

# MEMORIES OF OUR MANAGER

By Paddy McMonagle



*Ned Myers 1937-1986*

Sé an bás a thagann go trom  
Nuair leagtar ar lár  
An cara gur mhaith linn bhocht buan.

Since the 12th of October 1986 when the Great Reaper snatched Ned Myers into His Kingdom with numbing suddenness, much has been said and much written trying to lighten the loss and extol the virtues of this great visionary in the tourist world, a man whose unclaimed title was Mr. Killarney. Agus ní beag san!

In the wake of the many published lists of his varied achievements, accomplishments and involvements, it remains only to add a few memories of this man of simple needs and mighty progress.

Ned's success in Muckross and in making friends lay in the sheer open simplicity which surrounded his life from his earliest working days. At meetings, when a plan or project thickened, Ned was the one to review it from another angle, usually making a pungent summary undeniable in merit.

I remember him in his earliest days as secretary of the Killarney Tourist Development Company (which became defunct in 1960) and through the Sizzling Sixties when Killarney was the apex of Ireland's tourism and when the Co-ordinating Committee, under Ned's direction, performed wonders in the field of publicity. One advertising campaign brought in 23,000 holiday enquiries from the UK! Agus ní beag san!

He organised and guided, at home and abroad, publicity and sales promotions which involved personal travel by members in the accommodation sector, by bankers, by manufacturers for the tourist industry and by sports people - all under the highest patronage of Bord Fáilte and our embassies abroad. I recall him leading a Killarney salesforce through an itinerary covering several cities in England with boardroom addresses and factory presentations and he set up a transportable window display of Killarney publicity which continued for years throughout the UK, moving from city to city month by month. Nothing at this level has been organised from Killarney since then. Ní beag san, ach an oiread!

His tenacity of purpose in identifying with the job at Muckross was demonstrated by his stubborn determination in motoring to Cork nightly (and return) for several years to undertake and complete with honours his university course which placed him on the highest level in museum curatorial expertise and performance. Not many are aware of the sacrifices this course occasioned for him and his home life. His widow, Sheila, can today take the greatest pride in the support she gave to her indefatigable husband in his striving for success for himself and his young family.

This university degree advanced him rapidly through museum circles here and abroad. His talents, simplicity and ready analysis of curatorial trends accelerated his affinity with the museum and cultural organisations with which Muckross House was affiliated. There is no executive panel in any of these organisations in which, to my awareness, Ned has not been Chairman or Officer.

In my later travels with Ned to these occasions, in places such as Truro, Kingussie and Bangor, I was singularly impressed with the personal rapport which existed between Ned and those present. In these societies and associations there now exists a vacuum.

It was in company after a Trustees' meeting that Ned encouraged Tadhg Kerry O'Sullivan to have his unique stories and memories of Old Killarney recorded for posterity. Presently Tadhg is making his 30th tape and still going strong on material which when edited and published, will be a substantial reference for posterity. I am happy to be identified with this wonderful project and I am particularly pleased that Ned, who was the originating influence, also had some verbal input to the earlier tapes.

Ned's managerial obligations were many and varied. I often surmised why he carried so many papers to meetings in his black bag. With hindsight now, I remember his ability to produce any pertinent document at will from that black bag. It was solid proof of constant homework, constant vigilance. The scouts' motto 'Bí ullamh' was also Ned's motto.

I could go on, having forgotten perhaps more significant memories. Others no doubt can call on a vast spectrum of memories. Family, work and sport were Ned's loves. Simplicity, diligence and performance were his attributes. I cut out now sharply at this point, just as he was suddenly snatched from them and from us all ach mar focail scoir as Gaeilge is dual dom tagairt don grá teangan agus grá cultúra a thaispeán Ned i gconaí. Gaeilge ar a bheola ar a thoil agus cursaí Gaeilge chun tosaigh ar gach ócáid agus i ngach poiblíocht-b'iad cuspóirí ag Ned le linn a shaothair. Fear mór i measc na naomh go raibh sé anois agus fágaimid sonasach é i síocháin ár dTiarna.

# ROS

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## The Kenmare DYNASTY

by John McCarthy

In July 1986, an exhibition entitled "The Kenmares - 400 years in Kerry", opened at Knockreer House, Killarney. The idea behind the exhibition was twofold: it marked the fourth centenary of the arrival of the Browne family, later Earls of Kenmare, to the Killarney area; and it marked the final passing from the local scene of that family with the death of Mrs. Beatrice Grosvenor in 1985.

The Brownes, Earls of Kenmare, were originally of Crofts, near Boston, Lincolnshire. One of these, the Right Hon. Sir Valentine Browne, Knight, was appointed Surveyor-General of Ireland by Queen Elizabeth I in 1559. Some years later he was ordered to survey a large area in Munster comprising the lands of the 16th Earl of Desmond who died in rebellion that year, and the lands of his allies. Following the survey, the forfeited lands were to be divided among English settlers.

