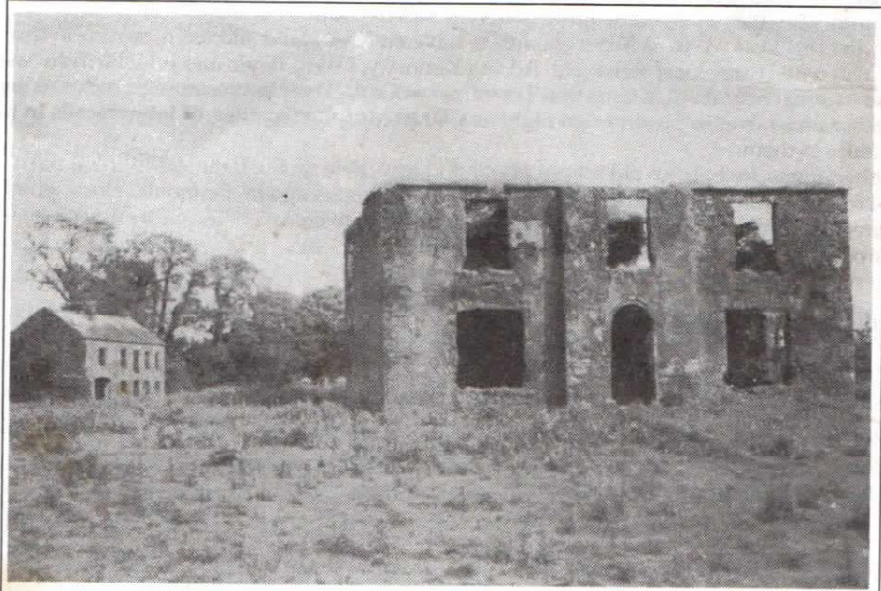


# Milltown Newsletter

**PRICE £1**

*Summer 1994*



*Ruins of John Birmingham's house at Millbrook, Milltown,  
Tuam, Co. Galway*

## EDITORIAL

Our second newsletter of 1994 co-incides with the annual Milltown Festival which will, we hope, prove to be successful both as a reunion of our people here at home with those in other parts of Ireland and abroad and as a time of celebration, entertainment and sporting competition for locals and visitors alike. It will also put Milltown on the map as a community capable of hard work, unity and organisational ability.

This issue happens to be our first anniversary one and our fourth in all. May we use the occasion to thank everybody who has helped in any way over the past twelve months for their support, encouragement, material both written and photographic, and of course your consistent patronage in buying the finished product. A special word of thanks is also due to the shops and pubs who do the selling for us free of charge and without any profit for themselves.

Included in this summer edition is Part Three of the M.J. Molloy story, which is of course tinged with sadness as the great man has now gone to his eternal reward. Although he is no longer with us in person, and his death has saddened the whole community, we can console ourselves with the wonderful legacy he has left us in the form of some of the finest drama ever written in this country.

Also featured in this issue is a look back in time by Peter McGrath Snr., of Russellstown who gives us an idea of what life was like in the Milltown of the forties and fifties. Part two of his article will appear in our Christmas 1994 edition. We are indebted to him for sharing his experiences with us and we congratulate him on his marvellous memory. Perhaps other readers will feel compelled to reminisce about the past as well. Their contributions would be greatly appreciated.

Our HOT SEAT page has proved very popular and the man chosen for this sitting will certainly continue that trend. He is 89-year-old Paddy Ruane from Burrish, a gentle and charming man who with his lovely wife Kathleen celebrated 51 years of wedded bliss last month. May they have many more anniversaries to come.

Earlier this year we were lucky enough to have an All-Ireland success to savour in the parish when three local teenagers, Adrian Kennedy, David Boyle and John Murphy won the national *Scór na nOg* Question Time final in Cork. Their homecoming produced joyous scenes on a never to be forgotten night as Ciaran Murphy (brother of John) recalls in his tribute to them.

Other items include an old school photo and an article on the famous Milltown-born astronomer John Birmingham; a photo taken some years ago in Belmont; a local phone directory and several other bits and pieces which go to complete the entire newsletter. We hope you enjoy the results of our humble efforts.

