



BUILDINGS
of
HOLYWOOD

By

TONY MERRICK

HOLYWOOD:

Published by "Holywood Advertiser".

1986.

Gary Kennedy, Ronan Press Ltd.
Annesborough Industrial Estate, Lurgan, Co. Armagh.

**In loving memory of
my father
Alexander Stewart Merrick
(1908 - 1985).**

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THE AUTHOR

Born in 1947, Anthony Charles Warren Merrick has maintained a lively interest in local history and architecture since his teenage years. His other publications include "Gravestone Inscriptions of County Down", Vol. 17, covering Bangor Abbey, and "Gravestone Inscriptions of Belfast", Vol. 2, covering Friar's Bush and Milltown cemeteries. He also regularly contributes articles to newspapers and periodicals.

His other interests include music, cycling, photography and manuscript illumination. He works in Belfast as an architectural technician.



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Special thanks are due to the business community of Holywood for the generous way in which it sponsored this book by means of their advertisements.

Lastly, but very far from least, a particularly warm word of thanks to Bernard Johnston, the editor and proprietor of the "Holywood Advertiser" for the most supportive way in which he has acted as publisher, and has shown great courage by venturing into a completely fresh discipline. I am also very grateful to Mr. Gary Kennedy of Ronan Press, Annesborough Industrial Estate, Lurgan and his Staff for the patient manner in which they set the entire text, having deciphered my handwriting.

Finally, I must stress that any errors of fact and all opinions expressed are entirely my own responsibility.

T. M.

PREFACE

Increasingly, over the last ten or fifteen years, there has been a greater national awareness, brought about by both printed publications and television, of our architectural and historical heritage. The buildings and thoroughfares that have come down to us from the ages can be looked upon as the mirror of any community's growth.

Like so many other towns in Ulster, Holywood has seen many sweeping visual changes over the last twenty or so years, not the least of which is the total replacement of the old Strand district and the creation of the Through-Pass necessitating the destruction of much of Marine Parade. The hitherto lack of publication of a record of the town's physical characteristics may in part be attributed to its proximity to Belfast and thus being overshadowed by that City in terms of publicity. In a sense this is surprising since Holywood has for a long time justifiably enjoyed the reputation of being a neat and attractive town, picturesquely situated at the southern shore of Belfast Lough at the foot of the County Down hills. In addition it has managed to retain that sense of separate identity which other communities close to Belfast have lost since the Second World War owing to the tendency for the conurbation to spread relentlessly. The principal physical reason for this is that the land between Tillysburn and Holywood has remained undeveloped, so acting as a buffer; this has been due to the marshy nature of the ground between the Belfast Road and the sea, the extensive grounds of the Palace Barracks and large mansions between that and the Old Holywood Road, on the south side of which is the Redburn Country Park. The many arrivals since the War have assimilated themselves

into the community which has managed to remain as close-knit and friendly as before.

In bringing before the general public what appears to be the first work devoted primarily to the very bricks and mortar of Holywood, it must be immediately stressed that it is far from being an exhaustive survey, for such is the wealth of the town's heritage that to compile a comprehensive record would occupy a volume many times as large as that which is now being offered. It is therefore considered that the approach which gives the best value is that which take the form of dividing the town into convenient districts and briefly examining each against the appropriate historical background. However, there are such unavoidable exceptions as the centuries preceding the year 1800, from which so few relics survive that a chronological approach is the most sensible. Equally clearly, special features and building types such as the Maypole, the "big houses", churches and public buildings merit separate treatment.

This short book is mainly the outcome of the suggestion, indeed the urging, of many friends who read the series of articles that appeared in the Holywood Advertiser under the title "Buildings of Holywood" and felt that they should be brought into more permanent form. To them, in no small measure, is this work due, and I express my heartfelt gratitude for their support.

Tony Merrick,
103, Downshire Road,
Holywood,
Co. Down.

September 1986.

