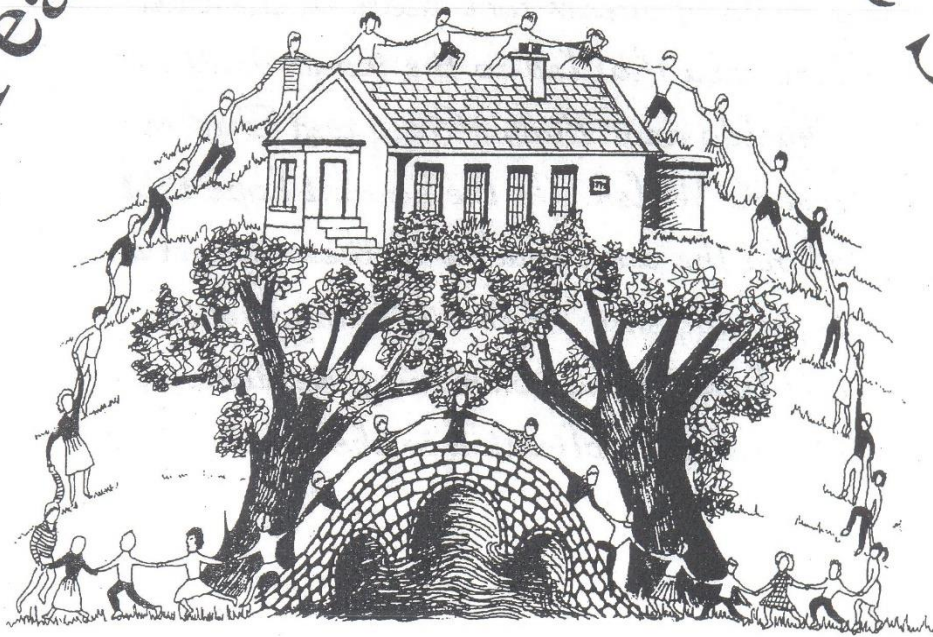
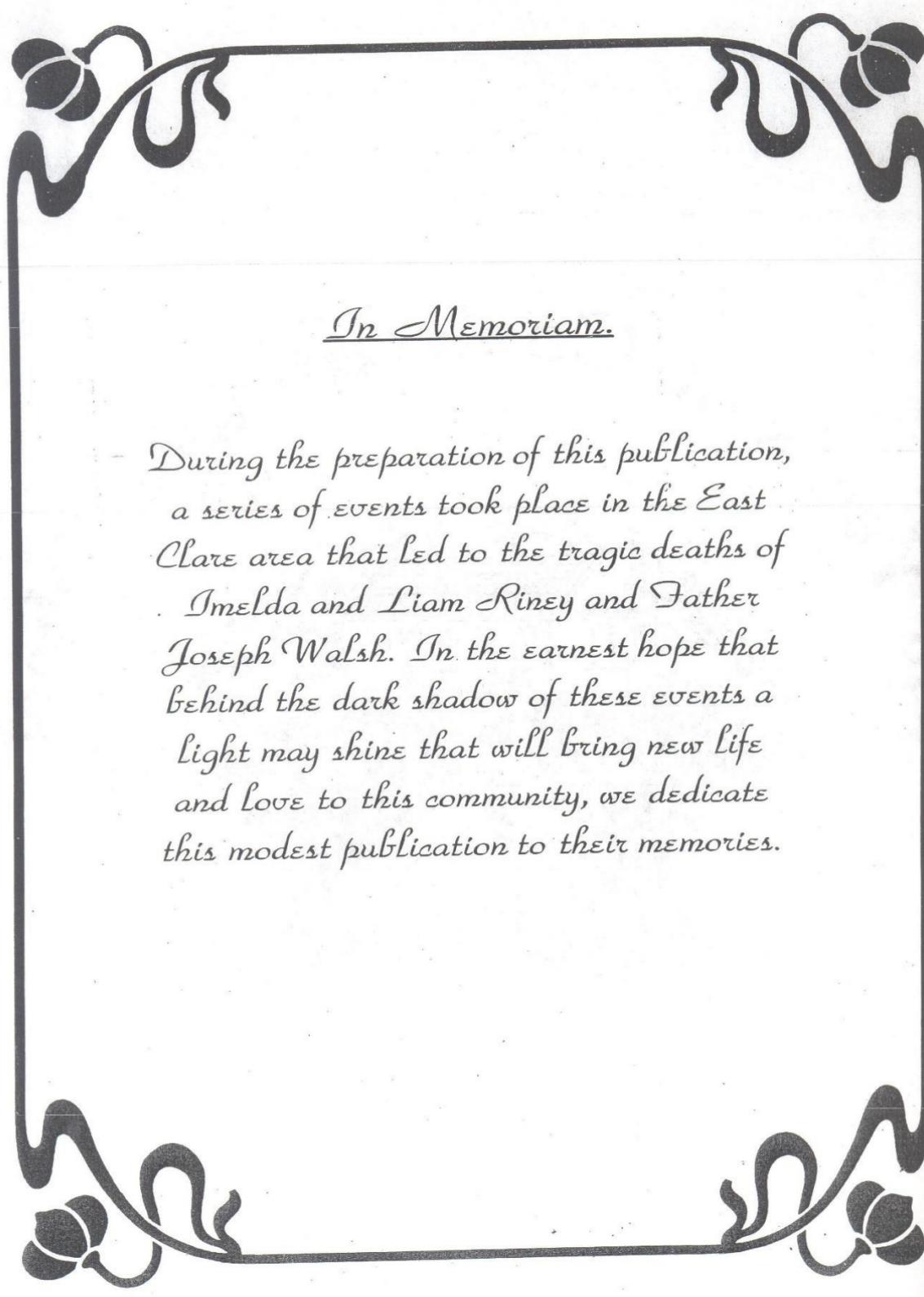


# 100 Years of Cooleenbridge School



A decorative border with stylized floral and scrollwork motifs in each corner, framing the text.


*In Memoriam.*

During the preparation of this publication,  
a series of events took place in the East  
Clare area that led to the tragic deaths of  
Imelda and Liam Riney and Father  
Joseph Walsh. In the earnest hope that  
behind the dark shadow of these events a  
light may shine that will bring new life  
and love to this community, we dedicate  
this modest publication to their memories.

## "COOLEENBRIDGE 100"

Although this publication styles itself a history, it does so in the full realisation that it is created, not out of cold and accurate facts, but rather out of the memories and stories of the people whose lives were touched by the life of the school. It is a history which, while containing enough factual detail for accuracy, is marked, not by scholarly rigour, but is, rather, imbued with the warmth of human memory. It is written by and for ourselves as a community and it is our glance back to the past that may help us gain the strength and courage to face the challenges that confront us in an uncertain future.

We are not in a position to judge the value of a persons life and it is worthwhile to celebrate the lives of all those who have attended the school, knowing that they have all contributed to what lives now in this part of Ireland. And it has been a very great pleasure indeed to read the contributions from past pupils. There is, of course, a good deal of repetition and some stories are etched clearly in the minds of a number of those who were classmates. Master Jones' car was the cause of much interest and amusement and several contributors write about the occasions when they had to push start this famous vehicle. One can image a distraught Miss Hehir when she found an ass in the classroom and one knows, from experience, how difficult it must have been to keep the children from swimming in the Graney on a hot summers afternoon.

<b>REGISTER</b>	
OF	
<u>Cooleen Bridge</u>	
<b>NATIONAL SCHOOL.</b>	
Roll No. <u>12</u>	
Parish, <u>2</u>	
County, <u>2</u>	
	
<small>PRINTED BY ALEX. THOM &amp; CO. LIMITED, 57, 58, &amp; 59, ABBEY-STREET, DUBLIN.</small>	

Very many of those associated with the school in the past are no longer with us and, no doubt, the photographs will bring the memories of times of joy and sorrow to mind. We are conscious of the respect due to these memories and we pray for the repose of the souls of those departed.

Time moves on and we stand now at an important moment in the life of this unique school as it moves from its location by the River Graney to its new home on Raheen Hill. It is an indication of the immense changes that

face our community that such a school can continue, in its metamorphosed state, to grow and thrive. It is doubtful that anyone reading this book in this centenary year will live to see "Cooleenbridge 200" but there is no doubt that it will be celebrated.

Pearse O' Shiel  
Eddie Fennessy

Brought Forwards			
April 1898	Salary for Diarist ending 31st March 98		
	Principal £16. 18. 6. Adm. £10. 0. 0.		
	Monitors & Pupil's £2. 10. 0. 10		
April 1895	Travelling expenses to and from Ballinacorney		
	at Ballinacorney £1. 10. 0. 10		
2nd April	School Requisites £1. 0. 0.		
10 May	School Requisites £1. 0. 0.		
20 May	Results for year ending 30th April 1895		
	Principal Results £28. 6. 11		
	Cooleen Bridge £1. 10. 0.		
	Adm. £10. 0. 0.		
1st July 1895	Salary for Monitor ending 30th June 95		
	Adm. £10. 0. 0. 10 Monitors £10. 0. 0.		
Oct	School Requisites £1. 0. 0.		

## FOREWORD

Is iomaí cor a chuir an saol as ón lá osclaíodh an scoil i nDroichead an Chúilin i 1894. Ar ndóigh tá cúpla cor da chuid féin curtha ag an seanscoil féin le linn an ama. Ach in aineoinn gach a thárla ta sí ina seasamh fós agus bríomhaireacht úr inti le cúpla blian anuas.

The school at Cooleenbridge, celebrated in this booklet, is being remembered not for any extraordinary architecture of the building but for the warmth of the memories it evokes in its past pupils. It is a singular tribute to those who taught there and to the vibrancy of life that was shared by its pupils that so many have co-operated to recall those memories and to record them.



This is Miss Hehir and the pupils of the school in 1914. Brigid Anne Minogue, (Mrs. Cuneen) is second from the right in the second row.

It is a recognition also of the sense community that a school can build. Cooleenbridge has no naturally defined community, but those who attended the school have a sense of belonging that many who live in more easily recognizable settlements do not share. Perhaps there is a lesson here for those who might again consider the closing of small rural schools.

In his autobiographical work, "The Master", Brian McMahon quotes an acquaintance who maintained that a good teacher left the mark of his teeth on a parish for three generations. It is quite apparent that Cooleenbridge and its teachers have left a very positive and lasting mark on its catchment area.

When the school closed and Mrs Slattery and her pupils moved to the new central school in Scariff in 1974, it seemed that its role as an educational institution had ended. However when Timmy Treacy repaired and refurbished the building and let it as a dwelling he ensured that it would not go the way of other schools and fall into terminal disrepair. Then in 1986 the old building resounded to new voices with strange accents. The Steiner school had arrived. Gura fada buaní.

I would like to pay tribute to all who have been responsible for publishing this fine record of a significant institution in our locality. I know that it was a labour of love inspired by all they had shared, and the sense of gratitude for years well spent in Cooleenbridge N.S. Nár laga Dia bhur lámhan.

Tim McGillicuddy,  
Principal, Scariff N.S.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COOLEENBRIDGE CENTENARY COMMITTEE

The two-roomed National School with its very distinct architecture is slowly becoming a thing of the past. For many years now, the philosophy which preached that "bigger is better" has held sway and the countless number of closed rural primary schools bears ample witness to that fact.

*"Timothy Dan went to School,  
Timothy took his time.  
Sometime he spent by the babbling brook" etc. etc.*

Well, he doesn't take his time anymore. The emergence of the Central School and the School Bus system put paid to all of that. That Timothy from our old Second Class reader belongs to another age and sadly so for those of us who live in the countryside. The chatter and laughter of the "scholars" goings and comings was music to the ears of the older folk who lived along the way. There were good days and they were different days but the folklore of the country school is in danger of being lost.

You can see the old ruined school in mountain valleys, and on the plains of rural Ireland. No sound now breaks their stillness except maybe the odd holiday home visitor. Could we recapture a little of the echo of their past? Could we tell even a part of their story? Could we pass on to the new generation something of the spirit that resounded throughout their rooms and their playgrounds? Could we play tricks on time and take you back in a time tunnel to Cooleenbridge, our school?

Opened in 1894, it seemed appropriate that, in its centenary year, we should celebrate something of its life, of its achievements of its scholars scattered throughout the globe - could we touch its very soul? In the following pages, we take you inside and reveal to you something of its life - from its early days to the days when it closed in 1974. But even then it refused to die. My family had given the original site for the school a hundred years ago and when it ceased to be used as a Primary School, I bought the property and converted it into a holiday home. Once more the sound of children's voices echoed through its rooms but this time the sound were continental; as French and German visitors arrived to fish our lakes and rivers and to enjoy our scenery. By the late 1980's, the clock had turned full circle when the Steiner School opened to receive a new generation of "scholars" different maybe in origin, sometimes different in language but fundamentally making the same vibrant sounds as did generations of children before them. Cooleenbridge has refused to die and this little book is part of its story.

I hope that you, the reader, enjoy it and please spare a thought for all my friends who have helped to make it possible, especially Jimmy Clune, Eddie Fennessie, Tommy Noonan, Marion Casey, Pearse O'Shiel, Michael Grogan, Clare Duffy and my daughter Caroline. Since the idea was first mooted last September we have met every week, plotting and planning how we could raise a little cash, source the material, contact our emigrants, organise the printing. It was a pleasure to work with them and, as it transpired, the generosity of the business people of East Clare has greatly smoothed the financial path.

To all researchers and in particular to all who sent us articles or photographs, I would like to say a thousand thanks.

May all who have helped to make this a reality bask in a well deserved tribute.

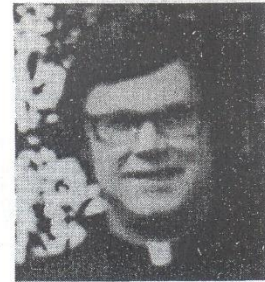
Míle buíochas,  
Timmy Treacy



Eddie Fennessy, Jimmy Clune, Marie Downes, Michael Grogan, Pearse O' Shiel, Tommy Noonan, Caroline Treacy, Timmy Treacy and Marian Quinn.

The Cooleenbridge Centenial Committee  
c/o Mr. Timmy Treacy  
Cooleenbridge  
Scariff  
Co. Clare  
Ireland

April 10, 1994



Dear members of the Cooleenbridge Centenial Committee:

As I reflect on Cooleenbridge School and its 100 years of history, a mixture of emotions well up within me.

I think of the hundreds of boys and girls who received their basic education there, many of whom went on to institutions of higher learning, all of them becoming pillars of their communities, not only in Ireland but in many communities throughout the world. I think of the many priests and teachers who, in cooperation with our dedicated parents, sacrificed so much in order that children like me would be imbued with a love of learning and with special love for the Catholic faith that has been the foundation of our country and the source of our strength as we battled, and continue to battle, the atrocities of the invader in our midst.

I think of the boys, those like me, and the girls, who became priests and nuns, who went to various parts of Ireland and England and even to the four corners of the earth and spread that Catholic faith so dear to all of us. I think of specific individuals, people like Mattie Joe O'Brien, who took me to school during those early days – of school friends, like Francis Cunneen, Patrick Clune (Jimmy Clune's brother), Timmy Treacy and the many hours we spent by his bedside during the days of his illness, Eddie Corry, John Mack, the designer of the boat made out of tar barrels and which on its "maiden voyage" nearly got some of us drowned. There were so many others. What fun we had and what mischief we got into! I think of them all with a prayer in my heart and with deep affection. I especially think of Bea Treacy (Timmy's sister). How I loved to pull her hair! I was caught several times by Master Jones doing it and, of course, was duly punished but that did not stop me. Bea and I have remained friends over the years.

I think of some of the sad times – my first experience with death when a very good friend, Charlie Moloney (Seamus Moloney's brother) died so tragically in a drowning accident. I have never forgotten him and still remember him in my prayers. I think of Olive Clune (Sean Clune's sister) who died so young. What a wonderful dancer she was! There are so many sad memories... but enough of sadness.

I think of Master Jones and the infamous car that always had to be pushed in order to get it started. I think of Mrs. Frank Cunneen, a great teacher, although a very strict one. I think of Fr. Ryan and my involvement with him in later years in helping to build the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in the church yard in Scariff, and my involvement with him and with Jimmy Fennessy in the Legion of Mary. How that man enriched my life with the love of God and His Blessed Mother!

There are so many other memories that I could relate to you, but because of the limited time and space, I had better bring my reminiscing to an end.

Thank you Cooleenbridge School and the many people who shared so very much with me and, especially for the Catholic faith that has been, and continues to be, the mainstay of my life.

Every good wish and prayer to you as you finalize the celebrations in connection with the centenial of this school that has left such an indelible impression on all of us.

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Michael Minogue (Fr. Miceál)  
Pastor

## EDUCATION IN THE EARLY YEARS

In the early 1800's a revolution spread across Europe and Ireland and England as well, in the form of a surge towards education.

The Act of Union of 1800 brought Ireland under the control of the government and parliament of Westminster. At that time in Ireland the Established Church, the Catholic Church and The Presbyterian church sought financial aid for schools of their own tradition. The Catholic Emancipation act of 1824 gave strong support to the catholic demands. The states intention was to operate a non-denominational primary education system whereby all children would be together for secular subjects with separate arrangements for doctrinal subjects.

In 1831 the National School system was established. The Established Church (Church of Ireland), however, considered that it was a sell out to Rome. There would be no compulsion on the children to read the Bible and catholic priests were allowed to use the classroom for religious instruction. The protestant denominations set up their own system of education in May 1839. It was known as the Church Education Society. The National School system continued and the parish schools were managed by the parish priest in most areas.

In 1868 The Powis Commission of Inquiry into primary education in Ireland was set up. This gave an account of the number of schools in use, state of repair and internal furnishings, the size of the teaching force, employment contracts, and suggested a payment-by-results scheme which came into operation in 1872. This was to change in 1873 when the teachers contract of employment was set up, followed in 1879 by the Teacher Superannuation Scheme.

Of particular interest in the Rules and regulations for teachers as laid down by the Powis Commission were the following:- Teachers were not allowed to attend meetings, fairs or markets, political meetings, or to take part in elections. They *were* allowed to vote. They were forbidden to own public houses or to take lodgings in them. In addition to the teachers normal teaching duties they were expected to inspect children's faces, hands and clothes. Other duties were cleaning and whitewashing the school rooms.

In 1900 a revised Programme for Primary Schools was introduced. This continued to operate until 1922 when another programme known as the New National School programme was put into operation.

In 1924 the Department of Education was set up and five years later in June 1929 The Primary Certificate examination was introduced. Due to the small number of pupils sitting the examination it was made compulsory in 1943. It consisted of three written papers in Irish, English and Arithmetic. It was abolished in 1967.

Educational policy then decided that central schools be established and this led to the closure of many Rural schools. The first school to close in Scariff parish was Cappabane N.S. which closed in 1967 due to shortage of pupils. When the central school in Scariff opened in 1974, Clonusker N.S. and Cooleenbridge N.S. closed also. A new central school was also opened in Feakle and the old school was demolished in 1970.

"SPARING THE LEATHER"



Two Patricks and Sean Clune circa 1945

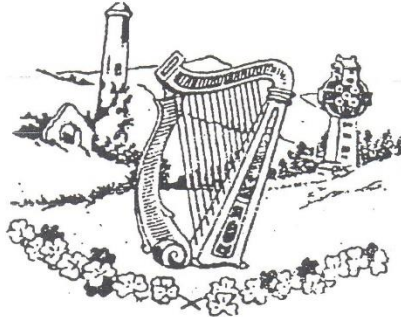
## MARGARET CASHMAN - AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY

### My early years

Born on 26th October 1904, I went to school at "Cooleenbridge" and was taught by Miss Hehir up to third grade. She was a nice person, a good teacher and prepared me for First Holy Communion. After third grade, I then went into the other room was taught by Mr Nooman who was old and was near retirement. When in fourth grade, Mr Thomas Jones took over and my didn't he teach us! He said that my fourth grade was only equal to second grade in other schools!

Anyway, he drilled knowledge into us as best he could and prepared us for Confirmation. He was a great teacher. Only for him I would not have been able to pass my exams in Australia. I finished school after completing the eight grade. Then, "Clonmoher", my mother's old home, became vacated through various deaths in the family at the time. My brothers - Pat and Eddie - and myself were sent there to keep the place going. I did the house keeping. It was a lovely farm. By the way, it was not ours. It was willed to a brother of my mother's who was in America and who would not come home to it. We plodded away there for some years.

The 1920-22 Black and Tan era arrived. My brother Pat and Timmie Considine were arrested one dark winter's morning on 6th December 1920 at 4 a.m. and were taken to prison. My brother Eddie was up at home the same night. Well they belted them with their rifles and broke Timmie's jaw bone. Then they handcuffed them and took them away to Ennis gaol. Before



leaving they burnt two ricks of hay that were there for winter fodder for stock. I did not realise they had done so until I went out to see the last of them go and say a "forbidden goodbye".

They were courtmartialled and given a two year sentence at Dartmoor on a charge of having possessed arms which they "the tans" found stacked in the hay. Of course all the young men that they could lay their hands on were interned. Those who escaped were on "the run" whom I often fed and put up for nights now and again.

When the truce came in 1922 all the unsentenced prisoners were liberated but not the others until the truce was signed. All the dances and celebrations started when they all came home. Our boys were realeased then. Of course they had to come across from England by boat. Micko Considine met them at Killaloe railway station in the car. It was dark when they arrived at Coolagaree. All the houses from Scariff to Feakle (5 Irish miles) had candles in their windows. Micko tooted all the way for a mile before he reached our home. The Irish pipe band played them in. The way was lined with sods of turf on pitchforks saturated in kerosene and alight. It was marvellous.

My parents gave a barrel of stout. Considines gave another and patriot women from Feakle gave another - in all - eighteen gallons. Well the crowd that came from all over East Clare! - we did not know half of them. With the result our home was filled as was Tuohey's next door with the barrels allotted to each and dancing and singing went on till clear day light. They

were rolling around everywhere as full as boots. That ended that epoch.

Sarah came home in 1926 and encouraged my sister Babe and I to come to Australia - a thing I have never regretted.

