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Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

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Agrarian agitation and the struggle of one activist during the Land War in Donoughmore.

By Gerard O' Rourke

The popularity of Charles Stewart Parnell and his Irish Parliamentary Party throughout 1889-90 was much in evidence in the political landscape. His work in allying himself to Gladstone and the British Liberal party in the pursuit of Home Rule resulted in increased impetus and expectation countrywide. A government special commission report which found no evidence to link him with perceived association with terrorism enhanced his stature in Ireland and Britain. The notable decrease in agrarian violence in Cork County from 117 incidents in 1886 to 82 in 1889 suggested that the Land War was coming to an inevitable conclusion. Economic buoyancy which saw cattle prices at a level beyond comprehension and a grain harvest in 1889 arguably the best for a decade contributed to this reduction in tension and conflict. However, in a Mid - Cork parish fifteen miles west, north-west of Cork city, lying chiefly in the Barony of East Muskerry and partly in Barrett's Barony this situation was somewhat reversed. Moonlighting activities prevailed in Donoughmore and a degree of unrest manifested itself, the land question was still unresolved and the situation was accentuated by the arrest of popular Mid- Cork M.P. Dr. Charles K. Tanner. A further incident in March 1890 on the border of Donoughmore and Inniscarra in a townland called Reagrellagh (Rea) saw three men sentenced to seven years penal servitude for committing a Whiteboy offence. This led to one man's obsession to prove his innocence resulting in his case being brought as a parliamentary question before the House of Commons; an intervention by John Redmond M.P. with Mr. John Morley, the Chief Secretary of Ireland and signed testimonials on behalf of the prisoner from prominent Cork City and County political and religious leaders.

In January 1889 a monster National League meeting was arranged in Donoughmore, for the 27th day of the month, in which all nationalists were asked to attend and support the league '*against the machinations of a despotic government*'. Deputations arrived from the Cork League and from branches such as Macroom, Aghabullogue, Mourneabbey, Glountane, Ballinagree, Inniscarra, Grenagh and Mallow. The atmosphere was cordial and three bands, Dripsey Woollen Mills, Glountane and Coachford provided entertainment. John William Honohan PLG of the local branch presided and remarked

they had called the meeting to prove to Balfour and his government that the people were determined to assert their right in open daylight . . . though they might evict and imprison, it would not deter any Irishman, or influence him one iota from carrying out the fight, which was bound to end in victory'.

Little did John W. Honohan know that just eighteen months later this statement was to be put to the test by his own personal circumstances. The meeting was attended by Mr J. Flynn M.P. well known as a Land League activist who had been imprisoned during the Plan of Campaign. He declared that he was glad to be able to meet

'the gallant and fearless men of that district . . . if they continued to exhibit the spirit which they had shown . . . the country at large would be proud of them in time to come, and the children after them will boast that when the struggle for Irish national rights was fought, the people of Donoughmore would occupy honourable position in the van of the National movement'

The other M.P. in attendance Mr O' Hea said he was certain that an evicted farm in the district would remain evicted and he knew for fact that the case of the evicted farm being grabbed some years ago was now settled. The grabber had thought it the best of his play to relinquish it, and that the old tenant be reinstated again. Mr Michael Ahern, Chairman of the Cork Board of Guardians, said there was not '*in the whole of Mid- Cork a body of men whom Dr. Tanner relied more than he did upon the men of Donoughmore.*' He felt there was no need to refer to land grabbing, to which voices came from the crowd '*no, no there is none of it here*'. The meeting having being held in a field at Donoughmore Cross saw the crowd disperse quietly at the conclusion but not before some amusement was created. An effigy of government Chief Secretary Arthur Balfour on horseback was displayed much to the amusement of the 30 policemen who were keeping an eye on proceedings during the day. The effigy was taken into a nearby yard and put up on a fence in preparation for burning. This action prompted the officer in charge, Colonel Caddell, to order his men to take down the offending likeness. The *Cork Examiner* reporter then described what he thought was '*an element of the ludicrous, the straw stuffed effigy lay on the road , and around it stood the police , as if guarding it from further degradation.*' A young man who had the misfortune to tread on District Inspector Tyackes corns was subject to unnecessary force by the

police, they beating him with the butts of their rifles. They then proceeded to chase the *'inoffending people around the roads and into the fields acting in the most violent and ill tempered manner'*.

Moonlight activities were a feature of the parish landscape during the autumn of 1889. The police learned that a party of men, armed and disguised, visited several houses in the townland of Goulane, but the affair seemed to be kept a secret. In a follow up to this the police went to Goulane and spoke to two individuals. It was learned that one person had a gun taken from him and the other individual's mother was also a victim of a theft. A gamekeeper called Scanlon also had a gun with a revolver taken. At all the Masses the following Sunday the police stood at the chapel gates and viewed every person that came out. It was also rumoured that a police hut was to be erected in the locality for surveillance purposes. In Kilcullen Charles Lynch J.P., was subject to an attack on his house in November and several arrests were made as a result. The climate of agitation was ominous as tensions reverberated and gathered momentum.

