ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008

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Published by the Ulster History Circle

Heritage
LOTTERY FUNDED

Introduction
The Ulster History Circle is a small, voluntary, not for profit organisation that places commemorative plaques in public places, in towns and villages all over Ulster, in honour of men and women who have contributed to the Province's history. The Circle is recognised as a Charity by HM Revenue and Customs.

The Circle was formed in the 1980s to fill what was believed to be a gap in the celebration of our history - the kind of history that all can share. The Constitution is set out in Appendix 4. The work is entirely voluntary and we have no earning capacity or trust funds of any kind. Unlike similar bodies in the rest of the United Kingdom, who receive generous government grants, we depend on Local Authorities, individuals and businesses to fund individual plaques.

The general rule is that a proposal to put up a plaque is not considered unless the person to be commemorated has been deceased for at least 20 years - less if the deceased person was born more than 100 years ago.

As an integral part of its work to commemorate eminent people, the Circle has digitised the entire contents of the *Dictionary of Ulster Biography*, and it is now available on its own website. This is now a fully searchable database of information and should prove to be a useful reference source to schools and colleges and to anyone interested in finding out about the province's past. We plan to revise and update the Dictionary.

The Report
This report of the Circle's operations draws together the main strands of its activities in the year to March 2008.

The year saw a step change in the Circle's activities. Our application for a Heritage Lottery Fund was successful and there was a major increase in the number of plaques erected. In addition, the Circle was able to increase the number of plaques in areas beyond Belfast and County Down.

Plaques
Twenty plaques were unveiled during the year (nine more than in the previous year) -

John 'Rinty' Monaghan	Amy Carmichael	Margaret Noble
Barney Hughes	Edmund De Wind VC	H.B. Phillips
Robert the Bruce	Charles Lever	Martha Magee
Charles Davis Lucas VC	John Hewitt (2 plaques)	Gerard Dillon
Society of United Irishmen	Margaret Clarke	Charles McKimm
Field Marshal Sir John Dill	Paul Rodgers	
George William Russell 'AE	Daniel Cambridge VC	

Notes about the events, and photographs, are published on the Circle's website.

The plaques were erected in the following locations –

Belfast	8	Co. Londonderry	2
Co. Antrim	4	Co. Tyrone	1
Co. Armagh	3		
Co. Down	2		

There is a full list of plaques in Appendix 5

Future Programme
As the year ended, planning for ten new plaques was well advanced, with funding secured. An additional 16 plaques were at earlier planning stages.

Missing Plaque
As reported last year, despite many contacts over the year, the plaque for George Dickson, Rose Grower, which had disappeared from the Strangford Arms Hotel in Newtownards, has not yet been replaced and efforts continue to have the plaque re-erected in its former position.

Heritage Lottery Fund
The Circle's application for grant was successful and it was awarded a total grant of £49,200 over a period of five years. The project is called 'Celebrating Achievers' and covers a number of different but related strands. The agreed aims and outcomes, with progress to date, are set out in Appendix 1.

Dictionary of Ulster Biography
During the year the Circle purchased the copyright of the Dictionary from the author, Kate Newmann. Its revision and updating is included as an activity in the 'Celebrating Achievers' Project. The Dictionary's web site www.ulsterbiography.co.uk had over 3,400 visitors in the year to March 2008.

Blue Plaque Guide
By the end of the year the first draft of the Guide had been prepared and revision was ongoing.

Leaflets
Five thousand copies of the general Ulster History Circle leaflet were printed and are in the process of being distributed.

Trade Mark
An approach has been made to have the Circle's logo and blue plaque design registered as a trademark. By the end of the year the trademark had been awarded and, following publication in the Journal of the European Community, was formally registered just after the year ended.

Society Website
The Society's web site www.ulsterhistory.co.uk was updated continuously. In the year it received 5000 visitors. In addition, over 8000 people visited the biography pages and 3000 viewed the events reports.

Attendance
The Circle met 12 times, including the Annual General Meeting. The record of individual attendance is shown below. Mere attendance (travel and work requirements permitting) is not an indication of input and members' contributions in research and support are counted in other ways – see page 6.

Name	Possible attendance	Actual attendance
Doreen Corcoran - *Chairman*	12	12
Sean Nolan – *Secretary*	12	12
Pat Devlin – *Treasurer*	12	11
Marian Ferguson	7	3
Annesley Malley	0	0
Wesley McCann	1	1
Jim Crawford	12	11
Trevor Parkhill	12	6
Victor Price	12	12
Chris Ryder	2	2
Chris Spurr	7	6

Financial Report
The Circle's Accounts are in Appendix 2.

Conclusion
On behalf of the Circle I would like to say how much we appreciate the generosity of our sponsors, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Belfast City Council and the other Councils, individuals and organisations without whose help and support the Circle could not have continued the work of honouring the many distinguished people from the Province who are exemplified by those remembered this year.

Doreen Corcoran – Chairman **May 2008**

APPENDIX 1
CELEBRATING ACHIEVERS PROJECT

AGREED AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Aims	Measure of Success	Progress to Date
We will research and erect 50 Commemorative Plaques in honour of men and women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of ideas and the benefit of society, particularly in such fields as the arts and sciences, industry, religion, sport and public and community service.	By the end of the project 50 plaques will have been erected	Twenty Plaques erected in the year.
We will research, compile, document and maintain on its own website an up-to-date Dictionary of Ulster Biography.	A revised edition of the Dictionary will be available on the internet	Strategy and process to revise and update the Dictionary agreed.
We will develop a comprehensive Outreach Programme connecting with schools, universities and other educational institutions, local history societies, community development organisations, tourism interests and museum and arts organisations to create wider involvement, interest and direct, co-operative participation in our work.	A comprehensive Outreach programme will have been successfully implemented	Planning underway, initial project approved
We will research, compile and publish a Blue Plaques Guide containing information about each plaque and a range of leaflets about the Circle and about individuals which would include details about the sources of further and more comprehensive material about the subject.	Three editions of the Booklet will have been published. A range of appropriate leaflets will be available in a wide range of outlets throughout the province.	Draft guide compiled, design underway. General leaflet printed and in the process of being distributed. Broad range of leaflet types agreed.
We will work pro-actively with the Tourist Board and other organisations to promote the plaques and our associated resources as a social and cultural tourism asset for the entire community and visitors and to stimulate interest in the individuals commemorated by means of associated publications, tours, visits, lectures and seminars.	Extensive and effective liaison and co-operative arrangements with the Tourist Board and other appropriate organisations will be operating effectively	Not yet begun
We will exploit ongoing trends and developments in multi-media technology to maintain and further develop the Ulster History Circle Website as an easily accessible resource for the entire Northern Ireland community and a stimulus for tourists and others interested in exploring our history and heritage.	The Circles websites will provide an enhanced range of information of use to tourism, further and continuing education and to those interested in exploring our heritage and history.	Strategy and broad approach agreed.

APPENDIX 2

FINANCIAL REPORT 2007- 2008

Accounts

The Income and Expenditure account for the year is attached.

Grants Received

The Society is grateful to the following for sponsoring blue plaques during the year.

From	Amount
Armagh City and District Council	£525
Belfast City Council	£4,200
Carrickfergus Borough Council	£1,400
Coleraine Borough Council	£350
Craigavon Borough Council	£1,400
Down District Council	£350
Heritage Lottery Fund	£24,600
Lord Rana	£600
John Hewitt Society	£819.25
Mackie Family	£350
Newry and Mourne District Council	£700
Ulster Scots Agency	£700
University of Ulster, Magee College	£700

Financial Code of Practice

The Code of Practice, adopted by the Circle at its meeting on 5 November 2004, sets out officers' roles and responsibilities and the processes of record maintenance, budgetary control, financial reporting, account preparation and audit.

