

Seagoe Parish Magazine.

JULY, 1917.

In Memoriam.

In Proud and Affectionate Remembrance of those from the Parish of Seagoe who fell in the Great Advance on July 1st, 1916, near Hamel, Picardy, France.

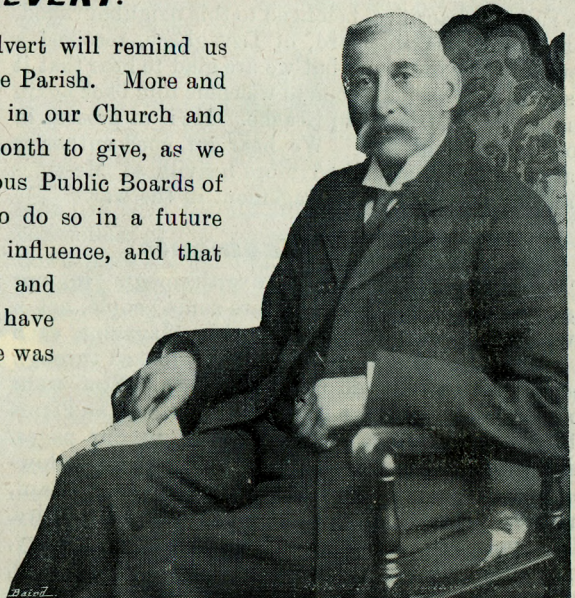
“These laid the world away, poured out the red
Sweet wine of youth; gave up the years to be
Of work and joy, and that unhopd serene
That men call age; and those who would have been
Their sons, they gave, their immortality.”

**Thomas Joyce Atkinson.
Robert Taylor Montgomery.
William James Allen.
Thomas Hewitt.
Harry Holmes.
Alexander M'Cabe.
Frank M'Kerr.
Joseph Parkes.**

THE LATE MR. GEORGE CALVERT.

The accompanying Portrait of the late Mr. Calvert will remind us of the face and form of one who is sadly missed in the Parish. More and more each day we feel how large a place he filled in our Church and social life. We have not found it possible this month to give, as we had intended, an outline of his activities on the various Public Boards of which he was a member, but we hope to be able to do so in a future issue. In every direction he exerted an immense influence, and that influence was always on behalf of what was good and true. Many expressions of regret and sympathy have been forthcoming from the organisations in which he was interested, and one and all voice the same feeling of the loss which his death has caused in the community.

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business, he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean men.”



Protestant Orphan Society.

The Annual Appeal on behalf of the County Armagh Protestant Orphan Society will be made in the Parish Church on Sunday morning, July 8th. The Society is a staunch helper of the orphans in Seagoe Parish, and we hope there will be a liberal response.

Seagoe Day School.

At the examination, held on 15th May, 1917, by the Diocesan Inspector, the Rev. John Gordon, 107 children passed. The following received Certificates.—*Seniors*—Mervyn Sweeney, Isabella Best, Amy Holmes, William Kilpatrick, Norman Dickson, and William Simpson.—*Juniors*—Sidney Walker, Tom Best, Sarah Whaley, Eva Magee, Mary Coulter, Sarah Coulter, Albert Best, Floribel Best. The Inspector's Report was very favourable.

Eggs for Wounded Soldiers.

At the request of Mrs. Blacker, the children attending Seagoe Day School, collected Eggs for the Wounded Soldiers in the Ulster Volunteer Hospital, Belfast, last week. The eggs were brought in on Thursday and Friday, 21st and 22nd June, and reached the large total of 47½ dozen or 567 eggs in all. The eggs were brought on Friday to Mrs. Brew, Rathlin, for direct despatch to the Hospital. Edna Watson collected the largest number of eggs—6 dozen and 7.

The Battle of Messines.