The 'Rea' incident

The potential pitfalls in respect of membership of the National League with the objective of defending those tenants subject to eviction, the complete elimination of 'land grabbing' and the goal of the ownership of the soil of Ireland by the occupiers came to haunt Vice- President and popular member of the Donoughmore National League John W. Honohan of Derry in March 1890. He and six other men were accused of having unlawfully assaulted Timothy and Catherine Riordan, Rea, Berrings on the border of Inniscarra and Donoughmore. At the subsequent inquest Timothy Riordan, in evidence, said he was a labourer by occupation and on St Patrick's Day was hired by Timothy O' Connell, Rea, a farmer and road contractor. The agreement reached between the parties saw Riordan paid 5s 6d a week, given a house, a quarter acre of potato ground and eight loads of turf. With formalities completed Riordan left his home in Cork city and proceeded to carry what furniture he possessed to his new abode in Rea. However, on arriving, he discovered that the existing tenant Nano Corcoran along with her parents was still occupying the dwelling. Her husband was the former labourer for O' Connell but he was confined to the Lunatic Asylum. It transpired that she was given notice to quit the house but had asked for more time. In a sworn statement to Albert Beamish J.P. dated 1 September 1890, Mrs Corcoran maintained that Riordan, his wife and three children forced themselves into the house as trespassers. She went to a solicitor in Cork and paid him six and eight pence for advice *'and for want of money I had to drop law'*.

On the night of 30 March, Riordan and his wife were assaulted by a party of men who were allowed into the house by Mrs. Corcoran Their recently installed furniture was also broken up and they subsequently identified Thomas Walsh as one of the assailants. During the scuffle, Riordan escaped from the clutches of his assailants by going through the roof of the cottage and headed to his employer's home for safety. This house was then pelted with stones and the windows smashed. In evidence Dr. Taylor M.D., stated to the court that on examining the victim in the barracks at Ballincollig, his wounds were serious. His scalp lacerations were consistent as they having been inflicted with blows from a stick. The medical practitioner later remarked he was surprised to learn Honohan was allegedly involved as he had known him for several years and always looked on him as a respectable young man.

Five men were subsequently charged; the aforementioned Thomas Walsh, together with Andrew Barrett, John Honohan, Patrick Casey and Timothy Horgan. The defence solicitor queried the evidence of Riordan saying it *'was a mass of inconsistencies, contradictions and improbabilities'*. Hannah Horgan, sister of the prisoner Timothy Horgan stated at the inquest that her brother went to bed at nine o' clock on the night of the occurrence. John Casey gave similar evidence with regard to his father Patrick. William R. Honohan, a first cousin of John Honohan, was examined to provide an alibi for his relative and Hanorah Honohan, sister of the said John, gave similar evidence. Ellen Walsh, daughter of Thomas, said her father was in bed before eleven o' clock. Evidence as to the character of the prisoners was also produced. Mr. R. B. Colhurst J.P. said he knew Honohan for seventeen years and had never heard anything against him. As regards Walsh's credentials, his conviction for manslaughter in Dripsey six years previously was well documented but since then there was nothing else against him. Charles Lynch J.P. of Kilcullen said he had known John Honohan for a long period during which he considered him a well conducted individual. Mr. Harding J.P. also spoke in defence of Honohan saying he had transacted business with him and his family for over twenty years and always had reason to regard him as trustworthy. Nano Corcoran, in her witness statement, also spoke on behalf of Honohan saying he was not in the party of men who had assaulted Riordan. Jeremiah Desmond, a servant in the Honohan household, in a similar statement given to Mr Beamish J.P., swore that his employer slept in a

separate bed in the same room as his on the night of the assault. As Desmond's bed was nearer the door than Honohan's he maintained he would have heard John Honohan leave but he could say without contradiction that he did not. Catherine Casey was a dairy maid and servant at Honohan's and she also made a statement to Mr Beamish. She retired to bed at 11p.m. on the 30 March having remained up to that hour *'with my mistress Hanorah Honohan engaged in baking bread and reading the newspaper.'* She swore that her employer John Honohan and servants retired to bed as usual at half past eight

I did not hear any of them go out until morning, they certainly did not leave the house before I retired to bed and therefore could not possibly have been present at the attack on Riordan which took place (as was sworn) at an earlier hour'.

At the Cork Assizes on 23 July 1890, the prisoners were put forward for sentence. Before the final words from his Lordship, Justice Holmes, John Honohan asserted that *'he was as innocent of the present charge as the child unborn . . . I would not be guilty of such a ruffianly and inhuman act and I challenge any policeman in Cork to say I ever pointed the finger of scorn at any man'*. His lordship, having considered every aspect made his judgement and subsequently sentenced Thomas Walsh, Patrick Casey and John Honohan to seven years penal servitude.

