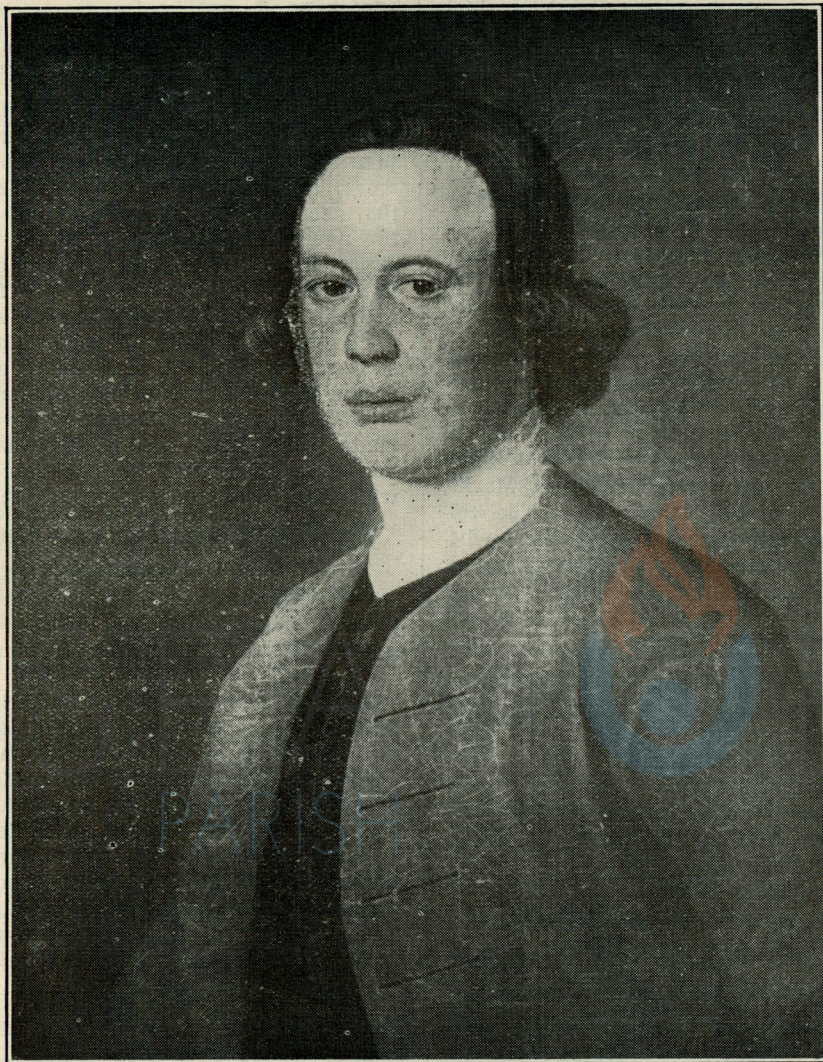


Seagoe Parish Magazine.

OCTOBER, 1927.



THE VERY REV. STEWART BLACKER,

Dean of Leighlin, 1778—1804. Archdeacon of Dromore, 1777—1810.
Rector of Seagoe, 1777—1810. Rector of Donaghcloney, 1777—1810.
Rector of Drumcree, 1804—1826. Vicar of Seagoe, 1810—1826.

Born 1740. Died December 1st, 1826.

We are able to present our readers this month with a portrait of the Very Rev. Stewart Blacker, of Carrickblacker, better known in the Parish as "Dean Blacker." His connection with Seagoe extended over no less than 50 years, from 1777 to 1826. He was the eldest son of William Blacker, Esq., of Carrick, who died in 1783 at the age of 80, and was buried in the Abbey Church at Bath. He was

the father of twenty-one children, of whom eleven survived to adult age. Dean Blacker married Eliza, daughter of Sir Hugh Hill, Bart., M.P. for Londonderry. He had four sons and five daughters. The eldest son was the famous Colonel William Blacker, a noted leader in religion, literature and politics from the days of the Battle of the Diamond to the year of his death, 1855. Dean Blacker was a very

capable man of business. He was small of stature and very active in his movements. He was also very strong-minded and had great local influence. It was he who got the "Dean's Level" made so that he might have a convenient and easy road by which to get to Waringstown from Carrick. He died on December 1st, 1826, and was interred within the precincts of Old Seagoe Church.

Mrs. Dawson, of Corcraigne House, has, with great kindness, lent us the above photographic block for publication in the Magazine.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services.

