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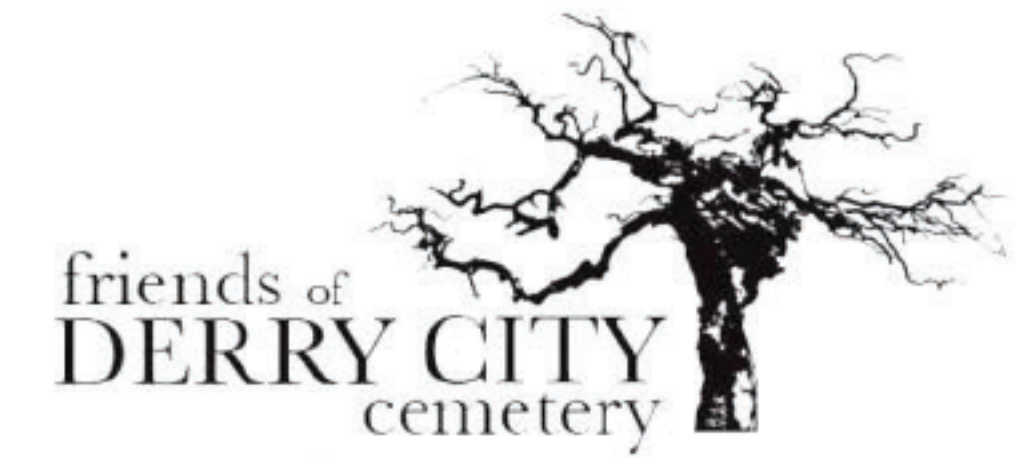
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Scarvagherin Abbey Burial Ground

Scarvagherin [or Scarvaghern] began as a Franciscan friary site, one of several in west Tyrone — alongside Corrick (Plumbridge), Pubble (Newtownstewart), and Omagh Friary. All were established in the mid-15th century by the Franciscan Third Order Regulars and flourished for almost 150 years before being dissolved during the Reformation era in the early 1600s.

The Friars Minor had first arrived in Ireland in 1231 and founded many houses, but not within the Diocese of Derry. Instead, their lay brothers — the Third Order Regulars — established several foundations in west Tyrone in the mid-fifteenth century. One of these was at Scarvagherin, a townland in the parish of Ardstraw, near modern-day Drumnabey and Spamount.

The friary, founded around 1456 as Scairb-an-ciothrainn, occupied an elevated, dry site overlooking the River Derg. Its position was ideal — close to a ford that served the community's needs for water, transport, fishing, and travel. In late medieval times, rivers were the equivalent of highways, allowing movement by boat or on foot along their banks.

Fr Philip Donnelly, in his History of the Parish of Ardstraw West and Castlederg, studied the site and noted that the ruined chapel — 81 feet by 22 feet — indicated a sizeable community. The historian Fr Ciarán Devlin described these mendicant friars as being deeply engaged in pastoral work, education, and the cultivation of orchards, vegetable plots, and herbal gardens. They also offered hospitality to travellers and pilgrims, many of whom would have possibly lodged overnight at Scarvagherin en route to St Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg.

The friary was dedicated to St Francis of Assisi (1182–1224), who founded the Third Order for laypeople living in the world. Early members would have wore grey habits in imitation of the Friars Minor, later forming small communities known as the Third Order Regulars. Tragically, the friary was suppressed by English military forces in 1603, reportedly fired upon from Fern Hill to the north, forcing the friars to flee. Local tradition holds that a tunnel once ran from the site down toward Spamount, though no archaeological evidence has confirmed this. Following dissolution, the friary fell into ruin but the site remained sacred ground. It continued in use

as a rural burial place for local families from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Transcriptions and gravestone records show surnames such as Patton, Young, Love, Henderson, and Andrews — with burials ranging from the 1770s into the 1990s.

Today, the cemetery is enclosed and still retains a section of the north wall of the original friary church. The enclosing walls of the graveyard appear to trace the same outline as the medieval structure. The gravestones, weathered but enduring, commemorate generations of local families. Though the friary itself no longer stands, the layout and atmosphere of the site evoke its monastic origins, blending ecclesiastical and communal memory. Scarvagherin lies east of Spamount, near Castlederg, within the civil parish of Ardstraw.

While often overlooked compared to better-known Castlederg sites, it remains a quiet repository of local community heritage. The nearby St Francis' Church (built in 1982 at Drumnabey) takes its name from this lost Franciscan foundation — ensuring that the spirit of Scarvagherin continues to echo through the parish.



Aerial View



SCARVAGHERN GRAVEYARD.

THE Castlederg Rural District Council hereby give Notice that all persons claiming Ground in the above Graveyard are required to have same properly marked with a stone or board, and their name thereon. on or before 31st day of MARCH, 1909. Any Ground not claimed after that date will be let to persons requiring Burying-ground on making application to the following Members of the Committee:—Messrs. Samuel B. Love and Robert Jas. Leitch, of Scarvaghern, and Andrew T. Love and Patrick M'Glynn, of Crew Lower, Castlederg.

(By Order),

WM. HAMILTON.

Clerk of Council.

Dated 5th January, 1909.

CHURCH HILL FARM, SCARVAGHERN. FOR SALE BY PROPOSAL,

The Residence of the late JAMES CUMMINS,

WHICH contains 46A. 3R. 0P., more or less, all Arable, of the Richest and most Fertile description, beautifully situated on the Banks of the River Derg, with Comfortable DWELLING-HOUSE and OFFICES thereupon, held under CHAS. CLAUD. CRIGAN, Esq., an excellent Compensating Landlord, at the Yearly Rent of £46 Sterling.

In the centre of the above Farm stands the Old Abbey Burying Ground, which is distant from Castlederg Two Miles, and Seven from Strabane, both excellent market towns, and Four from Victoria Bridge Station, on the Irish North-Western Railway. There is an Abundant Supply of Water at all Seasons on the Premises, which are also well Planted, and within Five Minutes' Walk of Spamount Scutching and Spinning Mills, where the highest prices are given for all agricultural produce.

Proposals will be Received by me up to MONDAY, the 28th Inst., and, if a satisfactory offer be made, the Purchaser can have the Farm transferred, and Possession at once.

ALEXANDER CUMMINS.

Church Hill Farm, Scarvaghern,

Castlederg. 10th Feb., 1870.

P.S.—If agreed upon, part of the Purchase-money may Remain at Interest.

DIG THIS

THE members of Castlederg Rural Council were informed at a meeting yesterday that the caretaker of Scarvaghern graveyard had resigned the position for which he was paid £2 per annum.

Mr. J. T. Smith said he understood business was not too brisk in the graveyard, but it was decided to offer the position to another man at £4 per annum.







LOVE—January 21, at Magheracrigan, Rebecca, wife of Andrew Love. Her remains will be removed for interment in Scarvaghern Burying-ground to-day (Monday), at twelve o'clock noon. Friends will please accept this intimation.

LOVE—April 13, at the residence of John A. Smith, Skeog House, Brookborough, county Fermanagh, Ann, wife of Andrew T. Love, J.P., Crew House, Castlederg. Her remains will be removed from her late residence, Crew House, this (Friday) afternoon, 15th inst., at half-past twelve o'clock, for interment in the family burying - ground at Scarvaghern. Friends will please accept this intimation.



MONTEITH—July 8, 1930, at the residence of John J. Love, Crew, William Monteith, aged 84 years. Funeral to Scarvaghern to-day (Thursday), 10th inst., at twelve o'clock (Summer Time).

LOVE—August 17, 1926, at his residence, Crew House, Fyfin, Strabane, Andrew T. Love, the beloved husband of Margretta Love, in his 66th year. Funeral to Scarvaghern to-day (Thursday), 19th inst., at two o'clock (S.T.). No flowers.

LOVE — July 20, at her father's residence, Magheracrigan, Kate, youngest daughter of Andrew Love. Her remains will be removed for interment in Scarvaghern Burying-ground this (Friday) morning, at ten o'clock.

LOVE — July 26, 1983, at Tyrone County Hospital, Rebecca (Reba), daughter of the late Samuel and Mary Love and dearly-loved sister of Isobel, Fred and Eva, 24 Scarvagherin Road, Castlederg. Funeral from her late home to-morrow (Friday), at 2 p.m., to the Family Burial Ground, Scarvagherin. House private. Very deeply regretted by all the Family Circle.



Love
In affectionate remembrance of Andrew Thomas Love who died the 8th of May 1837 aged 44 years, also his wife Rebecca, who died the 18th June 1881 aged 87 years, also Eliza, wife of Charles Love of Crew, died 9th of June 1892 aged 66 years, also Charles Love of Crew who died the 26th of December 1905, aged 84 years, also James Sproule, son of Charles and Eliza Love, who died 12th September 1907 aged 36 years, Andrew Thomas Love of Crew died 7th August 1926 aged 65 years.

(Plaque in front) Also Mary, elder daughter of Charles and Eliza Love, born 17th September 1857, died 5th May 1928; and her sister Sarah Isabella died 2nd December 1950 aged 80 years.

In loving memory of Samuel Love, Crewe Upper, died 1st March 1893 aged 73 years; also his wife Isabella died 5th January 1927 aged 84 years; also William Monteith (cousin) died 8th July 1930 aged 84 years; also their son Robert died 25th July 1942 aged 63 years; also their daughter Mary Jane died 1st February 1944 aged 60 years; and their son John James died 12th November 1962 aged 88 years.

The burying ground of Andrew Love of Magheracrigan, erected in memory of his wife Rebecca Mayne who died January 21st 1893, and their daughter Catherine died 20th July 1892 aged 29 years, also the above Andrew Love died 9th March 1905 aged 81 years, and their son George died 18th February 1947 aged 81 years, also his daughter Annie died 3rd January 1928 aged 23 years.

In memory of William Sproule Love who died 15th December 1884 aged 21 years; also James Love, Tiveny, who died 4th March 1905 aged 73 years; and his sister Rebecca Ann Love died 4th April 1909 aged 73 years; also their brother John Love died 16th July 1912 aged 82 years, and his wife Rebecca Mayne Love died 16th November 1915 aged 75 years; also Rebecca Emily, daughter of John and Rebecca M. Love, died 9th October 1947 aged 77 years.



Beattie

(Plaque on Love plot) In loving memory of George Beattie, Cavan, Castlederg, died 9th October 1943 aged 55 years.

DEATHS

BEATTIE—October 9, 1943 (suddenly), at Ballymena, George Beattie. Funeral from his residence, Scarvaghern, Castlederg, to-morrow (Tuesday), 12th October, at 3 p.m., to Scarvaghern Burying-ground.

Private George Beattie

George Beattie (or Beatty) was born on 29 November 1887 at Cavan, Castlederg, County Tyrone, the fifth of nine children of farmer George Beattie and his wife Letitia (née Mitchell). His father died when he was just eleven years old. Between 1901 and 1911 he left his family and moved to Ballymena, County Antrim. At the time of the 1911 Census he was living in Church Street, Ballymena, and working as a grocer's assistant for the firm W. McClelland & Son.