Browne, himself, took up the lands of Tadhg MacCarthy of Molahiffe for his son Nicholas. In 1587, Molahiffe Castle became the first seat of the Brownes in Kerry. Later that year, the lands of Rory O'Donoghue Mor of Ross Castle were added to the Browne estate and soon after, so were the modern-day areas of Kilcummin, Rathmore, Gneeveguilla and Barraduff. The Brownes soon owned almost all of the barony of Magunihy as well as smaller amounts of land in the Counties of Cork and Limerick. It was around this time that Ross Castle became their residence.

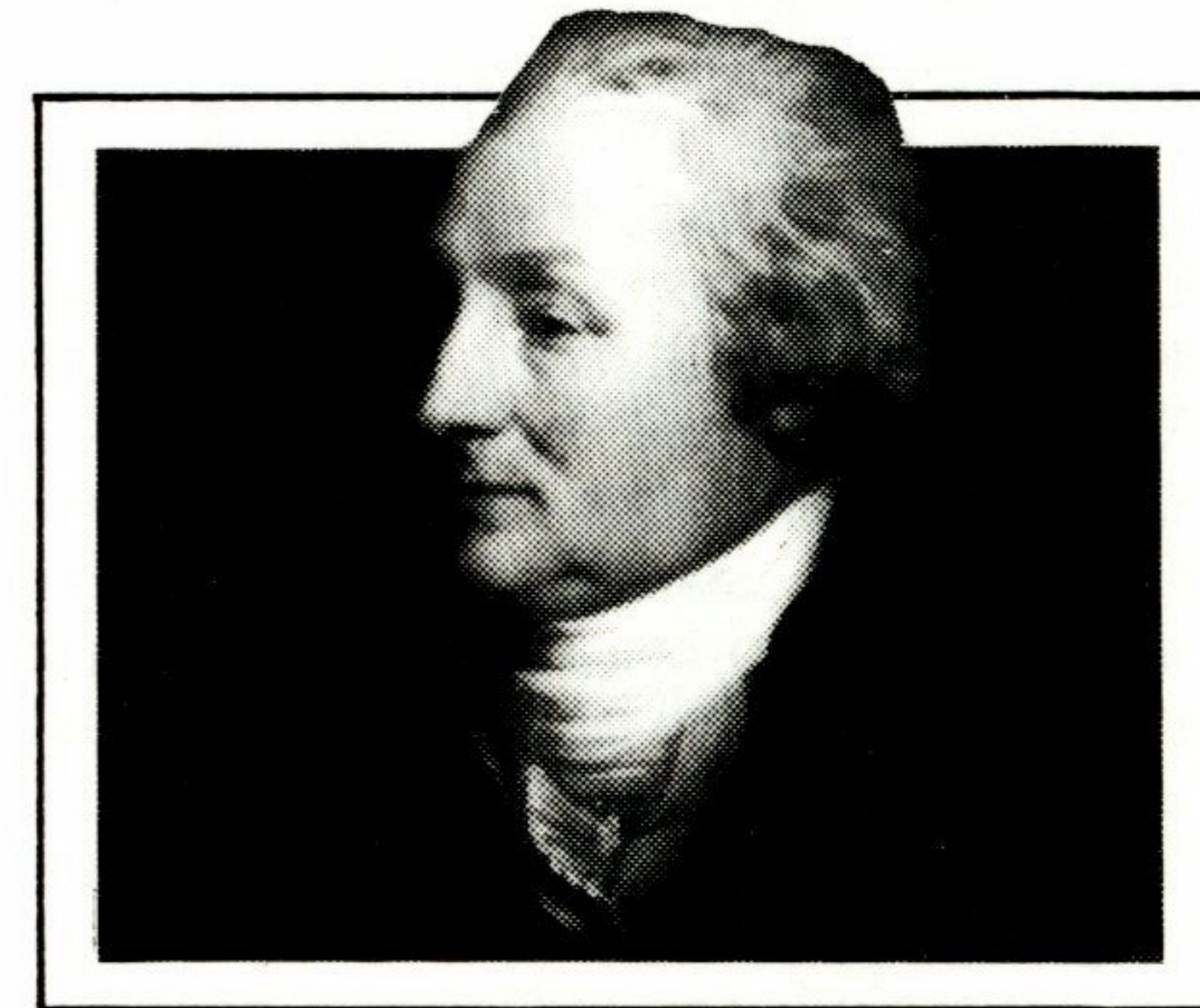
We would naturally suppose that the Earls of Kenmare owned the town of Kenmare and its environs, but this was not so. That area was the property of the Marquis of Lansdowne. When the first Marquis had the present town laid out in 1775, he wanted to change its name from Nedeem, which he was told meant "a nest of thieves", and he revived the older name for the place to honour his friend, Lord Kenmare. The Kenmare title, however, came from Kenmare Castle on the Browne's Limerick estate.

