

Eighth William Carleton Summer School



Corick House, Clogher
AUGUST 2-6, 1999

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The true peasant was at last speaking, stammering, illogically, bitterly, but nonetheless with the deep and mournful accent of the people . . . He at first exaggerated, in deference to his audience, the fighting, and the dancing, and the merriment, and made the life of his class seem more exuberant and buoyant than it was . . . As time went on, his work grew deeper in nature, and in the second series (of Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry) he gave all his heart to 'The Poor Scholar', 'Tubber Derg', and 'Wildgoose Lodge'. The humourist found his conscience, and, without throwing away laughter, became the historian of his class.

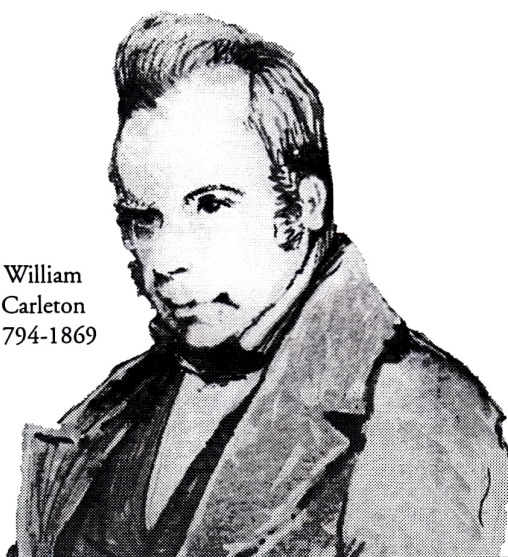
W.B. Yeats (1891)

Eighth William Carleton Summer School



*Corick House, Clogher
August 2-6, 1999*

William
Carleton
1794-1869



William Carleton

William Carleton was born the youngest of a family of fourteen children in the townland of Prolusk ('Prillisk' in his autobiography), County Tyrone, on Shrove Tuesday, 20th February, 1794. Although there is little suggestion that the Carletons were upwardly mobile, they did move house frequently within the Clogher area and were established at the townland of Springtown when William left the family home. The Springtown house remains and is visited by many Carleton devotees each year.

Carleton obtained his education at local hedge schools which he was to write about, fictionalising the pedagogue Pat Frayne as the redoubtable Mat Cavanagh. From other retrospections of his home district, we learn of Carleton's delight in his father's skill as a seanachie and the sweetness of his mother's voice as she sang the traditional airs of Ireland; of his early romances - especially with Anne Duffy, daughter of the local miller; of Carleton the athlete, accomplishing a 'Leap' over a river, the site of which is still pointed out; of the boisterous open air dancing. Initially an aspirant to the priesthood, Carleton embarked in 1814 on an excursion as a 'poor scholar' but, following a disturbing dream, returned to his somewhat leisurely life in the Clogher Valley before leaving home permanently in 1817. Journeying via Louth, Kildare and Mullingar, he found work as a teacher, librarian and, eventually, clerk in the Church of Ireland Sunday School Office in Dublin. In 1820, he married Jane Anderson who bore him several children.

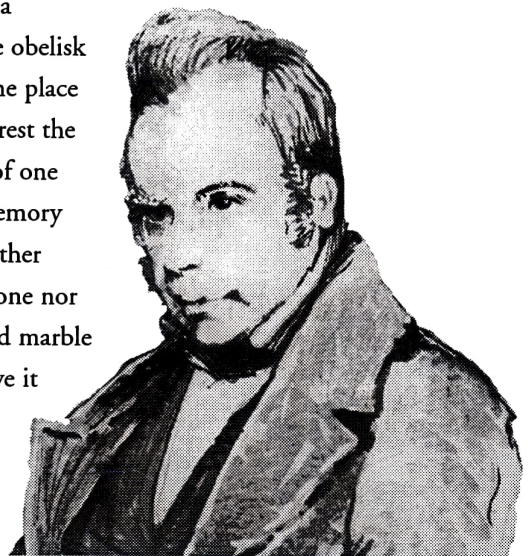
By 1825, Carleton, who had left the Roman Catholic Church for the Anglican Church of Ireland, met a maverick Church of Ireland cleric, Caesar Otway, who encouraged him to put his already recognised journalistic talents to such proselytising purposes as satirising the attitudes reflected in pilgrimages to 'St. Patrick's Purgatory' at Lough Derg, a totemic site in Irish Catholicism. Further writings in the *Christian Examiner* & *Church of Ireland Magazine* led in 1829 and 1833 to the publication of what is arguably Carleton's best known work: *Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry*. In these stories Carleton returned imaginatively to the Clogher Valley, drawing on comedy, farce, melodrama

