

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

AUGUST, 1917.

## **Lieut.-Colonel Blacker, D.S.O., Legion d'Honneur.**

A very distinguished honour has been conferred on Lieutenant-Colonel Blacker, D.S.O., in his appointment to the Croix d'Officier in the Legion of Honour, by the French Government. The Legion of Honour was created in 1802 by Napoleon when First Consul, with the view of specially marking exploits and services in the Military and Civil Department. Napoleon himself was the first grand master. The Decoration is a star of five double rays, with wreath of oak and laurel. On the obverse appears a female head personifying France and the words "République Française," on the reverse two Tricolors and the motto "Honneur et Patrie." Within the order there are five Degrees of Honour.

## **Memorial to the late Mr. George Calvert.**

As a result of a public meeting held in Seagoe School on Tuesday, July 24th, it has been decided to place a Memorial Tablet in the Parish Church to the memory of the late Mr. George Calvert. Envelopes have been sent by post to the Parishioners, and those who wish to subscribe should send their subscriptions to their local collector or to Mr. W. R. Atkinson, Eden Villa, not later than August 20th. It is fitting that Mr. Calvert's name should be perpetuated in a fitting way on the walls of the Church he loved so well, and among a people whose affection he had won by his sterling character and unassuming kindness.

## **The late Cpl. Robert Whiteside.**

The following letter bears testimony to the fine soldierly character of Corporal Whiteside, whose death in action last June has been greatly lamented by all who knew him in this Parish.

July 3rd, 1917

16th R.I. Rifles (P)

Dear Mrs. Whiteside,—I have only just come back to the Battalion and I cannot tell you how much it hurt me to hear that your husband had been killed. He was in my platoon from the time I first took it over in Lurgan, and I never expect to meet a finer or cleaner soldier in any way. The old platoon, which I am so glad to see again, seems entirely changed and different without him. Any time that I wanted to have a man I could thoroughly trust he always came along with me, and I always felt the better of having him with me. I went with a party a few days ago to put a cross on his grave, and I hope to be

able to send you a photo of it as soon as I can. If there is anything I can do for you I wish you would let me know.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY H. R. DOLLING.

## **The Late Mr. Malcolm Clow.**

The death at Salonica of Mr Malcolm Clow is deeply regretted. Though never robust in health he determined to get to the fighting line, and joined the French Red Cross Service. On a brief visit to Salonica to see a dying friend he contracted dysentery to which he succumbed. Mr Clow will be sadly missed in Portadown. His great musical and social gifts were generously placed at the disposal of every good and worthy cause. Had he lived no doubt he would have helped to encourage the culture of music in our midst. Portadown is sadly lacking in the art of Music. A combined organisation amongst the National Schools of the Town to promote vocal and instrumental music is greatly needed. Mr Clow's fine musical taste, united as it was with considerable dramatic power, was a valuable asset in the social life of the town and neighbourhood. His is another precious life laid down in the cause of national Truth and Righteousness. The sympathy of all our Parishioners will be extended to Mr Clow and his family in their bereavement.

## **Letter from Rev. G. Bloomer.**

Y.M.C.A., c/o.O./C. No. 5 Railhead,  
Supply Detachment, 1st Army,  
B.E.F., France.

In the Field, June 30th

Dear Canon Archer,—When writing last I said that next time I would describe the old chateau in which I was then living. Well, as I am no longer there, I suppose it would interest you more to know where I am now. I have had two removes since I last wrote to you. I was for a fortnight back in a hut about seven miles from the line. I did not care to go to it, and I requested that if possible I should be sent back to nearer the line again as soon as possible. I could not hope that that removal would take place so soon. I had an easy fortnight—like a holiday—and now I am back

AMONG THE GUNS AGAIN.

I am glad I had that fortnight, as all the time I was among our Canadian cousins; they are a fine lot of chaps. I also had an opportunity of seeing what a French industrial town of between 30,000 and 40,000 inhabitants is like. I will reserve my impressions



of it until a later date. At the end of the fortnight, without any notice,

I WAS "COLLECTED"

and rushed up in a motor car to where I am now. I don't know how long I shall be here, but if rumours have any foundation it will not be many weeks. I have enjoyed it thoroughly so far. From 8-30 a.m. until 9 or 9-15 p.m. I am in a cellar. Our work, for the sake of safety, has to be carried on underground. The military authorities would not allow a hut to be erected here. They do not allow us to lock up the cellar at any time, as in case a heavy bombardment commenced, it is to be open for the men to run into. I am about half as far from the line as I was in the first place. I have had several walks between this and the trenches, but I have not got into the line yet. From this forward it is a veritable "No Man's Land" that is, it is without inhabitants and the land is

A WAR-SWEPT WILDERNESS.

