A History of All Saints Church Stradbally, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick

East Window “The Ascension”

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Early Days

The Parish of Castleconnell is located on the picturesque banks of the River Shannon in County Limerick and it is here that there is supposed to have been a small church built as early as the 6th Century. In the 8th Century AD the Vikings began to raid the coasts of Ireland. At first they attacked the monasteries along the coast, but soon they began raiding inland as the ‘superior technology’ of their boats which allowed them to traverse the open seas also allowed them to navigate the rivers of Ireland. Stradbally or Stráid Bháile (the town of one street) was not immune to their quick and efficient escapades where they most probably kidnapped the natives, using them as slaves, and attacked the little church, looting and burning it in their wake.

Between 1400 and 1410 a church was erected once again at Stradbally. The first priest was Dermit O’Hanrachayn.¹ It is interesting to note that he served only one year in Stradbally Church as he “vacated [the] Vicarage [of] Stradbally (Killaloe) in 1411 by not being ordained priest in a year”. He was followed in 1411 by Donald O’Mulluyn who remained on until c 1436. Part of the walls of this old church can still be seen to the rear of the present All Saints Church. This original building was first used for Church of Ireland worship in 1615² (though it is listed as “vacant” of clergy at this time) However, by 1618 the vicar was one William Jannes who remained on until 1621. The church continued in use until it became “unserviceable” in 1765. The idea of the church being “unserviceable” in 1765 was shared by the Rector, Church Wardens and Protestant parishioners as is recorded in the Vestry Notes dated Monday 9th day of April 1787. The record states that “the Parish Church of Castleconnell is at present in so ruinous a situation that it is with danger the congregation do assemble to divine Service therefore we do adjourn this Vestry to take the same into consideration to Monday next” signed by W. De Burgho, John Murray (Rector) John Frewen Church Warden, James Crawley, Francis Frewen, William Frewen, Thomas Graham and Thomas Graham. In spite of this however, Mr. John Frewen and Mr. James Crawley were appointed Church Wardens for “ensuing year” and it was “further agreed that the sum of ten pounds Sterling shall be levied on the union of Castleconnell and Killeenagarriff for the maintenance of William Flood, Clerk and for the maid of the said William Flood one pound two shillings and nine pence Sterling for washing and cleaning the said Church, one pound two shillings and nine pence was levied for “a Church gate and one pound two shillings and nine pence Sterling to buy bread and wine for the sacraments. Prior to the restoration of All Saints, Stradbally was united in 1803 to Killeenagarriff. This is verified in Lewis (1837)³ when he states re Kilnegarruff or Killeenagarriff “It is a rectory and vicarage, in the diocese of Killaloe, forming part of the union of Castleconnell: the tithes amount to £271.14.9 ¾. The Church was destroyed in the war of 1641 and was rebuilt, but is now in ruins”.

On Monday the 11th June 1787 “it was agreed upon by the Rector, Church Wardens and protestant parishioners ...that the sum of three pounds eighteen shillings and ten pence Sterling be levied for the following purposes and uses viz:

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¹ Clergy of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh (2010)
² “Clergy of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh” (2010)
³ Samuel Lewis (1837) A History and Topography of Limerick City and County, Mercier Press.
For Timber to prop the Church

1 day to Gillespie in Limerick to buy the timber

1 day to do for examining the roof & church

3 horses to draw timber from Limerick

Sawing the timber

Henry Cunigham Examining 1 day

Turning an arch over the Gate

A lock for the Gate

Propping the Church

Total: £3. 18. 10.