J. W. Honohan and his fight for justice.

John William Honohan a single man was twenty six years when he was convicted of what was described as a Whiteboy offence. A staunch Roman Catholic he was a tenant under Mr. Babington farming ninety acres in Derry, Donoughmore and his sister Honora was named as the next of kin. His penal record in the National Archives Dublin describes him as being 5' 9" tall of stout build, blue eyes and fair hair, of an oval visage and of fresh complexion. On entering Mountjoy prison on the 6 August 1890 he weighed 157 lbs and despite variations in diet and conditions he was a fit weight of 165 lbs when finally released. Among the trades which occupied him in prison was oakum picking which was the mundane process of teasing out the fibres from old ropes. These fibres were subsequently sold by the prison authorities to ship builders who mixed them with tar and used it to seal the lining of vessels. He also did some tailoring, labouring and carpentry. Conscious that his farm in Derry needed to be rearranged he was given permission on 3 Sept 1890 to write a letter to five named authorities giving directions as to the management of his holding. The prison governor specifically stated that *'he may write on this business only'*. While in detention John was to find the rules were strict and enforced. Letters he received from his brother Robert, sister Honora, his brother-in-law Laurence P. Barry, and cousins John Crowley, Tullig and Mary O' Sullivan Lisladeen, Berrings were closely scrutinised. In November 1890 an application from his brother Robert and his future brother-in-law Laurence Barry for permission to visit him was declined. Prison rules decreed that he was not entitled to any visit till February of 1891. The purpose of this proposed visit was to get his consent to the marriage of his sister Hanora to Barry and for them to occupy his farm during his imprisonment. On two occasions letters addressed to him were returned to the sender as they were either too controversial or had arrived before the date assigned for receiving them. At another time he was stopped one supper for talking and giving an impertinent reply. As regards his health diligent records were kept by the authorities. During his early incarnation he suffered from diarrhoea, head pains, chest pains, and indigestion as he acclimatised to his new and challenging surroundings. His penal record also reveals visitations he received from his brother Robert on 4 April 1891 and 25 June 1892 and his brother-in-law, Laurence Barry on 9 December 1891, 25 October 1892 and 7 August 1893.

In a petition dated January 1891 to the Lord Lieutenant Honohan pointed out some facts regarding his conviction. The day after the assault, himself, Thomas Walsh and Daniel Shea were brought before Mr Beamish J.P. in the presence of Mr Riordan and his wife *'who both deposed an oath that neither of the accused were those who beat them.'* All the accused were subsequently discharged. Riordan boasted the following day that one John Sullivan had offered him ten pounds for not prosecuting Honohan and Walsh and that he had already received the sum of two pounds from Daniel Shea's father. Riordan made it known that if Honohan and Walsh did not pay him off within nine days he would get them rearrested. Rather than succumb to this threat Honohan declined and let his fate depend on the justice of the law. He was consequently arrested with Walsh, Patrick Casey, Timothy Horgan, Andrew Barrett, and two O'Shea brothers Daniel and Cornelius. The Riordans prosecuted all the accused except the Shea's who were subsequently discharged. It later became known that one of the Shea's left for America soon after. It was also learned that Timothy O' Connell could prove that Timothy Riordan had stated to him immediately after the attack that he did not know any of the assailants as it was too dark. It also emerged the John Sullivan (mentioned above) had also stated that he had

no authority from anyone to promise money to Riordan except from the Shea's father. It was in fact the Shea brother's sister who gave the two pounds to him which, he in turn, gave to Riordan. Andrew Barrett successfully convinced the court that he was in a public house three miles distant at the time of the outrage and was discharged. This development resulted despite the Riordans' initially stating that Barrett was the very first man that had assaulted them. Honohan who was admitted to Mountjoy Gaol on 6 August maintained his plea of innocence and continued to petition the authorities pleading that he

'humbly implores your excellency to consider a man in his position holding ninety acres of land and punctually paying his rent to Charles Lynch JP . . . T. Babbington Esq. Clerk of the crown and peace for the county of Cork can testify and whom four magistrates and two local policemen deposed an oath before Justice Holmes that (petitioner) to be a man of stainless character . . . even if i did commit such an act does your Excellency believe petitioner would afterwards hazard his liberty for the sake of a few pounds.'

Honohan claimed he was the victim of false identification and had informed the constabulary of the district this fact. He also asserted that magistrates R. W.T. Bowen Coldhurst Dripsey Castle, H. W. Gillman Coachford, and Charles Lynch Donoughmore would verify same. His final plea asked *'his Excellency to give the case your full and due consideration.'* His release was denied, but resolutely he continued his efforts to make new representations.

Dr Charles Tanner M.P. for Mid-Cork submitted a parliamentary question in the House of Commons on 16 June 1892 enquiring of the condition of John Honohan who, he said, had recently been seriously injured in Mountjoy Jail, and whether in view of the mitigating circumstances attending his conviction, an early release would be recommended. Honohan's injury occurred when with a number of his inmates he was demolishing an old building in the prison and a portion of the wall gave way. He sustained a compound fracture of his left leg. Mr. Madden in reply to the parliamentary question said the surgeon of the prison had stated Mr Honohan was making satisfactory progress. He informed Dr. Tanner that the Lord Lieutenant had already studied his petition and found that there were no mitigating circumstances and decreed that the law must take its course.

