

Upper John Street

MADGE BUGGY

Upper John Street was outside the City walls, the land from Michael St. corner of Upper John's Green was owned by the Knights Hospitaller of St. John's Priory. This land became the property of Kilkenny Corporation in 1615.

St. John's Gate (removed early in the 17th Century) stood between Michael St. and Maudlin St. This Gate gave admittance to St. John's Priory and thence to the City. The top of the street was widened in 1848 when Thomas Hart was Mayor.

Brett's Hardware : Left side going out of Kilkenny No's 22, 23, and 24 one premises at the time being owned by James Foley who had a licensed Grocery and undertaking business here. James Foley was Grandfather of the late Rev. Larry Foley (Chaplain to St. Luke's Hospital). James Foley's widow married William Ryan of Maddoxtown and continued the same business. Later Matt. O'Keeffe who worked for Ryan's took over with his brother and the premises became O'Keeffe Bros. The present occupant of No's 23 and 24 is Stephen Brennan who previously worked for the O'Keeffe Bros. Michael Brett of Inch Mills took over No 22 some years ago and runs a business here.

25 Mascot Stores : Bought in 1936 by Mrs Cody nee Malone and still run by her cousin Miss Josie Malone. Previous occupants were Donnellys, Murphys and Polly Mullally. No 25 is traditionally the site of the Banim's sports shop where John and Michael were born at the end of the 18th century and which is listed in Piggot's directory of 1824.

26 Mrs Noonan's Drapery : Miss Fitzpatrick was here before Mrs Noonan now the owner. John Buggy of Barrack Street a retired Police Constable, and Mr J. Jackman formerly of Maudlin Street were former occupants.

27 McDonald's Tea Rooms : House rebuilt about 10 years ago. Previous occupant was a Mr. Jackson from Kilmanagh a 'letter carrier' who during his time here was prosecuted for having an illicit 'still' in the house. He was succeeded by his daughter Mrs. William Crabbe.

28 Norwoods : Birthplace of P. M. Egan in 1843—Printer, Publisher and Bookseller, and later Mayor and Borough Treasurer. Son of Michael and Judith Egan (nee Ryan) he married a Bridie Byrne of Athy and had a son Michael (or Milo) a successful playwright and author in London. Another son Patrick became a Composer and Organist. The Egan's were publishers who came to Kilkenny about 300 years ago. Flan Mac Egan being the first (from Tipperary) "P. M." as he was popularly called, was no mean scholar, being author of many school books, a novel "Scullydom" and the popular Guides to Kilkenny 1884 and Waterford 1885. His widow (after his death in

1903 at the age of 60) continued as a newsagent in High Street, (at South Corner of William Street). Her daughter Poppy lives at Ossory Grove and still owns No. 28 and No. 29. Mr. Tom Norwood, Watchmaker, continues the work of his father Robert Norwood here. In 1896 his family came to Kilkenny from Co. Armagh; (family of Flemish extraction) as an Apprentice Watchmaker to Mr. Statham of 18 High Street. Before Norwoods, Mr. and Mrs. Gaffney were here and had a "Supper House" before moving to the other side of the street. Mrs. Pat Nolan wife of a retired farmer had a sweet shop here at one time.

29 Mrs. G. Murphy, Drapery: Mrs Murphy's husband worked at O'Neill's Grocery farther up the the Street. Previous occupants were a Mrs. Byrne and her sister Johanna Hogan who came from Kilcooley.

30 Mrs. Bobbie McTiernan : runs a Wholesale and Retail Sweet business here since her husbands death. Before reconstruction this was Dunny's who were here before 1849. James and Anne Dunny were parents of Mrs. Patrick O'Grady and of Mrs. M. O'Dwyer who lived opposite. A brother of James Dunny, Kyran, had a Boot and Shoe Warehouse here in 1884. This house and No. 31 (next door) were rebuilt in 1871 by James Cantwell and Sons. The Dunny family tombstone formerly in old St. John's Cemetery was transferred to St. Kieran's Cemetery after Mrs. O'Grady's death. Other occupants were Stephen Travers and his wife (formerly a Miss Cody from James's Green); a dentist named Becker and Mrs. Ryan of St. Philomena's Nursing Home.