and tragedy to present a tableau of the life of the country people of the north of Ireland before the famines of the 1840s altered their pattern of existence forever.

Carleton went on to respond to the challenge of the novel, in his time a comparatively undeveloped genre amongst Irish writers, and published *Fardorougha the Miser* (1839), *Valentine McClutchy* (1845), *The Black Prophet* (1847), *The Emigrants of Aghadarra* (1848), *The Tithe Proctor* (1849), *The Squanders of Castle Squander* (1852). In these works he addresses many of the issues affecting the Ireland of his day such as the influence of the Established Church and landlordism, poverty, famine and emigration but does so with an earnestness that regrettably often caused his more creative genius to be swamped in a heavy didacticism. Carleton continued to write in a variety of forms, including verse, until his death in 1869, but critics are agreed that the quality of the work is uneven.

Despite his prolific output, Carleton never really made a living from his writings and welcomed the pension voted to him by the government following the advocacy of such contrasting figures as the Ulster Presbyterian leader, Dr Henry Cooke, and Paul Cardinal Cullen, Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. His last project, uncompleted when he died, was his *Autobiography*, which was re-issued through the efforts of the Summer School Committee in 1996. Carleton was buried in the cemetery at Mount Jerome in Dublin and over

his grave a miniature obelisk records the place 'wherein rest the remains of one whose memory needs neither graven stone nor sculptured marble to preserve it from oblivion'.



Carleton's Dream

Carleton grew tired
Of wakes, cock-fights
And the sesquipedalian words
For the women,
Ardua ad Astra,
Five single notes up his sleeve
He went South.

In Grehan's Inn in Granard,
Ann the goose-girl,
Hopped into his sleep,
Dropped her linsey-woolsey gown
And fled for the fog in the field.

The drills were throbbing,
Thumping and pounding,
A briary bull burst
Through clay and wisps of fog.
William Carleton ran for his life,
The bull pursued him bellowing,
Tail curled, tail erect,
Horn and hoof to ravish him.

William made for the hedge,
Whitehorn, goat willow silvery grey,
Up and over, seven-foot high the lep,
Landed on his feet the far side.
The bull reared on his hind legs,
His long red pencil erect,
Testicles dancing in the sack.

The dream miasma
Puckered Willie's dibble,
Put him off his oats.
He pondered the nightmare,
Willie go easy, he thought to himself,
Taedet me vitae.

At Grehan's door in Granard,
He glanced South, turned North,
Back to the home brae,
Mother's milk and flummery.

Noel Monahan

Monday 2 August

- 12.30 Lunch
2.00 Official Opening
2.15 Keynote Address: John Kelly
4.15 Address: James Eady
6.00 Evening Meal
8.00 Reading: Sam McAughtry
Readings from Carleton's work
Members of the Summer School
Committee (Thomas James McKenna;
Pat John Rafferty; Liam Foley;
Seamus McCloskey)

William Carleton is a strange dark monolithic figure. No man has written better of his folk; no man has written more carelessly. No Irish novelist and few elsewhere has so crammed the landscape of his imagination with lively, laughing, tragic inhabitants. Other men have left us neater, better documented accounts of great events in our history, but none has given us such vivid report and recreation of the life of the Irish peasant. A dozen Irish writers, now alive, could pen more shapely stories, more delicately-balanced and more expertly composed; but not one of them has a tenth of the vitality and truth of this poor scholar from the Clogher Valley.