### My adult years

I left home and parents on 18th August, 1927 and came to Australia on board the "Orsova" and arrived in Melbourne on 26th September 1927. I stayed in Preston with Nora for two weeks and then joined the staff at Sunbury Psychiatric Hospital where I worked for ten years. I did three exams and obtained my psychiatric certificate. Afterwards, I transferred to Mont Park at my own wish, stayed there about ten months and then married Ed. We lived in Albert Street, Preston for two years. The depression was on and work was scarce. So Nora and I put our heads together and decided to try hospital work. We went to Collins Street and consulted several doctors. They sent us to an agency, to a man called Mr Swanson. He took us to Murrumbidgee to the Presentation Sisters Convent. We consulted the nuns who were going

to vacate the premises. We decided we would give it a try.

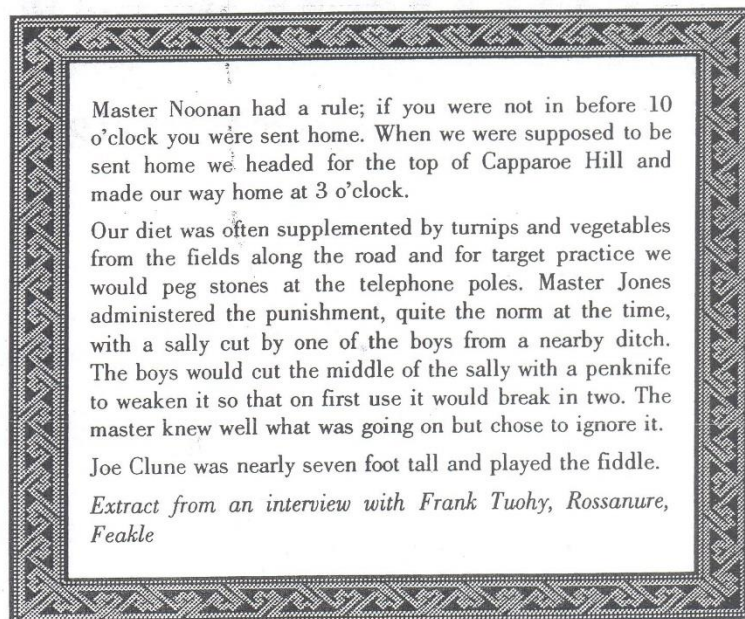
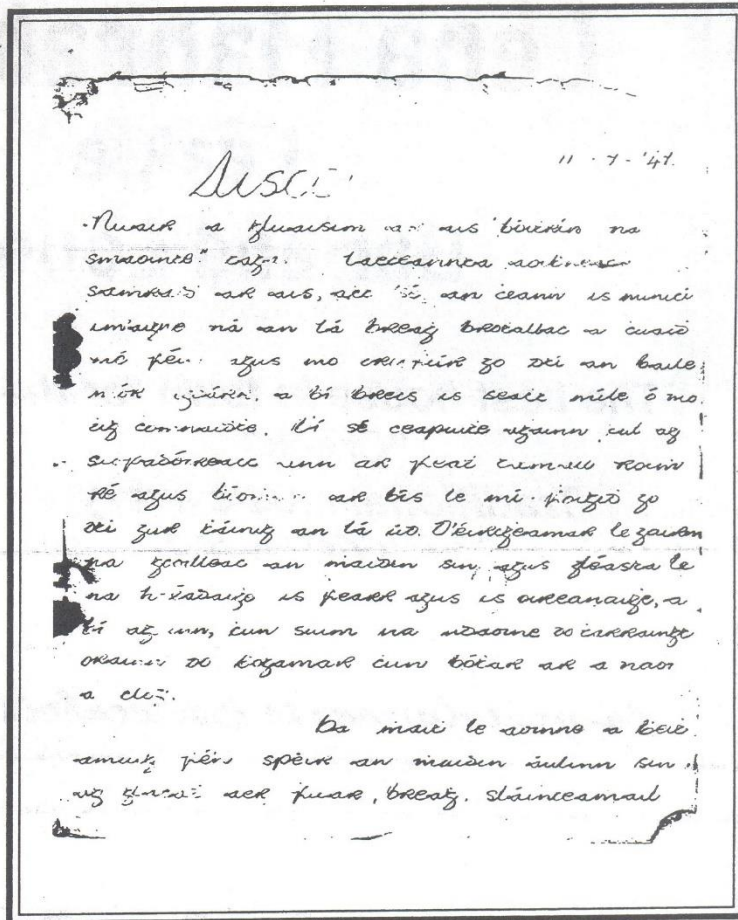
We saw Fr. Joyce PP, and took it over for rental. We did well for a few years and then bought the property. There was a big petition going round to obstruct us and signed by several. The Chief Secretary sent for us and told us he would not consider any of the petitions except those living in the cottage next door. So we consulted J.J. Sullivan (Solicitor) who sought out the owner for us. We paid a deposit and gave notice to vacate it which took some time. When all this was done we went to see the Chief Secretary who approved everything with the result that we received our licence in December 1939 and opened up the Private Hospital "Hillcrest" in January 1940.

Margaret was born on the 5th January and everything went well. The patients arrived at the hospital one by one - some were nice, some were not but we managed them all - some with difficulty but we got by. I had to have an operation the same year that Margaret was born - not easy either. Then Thomas was born 5th November, 1943, Bernard 13th January 1945 (Ed's birthday) and Kevin on 26th March 1947.

We bought our houses - Hawthorn Road and Huntingfield Road, Brighton.

Then business slackened off. So we closed down. I bought Nora out and then opened the Guest House - hard work too and a lot to put up with. Then we sold it after a year or two and bought our house at Wrixon Avenue, East Brighton. Then when Ed died in 1984, I sold Wrixon Avenue and bought the unit in Union Street. The rest you know. This is all but not much after all.

*Margaret Cashman (Fennessy) died in January 1994. She was one of a family of nine who attended Cooleenbridge School and all but one emigrated to Australia. Three generations of the family attended Cooleenbridge.*



## Our School

1914 ----- A famous year. The Crimmins proclaimed war on Cooleenbridge School!

Our real name is Doyle but due to an abundance of Doyle families in the area we were given the nickname of "Crimmins", to avoid confusion.

Paddy Doyle's was the first name of that family to adorn the school roll books and at regular one and a half year intervals a new Doyle name was added to the register. In the space of approximately fifteen years the full complement of Doyles was registered.

In a family of that size you can visualise having quiet children and "terrors". Mick, who was the second eldest, was one of the terrors. He even fought with his young sister, Nellie over something very trivial on her first day in school. Miss Hehir (their teacher), being the wise lady she was, ignored the row. However there was another incident with Mick which Miss Hehir quite definitely did not ignore -- when Mick broke up her slapping sticks. She must have had a soft spot for the Doyles though; she would, quite regularly, ask the five Doyles in her classroom to sing a song for the singing lesson.

Mick Doyle wasn't the only terror attending Cooleenbridge School. Mary Ellen Mooney springs to mind quite readily. She eventually became a nun and I only hope she didn't give her colleagues in the convent as hard a time as she gave her school mates.

Apart from coping with the few terrors in the school, our time there was generally happy. Tom Jones, the Principal, was popular with the pupils. One lovely sunny morning, as we walked barefoot to school with

### All the Doyles, Laccaroe



Martin, Mick, Dan, Madge, Paddy, Tess, Katy, Monty, Nellie, Jack.  
The lady in front is Bid.

the Moroneys, the Tuohys and the other Doyles, Tobins and a lad known as th'oul Brother, we met Tom Jones being "escorted" by two Black and Tans at Denis Mack's hill. He said "pray for me children, pray for me". Needless to say we thought we would never see our principal again. As it transpired, he was only being taken to fill in the trenches dug on the road the previous night by the local IRA.

Love started at an early age in our school. Michael Minogue was seen quite regularly at the side of the garage, sharing his lovely jam sandwich with Nellie Doyle. Incidentally, that garage was built by Nellie's father. If he had known it was going to be used for cavorting with the boys I'm sure he would have had second thoughts.

You might think that the "Big Race" got its name from the Aintree Grand National, but that is just not so! I'm sure it was invented by the children of Cooleenbridge school. Every morning Nellie Doyle and Dilly Moroney were seen racing to the school to get to "The bucket" first. Whoever reached "The bucket" first went to Jimmy Doyle's well for water for teacher's tea. It was great to get a couple of free hours from school but when four of the Doyle family were requested to change to the Feakle school to improve the pupil-teacher ratio the three months spent there were never ending; we were very glad to get back to "Our School" -- Cooleenbridge.



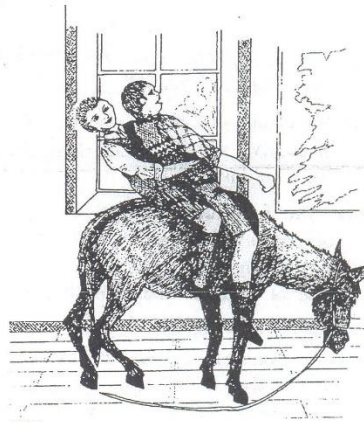
The master was sick one day and Miss Hehir was in charge. There was a leak in the roof that day and the older boys began to act up. Anyhow, there were pans full of water and the boys used to throw stones in the pans. Miss Hehir went out to lock the door. The boys went out and brought an ass into the schoolroom and they had great fun riding the ass up and down the school. She was very upset but the boys escaped punishment somehow.

The master came to school in a pony and trap and at 2.30 the pony was let off for grass. Three or four pupils were let go to look for the pony shortly before home time. Others were let off to look after the flower beds. They were delighted with the break.

I left school at 14 but returned for a week to be in the Scariff hurling team.

*Related to Marie Downes by John Minogue, Ballycorban, Scariff, who started at Cooleenbridge in April 1922 aged 5yrs.10mths. and who left the school in 1930 aged 14yrs.*

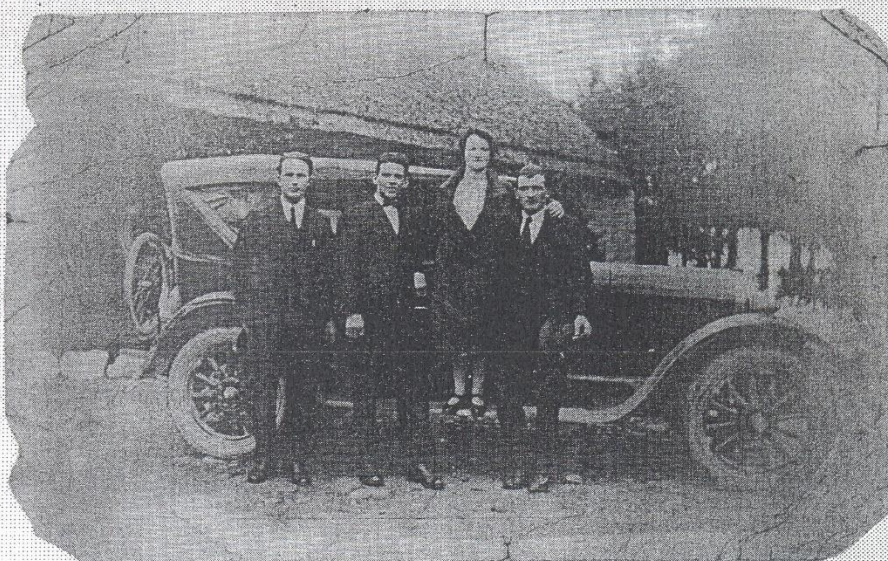
Pakie Grogan who started in the school in 1921 remembers a guard called Cummins who would call to the school. He would say "Cummins will summons".



## Coláiste Phobal na Scairbhe

Scariff Community College, Co. Clare

Cómhgháirdeachas  
do chlann "Cooleenbridge"  
Moladh Mór!



Tommy Griffin, Kaelderra, Micky Fennessy, Coolagoree, Joe Burke and John Minogue, Derrymore joined the Gardai in 1922. The above photo, taken on the day of departure, shows Mickey Fennessy, Paddy Fitzgerald, Feakie, Kathleen Fennessy and Packie Brady, Scariff with his 1916 Model T Ford.

*Congratulations*  
*to*  
*Cooleenbridge*  
*Centenary*  
*from*  
*Joanne Pearl*  
**HAIR SALON**  
*Scariff*  
 Tel. (061) - 921088

*Best Wishes*  
*to*  
*Cooleenbridge*  
*Centenary*  
*from*  
**KERRY**  
**Creamery**

## PLACENAMES AND THEIR MEANING IN THE COOLEENBRIDGE AREA

*Of any county in Ireland, Co. Clare has undoubtedly the most, and most easily translated placenames in the Irish language. The richness of that dialect, and its suitability for giving descriptive titles to localities are clearly demonstrated here in this little work. The designation given to localities savour very strongly of their situation, soil, aspect, and quality. Hills, rocks, bogs, rivers, fields, woods, and even physical peculiarities of certain areas were taken into consideration when placing a name on a district. It should be noted that the amount of land under cultivation was extremely small. This was mainly due to the extremely hilly and heavily wooded land. For this reason we frequently get a placename beginning with the suffix COOL, or in Irish CÚL. This word means 'Corner' and in its application it nearly always means that the strip of land, or corner, was wrested from the difficult terrain through the dint of great labour.*

*Another common suffix in East Clare is DERRY. In Irish this word is spelled DOIRE and means Oak Wood. It is evident from the numerous Townlands beginning with this suffix that the entire county was extensively covered with woods and shrubberies. One example is Gortaderry = The cultivated field in the wood*

**AUGHRIM:** Augh Dhroim: The hillside of the horse.

**CAPPAROE:** Ceapach Rua: The red fields: Ceapach in Irish refers to a tilled plot.

**CAPPABANE:** Ceapach Ban: The White fields.

**COOLAGOREE:** Cúl A Corraí: O'Corry's Corner. There is also a tradition in the area that there lived on the hill in this townland a magic or fairy hare and that the name arose from this connection Cúl an Giorraí.

**COOLEENBRIDGE:** Cúlín: The small corner; the 'Bridge' is a much later addition to the placename.

**COLLREAGH (More):** Cúl Riabhach: The back corner of the brown land. (Large and small).

**CORE:** Cor: The neighbourhood of rising ground.

**CRICKEEN:** Creagín: The little rocky place (or height).

**DERRYMORE:** Doire mór: The great oak wood.

**DERRYVATERE:** There are two possible answers to this one; the first is Doire Mhac Tíre = The wood of the wolf; the second is Doire Bheith = The wood of the birch trees.

**DRIMINURE:** Druimín Úr: The little hill by the marsh (or in the marsh).

**FOSSAMORE:** Fosda Mór: The great earth Bank: (also Fossabeg). The dominant physical feature of Fossamore is Knock Kinseach.

**KEALDERRA:** Caol Doire: The thin oak wood.

**KNOCKAVEEN:** Knoc Aoibhinn: The beautiful hillside.

**KYLE:** Coill: The wood.

**BALLYCORBAN:** Baile Uí Corbáin: O'Corban's Townland.

**POULAGOONA:** Poll A Ghúnach: The cave of the stripper cow.

**POLLAHOONA:** Poll A Huaine: The cave of the lambs.

**ROSSANURE:** Ross An Úr: The marshy meadow by the river.

**TINGAREE:** I can not explain this one. At a guess it might be TINTÉ A RIASC, which pertaining to marsh gas, means Sudden Flashes of Marsh Fire.

Other Placenames in the area of Cooleenbridge which served as a catchment area for students down through the years, some of which are in the Parish of Feakle, are:

**CLASHMORE:** Clais Mór: The great Earth Bank.

**CLOONUSKER:** Cluan Oscar: Oscar's Territory.

**CURRAMS (the):** Curraic: The marsh and, or the Marshy Plain.

**DERRYNAHILLA:** Doire Na Haile: The wood on the steep hillside.

**DERREENS (the):** The little oak woods, or groves.

**GRANEY RIVER (the):** Abha and Greine: The river of the sun: this river flows from Lough Grainey; Loc Greine = The lake of the sun. Evidently the ancient people there were heliolaters or sun worshippers.

**BARNACLEA:** Barr An Cliath: The top of the ditch, or earth bank.

**GARRAUN:** Garán: Land covered in bushes.

**SLIABH BEARNAGH:** The mountain of the gap. this mountain range is the highest in co. Clare and lies directly South of Cooleenbridge.

**SLIABH AUGHTY:** This mountain range lies directly North of Cooleenbridge and represents the highest mountain range in Co. Galway. The story of how Sliabh Aughty got its name is told in the East Clare Heritage Journal Vol.1 and it is from this source that we get the following story.

About three thousand years ago there lived a king of the Tuatha Dé Dannan whose name was Maach an Maol (Maach the bald). In his fort, which was located

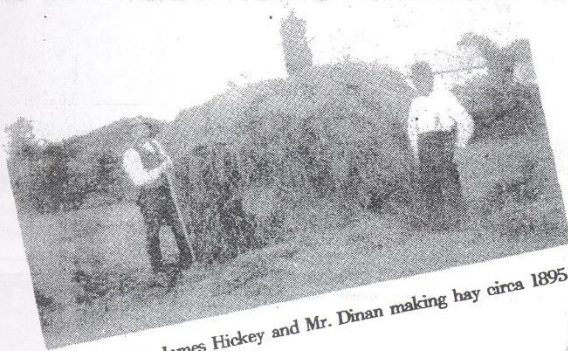
near Clashmore, Maoch held three hostages who were the sons of three of his most powerful allies. One of these young men whose name was Fiachra (deerlike), fell in love with the beautiful niece of Maoch and asked her to marry him. The young woman, whose name was Eichte, had been fostered from infancy by Maoch and his wife and they had spoiled her to the point where she became known as Eichte Uafasach -Eichte the Awful. She refused to marry Fiachra unless he could provide her with all the luxuries she had always been used to. Poor Fiachra had nothing by ways of goods or gold, but he had a large amount of mountain land which had been left to him by his grandfather. Once he had signed this mountain over to her as her Bride Price and handed over forty cattle

to her father, which he had borrowed from his father, against his inheritance, as her Honour Price, Eichte married him.

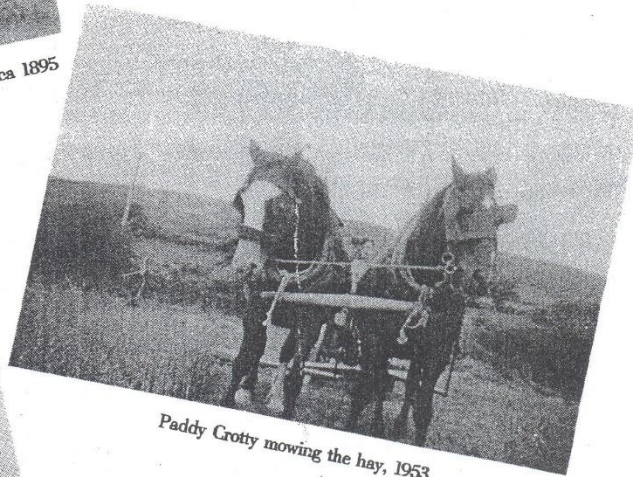
Whether they lived happily ever after we do not know, but once she came into possession of the mountain she named it after herself and to this day it is known as Sliabh Eichte; commonly spelled Aughty.

One should remember that all these placenames were named long before the Christian era, whether by Formorians, Firbolgs, Tuatha Dé Dannans or Milesians I do not know, but their language is still spoken by the Irish people to this day.

Michael O'Gorman, 29.3.1994



Jim Connors, James Hickey and Mr. Dinan making hay circa 1895



Paddy Crotty mowing the hay, 1953



Meitheal, 1955

## Jimmy Melody

Jimmy Melody, Clonmoney, Bunratty attended Cooleenbridge School in the period 1910-1921. Himself and his family lived in the town-land of Capparoe but went to reside in Bunratty during the "economic war" in the early 1930's.

He clearly recalls the day that The Black & tans came into the school, took it under control, and brought the teacher Mr Thomas Jones away for questioning. All the children were told shortly afterwards to go home and the school was closed by the assistant teacher. This happened in October 1920.

The reason for all the incidents outlined can be attributed to some events that took place earlier that month. There was an ambush near Feakle Post Office and two R.I.C. members were shot dead. It appears that some of the pupils at Cooleenbridge wrote compositions on the burnings that followed after the ambush. There was a lot of activity in the area at the time and some of the children were searched going home from school. The Black and Tans became suspicious on reading their copy books, so they arrived at the school the following day, next day it was school as usual as Mr Jones was released.

*Best Wishes to  
Cooleenbridge Centenary*

**From**

**Peadar O'Keefe Oil**

**Phone (065) 24063**

**Maxol Oil**



**Back row:** Madge Doyle, Hugh Tobin, Nan Tuohy, Mary Clune (Fletcher), John Joe & Mary Melody, Jed, John & Packie Minogue, John Grogan.  
**Middle row:** Jimmy Jones, Maggie Tobin, Cissie & Nora Brogan, Katie Doyle, Muriel Barry, Dottie Rohan, Davy Minogue, John ? Michael (Miller) Minogue, Flan O'Brien, Rita (Miller) Minogue, Willie Joe Doyle, Kitty Minogue, Bab & Brid Doyle (Duggan).

## GREETINGS FROM LANCASHIRE

My name is Mary Fletcher (nee Clune) and I am speaking from Oldham in Lancashire on this special occasion as you celebrate the centenary of Cooleenbridge School in County Clare.

Now, as a young girl, I spent a few years with my grandparents in Capparoe and I attended the school. I have fond memories of my time there. My teachers were Master Jone and Miss Hehir and in my class I remember Madgie Doyle, Maggie Tobin and Rita Minogue, also Davy and Pakie Minogue and John Grogan. To all of them I say a special "hello".

Our lunch time in the school in those days (of course we had no school dinners) consisted of a few slices of bread and a bottle of milk. On many occasions, on our way to school, we got a lift from the late Thomas John Noonan when he was going to the bog.

To all who remember me I say a special "hello" and this goes to everyone who remembers me from the past and to all who have gone to a better place and this includes my late father, my uncles and aunts and cousins who attended the school in the years gone by. I say "Heaven be their home". And to my cousin Jimmy Clune I say a special "thank you" for allowing me to take part in this special occasion and to you all "good luck and good health". Have a wonderful time on the very special day as you celebrate the centenary of Cooleenbridge School in County Clare.