31 Dunleaveys a private house, is occupied by Miss May Dunleavy ex N:T and Mrs. Mallen (nee Clooney of Maudlin Street). Daughter of Patrick and Mary Dunleavy and last surviving member of this distinguished family who gave 3 sons and a daughter to the Church, May Dunleavy is still active and was a great friend of Miss E. Cronin of the Gaelic League. Pat Dunleavy's father came from Co. Meath, a Surveyor, married Caroline Flood, and was headmaster of St. John's Boys School, Dublin Road (now Parish Hall). He died in 1920 and his wife Mary died in 1917. Mrs. Dunleavy was a sister of Mrs. Neary of No. 58 John Street. Another sister of May Dunleavy was a teacher (Carie Dunleavy) and taught near Castlecomer. John Slattery was previously a tenant and a Mr. Carroll, a police constable.

32 Railway Hotel: Lower part : About 30 years ago this house was occupied by an ex R:I:C: man named Denehy. He kept the Book Stall at the Railway, his daughter Margaret was a confectioner. Mr. Hunt, a police constable whose wife was a dressmaker followed the Dennehy's. A daughter of theirs married Patrick Lynch a clerk in Mr. Watters Office, Patrick Street. John O'Shea had a bacon shop here in 1884 with his wife who was Eleanor Brennan.

33 Railway Hotel: In 1856 this was Michael Dunne's Provision Stores. About 1900 it was bought by Thomas McGrath and his brother from Ballyragget. Thomas married a Miss Keoghan in 1903 and they later turned this place into an Hotel. They were the parents of Very Rev. Michael McGrath now P:P: of Ferybank and 4 daughters. The hotel is now owned by

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Downing of Tralee.

34 O'Neill's Bar and Supermarket: In 1867 Patrick O'Gorman lived here, later James Larkin, Tailor, from Muckalee who also had a small hotel in Kieran Street, where the Workingmens Club is now. He married a Miss Brennan of the Salmon Pool. The Cleary family, Coachbuilders from Errill, Rathdowney came next, who also had a house in William St. The next occupant was George Hetherington, a Slater (1884). Mr. E. Cullen of Connelly and Cullen, Builders, lived here when he first came to the city. These premises were Connell's property and they lived here before moving to No. 35. In 1913 Laurence Long a Publican from Thurles came here, and after his death was succeeded by O'Neill Bros. of Gowran. A nephew of theirs, Michael O'Neill is now proprietor. Between the Railway Hotel and O'Neill's was formerly a "cul de sac" called Carr's Lane (previously Percival's Lane). There were little houses here the property of Connells and occupied by Mary Delahunty and John Kelly, Thomas Lawlor, Catherine Hennessy and Michael Ryan.

41 O'Gorman's "Kilkenny House" : The first remembered occupant here was Denis Brennan a Cooper in 1824 who married a step-sister of Patrick McGraths of No. 39. Before 1884 Henry and Mary Acheson had a licensed Grocery here. Both died in 1884 and are interred in "Old" St. John's, Dublin Road. Then Smithwick's Brewery bought the license and sold it to Mr. Daniel Lenehan (same family as in Barrack Street) who came from Co. Clare. Their daughter Nellie, married John Kealy of Castlewarren. As a Sinn Fein Volunteer, John was arrested in 1916 with others, and when they were being escorted to the Military Barracks he collapsed and died in John Street. His widow later married Michael O'Gorman of Tullaroan. John O'Gorman son of Michael and his wife, Cathleen, still carry on the business here.

LEFT SIDE OF UPPER JOHN STREET GOING INTO KILKENNY.

42 Lawlor's Public House: No.'s 42 and 43 were originally two separate houses. The top one No. 42, facing the Railway Station was (in 1884) "The Dublin House" proprietor Thomas Hinds, Grocery, Tea, Wine and Spirits Dealer. Thomas Hinds was a son of George Hinds who had another son called Berty and a daughter, Terry. Early in the present century, Arthur J. Wilson, son of Samuel A: Wilson (who had a Dairy at No. 46) came here and took over No. 43 as well as No. 42. It may have been here that Mrs. Cogans Railway Tavern was situated in 1884. In 1925 A. J. Wilsdon sold No.'s 42 and 43 to Martin Mansfield of Ballinakill, Laois, and his wife (nee Mary Obbins, Ballyragget). He, Martin Mansfield died in 1949 and his widow and youngest son, Kevin (who married Rosie O'Gorman of No. 40) continued here until about 16 years ago when they sold to Mr. Michael Lawlor of Bagenalstown.