Signed W. De Burgho, Francis Frewen, James Crawley Church Warden and John Murray Rector”

John Murray served as Vicar from 1777 to c 1789 when he moved on to become Dean of Killaloe until his death on the 25th June 1790. He had been educated in Queen’s College, Cambridge and was married to Elizabeth, daughter of William Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore. They had two daughters. 4

The Present Church

However despite their gallant efforts the church at Stradbally had fallen into such a state of disrepair that the place of worship had to be completely abandoned and the Rector of the time Josiah Crampton held service in the “ballroom of the widow Mulloughny (the local ballroom at the Spa, later Hartigan’s Hall) prior to 1800 and until the new church was ready”. 5

From 1803 to 1842 the church was served by the Reverend Josiah Crampton. Under his tenure the present Protestant Church All Saints was built at Stradbally fronting the old church ruin. A memorial plaque to Rev. Crampton is situated behind the pulpit.

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4 Clergy of Killaloe, Kilfenora, Clonfert and Kilmacduagh (2010)
5 Kevin Hannan, The Old Limerick Journal, Castleconnell, Part II.
Unfortunately not all held the dear Reverend in such high esteem. During his time in Stradbally he is said to have antagonised quite a number of his congregation including the Richardson, Graham, Frewen, and Benn families.

In spite of this All Saints Church stands as a permanent monument to his memory and care for his people. According to Lewis (1837) “the church, [All Saints] was erected in 1809, by local architect Welland and Gillespie with the aid of a grant of £250 from the late Board of First Fruits. This was greatly enlarged in 1830, and is now a beautiful cruciform edifice with a lofty octagonal spire. There is no glebe house, but a glebe of 2 acres O roods and 14 perches”. Today the church at Stradbally is not cruciform in shape and a “mellow Tudor” style house, which served as the Sexton’s lodge, is located in the chapel yard. Much of the church has been renovated throughout the intervening years.

Plaque to the memory of Rev. Josiah Crampton

It reads as follows, “to the memory of the Reverend Josiah Crampton 40 years Minister of this Union, the inhabitants amongst whom he resided for the whole of that period, whose wants he relieved, whose sickness he visited, whose disputes he composed, whose affections he gained by the simplicity of his manners and the kindness of his heart, erect this table, in token of their lasting gratitude, and respect. He died on the 2^{nd} day of April in the year of Our Lord MDCCCXLII and in the 68^{th} of his age".
In 1809 during his tenure as Bishop of Killaloe and Kilfenora, Bishop Robert Ponsonby Tottenham dedicated and consecrated All Saints Church, Stradally. Robert Ponsonby Tottenham (Robert Ponsonby Loftus until 1806) was an Irish Anglican Bishop in the first half of the 19th century. He was born the younger son of Charles Loftus, 1st Marquis of Ely in Woodstock, County Wicklow on 5 September 1773 and educated at Christ Church, Oxford. He was Precentor of Cashel from 1798 until 1804 when he was elevated to the Episcopate as Bishop of Killaloe and Kilfenora (1804-1820).

James (1779–1877) and George Richard Pain (Architects) were commissioned by the Board of First Fruits to design churches and glebe houses in Ireland. More than likely it was in this context that Pain was responsible for the enlargement of the north transept and porch, the conversion of transept into nave and resiting of the chancel in 1826.

Again in 1844 Pain was commissioned to design a sarcophagus for Anne, Countess of Clare, while in 1855 he designed the burial vault for General Sir Richard Bourke of Thornfield, Lisnagry who actually passed away while at divine service in this Church. In 1833, James Pain became one of the four principal architects of the Board of Ecclesiastical Commissioners. He settled in Limerick and many of his designs were produced in collaboration with his brother George Richard who practiced in Cork.

Architects Welland and Gillespie undertook “extensive works according to plans by architects to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, including the resiting of chancel at the East end of original nave and the reseating of the entire church” in 1863. William Joseph Welland and William Gillespie were appointed joint architects to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in May 1860, following the death of Joseph Welland. Both men were already in the employment of the Commissioners. They held the post until the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland on 31 December 1870. During their ten years in office, they developed an increasingly personal and idiosyncratic version of Gothic in the churches which they designed.

There are many unusual features in the present church which are worth a closer examination, including wooden panelling, chiming bells, and the Columbarium. The panelling in the chancel area was brought from St. John’s Church, Newport on its demolition and was erected personally in All Saints’ by the rector of the time, the Rev. Canon James Pennefather. A small plate inset in the panelling records this fact.