Chapter I

HISTORICAL
INTRODUCTION

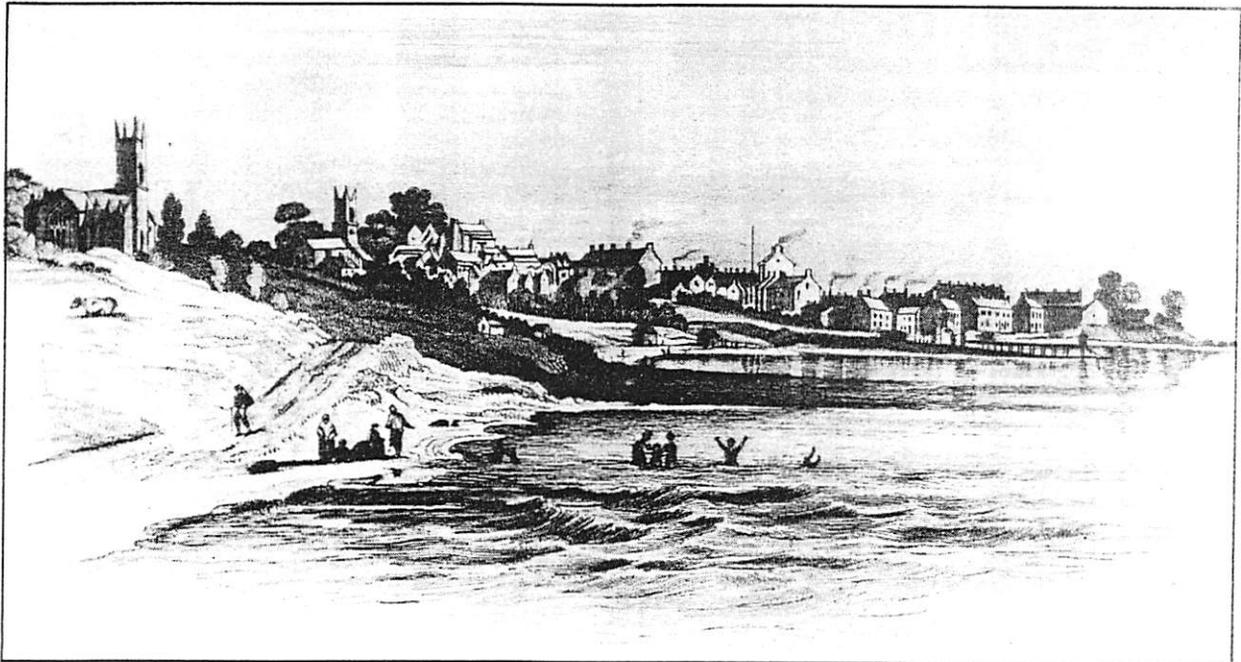
The town of Holywood is attractively situated on the County Down shore of Belfast Lough, six miles to the north-east of the centre of Belfast. Nestling at the foot of the Holywood Hills and for the most part commanding a fine view of the County Antrim hills on the opposite shore, the town and its immediate environs boast a population of approximately twelve thousand.

The story of the earliest human occupation in the area is largely surrounded in mystery, but archaeological evidence points to settlement in what is now the Kinnegar in about the fifth century B.C. and the ground between the modern Croft Road and Croft River in about the sixth century A.D. In addition, a persistent local legend has it that the locality in the vicinity of the old Priory church was occupied by the Druids, this speculation being based on the tradition that they liked to bury their dead near water, and also the fact that so many Druidical sites in Ireland were Christianised during the Celtic era (c. 5th to 12th centuries A.D.).