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE
INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2007-2008

		2007/08	2006/07	2005/06	2004/05
Opening Balance at Bank		**£2,721.63**	**£2,852.31**	**£2,852.31**	**£1,403.23**
INCOME					
	Grants Received	£36,694.25	£4,600.00	£3,350.00	£4,266.23
	Other income	£10.00	£700.00	£0.00	£323.68
	TOTAL INCOME	**£36,704.25**	**£5,300.00**	**£3,350.00**	**£4,589.91**
EXPENDITURE					
	Plaque Manufacture and fitting	£11,773.61	£4,570.80	£1,554.53	£4,003.25
	Plaque replacement and repair	£41.13	£152.75	£0.00	£0.00
	Bank Charges	£32.68	£24.80	£23.56	£166.02
	Postage	£38.46	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Printing and Stationery	£110.12	£60.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Meeting Expenses (1)	£548.45	£312.33	£152.85	£120.00
	Travel	£18.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Internet Charges	£163.06	£270.00	£19.98	£235.00
	Insurance	£32.00	£0.00	£36.00	£50.00
	Equipment (2)	£735.57	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
	Membership Fees	£30.00	£30.00	£30.00	£25.00
	Other expenses (3)	£3,067.06	£10.00	£74.64	£0.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**£16,566.07**	**£5,430.68**	**£1,891.56**	**£4,599.27**
Uncleared Cheques				£66.00	£0.00
Closing Balance at Bank		**£22,859.81**	**£2,721.63**	**£2,918.31**	**£1,393.87**

Notes

(1): Accommodation and refreshment

(2): Roll-up banners, Loud Hailer and demonstration plaque

(3): Copyright, Trademark fees and refreshment at events.

ALLOCATION OF COSTS

		GENERAL ACCOUNT	LOTTERY FUND GRANT	
	C/f 1-Apr-07	**£2,721.63**	£0.00	
INCOME				
	Grants Received	£36,694.25	£24,600.00	
	Other income	£10.00	£0.00	
	TOTAL INCOME	**£36,704.25**	**£24,600.00**	
	TOTAL RESOURCES	**£39,425.88**	**£24,600.00**	
EXPENDITURE				**Allocation**
	Plaque Manufacture and fitting	£11,773.61	£1,297.40	As appropriate
	Plaque replacement and repair	£41.13	£0.00	n/a
	Bank Charges	£32.68	£13.62	50%
	Postage	£38.46	£21.93	50%
	Printing and Stationery	£110.12	£55.06	50%
	Meeting Expenses	£548.45	£232.73	50%
	Travel	£18.00	£18.00	100%
	Internet Charges	£163.06	£81.53	50%
	Insurance	£32.00	£16.00	50%
	Equipment	£735.57	£735.57	100%
	Membership Fees	£30.00	£0.00	n/a
	Other expenses	£3,067.06	£1,057.55	As appropriate
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**£16,566.07**	**£3,529.38**	
BALANCE	(Resources minus Expenditure) [1]	**£22,835.74**	**£21,070.62**	

(1): £24.07 difference from Balance sheet is a deficit in Petty Cash account.

Tracking expenditure: Tracking the expenditure of the Lottery Fund is not straightforward. Some costs are directly attributable e.g equipment, plaque manufacture and fitting where no other sponsor is involved. Other costs are shared e.g. printing, stationery and postage, meeting costs, bank charges, insurance etc. Some are not attributable e.g. membership fees, plaques with other sponsors only, cost of copyright application etc. The above table shows the effect of this approach in relation to the estimated expenditure against the grant.

Voluntary Input: The Circle is required by the arrangements with the Heritage Lottery Fund to collect data on the extent and cost of the voluntary input of the Circle members in delivering the programme. No account is taken of the voluntary help made available by other organisations and individuals. Obtaining this information is far from easy since members do not routinely collect it. The following table sets out the estimated cost of the voluntary activity involved in the final 9 months of the year since the grant was paid. It is an underestimate but does give an indication of the value of such effort.

SUMMARY		
Hours	765	£19,110.00
Miles	2650	£1,060.00
Calls	510	£50.00
Letters	120	£60.00
TOTAL		**£20,280.00**

APPENDIX 3

THE YEARS EVENTS

The following pages contain short biographies of the people honoured with a blue plaque in the year under review. Photographs from the events are included.

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John Hewitt (2 plaques)	18
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Daniel Cambridge VC	21
Margaret Noble	22
H.B. Phillips	23
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Gerard Dillon	25
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MONAGHAN, JOHN 'RINTY' (1918 – 1984) | Undefeated World Flyweight Champion

'Rinty' Monaghan became the world flyweight boxing champion at the Kings Hall, Belfast in 1948 and retired undefeated in 1950 at the end of a sixteen-year professional boxing career.

John Joseph Monaghan was born on 21 August 1918 at 23 Lancaster Street, Belfast and, after marrying Frances Thompson in 1938, he moved to Little Corporation Street, in the Docklands area of the city where he lived for the rest of his life.

His early career was highly successful and he did not suffer a defeat until Glaswegian Jackie Patterson knocked him out during his twenty-fifth professional fight in 1938.

The defeat was only a temporary setback but Monaghan's career was interrupted by wartime service in the Navy. He managed to fit in a small number of fights during the wartime years but in November 1945, out of uniform and back in full training, Monaghan knocked out Eddie 'Bunty' Doran to win the Ulster flyweight title.

His target now became the world title and in 1947 he beat Londoner, Terry Allen, the fight being stopped in the first round. Later that year he lost then won against Dado Marino, securing the NBA flyweight title.

Rinty's daughters and two of his grandsons, Sean and Kevin McCann, after the ceremony

In March 1948, there followed the highpoint of his career when he knocked out his old adversary, Patterson, in the seventh round of a fight at the Kings Hall to become the undisputed British, Commonwealth and World flyweight champion, reputedly the first Northern Ireland boxer ever to hold a world title. Monaghan later claimed that the clinching factor in his pre-fight preparations had been a diet of goat's milk and raw eggs.

In April 1949 he retained his world championship and won the European flyweight title when he defeated Frenchman, Maurice Sandeyron, in Belfast and the following September, although he could only draw with Terry Allen in Belfast, he held on to his titles.

By this time, Monaghan had developed a chronic lung and sinus condition and in April 1950, aged 32, he was forced to renounce his titles and retire undefeated. He tried to make a comeback a few years later but he was refused a licence to fight again professionally and finally hung up his gloves. At that point, it was calculated, he had fought a total of some 180 bouts. Of the sixty-six officially recorded contests, he won fifty-one, drew six others and was beaten only nine times.

Trying to cash in on his undoubted popularity as an entertainer - he had always performed his trademark 'When Irish Eyes Are Smiling' at the end of his fights - he went on the road as a singer with a small band and even tried to train winning greyhounds. In the end, although no other boxer ever stripped him of his titles, the taxman relieved him of his remaining money forcing him to work successively as a taxi driver, lorry driver and then a petrol pump attendant to make a living.

For the rest of his days, Monaghan was philosophical about his lot and said he had no complaints. He remained a much loved and highly popular figure and, as he went about his various jobs, people throughout Belfast invariably recognised the battered little man with his twinkling eyes and permanent smile.

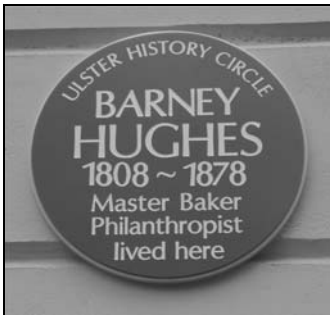
His sense of humour did not desert him in 1976 when a local radio station wrongly broadcast news of his death. 'I'm not floored yet,' he chuckled when he phoned to correct the report.

Soon afterwards, however, illness forced him to give up his cabaret spots and he finally succumbed to lung cancer and died on 3 March 1984, aged 65. He is buried in the Belfast City Cemetery beneath a headstone with the inscription 'Undefeated World Flyweight Champion' etched between the images of two boxing gloves.

On his passing the Belfast Telegraph devoted an editorial to him: 'The death of Rinty Monaghan marks the end of the last fight by the former world champion, who battled bravely against illness, but the memory will live on. He was more than a boxer or a showman. People inside and outside boxing knew his name; he was also an institution. He personified courage, style and, above all, a sense of fun.'

Location of plaque: Kings Hall, Balmoral, Belfast
Date Unveiled: 2 May 2007

HUGHES, BARNEY (1808 - 1878) | Master Baker and Philanthropist



Bernard (Barney) Hughes was born in Armagh. He started work as a baker's boy in 1820, moving to Belfast in 1826. He worked in a small bakery in Church Lane and later in the Public Bakery in Church Street, becoming manager 1833. In 1840 he opened his own bakery business in Donegall Street, followed by a second one in Donegall Place in 1846 and a third in Divis Street in 1850. He was recognised as Belfast's leading master baker and by 1870 owned the largest baking and milling enterprise in Ireland. By then he was not only Belfast's first elected Catholic representative but his roles as municipal politician, industrial reformer and Catholic lay spokesman had won the admiration of all sections of the increasingly divided city. His political and personal courage was characterised by a deep hatred of sectarianism. His heroic attempts to defuse the bitter sectarian riots in Belfast in 1857 and 1864 brought him into conflict with both the Catholic church and the Tory hierarchy, gaining him the respect of Orange and Green alike.