The set of eight chiming bells came from St. Mary’s Church, Ovens in Co. Cork after its closure. They are over one hundred years old and were cast by Barrington’s of Coventry.

The Columbarium consists of twenty-five niches where ashes can be laid to rest following a cremation. Each niche is covered with a marble tile upon which the name of the deceased may be engraved.

The baptismal font at the rear of the church is inscribed with the words “In memory of Alice Mary Bourke born 1877 died 1880, of such is the kingdom of heaven”

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6 James was born into a family of English architects, his grandfather William Pain, his father James Pain and his brother George Richard Pain. James Pain served as an apprentice to the architect John Nash of London.

7 Dictionary of Irish Architects 1720-1940
The Baptismal Font situated at the rear of All Saints’ Church is inscribed with the words “In memory of Alice Mary Bourke born 1877 died 1880, of such is the kingdom of heaven”.

The pulpit is a magnificent piece of limestone carving and is dedicated to “To the glory of God and in loving memory of John Ulick Bourke of Thornfields 17th May 1910”.
The front of this pamphlet is adorned with the stained glass of the East Window which depicts the Ascension. It was dedicated in 1877 to the memory of Crofton Moore Vandeleur a member of yet another distinguished local family. There are several other windows of great beauty all around the church.

Vine Window

“God is our hope and Strength”

Erected in loving memory of Gerald & Hilda Goodbody, by their sons & daughter

Easter Lily Window

“They shall walk with me in white”

Rev. 3 v 4

To the memory of Anne, the beloved wife of Richard Bourke of Thornfield
Ob 11 Sept. 1878
Memorial Plaques

Famous Families

Internally the walls of All Saints’ are thickly covered with plaques serving as memorials to the various families associated with the area. Included in this august body are the names Massy, Bourke, Fitzgibbon and Vandeleur.

Massy Family

The church contains memorial plaques to the following members of the Massy Family.

- Hugh Hamon 4th Baron Massy died 1836 at 43 years old
- Matilda Baroness Massy widow of the 4th Baron died 1883
- Her eldest son Hugh Hamon 5th Baron Massy 1827-1874
- Isabella Baroness Massy wife of 5th Baron Massy 1829-1917
- Lucy Maria Baroness Massy wife of John Thomas William 6th Baron Massy
- John Thomas William 6th Baron Massy died November 1913.

The Massy family had a long association with the parish church at Stradbally and the area in general. Hugh Massy arrived in Ireland as a captain of cavalry in the forces sent by King Charles I in 1641 to suppress an outbreak of rebellion and was subsequently awarded landholdings at Duntrileague in Co. Limerick for his services during Cromwell’s Irish campaign. In 1776 his great grandson, also Hugh Massy, was created Baron Massy of Duntrileague. By 1880 the family had amassed landholdings of over 30,000 acres and a number of large mansions in various parts of the country including The Hermitage here in Castleconnell in the 1790's.

A view of The Hermitage circa 1900
(Now demolished)
© Vanishing Country Houses of Ireland (1989)

The Limerick Evening Post of Wednesday June 24th, 1812, contained the following death notice:- On Sunday morning inst. at three o’clock the Right Honourable Hugh Massy, Lord Baron Massy, (3rd) died at his seat, Hermitage, in this county, to the inexplicable grief of his truly affectionate and disconsolate family – and regret of his numerous tenantry and friends.

**Memorial Plaque to Rt. Hon. Hugh Hamon, fourth Lord Baron Massy**

*He is succeeded in his title and estates by his son Hugh, a minor, now Lord (4th) Baron Massy.* He succeeded to the title in June 1812. He died aged 43 and is buried in Castleconnell. During the 17th and 18th centuries a succession of members of the Massy family sat in the Irish House of Commons. The Hon. John Thomas William Massy (5th Baron) succeed to the title in 1874. Appointed Sheriff of Co. Leitrim in 1863 and of Co. Limerick, 1873 he also served terms as Deputy Lieutenant of both counties. They had one son Hugh Somerset, and two daughters Lucy Matilda and Matilda Isabella. Lady Lucy Maria Massy died on 28th July 1896 and is buried in the family vault at Castleconnell. The Hon. John Thomas William Massy (6th Baron) took his seat in Parliament as a Representative Peer (conservative) in 1876. He died on 28th November 1915, aged 80 at Killakee, Co. Dublin.

