement that Marriages were frequently solemnised and children baptised in public houses will no doubt be a surprise to some readers. Nevertheless, it is a fact. The public houses were open on Sundays from 2 o'clock, and drunkenness was not then an offence punishable by fine.

When a person died in those days the corpse was placed "underboard" and most of the neighbours ceased work until after the funeral. The coffin, with very rare exceptions, was carried to the graveyard. It was either borne shoulder high as at present, or placed on bearers and carried like a stretcher.

(1) Market prices :— Potatoes per stone. 2d. ; oatmeal per cwt., 9/- ; ale, quart, 2d. ; new milk, quart, 1d ; spades, 6/- ; shoes, 6/6 ; brogues, 5/- ; timber for a plough, 6/-.

(2) There is a very fine view from Drumbunion. much of Ulster being visible to the eye ; and one not quite so extensive from Pisgah, so called from the custom of the old-time Rectors, who were said to visit it regularly to view the promised land of Madden, the Keady Rectors being then frequently promoted to Derrynoose (Madden). (3)

The Culdean Cemetery (1) (Old Tassagh), about two miles from the town, was up to this period the principal burying-place (2) of the district for all creeds and classes, as with the exception of Derrynoose and The Temple all the other graveyards were of quite recent date and just only beginning to be used.

From the dawn of Christianity in Ireland up to the present day interments have taken place in this ancient burial place. In this spot, hallowed by the associations of a thousand years, the mortal remains of Chieftains and Warriors, Abbots and Priors, Bards and Holy Men of old mingle with the common dust. No memorials of the illustrious dead exist within the cemetery itself. I was told that there were headstones dating from the 17th century, but a cursory examination showed none earlier than the last century. Some of these have quaint inscriptions. One of them reads as follows :—

" This stone of memorial is erected in the year of our Lord, 1845, to the memory of John and Jane Magee by their son William, of the United States, America. It also is intended for the same to the memory of John and Robert Chambers, nature's noblemen, whose fostering kindness was early felt, and is still remembered. All their mortal remains are deposited near this place in expectation of a glorious resurrection."

" While filial remembrance prompts the tear,
Religion's sweetest hopes arise,
That they who once were happy here.
May meet again beyond the skies."

" To Jane, aged 11 months."

(1) **The Culdees** were secular Priests serving in the choir of the ancient Cathedral of St. Patrick at Armagh. Their Prior officiated as Precentor. The Armagh Priory was in Castle Street. Its large endowments were made over to the Vicars' Choral of Armagh in 1625. While excavating in their cemetery at Tassagh in 1824 a massive gold ring was found. It contained a large emerald in a rich setting.

(2) The Kidds, Dobbins, Magees, and other old Keady families buried here. The Irwins buried in Tynan, and the Holmes family in Madden.

Clea Lake, so tragically associated with the death of an Irish King (1) (Niall Caille), was well stocked with trout which were rather dark in colour, said to be the effect of the boggy nature of its shores, but large and well-flavoured. Shortly afterwards the pike were introduced into the lake where they have proved the truth of the law of the survival of the fittest, for at the present time not a trout is to be found between Keady Bridge and the upper end of the lake.

Somewhere (2) about the middle of the first half of last century (the exact date is uncertain) as the result of a cloudburst, the dam or "old rampart" gave way, and a huge volume of water poured with

(1) Stuart says :— "The Danes were completely overthrown. Those who survived the battle fled. . . . towards the River Callan. . . . Meanwhile a torrent of rain had fallen, and a sudden flood having descended from the mountain lakes near Keady, which are the sources of the Callan, the swollen river burst its usual bounds and interrupted the march of the victorious army in their progress to Armagh. At the foot of Tullachmore Hill Niall halted the troops who immediately accompanied his person. At his command one of his warriors endeavoured to pass the ford on horseback, but was instantly hurried from his steed by the impetuosity of the waters. Niall, who with strong emotions of pity saw him struggling for life, commanded his guard to make every effort for his preservation. In vain was the command. Terror fixed them to the spot immovable. The magnanimous King then dashed forward with a generous resolution to save his friend or perish in the attempt. As he approached the bank of the river, the ground, undermined by the torrent, sank beneath his horse's feet, and the monarch was precipitated into the flood, where death closed at once his career of victory and his life. He died A.D. 846, aged 55."

(2) The late Joseph Gibson, Dunlarge House, and the late John M'Cabe, Keady, often discussed this matter (and both of them had a wide knowledge and intimate acquaintance with Keady matters of a century ago), and, while agreeing as to the facts given above, differed as regards the date. M'Cabe was in his father's garden, near the Keady river, opposite the Meeting-House green, on the date of the occurrence. He told me he heard the roar of the torrent, when it must have been nearly half a mile distant, and instinctively guessed what had happened, at the same moment the rats left an old mill, close by, in swarms and almost covered the Meeting-House green. He said, "The flood came roaring down the valley and looked like a wall of water rushing on the town,"

irresistible force through the Callan Valley dealing death and destruction in its course. Trees were carried away and mill-wheels smashed up. A woman crossing the old Keady Bridge was swept away—(a few minutes later the bridge itself was destroyed)—and carried by the current to the weir ; she was then caught in the backwash and whirled against a paling, which she caught, and managed to scramble up the bank in safety. She maintained that her head had never gone under water during the whole of that time.