The annual Service of Thanksgiving for the blessings of harvest will be held (p.v.) in the Parish Church on Thursday, October 20th, at 8 p.m. The preached will be the Rev. Canon Taylor, M.A., Rector of Lisburn Cathedral, and formerly Curate of Seagoe. The offerings will be given to Foreign Missions. The Services will be continued on Sunday, Oct. 23rd, at 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m. The preacher on Sunday morning will be the Rev. H. E. Rennison, M.A., Curate-assistant of Drumcree, and on Sunday evening the preacher will be the Rev. Percy Marks, B.D., Rector of Ballymore (Tandragee). The collections on Sunday at both services will be on behalf of the Sustentation Parochial Church Fund. Materials for the decoration of the Church will be welcomed and may be sent to the Church on Thursday, Oct. 20th, at 10.30 a.m.

District Harvest Services.

The following District Harvest Services have been arranged :-

- Edenderry**—Sunday, Oct. 2nd, at 3.30.
Monday, Oct. 3rd, at 8 p.m.
Levaghery—Sunday, Oct. 16th, at 3.30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 17th, at 8 p.m.
Carne—Sunday, Oct. 30th, at 3.30 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 31st, at 8 p.m.
Drumgor—Sunday, Nov. 13th, at 3.30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 14th, at 8 p.m.

The collections at the District Harvest Services on the Sundays will be given to local expenses, and on the Mondays to Foreign Missions.

Church Workers' Rally.

This meeting, held in Portadown Town Hall on Tuesday, September 27th, was a great success. Perhaps, for the first time in history, the three Parishes combined—Seagoe, Portadown and Drumcree, and the result more than justified our expectations. There were about 600 Church workers present, who quite filled the large hall. Hymns were sung while the workers gathered. The Churchwardens of the three Parishes, six in number, acted as stewards, Seagoe being represented by Mr. T. E. Maginnis and Mr. John Reid. On the platform were the three Rectors, the Rev. G. W. Millington, Rector of St. Mark's (presiding), having on his right the Rev. F. J. Halahan, and on his left the Rev. Canon Archer. The three speakers were the Rev. Canon Kerr, B.D., Rector of Seapatrick (Banbridge), Miss Hartford,

Head of the Women's Settlement, Belfast, and Mr. Barker Wells, of Belfast. Hymns were sung at intervals. The Apostles Creed was recited, and then prayers were said by Rev. Canon Archer. The speeches were excellent and most inspiring. Canon Kerr spoke on many subjects, the cult of pleasure, Church lapses, sectarian divisions, and concluded with a stirring appeal for loyalty and devotion to Christ and the Church. Miss Hartford spoke very impressively out of her great experience. She emphasised the importance of efficiency in Church work, especially in the Sunday Schools, and also the necessity of post-confirmation work amongst the newly confirmed. Mr. Barker Wells is a most experienced worker. He touched on many points, but dwelt especially on the need of preparation by prayer for our responsible work. A vote of thanks to the speakers was proposed by Canon Archer and seconded by the Rev. F. J. Halahan and passed by acclamation. The Doxology was sung at the close of the meeting. A collection to cover expenses was made at the door. The meeting was altogether very inspiring. We hope it will fill our Seagoe workers with fresh zeal and enthusiasm in the cause.

Parish Register for September. Baptisms.

The following were baptized in Seagoe Parish Church on September 3rd, 1927 :-

Neill—George Reginald, son of Thomas and Isabella Neill, of Portadown.

Sponsors—Ellen Ryans, Isabella Neill

Donaldson—Isabella, daughter of Isaac Robert and Mary Donaldson, of Killicomaine.

Sponsors—Sarah Anne Carville, Mary Donaldson.

Gracey—Howard Donald, son of John George and Sarah Jane Gracey, of Balteagh.

Sponsors—John George Gracey, Sarah Jane Gracey.

Gordon—Thomas George, son of Thomas James and Anne Eliza Gordon, of Edenderry.

Sponsors—Mary Elizabeth Gordon, Anne Eliza Gordon.

Marriage.

Duke and Black—September 7th, 1927, Richard Duke, of Ballydonaghy, Parish of Knocknamuckley, to Rachel Black, of Knock.

Burial.

Livingstone—September 4th, Mary Anne Livingstone, of Killicomaine. Interred at Knocknamuckley.

A Seagoe Soldier.

Sergeant Russell, of Clanrole, late R.I.F., is the man in Seagoe Parish who has seen more fighting than any other man. He has served in no less than four wars—the Matabele campaign, the Egyptian and Nile expedition, the Boer war and the Great War. The Rector has asked him to write down his "Recollections," and next month we hope to publish his most interesting notes on the Matabele war under Baden-Powell.

Seagoe P.E. School.

At the annual examination in Temperance Knowledge recently held, the following distinctions were won by the children attending Seagoe School. The competition was open to all Ulster Schools:—

Bronze Medal—Robert Livingston, 85 per cent.

