

Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers

Bi-Annual Update



R.V.A.R.

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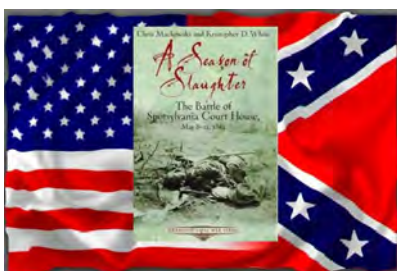
Welcome to the 1st Bi-Annual update of RVAR and a summary of the work our volunteer researchers have completed in the area of the Roe Valley during 2017. We have been very busy for our first year; having set up the Association formally in September 2016.

We will print 2 x bumper issues per year from now on which will be Spring/Summer & Autumn/Winter. Members can receive them online or by post. Each issue, we will feature either a Place of Worship or a graveyard with interesting headstones which tell a story.

In this issue we are featuring **Learmount Church of Ireland, Park**. Our research uncovered the names of 220 men from the Island of Ireland who earned war pensions from the United States of America for their death or injuries sustained whilst fighting for the side of the Union in the American Civil War. An example of a Union gravestone in prime condition is shown here.



We also enjoy coming across other people who have the same interest in our local history and so we print the story of Pte John Mulberry, whose Union gravestone rests in Learmount Churchyard, as told by Mrs Eileen Irvine who has a Facebook page called 'Irish Soldiers Remembered' which she started with the intention of remembering all those men and women from the Island of Ireland who fought in many



wars and conflicts around the World over the past centuries. RVAR has a copy of the book 'A Season of Slaughter' which details the battle where Pte John Mulberry lost his arm. You are welcome to come along to our new reading room in Rascahan House, 44A Ballykelly Road and view it.

Learmount Church of Ireland Graveyard, Park

PRIVATE JOHN MULBERRY. Co. D. 145th Pa. Infantry Civil War.

In a forest close to the village of Park, Co. Londonderry, stands the once affluent Castle Learmount home to the Beresford family. The family had a small church built on the Learmount land, through which the River Faughan flows and nestles at the base of the Sperrin Mountains, and it is still being used to this day. Inside are memorials to members of the family as well as a beautiful stained glass window. In the churchyard there is a headstone which is worth some investigation and so I took a photo of it. Turns out that the headstone commemorates the passing of John Mulberry who was born not too far from the church. At some point in his life he emigrated to America and whilst there was enlisted into the 145th Pennsylvania Infantry, which was raised for a three year enlistment on the 5th September of 1862 and was commanded by Colonel Hiram Loomis Brown. The 145th stayed in service until 31st May 1865. This regiment fought at several well known battles during the American Civil War, including Antietam, Gettysburg, Cold Harbour and others. But it was at the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia, May 8 – May 21, 1864, a particularly bloody battle, that John Mulberry from Learmount, Co. Londonderry was wounded and lost an arm. He returned to Ireland for a time but in 1873 he felt the need to once again return to America and lived at 2246 North 3rd Street in Philadelphia. He may have felt the tug of Ireland once more because he again returned to his homeland, settling down in the townland of Tennaght, Learmount and marrying a young woman named Rachel Shaw in 1881 and they became parents to nine children, some of them leaving Ireland to make a life in America and Canada.

From the 1901 Census (Banagher, Co Londonderry), the Mulberry family were

John Mulberry. Head of Family, Church of Ireland, age 72 Farmer.

Rachel Mulberry, Wife. age 36. seamstress.

Martha Jane Mulberry, daughter, age 18, seamstress.

Rebecca Mulberry, daughter, age 16, seamstress.

John Alexander Mulberry, son, age 14, scholar.

Rachel Mulberry, daughter, age 11, scholar.

Mary Mulberry, daughter, age 9, scholar.

Isabella Mulberry, daughter, age 6, scholar.

Cecillia Mulberry, daughter, age 5, scholar.