Immense damage was done about Annvale, and from there to Tassagh huge quantities of cloth were destroyed. Two lives were lost. Old people still refer to this catastrophe as "The breakin' of the rampar".

A Parliamentary election nowadays would appear a very tame affair to our great-grandfathers, who had to go to Armagh to record their votes, and considered themselves lucky if they arrived back in Keady with a whole skin, as the votes had to be recorded in open court, and large bodies of men armed with sticks held the front of the building. Those voting for a candidate disapproved of by the strongest faction undertook a risk.

Farming then was not given the same attention as nowadays. The wooden plough was greatly in vogue, being light and cheap. Coote, says the cost of making a plough was 3[-. Grass-seed was not sown, the land being left to clothe itself naturally after a crop.

It appears that early in the last century bullocks were commonly used for draught, but the custom gradually died out, and C. S. Mangan, Rector of Derrynoose, was the last to use a team of bullocks for ploughing. Coote, says "the draft was from the shoulder and not from the forehead as in the adjoining county"

Farm carts with wheels were practically unknown. The slide oar, "shaped like a common car without wheels, sliding on the back points of its shafts which are fashioned for that purpose and shod with iron," apparently met all requirements. But in those days everything that possibly could be, was placed in sacks which were put

across a horse's back, -and corn, turf, etc., were carried in this way.

The machinery in the corn mills was very imperfect, and after the first grinding the "shilling" was taken to a hill on a windy day and "cleaned," being brought back to the mill for regrinding. It was from this custom that "Shilling Hill," not far from Keady, got its name.

Old people still talk of the dense mists that prevailed for weeks at a time, hiding everything from sight. They disappeared with the cutting away of the bogs round the town.

Large numbers of wild Birds have also disappeared from the neighbourhood. An old man told me that at least half a dozen species which frequented the place in his youth are not now to be seen.

The number of starving and ownerless Dogs (1) had increased to such an extent that they were looked on as a plague (dogs were not licensed till 1885), and during the ever-recurring periods of famine and fever which filled the graveyards, these pests tore open the shallow graves of those days and fed on the dead bodies, and their depredations increased to such an extent that armed guards had to be placed round the graveyards.

In those days the body of a Suicide (2) was buried in the highway at the nearest cross roads. Shortly after this the Law was amended so that a suicide could be buried like other persons in the parish churchyard.

(1) Then and for long afterwards dogs were used for draught. Joseph Gibson used to tell about a party of cripples, beggars, who periodically visited Keady when he was a boy. They went about from town to town in what might be described as little boxes on wheels drawn by dogs. So that if beggars did not then ride upon horseback at least they drove their carriage and pair—of dogs.

(2) A member of an old and highly respected Keady family committed suicide shortly before this date, and it was considered a great concession when the body was permitted to be buried in a field belonging to the family.

Football was a popular sport then, but present day devotees of the game would hardly recognise it as then played. The match was between two townlands. The kick-off was from the middle of the townland, and if the home team failed to prevent the ball being got across the townland boundary they lost the match. The adults—20 or 30—in each townland formed the respective teams.

The Fairies were very near and very real in those days ; and quite unlike Sir Conan Doyle's fairies, who only appear on very rare occasions to a privileged few. Our fairies seemed delighted to get in touch with mortals and eager to entertain them—either dancing by moonlight in the Spout or riding in their midnight revels down Church Street at a break-neck gallop. But, alas, we are too far advanced for that sort of thing now, and so we have lost our fairies and gained—what ?

Of the stirring Events of '98, of the burning of the rebel leader's house and the stratagem by which he saved his life ; of the marching of Lord Blayney over the "Man o' War" with horse, foot, and artillery ; of the fierce encounter (1) in the Market Square, when the rebels, armed with spades and scythes, and iron bars wrenched from the old Market-house, faced the Yeomen and almost gained the day ; of the final rally of the Yeomen by Captain Holmes which drove the rebels over the bridge and out of the town ; of all these, nothing save their mere mention could appear in a sketch dealing with 1818, but they will no doubt furnish the future historian of Keady with ample material for an interesting chapter.

I think our forefathers with all their lack of present day conveniences were on the whole happy and contented, and in some ways at least to be envied. As a man put it to me, perhaps a little abruptly :— "Why, man, you're talkin' about old times, but them was the times, none

(1) See page 39.

like them since. Beef at tuppence (1) a pound and whisky for nothin'— fippence a naggin— and poteen galore, and what the hell more could any man want?" Here is a conception of happiness which I am afraid a great many will hardly agree with.

The following list (typical of the changes in Keady during the past 100 years) gives some of the **Old Families** resident in the district at the time. As a means of identification the name of the present residents are also given. In some cases the old houses have disappeared, the present houses being built on or near to the old sites. At that date there were 125 houses in the town, and, a Population of 583 (279 being males and 304 females).

(1) The following story, told me by an old man years ago, will give an idea of the cheapness of farm produce in the early days of last century. He said, he saw a cart of sucking pigs tipped up in Keady fair— probably over 90 years ago— by the owner, who, disgusted with the bad prices, told the crowd to take their pick of the lot, and that he and other boys had great fun in chasing and capturing them.

He told me they were good "suckers" and that the man "could, not get 10/- for the lot"— 6 or 8. I was very much surprised at this, and although I knew my informant to be reliable, still I thought he might possibly have made some mistake about the price, and this would not be surprising considering the time which had elapsed since the date of the occurrence.