44 Edward Gray's Television and Electrical Goods: Mr. Gray was born in this house which he rebuilt about 12 years ago. In 1849 James O'Toole a Harness Maker, was here and still here in 1884. He was a friend of Charles Kickham. His wife, Kate kept a boarding house mostly for Pig buyers. She was an aunt of P. M. Egan, publisher and a Granddaughter of

Maureen Hegarty (Hon. Secretary of Archaeological Society). Miss O'Toole, daughter of James, married Patrick Gray (father of Edward) a native of the Heath, Portlaoise, a farrier who came to Kilkenny as an apprentice to Mr. Wm. Lewis, farrier, Lower John Street. When Pat Gray's wife died he married a Miss Breen of Ballyreddin; Bennettsbridge, whose brother later had an Insurance Office here.

35 Connells: In 1871 James Connell, Builder and Contractor of King Street took a building lease from the Corporation "to erect two good houses not inferior to those of James Dunny and John Slattery on the same side of the street". Shortly afterwards No.'s 34 and 35 were erected by him. He had a Builders Providers yard at the ree and also a lime kiln and a saw pit. Around 1904 he got the contract to build the Lake School (now demolished) which he fulfilled, using the best of materials, but owing to the rising cost of building materials the School was built at a loss to Mr. Connell. He, James Connell who was a brother of Mrs. Mary Darcy of John's Bridge, married firstly Catherine Sleator and secondly Elizabeth Brotherick of Lisdowney. Mrs. Connell was a remarkable woman, she was acknowledged as the best confectioner of her time, catering for Weddings and Receptions and was also a well known figure at the Danesfort Races. She always cooked the Christmas dinners for the neighbours when ovens were luxuries. The yard at the ree (or the 'Gardens') was used by the country people to park their horses and carts, traps etc. while shopping. Here too they were able to purchase Lime and Cabbage plants. John and Daniel Connell carried on the same business after their father's death. Their sister Mary married John O'Malley from Killmallock, who came to Kilkenny with Thomas Connelly for building work at the Military Barracks. Mrs. O'Malley had a furniture business here until her daughter Mrs. Daly started a newsagency after serving her time to Mrs. P. M. Egan of High Street 'widow of P: M: Egan).

36 Brady's Chemist. At one time there was an entrance here to a few houses at the ree, the tenants being Michael Shortall and John Bryant. This premises was formerly held by John Ryan a Tailor, and later by a Mrs. Mary Walsh. In 1871 a Michael Brophy, Baker, got a lease from the Corporation, which he sold in 1880 to James Connell, Builder, who resold to Patrick Doherty (see No. 37) whose daughter Julia married a Mr. Cooney. They had a sweet shop here and a boarding house, mainly for Railway men. The premises were rebuilt by Dan Connell in 1935. Later taken over by the late Peter Brady, Chemist, the business is being carried on by his widow Mrs. Patricia Brady.

37 Shortalls: In 1849 a brother and sister, Jack and Mary Anne Quirke lived here until Jack married and moved to Wolfe Tone St. Mary Anne married Patrick Doherty an Engine Driver and Jarvey (See No. 36). This house was rebuilt with No. 38 in the early part of the Century. Present tenant is Mrs Shortall.

38 Molloy's: This was at one time a shop run by a Mary Downey and her nephew Jim Bradley. An English family named Jones came next. Mr.

Jones was butler to the Cuffe family at Leyrath. The Jones's had three daughters who were expert at hand crochet. Edward O'Connell, Town Clerk, also lived here. Mr. Christopher Molloy (formerly of Maudlin Street) came next, he was secretary of the Kilkenny Woollen Mills. His wife was a Miss Grace of Tullaroan. Their daughter Bernadette, lives here now.

39 Byrnes Lounge Bar: In 1828 Joseph McGrath had a public house here. He and his wife died in 1849 and his son Patrick took over and married Anne Barrett of Ballasalla. Through her the premises came into the Barrett family before Mr. Byrne's purchase about 1968.

40 Connolly's Garage Ltd.: Proprietors John and Tommy Connolly, sons of the late Mr. Thomas Connolly of the firm of Connolly and Cullen Builders. The garage is here since the early thirties. Originally a Public House owned by John Barrett (1856) his wife and two daughters, who had a Coal yard at the rere. It was said of Barretts who served meals too "that the pan was never off the fire" cooking for the carmen. Here the carmen used chalk on the barrells the number of drinks they had consumed.