Samuel Mulberry, son, age 3.

Annie Mulberry, daughter, age 8 months.

John Mulberry continued to live at Learmount until his death and was laid to rest in the burial ground of the little parish church at Learmount. His military headstone stands just to the left of the entrance of the church as you enter.

John received a US pension for the loss of his arm at the Battle of Spotsylvania.



True Stories from our International Researcher Robert Guthrie

The Surgeon Who Went to the Arctic Circle

Dr. Alexander Gilfillan of Gorty Cross, County Londonderry



Within a little leafy graveyard hidden by trees on top of a small bank between Enagh Lough Eastern and Western lies the body of Doctor Alexander Gilfillan, Surgeon R N. He is buried along with his Wife, Father and first Son,.

(The graveyard is about half a kilometre on 'Judges Road' from the main A2 road from Londonderry to Limavady. This road is where 'City of Derry Rugby Club' is situated).

Alexander was the son of Joseph & Rebecca Gilfillan nee Cochran born abt. 1793. He was married by the Rev Henry Carson of Glendermot on 19 May 1831 to Elizabeth, daughter of Joseph McCutcheon Esq. of Lisneal. Alexander died 27th March 1838 aged 45 years, the same day as his father Joseph. The couple were blessed with four children. From the age of 15, Alexander wanted to become a Doctor and his parents let him take up Latin to prepare him for his future occupation. He succeeded in passing his exams for the profession and joined the Royal Navy aged 20 years with the rank of assistant surgeon. Naval bosses were so impressed with his medical skills that in 1818 he was

selected to join the Arctic Expedition on HMS Trent, to explore the North West Passage between Canada and Arctic under the command of Sir John Franklin. It sailed from England in the spring of 1819 to last about three and a half years. The Mission of the expedition was "that of determining the latitudes and longitudes of the Northern Coast of North America, and the trending of that Coast from the Mouth of the Copper-Mine River to the eastern extremity of that Continent". They were also to make meteorological observations, record variations of the magnetic needle, noting particularly the effects of the Aurora Borealis on them, and to make drawings of the land, natives, and "objects of natural history." As it turned out the expedition was a catastrophe, due to weather, lack of supplies and equipment and the physical requirements of his men. The Trent and her sister vessel, Dorothea, were all but wrecked near the Arctic Circle in a series of massive ice storms. The men then had to head overland in damp clothing living mostly on Lichen. Local 'Indians from Fort Enterprise' sent by an advance party from the ships lead the men back to safety. This cost the lives of eleven men. Gilfillan fell victim to snow blindness. His eyesight was irreparably damaged,

[NOTE: Sir John Franklin died on his fourth expedition when his two ships became icebound in the Northwest Passage in 1845. The entire crews (129 men) of both ships were lost.]

When Gilfillan recovered and declared fit for duty he was posted in 1827 to the Naval Hospital at Kingston, Jamaica. Eventually due to ill health he returned home to Gorticross, arriving at Derry Quay in 1830, along with his effects which included his surgeon's trunk and bundle of heavy dark brown wood. Back home at the family farm, Alexander married in 1831, and ill fate struck the family when their first son, Joseph, died in 1836 aged 3 years when boiling water was tipped over him. Alexander then turned to drinking heavily, and knowing he had not long to live he started building his coffin in 1838 from the wood he brought back from Jamaica. This national wood was called 'Lignum Vitae', a rare wood which is so dense that it will not float and hard enough that it can be used for engine parts. It is rumoured that Alexander prophesied to his father of their deaths on the same day in the same house within hours of each other, as the gravestone testifies at the old graveyard. When Joseph (3rd son of Alexander and Elizabeth) buried his mother 60 years after his father's death, he recalled seeing the coffin still intact.



Picture from "Adventure to the Polar Sea", depicting Sir John Franklin's ship being attacked by giant walrus off Spitzbergen in 1818. Alexander Gilfillan, surgeon, was on the expedition aboard the HMS Trent.