But a short time ago I happened on a cutting from an 1821 newspaper, which showed that the boom prices of the Napoleonic wars had passed and a reaction set in. It gave the average price of sucking pigs at 2/- each.

| <i>Place.</i> | <i>Residents—1818.</i> | <i>Residents—1918.</i> |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Carnagh House, | Wm. Irwin, J.P. | Miss Irwin. |
| Madden Rectory, | Rev. N. Smyth, | Rev. C.K. Irwin, B.D |
| Keady Rectory, | Rev. E.S. Roberts, | Rev. M.B. Hogg, M.A. |
| Rathcarbery House, | Jas. Dobbins, sen., | H. J. Dobbins. |
| Newholland House, | Capt. S. Holmes, | G. Anderson |
| Millmount, | J. Kidd, | Miss M'Kean |
| Darkley House, | Wm. Jelly, | J.E. Calvert, J.P. |
| Annvale House, | J. Kidd, Capt. M.J. Lindsay (1919) | |
| Mountain Lodge, | H. Garmany, | H. G. Douglas, J.P. |
| The Cottage, | Mrs. Magee, | R. Clarke. |
| Clea Cottage, | Rev. J. M'Ilree, | P. Kelly. |
| Greenmount, | J. A. Kidd, | J. Anderson. |
| Dundrum, | D. M'Clave, | Miss M'Ferran, M.B.E. |
| Dundrum House, | S. Kidd, | W. J. Girvin. |
| Tassagh House, | T. Stringer, | D. Kidd. |
| Annmount, | S. Simpson, | Mrs. Dunlop. |
| Balleer House, | J. Boyd, | T. Wynne |
| Crossdened, | J. M'Bride, | G. M'Bride |
| Caracard Cottage, | L. Lenagh, | J. Lenagh |
| Bridge St., Keady, | B. Kidd, | Mrs. Conroy |
| " | Jas. Dobbins, jun., | J. Mone. |
| " | Wm. Dobbins, | P. Mone. |
| " | J. Dobbins, | J. Carvill |
| Fair Green, | S. Rolston, | T. Mallon, J.P. |
| Market Street, | S. Sturgeon, | S. Nesbitt |
| " | J. Kidd, | A. Mone. |
| " | J. Kent, | G. M'Bride, J.P. |
| " | Dr. Magee, | Rev. F. Devine, C.C. |
| " | J. Eccles, | Wm. M'Cullagh |
| " | S. Cuming, | D. Dumigan |
| " | A. Beck, | W. S. Graham |
| " | S. Gibson, | P. M'Knight |
| " | P. Duffy, | Mrs. M. C. Woods |
| Main Street, | J. Kidd, | W. Clarke |
| " | W. Kidd, | B. A. Allen |
| " | C. Kerr, | A. Small |
| " | L. M'Kinstry, | A. G. M'Call |
| " | D. Watson, | D. Watson |

List of Rectors.

DERRYNOOSE (which then included Keady Parish).

- 1613. Oliver Gray.
- 1623. Robert Maxwell.
- 1666. James Downham.
- 1668. Henry Maxwell.
- 1709. Charles Proby.
- 1725. Charles Este.
- 1730. William Usher.
- 1743. John Jones (1).

KEADY.

- 1780. Samuel Close.
- 1814. Edward Stirling Roberts (2).
- 1819. Henry Stewart.
- 1823. James Jones.
- 1825. Charles Alexander.
- 1826. James Stewart Blacker.
- 1835. James M'Creight.
- 1835. Cosby Stopford Mangan.
- 1840. Charles King Irwin.
- 1844. Samuel Simpson.
- 1860. Richard Oulton (3).
- 1882. Nicholas Hopkins James.
- 1882. Matthew Banks Hogg (4).

(1) His Curate was Archibald Kidd (1754-1833), a younger son of Benjamin Kidd, of Millmount, Keady.

(2) The first Curate (1785-1814) of Keady. Wm. Phelan, was Curate in 1818.

(3) The last Rector under the establishment.

(4) It is interesting to note that the present Rector (the thirteenth) of Keady has the longest service of any Rector appointed to the Parish. (4)

List of Churchwardens.

PARISH OF KEADY.

| | | |
|-------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1814 | Robert Sturgeon. | |
| 1815 | Thomas Kidd. | James Dobbin, jun. |
| 1816 | James Dobbin, jun. | Thomas Kidd. |
| 1817 | James Dobbin, jun. | Samuel Sturgeon. |
| 1818 | James Kidd. | John Rule. |
| 1819 | Samuel D. Simpson, | George Wilson. |
| 1820. | James Kent. | William Magee. |
| 1821. | William Magee. | John Garraway. |
| 1822. | Benjamin Kidd. | Thomas Watson. |
| 1823. | John Garraway. | William Magee. |
| 1824. | Arthur Irwin, jun. | Josiah Kidd. |
| 1825. | James Kent. | Samuel D. Simpson. |
| 1826. | Samuel Magee, M.D. | Samuel Sturgeon. |
| 1826. | Thomas Cughan. | Hans Dunlop. |
| 1828. | Arthur Irwin. | Josiah Kidd. |
| 1829. | John Robert Irwin. | John Kidd. |
| 1830. | Arthur Irwin. | William Kidd. |
| 1831. | William Kirk. | David M'Clave. |
| 1832. | James Kidd. | James Kent. |
| 1833. | James Garraway. | John Robert Jackson. |
| 1834. | Josiah Kidd. | James Alex. Kidd. |
| 1835. | Robert M'Kean. | Thomas Dobbin. |
| 1836. | James M'Kean. | John Robt. Irwin. |
| 1837. | Josiah Kidd. | Samuel Sturgeon. |
| 1838. | John R. Irwin. | James M'Kean. |
| 1839. | Samuel Magee, M.D. | Joseph Kidd. |
| 1840. | Watson Kidd. | Thomas Craig. |
| 1841. | Joseph Graham. | James Blair. |
| 1842. | Joseph M'Bride. | James Kerr. |
| 1843. | Samuel Rolston, | James M'Clave. |