John Hewitt (1947)

JOHN KELLY

Dr John Kelly is a Fellow of St John's College, Oxford. He is the general editor of *The Collected Letters of W. B. Yeats*, the first three volumes of which have appeared, covering the years 1865 to 1904. Amongst expressions of critical acclaim which this work received is Roy Foster's accolade that it is 'not only impeccably scholarly but exquisitely entertaining. Early letters throw considerable light on Yeats' interest in Carleton and John Kelly has provided an introduction to a re-issue of Carleton's 1847 novel, *The Black Prophet*.

JAMES EADY

James Eady read history at the University of Edinburgh, his studies including a course in Irish History with Owen Dudley Edwards in which Carleton's *Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry* was a seminal text. He is at present engaged in a doctoral thesis on Carleton, from a historical perspective, at the University of Durham, under the supervision of Dr Ian McBride.

SAM MCAUGHTRY

Sam McAughtry has for many years presented tableaux and reminiscences of working class life in Belfast in the 1940s and after in autobiography (*The Sinking of the Kenbane Head*, 1977 and *McAughtry's War*, 1994), the novel (*Touch and Go*, 1993) and a range of essays, stories, journalistic pieces and scripts for radio and television. In 1987, he published an incisive exploration of the Irish Republic of the time with the characteristically northern deflationary title, *Down in the Free State*. He is also an accomplished broadcaster and has been an inspiration to young writers as a writer-in residence in various locations. Above all perhaps, he is a civilised commentator - sometimes moving, sometimes sardonic - on the Irish situation.



Tuesday 3 August

- 11.30** Address: "Carleton and Pilgrimage"
Sean Skeffington
- 1.30** Lunch
- 3.00** Symposium: "The Achievement of
William Carleton: a Re-evaluation"
Panel: John Gross, Norman Vance,
Pat McDonnell, Barry Sloan
(Chair: Robin Marsh)
- 6.00** Evening Meal
- 8.00** Opening of Art Exhibition (in the
Clogher Rural Centre)
Address: Sam Craig
followed by Readings from their recently
published poetry: Gerry Hull,
Noel Monahan, Mary O Malley

SEAN SKEFFINGTON

Sean Skeffington is a Dungannon teacher and historian. He has been a member of the William Carleton Summer School organising committee since 1991 and for many years treasurer of Cumann Seanchais Ard Mhacha, the Armagh Diocesan Historical Society. He has lectured on a variety of historical topics and contributed articles to a number of journals.

JOHN GROSS

John Gross has worked as a journalist on the *New York Times*, edited the *Times Literary Supplement* and, more recently, been theatre critic for the *Sunday Telegraph*. In 1998 he published *The New Oxford Book of English Prose*, successor to Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch's great anthology of 1925 which has sold over a million copies. John Gross has represented over five hundred years of prose writing in English and not only by English men and women: Carleton is amongst the Irish contingent represented.

NORMAN VANCE

Norman Vance is Professor of English at the University of Sussex. His principal area of study, nineteenth century writing, led to the publication in 1985 of *The Sinews of the Spirit*, a study of Victorian literature and religious ideas. Norman Vance, however, has also maintained an interest in Irish cultural and literary developments as evidenced in his *Irish Literature: A Social History* (1990). In this book, which has a strong focus on the northern part of Ireland, he examines various pairs of Irish writers, linking Carleton with Thomas D'Arcy Magee.