But it is for his bread that he is best remembered. His innovative production and marketing ideas provided the city's working population with cheaper bread at a time when they needed it most, particularly during the years of the Great Famine. He also introduced Barney's `bap', which is famed in the Belfast children's song `half a bap with sugar on the top'.

Hughes died on 23rd September 1878, and is buried in Friar's Bush graveyard. He is remembered not only for his business vision and liberalism but also his philanthropy - for example, donating the ground on which St Peter's Cathedral was built and money to build St Mary's Hall, Bank Street (now demolished).

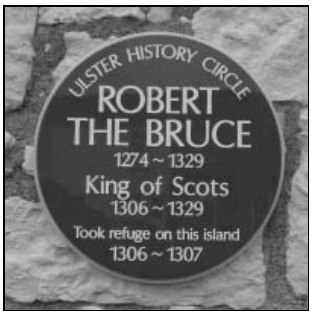
Cllr. Browne unveils the plaque

Location of Plaque: 11 College Sq North, Belfast

Date Unveiled: 8 June 2007

In the photo from left: Sean Nolan (Ulster History Circle), Cllr. Michael Browne, Olga Murtagh (Tourism Manager, Belfast City Council), Karen Latimer, (Chair of Hearth), Jim Edgar (Belfast City Council), Chris Ryder (Ulster History Circle- obscured by cameraman), Isabel McQuitty (East Belfast Historical Society), Marcus Patton (Director, Hearth)

ROBERT THE BRUCE| King of Scots (1274 - 1329)



Robert Bruce was born on 11 July 1274, the first child of Robert de Brus, 6th Lord of Annandale and Marjorie, Countess of Carrick, herself daughter of Niall, Earl of Carrick. From his mother he inherited the Gaelic Earldom of Carrick, and through his father a royal lineage that would give him a claim to the Scottish throne. His place of birth is uncertain, probably Turnberry Castle in Ayrshire, although Lochmaben in Dumfriesshire and Writtle in England are other possibilities.

In August 1296 Bruce and his father swore fealty to Edward I of England at Berwick-upon-Tweed, but in breach of this oath, which had been renewed at Carlisle, the younger Robert joined in the Scottish revolt against Edward in the following year laying waste the lands of those who adhered to Edward. However he was forced to make terms by a treaty called the capitulation of Irvine.

First Minister, Rev. Ian RK Paisley, with, Sean Nolan (2nd left) and Victor Price (right) (Ulster History Circle), Muriel Graham and Noel McCurdy

After William Wallace resigned as Guardian of Scotland after Falkirk, Robert Bruce and John Comyn succeeded him as joint guardians. Comyn also had a powerful claim to the Scottish throne through both his descent from the ancient Celtic monarchy and through his being the nephew of John Balliol. Bruce invited Comyn to a meeting under truce in Dumfries on 10 February 1306 where killed him. Bruce and eventually the whole country was excommunicated for this crime. Realising that the die had been cast and he had no alternative except to become king or a fugitive, Bruce asserted his claim to the Scottish crown. He was crowned King of Scots as Robert I at Scone, near Perth on 25 March, by Isabella MacDuff, Countess of Buchan.

In June 1306 Bruce was defeated at the Battle of Methven. In August he was surprised in Strathfillan, and fled to the islands on the western coast of Scotland.

There is speculation that this interval was spent on Rathlin Island. According to legend, Bruce hid himself in a cave there, where he watched a spider trying to spin a web. Each time the spider failed, it started all over again. Inspired by this, Bruce returned to inflict a series of defeats on the English, thus winning him more supporters and eventual victory. However, this legend only appears for the first time in a much later account, "Tales of a Grandfather" by Sir Walter Scott, and may have originally been told about his companion-in-arms Sir James Douglas (the Black Douglas).

Lord Bruce unveils the plaque

Edward I marched north again in the spring. However, on 7 July, he died, leaving Bruce to now be opposed by his feeble son, Edward II.

Bruce and his followers returned to Scotland in February 1307 and in a series of battles began to defeat his enemies. In March 1309, he held his first Parliament at St Andrews, and by August he controlled all of Scotland north of the River Tay. The following year, the clergy of Scotland recognised Bruce as king at a general council. Between 1309 and 1314, in a series of guerrilla actions he captured many English held castles and outposts also raided northern Enland and the Isle of Man. Eventually Bruce secured Scottish independence from England militarily at the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314.

Pope John XXII eventually lifted Bruce's excommunication and in May 1328 King Edward signed the Treaty of Edinburgh-Northampton, which recognised Scotland as an independent kingdom, and Bruce as its king.

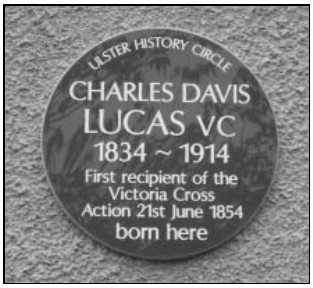
Led by his brother Edward, Bruce's forces also invaded Ireland in 1315, supposedly to free the country from English. The Irish crowned Edward Bruce as High King of Ireland in 1316. Robert later went there with another army to assist his brother. The Bruce campaign to Ireland was characterised by some initial military success. However, the Scots failed to win over the non-Ulster chiefs, or to make any other significant gains in the south of the island, where people couldn't see the difference between English and Scottish occupation. Eventually it was defeated when Edward Bruce was killed at the Battle of Faughart.

Bruce died on 7 June 1329. His body is buried in Dunfermline Abbey, but his heart at Melrose Abbey, in accordance with his wishes.

Location of plaque: Visitor's Centre - Rathlin Island

Date Unveiled: 23 June 2007

LUCAS VC, CHARLES DAVIS (1834 – 1914) | First recipient of the Victoria Cross



Lucas was born on 19 February 1834 in Druminargal House, Poyntzpass, son of David and Elizabeth (Hill) Lucas. He enlisted in the navy at age 13 and by age 18 had seen active service in the Burma War of 1852-53, being awarded the India Medal. The incident for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross happened during the Crimea War, which broke out in 1854. Although the main area of the war was the Crimean Peninsula, significant hostilities took place in other places, particularly in the Baltic Sea. Lucas was a mate on *HMS Hecla*, a wooden battleship, part of the fleet of warships dispatched to blockade the Russian Baltic Fleet and divert their resources away from the Crimea. On the evening of 21 June 1854 the *Hecla*, the *Odin* and the *Valorous* attacked the large fortress on Bomarsund in the Aland islands, which guarded the entrance to the Gulf of Bothnia. During the fierce action, which lasted most of the night, the *Hecla* closed on the fortress, within the range of the Russian guns. The citation of the award records that -

> *…… at the height of the action a live shell landed on Hecla's upper deck, with its fuse still hissing. All hands were ordered to fling themselves flat on the deck, but Mr. Lucas with great presence of mind ran forward and hurled the shell into the sea, where it exploded with a tremendous roar before it hit the water. Thanks to Mr. Lucas's action no one was killed or seriously wounded.*

Commander David Crone, Royal Navy, unveils the plaque

Mayor Rollston, Doreen Corcoran, Charles Brady - President of Armagh and District Royal British Legion and Cmdr. Crone

For his bravery Lucas was instantly promoted to Acting Lieutenant, at the time the only method of recognising acts of bravery for those of his rank. Lucas' action, together with other individual acts of bravery, was widely reported and in December of that year it was proposed in Parliament "that an Order of Merit to persons serving in the army or navy for distinguished and prominent personal gallantry to which every grade should be admissible" should be created. The government supported this and on 26 June 1857, at the inaugural ceremony, the Queen presented the Victoria Cross to Lieutenant Lucas.

In his subsequent career Lucas' commands included *HMS Liffey, HMS Edinburgh* and *HMS Calcutta*. He was later promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral in command of *HMS Indus* before retiring from the service. In 1879 he married Frances Russell Hall, the daughter of Admiral WH Hall who had been the Captain of the *Hecla* in 1854. He settled in Great Culverden, Kent. He died in 1914 and is buried in Mereworth, near Maidstone, in Kent.