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 1844 | James Green. | James M'Bride. |
| 1845 | Joseph Kidd. | Henry Maxwell. |
| 1846 | Wilson Runnett. | Andrew Gordon. |
| 1847 | John R. Irwin. | Joseph Graham. |
| 1848 | Thomas Stringer. | John Kirk. |
| 1849 | Andrew M'Comb. | James Dobbin. |
| 1850 | Richard Hutchinson. | Joseph Turner. |
| 1851 | William Sharman. | John Nesbitt. |
| 1852 | John Douglas. | William M'Bride. |
| 1853 | Hugh Kirk. | Joseph Graham. |
| 1854 | John Douglas. | Joseph M'Bride. |
| 1855 | William Hoste M'Kean. | John Williamson. |
| 1856 | Charles Stringer. | Henry Dobbin. |
| 1857 | Joseph Whitsitt. | James Blair. |
| 1858 | W. H. M'Kean. | Joseph M'Mahon. |
| 1859 | William Gardiner. | David Watson. |
| 1860 | Wm. Hoste M'Kean. | Joseph Graham. |
| 1861 | John Douglas. | Joseph Turner. |
| 1862 | William Nicholson. | William M'Bride. |
| 1863 | Joseph Graham. | John Dobbin. |
| 1864 | William Gardiner. | Joseph M'Bride. |
| 1865 | William M'Kean. | Joseph Graham. |
| 1866 | James M'Kean. | William Gardiner. |
| 1867 | Joseph M'Bride. | John Dobbin. |
| 1868 | Robert Boyd. | William Gardiner. |
| 1869 | John Robert Irwin. | John Douglas. |

* * * * *

It is much to be regretted that owing to the disappearance of the old Vestry Book (1780-1814) the names of the earlier wardens are not available.

The Parish Records.



THE RECORDS extant are : The Vestry Book (from 1814) and the Registers (Baptisms and Marriages from 1780 ; Burials from 1814).

The Vestry Book.— The minutes are in the beautifully clear roundhand, like copperplate, of the Vestry Clerk. The annual accounts were written in by the Churchwardens. The ink has not stood the test of time so well as in the Registers— some of the entries are hardly decipherable. The spelling in some cases might be described as Phonetic. Nearly all sums of money end in a halfpenny, this coin being evidently exploited in much the same way as the draper's farthing nowadays. The Vestry Book had to be produced annually for inspection at Armagh Assizes. As already stated, the first Vestry Book has disappeared. I felt diffident about making use of some extracts (1) from this Book, and submitted them to an authority on these matters, and his opinion was that any attempt to bowdlerise them would deprive them of their antiquarian value.

The entries in the Registers were made by the Parish Clerk, though some of the entries are in the handwriting of the Rectors, who sometimes made comments on passing events. The earlier entries are very distinct— the ink has not faded to any appreciable extent— and fresher in appearance than some of sixty years later. The following appears on the front page of one of the Registers :—

"N.B. The former Book being all written is deposited in the Parish chest (2), in which is incerted the names

(1) These extracts, except in some cases where the names of persons are not given, are word for word as in the Parish Records. In any case likely to cause pain or unpleasantness to any person now living the names are omitted ; but where the persons mentioned have left no descendants the names are given in full.

(2) The Parish chest and most of its contents disappeared 60 or 80 years ago. According to an inventory (25th April, 1819) it contained some very interesting documents which are now missing.

of one thousand three hundred and ninety-six children baptized, and of one hundred and six couples of persons married between July 11th, 1786, and October 10th, 1809, and copy of said names given to the Deputy Register of the Ecclesiastical Court of Armagh "

By me,

Dated at Keady Glebe,
Oct. 18th, 1809.

Edward S. Roberts,
Curate."

Extracts from the Vestry Book.

1814— At a Vestry (1) meeting held in the Parish Church of Keady, on Monday, 2nd May, 1814:

Resolved :— We present the sum of fifty-five pounds sterling to be raised of said Parish for doing the said different repairs as above, and to be laid out by the Church wardens according to the order of Wm. Irwin (2), whom the Parish is very thankful to for his friendly act in taking the trouble upon him in seeing the Parish justice done in laying out the public money of said Parish. We present the sum of five pounds nineteen shillings and twopence for William Williamson for boards for repairs of said Church. Two pounds sterling to be paid to George Brownlee for opening water courses and repairing ditches.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|----|----|
| John Hunter's salary ending Easter, 1813 | ... | £ 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Deficiency in Dundrum Cess | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| To Repairs of the Church Clock | ... | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| To James Rolston for the Church Clock sold to him | ... | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| Credit to E. Roberts for loss in Clock | ... | 0 | 11 | 4 |

(1) The first Vestry of which any record exists.