It might appear that the first Valentine Browne and his son Nicholas were adventurous frontiersmen in having the courage to settle among "the wild Irish" south of the Maine. However, they soon saw that they could divide and conquer owing to the lack of unity among the natives. Nicholas married Julia O'Sullivan Beare and became a Catholic. He explained his reason for so doing in a letter to the Queen. He wrote "...for my better strength and to maintain mine own I married with Sir Owen O'Sullivan's daughter...by which match I grow able to raise companies for my defence."

A possible threat to the Brownes was Florence MacCarthy of Carbery, but Nicholas and his immediate successors saw to it that he would remain for life a prisoner in London. Thus, the Brownes gained time to put down roots.

The Browne estates remained intact through Cromwellian times since Valentine, 2nd Baronet, was only 15 and therefore a minor, when his uncle and guardian, Viscount Muskerry, surrendered Ross Castle to General Ludlow in 1652.

Valentine, 3rd Baronet, was a colonel in the army of James II and was given the titles, Viscount Kenmare and Baron Castlerosse, by that monarch in 1689. He died in 1690.



**Valentine 1st Earl of Kenmare circa 1802**

His son, Nicholas, also a colonel in King James' army, forfeited the estate for his lifetime with the defeat of James. On his death in 1720, the estates were restored to his son.

He, the 3rd Viscount, built a new residence at Kenmare Place. This was the Kenmare residence until 1881, the year that Killarney House at Knockreer was completed. When this was accidentally burned down in 1913, the family returned to Kenmare Place.

Thomas, 4th Viscount Kenmare, did much to develop the town of Killarney as a tourist centre from 1750 onwards and he also began a programme of improvements on the estate - road-building, drainage and limeworks - a programme continued by his successors. He was a member of the Catholic Committee, founded in 1760, which sought the removal of Catholic grievances. His son, Valentine, became the first Earl of Kenmare in 1800, a superior title won, no doubt, for his support of the Union.

Like all Irish landlords, the Kenmares had more critics than supporters once agitation for tenant rights and Home Rule got under way after 1875, and they gradually surrendered their power and lands.

The best known of the family in this century was the last Earl but one, the journalist Lord Castlerosse, who between 1926 and 1939 wrote the popular gossip column, *Londoner's Log*, for the Sunday Express. In 1938, he and fellow journalist Henry Longhurst, a reporter on golf, with leading golf course architect Sir Guy Campbell, designed the Killarney golf course. He became 6th Earl of Kenmare in 1941 and died in 1943.

He was succeeded by his only surviving brother Gerald. Unlike his brother, Gerald never made a name for himself in public life. He died, unmarried, in February 1952 and the Kenmare and Castlerosse titles became extinct.

Upon the death of her uncle Gerald, Mrs. Beatrice Grosvenor came to live in Killarney in 1952. Knockreer House was built for her four years later. She lived there until 1974, when the house and most of the surrounding desmesne became the property of the State and now forms part of the National Park.



# AT MUCKROSS

## Editorial

It is now three and a half years since ROS was last published and many people were beginning to think that it was lost forever. So many other important aspects of work here at Muckross were given priority over ROS and time just slipped past. Much has happened at Muckross during the last three years but this page will deal only with the events of the past year. The death of our manager, the late Ned Myers, in October, came as a shocking blow to everybody working at Muckross. He is deeply missed not just for his utter devotion and dedication to Muckross House but also for his cheerful presence around the House. May he rest in peace.

During 1986, one of the most important ventures ever undertaken by the Trustees got under way. This was the course to train young people in museum studies. The course turned out to be a great success and there is already some talk about the possibility of repeating it sometime in the future.

## Craftworkers

There are now five workshops operating at Muckross House and in all nine craftworkers are employed. In the basement, the weavers can be seen producing a wide range of cloths on the handlooms. John Cahill of Knocknahoe, Killarney, is the Master Weaver and has worked here for eleven years. Karen Hill of Clonakilty, Co. Cork, started a four year apprenticeship last year. Apart from a period which will be spent on external training, Karen will work for the four years with John at Muckross. The range of goods produced by the weavers is vast. It includes tweed lengths, blankets and rugs, lap shawls, stoles, scarves, hats, caps, ties and table mats.