VICTOR and WIZARD



VICTOR and WIZARD

32

VICTOR AND WIZARD

SEPT. 23rd, 1978.

CONTINUED FROM
FRONT PAGE

HIMMEL! WE ARE BEING
ATTACKED FROM THE SIDE AS
WELL. THIS IS TOO MUCH.
PREPARE TO WITHDRAW!

With the German withdrawal, the British occupied the north bank bridge-head. The C.O. arrived in a jeep driven by Fusilier T.G. Moore.

But later, the Germans counter-attacked.

FIRE! DRIVE THEM
BACK ACROSS THE
RIVER!

GOOD WORK, MEN. NOW
WE'VE GOT TO HOLD ON TO
THIS BRIDGE-HEAD UNTIL
OUR ARMOUR CAN ROLL
ACROSS THE RIVER ON THE
LEMON BRIDGE.

BLIMEY, THEY'D
BETTER WATCH
IT OR THEY'LL BE
DAMAGING MY JEEP!

STONE THE CROWS, THEY'VE A
TANK COMING UP, AND OUR ONLY
ANTI-TANK GUN IS ON THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE RIVER. WE'LL NEVER MANAGE
TO GET IT ACROSS UNDER THIS FIRE.

HOW ABOUT THE JEEP, SIR?
I CAN TOW THE GUN ACROSS
OKAY. LEAST, I CAN TRY.

IF YOU'RE
VOLUNTEERING,
MOORE, BUT BE
CAREFUL!

BE CAREFUL, HE
SAYS. HOW DOES A
BLOKE MANAGE
THAT?

On the south bank, they hooked the anti-tank gun to the jeep and Moore made the hazardous return trip.

HOLD EVERYTHING!
HERE WE COME!

RIGHT, LET
HIM HAVE IT!

AAEEEEEE!

AAARGH!

And so the bridge was taken and held, to enable British armour to advance speedily to victory in Sicily. For the Battle of Lemon Bridge, the Inniskillings won two DSOs and two Military Crosses, and Fusilier Moore was awarded the Military Medal. The citation said... "Through two days and nights of hard and confused fighting Fusilier Moore's conduct was beyond praise. He was an inspiration to his comrades."

Look out for another true war story NEXT WEEK!

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The Story of the Moore Brothers from Dungiven



Two brothers from Dungiven, Fusiliers William & Tommy Moore, were both awarded the Military Medal (MM) in 1943 within a month of each other, both were in the 2nd Btn Inniskilling Fusiliers. Tommy Moore received his medal during the battle of Catania at Lemon Bridge on the Simeto river (Oct. 1943). William received his medal for action on the Paterno-Belpasso road (Nov. 1943). Both went on to fight in Korea and William perished there. Tommy Moore came back and married (wee) Mary Gordon of Carrick East. William's citation reads "For his part in holding Lemon Bridge, Korea, there is an entry on page 98 in the UK Book of Remembrance held at the National Army Museum which reads; The Royal Ulster Rifles : Corporal W A Moore MM. There is an entry in the Army Historical Branch's Roll of Honor which reads; Number 6980318, Rank Cpl, Name Moore W.A. MM, Unit RUR TD TR, Date of death 04-01-1951. William's citation reads, *Through two days and nights of hard and confused fighting Fusilier Moore's conduct was beyond praise. He was an inspiration to his comrades.*"

THE HILLS OF KOREA

*There,s blood on the hills of Korea
It's the blood of the brave and the true
Where nations all rallied together
Under banners of red white and blue*

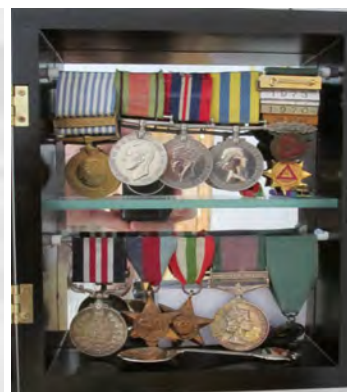
*Forward they went into battle
With faces unsmiling and stern
For they knew as they charged up that hillside
That many would never return*