(2) Wm.Irwin (Violet Hill), churchwarden a few years previously, was a prominent man in the public life both of the Parish and the County, being the only layman in the Parish holding the office of Justice of the Peace—a coveted honour in those days. He was at this date treasurer of the County, and served as High Sheriff in 1817.

Stamp for Note of Security, M'Ginn (1) ... 0 2 2
 Aug. 26— Roger M'Ginn, paid me in cash, on
 account of the Church Cess £50 0 0
 Oct. 14— Roger M'Ginn paid me on account ... 4 0 0
 Nov. 21— Rober M'Ginn having paid the Cess in
 full as above, I gave up to him his note passed
 to Church Wardens for same.

E. ROBERTS.

* * * *

| | | | |
|--|---------|----|----|
| E. Roberts to account for as above ... | . £39 | 5 | 2 |
| By Cash in Mr. Roberts' hands on the last settle- ment with Sturgeon. See the old Vestry Book | 2 | 11 | 9 |
| By a Gate and Prayer Book sold | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| By the Church Clock 10/- was given to E.E. by the parishioners, value | 5 | 13 | 6 |
| To be accounted for by me ... | ... £97 | 16 | 84 |

Dated

E. ROBERTS,

30th Nov., 1814.

RECTOR.

| | | | |
|---|---|----|----|
| 1815— | £ | s. | d. |
| Jan 3— John Beatty, Parish Clark (2), Salary... | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| Mar. 17— To William Penton for trees, and to labourers for planting same, and repairs to | | | |
| Church | 2 | 7 | 7 |

At a Vestry held in the Parish Church of Keady, April 10,
 1815. . . for the purpose of investigating the
 accounts of George and Robert, who were
 Church Wardens of this Parish for the year ending
 Easter one thousand eight hundred and eleven, when
 on investigation it appears that George.....and Robert,
 is due to the Parish twenty-three pounds one shilling
 and nine pence, sterling, which, by the account of Vestry
 in 1811, Robert promised to pay by return, then

(1) The Parish Cess Collector.

(2) This is also spelled Clarke, Cleark and Clerke in the warden's
 accounts. Other different examples of spelling in the accounts
 are— Tour (tower), chield, cofin, cloathes, flanel, disarted, etc.
 The spelling in these extracts is identical with the spelling in
 the records.

given in to Roger M'Ginn, one of the county collectors, which said Roger M'Ginn has not made any return of any sum received on account of said Robert
 said Robert, this day at Vestry, now refuses to pay said sum of twenty-three pounds one shilling and ninepence. The said Robert, Church Warden, received two pounds for collecting said Parish Cess, and sixpence per pound for collecting the Parish Road Cess and has pocketed the money from said Parish, and we will sue Robert for said sum according to law.

* * * * *

| | £ | s. | d. |
|---|---|----|----|
| 1815— | | | |
| July 11— Cash, James Lawson, for a poor man | 1 | 12 | 6 |
| July 11— Cash to a poor woman sick in William Williamson's | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Aug. 12— Coffin, Billy Priers. Mr. Roberts ... | 0 | 11 | 9 |
| Sept. 3— Coffin, John Hunter. Tobacco and pipes | 0 | 17 | 11 |
| Dec. 27— Candles and nails, Cormack—'s coffin | 0 | 2 | 11 |
| 1816— | 0 | 13 | 7 |
| April 5— To coffin, Joseph Brounlee, Iskey-meady, died with a dropersey | | | |
| June 3— Surplice and Tippet | 7 | 13 | 5 |
| June 3— To collecting Cess | 2 | 8 | 4 |

1817— At a Vestry held in the Parish Church of Keady, on Monday, August 17th, 1817, due notice having been published the previous Sunday in the time of Divine Service. The Minister, Church Wardens and Parishioners, then and there present, do find that the sum of twenty and three pounds eighteen shillings and eleven pence has been expended by our Church Warden, James Dobbin, junior, from which sum having deducted the sum of five pounds which was laid on at last Easter Vestry for the purpose of interring the corps of poor persons, there remains a balance of eighteen pounds eighteen shillings and eleven pence due to him, which

| | | |
|---|------------|-----------|
| sum we order to be levied off the Parish, and paid on next Easter Vestry to him. | ... | £18 18 11 |
| Also to John Kidd for a coffin for the child of Peggy | | |
| Darkley | ... £0 6 4 | |
| Also, we present the sum of ten pounds fourteen shillings and nine pence to assist in interring the corps of the Parish Poor prior to next Easter ... | ... | £10 14 9 |
| To James Dobbin for sending Timothy, the youngest child of the late Timothy, to the Foundling Hospital | ... | £16 1 |
| To Daniel Rafferty for keeping two children to next Easter, and schooling same ... | ... | £6 0 0 |
| May 4— Coffin, Frank, Rathcarbery. Mr. Roberts | ... | 0 11 6 |
| May 4— Cash, Hamilton Trotter for building School-house, laid on Vestry... ... | ... | £12 11 6 |
| May 26— Lock for Church gate ... | ... | £0 2 6 |
| June 14— To coffin, Abby Troy, of Rathcarbery, who died in want | ... | 0 11 6 |
| Oct 13— To coffin, a beggarman died in Dunlargue | £0 11 6 | |

* * * * *

1818— At a Vestry held this day, 1st March, 1818, in the Church, pursuant to public notice, certain rules were agreed to in order to prevent the introduction of foreign Poor into this Parish. . . .