Our local Battalion though not, we believe, actually engaged in the fight during the first day of the Battle of Messines, came in for some sharp fighting on the second or third day during a counter-attack made by the Germans. The casualties were slight—6 killed and 32 wounded. None of the six, who made the supreme sacrifice, belonged to this neighbourhood. Sergeant James Sheppard, of Levaghery, received a wound in the forehead, but we are glad to hear that it is slight, and we hope soon to welcome him back again among his old friends in Seagoe. He is at present in Hospital in England. We hear on good authority that the Germans suffered more heavily at Messines than during any other engagement in the war.

Our Advertisements.

Do you ever read the Advertisements in our Magazine? We know there are some people, not a few, who read every word of this Magazine each month, but, if you have not carefully looked through the Advertisements, do so this month. You want good value and you are sure to get it from the Firms who are kind enough to advertise in our pages. Can you find out in what advertisements the following words occur?—Drawing, Reasonable, Explain, Private, United, Unsurpassed, Process, Inquire, Minutes, Way, General, Reported, Note, Worry, Inspection, Always, Except, Stock, Attractive, Discounted, Yard, Ulster, 2/8.

Special Anniversary Service.

A Special Anniversary Service will (D.V.) be held in Seagoe Parish Church on Sunday evening, July 8th, at 7 p.m. The collection will be in aid of the Enniskillen Memorial Orphan Fund.

Our Sunday Schools.

Prizes for Attendance were distributed on Sunday, June 24th, in Edenderry Sunday School and in Seagoe Afternoon Sunday School. Owing to the difficulty and expense incurred in obtaining Books, the Prizes were limited to those who had attended 45 Sundays and over during 1916. A large number of the pupils attained this high standard, which is very creditable to the Schools. Farther Distributions of Prizes will be made in the other Sunday Schools of the Parish on succeeding Sundays.

PARISH REGISTER FOR JUNE, 1917.

Baptisms.

The following were Baptized in the Parish Church on 2nd June, 1917.

Steenson—Alice, daughter of George (Private, 10th Royal Irish Fusiliers) and Mary Steenson, of Portadown.

Sponsors—Sarah Totton, Mary Steenson.

McNeill—James Henry, son of Samuel George (Private, Royal Irish Fusiliers, Salonica) and Anna McNeill, of Ballymacrandle.

Sponsors—Edith Fleming, Anna McNeill.

McClatchey—Josephine, daughter of William (Munition Worker) and Mary Anne McClatchey, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Elizabeth McNally, Mary Anne McClatchey.

Freeburn—Joseph, son of Joseph and Sarah Freeburn, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Isabel Black, Sarah Freeburn.

Armstrong—Miriam Jane, daughter of William Henry and Eliza Jane Armstrong, of Portadown.

Sponsors—Maria Jane Gordon, Eliza Jane Armstrong.

Marriage.

Magee and Magee—On 13th June, 1917, Joseph William Magee, of Kernan, to Emma Magee, of Kernan.

Burial.

McKerr—14th June, 1917, Elizabeth Isabella McKerr, of Dublin, aged 9 months.

Offertories for June.

Sunday—Mornings,	£5	3	6
Evenings,	1	5	5
Week Days	0	5	6
	£6	14	5

Special War Certificates.

Special War Certificates on Parchment have been awarded to Lance-Corporal James Henry England, of Knock, and to Private A. Lyness, of Drumgor, for Distinguished Conduct in the Field. This is a very high Distinction, and we congratulate very heartily our two young Parishioners on their Courage and Devotion to Duty.

The following is the Certificate awarded to Lance-Corporal James Henry England:—

**36th (Ulster) Division,
British Expeditionary Force.**

This Certificate is awarded to No. 248, Lance-Corporal James Henry England, 16th Batt. Royal Irish Rifles (P.), who on two occasions endeavoured under heavy fire to bring in from "No Man's Land" (Thiepval Wood), his Platoon Sergeant, who was fatally wounded on 7th July, 1916.

O. S. NUGENT,
Major-General,

Commanding 36th (Ulster) Division.

Date, 2nd April, 1917.

ITEMS.

A resident in Ardmore Parish made a profit of £92 in a fortnight this spring by the sale of eggs.

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The title of *Armagh* Protestant Orphan Society has been altered to the *County Armagh* Protestant Orphan Society.

