

KILGANNON'S ALMANAC FOR NORTH CONNAUGHT 1906

Volume 2: Directory of the parishes and townlands of County Sligo.

In the first volume I explained that my cousin Sean Foley had lent me his dog-eared copy of Kilgannon's 1906 Almanac for North Connaught. We decided that because it was such a rare record of Sligo and the county of that time we should make it freely available using the technology of the computer and the internet. When I started scanning the book I realised that with 180 pages it was going to be too big for one PDF and decided to split it in two. The first volume contains a directory of the inhabitants and businesses of Sligo town with a number of full and half page business advertisements is now on County Sligo Library's Digital Online Collection.

This second part of Kilgannon's 1906 Almanac records every townland and its acreage in every parish in the County Sligo Baronies of Carbury, Coolavin, Corran, Leyny, Tirehill and Tireragh. A directory lists the more important inhabitants of the towns, villages and townships e.g clergy, doctors, teachers etc. and the main businesses, industries, principal merchants of the bigger towns, post offices, churches, schools, hotels, pubs, shop-keepers, temperance hotels where no alcohol was available, co-operative dairy societies, and R.I.C. stations in the same. Just a few of the more well-known names are the Hon. Evelyn Ashley at Classiebawn, Sir Jocelyn Booth at Lissadell, Henry Lyons at Baymount, Sligo, Gregory W. Wood-Martin at Cleveragh and Owen Wynne at Hazelwood. There are a number of other sections and articles which reflect the county's strong farming tradition with a list of Fairs in North Connaught, an article on Hints for Farmers and one on the Prevention of Potato blight, types of grass with their dates for flowering, weights etc. and the space required to sow seeds. There is a section called the Literary Department which includes poems and short stories submitted by readers. Some of these stories seem to come from the hand of the editor as they appear to be an oblique form of advertising with the odd reference thrown in for businesses like Foley's the Brewery and Sligo Coach Factory. Paddy M'Guinn's Letter by Paddy Himself about his visit to Sthrandhill –sic – is full of throw away remarks about various hotels there. An article on Glencar mentions Mrs Siberry's Tea Room followed by an amusing but supposedly 'true' story entitled A Leitrim Turkey Cock from Anne M'Ternan of Creevelea, Co.Leitrim. The language in a few of these stories is written in the language - some would say dialect - that townspeople believed that country people spoke. Towards the end there are several pages of Puzzles and Riddles with a prize of half a guinea for the person solving the most puzzles which incidentally are submitted by readers. Finally there are more statistics on a variety of subjects: times around the world, population of countries, weather signs and a month by month calendar marking dates of important historical events in Ireland and the world. The first four months of the year are unfortunately missing from this section.

The scanning was difficult to do at times as some of the pages were tattered or faded and had been cut unevenly in the original cutting process one hundred and seven years ago. I have included John O'Hara's map of County Sligo Parishes and Baronies courtesy County Sligo Heritage and Genealogy Society to make it easier for people to find their location. Together with the first volume it should be of immense value to local and family historians. Thanks are due to County Sligo Librarian Donal Tinney and his staff for putting both volumes online so that Kilgannon's 1906 Almanac can now be read and enjoyed by anyone in any part of the world and hopefully for generations to come.

Jim Foley 2013.