*The above is a transcript of a tape sent by Mary Fletcher, Oldham, Lancs.*

Dear friends,

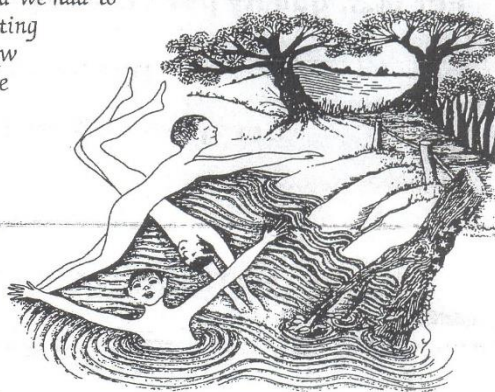
I started school in Coleenbridge back in 1928 at 5 years of age. Mr. Tom Jones was the master and Miss Susan Hehir, who came from somewhere in west Clare, was the woman teacher.

They were very good teachers, both Mr. Jones and herself and they taught us a lot in a short time. Nor did they believe in "sparing the rod to spoil the child". If you were naughty you got six of the best on the hand with a rod. If you pulled your hand while they were smacking you, you got six more!

All parents who had children attending the school had to bring a creel of turf each and every year to heat the school. We used to have a great time bringing it in off the road into the school.

Mr. Jones, may he rest in peace, had a big green Ford car and we had to push it fairly often to get it started. There was also a starting handle that we had to swing - hard work! Sometimes now when I see old gangster films the police cars are just like that car of Master Jones.

We had roll call every morning and your name would be called in Irish. Mine was Seamus O' Maolidigh and then we had the other Jimmy Melody so the Master would call me Seamus Mor and the other Jimmy-Seamus Beag. I think we had about fifty children attending the school in my time. There was our family - the Melodys; the Grogans - Pakie, Brud, John and Margaret; the Mick Minogues - Rita and Tom, Jacks, John, Mary and Ann; the Crottys - Mary, Martin, Jimmy, Paddy and Noreen; Mary Melodys - Jimmy and Theresa; the Crimmins DoYLES; David Minogues - Kitty, Tina and Maureen; the Jones - Jimmy, Tommy and Anthony. Kevin Jones, the Master's son also went to school with us.



We never wore shoes in the summer and at break time we would go swimming in the river in the nude, up near Babby Brien's. We used to get two slices of bread and butter for lunch and we would often have it eaten before we reached the school, but there was always Tim Treacy's turnips. He also had a few apple trees in front of the house and we would make a raid now and again. I will always remember Tim Treacy telling Tom Jones off and blaming him for not having better control over us. Tim was very cross and we were scared stiff of him.

Master Jones used to smoke a pipe and Johnny Crotty used to ask him for a few draws of the pipe. Mr. Jones would say "see that big thistle over there? If you can pull that out of the ground I will give you a smoke." But, of course, he could never pull it. Mrs. Cunneen used to buy a big tin of sweets for the infants and after school would finish in the evening and everyone was gone home the smallest of us would sneak through the narrow opening at the top of the window and raid the sweets.

Well, there used to be lovely flower pots on the windows - geraniums, I think, and also a box for the African missions. You could drop a penny in the slot and the black man's head, which was on the top of the box, would nod a few times. I'm sure that when they opened the box they found more washers than pennies! There used to be an easel and blackboard and Mr. Jones would be doing sums and teaching us how to spell.

It was a very well built school to last 100 years. Tom Jones in Cappane used to do the maintenance in my time. There were great big desks with holes in them for ink wells and we used to write with the old "John Mitchell" pens. We used to have singing, but a lot of it was in Latin, and the girls used to do needlework and knitting. I have other memories of those times that are not about the school but I will only mention one and that is of the time of an election when Mickey Gleeson introduced the Labour candidate, Paddy Hogan, as the man "who fought and died for Ireland".

I hope this letter has helped some small way with the history of the school and I must say it has brought back some great memories to me as I am now 71 years of age.

Goodbye and God Bless

Jimmy Dean Melody, Hampstead, London.

In the 1930's there was a project, co-ordinated by the Dept. of education and known generally as the National Schools' Survey, to gather folklore through the primary schools. Children were given special copy books and asked to question the old people at home about their lives, memories and stories. The results of this project were collected and the copies of the contributions relating to Co. Clare are held in the county library in Ennis. A selection of the contributions related to East Clare are included in this publication and are presented in the following format.

### "A LEGEND OF LOUGH GRANEY"

*Lough Grane is a little lake to the north west of the townland of Clonusker. It nestles among the glens and valleys of Caber. This famous lake has been immortalised by Brian Merriman in his renowned poem "Cuairt an Mbean Oiche".*

*The older people of the neighbourhood take a delight in relating as to how the lake, the river that issues from it, the insignificant townland of Derrygraney and the quaint village of Tuamgraney on its right bank all bear the same name. Quite recently the following story was told to me by an old man in the townland. Once upon a time a fair maiden named Graine was out boating in the lake. The story tells that the wind became a gale and the boat became upset and Graine was thrown into the water. This girl swam the course of the River Grane quite convenient to Clonusker school until she arrived at Derrygraney. Here she made a dash at a branch of a poplar tree which gave way with her. When Graine was found the branch was standing in her hand and she was buried with it under the rock of Tuamgraney. At that time the Shannon flowed around Tuamgraney, but due to a motion of the land the bed of it lowered and by degrees the rock was becoming exposed. Some people say that the branch budded in her hand and that it grew up through the rock.*

*This legend was related to me by Patrick MacNamara of Clonusker, an old man of eighty five years of age who resides in a little cottage quite convenient to Clonusker school.*

***(The writer's identity is not certain. It was one of the senior pupils in Clonusker school).***

## All-Ireland Champion



I remember, one day as Master Jones stood warming himself at the fire, he called on some of the lads to go out and gather paper which, of course, they were only too happy to do. Along with the paper they brought back some chestnuts which were slipped into the fire with the paper. The bang of the exploding chestnut could be heard a mile off.

The first place I ran was Guilfoyle Island, Balgriffin, Dublin. Eight of us travelled in the car and we arrived at 3 o'clock. Some of us had shoes and some not. After some tea and toast the race took place and suffering from severe stitch I came eighth in the field but the team had won. We returned the same day after a fine dinner in Dublin and I spent the night in Tulla. Only for Ronnie Plant we would not have won.

I won my first medal at Drumcliff after cycling there and then I joined the Tulla Club. After that I joined St. Michael's, Ennis. I always cycled to the races and when I won the cup I put it under my arm and cycled home. Then I did the milking!

*Extract from an interview with John Minogue, Glendree, Feakle who is an All-Ireland athletics medal winner and who attended Cooleenbridge School from the age of five in 1929 to 1943, three days before his fourteenth birthday.*

## Comer's School

*More than a half a century ago there was a National School in the parish of Scariff. It was situated between Coolagoree Cross and Jimmy Doyle's house, in a field which is presently in the possession of Mr. Guilfoyle. It was taught by a man called Mr. Comer and that is why the school is called Comer's School.*

*It was a low thatched house with a clay floor and, as it was built on a wet place, the water was continually pumping up through the floor in the winter and to take away the surplus water a drain had to be made. Before Mr. Comer came to Coolagoree he was teaching a hedge school in Poulagower in a field belonging to the Minogues. When he came to Coolagoree he lived in a house near Laccaroe Cross and after that he went to live in a house in Ned Roban's field.*

*There were about fifty scholars attending Comer's school and they were taught English, history, geography, arithmetic and catechism on Fridays when the Scariff priest came to teach them. They were taught no Irish in the school which shows that the Irish language has left the district for close on two hundred years.*

*Mr. Comer was married and his wife came to the school one day every week to teach the girls knitting and sewing. After a while they went to live in Derrymore and while they were there Mr. Comer got a pension. Then they went to live in Scariff. They were not long there when Mr. Comer's wife died. Then it is said that Mr. Comer went to America.*

*Much is not known about the education the scholars received in this school but it is thought that it was of the same kind as was received in other schools of its kind. History does not state that any of the scholars ever held a high position either at home or abroad.*

**Written by a pupil of Cooleenbridge School in 1938**

## Scholars of 1928



**Front row, left to right:** Jed Doyle, Kevin Jones, John Joe Melody, John Grogan, John Doyle, Jimmy Melody, Pakie Minogue, Hugh Tobin.  
**Second row:** Brud Grogan, Flan O'Brien, Michael Minogue, John Minogue, May Nan Minogue, Tess Doyle, Theresa Melody, Dan Doyle, Tom Minogue, Anti Jones, Willie Joe Doyle, Jack Doyle, Davie Minogue, Cassie Moroney, Mary Melody.  
**Third row:** Mattie Jones, Rita Minogue, Bridget Doyle, Maura Honan, Tina Minogue, Kitty Hogan, Sarah Moroney, Maura Minogue, Mary Melody, Biddy Doyle, Margaret Grogan, Mary Crotty, Kitty Minogue, Mary Anne Doyle, Tommy Jones, John Moroney.  
**Fourth Row:** Johnny Torpey, Dan Moroney, Tommy Moroney, Maggie Tobin, Della Honan, Aggeta McGrath, Dillie Moroney, Kathy Doyle, Muriel Barry, Eileen Minogue, Mary Kate Moroney.  
**Fifth Row:** Brod McGrath, Dan Joe Moroney, Pakie Grogan, Johnny Tobin, John Minogue, Paddy Minogue.

## THE HEDGE SCHOOLS.

The 'Hedge Schools' originated during the Cromwellian period and under the Penal Code which was introduced by William III. This was an act to put an end to Catholic Education. The continued enforcement of the law made teaching a dangerous vocation so that the Hedge School began and the term "Hedge School" was first used.

As the law at the time forbade the school master to teach he had to give instruction secretly. This often happened outdoors weather permitting, some remote spot, a sheltered hollow or a field corner, the sunny side of a hedge, which hid the teacher and his pupils from view. The pupils stood or sat around the teacher as he read aloud or recited from memory. Pupils often took turns to act as a "look out" for the approach of any strangers. In this way the class could be quickly disbanded.

In Winter, the schoolmaster moved from place to place teaching small groups of children and he depended solely upon the hospitality of the people for survival.

Later when the laws against education were less strictly enforced, school was taught in a barn, a cabin or any type of house that was made available. These were stone buildings but others had mud walls, and all of them had mud floors. Some of those buildings had little light, they also had low thatched roofs, therefore it can be assumed that they were uncomfortable. As far as possible classes were held in the open, weather permitting. Some of those schools closed during the Winter. Of the ones that remained open, a fire was lit in the centre of the school with the smoke going out through a hole in the roof. Each scholar brought a sod of turf (or two if small numbers of pupils)

each day for the fire. Groups were allowed to come near the fire to warm themselves and then replaced by another group.

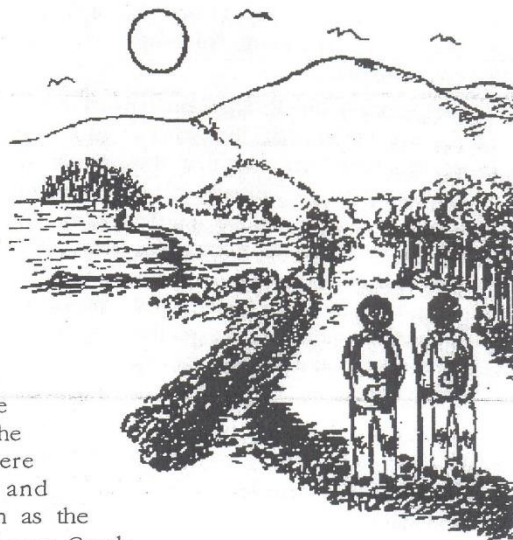
It was about this time that the term "Pay School" came into existence. The school master was paid by the parents a very modest sum which varied from half a crown to five shillings a quarter. The subjects taught were reading, --writing and arithmetic later known as the "Three R's". Latin and even Greek was also taught. Everyone wanted their children to be educated and the willingness of the people to make sacrifices for this education as well as their co-operation with the schoolmaster were the factors that helped the Hedge School become a force in Irish education.

Very little is known of the system of education in the Hedge School but some schools adopted a system whereby writing which meant copying headlines set by the schoolmaster reading and rehearsing (learning "off by heart") went on every day. Some children wrote on paper, some on slates and some on sand. School started at 10.00 O'clock each morning and continued until 4.00 p.m.

School books were very expensive and for this reason alone were rarely bought. An advertisement in the "Ennis Chronicle" of March 3rd 1793 states :

### RATIONAL SPELLING BOOK

"Just published by the printer hereof, a new and improved



edition of the Rational spelling Book price 1-7 ½ d" A shilling in Irish Money was a full days wages for a farm labourer in the most prosperous part of the country, in poorer districts it would have paid three days wages.

In this area there is no doubt that hedge schools operated. A pay school existed in Aughrim in 1824 and there are accounts of others in Laccaroe, Coolagoree, Gurtaderra and Poulagour. Some hedge schools applied for national school status and an application to build at Gurtaderra was made on May 29th 1852 by Mr Charles Walnutt Esq Springfield House Scarrif land agent for J.H. Moreland. The application requested one room for boys and one room for females, and suggested that the commissioners may direct letters to Rev Mr Stack P.P. Scarrif.

"The site is bounded on the east by the road to Clonusker and on the north, south and west by Matthias O'Brien's land" Report of the Clerk of Works - February 13th 1854. This site is near the bridge that

spans the Graney River on the road to Clonusker from Coolagoree and is known as "Comber's field" Mr Thomas Comber had a hedge school there previously. The present landowner is Matty J. O'Brien a descendant of the previous owners.

The inspector John. E. Sheridan in his report stated that the school would be rent free and that the population of this townland is 212. He also stated that the site of the proposed school is in Coolagoree and not Gurtadera. A grant for building two schools was made and subsequently withdrawn due to the disagreement of the local parties as to its management.

On February 3rd 1857 an application for a salary for a school at Coolagoree was made. The application stated that "it is situated midway between the towns of

Scarrif & Feakle and would only be a temporary school until the Ballycorban National schools were built. The school is intended for males and females, with average attendance over 80. The teachers name is Thomas Comber aged 39".

On February 25th 1857 Mr R. Patterson states " The house is built of stone lime and mortar. Neatly thatched measures 32' X 16' X 7 1/4'. It had been a private dwelling. There are five tables, blackboard and clock (press will be supplied) Mr Thomas Comber was promoted headmaster at £20 per year from the 1st February 1857. Book press and teacher's desk will have to be provided". An application for a salary on April 4th 1858 on behalf of Bridget Comber aged 37 in Coolagoree National School was made. She had been a dressmaker and teaches in the literary business

also. Bridget joined her husband as assistant headmistress at a salary of £17 per year.

The school at Coolagoree was on the lands now owned by Edward Guilfoyle near Doyle's house which is now owned by Noel Corry. It is 0.5 km from Cooleenbridge School.

An interesting feature of this school is that it was a mixed school with boys and girls in the same classes together. It was probably a "first" for mixed classes at that time. It is not clear for how many years the school at Coolagoree existed but local knowledge and information tells us that when it closed the pupils went to Feakle and Clonusker which was opened in 1881.

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## A BUILDING OF NOTE

When the Office of Public Works acquired the site of the school in 1882 from Patrick and Catherine Treacy it was for an agreed lease of one penny per annum. On the 30th. August 1892 a sum of £220 was granted on a total expenditure of £330 for the construction. The balance was to be raised locally. At the same time a grant of £40-13s-6d. was also agreed on an expenditure of £61 for the enclosure of the site by means of a stone wall with mortar joints, complete with iron gate and piers.

The site was an elevated one facing approximately south west and commanding a magnificent view over the townlands of Poulagour, Core and Laccaroe with the Siabh Bearnagh hills in the distance to the south.

The school building has external walls 2ft. thick constructed of stone with mortar joints and plastered internally and externally with lime plaster. A slated, pitched roof is supported by Queen Post roof trusses, with lath and plaster ceilings, finished in the style of the time. Ventilation covers were visible on the ceiling. Large windows with pivoted top openings gave an abundance of light and ventilation. Both classrooms had good quality suspended timber floors with the small classroom having raked or stepped seating. there were no desks in this room and an exchange of classrooms was necessary for writing. Entrance to the small classroom was through the main room with both doors having ledged, braced and sheeted doors with thumb latches. The external door was of the framed, braced and sheeted type with a large rim lock and key. Each fireplace had a two ringed brick arch of the segmental type and

each had a grate with provision for the ashes below.

The entrance porch contained a turf box and had coat hangers on the walls. All the walls had wainscoting of timber sheeting to a height of 3ft. 6inches and framed with moulding at base and top. The walls were whitewashed and the joinery work painted. The large room had seat and desk accommodation of good quality, with ink wells with pencil or pen stoppers. The desks were bolted to

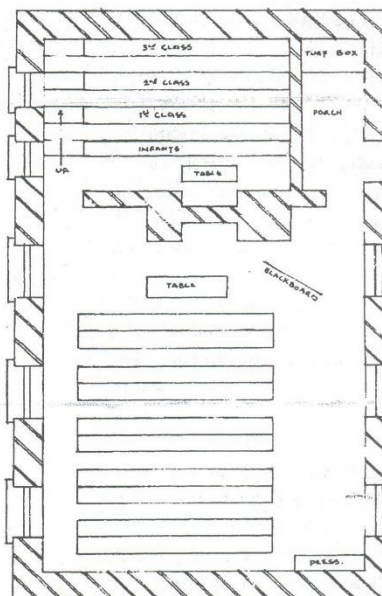
the floor. The construction was completed during 1893 and the school opened its doors on 1st. April 1894.

Upon completion, the building was described as being of the "modern type", having well lighted and ventilated rooms, adequately furnished. The closets at the rear of the school "were of the most up to date construction in sanitary conditions and hygiene, with whitewashed walls, slated roofs and iron gates".

Before the school was built, pupils from the area attended other nearby schools. The records show that in the first two years pupils transferred to Cooleenbridge School from:-

Boys Girls		
Cappabane	8	7
Clonusker	12	5
Scariff	9	13
Feakle	9	10
Bodyke	2	1

The total enrolment at this time was



135 children. In March 1902 there were 122 children enrolled, with an average daily attendance of 76. The school manager was Rev. J.J. Halpin P.P. Scariff. It was during his time that a grant of £58. 10s was agreed by the Dept. of Education on an expenditure of £87. 15s. to increase the size of one classroom by 9ft. to accommodate a further 26 pupils. There is no evidence that this extension was ever built.

### Catchment Area

The River Graney forms part of the boundary between the parishes of Scariff and Feakle and the catchment area of the school includes the following townlands from the respective parishes:

**Scariff:** Fossamore, Capparoe, Poulagour, Coolagoree and Ballycorban.

**Feakle:** Core, Laccaroe Lower, Laccaroe Upper, Rossanure and Gurrane.

The greatest distance any pupil travelled to school being three miles.

## “Full and Plenty”

The sun was always shining then and this day was no exception, as I skipped lightly along the dusty Capparoe Road. My heart was free from cares as I set my sights on Cooleenbridge School, which was to be my Alma Mater for the following eight years. In this low roofed, yellow coloured, two roomed building I would be transported from my present state of ignorance in the arts and skills of knowledge to a state of precocious cunning that would equip me to face life. I would remain here on my native soil, but many of my companions would be forced to seek their livelihoods in far flung corners of the globe. Oblivious to the economic hardships caused by the war that raged in Europe, I took great delight in observing the springtime pursuits of my farming neighbours. The fields of "bán" being skilfully ploughed by teams of well groomed horses; the shrieking of the circling gulls who instinctively arrived at the turning of the first sod, all delighted my young heart as I gazed in admiration at the masterful arrow-straight drills in the fields of Tim Treacy and Pat Melody. Along with the information and mathematical skills we gleaned in the classroom, we absorbed, unwittingly, from the world about us a great store of natural history.

As the vibrant days of spring potato sowing blended into the haze of summer heat, our senses were perfectly tuned to the alterations in nature's garb. The clatter of the great Pierce mowing machine, the sweet aroma of new mown hay and the first hoarse croak of the corncrake brought close the prospect of tea in the meadows as we worked to form the cocks of hay and, of course, of endless fun among the perfectly made, conical trams of hay.

The lengthening evenings of autumn brought the sight of the stooks of corn standing sentinel, military style,

in the golden sunsets of the September glory. Hay was gathered into haggards and trips on the enormous hay cart were the delight of sun-bronzed youth. Autumn came to a crescendo with the threshing. Minogue's gigantic, iron wheeled thresher trundled into the haggard. The steady hum of threshing filled the afternoon as the oats poured in a stream, almost pious, into the bags while the straw chuffed and panted out the other side. With sleeves rolled, the men fed the machine with perfect regularity. The scent of T.V.O. lingered long after the machine, with its guard of fork bearing followers, had lumbered itself out and on to the next haggard.

The fair day in Scariff was without equal. Lambs were sold and we were equipped with stout boots from

Jackie O'Shea's or Jack Longs that would withstand the rigours of football or wetting.

A merciless war raged, deprivation was rampant, emigration prevailed, but my carefree days appeared to be "full and plenty". The killing of the pig by a local butcher was no small help in this. The squeal of the unfortunate animal was soon forgotten as we gathered round the frying pan, filled with pink pork steak sizzling over the embers of the open fire. The delights were shared and the steak and black pudding were delivered to the neighbours with the same diligence as we delivered the "Messenger".

Jimmy Clune.



## MEMORIES OF COOLEENBRIDGE - 1940

### TOMMY GUILFOYLE

In 1940 I started going to school in Cooleenbridge. I remember very little of my early days from infants to fourth class.

After that many events come to mind, the first being the bonfires on St. John's night. The fires were lit at Baby O'Briens and everyone gathered from Laccaroe, Coolagoree, Core and Rossanure.

The teachers at this time were Mrs. Cunneen and Thomas Jones and later Frank Cunneen. There were many substitute teachers from time to time.

Coming as we did from the Feakle side of Cooleenbridge we used to love to see the odd night of heavy rain so that the road between Cooleenbridge and Laccaroe would be flooded and this was a great excuse to miss a day from school.

Then when the fine weather came in June and July the mid-day swim was a regular occurrence. Immediately when the teachers missed us from the school the master would come to the river to catch us but we left our clothes on the far bank because if we had to swim to the near side he would stand by the clothes armed with his rod and we would have to face him. This way we would swim to the far side and be back in school before him and therefore not guilty.

