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THE STORY OF THE

O'BRIENS OF BANDON

AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

1875 TO 2013

Edited by Áine Hyland



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION		02
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS		04
CHAPTER 1.	The Coffey Family (Background)	06
CHAPTER 2.	The Family of Sarah (Coffey) and John O'Brien 1893 to 1920s.	10
CHAPTER 3.	The Family of Elizabeth (Lizzie) and Reynolds Slattery	16
CHAPTER 4.	The Family of Patrick Joseph (Paddy Joe) and May (née Burgess) O'Brien	18
CHAPTER 5.	The Family of James (Bonny) and Kathy (née Tobin) O'Brien	22
CHAPTER 6.	The Family of Lucy and Paddy Hall	28
CHAPTER 7.	The Family of Kitty and George Walters	36
CHAPTER 8.	The Family of John (Jackie) and Peg (néé Macmillan) O'Brien	38
CHAPTER 9.	The Family of Maurice (Manny) and Delia (née Gilroy) O'Brien	40
CHAPTER 10.	The Family of Timothy (Teddy) and Lily (née Lynch) O'Brien	42
CHAPTER 11.	The Family of Sarah (Iollie) and Pat Mulpeter.	48
CHAPTER 12.	The Family of Margaret (Peggy) and Thomas (Tom) Donlon	56

Introduction

This is the story of the family of John and Sarah O'Brien of Bandon, Co. Cork, Ireland. Sarah O'Brien was born in Desertserges near Ballineen, west of Bandon, on 20th May 1875. Her father was James Coffey, a farmer and master shoemaker, and her mother was Lucy (née Regan), a farmer's daughter from Desertserges. Sarah was the fifth of fourteen children. She married John O'Brien on 3rd June 1893 when she was 18 years of age. John O'Brien was born in Bandon on 3rd September 1858 and was a son of Patrick and Elizabeth (née Canty). He was a stonemason and was 37 years of age when he married Sarah. John O'Brien died around 1915 when his youngest child, Peggy was only a year old, and his widow Sarah outlived him by almost 50 years. She died in Dublin on 11th October 1963.

After their marriage, John and Sarah O'Brien lived on St. Patrick's Hill, Bandon, near St. Patrick's Catholic Church. (St. Patrick's Hill was called Staunton's Lane in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses of Population). They had eleven children, one of whom (Lily May) died young. The remaining ten married and had children. In all, Sarah O'Brien had more than 60 grandchildren. They in turn had more than 120 children, and the third generation of descendants already number more than 100. The year of the publication of this book, 2013, is the 50th anniversary of the death of Sarah O'Brien and at least 200 of her direct descendants are currently alive.

This book is a celebration of the remarkable courage and determination of a widow who reared and educated her young family in very difficult circumstances. There were no widow's pensions or social welfare payments in Ireland at the time of her husband's death – yet in spite of this, Sarah O'Brien ensured that each of her children grew up to earn a living and to do well in life. She was passionately committed to Irish independence and was actively involved in the War of Independence between 1918 and 1921, supporting Michael Collins and his followers. She was on the pro-Treaty side in the Civil War and was devastated by the assassination of Michael Collins in Béal na Bláth in 1922. For her work for Irish independence, she was awarded a service medal and a small pension by the Free State government, which she proudly held for the rest of her life.

The editor of this collection of stories is Áine Hyland (née Donlon), a grand-daughter of Sarah O'Brien and daughter of Sarah's youngest child, Peggy. Sarah was known to all her grandchildren as Nana (O'Brien). She spent a lot of time with the Donlon family when they were young, as she came to stay with the family to help her daughter Peggy, every time Peggy had a new baby. Since there were thirteen Donlon children, these were almost annual visits, usually six weeks long. Some of the older members of the Donlon family also spent time in Bandon with their grandmother during summer holidays in the late 1940s and early 1950s.

In the early 1960s, when Sarah was no longer able to live alone, she came to live with her daughter Peggy and family in Dublin. Áine shared a bedroom with her during those final years and heard many stories about Nana's earlier life. Áine was close to her grandmother and carried out various errands for her. She bought her a regular supply of Clark's High Toast snuff in a tobacconist on North Earl St., Dublin and she placed her daily bets with a bookmaker on Clanbrassil St. in Dublin as she (Áine) cycled to work. In the final year of Nana's life, her doctor ordered her to give up gambling as he maintained that it was bad for her heart, but Nana surreptitiously continued to pick her horses from the daily newspaper and placed her "shilling each way" bets with varying degrees of success! She also enjoyed her tot of brandy every night as she maintained it helped her to sleep.

If she were alive today she would be proud of her numerous descendants and of their various successes. This story is still incomplete as not all branches of the family have been traced to date. However, I regard this as the First Edition, and I look forward to receiving extended stories from those who have contributed to this collection and to new stories from those who have not yet had an opportunity to contribute.

Áine Hyland

30th June 2013.

Acknowledgements

This book has been published in association with the Gathering in August 2013 of the descendants of John and Sarah O'Brien of Bandon. The book is a family effort – descendants from almost every branch of the O'Briens of Bandon were involved in its production. An invitation was sent to all branches of the family to contribute to the book and the responses were many and varied. I would particularly like to acknowledge the help and support of Michael Mulpeter, son of Lollie and grandson of Sarah O'Brien who was involved in this project since its inception in summer 2012. Without his enthusiasm and expertise, the book would not have been possible.

Chapters 1 and 2 are extracted from The Story of a Family – written in 1988 by Tom Donlon, wife of Peggy O'Brien, who was the youngest daughter of John and Sarah O'Brien. I gratefully acknowledge receipt of additional information in relation to the Coffey family from Ray O'Connell, who is married to a descendant of the Coffeys of Desertserges and from Michael Mulpeter.

Josephine Hurley, daughter of Paddy Joe and May O'Brien, was very helpful in providing information about the family of Lizzie Slattery (Chapter 3) and about her own extended family (Chapter 4).

I am grateful to Fr. Seán O'Brien, son of James (Bonny) and Kathy for providing the text of Chapter 5. The information in Chapter 6 was provided by the descendants of Lucy Hall (née O'Brien), including Lucy and Pat Mulpeter, Patricia Frisby, Bernadette Cass and Martin Hall. Marguerite Carroll and Celine Corcoran helpfully contributed information on the family of their parents Jack and Peg O'Brien (Chapter 8). The story of Teddy and Lily and their descendants was written by their children, Ken and Dor (Chapter 10). As well as providing general information about his parents, Lollie and Pat Mulpeter, Michael wrote the bulk of Chapter 11 and additional information for this chapter was provided by his sister Teresa Harrison.

The chapter on the family of Peggy and Tom Donlon (chapter 12) was the work of many hands. As editor of the book, I prevailed upon all my brothers and sisters to write a section each, and the lengths of these sections varied considerably, as is evident to the reader. I am grateful to all of them for their help and engagement. I would particularly like to thank my sister Maeve Keegan

for her ongoing help in preparing, finalising and proof-reading the various drafts of the book and for helping to finalise the family tree.

Sincere thanks to all those who contributed photos for inclusion in the book, in the slideshow and on the website. I am aware that only a fraction of the photos can be printed and I hope it will be possible to disseminate all the photos which have been sent to me.

I am indebted to Brendan Donlon, owner of Design Tactics and to his colleague Lana O'Flynn, for the design and layout of the book. Brendan is a grandson of Peggy Donlon (née O'Brien) and a descendant of the O'Briens of Bandon and I am particularly pleased that the professional task of production was kept within the family.

I look forward to receiving many new contributions for the Second Edition of the book.

01
CHAPTER

THE COFFEY FAMILY (BACKGROUND)



Lucy Coffey (née Regan), mother of Sarah O'Brien (née Coffey). (c.1900).

Sarah O'Brien was born Sarah Coffey in Desert (sometimes called Desertserges) near Ballineen, west of Bandon, on 20th May 1875. Her father was James Coffey, a farmer and master shoemaker, and her mother was Lucy Regan, a farmer's daughter, born in Desertserges on 11th May 1852. According to Tom Donlon's family history,[1] James and Lucy Coffey had nine children – five sons and four daughters. However, more recent research, carried out by Ray O'Connell, who married a descendant of James and Lucy Coffey, indicates that there were 14 children in the Coffey family. According to his information, drawn from the records of the parish of Desertserges and from the 1901 and 1911 censuses, the 14 children were James (b. 1871); Ellen Mary (b. 1872); Denis (b. 1873); Sarah (b. 1875); Kate Jane (b. 1877); John (b. 1878); Lucy (b. 1880); Joseph (b. 1883); Maurice (b. 1885); Patrick (b. 1886); Daniel (b. 1890); Edward (b. 1891); Margaret (b. 1893) and Lily (probably b. 1894).

The family lived on or near the farm of James's father who was probably also a master shoemaker, and their workshop was on the roadside near the farm. James's main business was making boots and shoes to measure for the farmers and other well-off people of the area. His business seems to have prospered, because he usually employed several journeyman shoemakers.

In the mid 1880s, the family left Desertserges and moved into Bandon where James continued to work at his trade as a master shoemaker. This move seems to have taken place because of some dispute as to the ownership of the farm in Desert, possibly after the death of James's father, but a contributory factor was probably the decline in demand for hand-made boots and shoes caused by growth in the supply of factory-made goods, increasingly being sold by shops in towns and cities in the area. James probably hoped there would be more demand for his services in a town like Bandon than in a country district like Desert. That his business prospered reasonably well in Bandon is shown by the fact that two of his sons followed in their father's footsteps and carried on as shoemakers, after their father's death in May 1908. He was buried in Desertserges.

In the 1901 census, the family is shown as living on Bridge Lane, Bandon. In the 1911 census ten years later, Lucy Coffey is described as a widow, and she and her younger children are shown as living in No. 26 Greenmount Buildings, Cork City. At that stage, her granddaughter, Lucy (daughter of Sarah), then aged 11 years, was living with her grandmother in Cork city. At some stage in the following decade, Lucy Coffey lived for some time with her daughter Sarah (then a widow) in the house on St. Patrick's Hill, Bandon. She later went to live with another daughter, Katie, in No. 13 Cook St., Cork city and she died there on 28th April 1927. She is buried in St. Patrick's Graveyard in Bandon.

1. Tomás Ó Domhnalláin, Clann Ui Dhomhnalláin; The Story of a Family (printed 1988).

One of her sons, James, continued shoemaking in Bandon, while John had his business in Cork city. Both men married, but only John had family. Maurice, their brother, went away to sea and all contact with him discontinued. Daniel and Edward emigrated to London, but only Daniel had family and contact with them was maintained. Katie also went to London where she worked in the public-house business, eventually becoming manageress of a business there. When her mother grew older, Katie returned to Cork to look after her, and she was manageress of a public-house in Cork. When Katie retired she lived with her married niece, Lizzie (Slattery) in Capwell, Cork, until her death.

LUCY COFFEY (Mother Gregory, O.P.)

Two of the Coffey daughters, Lucy and Margaret (known as Maggie) became Dominican nuns. Lucy's name in religion was Sr. Gregory (she was known to all her nieces and nephews as Mother Gregory). She was born in Bandon, Co. Cork in 1880. She entered the Dominican Congregation in 1904 at the age of twenty-four. She spent her novitiate in Newcastle Natal (Africa) and made her final profession in 1905. Shortly after profession she was in charge of a small school for Indians in Newcastle Natal. At the request of Bishop Delalle, the Dominican Order agreed to take over a mission called Umsumsini and Sister Gregory (with Sister Alana and Sister Margaret) responded to this request. They travelled daily from Newcastle to Umsumsini by train and the last twenty miles by ox wagon. Within a few years, the mission expanded to a large number of out stations run by the nuns.

In 1934, Sister Gregory was asked by Mother Rose Niland to take over the running of St Elmo's, Umzumbe. Under Sister Gregory's initiative, African Sisters were admitted to the congregation. The candidates came mainly from the mission schools. At the request of Mother Rose, Sister Gregory was entrusted with the overseeing of new buildings: in Germiston, Port Shepstone, Primrose Hill, and St Albert's in Sunday's Well in Cork city. She was assigned to Cork by Mother Bruno in 1948.

When Mother John became Prioress General, Sister Gregory was assigned to Rome as Superior where she supervised the under-pinning of a convent building, Villa Rosa on the Aventine Hill in Rome, which had been damaged by the bombing raids during the Second World War. In September 1960, in Villa Rosa, Sister Gregory disturbed a burglar and she received serious injuries in the attack. At the time it was thought she might not survive her injuries. Michael Mulpeter, Lollie'son from London, was in Italy at the time on his honeymoon. (He had just married Maura Mangan). He and Maura travelled to Rome and stayed a couple of days in the Villa Rosa convent as guests of the

nuns. Initially she was not allowed visitors, but she gradually recovered. During their stay there, Michael and Maura attended a Papal Audience with Pope John 23rd at his Summer Residence in Castelgondolfo, thanks to the nuns.

Michael and Maura went to Italy some years later to visit the grave of Michael's uncle, Sgt. John Mulpeter of the Rifle Brigade. He was killed in action at Poggio Renatico in the province of Ravenna in April 1945. He is buried in the British War Cemetery at Faenza. During that visit, which was in the 1980s – long after the death of Mother Gregory, Michael and Maura again stayed at the Villa Rosa Convent.

Mother Gregory's last assignation was to St Mary's, Boxmoor, Hertfordshire, in the UK. By this time she was well advanced in years, but she busied herself making Carrickmacross lace. During her final months she was cared for by her fellow nuns until her death on the 4th November 1973 at the age of 93. In her obituary, she was described as "a practical, down-to earth woman who saw a need and left no stone unturned to answer it". It was noted that three of her grandnephews concelebrated at her Requiem Mass after which she was laid to rest in the cemetery at Rosary Priory in Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

MARGARET (Maggie Coffey)

> Margaret, her sister, left the Dominican Congregation after some years and married Pat O'Connor, an Englishman of Irish origin who settled in Africa after fighting for England in three wars: the Matabele War; the Boer War; and the 1914-1918 War. He worked in the copper mines in Rhodesia after the Great War until his retirement. Pat and Margaret O'Connor died in Africa without issue. Pat's first contact with Ireland was when he was sent for army training from England to the Curragh Camp in Co. Kildare about the time of the Matabele rising in South Africa.

02 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF SARAH (COFFEY) AND JOHN O'BRIEN 1893 TO 1920s.



Sarah O'Brien, her mother Lucy Coffey, her brother, Ned Coffey and Sarah's children – Lizzie, Paddy Joe, James (Bonny), Kitty, Jack, Maurice (Manny), Timothy (Teddy), Sarah (Lollie) and Peggy. (c.1917).

MARRIAGE OF SARAH COFFEY TO JOHN O'BRIEN, 1893

Sarah Coffey, who was born in 1875, married John O'Brien in Bandon on 3rd June 1893 when she was 18 years of age. John O'Brien was born in Bandon on 3rd September 1858 and was a son of Patrick Brien or O'Brien and Elizabeth (née Canty). (Patrick O'Brien married Elizabeth Canty in St. Patrick's Church, Bandon on 10th February 1849). The O'Briens were a Bandon family and Patrick was probably a stonemason, as three of his family followed that trade.

Sarah O'Brien (Coffey) always insisted that her husband was a proper skilled tradesman, i.e. a "saor" as distinct from a "both-saor", one who had not been properly apprenticed. We know of only five of the family of Patrick O'Brien and his wife Elizabeth – three boys and two girls. John, as we have seen, married Sarah Coffey and they lived on St. Patrick's Hill, near St. Patrick's Church in Bandon (referred to in the 1911 Census as Stanton's Lane and re-named St. Patrick's Hill after Independence in 1921). John's brother, Denis, was also a stonemason in Bandon and his descendants still carry on building activities in the Bandon area. The third brother, Ned, spent several years in the Jesuit Order, but left before ordination. He lived mainly with his brother's family in the house on St. Patrick's Hill, working spasmodically as a mason. He never married and left no issue. There were at least two daughters in the O'Brien family – Elizabeth and Katie. Elizabeth married a Shinkwin of Bandon and they reared a family of three daughters in that town. Katie married Patrick Murphy of Inishannon, but they too lived in Bandon, where they reared one son and one daughter. There may have been two other children – Michael (b. 5th Sep. 1854) and Mary (b. 23rd March 1862) but we have no further information about them.

As already stated, John O'Brien and Sarah Coffey married on 3rd June 1893. Sarah later told her grandchildren that she first met her husband "at the altar rails" so it would appear to have been an arranged marriage. They had eleven children, one born every second year between 1894 and 1914. (Their sixth child, Lily May, died in childhood, having been partially invalided because of an early accident.). John was employed as a stonemason by the Bandon and West Cork Railway and was engaged in building and maintaining bridges and tunnels on that railway. He died within a year or so of the birth of his youngest child, Margaret Mary (Peggy). His wife maintained that his death was due to working for protracted periods in smoke-filled tunnels on that railway.

He died about 1915 and was buried in Kilbrogan cemetery, Bandon. His grave does not appear to be marked but he was most likely buried in the "Brien" grave. In accordance with her own wishes, Sarah O'Brien was not buried with her husband. She had bought a single grave, close to her

mother's grave, in the graveyard attached to St.Patrick's Church in Bandon sometime in the 1940s or 1950s and she was buried in that grave when she died in 1963.

SARAH O'BRIEN – WIDOWED WITH TEN CHILDREN - 1915

When John O'Brien died in 1915, Sarah was faced with the challenge of rearing a family of ten, ranging from 19 years of age down to a year old. There was no social welfare in those days so Sarah had to turn her hand to whatever work she could find, in order to earn a living. She was a proficient needlewoman so she started sewing and dressmaking, and was particularly good at making curtains and loose covers for sofas and armchairs. She later talked about the kindness of the Church of Ireland Rector who employed her to re-cover the kneelers in the Church, and through this work, she became known to the wealthier Protestant families of Bandon who employed her to make curtains and loose covers in their homes. She was also an amateur midwife and at times, she helped to lay out the dead. She nursed patients who were dying of tuberculosis in their own homes and disinfected and whitewashed their houses (with lime) after they died. She was not afraid of nursing patients with contagious illnesses as she believed that her prolific use of snuff protected her against virulent germs. Her favourite snuff was Clark's High Toast snuff which she used all her life.

Sarah O'Brien was actively involved in the War of Independence and in the Civil War (1921-1922). She was fearless and indomitable (in spite of being responsible for her family of ten) and she later described how she carried guns under her Bandon cloak for the local IRA insurgents and provided shelter for men on the run. She described how she made and dressed dolls in the Irish colours of green, white and orange and she (provocatively) put them in the front window when she knew the Black and Tans would be passing by. Her daughter Peggy recalled that when she (Peggy) was five or six years of age, the family had to vacate their house and spend a few nights in Bandon Workhouse for their own safety, because the Black and Tans had threatened to burn down their house on St. Patrick's Hill.

Sarah O'Brien was passionately pro-Treaty, and after 1921, she played an active role in the Civil War, supporting Michael Collins and his followers, including carrying guns when required. She was devastated by the murder of Michael Collins in Béal na Bláth and spoke bitterly for the rest of her life about his assassins. Towards the end of her life, she had convinced herself that she had personally witnessed his murder and she had no hesitation in naming the individual whom she alleged had pulled the trigger. The charismatic personality of Michael Collins, and his popularity with women, could not have been more forcefully demonstrated than by Sarah O'Brien – a widowed mother of

eleven children, already in her mid 40s when he was killed, but totally infatuated by him and loyal to him. On her deathbed in Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross in October 1963, she pointed to the picture of the Sacred Heart and said: "There he is; waiting for me in Heaven; Michael Collins". For her service to the country, Sarah O'Brien was awarded a Service Medal and a small pension which she drew weekly until her death.

JOHN AND SARAH O'BRIEN'S FAMILY

Lizzie, the eldest of the family, was born on 9th April 1894. She worked in Cork in the Butter Market, having gone to live with her grandmother in Cork city. She subsequently married Reynolds Slattery and they lived all their lives in Capwell in Cork. They had seven children, five boys – Micheal, Seán, Reynolds, Joe, and Jim; and two girls – Sheila and Lucy.

Paddy Joe, the eldest son of the family, was born in 1896. He was being trained as a national teacher in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, when his father died in 1915. He later worked as a national teacher in Cork city, first with the Presentation Brothers on the Mardyke, and later as principal of the school on the Coal Quay (now the Cork School Project N.S.), where he spent the remainder of his life. He married May (née Burgess) and they had seven children, two little girls who died in infancy, three boys – Jack, Pat and Stan; and two other girls – Mary and Josephine. Paddy Joe died on 23rd February 1980 at the age of 83.

The third member of the O'Brien family, **James** (Bonny), was born on 11th January 1898. He was active in the War of Independence and worked in Brennan's Mill in Bandon where he eventually managed the office and accounts. His boss in later years was Joe Brennan, Secretary of the Department of Finance and later first Governor of the Central Bank. He married Kathleen (Kathy) Tobin and they had ten children – five boys and five girls. When the ESB took over the electricity plant in Bandon, which had been one of the activities of Brennan's Mills, and one of the last plants to be taken over by the ESB, James (Bonny) went to work with them and he and his family transferred to Cork city. He eventually became cashier in the Cork city office. He died on 22nd March 1988, aged 90.

Lucy, **Kitty** and **Sarah** (Lolly), three daughters of John and Sarah O'Brien, emigrated to London and all worked in the public house business. Lucy was born on 16th February 1900. She went to live with her grandmother in Cork when she was about 12 years of age. Kitty was born on 28 April 1904 and Lolly was born on 16th May 1912. All of them married proprietors or managers of public houses in

London, and finished up owning or managing their own premises. Lucy married Paddy Hall and they had five children, four boys and one girl. Kitty married George Walters and they had two children, Paul and Veronica. Both Lucy and Kitty spent their lives in London and both of them died and were buried there.

