



**VOL, 6, ISSUE 1**



## *Welcome to Killawalla Newsletter*



Deirdre Feehan, died on December 16, 2017 and was buried in Killawalla on December 20, 2017



Tara McNeela, Glenmask, and Kenneth Murtagh married in Ballintubber Abbey on December 27, 2017

Sean Lee, Westport and Grace Heraty, Moate, were married in Killawalla Church on December 28, 2017

Ray Moylette, Islandeady and Sharon McGing, Kinuany were married in Islandeady on December 28, 2017



### **Rural electrification of Killawalla, in 1955**

Area: Killawalla  
Started: December 1953  
Finished: March 1955  
Poles used: 1060  
Line used (km): 96  
Premises connected: 332

The report on Killawalla was compiled by Mr. V. Gallagher, R.A.E., whose first area this was. It is not a very prosperous region and despite all difficulties 78% of the total houses in the area are supplied.; the balance of refusals representing only 18 households and 7 backsliders. The original area was extended in some areas to take in a total of 64 consumers who had been uneconomic in adjoining areas and who were willing to accept special service charge now that they saw their prospects of getting supply dimmer and dimmer. 60 out the 80 extra consumers are paying special service charges or are barely within the 24:1 limit. In addition, a proposed limestone plant with an expected revenue of 124 pounds did not materialize due to lack of capital and as a result the return from the area fell from 5.28% to 4.67% Sales by both the Board and the wiring contractors were very low. The Board sales amounted to 123,10 pounds and the future for sales is not very helpful.

## Killawalla and the Potato Famine

The village suffered a huge drop in population during the Irish Potato Famine of the 1840's. In 1841 the census gave a population of 2,277 but in 1851 it had fallen to just 789 people. The loss of about two thirds of the population was the biggest percentage drop of any place in Ireland in the period. Today, the village population is still under 1,000



I am making this inquiry for my first cousin who descends from Co., Mayo Burkes. Regarding my source: In October, 1984 a Franciscan Brother, Kevin Burke, who was living in Corrandulla, Co. Galway, wrote to his father's first cousin in the USA. His monastery closed in February 1984 and turned into a home for the elderly. His new location, Hayden Apartments, was in the same parish of Annaghdown as was the monastery. Now on to Co. Mayo: A page of Kevin's letter is missing so we do not know WHEN or Where Kevin was born but we do know that his grandfather was Peter Burke of Co., Mayo.

Peter died when Kevin was two. Kevin's Aunt Bridgid and Uncle James, the children of Peter Burke, went to Indiana during the period of 1923 thru 1929. Kevin's grandfather Peter had a sister Julia who Kevin remembered. Her nickname was Judy. She was still very strong being able to walk miles while in her 80's. Kevin told his US first cousin once removed about HER father James Edward Burke who based on US records was the son of Thomas Burke or Bourke and Mary Carney or Kearney. James was born in about 1875 in Killawalla, Co. Mayo. He came to the US in about 1893. His sibs were Peter, John, Mary and Henry. There could have been more. Kevin said that James and Peter corresponded and John, Mary and Henry came to IN where James owned a hauling and storage business in Gary, Lake, Indiana, USA. Regarding, Killawalla, the birth place of James Edward Burke, son of Thomas Burke and Mary Carney, Kevin said: "There are 3 divisions in the parish Killawalla, Ballintubber and Carnacon." I want find relatives of James in the Irish censuses of 1901 and 11. So I need to know the name of the townland that Killawalla was in. Or I could use the DED. I do not expect that all of the family was there because I am assuming that these villages as Kevin called them were quite small. So I also would like to know names of townlands nearby where I could expect the family to live. Actually I would be thrilled if someone could tell me the townland, the Catholic parish, the civil parish, the barony and the poor law ?, I would really have great information for my cousin's tree. Obviously any help on this would be greatly appreciated. And if I could contact a living relative life would be perfect. Of course this is Christmas, actually today is the Winter Solstice, so I do not expect an answer until the new year.

Mary Quirk-Thompson  
 Milwaukee Wisconsin

## New Housing Development in Killawalla

Mayo County Council announced the building of 10 homes in Killawalla East on land purchased from the late Paddy Walsh. A future email newsletter will update progress as construction begins.



## Renovations of Killawalla Church Sanctuary

Killawalla Church Sanctuary underwent a renovation in January under the leadership of local builder, Liam Fergus



View of sanctuary prior to renovation



Sanctuary blocked off from main church



Workmen jackhammering out the concrete steps



Concrete steps removed



On left: Pictured is the sanctuary area with the steps to the altar removed. The furnishings are the furnishings used originally. A new smaller altar, along with ambo, presider's chair, two shelves to support the raised statues along with a pedestal to support the tabernacle against the back wall are being made by the church furnishings place in Carrick-on-Shannon. They will not be available until mid-April at the earliest. The total cost of the renovations has not been ascertained as yet. The Killawalla Pastoral Council<sup>3</sup> approved the renovations.



## Killawalla Confirmandi - February 23, 2018 in Killawalla Church



Pictured L-R  
Eoghan Breslin  
Cian Conroy  
Fr. Michael Farragher P.P.  
Oisín Rowell  
Conor Heneghan  
Archbishop M. Neary  
Beth Hoban  
Evelyn Skolemestra  
Shauna Heneghan  
Mrs. Theresa Hoban

*Congratulations*




Duffy and Breslin families