Beattie enlisted in the North Irish Horse between 16 and 18 November 1915 (No.1912 – later Corps of Hussars No.71634). The Ballymena Observer reported that:

Amongst this week's local recruits are Mr. George Beatty, who has joined the North Irish Horse, and Mr. Robert Courtney, who has joined the 20th Battalion of the Royal Irish Rifles, two assistants of Messrs. W. McClelland & Son, provision merchants. We understand the employers are granting half salary to these young men during the period of the war.

He trained at the regiment's Antrim reserve camp before embarking for France sometime between 1916 and 1918, where he was posted to one of the squadrons of the 1st North Irish Horse Regiment. This regiment served as corps cavalry to VII, XIX, then V Corps from its establishment in May 1916 until February-March 1918, when it was dismantled and converted to a cyclist unit, serving as corps cyclists to V Corps until the end of the war.

Beattie remained with the regiment throughout the war. On 18 February 1919 he was demobilised and transferred to Class Z, Army Reserve.

After the war he returned to Ballymena and resumed work for McClelland & Son. He died on 8 October 1943 and was buried in the Scarvaghern Burying Ground. His name is included on the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Roll of Honour.

SUDDEN DEATH OF
MR. GEORGE BEATTIE

WELL-KNOWN GROCERY
MANAGER.

All his friends were shocked to learn last Saturday of the sudden death of Mr. George Beattie, manager Messrs. Wm. M'Clelland & Son's grocery establishment in Church Street, Ballymena, for the past 20 years, which took place early that morning at "Arno," Galgorm Road, the residence of his employer.

A native of the Castlederg district, Mr. Beattie spent practically all his business life with the firm, except for a period during the last war when he served in the North Irish Horse, with which regiment he went to France. He was well known and highly esteemed in the town, especially in Masonic circles, and his death is deeply regretted by everyone, particularly by the members of Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 428, of which he was a P.M., and by R.A.C. No. 149, of which he was a Companion. About 58 years of age and unmarried, he is survived by one sister who resides in England.

The funeral took place from his nephew's residence, Scarvaghern, Castlederg, on Tuesday to Scarvaghern burying-ground.

BEATTIE—The W.M., Wardens and Brethren of Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 428, Ballymena, deeply regret the death of their esteemed W.-Bro. George Beattie, P.M.

T. BOYD, P.M., Secretary.

When

DEATH OF MR. G. BEATTIE.

GROCERY FIRM'S CHIEF.

Few deaths within recent times have evoked more widespread regret than that of Mr. George Beattie, of the firm of Messrs. Wm. M'Clelland & Son, Church Street, the sad event occurring with tragic suddenness during the early hours of Saturday morning last. Deceased, who resided with the M'Clelland family at Arno, was apparently in his usual health on Friday evening, but the end came swiftly during the night from heart failure.

The late Mr. Beattie, who was still in the fifties and unmarried, was a native of the Castlederg district of County Tyrone. He entered the service of Messrs. Wm. M'Clelland & Son prior to the last war, but was one of those who promptly joined up, and he served with the North Irish Horse in France until the close of hostilities. On demobilisation he returned to his old firm, and ever since then had been acting in the capacity of manager, a position which he filled with marked success, not only by reason of his energy and ability, but also because of his straightforward dealing, combined with tact and innate courtesy. His knowledge of the various departments of the extensive business concern with which he was associated was complete, and by his untimely death the firm has lost a chief whose place will be hard to fill. "George," as he was better known to a wide clientele and to a still wider circle in the commercial world, made hosts of friends, all of whom sincerely regret his passing.

Outside his business concerns he had few interests, except that for a considerable time he took an active part in the Masonic Order, being a Past Master of Harmony Masonic Lodge No. 428, Ballymena, an office-bearer in R.A.C. No. 149, and a member of the Ballymena Masonic Club.

He was pre-deceased by a sister only a few months ago, but is survived by one brother and three sisters. One of the latter is resident in England and the other two in Canada.

The remains were removed to Castlederg on Sunday, and the funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon from the residence of his nephew to Scarvaghern Burying-ground.

Amongst those present were a number of his most intimate friends from Ballymena, including Mr. A. L. M'Clelland, representing the firm, and Messrs. T. Murphy, Wilson Harper, J. K. Neave, and Robert Aiken.



Gamble

At Scarvagherin Burial Ground, just east of Castlederg, lies the family plot of the Gambles of Bridgehill. Their stone carries over a century of local memory:

Rebecca Gamble – beloved wife of **William**, died in 1887 aged just 30. **William Gamble** – patriarch of Bridgehill, lived to the remarkable age of 94, passing in 1920. **Sarah Anne Gamble** – died 1922 aged 79, and **William Gamble** (Jnr.) who died tragically young in 1926, aged 23. **William David Gamble** of Coalisland – just 3½ years old when he died.

The plot also honours **James Fulton Gamble**, one of the area's most influential figures: M.P. for North Tyrone (1930–1943) at Stormont Justice of the Peace & Rural District Councillor Chairman of Castlederg Board of Guardians, overseeing local health and welfare matters He spoke in Parliament on agriculture and rural development during WWII

James Fulton and his wife **Anne Jane** both died within a week of each other in July 1943 – an extraordinary and poignant detail still remembered locally. Later inscriptions include **James Andrew** V.E.E. (d. 1978) and **Rebecca Love Gamble** (d. 1999, aged 91), showing the family's connection to Bridgehill continued well into the 20th century.

Today, the weathered stone at Scarvagherin is more than a grave – it's a record of public service, endurance, tragedy, and continuity. The Gambles were not only farmers and neighbours, but councillors, parliamentarians, and voices for rural Tyrone.



Tuesday 13 July 1943

FUNERAL OF MR. J. F. GAMBLE.

CABINET MEMBERS AMONGST MOURNERS.

Three members of the Ulster Cabinet were present to-day at the funeral of Mr. James F. Gamble, M.P. for North Tyrone, from his residence, Bridgehill, to Scarvaghern burial-ground.

They were Mr. Wm. Lowry (Minister of Home Affairs), Rev. Robert Moore (Minister of Agriculture) and Mr. Wm. Grant (Minister of Labour), while Mr. A. J. Kelly, Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet represented, the Prime Minister.

Other Government representatives were Mr. W. Wellwood (private secretary to the Minister of Home Affairs) and Mr. J. Getty, B.Sc. (Chief Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture).

There was a large attendance from all parts of Co. Tyrone. Representatives of the Unionist Party at Stormont included Mr. Rowley Elliott, M.P., and Senator Sir Emerson Herdman.

GAMBLE—July 11, 1943 (suddenly), at his residence, Bridgehill, Castlederg, James F. Gamble, M.P. Funeral, at 12 o'clock noon (Official Time), to-day (Tuesday), 13th inst., to Scarvagherin burying-ground. House strictly private. No flowers.

DEATHS.

GAMBLE—September 25, 1926, at his father's residence, Bridgehill, Castlederg, Willie, eldest son of James F. Gamble, aged 23 years. Funeral to Scarvaghern this (Monday) afternoon, 27th inst., at two o'clock.

Tyrone County Council, of which Mr. Gamble was chairman, was represented by Mr. John Glasgow (vice-chairman), Mr. A. H. Coote (secretary), and a number of members and officials.

The Unionist Association of North Tyrone was represented by Captain J. C. Herdman, D.L.; Mr. D. A. Hamilton, hon. secretary; Mr. R. A. Parke, assistant hon. secretary, and several members.

Practically all the members of Castlederg Board of Guardians, of which Mr. Gamble was chairman, were present. The Tyrone and Fermanagh Mental Hospital Committee was represented by Dr. J. Moore, Johnston, Mr. D. L. Walsh, and Mr. D. Barbour; Tyrone County Hospital Committee being represented by Dr. A. H. W. Eaton.

Others attending were Mr. C. H. Russell (Strabane Unionist Party), Mr. D. J. M'K. Craig (Strabane Urban Council), Mr. J. E. Johnston (chairman), Mr. W. Walsh (secretary), and Mr. W. J. Patterson (joint agricultural war executive officer), and Mr. D. Mackenzie (horticultural instructor, Tyrone Committee of Agriculture), Mr. W. R. Henderson, and Mr. H. Duff

(Executive Committee of the Ulster Farmers' Union) and Mr. J. Johnston (secretary, Ulster Agricultural Organisation Society), of which deceased was chairman.

W.Br. C. A. Beattie represented Omagh District L.O.L. No. 11.

Employees of the deceased carried the coffin from the house, while at Scarvaghern the coffin was carried in relays by officers of Killen L.O.L. and elders of Castlederg 1st Presbyterian Church.

The funeral service was conducted by Rev. A. W. M'Farlane, 1st Castlederg.



Henderson

In memory of Reverend James Henderson, minister of 1st Castlederg Presbyterian Church, died 20th December 1818; also Marjorie his wife; also John Henderson of Scarvaghern, son of above, born 1st May 1800, died 3rd February 1857; also Mary Sproule, wife of John Henderson, born 5th February 1805, died 2nd January 1883; also James Henderson of Scarvaghern, son of John Henderson, born 1st July 1831, died 9th July 1887; also Mary Jane, daughter of James Henderson, born 26th June 1867, died 26th February 1886; also Matilda, wife of James Henderson, died 5th December 1923 aged 73 years; also their sons Samuel died 25th February 1915 aged 44 years, John died 13th January 1935 aged 65 years.

January 2, at her son's residence, Shipquay-street, Londonderry, Mary, relict of the late John Henderson, Scarvaghern and daughter of the late Andrew Sproule, of Magheracriggan, in her 78th year. [The funeral will leave Shipquay-street at ten o'clock, for the 10.30 train, Great Northern Railway, reaching Victoria Bridge at 11.21, for Scarvaghern Burial-ground, on to-day (Thursday), 4th inst. Friends will please accept this intimation.]

HENDERSON—March 10, at Little Bay, Sydney, New South Wales, John, fifth son of the late John Henderson, Scarvaghern Castlederg, Co. Tyrone.

William Dale's Sales.

HOUSE AND LAND FOR SALE, BY AUCTION.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION, on THURSDAY, 23d inst., at ONE o'clock, on the PREMISES, all that Good DWELLING-HOUSE, with about a Rood of GROUND and Two GARDENS, held by Lease for Ever, at the nominal Yearly Rent of One Shilling sterling, situate at KILLSTROLL, near ARDSTRAW, and recently in the occupation of Mrs. HENDERSON. The House is situate about One and a-half Mile from the Victoria Bridge, Three Miles from Newtownstewart, and Five and a-half from Strabane, and would make a good Stand for carrying on the Grocery and Provision Trade.
Terms at Sale.
For further particulars apply to Mr. JAMES HENDERSON, Scarvaghern; to Mr. SAMUEL HENDERSON, Shipquay-street, Derry; or to WM. DALE, Auctioneer.