### *Home Song*

I read within a poet's book  
A word that starred the page,  
"Stone walls do not a prison make,  
Not iron bars a cage."

Yes, that is true, and something more:  
You'll find, Where'er you roam,  
That marble floors and gilded walls  
Can never make a home

But every house where love abides  
And Friendship is a guest,  
Is surely home, and home, sweet home;  
For there the heart can rest.

By Henry Van Dyke  
*Sent in by Maureen McCormack, Kilgevrin*



# The Hot Seat



**Full Name:** Paddy Ruane

**Occupation:** Retired Farmer

**Favourite Food:** Bacon and Cabbage

**Favourite Drink:** Glass of Stout. As a young lad I didn't drink much — only what I got as a treat as times were hard and money was scarce.

**Favourite pastimes:** I enjoy reading, especially the daily newspapers. In my younger days I enjoyed dancing — the reel was my favourite dance.

**Memory of First Dance:** In my young days Healy's of Russelstown was a great place of entertainment. An old house was converted into a hall. We danced a lot of sets and waltzes until the early hours of the morning. The music was provided by anyone who could play an accordion, violin or any instrument. There was no charge for this entertainment.

**Favourite Song:** "I'll take you Home Again, Kathleen" and all old Irish songs.

**Earliest Memory:** I started smoking the clay pipe at the age of eight years. I called to Hannon's house every day after school. Mrs. Hannon, an old woman would give me a pull of the pipe as a treat for bringing in turf and very soon I started smoking my own clay pipe.

**Worst moment at school:** I had no bad moments. I was taught by Mrs. Heaney and Mr O'Kane.

**First Job:** From the age of 19 to 24, I worked in England potato picking, beet picking and in the hay fields. We started working every morning at 6.20 a.m. and we worked until very late at night.

**Favourite colours:** Red.

**Favourite T.V. Programme:** News, debates and all media documentaries.

**Favourite Chat Show:** The Late, Late Show.

**Person you most admire:** My wife Kathleen, as she is the best ....

**If you won the Lotto:** I would divide it out between my family. It would be no good to me as I wouldn't be able to spend it. I would treat my friends and neighbours to a good old night-out on the town.

**Biggest changes you have seen over the years:**

— Different types of machinery: not much manual work nowadays.

— Glad to see women going to a public house for a drink. In my day women from once they got married they were sentenced. If a woman was seen in a pub, she would be the talk of the place and "The devil of a man she would ever get."

**Favourite motto:** Money is the darling.

**If you weren't Paddy Ruane who would you like to be?** I am very happy as I am but I wouldn't mind having plenty of money to spread around.

*Paddy lives in Gurrane, Belmont, Milltown with his wife Kathleen.*

*He has a family of six — Cuig Buachaillí agus Cailín amhain.*

## M.J. Molloy R.I.P.

When we first started this short series of articles about one of Ireland's greatest dramatists we little realised that M.J. Molloy's long and distinguished career was coming to a close. His death on May 27th came as a shock to the local community and to the world of the theatre where he was known, admired and loved both at home and abroad.

As planned, we publish Part 3 of the series in this issue and the fourth and final section will appear in the next Milltown Newsletter.

Ar dheis de go raibh a anam uasal.



### M.J. Molloy

M.J. Molloy's work has been presented not only on the stage but also on T.V. and radio. The B.B.C. did a radio adaptation of *The Old Road* in 1967 while R.T.E. broadcast *The King of Friday's Men* and *The Paddy Pedlar*. Abroad, too, his work has proved popular. *The Will and The Way* was performed off Broadway in 1957 while in England in the same year *The Paddy Pedlar* was presented in London. He has had the distinction of having one of his plays *The King of Friday's Men* staged on three continents as it was produced in South Africa and New York as well as in London and Ireland.

He has also had the honour of seeing his work performed by some of Ireland's greatest actors. As well as that superb star of the stage F.J. McCormick, others to portray Molloy characters include the late great M.J. Dolan and Brid ni Loinsigh who took leading roles in *The Wood of the Whispering*. Harry Brogan, who later became a household name on radio, co-starred with McCormick in *The Visiting House*.