Margaret Herward of Hollymount, Co. Mayo, is the Potter and she continues to produce tableware and ornamental pieces in both stoneware and red earthenware clays, using a wide range of glazes in oxidation firings. Margaret frequently receives special orders such as presentation pieces for retirements, birthdays, weddings, and club prizes. She has just completed an annual large order of tankard trophies for Neptune Rowing Club in Dublin. Last year she was joined by an apprentice, Margaret Dinneen of Rathmore.

Eugene Kerrisk of Gneeveguilla, Rathmore, is the Blacksmith. During the summer months, Eugene is kept busy shoeing horses and gets little time to devote to other aspects of his craft. However, during the winter he can be seen engaged in ornamental wrought-iron work, making tables and chairs, flower pot stands and candle-sticks. The most popular items produced in the forge are still the lovely sets of fire-irons. Michael Coolahan of Tarbert is an apprentice and he is currently doing a course on welding in Tralee.

Paul Curtis of Dublin, is the Bookbinder, and he is kept busy with a steady stream of customers requiring re-binding, presentation pieces and limited edition binding. At present, he is carrying out work for the Royal Irish Academy and for the library of Adare Manor. This work comprises of a mixture of restoration and re-binding. Local Killarney girl Lori O'Flaherty, who is an apprentice to the bindery, is currently on a six-month training course in the College of Printing, Bolton Street, Dublin. Paul specialises in once-off bindings using calfskin, goatskin, gold leaf and marble paper. This service is proving very popular with both publishers and authors. Recently, a specially bound edition of

John B. Keane's "The Bodhran Makers" was commissioned by Brandon Press. The book, bound in calfskin with a cover incorporating a bodhran player and enclosed in a presentation box, was presented to John B. as part of a television documentary. It is interesting to note that in this case the author, publisher and binder are all Kerry-based.

### Harness Making:

The craft of harness-making can be traced back to ancient Egypt. In Ireland, the earliest evidence for the use of the horse comes from the Iron Age. We can assume that the production of harnesses, tackle, belts and straps has an equally long history.

The various census reports for the last century and the earlier part of the present century list the number of saddle and harness makers who were at work in Ireland. To judge by the numbers so employed, it was undoubtedly an important craft. The coming of the motor age and the huge decrease in the number of work horses has seen a great reduction in the number of saddle and harness makers. However, the craft is not yet dead and the efforts of Muckross House will ensure its survival.

In February of last year, 20 year old Kieran O'Connor of Lissivigeen, Killarney, was taken on as a trainee harness-maker. Kieran spent his first six months working in Bantry. In August 1986, Kieran opened his workshop at Muckross. It was then decided that Kieran should spend a three month training period with Sam Greer, one of the two last saddle and harness makers in Dublin. He began his term with Sam Greer in April of this year and is due back at Muckross in July.

### The Tea-Room:

Most visitors to the tearoom at Muckross House do not realise that manageress Mary Ryan of Muckross is responsible for serving some 250,000 cups of tea and coffee each year. Mary is assisted by Margaret O'Sullivan of Tullaha, Killarney, and during the summer months they take on another five people to work in this busy area of the House.

The tearoom is well known for its range of homemade products. In the region of 2,000 dozen homemade scones are sold annually as well as a wide range of other cakes and pastries. Soups, sandwiches, ice-cream and soft drinks are also available.

## Museum Course

On August 25th, 1986, twenty young people from all over Ireland descended upon Killarney for what was a historic occasion in the museum world. The reason for their arrival was the start of a special course in museology. The course was organised by the Trustees of Muckross House in association with the External Training Division of AnCO. It was the first time that a course in museum studies was held anywhere in this country. The idea of the course was one which the late Ned Myers had been pursuing for some years and the fact that it finally got underway last August is something which everyone involved in Muckross House should be proud of. The fact that Muckross House was given responsibility for running the course says a lot about the image which we have projected over the years. Not many museums in this country could be given such a task, in the knowledge that it would be carried out with the confidence and ability needed.

The official title of the course was "Folk Museum and Heritage Centre Studies" and it was of twenty-six weeks duration. Muckross House was the ideal venue for such a course and the addition of twenty young people to the premises for the six months did not pose any major problem. The trainees came from all over the country - Donegal, Leitrim, Mayo, Galway, Louth, Kildare, Carlow, Wicklow, Waterford, Tipperary, Clare, Limerick and Kerry. The biggest part of the course was devoted to basic information and training. There were classes in the mornings while the afternoons were spent gaining practical experience in various parts of Muckross House.

Visiting other museums was an important part of the course. Through these visits, the trainees were encouraged to appreciate, compare and contrast a wide variety of museum types, exhibits and methods of display. The first of these visits was to Bunratty Castle and Folk Park. This was a great success and stimulated a lot of important discussion. A four-day trip to Dublin and Belfast was also organised. The group was accompanied by George McClafferty, Course Director; Tadhg O'Sullivan, Trustee; and some members of the staff from Muckross.