On 2nd December 1915, his remains were brought by train from Dublin to Castleconnell and following a funeral service in the local Church of Ireland parish church he was laid to rest in the Massy family vault alongside his wife and mother.⁹

This same Lord Massy led an extravagant lifestyle living life to the full. He became famous for hosting shooting parties at Killakee and fishing parties at Hermitage.

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Following his death the contents of The Hermitage were sold including paintings by Rembrandt and Vermeer along with valuable Irish silver. Despite this, this barely paid his debts and his heir was left penniless.

The privilege of sitting in the Lords’ Gallery in All Saints Church was accorded to the family of Baron Massy, the highest ranking aristocrat in Castleconnell at the time.

Although now boarded up the Lord’s Gallery is still clearly visible, and also within All Saints’ is an ornate brass lectern presented in memory of the sixth baron who died in 1915.

A story is told of how during these lavish parties at Hermitage Lord Massy brought all his house-guests to Church on Sunday. In order that they would not be bored by long sermons, he had a clock erected, facing the pulpit so that the rector would know when to stop. If the sermon went on too long, Lord Massy would start to rattle his stick on the floor of the Lord’s Gallery to hasten the end of the sermon.

The Fitzgibbon Family

The church contains the following plaques to the Fitzgibbon Family:

- Anne Countess of Clare widow of John 1st Earl of Clare also known as “Black Jack Fitzgibbon” died 1844
- John 2nd Earl of Clare Lieutenant & Chief Justice of the Peace for the County of Limerick and also sometime Governor of Bombay. Erected by his brother Richard 3rd Earl of Clare and his sister Lady Isabella Fitzgibbon.

The Fitzgibbon family were established at Ballysheedy, county Limerick from the mid-18th century. In 1795 John Fitzgibbon, 1st Viscount Fitzgibbon, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, was created Earl of Clare. It was approximately at this time that he re-modelled and extended Mountshannon House in Linsnagry which became the family seat.

A view of Mount Shannon House circa 1900
(Now demolished)
© Vanishing Country Houses of Ireland (1989)
Copy Photograph William Garner
According to local lore John Fitzgibbon earned his name ‘Black Jack’ because of his black heartedness. In Belmont House – now Rosary Hill Nursing Home, ‘Black Jack’ made plans with Lord Castlereagh for The Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland which came into being on the 1st January 1801. Lord Castlereagh and ‘Black Jack’ drank heavily while making plans for the Act of Union. It is said that he vowed he would make the Irish as “tame as a dead cat”. The next day suffering from a severe hang-over he had the dogs set loose on his women workers, badly injuring one woman, to whom he later paid compensation in the sum of five pounds.

Consistent with local folklore one day ‘Black Jack’ was riding on his horse around his estate in Mountshannon when he saw a hovel with an old woman living in it. He decided he wanted it for his dogs and had her evicted. As she was being evicted crows flew overhead cawing loudly and menacingly. She stared hard at Lord Clare ‘Black Jack’ and said “May the curse of the crows be on your lordship, within six months you will fall off your horse and break your neck! And the crows will fly through the windows of your house”. She also informed him to the day that his family would become extinct. The widow’s prophesy came true. Black Jack was thrown from his horse and died a fortnight later as a result of injuries sustained from the fall. At his funeral a dead cat was thrown on his coffin reminding all present of his promise.