The first recorded evidence of ecclesiastical activity at Holywood appears under the year 642 when the

clergy in Rome, in reply to a letter from leading clergy in the north of Ireland concerning the mode of deciding the date of Easter, list one Laiseran. The Felire of Aengus, a manual treating of the festivals of saints, compiled in the early ninth century, identifies St. Laiseran as being the "son of Nasca, of Ard-mac-Nasca (Gaelic for "height of the son of Nasca") on the banks of Lough Laoigh (Lake of the Calf and nowadays Belfast Lough) in Ultonia". (See O'Laverty). As the place was named after him, it is likely that he was the founder of the monastery at Holywood. Nasca was a local princess, and modern research suggests that the height which was named after her son was in the vicinity of the present day Twisel Bridge, whilst the monastery was in all probability on or near the site of the ruins of the old Priory church. Although the various Annals remain silent about Holywood for the ensuing five centuries, it is almost certain that the monastic community would have been ravaged by the Vikings during the same raids that laid waste Bangor in the ninth century.

It would seem that the Hiberno-Celtic establishment was finally destroyed in the late twelfth century, probably by the Anglo-Normans in the course of their invasion of Ulster. What is certain is that one Thomas Whyte, acting on behalf of John de Courcey, who had just been created Earl of Ulster, built the Augustinian Abbey as a daughter House of that of Bangor in about the year 1190. De Courcey fell from favour in 1204, his lands in Ulster being confiscated by King John and passed to the de Lacys; they in turn rebelled, prompting the King's invasion of Ulster in 1210, during which he captured Carrickfergus Castle.



General view of Holywood, from Sea-Park, c. 1842 published by Marcus Ward.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

following which action he spent one night at Holywood, probably at the newly-erected fort on the Motte, which can still be seen near the present-day Brook Street. An interesting sidelight to this episode is that the King is described in a contemporary parchment roll, now preserved in the Tower of London, as having spent the night of 29th July "apud Sanctum Boscum"; this is the first time that Holywood is called by its present name. (See O'Lavery)

The next mention of the district occurs in 1217 when Henry III confirmed John de Saukvill as being in possession of the lands "de Sancto Bosco". Pope Nicholas' Taxation of the Dioceses of Down, Connor and Dromore, compiled in the year 1306, places a value of six marks, the equivalent of £4, on the church of "Haliwode", this being the first time that the name of Holywood appears in its English form.

The late fourteenth century saw control of the eastern half of Ulster, then called Dalriada, gradually wrested from the Anglo-Normans by the native-Irish, principally the O'Neills who launched a series of incursive raids from what is now County Tyrone, following the murder at Skeigoneill of William de Burgh, Earl of Ulster, in 1333. Whilst the O'Neills remained in overall control of the area, the Holywood district was apportioned to the O'Gilmore sept of which more later. In about the year 1490 the Abbey passed to the Third Order of Franciscans and was heavily endowed by the local chieftan Niall O'Neill,

the church being largely remodelled at the same time. Interestingly, the Friary at Holywood remained subordinate to Bangor which continued to be an Augustinian House.

It is possible, indeed likely, that a small township of thatched mud and wattle cabins clustered in the area between the monastery graveyard, the Motte and the River Twisel throughout the mediaeval period, but no evidence of such occupation has been unearthed.

The sixteenth century was a period of decline in the fortunes of both Holywood and the Province of Ulster. The Priory was dissolved on 1st January 1541 by the agents of Henry VIII, the last prior being Connor O'Hamill. Its possessions which included the townlands of Ballykeel, Ballymenoch, Ballycultra, Ballyknocknagoney and Ballyderry (the townland of Holywood) were by law vested in the Crown whom the local chieftans prevented from deriving much benefit.

In all probability the building continued to be used for divine worship until it was burnt in October 1572 by the local chieftan Sir Brian MacPhelim O'Neill, together with the abbeys of Bangor, Movilla, Newtownards and Grey Abbey, in an effort to deny shelter to the troops of Sir Thomas Smith who was engaged in an abortive attempt to colonise Ulster. Undoubtedly any dwellings in the immediate vicinity would have suffered a similar fate.