MARRIED.

HENDERSON & STEWART—November 21, in the Second Presbyterian Church, Ardstraw, by the Rev. John Edgar Henry, James, eldest son of the late John Henderson, Esq., Scarvaghern, and grandson of the late Rev. James Henderson, First Presbyterian Church, Castlederg, to Matilda, eldest daughter of John Stewart, Esq., Whitehouse, near Castlederg.

BOW BELLS' ALMANACK FOR 1867.

THIS handsome ALMANACK, containing THIRTY-EIGHT MAGNIFICENT ENGRAVINGS, far surpasses, both in elegance and general information, any Almanack that has ever been issued in this country.

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THROUGH RATES FROM LONDON TO BELFAST:—1lb., 4d; 2lbs., 6d; 4lbs., 8d; 10lbs., 1s; 12lbs., 1s 4d; 14lbs., 1s 6d; 16lbs., 1s 8d; 18lbs., 1s 10d; 20lbs., 2s.

Parcels, if very large and light, will be charged from one-fourth to one-half more.

Agent in Belfast, J. HENDERSON, Stationer, 13, Castle Place; in Londonderry, J. HENDERSON, Shipquay Street; in London, MARSHALL & SONS, 112, Fleet Street, London, E.C.



Ker

Erected by Rev. Robert Ker of Meaghey
in loving memory of his brother Rev.
John Ker, D.D., who departed this life
March 6th 1890 aged 56 years.

(Companion stone) Erected in memory of
John Kerr died May 28th 1904 aged 76
years.

REV. JOHN KER, D.D., MANSE, BALLINAMALLARD.

THE brief announcement of the death of Dr. Ker which appears in our columns will hardly surprise the reader, as the doctor was so long and so seriously ill. As we read it we think of the beautiful and familiar words—"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

Dr. Ker was born on July 18th, 1834, in Meaghy, in the parish of Ardstraw, Co. Tyrone. Both his grandfathers were elders in the Presbyterian Church, to which for many generations their families belonged. In the neighbourhood where he was brought up there had been very little Methodism, and almost all the Protestants were at least nominal members of the Presbyterian Church, and so had a form of godliness, while, it is to be hoped, many of them were also in possession of its power. Ungodliness, however, largely prevailed in the form of Sabbath-breaking and drunkenness; and by the great bulk of the people the claims of true religion were practically ignored. Sabbath-schools were few and far between; but the Methodists had one at Cavandarragh which a goodly number of young people attended, very much to their profit. Here Gideon Ouseley preached on his rounds. God, who caused this wonderful man to "triumph in every place," made him the instrument of great good to old and young, and many, especially of the latter, were brought to experience the renewing power of the Holy

Spirit. Amongst those who were then the subjects of converting grace were several members of Dr. Ker's family, one of the first being his father, then about fourteen years of age. About the same time, near Newtown-stewart, under the ministry of Mr. James G. Brown, of the late Primitive Wesleyan Society, his mother, then very young, found "peace in believing," a peace which she never for one moment lost, until in great peace she died in the Lord. Some short time before Dr. Ker's birth the preachers were invited to the house, and there the Gospel has been regularly proclaimed ever since. With the old Primitive preachers Mrs. Ker seemed to have been a great favourite, and all of them she esteemed highly in love for their "works sake." She was John's first teacher, and succeeded so well that when five years old he read the New Testament with tolerable ease, and had committed several portions of it to memory. From this period he took a great interest in the preacher, and especially in his horse, saddle, saddle bags and all. William Beatty was the first Methodist minister of whom he had any recollection, concerning whom he wrote the following humorous lines:

Mr. Beatty wore a large cloak, and rode on a nag,
And tight on behind him there was a huge bag;
In this bag were collected his books and his clothes,
And so many strange things that nobody knows;
The bulk of this bag was still very great,
And that it was full one could tell by its weight;
The horse and its rider seemed very ill matched
As at once I could see by the glimpse which I
snatched;
The preacher was tall and the horse very low,
And also seemed badly wanting in go;
But to make that all right, on the heel of his foot
He wore a bright spur well bound to his boot;

The preacher was thick, and the nag very thin,
And its bones seemed almost to be cutting the skin;
The preacher was heavy, the nag very light,
So to look at the two was quite a rare sight.
And regarding him he interrogated his mother
until she was tired of his questions. He wanted
to know what preaching was? Who made
him a preacher? Why did he have such a
large bag? And what was inside of it? Said
his mother—"My son, it was God made him
a preacher, so be you a good boy and some-
time you may go about preaching, and have a
pony, and a bag, and nice books, like Mr.
Beatty." Amongst his first schoolfellows were
the Finlays, children of the late Rev. Wm.
Finlay. There were also some of the children
of the late John Scott, long a most consistent
leader in the Methodist Society, now worthily
represented by his son, who bears his father's
name and walks in his footsteps; and in other
parts of the world by the other members of his
family, all of whom appear to walk in the "old
paths." The Presbyterian minister of first
Ardstraw, with which congregation most of
the Methodists of that neighbourhood were
then connected, was the late Rev. M. Clarke.
In connection with his church John began to

learn a little theology, and at class-meeting
some of his earliest religious impressions were
made; thus from a child he not only knew, in
some measure, the Scriptures, but was the
subject of divine influence and earnest desires
after God, and the Holy Spirit led him into
the enjoyment of rest, and peace, and love by
simply resting on Jesus as his Saviour, in

simply resting on Jesus as his Saviour, in whom he felt assured of acceptance with God as his reconciled Father. Born again, he soon, in response to an inward desire, began to speak to others. At the close of a love feast in the house of the late Mr. John Johnston, that good man addressed him thus—"John, I have a persuasion that God has called you to preach, and I want you to come up and preach here," on the evening of a Sabbath named. That day came, and at the hour for service a huge crowd congregated to hear his first sermon, which lasted a little less than twenty minutes. Mr. John Johnston the first, requested him to take his place for a short time on the Ballyshannon Circuit, from which he had been called away by the sickness and death of his beloved father and sister. On this, his first mission, he spent three weeks, with very great pleasure, with as kind-hearted a people as one could wish to live amongst. The tidings of these things came to the ears of Mr. W. Scott, the superintendent of the circuit, and he proposed that he should enter the itinerancy. So, the district meeting being at hand, he appeared to preach before the brethren and to be examined on the "preliminary course," which examination lasted for full *six hours*. He was recommended to the following Conference (1854) as a fit and proper candidate for the ministry of the Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Society in Ireland; and so in a few days he was appointed to the Maguiresbridge Circuit, with Mr. Alexander Campbell as his superintendent. During that year there was a blessed work of God on every part of the circuit, resulting in the salvation of a goodly number of people, who have been steadfast in the faith and are "still adorning in all things

the doctrine of God our Saviour." His next appointment was to Irvinestown, in 1855, with Mr. John Cullen for his superintendent. To go round this circuit kept him four weeks, during which he says he had "the privilege of receiving the kind attention of at least twenty-eight cooks, of sleeping in twenty-eight beds, of riding at least 170 miles, of preaching at least thirty-two sermons, besides conducting any number of prayer meetings." In Tedd, on his first visit, a revival commenced in the house of Mr. Jones, father to the late Rev. R. J. Jones, the results of which will never die. Many were saved at that time who afterwards went to other parts to be a blessing in their generation. In Irvinestown there was also a glorious work of God, during which many were made partakers of saving grace. In and around Pettigo many were also brought into the fold of Christ, so that the number converted "that year amounted to more than one hundred." Here he remained a second year (1856) with the late Mr. Robert Kane as his superintendent. His next appointment was in 1857 to the Clones Circuit, with Mr. George Hamilton for superintendent. At the close of the first year in Clones (1858) he was received into full Connexion and sent to Armagh with the late Mr. John Carlisle for his superintendent. His next appointment was Belfast (1859), with Mr. William Craig for his superintendent, and Mr. William Flaherty as his colleague. From Belfast he returned to Maguiresbridge in 1861, and had Mr. John Taylor for his superintendent, and the late Mr. D. Henderson for his fellow helper in the work. After spending one year here, and then three years in Clones, he was appointed in 1865 to the Enniskillen Circuit. In 1867 he went to

Dublin, where he continued for four years, and in 1871 he returned to Enniskillen. In 1874 he returned to Maguiresbridge, in 1875 to Dublin, and in 1877 to Cork, during his stay in which he was elected President, and the union with Wesleyans was happily consummated. In 1880 he was elected second representative to the British Conference which met that year in London, and both in the pulpit and the platform made a most favourable impression. With marked ability Mr. Ker filled the important office of chairman of the district, both before and after the union. He was twice elected President of the Primitive Wesleyan

Conference. It was admitted on all hands that he did his part in that important and interesting ceremony with conspicuous ability. In the united body he was held in high esteem, because of his great zeal, thorough devotion, and rare natural abilities. By appointment of the Conference of 1881 the Rev. Dr. Crook, the Rev. Oliver M'Cutcheon, and he went as a deputation to America to appeal on behalf of the objects of the thanksgiving fund, more immediately connected with the union of the two Methodist bodies in Ireland—viz., the Union Guarantee Fund and the Home Mission Fund. While his colleagues returned for the ensuing Conference he remained for a second year, traversing the vast continent in all directions, and labouring with a zeal that never flagged and an acceptance not often superseded. In recognition of his ability the Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois—one of the first in the United States—conferred on him the honorary degree of D.D. On his return Dr. Ker was appointed to Coleraine, where during a term of three years he did a

noble work, not merely as a preacher and pastor, but in thoroughly renovating the church, schoolhouse, and manse. By the Conference of 1886 he was set free from circuit work in order to promote the erection of the Clarke Memorial Church, Portrush. In Great Britain, Ireland, and America, which he now visited for the second time, he raised over £2,000, and carried the enterprise to a successful issue. The following Conference appointed him to raise funds for the liquidation of the debt on Wesley College, Dublin. To this work he gave himself with characteristic zeal. With it he associated the raising of funds for the Campbell Memorial Church, Bundoran, which is now free of debt, supplying a long-felt want in this popular seaside resort. The strain of this special work proved too great for even his Herculean frame. At last Conference he looked somewhat shaken, but it was hoped that rest would prolong for many years to come a life so valuable; but despite all that rest, combined with the best medical skill, could do, the great and mighty frame gave way, and literally the "strong man bowed himself." After a protracted illness, in perfect submission to the Divine will, he passed away at the residence of his brother, Rev. Robert Ker, the Manse, Ballinamallard, on last Thursday evening, 6th inst., in the fifty-sixth year of his age and thirty-sixth of his ministry.

March 14, 1890.

DEATH OF REV. DR. KER.