John (Jack) O'Brien, who was born in 1906, went to work in Brennans in Bandon in the office of the bakery and grocery story, eventually becoming manager of the office. He also had various outside interests, the main one of which was the Bandon Cinema which he managed and eventually owned and controlled for many years. He also had a lease of the Town Hall for some years and had a Dance Hall and Cinema in Ballinspittle. He was actively involved in the civic life of Bandon and was a member of Bandon Town Commissioners, being Lord Mayor of Bandon at one stage. He married Peg (née MacMillan) and they had six children, one boy, John, and five girls – Marguerite, Pauline, Winifred, Celine and Therese. Jack O'Brien died on 13th September 1972, aged 66.

Maurice (Manny) was born on 10th April 1908 and emigrated to London, where he married Delia Gilroy from Sligo, and spent the rest of his life there. He worked for British Rail and for the London Underground. He had three children – Sally, John and Teresa. He died on 4th December 1956 at the age of 48.

Teddy, born in 1910, became a national school teacher and taught in Upton and Clondrohid before moving to Cork city where he taught in the Presentation Brothers' national school in Turner's Cross for the latter part of his life. He married Lily (née Lynch) who was also a national school teacher. They had five children – three of whom died in infancy. The other two, Kenneth and Dorothy were born respectively in January and December 1946. Teddy was Vice-Principal in Turner's Cross when he retired in the 1970s. The family lived for some time in the 1950s in Boreenamanna Road, Blackrock, and later moved to Cleve Hill, Blackrock, Cork.

The second youngest child, **Sarah** (Lollie), was born on 16th May 1912. Like her sisters, Lucy and Kitty, she emigrated to London. She married Pat Mulpeter and they had two children, Michael and Teresa. Pat and Lollie were active in the licensed trade and managed a number of different licensed premises, including the Alexandra Hotel in Clapham Common, as well as playing a major role in the London GAA. They were well-known and very popular among the London-Irish community. They retired to Templeogue in Dublin in the 1970s. Lolly died in Naas, Co. Kildare on 18th December 1999.

Margaret Mary (Peggy), born in 1914, was the youngest of the family and after sitting her Leaving Certificate in the Presentation Convent in Bandon in 1932, she entered the Civil Service in Dublin where she worked in the Savings Bank section in the General Post Office in O'Connell St until her marriage on 3rd August 1938. Because of the marriage ban, which had been introduced in Ireland some years earlier, she was not allowed to continue to work in the Civil Service when she got married to Thomas (Tom) Donlon in 1938. Tom was a national school teacher and became a school inspector in 1948, being promoted to Assistant Chief Inspector in the 1970s. He was appointed Director of Institiuid Teangeolaíochta na hEireann (Irish Linguistic Institute) in 1973, a post he held until his retirement in 1980. Tom and Peggy had 13 children – five boys and eight girls. Peggy died in Dublin in 2001, aged 87 years.

03
CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF ELIZABETH (LIZZIE) AND REYNOLDS SLATTERY



Four Generations: Lucy Coffey (née Regan); Sarah O'Brien (née Coffey); Reynolds and Lizzie (née O'Brien) Slattery and their children Seán and Michael Slattery. (c.1924).

Lizzie, the eldest of the family of John and Sarah O'Brien, was born on 9th April 1894. She worked in Cork in the Butter Market, having gone to live with her grandmother in Cork city. She subsequently married Reynolds Slattery and they lived all their lives in Capwell in Cork. They had seven children, five boys – Micheal, Seán, Reynolds, Joe, and Jim; and two girls – Sheila and Lucy.

Micheal, **Reynolds** and **Joe** did not marry. **Jim** married Bridie and had three daughters. **Sheila** married and had two sons, Jim and Paul Ross. **Lucy** married Jim O'Donovan and they have five children, Jeremiah, Emmen, Elizabeth, Reynolds and James. Sheila died young and Lucy and Jim helped to bring up her two sons, Jim and Paul.

04 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF PATRICK JOSEPH (PADDY JOE) AND MAY (NÉE BURGESS) O'BRIEN



Fr. Jack O'Brien's Ordination, Mill Hill, London 1951. Included in the photo are Fr. Jack (seated front row, second from left); his parents Paddy Joe and May (standing behind him) and his grandmother, Sarah O'Brien, (seated middle of the front row).

Patrick Joseph (Paddy Joe), the eldest son of John and Sarah O'Brien, was born in 1896. He was a student in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, training to become a national school teacher, when his father died in 1915. When he completed his training, he taught in Cork city, first with the Presentation Brothers on the Mardyke for two years, and then as principal of St. Francis's boys' national school near the Coal Quay (now the Cork School Project N.S.), until he reached the age of 65 in 1961. He taught for a further two years in Christian Brothers College, Cork and finally retired at the age of 67 in 1963.

He married **May** (née Burgess) – born in 1900 - descendant of the famous architect (Burgess) who designed St. Finbarre's Church of Ireland Cathedral in Cork in the 18th century. May had worked in Fitzsimons' (an early boutique) on Patrick St. Cork, and was greatly admired by her younger sisters-in-law for her elegance. She was a skilled milliner with an impressive collection of hats. Paddy Joe and May had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood. They lived in no. 4 Tramore Villas, South Douglas Rd., Cork.

Their first-born was **Jack**, afterwards to become a priest of the Mill Hill Fathers. He was born in 1927 and was ordained a priest in 1951. Their second child was **Angela**, who was born in 1930 but who died in the fifth year of her life in 1934. Two boys followed – **Patrick** (Pat) who was born in 1933 and **Stan** who was born in 1936. Another daughter (Emma) Mary, was born in 1939 and two years later (in 1941) another little girl, Bernice, was born, but she only lived for a few months. Their final child, Josephine, was born on 1st March 1946. Mary was eleven years of age and Josephine was four years of age when their older brother, Jack was ordained in London in 1951. Josephine remembers that Pat was left in charge of his younger brothers and sisters when their parents went to London for Jack's ordination and she remembers the excitement when Fr. Jack arrived home to say his first Mass in Cork some days later.

May died in March 1970 at the age of 70. Paddy Joe died on 23rd February 1980 at the age of 83.

FR. JACK O'BRIEN

Jack (christened John Vincent) O'Brien was born on 20th July 1927. He grew up in Turner's Cross and was educated by the Presentation Brothers in Cork. He went to St. Joseph's College (a juniorate run by the Mill Hill Fathers) in Freshford, Co. Kilkenny in 1944. He left there in 1945 with Leaving Certificate Honours and after six more years of study, he was ordained in 1951 at Mill Hill, London. After his ordination as a Mill Hill priest, he returned to Cork where he attended UCC for four years, graduating with a First Class Honours degree in Geography and Sociology in 1955. He subsequently completed a Teachers' Certificate in Scotland.

He then went on missionary work to Africa where he spent eight years working in Teacher Training Colleges in Uganda. He came back to Ireland for holidays during that time, including a visit to officiate at the wedding of his sister Mary in February 1962. In 1964, he returned to Dublin and during the subsequent decades he served in several senior positions in Ireland. He was Rector of St. Joseph's, Dartry House; he spent two periods as Mill Hill Regional Superior in Ireland; he was Executive Secretary of the Irish Missionary Union. He was editor of Saint Joseph's Advocate for many years, a position he loved and which he used skilfully to develop and promote the Advocate. His final assignment was to St. Luke's Hospital as chaplain, a position to which he devoted himself generously. He died unexpectedly on St. Patrick's Day, 2008.

His obituary notice in the Advocate described him as "a dedicated missionary priest (who) fulfilled every assignment faithfully.… He nonetheless never suppressed his great love of life. He loved being with people, socialising with them and enjoying their company at home and abroad". He was a personal and spiritual support to a very wide range of O'Brien cousins and relatives. He officiated at christenings, marriages and funerals of his relatives and friends in Ireland, the UK and overseas. He kept in touch with relatives from various branches of the family and was much loved by his siblings, cousins, nieces and nephews. He was a friend and a source of comfort to hundreds of cancer patients and their families during his later years as counsellor and chaplain in St. Luke's Hospital and in Our Lady's Hospice in Harold's Cross in Dublin. His support was loving and unconditional – he judged nobody and was available morning, noon and night to anyone who needed him.

He was supported in his personal and professional life by his friend, Eileen Keane, who worked with him in a wide variety of contexts, from missionary work in Uganda and other African countries – to his counselling role in palliative care settings such as St. Luke's Hospital and Our Lady's Hospice.

Pat, the second son of Paddy Joe and May, was born in 1933. He married Dom O'Callaghan and they have three children, Colm, Tom and Brian. Colm married Evelyn. Tom married Marian and they have two children; Brian is also married and they have two children. Pat and Dom live in Rochestown, Co. Cork.

Stan was born in 1936, the youngest son of Paddy Joe and May O'Brien. He was called Stan after his mother's brother, who was a Christian Brother in Belfast. In 1962 Stan married Joy Dalton and they have three daughters - Geraldine, Gillian and Gwen. Stan worked in An Bord Gais for 47 years, ending his career as Customer Relations Manager.

Geraldine, Stan and Joy's eldest daughter, married Pat Downing in 1988 and have two children - Ian and Gemma. Gillian and her then boyfriend Ken Anthony, who is now her husband, spent twelve years in New York . During that time they got married and had two children - Matthew and Allison. On their return to Ireland, they had two more children - Brian and David. Gwen, the youngest, married Kevin Claffey in 1998. They have four children, three girls and one boy - Emily, Katie, Sophie and Daniel.

Mary, the fifth child of Paddy Joe and May, was born in 1939 and went to Christ the King Primary School in Turner's Cross and then to the South Presentation Secondary School in Cork. She worked in the commercial world before her marriage to Frank O'Keeffe on 27th February 1962. She and Frank have two daughters, Angela (b. 1968) and Carol (b. 1971). Mary and Frank continue to live in the house in which Mary was born, no 4, Tramore Villas, South Douglas Rd., Cork.

Josephine was born on 1st March 1946. She also attended Christ the King Primary School and the South Presentation Secondary School. She married Michael Hurley on 17th September 1969. Michael died suddenly on 14th February 1985. Josephine lives in Blackrock, Co. Cork.

05 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF JAMES (BONNY) AND KATHY (NÉE TOBIN) O'BRIEN



The family of James (Bonny) and Kathy O'Brien, taken in the mid 1940s. Included in the photo are all their children — Sally, Betty, Seán, Kathleen, Michael, Jim, Neilus, Mary, Lucy and Teddy.

James (Bonny) was the third child of John O'Brien and Sarah Coffey. He was born in Bandon on 11th January 1898. On 3rd June 1924 he married Kathleen (Kathy), daughter of Cornelius Tobin and Elizabeth (nee Nash) in Bandon Parish Church which is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick. They lived for a time in Bandon's Town Park where the first three of their ten children were born. Of the remaining seven children, all but two (Teddy and Lucy) were born in Bandon. After the first few years of their marriage, Bonny and his wife, settled in St. Patrick's Hill Bandon, formerly Staunton's Lane, next door to Bonny's mother, Sarah. For the older three girls, school meant a long tedious walk and climb in all weathers to the convent school on Convent Hill past Kilbrogan Hill. Sean was the only boy of the family to attend school in Bandon – first at "Murphy's School" (St. Fintan's) on Gallows Hill (now Chapel St) and then at Warner's Lane School (St. Patrick's). To reach that by a shortcut, he climbed over the garden wall into his grandmother's garden and from there on to Warner's Lane.

The eldest daughter of the family, **Sally**, who trained as a ladies' hairdresser and loved ceili dancing as well as being very proficient on the piano, married New Zealand carpenter, Jim Dudley, in Douglas parish church, Cork. They settled in Auckland, N.Z., where they had four children - Marian; Carolyn; Paul; Bernard and John. Jim died at the age of 46 and Sally died aged 61. Their children keep regular contact with the family in Ireland and visit from time to time. Marian married Paul Kane and they have three children - James, Sarah and Amy. Carolyn married Steve Aperahama and they have two children - Catherine and Shannon. Paul married Geraldine and they have two children - Renee and Zak. John married Veronique and they have two children - Loughlin and Elinor.

Bonny and Kathy's second daughter, **Betty**, went to work for her Auntie Lollie and husband Pat Mulpeter in London in her mid teens. In due course she met and married Sligo man Andy Farry in London where they settled. Two children were born to them there – Bernard and Stephen. Andy worked as builder while Betty moved from her job with the Mulpeters to work as a typist. After many years there, they returned to Cork and settled in Turner's Cross. Andy was a foreman for some years in the building of the Cork University Hospital before he retired. Betty died in 2011 aged 86. Andy continues to live in Turner's Cross close to his son Bernard, and his son Stephen, his wife Fiona and family live not far away.

Seán was the third child. After ordination as a Mill Hill Missionary priest, he spent 42 years with the Maori people in New Zealand. He then came to England where he was Parish Priest of Hersden parish some eight miles from Canterbury in Kent. After some years there, he now lives in retirement in the Mill Hill house at Rathgar, Dublin.



Fr. Seán O'Brien's Ordination, Mill Hill. London 1951. Back Row: Paddy Davis; Rennie Slattery: Reynolds Slattery; Manny O'Brien; Michael Mulpeter; Pat Mulpeter. Middle Row: (?); Joe Hall; Jimmy Hall; Fr. Nevin; Lucy Coffey; Paddy Joe O'Brien; Mrs. Coffey; Marguerite O'Brien; Dando Coffey; Lucy Hall with baby Lucy Mulpeter; Peggy Mulpeter; (? Coffey); Delia O'Brien; Veronica Walters; (? Two Coffeys); Betty Farry; Front Row: (?); Kitty Walters; May O'Brien; Fr. Jack; Sarah O'Brien; Fr. Seán; Rose Mulpeter; Sally O'Brien; Ann Hall; Kneeling: Paul Walters; Teresa Mulpeter; John O'Brien; Teresa O'Brien; John Hall. Seated in front row: Bridget Hall.

Kathleen was the fourth to be born, but before the move to St. Patrick's Hill. She was the only one to be born in the house on the "Back Quay" around the corner from St. Patrick's Hill, where Neilus, Jim, Michael and Mary were born. The midwife for all the births was Nurse Shinkwin. Not long after Mary was born, the family moved to Cork at the end of 1939. The move to Cork came about as a result of the ESB spreading its wings with the rural electrification scheme it initiated. That entailed "taking over" local generating plants. There was one such at the Bandon Mill where Bonny worked. His accountancy skills were noted, and the E.S.B. offered him employment in Cork. After a year or so, he decided that a move to the city was preferable to "commuting" back and forth to Bandon (though the word "commuting" was unheard of then!). Home was "Rosegreen", Curragh Road where Mary's son, Patrick, now lives with his Co. Clare wife Mairead and daughter Rachel. The change of schools for the girls meant attending Christ the King Convent School at

Turner's Cross and South Presentation Convent School in Douglas St. in the city. For the boys there was just Christ the King Boy's School at Turner's Cross.

Kathleen entered the Dominican Order in London, taking the name Sister Laetitia. She became head teacher for many years at the Order's Parish School at Burnt Oak, London, as well as Prioress of the convent for a time. Ill health saw her move to the Eastbourne convent on the south coast. After some twenty years there, she now lives in retirement at the Order's retirement and Head House in the pleasant, semi-rural setting of Bushey Heath on the edge of London.

Neilus, after leaving school, worked initially for the Civil Service in Dublin, but left to become a priest. When he completed his studies in Carlow, he was ordained there in 1962 and joined the Christchurch Diocese in New Zealand. Ill health, due to severe asthma, dogged him for most of his life, and, after some 14 years in NZ, forced him to return to England. There, he served in several chaplaincies for a number of years. He spent his first years of retirement in Warminster, Wiltshire and then moved to East Anglia where he died on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul in 2012. He was buried in the family plot in St. Finbarr's cemetery, Cork.

Jim was the sixth child and his first job was in Ford's in Cork. Seeing no future there, he left and moved to London. There, after finding his feet in England, he eventually climbed the employment ladder and became a mining company executive dealing in minerals, work which entailed travelling overseas at times. He was very pleased when his travelling days came to an end and he found himself based permanently on the edge of London. But even that meant daily commuting from Bishops Stortford. He married Barbara from London and together they raised a family of three children – Paul, David and Sharon. Unfortunately, Jim's retirement was a short one, and he died in Bishops Stortford at the age of 68. Barbara still lives in the family home, and thankfully, is making good progress to full health after a long and serious illness.

Michael, born in October 1936, worked for a short while in Galway for the railways after he passed the necessary exam before finishing school. But like Jim, he decided that there were better prospects in England for advancing his career. He joined the Nestle company which trained him as an internal auditor, and from there he moved to the Corporation of London where he became involved in finance. He married Sara and they had two children – Mark and Clare. On occasion, Michael had to attend functions at the Guildhall, and on one of these had the task of making "The Book" available for dignatories to sign. As he tells it, the Queen and Duke, still very young, greeted him, the Duke ordering a drink to be brought to Sara, while the young Queen danced briefly with him! After being headhunted by a large French company in the City, London's financial district, he spent several successful years there. Eventually, he decided to operate independently and set

himself up as a financial consultant. When he retired, he moved to Essex. He and Sara now enjoy their retirement in the pleasantly quiet surroundings of Frinton-on-Sea, Essex with their children and their families not far away.

Mary, born in Bandon but raised in Cork, worked locally in Cork when her schooldays were over. Her life took a new course when she met a young man from Mourne Abbey, Tom Burke by name, whom she married in the local Christ the King parish church. After purchasing a property in Inniscarra, they settled there and had five children – Patrick, Jim, Michael, Thomas and Mary. Mary's husband, Tom, as a fitter and turner with many other skills, worked with those skills for many years before retiring. However, retirement at times, is something of a busman's holiday with his skills and expertise often in demand. Meanwhile, Mary, with her green fingers, ensures that weeds don't get a chance of survival and flowers thrive, whilst her cooking and baking skills are not allowed to rest for long.All five children are married. Patrick married Mairéad and they have a daughter, Rachel. Jim married Ruth and they have two daughters – Laura and Aideen. Michael married Hilary and they have three daughters, Amy, Katie and Evie. Thomas married Emer and they have three sons – Conor, Mark and Jack. Mary married Mark Needham.

Lucy, like her sister Kathleen, became a Dominican nun with the name Sister Bernadette. She has been in South Africa from her early teenage years. Ever a teacher, she has lived and worked in all-white areas and also in local African and mixed race areas even during the days of apartheid. Trained in music, her expertise in that area is often in use. At present, she is semi-retired in Johannesburg, and hopes to keep making her three-yearly trip home as long as she can.

Last, but not least, is **Teddy** who did all his schooling at Turner's Cross before joining the Sacred Heart Missionaries based in Cork. Studies in Leap and Galway, and graduating from University College Cork, saw him ordained in 1966. The early years of his priesthood had him teaching in the Order's schools at Princethorpe, Warwickshire. There followed a varied and colourful career at Birmingham's Aston University, Parish priest of the busy Tamworth parish, and the rather radical move as a chaplain to two top-security prisons on the Isle of Sheppey. He spent ten long years there. He even found the time to study and to graduate as a psychotherapist. He now resides in the peaceful rural setting of St. Anne's parish of Wappenbury in Warwickshire in which his Princethorpe school is located. Busy as ever, nonetheless the quiet, restful setting offers an opportunity to "chill out" when needed.

Treasured by the family is a medal received by Bonny from Uachtarán na hEireann (the President of Ireland) after Independence acknowledging his efforts in the struggle for freedom. The medal is inscribed simply with the words "Cogadh na Saoirse" (The War of Freedom).

Treasured also by the family is the memory of their father's marvellous expertise with figures, as he often used his qualification in accountancy to solve what to his children seemed impossible maths problems. Their memory regarding their mother, Kathy, is twofold as they recall her skill as a cutter, dressmaker and seamstress – a family trait from her father who was a tailor; and secondly, her outstanding ability in cooking and baking. She like Bonny, came from a large family of seven children, one boy and six girls. All are now deceased though the Tobin name lives on in Bandon in many relatives.

Kathy died on the 27th November 1976 aged 78. Bonny died on 22nd March 1988, aged 90. Both were buried in St. Finbarr's Cemetery after Mass and funeral rites in Christ the King Church, Turner's Cross. They are remembered by their children with gratitude.

06
CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF LUCY AND PADDY HALL



Wedding of Paddy Hall and Anne Mangan in London, 18th November 1952. Included in the photo are Paddy's mother, Lucy Hall (née O'Brien); his sister Peggie and his brothers Jimmy and Michael. Also included are many other relatives.

Lucy O'Brien was the fourth child of John and Sarah O'Brien. She was born on 15th February 1900. She left school at 12 and helped to look after her ageing relatives. In the 1911 census Lucy was shown as living with her Coffey grandmother in Cork city. She moved to London sometime between 1917 and 1918 and got a job as a maid in a public house. She met Patrick Francis Hall of Killenaule, Co. Tipperary and they married on 20th September 1919.

They started their married life and business in 'The Cutt', an area opposite the Old Vic Theatre in South London, in a pub called the Pear Tree. The business provided a job for many a young Irish immigrant hoping to make their fortune in London. They moved from this business to another pub called the Lancaster Arms (affectionately known as the Round House) in Notting Hill, West London. The area was most famous for the Rillington Place murderer John Christie, a notorious English serial killer who strangled 8 women – including his wife Ethel and buried them under the floorboards. Christie was arrested and convicted of his wife's murder, for which he was hanged.

