

Compiled by James Mc Arevey.



James Mac Mahon **A TITAN OF NEWRY COMMERCE.**

A Story of Life, Love and Loss.



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**
**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

"A project supported by the European Union's PEACE IV Programme,
managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)"



ALL NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

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Newry Maritime Association (NMA) is a not for profit community interest group. Our core objective is the preservation and active promotion of our rich Maritime Heritage which we showcase through a varied programme of activities. The development of Newry can be largely attributed to the Port and the efforts of those who worked there in Spartan and harsh conditions.

We also wish to see the Canal and its environs revitalised, becoming usable public space. The preservation of the built heritage and indeed the Waterway itself is of paramount importance and this must be protected for future generations. We aim to raise public awareness of the hidden gem in their midst which ultimately will lead to the instilling of civic pride amongst our resident Here in Newry our Maritime Heritage can be traced back to the establishment of the Cistercian's Abbey in the 12th century. The monks traded between the various abbeys and monasteries using small boats known as "cogs".

The opening of the Newry Canal in 1742 galvanised and increased this early trade and the Canal era made an incalculable contribution to the increasing good fortunes of Newry.

NMA works closely with our local Council and statutory bodies to bring our aims and aspirations to reality for our community and we thank them for their vital assistance.

We are an all inclusive group as reflected throughout our varied programme of activity.

***James McArevey
Chairman
September 2021***

Foreword.

This project reflects on the contribution of James Mac Mahon, merchant and shipping agent, to the developing commercial sector of 19th century Newry.

Mac Mahon expanded his business in the 1840s when he became a shipping agent and was a key player during the years of 'The Famine' when large numbers of people emigrated to Canada, America and Australia to escape the ravages of the pestilence.



Claudine Ní Giolla Chomhaill

An integral part of the project will be guided bus tours of South Armagh. The renowned historian, Kevin Murphy, will give a detailed insight into the background of the passengers from the Parish of Forkhill who emigrated on the ill-fated "Hannah" from Warrenpoint in 1849. Many would have bought their passage from James Mac Mahon.

We have worked in partnership with Libraries NI and Chris Cassidy and Jenny Wilson from the Newry City Branch have made an invaluable contribution and we are indeed, fortunate, to have the benefit of their expertise. Local historian, Claudine Ní Giolla Chomhaill (Grave Ramblings), has also been a key contributor to the project.

The Church of Ireland (C.O.I) congregation of St. Patrick's in Newry have played an integral role also and Mr Billy Graham, as always, has been most accommodating with the provision of access to burial records. Over the years we have developed a strong relationship with the C.O.I in Newry and have had several very successful alliances with the congregation.

James Mac Mahon's building at 47 Merchant's Quay, Newry still stands and shortly will be incorporated into a planned new development of adjacent properties.

Our research into James Mac Mahon and his home, "Bellevue", led to the discovery of another "Bellevue", this time in Bessbrook. Coincidentally this house was also owned by a Newry merchant, James Fennel. We have worked closely with Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group and Mr Trevor Kinnin, Secretary of Christchurch, Church of Ireland and they have provided a fascinating background to the history of this house and its occupants.

James Mac Mahon.

1804 - 1895

James was born in 1804 outside Banbridge and like many other merchants was attracted to the bustling town of Newry to seek employment. The town was a hub of global trade as the result of the building of the Newry Canal which had opened in 1742.

The waterway was an arterial trade route and on reaching Lough Neagh vessels could access the Ulster and Lagan Canals and the River Bann. The Newry Canal had been built to facilitate the passage of newly discovered coal from Coalisland to the burgeoning city of Dublin. The enterprise was short-lived as the coal was of poor calorific quality and was expensive to mine.

