

# Seagoe Parish Magazine.

SEPTEMBER, 1915.



Moffett]

[Photographer.

## **Private John Girvan.**

**1st Batt. Royal Irish Fusiliers.**

Private John Girvan has been on Active Service in France and Flanders since August, 1914, when the present war began. He has taken part in 8 Battles, and in 3 Bayonet Charges, and has been constantly on duty in the Trenches. The photograph was taken last July when he was visiting his home in Tarson, having obtained a week's leave of absence. His rifle, trench axe, bandolier, water bottle, etc., are the equipment which he brought with him from the trenches. He has happily escaped wounds and sickness, though many around him have fallen.

## **New Rector of Portadown.**

On behalf of the Parish of Seagoe we extend a hearty welcome to the Rev. Canon Moeran, the newly appointed Rector of Portadown. He comes amongst us with a most honourable record of Christian work, and we pray that in his new and larger sphere of labour in Portadown the Divine blessing may rest upon all his efforts. Portadown has a larger proportion of Church members than any other parish in Ireland, and the duty of ministering to so great a population is a task and a privilege which may well test the capabilities of even the most experienced and active of our clergy. We welcome also Mrs. Moeran, the daughter of an Irish Bishop, and the sister of an Indian Bishop who comes of a family most distinguished in the records of church work in Ireland.

## **Rev. George Bloomer.**

Much regret has been expressed in Seagoe at the approaching departure from the Parish of the Rev. G. Bloomer who has laboured very faithfully here for almost four years. Our regret is softened to a certain extent by the fact that he is not going very far away. Portadown is not very far from Seagoe, but when you cross the Bridge at Portadown you pass from the Diocese of Dromore into the Arch-Diocese of Armagh so that the change is greater than one might imagine. However we shall often have the pleasure of seeing and meeting Mr. Bloomer even though he be no longer Curate of Seagoe, and we are sure that all our readers will unite in wishing him much blessing and happiness in his work in St. Mark's Parish. We believe this is the first occasion on which a Curate of Seagoe has become Curate of Portadown, and we congratulate Canon Moeran on having secured so diligent and faithful a worker in the cause of Christ and the Church. Mr. Bloomer hopes to enter upon his duties in St. Mark's at the end of October.

## **The Annual Report.**

The Annual Report for the Parish up to Easter, 1915, is now in the hands of the Parishioners. We hope they will read it carefully. The Hon. Treas., Mr. W. R. Atkinson, writes an important Prefatory Note on the importance of keeping up the Sustentation Fund at a higher level. The Glebe Purchase Scheme has made good progress although only £17 was placed to its credit this year from the Sustentation Fund. It has now reached the substantial total of £708. The sum required is £957. A slight effort on the part of all the Parishioners would soon complete the amount aimed at. We are glad to notice that the Missionary contributions are larger than in any previous year amounting to some £68. The Report is very neatly and clearly printed and reflects credit on the "Portadown News" Office, which published it.



**Death of Mr. Robert Gracey.**

We record with much sorrow the death of Mr. Robert Gracey which occurred on Tuesday August 17th, Mr. Gracey had been in weak health for some time, but the end came unexpectedly. By his death we have lost from our midst a vigorous personality—a man upright and downright, who filled a large space in the life of the Parish. He had been for many years a member of the Select Vestry, and also a Collector of the Sustainment Fund. He was ever



ready to help in every possible way the work of the Church and no worthy cause appealed to him in vain. His funeral—so very largely attended was a fine proof of the respect and esteem in which he was held. The Interment took place in the Family Burying Ground at Shankill graveyard. The service at the graveside was taken by the Rector of Seagoe. We offer our sincere sympathy to his family in their bereavement. Many of our readers will be glad to

possess an excellent likeness of Mr. Gracey in the photograph which we print in this issue of the magazine.

**The Death of Pte. J. Malcomson.**

9th August, 1915.

Dear Mrs. Malcomson—Having only recently joined this Company I did not know your son Joseph, but on receipt of your letter I caused enquiries to be made, and found that he was killed near Hooge on June 16th. A shell burst in the midst of a party killing nine of them outright. I deeply sympathise with you in your sad loss; everyone spoke so highly of your boy; they all lost a brave and cheerful comrade. I sincerely hope the war will soon be over, and your son in the 1st Battalion spared to return to you. Your boy was buried at Hooge, in a little Cemetery there, by our Chaplain the same evening, and a little Cross with his name inscribed marks his last resting-place. May God comfort you at this time is my earnest prayer.—Yours sincerely,

T. H. IVEY, Lieut.

O.C. B. Co. 2/R.I.R.

**Protestant Orphan Cards.**

The following Cards and amounts have been received towards the funds of the Protestant Orphan Society—Henrietta Porter, 9/-; James M'Donald, 6/3; Joseph Kelly, 1/1; Moses M'Kerr, 1/6; Albert Best, 1/-; Isabella Best, 8/-; May Hynes, 12/8; Miss Rhoda Guy, 9/6. Total, £2 9s 0d.