Road screens and barbed wire entanglements, &c., &c. abound everywhere, and you never know when a hidden gun may commence barking just beside you. A great many of our heavier guns are behind us. Yesterday I visited a little British cemetery, just where the communication trench starts, and I saw about 30 graves of brave R.I.R. men who were killed over two years ago. I did not recognise any of the names. From that spot I could see over the German lines and could be seen by them if they were on the look-out. I walked down the communication trench for about 200 yards. At that point I was less than half-a-mile from the front line as the shell flies. I had also an interesting experience later in the evening. I

SAW A NUMBER OF FRITZ'S "IRON FOUNDRIES" BURST about three hundred yards away, and also a few burst in the air. I could hear the report of his gun, and then in about two seconds I could hear the scream of his shell going past, and then I could see the smoke and hear the thunderous crash of the explosion.

Another interesting thing about this place is that it was for a time in the occupation of the Hun. When coming in I passed over the bridge where his hordes were brought to a standstill. For a short time a greasy Hun occupied the bed that is mine for the time being. It is quite clean and very comfortable.

I appreciate the privilege of being here more and more every day. The conditions of life, it is true, are very far from home-like. One has to be prepared to rough it, but Tommy has much worse to put up with. I have better health than ever I had before.—Yours sincerely,

GEORGE BLOOMER.

### Death of Mr. William Hamilton.

We record with much regret the death on Wednesday, July 25th, of Mr. William Hamilton, of Lower Seagoe, at the advanced age of 88 years. Up to the

last he retained his characteristic keenness and vigour of mind and his love for the study of the sacred Scriptures. The Parish of Seagoe owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Hamilton for the services he rendered in past days to Seagoe Sunday School as a Teacher of the Senior Boys' Class. He was fond of telling the story of his connection with the School. When he came to reside in Lower Seagoe in 1855, he was visited by the Rev. Capel Wolseley, then Curate of the Parish. Mr. Wolseley asked him to take a class in Seagoe Sunday School on the following Sunday, which happened to be Easter Day, 1855. This he agreed to do, and from that day up to Easter Day, 1905, a period of 50 years, he taught there Sunday after Sunday almost without missing a single day. His class was always large and interested in its work, and in the course of the half-century most of the men of the Parish had come under his instruction.

On Easter Day, 1880, when he had completed 25 years as a Sunday School Teacher his pupils marked the occasion by presenting him with the following happily-worded address—

#### Address to Mr. William Hamilton.

Beloved and Respected Teacher,—We, the scholars of your class in connection with Seagoe Sunday School, take the liberty of presenting you with this small gift as a token of our esteem for your kindness in coming from Sabbath to Sabbath to instruct us in the precious truths of the Gospel. As a Teacher we value and appreciate you for your extensive knowledge of the Scriptures and the willingness with which you have imparted that knowledge during the last quarter of a century in the school, is worthy of our best consideration, and makes manifest the deep interest you have taken for the spiritual welfare of those entrusted to your care and for the promotion of Christ's Kingdom, and many who are now in far-off lands can call to remembrance the happy hours spent under your tuition. We earnestly trust that you may be long spared to come amongst us, and that the Most High in His own good time may call you home to an inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Signed on behalf of Class.

CHARLES J. COLLINS.

CAPEL W. REID.

DAVID W. WALKER.

Seagoe, Easter, 1880.

The Funeral took place to Ballinagarrick, on Friday last. The Rector was present and the bell of the Parish Church was tolled. A remarkable fact connected with Mr. Hamilton's associations with Seagoe was that he continued throughout his long life a staunch and loyal Presbyterian, even though so large a part of his time and efforts were devoted to the interests of Seagoe Sunday School.



**Certificate for Gallantry.**

Private Archibald Lyness, of Drumgor, has been awarded the following Certificate for gallantry, on which we heartily congratulate him—

No. 924 Rifleman Archibald Lyness, 16th Batt. R. Irish Rifles (Pioneers) for gallantry in rescuing wounded men on 1st and 2nd July from "No Man's Land" at Hamel under heavy fire.