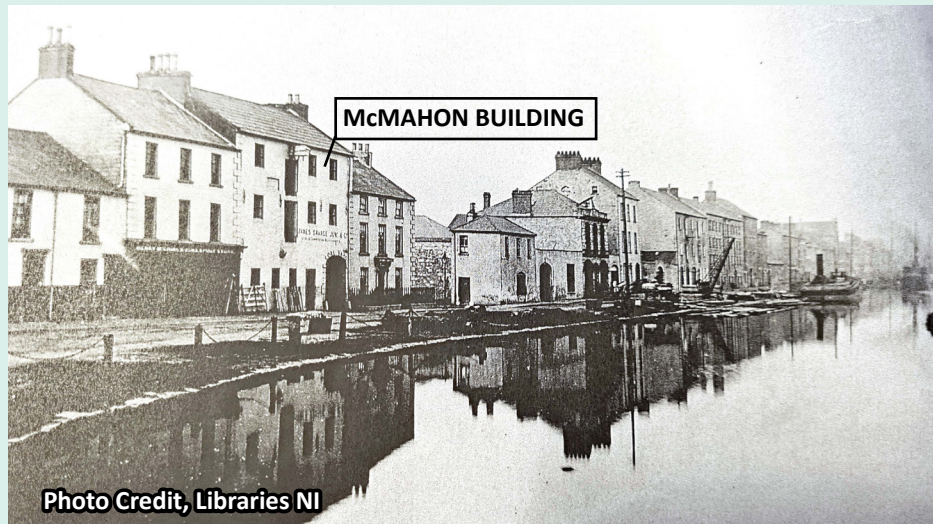
Coal was king in this era and there was a huge industrial and domestic market. The coal trade was highly lucrative and large amount were shipped into the Port of Newry. By 1830, James had established himself in the coal trade with premises at Merchant's Quay which was the epicentre of trade and commerce in Newry. Well known names in the commercial sector like Lupton, Glenny, Fennel, Redmond and Carvill were based adjacent to the Canal.



Photo Credit, Libraries NI

Mac Mahon had a strong work ethic and his business was thriving. He decided to expand his business and the “Newry Reporter” in his obituary published on 30th May 1895, noted,

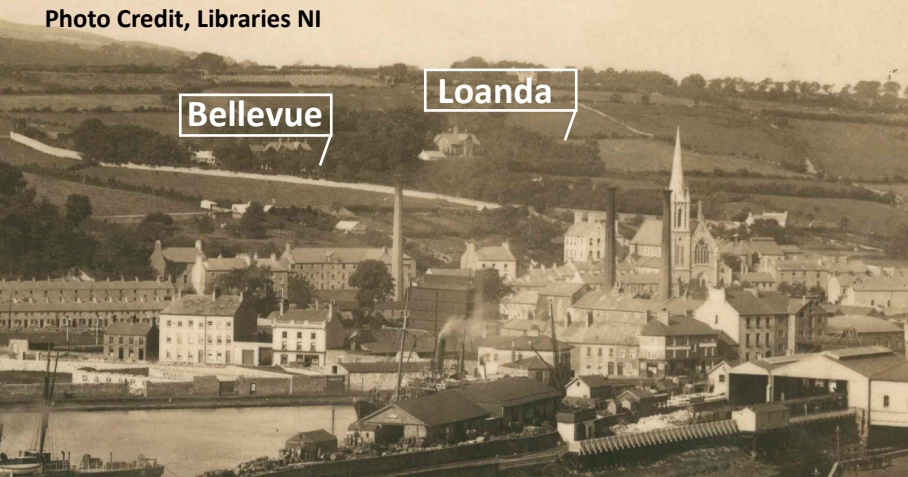
“By hard work and close attention to business he soon came to do a large trade, and, never taking risks of any kind, by a rigid frugality acquired, and closely held together means sufficient to enable him to retire.”



Obviously, James watched the pennies and didn't subscribe to extravagance. He added stone and ornamental works to his portfolio of diverse commercial interests. His increasing business profile was evidenced when he was elected as one of the eighteen Newry Town Commissioners in 1845. James served as a Commissioner for the next fifty years and was Chairman for the last twelve years of his tenure.

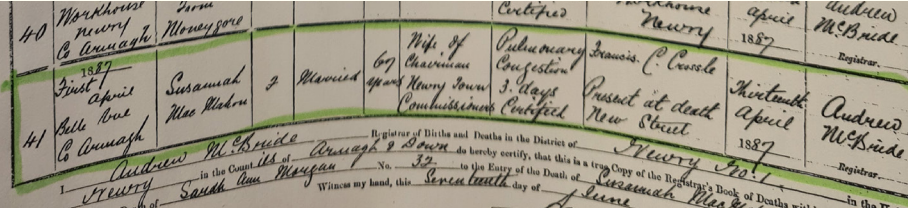
He married a local girl, Susannah Henrietta Fletcher, sixteen years his junior. No record of the marriage was found but we can reasonably assume that it was around 1840. Details of children from the union are scant also but we know there were two sons, Matthew and Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon. The latter, although younger, assumed control of his Father's business upon his retirement.

A now affluent James purchased 8 acres of land on Doran's Hill in the Townland of Ballinlare and set about building a prestigious residence befitting a gentleman of his status.