Davis' VC is publicly displayed in the National Maritime Museum (Greenwich, England)

Location of plaque: Druminargal House, Poyntzpass

Date Unveiled: 26 June 2007

UNITED IRISHMEN, SOCIETY OF (1791 – 1798) | Meeting Place of

Cllr. Browne unveils the plaque

In 1791 a group of merchants and tradesmen set up the Society of United Irishmen in Belfast. This was followed a month later by a second club in Dublin. The Belfast club was initially composed on Presbyterians while the Dublin one included Catholics and Episcopalians. The Society was dedicated to changing the existing political order under which the Lord Lieutenant and an Irish Parliament representing only the land owning Episcopalian class exercised political power. The society's three main aims were constitutional reform, union among the Irish people and the removal of all religious disqualification.

The aim of Irish independence from Great Britain was a later development, when it became clear, through the Irish government's brutal repressive measures, that reform was not possible. That momentous decision was taken in June 1795 on Cave Hill above Belfast by Wolfe Tone, Henry Joy McCracken, Thomas Russell, Samuel Neilsen and a number of other United Irishmen

The following year widespread suppression escalated, with the smashing of presses of the *Northern Star*, set up in 1792 to disseminate the view of the United Irishmen, and with arrests and executions, and the internment of many of the leaders.

The uprising of June 1798 was a failure with decisive defeat of the forces of the United Men at Antrim and Ballynahinch. The leaders of the two battles, Henry Joy McCracken and Henry Monro were executed and despite a brief attempt to raise the country again in 1803, the movement was effectively finished. The failure of the rebellion led immediately to the passage in 1800 of the Act of Union. Originally intended to include Catholic Emancipation for Ireland, this legislative fusion of Great Britain and Ireland has signposted the political geography of these islands ever since.

Location of plaque: Kelly's Cellars, Bank Street, Belfast

Date Unveiled: 2 July 2007

Cllr. Michael Brown addressing the quests at the unveiling

DILL, FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN (1881 – 1944) | Soldier

Dill was born in Lurgan on 25 December 1881, son of the local bank manager. He attended Cheltenham College and the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. In 1901 he joined the 1st battalion of the Leinster regiment and saw action in the Second Boer War.

The guests at the Dill plaque unveiling

On the outbreak of the World War I he became brigade-major of the 25th brigade (8th division) in France where he was present at Neuve Chapelle, Alvers Ridge and Bois Grenier. By the end of the war he was a brigadier general, had been wounded in action and mentioned in despatches eight times. After the war he gained a reputation as a gifted army instructor. He was promoted to major general in 1930, taking up appointments at the Staff College and then in the War Office.

Dill commanded British forces in Palestine (1936 - 1937). He was commander of I Corps in France (1939-40), returning to the UK in April 1940 when he was appointed Vice Chief of the Imperial General Staff by the then Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. In May 1940, after Churchill had replaced Chamberlain, Dill was appointed as CIGS. Later in 1940, he became ADC General to King George VI.

By the time Churchill worked with Dill as Chief of the Imperial General Staff it was clear how poorly the two men got on. Dill gained a reputation as obstructive and unimaginative. To get him out of the way, Churchill posted him to Washington as his personal representative in 1941 where he became Chief of the British Joint Staff Mission, then Senior British Representative on the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

In Washington Dill found his feet, excelling as a diplomatic military presence. In 1943 alone he attended the Conferences in Quebec, Casablanca and Tehran, and also meetings in India, China and Brazil. He served briefly on the combined policy committee set up by the British and United States governments under the Quebec Agreement to oversee the construction of the atomic bomb.

He was immensely important in making the Chiefs of Staff committee - which included members from both countries - function, often smoothing ruffled feathers in the clash of cultures that followed. He was particularly friendly with General George Marshall (he of the Marshall Plan) and the two exercised a great deal of influence on President Roosevelt who described Dill as "the most important figure in the remarkable accord that has been developed in the combined operations of our two countries".

Dill served in Washington until his death in November 1944. Following a memorial service in Washington Cathedral he was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was posthumously awarded an American Distinguished Service Medal in 1945 as well as receiving an unprecedented joint resolution of Congress appreciating his services.

President Harry S Truman unveiled an equestrian statue in his honour in Arlington National Cemetery in November 1950.

Mayor of Craigavon Robert Smyth, Doreen Corcoran, Peter McKittrick (representing the Americal Consul General), Co. Andrew Cullen (representing the G.O.C. Northern Ireland) and Richard Doherty

Location of plaque: 30-33 Market Street, Lurgan, Co Armagh

Date Unveiled: 5 September 2007

RUSSELL, GEORGE WILLIAM ("Æ") (1867 – 1935) | Artist, Mystic, Writer

Russell was born in Lurgan, County Armagh on 10 April 1867, moving to Dublin with his family when he was eleven. In 1890, he started work at Pym's store in Dublin. For many years, beginning in 1897, he worked full-time for Sir Horace Plunkett's Irish Agricultural Organisation Society, a co-operative movement. He began as a 'missionary', travelling extensively throughout Ireland convincing farmers of the benefit of developing credit societies and co-operative banks. He became editor first of *The Irish Homestead*, and later of its successor, *The Irish Statesman*, where he published Patrick Kavanagh's early poems, until it ceased publication in 1930.

Doreen Corcoran (Chairman of the Ulster History Circle), High Court Judge Donnell Deeney, Craigavon Mayor Robert Smyth and Victor Price (Ulster History Circle)

After leaving school in 1884, Russell went to Dublin's Metropolitan School of Art where he first met W.B.Yeats, who became his friend and later his rival. In that year too Russell suddenly began to experience waking dreams of astonishing power and vividness which seemed to be thrust into his consciousness by a mind which was not his. A.E.'s and Yeats's interests in these visions led both to Madame Blavatsky's Theosophical Movement, with A.E. later joining the Dublin group.

Russell was one of the major writers in the Irish Literary Renaissance. Among his poetry collections are *Homeward: Songs by the Way* (1894); *The Earth Breath* (1897); *The Divine Vision* (1904); C*ollected Poems* (London, MacMillan, 1913/New York, John Lane, 1916); *Salutation* (1917) *The House of the Titans* (1934); and *Selected Poems* (1935). His mystical writings include *The Candle of Vision* (1918); *The Avatars* (1933); *The Interpreters* (1922); and *Song and its Fountains* (1932).

Russell was principally a painter of landscapes with figures, and of wonderful beings who might be incorporated into the landscapes, or is the dominant features on the canvas, often with amazed mortals observing them. This fluency, and habit of moving from one canvas to a new one to capture a new image meant that his pictures were often left unfinished, and as a result many of them are not as good as he could have made them. Those he did complete are often outstanding. He used the pseudonym AE, or more properly "Æ" This derived from an earlier "Æ'on" signifying the lifelong quest of man, subsequently shortened.

Russell died on July 17, 1935, in Bournemouth, England. He is buried in Dublin.

Judge Donnell Deeney gives an address about 'AE' and unveils the plaque

Location of plaque: 12 William Street, Lurgan, Co Armagh

Date Unveiled: 5 September 2007

CARMICHAEL, AMY (1867 - 1951) | Missionary

Amy Carmichael was born on 16 December 1867 in Millisle, the oldest of three sisters and four brothers. When her father, a mill owner died the family moved to Belfast where Amy became involved in the city mission work that awakened in her a desire for missionary service. With the blessing of the chairman of the Keswick Convention she made her way to the mission field, starting in Japan.

Some of the guests at the ceremony

In 1893 she served the Japanese mission as 'Keswick missionary' developing health problems the following year. Despite these she journeyed to India in 1895, joining the fiery Rev. Thomas Walker of Tinnevelly District in 1896. In 1897 she formed the evangelising 'Woman's Band', taking in the first woman refugee the following year and the first girl refugee the year after that. In 1900 she moved to Dohnavur. It was there that she realised her life's work - rescuing children from the 'secret' Hindu practice of temple prostitution. Dohnavur Fellowship, the name of her organization, was soon actively involved in the rescue, care, feeding, and education of hundreds of children. She and her co-workers, primarily converted Indian women, adopted Indian dress and voluntarily forsook marriage for the sake of their work: this eventually became the Sisters of the Common Life - a Protestant religious order.

The years 1903 to 1912 were years of growth. 1912 brought recognition from Queen Mary. In 1916 Amy founded the 'Sisters of the common Life', a spiritual support group. In 1918 she took in first baby boy, being awarded Kaiser-i-Hinds Medal for service to India. In 1925 she broke ties with all mission societies after a take-over attempt. In 1929 a hospital was added. In 1931 she was injured by a fall. In 1935 her health worsened and she became bed-ridden. A fall in 1948 immobilised her. She died 18 January 1951 and is buried at Dohnavur.