The trainees spent two weeks of the course researching a project either individually or in pairs. Some of the young people prepared proposals for a small museum in their home area while others covered such themes as lime kilns, fishing, education in museums, weaving, shopfronts and industrial archaeology. The article in this issue of ROS on "Houses on the Muckross Estate" is by one of the students from the course.

Each of the trainees spent four weeks on work experience in a museum or similar institution in various parts of the country. A number of public exhibitions were also arranged in Killarney. Through the organising and mounting of these exhibitions, the trainees learned much about a wide variety of topics.

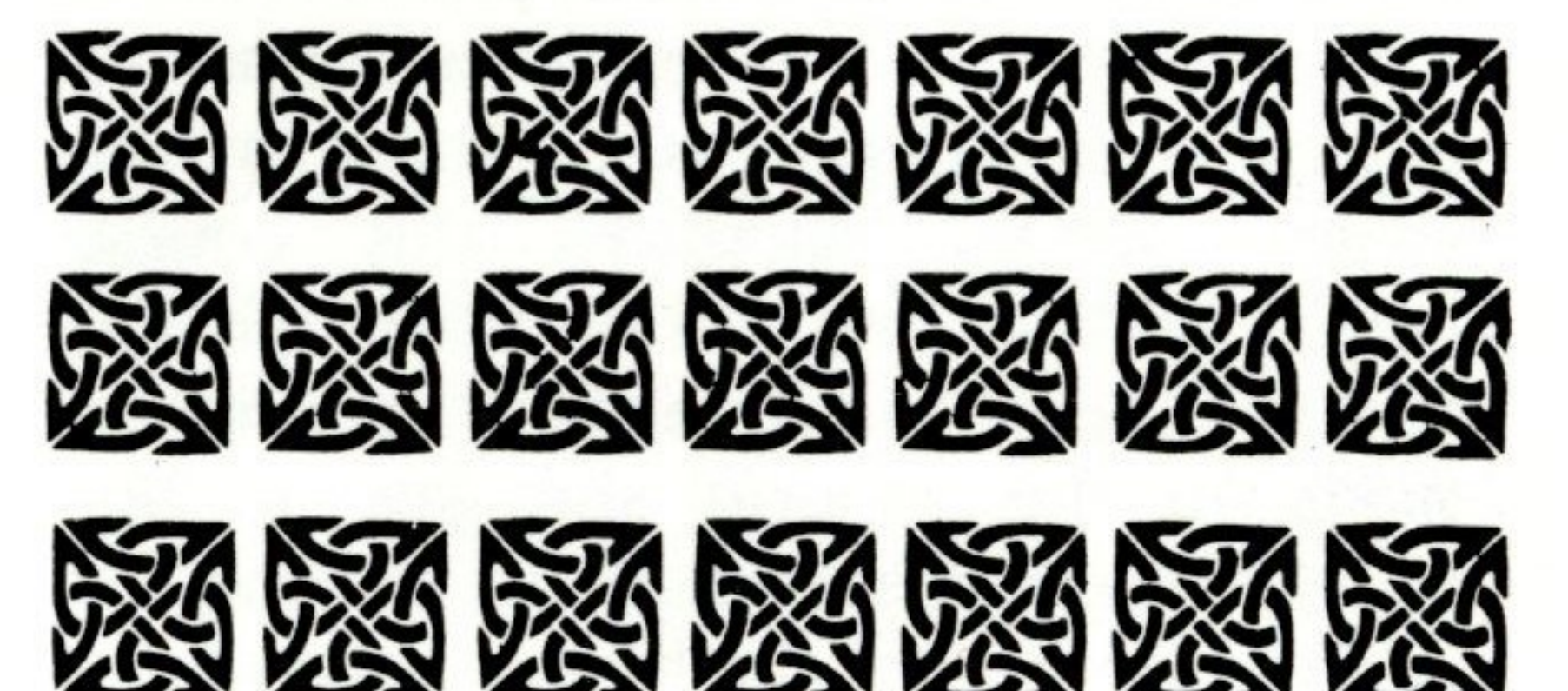
A wide range of subjects were covered in class as part of the basic training. They included the following list: museology, folklore, history, archaeology, word processing, typing, office systems, salaries, advertising, display, communication skills, management and administration, staffing, market research, company and contract law, public and employer liability, sources of finance and book-keeping.



Staff and students during their visit to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

Another special event was a period of two days devoted to the subject of interpretation. This was organised in conjunction with Dr. Jim Lamer of the National Park. In addition to lectures and discussion concerning this important topic, there was a special tour of Muckross House. As part of this tour, the trainees met a lady dressed in Victorian Costume who spoke about life in Killarney during the middle of the last century. This was an exercise in live interpretation.