On 7th May 1868, Matthew Mac Mahon married Charlotte Elizabeth Fox, daughter of Matthew Fox who was a wealthy Dublin barrister. The glitzy societal marriage was celebrated in the Anglican Church on St. Stephen's Green in Dublin. Little is known about the couple following their wedding.

On 1st April 1887, James Mac Mahon was sadly bereaved when his wife, Susannah aged 67, died of heart failure at Bellevue. Susannah, who had been in the care of the eminent Newry physician, Dr. Francis Crossle, was buried in St. Patrick's C.O.I., Newry.



Death Certificate for Susannah McMahon

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon. 1857 - 1905

Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon was well known to the higher echelons of Dublin society and just two months after his Mother's death he married there just like his brother, Matthew. Catherine Campbell aged (25) was the daughter of Rev. Dillon Campbell and the family lived in Waterloo Road in the Ballsbridge area of Dublin. Once again the nuptials were celebrated in St. Stephen's Green with Rev. Campbell officiating. Catherine quickly fell pregnant but the joyous news was to be overcome by tragic circumstances.

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Second Page.

SCHEDULE G.] Registrar's District of 05939778

1887 Marriage solemnized at St. Stephen's Green in the Parish of St. Stephen in the City of Dublin

No.	When Married.	Place and Street.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Rankness at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
32	June 22/07	Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon Catherine Campbell	free free	Bachelor Spinster	Esq. Esq.	Bellvue, 114 65 Waterloo Road, Dublin	James Mac Mahon Dillon Campbell	Esq. Rev. Canon

Married in the Parish of St. Stephen according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Ireland, by Licence by me Richard James Smith

This Marriage was solemnized between us, Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon and Catherine Campbell in the Presence of us, Alexander Reid and J. H. Macleod, G.P.O.

Marriage Certificate of Catherine and Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon

On 11th March 1888, Catherine went to Bagot Street Private Hospital to deliver her baby. Problems quickly arose and after a period of thirteen days in labour, Catherine gave birth to a healthy baby girl but tragically died from cardiac arrest. Edmund named the baby girl Iris, and brought Catherine's remains back to Newry where she was interred in a new grave in St. Patrick's C.O.I.

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

1888	March 11th	St. Patrick's C.O.I.	65 Waterloo Road	Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon	Catherine Campbell	free	free	Bachelor	Spinster	Esq.	Esq.	Bellvue, 114	65 Waterloo Road	Dillon Campbell	James Mac Mahon	Esq.	Rev. Canon
32	March 11th	St. Patrick's C.O.I.	65 Waterloo Road	Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon	Catherine Campbell	free	free	Bachelor	Spinster	Esq.	Esq.	Bellvue, 114	65 Waterloo Road	Dillon Campbell	James Mac Mahon	Esq.	Rev. Canon

1888

Birth Certificate for Iris

Love blossomed again for Edmund and after a short courtship, he married for the second time. Marcella Mac Laurin aged [24] was like Catherine Campbell, a Ministers daughter. The Rev. John Mac Laurin D.D., was the Rector of Mullaghbrack C.O.I and he married the couple in his church on 12th December 1889.

solemnized between us, (Amice & Spence) of us, (Elizabeth F. D.D.)

1889 Marriage solemnized at The Parish Church in the Parish of Mullaghbrack in the Co. Armagh

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
9	12 th December	Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon Marcella Mac Laurin	Full	Widower	Gentleman	Bella Vue Newry Market Hill	James Mac Mahon John Mac Laurin D.D.	Gentleman J.P. Bishop

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Ireland by licence by me, John Mac Laurin D.D.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, (Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon) in the Presence of us, (Amice & Spence)

1889 Marriage solemnized at _____ in the _____ of _____ in the _____

Marriage Certificate for Edmund and Marcella

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Just as Catherine, Marcella also became pregnant shortly after her wedding. Tragedy was to strike the Mac Mahon family again. Marcella gave birth to a baby girl on 9th October 1890 but the child christened Violet Hayes Mac Mahon, died after 2 days.

202	18 ⁹⁰ 10 th October	Violet Hayes Mac Mahon	2	Daughter of 14 days	Primature Birth Certified	Edmund H. Mac Mahon father of deceased Bella Vue 18 ⁹⁰	James Mac Mahon D.D.	Registrar.
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Photo Credit: Libraries NI

Death Certificate for Violet

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Edmund and Marcella were living at Bellevue with little Iris and her grandfather James, three generations of the family in residence in the family home.

James Mac Mahon had been in fine health despite his advancing years, 91, but April of 1895, he tendered his resignation to the Newry Town Commissioners (N.T.C) after fifty years of dedicated service.