The many friends of this popular minister will hear with much regret of his death, which took place, after a lingering illness, on Thursday evening at the residence of his brother, the Manse, Ballinamallard, at the age of fifty-four years. Deceased was well known in this city, where he recently delivered a lecture in the Union Hall. Some years ago he was selected by the Methodist Conference to visit America and solicit subscriptions towards the erection of a memorial church in Portrush to Dr. Adam Clarke, the famous commentator, and the success of that mission will best be understood when it is stated that through Dr. Ker's exertions the handsome building was opened free of all debt. No minister in the Methodist Church was more popular than the deceased, and his death will cause a widespread feeling of regret. The remains will be brought to Newtownstewart by rail this morning, and the funeral will leave at ten o'clock for the family burying-ground at Scarvaghern.

KER—March 6, at the Manse, Ballinamallard, the Rev. John Ker, D.D., aged 54 years.—Psalms xxxvii., 37. The funeral will leave Ballinamallard by train this (Monday) morning, at 8.50 o'clock, arrive at Newtownstewart at ten o'clock, and proceed to the family burying-ground at Scarvaghern.

DEATHS.

KERR—May 30, at his residence, Meaghy, Ardstraw, John Kerr, aged 67 years. [Funeral will leave his late residence at ten o'clock a.m. to-day (Thursday), 2d June, for interment in the family burying-ground, Scarvaghern. Friends will please accept this intimation.]

DEATH OF THE REV. MATTHEW CLARKE, ARDSTRAW.

On Tuesday, the 28th ult., the Rev. Matthew Clarke died at his residence, Killstroll, Ardstraw, County Tyrone, aged eighty-four years, closing a ministry which extended over more than fifty-five years. Mr. Clarke was called to minister in the neighbourhood in which he was born and brought up, in the large and respectable congregation of Ardstraw, one of the very old Presbyterian settlements in Ulster. Ardstraw is also remarkable as one of the oldest Christian settlements in the United Kingdom, Christian worship having been established there at least as early as the fifth century, and until recently some of the ruins of the old Cathedral of Ardstraw were visible. In the graveyard adjoining, St. Eugenius, one of the disciples of St. Patrick, was interred, and there are local evidences that long previous to the fifth century the same place was a centre of Pagan rites. There is now no place of worship in the immediate neighbourhood except the flourishing Presbyterian Church of First Ardstraw.

After forty years of active duty in the ministry Mr. Clarke retired, and the Rev. Leslie A. Lyle was ordained as his assistant and successor. Mr. Clarke, who graduated in Glasgow University, was admired as a very popular preacher. He was most painstaking and conscientious in the preparation of his

sermons, to the last writing out and committing his discourses to memory. These were remarkable for close reasoning, logical arrangement, and correct and elegant language. His life was distinguished for its unostentatious charity, truthfulness, and integrity, accompanied by an unpretending piety. No breath of suspicion ever sullied the purity of his reputation. Although somewhat quaint and old-fashioned in his views, he always maintained the bearing and manner of a true Christian gentleman. Kind to young and old, steadfast in his friendship; though the companions and acquaintances of his youth have nearly all passed away, he leaves many of all classes to regret his departure. As a bishop he was "blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding forth the faithful word as he had been taught." The funeral services were conducted on Thursday (when a large number of the people of all denominations conveyed his remains to the family burial-place of Scarvaghern) by the Rev. Leslie A. Lyle, who also preached an appropriate sermon on Sabbath last, in which he delineated in a very graphic manner the leading features in the character and life of his departed friend and father.

DEATH OF THE REV. MATTHEW CLARKE, ARDSTRAW.—On Tuesday, the 28th ult., the Rev. Matthew Clarke died at his residence, Killstroll, Ardstraw, County Tyrone, aged eighty-four years, closing a ministry which extended over more than fifty-five years. Mr. Clarke was called to minister in the neighbourhood in which he was born and brought up, in the large and respectable congregation of Ardstraw, one of the very old Presbyterian settlements in Ulster. Ardstraw is also remarkable as one of the oldest Christian settlements in the United Kingdom, Christian worship having been established there at least as early as the fifth century, and until recently some of the ruins of the old Cathedral of Ardstraw were visible. In the graveyard adjoining, St. Eugenius, one of the disciples of St. Patrick, was interred, and there are local evidences that long previous to the fifth century the same place was a centre of Pagan rites. There is now no place of worship in the immediate neighbourhood except the flourishing Presbyterian church of First Ardstraw. After forty years of active duty in the ministry Mr. Clarke retired, and the Rev. Leslie A. Lyle was ordained as his assistant and successor. Mr. Clarke, who graduated in Glasgow University, was admired as a very popular preacher. The funeral services were conducted on Thursday (when a large number of the people of all denominations conveyed his remains to the family burial-place of Scarvaghern) by the Rev. Leslie A. Lyle.—*Derry Standard*.

Friday 07 January 1876



DEATHS.
M'CAY—May 21, at his residence, Magheracrigan, Hugh M'Cay, aged 51 years. His remains will be removed for interment in Scarvaghern Burying-ground, to-morrow (Saturday) morning at eleven o'clock.

McCay

Erected in memory of John McCay of Kilrail died 26th June 1883 aged 77 years. His wife Margaret Fullerton McCay died 6th February 1894 aged 75 years. And their sons Robert McCay died 18th September 1917 aged 70 years, John McCay, attorney-at-law, Strabane and Castlederg, died 3rd May 1924 aged 75 years. Also Nixon McCay died 6th May 1925 aged 73 years. (There are also two older flat stones here which are unreadable.)

Hugh McCay (Magheracrigan) died 21st May 1891; also his sister Matilda Hamilton died 24th January 1915; also his two sons Robert died 9th September 1924, William died 27th June 1928; also his daughter Minnie Lyons, late of Mayne, Omagh, died 14th May 1933.

Clarke/Patton/Sweeney/Anderson

In loving memory of Joseph Patton, Gortileck, died 25th March 1893, also his wife Jane Stewart died 28th March 1921, and their sons William John died 25th July 1875, Hugh died 29th July 1899, and their daughter Margaret, wife of John Sweeney, Donegal, died 19th February 1903.

(Right-hand side) In loving memory of our grandparents Hugh Patton, Crew, and his wife Nancy Clarke, also their son Matthew, their daughter Eliza Jane, and their son Hugh died 4th February 1912.

(Left-hand side) Also their daughter Jane, wife of W.S. Anderson, Breen, Victoria Bridge, died 10th May 1938. Elizabeth died at Gortileck, Donemana, 17th November 1940.



PATTON—July 29, at his residence, Gortileck, Hugh Patton, second and only surviving son of the late Joseph Patton. Funeral this (Monday) morning in Scarvaghern Graveyard at nine o'clock. Deeply regretted.

PATTON—July 29, at his residence, Gortileck, Hugh Patton, second and only surviving son of the late Joseph Patton.



Gailey

In loving memory of William Gailey, Creevy, died 1st May 1866 aged 84 years, also of his wife Mary died 20th April 1857 aged 68 years, also their sons Robert died 20th July 1887 aged 69 years, William died 18th March 1893 aged 70 years, Samuel died 6th May 1898 aged 68 years, Andrew died 22nd March 1907 aged 71 years.

August 16, at Creevy, Castlederg, Margaret, relict of the late Robert Gailey, aged 67 years. [Funeral this (Thursday) morning, the 18th inst., at eleven o'clock. Interment in Scarvaghern Burying-ground.]

WILSON—At her residence, Main Street, Newtown Stewart, Margaret A., beloved wife of John Wilson. Interment in the family burying place, Scarvaghern, this (Friday) afternoon, 3rd inst., at one o'clock (Summer Time).

M'ASKIE—At her residence, White House, Castlederg, Sarah, widow of the late Joseph M'Askie. Funeral to Scarvaghern to-day (Friday), 18th inst., at twelve o'clock (Summer time).

Cummins—May 9, at Scarvaghern, near Castlederg, Anne, eldest and last surviving daughter of the late James Cummins.

PATTERSON—January 13, at her husband's residence, Anne, the beloved wife of Samuel Patterson, Carrickamulkin, and daughter of the late John Henne son, Scarvaghern, Castlederg.

An epidemic of influenza is now prevalent in the district of Castlederg. On Friday last there were laid to rest in the family burying ground, Scarvaghern, the remains of Mrs. E. Smith, of Magheralough, amidst many manifestations of sorrow and regret. The deceased, who attained the ripe age of 76 years, had never any ambition beyond her own home, and her demise has cast a gloom over the district. The funeral was very large and represented all classes of the community.

March 27, in Pettigo Presbyterian Church, Mr. Nat. Allen, Scarvaghern, to Anne Jane, only daughter of Mr. Andrew Alexander, Crew, Parish of Ardstraw.

FATAL ACCIDENT WHEN DUCK SHOOTING IN NEW ZEALAND.
Mrs. J. J. Smith, of Cavandoragh, Castlederg, has received the sad news of the death under tragic circumstances of her second son, Robert Smith, in New Zealand. The deceased, who recently attained the age of 21 years, emigrated to New Zealand about eighteen months ago, and was working on a farm at Rotoorange. On the 14th August he and his cousin, a son of Mr. Thomas Smith, of Magheralough, went out duck shooting, and while assisting his cousin to climb up a steep bank the deceased accidentally discharged his gun and fell back mortally wounded. He died in a few hours.

For selling buttermilk which was, according to the analyst's certificate, seven per cent. in excess of water, Thomas Smith, Magheralough, was fined 1s and 14s 6d costs.