At the close of the course there was a high percentage of placement among the trainees and it is hoped that this figure will steadily increase over the next couple of months.





Mary O'Halloran looks at some of the

# HOUSES on the MUCKROSS ESTATE

The period from the late 18th century onwards was one of great development on all the great private estates in Ireland. The Muckross estate was no exception. New uses of land and resources were developed, including the construction of new roads, bridges and paths. Cottages and lodges, some picturesque, were built to accommodate both estate workers and visitors to the area. At Muckross, the majority of these cottages and lodges are still in use and look as they did when the estate was in all its glory.

Landscaping became part and parcel of the 'Big House' and extended over wide stretches of countryside to include farm buildings, bridges, lodges and cottages. Many cottages were designed purely as picturesque incidents in the landscape. It was also generally believed at the time that if tenants were well housed, they would work even better for the landlord. In 1867, the architect and civil engineer Joseph Maguire lectured at a Royal Dublin Society meeting. The title of his paper was 'Healthy dwellings for labourers, artisans and middle classes and improved structural arrangements'. He offered twelve designs for improved dwellings. Various books concerning these matters were also published. In 1833, J. C. Loudon wrote 'An Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture'. Similar books were even serialised in popular English magazines.

The 18th and 19th centuries were a time of growing social concern for the plight of the ordinary working classes. The landlords were responsible for many projects to relieve the hardships which their tenants encountered, particularly during times of famine. As well as housing tenants, they also funded road building, land reclamation, tree planting and the enclosure of their estates within strong stone walls. Some landlords did this with the obvious social concern of the time, others however, did it reluctantly under government pressure.

Many of the estate buildings and cottages are associated with various estate activities. The dwellings usually suggest the social position of their occupants. The scale and type of materials used for the various buildings often distinguished between various classes of worker. Most of the important estates had groupings of cottages and lodges around the estate. Sometimes these groupings included schools, churches and shops. These were all part of the 'Big House' social system.



The gradual process of decline and decay of the "Big House" coupled with the expense of running such an estate has meant that a lot of these buildings have disappeared over the years. Today it is difficult to view the country estate as an entity and it is nearly impossible to appreciate the social standing which it had in the last century. One wonders whether the country estate has any future or whether it is purely a thing of the past.

The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw great changes on the Muckross estate. The Herberts were progressive farmers. They also developed forestry, built great estate walls and provided houses for their workers.

One of the more interesting of the estate houses is in the townland of Carrigfreghane. It is lived in by Hannah May Doody. This is a one-storey cottage, built of local stone and roofed with Mangerton slate.

This building has kept most of its original features. There is a fine decorated barge board over the door, the bay window is still in the old double-sash style and the window surrounds are of beautiful cut stone. Another feature worthy of note is the large side chimney. It is worth comparing this cottage to a similar one in Dromyrourk, as the latter has lost many of its original features.

It is interesting to note that the windows at the back of this building are bordered with red brick and not cut stone, obviously giving second place to the brick. The original arched entrances into the stables are clearly visible around the more recent entrance doors. Most of these cottages are still occupied today.

The Tower Lodge can be seen in the townland of Gortderraree on the boundary between the Herbert and Kenmare estates. It was built by Henry Arthur Herbert between 1830 and 1837 as a gamekeeper's lodge. A plaque on the wall reads HAH 1837. It is a cut stone building with a tall central tower. The tower was used as a lookout point by the gamekeeper. Unfortunately, this unusual building has had its roof attacked by vandals in recent years and has been badly damaged. Steps should now be taken to try to save the lodge before further damage is caused.

Many people feel that the Front Lodge is the most beautiful of all the estate buildings. It lies in the townland of Carrigfreghane. It is a two-storey lodge built about 1878 by the Butlers, masons from Killorglin. The Butlers were expert craftsmen as can be seen from the quality of the cut stone around the windows and door. Local tradition says that this lodge was built with the leftover Portland stone from Muckross House. However, upon inspection it will be noticed that the structure is built of local stone while the window surrounds are of fine limestone. Some of the outstanding features of this building are the diamond shape pattern on the roof slates, the decorated barge boards and the hood moulding over the side window.

Three cottages of a similar style can be seen along the main Killarney to Kenmare road close by the modern entrance to Muckross House. The most distinctive feature of these buildings is the very fine gabled front porch with decorative barge boards. These gabled porches add greatly to the charm of the cottages. Unfortunately, the original windows have been replaced by modern ones which, in my opinion, detract from the overall beauty of the structures.

This brief look at some of the cottages and lodges on the Muckross estate will hopefully make people more aware of the ordinary buildings of the Irish countryside. There are many more styles to be seen on the Muckross estate and maybe sometime soon we will make a return trip to look at them.