*Some thought of their wives and their mothers
And some of their sweethearts so fair
And some as they proddled and stumped
Were softly saying a prayer*

*There,s blood on the hills of Korea
It's the gift of the freedom they love
May their name live in glory forever
And their souls rest in heaven above*



Fusiliers W. A. Moore and T. J. Moore, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, sons of Mr. and Mrs. A. Moore, Termell, Dungiven, both of whom were awarded the Military Medal, 1943.



The family headstone of the Moores at the Parish Church Dungiven



The late Mrs Mary Moore (formally 'wee' Mary Gordon (Carrick East Road)

100th Anniversary of the Sinking of HMS Drake off Rathlin Island

HMS Drake was torpedoed on 2nd Oct 1917, 5 miles north of Rathlin Island but capsized in Church Bay when an attempt was made to beach her for repairs. Her wreck is passed daily by island residents and visitors to Rathlin alike. "A light westerly breeze is lifting early morning mist over calm waters Kapitänleutnant Rohrbeck observes with sudden excitement a cruiser through his periscope. She has 4 tall funnels and 2 masts. Manoeuvring *U-79*, who was in the area at the time after laying mines off the coast of Ballycastle, to the correct angle for attack, he is only 600 metres from the Drake's starboard side when he gives the order to fire ..."

HMS Drake was a huge armoured battleship launched in Pembroke Dock in SW Wales on 3rd March 1901. She was the longest ship ever built at the yard, 162 metres (533 feet) and one of the longest warships in the world.



U-79 in Cherbourg after the war,
around 1920

The torpedo struck the No. 2 Boiler Room and caused two of her engine rooms and the boiler room to flood, killing 18 crewmen, the bodies of these sailors are, to all intents and purposes, still in the wreck of the ship. There is no record in the Commonwealth Graves Commission of these sailors being buried on land. The 100th Anniversary took place in Ballycastle on Remembrance Day and on Rathlin Island on 19th November 2017. The names of the dead (*below*) were read out at both services.

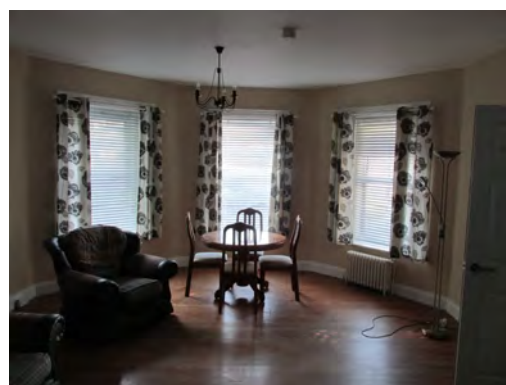
extracts from the book by Ian Wilson



BROWN, Charles C, Stoker 1c, K 29064 (Dev)
BROWN, John F, Stoker, RNR, S 4199
BUTTLE, Walter W, Stoker, RNR, S 1410
CLARK, John McL, Stoker 1c, K 1872 (Dev)
GARTLAN, William E, Stoker 1c, SS 114829
MURDIE, Robert, Stoker, RNR, S 5252
O'BRIEN, Robert, Stoker Petty Officer, 296670 (Dev)
OLIVER, John G, Stoker 1c, K 28133 (Po)
PARK, Godfrey, Stoker 1c, K 27621 (Po)
PATTERSON, James, Act/Engine Room Artificer 4c, M 17773 (Po)
SHEARD, Bertie, Stoker 1c, SS 117349 (Po)
STANLEY, William J, Stoker, RNR, S 1699
STARK, Adolphus E, Artificer Engineer
THOMPSON, Christopher, Stoker, RNR, S 6519
TUMBS, Thomas J, Stoker 1c, K 29448 (Dev)
WHEATLEY, Thomas, Stoker 1c, SS 116149 (Po)
WILLEY, George F, Leading Stoker, K 1097 (Dev)
WILLIAMS, Robert J, Act/Leading Stoker, 302211 (Dev)