BROOKE.—At Scarvaghern, Castlederg, Mr. James Brooke, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

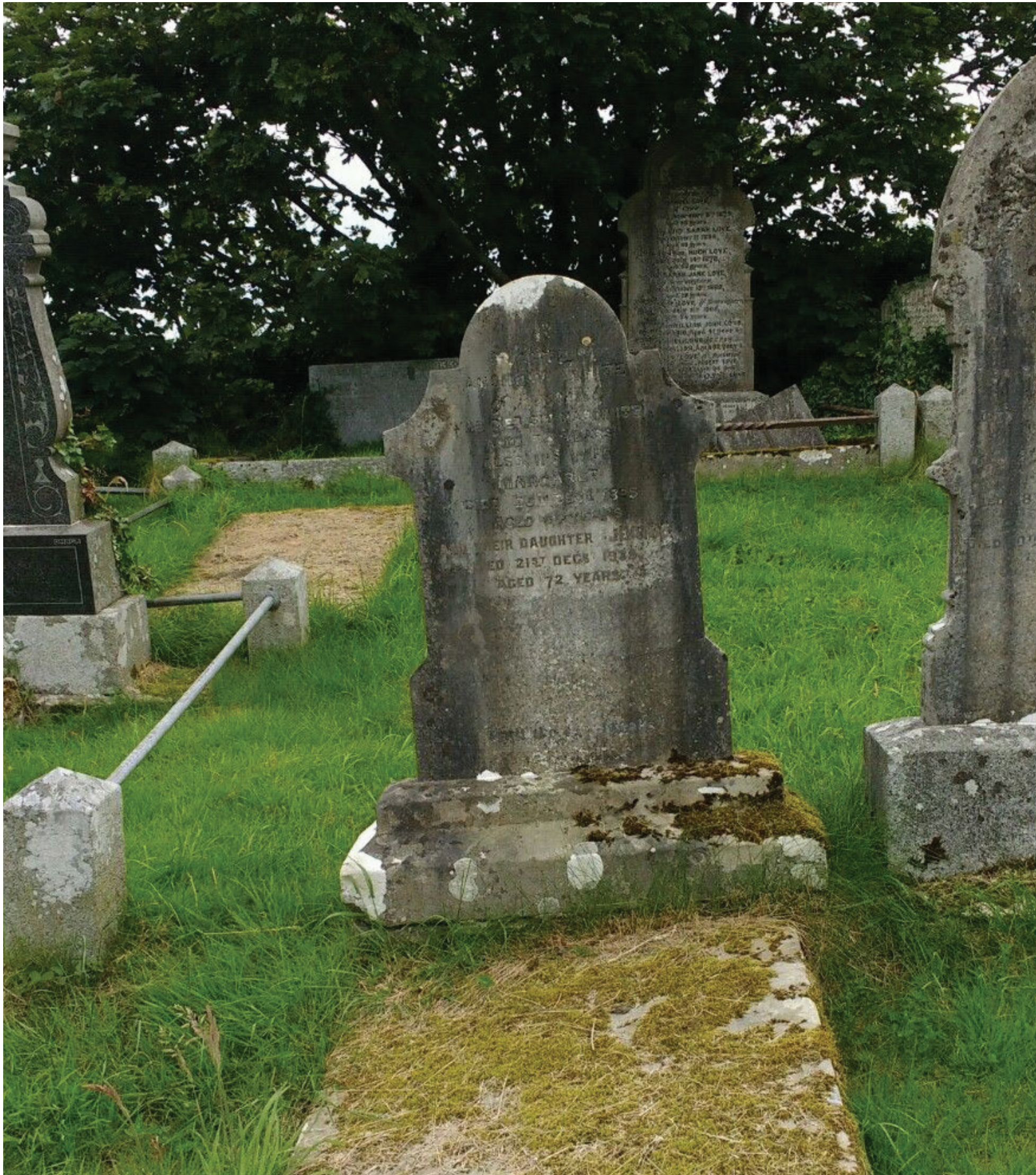
At Scarvaghern, near Castlederg, of apoplexy, Mr. James Brooke, in the 67th year of his age.



White/Whitton

In loving memory of David White died in year 1864 aged 75 years, Betty White died 9th July 1867 aged 60 years, Margaret White died 20th February 1888 aged 90 years, Isabella White died 11th January 1893 aged 98 years, Jane Whitton died 6th April 1893 aged 94 years, Joseph Whitton died 18th June 1904 aged 65 years, James Whitton died 10th July 1907 aged 72 years.

(Next grave) In memory of Andrew White of Rosshill who died 31st March 1881 aged 75 years, also his wife Margaret died 26th December 1895 aged 64 years, and their daughter Jeanie died 21st December 1935 aged 72 years.



WHITE—December 26, at her residence, 3, Asylum-road, Londonderry, Margaret, widow of the late Andrew White, Rosshill, Castlederg, aged 64 years.



ROSSHILL STEAM SCUTCH MILL.
WANTED immediately, first-rate SCUTCHERS for the above Mill, to whom the highest Wages will be paid. Apply to Mr. ANDREW WHITE, Rosshill, Castlederg.
22nd May, 1865.

Headstone Inscriptions from Scarvagherin Burial Ground, Near Castlederg
Parish: Ardstraw

Information kindly provided by Bernie Donaghey

Use your browsers 'find/search in this page' capabilities to search for a surname you are interested in.

In affectionate remembrance of Andrew Thomas LOVE who died the 8th of May 1837 aged 44 years also his wife Rebecca, who died the 18th June 1881 aged 87 years also Eliza wife of Charles LOVE of Crew, died 9th of June 1892 aged 66 years also Charles LOVE of Crew who died the 26th of December 1905, aged 84 years also James Sproule son of Charles and Eliza LOVE who died 12th September 1907 aged 36 years Andrew Thomas LOVE of Crew died 7th August 1926 aged 65 years

(small plaque in front of main stone) also Mary elder daughter of Charles and Eliza LOVE born 17th September 1857 died 5th May 1928 and her sister Sarah Isabella died 2nd December 1850 aged 80 years

Erected by Robert ROBINSON in loving memory of his mother Anne ROBINSON who died 14th June 1877? Aged 70 years Also her husband James ROBINSON died 20th June 1886 aged 88 years James ROBINSON who died 6th April 1891 aged 50 years Rebecca ROBINSON died 26th May 1891 aged 47 years

Sacred to the memory of Matthew PARK, Glenglush (this stone is broken facing downwards so I cant read the rest of it, there is also another older flat stone underneath)

Erected in memory of John McCAY of Kilrail died 26th June 1883 aged 77 years His wife Margaret Fullerton McCAY died 6th February 1894 aged 75 years And their sons Robert McCAY died 18th September 1917 aged 70 years John McCAY attorney-at-law, Strabane and Castlederg died 3rd May 1924 aged 75 years Also Nixon McCAY died 6th May 1925 aged 73 years (there are also two older flat stones here which are unreadable)

Here lies the body of James WAIFON/WARFON who departed this life March 1th 1790 aged 35 years

In loving memory of David S. McASKIE, Whitehouse, died 3rd October 1942 aged 54 years also his wife Emma Maud died 1st February, 1957 aged 59 years.

Erected by Rev. Robert KERR of Meaghey in loving memory of his brother Rev. John KERR, D.D., who departed this life March 6th, 1890 aged 56 years.

(this stone broken but looks like it would have originally stood beside the one above) Erected in memory of John KERR died May 28th 1904 aged 76 years.

In loving memory of Thomas SMITH of Magheralough, who died 4th January, 1936 aged 78 years.

In loving memory of Samuel LOVE, Crewe Upper, died 1st March 1893 aged 73 years also his wife Isabella died 5th January 1927 aged 84 years also William MONTEITH (cousin) died 8th July 1930 aged 84 years also their son Robert died 25th July 1942 aged 63 years also their daughter Mary Jane died 1st February 1944 aged 60 years and their son John James died 12th November 1962 aged 88 years.



Orr

In loving remembrance of Robert Orr, Listymore, who departed this life 6th December 1920 aged 83 years, also his son Robert Andrew who died 17th April 1919, also his brother John Orr who died January 1926, also his wife Annie Orr who died 19th July 1929, also their daughter Elizabeth Jane who died 27th December 1932, also their son William John died 6th July 1973, also their daughter Annie Ethel died 22nd February 1975.



Brown

In loving memory of John Brown (Creevy) died 29th September 1898 aged 76 years, also his wife Elizabeth died 23rd April 1919 aged 85 years, also his sister Margaret died 24th March 1913 aged 86 years, also his daughter Elizabeth died 18th February 1921 aged 52 years, also his son Rev. David Brown, M.A.B.D., died 10th February 1944 aged 75 years, and his daughter Catherine died 21st July 1949 aged 69 years, also his son William died 26th February 1946 aged 75 years.



McCrossan

Here lies the body of Catherine McCrossan who died November the 15th 1745 (age is covered up by the ground).



Mullen

Also Catherine Mullen, late of Newtownstewart, who departed this life December 13th 1803 aged 84 years. (This is a flat stone; there is another name before Catherine but it has completely faded; there are also one or two other names after Catherine's which have also faded.)



Winters

Erected in memory of Michael Winters who departed this life February 1801 aged 34 years. Also Henry Winters aged 24 years. (Further text unreadable.)
In memory of Francis Winters who departed this life March the 3rd 1793 aged 21 years.



Johnston

Erected in loving memory of David Johnston died March 17th 1902 aged 68 years, also his wife Mary Jane died November 29th 1902 aged 70 years, also Andrew Johnston died August 28th 1908 aged 69 years, also his sister Sarah died April 21st 1913 aged 68 years.



Roulston

In loving memory of Jennie Roulston, wife of James Roulston, Kilcleen, Castlederg, died 2nd April 1932.



McCanny

James McCanny departed this life May 12th 1805 aged 61 years.
Margaret McCanny departed this life February 12th 1802 aged 25 years.



Young

Erected by his wife in loving remembrance of Stewart Young of Meaghey who died 14th May 1891 aged 60 years. Also his wife Margaret Young who died 26th June 1922 aged 85 years.
(Next stone in same grave) In loving memory of Robert Andrews who died 6th September 1913 aged 74 years. Also his wife Letitia Andrews who died 27th August 1919 aged 72 years.



Livingstone

The burial ground of Samuel Livingstone of Bridgehill; sacred to the memory of Rachel Livingston who died September 7th 1891 aged 14 years, also her mother Sarah died 2nd January 1900 aged 62 years, also her father Samuel died 29th November 1902 aged 62 years.



Huger

Here lies the body of Susana Huger who departed this life the 10th of December 1797 aged 66 years.



Moore

Erected by William of Ednashanlaught in memory of his son John who died 20th May 1893 aged 5 years and 10 months.



O'Donnaghey

Here lieth the body of Philip O'Donnaghey who died June 6th
1739 aged 60 years.



McFarland

In loving memory of Rebecca McFarland, Kilcroagh, died 15th
November 1933



Sloss

William Sloss – Matthew Brooks. (Additional inscription
unreadable.)



Dougherty

Here lies the body of Rosa Dougherty otherwise Winie who departed this life April 20th 1796 aged 24 years.



Andrews

(Next stone in same grave as Young) In loving memory of
ROBERT ANDREWS,
WHO DIED 6TH SEP 1913, AGED 74 YEARS.
ALSO HIS WIFE
LETITIA ANDREWS,
WHO DIED 27TH AUG 1919, AGED 72 YEARS.



Martin

Here lies the body of Roger Martin who died October the 11th
1778 aged 94 years.



Gomly

Here lieth the body of Mary who departed this life March the 27th 1775 aged 36 years. This stone was erected by Hugh Gomly for his wife Mary.



Early

Here lieth the body of Owen Early who departed this life the 17th of March 1796 aged 83 years.
Margaret Early departed this life October 10th 1801 aged 17 years.

Johnston

Erected in loving memory of David Johnston died March 17th 1902 aged 68 years, also his wife Mary Jane died November 29th 1902 aged 70 years, also Andrew Johnston died August 28th 1908 aged 69 years, also his sister Sarah died April 21st 1913 aged 68 years.

Park

Sacred to the memory of Matthew Park, Glenglush. (This stone is broken facing downwards so the rest is unreadable; there is also another older flat stone underneath.)

Patterson

Sacred to the memory of John Patterson died 1916 aged 91 years, also his wife Eleanor died 1890 aged 65 years, and their son Joseph died 1908 aged 51 years, also their son James died 17th April 1926 aged 72 years, and their daughters Margaret died February 1930, Elizabeth died November 1940.