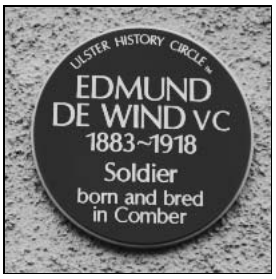
Amy's published works included *Things as They Are* (1903), *Gold Cord* her Dohnavur Fellowship history (1932), *Windows* (1937) and *Though the Mountains Shake* (1943), both Dohnavur Fellowship updates.

Cllr. Humphrey unveils the plaque

Location of plaques: Welcome Evangelical Church, Cambrai Street, Belfast

Date Unveiled: 8 September 2007

DE WIND VC, EDMUND (1883 – 1918) | Soldier



Son of Arthur Hughes De Wind, C.E., and Margaret Jane De Wind, Edmund was born in Comber on 11 December 1883. He attended Campbell College and joined the Bank of Ireland as a clerk in Cavan. He then emigrated to Canada to the Bank of Commerce. He had enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionery Force in 1914, serving at the Somme, St-Eloi and Ypres. He later received a Commission with the Royal Irish Rifles in the 15th (Service) Battalion and took part in the battles at Thiepval (1st July 1916), Messines Ridge (1917), the third Battle of Ypres (1917), Cambrai (1917) and the great German attack in 1918.

Doreen Corcoran of the Ulster History Circle addresses the guests.

The London Gazette, dated 13 May 1919, recorded the following:

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 1st March, 1918, at the Race Course Redoubt, near Groagie, France, For seven hours he held this most important post, and though twice wounded and practically single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help and two occasions, with two NCO's only, he got cut on top under- heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many. He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour, self sacrifice and example were of the highest order.

De Wind was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. His Victoria Cross, presented to his mother by King George V, was one of three gained by his regiment during the Great War. He has no known grave and is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial to the Missing.

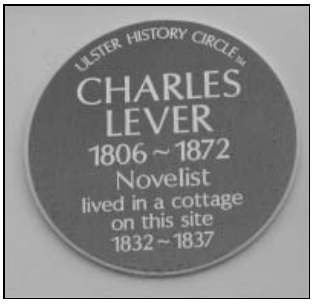
In Comber there is a street named after him and in Canada there is a mountain named 'Mount de Wind' in Alberta. A tablet to his memory can be found in Comber Parish Church. After the War a large German gun was presented to the town as a memorial to him and was placed in the Square. During the 2nd World War the gun was removed for scrap metal to aid the production of munitions. However, metal plates from the side of the gun containing an inscription were preserved and are now in the porch of the Parish Church in the Square.

Flynn family with Deputy Lord Mayor Jim Fletcher

Location of plaque: Bridge Street Link, Comber

Date Unveiled: 14 September 2007

LEVER, CHARLES (1806 - 1872) | Novelist



Charles Lever was born in Dublin in 1806. He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin in 1828 with a degree in medicine. After some time in Europe he was appointed in 1833 to a medical post in County Clare during a cholera outbreak. Later in that year took up a post a dispensary doctor in Portstewart where he married and settled down for the next five years. His literary career began during his student days when he wrote for literary magazines. In 1837 he began serialising The *Confessions of Harry Lorrequer* in the *Dublin University Magazine*. Lorrequer was a string of rollicking stories, and Lever, who had written them late at night after the serious business of the day was over, was astonished at its success. "If this sort of thing amuses them, I can go on for ever." And go on he did, producing a long list of similar publications over the years.

Tony Bareham, Cllr. Barbour and Ashliegh Kirkpatrick, Collections Access Officer, unveil the plaque

In 1837 Lever had left Ireland for Brussels and a more lucrative medical practice. The success of Harry Lorrequer was soon followed by *Charles O'Malley: the Irish Dragoon*, also in *the Dublin University Magazine* in 1840, and published by Curry in 1841, and Our Mess in 1843-4.

In 1842 Lever gave up medical practice and moved to Templeogue, southwest of Dublin. The house became a mecca for those interested in fine hospitality and witty conversation. The young Thackeray visited Lever there, looking for material for his *Irish Sketch Book* (1843), later dedicated to Lever.

Between 1941 and 1845 Lever was Editor of the *Dublin University Magazine*. While in Dublin he published collections of his writings in volume form, including Arthur O'Leary: his *Wandering and Pondering in many Lands* (1844) and *Nuts and Nutcrackers* (1845).

In 1845 Lever moved back to Brussels and subsequently lived in various places in Germany and Italy, settling in Florence in 1847. Over the next decade he produced numerous novels *including The Knight of Gwynne* (1847), *Roland Castle* (1850*), Confessions of Con Cregan* (1850), *Maurice Tiernay: Soldier of Fortune* (1855), *The Daltons* (1852), *The Dodd Family Abroad* (1854) *and Sir Jasper Carew, his Life and Times* (1855).

Caroline Marshall, Heritage Lottery Fund, Tony Bareham, Sean Nolan, Cllr Barbour, Paul McElhone and Ashleigh Kirkpatrick

In 1858 he was appointed vice-consul at La Spezia. This suited him as the post carried light duties and allowed him to concentrate on his writing. He produced a series of novels *including The Fortunes of Glencore* (1857) and *Davenport Dunn, a Man of our Day* (1859).

From 1864 to 1872 he contributed pieces to *Blackwood's Magazine,* while continuing to publish including *Barrington* (1863*), Luttrell of Arran* (1865), *Tony Butler* (1865), *A Rent in a Cloud* (1865) and *Sir Brooke Fossbrooke* (1866). In 1867 he became consul at Trieste. He continued to publish novels including *The Bramleighs of Bishop's Folly* (1868) and *That Boy at Northcott's* (1869).

In 1871 Lever was awarded an honorary degree of LLB from Trinity College. His final *novel Lord Kilgobbin: a Tale of Ireland in our Own Time* was published in 1872.

Lever died in Trieste on 1 June 1872

Location of plaque: 22a The Promenade, Portstewart, Co. Londonderry

Date Unveiled: 15 October 2007

HEWITT, JOHN HAROLD (1907 - 1987) | Poet

John Hewitt was born at 96 Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast, on 28th October 1908 and educated at Agnes Street Methodist Primary School (where is father was principal), Methodist College and Queen's University, Belfast, where he took a BA in English.

Cllr. Michael Browne addressing the company while Michael Longley looks on

From 1930 to 1957 he worked in the Belfast Museum and Art Gallery, and while living at 18 Mountcharles published his first book of poems, No Rebel Word (1948).

In 1957, having been passed over for the directorship of the Museum, supposedly because of his left-wing views, he resigned from his position there and took up the post of Art Director of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum in Coventry, where he stayed until his retirement in 1972. There were further publications during these years - including a Collected Poems in 1968 - but his most productive period followed his retirement, when he moved back to Belfast (11 Stockman's Lane). During that time he published seven new poetry collections, a book on the rhyming weaver-poets of Antrim and Down, and monographs on the artists John Luke and Colin Middleton. Between 1976 and 1979 he was writer-in-residence at Queen's University, Belfast and in 1983 was made a freeman of the City of Belfast.

Hewitt described himself as a "man of the left" and with his wife Roberta was involved with organisations like the British Labour Party, The Fabian Society, the Left Book Club and the Peace League. He was an early advocate of the idea of regionalism inside Ireland and notably described himself as "Ulster, Irish, British and European." He stood in a direct line of descent from the political liberals of 1798.

In 1978 the Arts Council for Northern Ireland produced a short film about John Hewitt, and he was awarded honorary doctorates from both the University of Ulster and Queen's University, Belfast. His lasting contribution to the arts in Ulster is recognised in the annual John Hewitt International Summer School, held in Garron Tower on the Antrim coast

Location of plaques:

(i) 18 Mount Charles, Belfast
(ii) 11 Stockman's Lane, Belfast

Date Unveiled: 29 October 2007

The company assembles at 11 Stockman's Lane for the second unveiling

CLARKE (nee CRILLEY), MARGARET (1884 - 1961) | Artist – Ealíontóir

Ann Simmons, granddaughter of Margaret Clarke, unveils the plaque

Margaret Clarke was born at 17 Thomas Street, Newry, County Down on 1 August 1884, one of six children of Patrick Crilly. She trained at Newry Technical School and the Dublin Metropolitan School of Art under Orpen in 1905, being known as his favourite pupil and becoming his teaching assistant in 1911 when she graduated. She won medals for oil painting, and first exhibited in the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1913, continuing to exhibit there until 1953. She visited Aran in order to paint and in 1914 married Harry Clarke. She used her children and her family as subjects for her pictures, and as a consequence received many commissions from the 1920s onwards. She painted portraits of, among others, Lennox Robinson, President de Valera, and Archbishop McQuaid. She taught in the Dublin School of Art and the Royal Hibernian Academy, and won many prizes for her work. After her husband died in 1931 she directed the Harry Clarke Stained Glass Studios, with her daughter. She became a member of the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1927.