He was succeeded by two of his sons as 2nd and 3rd Earls.
In 1826 the 2nd Earl married Elizabeth Burrell, daughter of Peter 1st Lord Gwydyr. The title 'Earl of Clare' became extinct in 1864 following the death of the 3rd Earl as his only son and heir was killed in the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Mount Shannon was inherited by his daughter Lady Louisa who owned an estate of over 10,000 acres in county Limerick and over 3,000 acres in county Tipperary in the 1870s. Lady Louisa married twice. Her husbands were Gerald N. Dillon, sixth son of Viscount Dillon and the Marchese della Rocella.

Situated on the Main Dublin to Limerick Road is a pump endowed by the Fitzgibbon Family. In times past long before any public water schemes, this pump provided the area of Ahane with a plentiful supply of fresh water. It has since been removed from its original setting of Carrowkeel and the monument can now be seen just off the main Dublin Road in Lisnagry. Engraved on it are these words:

“The pump placed on this spot by John, Earl of Clare K.P. was renovated in 1875 and this memorial erected by his niece Lady Louisa Fitzgibbon of Mountshannon and by her husband the Honourable Gerald N. Fitzgibbon, in memory of their eldest son, Charles Richard George, who died on 30th July, 1870 in his 21st year. The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away. As it has pleased the Lord so it is done. Blessed be the name of the Lord. JOB 21.V. Requiescat in Pace.

Sir Richard Bourke

There are several memorials to members of the Bourke Family but the most significant one is that of Sir Richard Bourke (1778-1855), sometime governor of New South Wales. He was born on 4 May 1777 in Dublin, the son of John Bourke of Drumsally, County Limerick, and his wife Anne. He was educated at Westminster School and at Oxford (B.A., 1798). His vacations were spent at the home of his distant relation, Edmund Burke. He joined the British Army and having attained the rank of General retired to farm in Thornfields. In 1800 he married Elizabeth and they had two sons and three daughters.

In 1825 he was called upon to give evidence before the Select Committee appointed in 1825 to enquire into the “State of Ireland”. Bourke testified that ‘the Roman Catholic peasantry in Ireland are aware that they labour under certain civil disabilities; that they are to a certain degree, a proscribed and degraded class in their own country...and that to his knowledge there had been instances of partiality in the administration of the laws by the justices, where favour had been shown to a Protestant to the prejudice of a Catholic...and that such perversion of justice inevitably led to disrespect and distrust of the law and as a consequence to law breaking.’

Such broadmindedness and such statesmanlike utterances as these were only to be expected from a kinsman of Edmond Burke the great orator. General Bourke carried these liberal principles with him when he was appointed shortly afterwards Governor of Cape Colony in South Africa. In 1828 he passed ordinance which liberated the coloured inhabitants of the colony from past laws, guarded them against unfavourable labour contracts, and placed them on an equal footing with white persons before the law. It also removed doubts which had previously existed as to their legal ability to own land and protected them and their children in many other ways.
But before the year was out Bourke was recalled, and while his Ordnance served as a guide and influence in other countries his successor saw to it that it was not implemented at the Cape as Bourke had intended.

In 1831 Sir Richard was appointed Governor of New South Wales, Australia and he brought the same altruistic liberal views to bear on his work there. Approximately two-fifths of the colony were convicts and they worked for the remaining three-fifths. This gave rise to serious social and economic problems not the least of which consisted in brutal discipline by the masters to control the convicts and make them work harder. This in turn brutalized the convicts and drove them to violence and crime. Sir Richard, with the experience of years behind him saw the futility of this system and bent his mind to improving it. Improve it he did, but in the face of very bitter opposition.

According to Reid (1990) ‘to the Irish Roman Catholics of New South Wales in 1833, Bourke was their champion; despite his own Irish Protestant background, he ensured that all churches received government support in proportion to their adherents. He tried unsuccessfully to introduce a national system of education for all, irrespective of religion or ability to pay.’ Sir Richard’s term of office was ended in 1837. When he left New South Wales in 1837, £3,500 was collected to erect a statue to a man who according to its inscription, “…raised the colony to unexampled prosperity and retired amid the reverent and affectionate regret of the people”.