Dinis Cottage is another interesting structure. The present building is the second cottage on the site. It was built by Henry Arthur Herbert in 1833 as a lodge for entertaining visitors. This cottage is entered via a flight of steps to the side, has a rather fine front window and an unusually tall chimney stack.

Torc Lodge was built in 1794 probably as a gate lodge to the third Muckross House. The building was originally symmetrical but has been extended in recent years. In 1855, Sir Thomas Herbert, Bt., lived there and it is still occupied today.

There is also a row of two-storey cottages in the townland of Torc. These were originally the stables for the third Muckross House. They are built of pointed stone and the windows are bordered with cut stone.



# FOLKLORE ON MICROFILM

by George McClafferty

During the 1970's, the Trustees of Muckross House financed a project to have a microfilm copy of the Kerry section of the Schools' Collection of Manuscripts from the archive of the Department of Irish Folklore, University College, Dublin, made available to the public in the library at Muckross House. This collection of folklore material which was collected by school children during the late 1930's, proved so popular with researchers from all over the county that the Trustees decided to embark upon another similar project. This time it was intended to have copies of all the remaining Kerry material from the Folklore Department's Main Manuscript Collection indexed and copied onto microfilm.

Work began on this project in 1982. The first task was to compile a comprehensive index to the material. This was an enormous undertaking and took over three years to complete. The result is a collection of nineteen volumes covering each of the nine Kerry baronies. Once the index was complete, the material itself had to be copied onto microfilm. The filming took the best part of a year to carry out and the results of the entire project were delivered to Muckross House last summer. This material is now available in the library for the use of researchers and other interested parties.

As already mentioned, the material comes from all of the nine baronies of the county. However, the larger part of this material was collected in the baronies of Corca Dhuibhne and Uíbh Ráthach. Here are to be found the great names in Kerry folklore. The work of Kerry's two greatest folklore collectors, Tadhg Ó Murchú and Seosamh Ó Dálaigh make up a substantial part of the material but there are many other collectors who worked on a temporary or part-time basis. The folktales and stories as taken down from the lips of the great storytellers are to be found in full. The pages turn like a who's who of storytellers. We find the stories and lore of such people as Seán Segersun, Peats Dhónail, Seán Crithin, Mait Grommel, Cáit Ruiséal and Peig Seárs. Their tales and their life-stories come to life on the screen of the microfilm reader.

There are many international folktales represented. These are stories which were regarded as fictitious and told purely for entertainment. They were once common in many countries of the world and in some cases, they survived longer in Kerry than anywhere else. Some are short anecdotal type stories while others took a number of hours to relate. An example of one such tale is a story entitled "Mac na Baintir" or "The Widow's Son" which was recorded in 1933 from Seamus Mac Gearailt of Aughils near Anascaul. This story is in fact the folk version of the great Perseus legend from Greek mythology. It was a popular folktale in many parts of the world including Kerry.

The local legend is a different type of folk story. It usually concerns local people and places and is told as a truth or an actual happening. Such stories abound throughout the collection and concern such people and topics as Daniel O'Connell, Lord Landsdowne, ghostly black dogs and our nearest neighbours, the 'good people'. There are stories which tell of the first tea in Kerry and how the leaves were eaten in error, the priest who returned from the dead to say a Mass he had promised to say before he died and the tale of the highest penny at the fair.

The collection contains an amazing number of proverbs, riddles, prayers and rhymes from every corner of the county. Here is an example of a prayer to be recited by someone in danger of drowning:

Tá an chaise seo láidir doimhin,  
A Dhia na Foidhne glac mé i láimh,  
Le h-Eagla neart na Tuille Tréine,  
A Chríost saor mé 'gus ná Bháidh.  
(Ms285:444)

Many of the rhymes reflect the humour of the ordinary people in the past.

The following one comments on the popularity of pubs:

Wherever God erects a house of prayer,  
The devil erects a public house there,  
And 'tis found upon examination,  
The devil has the bigger congregation.  
(Ms285:444)

Throughout the collection can be found a large amount of lore pertaining to various superstitious practices and beliefs which were once common in Kerry.

We read of hags who could turn themselves into hares in order to steal milk from cattle; how to protect the churn from evil-minded people on May morning; and even an account of what should be done when a cockerel is required to service the hens:

Dá mbeadh coileach a teastáil ó mnaoí le h-aghaidh a cuid cearc, is gnáthach go bhfaigheann sí ceann o dhuine de's na comharsan, ach ní ceart coileach a thabhairt mar mhalarthú ar an gcoileach san. Is ceart, ámh, rud éigin eile (leath-phingin nó rud éigin beag) a thabhairt na áit - ach ní mar díolaíocht ar an gcoileach an rud beag so, ach gur cheart rud éigin a thabhairt nó ná beadh sé ámharach.  
(Ms300:158)

As well as the areas of oral narrative and folk belief, there is an abundance of material dealing with traditional methods of farming and the care and management of livestock. Today we are all familiar with the scientific methods used in connection with farming. In the past, people tackled the same problems with varying degrees of success. The details of the methods employed in the past make fascinating reading.