James died some weeks later and in his obituary published on Thursday 30th May 1895 the "Newry Reporter" noted,

"Up until his resignation, a few weeks ago, the deceased was a marvel of physical health, constant in his attendance at the Board meetings, rarely absent from the Chair at the Police Court, erect as in the prime of life, and able, as he frequently said, to read a newspaper without glasses."

During his long tenure as a Town Commissioner, James Mac Mahon had seen Newry embrace transformative changes and develop into a thriving town. Key infrastructure projects were crucial drivers of this progress.

- In 1849 the Newry to Warrenpoint railway opened.
- In 1850 the Newry Ship Canal and Albert Basin were completed.
- In 1851 the Christian Brothers arrived in Newry, Motto "Facere et Docere" (To do & to teach).
- In 1854 the Newry to Goraghtwood rail link opened.
- In 1865 the Towns Improvement Act was adopted for Newry.
- In 1871 the Dominican Order arrived in Newry and have recently celebrated the 150th Anniversary of their ministry in Newry.
- In 1876 the Newry to Greenore Railway opened.
- In 1881 a spur was built on the Greenore line in Newry, from Bridge Street to Edward Street.
- In 1885 the Bessbrook Tramway opened.
- On 28th March 1894 the Newry Town Hall was opened and the Commissioners held their meetings in the Boardroom where all the ornate chairs have the initials carved into them. The N.T.C was dissolved on 16th January 1899 and Newry Urban Council was established.

The Late Mr James Macmahon, J.P.

THE FUNERAL.

The remains of this gentleman were removed yesterday at 1.30 o'clock from his late residence, Belle Vue, for interment in St. Patrick's Churchyard. The members of the Newry Town Commissioners walked in front of the hearse, followed by the employees of the Board. There was a large attendance of the general public. Rev S. Smartt, M.A., officiated at the graveside. [Mr James O'Neill, King Street, had charge of the funeral arrangements.]

REFERENCE AT THE BOROUGH COURT.

On yesterday at eleven o'clock Mr Turner took his seat on the bench at the Ballybot Courthouse and announced that there would be no Court held that day owing to the deeply regretted death of the late Mr James MacMahon, J.P. No words were necessary from him as to the deceased's good name; everybody knew his kind and genial face — in fact the people of Newry knew him better than he (Mr Turner) did.

Mr R. H. Doherty, Town Clerk, said that Mr MacMahon was the presiding magistrate at the Borough Court for upwards of twelve years and during all that time not one of his decisions had been appealed. He was deeply moved over Mr MacMahon's death.

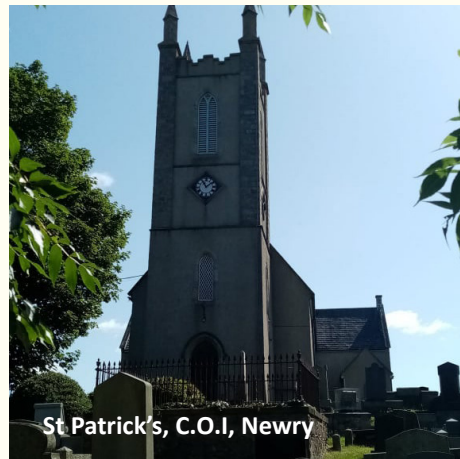
Mr Turner — If he erred at all in his decisions it was on the side of leniency.

The Court was then adjourned till Friday next.

Photo Credit, Newry Reporter

James Mac Mahon J.P., had played a stellar role in the commercial life of Newry and contributed greatly to the improvement it generated for the town.

This exemplar of honour and integrity was laid to rest beside his wife Susannah on 29th May 1895 in the cemetery of St Patrick's C.O.I, Newry. He was 91 years old.



Photos Credit, James McAreyvey



Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon inherits the family business.

After his Father's death, Edmund {aged 37} assumed control of the business. He was living in "Bellevue" with his second wife Marcella, and his daughter from his first marriage, Iris. But all was not well.

Rent books from the period show us that Edmund had properties rented out, as the first evidence of the disease that ultimately killed him manifested itself. The Census of 1901 confirms that he is residing at Seaview in Warrenpoint with Marcella, Iris and a servant, Catherine Kelly. Interestingly all four were born in different counties.

Edmund	Co. Armagh.
Marcella	Co. Down.
Iris	Co Dublin.
Catherine	Co. Louth.

Seaview Warrenpoint.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of 1901.

NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.
Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon	Head	Church of Ireland	Read & write	43	M	Income from business	Married	Co. Armagh	
Marcella Mac Mahon	Wife	Church of Ireland	Read & write	33	F		Married	Co. Down	
Iris Hayes Mac Mahon	Daughter	Church of Ireland	Read & write	13	F	Scholar	Not married	Co. Dublin	
Catherine Kelly	Servant	Roman Catholic	Read & write	32	F	Domestic Servant	Not married	Co. Louth	

Census Return for 1901

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Edmund underwent a number of surgeries and treatment in the care of the eminent surgeon, Sir Patrick Deanes, but alas, to no avail.

Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon succumbed to Colorectal Cancer on 16th June 1905 and was buried with his first wife, Catherine, in St. Patrick's C.O.I, Newry. He was aged 48.

31	1905 16th June Billie Vee	Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon	M. Married	48 Years	Private Gentleman	Carcinoma of Rectum Exhaustion Certified	Kathleen Harris Present at Death in Patrick Deane's Hospital, Dublin	Second Marriage 1905	Henry W. Smith Registrar
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Death Certificate for Edmund

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie
website courtesy of the Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



Headstone for Edmund

Photos Credit, James McAreyve



Thank you to Mickey Keenan, who
refurbished the script on the headstone.

the
modernfireplace
company

Iris Hayes Mac Mahon.

Iris, an only child, was 17 years old when her father died. Just down the road from Bellevue, the Reid family lived in Loanda House. William Reid was a wealthy farmer and his son John and Iris were childhood sweethearts but again fate was to intervene. Bellevue was sold in 1910 and W.F. Redmond is the listed owner in the 1911 census records. Redmond was a timber merchant who was also based on Merchants Quay and a Town Commissioner for Newry.

At the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914, John Reid enlisted in the British Army and was despatched to France. The relationship between himself and Iris endured. They corresponded by letter over the four years of the war and early in 1919 John, a Sergeant, was demobbed at the regimental barracks in Dungannon. Upon his return the couple reignited their relationship and they married on 25th June 1919 in the Reid family home, Loanda House.

under the authority of a Special License granted by the Archbishop of the Province of Ulster in the County of Down

1919 Marriage solemnized at Loanda House in the County of Down

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
75	25 th June 1919.	John Reid	Full	Single	Sergeant	Crossbeggy Dungannon.	William Reid	Farmer
		Miss Kathleen Hayes Mac Mahon	Full	Spent	-	Loanda House Newry	Edmund Mac Mahon	Farmer

Married in the Loanda House Newry according to the form: Exceptions of the Privy Council Church by me, H. S. Hadden

This Marriage was solemnized between us: { John Reid } in the Presence of us, { H. S. Reid and H. S. Hadden } { Miss K. Hayes Mac Mahon }

Marriage Certificate John Reid and Iris Mac Mahon

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Early the following year, 9th April 1920, their first child was born bearing the names of both his grandfathers, William Edmund Reid.

250	1920 9th April	William Edmund	John Reid	Iris Kathleen Hayes Reid	John Reid	Fourth Mary	H. D. Smart
	Loanda Ballinacorney	Edmund	Loanda Ballinacorney	formerly H. S. Hadden	Father Loanda Ballinacorney	1920	Registrar.

Birth Certificate for William Edmund Reid

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

We have charted the dissipation of the Mac Mahon name in Newry and the rise and fall of a Victorian Emperor and his Empire. The few remaining characters are enveloped in the mists of time and the dust of a fallen commercial dynasty.



Peter Mallon Photo Credit, James McAreyvey

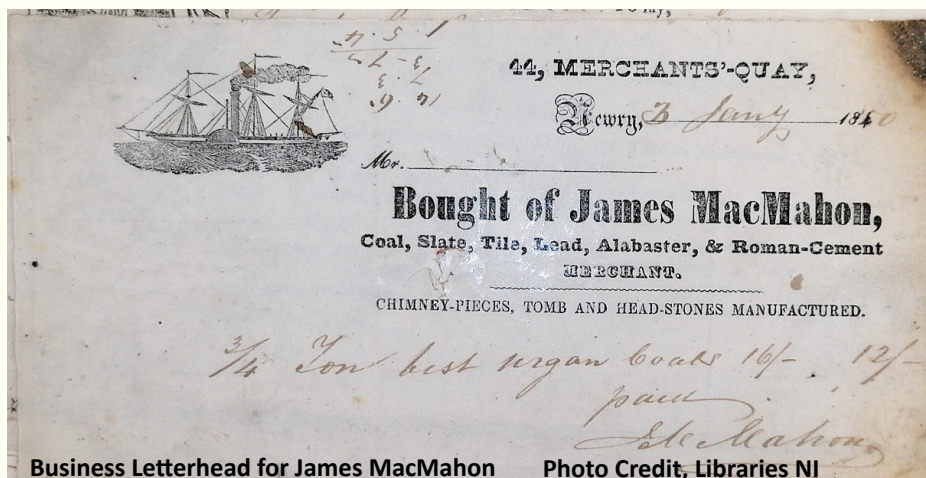
Bellevue.