The next tenant in 1884 was Thomas Ronan of Ballasalla, first cousin of John Barrett who was succeeded by his sister, Mary Ronan, and her cousin Miss Meagher. Miss Ronan was a cousin of the O'Loughlin family (O'Loughlin Memorial Church). She presented the Altar Rails to St. John's and Pulpit to the Black Abbey. Her house property at High Hayes Terrace and at Greensbridge at her death were donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Miss Ronan was the first person to be interred in the newly opened St. Kieran's Cemetery in 1931. Her niece Miss N. Ronan succeeded her and soon afterwards sold the property to M/s Connolly, and went to live at 11 College Road.

45 and 46 Wilsdon's, Family Grocer: No. 46 is over the door of what must have been originally No. 45. In 1884 this was Thomas Woodlock's the "old house from home" which was a Licensed Grocery and Spirit Shop. Mr. Woodlock was also proprietor of the Railway Bookstall. His wife died in 1890 both are interred in "old" St. John's. Arthur J. Wilsdon then combined the Dairy next door with this and the business is now in the hands of Mrs. Wilsdon, widow of the late Alex (son of A. J. Wilsdon).

47 Continent Stores: Mr. Quinlivan had a Stationery Shop here and was followed by Miss Farrell also a Stationer, who moved to High Street and later still moved to Lower John Street (K. Gaffney's where she died in 1971). Later it became E. M. Pitchfords Restaurant and Tobacconists shop and Boarding House. Mr. Pitchford was a Soldier. Mr and Mrs Thomas Ryan came about 1935 and named the shop 'The Continent Stores' a newspaper and sweet business. The Ryans had one son now Dr. Tom Ryan of Jervis Street Hospital, and one daughter who is Mrs. Ryan of Clara.

48 Sullivans Pork Shop: Early ocupants were Mrs. Whittaker and Miss Anne Gibbs who had an 'Eating House'. (Parents are interred in Maddoxtown). Miss B: McEvoy of Dunmore had a Confectionery Shop here, helped by an English lady, a Miss Bachelor who later became Mrs. Phelan of Radestown. Now her nephew William Sullivan has a Pork shop here, and up-

stairs is the Hairdressing Salon of his cousin Angela McEvoy.

49 and 50 Michael Egan, Victualler: Mr. and Mrs. Kearney lived here, Mr. Kearney was a stone cutter and his wife kept boarders. Elizabeth Carpenter who came from Castlecomer came next and also kept boarders. Next tenant was Mrs. Dowling whose first husband, Patrick, was a retired farmer. Mrs. Dowling's second husband a Mr. Mahoney was a poet and went around the country schools entertaining the pupils. In 1936 Michael Noonan (husband of Mrs. Noonan of No. 26) started a Victuallers shop here. The present tenant Michael Egan is also a victualler.

51 and 52 Kilkenny Motor Co.: Originally this was the Monumental Sculptor's yard of Edward O'Shea of Callan, whose work is to be seen in our churches, graveyards and public buildings. Winner of Gold Medals at Exhibitions in Dublin and Cork in 1882 and 1883, he won too the Gold Medal at a Boston Exhibition for a sculptured Celtic Cross in 1884. An ardent Nationalist, he was twice Mayor of Kilkenny 1904 and 1905, and during his term of office, he voted against the reception of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra during their visit to the city but stepped down in favour of Michael L: Potter. He married a Miss Dowling whose brother David, had a Bakery in Maudlin Street. Kilkenny Motor Co. was started on this site, May 1, 1919, the three partners being Messrs Pierce Tynan, William Aylward and William Hoyne, all pioneers in the new venture of motor engineering. After a short while William Hoyne dropped out of the firm but Messrs Tynan and Aylward carried on till the latter's death about 20 years ago. The firm is now run by Dominic and Margaret Tynan, children of Pierce. Margaret has the great distinction of being the first woman Mayor of Kilkenny, this she held for two consecutive years 1969 and 1970. Miss Margaret Fennelly joined the firm in 1920 and is still with the company.