Cyril Cusack, who also died recently, played the role of Myles in *Old Road* while Galwayman Walter Macken, later to become an outstanding author himself, was Bartley Dowd in *The King of Friday's Men*. Siobhan McKenna, one of our most talented actresses and who had strong Galway connections, was in *Daughter From Over the Water*.

A memorable tour by the Druid Theatre Company, Galway in 1983, which incidentally included a performance in the C.Y.M.S. Hall, Milltown, was a tribute to the writer's birthplace, now looks a like WHO'S WHO of the Irish theatre. It also indicates the tremendous depth of talent available to Druid at the time.

Garry Hynes, later to become Artistic Director of the Abbey itself, had a star-studded cast including Mick Lally as Sanbatch Daly, Mary McEvoy as Kitty Wallace;

Sean McGinley was Con Kinsella and Ray McBride was Stephen Lannigan. The cast was completed by Maeliosa Stafford as Paddy King, Michael O Sullivan as his brother Jimmy and Mary Ryan as Sheila Lannigan; while Mark Tristnan was played by Eamonn Maguire and Marie Mullen was Sadie Tubridy. It resulted in people flocking from far and near for the most momentous night in the history of Milltown Hall with a huge crowd of bitterly disappointed theatregoers being reluctantly turned away as the number of seats available was far less than the number of people wishing to see the play performed in Molloy's own parish.

It was indicative of the widespread respect he had earned. In an age when controversy and anti-religious bias are classed as the hallmarks of successful plays it shows the great contrast in both content and presentation between the M.J. Molloy of this world and many of today's writers. One wonders how many latter-day plays will still be popular fifty years after they were first staged. It was a point not lost on M.J. who frowned on immoral and smutty material.

Writer and broadcaster Micheal O hAodha once compared him to Chekov, remarking that "Molloy's characters are clearly poorer in their material circumstances but despite the surface violence and occasional melodrama he shared with Chekov a gentle humour mixed with compassion for the outcast and the lonely." Not surprisingly he has also been compared with Synge. Without wishing to denigrate that most colourful and entertaining of writers there are those who claim that Molloy, who from childhood was steeped in the folklore and traditions of the West of Ireland, was actually more true to life in the characterisation of the peasant people he wrote about.

For much of his career M.J. Molloy combined writing with farming at his small holding in Cartron where he lived in his one-and-a-half storey cottage. Despite the fame which accompanied his success he was always content to live amongst his own people. He reluctantly parted ways with the farming life in 1973 when he sold his land in order to concentrate all his energy on writing. By 1985 his prolific output brought him to play No. 16 when *The Bachelor's Daughter* was premiered by Tuam Theatre Guild who then took it on the amateur festival circuit with Joe Donoghue as producer.

Joe Molloy was eventually honoured by membership of Aosdana, a group of Irish artists who meet regularly at Annamakerrig, Northern Ireland where they receive Government support in order to pursue and develop their particular talents. It was richly deserved recognition, earned by several years and thousands of words in his truly magnificent contribution to Irish drama.



## MILLTOWN — LLANDDAROG

### *Gefeillio Pentrefi/Village Twinning*

On Friday, May 29th, 1994 a group of ten left Milltown to represent their parish on a twinning visit to Llanddarog in Wales. The group included Tony and Fran Murphy, Eamon Callaghan, Cathal Sheridan, Trudi Varley, Ann Sheridan, Anne Costello, Kevin Carney, John Hehir and Martin Mullins. A very enjoyable week-end was had by all ten members. We hope to return the compliment to our friends from Llanddarog in September. The following is a copy of our programme for the week-end. We also include some photographs of our trip.

#### **MILLTOWN VISIT TO LLANDDAROG April 29th to May 2nd**

Friday 29th: Late arrival in Llanddarog

Saturday 30th: 11 a.m. visit to Crosshands Business Centre and Menter Cwm Gwendraeth

Afternoon — Free in Carmarthen

7.30 p.m. Variety Concert — Trinity College, Carmarthen

Sunday 1st: Farm Visit/Visit Paxton's Tower

Home of Cheltenham Gold Cup Winner Norton's Coin

1 p.m. Sunday Lunch — White Hart, Llanddarog

Afternoon — local sight-seeing Tour — Visit to home of Dylan Thomas

7.30 p.m. Social Evening at Prince of Wales, Porthyrhd

Monday 2nd Farewell Party Butchers Arms, Llanddarog

### **TWINNING PHOTOS**



Kevin and Cathal making a presentation to one of our host families.