John Honohan made a new memorial in November of that year (1892) asserting again that he was entirely innocent and once again referred to *'his previous character testified by local magistrates and the conflicting evidence tendered against him.'* He further stated that he was confined to hospital since June after suffering a broken leg and believed that for several days his life was endangered. Being unable to move without the aid of crutches he contended that he would probably never regain his former strength. His confinement in prison was further retarding his improvement and he believed *'he would improve more in one week in the outside world than he would in prison for a month'*. His assertion was endorsed by the prison doctor Mr O' Keeffe M.D. who contended that *'he would probably improve more rapidly if released from prison'*. The reply to his request was terse *'let the law take its course.'*

With matters still unresolved the love of poetry was probably a great release for John Honohan in his hours of reflection and in the poem *The Fair Maids of Donoughmore* he cursed his difficult situation but took solace from the women he admired and had left behind. Some verses went;

*By Tyrants hated, I'm here located,
But prison bars can't enslave my mind,
And if from sinking it keeps one thinking,
Of those lovely fair maids I left behind,
Their blue eyes glancing their smiles entrancing,
Oh! the distance endears them more,
Oh! what a blessing to be caressing,
Those lovely fair maids of Donoughmore.*

*May none of them ever embrace a lover,
 Who would basely cringe to a Saxon knave,
 But chose instead who their blood would shed,
 In defence of Erin her rights to save,
 And when their mothers and wives of others,
 May they instill in their youths they bore,
 A patriot ardour and true regard for,
 The maids of Erin and Donoughmore.*

In a further petition to Lord Houghton, the Lord Lieutenant, on 9 June 1893, John Honohan gave his reasons for his sentence to be remitted. It was his first offence in his life of thirty years; if even he was guilty he has '*sufficiently expiated my offence*'. Longer confinement would be injurious to his health; his farm was in the hands of a caretaker and was accordingly subject to deterioration. He remarked that he had been '*informed that the constabulary of the district have since ascertained that I was not present when the offence was committed*'. In a final plea he asked his Excellency '*that of all the attributes you possess as representative of Her Most Gracious Majesty none can compare with that of mercy which I now crave at your hand for the granting of which I shall ever pray*'. In September, with no reprieve, his sister Hanora who was at this stage married to Laurence P. Barry of Coolickey stated in a petition to Lord Houghton that Timothy Horgan sentenced to twelve months for his part of the affray was now publicly asserting that her brother took no part in the assault. She implored him '*to order her brother's release from a confinement that has already been very long and patiently borne*'. In her letter some notable people lent their signatories for his release among them His Eminence Bishop John McCarthy of Cloyne, Fr John Murphy CC., Donoughmore, Charles Lynch J.P., C.J. Harold J.P., and Robert Day J.P. and High Sheriff of Cork. On 4 October the Lord Lieutenant stated the familiar phrase '*let the law take its course*'. The intervention of John Redmond M.P. for North Wexford (the well known lifelong parliamentarian who later all but secured Home Rule) to the case seemed superficially to have been influential. In a letter to Mr Morley (Chief Secretary), he stressed that Honohan's case was not the most serious classes of offences and urged him to take a lenient view of the matter. (Pl. 1)

