

HISTORIC SITES

Royal Seats, scenes of historic events—battles, mass meetings, historic festivals, &c. Location.

Landowner. Historical or traditional notes.

"The French Invasion" and the "Barrage of Castlebar". One of the most important acts in Irish history. [Synopsis] → August 22nd 1798 general Humbert landed at Kilcummin near Killybegs with 1000 men and 3 small field guns and bearing 3000 muskets and 1000 French uniforms for the Irish who were to join with the invaders. Keeling - an Irishman who went into French service in 1797, and Matthew Tone, brother to Wolfe Tone, landed with Humbert. Killybegs taken on that day, and Ballina the day following by general Savary. On Aug. 25th Humbert came to Castlebar where hundreds of Irish joined his ranks including general George Blake, Austin Smalley of Binnishole, Captain James O'Donnell of Binnishole etc. Colonel James McDonnell also joined -

HISTORIC HOUSES; BURIAL PLACES [Contd on page 6]

(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.

(a) "Thomasine" Keating. Born in Rathbarney in the house now occupied by Mrs. Canell. A simple two-story red-tiled house bearing a plaque with the words "Is an tseo seo do naugao Dubha ny an tseo - 'Tomáissín' - bean-íde an tseo. 1829-1908". Olive Knight's best-known work is her poetic collection "Wild Flowers from the Wayside". Wrote stirring verses for "The Nation". A poem of feeling is "my niece" - a lament for Thomas Davis. "Thomasine" named Rev. Hops Connolly - migrated to Australia and died there. Rathbarney is inside Castlebar.

(a) The Brennan brothers - Louis and Michael, born in the house now Canell & Co., Main St., Castlebar. Their father is buried in the Castlebar cemetery - a English Irish inscription on his tombstone. Louis Brennan, who died at the close of the great war years, is famed as the inventor of the gyroscope (monorail) and for his torpedo experiments. He left Ireland for Australia when young. Michael Brennan, artist, who left Ireland when young to study painting in Italy. Died in Algiers somewhere about 1870 at the age of 30. Even then he had gained considerable fame as a painter.

(SECTION CONTD. ON PAGE 11)

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

(a) Major General Geo. Dingley whose memorial is erected just inside
Christ Church walls in Ellison St., Castlebar. Baron in the house
now vacant (corner Mr. Dwyer's) directly across the street.

The inscription on the memorial reads:

To the memory of Major Gen. George Dingley C.B. who expired in
London on the 16th May 1843 in the 63rd year of his age and whose
mortal remains repose in the family burying place at Murrisk
Abbey this statue is erected by a numerous circle of his naval
military and civil friends amongst whom are the members of the
ancient and most benignant order of the Friendly Brothers of
St. Patrick, as a small tribute of their esteem and affection.
He served his country in Egypt, North America, West Indies,
the Mediterranean etc. etc. and he commanded the 2nd Battalion
of the 44th Regt. at Waterloo where he was twice wounded and
subsequently for many years commanded the 88th Regt. or
Lanacourt Rangers. He was a good and pious Christian, a
zealous and excellent soldier and a sincere and firm friend.

The two front pillars flanking the monument bear inscriptions
~~with motto~~ with motto "Terra marique Patens" and "Qui
separabit?" Also the places and dates of general Dingley's
service — "Egypt 13th Regt. 12 April 1801" — "North America -
West Indies 101th Regt." — "Waterloo 44th Regt. 15-16-17-18 June
1815" — "Mediterranean 88th Regt."

(a) Sir Martin Archer Shee - famous portrait painter, President
of the Royal Irish Academy, born in Castlebar (name not
known) [KINDLY CHECK DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH]

(a) Charles Dingley - The Irish Oregon - around whom
Charles Lever wrote his famous novel - born in Spencer
Park House which stands in own grounds between Spencer St.
and Castlebar station. (to right of road).

(a) The late Dr. Gilman, Archbishop of Yvan, born in
Kinschima in the cottage now owned by Mr. T. Moran.
Went to school in Enniscorthy.

(a) Sir Malachy Kelly, last Chief Crown Solicitor for Ireland
served at Maryport, Castlebar (b) Buried in Castlebar Cemetery.
Died March 25th 1916

William Brett of Devilla Terrace - house now occupied by his daughter Miss Rose Brett. Born in Ballinacree. Died in Castlebar 1944. Painter. An expert on church painting and decoration his art is to be found in almost exclusively in the Cornaught churches. A noted authority on Biblical painting. He also painted scenes for many sacred edifices throughout the country, besides framed works.

Rev. Fr. J. O'Salley P.P. of Long and the Meale, born in main St. (Mrs. P. J. Carney's), Castlebar. This was the man who, at the time of the land agitation at Lough Mask House, gave to the journalist Redpath the answer "we'll boycott him" and added a new word to the English language.

Archbishop John McHale of Tuam (1791-1881) whom Daniel O'Connell called "the lion of the field of Judah" obtained his early education in Castlebar where he spent two years of classical study under a teacher called Patrick Stanton.

Hunter House - main St., Castlebar: Headquarters of General Hunter and his officers in 1798.

Blackfort Castle ruins near Castlebar: Said to have been a residence of the Burke family who were descendants of Robert de Burgo, and who held the title of Viscount Mayo. One of the Burke daughters of Blackfort Castle married a man called Gunning of Roscommon. Their daughters were the "beautiful misses Gunning" who created a sensation in the London society of their time.

George Robert Fitzgibbon of Tuam. Noted duellist. Called "the King Maker" according to Dalton - Archbishop of Tuam (page 217): He married, mid-18th century, Lady Mary Henney daughter of the Earl of Rosistol. - Ran away with a Miss Connolly of Kildane and brought her to Tuam where she died. Fought duels in Dublin with Lord Rosburgh etc. + on continent. Tried and executed at Castlebar 1786 for the murder of Randall McDaniel, a lawyer. Hanged outside the old jail - now bank of Ireland. He broke the rope twice; most famous duel in Castlebar involved himself with "Huntsman Dick"

NO IE ON
P.M.F. (Sennar)

James Daly of Castlebar whose name was linked with Denton's in the Land League movement - prop. of Connaught Telegraph at the time and who used his paper to further the League's aims. Arrested in Castlebar Nov. 1878 1879 and conveyed to Sligo gaol but released soon after. A prominent Land Leaguer.

LIVING PERSONALITIES

Margaret Bowker - Sheridan, renowned opera singer, born in the house now occupied by Mrs. Ryan, The Mall, Castlebar. Obtained her early education in Castlebar - then to Ecles St, Dublin. Noticable voice. Went to Italy for training. Became famous abroad. Sang in all the principal opera houses and especially Milan. [Soprano? Check please.]

Ernie Doolley author of the (controversial) book "On Another man's Wound" - born in Castlebar

Michael Bowker the artist - R.I.A.C., A.R.H.A. of Ecles St. Castlebar. [DETAILS AT DUBLIN]

R. J. King artist of Charles St, Castlebar. Especially noted for his commemorative stamp designs. [DETAILS AT DUBLIN - R.I.A.C.? A.R.H.A.?]

ADDENDUM ^{genes} Hardiman, author of the "History of Galway" - founder of Grey Monastery near Ballyheane, 1st Nov. 1842 - a condition of his granting lands and house to the Franciscans was that a school must be kept there.

"Sean na Sogair" notorious priest tinker of the Penal times whose name is a byword in Co. Mayo - said to have been born in the village of Ballyheane.

Methodist Church, Castlebar: Has a plaque saying that "John Wesley A.M. laid the first stone May 21st 1795." Wesley (1703-1791) was Methodist founder. Born at Epworth - England.