And what of the family pile? Following Redmond's death, the house was sold and became a nursing home and maintained this role until the early 1950s after which it lay derelict but some trappings of former grandeur remained.

Peter Mallon, now a sprightly 85-year-old, and a stalwart of the Ballybot community recalls being in the orchard as an uninvited guest,

"We used to climb over the wall and "hake" the orchard and they had great apples. The big house had a turret and there were a lot of stained glass windows. Whoever lived there had plenty of money."

Tommy Graham and his young family lived in the gatehouse of the Bellevue estate and in 1960 Newry Urban Council embarked on a scheme to build a new housing estate on Doran's Hill encompassing Bellevue and its 8 acres. When the first houses were allocated Tommy Graham received the keys to No.1 Barcroft Park and later emigrated to New Zealand. Our great friend and mentor from the congregation of St. Patrick's C.O.I, Billy Graham, is a nephew of Tommy. It really is a small world!!!



Business Letterhead for James MacMahon

Photo Credit, Libraries NI

Bellevue: The Bessbrook Connection.

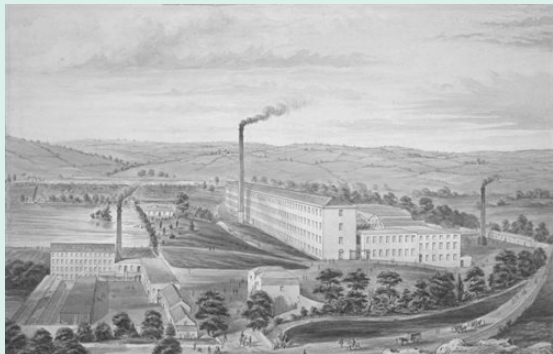


Photos Credit, Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group.

“Bellevue” is one of four houses built on Green Road, Bessbrook in two semi-detached blocks. The owner of the house and adjacent land was James Fennel, a successful Newry merchant who had a thriving corn mill at Dublin Bridge.

The first tenant was a clerk, Joseph R. Fisher, who remained there until 1898. Several families lived there after him but the most prolific was a Doctor Samuel Jervois Scott who was born in Bandon, West Cork in May 1871. Dr. Scott and qualified as a Doctor in Dublin in May 1898.

Following a short spell in Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin Dr. Scott was appointed Medical Officer of the Bessbrook Spinning Company where he was held in high esteem. Upon the outbreak of war in 1914, he accepted a commission in the Royal Irish Fusiliers and served in France and was at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.



Bessbrook Mill

Photos Credit, Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group.

An aerial photograph of St. John's Church in Bessbrook. The church is a stone building with a prominent spire and a steep, dark roof. It features several windows with decorative tracery. The church is surrounded by a green lawn and a few trees. In the background, a residential area with many houses is visible, followed by rolling hills under a blue sky with some clouds.

	19 <u>20</u> .						Much Bass	E. E. Scott	Growth	
230	Twenty second May	Samuel Heron Scott	in	Marner	49	L R C P I L R C S I	Candor failure 3 months	Daughter present at death	Jane	R M Little
	Bassbrook				June		Certified	Bassbrook	19 <u>20</u>	Registrar.

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

During his service in France, Dr. Scott contracted Trench Fever and was transferred to the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). After he was demobbed, Dr. Scott returned to Bessbrook but due to his failing health, he did not return to work and died in May 1920 and was interred in Christchurch Cemetery in Bessbrook. His grave is marked with a C.W.G.C headstone. Dr Scott was aged 50 when he died.



C.W.G.C Headstone
Photo Credit, James McArevey



Dr Scott
Photo Credit, Newry Reporter

In 1926 another Doctor moved into the property. Edward Fitzgerald O'Connor, a native of Newbridge, Co. Kildare, was also a veteran of World War 1 and served with distinction in both Gallipoli and France being awarded the Military Cross. The Military Cross (M.C.), established in 1914, was a decoration for gallantry during active operations in the presence of the enemy.

Further decoration was to follow when he was awarded the Croix de Guerre in France in 1918. The Cross was awarded to those who performed heroic deeds in combat.