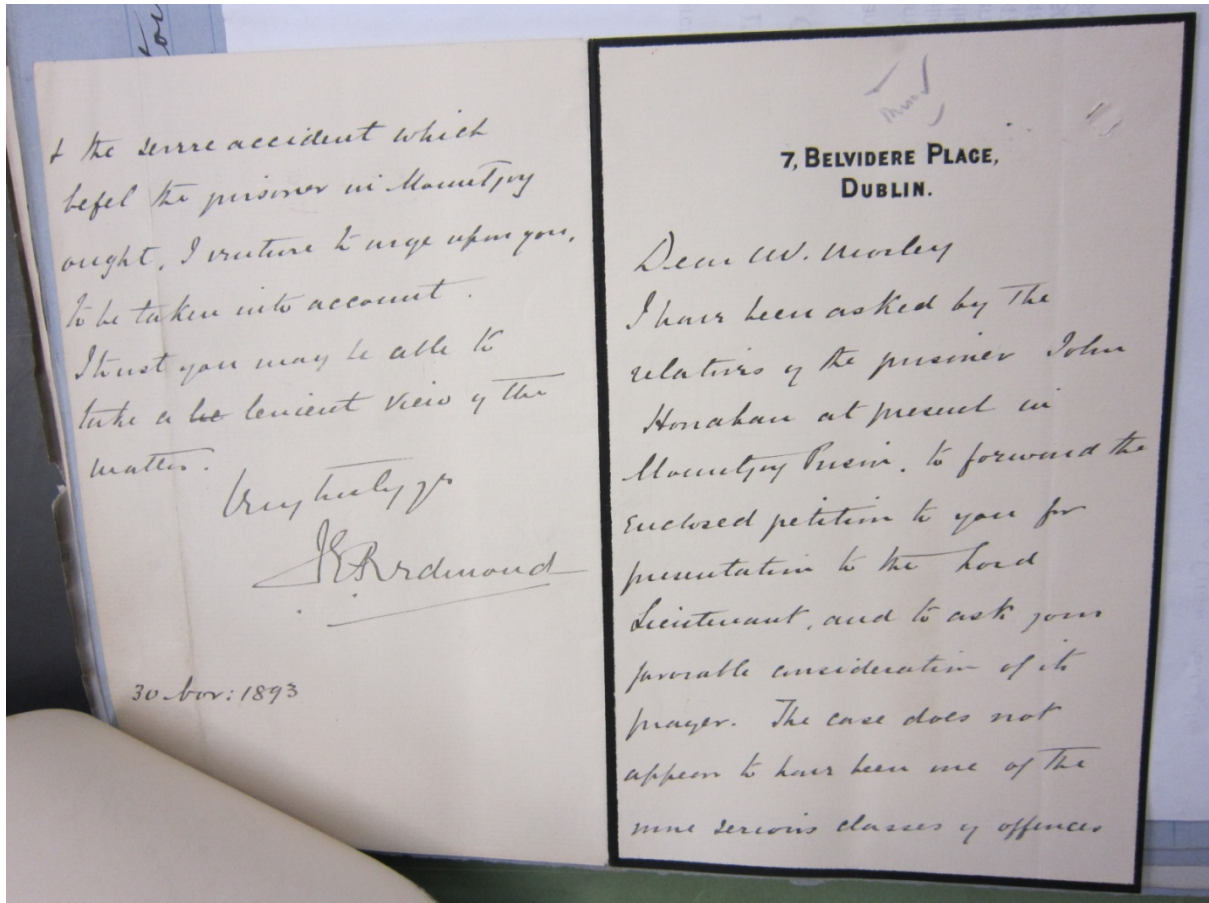


Plate 1 : John Redmond's letter to Chief Secretary Morley.

The Chief Secretary's reply was of little consolation as he implied that no concrete evidence had emerged to have him reconsider the case. (Pl. 2)

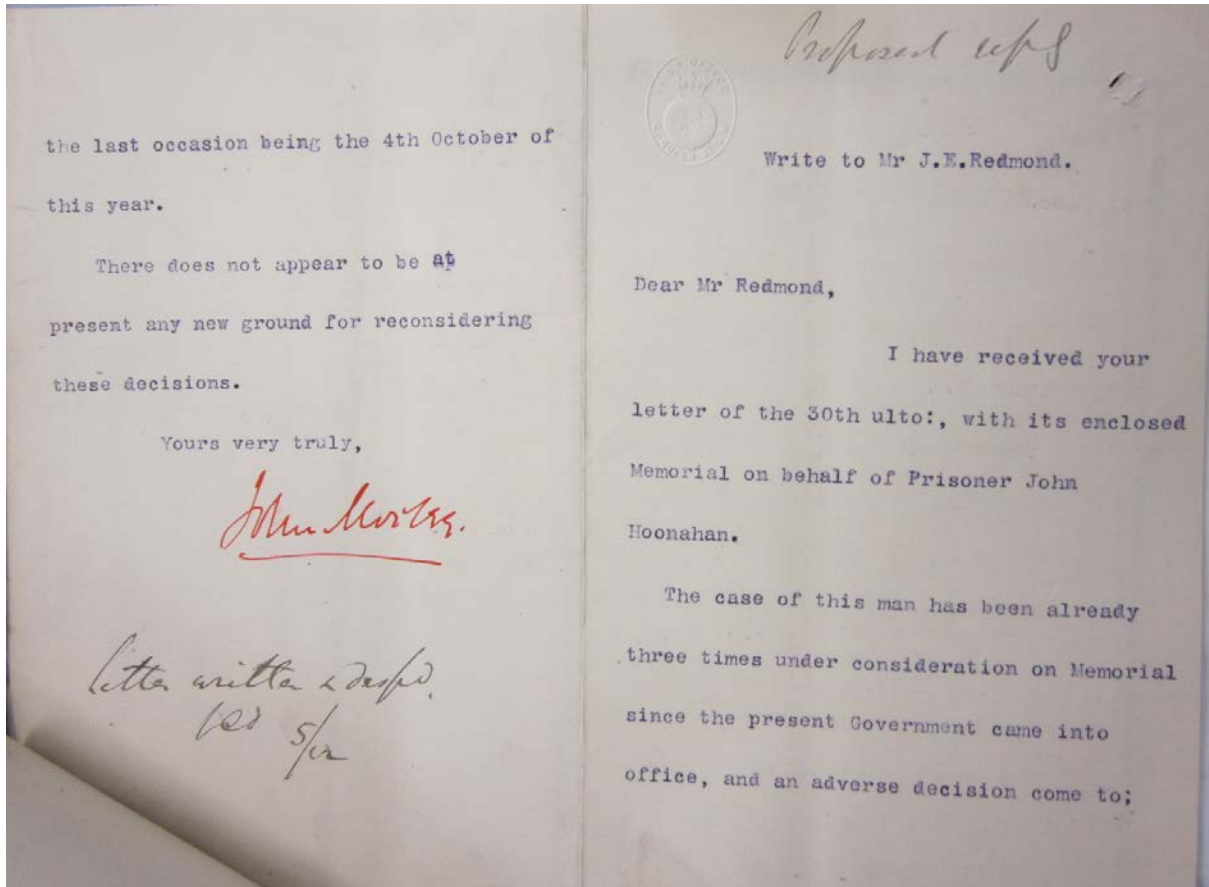



Plate 2: The Chief Secretary's reply to Redmond.