53 Egan's Private House: This house is now set in flats. Patrick O'Grady, Sanitary Officer and his wife, nee Joan Dunny lived here. Mrs. O'Grady came from across the street, No. 30 and her family (the Dunnys) owned most of the houses on this side of the street. She sang very well and was in the Black Abbey Choir as well as in St. John's Old and New. Mrs. John West in 1884 had a Fancy Warehouse here and was grandmother of the Cole family of Green Street, Ann, Fred and Joe who are K:A:S: members. Captain Bates and his family were occupiers here later.

54 Sheill's Fish and Poultry: Dick Borris, one of the distinguished craftsmen employed by Edward O'Shea of No.'s 51 and 52 lived here. Michael O'Dwyer, Monumental Sculptor had a yard here and his work too is to be seen in our graveyards. Married to Tessie Dunny, sister of Mrs. P. O'Grady, they emigrated to America and prospered. He was chosen to make and erect the John Locke (Callan Poet) Memorial Cross at Long Island, New York. The Yard here was used as a Hackney Car Depot by Jack Lawless of Kilfera. Mr. Shiel came from Rosslare about 20 years ago when the house was rebuilt.

55 Mr. Malachy Skelly, Bookmaker: In 1884 Anastasia and her sister Mary Broderick, Dressmakers and Milliners resided here. Another tenant

was Patrick Bolger, a Shoemaker. John Dunphy a clerk in Bourke's, High Street, followed. His wife, nee Muldowney, carried on a Grocery and new-sgency and was followed by her daughter, Mrs. Nancy Murphy. Mr. J. Young, plumber, was here before moving to Lower John Street.

56 Gaffneys: Miss Grace. Dressmaker from Johnswell here at one time was followed by Hannan's Boot and Shoe Store. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gaffney came over from No. 28 in 1930, and started a Grocery and Ice Cream shop.

57 Jackman's Tea Rooms: Fine house with plenty of Kilkenny Marble. Mr. Crennann, a painter and decorator, came here from Abbeyleix and later moved to 27 Vicar Street, where his name can still be seen (in Irish) on the fascia board. His daughter, Maureen, was in charge of Eason's Bookstall, Railway Station until recently. Another tenant here was Mr. Sandvoss, Professor at St. Kieran's College. Mr. John Jackman came next from No. 26, a Gents Hairdresser, member of Kilkenny Corporation, Alderman and Councillor for many years, and a prominent G:A:A: man who married Miss Lalor of Ballyragget. His father, who lived in Maudlin Street, was a Stonecutter at Colles' Marble Works.

Saunders' Private House: Miss May Dunleavy's Grandmother, Mrs Margaret Neary had a Bakery here years ago. The Saunders family is here over 70 years. Stephen is employed by Tynan's of Friary Street.

59 Delaney's Car Hire and Fish and Chip Shop: In the last Century, Piery Ryan had a Public House here and coffins were made on the premises. Mrs Ryan was a Coogan. Later Mr and Mrs Russell lived here. Mrs Russell was a sister of James Larkin, Tailor of No. 34.

60 Muldowney and Quinn's Drapery: In 1884 Elizabeth Dunphy had a Grocery and Bakery here and after her came Tom Coogan. They were followed by Peter Corcoran who also had a Distillery Stores (now The White House) across in Lower John Street. Corcorans had a Grocery, Bakery and Victuallers shop here. Martin Pollard was their assistant. Many Kilkenny people will remember Peter Corcoran and Patrick O'Grady who swam in the Nore all the year round. Miss Muldowney came here about 1940 and opened a drapery, and later married Mr Quinn, a Painting Contractor and brother of Mrs Delaney next door. Some years ago they took over what was then the E.S.B. Depot in Maudlin Street and so extended the shop up that street.

KAS Publications

History of Co. Kilkenny, Owen O'Kelly 75p. Rothe House, Kathleen Lanigan 25p. Kilkenny Castle, Kathleen Lanigan 30p. Graignamanagh Abbey, Ann O'Leary 10p. Carrick Castle, James Maher 30p. Butler Family History, Lord Dunboyne 25p. Old Kilkenny Review 25. 45p. Back No.'s available. High Crosses of Western Ossory, Helen Roe, Westcourt, birthplace of Edmond Rice, W. B. Cullen 15p. St. Mary's Cathedral, Margaret M. Phelan 15p. Thomastown II ed. W. J. Pilsworth 30p. "James Stephens" Dick de Loughry 10p.