Another event in April and May were the fairs in Scariff and being from a farming background my father would need extra help to herd cattle and sheep. A lot of farmers sons were left off school on these days. The only problem was avoiding the local sergeant as he would start to ask questions about why we were not at school.

Later on in fifth and sixth class we started hurling. As we thought we were pretty good we offered a challenge to Scariff school and naturally they took it up. So one

Sunday we headed for Scariff and proceeded to play the match but the boys from the town were too good for us. My cousin Mick Guilfoyle refereed the match and after a break for refreshments Mick produced a football and we started a football match. The game was on for a while when Cooleenbridge scored a goal and after a short time had elapsed Mick blew the full time whistle to give us a victory and a share of the spoils with the Scariff lads.

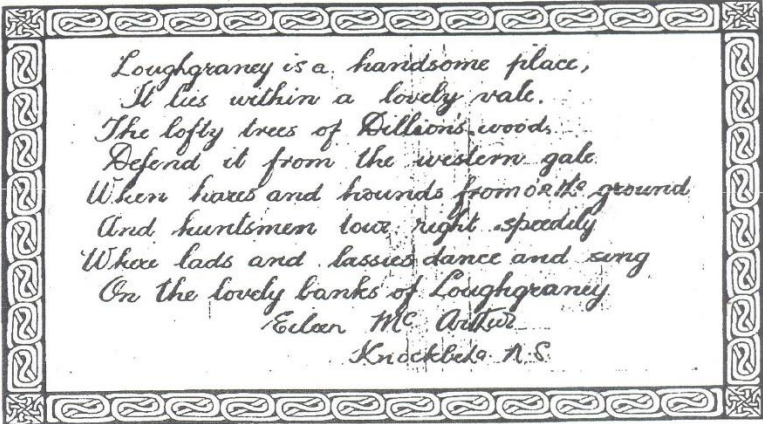
Having made my confirmation and achieving the primary cert in 1949 it was time to move to secondary school. I chose St. Mary's in Galway. I completed my intermediate and leaving certificates there. While in St. Mary's I won four Connacht Colleges Senior Championships, one U16 and one U17. I also played Gaelic Football at all grades and took part in athletics winning two silver medals at 100 yds and 200 yds. Also during that time I joined the pioneer total abstinence association and when I emigrated to New York I became involved again with them. I was a founder member of the Brooklin Centre in New York. During my time in St Mary's I never got too many chances to play for Feakle as it was too difficult to get home for many of the games.

In 1956 I left for New York where I became a member of the Clare GAA Club and held office in the club for many years.

Kathleen and I married in 1961 and we returned home to Ireland and Feakle in 1971 with five children, three boys and two girls. We had another daughter in 1976.

I again got active in G.A.A. circles in Feakle at adult level. As time went by my own sons became interested in hurling. I eventually got involved with the under age teams in the Parish with good success. During the coming years we won championships at U14, U16, minor and U21 levels. However our sights were set on the senior championship and eventually it came our ways in 1988. During these years my sons Michael, Tommy and John were part of these teams. Both Michael and Tommy have represented Clare County teams at all levels and were part of the squad that won the first Munster minor championship for Clare in 1981.

The three girls Maureen, Kathleen and Deirdre play camogie for Feakle. In all my wife Kathleen and I have a busy schedule going to support them all and we often have to run from a camogie match to a hurling match



*Loughgraney is a handsome place,  
It lies within a lovely vale.  
The lofty trees of Billaun's wood,  
Defend it from the western gale.  
When hares and hounds from the ground  
And huntsmen come right speedily  
Where lads and lassies dance and sing  
On the lovely banks of Loughgraney  
Edna McArthur  
Knockbegs N.S.*

57 Cranesbill Road  
Birmingham B29 4QP

16th March 1994

Dear James, (Clune)

My years at Cooleenbridge were roughly 1930 to 1940 and my teachers were Master Jones who taught the seniors, Mrs Cunneen who taught the infants and juniors and Miss Hogan from Whitegate who taught on a temporary basis when Mrs Cunneen was on leave. Looking back its my opinion they did a very good job taking into account the limited resources at their disposal. There was no electricity in rural areas in those days, the school was heated by two turf fires in winter, one in each classroom, the turf was supplied by the the children's parents. P.E. consisted of skating on thick ice in Winter in a trench down in Treacy's meadow in front of the school and a swim in the river in Summer on the way home from school. I haven't got any photos, the only person to my knowledge who may possess a group photo is Maura Honan. One thing I do remembers was that Clunes had very nice eating apples which were very much appreciated at school. I will say we spent some happy days at Cooleenbridge but all good times have to end. However I wish the committee every success with your proposed publication on the life and times of Cooleenbridge Academy.

Yours Sincerely,  
John Moroney

## FROLIC

*The children were shouting  
together  
And racing along the sands,  
A glimmer of dancing  
shadows,  
A dove like flutter of hands.*

*The stars were shouting in  
heaven,  
The sun was chasing the  
moon,  
The game was the same as  
the childrens',  
They danced to the self same  
tune.*

*The whole of the world was  
merry,  
One joy from vale to height,  
Where the blue woods of  
twilight encircled,  
The lovely lawns of light.*

"A.E." — George Russel.  
(From the "Kincora Reader")



## Ten bright boys

### Front:

Martin Doyle, Brian  
Rochford, Joe Treacy, Seán  
O'Grady, Paddy Crotty,

### Back:

Brud Rochford, Johnny  
Slattery, Pakie Treacy, Brud  
Moroney, Mick Treacy

## Happy Days 1944 - 52

Memories of my school days in Cooleenbridge - they are many and varied, some happy others well defined.

The early days are a bit blurred. I can well recall picking flowers and strawberries on glorious sunny evenings on the way home from school in early Summer. I remember the special joy of my first communion day. As far as lessons were concerned I hated those and I dreaded school. Shy and awkward I was a real "odd bod". After a while however I began to "see the light" as it were and was thrilled to discover that I could actually learn if I tried hard enough.

I remember old Mr. Jones - at least he seemed ancient to me at the time. I hadn't much contact with him in the class-room, as he retired when I reached 4th class. However I enjoyed the time I did spend in his class. He explained things very clearly and had much more patience than my own teacher. I recall the day of Mr. Jones' retirement vividly. He was quite lonely. This baffled me. I thought to myself "if only I could leave, I certainly would not cry". After Mr. Jones' retirement Mr. Cunneen was appointed principal. On his first day he greeted us with a smile and a welcome. He had an easy, friendly manner and we all adjusted quickly and easily.

Mr Cunneen disciplined us strictly but fairly and from day one made the school work very interesting. He was specially good to the child who wasn't too bright. He eased that child's worry tactfully and gave him extra time and help to attain average standard. In everything he was, and all he did, the Master was simplicity itself yet very profound. He had a lovely literary style. I always thought he had a way with words - but he had a way with people too. He understood them. He appreciated their good qualities. Indeed he



**Front Row:** P.J. Minogue, Jimmy Noonan, Willie Noonan, Tony Tuohy, Tony Hayes, Noel Curry, Padraig Cunneen, Bernard Fennessy, Tom Minogue, Partick Clune.  
**Second Row:** Bridget Noonan, Kathleen Griffin, Mary Minogue, Olive Clune, Bridget Anne Minogue, Nora Cunneen, Angela Clune, Anna Hayes.  
**Third Row:** Anne Bolton, Margaret Minogue, Marie Anne Guilfoyle, Anna Minogue, Bridie Farrell, Betty Noonan, Brid Cunneen, Mary Noonan, Maura Cunneen, Vera Minogue, Maureen Glynn.  
**Fourth Row:** John Joe Minogue, Sean Hayes, Amby Minogue, Dan Curry, Micheál Guilfoyle, Vincent Fennessy, Paddy Connell.

always looked for the good in people not their faults.

The Master had a great way with the boys. He had a high regard for these straight forward country lads, who worked so hard on the land with their parents. He trained them in the basic skills of hurling and football and took part in their games in the school yard.

In those days school tours were a thing unknown. The Master saw the value of these excursions and often took the senior class at his own expense to see some local beauty spots. A great lover of nature, the Master preserved perfectly into his adult life a lovely sense of wonder. His understanding quality was the great respect he showed every child in his care. This charming quality combined with his own air of quiet confidence enabled him to sow the seed of self-worth in many insecure little minds.

This is my handful of memories from

those bye gone years. Proinsias and Bean Uí Choinín didn't just teach us the 3 rs. In their simple direct way they inspired in us a love of our faith, our country and our native tongue. We lived, learned, laughed and cried with them. We experienced success and failure. They showed us by their own fine example the dignity and value of hard honest work. They guided us with consistent dedication through our vulnerable formative years. They encouraged us to look on life from the broad point of view and to give our bravest and best. What a great privilege to have known them.

Now we have reached the end of an era. As the books are closed for the last time in Cooleenbridge, my abiding memories are of the fun and friendship I knew during the days that I spent in this grand Little Rural School.

*Brigid Moloney (Minogue), Capparoe  
4th from the right, the 2nd row.*

## Anne Downes (nee Bolton) remembers

Together with my brothers John Joe and Pat I attended Cooleenbridge National school. Each day we came by what is known as the "Bog Road". We then met with the Clunes and the Noonans and all went on to the school together.

My memories of the journeys to and from the school are clearer than those of my time in the school itself.

We were never in a hurry home and often it would happen that we were called on by Babbie O'Brien at the cross to bring her a bucket of water from Doyle's well in Laccaroe. This we often used as an excuse if we were late getting home. A man in a cottage on our homeward route was for ever sending complaints to our parents and to other parents too. His hens and cockrel often got a good chasing as did his ass. A field of turnips nearby was another target. More often than not it was the boys that got blamed.

Fuel for the school fires was provided by the parents in the form of turf or timber. The boys always looked forward to the horse and cart or creels coming as they got the task of securing the turf or timber.

Our father, John Bolton (R.I.P.), his sister and brothers also attended Cooleenbridge School from 1912 onwards. Our father often told us of seeing the Black and Tans passing the school in the lorries with wire netting on them. In fact, one day, he found a pair of field glasses on the side of the road which he presumed belonged to the Black and Tans. Being afraid, he hid them in a ditch for a number of weeks before taking them home with him (these glasses we still have).

I attended Cooleenbridge from May 1949 to July 1957. Master Jones and Mrs. Cunneen were the teachers for part of this period followed by Master Cunneen and Anna McNamara. Mrs. Cunneen often gave me punishment in knitting class (for not getting the turning of a sock heel right). Master Cunneen was very keen on the Irish language and culture and he did a lot of hurling with the boys. My stay at Cooleenbridge was a very happy and memorable one.

*Anne Downes is first on the left in the third row in the picture on page 32.*

Daughters of Mary and Joseph  
13/15, Warblington St.,  
Old Portsmouth, Hampshire. PO1 2EX.  
Telephone: (0705) 832608.

21.4.94.

My name is Maura Bleach. In October 1945 I taught in Cooleenbridge school, doing supply for Mrs. Cunneen. In February 1946 I joined the Holy Rosary Sisters in Killeshandra as a postulant and novice, but during that time I found I did not have a vocation for the foreign missions, so I left the order. I continued to do supply teaching in various parts of Ireland until 1948 when I emigrated to England, where I trained as a teacher at Coloma College, Croydon. Five years later I joined the Order of the Daughters of Mary and Joseph who ran that college. I took the name Mary Pauline and I am now known as Sr. Mary Pauline Bleach D.M.J. I taught for thirty seven years in the Croydon area, eighteen of those as head teacher. In 1988 I retired from teaching. Now, in my retirement, I work as Parish sister in St. John's Cathedral Parish in Portsmouth.

## MRS. EILEEN PEPPER - THE COOLEENBRIDGE CONNECTION

Based on the information available it would appear that Mrs. Eileen Pepper first taught in Cooleenbridge School as early as 1948. It is known that her son, Fintan, attended school there at the tender age of 2-2½ years in 1948/49. This was not her first assignment, however. Her first school was Glendree to where she went after completing her Leaving Certificate. From there she went to Cadamstown near Kinnity, to Feakle and then on to Cooleenbridge in 1948.

It is worth noting that, from the period from Jan. 1961 to May 1969, she did thirty different stints in twenty one different schools. Schools she taught in included Kilclaran, Annaghneal, Doora, Dangan, Ogonneloe, Bodyke, Curraghkyle, Knockbeha, Ballybrohan, Sixmilebridge Boys, Barefield, Kilbane, Sixmilebridge Girls, Broadford, Tulla Boys, Dromindoorra, Gort, Knockjames and Kilnaboy. During that period she taught in Cooleenbridge on numerous occasions.

All these part-time jobs came about as a result of teachers going on maternity leave. It would appear that she taught infants at all times in Cooleenbridge. Another statistic worth mentioning is that her pay in 1961 was £6-5s. per week, while in May 1969 she was earning £9-11s-6d.

She became permanent in 1969 and was given a position in Lurga National School from where she eventually retired.

## COOLEENBRIDGE - MEMORIES OF THE SCHOOL AND OF MY PARENTS WHO TAUGHT THERE.

The school building was a high, two storey and two-roomed building looking over a flat meadow which ran down to the River Grarney as it flowed towards the Shannon at Scariff, about three miles away. Built to the design of some nameless Victorian architect in the Office of Public Works, it was similar to hundreds built at the time - the end of the last century - 1894 to be exact.

It opened to the first pupils in April 1894 and would have been still a new building when my late mother Bridget Anne Minogue joined the young pupils in April 1909. The paint on the timber wainscoting would have been fresh and the floors would have been new and solid. There was a standard colour scheme in all these schools. Indeed, so well established was this, that when films such as "Ryan's Daughter" were being made, about eighty years later, the set designers had no difficulty in reproducing a fairly exact creation of the interior of a school that looked just like Cooleenbridge.

My mother progressed through the classes with her promotion from class to class - all recorded in the Register Book, as printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office by Alex Thom in Dublin - through the years of the First World War, the Easter Rising, the War of Independence, the Civil War to June 30 1923. Then, as recorded in the copperplate writing of the time, she, who by then was a monitress (student teacher), was awarded the King's Scholarship. In those days, this was the entrance examination to the Teachers' Training College in Dublin. After two years in Carysfort Training College, and a couple of years in Wexford she returned in

the late 1920's to Cooleenbridge where she taught until she left in the 1960's to go as Principal Teacher to Clonusker.

It is hard, now, to imagine the scene then - the country recovering from the Civil War and taking the first tentative steps towards independent nationhood. The early effect of this is to be noted in the Roll Books of Cooleenbridge, which, in 1928, changed the names of all the pupils, from English to Irish. This would have been evidence of the revival of Irish taking root as a national policy. It is equally difficult to see how schools such as Cooleenbridge operated. As well as teaching all the pupils in the lowers classes from Infants - the word "Babies" was not used then - she taught Cookery on an open fire! Needlework was also taught and I can still remember listening to her showing the girls the complexities of "turning a heel" and darning, samples of which were put into a book with multi-coloured thread on black paper which looked, with its background, like some abstract design.

My mother was a very determined teacher who understood the difference which education could bring. She encouraged those who could, to study further. To help them she would go to any length to praise, cajole, persuade, help or criticise. In those days, a Clare County Council Scholarship wasn't just a very coveted academic achievement. It represented a passport to a new life, with independence and even a



Mr. Frank and Mrs. Bridget Cunneen

permanent job. The alternative, for many, would have been a tolerated existence on a family farm where one person's presence could prevent a brother or sister "settling down". Being well aware of all this, nobody was more proud of the success of her pupils. On the other hand, nobody was as disappointed when somebody did not do justice to her or his abilities.

My father, Frank, joined her in the school in 1950 and, as was often the case in small country schools, man and wife worked as a teaching team in Cooleenbridge. He had come from Kilkishen, from a family of schoolteachers - his grandmother had begun the tradition and his father, uncle and sister followed the same vocation.

He was a very committed teacher and was convinced of the need to bring interest and life to teaching. He was conscious of the value of teaching aids and at an early stage introduced us, his pupils to the mysteries of the "Gestetner" duplicator. This allowed the user,

with a lot of delicate stencils and messy duplicating ink to produce as many copies as one's patience allowed. This invention produced blank maps on which we had to draw the River Suir, or the Lee; song sheets for the four-part choir he trained, not to speak, of the dreaded arithmetic tests which had to be completed against the clock.

He brought music - especially classical music - into our lives, with his wind-up "H.M.V." gramophone and the walls of the school echoed to Verdi and Mozart. Above all, he taught from personal knowledge and conviction. When he taught Irish poetry it was with the assurance of one who had been awarded several Oireachtas prizes for poetry. When he taught history, it was from having personally travelled along the path taken by Patrick Sarsfield, so the lesson had the immediacy of personal experience, not the second-hand feel of a text book.

He was a very proficient hurler and as a young teacher had won county medals in Co. Offaly, so he encouraged and trained the boys in the rough stone yard in Cooleenbridge at lunch time and shared the joys and the disappointments of the Scariff teams in the Clare County Championship. All of this made for fairly painless learning and many successful students.

At the same time, my parents were very conscious of the need for the maximum education for themselves and both did University Degrees in University College Galway, completing these in 1935 just before they married.

Looking back, it seemed, and indeed was, a time of vocation rather than of occupation. Somehow, the idealism of Faith, language and the local loyalties dominated their lives and shut out the outside world. It would be called insular to-day, but it seemed that the progress of the Second World War in the Pacific was less

important than the progress of the - then - very successful Scariff Senior team.

It is impossible, and probably unreal, for me, to separate Cooleenbridge, the school, from the teachers and parents since one's memories of all are so inter-linked. However, for a complete picture, it is important to try and see the school in its own right.

The school building both limited what could be done with its lack of comfort - of facilities; yet it helped to inspire them, maybe even compelled them, to rise above the physical, to reach outside and beyond the confines of the surroundings.

Physically, the building was gaunt and austere with wooden framed windows facing the road. These were set high so that they let in light, but not the sights of the passing traffic. It was, I imagine, assumed by the Victorian architect that these would be distracting. In the event, what traffic did pass, made us all the more curious to identify the sounds. The morning sound was of passing carts on the way to the creamery identified by the rattle of the milk-churns. There was the sound of County Council workers breaking stones and of the occasional lorry as well as cattle being driven to and from fairs or other pastures.

Inside were two rooms with high ceilings and a porch where coats were hung on black metal coat-hangers. In winter, such heat as there was came from turf fires - supplied almost entirely by the parents - which had to be set and stoked and raked and cleaned out. On cold days we stood in a circle around these fires, huddled together for warmth. Around this fire also stood the bottles of cold milk which most pupils brought with them for lunch.

In winter, the high window-panes frosted over with intricate patterns of leaves and strange abstract designs set in relief against the hard

winter light. The meadows beyond the bare whitethorn hedges flooded. The wooden floors echoed to the sound of hob-nailed boots, their soles covered by double rows of nails or metal protectors called "Segs".

In Summer, shoes and boots were cast aside and bare feet padded on the same boards. Often there were bloody toes from the rough roads and yard. Outside, clouds of dust from the un-tarred roads followed every cart or car. There were wild strawberries in the hedges and later, red apples to be picked - for extra excitement - from somebody else's orchard.

In the class-rooms were long wooden benches set behind long desks fitted with ink-wells filled with Haughton's Blue-Black Ink. As well as writing fluid, this ink had other valuable properties. Wads of paper soaked in it made excellent missiles which could be hurled from a bent ruler to land on another pupil's cheek. Since, to avoid detection, the missiles had to be launched from behind, this sport was limited to the senior classes who sat at the back of the room.

Another source of occasional entertainment and distraction came from below ground. With the passage of time, and nourished, no doubt, by abandoned school lunches, mice and even rats began to inhabit the underfloor area and in the odd quiet moment during tests, a brave rodent might peep out. He would inevitably be pelted with whatever was available. One enterprising soul once put red-hot coals from the fire into a mouse hole in the belief that it would remove the problem. Buckets of water had to follow to preserve the school.

Visitor to the school were a welcome novelty. They were rare in a community which did not travel much and often sounded and looked more exotic than perhaps they were.

Most important were the School



**Mr. Thomas Jones and Mrs. Cunneen,  
with the school pupils in the summer of 1954**

Inspectors, heavy with the gravity of office who double-checked our lessons, wrote reports into the book and carried out what must in hindsight have been extremely tedious calculations on the attendance records.

Then there were the priests who examined us on the long Catechism. From this we learned the difference between Apostasy and Heresy as well as being cautioned about the dangers of Necromancy. This religious knowledge teaching had its own examination in the form of the pre-Confirmation test conducted by no less than the Bishop. Confirmation itself was the occasion for choosing a new name and comparing with one's fellows the strength of the "slap" on the cheek administered by the Bishop to each person.

There were the visits from the Guards who enquired - vainly - if we could help them in their

enquiries as to who might have been pelting stones at telephone insulators, which being white and made of some form of porcelain, were a popular target on the way home from school. Such "crimes" remained unsolved.

Then there were the recruiters for various Religious Orders - nuns, priests and brothers seeking vocations to the Missions. They spoke of foreign lands, unfurled maps to locate places such as Nigeria, and used the small school globe to identify a somewhat imprecise region called "the Far East". They sought, and often obtained, life-long commitment to mission work on the other side of the world from twelve-year old boys and girls whose horizons hitherto had been bounded by Limerick or Ennis. Some of those were past pupils who came back later to speak of these strange places and perhaps recruit. One

left a collection box for Black Babies with a black figure - some said of Blessed Martin de Porres. This nodded thanks for a penny - or, it has to be said, - for any object of similar weight put into this collection box.

Breaks from school by means of local holidays were also welcome - the local ploughing match; the Agricultural Show, - these were "recreational" farming events which differed from the real thing which most boys had to endure, of harvesting turf, picking potatoes or saving hay.

The abiding memory was of continuity - of parents and children at the same bench. The names on the Roll Book and carved on the desks repeat themselves with the reassuring continuity of a community that is stable. While emigration may have separated families, the basic units have survived. The names of the first

pupils recorded on the Register in April 1894 still remain in the district - Guerin, O'Brien, Treacy, - for three generations neighbours to the school - Minogue, (my late mother's family) as well as Jones, Grogan, Farrell, and Melody.... It is sobering to consider the changes the school has seen in its lifetime. It saw about eight hundred pupils pass through its classes - 407 boys and 392 girls. It began before the Boer War and continued to 1974 in its original form and still continues in another existence. Again to pick another reference point; my mother's association with the school began as a pupil before the great War and continued as a teacher through the Second World War, through the era of John F. Kennedy and the Beatles.