2nd April, 1917.

**Seagoe Parochial Schools.**

The School Buildings are being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected during the holidays, so as to ensure the perfect health of the children attending them. The class-rooms are now thoroughly well lighted and ventilated, and with the ample play grounds surrounding the school, afford an ideal educational centre for the children of the Parish.

Work will be resumed (D.V.) after the Summer Vacation on Monday, August 13th, at 9-30 a.m.

**Memorial Service.**

A special Memorial Service was held in the Parish Church on Sunday, July 1st, in memory of those from Seagoe Parish who had fallen in the Great Advance at Hamel on July 1st, 1916. The Rector preached, and before the sermon read aloud from the pulpit the names of those who had made the supreme sacrifice. After the names had been read a verse of the National Anthem was sung.

**Miss Carleton's Gift.**

Portadown ought to feel very grateful to Miss Carleton for the splendid gift she has presented to the town in giving her fine house in Church Street as a centre for Children's Welfare Work. Many infant lives are needlessly sacrificed on the altar of ignorance. It might be thought that in an enlightened and progressive community such as Portadown the rate of Infant Mortality would be low, but the figures are available in Dr. Coey Biggar's recently published Returns of Infant Mortality in Ireland—

Rate of Mortality, per 1000 Births in Portadown from 1913 to 1915—

120 Males; 83 Females,

**Offertories for July.**

Sunday—Mornings,	£11	4	3
Evenings,	6	1	4
Week Days	0	5	0
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	£17	10	7

Special Collections included in above total—July 8th—Protestant Orphan Society, £5 6s 10d; Enniskillen Orphan Society, £4 0s 0d.

**ITEMS.**

The top-stone of one of the pinnacles on the tower of the Parish Church fell in front of the Church door last week. It seems to have been loosened by the movement of the flag which flew from the tower during the July holidays.

Mr. D. W. Murray, Rector's Churchwarden, has in fulfilment of his duties as Churchwarden, spent a considerable time in tidying up the Church grounds. They are now neater than we have ever seen them before. The hallowed acre around the Parish Church should never be allowed to get into an untidy or uncared for state.

We congratulate the Rural Council and its employees on providing our Church-goers with a fine asphalted path along the road through Upper Seagoe. We recommend our Parishioners to test it for themselves every Sunday morning and evening and also on Wednesday evenings.

The crops throughout the Parish are in fine condition. The bounteous Giver of all has heard our prayers, and blessed the efforts of His people so that a possible time of scarcity has become a season of plenty.

The Cuckoo and Corncrake are no longer heard, but the weird cry of the Screech Owl breaks the silence of the mid-night hour.

There is quite a plague of Bats this year in and around Portadown. One resident has already killed 65 on his premises. The Owls are having a happy time hunting down their prey.

Drumgor was very gay on the Twelfth, Great crowds were present at Mrs. Wells' field where the meeting was held.

Services have been held recently on several Sunday evenings in Drumgor Church Hall.

Miss Lizzie Gracey, of Drumgor Lane, has been appointed Principal of Tullygalley National School.

The Rev. W. T. Grey is taking duty at Kilbride Church, Bray, County Wicklow. He will in the near future pay Seagoe a visit. His many friends will rejoice to see him once again.

The Misses Dawson have not yet been able to return to South America owing to the menace of the German submarines.

We notice a great profusion of flowers everywhere through the Parish. In planting roses in front of a whitewashed cottage the tree should be trained on a slight wooden framework which can be moved without injuring the tree, so as to whitewash the wall behind it.



**PARISH REGISTER for JULY, 1917.****Baptisms.**

The following were Baptized in the Parish Church on July 7th, 1917.

**Wilson**—Anne, daughter of Ralph and Anne Wilson, of Portadown,

*Sponsors*—Harriett Clughley, Annie Wilson.

**Stevenson**—Violet Elizabeth, daughter of George (Driver, R.F.A., late B.E.F., France) and Elizabeth Stevenson, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Eveline Fox, Elizabeth Stevenson.

**Rowan**—Gladys, daughter of David and Sophia Rowan, of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—Sophia Rowan, Eveline Fox.