Clarke is buried in Redford cemetery, Greystones, County Wicklow and her work is in the National Gallery of Ireland, the Ulster Museum and in Cork and Limerick.

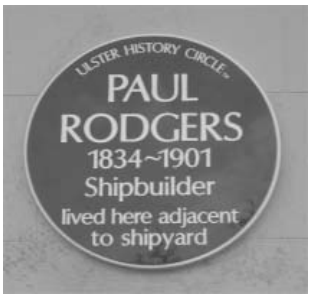
Descendants of Margaret Clarke - in no particular order: Ann Fitsimmons, Summina and Louise Sheridan, Sarah Bourke, Aine, Maeve and Aisling O'Gorman, Mary, Terry, Mary and Jane Clarke

Location of plaque: Thomas Street, Newry

Date Unveiled: 2 November 2007

Section of the Guests at the unveiling

RODGERS, PAUL (1834 - 1901) | Shipbuilder



Paul Rodgers was born in 1834, the seventh of the ten children of Paul Rodgers and Sarah (Logan) of Slievetrue, Antrim. In 1852 he was apprenticed for six years to Carrickfergus shipyard.

The first ship built in Carrickfergus was the brigantine *David Legg* (1845). The need for suitable vessels to export locally made goods and import coal led to expansion. Statistics for 1841 show that there were just three shipwrights; against 23, ten years later. In 1861 Rodgers was appointed foreman and the same year the *Dorothea Wright* was built, the first vessel known to be designed by Rodgers. In 1870 he became owner of the yard and his first ship, the schooner *Accrington Lass*, was launched four years later.

The yard employed about 150 people in its heyday. Iron, cheaply supplied from Belfast, was capable of producing larger, more durable ships and in 1885 four ships were built for the South American river trade route.

The opening of the new pier extension in 1885 helped development generally. The *Dawn* and the *Olga* (1886) were built to cater for the needs of local yachtsmen but a recession in 1884-1889 halted production at Carrickfergus for a while.

Doreen Corcoran introducing the event, with house owner David Aspley and Deputy Mayor of Carrickfergus Patricia McKinney

Deputy Mayor Patricia McKinney prepares to unveil the plaque

After Rodger's wife died in 1888 he sold the yard to Robert Kent, who completed the *Result*, the construction of which had been started before the sale. The *Result*, now on display at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Cultra, is the only surviving vessel of Rodgers'. By 1893 Kent had overreached himself financially so Rodgers re-bought the business for considerably less than he had sold it for. Subsequently, Rodgers concentrated on repair and conversion work and also took part in the lucrative coal trade.

Rodgers was also involved in public life; as a member of the Carrickfergus Municipal and Harbour Commissioners and the first Urban Council. Much respected by his employees throughout his life he followed in the tradition of the paternal Victorian, frequently refusing to make redundancies in spite of his own monetary problems and his contribution to the socio-economic development of the locality was of great significance.

Rodgers died on 8 March 1901.

Location of plaque: Marine Cottage, Belfast Road, Carrickfergus

Date Unveiled: 6 December 2007

CAMBRIDGE VC, DANIEL (1820 - 1882) | Soldier and Yeoman Warder

Daniel Cambridge was born in Carrickfergus on 27 June 1820 son of Archibald Cambridge and Bridget, formerly Murray.

On 24 June 1839 he enlisted as a Driver and Gunner in the 4th Battalion, Royal Regiment of. He served with the 2nd Company, 4th Battalion, in Malta (1841-1847) and was then posted briefly to Canada, returning to England and Woolwich Arsenal, the home of the Royal Artillery.

Dooreen Corcoran talks about Cambridge and his achievements

In March 1854 Britain and France declared war on Russia, beginning the Crimean War, and Daniel, now in the 8th Company, 11th Battalion embarked in June with his regiment for the Crimea, arriving there on 19 September 1854.

Daniel took part in the defeat of the Russians at Inkerman on 5 November and then returned to Sebastopol.

Between April and August Sebastopol was bombarded five times, the fifth, with 600 Allied guns, lasted for four days. The sixth and final bombardment, which began on 5 September with 775 Allied guns, lasted for 3 days. On the 8 September Daniel joined the spiking party for the British assault on the Redan. The British were cut down by the Russian's murderous fire from the Redan into the Quarries. As the Artillerymen's spiking party were unable to spike the Russian guns the Gunners helped and carried as many of the wounded infantrymen to safety as they could.

The London Gazette of 23 June 1857 announced the award of the Victoria Cross to Serjeant Daniel Cambridge, and gave the citation as follows:

For having volunteered for the spiking party at the assault on the Redan, September 8, 1855, and continuing therewith, after being severely wounded; and for having, in the after part of the same day, gone out in front of the advanced trench, under a heavy fire, to bring in a wounded man, in performing which service, he was himself severely wounded a second time.

Capt. Gronow Davis also received the Victoria Cross for his actions at the Redan on the same day. Shortly afterwards Daniel also received the Al Valore Militare, the Sardinian Military Medal of Valour.

Daniel was the twenty-second of the original sixty-two medal recipients who received the Cross from Queen Victoria at the first VC Investiture in Hyde Park on 26 June 1857. Later in 1857 Daniel was promoted to Master Gunner with the 8th Coastal Battery, Athlone, Co. Roscommon, Ireland. On 21 February 1862 he was posted to Fort Tarbert, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

Daniel was pensioned as a Master-Gunner after completing thirty-two years' service on 27 June 1871. In that same year he was appointed to Queen Victoria's bodyguard the Yeomen of the Guard. Daniel Cambridge died from the wounds received in the Crimean War on 4 June 1882 at 57 Frederick Place, Plumstead. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Royal Artillery Museum (Woolwich, England).

The Deputy Mayor with Perter Howell, David, Andrew and Conor (the latest in the line) Cambridge

Location of plaque: High Street, Carrickfergus

Date Unveiled: 6 December 2007

NOBLE, MARGARET ELIZABETH (SISTER NIVEDITA) (1857 - 1911) | Writer and Indian Nationalist

Margaret Noble was born in Dungannon, County Tyrone, and was educated at Halifax College. She taught in Keswick, north Wales and in Chester. She studied the teaching methods of Froebel and Pestalozzi and was co-founder of a school in Wimbledon that put these principles into action. In 1893, as a member of the London Sesame Club, she spoke in favour of the Home Rule Bill. She met Swami Vivekandanda in London in 1895 and joined his Ramakrishna Mission. In 1897 she went as a missionary nun, Sister Nivedita, to India, where she founded a school in Calcutta, the Sister Nivedita Girls' School. Among her publications are *Kali the Mother; The Master as I Saw Him* and *The Web Of Indian Life* which is regarded in India as one of the few fair accounts of Hindu society written in English. She was in favour of Indian nationalism and lobbied British members of parliament to this end. When she died her body was cremated in Darjeeling, and a memorial to her is inscribed: 'Here reposes Sister Nivedita, who gave her all to India'. A commemorative Indian stamp was issued in her honour, and her school has published an official biography, *Sister Nivedita of Ramakrishna-Vivikananda*. Among those who paid her tribute was Rabindranath Tagore, who said, 'She was, in fact, a mother of the people'.

Sean Nolan of the Ulster History Circle shares a joke with some guests before the ceremony

Location of plaque: 16 Scotch street, Dungannon, Co Tyrone

Date Unveiled: 7 December 2007

From right: Senator Maurice Hayes, Victor Price, Paul Hewitt, Baroness Prasher; Mayor Monteith, High Commissioner Sharma, Lord Rana, Mrs Sharma

PHILLIPS, H.B (1866 - 1948) | Impresario

Impressario Henry Bettesworth Phillips was born in Athy, Co. Kildare on 23 December 1866, the third child of Henry St John and Jane Phillips. In 1877 he won a scholorship as a boy soloist in St. Columb's Catherdral Londonderry and from 1879 to 1882 attended Foyle College. In 1890 he set up his "Piano and Music Salon" in Marlborough St in Londonderry, moving to "Beethoven House", in Shipquay St sometime before 1899.