At this stage one could forgive Honohan and his family to throw in the towel. Crucially, Dr Tanner pursued Honohan's case with vigour writing to Morley, the Chief Secretary on 30 May of 1894 (Pls. 3 and 3a). He enclosed a signed petition of gentlemen of all opinions religious and political as to the previous character of the prisoner and asked him to give the matter his generous consideration. (PLs. 4 and 4a). Among the signatories were Canon Patrick Pope P.P. Donoughmore, Robert Day noted antiquarian and High Sherriff of Cork (1893), Maurice Healy M.P. for Cork City, and many Justices of the Peace from both County and City.



30th May 94

Dear Mr Morley

I hereby enclose you
 a petition on behalf
 of John Honahan, late
 of Derry Smaghmore
 County Cork. The petition
 is signed by gentlemen
 of all opinions religious
 & political & the previous
 character of the prisoner
 the injuries he sustained
 in prison, the peacefulness
 of the district, all makes

Plate 3: Dr Tanners letter (1) to the Chief Secretary

we hope that Honohan's
 release from prison may
 be granted & hoping you
 will kindly give the
 matter your generous
 consideration.
 Believe me
 Yours very faithfully
Charles Tanner

Plate 3a: Dr Tanner's letter (2) to the Chief Secretary

Keeping the pressure on, Tanner wrote again to Mr Morley a few weeks later enclosing a petition for the prisoners release with the prayer 'your memorialists humbly appeal to the clemency of the crown and pray that the said John Honohan should now be released.'

John Murphy M.C. Donoughmore
 Charles Lynn M.P.
 James Dwyer High Sheriff Cork City
 Patrick Sullivan Woodlawn Cork J.P.
 M. D. Dwyer M.P. Cork
 John Bernard Roche J.P. Cork
 J. Crawford Tullier J.P.
 Wm Day J.P. Cork
 John Harley Scott M.P. W. Cork
 C. Kelleher J.P. Bridgemanstown
 Thade Scallan J.P. Liscanna Killinakeel
 J. Hegarty J.P. Mallow

Plate 4: Testimonials for John W Honohan(1)

Charles J. Tanner M.D. M.P. - Dist. Cork
 Rymarree. S.L.J.P. Warrington - Cork
 Isaac Wm. Woodley J.P. Cork Co.
Chas. Martin J.P. Cork
 M.P. Sullivan J.P. St. John's Cork J.P.
 Peter Brown J.P. Cork -
 H. Salween Mullins
 J.P. prevention
 Albion Beamish J.P. du Mount Co. Cork
 Thomas Linnhan J.P. Whitechurch
 David J. Madden J.P. Ballinacorney
 Albert W. Call J.P. Cork
 Wm. Warren J.P. (Corktown) Cork
 H. F. Barry J.P. Cork
 Daniel Lynch J.P.
 David Harding J.P. Co. Cork
 C. J. Harold J.P. Cork County
 Chas. Kaycroft J.P. Cork
 Maurice Healy M.P. Cork

Plate 4a Testimonials for John W Honohan (2)

On 10 October a breakthrough arrived with a letter from the General Prisons Board declaring that 'the Lord Justices have been pleased to order the release of this convict on licence'. (Pl. 5) Dr Tanner also at this stage asked the authorities to grant Honohan reasonable compensation for the permanent injury he received. However, it was denied as it was stated 'the early release on licence was in consideration of the injury which he received'.



Plate 5: John W Honohan pictured on his release from Mountjoy Prison.

Conclusion

John W. Honohan's release was welcomed by many and a local committee was established in Donoughmore for the purpose of providing him with a testimonial. Promises of assistance were received from many quarters. His acclimatization to daily life was a challenge he embraced and it was not long before he got involved in parish life. In the inaugural Cork County Elections of 1899 Mr Honohan was instrumental in a local candidate Thomas Barry Healy's campaign taking to the platform in several locations to promote Healy's credentials. He was also successful in gaining a seat in the District Electoral elections for the Kilcullen electoral division. When a branch of the United Irish League was formed he became involved and attended national conventions as a delegate. On the cultural side Mr Honohan was involved with the local GAA, the Donoughmore Open Sports Committee and the Gaelic League branch. Indeed, at an Aerideacht in October 1917 attended by Tomas McCurtain (future Lord Mayor of Cork) he highlighted the changing political scene when he addressed the attendance. 'One might as well try to stop the flow of the tide with a four pronged fork as to stop the progress of the Sinn Fein movement' and also quoted O' Donovan Rossa 'trusting an Englishman to free the Irish nation is like trusting the devil for your salvation'. His fame as a poet was well known and it was noteworthy that he became a friend of Peter Golden who was to the forefront in campaigning for Irish political and economic freedom. Certainly his detention in Mountjoy did not deter his indefatigable disposition to a free Ireland and it likely reinforced his resolve to pursue his ideals. His death and the passage of time did not diminish his legacy as he was affectionately known and referred to in his native parish and beyond as *'The Leaguer'*. The question

remains what were the compelling reasons why John W. Honohan was found guilty by Justice Holmes of the Whiteboy offence in 1890 and was an injustice done to the farmer from Derry, Donoughmore.? He died on 6 May 1931 aged 71 and was buried in the family plot in the new cemetery adjacent to St Lachtin's Church, Stuake Donoughmore. It is perhaps ironic that in the adjoining grave lies one Timothy O' Connell who we recall was the employer of Timothy Reardon the original victim of the Whiteboy offence.