Certificates, with percentage in written examination—Maggie Duke, 79; Bertha M'Loughlin, 75; Lily Magowan, 74; Alex. Ruddell, 72; Harry Hynes, 72; David Guy, 72; Sandy Rehill, 69; Frank Jones, 68; Carson Brownlee, 66; Willie M'Keown, 66; James Livingston, 65; Robert Porter, 61; Peggy Forde, 61; Jennie Liggett, 60; James M'Cabe, 60; Lily Ruddell, 60.

Oral examination—Gertrude Magowan, 100; May Dickson, 100; Sarah Macauley, 100; Sarah M'Keown, 100; Dorothy Montgomery, 100; Willie Donaldson, 100; Wesley Porter, 90; Ernest Gibson, 90; Fred Rehill, 90.

We congratulate the School on the success attained in this important examination. "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging, and he that is deceived thereby is not wise."

Congratulations.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Charles Montgomery on his most recent success in carrying off the gold medal for tea blending at the Grocers' Exhibition recently held in London.

Old Seagoe Notes

Lady Moira's Anxiety about Seagoe in 1763.—Canon Swanzy, of Newry, sends us the following interesting peep into the past. It opens up a wide field of thought regarding Seagoe and the neighbouring Parishes in the middle of the 18th century:—

Richard Buckby, as the only English Rector of Seagoe in the 18th century, is described in the following extract of a letter from Lady Moira to Bishop Percy. She was asking him to appoint an Irishman to be Rector of Moira, and she says:—

"There is one circumstance that gives me a little degree of assurance in my address, which is, that the inferior clergy in England, being certainly a less polished set than those in Ireland, are attached to their own manners and methods of living; which the Rector of Seagoe (between ourselves, my Lord) practising in this Kingdom, occasioned much discourse when I lived in that part of the world."

This appears in Nichol's Literary History, vol. viii., p. 11, and is quoted in the Gentleman's Magazine, for Aug. 1858, p. 373, in its review. Not having seen the original, I don't know the date of the letter, but it certainly refers to Buckby. It is an interesting little peep into the past.

Lady Moira, an Englishwoman, daughter of an Earl of Huntingdon, could not have lived near Seagoe till her marriage in 1752, when Hugh Tisdall, son of a Vicar of Belfast, was at Seagoe. The Englishman Buckby came to the parish in 1763, and reigned there for 33 years, and is, of course, the hero of the above.

Seagoe Mothers' Union.

By kind permission of Colonel Blacker, D.S.O., the members of the Mother's Union spent a very pleasant afternoon at Carrickblacker on Thursday, September 15th. They left the Parochial Hall by 'bus at 2.30. The weather was perfect, just Seagoe weather; the sun shone out from a cloudless blue sky. Most of the party sat in the hot sun outside the drawing-room windows until tea was ready. It was a really high-class tea, with meat sandwiches and rich cakes. Small parties went through the lower portions of the house and were greatly interested in the old place. King William's saddle-girth, which he sat on while the great Battle of the Boyne was being fought out, received special attention. After tea, some played games and others walked through the grounds. At about 8 p.m. a return was made for home. All agreed that the day was most enjoyable. One object of the picnic was to raise funds for Christmas gifts to the poor. Each person who attended paid one shilling and also brought something for the auction which was held. The result was a net profit of £4 towards the gift fund.

Professional Beggars.

Portadown and its neighbourhood is infested just now with professional beggars who travel about Northern Ireland by train or 'bus. Portadown is chiefly favoured on Saturdays and Mondays. These mendicants reap a rich harvest and consider that they have had a bad week if they run short of £7. They have recently taken up their place on the bridge, others frequent railway St. A very objectionable set are centred near the Bank of Ireland. Perhaps they invest their capital in one of the Banks. Why do the police authorities permit all this? The whole crowd of them should be swept out of the town. They are a public nuisance.

Men's Recreation Rooms.

The Men's Recreation Room in Bridge St., Edenderry, will re-open next week for the winter session. It is a favourite resort for the men of Edenderry, and we anticipate a successful session.

The Students' Visit.

Mr. J. R. Scarff, of Christ's College, Cambridge, spoke on the "World Call" in Seagoe Church on the evening of Sunday, September 4th. He spoke with great earnestness and was listened to with great attention. He is at present a Divinity student at Ridley Hall, Cambridge. His home is at Ilford, London.

ITEMS.

The death is announced of Mr. Gabriel Best, formerly of Killicomaine. He had for many years resided in Argentina, South America.

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The next meeting of the Mother's Union will be held in Seagoe School on Tuesday, October 11th, at 7.30 p.m.

Summer Time.

Summer Time goes out on Sunday, October 2nd, so don't forget to put back your clocks one hour on Saturday night. If your clock is a striking clock you must stop it for an hour.

