County Louth Archaeological and History Society

Relics of the Dundalk Volunteers of 1782

Author(s): Robert Day and É. Ua. M.

Source: *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*, Vol. 1, No. 2 (Jul., 1905), pp. 37-38

Published by: [County Louth Archaeological and History Society](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/27727782>

Accessed: 16/06/2014 05:58

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

County Louth Archaeological and History Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *Journal of the County Louth Archaeological Society*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

Dr. Joyce, in his grand work "The Social History of Ireland" quotes:—
 "The fame of the Irish hot-air bath must have found its way to the Continent, in some parts of which the people made baths in imitation of them, according to the following curious memorandum by the late Professor Henry Hennessy, F.R.S., in the *Kilkenny Archæological Journal* for 1885-86, p. 211:—"It is remarkable that what are called 'Turkish Baths' in Ireland and Great Britain have been designated Roman Irish baths in Germany and Bohemia. I saw baths designated 'Römische-Irische Bäder' at Prague and Nuremberg in 1879."

As to the distribution of these buildings not much remains to be said. A writer whom we have consulted, mentions several in Monaghan and Cavan; there are odd specimens existing up and down the country, but we have been able to locate only two in Co. Louth whose claims to be genuine are indisputable. Of these two we here present the photographs. The first (*Fig. 1.*) is situated on the south side of the Great Northern Railway embankment, about four miles out along the line from Dundalk to Inniskeen in the townland of Carricklea. Its internal space is something like 150 cubic feet, enclosed as already described. There is an interesting legend in connection with this house and the armies of James and William III., but it would be out of place to reproduce it here.

The specimen represented in *Fig. 2.* is romantically situated on the south slope of the Cooley mountains, hard by a noisy stream that frets its way down through Reilly's alt to the sea. The internal space is approximately 120 cubic feet, and the entrance door at present measures 2 feet by 1 foot. It now finds itself right in the middle of a little bit of tillage land, and is without the protection of either rock, or shrub, or tree, or any extraordinary solidity or unmanageableness of its own. Sentiment alone is its shelter. From an economic point of view, it now cumbereth the earth, but we are glad to say that the O'Reillys regard themselves as watchers of an heirloom of the nation, and that it is safe in their keeping. We have not been able to learn whether the Toigh-an-alluis was proprietary or communal.

S. uā c.

Relics of the Dundalk Volunteers of 1782.

THEIR PUNCH BOWL.

HERE is in the possession of Mr. Charles Hilland, Dundalk, the Punch Bowl of the Dundalk Volunteers of 1782. It is a fine capacious vessel, stands $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, is 12 inches in diameter at the mouth, and holds an imperial gallon. On the bottom, in the inside, is a fine illustration, showing two huge war-ships of the period—one English, the other French—both in full sail, and a battle proceeding between them. Underneath this illustration is the inscription:

"Success to the Dundalk Volunteers."

Evenly arranged around the outside of the bowl are four illustrations. These are:—

1. A group of five volunteers drinking round a large table. On the table is a large bowl, similar to the one described, and one of the men is filling his glass from

K

the bowl with a long-handled spoon or ladle. The glasses are tall and narrow ; on the table are a number of pipes with very long stems. One of the party is standing, with glass uplifted, apparently proposing a toast.

2. The Ruin of a Tower, resembling the Magdalen Tower at Drogheda, with large tree to the left.

3. Another convivial party round a table, with the same kind of bowl, ladle, glasses, and pipes, as in the preceding one. But this is a more thoughtful party than the other ; in the centre is an elderly man wearing spectacles and reading from a paper with the title *London Gazette*, and all are following him with rapt attention. These two illustrations are most interesting, showing as they do the dress, and something of the manners of the period.

4. This is a rural scene, showing a farmer's homestead beside a broad flowing river, with one of the houses projecting over the river and supported on stakes.

When the Volunteers developed into United Irishmen this bowl probably became a dangerous article for any householder to have in his possession. At any rate it would appear so, for it was built into the wall of a house in Dundalk, and there remained forgotten till comparatively recent times, when it was found on the wall being pulled down. A large piece having been broken out of the side of the bowl, it was neatly repaired with leaden clamps.

On the bottom, outside, is the name of the maker—"Wedgwood."

The Volunteers' Medal.

The following, contributed by ROBERT DAY, F.S.A. appeared in the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, of January 1900:—

IN connection with the Volunteer movement of 1782, Dundalk had three corps of Volunteers ; namely, the Dundalk Independent Light Dragoons, commanded by Captain Thomas Read ; the Dundalk Horse, by J. W. Forster ; and the Dundalk Artillery. The two officers named were among the five delegates from the County Louth, who by their presence helped to compose the Grand National Convention held at Dublin in November, 1783.

A memorial of the first of these cavalry corps has recently been added to my group of Volunteer medals and badges. It is a Maltese cross of silver, engraved, two inches in length, with a ring for suspension. On the centre of the obverse is the Irish harp in a circle beneath a crown, and on the limbs of the cross "Dundalk Light Dragoons ;" sprays of shamrocks, and a skull with cross-bones. The reverse has "Chas. O'Mara. Reward of Merit, 1780."

This is a very rare form of Volunteer decoration, and the only one that I have met. The emblems of the skull and cross bones are also uncommon, and may have been the badge of the regiment—as they are of the 17th Lancers ; or, with greater probability, O'Mara, the recipient, was a member of the Masonic order, as the emblems and the cross would alike have been suggestive to him as symbolical of the order. We have ample proof that many of the Irish Masonic lodges enrolled themselves into companies of Volunteers : for instance, the Ballymascanlon Rangers, whose lodge, No. 222, met in Dundalk from 1762 to 1821. They were altogether a Masonic Volunteer corps. A medal associated with it is in my collection, and has been published.—*Journal R.S.A.*, vol. iii., part 3, 1893.

É U A M.

COUNTY LOUTH ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THEIR PUNCH BOWL.

THEIR MEDAL.

RELICS OF THE DUNDALK VOLUNTEERS.

To face page 38.]

[Photo. by H.G.T.]