Throughout their time as teachers, my parents, like so many others of their time worked selflessly for their schools and their pupils. In difficult physical conditions, in cold and draughty buildings, they brought to so many pupils what was their total education and it did not seem lacking. Their goals of religion, education and the restoration of the Irish language were the nation's goals and there seemed to be a unity of purpose which sustained them.

They were idealists in an age given to ideals, and dedicated when dedication was the norm. Their work did not just begin and end in the school-room. They wrote references for jobs, letter to the U.S. army to suggest that so-and-so would make a good soldier; letter that the supposed writers would not have been capable of writing... all this in the interest of their pupils.

The students left and lived their lives; some locally, some in the U.S.A.; in Australia; in England; other in all the cities and towns of Ireland and the wider world that education helped them find.

Above all else, my parents and all the other teachers of those times understood that whatever was the past or the present of this country, all of the future lay with their pupils.

In educating them, they were changing not just the present as it was then, but the future for all of us who came after.

Rath Dé ar a n-anamacha go léir.

Frank Cunneen. April 1994

## The Stations

In the early years the stations were held in the homes of the local people and moved from home to home each year. For weeks beforehand the home was prepared. Walls were whitewashed or painted and minor repairs were carried out, where necessary, to the house and yard. The stations usually lasted all day and ended with a dance in the evening. The tradition changed at some point and the stations were held in a central venue, with the school as one of these venues. The classrooms were washed and cleaned the day before. Some of the pupils drew water from the River Graney in buckets. Others brought brushes to wash the floors. The teacher's table was raised up on two chairs and was used as an altar. Confessions were heard in the small room where there was a lighted fire. While waiting for the mass to begin the conversations centred generally on the price of butter, eggs and fowl. The story is told of a local man whose clock had stopped and who was late arriving for the stations. He was relieved to find that the priest had not started the mass. Turning to the man next to him he said, "Am I very late?" "No", said his neighbour, "You are only late for the market". The priest's collection was taken up after the mass and the people remained outside for some time in general conversation on matters of immediate local interest.

## The elections.

Another event that brought great joy to the pupils were the elections - both County Council and General. The school was used as a polling centre and was closed for the day. Political instability having, thus, the quality of the ill wind that managed to blow some good.

## Willie Peter's

Another important landmark in the area of the school, near to the bridge over the River Graney on the Poulagour Rd. was "Willie Peter's". This was a small shop that sold groceries, lamp oil, sweets, tobacco and cigarettes and was much visited by the schoolchildren. When Master Jones came to school in a pony and trap, he left them at Willie Peter's until after school. It was a regular and important meeting place for the community going on "chuaire" in the evenings. Card playing and story telling were favourite ways of passing a winter's evening and this premises owned by the O'Brien family, with its large kitchen and open fireplace, was the ideal venue.

## Drainage meetings.

Meetings to discuss the flooding of the River Graney were held on Sundays in the 1940,s and during the same years night classes on agricultural topics were held in the school. These were sponsored by the Co. Clare Committee of Agriculture and were the responsibility of the local agricultural officer - Mr. Hugh O'Hara.

E. Fennessy

## MEMORIES OF COOLEENBRIDGE

I went to school in Cooleenbridge with my sisters Mary, Kay and Sara. I remember the beautiful warm summer days walking barefoot on a dusty road.

The local farmers bringing milk to Feakle creamery or going harvesting turf in Coolreagh bog. We joined the Fennessy's, the Guilfoyles, the Corrys, the Minogues, Matty O'Brien and Maura Hayes and then along to school. The smell of the smoke from the travellers campsite at "Crickeen" on the Core road and little children, crying or playing was a familiar sight.

I recall the wet days of winter when we had to remain outside in the porch while the master changed into a dry pants having got wet coming to school on a bicycle. The Co. Council workers breaking stones in Tobins Quarry and being stopped on the road until a blast was let off, was part of school going life.

Cooleenbridge was the stepping stone that brought us to many places in our lifetime.

*From Ann Foley, Thomastown, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick. Sara and Kitty Tobin are her sisters.*



**Front Row:** Cathy Tobin, Mawn McNamara, Tess Doyle, Annie Tobin, Sara Tobin, Ciss McNamara.

**Back Row:** Theresa Melody, Lily Minogue, Kitty Rochford, Kathleen Melody, Sara Moroney, Brid Crotty, Kitty Tobin, Mary Treacy.

## COOLAGOREE A.C.

In October 1958 a meeting was held in Cooleenbridge School to form an athletic Club. It was afterwards referred to as "the candlelight meeting". Candles were used as no other source of light was available. The meeting was well attended and Rev. Fr Navin C.C. Scariff addressed the gathering.

The following officers were elected:

**President** - Rev. Fr. Navin C.C. Scariff

**Chairman** - Miko Tuohy Coolagoree Hill

**Secretary** - Eddie Fennessy Coolagoree

**Treasurer** - Dan Corry, Coolagoree

After a long discussion it was decided to name the club Coolagoree Athletic Club and it was registered with Clare N.A.C.A. Board. It was decided to do some fundraising and a church gate collection in Scariff and Clonusker realised £9. A set of twelve singlets were purchased and were a bright green in colour.

It generated great interest among the locals and training took place on

### SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF COOLAGOREE A. C.



**Left to right:** E. Fennessy, Dan Corry, John Walshe and John Corry

the lands of Jimmy Doyle (now Noel Corrys), John Corry senior and Jimmy Fennessy. It was a testing course of 1½ miles and 6 laps were completed in one session.

They took part in Youths, Junior and Senior competitions in various parts of Co. Clare. While no major honours were achieved by the club many of its members gave sterling service to Clare and competed in Munster and all Ireland competitions. John Moroney was secretary and club organiser. Again Paddy Brody, Paddy Fitzgerald, John Corry and J.J. Horan were members of the Youths and Junior

Clare teams. Apart from those already referred to the following were also involved with the club Michael Guilfoyle, Paddy McMahon, J.J. Slattery Cappabane, Paddy Tuohy, John Walsh, Moynoe, Michael Bolton, Scariff, Matty J. O'Brien, Tom Minogue, Rodgie Costelloe, Noel Corry, Cristy Browne, T.J. Tuohy.

John Walsh's uncle, Pato Halloran and Paddy Fitzgeralds father, Paddy were members of the Feakle A.C. victorious all Ireland winning teams of the early 40's.

After 1962 the club ceased to exist due to emigration.

## THE GROGANS OF KEALDERRA

One of the many families that were educated at the school who then went on to make a name for themselves in the world were the Grogan family of Kilderra. The present generation of the family consists of five brothers, sons of Patrick Grogan. Their grandfather, Michael Grogan was one of the first pupils of Cooleenbridge School.

Their uncle, Captain Michael Grogan, who died in 1991, was with the 12th. (Desmond) battalion in Limerick, during the Emergency and later with the First Battalion (Irish Speaking) in Galway. On leaving active service with the army he worked for some time with the Irish Sugar Co., and later, as Manager of Muir Eid. Teo. in West Mayo.

Another uncle, John Grogan, worked on various schemes, under the Dept. of Agriculture in Cork, Leitrim and Galway. He was Area Supervisor on the Farm Modernisation Scheme in the Ballinasloe-Loughrea area until his retirement in 1984.

An aunt, Margaret Grogan, married Billy Waterstone, Postmaster in Mountshannon.

The five Grogan brothers, who have their own Ceili Band are very popular in Co. Clare and surrounding counties for their rendering of Irish traditional and country music. This musical family was selected, some years ago, to take part in the radio programme "Young Entertainers At The Microphone" and also in the very popular T.V. series "SBB ina shuí". They have played for the set dancers in Slogadh and Scór competitions and in "An Fleadh Nua" in Ennis.

### THE GROGAN BROTHERS



Back Row (from left to right): Michael and Padraig  
Front Row: Sean, Brendan and Tomás.

They began their musical careers on the flageolet which they learned from the late Michael O'Neill, Tuamgraney. Later they studied traditional music under the traditional violinist Vincent Griffin, Feakle. They now play a variety of instruments: Michael - violin and guitar; Padraig - Flageolet and accordion; Sean - drums and bodhran; Brendan - flageolet, concert flute and keyboards; Thomas - Banjo, mandolin and guitar.

When entertaining, Michael and Brendan frequently take part in the energetic Clare set dance; Michael and Sean take turns at singing Country and Western ballads. When playing instrumental music the Grogan Brothers have a style and a technique all their own. Their strict tempo is admired and is suitable for dancing.

To date they have recorded two cassette tapes - "The lakes near Killaloe" and "The best of Country and Irish".

The first "Wren Dance" in the area was held in the school in 1976. The music for this event was supplied by the Grogan Bros. The patrons were so pleased with the entertainment that the dance continued till 7.30 a.m.! The numerous plaques and trophies won by this family speak for themselves.

## COOLEENBRIDGE SCHOOL

You've heard I suppose  
That the old school has closed,  
The best of the old days are gone,  
In the laughter and tears  
Of the Cooleenbridge years,  
A boy had a place to belong.

Chorus

Now somehow I feel  
That I've lost what was real,  
My heart feels apart and unsure.  
In the mortar and beams  
I stored all my dreams  
And left them in Cooleenbridge School.

The sun always shone  
In the days I was young.  
I swam in the cool river stream,  
And I climbed in the trees  
Tore my shirt, tore my knees  
Or I played near the camp at Crickeen.

Chorus

Yet somehow I feel  
That I've lost what was real,  
And my heart feels apart and unsure.  
In the mortar and beams  
I stored all my dreams  
And left them in Cooleenbridge School.

*This song was composed by Pat Corrigan, Ennis, and was recorded by Paul Sheerin, Mullingar, for the Grogan Brothers to mark the centenary of the school and it is available on tape.*

## Hunting the wren

*The wren, the wren,  
The king of all birds.  
St. Stephen's Day  
He got caught in the furze.*

*Up with the kettle  
And down with the pan,  
Give us a penny  
To bury the wren.*

On a Christmas day in 1953 a group of young lads and ladies from the Cooleenbridge area came up with the idea of hunting the wren and of having a wren dance for the community followed by a "scrap dance" for themselves as some little reward in organising the main event.. Most of the names of the locality were represented - Clunes, Farrells, Treacys, Minogues, Fennessys, Moroneys and Keatings.

They started out on Christmas Day and continued on, through the night and into St. Stephen's Day scouting the countryside around Cooleenbridge. Many miles were walked and scores of homes were visited. Pennies, sixpences, thrupenny bits, shillings and the odd half crown were collected. Currant cake was gratefully devoured or "gobbled up" as they used to say. And, of course, there was often a drop taken, if only spring water or orange betimes.

That first year the wren group walked in bare feet or in poor footwear over rough roads and through fields carrying the melodeon, fiddle, bodhran under the "oxter" and, as my father would say, with a "cuist" (of bread) in their pockets and they were often wet to their skins. Music was played at every half door, either "pus" music or instrumental and, of course, the half set was danced to cheer up the household and to earn the crust and the money for the wren dance that



Some members of Scariff wren group present a cheque to the matron of Raheen Hospital, Mrs. Mary Leonard (second from left). The group members in the picture include J. J. Bolton, Mrs. Mary Thornton and Patrick McNamara.

would follow. It was something to be looked forward to by one and all.

1954 was the second year and the same group decided to employ a better mode of transport in the form of ponies and cars, since they had suffered blistered feet and aching legs the previous year and this had affected their dancing abilities for the wren and scrap dances. Which dances were, of course, the central purpose of the whole exercise. The ponies and cars were generously provided by Paddy Crotty, Timmy Treacy and John Walshe. From this point on things were on the "up and up". Affluence and prosperity had shown their faces and the group grew in numbers.

The mode of transport over the next few years evolved to the point where bicycles were employed. The round could be covered more quickly and thus more

"spondulicks" collected. All these wren dances were as successful as the first and were held in the previously mentioned establishments. The refreshments were ample and, apart from the one time when a shortage of sugar was rectified by the inclusion of a quantity of Mrs. Cullen's powder, they were appreciated to the full by the hungry, thirsty dancers. The food was the responsibility of the local women and there was a man appointed to stoke the open fire to ensure a continuous supply of boiling water for tea.

Excellent music was provided from dusk till dawn by the local musicians among whose number were included Patrick Clune, Paddy Joe McMahon, Martin Cooney, Thomas Jones, J.J. Bugler, \* Mrs. Gertie Clune and the inevitable guest artist, who, in this case, was the famous step dancer, Johnny Duck Halloran from Tulla. He

danced at all the local functions and was known for his unusual dances. His best known were "The Britches", "Over the Brush", "Pothooks and Tongs" along with the reels and jigs that were enjoyed by all present.

Time passed and, due to a serious decline in population Cooleenbridge School closed its doors in 1974 and the children of the area were transported to the national school in Scariff. The ownership of the building reverted to Timmy Treacy whose grandmother had donated the site for the building of the school in the early 1890's. At this time the idea of reviving the wren dance, after a lapse of almost twenty years, was mooted. The group that came together included many past pupils of Cooleenbridge School, and members of the the old wren group. Among the past pupils to contribute were the Grogan Brothers, whose music has become so well known over the years. In 1975 the late Dr. Bill Loughnane and Mick Hayes were to take part and in 1976 the group was joined by the Hallinan family.

By 1977 the wren dance had become so popular that the school could no longer contain the numbers and it moved into the Clare Lakelands Hotel in Scariff. The dance became an annual event attracting 400-500 people and it came to an end with the closure of the hotel in the late 1980's. By that time the group had raised money for a range of worthy causes including the Raheen Hospital Building Fund and had travelled far and wide to collect funds. By the time it came to an end, the wren dance had developed from its humble beginnings in the townlands around Cooleenbridge into an important part of the life of the whole community. Perhaps it will again grow up out of a tradition that has deep roots in the folk culture of the people.

## The Set

SCARIFF SENIOR SET DANCERS CLARE SCÓR CHAMPIONS 1979



Front Row: Brid Minogue, Denise Moroney, Ann Lowry, Marie Kelly.  
Back Row: Michael Grogan, Eddie Fennessey, Paddy Tuohy, P. J. Minogue.

A formidable collection of trophies bear testimony to the success of "The Set". On receiving a rather vague phone call from Eddie Fennessey on a January evening in 1980 to join the group I didn't foresee the dominant role "The Set" would play in the lives of its members for the subsequent four years.

P.J. and Brid Minogue hosted the weekly practice session. Their hospitality and the indulgence in Brid's culinary talents was a gilt edge guarantee of a full roll call each Wednesday. Under the watchful eye of mentors Frances McKenna and Michael Grogan we were soon competent in five figures of the Caledonian set. This did not deter us however from taking on the challenge and learning the Polka. We perfected both sets and danced the two with equal fervour and dedication.

The camaraderie, the enjoyment and the great bond of friendship that evolved in the group superceded and will always outlive the success in competitions - and success indeed there was. Paddy Tuohy unfailing in his determination to motivate us to travel farther afield transported us to for flung places such as

Rearcross where we won North Tipperary finals, and Croagh where we danced with Muster Champions and well known winning teams from North Kerry. We featured regularly in the winners list in Cois na hAbhna and in The West County Inn. Scór County Final time saw us there with the magnificent sets of John Torpy of O'Callaghan's Mills, Truagh and West Clare. The set competition outings were synonymous with enjoyment fun, sing song and craic.

Great times were had, pig feeding was neglected, cows were milked early, baby sitters were in huge demand, romance blossomed and dancers kept fit and eager for activity. Alas it was short lived. On a grim day in January. P.J's untimely death tolled the death knell of "The Set". our last formal function was to form a guard of honour as we bid a sad farewell to our beloved leader.

Other members who formed part of the set group at various times: Mary Hogan, Mary Grogan (McGrath), Claire Tuohy (Corry), Mary Crotty, Frances McKenna, Marie Fennessey, Olive Madden, Jim Riordan, Joan McNamara and T. J. O'Callaghan.

*Mary Hogan*

## THE TREACY CLAN



Caroline Treacy

In 1882 the Office of Public Works acquired the site at Cooleenbridge for a school from Patrick and Catherine Treacy. The agreed lease on the site was one penny a year. The two room building was erected in 1893. Patrick and Catherine had eight children of whom Kathleen, the eldest was the first to be registered in the school and was followed by her younger brothers and sisters.

Three brothers, Patrick, John and Dan emigrated to Australia. Patrick married Kate Jones who also went to Cooleenbridge and one of their daughters, Josie, became a champion Irish step dancer in Australia. Josie's grandson returned to Ireland in 1994 to compete in the All-Ireland step dancing. He also danced in Scariff at a fundraising event for the Centenary celebrations. Kathleen married Davy Minogue of Knockygrady and their eight children also attended Cooleenbridge. Tim Treacy stayed on in the home farm and married Josephine Walsh from Ballinahinch, Bodyke and, in turn, their eight children attended the school. One of their daughters, Bea, went on to further her education in Paris in 1948 with the Marymount nuns.

Their youngest son, Tim, carried on the tradition and stayed on the farm. He married Anna O'Brien of Coolreagh, Bodyke and five of their eight children attended Cooleenbridge before it closed in June 1974. Their daughter, Caroline, was the last child to be registered in the school. Caroline went on to graduate from University College Cork in 1993 with a degree in Marketing and Management.

*Q. Why is a room full of married people like an empty room?*

*A. Because there is not a single person in it.*

*Q. What is it that goes around the world and never leaves the corner?*

*A. A stamp on the corner of an envelope.*

*Q. What is it that has feet but no legs?*

*A. A yard.*

*Q. Long legs, crooked thighs, little head and no eyes?*

*A. A tongs.*

**William Jones**

*These riddles were given to me by my mother Mrs. Jones, Gurtaderra, Flagmount, Feakle (Aged 52yrs).*

*Q. What class of people are longer in bed than others?*

*A. Tall people.*

*Q. Tis put down dry, Tis taken up wet, The longer it's down, The stronger it gets.*

*A. Tea.*

*Q. What makes the ocean angry?*

*A. Because it is crossed so often.*

*Q. What trade would you re-commend a small man?*

*A. Grow-sir!*

*Q. It comes with the coach, It goes with the coach,*

*It is no use to it, And the coach can't go without it.*

*A. The noise.*

*Q. As I looked in the window one night I saw the dead burying the live?*

*A. The dead ashes burying the live coals!*

**Mary O'Donnell**

*These were given to me by my father, Myles O'Donnell, Currakyle, Flagmount.*

## A tribute to Cooleenbridge School

Fadó, fadó - and it has, indeed, been many a year since I set my tiny feet as a three year old in Cooleenbridge School. But its memories have stood the test of time, etched forever in our minds and in our hearts. It is a time and a place that once was - never forgotten- for we were part of something more than an educational establishment, it was a way of life!

Cooleenbridge is a landmark in history, deserving its rightful place with such great names as Biddy Early, the Peace Talks and the Clare Hurling Team. This was a focal point of education, drawing scholars from many townlands and from many families -boys and girls - coming by all modes of transport - the bicycle, the tractor, the car and on foot and each with their own story to tell.

Having pleaded my case at three years of age that I would profit greatly by going where all the other children were going - to school - my mother eventually conceded (she did so willingly, as I was to find out

in later years). At last I was to become part of that great institution "Cooleenbridge". On that first damp morning I entered those great gates. A tiny lone figure, I encountered what I then considered to be a huge expansive building, with children everywhere. Equipped with bag in hand, guarding my bottle of milk and my brown bread I entered the vast room. In awe I gazed down through the rows of desks. Maps adorned the wall with bookshelves and bookcases as far as the eye could see; children of all ages shuffling bags and hurley sticks. I wondered then about my hasty decision to leave the cossetted environs of home.

A large open hearth formed the focal point of the room and a black kettle hung over the fire to boil. That very kettle was to boil water for us for many years to come. Apart from the blackboard there was a "Buntús" board with a large, ominous and threatening object hanging from its edge. I probed in whispers from my

peers. "The cane", was the hushed reply. "Don't mention the cane -" don't touch the cane" and most importantly "don't break the cane"!!

Mrs. Slattery - our mentor, our teacher and our advisor, she was all things to all children. From her we learned the rudiments of the English language, the Irish language and the three R.s. We learned very early what *ciúnas* meant - in fact it was the first word we all learned always accompanied by a swift glance at the ominous object dangling from the Buntús Board!! Mrs. Slattery also provided a much needed transport service, picking up children at various points en route to school. There were occasions on which we were known to have hidden in the nearby field, later telling our parents that "the teacher never came"!

Cooleenbridge will retain a special place in our hearts and in the folklore of this region of County Clare.

Geraldine Sheedy, April 1994.

### Acknowledgements

The Cooleenbridge Centenary Committee would like to say a special words of thanks to all those who contributed to and supported this project. It is, of course, likely that in naming people we will omit some who are deserving of such acknowledgement and so we offer apologies in advance for such omissions.

Clare County Library Staff  
Joan Minihone (R.T.C. Lim.)  
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Fr. Donagh O'Meara.	Clare Duffy
Jim Hogan (Bodyke)	Geraldine Noonan
Olive Fahy	Jimmy Melody
Peter O'Halloran	Scariff Community Council
Parents and past pupils of Cooleenbridge School	Ruth Marshall
John Bowker	
Michael Fennessy	

## COOLEENBRIDGE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE G.A.A.

### HURLERS OF '57



**Back Row:** Noel Corry, Padraig Cunneen, Tony Hayes, P. J. Minogue, Tony Tuohy, Willie Noonan.  
**Front Row:** Edward Guilfoyle, Timmy McMahon, John Guilfoyle, John-Joe Bolton, Pat Bolton, Tommy Noonan, Jimmie Noonan.

Since its founding, the G.A.A. has always held a special place in the hearts of the primary teachers in this country. The teachers of Cooleenbridge school were no exception and they were strong advocates and promoters of the game of hurling. Throughout the hundred years of its checkered history Cooleenbridge has been eminent for the quality and quantity of the purveyors of our national game. Thomas Jones, who took up his appointment as principal in 1917 was a member of the victorious Scariff team who won the first senior championship honours for the club in 1907. Mickie Melody and Martin Durack were both members of that team

and past pupils of Cooleenbridge.