Lucy and Patrick made a very good living from the pub but all was not happy in their personal relationship and they parted company for a while. During this time, Lucy continued to successfully run the pub single handedly. She was well known in the area for having a very good business where there was never any trouble. Lucy was a very private, determined woman who did not share her opinions and views with many people – possibly one of the reasons why she was such a successful publican. She followed a daily routine which included dealing with her paperwork in the morning, playing crib with three of her friends in the side bar in the afternoon, whilst having her one tipple of the day which was a Babycham. Although Lucy made a considerable amount of money from her business, she was aware of the difficulties that those who lived in the area experienced. She frequently arranged outings for the local men and ensured that their children were looked after if in need. She was known for her loyalty to her employees, one of whom had Type 1 Diabetes and needed regular hospital care. Despite this, Lucy ensured that his job was kept open for him to return to.

Lucy and Patrick had six children. The first **Catherine**, died of Spanish flu in the early 1920's, **Louisa** (known as Peggie), **Patrick** (known as Paddy), **James** (known as Jimmy), **Michael** and **John**, who had learning disability and died in his early teens. Lucy also miscarried two other babies. During the war years and Blitz, Lucy was concerned for the safety of her children and they were evacuated to their maternal grandmother Sarah in Bandon. Michael Mulpeter (Lollie and Pat's son) was also evacuated at the same time. The English O'Briens experienced Irish life for the first time and all loved it and spoke of their time in Ireland with fondness.

Lucy ensured that all her children had an exceptionally good education. Peggie, Paddy and Jimmy all attended boarding school in Hertfordshire. Michael being the youngest was educated nearer to home. Despite their education, Lucy expected her children to assist in the pub and as each reached working age, they duly took their turn in the business. Lucy wanted one of the children to take over the business but this was not to be and she retired from her business in 1961. Her husband, Patrick Hall, had died in 1949.

The Lancaster Arms saw the wedding celebrations of four Hall children. In 1951, Paddy married Anne Mangan, a nurse from Cahirciveen, Kerry, with Father Jack O' Brien, a son of Paddy Joe and May O'Brien from Cork, and Paddy's first cousin, performing his first marriage ceremony having just been ordained. (Anne Mangan was a sister of Maura Mangan who married Michael Mulpeter, the son of Pat and Lollie). Fr. Jack joined Paddy and Anne on their honeymoon to Ireland, where they visited family in Bandon and Kerry. The Lancaster was also home to Peggie, Lucy and Pat Mulpeter as well as to Paddy Hall and his family. With six young children above the pub in the late 1950s and early 1960s and only a backyard full of crates and barrels, the large landing became an indoor football pitch and playground and the stairs a slide for the children!

Following her retirement, Lucy initially stayed with her son Paddy and his family for a short while, before moving into the lower part of a house in Harlesden which Paddy and his wife Anne owned. However, being on her own was in stark contrast to the busy and social atmosphere of the pub and Lucy became lonely. Despite visits and support from her children, her health deteriorated and she was no longer able to live alone. She went to live with her daughter Peggie and her family in Streatham and remained happily living with them for a number of years until her death on 28th April 1970. She is buried in the Catholic cemetery in Leytonstone, East London.

PEGGIE MULPETER (née Hall)

Peggie married Anthony Joseph Mulpeter (known as Joe) who was the younger brother of Patrick Mulpeter, married to the younger Sarah (Lollie) O'Brien. They had two children Lucy jnr and Patrick jnr. They too had a pub and were excellent publicans but Joe unfortunately started to drink too much and gambled away the profits of the business. Peggie took an unprecedented decision to leave Joe and returned to her mother Lucy and her family home. Peggie's children Lucy and Pat were 7 and 4 respectively at the time. Leaving her husband in 1957 (especially as the family were practising Catholics) was a very brave and difficult thing for her to do. Peggie helped Lucy in the pub but decided that she needed to do something else. She got herself a job in the offices of J.Lyons (famous for their tea houses) and worked as a personal assistant for a while. She then decided to train with the G.P.O as a telegraphist and met many of her long standing friends whilst working there.

When Lucy (her mother) decided to retire from the pub, Peggie needed to find alternative accommodation for her family. She moved them to a flat in Streatham and they lived there for a couple of years. This was a very different life to the one she had previously led. During this time, Joe had suffered ill health and was hospitalised for 6 months with a slipped disc. Lucy jnr pleaded with Peggie to take Joe back and to her credit, Peggie reunited the family group. Peggie continued to work hard and in 1963 she bought a terraced house in Streatham for the family. The family lived there for a number of years. Joe died on 1st October 1971. He is buried in Streatham Cemetery in Tooting, South London.

In 1982, after a long period of ill health, Peggie was diagnosed with the terminal illness multiple myleoma and was given three months to live. Peggie's daughter Lucy had married Malcolm Bowers on 8th June 1974. Lucy worked for Marks and Spencer in a senior managerial role until her daughter Alexandra was born on 21st April 1978. They also had a son James who was born on 28th March 1981. When Peggie became ill, she moved to be with Lucy and her family, as the doctors had advised that she did not have long to live. Peggie did not give up – she continued to drive her car, look after her grandchildren and stayed with her son Pat in Hastings on a regular basis. Previously, the longest anyone had survived with multiple myeloma was a young man in his twenties who had lived 7 years. Peggie astounded her doctors and lived for nearly ten years with the illness. She died on 29th December 1991 and was cremated at Croydon Crematorium. Her daughter Lucy and her husband Malcolm parted company after 26 years of marriage.

Lucy is now happily married to Peter Marlow and lives in Epsom. She was a social worker for older adults but has recently retired due to ill health. Her daughter Alexandra is a Senior Manager with a Housing Association in Hove. Alexandra lives with her partner Craig Price in Lancing, West Sussex. Lucy's son James worked in logistics for J. Sainsbury's but decided to backpack around Australia. He has since settled in Den Haag in Holland. He is fluent in Dutch and currently manages a very successful Sports Bar in the capital.

Pat – Joe and Peggie's son is a talented musician and spent the first 15 years of his working life travelling the world with his music. He played to large audiences in Moscow, St. Petersburg and several other big cities. Later he trained as a HGV and PCV driver and instructor and has run a successful transport consultancy business. He was General Manager for Central Parking Systems for over 10 years. He currently lives in Sunbury and retired from full time employment in 2008. However, he is still a prominent figure in the transport scene within the capital.

PATRICK CHRISTOPHER HALL (Paddy)

> Paddy Hall, the eldest son of Patrick Francis and Lucy Hall, was born on 17 December 1927. He left school at the age of 15 and joined the family business in The Lancaster Arms and worked there until 1958 when he left to join Unwins, a firm of off licences. The family then moved to Blackstock Road, Finsbury Park and it was from here that Maura Mangan married Michael Mulpeter.

In 1961 Lucy asked her son Paddy to return to the family business which he did, along with his three children, **Patricia** (b 1953), **John** (b1954), **Geraldine** (b1956) and wife, Anne, who was expecting their fourth child, **Brian**, who was born on 21 April 1961 shortly after they moved in. Two years later Paddy returned to work for Unwins and the family moved to All Souls Ave, Willesden where he worked at the Kensal Rise off licence with Billy Mulpeter, who was Lucy and Pat Mulpeter's uncle. This was a temporary position as he was waiting for a new off licence to be built on a bombed site in Portobello Road. The family moved there in 1964 and lived above the shop in Portobello Road, which was the site of the famous street market. Life here was never dull being part of London's 'swinging sixties' scene with Lord Kitchener's Valet, selling old military uniforms, just across the road and with the West London carnivals taking place in August each year. Paddy played the accordion and was a lifelong supporter of Queens Park Rangers football team. He was a really fun loving and kind father and despite working long antisocial hours in the pub trade, he always found time to play with his children in the park after school between work shifts and make the yearly August holidays

extra special. The family lived in Portobello Road until Paddy died aged 48, on 15 August 1976 after which time Anne and the four children moved back into All Souls Ave. To date Paddy has 13 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

JIMMY HALL

> Jimmy Hall was the second son (third child) of Paddy and Lucy Hall. By the age of 14 Jimmy had started training as a car mechanic. One of his memories as a 15 year old, towards the end of World War 2, was being asked by officials in the street why he wasn't in the forces. He later joined the RAF for around 18 months for his National Service.

Jimmy married Catherine (Cathy) Neville on 9th February 1954. After their wedding, Jimmy and Cathy moved to suburbia – firstly to Ealing, then to Greenford, where they bought their first house. In the mid sixties, Jimmy became interested in decorative metal work, rather than the metal work found on cars. The first inkling his daughter, Bernadette, had of this interest was when he brought her home some silver plated pennies when she was stuck in a dark bedroom (curtains always shut) with a bout of measles (circa 1965).

Jimmy left his employment at the garage and set up his own business in a basement workshop in Old Quebec Street, Marble Arch, London. This is where he taught himself to repair vases, lamps and clocks for Harrods and soon started to make new creations from old pieces of metal, specialising in cloisonné.

Jimmy met up with his cousin Margaret (nee Hall), in the late sixties. Margaret lived in Ilford, Essex and Jimmy decided to open up his own Antiques shop, Tara antiques, in Ley Street, Ilford, named after Margaret's dog, Tara. Jimmy, Cathy, Bernadette and Christine moved to Chigwell in 1971. Jimmy and Cathy would regularly go to the Irish club in Seven Kings with Margaret and her husband Bill for dances, which they all loved. When Margaret died and soon after her husband Bill died, their son Mark (aged 11) came to live with Jimmy and Cathy and their daughter, aged 8, went to live with Bessie (one of Margaret's sisters) and her husband Kevin.

Jimmy was a devout Catholic and served as a Eucharistic Minister in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption, Hainault. As an active member of his parish's Justice and Peace group he regularly wrote letters to prisoners of conscience. He also regularly went on pilgrimages to Lourdes and Medjugorje.

Before retiring early, Jimmy worked for a few years with long-term patients in Claybury psychiatric hospital. He suffered from early onset Alzheimers and died aged 62 less than a month after his sister Peggy. He is buried with his wife Cathy at Chigwell Cemetery in a beautiful plot that they chose together in 1983.

MICHAEL HALL

> Michael was the third son born on 20th June 1931 to Lucy and Patrick Hall. He was brought up in the Pear Tree Public House, The Cutt, Waterloo and latterly at the Lancaster Arms, Notting Hill. Michael's father Patrick Francis Hall died on 3rd February 1946.

Michael met his future wife Marlene Critchard at work at Haden Housing where he started work as a plumber's mate and spent all of his working life, ending up as a senior manager. During his teens, Michael was a keen footballer and had a spell training with Queens Park Rangers. After the war, Michael completed his national service as a fighter plotter in the RAF and on 17th June 1956, Michael married Marlene at St Francis of Assisi Church, Notting Hill with the reception at the Lancaster Arms. On return from honeymoon in Torquay, they moved to Hassocks Road in Streatham where they set up home and had 3 children; **Peter** (b. 17th April 1958), **Anne** (b. 17th March 1960) and **Martin** (b. 22nd May 1965). In 1966, the family moved to Hornchurch Hill, Whyteleafe in Surrey where they all lived until after the children had grown up and left home. Michael took early retirement and he and Marlene moved to Javea in Spain in 1988. Whilst at Whyteleafe, Michael played a vital role in supporting the local Catholic Church and was also heavily involved in supporting catholic charities and helped form the local Knights of St Columba council to which he devoted much of his spare time, including adventures such as driving a donated caravan to Italy following the earthquake in 1980.

Michael and Marlene lived in Spain until 2000 when they returned to UK, due partly to Michael's deteriorating health. Upon returning to England, Michael and Marlene set up home in March, Cambridgeshire where Marlene continues to live and where Michael passed away in April 2007.

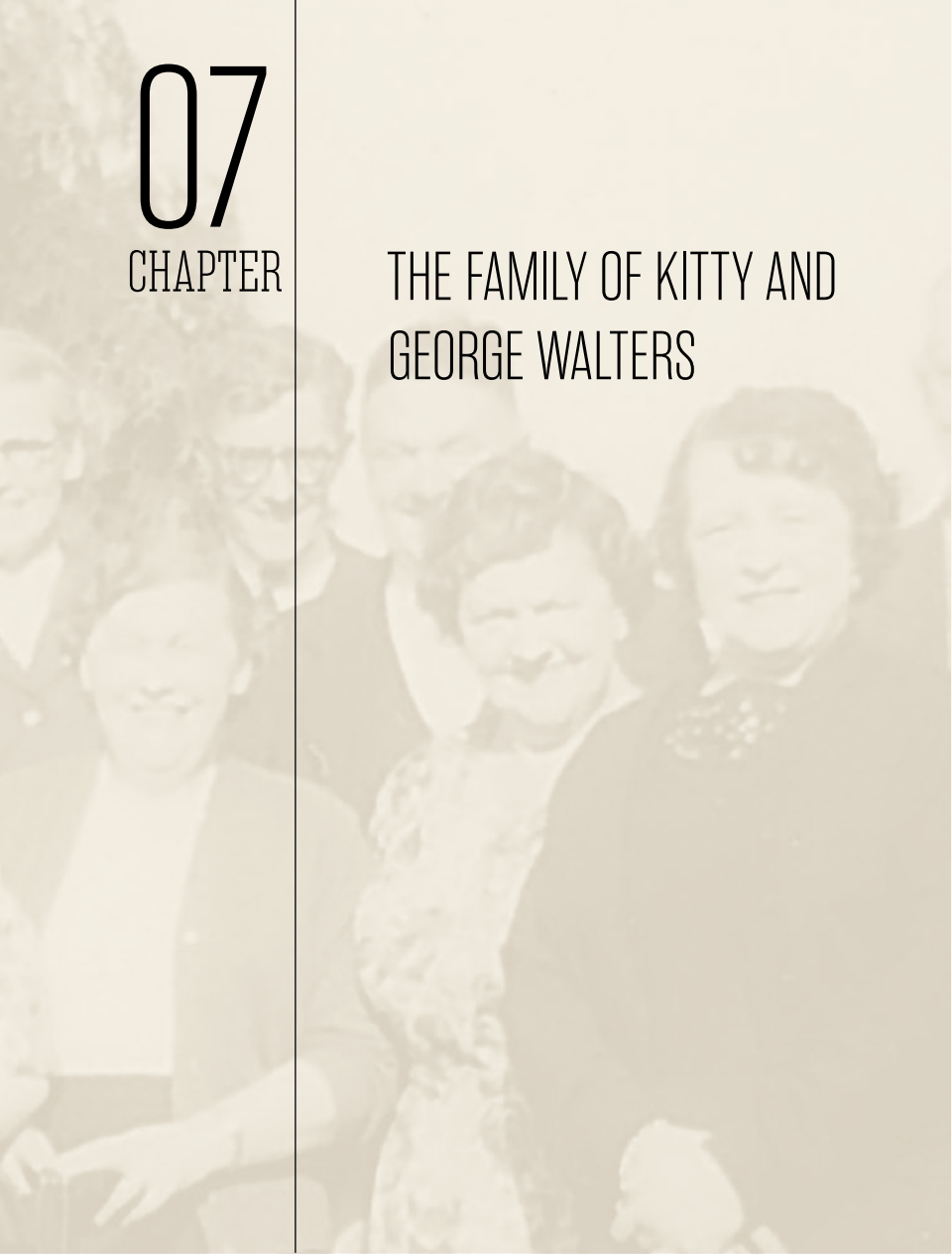
Their son Peter is married to Elisabeth (née Pedder) and they live in Grove near Wantage, Oxfordshire. They have two children, Jennifer (b. 11th September 1981) and James (b. 23rd December 1983). James lives in Halifax, Yorkshire and is getting married to Jo Williamson on 8th June 2013 and Jennifer lives in Swindon, Oxfordshire and is marrying Marc Patterson on 19th September 2013.

Anne is widowed and lives in Croydon, South London.

Martin is divorced from Lois (nee Northwood) and has two sons Christopher (b. 3rd Oct 1992) and Cameron (b. 8th Jan 1995) and lives in Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. Christopher now lives in Kensal Green, London and works as a croupier in Mayfair whilst Cameron is completing his A levels and plans to study Business and Management at Kent University from autumn 2013.

07
CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF KITTY AND GEORGE WALTERS



Kitty was the fifth child of John and Sarah O'Brien and was born on 28 April 1904. Kitty married George Walters and they had two children, Veronica and Paul. During the War, in the early 1940s, Paul and Veronica were evacuated from London and spent some time with their aunt and uncle, Peggy and Tom Donlon, in Athboy, Co. Meath. Kitty and her husband were proprietors of a public house in London and Kitty remained in touch with her mother and siblings in Ireland until her death in London.

Their daughter **Veronica** married Arthur Wimpleton and lived in London until the death of her husband in the 1980s. **Paul** went to New Zealand where he died at a relatively young age.

Contact was lost with Veronica after Paul's death and efforts to contact her for the O'Briens of Bandon Gathering in August 2013 have been unsuccessful.

08 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF JOHN (JACK) AND PEG (NÉE MACMILLAN) O'BRIEN



Sarah O'Brien's 80th Birthday in Bandon in 1955. Included in the photo are Sarah (seated in the front); her son Jack (back row second from right) and Jack's wife Peg (standing in the middle row – with handbag). Also in the photo are Sarah's other sons, Bonny, Teddy and Paddy Joe and their wives Kathy; Lily and May, and Sarah's daughters, Lucy, Kitty, Lolly and Peggy.

John (Jack) O'Brien, sometimes called Jackie, was born in Bandon in 1906. When he finished school, he went to work in Brennans in Bandon, where his older brother James (Bonny) had also worked. Jack worked in the office of the bakery and grocery story, eventually becoming manager of the office. He also had various outside interests, the main one of which was the Bandon Cinema which he managed and eventually owned and controlled for many years. He had a lease of the Town Hall for some years and had a Dance Hall and Cinema in Ballinspittle.

He was actively involved in the civic life of Bandon and was a member of Bandon Town Commissioners, being Lord Mayor of Bandon at one stage. He married Peg (née MacMillan) and they had six children, one boy, John, and five girls – Marguerite, Pauline, Winifred, Celine and Therese. Jack O'Brien died on 13th September 1972, aged 66.

Jack and Peg's oldest daughter, **Marguerite** married Paddy Carroll and they had six children - Una, Aileen (RIP), Niall, Eithne, Deirdre and Niamh. Una married Kieran Gibson and they have two children – Cara and Emma. Aileen married Tony Nugent and they had two children – Amy and Carrie. Niall has two children, Aine and Patrick. Eithne married John Delahunty. Deirdre married Brian Keane and they have three children – Stephen, Laura, Rory. Niamh married Ronan Murphy and they have two children, Liadh and Ellie.

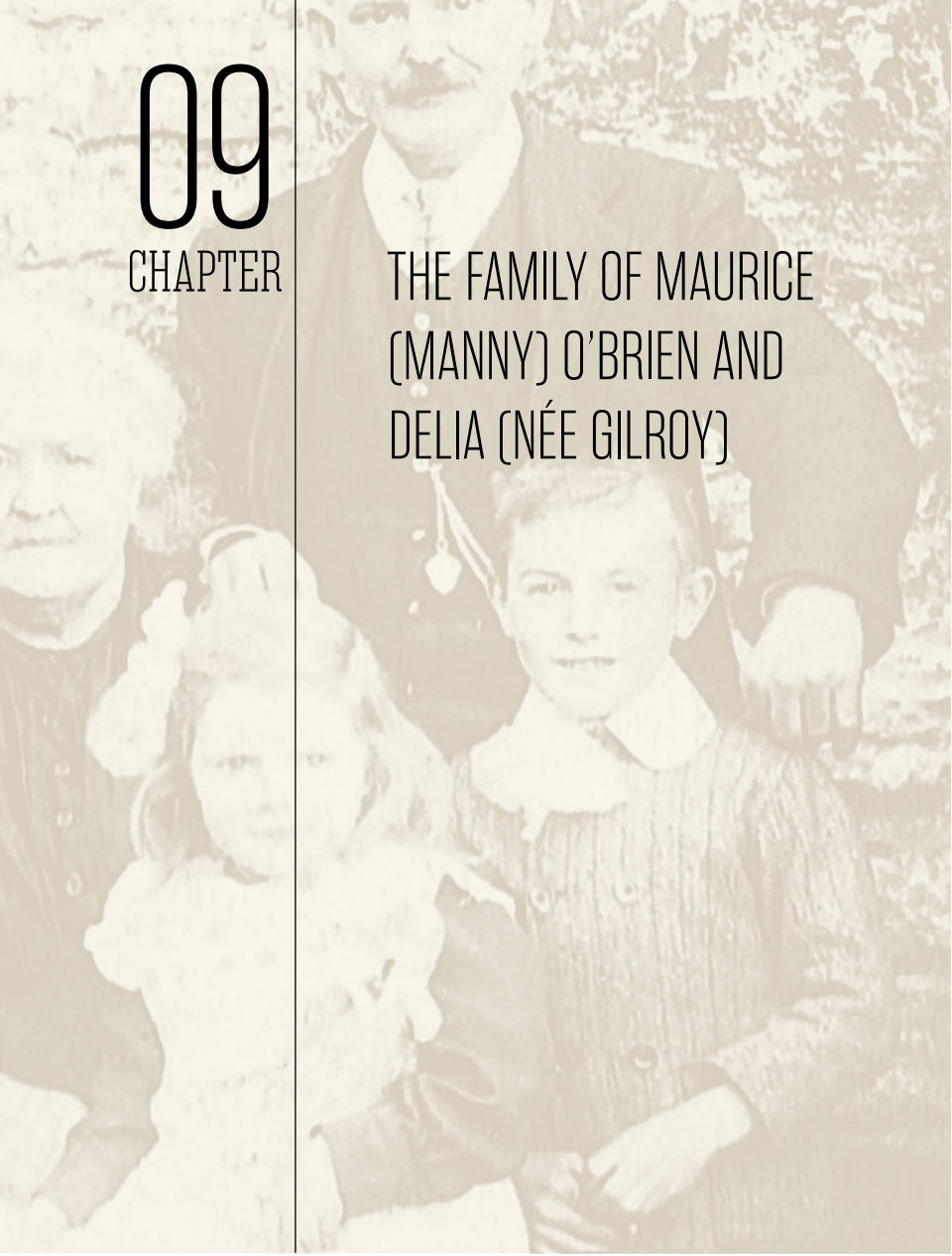
Jack and Peg's second child, **John** married Patricia Poland and they had two children – Glenn and Michelle. John died in the 1990s while still in his 50s.