According to the citation, Dr. O'Connor distinguished himself at the evacuation of an asylum when all the patients were rescued, under heavy enemy bombardment, without a single casualty.

He came to Bessbrook in 1920 and was appointed as Medical Officer to the Bessbrook Spinning Company. He remained in post until 1926 when he was appointed Medical Officer of Newry Workhouse following the death of the incumbent, Dr Samuel Martin.

Closely involved with the Royal British Legion, he was Chairman of the Committee charged with the erection of a War Memorial in the village, a project that was completed in the Spring of 1934.

The Croix de Guerre may be awarded either as an individual award or as a unit award to those soldiers who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with the enemy. The medal is awarded to those who have been "mentioned in dispatches", meaning a heroic deed or deeds were performed meriting a citation from an individual's headquarters unit.



Unmarked Grave of Dr. O'Conner

The unit award of the Croix de Guerre with palm was issued to military units whose members performed heroic deeds in combat and were subsequently recognized by headquarters.

Like his predecessor Dr. O'Conner, Edwin was the Medical Officer of the Mill in Bessbrook, Tragically, He died on 5th December 1934 as the result of injuries sustained in a road accident previously. He too was buried in Christchurch cemetery in Bessbrook, but inexplicably, lies in an unmarked grave, something which will need to be addressed in the near future. Dr. O Connor was 45 years old.

Yet another Doctor took up residence after the death of Dr. O Connor. Wilson Robinson died tragically in 1958. He was found in Divernagh with a Luger pistol in his hand, having committed suicide.

A view from Bellevue courtesy of Tommy Murray



The Strong and Preston families also lived in "Bellevue" in later years and then the property lay derelict but now the property has new owners who have plans for extensive renovations.

James Fennel, the original owner of Bellevue in Bessbrook, was a brother-in-law of John Grubb Richardson, founder and owner of Bessbrook Mill. In 1853, Richardson married Marian Wakefield and in 1865, Fennel married her sister, Jemimah and they had six children, a boy and five girls.

James Fennel died on 9th October 1890 and Jemimah passed away on 24th May 1896. They are both buried in the Quaker Cemetery in Bessbrook.



Position of James Fennell's grave in Quaker's Burying-ground, Bessbrook.

Photos Credit, Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group.



