

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.
Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

Loxford was the first town passed through by the French in 1798 after leaving Bellina on their way to the "Castellane Races".

HISTORIC HOUSES ; BURIAL PLACES

(a) Birth places or one-time residences of distinguished Irishmen or other personalities. Location and description. Present owner or occupant. (b) Burial places of distinguished personalities.

Somewhere in Loxford, the exact place unknown, was born on June 22nd, 1777, Admiral Brown, the "father of the Argentine navy".

Not a lot is known of his early life. As a child he was taken by his father to the U.S.A. where shortly afterwards he was orphaned by his parents' death. A ship's captain took him as cabin-boy. After some time spent on the sea, for which he showed a great fondness, the ship was captured by a French man-o-war and Brown, with others, was confined to prison at sea. He escaped but again fell into French hands and was imprisoned in Verdun. Here there was an English Colonel Cantilly with whom Brown became very friendly. They planned a daring escape from the fortices of Verdun and were successful although Brown had to carry the wounded Cantilly to the frontier.

After much wandering on land and sea, Brown went to Montevideo where he acquired a small ship of his own. The ship and himself were later captured but after a time he managed to escape and voyaged to England. He later went to Buenos Aires and set himself up in business. In 1814 he joined the navy of Argentina. He soon won distinction at the battle of Martin Garcia.

SPAS OR MINERAL SPRINGS

Spas formerly in use. Location and present condition. Access. Right of way to public?
Mineral content and curative properties so far as known locally.

None

Parish of Louisa. Barrony of Galles. Co. Mayo.

Page 2. Distinguished personalities.

and Montevideo. His greatest glory came when, in 1808 with Brazil he commanded the victorious fleet at Junco and Poz Pozos.

Agnes Maura Bernard, Sisters of Charity. [Mother Assensus]

Founder of the Providence Woollen Industry, Yoxford.

Born February 24th 1842; died April 21st 1932.

Interred beside the Church of St. Mary and Michael, Yoxford.

[The following notes from interviews and from the booklet "The Story of an Irish Industry" by Rev. T. A. Finlay S. J.]

In 1890 the region around Yoxford was congested, very poor and non-productive. Within a radius of 5 miles from Yoxford village some 1500 habitations were situated and extreme poverty had set its seal on all of them.

One day a sister of Charity stood on Yoxford bridge, and, noting the unwholesome power of the river at this point, resolved to concentrate all her energies to the task of building an industry which would relieve the area of deprivation. In 1891 a ruined work-house, a cottage and plot of ground, were acquired. With a loan of £1000, the stone was converted into a school, the cottage made habitable and on April 26th the Convent of Divine Providence formally established. The children of school age were first taken in hand and besides mental education other subjects such as needlework, dressmaking, knitting etc. were taught. The Sisters then set about improving the conditions of living in the area. The C. O. B. and Sir James Galbraith Powers lent a generous hand to the work. Mother Assensus then obtained the counsel and co-operation of men of business in the erection of the mill. Foremost with help was Mr. G. C. Smith, Caledon Woollen Mills, Co. Tyrone. He was not of the same faith but gave, nevertheless, whole-hearted support.

The Congested Districts Board gave a ^{loan} grant of £1000 (now repaid) with £1500 for workers' training. The factory was completed on

17/3/24 (12).

Parish of Yonkers. County of Galen. Co. Mayo.

Distinguished Personalities. Page 3.

The second of May, 1892 and was formally opened by Sir Horace Plunkett and Charles Kennedy Esq. of the C.D.B.

In two additions were made to the premises and extra machinery installed while the products of the mill grew in reputation.

The mill now employs about 250 hands and pays in wages up to £30,000 a year. The distribution of this money means a tremendous lot to the area as also to Yonkers town.