The third child, **Pauline** married Joe Long. They had two children – David and Brian. David married Antoinette and they have two children – Charlie and Ava. Pauline died in the late 1990s after a long battle with cancer.

The fourth child, **Celine**, married Ted Corcoran. They have two children, Sinead and Claire. Sinead married Bjorn Albrigtsen and Claire married Ken Jackson.

The fifth child, **Winifred** married Joe Dunphy. They have three children - Louise, Celine and Eva. Louise married Sean Lyons and they have three children – Jack, Kate and Joe. Eva married Adrian Johnson and they also have three children – Sam, Ada and Adam.

The sixth child, **Therese**, married Michael O'Brien. They had six children - Michael (RIP), Irene, Clare, Paul, Karl, Michelle. They have four grandchildren - Michelle, Sean, Aoife and Jaxon.



09 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF MAURICE (MANNY) O'BRIEN AND DELIA (NÉE GILROY)

Maurice (Manny) was born on 10th April 1908 and emigrated to London, where he married Delia Gilroy from Sligo, and spent the rest of his life there. He worked for British Rail and for the London Underground. He had three children – Sally (b. 1936); Teresa (b. 1940) and John (b. 1938). Manny died on 4th December 1956 at the age of 48. They lived in Peabody Square, Blackfriars Road, London.

Sally married Vincent Murphy and had four children – Theresa (b. 1962); Michael (b. (1965); Aidan (b. 1968) and Dermot (b. 1973).

Teresa married Michael Everitt and had two children – Shaun (b. 1961) and Ann (b. 1962).

John married Patricia Conroy and had four children – Bernadette (b. 13th Sep. 1965); Shaun (b. 27th June 1969); Kevin (b. 26th May 1971) and Angela (b. 14th July 1973).

Shaun, the second son of John and grandson of Manny, was in contact with Fiona Hyland (daughter of Áine Hyland) in the year 2000 when Fiona had a website with information about the extended Donlon and O'Brien family. However, extensive efforts to contact any member of this branch of the O'Brien family when compiling this story, proved fruitless and the family has not been traced to date.

10 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF TIMOTHY (TEDDY) AND LILY (NÉE LYNCH) O'BRIEN



The wedding of Teddy O'Brien and Lily Lynch in Cork, 14th August 1942.

Teddy, the youngest son of Sarah Coffey and John O'Brien was born on June 5th 1910 and grew up in Patrick's Hill in Bandon. He was only five years of age when his father died, attended school locally (probably with support from some of his older siblings who now worked in London) and went on to train as a national teacher in Drumcondra in Dublin, following in the footsteps of his older brother Paddy Joe. His early teaching years were spent in Clondrohid, Upton, and Aherla, none too far from Bandon. Summers were spent at local beaches and Teddy had a particular fondness for Courtmacsherry where he enjoyed pitch and putt and sing songs in the evening as he had a fine tenor voice.

While studying by night for a B.A. in UCC, Teddy met Lily Lynch who was in the same class. Apparently they used to pass notes to each other in class, became close, and married in the Honan chapel in U.C.C. on 14th August 1942. Teddy's older brother Jack was best man and Lily's sister Molly was bridesmaid. The honeymoon was spent in Bray after which they set up home in Cork in the Blackrock area of Cork. By this stage Teddy was teaching in Christ the King national school in Turner's Cross, Cork where he was to spend the rest of his teaching life. Lily taught for some time in Cloghduv and Ballincollig before eventually moving to Our Lady of Lourdes national school near her home in Blackrock, Cork.

Their first child **Valerie** sadly died of infection in the first week of her life. **Kenneth** was born on 16 January 1946 and **Dorothy** on 25th December that same year. Two further children, **Catherine** and **David**, did not survive because of problems caused by interaction between Rhesus positive and negative blood. Unfortunately In the late 1940's there was little or no treatment for this complication of pregnancy.

The long summer holidays from teaching gave plenty of opportunities for visiting Nana and cousins in Bandon, often sleeping upstairs in one of the small bedrooms . Ken and Dor both have memories of Nana sitting at her sewing machine, her box of snuff nearby and the newspaper propped up so that she could study the form before taking her black Bandon cloak from a hook behind the door and running out to place her bet on the horses!! Another abiding memory is of being sent down the hill for messages and passing a bakery with the most delicious smell of bread and cakes wafting out into the street. Free visits to the cinema controlled by uncle Jack, and accompanied by some of the cousins, was another highlight. Ken remembers the excitement when Teddy's sisters - Kitty, Lucy and Lolly - visited Bandon each summer and the lavish meals prepared in their honour. Dor remembers them visiting Teddy and Lily in Cork- the three of them linking arms as they came up the driveway (There never seemed to be any men with them!) Ken also recalls a drive to Bandon before

Christmas every year with Teddy to collect red and white lemonade from Bandon Brewery. He also remembers infrequent visits of Great Aunt Maggie visiting Cork from Salisbury (in the then Southern Rhodesia).

Teddy was close to his brother Bonny who lived in Turner's Cross and most Sunday mornings he would visit Bonny, taking Ken with him. Ken remembers regular heated disagreements between the two brothers with threats of ceasing the visits, only for them to be repeated again the following Sunday with predictable outcomes. Dor recalls Bonny's visits to her home where he always brought a bar of chocolate with him and during Lent the chocolate was stored away in a tin box until Easter. There were less frequent visits to Paddy Joe especially in his old age but Ken remembers him being present at his confirmation in St Peter and Paul's church (he was principal of the nearby national school.)

Occasional encounters occurred with the younger members of the Slattery family (the connection with them was always a bit of a mystery to Ken and Dor as Aunty Lizzie had died before either of them were born).

Teddy's brother Manny died in London in 1956, at an early age, but Ken remembers an outing in Bandon where he sat on his lap in the front seat of the car. Both children recall their father travelling to London on the Inisfallen to attend Manny's funeral and returning with unusual presents including a box of metal puzzles. In the summer of 1956, Teddy, Lily and the two children spent some time in Manny's flat in Peabody Square Blackfriars to escape the polio epidemic raging in Cork at the time.

Ken went to secondary school in Presentation Brothers College in Cork. He had a very good voice like his father and won many prizes in Feis Matthew. He was an accomplished tennis player and spent some time every summer with the Donlons in Dublin during the tennis season. He remembers visiting Nana in Harold's Cross shortly before she died. Even then apparently she kept some money under her pillow and dispatched a family member to the nearest betting shop whenever possible.

During summers spent in London, Ken also visited Mother Gregory in Burnt Oak where his memory of her is of a rather formidable presence. Dor remembers visiting Nana in a nursing home on the South Terrace in Cork where she had to climb up several flights of very narrow steep stairs. This was shortly before she moved to Dublin to live with Peggy and Tom in Terenure, Dublin.

Ken studied medicine in UCC followed by further study and work in Birmingham eventually qualifying as a forensic psychiatrist. It was there that he met his future wife Glen who was training in anaesthetics and who comes from Sydney. They married in Australia and spent some time in Canada where their three daughters, Niamh, Clare and Sinead were born. Eventually they moved to Adelaide where their two sons, Ronan and Niall, were born. Sinead married Josh Weber (also a Canadian). Ken and Glen still live in Adelaide where they talk about retirement but still work! They have one grandson Declan.



Grandchildren of Pat and Dor (née O'Brien) Mullane, 2012.

Dor met her future husband Pat Mullane from Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, in the dentistry class in UCC. They both went to London after qualifying where Dor did further study to become an orthodontist. They have very fond memories of frequent visits to Teddy's sister Lollie and her husband Pat Mulpeter where they inevitably had a wonderful meal served up. They married in 1971 and settled in Charleville, on the border of Cos. Cork and Limerick, where they set up practice. They have six children (five boys and one girl) and nine grandchildren. Their only daughter Claire works

in Perth Western Australia. Her boyfriend of five years, who comes from Perth is called James O'Brien, but so far no direct Irish connections have been established except a distant relative in Galway!

Teddy and Lily continued to live in Blackrock in retirement and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1992 surrounded by Ken and Dor and their eleven grandchildren. Teddy enjoyed betting on the horses - (just like his mother) and spent many hours studying the form before walking to the bookies when able and in latter years phoning in his bet. He died on August 27th 1993 and Lily died while visiting Ken in Adelaide on 26 January (Australia Day) 1998. They are both buried in St. Oliver's cemetery off the Model Farm Road in Cork looking west towards the villages and countryside.

11

CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF SARAH (LOLLIE) AND PAT MULPETER



Pat and Lollie Mulpeter with their children, Michael and Teresa, 1946.

Sarah O'Brien was born in Bandon on 16th May 1912. She was the second youngest of the 11 children born to John O'Brien and Sarah Coffey and was given the nickname "Lollie" by the family. She emigrated to London in1932 where she joined her elder sister Lucy working in the licensed trade. She married Patrick Conleth Mulpeter on 19th June 1935 at St. Patrick's R.C. Church, Cornwall Road, Lambeth, London , SE1.

Pat had a great interest in the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) and continued his interest in these activities by forming The Round Towers of London Gaelic Football Club about 1934. This was originally a "closed club" for immigrants to London from Kildare. In 1938 he was selected for the London Team that won the Junior All Ireland Football Championship against Leitrim. GAA activities ceased during World War 2 (WW2) but were re-activated after the war.

Shortly after their marriage, Pat and Lollie opened their own licensed establishment - "The Rose, 76 Edmund Street, Camberwell, London, SE5. Their son, Michael, was born there in 1937. At the beginning of the war, Pat was conscripted into the RAF so Lollie had to leave The Rose and was evacuated back to Bandon, Co. Cork in late 1941. Their daughter, Teresa, was born in Bandon on 18th January 1942. Lollie later moved to the Isle of Man as Pat was posted to the airbase at Jurby prior to the invasion. After the invasion Lollie returned to London with her children and stayed with her sister Lucy in The Lancaster Arms, Walmer Road, Notting Hill, London W11. Pat served in Copenhagen just after the invasion and was demobbed in 1946.

Shortly after Pat returned home, they resumed their business activities by taking over The Three Wheatsheaves, 56 Upper Street, Islington, London N1. In 1949 they were approached by the brewery to take over the Brewery's flagship establishment known as The Alexandra Hotel, 14 South Side, Clapham Common, London, SW4. They took possession of the hotel on 19th December 1949. This proved very successful and "The Alex", as it became known, was soon a hive of activity and a focal point for Irish people and activities in London. The famous Round Towers Gaelic Football Club of London, which Pat co-founded in the mid 30's, was based there, as was The Kildare Association of London which Pat founded in 1950. Lollie was involved in the social activities of both organisations.

Pat and Lollie retired from The Alex in 1967, but "retirement" proved to be something of a misnomer as instead of buying a house they bought The Merton Rush Off Licence near the All England Tennis Club in Wimbledon, London SW19. This soon became very successful and was frequented by the many stars who lived in the area. It was also very popular with tennis players who came to Wimbledon to compete in the annual Wimbledon Tennis Fortnight and renew friendships formed

with Pat and Lollie as they were widely known. They finally retired in 1974 when they returned to Ireland to live in the Templeogue area of Dublin.

Pat died on 5th May 1988 and was buried in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge, Co. Kildare on 7th May 1988. Lollie then moved to live with her daughter, Teresa, in Newbridge. She died in The Naas General Hospital on 18th December 1999. She was buried with Pat in St. Conleth's Cemetery, Newbridge, Co. Kildare on 20th December 1999.



Wedding of Michael Mulpeter and Maura Mangan in London, 7th September 1960.

MICHAEL MULPETER

Their son Michael followed a career in the London Stock Exchange and married Mary Teresa Ann Mangan (Maura) from Caherciveen, Co. Kerry on 7th September 1960 at St. Mary's R.C. Church, Clapham Park Road, London, SW4. Maura was an Executive Officer in the Civil Service. They have two children, David born in Streatham, South London in 1964, and Terry born in 1967. In 1976 they moved to Hove, East Sussex where they had bought a Nursing Home. Michael continued to work in the Stock Exchange while Maura ran the business. Michael left the Stock Exchange in 1989 to work as administrator of the enlarged Nursing Home while Maura continued to be responsible for the day to day operation of the home. They sold the home and retired in 2001. They continued to live in Hove where Maura died on 6th February 2012.

In 1968 Michael was involved in the formation of the Sean Treacys Gaelic Football Club in London. The co-founders were his brother-in-law, Joe Harrison and Michael Doran who were jokingly known to the players as "The Three Musketeers". Initially the club was for players from the Leinster counties. However, with the passing of time and the development of the club the players came from virtually all 32 counties.

The club proved to be a great success as they won 20 trophies in 5 years, most at Senior level including the Championship of Great Britain. Eight of "The Treacys" were regular members of the London Team that won 3 consecutive Junior Football All Irelands in 1969, 1970 and 1971, a feat that has never been equalled. The club folded in 1974 as many of the players returned to Ireland, emigrated to America or moved away from London for business and/or family reasons.

In 2008 Michael Doran, who was Chairman of the club, decided that the history of the club should be written in response to the requests of the members. It was agreed that the book should be accredited to the past Chairman of the Club, Michael Doran, but Michael Mulpeter was given the task of "ghost writing" it, as he had been "The Club Scribe". In 2010 the book was launched at a celebration dinner in the Player's Lounge at Croke Park. Over 100 guests attended including Christy Cooney, the then President of the GAA, who autographed and personally presented personalised copies of the "Limited Presentation Edition" to members of the club. The book is still on display there.

In 1980, Michael Mulpeter was invited to join the Catenian Association, an international group of practising Catholic business and professional laymen. He was secretary of his group for

eight years before being appointed Vice-President and then President. In his presidential term, his "Presidential Project" funded, supplied and installed a Portakabin for the local Red Cross to provide them with secure storage facilities for the large quantity and variety of equipment that they held to loan out. Michael also organised visits to other overseas and UK groups in the Catenian Association for the members of the group and their families.

Michael and Maura's son, **David**, attended Laleham Lea Preparatory School and The John Fisher Grammar School in Purley, Surrey before transferring to The Cardinal Newman Grammar School in Hove, East Sussex when his family moved to that area in 1976. He was a member of the athletics teams of both colleges specialising in long distance and cross country running events. He captained the Cardinal Newman Team and gained County Honours while in this team.

David married Angela Jane Wheeler from Newhaven, East Sussex in the Chapel of The Cardinal Newman School, (The Church of Christ the King), Hove on 11th February 1989. Angela is the second of three children born to David and Janet Wheeler from Newhaven, East Sussex, England. The ceremony was performed by David's cousin, Fr. Jack O'Brien, in the presence of members of both families. They have two children, Kevin, born in 1991 and Sean, born in 1994.

David joined the Brighton Corporation Bus Company and was awarded his Passenger Service Vehicle driving licence as part of his training in 1983. He was the youngest person to be awarded this qualification at this time. He joined Brighton & Hove Buses in 1988 as a management trainee when the management bought out the Southdown Bus Company in Hove during the privatisation era. In 1990 he started his own business "Haven buses" which grew to have a fleet of 22 vehicles and became very successful with a very loyal passenger base. In 1994 the business was sold to Blue Triangle Buses who wanted to expand their London operations. In 1994 he joined British Rail "Network South East" as an area Supervisor. He was promoted to Group Station Manager in 1997 after the railway was privatised and the franchise given to a French Firm called "Connex". They wanted to join the London Bus Operators Market, so in 1999 David was seconded to this project with the task of setting up a New London Bus Company. This led to successful bids to win the contract to operate the routes 3, 322 and 197 and later to the acquisition of the Limebourne Operation in Battersea. A new depot was built in Beddington Lane, Croydon, Surrey and 88 new buses were ordered. In 2000 Connex were stripped of their franchise to operate trains in the UK and David returned to the railway as Station Manager, Horsham as he was a seconded member of Network South East staff. He was promoted to Train Service Manager in 2001, to Senior Train Service Manager in 2006 and to his current position as Service Delivery Manager (the overall controller of Southern Trains Services) in 2008.

David has a B.Sc. degree in Railway Operations, Railroad and Railway Transportation awarded by Glasgow University. He is also a member of The Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport with the insignia MCILT. He is very interested in the renovation of vintage buses and landrovers and owns his own company, Seaford and District Motor Services, to follow this interest. The company hires out vintage and modern vehicles from its fleet for a wide assortment of events and purposes. Three of these buses were bought by him whilst working in the London Bus Mark.

Michael and Maura's second son, **Terence** (Terry), was born in Streatham, South London in 1967. Like his older brother David, he attended Laleham Lea Preparatory School and The John Fisher Grammar School in Purley, Surrey before transferring to The Cardinal Newman Grammar School in Hove, East Sussex when his family moved to that area. He played rugby for both colleges and captained the Cardinal Newman 1st 15 for several successful years. He gained County Honours while playing for the Cardinal Newman School. He graduated from The University of East London in 1990 with a B Eng (Hons) degree in Chemical Engineering. He has since been awarded Corporate Membership of The Institute of Chemical Engineers with the insignia MIchemE.

He was recruited by Anglo American de Beers (Gold Division) from University to work in South Africa. After an induction period in their New Business and Development Division at their Corporate Offices in Johannesburg he was transferred to one of their main mining areas with eight mines at Welkom in The Orange Free State as Senior Metallurgist/Development Officer.

He met Cindy Reynders while in Welkom and they were married on 21st June 1997 in the R.C. Church of St. Dominic in Welkom in the diocese of Kroonstad, Free State South Africa. The celebrant of the marriage was Terry's cousin, Fr. Jack O'Brien. Cindy was born in Welkom and is the second of four children born to Chris and Myrna Reynders from Welkom.

After five successful years in Welkom he moved to Mali in 1996 to develop a new site at Sadiola, located in the West of the Country near the Regional Capital of Kayes, to oversee the building of and to commission the gold plant and other necessary facilities. Further development of the site eventually took place nearby at Yatella. He was appointed Managing Director when Yatella came online and was responsible for all operations on the enlarged site. The Company became Anglogold in 1998 and changed its name again to Anglogoldashanti in 2004 when it took over the Ashanti Mining Company.

Terry was awarded the Medal of Honour by the President of Mali in 2009 as part of their celebrations to mark the 50th Anniversary of their Independence. The award was made in recognition of his work in developing the mining industry and economy of the country and his work

developing the local community. In 2010 he became Managing Director of their largest mine located at Siguiri in the North East of neighbouring Guinea. He has written several papers on Metallurgical Developments which have been presented to international conferences on Mining and Processing. He maintains strong links with the U.K. and South Africa and makes frequent visits to both on business and holidays.

TERESA HARRISON (née Mulpeter)

When she left school at the end of the 1950s, Teresa followed a career in the Inland Revenue Division of the Civil Service in London. She married Joseph Harrison from Monasterevan, Co. Kildare, on 19th March 1963 at The Good Shepherd R.C. Church, New Addington, Croydon, Surrey. Joe was very involved in the GAA in London and was a regular member of the London team. He won four Junior All-Ireland titles in 1966, 1969, 1970 and 1971 - one of the only players to win three in a row. (His father-in-law Pat Mulpeter, had been a member of the London team, which had previously won in 1941). Joe then managed the Great Britain team in Wembley and played in Wembley against New York and Donegal. He also won numerous championships and honours with Sean Treacys Gaelic Football Team in London, which he had formed with his brother-in-law Michael. Joe ran his own successful business and he and Teresa lived in Wimbledon, South London, where their two daughters, Pauline and Deirdre, were born. Teresa, Joe and their family moved to live in Newbridge, Co. Kildare in 1975.

In Newbridge, Teresa and Joe continued their interest in sport and in community work and in 1993, Teresa was awarded the Co. Kildare Community Award. In 2003, she was chairperson of Newbridge host town for the World Special Olympics and under her leadership, Newbridge won the All Ireland Host Town of the Games. In 2003, Teresa received the Kildare Person of the Year award for her work with Special Olympics and Community Games. She was Lady Captain of the Curragh Golf Club in 2006, and in 2012 she was awarded the Newbridge Town Council Civic Award for her 40 years of community work in Newbridge.

Teresa and Joe's daughter, **Pauline**, married Gerard Egan from Newbridge, and Deirdre married Matthew Mc Namara from The Curragh. Pauline has three children - Nicola (aged 24yrs); Amanda (aged 22yrs) and Ciara (aged 12yrs). Nicola got married in April 2012 to Alec Weir from Milltown, Co. Kildare and is expecting their first child in September 2013. Deirdre has 2 children - Niamh who is 20 years of age, and is studying Science in the National University of Ireland, Maynooth and Pete, who is 16yrs of age. Pauline, Deirdre and all the grandchildren live in Newbridge, Co. Kildare.