Photos from top: Martin, Kevin, Fran, Tony, John, Anne and Ann displaying the Cheltenham Gold Cup at Griffiths farm.

Farewell party at The Buchers Arms, Llanddarog.

View from Paxton's Tower. Eamon, Ann, Trudi, John and Kevin.

## ***Social and Personal***

### **Christenings:**

Michael McWalters, Ballymara, Milltown, Tuam  
Marie Ward, Cloonagh Milltown, Tuam.  
John Macken, Carraunurlaur, Milltown, Tuam.  
Darren Burke, Lisconly, Milltown.

### **Engagements:**

Michelle McGuinness, Cloonacross, and John Cline, Dublin.  
Jackie Boyle, Lisconly, and Regina Mitchell, Williamstown.  
Edward Forde, Liskeavey and Kathy McDonagh, Oranmore.  
Anne Oates, Carrownageeha and Tom Hughes, Roundfort.

### **Marriages:**

April 29, 1994: Mary McWalters Conagher and Joe Donnellan  
May 21, 1994: Joan Kelly, Carrowreagh and Michael Long,  
Carrownageeha.  
June 18, 1994: Eileen Quinn, Conagher and Dennis Fahy, Ballindine.  
June 18, 1994: Marie Leonard, Carrowbane and Paddy Molloy, Gorey.

### **Deaths:**

March 20, 1994: Peter Donnellan, Bawnmore  
April 15, 1994: Mary O'Neill, Emmeracly, Milltown.  
April 15, 1994: Kathleen Quinn, Conagher, Milltown.  
May 18, 1994: James J. Feerick, Kilgevrin, Milltown.  
May 20, 1994: Mathias Concanon, Russelstown, Milltown.  
May 21, 1994: M.J. Molloy, Milltown.  
Sunday, July 31st, 1994: Paddy Varley, Milltown.





— First Holy Communion, 1994 —  
Carrownageeha National School

Left to right: James O'Toole, Kieran Cunningham, Enda Varley, Billy O'Toole, Michael Oates.  
Teacher: Mrs Maeve O'Dea.

## MILLTOWN IN THE 1930s — '50s, as remembered

by Peter McGrath Snr., Russellstown

Although the appearance of Milltown has changed very much for the better over the last few decades there is no doubt that the village was a far busier and more vibrant place in the '30s to the '50s. In those days nearly all trade and commerce was carried out locally and visits to Galway or even to Tuam or Claremorris were very rare. All shopping was done in the nearest town with the donkey and cart being the main mode of transport, ideal for both the shopper and the shopping.

Tuesday was market day when most people would avail of the opportunity to sell eggs, oats, potatoes, vegetables etc. and then use the money they received in payment to stock up with groceries and anything else that was needed at home. It should be noted that the range of goods required then was much smaller than nowadays as most households were almost self-sufficient. Tea, sugar, paraffin oil and flour were the items most in demand. On that day dozens of asses and carts could be seen outside the various business houses while the owners were inside doing the shopping and sometimes, too, availing of the bar facilities.

When the fifties arrived the trend changed, the need for going to Milltown lessened as all shops had vans on the road going 'out the country' on certain days. Bernard Grogan, an enterprising businessman who originally came from Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon was the first to introduce that particular form of shopping to the area. In the '20s and '30s he was proprietor of what later became known as Acton's shop in Belmont and then moved to the Halfway House in Brownsgrrove before finally moving to Milltown where his son Christy still runs the family bar and grocery.

