

Sliabh Aughty Vol. 13

Sliabh Aughty, the journal of the East Clare Heritage Company is now available in selected outlets. This year's edition, Volume 13, is packed with items of historical and genealogical interest, particularly for people with East Clare connections.

Alfie O'Brien and *Paddy Madden* join forces with an American researcher, *Christine Crawford - Oppenheimer* to trace the descendants of John Anthony Burke of Tintrim House, Whitegate. John Anthony was a landlord, magistrate and a colourful character who married the daughter of a prosperous Dublin merchant in 1817 and they had five children. He died in 1863 and is buried in Clonrush. His flattering epitaph was written four years previously.



Brendan Burke from Dublin traces the history of the unrelated Burkes of Meelick House, Whitegate, through a number of 18th and 19th century wills, supplemented by information from other sources.

Michael Coffey meticulously traces immigrants from Bodyke who passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924. This article should be of interest to everyone as the Ellis Island records are now online and Michael explains clearly how to use them.

Denis Moloney from Bodyke, was fortunate to come across in the British Public Records Office, a 36 page report compiled in 1851 by two eminent doctors on the high rate of mortality in Tulla Workhouse. The report is both fascinating in terms of the objectivity with which these men reported their findings and horrifying when one considers, that the victims, while separated from us by 150 years, were our neighbours and cousins in East Clare.

Kieran Sheedy, the celebrated historian from Feakle, writes about the first reports from the penal colony of Botany Bay, as published in the Ennis Chronicle April/May 1789.

Sean Spellissy reviews one of the most unusual and fascinating books ever written on the plants of the Middle East. It is called *An Illustrated Guide to the Plants of the Bible* and was written by *Alfie O'Brien* from Whitegate. Copies are available directly from Alfie and from selected book stores.



John Rattigan and *Edel Greene* from the County Museum describe twenty one archaeological objects found in the parish of Feakle which are now in State care.

Lorna Moloney, chairperson of East Clare Heritage and a History Lecturer in U.L writes about the important role played by Gaelic women in East

Clare in the fourteenth century. 'They exercised power in hidden social and economic contexts making them far more than queens, old women and mouthpieces.'

An Australian *Richard Davoren* tells the story of his ancestor James Davoren who left Ogonnelloe in the 1840's and made his mark in Australia.

The publication of the gravestone inscriptions from various places in East Clare has become a regular feature of *Sliabh Aughty*. Gravestones are the manuscripts of local history and their recording and preservation is of utmost importance. *Michael MacNamara* has indexed Cratloe graveyard and we are delighted to be able to publish these records.

Nora T. Goonane Leonard has contributed to every edition of *Sliabh Aughty*. She has been a great ambassador for East Clare in her adopted U.S.A. and an inspiration to all of us at home. Now in her twilight years, her work written over a period of seventy years is still as vibrant and lively as ever.

Gerard Madden has written about the Morelands of Raheen and in particular the outcome of a marriage between a Protestant Moreland and a Catholic girl from Tuamgraney. The remnant of an infamous Penal law was still in existence in the second half of the 19th century.

Gerard Madden
Editor