Phillips organised his first Concert on 8 October 1891 in the newly opened (1890) Guildhall, presenting the Hungarian-born violinist Tivadar Nachez. He organised a ballad contest in Omagh in March 1892 and a Concert in Armagh in October the same year with the Welsh tenor Ben Davis. Between 1896 and 1903 he controlled Derry Opera House. In 1904 Phillips married Annette Prior and they had two children, Ailne (Babs) and Ian Henry (Peter). In 1907 he opened a second music shop in Belfast at 2-4 Bedford Street; also called "Beethoven House". In December of that year he organised the first of three visits of the Halle Orchestra conducted by Hans Richter, the others being in 1909 and 1911. Phillips brought the Halle to Belfast on other occasions; March 1912 (Sir Henry Wood), April 1913 and March 1914 (Hamilton Harty).

Perhaps Phillip's greatest achievement was bringing the most clebrated artist of the time, Enrico Caruso, to Belfast on 9 September 1909. Phillips moved to England in 1912 but retained his shops and his business interests in Ireland. In 1923 he acquired the Carl Rosa Opera Company and ran it until his death in 1950, during which time it provided most of the opera heard outside London. Londonderry too had its share of his efforts and 1936/36 saw formidable display of musical talent; Count John McCormack (October 1935), Fritz Kriesler (January 1936) and Paul Robeson (February 1936).

Marie Gallagher, Heritage Lottery Fund, sponsors of the plaque, with Doreen Corcoran, Chair of the Ulster History Circle

Philipps was made CBE in 1948. He died on 19 March 1950.

There is a memorial to him and his wife on the south wall of St. Pauls Church, Covent Garden, London.

Location of plaque: Shipquay Street, Londonderry

Date Unveiled: 12 February 2008

MAGEE, MARTHA (d.1845)| Benefactor of Magee College

Professor Allen of Magee College, who sponsored the plaque, does the honours

Martha Maria Stewart was born in Lurgan about 1755. In 1780 she married Rev. William Magee, a Presbyterian Minister of First Lurgan, who died in 1800 leaving her dependant on the Presbyterian Widow's Fund. Her two sons died in early manhood, one from an accident and the other from rabies during service in the British Army in India.

After inheriting a fortune from her two brothers, both military men, she moved to Dublin. With other charitable bequests totalling £40,000, she left, in 1845, £20,000 to endow a college for the education of the Presbyterian ministry. After prolonged controversy with the General Assembly, led by Henry Cooke, the trustees established Magee College, Londonderry, in 1865. Despite the donor's intentions the college accepted all denominations from the start. In 1970 it became an integral part of the New University of Ulster (now the University of Ulster). She died in Dublin on 22 June 1846.

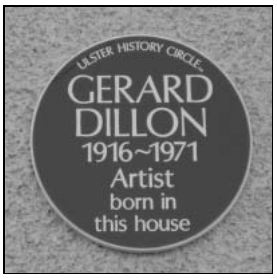
Sponsors and organisers after the ceremony

Location of plaque: Magee College, Londonderry

Date Unveiled: 12 February 2008

Listening to the addresses

DILLON, GERARD (1916 – 1971) | Artist



Francis Gerard Dillon was born on 20 April 1916 at 26 Lower Clonard Street, Belfast, the youngest of eight children. Educated at Raglan Street Public Elementary School and the Christian Brothers' School, Hardinge Street, he left school at fourteen to be apprenticed to the painting and decorating firm of Maurice Sullivan. He went to London, working as painter and decorator, labourer, boilerman, and night porter and using his earnings to buy art materials and visit art galleries.

Connemara, which he first visited in 1939, provided inspiration for his paining. In 1941 he went to live in Dublin and tn the following year Mainie Jellett opened his first exhibition at the Country Shop, St Stephen's Green. In 1943, with Daniel O'Neill he exhibited at the Contemporary Picture Galleries, Dublin. Dillon and O'Neill participated in the Golden Jubilee Exhibition of the Gaelic League in Belfast in 1943.

T.P. Flanagan remembers Dillon and describes his contribution to art

In 1943 he showed his first work at the Royal Hibernian Academy and in the same year he began exhibiting at the Irish Exhibition of Living Art, Dublin, becoming a regular contributor and a valued member of the committee for twenty years. He was also a member of the Dublin Painters. He was among the group of Irish artists who showed in 1947 at the Associated American Artists' galleries, New York. Between 1958 and 1971 he contributed twenty-one pictures at the RHA.

In 1958 Dillon was one of the artists chosen to represent Britain in the Pittsburgh International Exhibition of Contemporary Art. He was in Paris in 1960 for the opening of his exhibition at the Raymond Duncan Gallery.

In October 1963 Dillon traveled to the USA with an Irish Trade and Culture delegation, contributing to an exhibition of twelve Irish artists at the New School. He wrote and illustrated several articles for the magazine, Ireland of the Welcomes. His work was included in the `Ulster Painting ' 68' exhibition at the Arts Council of Northern Ireland gallery.

Dillon's neices, Mary McKenna and Margaret Mulhern, unveil the plaque

Organisers, family members, guests and sponsors

In 1969, he lectured at the Municipal Gallery of Modern Art and at the National College of Art. In the last year of his life he took up etching at the Graphic Studio, Dublin.

Dillon died at the Adelaide Hospital, Dublin, 14 June 1971. He is buried in Belfast.

In 1972 the Irish Post Office issued their fourth stamp in the series on Contemporary Irish Art, featuring the painting *Black Lake* by Dillon.

Location of plaques: 26 Lower Clonard Street, Belfast

Date Unveiled: 4 March 2008

McKIMM, Charles (1848 - 1907| First General Superintendent of Belfast Parks

Charles McKimm was born in Donaghadee in 1848, the third son of Charles and Isabella (Jephson). He served his apprenticeship on the estate of Lord Farnham (Maxwell family) outside Cavan Town. The estate, settled in the 17th century, covered over a thousand acres of woodlands, lakes, parkland, and formal and walled gardens with orangery, peach and vine houses.

Councillor Michael Browne, Chair of the City's Development Committee, speaks of the legacy of Charles McKimm and the importance of the Blue Plaque scheme in promoting the City

McKimm came to the Royal Botanic Garden in Belfast in 1874, working with and then succeeding, in 1878 as Head Gardener, the Curator, Forsythe Johnston, who resigned in 1877. Belfast Botanic and Horticultural Society had founded the gardens in 1828. Until the end of the century, the gardens were open only to the shareholders. The system of management by shareholders meant that funding was meagre over the following decades, necessitating the staging of a variety of events - the forerunners of today's concerts, Food Fests and Enchanted Evenings.

The McKimms lived in an early Victorian house where six sons were born. The house was demolished in the 1920 to allow the building of the Ulster Museum extension.

McKimm's enthusiasm caused many improvements to be made and the gardens were transformed. These improvements included new nursery houses, wider paths, large fountain, Palm House extensively repaired with gas lighting installed, erection of Venetian Gothic Style Gate Lodge, Clock tower addition to Gate Lodge, Exhibition Hall built, erection of a tower or Gazebo with winding staircase to give views of the Black Mountain

In 1877 McKimm presented his plans for a Fernery on the site of the Orchid House The design was such that the plants grew in a sunken glen with a galleried walkway around the inside perimeter, giving a wonderful view over the ravine jungle planted with cycads, ferns, palms, bamboo and tree ferns. Grottoes, pools and cascades operated by a chain pulley further enhanced the surroundings. The Tropical Ravine was opened in the summer of 1889 with its first visitors being the Marquis and Marchioness of Dufferin. The completion of the Tropical Ravine gave the Gardens a feature unique in the British Isles and is judged as McKimms finest achievement.

McKimm family members with the plaque

Belfast Corporation purchased the Botanic Garden and renamed it the Belfast Botanical Gardens Park, opening it to the public free of charge in 1895.

In November 1903 McKimm was appointed to a newly created post of General Superintendent of Parks for the City of Belfast. Facilities in public parks were improved and street tree planting commenced. He supervised the layout and landscaping of Victoria Park in Sydenham, which opened in 1906.

Plans were prepared for the area around the City Hall then under construction and the grounds were laid out to his design. On the occasion of the opening ceremony in 1905 he was responsible for the interior floral decoration.

McKimm died at home on 30 December 1907. In his lifetime he gained the respect of all who knew him - from the members of the aristocracy to the children who visited "his gardens" uninvited.