One could continue to give examples from this absorbing collection of material but there is not space to do so here. Without doubt, once the researchers become familiar with this valuable collection, many more samples of it will appear in journals and books about life in Kerry.

## The Artist OF MUCKROSS

The National Gallery of Ireland, in conjunction with the Hugh Lane Gallery and the Douglas Hyde Gallery, is producing a major international exhibition celebrating the importance of women artists in Ireland from 1700.

Whilst researching material for this exhibition, Nell Spillane, a researcher at Muckross House, was presented with the opportunity of bringing to contemporary International attention, for the first time, an artist intimately associated with Muckross.

Mary Herbert (1817-1893), wife of Henry Arthur Herbert of Muckross, has hitherto been regarded as a proficient but amateur artist.

Recent research by Nell in both Ireland and the U.K. has led not only to an extension of the corpus of Mary Herberts' known work, from 21 to over 170 paintings, but also in the light of these discoveries to a reassessment of her artistic status. One of the first results of this is the inclusion of Mary Herberts' work in the forthcoming Irish Women Artists Exhibition.

It is to be hoped on this basis and on further research by Nell, that Mary Herbert will join the growing list of women artists, such as Mildred Ann Butler and Rose Barton, whose work has recently been recognised as representing a vital strand in the visual arts of the last century.



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MUCROS  
POTTERY

MUCROS  
BOOKBINDING

## MUCKROSS CRAFT SHOP

MUCKROSS  
WEAVERS' WORKSHOP

MUCROS  
BLACKSMITH



A wide range of quality goods are on sale in the Craft Shop. Here, one will find a variety of goods from the craft workshops. High quality and reasonable prices are the trademark of the Craft Shop.

From the potters' workshop comes a wide range of tableware including jugs, mugs, storage jars, cheese dishes and teapots. There are also beautiful lampstands, vases and plant holders, all made at Muckross. The wrought-iron fire sets, wall brackets, plant stands and candle holders are handmade in the forge by our blacksmith.

Lengths of tweed, handwoven on the premises, are available, as are goods made from the cloth. These range from rugs, shawls and scarves to jackets, hats and ties. The Muckross bookbinder supplies the Craft Shop with writing sets, jewellery boxes, solander boxes, photograph albums and diaries. The craftworkers also produce a variety of specially commissioned goods. Enquiries about this service should be addressed to Paul Morgan, Promotion Officer.

The Craft Shop is situated in the old stables which were once one of the more important areas of the Muckross estate. Here, the family horses were looked after with great care by a specially trained staff. The horse was not just one of the only means of communication with the outside world but also an important member of the workforce. Upon close inspection, the visitor will notice that all the original stable fittings are still intact and these add greatly to the charm of the interior.

The Craft Shop also have a range of high quality Irish-made goods which make ideal gifts for any occasion. See the large selection of Spelana knitwear which we have in stock. We are one of the largest retail outlets for this superb knitwear in the south-west of the country. Included in the range are handknit Arans, mohairs, and brushed wool jacquards.

Royal Tara is the only manufacturer of fine bone china in Ireland. At Muckross, we have the complete range of assorted giftware including the new Baroque and Tarina designs.

Historic  
Families  
Limited

Royal Tara also produce a beautiful selection of tableware which can be specially ordered at the Craft Shop.

Historic Families Limited are recognised leaders in the field of heraldry, namely the reproduction of coats-of-arms. They are hand-painted on copper stampings and mounted on mahogany bases. Muckross Craft Shop carries a large range of family coats-of-arms and we are always pleased to order ones which are not to be found on our shelves. Coats-of-arms representing all European nationalities are available on request.



People visiting Muckross will notice that a great many visitors come equipped with cameras. This is no surprise as the scenery in the Muckross area is, to our mind, the most beautiful in the world. In order to cater for the photographer who visits us, we stock a large range of Fuji film including Fujicolor Super HR which has been described as "Film so advanced - it's intelligent". Why don't you capture those treasured memories with the help of Fuji film from our Craft Shop.

For people who want to let their friends know just how beautiful their holiday choice is, we have a large selection of John Hinde postcards covering both Muckross and environs including a range of cards depicting our craftworkers and the beauties of the National Park. So don't forget to send your friends some of these charming cards. We now also have the 1988 John Hinde calendars in stock.

So why not drop in to the Muckross Craft Shop. We doubt that you will leave empty-handed!