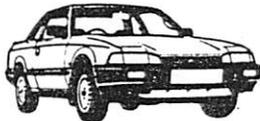
As part of the Plantation settlement Sir James Hamilton, and adventurer from Ayrshire and a protégé of James I of England (formerly James VI of Scotland) was granted amongst other tracts of land, that part of North Down, then known as Upper Clannaboy, which had belonged to the last of the local chieftans, Con O'Neill. Ruthless and resourceful, Sir James with characteristic energy, proceeded to reconstitute both Bangor and Holywood as market towns and rebuild both monastic churches. The town acquired its present basic cruciform street plan in about 1615, and Thomas Raven's map of 1625 which was one of a commissioned set covering the Hamilton estates, shows a small maypole at an embryo crossroads, with the bulk of Holywood centred around that portion of High Street between it and the Priory church. Quite clearly the dwellings were all single-storied and thatched.

Under the terms of the original patent, granted to Hamilton on 5th November 1606, a market was to be held every Wednesday, in perpetuity and an annual fair was to take place on 24th March. Although the market lapsed by the late seventeenth century into an occasional and rather badly attended affair, finally ceasing about the year 1840, the generous width of the east section of High Street, as compared to the remainder, perfectly apparent on Raven's survey, still survives as a permanent reminder of it.

The old Priory of Holywood was re-roofed in about 1615 as the Episcopal Parish church and was used for worship by both Anglicans and Presbyterians until 1661 when the latter built their own meeting-house near the bottom of present-day Shore Road.

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HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

The 1641 Rebellion and the ensuing Civil War did not leave Hollywood unscathed. What must surely rank as the most disgraceful episode in the district's history occurred in January 1642 when seventy-three members of the Gilmore sept were massacred by planters from both Hollywood and Bangor. Cromwellian soldiers are reputed to have come to the village in about 1654. The Williamite Wars only affected Hollywood in so far as the Army of the Duke of Schomberg encamped on Standard Hill, about one mile to the south-east of the village on its way to the Boyne in 1690.

In 1675, the Earl of Clanbrassil, a grandson and the last surviving direct descendent of Sir James Hamilton, died with issue, his lands which included Hollywood passing to five distant cousins who were descended from a brother of Sir James. Eventually, one of them, Sir Hans Hamilton obtained the lands in the parishes of Ballywater and Hollywood, amongst other property. This was subsequently inherited by his grandson, also called Hans who, on finding the estates too heavily encumbered with debt, was obliged to sell them in 1705. His agent Simon Isaac, of Ballywalter bought the townland of Hollywood, 725 acres in extent and embracing most of the village; he also purchased that portion of the townland of Ballykeel immediately surrounding the old Priory church and called Priory Park, the total price being £1,150. The manorial rights were bought by the Hill family, later ennobled as Viscount Dungannon. In 1765, Simon Isaac's grandson, also called Simon, added Knockagoney townland to the estate. It was also he who built Hollywood House (See O'Lavery).

The estates were sold by the Isaac family in 1812 to a merchant named William Kennedy (unrelated to the family of the same name of Cultra) for £38,000. In 1854, representatives of this family, sold them to John Harrison of Mertoun Hall; within a comparatively short time the estate was broken up.

In the late eighteenth century other propertied families erected "big houses" in the district. These included the Turnlys of Richmond Lodge and Rockport House, the Holmes's and later the Greys of Ballymenoch House; the Kennedy family had arrived at Cultra in 1668.

Throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Hollywood remained essentially a small thatched village of three or four hundred inhabitants whose leading occupations were weaving and fishing. The extensive banks of mussels off the Kinnegar provided much of the staple diet of the poorer people who, as Walter Harris tells us when writing of the village in 1744, made their fare more exciting by the addition of butter, pepper and onions. The Rev. C. McAlester of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, recording the reminiscences of old people in the year 1870 states that it was quite usual to see bluish-black piles of mussel shells outside people's houses in High Street, with patches of grass growing in between, on which fowl fed, there being no proper footpath. The village was also supplied with potatoes