* * * * *

At a Vestry held in the Parish Church of Keady on Easter Monday, the twenty-third day of March, eighteen hundred and eighteen, due notice being given the Sunday before during the time of Divine Service, for the purpose of settling the Churchwarden's accounts for the year ending this day; also for electing Churchwardens for the ensuing year and laying on the necessary cesses, and other matters for the use of said Church and Parish was then agreed to by the Rector, Churchwardens, and Parishioners, then and there present. Do present as follows :—

| | |
|--|-----------|
| To John Beatty for Clark's Salary | £9 2 0 |
| To John Hunter for his Salary and minding duties | 4 11 0 |
| To Collectors' Fees | ... 2 4 0 |
| To contingency money | ... 2 0 0 |

E. Roberts,
RECTOR.

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| James Dobbin, | |
| John M'Gee, | James Kidd, |
| Samuel Gibson, | John Rule, |

CHURCHWARDENS.

* * * * *

At a Vestry held in the Parish Church of Keady on Monday, the twenty-fifth day of May, one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, due notice being given the Sunday before during the time of Divine Service, for the confirming of last Easter Monday's Vestry. being £45 6s. 9d. and likewise this day for repairs on the Church and various other purposes. The Rector, Churchwardens, and Parishioners have laid on a further sum to be added to the above sum to be levied of said Parish according to law, viz.,

To Churchwardens for buying coffins for a few distressed poor who the realy think stand in need of the likes, and also for putting a new window-case joining the porch, and other repairs on the Church, twenty pounds in all, making £65 6s. 9d., which is applotted as follows on 23 townlands*.

* Note how the names of some townlands were spelt then.

| No. | Townland. | B. V. | Amount. | No. | Townland. | B.V. | Amount. |
|-----|---------------|-------|----------|-----|--------------------|------|-----------|
| | | | £ s. d. | | | | |
| 1 | Crossmore | 21 | 2 19 6 | | Brought up ... | | £ 36 16 8 |
| 2 | Clea | 30 | 4 5 0 | 13 | Tullyglush | 28 | 4 8 4 |
| 3 | Crossdoned | 23 | 3 5 2 | 14 | Brakly | 8 | 1 2 8 |
| 4 | Cargaclogher | 17 | 2 8 2 | 15 | Crossnamoile | 14 | 1 10 8 |
| 5 | Darkley | 25 | 3 10 10 | 16 | Crossnenagh | 13 | 1 16 10 |
| 6 | Dundrum | 18 | 2 11 0 | 17 | Cargaduff | 13 | 1 16 10 |
| 7 | Drumderg | 18 | 2 11 0 | 18 | Kilcam | 13 | 1 16 10 |
| 8 | Dunlargue | 25 | 3 10 10 | 19 | Tivenamarra | 13 | 1 16 10 |
| 9 | Iskeymeady | 19 | 2 13 10 | 20 | Aughnagurgan | 28 | 3 19 4 |
| 10 | Laggan | 23 | 3 5 2 | 21 | Corclea | 20 | 2 16 8 |
| 11 | Recarbry | 20 | 2 16 8 | 22 | Grangemore | 18 | 2 11 0 |
| 12 | Tullynamallog | 21 | 2 19 6 | 23 | Tassagh | 34 | 4 16 4 |
| | Carried up | | £36 16 8 | | Total and 2/3 over | | £ 65 9 0 |

The above is applotted at the rate of 2s. 10d. by the pound according to B.V. of the County of Armagh, and is 2s. 3d. over the amount laid on, by George Cuming, V.C.

25th May, 1818.

E. Roberts,
RECTOR.

Lee M'Kinstry,
James Kent,
John Beatty, jun.

James Kidd,

CHURCHWARDENS.

1819— At a Vestry held on Wednesday, the eighth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and nineteen Resolved, that three-halfpence per acre be raised of the twenty-three townlands belonging to said Parish for the repairs of the by-roads through said Parish, and appointed the underneath overseers named to each townland. . . .

* * * * *

1820—

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|----|---|
| To Baptismal Pont | ... | ... | ... | £3 | 8 | 9 |
| „ Carriage Font | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 4 |
| „ Josiah-----, an idiot | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| „ Sunday School Masters | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 15 | 0 |

1822—

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|---|---|
| April — Paid James Gormile for support of an orphan | ... | ... | ... | £2 | 5 | 6 |
| Paid for clothes for same | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| Paid Josiah —, an idiot | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Paid May M'Auley for care of a child | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| „ for nursing a foundling | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 4 | 2 |
| „ for carriage of a child to Dublin | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 8 |
| „ different persons for looking after foundlings | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 3 | 9 |
| Sept. 25 — Paid James Kent for coffins | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | 7 |

* * * * *

At a Vestry held in the Parish Church, Keady, on Monday, the 8th day of April, 1822. . . . Resolved, that the sum of £62 0s. 3-d. be laid on towards purchasing a stove, for the repairs and painting of the Church

. . . . and incidental expenses. That the usual standing expenses, viz.. Clark's sallery, £9 2s. 0d. . . . Elliments, £2 5s. 6d. . . . Washing of Church linen, £1 10s. 0d., be now laid on. . . .