PAT MacDONNELL

Pat MacDonnell was instrumental in developing an awareness of Carleton through his lectures on Carleton's life and writings in the days before the Summer School and the School owes much to his support and encouragement. A former teacher and now active in local government, Pat MacDonnell has published a variety of articles on aspects of local history in such journals as the *Clogher Record* and *Familia* (the journal of the Ulster Historical Foundation). His book on the history of the textile industry in the north or Ireland, *They Wrought Among the Tow* (1988) was the joint winner of the all-Ireland Young People's Award for Literature.

BARRY SLOAN

Dr Barry Sloan lectures in English at the University of Southampton New College. He has published many articles on Irish writing in English and has contributed to the *Oxford Companion to Irish Literature* and to *Irish Encounters: Poetry, Politics and Prose since 1800*. His 1986 book, *The Pioneers of Anglo-Irish Fiction, 1800-1850*, examines aspects of Carleton's work, in conjunction with that of his contemporaries, in three of the eight chapters. Barry Sloan's new book, *Writers and Protestantism in the North of Ireland* will be published later this year.

SAM CRAIG

Sam Craig's study of art took him from Belfast to London and on to France and the Low Countries. He spent time as an illustrator in Canada and the United States, including work for the National Museum of Canada and exhibited paintings in Toronto and various towns in New Brunswick. On his return to Ireland, he taught art and exhibited with the Northern Ireland Arts Council and in various galleries throughout Ireland. His painting ranges from portrait to landscape and he has recently developed an interest in printmaking. Each year, Sam Craig has provided the painting from which the Summer School publicity material derives.

GERRY HULL

Gerry Hull was awarded his doctorate by the University of Wales for his work on the late nineteenth century writer, George Gissing. He is at present poetry editor of the West Ulster magazine, *Spark*, and his own poems and reviews have appeared in a wide variety of Irish journals including *Poetry Ireland* and *The Honest Ulsterman*. His collection, *Falling into Monaghan*, is published this summer.

NOEL MONAHAN

Noel Monahan has been influential in sustaining a lively tradition of writing in south-west Ulster and is associated with *Windows* publications. He has published in all the major Irish literary periodicals and has published the collections *Opposite Walls* (1991) and *Snowfire* (1995). His *Half a Vegetable* (1994) is a dramatic interpretation of Patrick Kavanagh's writings.

MARY O MALLEY

Mary O Malley is involved with Cúirt and has contributed significantly to poetry writing in the city of Galway and Connacht generally. She has read from her work at many literary festivals throughout Ireland and recent publications include the poetry collections, *Where the Rocks Float* (1993) and *The Knife in the Wave* (1997).

With Carleton's writing in the Traits and Stories, The Emigrants of Aghadarra, Fardorougha the Miser and The Black Prophet with its terrible panorama of a country in disease, began the indigenous tradition in Irish prose writing, though not until Joyce did Carleton meet his match for natural gifts. There is more than one point of comparison between the two men; both exiles, one remembering ever after the people of an Ulster valley, the other leaving a city and building it up again in his mind, both aloof and disliked by the majority of their countrymen because of their knack of seeing filth and disorder, and not being frightened by it. There is their extraordinary instinct for authentic dialogue and character; in Joyce the dirty bobbing stream of Dublin pub life, in Carleton the droll Ulster dialect, which has never been used with such effect since.

John Montague (1952)



Wednesday 4 August

- 11.00** *Tour of the Carleton Country*
Leader: Jack Johnston
- 4.00** *Address: "Local Studies - Materials and Methodology"*
Mary McVeigh
- 6.00** *Evening Meal*
- 8.00** *Musical Evening*

JACK JOHNSTON

Jack Johnston was a founder member of the Carleton Society and the first chairman of the William Carleton Summer School. As a working historian, he has written and lectured widely on local history, especially that relating to the Clogher Valley, and has published an illustrated account of the former local railway, *In the Days of the Clogher Valley*. Formerly a teacher, Jack Johnston became associated with the Workers' Educational Association. In 1996 he edited *Workhouses of the North-West* (1996) and has been for many years general editor of the W.E.A. journal, *Spark Review*.