**Public Lecture.**

A Lecture with lantern illustrations will (D.V.) be given in Edenderry Parochial Hall, on Monday, September 13th, at 8 o'clock, by the Rev W. D. Abbott, Deputation Secretary of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Tickets of Admission, 3d each, are on sale. There will be no collection. Mr. Abbott is a most interesting lecturer and will give details of the wonderful and varied work carried on all over the world by the S.P.C.K.

**Our Wounded Soldiers.**

**Private David Porter**, 5th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers, of James Street, has been wounded in the right hand at the Dardanelles. He took part in the famous landing at Suvla Bay at 5 a.m., on August 6th, and had only been two hours on shore when he was wounded at 7 a.m. He is in a Cottage Hospital near Alexandria, and we are glad to learn is making a good recovery. The bullet passed through the "heel" of his hand at the base of the thumb.

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**Private Samuel Caddell**, of the Transport, 5th Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, of James Street, has also been wounded at the Dardanelles, but particulars as to the nature of his wounds have not yet been received.



**In Camp at Seaford.**

The Rector visited the Camp at Seaford on Tuesday, August 3rd, and had the pleasure of spending several hours amongst the men from Seagoe and Portadown. Seaford village is a quiet old-world town with an ancient Parish Church jutting out into the narrow, straggling street which runs down from the station towards the sea, but a new Seaford has, in recent years, arisen along the shore with high houses and spacious hotels. There is also a fine Promenade almost a mile in length, and there, every afternoon from 5 o'clock, Ulster is in possession. The broad asphalted space is crowded with lads from Edenderry and Edgarrstown as well as from the Shankill Road and Ballymacarrett.

The South Camp where our 9th Batt. have been stationed is distant about a mile from Seaford. The road to it is very dusty and sandy, being cut up by the constant and heavy traffic. On the way we pass the Golf Links. The sentry at the gate is very particular, and rightly so, for spies abound, however the Rector of Seagoe, after some conversation, was allowed to enter accompanied by a Sergeant. On the left of the entrance there is a wide unoccupied space used as a Parade Ground, and on the right the huts stretch away well up on the shoulder of Seaford Down. The Seagoe Companies are on high and healthy ground. The Rifle Ranges are on the summit of the Down near the sea. On the day when the Rector visited the Camp most of the Seagoe men were manœuvring in the level meadows along the banks of the tidal river Cuckmere which flows into the sea at the back of Seaford Down. The pretty village of Alfreton is seen in the distance. There is a farm house, with its outbuildings, almost in the middle of the Camp. The Rector visited all the huts occupied by the Seagoe men, and spoke to as many as he could meet. All seemed very happy and in high spirits. The strong sun and sea breezes have tanned their faces, and all look very healthy and strong. The men seemed to have greatly appreciated the service held by the Lord Primate in a hollow in the Downs near the Camp on a recent Sunday.

**Seagoe at Seaford.****A Letter from the Camp.**

We are indebted to two of our Campers of the 9th Batt. for the following notes from the Camp:—

Just a few lines to let you know how some of the old Seagoe boys are doing in their new quarters. We like Seaford well, but, of course, all the boys think there is no place like Ireland, and that is only natural.

The Camp is near the famous holiday resorts of Eastbourne and Brighton, both of which we often visit. It is a very large Camp—about 20,000 soldiers—much larger than Newtownards. We were inspected by Lord Kitchener who was well pleased with the steadiness and physique of the men from Ulster.

Sir Edward Carson paid us a visit a few weeks ago; he came around our huts and chatted with a good many of the men. Poor Joseph Topley was drowned when bathing in the river here; everyone was sorry, for he was very well liked. The funeral was most impressive. When the "Last Post" was sounded you could have heard a pin drop.

In the recent firing our 9th Batt. came out second in the whole Division, and only lost top place by about one-fifth of a point.

There is a Cup offered for best shooting unit in the Division. Of course we will do our best to bring the trophy to our Battalion. We were also exercised in the Bayonet Fighting by the Inspector of Infantry a few weeks ago, and he was pleased with our performance. Just now the Aeroplanes are humming overhead. Evidently they are going to give the German airships no chance of paying us a surprise visit.

**PARISH REGISTER FOR AUGUST.****Baptisms.**

Baptized on Saturday, August 7th, 1915.

**Coulter**—Joseph, son of John and Anne Coulter of Edenderry.

*Sponsors*—John Coulter, Anne Coulter.

**McCormick**—Sarah, daughter of George and Margaret McCormick of Levaghery.

*Sponsors*—Mary Anne Greer, Margaret McCormick.