This article is based on a more in-depth study of the parish of Donoughmore in a new publication Ancient Sweet Donoughmore: Life in an Irish Rural parish to 1900 launched in October 2015. The publication has garnered local and national acclaim and is acknowledged as being one of the most complete and comprehensive study so far made of a Cork parish without a town connection. It embraces 6,000 years of human existence with all human life featured. It tells the story of the men who farmed the land, of the women who kept the homes, of the children who learned at school, of the good and the bad, of the strong and the weak, of the brave and the not so brave.

It is available in all good bookshops. Further details at www.donoughmore.com

Sent by Gerard O' Rourke, Gurranneredmond, Donoughmore, Co. Cork. E mail gerorour@eircom.net on March 29th 2016

A Virtual Tour of Ireland, Part two

by

Raymond D. Aumack

Driving in the west of Ireland is a magical adventure. The ocean on the left and the mountains on the right as you drive north provide some breathtaking scenery. I was stunned by the beauty and the breadth of the beaches or strands as they are called. I was also surprised that there were not many people on the beaches or in the water. The days were warm and sunny, not unlike the best days of our springtime or early summer. The villages we passed through were quaint and charming. I was fascinated by the quality of the gardens with their mixture of colorful wildflowers. I was also charmed by the window boxes overflowing with flowers on almost every home.

We stopped at a pub where we had lunch. This pub stood on top of the hill overlooking the strand and a large cove or a small bay. Next to the pub was a lighthouse and just off the strand a rescue boat was tied to a dock leading to a stairwell up the hill to the pub. I used the image of the pub and its setting on the top of the hill in my novel, *Love's Promises*. I called the pub, The Glowing Lantern, named for the lighthouse. The pub in Ireland was owned and managed by three young men. In my novel one of the three owners became the hero of my story.

What stunned me was the quality of the food. All I had was a bowl of soup and a sandwich that turned out to be the best soup and sandwich of my entire life.

Moving on to the village of Adair, we were in for another treat. Like most of the villages we visited in the west of Ireland, Adair was really a neat little town.

The main street consisted of attractive little shops in one story cottage-like settings. Each roof was thatched and it turned out to be one of the few places in all of Ireland that we visited that had any thatch at all. I closed my eyes and imagined that the Lord Mayor of Adair was out in the street at 7:30 each morning encouraging everyone to wake up and look Irish.

In spite of obviously catering to visitors who were looking for a taste of old Ireland, the place wasn't a tourist trap. The lovely little shops championed and sold items that were of excellent taste and quality. I noted children's clothing, clothing of all kinds including cable-knit sweaters, wear for women that I have seen in fashion shows that featured Irish fashion. There was a little coffee, tea or sandwich shop and a reasonably elegant restaurant that served an excellent dinner. Nowhere would you find a teacup that was emblazoned with "Kiss me, I'm Irish."

At the end of the main street are two monasteries, Augustinian, one Protestant and the other Catholic on opposite sides of the street. The split probably dates from the penal days of the 17th century when Roman Catholic clergy were banned from the British territories.

Nearby, is a large farm owned by the father-in-law of one of my Montclair friends. He married into the family and fell in love with farming as well. He has a business in the US but spends a fair amount of time visiting his in-laws and working on the farm. He loves to talk about mucking after sheep, shearing sheep, plowing fields, planting, and gaining new energy just watching the crops grow.

On the way out to the Cliffs of Moher, someone had turned the signs around and we were totally lost. My wife's observation that we were lost fell on my deaf ears because we were on a road between the mountains of the Burren.

There is mysticism about the Burren and you can feel it immediately on seeing the stark white of the mountains. The only other place in the world that has a burren is at the former Yugoslavia. Elements of the coral of the Burren are found in the nearby Aran Islands.

There were beautiful wildflowers through the mountainside. I was told that some of the flowers actually came from seeds blown northward from Antarctica. This is remarkable because Ireland is only a step away from the Arctic Circle.

Visiting the cave of the Burren and realizing that they were once burial places for chieftains and their families leads to an atmosphere of reflection similar to my experiences of visiting a cemetery. Some of the graves were three and four thousand years old and this put us in touch with the ancestors of the original Celts.

After passing through Lisdoonvarna three times trying to find the route to the Cliffs, I kept thinking of the song named for the town and its reputation as a center for match-making. I guess it was difficult for young people to meet each other and some would seek out a professional match-maker. Since my wife and I no longer needed a match-maker, we continued on. I am also reminded that that match-making is still a respectable profession in the United States.