MARY McVEIGH

Mary McVeigh is a librarian with the Southern Education and Library Board, with special responsibility for Irish and local studies material. She has lectured in local studies at the Armagh campus of Queen's University Outreach and has been a regular columnist on local history in newspapers in and around Armagh.

The richness of Carleton's language at its best, particularly of his dialogue, is one of his great virtues - and much of its idiomatic colour and energy derives from the bilingual elements in it.

Likewise in his account of his mother, renowned in her day for the sweetness of her singing and the 'sorrowful but solitary beauty' of her keening, Carleton shows the source of his inherited sensitivity to the differences between Irish and English... More than any other novelist of his generation Carleton made use of his first-hand knowledge of the two languages, which, in common with his intimate grasp of the details of peasant life, was acquired unconsciously during his boyhood and youth.

Barry Sloan (1986)



Thursday 5 August

- 11.30** Address:
Declan Kiberd
- 1.00** Lunch
- 2.30** Address: "Return to the Rough Field"
John Montague
- 4.30** Address: "An Englishman in Ulster:
Thackeray and Carleton's Ireland"
Gerry Hull
- 6.00** Evening Meal
- 8.00** "The Lie of a Good Tune"
David Hammond and Neil Martin

Carleton became an informer in another, quite admirable sense of the word. With a native's intimate knowledge, a fabulous memory, and a large literary gift, he became the chronicler - the celebrant even - of Ireland's native country culture as it had somehow survived the repressions of the Penal Laws, and as it would not survive the great famine of 1845-48. He gave voice to what had been silenced through the decline in use of the native tongue and the denial of education to the rural masses during several generations; or rather he released a myriad of voices on the far side of a silence that had been all but officially imposed. Carleton made known a world that had become unknown to the world at large and even, in some sense, to itself.

Julian Moynahan 1994

DECLAN KIBERD

Declan Kiberd is presently Professor of Anglo-Irish Literature at University College, Dublin and a former director of the W.B. Yeats Summer School. He has written and lectured in both Irish and English and his involvement in both languages was reflected in his *Synge and the Irish Language*, published in 1979. His contributions to cultural discourse include 'Anglo-Irish Attitudes', a 'Field Day' pamphlet (1984), and *Men and Feminism in Modern Literature* (1985). Of his magisterial *Inventing Ireland: The Literature of the Modern Nation* (1996), Brian Fallon writes: 'Though written by a respected Eng. Lit. academic, this is not at all an academic book; it is rather a work of sustained polemic . . . thought-provoking in many of its intellectual and critical stances (it) bristles with intellectual vitality.'

JOHN MONTAGUE

John Montague, a patron of the Carleton Summer School since its beginning, has completed his first and very active year as Ireland Professor of Poetry. Since the appearance of *Forms of Exile* in 1958, John Montague has published nine volumes of poetry to date and in 1995 brought out his *Collected Poems*. His latest publication is the short story collection, *A Love Present* (1997). John Montague has held senior academic posts in Ireland, France and the United States and has also published many critical essays, a selection of which were published as *The Figure in the Cave* (1989).

DAVID HAMMOND

David Hammond has been a teacher, BBC producer and film director. With Derek Bailey he presented the celebrated film on the life of John Hewitt, *I Found Myself Alone* (1984) and he is the author of *The Belfast Shipyard, a Story of the People by the People* (1986). David Hammond was also a director of Field Day and is presently a patron of the John Hewitt International Summer School. His interest in traditional song and music saw him collect much material from his travels throughout Ireland, Britain, Europe and North America and examine the relationships amongst the songs of different countries. David Hammond is also a performer, particularly as a singer of traditional Irish songs, and has recently sung at a concert in The Barbican Centre in London.

NEIL MARTIN

Neil Martin has studied both classical and traditional music and plays the cello and the uilleann pipes. He has performed with orchestras in many parts of the world and has made and directed a number of records. As a composer, Neil Martin has written and arranged scores for television films and radio plays.