Rascahan House Reading Room



The new Reading Room/Library at Rascahan House—to be renovated this Winter to allow the public to come in and find a cosy welcome for anyone wanting to read up on some of the subjects matter we have been working within these last 12 months—we have been a very busy little group! That's a real fireplace there, just waiting for visitors. Tea & biscuits to be available for consumption from the kitchen area. Computers and Internet access to be added as well.



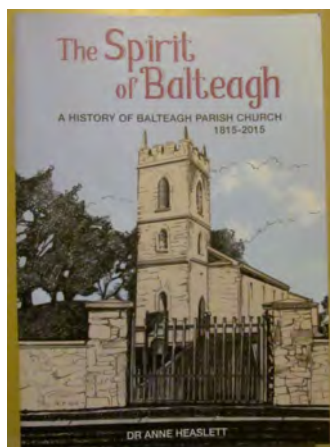
Book Launches Attended 2017 (copies purchased!)



Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council Museums Officer Helen Perry (Centre) with Betty McNerlin & Matt Ferguson at the launch of Gelvin Society's 2nd book called "Do You Mind The Time?" Helen is asking—"when are you lot starting a book then????"



RVAR Committee members at Nelson McGonagle's 2nd book launch titled "Limavady and The Roe Valley Memories" held at the Roe Valley Arts & Culture Centre.



At the launch of "The Spirit of Balteagh" written and presented by Dr Anne Heaslett.

Our New Committee Members on our 1st Outing to the Long Gallery at the Northern Ireland Assembly in November 2016

Official Launch on 18th January 2017, Limavady Library



Hosting Peace Students from America

Hope & Henry who are studying Democracy and Social Change in Northern Ireland Programme



Hope Basil from Chicago on the Spring Bridge at the Carrick Rocks



Henry Paddock from Brooklyn, New York visiting Keady Clachan



Photos From Our Trips Out



Independence Day 2017 at the Ulster American Folk Park. Matt chatting to the Blacksmith about the construction of a cart-wheel, what type of timber used, and the banding procedure.



RVAR love to record people's stories and remember old memories about some of the near - forgotten rural countryside games - like horseshoe throwing. On 28th July this year, we had an information table at the Drummond Cricket Club fun day. Some good mini videos and recordings of events such as this can be found on our Facebook (Roe Valley).



Another fair visited by RVAR this summer was at St John's Church, Lomond Myroe. Robert Guthrie manning the photographic stand at the show, ready to explain the concept of history boxes to all & sundry!



Learmount Castle, home of the Beresford Family Park, Dungiven. Now disused and "At Risk" in a state of ruin.



Ebrington Barracks Memorial inscription:
 "In memory of those from all nations who lost their lives in the Battle of the Atlantic. And in lasting tribute to the part played by the citizens of this city in the longest battle of the Second World War 1939-1945."

A Journey through

Born in Coleraine in 1878, Sam Henry worked as a Pensions and Excise Officer, but he was much more than just a musician and collector of songs and stories. Sam is perhaps best known for his "Songs of the People" series which contains well over 850 traditional songs, including several sets of alternative lyrics to well-known tunes. R.V.A.R. got highlighted five songs which reminded us of some of the many stories we can tell about the Roe Valley. These five songs remind us of some of the many stories we can tell about the Roe Valley. These five songs remind us of some of the many stories we can tell about the Roe Valley.

The Pilot Boy

In 1914, Miss Sarah O'Hanlon sent me a RAF song at Ballyvaughan. It was written by her father, a pilot, and it was a very popular song at the time. The song is about a pilot who was shot down and captured by the enemy. The pilot was a young man, and he was very brave. He was shot down over the sea, and he was captured by the enemy. The pilot was a young man, and he was very brave. He was shot down over the sea, and he was captured by the enemy. The pilot was a young man, and he was very brave. He was shot down over the sea, and he was captured by the enemy.