When we finally found the Cliffs of Moher we discovered a rare treat. As we were walking out to the Cliffs, returning from the Cliffs on the same pathway were friends from our hometown. They had rented a cottage nearby overlooking Galway Bay for an entire month.

The menfolk were off playing golf on one of Ireland's great courses and the rest of the family spent the day visiting the Cliffs. There was great craic along the path that afternoon.

The Cliffs are a fascinating attraction. However, today there is structured parking for a fee and many tourist stands that were not there during my previous visits.

I was eight months into recovery from by-pass surgery that had serious complications attached to it. It ultimately took almost three years to complete the recover and I still have some debility from it. I wanted to test myself by climbing the stairs to the top of O'Brien's Castle. I did climb into the tower with relative ease though much to the chagrin of my wife. I had a feeling of

triumph, a feeling of conquest. However, it left me quite spent. Fortunately, we were only a few miles from Galway.

After arriving at Salt Hill, we found our Bed and Breakfast across the street from the beach and a boardwalk that extended all the way to Galway.

There were more people on the beach and in the water. The water in the bay was likely a little warmer than the ocean. Many people were strolling or jogging on the boardwalk. I was reminded of the setting on the beach at Salt Hill in Mary Pat Kelly's book, *Galway Bay*, where she describes her grandmother's meeting on the beach with her future husband who was riding his horse along the strand. Of course any American visiting Galway Bay has to think of the song sung by Bing Crosby, a panegyric to the beauty of the bay.

The name of our B & B was, "The Roncalli House." The name is memorable because it is the surname of Pope St. John XIII. Galway is a city that is thoroughly alive. We took the double decker bus tour, specifically to hear the stories of the tour guide. We drifted over to Mayo to visit the former home of Grace O'Malley, Grainne, one of the beloved characters of old Ireland. In addition to being a pirate queen, she was a strong and brilliant woman. She spoke several languages at a time when folks barely spoke in their own tongue. As a prisoner, she conversed with Queen Elizabeth in Latin because that was the language of royalty. There is a sign at the entrance to Galway City that reads, "Beware the fearsome O'Flahertys." One of O'Malley's husbands was an O'Flaherty and he was like a pussy cat compared with fierce tiger that was Grace O'Malley.

While in Galway we did some shopping on the pier where there was a collection of tourist goods as well as elegant clothing shops. One evening we went to a restaurant down by the pier. It was a busy restaurant that serviced local crowds on both floors of a two story building. We were seated at a long table with about a dozen Irish university students. We had the greatest craic you could imagine. That was true every place we travelled.

When it was time to move on from Galway City, we did so reluctantly. On the road outside of the city we found a tavern that was opened by a resident of my hometown, Montclair, NJ. He was born and raised in Ireland and came to the US where he owned two successful New York restaurants. He returned to Ireland to retire and opened a tavern in a little village near Galway City.

We moved up the coast into Donegal. Our plan was to visit the birthplace of my wife's ancestors, Dunglow on the eastern edge of Donegal. After visiting Donegal Town, we had lunch and visited the impressive fishing fleet that was moored in the area.

We drove to the eastern side of Donegal in to rolling hills that bordered an impressive range of mountains. When we came to the road that led directly into Dunglow, I was stunned at the scenic views.

Dunglow was very familiar to us because of the impressive number of people in our birth town, our home town of origin, Bayonne, NJ, who had immigrated from Dunglow. The parents and grandparents of many of our friends were born in Dunglow. A priest friend actually owned a home in Dunglow. Years ago, I came across a book entitled, Memories of Dunglow, written by a gentleman from Jersey City. On the cover of the book was a photo of the town looking down onto the town from the top of the steep hill on which we stood. In the photo there was one automobile, vintage about 1933, parked on the road. We saw exactly the same scene with a later vintage car parked on the road, the only one there. As much as things change, they remain the same.

We had a great time in Dunglow walking the main street and imagining the shop that was kept by my wife's great grand aunt and her husband. The only information that we have is that they were shopkeepers.

Our B & B was right on the shoreline of Donegal Bay and sunsets there are the same as they are on Galway Bay. I asked our landlady how she got any work done. "Ah." She said, "I never even notice it. The same as you probably didn't notice the Statue of Liberty where you grew up. It turned out that our landlady came to America as a child and grew up in Bayonne on 29th Street where one of my brothers lived when he was first married. She returned to Ireland when she was an older teenager.

That evening we went to a local pub to drink in the local craic. Sadly, the music was all country western from a single guitar player. When he took his break, fortified with a pint or two of Guinness, I asked him if I could fill in during his break. The place was full of conversation and no one was paying attention to the music anyway.

I went to the stage and introduced myself announcing that I came 3000 miles to hear Irish Music and that I would provide it myself. I started with "No, Nay, Never," and the crowd followed me with gusto. The assigned singer never returned to the stage except at the end of the long evening and we sang the "Parting Glass" together. The crowd thoroughly enjoyed the music. Fortunately, it was toward closing time. If I drank every drink that was offered to me, I would still be there. It was a wonderful evening and Ruth wasn't embarrassed.

The next day we set out for a tour of the North, but that is the next chapter. We'll meet you here next month.