12 CHAPTER

THE FAMILY OF MARGARET MARY (PEGGY) AND THOMAS (TOM) DONLON



Tom and Peggy Donlon with their children — Máire, Seán, Áine, Eithne, Colm, Liam, Mairéad, Uinseann, Maeve, Deirdre, Rionach and Eilis — 1960.

Margaret Mary (Peggy) O'Brien, born on 8th July 1914, was the youngest of the eleven children of John and Sarah O'Brien (née Coffey). Her father died when she was still an infant. She lived on St. Patrick's Hill, Bandon with her mother and brothers and sisters. She went to school to the Presentation Convent in Bandon where she sat the Leaving Certificate in 1932. She entered the civil service in Dublin later that year, and worked in the Savings Bank section of the GPO until her marriage in 1938.

She married Thomas (Tom) Donlon (Tomás Ó Domhnalláin), a national school teacher whom she met initially at a Boy Scout Camp in Gormanston, Co. Meath where Tom was supervising a camp. They subsequently met at a dance in the Teachers' Club in Parnell Square in Dublin. (Tom was born in Delvin, Co. Westmeath on 30th March 2013 and was brought up in Kilskyre, Co. Meath). Their marriage took place on 3rd August 1938 in St. Patrick's Church, Bandon, and the reception was held afterwards in Peggy's mother's house on St. Patrick's Hill. Her bridesmaids were Peggie Hall, the daughter of her oldest sister Lucy; and Sally O'Brien, the daughter of her brother James (Bonny). The best-man at the wedding was Tom's brother, Patrick (Pat) Donlon. The bride wore a long cream velvet dress with a matching headdress and she carried a bouquet of sweet peas and white roses. Peggy and Tom spent their honeymoon in Northern Ireland.

After their marriage they went to live in the teacher's residence in Athboy, Co. Meath, where Tom was principal of the local national school. Their first five children were born at home in Athboy between 1939 and 1944. **Máire** was born on 3rd June 1939, Seán on 28th November 1940, **Áine** on 1st March 1942, **Eithne** on 10th July 1943 and **Tomás** on 10th June 1944. Although Peggy's husband Tom had come from an English-speaking family, he was deeply committed to the Irish language. He and Peggy decided to bring up their children as Irish speakers and Irish was the language of the household from the beginning. To help in bringing up the children as Irish speakers, a cailín aimsire (maid) was brought from Connemara (a Gaeltacht or Irish-speaking area in the west of Ireland) and she lived with the family during their years in Athboy.

These were the years of the Second World War (referred to in Ireland as the years of the Emergency) and food and fuel were rationed. Peggy became adept at managing on small rations and was an excellent cook and household manager. At the height of the war (between 1940 and 1944), when children were evacuated from London, the children of Peggy's older sister, Kitty, came to Athboy to live with Tom and Peggy. Veronica and Paul Walters were very small at the time – Veronica was about five and Paul was about two.

In 1944, Tom was appointed Principal teacher of St. Mary's Boys National School in Drogheda and the family moved from Athboy to Drogheda, where they lived in the teacher's residence on the Old Hill (on the Co. Meath side of the town). Drogheda was even more affected by rationing than Athboy had been. Because it was a port town, coal was the common form of fuel and town gas was piped to the houses. Both coal and gas were severely rationed and Tom brought a plentiful supply of turf with him from Athboy when he moved. The children remember Peggy swopping tea coupons for sugar coupons with neighbours who had no children and who were less interested in sugar than in tea. They also remember their father, Tom, making slow-burning hay cookers in the back garden where stews and other slow cooking meals could be cooked. Home-made jams and preserves were very popular during the war years and Peggy made jams and jellies from all kinds of fruits, including crab apples and blackberries. Bread was also rationed, and Peggy and Tom were fortunate that they were befriended by Joe Sheils, who ran a flour mill and bakery in James' St and who was very generous to the family. During Tom and Peggy's time in Drogheda, Joe married a younger woman, Maggie, who worked in the bakery shop. Joe and Maggie's summer house, The Cottage, situated between Queensboro and Baltray, about four miles outside Drogheda, became a home from home to the Donlon family and they spent two months every summer there from 1949 until the late 1960s.

During their years in Drogheda, two more children were born – **Colm** (17th Jan 1946) and **Liam** (19th Feb 1948). They were born in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda. For each birth, Peggy's mother, Sarah O'Brien, came from Bandon to help out for a couple of weeks. She was not idle during her stay – she helped Tom to re-cover and re-upholster the pram for each new baby. (The same pram was used for all 13 children). She made and mended loose covers for the armchairs and the three piece suite. She made clothes for the children – during the war years she used old curtain material to make coats and dresses – and she made bed-sheets from disused flour bags. She also re-covered mattresses – airing and teasing out the horsehair from the mattresses in the back garden before she sewed them up again.

When the family lived in Drogheda, Máire, Áine and Eithne went to school in St. Mary's school on the Dublin Road. This was a private fee-paying school run by the Sisters of Mercy. Seán and Tomás attended St. Mary's Boys N.S. on the Old Hill where Tom was the principal teacher. Máire, Seán and Áine were taught piano by Sr. Catherine, and had all taken some RIAM examinations before they left Drogheda in 1949.

In late 1948, Tom was appointed a national school inspector. He trained with experienced inspectors during the first nine months of his appointment and had to travel to different inspectors' districts during this time. The family initially stayed in the teacher's house in Drogheda but in early summer

1949, following the appointment of a new principal, the family had to vacate the house. Since Tom had not yet been allocated a district, Peggy and the seven children went to stay with Peggy's mother in Bandon. Peggy was at this time pregnant with her eighth child, and some of the older children remember how lonely she was without Tom and how anxious she was to get settled into a home of her own again.

In September 1949, Tom was appointed District Inspector in Cavan, and it was with great excitement that the journey from Bandon to Cavan (214 miles!) was undertaken by Tom and Peggy in their Ford Prefect car (Registration number AI 8091) with their seven children. Rental property was very scarce in most towns in Ireland at that time, and through the good offices of the Bishop of Kilmore, a local farmer, Michael Young, agreed to rent Carrickane House, a farmhouse about three miles outside Cavan town, to Tom and his family. From a child's perspective, the house was heaven. It was big and rambling with secret cupboards and panelling that opened into unexpected rooms and there were orchards and woods and lots of fields. From Peggy's point of view it was something of a nightmare. There was no electricity or running water or inside toilet. The toilet was an outdoor privy with a bucket that had to be emptied regularly. Water came from a well at the bottom of the garden and lighting was provided by candles and a Tilley lamp which either guttered limply or exploded into a mass of flames! Access to Carrickane House from the main road was along a winding avenue which went through three separate fields with three sets of gates to be opened and closed. The bottom field had been rented by McCarren's pig factory in Cavan town and was used to dump waste from the factory. The nearest neighbours were about a mile away and as was common among women at that time, Peggy was not able to drive. Tom would leave for work early in the morning and would not be home until 4 or 5 p.m. He occasionally had to stay away overnight and Peggy would be alone in the house with the children when Tom was away. There was a caretaker, Jack, who lived in a room downstairs and cooked in an outhouse, but Jack was more of a liability than a help, as he had a drink problem and would often come home footless from a drinking spree!

The nearest school was Farnham N.S – a two teacher school under the patronage of Lord Farnham - and this is where Máire, Áine, Eithne and Tomás walked to school during the school year 1949-1950. Sean cycled into school to the De La Salle Brothers school in Cavan Town. Tom believed that the children should experience the same life-style as other children living in the country-side and he did not believe in bringing them to school by car, even if he were driving by the school. The children remember a very cold winter with lots of snow and ice and only limited heating in either home or school!

Mairéad was born on 21st December 1949 in the Co. Hospital in Cavan. Peggy was in hospital for a couple of weeks, as was the norm in those days, and Tom and the children had to have Christmas dinner without Peggy in Carrickane House. They spent the rest of Christmas Day in the Co. Hospital, where they contributed to a concert and a sing-song for the elderly residents. A friend of Peggy's, Mrs Guinan from Athboy, came to help out when Peggy came home and after a few weeks, the children's grandmother, Sarah O'Brien came from Bandon, as she usually did when a baby was born. Sarah disliked intensely living in the countryside. She was not used to coping without electricity or running water and she hated being away from her friends in Bandon and away from the shops. She was an inveterate gambler and she particularly disliked being unable to place a bet or listen to the horse-racing on the wireless. (The Donlon wireless in 1949 was an electric wireless and as with all other electrical goods, it was unusable in Carrickane House).

Peggy could not face a second winter in Carrickane House and thanks to the intervention of the Co. Medical Officer, who was aware of what a hardship it was for her with her eight children to live without water and electricity, the family was allocated a newly built county council house in St. Felim's Place in Cavan town. It was a small house, not really big enough for a family of ten, but it had electricity and running water and it was warm and comfortable. There were no other houses available for rent in Cavan, and Peggy was very happy in St. Felim's Place. Her neighbours were hospitable and friendly and Peggy was often consulted for advice when babies and little children were sick. In spite of the high incidence of serious childhood illnesses and a high child mortality rate in Ireland in the 1940s and 1950s, the Donlon household was a healthy one, and Peggy rarely called a doctor – the children's only memory of a visiting doctor was in July 1951 when the ninth baby, **Uinseann**, was unexpectedly born at home.

It was a hot summer's Sunday (15th July 1951) and the eight children had been bundled into the car to go to Annagh Lake, about seven miles outside Cavan town, for a picnic. There was a safe bathing spot at the lakeside which was popular for paddling and swimming. The children had finished the picnic and had just got into the water when Tom came down to the water's edge and told them to get dressed quickly as they had to go home at once. As they passed the County Hospital, Tom asked Peggy if he should go straight there. She replied that she needed to go home for her suitcase. But when she got home it was too late – the baby was on the way and the doctor came to the house where the baby was safely delivered. Uinseann was baby number nine, and before the family left Cavan in 1954, Maeve, Deirdre and Rionach had followed. They were all born in the County Hospital – **Maeve** on 17th November 1952; **Deirdre** on 7th April 1954 and **Rionach** on 7th October 1955. The week Rionach was born, Tom was transferred to Ennis, Co. Clare, as District Inspector. Peggy went into hospital from St. Felim's Place, Cavan and when she was discharged two weeks later, the family had already moved to Ennis.

When the family lived in Cavan town (from summer 1950 to October 1955), the older boys went to the De La Salle Brothers school and the girls and infant boys went to the Poor Clare Convent in Cavan. The eldest girl, Máire, went to Loreto Secondary school, Cavan as a boarder in 1952; Seán went as a boarder to St. Finian's College in Mullingar in 1953; and Áine and Eithne went as boarders to the Convent of Mercy, Ballymahon in 1953 and 1955 respectively. This relieved some of the space pressure in the house in St. Felim's Place and during the summer holidays the whole family decamped to the Cottage in Baltray. The family have very happy memories of summer holidays in the Cottage – climbing trees, helping the fishermen, learning to swim, and walking through the golf links to the strand.

The move to Ennis in October 1955 was a disjointed affair. Peggy was in hospital in Cavan having just given birth to Rionach, and Áine came home from boarding school in Ballymahon to help the family move from Cavan to Ennis. Peggy spent some time in Drogheda with Joe and Maggie Sheils convalescing after her discharge from hospital in Cavan, and she and the new baby joined the family in Ennis a few weeks later. During their years in Ennis, through the good auspices of Bishop Rodgers of Killaloe, the family rented 11 Bindon Street, Ennis, which belonged to Mr. McInerney, a local mill owner and shopkeeper. It was a fine red-brick three-storey over basement house with plenty of room for the now very large family of two adults and twelve children. A year later, on 11th November 1956, the last baby, **Eilis**, was born in Ennis County Hospital – completing the family of 13 children.

The family's years in Ennis were overshadowed by the tragic death of the fifth child, Tomás, in a freak accident in January 1958. Tomás was 13 years of age at the time and was in his second year as a boarder in St. Finian's College, Mullingar. He and Seán (then aged 17) were unexpectedly at home in Ennis as there had been a flu outbreak in St. Finian's and the boys had been sent home. Seán remembers the event as follows:

Tomás and Seán decided to go to the auction in Carmody's hotel to buy a bedside radio. It was the days before transistors and since they shared a room in Finian's they thought they could smuggle in a radio. For some reason Tomás had money and Seán didn't but Seán probably persuaded Tomás that a transistor radio would be a good investment. On the day of the auction in Carmody's Hotel, Ennis (15th January 1958), Seán went first to the house of a friend (John Duggan) to ask him to come to the auction but his mother insisted he do some little job so Seán arrived at Carmody's on his own and met Tomás inside. When he was going into the hotel, he met Ernest de Regge (who was a neighbour on Bindon St.) and who apparently had spent the morning in the hotel preparing for the auction. De Regge had a one third interest in the property (Ignatius

Houlihan, Solr and auctioneer de Courcy were the other shareholders) and de Regge was hoping for a good outcome from the auction. (It seems that he and others were planning to set up a watch assembly business in conjunction with the Swiss Institute of Horology).

Seán and Tomás were on the top floor of Carmody's hotel during the auction, when it collapsed under the weight of piled up linen and people. The auctioneer, de Courcy, had cleared all floors before moving to the top floor so when the floor collapsed the casualties were all from the top floor. (The floor apparently collapsed because when installing town gas around 1910, a plumber had drilled a hole through a supporting beam). Seán has no memory of how he got out after the collapse of the floor, but he was approached by Dr. Brid Moylan (whose father was County Surgeon and also lived on Bindon Street) who told him he would have to come with her to the County Hospital. Seán insisted that he was ok but she got him into her car and drove him to the hospital where he learned that he was there to identify Tomás's remains. Seán couldn't believe that Tomás was dead because there were no visible injuries. The family later learned that Tomás died of suffocation and his only physical injuries were broken ribs.

Seán has a very moving letter from Oliver Moylan (Brid's brother) recounting how Brid and Fr. Queally, Adm of the Ennis parish, went to the house in Bindon St. to break the news of Tomás's death. Peggy's initial reaction was to express concern about the de Regge's because in the same conversation she was told that Mr. De Regge (a father of six children and a close neighbour on Bindon Street) had also been killed in the accident.

When he got home, Seán was asked to bring his two youngest sisters (Rionach and Eilis) for a walk and when he got back to the house there was a rosary being recited, led by a Franciscan priest (probably Fr. Justin, who was a friend of the family). The next few days are a blur but Seán remembers Máire arriving on the train from Dublin and Nana (O'Brien) arriving with Uncle Jack from Bandon. Áine and Eithne, who were boarders in Ballymahon at the time, did not come home to Ennis for the funeral Mass but joined the funeral procession in Mullingar two days later and went to the burial in Kilskyre Graveyard where Tomás was buried in the Donlon family grave.

On the morning of the funeral Mass in Ennis, Nana O'Brien initially said that she would not go to the Cathedral Mass because the Taoiseach, de Valera would be there and she kept referring to him - and she was fully in control of her faculties - as "the damn divil from hell". She was eventually persuaded to attend, probably by her son, Jack, who had accompanied her from Bandon. In a subsequent Pathe News clip of the funeral, uncle Jack can be seen with Seán, leading the coffin down the aisle of the Cathedral.

Eight people died in the Carmody's hotel collapse and the site has never been built on. A ninth person, a journalist, was killed when the aeroplane he was piloting crashed shortly after take-off from Shannon airport. He had come to Ennis to take photos of the scene of the tragedy, and was rushing back to Dublin to file them with the newspapers for the following day's edition when the crash occurred. There is a plaque in Ennis where the hotel used to be and it is now an entrance to a car park.

Shortly before his own death in 2005, Tomás's father, Tom Donlon, talked about the accident to his daughter Áine. He was school inspector in Ennis at the time of the accident, and had, apparently, been inspecting the Church of Ireland National School on Harmony Row, just around the corner from Bindon St. and very close to Carmody's Hotel, when the accident happened. He and the teacher and pupils could hear all the commotion outside – the ambulance and Garda car sirens etc. but as was the practice in those days, nothing would interfere with an inspection, and the inspection continued until the end of the school day. It was not until then, when Tom was on his way home that he heard about the accident in the hotel, and realised that his own son had been one of the victims. He was very emotional and distressed as he told the story – more than fifty years after the accident had occurred.

It was a devastating tragedy for the family and when an opportunity came the following year for Tom to leave Ennis and transfer to Dublin, Peggy was happy to move. This was the final move for the family and they bought a house at 21 Lavarna Road, Terenure, Dublin 6 where they lived until Tom's death in 2005.

In 1960, Peggy's mother, Sarah O'Brien, left Bandon and came to live with Peggy and family in their house in Terenure. She was 85 years of age at that time and while she was still mobile and mentally clear, she was no longer able to live alone. By the end of 1962, her health had deteriorated and she needed nursing care. She spent the last few months of her life in Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, where she died on 11th October 1963.

In 1963, Tom became a Divisional Inspector in Dublin and became involved in a major Irish language research project in the Department of Education, Buntús Gaeilge, which influenced the development of a new approach to teaching the Irish language in schools. At the same time, he developed an Irish language radio and television series for adults, Buntús Cainte, which was a major success. The series was accompanied by a three volume booklet with audio tapes and later CDs. By the time Tom died in 2005, Buntús Cainte has been re-printed more than twenty times and hundreds of thousands of copies had been sold. However, as Tom was a civil servant, the

copyright of Buntús Cainte belonged to the State (the Stationery Office) and Tom never received royalties from the sales. Ten years later, in 1973, he was promoted to Deputy Chief Inspector and was seconded to become Director of the newly established Institiúid Teangeolaíochta Éireann (The Linguistics Institute of Ireland) – a post he held until he retired in 1980.

During this period, the children were growing up and leaving home. The eldest daughter, Máire entered the Loreto Order in 1960, taking the religious name, Sr. Ríonach. During the subsequent years, the rest of the family moved away – some to get married, some to study away from home and others to settle in their own homes. By the late 1980s, Tom and Peggy were living alone in 21 Lavarna Road, but most of their family lived nearby. At one stage, all twelve children and their families lived within a twenty mile radius of the family home.

After a period of poor health, Peggy spent the final few years of her life in the Rostrevor Nursing Home in Rathgar, where Tom visited her at least twice a day until her death on 10th November 2001 at the age of 87. Tom lived for a further four years, spending the last 18 months in Newtownpark Nursing Home, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. He died on 19th November 2005 at the age of 92. Tom and Peggy are both buried in the Donlon family grave in Kilskyre, Co. Meath.

MÁIRE DONLON (Sr. Ríonach)

> Having done her Leaving Certificate in Loreto College, Cavan in 1956, Máire went to UCD on a County Council scholarship to study for an Arts Degree, graduating with a BA in 1959. During these years she stayed with Auntie Cissie Fitzsimons, a cousin of her father's, who was a primary teacher in Kings' Inn Street, and lived at 29 Frankfort Avenue, Rathgar. The family were living in Ennis during this time and Tomás's sad death happened there in 1958.

In 1959 the Donlon family moved to 21 Lavarna Road, Terenure in Dublin so Máire was able to live at home for her final year at UCD studying for the Higher Diploma in Education while teaching full-time in Loreto College, Crumlin Road. She had started a second year's teaching in Crumlin in September 1960 when she entered the mother-house of the Loreto Order in Rathfarnham on 21st November 1960 - much to the dismay of Mother Rose Crotty the Superior and Principal in Crumlin (Con Gregg's grand-aunt), who ordered her to 'get' a teacher to replace her in November when she left!). No formal interviews in those days!

She did the year of postulancy and the two years of noviceship and was professed in June 1963. Nana was living in Lavarna Road at the time and came to Rathfarnham on Profession Day though was unable to get out of the car. Máire gave her the candle she had held while making her vows and Nana only relinquished it reluctantly when going to bed that night!

After her Profession, Máire, now known as Sister Ríonach – to Ríonach's dismay, because she did not, at the ripe old age of five, want to 'swap names'! – was sent to Loreto's secondary school in Killarney where she taught for three years. In 1966 she returned to Loreto Abbey Rathfarnham, where she was 'Mistress of Third School' – the First and Second Year boarders there. That lasted four years, during which time Ríonach and Eilis were at school in Loreto Beaufort. In 1970 Máire was missioned to Milford, Co. Donegal, a new Loreto school which had opened a few years previously, in time for the free scheme which was initiated in 1967. Milford was a co-ed school but had boarding facilities for girls.

1975 saw another move, this time to Loreto College St. Stephen's Green in Dublin as Principal of the boarding and day school. Another move, back to the Abbey boarding-school in Rathfarnham as Principal happened in 1979 and she was there until 1983. Then it was back to Stephen's Green this time as Community Leader (Superior in the old terminology!). She combined the role of Superior and Principal in 1985-86, until the awful fire in 1986. Tragically six Loreto Sisters died in that fire though, thankfully, there was no loss of life among the students, as the boarding-school had closed and the day-pupils were at home for the bank holiday week-end. The schools, both Junior and Secondary, moved to Harcourt Street for two years until the school was rebuilt and re-opened in September 1988. Máire remained in Stephen's Green as Principal until 1990 and was then sent back to Milford as Principal for two years.

In 1992 she was appointed Vice-Provincial and moved to the Provincial House in Beaufort, Rathfarnham where she lived for twelve years, six as Vice-Provincial and the second six as Provincial Superior. After her term ended in 2004, she moved to Loreto, Foxrock which had just been set up as the Loreto Education Centre and took up the role of Chairperson of the Loreto Education Trust which she held until 2012.