This monument still stands today outside the Mitchell Library in Sydney, but is not only in New South Wales that this great Irishman is remembered as a humane and enlightened administrator with all the Irish traits of compassion for the underdog and a fierce sense of justice and fair play. He is recalled with affection in Ahane as it was he who in 1823 with the aid of a £50 subsidy from the Kildare Place Society, built what came to be known as Ahane School on his property. Stone House Ahane was built in 1825 by the British Government and was given to Sir Richard. It is popularly believed that it was originally intended as a barracks to protect him from the “Republican element” of Irish society. He is said to have retorted that he “did not need protection from his own people” and gave the building as a dispensary to Ahane which according to Lewis (1837) is “connected with that of Castleconnell”. Sir Richard concentrated for the rest of his life on farming development and forestation.

Plaque to Sir Richard & his wife Elizabeth Jane

The plaque reads as follows: “In memory of General Sir Richard Bourke K.G.B. of Thornfields in this parish, Colonel of her Majesty’s 6th Regiment and sometime Lieutenant Governor of the Cape of Good Hope and Governor General of the British Colonies in Australia. A man whose justice ability and wisdom in the discharge of his high public duties whose signal courtesy gentleness and charity in every relation of private life are reflected in the laws of the Dominions where he governed and are written in the hearts of all connected with him by the ties of dependence of friendship or of kindred. He was born on the 4th of May 1776. He was suddenly called in this House of Prayer and fell asleep in the Lord on the 18th of August 1855.

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He was among the local gentry who helped by giving employment during the famine years and was very much concerned with local affairs. The former police barracks was a soup kitchen for the people of the district. Reddin (1993) states that “Bourke and his wife were very active in providing poor relief in the district. Bourke was chairman of both the Limerick Agricultural Association and the Limerick Relief Committee, and Elizabeth was the Secretary of the Limerick branch of the British and Irish ladies Society for Relief of the Irish Peasantry as well as the district association of Castleconnell and Killeenagarriff”. As befitted such a kindly man he passed away in All Saints Church, as it states on the plaque “he was suddenly called, in this house of prayer, and fell asleep in the Lord on the 12th day of August, 1855”.

**Battles Far and Near**

In All Saints Church history speaks from the quiet walls as we remember those who lost their lives in warfare while serving with the British Army in distant countries from India to Flanders, many of whom died gloriously on the famous battlefields of the world – at Waterloo and Balaclava, Afghanistan and Iraq, in places as far apart as Cawnpore and the Somme – their names honoured and their deeds recorded for posterity.  

**The Peninsular War and The Battle of Waterloo**

John Vandeleur Late Colonel of HM Hussars who died at Ballinacourty aged 71 years is memorialised in a plaque which reads he ‘served with distinction through The Peninsular War & Waterloo as aide-de-camp to Gen. Sir John Ormsby Vandeleur also in the 71st Regiment and 12th Lancers’

The Peninsular War lasted six years from 1808 to 1814. It was basically the efforts of the British Army under the Duke of Wellington and his Portuguese and Spanish allies to oust Napoleon and his “Grande Armée” from Spain. Towards the end of the campaign, Napoleon surrendered and was sent into exile on the island of Elba. He escaped from the island approximately a year later and was free for one hundred days. His final fall came at the Battle of Waterloo.

This battle was fought on Sunday, 18 June 1815 near Waterloo in present-day Belgium. An Imperial French army under the command of Emperor Napoleon was defeated by the armies of the Seventh Coalition, comprising an Anglo-Allied army under the command of the Duke of Wellington combined with a Prussian army under the command of Gebhard von Blücher. It was the culminating battle of the Waterloo Campaign and Napoleon’s last. The defeat at Waterloo ended his rule as Emperor of the French, marking the end of his Hundred Days return from exile. He was then banished to the island of St. Helena where he died.