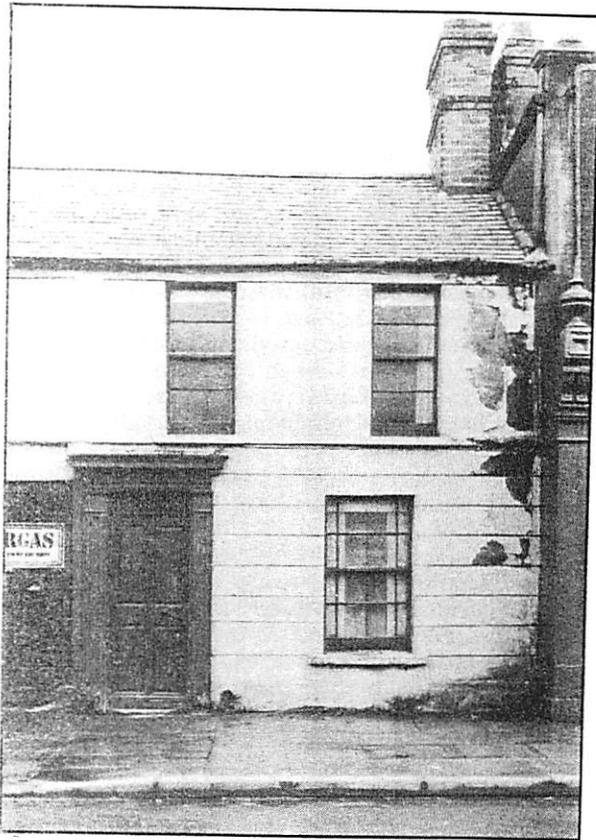
and oatmeal by the surrounding farms. Even as late as the year 1800 the village, which extended from the Priory church to the site of the modern junction of Downshire Road with High Street, contained only three slated houses which were two storeys high; the topography of this period will be dealt with more fully in Chapter III.

At this period the people of Hollywood were almost exclusively Presbyterian, a census taken in 1764 informing us there were only fourteen Anglicans and seven Catholics in the entire Parish which then stretched from the River Connswater to Gray Point, the entire population being nearly 1,800. As many Presbyterians in the final decade of that century were sympathetic to the cause of the United Irishmen, the people of Hollywood and the surrounding area largely supported the 1798 Rebellion and it is on record that many men from the village fought at the Battle of Ballynahinch. The events of the time affected Hollywood only in that the slated house on the site of the present day Cinema building was used as a barracks by the yeomanry.

With the return of comparatively peaceful conditions in the country in general, and the emergence of the new fashion, largely promoted by the Prince of Wales, for indulging the pleasures of the sea-side. Hollywood's potential as both a healthful resort and a dormitory town for the merchants of nearby Belfast began to be suddenly and quickly realized, particularly attractive aspects being the bracing climate and clean beaches. In 1810 it received its first two coach services, one run by John Rowley of Hollywood who plied between Ann Street, Belfast, and his own house, and the other by Daniel Miskelly of North Street, Belfast. The first Post Office in the village opened in 1818, Hugh Stewart, who was later to become one of Hollywood's leading citizens, being appointed Post Master in 1822. This same Mr. Stewart opened the resort's first public baths, a rather short-lived venture, in the Strand in 1824. The Rev. W.A. Holmes, Vicar of Hollywood, in his statistical survey of the Parish, compiled in 1817, states that many of the residents supported themselves by letting their dwellings to visitors during the summer. Fishing was by then a dying industry (by 1844 there were only fourteen fishermen).

The Ordnance Survey memoirs of 1834 describe the village as 'a pleasurable summer residence, especially for those who are daily obliged to be in Belfast' and over the next few years more and more people, who initially came for week-ends and summer holidays, were making it their permanent home. The thirty years or so from 1810 to 1841 saw Hollywood radically transformed from a fishing community of a few hundred, living in rude thatched cabins, to a neat and flourishing seaside resort of 1,532 people living in 263 dwellings. It had acquired a constabulary police station, a sessions house (mostly for civil cases), a House of Industry, a coastguard station and a dispensary. The 1834 survey of the village gives a very good idea of the progress being made in the rebuilding, for we are told that of the 95 single-storey dwellings, 30 were now slated, of the 80 two storey houses, 78 were slated and of the 13 three storey houses, all were slated.