In December 2011 she had surgery for colon cancer with chemotherapy lasting until June 2012. Further breast surgery (DCIS) followed in September 2012, followed by radiotherapy for five weeks. During this year she lived in Abbey House, Rathfarnham but moved back to Foxrock in January 2013 where she now lives. Her work now is mainly with the Jesuit Milltown Institute which has just started the Loyola Institute, a school of Catholic Theology in Trinity College Dublin.

SEÁN DONLON

Seán was born in Athboy in 1940 and started school, possibly informally, at St. James's boys national school there where his father was principal. In 1944, the family moved to Drogheda where Sean attended St. Mary's infant school and subsequently St. Mary's Boys school. He began piano lessons in Drogheda with Sr. Catherine at the Mercy convent on the Dublin Road. When the family moved to Cavan in 1949, Seán attended St. Phelim's boys school in Cavan town, run by the De La Salle brothers. During the school year 1952/53 he was educated at home by his father because, as he later told Seán, he (Tom) was in dispute with the school's principal and also because he wanted to maximise Seán's chances of getting a County Council scholarship for secondary school. In Cavan, Seán continued piano lessons with a Miss Brady. Two outstanding memories of Cavan are his altar boys activities and GAA football mania. He served at low and high Masses, at the installation of Bishop Austin Quinn, the installation of the Abbot of Kilnacrott, the blessing of the new GAA Breffni park and the anniversary of the battle of Benburb. For weddings, funerals and the churching of women after childbirth he usually got a tip of 2/6 pence. The family's years in Cavan coincided with the dominance of two counties, Meath and Cavan, in football and it was impossible not to get caught up in the victories and defeats. Having connections with both counties was a help!

Seán got first place in the County Council scholarship exam in 1953 but there was a snag. It was valid only at St. Patrick's College in Cavan. Tom appealed to the Council and given the nomadic nature of his position and the fact that he had himself been educated there it was agreed that in Seán's case the scholarship could be applied at St. Finian's College in Mullingar. He was a boarder there from 1953 to 1958. At the time it was a big GAA school and his interest in football was minimal. There was, however, the compensation that there was a good music tradition and Seán continued his piano lessons, was taught to play the harmonium and enjoyed participating in the annual Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Academically he was at or near the top of the class but, looking back, his results in the state exams were not great. Very few of his classmates went on to third level unless they studied for the priesthood. While his father had a strong loyalty to St. Finian's and sent Tomás and Colm there, he was quick to send Liam and Uinseann to the CBS school in Synge Street in Dublin when that became feasible. In later life he blamed the poor academic record in St. Finian's on the fact that the teachers, most of whom were priests, did not choose to teach but were sent there by the bishop because he thought they were not suitable for parish work.

In Seán's last year in Finian's, the bright boys in the class were encouraged to put their names down for a place in the national seminary, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, then incorporating a constituent college of the NUI and a recognized college of the Gregorian university in Rome. It was open only to students for the priesthood. In the days immediately after the conclusion of the Leaving, a committee chaired by the bishop of Meath and consisting entirely of priests of the diocese interviewed applicants in Latin (the concursus). Seán was successful but he did not give much thought to what going to Maynooth meant. It was another competition that he could enter and, hopefully, win.

By now (1958) the family was living in Ennis which is where he spent most of his teenage holiday years. It was there that Tomás was killed in and Seán survived a freak accident when the top floor of Carmody's Hotel collapsed during an auction and eight people were killed. Elsewhere in this compilation, Seán has given a full description of the accident.

He entered Maynooth in September, 1958 as a student for the priesthood in the diocese of Meath. He studied philosophy and, for an NUI degree, history, Irish and English. He enjoyed the academic challenge, the general atmosphere and continuing his music studies, including the organ but early in his second year he decided Maynooth and the priesthood were not for him and he managed to get a transfer to UCD where he completed a BA (2.1) in history and Irish in 1961. His main extra-mural activities there were the music society, the Legion of Mary and An Cumann Liteartha, an Irish language literary and debating society of which he became chair in 1960/61. It was at the UCD Music Society that he met Paula Doyle who was studying English and Spanish and who was to become his wife in 1964.

While still in his last year in UCD, he sat an exam for the post of Administrative Officer in the civil service and was successful. His appointment was conditional on getting a first or at minimum a 2.1 degree so there were months of tension, especially at home, before the results of the degree exam became available. He made it and was appointed to the Department of Finance in October, 1961. It was well paid, £780 p.a. and promotion to Assistant Principal was guaranteed within 7 years. He found some of the work interesting including serving as secretary of a committee examining the introduction of decimal currency, but much of it was tedious and the atmosphere generally in the department was ascetic with very little social contact with colleagues. His boss was the poet Tom Kinsella whose constant theme was to have a life outside the Department. When a competition for Third Secretary posts in the Department of External Affairs was announced early in 1963, Seán applied and was successful as was Paula Doyle who had been teaching in the Loreto secondary school in St. Alban's in England.

They both started in Iveagh House, the headquarters of the Department, in April 1963. Paula was assigned to the Information and Cultural section and Seán to the Economic section. They got engaged at the end of 1963 and knowing he would be posted abroad in the Summer of 1964, Seán got married in April of that year. The regulations at the time required women to resign on marriage and this was a huge decision for Paula. She appealed the regulations but despite a sympathetic hearing within the Department, the ruling Department, Finance, would not even entertain an appeal. She wrote a resignation letter which made clear her views and asserted a right to be re-employed should the regulations change.

Their foreign life began in Bonn, the Federal Republic of Germany in July, 1964. They lived for a few months in Blumenstrasse 2 in Bonn and subsequently in Bonn-Ippendorf and in Bad Godesberg-Plittersdorf. **Monica** was born in the Venusberg Klinic, Bonn in December, 1964 and her first school was a US playschool in Plittersdorf. Seán's work in the Embassy was very wide ranging as there were only three (frequently only two) diplomats and three support local staff. The big issues of the day were trying to persuade the Germans that Ireland was ready for full Common Market membership and meanwhile please could Ireland have quotas for exporting more Irish cattle to Germany. They were also doing what they could to attract German industrial investment to Ireland. Much of his time was, however, devoted to the more mundane tasks of looking after the problems of Irish citizens in Germany, promoting Irish cultural events, dealing with the media, maintaining contact with the few universities who had an interest in Irish studies and supporting the work of Bord Fáilte and the Irish Export Board which had offices in Frankfurt.

Most years Seán was also sent to Geneva to represent Ireland at the annual meeting of the UN's Economic Commission for Europe. This lasted for a few weeks and involved somewhat technical items for which he was given no briefs but nevertheless sent detailed reports back to Iveagh House which he now knows were never read! His participation was simply part of Ireland showing that it was a good member of the UN. Most years he was also sent to Hamburg to relieve the Consul General when he went on holidays. That was a one person post and the Consul General always gave Sean the use of his flat so Paula and Monica could join him. Social life generally was good in Bonn and while he and Paula learned German, most of their friends were other young diplomats mainly from Britain, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Paula's first serious bout of depression hit her in Germany and was initially diagnosed as post-natal. She was eventually admitted back to hospital in Ireland and Áine took Monica in her home in Dalkey for a few months.

In Summer 1969, Seán was appointed Consul General in Boston covering the New England states. It was a surprising appointment not only to him but to his colleagues. The post was much sought after and was usually given to a more senior person, often to someone approaching retirement. Years later, he discovered that he was sent there because it was thought that his experience in attracting German investment might be useful in attracting US investment. Route 128 around Boston was beginning to develop as a high-tech centre and Ireland was targetting it. As it happens, Seán never got to do anything about it because the IDA office in New York selfishly guarded its role with such vigour that they would not even send him their everyday brochures. In any event another major issue arose literally as he arrived in Boston, namely the outbreak of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

From a family point of view the new post was a welcome change from Germany. The language was English, the natives were friendly and living in the US was an exciting adventure. Monica enrolled in the grade school in West Newton, close to where they lived. It was an excellent school and free. The city of Newton, in reality a suburb of Boston, had its own education department which was well funded by the residents, many of whom were Jewish and some of whom were academics in the nearby Harvard, MIT, Boston College, Boston University, etc. Indeed there was even an All Newton Music school to which they nearly sent Monica but decided that specialising at the age of 5 might not be the best start in her education. **Brendan** was born in the mainly Jewish Newton-Wellesley hospital on Abraham Lincoln's birthday in February, 1970. (They resisted the pressure from the hospital staff to call him Abraham). By a happy coincidence, Seán's sister Mairéad, fed up with her job in the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin, had resigned and came to spend a year with them in Boston where she enrolled in some courses in Newton Junior College. Uinseann also came out for a summer and Seán got him a hotel job locally. Each summer, the family rented a house on Cape Cod. Their social life - when Seán was not on pastoral duty with Irish-America – was very active and involved many contemporaries from Ireland, mainly medical doctors and other university graduates who were now doing very well in the area.

The outbreak of the Troubles had a huge bearing on the work of the Consulate General where the staff consisted of Seán, a vice-consul, Carmel Heaney and two locally recruited secretaries including Miss Fahey who had been there forever but could not retire because there was no pension for her. There was a lot of consular work, passports and the handling of the estates of Irish immigrants who died in the US and whose assets had to be protected from unscrupulous US lawyers and claimed for the relatives back home. There was also a heavy load of pastoral work mainly by attending meetings of the many Irish-American organisations all over New England but especially in Massachusetts, Maine and Rhode Island. In Massachusetts alone, all 32 Irish counties had separate clubs which held

monthly meetings, an annual ball in the Autumn and, of course, a St. Patrick's day event. Boston had very big and active cultural organisations including the Éire Society of Boston, the Charitable Irish Society and Irish Social and Cultural Club. Excluding July and August, the Consulate averaged 10 invitations a week.

Official Ireland was not always well regarded by many of the organisations. On Government instructions the Consulate was not allowed to do anything which might encourage emigration – this arose out of the not unreasonable fear in the early sixties that the population of Ireland could sink below sustainable levels. They even blocked a Robert Kennedy immigration bill in the mid sixties which would have given US Green Cards to almost anyone born in Ireland. Inevitably, that had led to tension between official Ireland and Irish America and was now the background against which Irish-Americans had to be persuaded not to support the IRA's campaign in Northern Ireland. Seán's job was also not helped by the split in Fianna Fáil and the resulting uncertainty for many Irish-American. Seán did many interviews trying to explain the situation back home but had very little guidance from the Department. Luckily, the Minister, P.J. Hillery came to Boston in September of both 1969 and 1970 on his way to or from the annual UN General Assembly in New York and Seán was able to get reassurance from him on the line he was taking which was basically that there were gross inequities in Northern Ireland, that the British Government could not deal with the situation on its own, that the Irish Government had to be involved and that there was no role for violence.

Seán and family were on holidays on Cape Cod in August, 1971 when he got a message to return to Dublin at once. On arriving, he was asked to go to Northern Ireland. Internment without trial had been introduced and there were reports of serious mistreatment of those who were lifted by the security forces. Seán's instructions were simple: collect as much information as possible so that the Government could be fully informed in deciding what to do. There was no Irish Government office in NI and the only channel of contact was a colleague, Eamon Gallagher who on his own initiative had in late 1969 opened up contact with mainly nationalist leaders such as John Hume, Austin Currie and Paddy Devlin. He told Seán to go to Paddy Devlin in Belfast and take it from there.

Seán had only been to Northern Ireland once in his life, in 1964 but it did not take long to learn the difference between Catholic and Protestant areas. He spent the next three months collecting information about the circumstances surrounding the introduction of internment. Among his helpful contacts were priests, doctors, solicitors, community leaders and SDLP politicians. One led to another and he got to know whom to trust and whom to ignore. It was becoming clear that the

work could not be completed quickly so he asked the Department if he could return to Boston and suggested that they appoint someone else to do the NI job. The response was that he was to return to Boston but only to pack up and return to the Department to a new post in the Anglo-Irish section.

In November, the family packed up in Boston, returned to Dublin and bought a house at 41, Wilson Road in Mount Merrion. Monica enrolled in St. Theresa's national school and was eventually joined there by Brendan. Paula, who had been treated for a further bout of depression in Boston, seemed happier in Dublin and did an MA in nearby UCD. Both Seán and Paula were also active in setting up a tennis club in Mount Merrion and enjoyed the closer contact with family and old college friends.

Seán's work took him increasingly to NI. The information he had collected in 1971 formed the basis of the Ireland v UK human rights case which Ireland won. From mid-1972 onwards Seán became the principal contact between the Government and various NI interests after Gallagher had been transferred to EEC duties. Promotions came quickly, not least because the role of the Department expanded rapidly with EEC membership and the creation of Ireland Aid by Garret FitzGerald shortly after he became Minister for Foreign Affairs in 1973.

Seán was centrally involved in all aspects of Anglo-Irish affairs in the seventies and spent much of his time in NI. The family began to spend Summer holidays in Bunbeg in 1973 so that Sean could maintain contact with his NI interlocutors who also holidayed there. John Hume became a close friend in those years and their relationship facilitated very close contact between the Government and the SDLP. The seventies were very violent years in NI and there were nerve-wracking times. But he could hardly complain since the people he was in contact with were living there with their families and had little or no protection. In retrospect Seán has no doubt that he was lucky to survive without any major incident. He travelled everywhere in a Dublin registered car, became well known to media people in Belfast with whom he frequently traded information, spent a lot of time in areas like west Belfast, mid-Tyrone and south Armagh which were controlled by the Provisional IRA. He did manage to develop good contacts on both the Nationalist and Unionist sides and in many ways it was probably the most productive era of his diplomatic career.

When the Government in Dublin changed in 1977, he took the opportunity to ask for a transfer but the new Taoiseach, Jack Lynch asked him to continue his NI work for a while until he (the Taoiseach) was settled. It took him a year to settle and in the Summer of 1978 his Government appointed Seán as Ambassador to the US and concurrently to Mexico. Given his age and relative seniority within the Department it was a surprising move and not welcomed by some of his older colleagues. He took

up the post in August and arranged for Monica to go to Georgetown Visitation High School and Brendan to the Annunciation primary school in Washington. Moving to a big house with domestic staff and a swimming pool was somewhat of a change for the family. On the flip side there was a lot of intrusion with entertaining and hosting Ministerial and other visitors from Ireland. They rarely had a week on their own and additionally he travelled a lot both within the US and to Mexico.

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On appointing Seán to Washington, Jack Lynch said he was to concentrate firstly on cutting off financial, political and arms support from the US to the Provisional IRA and secondly supporting the IDA in its efforts to attract US investment. His colleague in the Embassy, Michael Lillis had had major success in cultivating the Four Horsemen, - Speaker O'Neill, Senator Kennedy, Senator Moynihan and Governor Carey - and they were of enormous help in getting the Government's message across both to the political and general public. There was, however, a significant political minority and a section of the Irish-American public who were solidly in support of the Provisional IRA and, not unexpectedly, Seán quickly became their primary target. The Embassy was picketed, he was heckled at functions and the US Secret Service were required to provide and advise on security for all of the family. Despite it all, Seán managed to do what he had been asked to do and professionally

it was a very satisfying time. When President Carter was succeeded by President Reagan in 1981 he had already established good contacts with senior people on his team and Sean hosted him in the Embassy on two occasions, St. Patrick's Day and again when The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland conferred an honorary fellowship on his father-in-law Dr. Davis.

At the end of 1979, Jack Lynch retired and was replaced as Taoiseach by Charles Haughey. Seán has written in detail elsewhere (Irish Times July 27/28, 2009) about the difficulties that arose for all Irish representatives in the US and elsewhere following Haughey's NI policy change. The Embassy staff were now to step aside and leave it to the British to deal with the IRA issue in the US. Because of Seán's identification with the Lynch policy, Haughey asked him to leave his post in Washington in the Summer of 1980 and take up the post of Ambassador to the UN in New York. Seán's powerful political friends in the US were not impressed and after much public furore and important support from John Hume, Haughey reversed his decision and denied that there was any intention to move him from Washington or to change policy. Seán now found himself representing a Government which was publicly known to have tried to remove him from his post, not an ideal position. Fortunately, there was another change of Government in 1981 and the new Taoiseach, Garret FitzGerald appointed him to the post of Secretary General of the Department of Foreign Affairs. Paula welcomed the move back to Ireland. She had been hospitalised twice in Washington for depression though she had successfully done some courses in Georgetown University and had been an active diplomatic hostess. Monica was about to begin her final year at Georgetown Visitation and it was decided that it would be best if she stayed on in Washington for that year.

The family returned to Dublin in the autumn of 1981, bought a new house on Cowper Road, Rathmines and enrolled Brendan in Gonzaga College. He was unhappy there at first but settled after a while and stayed there until he completed his Leaving Certificate and went to the National College of Art and Design where he graduated at the top of his year. Initially he worked as a graphic designer and then set up his own branding company, Design Tactics in 2001. Monica came back to Ireland, enrolled in UCD from which she graduated with a BA and MA and started working in Arthur Anderson, now Accenture in 1986. While at UCD, she became a member of the semi-professional RTE chamber choir and when that was disbanded she became a founder member of Anuna.

Seán remained Secretary General of the Department from 1971 to 1978 and worked with two Taoisigh, FitzGerald and Haughey and three Foreign Ministers, Dooge, Collins and Barry. In addition to managing the Department and the diplomatic service, he remained very involved in Anglo-Irish and US-Irish affairs and was a member of the team which negotiated the 1985 Anglo-Irish

Agreement. He was also heavily involved in EU matters and attended every EU summit during his tenure. The most difficult part of the job was managing the people, many of whom were very talented but a few of whom were not as good as they thought.

Neither Paula nor he were inclined to take another foreign posting and even though his appointment as Secretary General was valid until he was 65, he had announced to his colleagues when he took the job that he would not stay more than seven years. By 1987, he had had a number of offers of jobs in the private sector and finally decided on a position in GPA Group plc, an aviation financing and leasing company run by Tony Ryan and based at Shannon. A requirement of the job was that he live in the Shannon region and he followed the example of many of his new colleagues by buying a house in Killaloe. His job in GPA was very interesting and involved maintaining relationships with companies in Japan (Mitsui, Longterm Credit Bank of Japan, Mitsubishi), the US (Boeing and McDonnell Douglas) and Europe (Rolls Royce, Airbus and many banks) with whom GPA was in joint or other ventures. He also got involved in difficult deals involving governments in Iran, Mongolia, Vietnam, India, Pakistan, Mexico, Mozambique, Venezuela, Egypt, Israel and the Soviet Union. GPA decided to go for a complex public launch in 1993 and esentially it failed. In 1994, the US giant GE acquired the good assets of GPA and offered Seán a position which he accepted but which he had not yet started when another opportunity arose.

Fine Gael had unexpectedly entered Government in December, 1994 and John Bruton became Taoiseach. The Northern Ireland situation was at a delicate phase. John Hume had persuaded the IRA to declare a ceasefire and negotiations were now taking place to create democratic structures which would command widespread support. Bruton felt he needed an adviser who knew the NI situation and Hume and FitzGerald urged him to hire Seán. Seán was reluctant as he knew that Bruton's NI views were far removed from most people's. He was the only member of Government to oppose the 1985 Anglo-Irish Agreement and his views were more partitionist than most. Nevertheless, under some pressure from FitzGerald and also not convinced that he wanted to work for a huge, bureaucratic US multinational company, Seán negotiated a leave of absence from GE and became Bruton's adviser for his period as Taoiseach, 1994-97. In practice, Seán dealt with all aspects of his activities and found himself working 24/7 and without a day free for the period.

Paula and he had by now separated (they divorced in 2009) and Seán rented a flat in Ballsbridge early in 1995. Following the elections of 1997 which Bruton lost, Seán decided not to return to GE and began to accept non-executive directorships with companies such as Norwich Union, Hibernian,

Aviva, Enba, and Fly Leasing, mostly insurance and aviation financing related. He was also invited by the Governing Body of the University of Limerick to become its chair and Chancellor in 2002 and filled these posts until 2008. Other activities included chairing the Birr Scientific and Heritage Foundation at the request of Lord Rosse. This involved liaising with Government agencies to have the Great Telescope in Birr renovated and restored to working order. He also worked as a fulltime volunteer advising Michael Noonan when he was leader of Fine Gael in 2001/02.

Monica married Con Gregg and they now have three children, Aoife (b. 1995), Aisling (b. 1998) and Claire (b. 2001). Brendan married Fiona Sheridan and they have one child, Alex (b. 2007). After a long illness, Paula died in 2009 of early onset dementia.

While writing this, Sean was asked by the Government to become an executive director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a London based bank owned by 64 governments. It raises money on the international capital markets and finances projects to promote open, market-based economies in former Communist countries. Sean plans to move to London in September and has agreed to take the position until the end of 2015.

ÁINE HYLAND (née Donlon)

> Áine was the third child of Tom and Peggy Donlon and was born on 1st March 1942 in Athboy, Co. Meath. She was born prematurely and weighed less than 5 lbs so the midwife wrapped her in cotton wool and kept her warm in a box above the turf range for the first few weeks of her life! The family moved to Drogheda when Áine was two years old. She attended St. Mary's National School on the Dublin Road from the age of 3, and by the time she left Drogheda at the age of 7 in 1949, she had completed second class. She remembers that she had very little English when she started school and worried that she might inadvertently speak Irish instead of English to her school friends! She learned piano from Sr. Catherine and has her Preliminary and Primary Grade certificates to show for her efforts!