* * * * *

1823—

| | | | |
|--|----|----|---|
| July 29— To John Morrison, supporting a bastard child deserted by its mother | £0 | 16 | 2 |
|--|----|----|---|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Aug. 2— By taking Peg ----- and child | 0 | 8 | 6 |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 8— To sending Walch and her bastard child to Armagh | 0 | 0 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Oct. 5— Nursing-----'s child | 0 | 5 | 0 |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Nov. 4— By deserted child, nursing, etc. | 0 | 4 | 0 |
|--|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| Nov. 13— By constable 7/6, -----'s child 6/- ... | 0 | 13 | 6 |
|--|---|----|---|

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Nov. 13— By bell carriage to Dublin, P. Keegan | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|--|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|--|---|----|---|
| Nov. 28— A girl and distressed bastard | 0 | 11 | 9 |
|--|---|----|---|

1824—

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| Jan. 2— A deserted child's expense ... | 0 | 4 | 2 |
|--|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| To Ann Cross, bastard 6d, and a blanket for herself | 0 | 7 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| Jan. 12— To expenses at Lurgan Sessions for 7 days and supporting witnesses for prosecuting | 1 | 17 | 1 |
|---|---|----|---|

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Ann ----- for leaving her child and deserting the Parish | | | |
|--|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 12— Attorney's fee attending prosecution | 1 | 2 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|----|---|
| Jan. 12— To Thomas Johnston on account of drawing witnesses to Lurgan | 0 | 11 | 5 |
|---|---|----|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 16— To William Garland for looking after Ann ----- | 0 | 2 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 20— To Thomas Johnston, in full, for time and supporting his horse at Lurgan | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 27— To order to Cugan for Garland's trouble with Ann ----- | 0 | 7 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Feb. 21— Burying a poor woman | 0 | 1 | 6 |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| March 2— To a Bench Warrant against Mary----- | 0 | 5 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|
| April 8— Nursing -----child | 1 | 0 | 0 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| April 9— Sunday school in Kilcam ... | 1 | 2 | 9 |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|

| | | |
|--|-----|-----------|
| July 12—Paid Sam Anderson for putting up the bell | ... | ... 2 0 0 |
| By cash to M'Bennett for the bell | | 22 18 4 |
| Nov. 20—By lodging a poor man who died ... | | 0 2 6 |

* * * * *

1825— At a Vestry held in the Parish Church, Keady, on Easter Monday, 4th April, 1.825. . . . Resolved, that **the sexton** be ordered to ring the bell from 22nd March to 22nd Sept. at five o'clock in the morning and nine at night. From 22nd Sept. to 22nd March, being winter, at six o'clock in the morning and nine at night.

* * * * *

1826—

Jan 4— At a Vestry Meeting held in the Parish Church of Keady, on Monday, January 2nd, 1832, it was resolved that **officers of health** be appointed as follows :—

John Robert Irwin and William Kidd for the country parts of the Parish ; and Joseph Kidd and David Watson and James Eccles for the Village.

| | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Jan 4— By cash paid for nursing the child of an idiot | | ... £ 0 7 0 |
|---|-------------|-------------|

| | | |
|--|-----|--------|
| Jan, 4— By coffin and cap for said child | ... | 0 14 0 |
|--|-----|--------|

1828—

| | |
|---|--------|
| April 23— To cash to Biddy M'Donald for carrying Eliza Clawry to hospital £1, and extra expense 6/- | £1 6 0 |
| April 23— To Fees for entrance for said child ... | 4 12 4 |
| Sept. 5— To Cash for a book for poor money ... | 0 5 0 |
| Sept. 5— To cash for Mifs Lucas for clothes for Eliza Clawrey | 0 5 6 |
| Sept. 5—To cash to Dr. Magee for attending an inquest | £2 2 0 |

* * * * *

1837— At a Vestry legally called and held on Monday, the 17th day of July, 1837, for the purpose of appointing overseers of Public Houses, pursuant to the 6 & 7 William

4, Chap. 35, Section 13, the following were appointed :—
 James Kidd, James Kent, David Watson, Thomas Raverty, Samuel Gibson, John Garraway, Samuel Rolston, Robert Maxwell, Thomas Dobbin, Arthur

* * * * *

1843— At a Vestry held on Easter Monday, 17th April, 1843. . . Resolved, that it appears that the late Churchwardens having received **no money** have **no accounts** to settle.

* * * * *

1869—*At a meeting of Vestry held in Keady Church on Easter Monday, 30th March, 1869, for the purpose of appointing Churchwardens. . . .

*The last Vestry under the Establishment.

Since Disestablishment a **General Vestry**, composed exclusively of members of the Church of Ireland, meets annually on Easter Monday, when the Church accounts are submitted. It also appoints the Churchwardens and the Select **Vestry**. The first members of the Select Vestry elected (1870) were :—

- John R. Irwin.
- John Douglas.
- James M'Kean.
- William Gardiner.
- Robert Boyd.
- Joseph Turner.
- William M'Bride.
- John W. Dobbin.
- George M'Bride.
- Thomas Cartmill.
- Robert Erskine.
- William Nicholson.

Extracts from the Registers.

1780—

Dec. 31— Joseph Brownlee (1), of Tullynamallogue, and Sarah M'Chesney, of Corclea. By Banns called.

June 25— Martha (2), daughter of Martha and Robert M'Adams, of Tivenamaragh.