Friday 6 August

- 11.00 Address: 'Images of the "Peasant"
Writer: Authenticity and Folksiness in
Ulster Culture'
Edna Longley
- 1.00 Lunch
- 2.00 Readings:
Maurice Leitch and Ronan Bennett
- 3.30 Overview and concluding address:
Owen Dudley Edwards

(Patrick) Kavanagh could most easily identify with the Clogher writer, William Carleton. Carleton had visited this locality, and found lodgings for a time with his uncle, the parish priest of nearby Killanny...Kavanagh's identification with Carleton began to inspire his own writing. What Carleton did for the Clogher Valley during the early nineteenth century, Kavanagh would attempt to do for south Monaghan in the first half of the twentieth century. Together, though separated by decades, they would investigate country characters, explore the notion of pilgrimage to Lough Derg and to holy wells. Kavanagh knew that Carleton had also come from a poor background, had attended a hedge-school, learned the same catechism as himself, listened to local stories and yarns. He too had seen the literary potential in colourful rural characters, quarrelled with the church and yet retained his own spiritual integrity.

Una Agnew 1998

EDNA LONGLEY

Edna Longley is Professor of English at Queen's University, Belfast. An internationally recognised authority on modern English and Irish poetry, Edna Longley edited *Edward Thomas: Poems and Last Poems* (1973) and *A Language not to be Betrayed: Selected Prose of Edward Thomas* (1981). She also edited selections from the work of James Simmons (1978) and Paul Durcan (1982) and in 1986 published a survey of major developments in twentieth century English and Irish poetry in her collection of essays, *Poetry in the Wars*. Her admiration for the Ulster poet and cultural philosopher, John Hewitt, and a critical sympathy with his regionalist ideas, saw her edit with Gerald Dawe in 1985 a *festschrift* for Hewitt, *Across a Roaring Hill: the Protestant Imagination in Modern Ireland*. The principal issues of cultural debate in Ireland are reflected in her 1995 publication, *The Living Stream: Literature and Revisionism in Ireland*.

MAURICE LEITCH

Maurice Leitch is a native of Muckamore, County Antrim, and it is in his own district of south Antrim that he sets his novels, *The Liberty Lad* (1965), *Poor Lazarus* (1969), *Stamping Ground* (1975) and *Silver's City* (1981). In these novels, Leitch explores such universal issues as sexual realisation within the distinctive and particular setting of an often claustrophobic north of Ireland. His latest work, *The Smoke King*, is about the implications of a murder in a Northern Ireland town during World War II.

RONAN BENNETT

Ronan Bennett currently a journalist with the *Guardian*, holds a doctorate in legal history from the University of London. His first novel, *The Second Prison* (1991) explores a pattern of betrayal within militant republicanism. His prizewinning novel, *The Catastrophist*, which appeared earlier this year, is a love quest set in the Congo of the troubled 1960s.

OWEN DUDLEY EDWARDS

Owen Dudley Edwards is Honorary Director of the William Carleton Summer School and has been a regular contributor since its beginnings in 1992. Although Reader in History at the University of Edinburgh and a contributor to all major historical journals, Owen, in keeping with that university's treasured tradition of 'generalism', is very much a polymath. He has published works on Macaulay, de Valera, Conan Doyle, P.G. Wodehouse and James Connolly and is a recognised authority on Oscar Wilde. He has been described as 'a distinguished Irish scholar and man of letters, whose pan-Celtic spirit comprehends a Welsh name, a university post in Scotland and several important books on Irish history'.



Flavour
of TYRONE

• NOTES •

Acknowledgements

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*The Committee also wishes to acknowledge that the Summer School poster and programme cover
are reproduced from an original painting by Sam Craig.*

All information given in the programme was correct at the time of printing.
Should changes become necessary, the Committee apologises for any inconvenience to delegates.

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