The Pilot Boy

By Miss Sarah O'Hanlon, collected by Sam Henry in January 1914

He's sitting low to the sea, not going
He's sitting low to the sea, not going
He's sitting low to the sea, not going
He's sitting low to the sea, not going

Good of him, that the Pilot Boy,
Good of him, that the Pilot Boy,
Good of him, that the Pilot Boy,
Good of him, that the Pilot Boy

He's sitting low to the sea, not going
He's sitting low to the sea, not going
He's sitting low to the sea, not going
He's sitting low to the sea, not going

He's sitting low to the sea, not going
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The Londonderry Air

This song's origins are puzzling. It is widely said that the blind harpist, Paddy O'Connell, first overheard it being played by the harpists in the streets of London. He called the tune O'Connell's Londonderry Air. The melody is a refrain of a tune played by David O'Hanlon, a London harpist, from Magilligan. In 1881, John MacCormick was the first person to write down the music after he heard it played by a soldier in London. Locally, it is said that the soldier was James McCurry, a son of a friend of Sam Henry's mother. The song is a song of such local sentiment that our tradition is very happy to be its repository.

The Londonderry Air

Collected by Sam Henry from P. O'Connell

Good old that air,
Good old that air,
Good old that air,
Good old that air

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Good old that air

The Wild Rover

This song is about the urge to wander. It made us think about all those who left the Roe Valley in search of a better life in North America, Australia and New Zealand. People leaving the area often started from Magilligan Point. From there, they were loaded out to large emigrant ships anchored off. One of those who left was James McCormick, a son of a friend of Sam Henry's mother. The song is a song of such local sentiment that our tradition is very happy to be its repository.



Born in Coleraine in 1878, Sam Henry worked as a Pensions and Excise Officer, but he was much more than just a musician and collector of songs and stories. Sam is perhaps best known for his "Songs of the People" series which contains well over 850 traditional songs, including several sets of alternative lyrics to well-known tunes. R.V.A.R. got highlighted five songs which reminded us of some of the many stories we can tell about the Roe Valley. These five songs remind us of some of the many stories we can tell about the Roe Valley. These five songs remind us of some of the many stories we can tell about the Roe Valley.

h the Roe Valley with Sam Henry

of Excise Officer, but he was much more than that. He was a historian, photographer, genealogist, naturalist and, above all, most known for his 'Songs of the People' series which ran in the Northern Constitution between 1923 and 1938. Sam's vast sets of alternative lyrics to well-known tunes. Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers got hands-on access to Sam Henry's series we can tell about the Roe Valley.

Finvola, the Gem of the Roe

Sam collected this song around 1880, some years ago and it is still sung today by Dungannon's singer Celia Dillon. Finvola was the daughter of the O'Connell chief, Cressy-mac-Connell, and grew up by the banks of the Roe. She fell in love with Angus-Og MacDonnell of 1645. The O'Connells agreed she should marry him as long as he returned her body when she died. Years later, the family home was burnt down. This only happened when an O'Connell died and, knowing that never had died in Ireland, the body was not returned. The O'Connells were angry and, knowing that never had died in Ireland, the body was not returned. The O'Connells were angry and, knowing that never had died in Ireland, the body was not returned.



The Bonny Light Horseman

The Bonny Light Horseman

Collected by Sam Henry from a local singer, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

This song is probably based on a traditional Irish air with 18th century lyrics. The music is from the early 18th century, when Ireland was at war with Napoleon.

Finvola, MacDonnell's daughter, was built at Magilligan and Cressy-mac-Connell in the early period to guard against French invasion. At the time, the local regiment was the Fingliffing Dragoons.

The North of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry was raised in 1794 and was later renamed the North Irish Horse. The Yeomanry was a part of the British Army.