For many years his driver and salesperson who accompanied Mattie Murray on the country run was Maggie Walsh from Gurrane ( a sister of the late Sonny Walsh) who later became Mrs. Gaffney in Tuam and who is still hale and hearty and still working as she has done for many years in Purcell's Newsagency in that town. The main lines carried in those days by Grogans and the others were groceries and feed for cattle, pigs and poultry. Eggs were collected at most country houses and the money got for them, paid for and indeed often surpassed the weekly food bill. In the early days the eggs would be put into wooden crates and packed with straw before cardboard came on the scene. These crates were 5 ft. x 2'6" by 10" deep and took three layers of eggs. The crates were filled by the shopkeepers and collected by the egg dealers. Bernard Grogan's brother Tommy ran a hackney car and garage business from part of the building behind Ryan's pub. That business was later taken over by James Comer, Dunmore and later by Paddy Varley from Belmont who spent a number of years there before buying his own premises from the Cunnane family who left the area and emigrated to the United States.

Other traders who operated travelling shops were Willie Burke, Mattie Ronayne (for Mannion's Shop), Bill Hennigan (for Mrs. Glynn, mother of Frank), Paddy Flannery (now The Hideaway Bar), Charlie Sheridan, Jim Connolly (Drim), Willie Costello, Belmont, Andy Keane, Railway House, Pollaturick (The Blue Pig) and Tom Murphy, Dunmore who concentrated on the Russellstown, Cloonagh and Cathill areas as well as the Dunmore region. The travelling shops were useful for the country people but meant a loss of busi-



ness to the pubs.

The importance of eggs to the people of that era cannot be overstated. The egg dealers of 'egglers' as they were known came to Milltown on a regular basis. They included Michael Cahill, Tuam, Dinny Howley, Dunmore (where P.J.s Night Club now stands and Frank Hession, Tuam.)

EGGS provided the principal source of income for many households and unlike sheep and cattle very little land was required for that form of farming. Indeed, it sometimes allowed farms of as little as eight acres to be divided between two brothers. The hens were normally kept beside the family home but often in summer they would be moved to the bog where a special henhouse kept them safe from foxes or other predators. Their temporary removal meant that the vegetables growing in the garden were unlikely to be disturbed or uprooted.

PIGS: Pigs, too, played an important role in farming in those years. They provided meat for the household all year round when killed at home or money when sold. A good killing pig would fetch five or six pounds while bonhams cost between fifteen shillings to one pound. Pig markets were held in Milltown in May and December near Sheridans hill. Bonham markets were held near the water pump. Buyers from Denny's Factory in Limerick (the name is still going strong) would arrive at the local railway station (then known as Pollaturick, not Milltown) and stay overnight. They usually stayed at Casey's house (home of Steve Casey, the All-Ireland handball champion). This house is now occupied by the Donelon family and at one time it housed a confectionery and grocery shop run by Joe and Agnes Farragher. These markets were particularly big in the thirties and they actually date back to the previous century. Often between 20 and 30 men would be seen driving the pigs from Milltown over to the Railway Station.

MARKETS: In the last century and in the early part of the 1900s, one of the first markets in this part of the country used to be held in a field owned by the family of Gabriel McWalters in Conagher. Farm produce including oats, potatoes and vegetables were sold there and indeed this market may have been influential in the development of Frank Quinn's Conagher Mill. This market eventually faded out of business and new ones were established in Milltown and Dunmore. The Milltown one was held beside the communal water pump which happily remains intact. Goods were weighed on a huge scales supported by a tripod. Both containers were lifted by three chains with the weights on one side and the goods on the other.

SAWMILL: For about six years in the early forties a successful sawmill was in operation in the Millbrook area. Tom Togher, who at the time lived at Athenry Road, Tuam, started up a timber business on the Milltown side of Ballymara Bridge on land owned by Paddy Joe Korrane. It was worked by a steam engine driven by Jim Feerick, Banagher who later became a postman in the town. Bill Kelly who operated the saw eventually set up his own sawmill in Lissavalley, Tuam while another man who worked there was Stanley McHugh, Dunmore who drove the lorry. At full production it employed fifteen men. However, the Millbrook sawmill did not last beyond 1946 when it ceased working and Tom Togher then moved to Caherlistrane and later to Tuam where his sawmill is still very much in business.