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The In Memoriam lines printed on our front page were written by Lieut. Rupert Brooke, who died from fever while serving with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force.

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Mr. Moffett has on view at his Photographic Studio in Edenderry a most life-like portrait of the late Mr. George Calvert. It is an enlargement of a photograph taken by Mr. Moffett at the time when Mr. Calvert was photographed for his portrait as Churchwarden of Seagoe Parish. No likeness could be more perfect than that which Mr. Moffett has reproduced in this enlargement.

Congratulations.

We offer our hearty congratulation to Major the Rev. F. J. Halahan, S.C.F., Rector of Drumcree, on his being awarded the Military Cross. Those who have been with our Battalion since it went to France speak in glowing terms of Major Halahan's courage and devotion to duty, and all who know him will rejoice that he has obtained this fine distinction.

Old Seagoe Notes.

The Blue Stone, Seagoe.—By THE REV. ABRAHAM DAWSON, A.M.—A portion of the ancient Parish of Seagoe, on the old road between Portadown and Lurgan, where the Townland of Lisnaminty adjoins Lylo and Clanrolla, is known by the local designation of *The Blue Stone*. It derives this name from a large boulder-stone which stood in this locality until about one hundred years ago. Its position is said to have been at the right-hand corner of the field on Mr. William Robinson's farm, close beside the junction of the lane through Clanrolla (called "The Blue Stone Lonan") with the Lurgan Road, as it passes through Lisnaminty. At this spot it is said to be now buried, and the place is noted on the Ordnance Survey Map as "The Blue Stone." An old tradition hands down the memory of its great size. It is said that Duke Schomberg marched by this way to the Boyne, with his division of King William's army, and that on the top of this stone he had his dinner laid out, of which he partook without alighting from his horse.

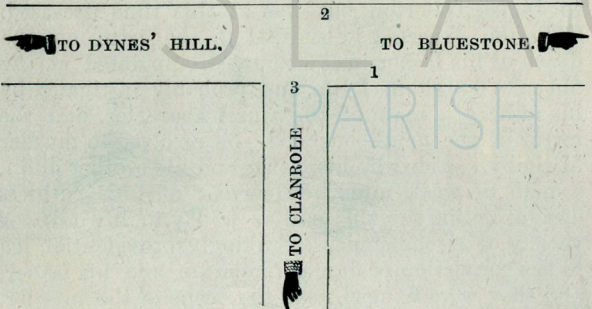
The disappearance of this remarkable stone is connected with a frightful murder, of which tradition still preserves the remembrance in a very peaceful district. We are indebted for the following details to notes on the parish of Seagoe, compiled by the late Lieutenant-Colonel William Blacker, of Carrickblacker, for Shaw Mason's Statistical Survey of Ireland. In the year 1781, an old man, named John McNeilly, resided in the Townland of Lylo. He had a valuable farm, and his only child had been married to James Tollerton, but was at this time deceased. Tollerton expected to succeed to the farm on the death of his father-in-law; but, disappointed at the old man's prolonged life, and probably instigated by his father—a man of the worst character, and the terror of the neighbourhood—he resolved to murder McNeilly. Aided by his father and his brother John, a man of weak mind, he carried out his ruthless design, killing the old man as he lay in his bed. A variety of circumstances, strikingly providential, led to the conviction of James Tollerton and his father, and they were hanged near the scene of the murder, on a hill which to this day is known as "The Gallows' Hill." Mr. Workman, an active magistrate, who had been mainly instrumental in procuring the conviction of the murderers, had the bodies taken down from the gallows and removed for burial. He caused a deep pit to be dug close to and extending under the Blue Stone. In this pit the bodies were laid, and the great stone being heaved in on the top of them, the whole was covered over with earth. Not long afterwards Mr. Workman received information that some friends of the murderers had arranged to raise the bodies, and he hastened to the spot to prevent the act, which they had nearly accomplished; but, on his approach, they fled, leaving the bodies and their implements behind them. Mr. Workman and his assistants then raised the bodies; and, having made a great fire of turf, he reduced them to ashes, which he cast into the hole under the stone, and

covered all up once more. The place has been undisturbed ever since.