Newry Town Hall & Board Room
where the commissioners met



Photo Credit, James McArevey

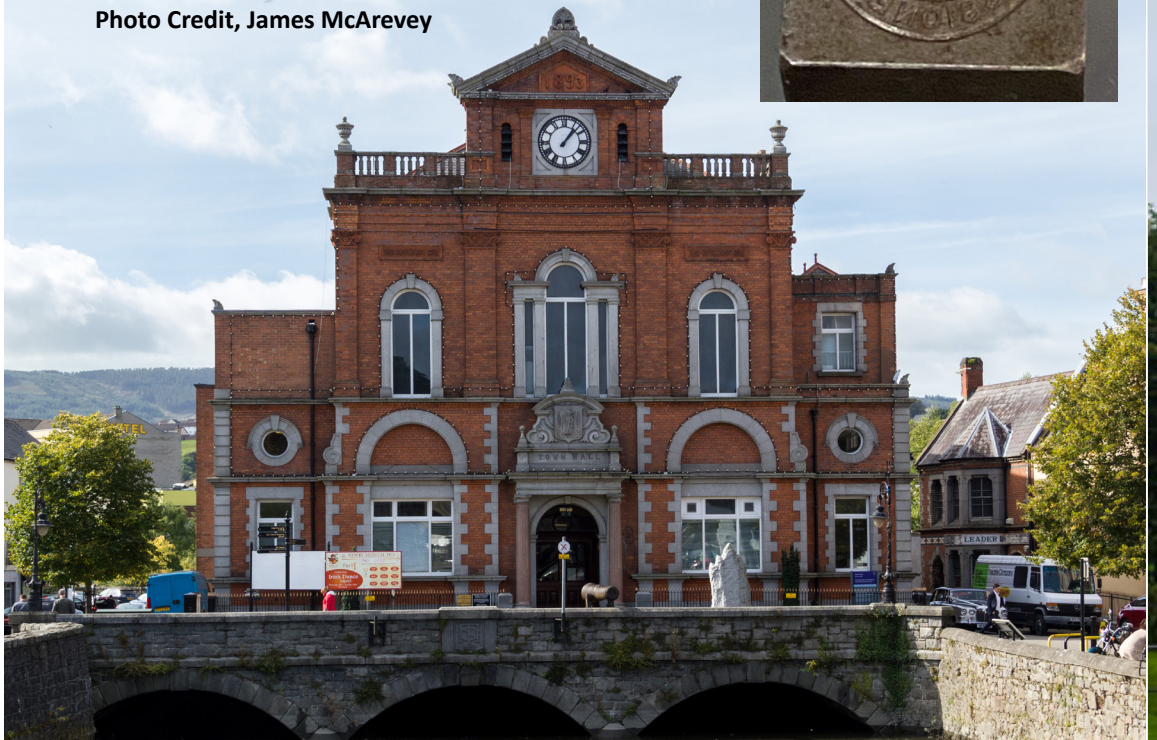


Photo Credit, James McArevey

St. Catherines, Newry.
The Dominican Order arrived
in Newry in 1871.



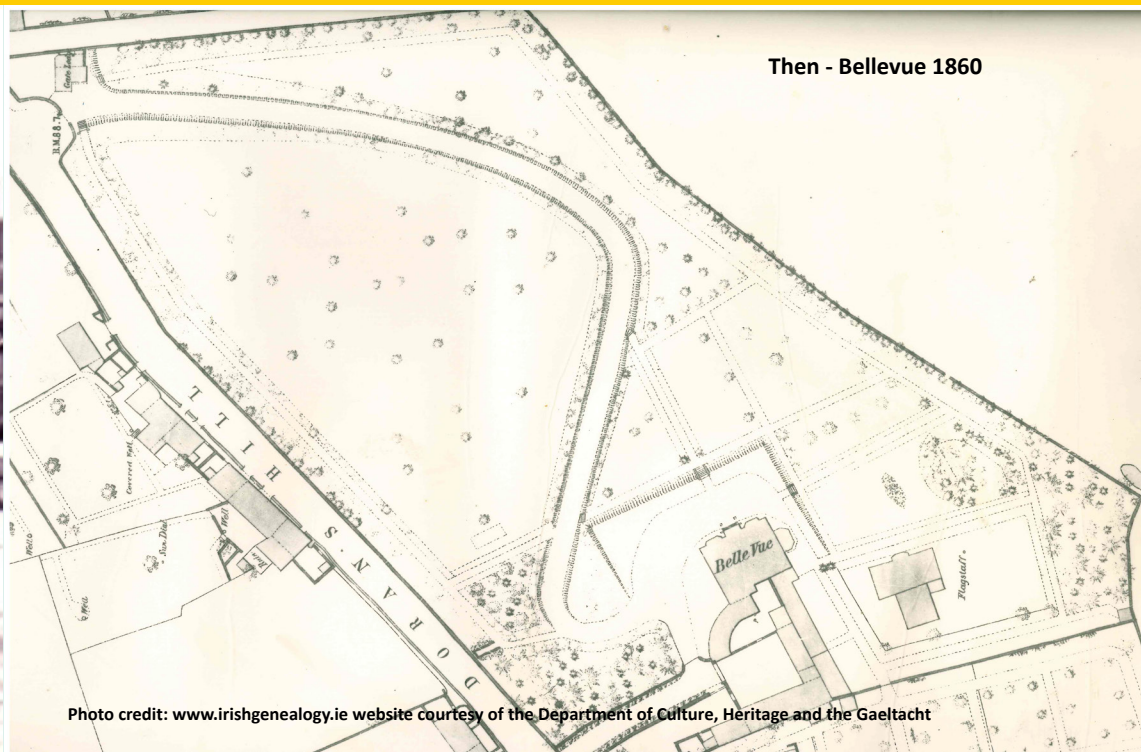
Bessbrook Tram was used to ferry passengers, raw materials and finished goods between Newry & Bessbrook and was built by the Richardson family in 1885. The tramline closed in 1948.

Photos Credit, Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group.



Photos Credit, Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group.





Then - Bellevue 1860

Photo credit: www.irishgenealogy.ie website courtesy of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht



Now - Barcoft Park, Newry

With special thanks to Chris Cassidy and Jenny Wilson, Libraries NI and Claudine Níc Giolla Chomhaill for their help and support.

We would also like to thank Bessbrook Heritage and Historical Group for their valuable contribution to this project.

We also wish to acknowledge the help and support of the Church Of Ireland (C.O.I.) congregations in Newry and Bessbrook, and in particular, Mr Billy Graham, St. Patrick's C.O.I. Newry, and Mr Trevor Kinnin, Christchurch C.O.I. Bessbrook.

James Mac Mahon

A TITAN OF NEWRY COMMERCE.

A Story of Life, Love and Loss.



“The views and opinions expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB).”

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