**Marriage.**

**Ruddell and Quaile**—September 2nd, 1915, Thomas Clarke Ruddell of Lisniskey, to Sarah Jane Quaile of Balteagh.

**Burials.**

**Wilson**—August 2nd, William Wilson, Town Clerk of Portadown, aged 44 years.

**Reid**—August 13th, William Robert Reid of Upper Seagoe, aged 7 years.

**Gracey**—August 19th, Robert Gracey of Balteagh, aged 70 years.

**Brown**—August 28th, Joseph Brown of Ballinacor, aged 87 years.

**Kane**—August 29th, Edward Kane of Belfast, aged 47 years.

**McDonald**—August 31st, James McDonald of Edenderry, aged 75 years.

**Webb**—September 1st, Florence Webb of Knockmena, aged 16 years.

**Offertories for August.**

"It is more blessed to give than to receive."

Sundays—Mornings,	£5	8	7
Evenings,	...	2	5
Week Evenings		0	7

Total, £8 1 7



**ITEMS.**

The graveyard extension at Seagoe has been cleared of a great growth of weeds. We hope the Rural Council will carefully keep the ground in order. The first grave in the new portion is that of Mr. John Walker, Petty Sessions Clerk of Portadown. The ground is set apart for a very sacred purpose—the burial of the dead—and should be cared for in a very special way.

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Much regret has been expressed at the death of Mr. William Wilson, Town Clerk of Portadown. Mr. Wilson was a native of Lisniskey, in Seagoe Parish.

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The very bright star which has been such a conspicuous object in the southern heavens during July and August is Sirius, often called the Dog-star. Though one of the brightest of the stars it is so very far distant from us that if at any time it were extinguished its light would continue to be seen by us for twenty years.

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A rumour reaches us that the Ulster Division is about to be moved to Aldershot or its immediate neighbourhood to complete there, its instruction in musketry.

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Sir John French has informed Mrs. Malcomson of Joseph Street, that her third and now only surviving son has been transferred from the firing line to the transport. This concession has been made with great readiness and sympathy by the Commander in Chief, and is much appreciated.

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In this month's issue we insert a two page leaflet on the "Needs of Belgium." Please read it carefully and if you can, send a trifle to help those who have so self-sacrificingly helped us in this war.

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The Lord Primate intends (D.V.) to Institute the Rev. Canon Moeran, as Rector of Portadown, at a Service, on Monday, September 6th, at 8 p.m. in St. Mark's Church.

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Seagoe Choir is at present busily engaged in practising the Anthem "The Lord our God hath blessed us," for the Harvest Thanksgiving Services which will be held (d.v.) in the Parish Church, on Thursday, October 7th, and on Sunday, October 10th.

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The Rev. F. J. Halahan will preach in Seagoe Church on Sunday evening, September 5th.

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Rumours are current that Private David Dunlop, of James Street, 5th Battalion R.I.F., fell in the recent fighting at Suvla Bay. We hope the news is not true. No official intimation has yet been received.

The Select Vestry, at a meeting held at the Rectory this week, passed a Resolution of sympathy with the relatives of the late Mr. Robert Gracey, of Balteagh,

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Isaiah Shanks has left Seagoe for Flanders to undertake Munition Work. He will be much missed from the Edenderry Men's Bible Class, where he had attended 8½ years without missing a single Sunday.

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Herbert Murray, Maxwell Stoops, and Edward Marshall joined the 3rd Canadian Contingent.

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James Tedford, R.I.F., has returned home, having been wounded in the ankle in Flanders.

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The Ulster Division removed this week from Seaford Camp to Borden Camp 15 miles from Aldershot.

**Harvest at Hacknahay.**

The Annual Harvest Services will (d.v.) be held in Hacknahay School on Sunday, September 26th, at 3-30 p.m., and on Monday, September 27th, at 7-30 p.m. The Offerings at the Sunday Service will be in aid of Hacknahay Sunday School, and the Monday service for Foreign Missions.

**Old Seagoe Notes.**

**A Portadown Bank Note.**—A One Pound Bank Note has come into our hands issued on July 1st, 1846, by the Portadown Branch of the Ulster Bank, then occupying premises in Edenderry opposite the end of Railway Street. The note is in good preservation, and has the name "Portadown" printed on three sides of the border. It contains the words, "I promise to pay the Bearer on Demand One Pound British at Portadown," and is signed "John Henry." The number of the note is B16012.

**Local Seagoe Wills, 1715—1768.**—The following Wills, among many others, from Seagoe Parish, are to be seen at the Record Office, Dublin—Robert Saunders, Drumgor, 1715; Richard Scott, Crossmacaghilly, 1716; James Sinckler, Knockbridge, 1718; Judith Stevenson, 1758; Richard Timmons, Sego, 1735; Owen Sheills, Drumnagoon, 1768.

**Historical Sketch of Lurgan, 1873.**—A parishioner possesses a copy of quaint verses, dated Lurgan, January, 1873, describing the town of Lurgan, and its history. The verses are by Wm. Lavery. One on the Parish Church runs as follows:

"The Church got too small  
For the worshippers all,  
And in seventeen-seventy-five,  
The new Church was raised,  
Which then was much praised,  
Then Lurgan did afterwards thrive."