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Indian Mutiny Cawnpore

The Siege of Cawnpore was a key episode in the Indian Rebellion of 1857. The besieged British in Cawnpore (now Kanpur) were unprepared for an extended siege and surrendered to rebel Indian forces under Nana Sahib, in return for a safe passage to Allahabad. However, under ambiguous circumstances, their evacuation from Cawnpore turned into a massacre, and most of them were killed.
The Crimean War

The Crimean War (October 1853 – February 1856) was a conflict between the Russian Empire and an alliance of the French Empire, the British Empire, the Ottoman Empire, and the Kingdom of Sardinia. The war was part of a long-running contest between the major European powers for influence over territories of the declining Ottoman Empire. Most of the conflict took place on the Crimean Peninsula. It was during this campaign that the Charge of the Light Brigade took place and the only son and heir of the 3rd Earl of Clare lost his life.

In memory of John Charles Henry Viscount Fitzgibbon, only son of Richard 3rd Earl of Clare and Lieutenant in the 8th Huzzars who was killed whilst gallantly leading his troop in the glorious and memorable charge of the cavalry light brigade at the battle of Balaclava in the Crimea on the 25th of October 1854.

A dutiful son, charitable, noble-minded, generous and brave He was respected and esteemed by his brother officers honoured and loved by his soldiers, adored by his family & friends where his gentle and mild influence could only be equalled by his coolness and courage in the field.

This tablet is erected by his inconsolable parents as a token of their affection and their deep and everlasting sorrow for his untimely fate As the lot of heaven’s favourites is an early death . The Lord so loved and took him

“Blessed be the name of the Lord”.
Maiwand

Among those remembered in All Saints’ Church was Edmund G. Osborne, RHA, killed in action at Maiwand, Afghanistan, July 27th, 1880 aged 26 years. The Battle of Maiwand on 27 July 1880 was one of the principal battles of the Second Anglo-Afghan War. The Afghans under the leadership of Ayub Khan defeated two brigades of British and Indian troops under Brigadier General George Burrows, though at a high price: between 2,050 and 2,750 Afghan warriors were killed, and probably 1,500 wounded. 969 British and Indian soldiers were killed and 177 wounded.

Kut-al-Amara

Otto Charles Ward from 124th Baluchistan Infantry died near Kut–el-Amara on 11th January 1917 aged 33 years. The siege of Kut–el-Amara (7 December 1915-29 April 1916) was the besieging of an 8,000 strong British – Indian garrison in the town of Kut, 100 miles south of Baghdad, by the Ottoman Army. Following the surrender of the garrison, the survivors of nearly five months of siege were marched to imprisonment at Aleppo where most of them perished.

Somme – First World War

Among those honoured in All Saints’ Church are Captain John Forrest Ruttledge M.C. who was killed in the Somme Battle July 1st 1916 (aged 21 years) and Major Edward Craig Robertson, York and Lancaster Regiment, who was killed in France on 29th September 1915. The Battle of the Somme, also known as the Somme Offensive, was one of the largest battles of the First World War. Fought between July 1 and November 1, 1916 near the Somme River in France, it was also one of the bloodiest military battles in history. On the first day alone, the British suffered more than 57,000 casualties, and by the end of the campaign the Allies and Central Powers would lose more than 1.5 million men. 49,400 Irish soldiers gave their lives in the Great War.

Plaque commemorates Capt. John Forrest Ruttledge, M.C. who perished at The Battle of The Somme.
This plaque commemorates Major Edward Craig Robertson, York and Lancaster Regiment, who was killed in France on 29th September 1915.

As we have seen the history of All Saints’ Church Stradbally is inextricably linked with the area of Castleconnell, the valiant and the proud, the brave and the bold, the munificent and the charitable many of whom are commemorated within its walls and within the hearts of those who worship here.

Researched, Compiled and Written by

Mary A. Moloney, Edward Richardson and Margaret Jackson
Christ appears to Mary Magdalene.

“\(\text{I ascend unto my Father and your Father}\)”

In memory of Mrs. Vandeleur, of Ballinacourty, in this parish died December 20 1884 aged 73.