Acknowledgement: Jenny McBriar

Location of plaques: Topical Ravine, Botanic Gardens

Date Unveiled: 4 March 2008

APPENDIX 4

CONSTITUTION

(As amended by AGM 11 May 2007)

1. Title

The name of the Circle is "The Ulster History Circle" (hereinafter called "the Circle").

2. Aims

The aims of the Circle are

i. to erect commemorative plaques in public places in honour of men and women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of ideas and particularly in such fields as the arts and sciences, industry, religion or sport;

ii. to expand public knowledge of oft-neglected aspects of our history and to increase, through visible and permanent plaques, public awareness of cultural and historical strengths; and

iii. to co-operate with other historical and architectural groups with a view to promoting interest in the study of our history.

3. Membership

The Circle is non-political and non-sectarian. Membership shall be open to all who subscribe to its aims, are admitted to membership by the Circle, and who pay the membership fee.

4. Meetings

i. The Circle will meet at least eight times a year.

ii. Notification of meetings of the Circle, specifying the business to be transacted, shall be transmitted by post, or email, to all members seven clear days before the said meeting.

iii. All meetings of the Circle shall be called by the Secretary or Chairman or by such other of its members as the Circle may decide.

iv. The meeting in May will be deemed the Annual Meeting. The business of the Annual Meeting shall include presentation of the minutes of the previous annual meeting, reception of the report for the previous year and the audited accounts of the Circle; agreeing the annual subscription; election of Officers and the appointment of the honorary auditor.

v. In the absence of the chairman, the Annual meeting shall be chaired by such other member as may be temporarily elected by those present.

vi. At any meeting each member shall have one vote, except that in the event of a tie, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

vii. The quorum for any meeting shall be five.

viii. In any matter of the interpretation of the constitution the decision of the Chairman shall be final.

ix. If any member fails to attend three consecutive meetings without apology, or alternatively at least six meetings in a twelve-month period, it will be open to the Circle, entirely at its discretion, to terminate that individual's membership without further explanation.

5. Officers

The Officers of the Circle shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. With the exception of the Chairman, one person may undertake both of the other Offices.

6. Finance

i. The Treasurer shall keep a full record of the income and expenditure, and the assets of the Circle. The accounts of the Circle shall be audited annually and presented to the members at the Annual Meeting.

ii. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Circle there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, including the repayment of any unspent grants or donations given for the erection of specific plaques or other Circle activities, any property or assets whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Circle, but shall be given to or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Circle, and which similarly prohibits the distribution of its or their income or property among its or their members, such institution or institutions to be determined by the Circle members within three months of the resolution passed initiating the winding-up, failing which, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to such other charitable objects as the Circle shall decide

7. Amendment to the Constitution

i. Amendments to the constitution may only be made at an Annual Meeting, provided that notice of motion to propose any such amendment has been given in writing to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

ii. No amendment shall be made to the constitution of the Circle unless approved by two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.

APPENDIX 5

COMPLETE LIST OF PLAQUES

Alexander, Cecil Frances.- Belfast
Andrews, Thomas - Belfast
Bambrick, Joe - Belfast
Beckett, Samuel - Enniskillen
Black, Dr Samuel - Newry
Bland, Lilian - Carnmoney
Byers, Margaret - Belfast
Cambridge VC, Daniel - Carrickfergus
Campbell, Joseph - Blfast
Carey, Joseph William - Belfast
Carmichael, Amy – Belfast & Millisle
Cary, Joyce - Londonderry
Clarke (nee Crilley), Margaret - Newry
Coey, Sir Edward - Newtownabbey
Conor, William - Belfast
Coyle, Kathleen - Londonderry
Crichton VC, James Bell - Carrickfergus
Crolly, William - Downpatrick
De Wind VC, Edmund – Comber
Dickson, George - Newtownards
Dickson, William Steele - Portaferry
Dill, Field Marshall Sir John - Lurgan
Dillon, Gerard - Belfast
Drennan, William - Belfast
Dunlop, John Boyd - Belfast
Eaton, Timothy - Ballymena
English VC, Lt. Col. William John - Belfast
Evans, E Estyn – Belfast
Ewald, Clara - Belfast
Ferguson, Henry George (Harry) - Belfast
Foster, Vere Henry Lewis - Belfast
Gibson, William – Dromore, Co Down
Green, William Alfred - Belfast
Henry, Paul - Belfast
Hewitt, John Harold - Belfast
Herzog, Chaim - Belfast
Hugenot Community - Lisburn
Hughes, Barney - Belfast
Hucheson, Francis - Saintfield
Johnston, James - Belfast
Irvine, Alexander - Antrim
Kelvin (Lord), of Largs - Belfast
King, John – Moy, Co Tyrone
Lanyon, Sir Charles - Belfast
Larkin, Philip - Belfast
Lavery, Sir John - Belfast
Lever, Charles - Portstewart
Lewis, Clive Staples - Belfast
Lucas VC, Charles Davis - Poyntzpass
Luke, John - Belfast
Lynd, Robert - Belfast
McAdam, Robert Shipboy - Belfast
Mac Aingil, Aodh - Downpatrick
McCabe, Thomas & William Putnam - Belfast
McCaughey, Samuel - Ballymena
Macoun, John - Magheralin
McCracken, Henry Joy - Belfast
McCracken, Mary Ann - Belfast
McLaverty, Michael – Killard, Co Down
McKimm, Charles - Belfast
MacNeice, Louis - Belfast
Magee, Martha - Londonderry
Magennis VC, James Joseph - Belfast
Marconi, Gugliamo - Ballycastle
Marshall, W.F – Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone
Middleton, Colin - Bangor
Monaghan, John 'Rinty' - Belfast
Murray, Sir James - Belfast
Nichol, Andrew - Belfast
Noble, Margaret - Dungannon
O'Byrne, Cathal - Belfast
Phillips, H.B. - Londonderry
Pottinger, Sir Henry - Belfast
Praeger, Robert Lloyd - Holywood
Praeger, Rosamond - Holywood
Rowley, Richard - Belfast
Staples, Sir Richard P. Bt. Cookstown
Ritchie, William - Belfast
Robert the Bruce – Rathlin Island
Rodgers, Paul - Carrickfergus
Russell, George William - Lurgan
Society of United Irishmen - Belfast
Stewart, George Vesey – Martray, Co Tyrone
Sullivan, Robert - Holywood
Swift, Jonathan – Ballynure
Thompson, Hugh - Belfast
Trollope, Anthony - Belfast
Waddell, Helen - Banbridge
Walton, Ernest - Belfast
White, Sir George - Portstewart
Wilde, Oscar - Enniskillen
Wilson, Guy -
Yeats, John B. - Banbridge
Young, James - Belfast

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

The blue plaques draw attention to the association of a building or a location with an individual who has distinguished him/herself in some manner. This encourages local communities to identify with the person concerned, encourages local pride and often stimulates associated activity such as summer schools, festivals, lectures, commemorative events, and general tourism.

By actively involving local communities and schools in the plaque research and siting process, we will be creating a new opportunity to explore and learn about heritage issues.

Plaques erected in 2007 - 2008

Cambridge VC, Daniel	(1820 - 1882)	Soldier & Yeoman Warder
Carmichael, Amy	(1867 - 1951)	Missionary
Clarke, Margaret	(1884 - 1961)	Artist - Elíontóir
De Wind VC, Edmund	(1883 - 1918)	Soldier
Dill, Field Marshal Sir John	(1881 - 1944)	Soldier
Dillon, Gerard	(1916 - 1971)	Artist
Hewitt, John Harold	(1907 - 1987)	Poet (2 Plaques)
Hughes, Barney	(1808 - 1878)	Master Baker & Philanthropist
Lever, Charles	(1806 - 1872)	Novelist
Lucas VC, Charles Davis	(1834 - 1914)	First recipient of the Victoria Cross
Magee, Martha	(d. 1845)	Benefactor of Magee College
McKimm, Charles	(1848 - 1907)	First General Superintendent of Belfast Parks
Monaghan, John "Rinty"	(1918 - 1984)	Undefeated World Flyweight Champion
Noble, Margaret Elizabeth	(1857 - 1911)	Writer & Indian Nationalist
Phillips, Henry Bettesworth	(1866 - 1948)	Impresario
Robert The Bruce	(1274 - 1329)	King of Scots
Rodgers, Paul	(1834 - 1901)	Shipbuilder
Russell, George William "AE"	(1867 - 1935)	Artist, Mystic, Writer
United Irishmen, Society of	(1791 - 1798)	Meeting place - Kelly's Cellars