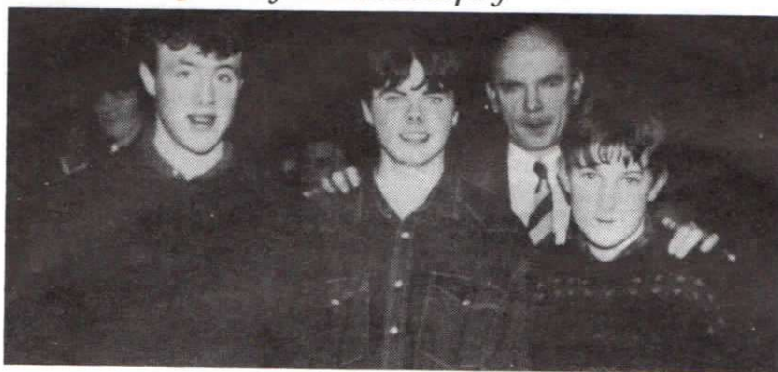
*(part two in next issue).*



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## SCÓR na nÓg HEROES

by Ciaran Murphy



Milltown has always had a great reputation when it comes to quizzes in the Scór na nÓg Competition. They had come close to ultimate success in the the 'Trath na gCeist' competition in recent years (1990, Brian Murphy, Brendan McHugh, Ted Cunningham) and 1993 (Brendan McHugh, John Murphy, Adrian Kennedy) but they had never won an All-Ireland Final.

This year's team which comprised of Adrian Kennedy, John Murphy and David Boyle, started shakily in the North Galway section of the competition. Caltra and Salthill gave Milltown a run for their money but Milltown's experience in this competition (all of them had competed twice or more on a team) helped them and they won through.

There was a break for Christmas and then on January 8, the county final between Salthill, Milltown, Na Piersaigh and Renvyle. In the end it went to a tie-breaker between Milltown and Salthill. After five successive questions in which each team got the question right, Milltown won through by answering with the correct answer of Sean MacEoin to the question "Who was known as the Blacksmith of Ballinalee?"

There was only a week between the county and provincial finals. Milltown were going for two in a row in Connacht and after a tie-break the wishes of the numerous Milltown people in the crowd were fulfilled. David Boyle was the hero, because it was he who knew that the name for a group of hares is a down of hares.

Unlike the previous two finals that Milltown had been involved in, which were held in the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin, this one was held in Connolly Hall, Cork. Milltown didn't start too well, but we soon pulled back into it by answering both our four-mark questions on the G.A.A. in Irish and the six-mark question on History. By this stage we had pulled slightly ahead and it was a lead we were destined not to lose. It was a long time in the offing, but Milltown had won a Trath na gCeist All-Ireland final. Afterwards the then president of the G.A.A. Peter Quinn, presented the team with their gold medals.

Thanks must go to Burkes Buses who drove a group of us all the way to Cork; all the people who were involved in the huge welcome the team got when they returned home on Sunday evening and also to the Chairman of Milltown G.A.A. Club, Jarlath Connolly, who supported Scór teams, not just this year, but for many years. A special word of thanks must go to Tony Murphy who taught the team so well throughout the campaign (not that ye needed much teaching, right lads?)



**A group of young Belmont men taken outside Costellos in Belmont in 1943:** Back row (left to right) John Cosgrove, Martin Hyland, Jack Hughes, Frank Acton, Jim Acton, Tom Costello R.I.P., Mick Giblin, Paddy Joe McHugh, John P. Hannon R.I.P. Front row: Tom Dolan R.I.P., Vincent Godwin, Joe Godwin, Vincent Giblin, Padraic Ruane, Sean McHugh, Pete Hughes R.I.P., Mattie Dolan.





**Milltown National School 1949 — 1950:** Front row: Mary Naughton, Kathleen Ruane, Phil Ryan, Brid Ryan, Mary Ruane, Pauline Keeley, Rose Cunnane, Aggie Rattigan.  
 Second row: Mary Diskin, Helen Oates, Teresa Tierney, Mai Fitzpatrick, Rita Connolly, Breda McHugh, Mary Mullarkey, Kathleen Keeley.  
 Third row: Julie Teresa Murray, Nora Murray, Phil Connolly, Lottie O'Malley, Tess O'Connor, Nora Rattigan, Bernie Groake, Aine Lohan.  
 Fourth row: Bernie Naughton, Nancy Ryan, Joy Flannery, Martha Corcoran, Dete Ryan, Mary Donnellan, Mary Connolly.