Robinson

Erected by Robert Robinson in loving memory of his mother Anne Robinson who died 14th June 1877? aged 70 years.
Also her husband James Robinson died 20th June 1886 aged 88 years. James Robinson who died 6th April 1891 aged 50 years. Rebecca Robinson died 26th May 1891 aged 47 years.



McArthur

No additional details.

Lyons

Minnie Lyons, late of Mayne, Omagh, died 14th May 1933.

McAskie

In loving memory of David S. McAskie, Whitehouse, died 3rd October 1942 aged 54 years, also his wife Emma Maud died 1st February 1957 aged 59 years.

McMacken

Here lieth the body of John McMacken who departed this life 23rd of April 1796 aged 62 years.

Smith (below)

In loving memory of Thomas Smith of Magheralough, who died 4th January 1936 aged 78 years.

Sweeney

In loving memory of Joseph Patton, Gortileck, died 25th March 1893, also his wife Jane Stewart died 28th March 1921, and their daughter Margaret, wife of John Sweeney, Donegal, died 19th February 1903. (See Patton shared stone.)

Waifon/Warfon

Here lies the body of James Waifon/warfon who departed this life March 1st 1790 aged 35 years.



CASTLEDERG BOY'S DEATH.

March 14, 1890.

Sequel at Petty Sessions.

FACTORY ACT PROSECUTION.

A sequel to the tragic death of a boy named Thos. Sharkey, aged eight years, which occurred on 11th December last in the flax mill of Wm. M'Askie, Scarvaghern, Castlederg, was heard at Castlederg petty sessions on Saturday last, when Mr. Samuel R. Bennett, M.A., Inspector of Factories, Londonderry, brought a summons against M'Askie for a breach of the Factory Act, by having the deceased boy, who was under age, in his employment.

Mr. Conaghan appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Bennett said the defendant was the owner of a flax scutching mill at Scarvaghern near Spanmount, and he was charged under section 62 of the Factory and Workshop Act with employing, on December, 1912, a boy named Thomas Sharkey, who was under the age of twelve years, contrary to the Act. He had abundant evidence to prove that this unfortunate child was killed in the mill on 11th December, the date of the charge. An inquest was held and at that inquest, which he (Mr. Bennett) attended, the defendant gave evidence that he employed this child knowingly, contrary to the provision of the Act, but he stated that he did so on the plea of charity. He submitted a certified copy of the child's birth taken from the register of births and also a report from Dr. Leary, the certifying factory surgeon for the district, on the case giving an account of the injuries sustained by the deceased boy.

the case giving an account of the injuries sustained by the deceased boy.

Mr. Conaghan said he could object to all that except the age of the child. The rest was immaterial.

Mr. Bennett said he had subpoenaed a man who was employed in M'Askie's mill to give evidence in the case.

John Maguire said he worked in the defendant's mill and remembered 11th December last. The boy, Thos. Sharkey, was working in the mill on that date. He could not say what age the boy was.

Mr. Bennett said the defendant had put forward the plea that he employed the boy out of charity, but he wished to point out that this child was only paid at the rate of 7d. per day, or about half the wages which a young person would receive, and there was very little charity in it.

Mr. Conaghan—That is all immaterial to the case.

Mr. Bennett asked the magistrates to inflict the full penalty as a deterrent to others.

Mr. Conaghan, on behalf of the defendant, admitted the offence. He quite agreed that it was a very sad case and no one regretted the occurrence more than Mr. M'Askie. The mother of this child had been employed by Mr. M'Askie for some years but became ill and had absolutely no support so she asked Mr. M'Askie to take the child into the mill and give him some wages, and out of charity he had done so. The defendant had paid the funeral expenses and was doing everything he could to make provision for the mother. Taking into consideration the sad circumstances of the case and the compulsion which was put on Mr. M'Askie to employ this child and the fact that he had done everything possible for the mother afterwards he asked

the bench to be as lenient in the case as possible.

Mr. Connolly said he understood the boy was killed in a disused part of the mill.

Mr. Bennett said that was so but it didn't affect this case. The defendant had only paid this boy about half wages and had a good margin of profit. He asked for a heavy penalty in order to put a stop to children being employed in mills. Only the previous day he saw two young children running away from a mill as he approached. If the defendant was let off easily it would be an encouragement to others.

The bench imposed a fine of £1 and costs, and the chairman said the magistrates desired him to state that if similar cases came before them again they would be more severe.

Mr. Bennett thanked the magistrates for their expression of warning.

Album Neilands Derrygoon, Ardstraw, Co Tyrone



My Ulster Ancestors added a new photo.

29 August 2017 · 🌐

Copied from my McCaskie Album

Wedding announcement for David McAskie and Elizabeth Turner in Trenton New Jersey. He was born at Scarvagherin, Ardstraw, Co Tyrone on 24 July 1869

David was the son of David McAskie, the flax miller from Scarvagherin & his wife Isabella Boggs. David Snr was the brother of my great grandfather. I know that some Neilands descendants married Turners from Ardstraw parish. Also many emigrants to America married other emigrants from home so just a thought

McASKIE-TURNER

Miss Elizabeth Turner of 216 Academy Street became the wife of David McAskie last evening at the parsonage of Trinity M. E. Church, the Rev. Charles H. Elder officiating. Miss Anna Danbury was maid of honor and James R. McLernon was best man. Mr. and Mrs. McAskie will reside at 216 Academy Street.

THE KNOCK APPARITIONS.

FURTHER LIST OF CURES.

INTERESTING ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

&c., &c., &c.

The following letters having reference to further wonderful cures have been received from Archdeacon Cavanagh :—

To Sub-Constable Collins, R.I.C., Knock, Ballyhaunis, Mayo.

Spamount, Castlederg, county Tyrone,
21st March, 1880.

DEAR SIR—I beg you will kindly excuse delay, which was owing to the fact that some parties who reside distant from here received from me water in which I had placed part of the cement you so kindly sent me ; and, as I wished to send you a true and pretty full account, I deferred writing until I had interviewed some of said parties to day at the chapel, Carnecorn. Subjoined is a list of the names of persons who have been wholly or partially cured by partaking of water in which cement from Knock chapel was placed :—

1. Mary Fallon, Spamount, near Castlederg, county Tyrone, had lost the sight of one of her eyes for nearly twenty years. After two applications of the water sight was restored.

2. Joseph Moffet, townland of Scarvaghern, near Castlederg, had been for some time nearly blind his eyes were compared to lumps of blood. He was cured immediately after once washing his eyes in the water.

3. Andrew M'Fadden, Spamount, near Castle-

derg ; irritation of the nervous system, and sore eyes.

4. Charles M'Kenny, Spamount, Castlederg ; whitlow of a very dangerous character.

5. Mrs. M'Lean, Drumnaboy, near Castlederg, had for many years suffered excruciating pains in one of her legs, caused by the rupture of varicose veins. Though the leg is somewhat weak, the pains have ceased entirely.

6. Michael M'Lean, of same place, had been for forty years suffering pains in one of his legs. He is now quite well.

7. Thomas Teadley, Spamount, near Castlederg, a sore arm, the effect of a hurt from a horse.

8. Susan M'Glinsky, Craigmonaghan, near Castlederg ; weakness of the system, the effect of scarlatina.

9. Catherine M'Taggart, Erganagh, near Castlederg, headache of long standing.

10. James M'Glinn, Spamount, near Castlederg, sore eyes.

11. Mrs. M'Glinn, of same place, sore eyes.

12. Edward Hanna, same place, sore eyes.

13. Mrs. Douglass, Scarvaghern, near Castlederg, sore knee.

14. Patrick Gallagher, of same place, severe pain in the brow.

15. Patrick M'Fadden, Spamount, near Castlederg, neuralgia.

16. Patrick M'Fadden, aged ten years, same place, abscess on the chin.

17. William M'Glinsky, Clare, near Castlederg, abscess on the breast.

18. William Winters, Castlebane, near Castlederg, a very sore eye.

19. Thomas M'Glone, late 27th Foot, White House, near Castlederg ; chronic pleurisy, and heart disease. His left lung was nearly gone. Those

diseases were contracted whilst in her Majesty's service at Hong-Kong. He is progressing rapidly in health.

20. Rose Bonar, Spamount, near Castlederg ; a severe toothache.

I have given water to many others, and continue to do so. On my hearing the effects produced I will lose no time in letting you know same.—I am, sir, your obedient servant,

ANDREW M'FADDEN.



29 May, 1880.

WEDDING BELLS AT CASTLEBERG.

Pretty Marriage Ceremony.

Castleberg First Presbyterian Church was the scene on Tuesday last of one of the prettiest and most popular weddings that have taken place in the district for years, the contracting parties being Mr. Robert J. Love, L.R.C.P. and S., Edinburgh, of Indwe, Cape Colony, son of the late Mr. Robert Love, Scarvaheer, and Isabel, elder daughter of Mr. William M'Ervel, J.P., managing director of Spamount Woollen Company, Ltd., Castleberg. Highly esteemed for their own sakes by all who knew them, the happy couple had the satisfaction of knowing that they enjoyed additional popularity by reason of the great respect in which their parents and relatives are held in the district. This was abundantly demonstrated by the charming display of handsome and valuable gifts which flowed in from all directions, accompanied by hearty congratulations from friends and well-wishers alike. Amongst the gifts were a number of substantial cheques—not to be despised on the eve of a honeymoon—but perhaps more highly appreciated than even these was the ornate and beautiful silver fruit and flower stand presented to Miss M'Ervel by the employees in Spamount Factory, accompanied as it was by a tastefully-illuminated address giving expression to the good wishes of all the subscribers, and narrating many of the good qualities of one who had endeared herself to them by her sympathy, high character, and the great interest she had taken in every good work promoted for the welfare and happiness of those around her. This gift occupied the place of honour, and was deservedly admired by all who saw it, a fact which must have been particularly gratifying to Mr. R. Crombie (chairman) and all the other members of the Presentation Committee. In his own sphere in Cape Colony Dr. Love is also extremely popular, holding a prominent position in all the associations of his district. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a

directoire gown of embroidered cream satin, with veil and wreath of orange blossom. She carried a shower bouquet of orchids, white heather, lily of the valley, and white carnations, and wore a diamond and ruby bracelet, the gift of the bridegroom. The bridesmaids were Miss Mary M'Ervel, sister; Miss Alice Robinson, cousin; Miss Jeanie Scott, and Miss Meta M'Cay. They were dressed in cream silk directoire gowns, with picture hats, carried lovely spray bouquets of choice chrysanthemums, and wore gold and pearl brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Samuel Love, brother of the bridegroom, filled the role of best man. The wedding was fixed for eleven o'clock, but long before this hour a numerous gathering of interested spectators had assembled in the church. The bridegroom, accompanied by his brother, arrived first, and shortly afterwards the bride, leaning on her father's arm, passed up the centre aisle, and the marriage ceremony, performed by the Rev. James M'Cay, was immediately entered upon. The ceremony was soon over, and the happy couple received the hearty congratulations of their friends, the officiating clergyman being first to give expression to his good wishes. The register having been signed, the wedding party left the church, the bride and groom receiving quite an ovation from the spectators, who literally covered them with showers of rice and confetti.