Victory eluded the Scariff side until 1917 when three ex-Cooleenbridge players played a major roll in bringing honour to the parish. Wearing the laurels on the day of victory were Jack Minogue, Eddie Fennessy and Martin Thornton.

Poulagour brothers Paddy and Tom Minogue played a blinder in the 1946 final which culminated in the demise of the hopes of the neighbouring arch-rivals - Feakle. 1952 and 1953 were golden years for Scariff hurling. Sean O'Grady (nephew of the Minogue brothers) and Mickie Melody (nephew of the legendary Martin Durack and Mickie Melody).

Pupils of Cooleenbridge played major roles in the success of Feakle hurling in the heady days of the 30's and 40's. Dan Joe Moroney and Brud McGrath are numbered among the stalwarths of these successful years, winning many Senior Championship medals for Feakle.

In recent times a new generation of hurlers has added to the treasury of trophies in the parishes of Scariff and Feakle. Amongst those who made significant contributions were the Torpeys, Clunes, Crottys, Noonans, Treacys, Guilfoyles, Fennessys, Corrys, Tuohys, Minogues (Coolagoree), Minogues (Poulagour), Burkes, O'Briens and the Hayes family.

## THE ULTIMATE PRINCIPAL



**Mary Slattery**

Monday, July 1st, 1963 was a memorable day for me as I took up my appointment as principal teacher in Cooleenbridge National School in succession to the late Mr. Cunneen N.T. (B.A.). At that time there were eleven pupils on the roll ranging in age from a five year old infant to a thirteen year old seventh class pupil. As these eleven pupils came from just six local families, namely, Banes, Tobins, Grogans, Minogues (Poulagour), Downes and McMahon's the Cooleenbridge pupils were, at that time, like one big family.

As time went on this family increased and by July 1964 there were 14 pupils on the roll. During part of 1971 we had 36 pupils on roll in classes ranging from junior infants to sixth class. As well as expansion numerically, we had pupils coming from much further afield as five of our 36 were members of the McGonigal family who had come to live in the locality as their father was working in the Scariff Chipboard factory. June 29th, 1974 marked the end of an era when, with 32 pupils from the Minogue (Derrymoe), Crotty, Treacy, Fennessy (Fossabeg), Fennessy (Coolagoree), Casey, Doyle and Slattery families, I turned

the key in the door of Cooleenbridge School for the last time. The pupils and I moved to Scariff to amalgamate with Clonusker and Scariff National Schools to form part of the new Scariff Central National School.

Other families who attended Cooleenbridge during my time were - Maxwell (Newmarket-on-Fergus), O'Grady, Minogue and Cleary (Laccaroe), Connolly, Sheedy, Guerin and Malone. My years in Cooleenbridge were very enjoyable, though challenging at times. The 1960's saw the introduction of the new child-centred curriculum. For teachers like me, who had been educated and trained in the old methods of education, it called for major adjustments, both in the methodology of teaching and content of subjects taught. These changes, combined with indecision as to the merits of the new system versus the old, led to much discussion and debate. Adjusting to these changes was difficult at times

and my earnest wish would be that the effect of these changes would have been less traumatic for the pupils than they were for me.

There was never a dull moment in Cooleenbridge National School as each school year entailed preparation for the first holy communion, confirmation and, in the early years, Primary Certificate Exam. Then there was the much awaited time when a parent brought a load of turf which provided fuel for our open fire. Every pupil was eager to help bring the turf from the roadside gate where it was unloaded to the area at the end of the hall cum cloakroom where we stored our fuel. Preparation for the Station Masses was a time of great excitement in the school. This called for a major clean-up of the buildings. The children drew buckets of water at unbelievable speed from Laccaroe well. Flowers were collected from every possible source. Walls were brushed down and floors, desks and inkwells were washed. Flowers were



**Back Row (left to right):** Padraig Grogan, John Minogue, Mairead Bane, J.J. Tobin, Donie Bane, Pat Minogue, Michael Grogan, Seamus Sheedy.  
**2nd Row:** Carmel Sheedy, Geraldine Sheedy, Siobhan Slattery, Lorette Slattery, Brid Minogue, Susan Minogue, Sally Minogue, Jane Doyle, Mary Doyle.  
**Middle:** Marie Treacy, Marie Fennessy.  
**Front Row:** Ciaran Sheedy, Sean Grogan, Brendan Grogan, Thomas Grogan, Brendan Casey, Michael Minogue.

## THE CLOSING OF COOLEENBRIDGE



### Left Picture:

**Front Row (from left to right):** Marian Casey, Paule Crotty, Siobhan Minogue, Pauline Treacy, Caroline Minogue, Mary Fennessy, Ann Slattery, Elisabeth Fennessy.

**Second Row:** Tom Crotty, Marie Minogue, Thomas Minogue, Siobhan Slattery, Marie Fennessy, Marie Treacy, Gerard Crotty.

**Third Row:** Michael Treacy, Patrick Minogue, John Slattery, Claire Treacy, Paddy Doyle, Sean Casey, Brendan Casey.

**Fourth Row:** Martin Crotty, Nolette Slattery, Donall Fennessy, Mary Doyle.

**Back Row:** Mary Slattery, Eamon Fennessy, Jane Doyle, Loretta Slattery.

### Right Picture:

**Back Row (left to right):** Mary Casey, Theresa Minogue, Johanna Treacy, Mary Fennessy.

**Front Row:** Mary Slattery, Bess Fennessy, Mary Crotty, Anna Treacy.

## COOLEENBRIDGE COMMITTEE OF 1974



arranged in every possible nook and corner. Darkness was sometimes falling as we took our final look at the classrooms to see that everything was in order. Then we went home tired, but happy

with the feeling that the school was looking its best. Times have changed since these pupils walked to and from school in all kinds of weather. There has been a lot of progress over the years, but

looking back, there was a lot of good in the old ways too.

Rath Dé oraibh go léir, go mór-mhór iad scolairí Scoil Náisiúnta Droichid a' Chúilin.

*Máire Bn. Uí Slatarra.*

## TEACHERS IN COOLEENBRIDGE SCHOOL 1894-1974.

### Principals

Mr. William Noonan 1894 - 1916  
Mr. Thomas Jones 1916-1950  
Mr. Frank Cunneen 1950-1963  
Mrs. Mary Slattery 1963-1974

### Substitutes

Miss Griffin  
Miss O'Neill  
Miss Hogan  
Miss Maura Bleach  
Miss Gunning  
Miss Spain  
Mrs. Pepper  
Mr. Tony Conway  
Miss Miriam Flynn

### Assistants

Miss Ann McMahon 1894-1895  
Miss Mary McNamara 1895-1910  
Miss Susan Hehir 1910-1929  
Mrs. Brigid Cunneen 1929-1952  
Miss Anna McNamara 1952-1957

### Monitors

N. Grogan  
Ellen Grogan  
Anna May Tuohy  
Brigid Anne Minogue  
(Mrs. Cunneen)  
Gerry McMahon  
George Clune  
Mrs. McGrath



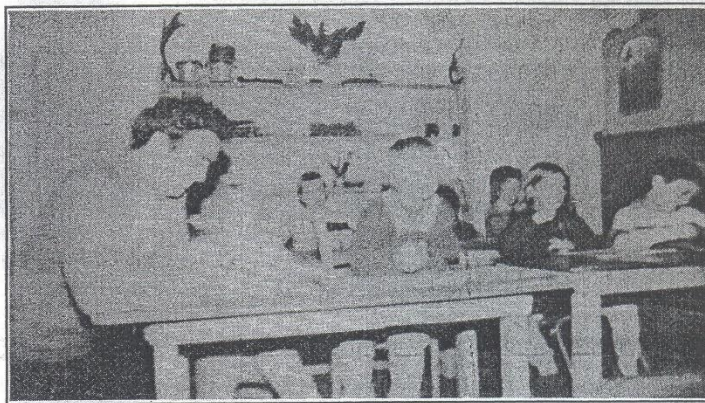
## A SCHOOL REBORN



There is a general recognition that our education system has had too narrow a focus, particularly in more recent years and this recognition has led to considerable debate and a good deal of new thinking on educational matters. However, in 1986 this debate had hardly begun and for many parents and educators there appeared to be no choice but to continue within a system that did not address, as they saw it, the full range of capacities of their children.

It is often at the margins that innovation and change can take place and thus it was that in a most unlikely part of Ireland, indeed - given the international character of the initiative - a most unlikely part of Europe, that a group of parents met in the summer of 1986 to discuss the possibility of starting their own school. These were people who, each in their own way and for their own reasons, had already made a major decision to come to live in East Clare from many parts of Ireland and from abroad and it was likely that such a group would be free from many of the constraints to radical innovation that might bind a more settled community.

From the earliest meetings of the group, which had contracted and consolidated to a determined and committed band of about 12 families by the autumn, it was clear what parents did not want. It was more difficult to come to an agreement about what they *did* want and when the school opened in November 1986 it was parents that carried the teaching work without any clear pedagogical rationale. The school building at Cooleenbridge was rented and this strange new being took the name that would once again become



Pupils and teacher at work in the small classroom in 1987

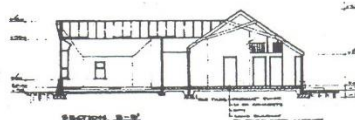
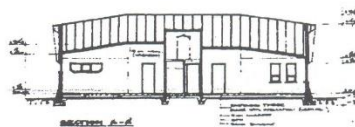
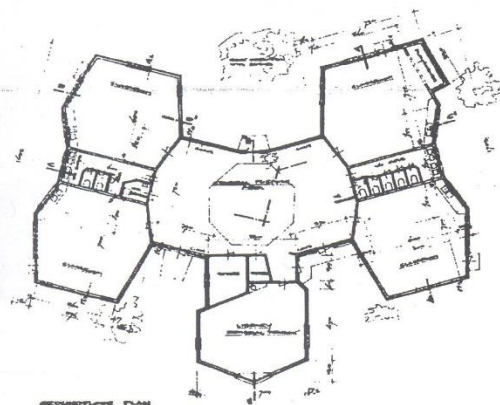
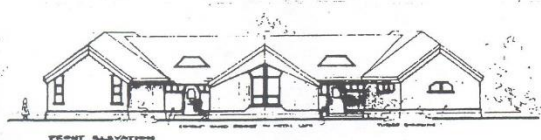
familiar as a home of education. It was quickly decided that a full time trained teacher was needed for the 21 children and Aideen Mooney, who had trained in the U.K. and who was living locally, was appointed, with Josie Scholman, who had some experience in Holland, taking responsibility for the kindergarten.

A number of parents had experience of Waldorf/Steiner education and so this was one approach that had been considered from an early stage. When Pearse O'Shiel joined the school in September 1987, his background and training gave further impetus to the development of the school as a Waldorf/Steiner school. From this time the central consideration in the appointment of teachers was their training in and experience of Waldorf education and in 1991 the school was a founder member of the Irish Steiner Schools Association.

The school has continued to grow since it was established and at the end of this, its centenary year, there are 90 children enrolled with a

further 15 in the "mother and toddlers" group. There are now four class teachers. Meg Mitchell teaches the combined classes 1 and 2. Jonathan Liddle, who himself went to a Waldorf school, teaches class 3. Clare Duffy is the teacher of classes 4 and 5 and Andy Smith teaches the classes 6 and 7. Josie Scholman, after a break of some years, is again the Kindergarten teacher. We have been fortunate indeed to have attracted teachers of such high calibre. There are also a large number of parents who take an active roll in teaching, particularly languages and the more practical lessons in handwork and sports. There have been others who have worked in the school and who have now moved on. Among these are included Maria Fischer who taught the first class to graduate from the new school and Pearse O'Shiel whose class has also moved on to second level. Maria Butler taught in the school for some time as did Alan Lancaster and Caroline Walsh is at present doing a kindergarten training in Scotland.

## PLANS OF PROPOSED SCHOOL BUILDINGS AT RAHEEN, TUAMGRANEY



**ESTIMATED DATE OF COMPLETION**  
**SEPTEMBER 1998**

The original school buildings have been added to over the years and with three prefabricated buildings, in addition to the original two classrooms, the school is at the limit of its capacity. A new site has been purchased on Raheen Hill outside the village of Tuamgraney and, just as the centenary of the school is being celebrated, work is proceeding on phase one of the building project that will, on completion, house the full school and kindergarten(s). The question arises as to whether it is appropriate for the school to retain the name that has its primary association with the location of the original building or whether the move warrants a change of name.

The school has become well known, in Ireland and abroad, under its present title, as the first school of its kind in the Republic of Ireland and it would present problems to make a change. This is a question that has not yet been answered and the appropriate course of action may become clear in the course of the move.

The parent body has stuck by its original commitment to provide the education of their choice to their children and the strength of this commitment has enabled the school to survive through some very difficult times. When one considers that all this is managed with no state support it indicates

that the struggle to maintain the life of the school has itself a long and detailed history.

For the first eighty years of its existence Cooleenbridge School educated the young people of this area to make their contributions, in many cases, to the life of communities in countries far from the lakes and hills of East Clare. Since it was reopened in November 1986 it has educated young people from all over Europe, many of them children and grandchildren of families who left this country many years ago, to bear testimony to the love of learning that seems to find such support among these same hills and lakes.

## WHAT IS A STEINER SCHOOL ?

Coolleenbridge School, in its new life since 1986, is one of over 600 Steiner or Waldorf schools which, in many different parts of the world, educate children according to the indications of Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), an Austrian scientist/philosopher whose work extended into a large number of areas of which education is, perhaps, the best known. His insights into child development have enabled the schools to develop a truly child centred education. The most important consideration is always to find what is right for a child at a particular age.

The curriculum has arisen out of an awareness that the three human faculties of thinking, feeling and willing/doing unfold at different times in a child's life and that they can be brought into harmony. The object of the education is develop clear-thinking, warm-hearted, highly motivated adults with the resilience and flexibility to stand confidently in the modern world, and to contribute to the development of an appropriate and sustainable future.

In the school the attempt is made, within the resources available, to achieve this through a comprehensive, holistic curriculum which balances the acquisition of technical and manual skills with artistic achievement and academic attainment

### Kindergarten

The kindergarten sets out to provide a secure, harmonious environment for the young child up to six years of age. Activities such as creative play, painting, modelling, drawing, handwork, songs and stories are provided. Here, the emphasis on physical activity, free from intellectual demands, is what the child requires for the development of his or her will or capacity to "do". An

important element in school life, with particular significance for the kindergarten, are the festivals throughout the year. The education has a non-denominational Christian base and it is, therefore, the Christian festivals that are celebrated in the first instance, although the major festivals of other cultures and religions are marked when appropriate. This yearly rhythm, along with the regular weekly and daily rhythms of the classroom, help to provide the secure environment that is often difficult to find in our fast moving culture.

### Primary School

In the September following their sixth birthday the children enter Class 1. Here they meet their class teacher who will stay with them until they move on to second level. This continuity of teacher for the main part of each day fosters security and respect in the children and brings the teacher to a deeper understanding of the needs of the individual child.

During this phase of childhood the children live very strongly in their feelings and although they can learn readily what appeals to their artistic sense they are not yet ready to comprehend purely abstract concepts. Material is, thus, presented in a pictorial and living way.

All main subjects, such as English, Maths, History, Geography, Physics, Chemistry etc. are studied in depth in block periods of 3-4 weeks in the "Main Lesson" which takes up the first two hours of each day. The curriculum is structured so that the children receive what they need at each stage of their development. For instance in class 7, when the children are entering into puberty, it is often the case that a main lesson on the great explorers of the world will be given, to help meet

the inner experience of the child as she faces the challenges of this, often difficult, phase of development.

Beyond the main lesson there is a range of subject lessons given throughout the week including Languages, Music, Drama, Handwork and Woodwork for the older children. In the particular circumstances of Cooleenbridge where there is, as yet, no state support for the school, we rely heavily on input from parents and friends and our limited resources mean that we are restricted in what we can provide as extra subject lessons.

### Upper school

The only Steiner school in Ireland with a secondary or upper school is in Holywood, Co. Down. When children leave their class teacher they are entering a new phase of development. With puberty the thinking intellect begins to predominate. Questions, discussion, criticism - all activities of the enquiring mind - play a greater part in the work of the class. Adolescents long for someone to respect and consult, so in the upper school a Guardian takes on special responsibility for each class. Pressure from exams often mean that the curriculum must be compromised to some extent but the school will continue to focus on the developmental needs of the students while ensuring that they can reach their full potential within the existing system.

### Teachers

There is no principal in a Steiner/Waldorf school and teachers work collegially, sharing responsibility for the work of the school. This ensures that the life of the school is maintained in a dynamic, responsive manner. Life experience is valued in the teachers and they come from many walks of life, each with their own experience of the world outside school and each with the training to work effectively with the education.

## THE EARLY IMPRESSIONS OF A "BLOW-IN"

### (A PLEA !)

In the Summer of 1987 I returned to Ireland after some years of travelling around the globe. My travels took me to Australia and New Zealand and the two years prior to my return were spent in a teacher training college in Sussex. It had been my firm intention to teach in the U.S. and it was a strange and powerful combination of circumstances that brought me finally to the bridge over the Scariff River. As I stood looking about me, the feeling grew that I had, at last, come to a place where I would settle, and as I walked up the hill into the village I focussed clearly on my first impressions, awaiting some significant event or portent to confirm my vague feeling. Well, of course, nothing happened and what I saw was a sleepy village that had little time for portends and just time enough to give me directions to my hosts - Tony and Trudi Kay of Capparoe.

First impressions are difficult to retain and just as there was no welcoming committee awaiting me that first day, I have come to realise that the newcomer must make the effort to meet and make themselves known to the local people. In which case the welcome and interest is there. The question remains as to how long one continues to be a newcomer or a "Blow In" and to what extent it is possible, ever, to be seen as part of the local community.

My seven years in East Clare have been taken up in a single minded way with the "new"



**COOLEENBRIDGE 100 ST. PATRICK'S DAY FLOAT,  
WINNER IN THE SCHOOLS CATEGORY**

Cooleenbridge school and it is only in the past year, since I have been on sabbatical from teaching that I have had the opportunity to focus more broadly on other aspects of this diverse, dynamic and changing community. I have come to know that there are very particular qualities associated with life in this part of the world that are drawing people here and I believe that it is important that we, and here I speak, not of two communities - old and new - but of one community, identify and articulate what these qualities are so that we can build on them for the future. And qualities are always difficult to pin down, to define, but they can be described and perhaps out of a process of

describing will emerge a stronger sense of who we - old with new - are and what, together, we have to contribute to the world.

Cooleenbridge School is a sign of the times. Not an easy thing to understand and, thus, much misunderstood. Not an easy initiative to sustain and, thus, the focus of much effort, pain and, finally, of love. But it is focussed on human needs and responds to a desire that we take stock of where we are going with our materialistic culture. It is an intimate and integral part of what is happening in this, our, community and it asks and needs to be seen as such. We all need and ask this, we "Blow Ins".