Seagoe to Toronto and Back.

Bob Sherman tells us more about his Canadian Holiday.

Wednesday, 22nd June.—We went for a long walk this morning, covering about six miles. In the afternoon we visited the central branch of the Y.M.C.A., and had a swim in the tank.

Thursday, 23rd June.—We left Toronto very early this morning to go on a fishing trip. After passing Cooksville and Erindale we fished for several hours in the river Credit. We then went some miles further and had lunch; from here we went on to Brampton, fished in a large creek at Woodhill, thence to Weston and Toronto again. We covered about 60 miles on this trip.

Friday, 24th June.—We remained indoors for the greater part of to-day, as we were rather tired after yesterday.

Saturday, 25th June.—It was impossible to go out to-day, as the rain came down in torrents during the whole day. We spent our time writing letters.

Sunday, 26th June.—We went to Church this morning. In the evening we went to the United Church service.

Monday, 27th June.—We got up about 1 a.m. this morning to watch for the Pons-Winnock comet, but as the weather conditions were unfavourable we did not see it.

Tuesday, 28th June.—We spent the morning and afternoon arranging our snap-shots. This evening we went to a Western Stampede and Rodeo held in the Toronto Exhibition Grounds. It was very exciting.

Wednesday, 29th June.—It was impossible to move about much to-day as the temperature was 94 degrees in the shade, and a lot more in the sun.

A HOLIDAY IN NORTHERN ONTARIO.

Thursday, 30th June.—We left Toronto this morning at 5 a.m. for Northern Ontario. The country is dotted with little lakes; the following are the Lakes we passed en route—Lake Simcoe, L. Balsam, Gull Lake, Mountain Lake, Twelve Mile Lake, and finally we reached Lake Boskung at 11.20 a.m. The distance covered was 140 miles. After travelling 100 miles from Toronto we found the roads no better than country lanes. After lunch, we went to the boat-house for our canoes, and paddled back across the lake to the cottage. The cottage is situated about ten yards from this lake, surrounded by trees on three sides. The remainder of the evening was spent canoeing and swimming in the lake.

Friday, 1st July.—We were up quite early this morning. After breakfast we rested about an hour, and then went for a swim. We fished all the afternoon and caught two salmon trout and two dozen chub.

Saturday, 2nd July.—This morning about 3 a.m. we heard something scratching the wood of the cottage. We jumped out of bed and on running out found three big porcupines. They looked very fierce with their long quills sticking out all over them. After stalking them we got a shot at them and the three of them went down. After breakfast we went for a walk to Buttermilk falls; the falls lie between Hall's Lake and Lake Boskung. We were fortunate enough to see the road-makers blasting out great stumps of trees in order to make a highway by the side of the lakes. This afternoon we left in our canoes for the village of Carnarvon, which lies about five miles down Lake Boskung. We had a jolly time. When we returned we found two salmon trout on a line which we had set yesterday.

Sunday, 3rd July.—We got up at 6 a.m., as we had to leave at 1 p.m. for Toronto. After dinner we bade farewell to L. Boskung, and arrived in Toronto about 8 p.m.

Monday, 4th July.—We spent to-day driving around Toronto, as the decorations for 1st July had not yet disappeared.

Tuesday, 5th July.—We left for Detroit at 9 a.m. by car. The sun was shining, and it made the drive very pleasant. Passing Hamilton, Paris and Woodstock, we stopped for lunch at London. From here we continued to Windsor, where we crossed the ferry to Detroit (Toronto—Detroit 240 miles). This evening we visited the General Motors building; it is the second largest office building in the world.

Wednesday, 6th July.—This afternoon we went to the top of Detroit's highest building—The Book Tower. It contains 36 storeys, and is over 360 feet in height. A wonderful view of Detroit is obtainable from this building.

Thursday, 7th July.—We visited many places of interest this morning. In the afternoon we drove around several of the large motor works, including Ford, Packard and Chrysler.

Friday, 8th July.—We were rather tired this morning, so we did not go out. This evening we went to the Michigan Theatre. This is Detroit's largest theatre.

Saturday, 9th July.—We drove to Pontiac this morning to see the Pontiac Motor Works. The town of Pontiac is about 30 miles north of Detroit.

Sunday, 10th July.—We visited Palmer Park this morning. The Park was presented to the City by Senator Palmer, and contains the large log cabin in which he lived; the cabin has been converted into a little museum. This afternoon we went to Bellisle, which is situated in the Detroit River. The Park has a wonderful fountain. It has also reserved enclosures containing many different forms of wild life in the United States.

Monday, 11th July.—We left Detroit this morning for Toronto by the Canadian National Railway. About 8½ hours were spent on the train before we reached our destination.

(To be concluded.)