Subsequently a fashionable gathering of friends joined the bride and groom at the wedding breakfast at Spamount, to pay their respects and extend their congratulations to the happy couple. The table was laid with excellent taste, and, being appropriately decorated, the effect was very pleasing and attractive.

After the good things had been enjoyed, the Rev. James M'Cay, amid hearty applause, proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. In doing so, he said he could not help referring to Mr. and Mrs. M'Ervel, their host and hostess. (Applause.) They had both been known to him for more years than he cared to mention, and faster than the years had come and gone they had grown in his affection and esteem. (Applause.) To say that they had been to him good friends and true was to speak very mildly, and perhaps with undue moderation.

Mr. M'Ervel was a gentleman greatly respected, and deservedly so, and his wife was widely known as one of the best and kindest of women. (Applause.) Their family were all inheritors of their amiable qualities and virtues. (Applause.) To Dr. Love he tendered his hearty congratulations. He had secured the affections and hand of one of the most amiable of her sex, and one in every way fitted to be a very pleasant and helpful companion and a most dutiful wife. (Applause.) He (Mr. M'Cay) was also in the position to testify that good though she might be, she was not too good to be the wife of the man she was now in the position to call her husband. (Applause.) He, too, was a chip of the old block, to use a somewhat common expression. His late father was one of the kindest of men, and his mother was one of the best of women. (Applause.) He trusted the union consummated that day might be a truly happy one, and that Dr. Love and his amiable partner might long be spared to each other, and to enjoy every happiness and prosperity. (Applause.)

The sentiment was very heartily honoured.

Afterwards the happy pair left, amid a shower of rice and slippers, for Dublin, en route for Killarney and London, where the honeymoon will be spent. The bride's travelling dress was a prunella costume, with hat to match.

The following is a list of the wedding presents:—

Bride's father—Cheque and pendant.

Bride's mother—Household linen, cheque, and cuff links.

Bridegroom's mother—Silver entree dishes and cheque.

Employees Spamount Woollen Company, Ltd.—Silver fruit and flower stand.

Mr. S. Love—Silver rose bowl and cigarette and cigar boxes.

Mr. C. Love—Silver hot water jug and signet ring.

Mr. W. Love—Silver pen and pencil and books.

Mrs. T. M'Ervel, Bangor—Embroidered bedspread.

Mr. T. M'Ervel, Bangor—Tablecloth and serviettes.

Mr. Dick M'Ervel, Winnipeg—Cheque.

Mrs. Dougal, Erganagh—Serviettes.

Mr. C. Cooper, Derry—Handkerchiefs.

Miss Cooper, Derry—Quilt.

Mrs. T. M'Ervel, Bangor—Embroidered bedspread.

Mr. T. M'Ervel, Bangor—Tablecloth and serviettes.

Mr. Dick M'Ervel, Winnipeg—Cheque.

Mrs. Dougal, Erganagh—Serviettes.

Mr. C. Cooper, Derry—Handkerchiefs.

Miss Cooper, Derry—Quilt.

Mr. J. Lyttle, Clare — Gilt photograph frame.

Miss E. Thompson, Manchester—Carved clock.

Mrs. Macintosh, Glasgow—Serviettes.

Mrs. Hickey, Erganagh—Afternoon tea-cloth.

Mrs. Bamford, Belfast—Tablecloth.

Rev. T. B. and Mrs. Morrin, Castleberg—Claret jug.

Miss B. Kerr, Spamount—Handkerchief satchet.

Miss M. Meaghan, Spamount—Teapot.

Miss L. Meaghan, Scarvaghern—Silk handkerchiefs.

Miss M. Todd, Edinburgh—Tray cloth.

Miss N. Roddie, B.A., Belfast—Afternoon teaspoons.

Miss E. Love, Tiviney—Sideboard cloths.

Mr. T. and Mrs. Sloan and family, Knockbrack—Jam dish.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Gamble, Castleberg—Gong and crumb tray and brush.

Rev. A. Leitch, Drumclaph—Butter dish.

Miss Sloan, Knockbrack—Afternoon tea cups.

Master Tom Baird, Spamount—Mug.

Miss Hamilton, Castleberg—Camisole.

Mrs. M'Cabe, Castleberg—Belleek flower pot.

Mrs. C. Hamilton, Felixstowe—Pendant.

Miss W. Aiken, Eglantine—Doyley mats.

Mr. J. M'Cully, Castleberg—Fruit spoons.

Miss R. Crockett, Burt—Table centre.

Rev. G. Henderson, Castleberg — Jam spoons.

Mrs. Robinson, Bangor—Afternoon tea-cloth.

Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Scott, Bray—Silver bread platter and knife.

The Misses Scott, Bray—Quilt.

Miss F. Whittaker, Edinburgh — Supper cloth.

CASTLEDERG MURDER TRIAL.

POISON IN TEA THEORY.

Farmer's Wife an Immovable Figure in the Dock.

PURCHASE OF STRYCHNINE.

The trial was opened yesterday of Mary Ann Sproule, who was indicted at the County Tyrone Assizes, Omagh, for the murder of her husband, William Sproule (50), a farmer, of Killeter, Laghtfoggy, Castlederg, on 13th May last.

Great public interest was shown in the trial, and long before Lord Justice Best took his seat on the bench the Court was crowded.

The prisoner, a woman of middle stature, aged about 39 years, and attired in a fawn coat with fur collar, showed little sign of emotion during the proceedings, and, sitting motionless in the dock, listened attentively to all that was said by the various witnesses.

The Attorney-General, in opening for the Crown, brushed aside the theories that Sproule, who met his death by strychnine poisoning, had himself administered the poison or taken it accidentally, and suggested to the jury the possibility that the prisoner had given him the strychnine in his tea.

When the jury were being empanelled there were eleven challenges on behalf of the Crown and one by the defence.

CASE FOR THE CROWN.

Attorney-General Negatives Theory of Suicide.

The Crown was represented by the Attorney-General (Right Hon. A. B. Babington, K.C., N.P.), Mr. Lowry, K.C., and Captain M'William (instructed by Mr. J. F. A. Simms, Crown Solicitor); and the prisoner was defended by Mr. Beattie, K.C., and Mr. Fox (instructed by Messrs. John M'Cay & Co., Strabane).

The Attorney-General, in outlining his case, said that the prisoner, Mary Ann Sproule, married her deceased husband thirteen years ago, and that there were five children, the eldest a boy of 12 years. Sproule had a farm at Killeter, and, being a hard-working and industrious man, was in fairly comfortable circumstances. In February last he injured the thumb of his left hand while cutting a hedge, and, as septic poison set in, he had to have his hand amputated at the County Tyrone Hospital, where he remained until his discharge on 1st May. While in hospital he wrote to his wife, and in one letter, dated 8th April, he said he was hoping to get home as soon as possible.

He got home on 1st May, said the Attorney-General, and on the 13th May he was dead. A neighbour named Patrick Maguire saw him on the 2nd May, and, notwithstanding the loss of his hand, he looked fairly well. Maguire also saw him in a field on the morning of the tragedy, and the deceased explained to him all about—

Mr. Beattie rose to protest against statements being given that had not been made in the presence of the prisoner.

His Lordship said the statement simply went to show that Sproule was an ordinary man.

The Attorney-General pointed out that it was part of the Crown case to negative the possibility of suicide, and proceeded to state that Sproule had been seen by other men since returning from hospital.

WAS THE POISON ADMINISTERED?

"There is nothing in this case," he said, "that can show that this unfortunate man was tired of life and that he had contemplated suicide." About 11-45 a.m. on 13th May Thomas Hamilton called at the house and was standing

at the doorway of the kitchen when he heard William Sproule "lamenting" and saw him lying on top of the bed-clothes, obviously in pain. By that time Sproule had swallowed strychnine, which caused his death about an hour later. Did William Sproule take the poison accidentally? If he did not, did he take it deliberately to end his life? If neither of those propositions was true, he must have had the poison administered to him, and the only hand that could have administered it was the hand of his wife—the one person in the world whose duty it was to care for and maintain him. He thought that when the jury had heard the case they would have little difficulty in ruling accident out as a hypothesis on which to base the death of William Sproule. The Attorney-General also discounted the theory of suicide, and said that the only two people who could possibly have known what took place was the prisoner and the deceased. The prisoner told Thomas Hamilton that her husband "had taken something."

WIFE DID NOT WEEP.

Thomas Hamilton would tell the jury that the prisoner was in no way put about by the attack that had come upon her husband, and other witnesses would say the same thing. She never wept. "Don't you think," asked the Attorney-General, "that had she been a distracted woman she would have ran for her neighbours to make some effort to save her husband?" The prisoner's statement to the police was that her husband had suffered from a weak heart, and that he died from natural causes, but his family doctor stated that he was a healthy man, and had never been subject to attacks of weakness. It was his (the Attorney-General's) submission that Sproule died in a convulsion, caused by the poisoning, with his body arched and his heels and the back of his head resting on the floor. Strychnine poisoning could not be mistaken. Sproule asked for a drink, but only wet his lips, and he then said to his wife, "Let me back easy for my heart is going."

STRYCHNINE IN TEA?

Doctors told them that strychnine was a substance which was not very soluble in liquid. It took a long time to dissolve. It had a bitter taste and a very minute dose was sufficient to cause death. It was one of the most deadly poisons. Mr. Totten, the public analyst, had examined the stomach of the deceased, and there

found a certain number of tea leaves, suggesting that Sproule had been given tea. "Why was that not mentioned by Mrs. Sproule?" asked the Attorney-General, in recalling the statement by the prisoner that her husband had only been given potatoes and an egg for dinner. He referred to a statement by Thomas Hamilton that Sproule told him before he died that he had words with "Young Sproule" that day, and that his wife gave him something in a cup. It was bitter, he said, and he only took a mouthful. His wife threw the rest in the fire. If that statement were true, the prisoner at the bar was beyond all doubt a guilty woman.

A CHILD WITNESS.

Sent to School on Day of His Father's Death.

Detective-Head Constable Robert Brown, Belfast, produced a ground map of the prisoner's home.

John James Sproule, a farmer of Laghtfoggy, but no relative of the deceased man, stated that on the morning of the tragedy he had occasion to go to Sproule's house for the loan of a harrow. He found Sproule to be in good spirits.

William John Sproule, aged 12 years, the eldest son of the prisoner, said that after an absence of six weeks he was sent to school by his mother on the day of his father's death. He was told on the evening before that he must attend. Since his father came from hospital on 1st May, he worked with him on the farm, and also had a conversation with him on the day before the tragedy.