*Pearse O'Shiel.*

# REGISTER OF COOLEENBRIDGE NATIONAL SCHOOL

## GIRLS

NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED	NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED
Kate Treacy	Knockaveen	April 1894-1898	Lizzy Guerin	Lacarroe	June 1896-1900
Margaret O'Keefe	Lacarroe	April 1894-1900	Mary McMahon	Core	June 1896-1902
Helena Treacy	Knockaveen	April 1894-1897	Lizzy Minogue	Kilderra	June 1896-1904
Kate Doyle	Lacarroe	April 1894-1899	Mary Doyle	Laccaroe	June 1897-1904
Margaret Doyle	Lacarroe	April 1894-1897	Ann Melody	Poulagour	July 1896-1906
Bridget O'Keefe	Lacarroe	April 1894-1900	Nora McNamara	Lacarroe	July 1896-1905
Bridget Doyle	Lacarroe	April 1894-1897	Sarah Fennessy	Coolagree	July 1896-1904
Nora Fennessy	Coolagree	April 1894-1898	Sarah McGuinness	Lacarroe	July 1896-1897
Hannah Moroney	Knockaveen	April 1894-1896	Margaret O'Brien	Poulagour	Sept. 1896-1909
Mary O'Keefe	Lacarroe	April 1894-1897	Lizzy Moroney	Lacarroe	Nov. 1896-1897
Nanno Farrell	Kilderra	June 1894-1903	Mary McNamara	Derrymore	April 1896-1907
Annie Melody	Kilderra	June 1894-1901	Delia Conway	Rossanure	May 1897-1908
Delia Jones	Drimanure	June 1894-1899	Delia O'Callaghan	Knockroe	May 1897-1908
Kate Durack	Kilderra	June 1894-1898	Sarah Clune	Knockroe	June 1897-1907
Kate Grogan	Kilderra	June 1894-1899	Kate McGrath	Rossanure	June 1897-1907
Margaret Jones	Drimanure	June 1894-1898	Delia Tuohy	Coolagree	July 1897-1908
Mary Minogue	Kilderra	June 1894-1897	Margaret Doyle	Lacarroe	Nov. 1897-1898
Margaret McNamara	Waterpark	July 1894-1900	Annie McMahon	Core	Nov. 1897-1904
Mary McNamara	Waterpark	July 1894-1897	Kate Tuohy	Coolagree	Jan. 1898-1901
Mary Grogan	Kilderra	July 1894-1896	Bridget McNamara	Tingaree	April 1898-1906
Nanno Grogan	Tingaree	July 1894-1900	Nora Fennessy	Coolagree	May 1898-1907
Margaret Kennedy	Lacarroe	August 1894-1900	Lizzy Griffin	Derrymore	May 1898-1905
Mary McNamara	Tingaree	Oct. 1894-1902	Bridget Griffin	Derrymore	May 1898-1905
Mary Ellen Moroney	Core	Oct. 1894-1900	Mary Conway	Rossanure	May 1898-1906
Ellen Doyle	Coolagree	Oct. 1894-1897	Alice Clune	Capparoo	May 1898-1906
Helena Tobin	Lacarroe	Nov. 1894-1897	Mary McNamara	Derrymore	May 1898-1907
Ellen Grogan	Core	Nov. 1894-1901	Delia Farrell	Kilderra	May 1898-1906
Lizzy Tuohy	Lacarroe	Nov. 1894-1899	Kate Hardiman	Knockgrady	May 1898-1906
Julia Tuohy	Lacarroe	Nov. 1894-1897	Kate McGuinness	Lacarroe	April 1898-1900
Delia Dore	Lacarroe	Dec. 1894-1895	Lettie McNamara	Waterpark	May 1899-1899
Kate O'Callaghan	Knockroe	Nov. 1894-1901	Mary Hill	Drimanure	May 1899-1899
Delia Jones	Drimanure	Jan. 1895-1896	Minie Tuohy	Lacarroe	May 1899-1904
Bridget Torpey	Drimanure	Jan. 1895-1896	Delia Melody	Poulagour	May 1899-1909
Ellen Guerin	Lacarroe	Jan. 1895-1898	Mary Fennessy	Coolagree	May 1899-1912
Mary Treacy	Knockaveen	Jan. 1895-1903	Winifred Tuohy	Coolagree	May 1899-1903
Julia Minogue	Kilderra	Dec. 1894-1901	Bridget O'Brien	Poulagour	May 1899-1911
Bridget Grogan	Core	Dec. 1894-1901	Gretta Griffin	Kilderra	July 1899-1912
Minnie Burke	Derrymore	Dec. 1894-1901	Margaret O'Callaghan	Capparoo	July 1899-1910
Kate Jones	Drimanure	Dec. 1894-1897	Ann Clune	Capparoo	July 1899-1912
Mary Jones	Drimanure	Dec. 1894-1898	Margaret Thornton	Derrynadera	July 1901-1901
Sarah Jones	Drimanure	April 1895-1902	Mary Tuohy	Coolagree	May 1899-1912
Ann Garvey	Lacarroe	Nov. 1895-1896	Margaret Conway	Rossanure	June 1900-1910
Bridget McGuinness	Lacarroe	Feb. 1896-1897	Ann Purcell	Knockaveen	July 1900-1909
Lena Jones	Drimanure	March 1896-1904	Margaret McNamara	Clonusker	July 1900-1901
Mary Melody	Poulagour	March 1896-1904	Bridget McNamara	Clonusker	July 1900-1901
Delia Melody	Kilderra	March 1896-1903	Mary Minogue	Capparoo	May 1901-1907
Bridget McNamara	Waterpark	March 1896-1900	Maru Kiely	Lacarroe	May 1901-1911
Margaret McNamara	Tingaree	March 1896-1904	Margaret Tuohy	Lacarroe	May 1901-1904
Nora O'Callaghan	Knockroe	March 1896-1903	Lena Conway	Rossanure	June 1901-1913
Delia Griffin	Kilderra	March 1896-1904	Ellen Minogue	Clonusker	August 1901-1907
Ann Jones	Drimanure	May 1895-1903	Margaret O'Meara	Haymount	Jan 1900-1902
Ellen Moloney	Rossanure	May 1895-1897	Catherine Tuohy	Coolagree	May 1902-1913
Margaret McNamara	Lacarroe	May 1895-1901	Delia Tuohy	Kilderra	May 1902-1913
Mary O'Brien	Poulagour	May 1896-1904	Margaret Burke	Derrymore	Sept. 1902-1913
Julia Farrell	Kilderra	June 1896-1905	Ann Burke	Derrymore	Sept. 1902-1913
Delia Minogue	Kilderra	June 1896-1905	Delia Tuohy	Lacarroe	Oct. 1902-1914
Delia Burke	Derrymore	June 1896-1904	Johanna O'Callahan	Capparoo	May 1903-1913
Mary McGuinness	Lacarroe	June 1896-1903	Margaret Doyle	Lacarroe	May 1903-1908
Mary O'Callaghan	Knockroe	June 1896-1906	Anne Moloney	Coolagree	June 1904-1904

NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED	NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED
Margaret Tuohy	Capparoo	May 1904-1918	Kate McMahon	Coolagree	Oct. 1913-1915
Mary Minogue	Rossanure	May 1904-1913	Nora Garvey	Lacarro	May 1914-1914
Ann Minogue	Capparoo	June 1904-1908	Bridget Minogue	Knockaveen	June 1914-1919
Mary Kate Tuohy	Rossanure	June 1904-1914	Ann May Moroney	Lacarro	Sept. 1914-1926
Delia Clune	Capparoo	May 1905-1908	Ellen Minitier	Ballycorban	Nov. 1914-1922
Margaret Purcell	Knockaveen	May 1905-1910	Ellen Wilson	Capparoo	Jan. 1915-1915
Anna Clune	Capparoo	May 1906-1909	Anna Burke	Derrymore	Jan. 1915-1927
Delia Tuohy	Rossanure	July 1906-1915	Annie Tuohy	Kilderra	April 1915-1926
M.A. Mack	Lacarro	July 1906-1913	Mary Ellen Moroney	Lacarro	Feb. 1916-1928
M.A. Ryan	Lacarro	July 1906-1906	Bridget O'Brien	Core	May 1916-1917
Mary Noonan	Knockograpy	May 1907-1914	Madge Moroney	Lacarro	May 1916-1927
Mgt. Mary Minogue	Coolagree	May 1907-1913	Heddy Tuohy	Lacarro	May 1916-1927
Margaret Minogue	Poulagour	May 1907-1918	Mary Doyle	Lacarro	June 1916-1928
Ann Mary Tuohy	Coolagree	May 1907-1921	Annie Flannery	Poulagour	Sept. 1916-1917
Mary Mgt. Tuohy	Laccaroo	Nov. 1907-1920	Eileen Tobin	Lacarro	Sept. 1917-1928
Mary Noonan	Laccaroo	Dec. 1907-1909	Nellie Doyle	Lacarro	Oct. 1917-1926
Delia McGrath	Rossanure	May 1908-1917	Dillie Moroney	Lacarro	April 1918-1919
Lizzy McGrath	Rossanure	May 1908-1919	Margaret Ryan	Core	April 1918-1918
Mary Burke	Derrymore	June 1908-1918	Bridie Minogue	Knockaveen	April 1918-1921
Margaret Murphy	Knockaveen	Dec. 1908-1909	Hanna Bridget	Poulagour	June 1919-1929
Margaret O'Brien	Poulagour	June 1909-1909	Annie Ryan	Rossanure	June 1919-1919
Bridget McMahon	Core	Sept. 1907-1914	Mary Kate Moroney	Core	Sept. 1919-1930
B.A. Minogue	Poulagour	April 1909-1916	Eileen Minogue	Knockograpy	June 1920-1930
Catherine Fennessy	Coolagree	April 1909-1918	Kathleen Doyle	Lacarro	June 1920-1930
Margaret Fennessy	Coolagree	April 1909-1918	Violet Harte	Knockaveen	Sept. 1919-1920
Bridget Hayes	Kilderra	May 1909-1909	Kathleen O'Grady	Rossanure	Sept. 1920-1921
Mary Williams	Kilderra	June 1909-1909	Mary K. McGuinness	Gurrane	Jan. 1921-1922
Minie Naughton	Lacarro	July 1909-1910	K.J. Moroney	Lacarro	April 1921-1932
Mary McMahon	Coolagree	March 1910-1919	Madge Doyle	Lacarro	May 1921-1932
Mary Dinan	Derrymore	April 1910-1918	Mary Kelly	Poulagour	March 1922-1922
Kate Tuohy	Lacarro	March 1910-1919	Muriel Barry	Lacarro	May 1922-1932
Bridget Tuohy	Lacarro	March 1910-1920	Mary Jones	Drimanure	May 1922-1922
Margaret Minogue	Derrymore	April 1910-1921	Martha McGrath	Coolagree	Oct. 1922-1930
Ann McMahon	Coolagree	April 1910-1914	Bridget Honan	Lacarro	Oct. 1922-1933
Mary Jones	Drimanure	May 1910-1922	Margaret Tobin	Lacarro	March 1923-1931
Mary Farrell	Capparoo	June 1910-1922	Anne Tuohy	Lacarro	April 1923-1932
Loretta Melody	Capparoo	July 1910-1922	Anna Hayes	Gurrane	April 1923-1925
Mary Tuohy	Coolagoree	June 1910-1912	Mary Melody	Kilderra	April 1923-1934
Mary Ann Kiely	Lacarro	June 1910-1911	Rita Minogue	Knockaveen	May 1923-1933
Mary Kate Tuohy	Kilderra	Jan. 1911-1912	Ellen Tobin	Cooleenbridge	Oct. 1923-1924
Kate Hogan	Lacarro	Jan. 1911-1913	Mary Anne Doyle	Lacarro	May 1924-1933
Annie Minogue	Coolagree	June 1911-1921	Bridget Doyle	Lacarro	May 1924-1934
Mary McGrath	Rossanure	July 1911-1922	Margaret Riordan	Lacarro	May 1924-1925
Kate Tuohy	Kilderra	July 1911-1922	Kitty Minogue	Knockograpy	June 1924-1935
Margaret Burke	Derrymore	July 1911-1913	Nora Brogan	Lacarro	Nov. 1924-1926
Anne Burke	Derrymore	July 1911-1913	Eileen Mungavin	Lacarro	Sept. 1924-1929
Kate Tuohy	Coolagree	July 1911-1913	Mary Jones	Scariff	April 1925-1925
Lena Conway	Rossanure	July 1911-1913	Bridget Doyle	Lacarro	June 1925-1935
Mary M. Minogue	Derrymore	August 1911-1924	Mary Teresa Crotty	Poulagour	Sept. 1925-1934
Mary Pat Minogue	Poulagour	August 1911-1924	Mary Clune	Capparoo	Sept. 1925-1929
Hannah Tuohy	Lacarro	May 1912-1924	Lily Tuohy	Coolagree	Jan. 1926-1930
Mary Tuohy	Lacarro	May 1912-1924	Lena Moroney	Lacarro	March 1926-1927
Lena Tuohy	Coolagree	June 1912-1924	Bridget Minogue	Lacarro	March 1926-1926
Lena Minogue	Rossanure	July 1912-1914	Nuala O'Flynn	Coolagree	Nov. 1925-1926
Bridget Ballon	Capparoo	July 1912-1923	Maura Honan	Lacarro	June 1926-1938
Hanna Tuohy	Lacarro	April 1913-1925	Maggie Grogan	Kilderra	April 1926-1937
Bridget Noonan	Lacarro	April 1913-1915	Christina Minogue	Knockograpy	July 1926-1937
Mary Ellen O'Brien	Core	May 1913-1924	Annie Minogue	Rossanure	Feb. 1927-1927
Kate Pat Minogue	Poulagour	May 1913-1925	Maura Minogue	Knockograpy	June 1927-1938
Hannah T. Noonan	Knockograpy	May 1913-1929	Bridie Healy	Cooleenbridge	Oct. 1927-1927
Bridget Anne Torpey	Drimanure	May 1913-1922	Mary Mgt. Melody	Poulagour	May 1928-1938
Mary Kate Minogue	Knockaveen	May 1913-1919	Mary Kate Treacy	Cooleenbridge	May 1928-1941
Elizabeth Tuohy	Coolagree	June 1913-1924	Kitty Tobin	Lacarro	March 1929-1939
Bridget Doyle	Lacarro	July 1913-1924	Nora Crotty	Knockaveen	June 1929-1940
Kate M. Minogue	Derrymore	July 1913-1926	Mary Minogue	Lacarro	March 1929-1940
Margaret Tobin	Lacarro	July 1913-1925	Theresa Melody	Poulagour	March 1929-1941

NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED	NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED
Catherine Hogan	Poulagour	June 1929-1929	Maire Noonan	Capparoo	March 1947-1954
Sarah Moroney	Core	April 1929-1941	Eileen Noonan	Capparoo	April 1947-1955
Maureen Hogan	Poulagour	June 1929-1927	Margaret Minogue	Derrymore	May 1947-1955
Mary Minogue	Kilderra	June 1929-1929	Mary Ann Guilfoyle	Lacaroo	June 1947-1955
Theresa Doyle	Lacaroo	June 1929-1937	Anne Maire Minogue	Capparoo	May 1947-1952
Mary Tobin	Coolagree	May 1930-1941	Vera Minogue	Capparoo	May 1947-1952
Grainne O'Grady	Lacaroo	April 1930-1935	Maura Kingham	Lacaroo	Jan. 1948-1948
Bridget Crotty	Poulagour	May 1930-1942	Bridget Noonan	Capparoo	April 1948-1956
Kathleen Rostard	Lacaroo	April 1931-1931	Margaret O'Grady	Core	June 1948-1949
Mary Seosarus di Hosae	Lacaroo	June 1931-1931	Mary Broderick	Capparoo	Oct. 1948-1949
Kathleen Moloney	Poulagour	June 1931-1942	Ainne Ni Boltain	Capparoo	May 1949-1957
Bridget Ni Bullaig	Capparoo	July 1931-1932	Anna Hayse	Feakle	Oct. 1950-1954
Eileen Minogue	Lacaroo	July 1931-1942	Maura Glynn	Lacaroo	April 1951-1954
Bridget Minogue	Kilderra	May 1931-1933	Margaret Noonan	Capparoo	May 1953-1962
Mary McNamara	Tingaree	May 1931-1942	Mary Tuohy	Lacaroo	April 1954-1963
Bridge McNamara	Tingaree	May 1931-1943	Maire Ni Orcain	Lacaroo	May 1954-1954
Kathleen Tobin	Rabbit Park	June 1932-1944	Bridget Aine Orcain	Lacaroo	May 1954-1954
Margaret Collins	Lacaroo	June 1932-1932	Bridget McMahon	Core	June 1954-1962
Sarah Tobin	Rabbit Park	May 1933-1944	Mary Tobin	Lacaroo	June 1955-1962
Ann Tobin	Rabbit Park	June 1933-1944	Kathleen Tobin	Lacaroo	April 1957-1961
Nora Minogue	Kilderra	April 1935-1945	Mairead Bane	Derrymore	June 1957-1961
Margaret McNamara	Fossabeg	May 1935-1945	Maire Ni Cairniad	Cooleenbridge	Oct. 1962-1963
Mary O'Grady	Poulagour	Sept. 1935-1935	Maire Minogue	Lacaroo	May 1964-1969
Margaret Treacy	Knockaveen	April 1937-1947	Eilis Ni Broinghille	Derrymore	Sept. 1965-1966
Mary Griffin	Kilderra	May 1937-1946	Mary P. O'Grady	Poulagour	April 1966-1966
Margaret Griffin	Kilderra	May 1937-1947	Brid Minogue	Poulagour	April 1966-1970
Mary Clune	Capparoo	May 1937-1946	Sarah Minogue	Lacaroo	June 1966-1969
Theresa Moroney	Core	Jan. 1938-1948	Lorretta Slattery	Waterpark	Sept. 1966-1974
Bridget O'Grady	Tobar	March 1938-1947	Jane Doyle	Lacaroo	July 1967-1974
Bridget Treacy	Knockaveen	Feb. 1939-1948	Mary Doyle	Lacaroo	Sept. 1967-1974
Mary Farrell	Kilderra	March 1940-1951	Siobhan Slattery	Waterpark	Jan. 1968-1974
Margaret O'Keefe	Lacaroo	June 1940-1951	Maire Fennessy	Fossamore	July 1968-1974
Siobhan Corry	Coolagree	June 1940-1950	Maire Treacy	Cooleenbridge	Sept. 1968-1974
Mary Minogue	Coolagree	July 1941-1951	Carmel Sheedy	Waterpark	April 1968-1970
Theresa McNamara (Bunny)	Fossabeg	July 1941-1950	Geraldine Sheedy	Waterpark	Oct. 1968-1970
Olive Clune	Capparoo	Sept. 1941-1951	Nollette Slattery	Waterpark	May 1969-1974
Mary Theresa Minogue	Derrymore	May 1942-1950	Claire Treacy	Cooleenbridge	Sept. 1969-1974
Kathleen Minogue	Coolagree	Sept. 1942-1952	Maire Minogue	Derrymore	June 1970-1974
Nora Coinin	Scariff	March 1943-1952	Eileen Guerin	Poulagour	Oct. 1970-1973
Bridget Guilfoyle	Lacaroo	May 1943-1952	Geraldine Malone	Poulagour	June 1971-1971
Mary Pearl	Coolagree	March 1944-1947	Maire Malone	Poulagour	June 1971-1971
Philomena Clune	Capparoo	March 1944-1952	Eileen McGonagal	Poulagour	Sept. 1971-1971
Bridget Farrel	Kilderra	May 1944-1945	Collette McGonagal	Poulagour	Sept. 1971-1971
Mary Ellen Coinin	Lacaroo	May 1944-1945	Maire McConagal	Poulagour	Sept. 1971-1971
Angela Clune	Capparoo	May 1944-1953	Anne McGonagal	Poulagour	Sept. 1971-1971
Bridget A. Minogue	Capparoo	July 1944-1952	Ann Slattery	Waterpark	April 1972-1974
Ann Minogue	Coolagree	July 1944-1954	Pauline Treacy	Cooleenbridge	June 1972-1974
Mary O'Donnell	Kilderra	March 1945-1945	Eiizabeth Fennessy	Fossamore	July 1972-1974
Bridget Coinin	Scariff	March 1945-1954	Mary Fennessy	Coolagree	Nov. 1972-1974
Kathleen Griffin	Kilderra	April 1945-1954	Marian Casey	Kilderra	Sept. 1973-1974
Maire Coinin	Scariff	March 1946-1957	Siobhan Minogue	Derrymore	July 1974-1974
			Caroline Treacy	Cooleenbridge	July 1974-1974

# REGISTER OF COOLEENBRIDGE NATIONAL SCHOOL

## BOYS

NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED	NAME	ADDRESS	YEARS ATTENDED
John Thornton	Derrywater	April 1894-1901	Michael Ward	Lacarroe	June 1896-1903
George Clune	Capparoo	April 1894-1903	James McGuinness	Lacarroe	June 1896-1907
John O'Brien	Poulagour	April 1894-1902	Michael Tuohy	Coolagree	June 1896-1906
James O'Brien	Poulagour	April 1894-1902	Michael Minogue	Derrymore	June 1896-1903
Martin O'Brien	Poulagour	April 1894-1898	James Ward	Lacarroe	June 1896-1906
Michael O'Brien	Poulagour	April 1894-1901	John Farrell	Derrymore	June 1896-1897
Patrick Treacy	Knockaveen	April 1894-1895	Miles Farrell	Derrymore	June 1896-1897
Denis O'Keefe	Lacarroe	April 1894-1897	James Fennessy	Coolagree	July 1896-1897
John Doyle	Lacarroe	April 1894-1895	Michael Tuohy	Gurrane	July 1896-1905
Pat Doyle	Lacarroe	April 1894-1895	Denis Tuohy	Gurrane	July 1896-1901
Richard Thornton	Derrywater	April 1894-1897	Hugh Tobin	Lacarroe	Jan. 1897-1899
Patrick Minogue	Coolreagh	April 1894-1895	Pat Tobin	Lacarroe	Jan. 1897-1899
Pat Guilfoyle	Drimanure	April 1894-1899	Martin Thornton	Fossabeg	Feb. 1897-1906
Michael McNamara	Waterpark	April 1894-1894	Pat Farrell	Derrymore	April 1897-1897
Pat Tobin	Lacarroe	April 1894-1896	Michael Tuohy	Kilderra	May 1897-1906
Michael Melody	Poulagour	April 1894-1898	John Tuohy	Kilderra	May 1897-1906
Pat (Pau) Grogan	Core	May 1894-1900	Daniel Grogan	Core	May 1897-1901
John Griffin	Kilderra	May 1894-1903	Pat Griffin	Kilderra	May 1897-1907
Pat (Ml) Grogan	Kilderra	May 1894-1900	William O'Keefe	Lacarroe	June 1897-1898
Daniel Minogue	Kilderra	May 1894-1903	Michael Treacy	Knockaveen	June 1897-1905
Edmond Minogue	Kilderra	May 1894-1897	Thomas T. Melody	Kilderra	June 1897-1904
John Melody	Kilderra	May 1894-1901	Michael Griffin	Kilderra	June 1897-1904
Mat Ward	Lacarroe	May 1894-1899	Pat Melody	Poulagour	June 1897-1905
Pat Melody	Kilderra	May 1894-1900	John Tuohy	Gurrane	June 1897-1901
Michael Moroney	Lacarroe	Sept. 1894-1894	Dan Tuohy	Gurrane	July 1897-1901
Michael Reeves	Derrywater	Oct. 1894-1895	Pat McMahon	Core	July 1897-1907
Laurence Grogan	Core	Nov. 1894-1898	John Clune	Capparoo	August 1897-1908
Michael Thornton	Derrywater	Nov. 1894-1895	Michael Minogue	Knockogrady	Nov. 1897-1898
John Moroney	Core	Nov. 1894-1895	Thomas McMahon	Core	Nov. 1897-1902
William Thornton	Derrywater	Nov. 1894-1897	John McMahon	Core	Nov. 1897-1900
Michael Bolton	Capparoo	Dec. 1894-1895	Anthony Minogue	Derrymore	April 1898-1905
Pat Melody	Poulagour	Dec. 1894-1899	John Clune	Capparoo	May 1898-1906
Noel (Pat) Melody	Poulagour	Dec. 1894-1900	Michael Guerin	Lacarroe	May 1898-1905
Thomas John Melody	Poulagour	Dec. 1894-1896	John McNamara	Kilderra	May 1898-1907
Michael John Melody	Poulagour	Dec. 1894-1902	Pat Burke	Derrymore	May 1898-1904
David Melody	Poulagour	Dec. 1894-1897	Thomas Grogan	Core	May 1898-1901
Pat O'Callaghan	Knockroe	Dec. 1894-1897	David Minogue	Capparoo	May 1898-1908
John O'Callaghan	Knockroe	Dec. 1894-1901	Denis Hardiman	Knockogrady	May 1898-1898
Martin Durack	Kilderra	Jan. 1895-1899	Dan Tuohy	Kilderra	June 1898-1901
John Guerin	Lacarroe	Jan. 1895-1899	James McGrath	Lacarroe	Sept. 1898-1900
James Grogan	Kilderra	Jan. 1895-1902	Michael Moroney	Lacarroe	Sept. 1898-1900
Laurence Griffin	Kilderra	Jan. 1895-1904	Pat McNamara	Tingaree	Sept. 1898-1907
Martin Bugler	Poulagour	March 1895-1899	Pat Kiely	Lacarroe	April 1899-1901
Paul (Ml) Grogan	Core	May 1895-1902	John Minogue	Capparoo	July 1899-1908
Dan McMahon	Bow River	May 1895-1895	Michael Farrell	Kilderra	July 1899-1904
Pat O'Brien	Poulagour	May 1895-1903	Thomas Kiely	Lacarroe	July 1899-1906
Pat Farrell	Kilderra	May 1895-1904	Pat Doyle	Lacarroe	July 1899-1905
Michael O'Keefe	Lacarroe	May 1895-1903	Dan McGuinness	Lacarroe	July 1899-1906
Michael Doyle	Lacarroe	May 1895-1906	Tim Treacy	Knockaveen	Sept. 1899-1908
John Garvey	Lacarroe	Nov. 1895-1898	Terence McGuinness	Lacarroe	Oct. 1899-1904
John O'Keefe	Lacarroe	March 1896-1903	Michael Burke	Derrymore	Oct. 1899-1904
Pat Ward	Lacarroe	March 1896-1901	Dan McNamara	Lacarroe	Feb. 1900-1900
James Melody	Poulagour	March 1896-1904	John McNamara	Lacarroe	Feb. 1900-1901
James Thornton	Derrywater	March 1896-1905	Willie Clune	Capparoo	May 1900-1905
Tomas Rohan	Coolagree	April 1896-1897	Thomas Tuohy	Kilderra	June 1900-1906
Michael (Dan) Griffin	Derrymore	May 1896-1905	Paul Grogan	Core	June 1900-1901
Michael Minogue	Lacarroe	May 1896-1903	Gerry McNamara	Derrymore	July 1900-1904
John Treacy	Knockaveen	June 1896-1903	Pat Crotty	Scariff	Sept. 1900-1906
Thomas McInerney	Lacarroe	June 1896-1898	John Ward	Lacarroe	Sept. 1900-1908
Pat Clune	Knockroe	June 1896-1901	John McNamara	Clonusker	Sept. 1900-1901
John Burke	Derrymore	June 1896-1904	Martin Ward	Lacarroe	April 1901-1910