## A CO. GALWAY ASTRONOMER: JOHN BIRMINGHAM

JOHN BIRMINGHAM, the astronomer, one of the most interesting Co. Galway figures of the last century, lived at Millbrook, near Milltown, where the ruined remains of his residence are still to be seen. He was a member of a family which had been settled in the Milltown locality since at least the sixteenth century, but the Birminghams had entered Co. Galway at a much earlier period.

Richard Birmingham was created Lord Athenry in 1316 and John Birmingham of Athenry, who commanded the forces that defeated Edward Bruce at Faughard, Co. Louth, in 1318, won the title in consequence of Earl of Louth and Baron of Ardee. The Birminghams built Dunmore Castle in 1248 and were prominent in the area from that time forwards.

Birmingham's grandfather, Sean Dearg 'ac Fheorais, as he was locally known, is said to have been a wealthy man and to have owned sugar plantations in the West Indies, but the wealth seems to have subsequently disappeared. Our John Birmingham, the Sean Mor of the song, "Cearc agus Ceolach" in Mrs. Costello's "Amhrain Mhuighe Seola" was born in 1816. He was educated on the Continent and a local tradition has it that he spent seven years in Berlin. It is stated on reliable authority that he had a considerable knowledge of languages and that he had travelled in most European countries. He seems to have qualified as a Civil Engineer and he occupied for some time a position as Inspector in the Board of Works. He was the owner of a small estate at Millbrook and of another property at Logboy, near Ballyhaunis, and was a magistrate in both districts.

Although Birmingham had a considerable interest in geology, contributing papers on the subject to the Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin and engaging in prospecting and mining activities on his property at Logboy, it was his discoveries in astronomy that brought him some fame and earned him a place in the "Dictionary of National Biography." He was the first to notice the appearance on the 12th of May, 1866 of a remarkable variable star in Corona Borealis and in 1872 he undertook the revision of Prof. Schejellerups (Copenhagen) "Catalogues of Red Stars", adding, among others, many discovered by himself. It was published in the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy" for 1879 and for it he was awarded the Cunningham Medal in 1884. On 22nd May, 1881, he discovered a strikingly variable state in Cyngus which became known by his name. He made contributions to the German "Astronomische Nachrichten" and was in correspondence with several foreign astronomers, notably the world-famous director of the Vatican Observatory, Fr. Secchi. In 1863 he published a long poem entitled "Angelica: or England's Mission to the Celt" which was inspired by the proselytising activities of certain organisations in the West of Ireland at the time, but its scope is extended to include, as he says in the preface, "the performance of England's mission to uproot Catholicity among the Irish, and the characteristics of Anglican doctrine" It is a vigorously written poem in rhyming couplets and in a style largely modelled on that of Dryden. The large section of the poem in which he engages in religious controversy, however, will probably be found less interesting than his views on Irish history and politics and on England at the time. It is a work now very difficult to procure but I succeeded in picking up a rather battered copy in a second-hand book shop some years ago.

Birmingham was, by all accounts, a man of great physical strength and many stories are told of his athletic prowess. His poem shows that he was a man of strong and sincere religious faith. It is asserted definitely that he died a most pious death — "he struck the books with his fist and said that all was vanity." He died at Millbrook from an attack of jaundice on the 7th of September 1884.

I am grateful to my friend, Mr. M. J. Molloy of Milltown, who kindly placed at my disposal part of the rich fund of local tradition that he has collected and which has been of considerable assistance to me in preparing this article.

P.M. DISKIN M.A. (R.I.P.).  
University College, Galway

# MILLTOWN FESTIVAL

## 1994

*This year's annual festival runs from August 6th to the 14th and has an action-packed programme designed to include something for all tastes. Among the highlights are the Annual Sports which is held on Sunday 7th, the Gymkhana featuring the £1,000 Mill Meats-sponsored D and E championship final on Sunday, August 14th, a dog show and bird show also on the 14th, a sheep show and sale under the auspices of Tuam Mart; a barbecue and a mini-craft show.*

*For the Sports-minded there will be a tennis tournament with several categories running throughout the week, and an open clay pigeon shoot on Sunday, August 7th. In addition, the local pubs are organising their own activities including music, darts competitions and various fun events.*