At the outbreak of the First World War, the North Irish Horse were the first non-regular unit deployed to France. The regiment's crest is a white cross on a red shield.

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more than that. He was a historian, photographer, genealogist, naturalist and, above all, a musician which ran in the Northern Constitution between 1923 and 1938. Sam's archives contain well over 850 hands-on access to Sam Henry's collection through the local council. The banner which was compiled alley. One of the best know of these local songs is "Finvola, the Gem of the Roe" which Sam Henry

Trips Out with RVAR



BBC Journalist Fergal Keane, who just happened to be in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, on 1st May 2017 as RVAR members arrived to document the new memorial to all the VC winners of WW1, which of course, included all of the Victoria Cross winners across the Island of Ireland before partition. Fergal said hello in passing, asked what we were doing and completed a great impromptu interview with the group!



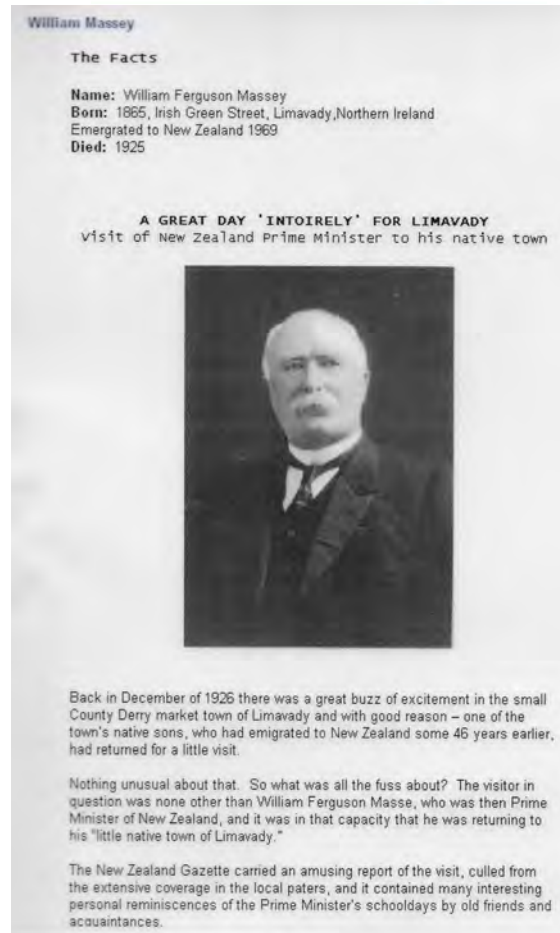
In her work during the war Laura transferred to Fazakerely Hospital in Liverpool, where she worked, tending the wounded soldiers who were returning from the First World War's battlefields. Tragically, in the course of her work she contracted measles and died in 1917 from a fever.

Read more at:
<https://www.londonderrysentinel.co.uk/news/w-lol-fundraise-for-headstone-to-laura-gailey-1-7291035>

International Visitors to RVAR in 2017



Susan Irvine McRea from north of Chattanooga, Tennessee USA, looking for Irvine ancestors in Tamlaghtfinlagan



Jo Dodge from Citrus Heights California looking for Gordons in Balteagh



Carolee Owens from Wales looking up family history in Limavady



Beverley Petrocco from New South Wales looking for Evelyn Maud Austin from Limavady early 1900s, pictured with Matt Ferguson (Secretary for RVAR) who is a direct relative of William Ferguson Massey.



Prof D Baxter from Otago University NZ, on his way from New Zealand to Florence, lecturing at an International Conference there, stopped by Tamlaghtfinlagan Churchyard to set poppies on the 2 x NZ war graves. Both names are on the virtual cenotaph in Auckland. He met with RVAR volunteer Hester who showed him the graves.