**Ruddell**—Alexander, son of Joseph and Mary Jane Ruddell, of Lower Seagoe.

*Sponsors*—Jane Ruddell, Mary Jane Ruddell.

**Jennett**—Robert, son of George and Caroline Jennett, of Breagh.

*Sponsors*—Sarah Abraham, Caroline Jennett.

**Magee**—Anne Jane, daughter of Joseph William and Emma Magee, of Kernan.

*Sponsors*—Anne Jane Patton, Emma Magee.

**Received into the Congregation.**

**McDowell**—Thomas Robert, son of William James and Anna Maria McDowell, of Levaghery. Privately Baptized, 25th February, 1916. Received into the Congregation 7th July, 1917.

*Sponsors*—Martha McDowell, Anna Maria McDowell.

**Marriages.**

**Lynas and Preston**—18th July, 1917, Alfred Miller Lynas, of Moyallon to Ethel May Margaret Preston, of Edenderry.

**Shanks and Anderson**—19th July, 1917, Isaiah Shanks, of Kernan, to Edith Anderson, of Balteagh.

**Funeral.**

**Major**—July 29th, 1917, Anne Major, of Lower Seagoe, aged 27 years.

**Best Wishes.**

Four marriages of interest to Seagoe folk took place last month. We offer the happy couples our best wishes for their future happiness. Thomas England has done good service in Seagoe Parish as Superintendent of Seagoe Morning Sunday School, and as a Member of the Choir. George Watson, of Railway Street' has been for long a most regular member of Edenderry Men's Bible Class. Isaiah Shanks, while a member of the class, attended without missing a Sunday for 8 years. Mrs. Lynas did useful work as a Teacher in Edenderry Morning Sunday School. In all these cases we believe that the steady Christian effort of their earlier years will bear fruit in God-fearing homes.

**Old Seagoe Notes.**

**The Bluestone Murder, 1781.**—Since our last issue appeared a Parishioner has supplied some interesting and startling details regarding the Blue-

stone Murder, which created such a sensation in this district 140 years ago. Our informant tells us that the house in which the murder was committed was situated almost opposite Lylo House, and the ruined walls may still be seen on the roadside. The names of the men who committed the murder were Saunders Tollerton and his sons James and John. The most extraordinary incident in connection with the tragedy was the way in which the perpetrators were discovered. The murder was committed on a Friday, and that being Market Day in Lurgan, a man named Dilworth, who lived near the Quarry in Lisniskey, had gone to the market to make purchases. As his return home was delayed, his wife, Molly Dilworth, became anxious about him and determined to go out along the road to meet him. Darkness had set in as she left her house. She walked over Bocombra Hill and through Lylo. As she came near Lylo House she saw a light in the window of McNeilly's house. She noticed that a waistcoat with sleeves had been drawn across the window, but the vent in the back of the waistcoat enabled her to see into the room. To her horror she saw the murder actually being committed. At the time she said nothing about it to anyone, but in course of time the fact became known and she was one of the principal witnesses at the Trial. The evidence at the Trial showed that after the murder had been committed the murderers hid the body in the skey or loft above the door. Some Local Poet when writing of the tragedy inserted in his song the words—

Three days and three nights on the skey he did lie.

Till the ravens above him for vengeance did cry.

In dread of detection the murderers determined to get rid of the body of their victim, so placing it in a sack they carried it by night to Knock Bridge where they threw it into the River Bann. But here again a witness was present who gave evidence against them. The bed of the river under one of the arches of the Bridge happened to be dry, and under it an old woman happened to be sheltering. She heard the splash of the body falling into the river, and told some of her neighbours who informed the authorities who were thus enabled to bring the murderers to justice.

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**The Tragic Death of Bishop Hall, of Dromore, 1811.**—Dr. Hall, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, was consecrated to the Bishopric of Dromore, on Sunday, 17th November, 1811, and died on November 23rd, having been a Bishop for only six days. The "News-Letter" of Saturday, November 23rd, 1811, records the tragic event as follows:—

"The learned and pious Bishop of Dromore departed this life at 7 o'clock this morning (Saturday). His Lordship succeeded the present Bishop of Ossory as Provost in 1806, and having been appointed by the Prince Regent to the vacant Bishopric of Dromore, he was accordingly consecrated on Sunday last. His Lordship was indisposed with a cold in the early part of the week, and being seized with a typhus fever it ended in his dissolution in 5 days."