Stuart (History of Armagh, p. 562, note) says that the persons who sought to raise the bodies belonged to a riotous band called "The Blue Stone Boys;" and that those who aided Mr. Workman in dispersing them and defeating their project, were the Armagh Second Volunteer Company. "Since that period," he adds, "The Blue Stone Boys have not assembled."

The brother of weak mind, mentioned in the narrative, disappeared immediately after the murder, and it was generally supposed that he had been made away with by his father and brother, to prevent his blabbing the crime. But above twenty years later, "in the year 1803 or 1804," Colonel Blacker writes, "A gaunt, and time-withered idiotic creature presented himself at the house of one of my tenants, an elderly man who had known the Tollerton family. He took some meat which was offered him, refused a bed, but lay down on some straw in the barn. His moans during the night were described to me as something unearthly. The only intelligible words he was heard to utter were, 'The bloody deed!' repeated two or three times. When day broke he had disappeared. This was John Tollerton.—*Lurgan Parochial Magazine, 1880.*

Where the Blue Stone is Buried.—Our readers may like to know exactly where the Blue Stone is buried. Some day we hope to see it raised and set on a neat pedestal. It was a historic landmark.



1. Original site of the Blue Stone. The hollow where it lay may still be seen.
2. The place where the Blue Stone was buried. The exact site is marked by some large stones let into the bank above it.
3. The triangular grass plot marking the place where the bodies of the Bluestone murderers were first buried.

Postilion Days in Portadown.—A Portadown resident of the last generation used to recount the scenes of excitement which occurred in Portadown and the neighbourhood when the Primates of Armagh were expected to pass through the town. In the days before Railways were introduced the Archbishops of Armagh travelled in magnificent coaches, drawn by four or six horses ridden by postilions in bright livery, and accompanied by much luggage and many

servants. The Episcopal equipages were specially attractive to the residents on the occasions when the Primates drove through Portadown to Donaghadee to embark for Portpatrick in Scotland on their way to attend the House of Lords at Westminster.

The Prebend of Dromara in 1748.—The Rev. Arthur Ford, formerly Rector of Seagoe, was collated Prebendary of Dromara in the year 1748. After a lapse of 170 years the office has come back to the Parish of Seagoe in the appointment of the present Rector, to the same position.

Ancient Looms in Seagoe Parish.—Some of the Hand-Looms still in use in the Parish are of great age. One at least has been in use for 110 years, and the ribbon of cloth woven on it in that period would reach from Seagoe to Constantinople. Perhaps some of our readers could give us particulars regarding the age and history of their looms.

Ardmore Church in 1783.—Ardmore Church was blown down in a great storm on November 4th, 1783. This Church was apparently in the townland of Ardmore, near the lake shore. The present Church is in the townland of Derryadd.

Seagoe Church in 1862.—Seagoe Church underwent many alterations and improvements in 1862, and was re-opened for Public Worship on October 26th of that year.

Extent of Seagoe Parish.—The Parish of Seagoe comprises 29 Townlands, extending over 5,466 acres. In 1880 it contained 704 Church families and 3,647 individual members of the Church. These figures were the result of a careful census made by Dean Dawson.

Portadown and the Pneumatic Tyre.—Mr. J. B. Dunlop, the inventor of the Pneumatic Tyre, in a letter to the "Irish Cyclist," published on June 6th, 1917, writes.—"In 1889 the pneumatic appeared on once cinder track in Ireland. This happened in Portadown a week before the Liverpool Events, when McCormick "cleared the boards." The interesting fact recorded in this extract is that Portadown can claim to be the first place in which the Pneumatic Tyre was used in a regularly contested cycle race on a cinder track. We have heard it stated, though with what certainty we cannot say, that the inventor of the Pneumatic Tyre is a native of the Birches district, near Portadown. The race above referred to took place in August, 1889, and the track was in the present People's Park.