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Martin Ward	Lacarroe	April 1901-1910	John Jones	Drimanure	June 1908-1919
Henry Tuohy	Rossanure	May 1901-1910	J.J. Clune	Capparoo	June 1908-1918
Martin Tuohy	Kilderra	May 1901-1903	Michael O'Callaghan	Capparoo	June 1908-1917
Donall Minogue	Derrymore	May 1901-1905	Jeremiah Tuohy	Lacarroe	Sept. 1908-1920
Edward Farrell	Kilderra	May 1901-1906	Dan McNamara	Kilderra	April 1909-1911
Daniel Treacy	Knockaveen	May 1901-1913	Martin Minogue	Derrymore	April 1909-1919
James Farrell	Capparoo	June 1901-1914	James McMahon	Core	May 1909-1920
Michael McGuinness	Lacarroe	June 1901-1907	James Burke	Derrymore	May 1909-1920
Thomas Conway	Rossanure	June 1901-1910	Mat McMahon	Coolagree	March 1910-1914
Edward Burke	Derrymore	June 1901-1907	Pat McMahon	Coolagree	April 1910-1914
Dan McNamara	Tingaree	Sept. 1901-1906	Michael O'Brien	Core	June 1910-1920
James Burke	Derrymore	Sept. 1901-1910	John Joe Tuohy	Rossanure	June 1910-1920
Pat Hogan	Coolagree	Feb. 1902-1903	James Melody	Kilderra	June 1910-1921
Thomas Griffin	Kilderra	May 1902-1913	Thomas Jones	Aughrim	May 1912-1924
Edward Doyle	Lacarroe	May 1902-1913	Pat Minogue	Kilderra	May 1912-1921
John Quinn	Knockogradey	June 1902-1902	Michael Burke	Derrymore	May 1912-1922
John Ryan	Lacarroe	June 1902-1903	Patrick Tuohy	Lacarroe	May 1912-1922
James Guerin	Lacarroe	June 1902-1907	John Bolton	Capparoo	July 1912-1922
Pat Fennessy	Coolagree	July 1902-1912	John F. Burke	Derrymore	Sept. 1912-1922
James Cavanagh	Lacarroe	Sept. 1902-1909	David Minogue	Knockaveen	May 1913-1919
John O'Meara	Kilderra	May 1903-1910	Francis Tuohy	Rossanure	June 1913-1921
Pat Tuohy	Rossanure	June 1903-1911	Edward Tuohy	Kilderra	June 1913-1925
Michael Kiely	Lacarroe	June 1903-1913	John Farrell	Kilderra	July 1913-1924
James Clune	Capparoo	June 1903-1908	James Tuohy	Lacarroe	July 1913-1926
John Tuohy	Coolagree	June 1904-1913	Pat Doyle	Lacarroe	July 1913-1915
John Joe McMahon	Core	June 1904-1912	Pat Nugent	Feakle	Sept. 1913-1918
Pat Minogue	Derrymore	June 1904-1914	James Torpey	Drimanure	May 1914-1923
Thomas Minogue	Derrymore	June 1904-1912	Pat Jones	Drimanure	May 1914-1925
Mat Corbett	Tingaree	June 1904-1907	Michael Doyle	Lacarroe	May 1914-1925
Pat Dinan	Tingaree	June 1904-1904	Thomas Tobin	Lacarroe	June 1914-1923
James Tuohy	Capparoo	July 1904-1908	Michael Tobin	Lacarroe	June 1914-1923
Willie Farrell	Capparoo	July 1904-1904	Denis Moroney	Lacarroe	July 1914-1923
John McNamara	Lacarroe	July 1904-1907	John Wilson	Kilderra	Jan. 1915-1915
Martin Moroney	Lacarroe	Sept. 1904-1905	Patrick F. Quinn	Scariff	April 1915-1916
Pat Conway	Rossanure	April 1905-1904	Tommie Quinn	Scariff	April 1915-1920
Ned Fennessy	Coolagree	May 1905-1914	Willie J. Hayes	Core	April 1915-1916
Willie Bassil	Kilderra	May 1903-1903	William O'Brien	Core	May 1915-1922
James Crotty	Poulagour	May 1905-1907	John J. Tuohy	Kyle	May 1915-1926
J.J. Noonan	Ballycorbin	May 1905-1914	James Heron	Poulagour	June 1915-1925
Martin McMahon	Core	May 1905-1915	Michael (Pat) Minogue	Poulagour	Oct. 1915-1929
Mat McNamara	Tingaree	May 1905-1906	John J. Tuohy	Kyle	May 1916-1917
Thomas Tuohy	Capparoo	May 1905-1917	James Jones	Drimanure	May 1916-1927
J.J. Clune	Capparoo	July 1905-1912	Pat Tobin	Lacarroe	May 1916-1918
Michael Minogue	Rossanure	July 1905-1913	Pat McGrath	Lacarroe	May 1916-1926
Pat Conway	Clashmore	Jan. 1906-1906	James F. Tuohy	Coolagree	May 1916-1927
Thomas Ryan	Lacarroe	May 1906-1906	Michael Ryan	Lacarroe	May 1916-1925
Michael Ryan	Lacarroe	May 1906-1906	Malte Bourke	Derrymore	May 1916-1927
John Clune	Capparoo	June 1906-1909	Pat Bolton	Capparoo	May 1916-1926
Michael Fennessy	Coolagree	June 1906-1917	Patrick McNamara	Lacarroe	May 1916-1926
Joseph Minogue	Rossanure	July 1906-1915	Thomas (Pat) Minogue	Poulagour	May 1916-1929
John Minogue	Derrymore	July 1906-1919	John M. Tobin	Lacarroe	June 1916-1929
Francis McGrath	Rossanure	Feb. 1907-1915	Michael Minogue	Knockaveen	June 1917-1921
Michael McNamara	Lacarroe	May 1907-1916	Michael Bolton	Capparoo	June 1918-1927
Patrick M. Clune	Capparoo	May 1907-1915	John Tobin	Lacarroe	June 1919-1930
Jeremiah McMahon	Core	May 1907-1919	James Tobin	Lacarroe	Sept. 1918-1925
Pat Farrell	Capparoo	May 1907-1918	Michael Grady	Rossanure	Sept. 1918-1919
Joseph Burke	Derrymore	May 1907-1917	John J. Moroney	Lacarroe	June 1919-1930
William Doyle	Lacarroe	Sept. 1907-1918	John G. Honan	Lacarroe	July 1919-1930
Michael Tuohy	Rossanure	Sept. 1907-1916	John Torpy	Drimanure	June 1920-1931
Thomas Burke	Kilderra	Sept. 1907-1910	William Bolton	Capparoo	June 1920-1932
Thomas J. Noonan	Knockogradey	March 1908-1918	Patrick Moroney	Core	June 1920-1930
William Jones	Drimanure	June 1908-1918	Michael Minogue	Knockaveen	June 1920-1930
John McGrath	Rossanure	May 1908-1909	Dan Moroney	Core	July 1920-1930
Michael Minogue	Coolagree	May 1908-1919	Martin Nugent	Poulagour	Feb. 1921-1930

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Paddy Nugent	Poulagour	Feb. 1921-1921	Patrick Moroney	Core	June 1920-1930
James McGrath	Rossanure	May 1921-1930	Michael Minogue	Knockaveen	June 1920-1930
John Minogue	Knockogrady	May 1921-1930	Dan Moroney	Core	July 1920-1930
Patrick Minogue	Poulagour	May 1921-1933	Martin Nugent	Poulagour	Feb. 1921-1930
Michael O'Callaghan	Capparoo	June 1908-1917	Paddy Nugent	Poulagour	Feb. 1921-1921
Jeremiah Tuohy	Lacarro	Sept. 1908-1920	James McGrath	Rossanure	May 1921-1930
Dan McNamara	Kilderra	April 1909-1911	John Minogue	Knockogrady	May 1921-1930
Martin Minogue	Derrymore	April 1909-1919	Patrick Minogue	Poulagour	May 1921-1933
James McMahon	Core	May 1909-1920	John Jones	Scariff	June 1921-1925
James Burke	Derrymore	May 1909-1920	Thomas Moroney	Kaelderra	July 1921-1929
Mat McMahon	Coolagree	March 1910-1914	James Quinn	Scariff	July 1921-1924
Pat McMahon	Coolagree	April 1910-1914	Patrick Grogan	Kilderra	July 1921-1930
Michael O'Brien	Core	June 1910-1920	Michael Grogan	Kilderra	July 1921-1933
John Joe Tuohy	Rossanure	June 1910-1920	Flan O'Brien	Core	Sept. 1921-1930
James Melody	Kilderra	June 1910-1921	Patrick O'Dea	Derrymore	Sept. 1921-1922
Thomas Jones	Aughrim	May 1912-1924	Michael Kelly	Poulagour	March 1922-1922
Pat Minogue	Kilderra	May 1912-1921	David Minogue	Knockogrady	April 1923-1932
Michael Burke	Derrymore	May 1912-1922	Jemmie Jones	Drimanure	May 1923-1932
Patrick Tuohy	Lacarro	May 1912-1922	Hugh Tobin	Lacarro	June 1923-1934
John Bolton	Capparoo	July 1912-1922	John J. Tobin	Lacarro	Sept. 1923-1932
John F. Burke	Derrymore	Sept. 1912-1922	Patrick Minogue	Knockogrady	May 1923-1936
David Minogue	Knockaveen	May 1913-1919	John F. Tobin	Laccaroo	Sept. 1923- Oct. 1923.
Francis Tuohy	Rossanure	June 1913-1921	Thomas Tobin	Cooleenbridge	Oct. 1923-1926
Edward Tuohy	Kilderra	June 1913-1925	John Grogan	Kilderra	April 1924-1936
John Farrell	Kilderra	July 1913-1924	Michael J. Doyle	Lacarro	May 1924-1936
James Tuohy	Lacarro	July 1913-1926	John J. Doyle	Lacarro	May 1924-1933
Pat Doyle	Lacarro	July 1913-1915	Thomas Jones	Drimanure	May 1924-1935
Pat Nugent	Feakle	Sept. 1913-1918	Willie J. Doyle	Lacarro	May 1924-1935
James Torpey	Drimanure	May 1914-1923	John J. Melody	Kilderra	May 1924-1935
Pat Jones	Drimanure	May 1914-1925	Thomas K. Jones	Scariff	April 1925-1934
Michael Doyle	Lacarro	May 1914-1925	Mathie Jones	Scariff	Sept. 1924-1930
Thomas Tobin	Lacarro	June 1914-1923	Michael Rohan	Coolagree	August 1925-1926
Michael Tobin	Lacarro	June 1914-1923	John Moroney	Lacarro	Oct. 1924-1927
Denis Moroney	Lacarro	July 1914-1923	Joseph McGrath	Feakle	April 1925-1926
John Wilson	Kilderra	Jan. 1915-1915	Patrick Miniter	Core	Nov. 1925-1928
Patrick F. Quinn	Scariff	April 1915-1916	Johnny Noonan	Poulagour	April 1926-1926
Tommie Quinn	Scariff	April 1915-1920	?? Jones	Drimanure	June 1926-1937
Willie J. Hayes	Core	April 1915-1916	Dan Minogue	Knockaveen	Jan. 1927-1929
William O'Brien	Core	May 1915-1922	John Joe Doyle	Lacarro	June 1927-1937
John J. Tuohy	Kyle	May 1915-1926	James Melody	Kilderra	Sept. 1927-1938
James Heron	Poulagour	June 1915-1925	Martin Crotty	Knockaveen	April 1928-1937
Michael (Pat) Minogue	Poulagour	Oct. 1915-1929	Thomas J. Minogue	Knockaveen	May 1928-1938
John J. Tuohy	Kyle	May 1916-1917	James Melody	Poulagour	May 1928-1940
James Jones	Drimanure	May 1916-1927	John Minogue	Kilderra	March 1929-1938
Pat Tobin	Lacarro	May 1916-1918	Daniel Doyle	Lacarro	July 1928-1939
Pat McGrath	Lacarro	May 1916-1926	Patrick Jones	Drimanure	March 1929-1941
James F. Tuohy	Coolagree	May 1916-1927	Daniel Minogue	Knockogrady	March 1929-1938
Michael Ryan	Lacarro	May 1916-1925	John Moroney	Core	June 1929-1941
Malte Bourke	Derrymore	May 1916-1927	Johnny Slattery	Poulagour	June 1930-1941
Pat Bolton	Capparoo	May 1916-1926	Patrick Treacy	Cooleenbridge	June 1930-1940
Patrick McNamara	Lacarro	May 1916-1926	Michael Treacy	Cooleenbridge	May 1931-1940
Thomas (Pat) Minogue	Poulagour	May 1916-1929	Michael Melody	Kilderra	June 1931-1941
John M. Tobin	Lacarro	June 1916-1929	Patrick Moroney	Lacarro	June 1931-1941
Michael Minogue	Knockaveen	June 1917-1921	Seamus Bollaig	Capparoo	July 1931-1933
Michael Bolton	Capparoo	June 1918-1927	James Crotty	Knockaveen	March 1932-1941
John Tobin	Lacarro	June 1919-1930	Michael S. Rostard	Lacarro	March 1932-1940
James Tobin	Lacarro	Sept. 1918-1925	Martin Doyle	Lacarro	Sept. 1932-1943
Michael Grady	Rossanure	Sept. 1918-1919	Joseph Treacy	Knockaveen	March 1933-1944
John J. Moroney	Lacarro	June 1919-1930	Sean Minogue	Capparoo	April 1933-1939
John G. Honan	Lacarro	July 1919-1930	Patrick Crotty	Knockaveen	May 1933-1943
John Torpy	Drimanure	June 1920-1931	Sean O'Grady	Poulagour	June 1933-1944
William Bolton	Capparoo	June 1920-1932	Kevin O'Callaghan	Rabbit Park	Oct. 1933-1936

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Brian Rostard	Lacarroe	June 1934-1943	Patrick Cummins	Derrymore	Sept. 1951-1956
Patrick Minogue	Lacarroe	May 1935-1945	Thomas Noonan	Capparoo	Oct. 1951-1961
William Crotty	Knockaveen	April 1935-1944	S. Bolruin	Doirboir féir	March 1952-1960
John Hoey	Poulagour	May 1935-1935	Patrick Bolruin	Doirboir féir	April 1953-1962
James Moroney	Core	May 1936-1946	John Guilfoyle	Lacarroe	April 1954-1962
Matthew J. O'Brien	Coolagree	May 1936-1945	Jim McMahon	Lacarroe	June 1954-1962
?? Rostard	Lacarroe	May 1937-1946	James Delaney	Cooleenbridge	Oct. 1954-1954
?? Minogue	Kilderra	July 1937-1947	Christopher ??	Core	March 1954-1965
Michael Farrell	Kilderra	Jan. 1938-1948	Seamus Orbain	Derrymore	May 1958-1966
Edward Fennessy	Coolagree	April 1939-1946	John Howard	Cooleenbridge	Nov. 1958-1963
Sean Crotty	Knockaveen	May 1939-1948	Peter Downes	Kilderra	Nov. 1958-1967
Thomas O'Keefe	Lacarroe	May 1939-1948	Edward Guilfoyle	Lacarroe	Nov. 1958-1960
James Clune	Capparoo	June 1939-1948	Donall Bane	Derrymore	April 1961-1969
Micheal Minogue	Coolagree	May 1940-1950	Sean Tobin	Lacarroe	April 1961-1969
Edward Corry	Coolagree	June 1940-1949	Michael Grogan	Kilderra	Sept. 1961-1970
Patrick Clune	Capparoo	June 1940-1951	Padraig Grogan	Kilderra	May 1962-1970
Tim Treacy	Knockaveen	Sept. 1940-1950	Patrick Minogue	Poulagour	May 1963-1970
Francis Coinin	Scariff	Sept. 1940-1950	Sean Grogan	Kilderra	March 1964-1971
Thomas Guilfoyle	Rabbit Park	May 1941-1950	John Minogue	Poulagour	May 1964-1971
Patrick Guilfoyle	Rabbit Park	May 1941-1951	Caimin Maxwell	Poulagour	May 1964-1965
John Corry	Coolagree	July 1941-1951	Thomas Grogan	Kilderra	April 1966-1971
Vincent Fennessy	Coolagree	July 1941-1952	Brendan Grogan	Kilderra	April 1966-1971
Daniel Corry	Coolagree	Sept. 1942-1952	Martin Grady	Poulagour	April 1966-1966
Sean Clune	Capparoo	March 1943-1951	Eamon Fennessy	Coolagree	May 1966-1973
Ambrose Minogue	Derrymore	May 1943-1953	Seamus Bane	Derrymore	May 1958-1966
Michael Brown	Lacarroe	April 1943-1946	Christopher McMahon	Core	March 1958-1966
Michael Guilfoyle	Lacarroe	July 1944-1953	Michael Minogue	Poulagour	May 1967-1970
Bernard Fennessy	Coolagree	March 1945-1954	James Sheedy	Waterpark	Nov. 1967-1970
John Minogue	Derrymore	April 1945-1954	Aaron Sheedy	Waterpark	Nov. 1967-1970
Thomas Minogue	Coolagree	June 1945-1947	Brendan Casey	Kilderra	June 1968-1974
Antony Pearl	Coolagree	Sept. 1945-1946	Martin Crotty	Poulagour	June 1968-1974
Patrick Connell	Lacarroe	March 1946-1950	Donall Fennessy	Coolagree	April 1969-1974
Patrick Clune	Capparoo	June 1946-1954	Kevin Cleary	Fossamore	June 1969-1970
Flan Broderick	Kilderra	May 1946-1949	Sean Casey	Kilderra	July 1969-1974
James M. Kingham	Lacarroe	Jan. 1948-1948	Patrick Doyle	Lacarroe	July 1969-1974
John P. O'Grady	Core	June 1948-1949	John Slattery	Waterpark	June 1970-1974
Joseph O'Grady	Core	June 1948-1949	Gerard Crotty	Poulagour	Sept. 1970-1974
William Noonan	Capparoo	May 1949-1958	James Guerin	Poulagour	Oct. 1970-1972
Noel Corry	Coolagree	May 1949-1950	Michael Treacy	Cooleenbridge	Nov. 1970-1974
Patrick Minogue	Knockograde	Sept. 1949-1949	John Doyle	Lacarroe	May 1971-1974
Patrick Coinin	Scariff	Sept. 1949-1958	John Malone	Poulagour	June 1971-1971
James Noonan	Capparoo	March 1950-1959	Patrick Minogue	Derrymore	Sept. 1971-1974
Patrick J. Minogue	Coolagree	Sept. 1950-1959	Tom Crotty	Poulagour	Sept. 1971-1974
Anthony Hayes	Feakle	Sept. 1950-1958	James MacGonigal	Poulagour	Sept. 1971-1971
Sean Hayes	Feakle	Oct. 1950-1958	John Guerin	Poulagour	June 1972-1972
Anthony Tuohy	Lacarroe	May 1951-1960	Thomas Minogue	Derrymore	Sept. 1971-1972
Edward Guilfoyle	Lacarroe	June 1951-1959	Paul Crotty	Poulagour	April 1974-1974

The following is a selection of the family names of pupils who have attended the school since it re-opened in November 1986. It is a fascinating exercise to compare the names with those of the earlier time and to consider that such change presents us with problems and opportunities as we face into the 21st. century.

Cunningham	Horan	Sund	Ashton
Masterson	Cummins	Sampson	Seward
O'Callaghan	Olsen	Watson	Steinhausen
Murtagh	Griffiths	Gregoire	Butler
Venes	Geschwentner	Liddle	De Swart
Schon	Muller	McMahon	Hilty
Simons	Rasehorn	Riney	Kaye
Smyth	Benham	Roycroft	Pinson
Tassell	Mckernan	Taylor	Moroney
Wabnitz	Neale	Schnack	Breuker
De Carteret	O'Brien	Shanahan	Lennon
Boyle	Richter	Haug	Jesch
Fischer	Kay	Milne	Carroll
McMahon	Rook	Bartek	James