She remembers the summer of 1949 very well – the move initially from Drogheda to Bandon, where Peggy and the children stayed with Nana on St. Patrick's Hill for three months until Tom was allocated a district in Cavan in September. She remembers the long car journey from Bandon to Cavan in early September – with two adults and seven children stuffed into a Ford Prefect car! She remembers the arrival at Carrickane House and the children's wonder that the furniture from Drogheda had arrived before them and was already in place. She enjoyed attending school with

Máire, Eithne and Tomás in Farnham National School – a two-teacher mixed-religion school that was so different to any school she attended, before or afterwards. She was in Third Class that year, but probably because she learned both the third class and the fourth class books in the "senior" classroom in Farnham N.S, when she moved to the Convent School in Cavan in September 1950, she was enrolled in Fifth Class. She did the Primary Cert in 1952 and as she was still only 10 years of age, she went into Seventh Class the following year.

In summer 1953, she got a "house" scholarship to the Convent of Mercy Secondary School in Ballymahon (i.e. a scholarship given by the nuns on the basis of an entrance examination) and she went as a boarder to Ballymahon in September 1953. She was also awarded a Cavan County Council scholarship in 1954, having sat the exam at the end of her first year in Ballymahon. After an initial period of loneliness for her parents and brothers and sisters, she settled down happily and spent the next six years as a boarder in Ballymahon, only coming home for Christmas, Easter and summer holidays. She sat the Inter Cert for the first time in 1956 but because she was regarded as too young to go into the Leaving Cert cycle, she repeated the Inter Cert in 1957 and got an Intermediate Scholarship, coming fourth in Ireland.

Her fifth year in Ballymahon was marred by the death of her brother Tomás. In retrospect, it was extraordinary that she and Eithne were not brought home to Ennis when he died, but they were asked to meet the funeral cortege in Mullingar as it came through on its way from Ennis to Kilskyre, Co. Meath. Áine remembers that she and Eithne had to get the bus from Ballymahon to Mullingar and sit in a hotel for what appeared to be hours, waiting for the funeral to arrive. It seems very strange nowadays that they were not accompanied to the funeral by any of the nuns or by any adults. In every other way, the nuns were kind and thoughtful – however, that was the decision, and Áine still remembers sitting in the hotel in Mullingar distraught and upset and not knowing what to do next. They returned to school immediately after the funeral and did not go back to Ennis until the Easter holidays, three months later.

Áine sat the Leaving Cert in 1959 and got a very good result, among the top ten in the country. Her original intention was to go to Mary Immaculate College in Limerick to train as a primary school teacher, and she was interviewed for a place there – but her father was given a transfer as inspector to Dublin in September of that year and in those exceptional circumstances, it was agreed that she could transfer her teacher training place to Carysfort College in Blackrock, Dublin. Her time as a student in Carysfort was not happy – the regime was very strict and was intellectually stifling and like all other students, she was required to board there, even though her family lived in Dublin. When in December 1959, she heard that she had done well in the Junior Executive

Officer examination for the Civil Service, she gladly accepted an appointment in the Department of Education in Marlborough St, where she spent almost five years.

During her time there she was seconded to work as a research assistant with the Investment in Education team, where she met Bill Hyland, who was to become her husband. Bill was a Corkman, a statistician who had graduated from UCC in 1948 and had gone to work in the newly established Central Statistics Office in Dublin in 1949. From there he went to the United Nations in New York where he spent ten years from 1952 to 1962. He was seconded to the Investment in Education team in Dublin in 1962 for two years, and when the work of the team was effectively finished in summer 1964, he was appointed to the U.N. office (the Economic Commission for Europe) in Geneva. Áine decided to resign from her job in the Dept. of Education and follow Bill to Geneva, where they got married shortly afterwards. Áine worked in the International Labour Office in Geneva until the birth of their first daughter Fiona, and in September 1966, when Bill was appointed Senior Statistician in the Department of Education, they returned to Dublin where their second daughter Niamh was born. A third daughter, Sonja, was born in 1973.



Áine Hyland (née Donlon) with her children, Fiona, Niamh and Sonja and five of her grandchildren, Liam, Daniel, Naoise, Finn and Louis, July 2010.

Meanwhile, Áine completed a B.A. (evening course) in UCD in 1966. She was awarded a Higher Diploma in Education in Trinity College in 1969, coming first in the class, have fulfilled the teaching

practice requirements in Hillcourt School, Glenageary, now Rathdown Secondary School. She continued to teach in Rathdown on a part-time basis until 1972 when she began a Masters course in education in TCD. She was conferred with the M.Ed. in 1975 and for the rest of the 1970s she was a part-time tutor in Trinity College and in Carysfort College. In 1979 she accepted a full-time teaching position in St. Andrew's Booterstown, and the following year, 1980, she was appointed Admissions Officer and Senior Lecturer in Education in Carysfort College. During this time she was engaged in research for her doctorate and she was awarded a Ph.D. by Trinity College in 1982.

She and Bill were very involved in the 1970s with the setting up of the Dalkey School Project (DSP) – Ireland's first multi-denominational primary school. It was not an easy task, there were many obstacles along the way - but after four challenging but interesting years, the Dalkey School Project National School opened in temporary premises in September 1978. Their daughter, Sonja, was one of the first pupils enrolled in the school and the school went from strength to strength in the following years, moving to its permanent location in 1982. The DSP was the first of the Educate Together schools, with which Áine continues to be involved, and there are now (2013) sixty five such schools in the country.

In 1980, Áine was appointed to Carysfort College as Admissions Officer and Senior Lecturer where she spent seven happy years until the college was closed as part of the government financial cutbacks of the late 1980s. She was appointed senior lecturer in education in University College Dublin in 1987, and in 1993 she was appointed Professor of Education in University College Cork (UCC). Her husband Bill had retired from the Department of Education in 1990 but sadly, he died of prostate cancer in 1996, three years after he and Áine had moved to Cork. By this stage, their three daughters were finished college and settled in their various careers so Áine decided to stay in Cork after Bill's death. She was appointed Vice-President of UCC in 1999, a post she held until her retirement in 2006. She returned to Dublin shortly after her retirement and she is now involved in a variety of voluntary and consultancy activities. She is a member of the European Universities' Association institutional evaluation programme and has been involved in university evaluations in many European countries. She is a member of the Press Council of Ireland and of the Bar Council Professional Tribunal; a director of the National College of Ireland; of Educate Together; of the Church of Ireland Theological Institute and of the Medical and Health Sciences Board of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She has written books and article on education history and policy, nationally and internationally.

Bill and Áine's eldest daughter **Fiona** was born in Geneva on 30th May 1965. She came to live in Dublin when she was a year old and went to school in St. Patrick's National School, Dalkey and in

Newpark Comprehensive School, Blackrock. She graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1986 with a B.Sc in Genetics and got a scholarship to Cornell University in the U.S where she undertook postgraduate studies. In 1994, Fiona married Douglas Laird from Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim, whom she met in Trinity College. Douglas had been a postgraduate student in Brown University (Conn.) and was a postdoctoral student in Cornell University, NY. Both Fiona and Douglas are scientists in biotechnology companies in South San Francisco, California. Fiona worked on the human genome project and now works in Life Technologies (recently taken over by Thermo Fisher Scientific). Douglas works in the area of cancer research. They have two sons, Liam, born on 31st December 1999 and Daniel born on 28th February 2002, and they live in San Mateo, near San Francisco.

Niamh was born in Dublin on 23rd September 1966. She also attended St. Patrick's N.S., Dalkey; Newpark Comprehensive School and Trinity College Dublin where she was a Scholar of the university from 1995 to 2000. She was awarded a First Class Honours Bachelors degree in Law (BL) in 1988 and a postgraduate degree in Law (BCL) from Oxford University in 1989. She was Jean Monnet Professor of European Law in Trinity College for three years before she went to Luxembourg to work in the European Court of First Instance in 1992. She was called to the Bar in Dublin in 1994 and was Junior Counsel until 2012 when she was called to the Inner Bar. She is married to Nick Kelly, also a law graduate and they live in Rathmines, Dublin. Nick is a musician, copywriter and film-maker and was the lead singer in The Fat Lady Sings in the early 1990s. Niamh and Nick have two sons, Naoise who was born on 2nd July 2003 and Finn who was born on 30th May 2005.

Sonja was born in Dublin on 25th November 1973. She was one of the first pupils enrolled in the Dalkey School Project in 1978 and she completed her primary education there. She then went to Newpark Comprehensive School in Blackrock, and in the 1980s she was a member of the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland, as a bassoon player. In 1990, she went as a boarder to Atlantic College, one of the United World Colleges, outside Cardiff in Wales, where she sat the International Baccalaureate exam in 1992. She graduated with a First Class Honours degree in Development Studies from Sussex University in 1995. She entered the Dept. of Foreign Affairs as a Third Secretary in 1996, and after a period in the Dept.'s offices in Dublin, she was posted to Stockholm in Sweden as a Third Secretary. In 2006, she was posted to Madrid as First Secretary and in 2013 she was appointed Irish Ambassador to Mexico where she will also have responsibility for Columbia, Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Peru and El Salvador. Sonja is married to Patrick Scott, a law graduate of Trinity College Dublin, who worked with IBM until 2011, and they have two children, Louis (born in Dublin on 20 July 2005) and Alexander (born in Madrid on 11th July 2009).



Wedding of Eithne Donlon and Kerry O'Riordan in Dublin, July 1968. Also in the photo are Eithne's sisters (from left) Maeve, Áine, Eilis, Mairéad, Rionach, Deirdre and Eilis.

EITHNE O'RIORDAN (née Donlon)

Eithne was the fourth in the family and was born in Athboy, Co. Meath on 10th July 1943. She started school in the Mercy Private Primary School on Dublin Rd., Drogheda and from there moved to Farnham National School in 1949, when the family moved to Carrickane House, Cavan. In summer 1950, the family moved from Carrickane into Cavan town. Eithne finished her primary schooling in the Poor Clare Convent N.S.in Cavan town where she did the Primary Cert. in summer 1955. From there she went to the Convent of Mercy secondary school in Ballymahon, Co. Longford where she continued as a boarder until 1960 when she sat the Leaving Cert. She loved her time in Ballymahon, particularly the development of her interest in music. She has great memories of working in the gardens after school with Sr.Bernadette who rewarded her with a boiled egg for tea every day!!! That was a great treat in those days! She also remembers 15th January 1958 when Tomas was killed in Ennis. As she and Áine had only come back to school the previous day, they didn't go back to Ennis for the funeral but went to Mullingar to meet the funeral there as Tomás was to be buried in Kilskyre, Co.Meath. She remembers that after the funeral she and Áine returned immediately to Ballymahon!

During the summer holidays, she enjoyed holidays in Baltray playing golf, rambling in the woods and 'helping' the fishermen! In later years she spent many happy times in the Cottage with her children until the owner of the house, Mrs. Maggie Sheils died, and the house was sold.

When Eithne completed secondary school, she wasn't encouraged by the nuns to go on to third level but did the civil service exam and ended up in the Dept. of Post and Telegraph, Engineering Branch from 1960 until 1968. As was compulsory in those days she resigned from the civil service when she got married on 29th June 1968.

She married Maurice Kerry O' Riordan (better known as Kerry) and moved to Rathfarnham in 1969 where they still live. They have 7 children - Noreen born 5th June 1969; Eoin born 22nd April 1970; Nicola born 10th December 1972; Conor born 2nd June 1974; Ciara born 2nd October 1977; Eimear born 27th July 1979; Orla born 24th September1981.

With seven children to look after, Eithne initially stayed at home, but as the children got older, and the cost of rearing them was increasing, she decided to find a means of earning money. She was approached by a local teacher to do a training course to run a Naoinra (i.e. an Irish-language playgroup) locally. She set up a local naoinra in the 1970s which she ran very successfully for many years, being awarded best in Ireland at one stage. In the 1980s, she went to work with older children in Loreto Abbey Boarding School in Rathfarnham, first as study supervisor and later as assistant to the housemother. She stayed there for twenty years until it closed down. During that time she studied psychology in the National University of Ireland in Maynooth and was awarded a Certificate and Diploma in Psychology. She was then asked by the Loreto Sisters to run their library in Beaufort High School. To qualify for this, she studied for a Diploma in Information Studies in Trinity College for two years. From there, she was headhunted by the then Principal of Sancta Maria College in Ballyroan, where her daughters were in school, to work in their library. She continued there for fifteen years until she retired in 2012.

Her daughter, **Noreen**, qualified as a primary school teacher with a B.A. degree in education and music, from St Patrick's College of Education, Drumcondra and further studied in Church of Ireland Training College, Rathmines. Since her graduation in 1991, she has been teaching in St. Josephs Primary School, Terenure, specialising in students with special needs. She also helps with music there. Like all of Eithne's children, Noreen is a talented musician, and plays the clarinet.

Eoin studied in UCD, where he graduated with a degree in commerce in 1992. After further studies he became a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and now runs his own accountancy

practice with his partner. He also plays music and was a member of the Irish Youth Orchestra playing French Horn. He is married to Nichola Lynch and they have 3 children - Daniel, Emma and Ben. They also live in Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin.

Nicola studied in Dublin City University, Glasnevin where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Marketing and Languages. From there she was headhunted into Guinness Germany; she then went to Seville in Spain, subsequently to London and finally to Dublin. She has worked in Ericsson, Microsoft, E.C.D.L.,and S.G.S. She now works for Fáilte Ireland in the head office in Dublin. She is a talented flute player and lives in Harolds Cross, Dublin.

Conor is a keen musician and studied the tuba and euphonium at the Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT) Conservatory of Music with Sean Fleming and Hartmut Pritzel. He later studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London under Patrick Harrild and Jim Anderson. He also studied with world renowned tubist Roger Bobo. A former member of the Irish and European Youth Orchestras he played regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland (NSOI) and the RTE Concert Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra and various other orchestras. He has played as a soloist with DIT College of Music Wind Ensemble, Guildhall school of Music Wind Ensemble and as a finalist in the Young Musician of the Future with NSOI. He was manager of the RTE Concert Orchestra for a while and is currently a member of the Band of the Garda Síochána in Dublin. He has recently been appointed to the Faculty of DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. He is married to Cliona O'Driscoll and they have one son Cillian. He also lives in Rathfarnham.

Ciara also studied in St. Patricks College of Education, Drumcondra and graduated with a B.Ed (Education and Music). She teaches in her local Primary Boys' School - Scoil an Spioraid Naomh in Ballyroan, Co. Dublin where she is music co-ordinator for the school. She plays piano and clarinet. She is married to Michael Hayden. They live in Ballyroan (near Rathfarnham) and have one daughter, Jane.

Eimear studied in DIT, Mountjoy Square and qualified with a B.Sc. from Trinity College in Management and an Advanced Diploma in Marketing from DIT. She is working in Swiss Deli in Rathfarnham where she started work as a student. She is currently manager of the business there. She teaches music on a part time basis and plays flute. She also lives in Rathfarnham.

Orla studied Human Resource Management at the National College of Ireland and is employed as Health and Safety Officer for Irish Life and Permanent now called Irish Life Group. She played oboe. She lives in Churchtown, Co. Dublin.

TOMÁS DONLON

Tomás, the second son and fifth child of Tom and Peggy Donlon, was born in Athboy on 10th June 1944. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Drogheda where Tomás started school in St. Mary's Infant Boys National School on the Old Hill, where his teachers were Miss Rynne and Miss Roe. When the family moved to Cavan in 1959, Tomás was five years old and with his older siblings, Máire, Áine and Eithne, he attended Farnham N.S for a year before moving initially to the Junior school in the Poor Clare convent N.S. and then to St. Phelim's Boys' School in Cavan town, run by the De la Salle Brothers. When the family moved to Ennis in 1955, he attended the Christian Brothers' National School before joining his brother Seán as a boarder in St. Finian's College, Mullingar in September 1956.

Tomás was very musical, and played the piano and the tin whistle, winning many medals in various Feiseanna Ceoil between 1955 and 1957. In the summer of 1956, he was filmed and recorded by a U.S. film company playing the tin whistle at Ennis Feis Ceoil – a recording that was treasured by his family for decades after his death in January 1958.

Tomás's death in the Carmody's Hotel accident in Ennis on 15th January 1958 was traumatic for the family and is described elsewhere in this collection. He was a much-loved child, remembered with affection by his siblings. He is buried in the Donlon family grave in Kilskyre, Co. Meath.

COLM DONLON

Colm was born in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda on 17th January 1946. The family moved to Cavan when he was three and a half years old. He started school in the Poor Clare Convent N.S. in Cavan town in 1950 and then went to St. Phelim's Boys' N.S. Cavan, until the family moved to Ennis in October 1955. In Ennis he attended the C.B.S. National School and in 1958, he went as a boarder to St. Finian's College, Mullingar. Following his Leaving Cert. in 1963, he went to All Hallows Seminary in Dublin to train for the priesthood but during his third year there, he decided that the priesthood was not for him. He then went to St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, London where he qualified as a teacher of Woodwork and Arts and Crafts and taught in London for a number of years. On his return to Ireland, he worked with the Catholic Youth Council as a Youth Officer and also acted as public relations officer there.

While he was working in the CYC, he met Betty Tighe, from Dublin, whom he married on 20th July 1974. He and Betty had one daughter, **June**, who was born in September 1975. When they first got married, Colm and Betty lived in Kilnamanagh, Dublin, and a few years later they bought a house on Lavarna Road, Terenure, opposite Colm's parents' house. Colm was very gifted with his hands and undertook all kinds of DIY jobs for himself, his parents, his family and friends. He was helpful and generous and could always be called upon for advice about house repairs and maintenance.

In the late 1970s, Colm went to work in the public relations section of the IDA Ireland (Industrial Development Authority) in Dublin, ending up as Head of Public Relations. He died suddenly on 2nd July 2004 at the age of 58, the day after the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mary Harney T.D. launched a major PR campaign "Ireland – Knowledge is our Nature" which Colm had spearheaded. In accordance with his own wishes, he was cremated in Mount Jerome Crematorium in Harold's Cross in Dublin.

LIAM DONLON

> Liam was born in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda on 19th February 1948. He was just over a year old when the family moved to Cavan. He started school in the Infants' section of the Poor Clare Convent N.S. in 1952 and when the family moved to Ennis in 1955 he went to the Christian Brothers' National School there. In 1960 he started secondary school in the Christian Brothers' School in Synge St. in Dublin as the family was by now living in Terenure, Dublin. He did his Leaving Cert in 1965 and went to University College Dublin where he was awarded a B.Comm. in 1968.

He started working in the Irish Pensions Trust later that year and then moved to Cement Roadstone Holdings. He moved to Industrial Credit Corporation in 1972 and in 1980 he joined the Irish Intercontinental Bank in Merrion Square – a commercial / merchant bank which subsequently moved to the Irish Financial Services Centre in the Dublin Docklands. It was taken over by KBC Bank and in 1988 Liam was appointed to the Board of KBC. He was Managing Director and Global Head of Project Finance in KBC Bank. In those years, he travelled a lot to Asia and Australia as well as spending time in the bank's headquarters in Brussels. He was Chairman of the Federation of International Banks in Ireland from 2009 to 2010. In his spare time, Liam was a keen golfer and wine connoisseur. He was involved in a number of charities including the IFSC Inner City Trust and was a great supporter of Belvedere College's Social Integration Scheme.

Liam married Margaret McLoone from Donegal on 10th February 1971. They lived in Castleknock, Co. Dublin and had four children, Colm, Emma, Barry, and Maria. **Colm** is a Managing Director in Morgan Stanley in London and since January 2013 he has also been co-head of Mergers and Acquisitions in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. He is married to Kathleen and they live in London. **Emma** is a primary school teacher in Castleknock, Dublin and is married to Mark Scannell. Liam and Margaret's second son, **Barry**, works in UBS Bank in London and is married to Alice Sumpster. They have one daughter, Emily, born in 2012. Liam and Margaret's youngest child, **Maria**, works in the Financial Services Centre in Dublin Docklands.

In the mid-2000s Liam was diagnosed with cancer and had a number of operations and underwent various treatments in the subsequent years. In spite of this, he continued to work with KBC, even though his work entailed a lot of travelling abroad. By this stage, he was separated from Margaret and they were divorced in the late 2000s. Liam lived in Brittas Bay, Co. Wicklow in his later years and during his illness, he was lovingly supported by his partner, Siobhán Lynch. He died in the Beacon Hospital in Sandyford on 13th May 2011. He is buried in Brittas Bay graveyard overlooking the sea.

MAIRÉAD HACKETT (Née DONLON)

> Mairéad, eighth child of Tom and Peggy, was born on 21st December 1949. Peggy was booked into Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Drogheda but didn't make it that far so Mairéad was born in The County Hospital in Cavan. Peggy didn't get home for Christmas that year and in later years deemed it the easiest Christmas she had ever had.

Home was Carrickane House (three miles outside Cavan town), but Mairéad's earliest memories are of St Felim's Place in Cavan town where she started school at 3 years of age. The family left Cavan for Ennis in 1955 when Mairéad was coming up to 6 years old and she continued her primary education in the Mercy Convent N.S. in Ennis. She continued there until 1959 when the family moved to Dublin. Mairéad started in 5th class in Presentation Convent Terenure and stayed there until the end of the following school year. Then she spent one very happy year in Scoil Mhuire in Marlborough Street Dublin before starting 5 years boarding in Ballymahon. She was probably the first in the family to be given a choice of boarding or day school - Enid Blyton fiction very much influenced the decision to board. Not quite matching the academic interest of her older sisters, Mairéad enjoyed the five years in Ballymahon, possibly more than either her teachers or her parents would have liked!