John, son of John and Susanagh Straghan, of Kilcam.

1786—

Oct. 10— Jane, daughter of the Rev. E. S. Roberts and Mary, his wife, with Sponsors, christened by the Rev. Joseph Ferguson.

1787—

John Holland, a foundling, seemingly a twin about 10 days old, found about 12 o'clock in the street of Keady at the door of Richard Campbell on Jan. 3rd.

May 20— Two children, boys, with Sponsors, in the Church, whose names I forget.

May 30— Four children baptized in the townland of Corclea, whose names I forget.

Sept. 16— Memorandum (3)—Sunday, Sept. 16, Rose Donaghy conformed from the Popish religion to the Protestant religion, as by law established in Ireland, openly, in Keady Church.

1799—

Jan 6— Sarah, daughter of the late Arthur Compston, of Tullyglush, who was murdered on 1st May, 1798, by a riotous mob in Keady fair, and of his widow, Elizabeth—privately.

1803—

April, Wed. 13— Ann Rookery, a foundling at the door of Henry M'Cambley's in the Rookery, near Mr. Blakley's, parents unknown.

(1) The first wedding recorded.

(2) The first baptism recorded.

(3) A sequel to this appears in the following entry :— "11th Oct., 1787— John Askin and Rose Donaghy, of Dunlargue, both Protestants, of this Parish, by Banns called."

1804—

January 29— James, of the Church of Rome, and Ann Boyle, of the Established Church, both of Crossmore by Banns duly published.

1807—

June 8— Mary Keady, a foundling in a waste house near M'Daniel's (1), in Keady, found by Mary M'Daniel and sent of this day at the expense of the Parish to the hospital by Bridget M'Daniel, supposed to be three months old. Baptized, if not already baptized, this day.

July 28— Died (2), Robert Williams, of Dunlague, aged 108 years. He was buried in Tassagh graveyard. He was the oldest man in the Parish and the first man who became a Seceder (3) in Ireland. He was born in . . . Co. Meath. His father was a Welshman and a soldier in King William's Army.

1812—

July 19— Ann, d. of John. . . . Isabella Hamilton, of Dunlague, aged 8 years.

1813—

Feb. 3— An account was received of the death of my son, John Cranston Roberts, Lieut., York Light Infantry Volunteers. He died in Stormy Hill Barracks, near Kingstown, Jamaica, on Friday, October 16th, 1812, aged 22 years 5 months and 17 days.— E. S. R.

1816—

Sep. 29— John Hunter, buried, aged about seventy-six ; the first sexton of Keady Church.— E. S. R.

Dec. 1— James Keady, a foundling about a month old, sent to Dublin at the expense of the Parish by Mary M'Daniel.

(1) These M'Daniels appear to have done very well in this trafficking in foundlings. For, year after year, and several times every year, appears this entry in the warden's accounts— "To— M'Daniel for carriage of a child to Dublin." If these people were living nowadays they would probably have developed an equally lucrative trade in baby farming.

(2) The first burial recorded. It was very fitting that the oldest man in the Parish should be buried in the oldest graveyard in the Parish.

(3) The first Secession Congregation (1742) in Ulster was Lylehill, Co. Antrim,

1817—

Nov. 22— Andrew S., son of John and Isabella Vaughan, of Keady— this boy aged nine years— until lately his mother thought he was baptized (1) when an infant, as the woman she sent with the child told her she had it baptized at that time.

1818—

July 28— Suddenly, about 9 o'clock in the morning, at his house in Newholland, John Holmes, Esquire, aged 46 years. He left his widow and 8 young children. His corse was interred in Madden churchyard, where his father's, mother's and sister's, Elizabeth Marwood, corses lye.

Dec. 23— Rose, a foundling left in the Cow House of Vesty O'Hara, in Lagan, on the night of Monday 21st. Baptised by me and left with Rose Hughes of Keady.

Dec. 23— Several children, baptized. Their names were with John Beatty who lost them.

1821—

Feby. 11— John Killion, of Kilcam, and Rosa....., of Clea, both Roman Catholics— by Banns.

1822—

Nov. 9— Buried, James Geddes, a pensioner who died on the stairs of the Market House of Keady going to attend a Court held there by the Seneschal.

(1) It would be interesting to know what transpired "lately" to make her change her opinion.

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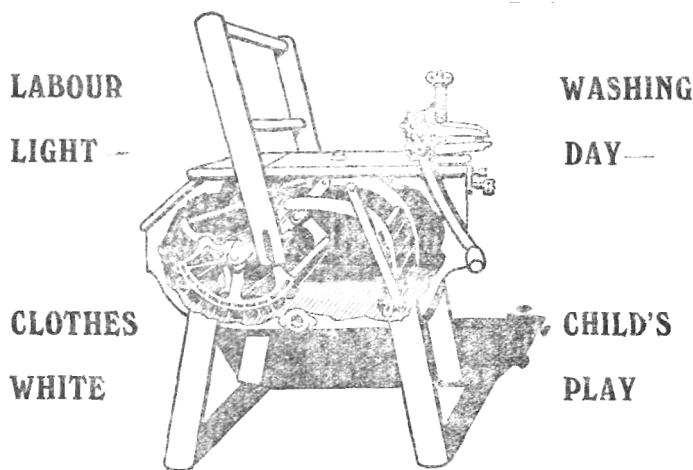
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