The Attorney-General proceeded to ask the witness the nature of the conversation, but Mr. Beattie raised an objection which was upheld.

Sergeant Foley, Killeter, said that after Sproule's death was reported to him by George Watson, brother of the prisoner, he went to the house and there found the deceased lying on the bed fully clothed. The prisoner told witness that her husband had been out working in the fields and had returned about 11-30 a.m. He had his dinner, which consisted of potatoes and an egg, and then took a weak turn from which he died an hour afterwards. Before his death, she said, Thomas Hamilton, a neighbouring farmer, came into the house and asked her husband, who was in bed, for the loan of a horse. Hamilton got the horse, and while she was handing him the collar at the door of the house, her husband fell off a chair.

THE PRISONER'S STATEMENT.

A statement made to the witness by the prisoner on the following day contained reference to her husband having had a weak heart. He had told her that his legs were sore and tired when he went out at 10 a.m., and when he returned at 11 a.m. he took some potatoes and an egg. He complained of weakness in his heart, and asked her to assist him to bed, which she did. Thomas Hamilton, Laghtfoggy, then came to the house inquiring about a horse which the deceased said he could have. When she was handing Hamilton the collar for the horse her husband fell from a chair into which she had assisted him a short time before.

"I held the horse for Hamilton," the statement proceeded. "Hamilton shouted on me to give him a hand to lift my husband. I gave him a hand, and we both put him on a bed in the kitchen. My husband said something to Hamilton which I do not remember.

"Hamilton left and put the horse into the stable. He went for my brother, George Watson.

"My husband asked me for a drink of water. I gave him a drink, but he only wet his lips. He said, after he got the drink: 'Let me back easy, for my heart is going.' He died a short time afterwards."

The prisoner's statement concluded with a denial that she had purchased strychnine or any other poison at any time.

"POWDERS" FOUND UNDER A BED.

Sergeant Foley proceeded to state that after the post-mortem examination by Dr. Leitch he obtained the internal organs of the deceased, which he placed in two glass jars for examination by Mr. Totten, the public analyst, Belfast. Witness also found two powders wrapped in paper in a biscuit tin beneath the bed, and also some letters addressed to the prisoner.

Asked by the Attorney-General how the prisoner looked when he saw her, witness replied that she was "entirely indifferent" to what had occurred.

Mr. Beattie (interposing)—You know you have no right to say that, sergeant, when the question is under discussion. Do you think it is fair?

Counsel proceeded to refer to the rules of evidence, and suggested that the witness had no right to give to the Judge and jury his opinion of what had been in prisoner's mind.

Answering his Lordship, the sergeant stated that he had seen cases of women bereft of their husbands and children and noticed in their faces signs of grief. He saw no grief in the face of the prisoner.

Mr. Beattie asked his Lordships to note his objection.

The sergeant was cross-examined by Mr. Fox, after which the Court rose for lunch.

PRISONER'S SON RECALLED.

When the proceedings were resumed, Mr. Beattie was given leave to recall the prisoner's son, William John Sproule, who stated that he remembered his mother poisoning rats. His father had complained to him about pains in his heart.

Re-examined by the Attorney-General, the boy stated that his mother had spoken to him about the poisoning of rats, but when again questioned by Mr. Beattie he said that he had never seen his mother since her arrest.

Patrick Maguire, farmer, was about to be examined regarding a conversation he had with Sproule when Mr. Beattie again protested against the statements of third parties, made in the absence of the prisoner, being admitted as evidence. The only exception to the rule, he submitted, was when dying declarations were made.

The Attorney-General contended that he was entitled to offer the evidence in order to negative the suggestion of suicide.

His Lordship excluded the evidence, but reserved to the Attorney-General the right to recall Maguire at a later stage.

George Watson, a brother of the prisoner, who had been summoned by Sproule on his death bed, as he wanted to make his will, said that when he arrived at the house along with Thomas Hamilton, he saw the dead body of Sproule lying on the floor.

"A RUNAWAY MATCH."

To Mr. Beattie, the witness said that the prisoner was born on 4th August, 1891. Her marriage to William Sproule was a "runaway match," and the couple had lived on affectionate terms.

Thomas Hamilton, a brother-in-law of the deceased, was in the witness box for over an hour. He said that Sproule called on him at his farm on the day before the tragedy in order to pay for some straw, and that he was then in good spirits. On the following morning when he called at Sproule's farm for a horse he found the prisoner preparing some cattle food. Through the open doorway he heard someone "lamenting," and on looking in, saw Sproule lying on the bed with his

clothes on. He asked prisoner "what had come over William" and was told that he "had taken something." When spoken to, Sproule said he was going to die. Mrs. Sproule was in the kitchen and could hear the conversation. Having returned from the stable with the horse, said witness, he heard a rattle, like someone falling, and found Sproule lying on the floor partly against a chair.

SOMETHING IN A CUP.

He told witness that he had been given something in a cup. He only took a mouthful, he said, and that his wife threw the remainder in the fire. It had a bitter taste.

Witness was told by Sproule to go and fetch George Watson as he wanted to make his will. When he returned with Watson, the man was dead.

Cross-examined by Mr. Fox, he said he never denied what Sproule told him about the cup.

Evidence of the sale of 16 grains of strychnine to the prisoner on 11th April was given by Leo P. Daly, chemist, Castlederg. She had told him that the poison was for killing rats, and he made it up like two powders, which he placed in a packet labelled "Poison." Prisoner signed the register.

James Leslie Colhoun, employed by Miss Mary M'Coy, chemist, Castlederg, said he sold six lots of strychnine to the deceased, the last in June, 1929.

The evidence of Nurses Leyden and Watson, Tyrone County Hospital, regarding the condition of Sproule was objected to by Mr. Beattie, and the right of the Attorney-General to examine them later was reserved.

SYMPTOMS OF POISONING.

Dr. A. H. M. Eaton, surgeon at the County Hospital, said that Sproule was a healthy man. He was given a thorough examination before having his hand amputated under an anæsthetic and he made a good recovery before his discharge on 1st May.

Describing the effect of strychnine on the human body, Dr. Eaton said it caused the contraction of the muscles of the neck and trunk. There was a feeling of impeded respiration, and the victim was subject to violent convulsions. During the convulsions, the mind remained quite clear. It was characteristic of one who had taken strychnine to say that he was dying. That was caused by the restricted breathing. One grain of strychnine in a gallon of liquid would have a pronounced taste.

Dr. Leitch proved that Sproule had died

from asphyxia, whilst District-Inspector Welsh, who had arrested the prisoner, said she made the statement that "on her oath she gave her husband no poison." He said she showed no sign of emotion.

THE PRISONER EXAMINED.

Husband Said to Have Taken Strychnine Deliberately.

The prisoner was then examined for the defence, and was almost three hours in the witness box. In her direct examination she said that she had been married for fourteen years, and was 38 years of age. The wedding was "a runaway match." She had bought strychnine to poison rats and put it on bread and butter. When her husband returned from the hospital his health was all right, but he worried about the loss of his hand. He took weak turns, and when out in the field on one occasion he was missed. He was a strong man, but had been in debt for some time, and recently got into greater difficulties. There was a mortgage of £100 on the farm. When her husband was in hospital she visited him and sent him money. She had trouble with rats while he was away.

MILK OF A CURIOUS TASTE.

She gave him some milk for his dinner on the day of his death, and he thought that it had a curious taste. She told him that it was new milk, and, having tasted it, threw out the remainder. She denied that she ever heard of him speaking of making his will.

Cross-examined, the prisoner said she was convinced that her husband died of strychnine poisoning, but she could not suggest how he got the poison.

The Attorney-General—Do you think that he took it deliberately?

Prisoner—Yes, I do.

Did he ever say to you before this that he was going to die?—Yes. He took weak turns after coming out of hospital.

His Lordship—What did you mean by saying that he had "fallen quiet?"

Prisoner—I meant to say that he had gone to rest.

DEATH OF CASTLEDERG DOCTOR.

Dr. John G. Leitch, who was a first-lieutenant in the Medical Reserve Corps and attached to the Sixth United States Cavalry, and in charge of the Army base hospital at Marfa, Tex., has died at Marfa, recently, of para typhoid, a variety of typhus prevalent in that region, where it is also known as "Rocky Mountain fever."

He had been ill for some time, but his recent telegrams told his family here that he had so far recovered that his complete recovery seemed assured. The news of his death came as a great shock. He went to the Mexican border in July, and had been there ever since.

Dr. Leitch was forty years old. He was born in Co. Tyrone, and was the son of Rev. Andrew Leitch, late rector of Drumclaph, Castlederg. He graduated from the University of Dublin and taught in that institution before coming to the United States.

For some years after his arrival in Philadelphia, Dr. Leitch was employed at night in the foreign division of the Philadelphia

Post Office, but his ambition was to become a physician. Supporting himself by his night work, he attended the University of Pennsylvania, graduating from the School of Medicine with honours in 1910. For a time he was chief resident physician at the Polyclinic Hospital and was also a member of the staff of the Howard Hospital.

He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Georgina Hamilton, and by their three children, two boys, aged ten and three years respectively, and a girl of six years. During Dr. Leitch's absence at the Mexican border, Mrs. Leitch had closed their former residence at 5411 Christian Street, Philadelphia, and has been living with her mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, 5800, Elmwood Avenue. Mrs. Leitch was ill recently.

During his service at the border, Dr. Leitch was stationed at Fort Sam Houston at Marfa, and at Terlingua, Tex. He was placed in charge of an army hospital at Marfa, and won the esteem of the army surgeons under him to such an extent that a large floral remembrance will be sent by them to his funeral.

DR. W. J. LEITCH.

The death is announced of Dr. W. J. Leitch, medical officer of Sixmilecross dispensary district. He was 70 years of age, and had been in the service of Omagh Board of Guardians from 1893, when he was appointed medical officer of Carrickmore district. Six years later he was transferred to the medical officership of Sixmilecross.

At the meeting of Omagh Board of Guardians on Saturday, 14th inst., intimation was received from the Civil Service Commission of Northern Ireland that Dr. Leitch had applied for permission to retire from his position owing to advancing years.

Dr. Leitch was a brother of the late Mr. Andrew Leitch, solicitor and coroner, of Omagh, and of Mr. R. J. Leitch, who is a member of Castlederg Board of Guardians and Rural Council. He was a native of Scarvaghern, Castlederg.

He is survived by his widow, one son, Mr. J. M. Leitch, of Philadelphia, and two daughters, one of whom is the wife of Dr. Andrew Clements, medical officer of Irvinestown dispensary district, and the other the wife of Mr. W. Gray, Northern Bank, Belfast.

LEITCH—January 29, at his residence, Scarvaghern, John Leitch.

LEITCH—August 31, at Scarvaghern, Rebecca, C., infant daughter of Robert James Leitch, aged 3 months.