She entered the Civil Service in 1967, first in Customs & Excise in the Custom House in Dublin and then in the office of the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin Castle. In 1970 her eldest brother Seán was appointed Consul to Boston USA by the Diplomatic Service. His daughter Monica was two years old and his wife Paula was pregnant. Paula was travelling to Boston by boat and Seán didn't want her travelling alone, so Mairéad left the Civil Service to spend a year as 'au pair' with Seán and Paula in Boston. While there she attended Newton Junior College for the academic year studying Statistics and Economics.

On her return to Ireland she got a job in the Bank of Ireland where she worked for six years in Head Office. During that time she met Colm Hackett in a rowing club in Islandbridge, Dublin and got married on 8th February 1975. Colm and Mairéad bought a site in Broadleas, Ballymore Eustace, Co Kildare where they built their own house.

Deirdre Hackett was born on 4th November 1978. Baptised in Hollywood, Co Wicklow, part of the parish of Ballymore Eustace, Deirdre started school in Hollywood N S in September 1983 followed by Secondary School in Cross & Passion Convent in Kilcullen. After that she went to UCD where she studied Psychology, followed by a Masters in Cognitive Science. Deirdre worked for the Education Research Centre in Drumcondra for almost 4 years and then went to the University of Limerick to study Speech and Language Therapy. After graduating from Limerick, Deirdre worked for St John of God's in Celbridge, followed by a stint in Peamount Hospital. She then went to work for the HSE in Kildare, and then to Carlow/Kilkenny. Deirdre married Andis Poikans, a Latvian National, on 31st May 2013.

Colm and Mairéad adopted **Cian** from the Eastern Health Board in 1984. Cian was born on 23rd March of that year and was seven months old when he joined the Hackett family. At age three, Cian showed signs of special needs and after trials in several schools he ended up securing a place in St John of God's, Celbridge, Co. Kildare, where he has lived ever since, coming home regularly at weekends.

Mairéad returned to work several times as the children got older and started work in Kildangan Stud, Monasterevin, Co Kildare in 1989 where she stayed for the remainder of her career. Sadly, Colm was diagnosed with a brain tumour in June 2011, survived 9 months and passed away on 31st March 2012. Mairéad, Deirdre and Andy and Cian all continue to live in the Kildare area.

UINSEANN DONLON

Peggy O'Brien and Tom Donlon's ninth child and youngest son, Uinseann, was born at home in 8 St. Felim's Place, Cavan on 15th July 1951, a small 3-bedroom house where they lived until the family moved to Ennis when Tom was transferred there as National Schools Inspector in 1955. There they lived in a 3-story over basement Georgian house in 11 Bindon Street, a house belonging to a local merchant and businessman, Mr. McInerney.

Uinseann started school in the local Mercy convent school in Ennis and spent three years there before moving on to Ennis Christian Brothers primary school. In the convent school he was introduced to the tonic solfa, the triangle and other percussion instruments – the beginning of a lasting interest in and love for music, in spite of Sister Maria Goretti (Colaiste Muire) who had a strict approach to teaching the piano! In the Christian Brothers, he was introduced to the tin whistle, further expanding his musical interest. The sport of hurling was widely played in the school, and while Uinseann enjoyed playing it he never excelled at the game – nor indeed in team sports in general.

When the family transferred to Dublin in 1959, Uinseann was enrolled in 3rd class in Synge Street Christian Brothers national school, which at that time was one of Dublin's largest schools with an excellent academic reputation and record. The school was quite close to the city centre and had mixed clientele of local children from working class background as well as children from the middle class suburbs, sent there because of the school's reputation. Although the school had a very strict and highly disciplined ethic, Uinseann was quite happy there, aided by the fact that he was streamed in a somewhat elite class reserved for the "brighter" boys being coached for the secondary school scholarships awarded by the local city corporation – free secondary education had not yet been introduced. While corporal punishment featured widely in the school, its use was considerably less prevalent in the more privileged scholarship class.

Not long after moving to Dublin, Uinseann started attending the Municipal School of Music on Chatham Row, choosing the violin rather than the piano - to avoid the risk of sharp raps of the baton on the fingers (a-la-Sister Maria Goretti!) whenever a wrong note was played! - a needless fear in the environment of the School of Music. He was to enjoy many years there, studying theory of music and harmony as well as the violin, and especially playing in the School's orchestra, which at the time was probably the equivalent of the National Youth Orchestra and often performed on Radio Eireann and in Dublin theatres.

A memorable feature of the family's early years in Dublin was the pleasure – and challenge! - of Nana (Peggy's mother, Sarah O'Brien) living with the family. Particularly memorable to Uinseann were her fondness of snuff, and her generous rewards for surreptitiously aiding and abetting her custom with the local bookies!

Uinseann made lifelong friends with some of his primary school pals in Synge Street – one in particular, Donal McGowan, with whom he shared a desk from his first day in the school. The two quickly became best friends, and discovered only many months later that their mothers, Peggy and Molly Hayes, had been friends and had worked together in the GPO in Dublin for the Department of Post and Telegraph before they had married.

Thanks to the generosity of Peggy and Tom's good friends James and Maggie Sheils, summers spent in Baltray, near Drogheda, were an enduring feature of Uinseann's childhood whether in Cavan, Ennis or Dublin. Here each July and August the Donlon children enjoyed near-idyllic freedom, in contrast with their more disciplined life during the rest of the year. Days were spent roaming in the nearby woods, "helping" the fishermen net-fishing for Salmon in the mouth of the Boyne, swimming and playing on the beautiful Baltray beach, and playing golf on Baltray golf links that stretched along the beach (encouraged by the professional Mick McQuirk who gave free lessons to children on Saturday afternoons during the Summer).

Somewhat disappointed that, unlike his older siblings, he was not to experience the traditional boarding school secondary education that had been part of Donlon children's life before the family moved to Dublin, Uinseann continued his schooling at Synge Street CBS secondary school. Completing his Leaving Certificate in 1968, he won a scholarship to University College Dublin but decided to postpone availing of it while he pursued a vocation to the religious life, and joined the Society of African Missionaries ("SMA") an order of missionary priests with a novitiate (at that time) in Kilcolgan, near Kinvara in County Galway.

The "spiritual year" spent in the novitiate focused on the spiritual formation of the twelve or so young seminarians, and was a challenging regime almost totally isolated from the outside world. Family visits were discouraged except at Christmas and Easter, and the seminarians rarely ventured outside the grounds of the seminary except for a short supervised walk (weather permitting!) on Sunday afternoon. Uinseann had doubts about his vocation from time to time during the year, but persevered – as one did in those days, rather than take the easy road! But soon after returning home for a holiday after the year, he had no doubts about leaving the religious life and decided to pursue a career in engineering instead.

Then, as now, engineering was a demanding course, and relative to other faculties in UCD left little time for the enjoyment of college life and its various extra-curricular activities. The UCD school of engineering was located away from the main Belfield and Earlsfort campuses Terrace in the old College of Science on Merrion Street (now the Taoiseach's office), further restricting the opportunities to mix with students of other faculties and participate in the many various college societies and clubs. Following in the footsteps of his older brother Liam, Uinseann joined the UCD Rowing Club. Soon finding out that his physique was more suited to coxing than rowing, he enjoyed some successes in his two years in the club. After his first year in College, Uinseann spent the summer working in Boston, USA, where his eldest brother Seán was the Consul General of Ireland.

Shortly after starting college, Uinseann was introduced by mutual friends to Marian Connor, the couple became great friends and Marian was to prove a valuable ally providing great support to Uinseann during some difficult times as he progressed through college.

On graduating from UCD in 1974 with an honours degree in Mechanical Engineering, Uinseann accepted an offer to join a graduate training programme with the U.S. company General Electric – a decision that was to lead to a career involving extensive travel for much of the next forty years of his life. He specialized in gas turbine engines and their control systems, spending the first two years of his career in the U.S. (Schenectady NY and Phoenix Arizona) and the Middle East (U.A.E. and Saudi Arabia) training and gaining site experience in the construction and commissioning of power stations. In 1976 Uinseann and Marian married, and shortly afterwards accepted an assignment in the village of Soussa on the Mediterranean coast of Libya, where he was to commission a new gas turbine power generation station.

While this was an interesting and challenging work assignment for the young engineer, it proved a very challenging assignment for the young couple because of the very limited facilities and amenities in the village and surrounding area. Even basic food supplies were difficult to obtain; the accommodation was very basic; power cuts were frequent and sometimes prolonged; there was no telephone or TV, or entertainment of any description; only one or two people in the areas spoke English – and for Marian there was the added restriction that it was not feasible for her to go outside of the house alone during the day, while Uinseann was at work. The interesting Greek and Roman ruins and amphitheatres in the village and surrounding area were poor consolation – merely reminders of better times in this part of the world!

The Libyan assignment successfully completed nine months later (1977), Marian and Uinseann moved on to what was intended to be a short assignment in the North of England – but which

lasted unexpectedly for two enjoyable years. Living in a bungalow on the edge of the picturesque village of Elwick (near Middlesbrough) was somewhat more pleasant and luxurious than the Libyan experience, and there was the added bonus of frequent visits home to Ireland as well as frequent visits by their friends and family to Elwick. The project on which Uinseann was working was associated with the North Sea oil and gas production industry – commissioning some large gas turbine driven compressors in a new Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) production plant under construction in Middlesbrough. It was here that Uinseann transitioned from a highly technical role into that of managing people and projects.

In 1979 Marian and Uinseann returned to Ireland, and Uinseann took a new job with another gas turbine manufacturer, Solar Turbines Incorporated - part of the US company, Caterpillar Inc. The company was setting up a new engineering services company based in Ireland but serving the oil industry worldwide. Uinseann was initially involved in business development, as well as in managing the recruitment and training of a workforce of internationally mobile engineers and technicians. Within two years he was promoted to General Manager of the company and entered a demanding phase in his career, developing the company's business and involving frequent and extensive international travel in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Far East and Latin America.

Around the same time – February 1981 – Marian and Uinseann were delighted by the arrival of their first son, Sean, and shortly after moved into their new family home in Blackrock, County Dublin. It took another five years before Marian and Uinseann could welcome their second son, Tim (1986) – and yet another five years, their daughter Clare (1991).

Sean followed his dad's footsteps in learning the violin, and in graduating from UCD as a mechanical engineer – but his talent for sport, and his preferences for a career in financial services led to different life choices. Sean lives with his lovely girlfriend Brona Mojzisova from Slovakia, and works in funds management in the Dublin Financial Services Centre.

Tim perpetuated his grandfather Daideo's great interest in the Irish language by choosing an all-Irish secondary school (Coláiste Eoin in Booterstown, Dublin), before graduating from UCD with a degree in Science. Tim is continuing to pursue his studies in biochemistry, doing research in a Ph.D. programme in UCD. Tim married his school friend Orlaith in 2011 and are expecting their first child – Marian and Uinseann's first grandchild – in August 2013.

Clare shared Tim's interest in the Irish language, choosing Coláiste Iosagáin (where her aunt Maeve was principal) as her secondary school. She shared her brother Sean's interest in sport during her school years, being a keen basketball enthusiastic; and her dad's interest in music, having studied

the piano for many years – as well as her uncle Pat Connor's creative artistic talents. Clare is currently working in Newpark Nursing home (where Tom Donlon spent his last years), having taken a break from her 3rd level studies in the Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Dun Laoghaire.

Marian and Uinseann separated in 2000. Two years later Uinseann met his current partner Elizabeth Reilly, with whom he now lives in Pleasants Street near Dublin city centre.

MAEVE KEEGAN (Née Donlon)

> Maeve was the tenth child and fifth daughter of Thomas Donlon and Peggy O'Brien. She was born on the 17th November 1952 in the Co. Hospital in Cavan. The family moved to Ennis in 1956 where she attended the Mercy Convent primary school. When the family moved to Dublin in 1959, Maeve initially attended the Presentation Convent National School in Terenure, where she sat the Primary Cert in 1964. Because her parents thought she was too young to go to secondary school she spent a further year in Scoil Mhuire, Marlborough St, an all-Irish primary school that had a 7th class. In 1965 she went as a boarder to Ballymahon, where she spent five years, completing her Leaving Certificate in 1970. She then went to University College Dublin where she graduated in 1973 with a B.A. degree in Music and Irish and in 1974, with a B.Mus. degree. She became a teacher in Coláiste Íosagáin, in 1974, teaching mainly Music but also a little Irish and Maths. She was appointed principal of the school in 1993 and remained in that position until she retired in 2011.

In 1980, Maeve married Owen Keegan, whom she met when they were both Scout leaders with Dún Laoghaire Sea Scouts. They initially lived in Ballybrack, Co. Dublin and moved to Stillorgan, Co. Dublin in 1987. They have 4 children, Sinéad (b. 16 April 1981), Gearóid (b. 14 April 1983), Dearbhla (b. 26 February 1986) and Éamonn (b. 7 May 1989).

Sinéad went to school in Coláiste Íosagáin and from there went to University College Dublin where she graduated with a BSc in Mathematics in 2003 (having been presented with the Royal Irish Academy Hamilton medal for Mathematics in 2002) and a PhD in 2007. From there she went to Oxford University, where she was awarded a Masters degree in 2008. She then returned to Dublin to take up a postdoctoral fellowship at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. In December 2011 she married Felix Hofmann, from Olpe in Germany, whom she had met in Oxford. They spent the next year in Boston, where Sinéad lectured at Northeastern University and Felix undertook postdoctoral research at the Massachussets Institute of Technology. In January 2013 they returned

to Oxford University, where Felix is a senior research fellow in the Department of Engineering, and Sinéad a college lecturer in Trinity College.

Gearóid was educated in Coláiste Eoin, doing his Leaving Cert in 2001. He studied Commerce in UCD and after graduating, he was awarded an MBS in Finance in Smurfit Business School. He joined Bear Stearns Bank in 2007, before the financial crisis led to its demise, and currently works in the Capital Markets team in Investec Bank in Dublin. He is a keen footballer, co-founding Booterstown United FC in 2010. He is also an avid white-water kayaker, and has paddled some of the biggest white-water rivers in the world, including the Nile and Zambezi rivers in Uganda and Zambia.

Dearbhla attended Coláiste Íosagáin in Stillorgan, Dublin, from 1998 until 2004. She completed a BSc in chemistry in University College Dublin in 2008 and spent the following year studying classical guitar at the DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama. She then went to London and graduated from Imperial College in 2011 with an MSc in Environmental Technology. She worked in London for six months and then moved to New York, USA, where she is employed by the United Nations Development Programme. She is a talented musician, playing both Classical guitar and clarinet.

Éamonn went to school in Coláiste Eoin, Stillorgan, Dublin, sitting his Leaving Cert in 2007. He studied Commerce in UCD, and after graduating in 2010 completed an MSc in Quantitative Finance in the Smurfit School, UCD. He is now employed as a credit trader in UBS, London. Before moving to London, Éamonn played Gaelic football, reaching All-Ireland finals with his club, Kilmacud Crokes and with UCD. Like his brother, Gearóid, he is also an avid white-water kayaker, and together they have paddled some of the biggest white-water rivers in the world, including the Nile and Zambezi rivers in Uganda and Zambia, as well as a number of Alpine rivers.

DEIRDRE MATHEWS (Née DONLON)

> Peggy and Tom's 11th child, Deirdre (Brigid Deirdre) was born in Cavan on 7 April (according to Peggy but officially recorded as 8 April) 1954. The family moved to Ennis in October 1955, leaving Deirdre with no memories of her time in Cavan.

Deirdre spent one year in school in Ennis before the family moved to Dublin. The remaining years in primary school were spent in Dublin, seven in Presentation Primary School, Terenure and one year in seventh class in Scoil Mhuire Marlborough Street, an Irish medium primary school in the grounds

of the Department of Education where Tom worked as a school inspector. Pupils in seventh class were prepared for scholarships and Deirdre enjoyed learning French, Algebra and Geometry for the first time.

As the family was well settled in Dublin by 1967 when Deirdre was due to start secondary school, she was offered the choice of secondary schools: boarding in Mercy Convent Secondary School, Ballymahon, Co Longford as her older siblings had done or attending as a day pupil in Loreto High school Beaufort, Rathfarnham to support the Loreto sisters as Máire (Sr Ríonach) had joined that order. She opted for boarding in Ballymahon and spent five very happy years there. While not the most dedicated student, Deirdre's love of music was well cultivated. Piano practice gave a daily reprieve from study and participation in the annual school musical, local concerts and occasional radio performances enhanced the educational experience.

Having completed Leaving Cert in 1972, Deirdre pursued a career in education. She spent two years in Carysfort College of Education, graduating as a national school teacher (NT). She returned to her alma mater (Presentation Primary School, Terenure) to teach and spent 25 years teaching there. During that time she continued to study, completing diplomas in religious education in Mater Dei Institute, Dublin and in special education in Carysfort College of Education. She subsequently completed a Bachelor of Education (B Ed) in Trinity College and a Masters in Education (M Ed) in University College Dublin. In 1999, Deirdre moved from teaching to providing professional support for teachers, as part of a national support service. The following year she embarked on a career as a school inspector, becoming a divisional inspector in 2004 and an assistant chief inspector in 2007. She completed a Doctorate in Education in NUI Maynooth in 2010.

Deirdre met Harry (Henry Joseph) Mathews in 1973, while they were both working on a summer camp for children in Ballyfermot, Dublin. Harry had worked as a sound technician for BBC in London and Belfast but returned to Dublin in 1973, when "the troubles" in Northern Ireland made it difficult for a southern Irish person to live and work there. Harry joined the Dublin Fire Brigade in 1974, the same year as Deirdre started her teaching career. Deirdre and Harry were married on 4 August 1976 and moved to Knocklyon, a developing suburb in south west Dublin. They were delighted when their daughter, Aisling, was born on 4 February 1979. The delight was short lived, however. When Aisling was only five months old, Harry became ill and was diagnosed with cancer. Within a month, he died on 30 July 1979, aged 26 years.

Aisling was the light of Deirdre's life and helped her to survive as a young widow. She developed a bright and energetic personality and loved being on the go. She attended Presentation primary and

secondary schools in Terenure, Dublin and displayed great interest in gymnastics, swimming and music, representing Dublin on gymnastics' teams and playing the piano and clarinet. Aisling enjoyed a good social life with her school friends while also doing well with her studies.

She pursued a career in education, following in the footsteps of her mom and daideo (grandfather). Having studied in Froebel College, Blackrock, Dublin and Trinity College, she graduated with a first class honours Bachelor of Education as a primary school teacher. She started teaching in St Colmcille's Junior National School, Knocklyon in 2000 and continues to teach there today (2013). Aisling also continued to study while teaching. She qualified as a fitness instructor and completed a certification in PE in St Patrick's College of Education, Drumcondra and graduated with a first class honours Masters in Education from University College Dublin in 2011.

Aisling met her partner, Kevin McGarry from Rathfarnham, Dublin in 2011. They were delighted when their son Liam Harry was born on 19 November 2012. They live in Knocklyon, Dublin.

RIONACH DONLON

> Having moved from Ennis to Dublin at the age of 4, Rionach attended primary school in Presentation Convent, Terenure, and went on to Loreto High School Beaufort in Rathfarnham for her second level education. On completion of her Leaving Cert in 1973 she enrolled in a commercial course in Loreto Secretarial College, Crumlin and joined the Bank of Ireland in 1974.

During her 39-year career with Bank of Ireland, Rionach worked in several varied roles and was promoted to her first Manager role in 1991 managing their Stillorgan branch in Dublin. She moved from there to Gorey Branch in Wexford in 1996 where she was the first female Branch Manager in any bank in Co. Wexford, causing much curiosity particularly among the local farmers!

After a brief spell in Gorey, Rionach returned to Dublin to the Bank's Leeson Street branch and then on to various Head Office managerial roles before opting in 2006 to return to her favoured customer facing role as Branch Manager in James' Street in the heart of the Liberties, from where she decided to retire early in June this year after 39 years with Bank of Ireland.

As a single person without children, Rionach confesses to having been too busy with her sporting activities to have met the right man! Apart from playing hockey and golf, she participates on the administrative side and has served in many committee roles, including captain of both her hockey

club, Loreto, and Rathfarnham Golf Club. She also worked on the Leinster and Irish Hockey Unions and played a key role on the organising committee when the Women's Hockey World Cup was held in Dublin in 1994. Following this hugely successful event, Rionach was appointed to the Marketing Committee of the World Hockey Federation which role she undertook for 2 years.

Recently retired, Rionach is now planning the next chapter of her life which, no doubt, will include continued participation in her many interests and sporting activities.

EILIS HUMPHREYS (née Donlon)

Eilis was born in Ennis, Co. Clare on 11th November 1956. In 1959 the family moved to Terenure, Dublin. She went to Presentation Primary School in Terenure, followed by secondary school in Loreto Beaufort in Rathfarnham, Dublin. Having finished secondary school in 1974 Eilis went to the National College of Physical Education, in Limerick (renamed Thomond College and now the University of Limerick) to study to become a teacher of Physical Education and Music. After a very enjoyable four years she graduated and took up a permanent teaching position in Sancta Maria College, Ballyroan, Dublin 16. She taught there for seventeen years, with a break of two years which she spent teaching in Loreto Matunda, Kenya. In 1989 Eilis married Edwin Humphreys, from Devon, UK, who was working in Dublin on assignment to IBM Ireland. Edwin has one brother, Tim living in Woking, UK and one sister Jane, living in New Zealand. After their marriage, Edwin continued to work for IBM Ireland until he retired.

Eilis continues her career in education, becoming Principal of St Louis High School Rathmines in 2000, then working in professional development for school leadership for a number of years. In 2010, she was awarded a Doctorate in Education by the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. In 2009, she took up an executive role with the Le Chéile Schools Trust involved in school governance of 60 second level schools. Eilis and Edwin continue to live in Dublin.

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