We have many emails & visitors from New Zealand who have family ties with Limavady. We know Limavady Borough Council was presented with a New Zealand flag which appears to have been mislaid. Our Visitor's section at Rascahan House would make a good new home for it! Anyone know where it is?? Get in touch please.

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Histories from the Roe Valley



Catherine Anne Swetenham Lecky
Trench McManaway MBE (buried
Christ Church Limavady)

Sister Molly McGinnis MM (buried St
Finlough's Hallow Chapel Ballykelly)



Carrickcue Station View
over the Foyle



Footbridge across River at
Ballykelly, Plantation
Road



A Sense of Place Photography &
film-Making Workshop,
Limavady & Dungiven Libraries



A Limavady boy who left
'with only the shirt on his
back' and became a High
Court Judge in America —
Judge McCunn.



Jimmy McCurry
Died in Limavady Workhouse
1910, linked with one of the
renditions of the Londonderry
Air as penned by Jane Ross of
Limavady.



(Left) John
Steinbeck

(Below) An
extract from
"To Ireland"

I have just made such a pilgrimage. I am half Irish, the rest of my blood being watered down with German and Massachusetts English. But Irish blood doesn't water down very well; the strain must be very strong.

I guess the people of my family thought of Ireland as a green paradise, mother of heroes, where golden people sprang full-flowered from the sod. I don't remember my mother actually telling me these things, but she must have given me such an impression of delight. Only kings and heroes came from this Holy Island, and at the very top of the glittering pyramid was our family, the Hamiltons.

How to Support RVAR



BUY A BRICK COMMUNITY MUSEUM PROJECT

Staff of Ceres Europe (NI) Ltd and Volunteers from Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers (RVAR) at The Well Bar & Grill Ballykelly on Saturday 30th September as they held a small exhibition of historical artifacts and stories from the Roe Valley Area. RVAR Secretary Matt Ferguson said that the launch of the "Buy A Brick" campaign to start a combined Storytelling Centre and Community Museum in the Ballykelly area had realised its first £600 from fundraising efforts in just one week, with more to yet come in". Betty McNerlin, Director of Ceres said "People are keen to contribute to a permanent place for some of the history they find within family photograph albums and roof spaces - this is the start of a 3 year plan to have a shared space in our Ballykelly countryside. Big things often have SMALL beginnings!". Contact RVAR at Rascahan House Ballykelly to find out more on the project and how to get a name on a brick.



Meet our fundraiser Mascot—OK Bob Lee, you've got the vest - let's go - working at Tamlaghtfinlagan churchyard today with mowers and Foyleview men to tidy up!

How to Support RVAR—Paid ADVERTISEMENTS



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Editor will set aside 2 x pages per edition for paid advertisements, 1/8, 1/4, 1/2 or page.

Prices to be given on request to Treasurer on Mobile: 07510924003

How to Support RVAR—VOLUNTEERS are very welcome for Research, Admin, IT, Editorials, Shows,

Kevin (Ballycastle), Betty (Ballykelly), Alistair (Limavady), Gemma (Coleraine), Nina (Coleraine)

.....we are all volunteers from a project called **On the Brink 1916: Impact & Legacy** funded with Heritage Lottery grant aid given to the Mid and East Antrim Museums Service & the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. We were part of the 10-volunteer contingent who won the British Museum- Marsh NI Regional Volunteer Awards in London this Autumn.

We have **NO UPPER** age limit for our volunteers and you can work at home as a Researcher also.



Who We Are and What Do We Do?

Roe Valley Ancestral Researchers is a voluntary organisation based in Ballykelly to research genealogy and social history of families in the Roe Valley and surrounding areas.

The listed aims of the group include:

- Interacting with similar groups in the UK and Ireland
- Publishing a Newsletter on a regular basis giving information and news to members

We also hold a monthly meeting on the 1st Wednesday of each month at CERES House, 3 Shackleton Drive, Ballykelly, Limavady. We hope to be moved into our new premises of Rascahan House in the Spring of 2018.



Roe Valley

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