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION



No. 21 Church Road — typical of the houses that replaced the older cottages during the 1830's and 1840's.

The thatched dwellings, which were also white-washed, were mostly to be found at the Belfast end of the village, whilst those at the north-east end (e.g. the Strand) were altogether neater. Between 1841 and 1865 the population doubled and the work of rebuilding was essentially completed. In January 1865 the town boundaries were greatly extended to encompass this growth.

This sudden burgeoning was due to the influx of Belfast merchants who were experiencing an unprecedented boom in prosperity resulting from the industrial revolution which also led to the meteoric growth of that town. No longer were they content to live over the shop in High Street and Ann Street as they had done for two centuries, but their newly-made wealth, together with improved transport, offered the incentive to move their habitations to more salubrious and healthy surroundings such as the Malone ridge, Whitehouse and Holywood; thus the commuter age was born.

The process was accelerated by the opening of the Belfast and Holywood railway in 1848, the easy access from Belfast tempting a wider cross-section of people to come. Among the merchants who came at this period and erected elegant mansions were Jonathon Cordukes, a prosperous provision merchant and Town

Councillor from York Street, Belfast, who arrived in 1832 and built Spafield Terrace, followed soon afterwards by John Heron, one of the co-founders of the Ulster Bank, who bought Maryfield. Other "merchant princes" arrived to grace the slopes, later known as High Holywood, at the back of the town with their palaces, commanding unrivalled views of the Lough. These included Henry Murney, a leading tobacco merchant from High Street in Belfast, who built Tudor House near the Bangor Road in 1849, and Foster Green the prominent Belfast tea merchant who was responsible for Marmion near Church Road in the late 1850's. Bernard ("Barney") Hughes, founder of the famous bakery, bought Riverston House in Brook Street in about 1869, whilst the Read brothers, founders of the "Belfast Morning News", lived nearby at Mill Moat. The Dunville family, of whiskey fame, built Redburn House, set in spacious grounds, in the late 1860's, having earlier lived at Richmond Lodge.

Mercifully, no big mills or factories ever disfigured the town, but there was a heavy demand for labourers and gardeners, most of whom lived in the Strand and Church Street, and later on, in Hill Street. The needs of the town were served by many small shop-keepers, and there were plenty of artisans such as plumbers, carpenters, one or two builders and blacksmiths.

Not only did the mercantile classes settle in Holywood, but academics such as George Craik, Professor of History and English Literature at Queen's College, Belfast, and resident in Marine Parade, found the tranquil and convenient surroundings conducive to study. The town's growing reputation as a spa for invalids necessarily brought in its wake those of the medical profession. James D. Marshall, the well-known Belfast apothecary and son of one of the founders of the profession there, came to live in Shore Street. John Gabbey practiced as a surgeon at 88 High Street, and in the early 1870's John Charles Payne of Shaftesbury Square in Belfast, founded the medical hall that was ultimately to become Sweeney's Pharmacies Ltd. Dr. Archibald Dunlop who built St. Helen's in High Street and was a benefactor of the Parish church, was the town's medical officer from 1857 and 1902, a position later held by Dr. W. D. Donnan.

Holywood's role as a watering place gave rise to the holiday homes and boarding houses which sprang up in Marine Parade, the lower part of Shore Street and the Strand area (the Kinnegar was not developed until the 1860's). There was no shortage of hotels, the best known being the Belfast Hotel, nowadays the Lynch Building, run by John Power, and the Marine Hotel, in Marine Parade, with its American Bowling Alley. The one institution which proved to be the biggest attraction was the salt water baths opened by the Holywood Baths Company at the bottom of Shore Street in 1852, providing both hot and cold, and salt and fresh water baths.

Such was the pace of development that Holywood was raised to the dignity of a town, and Town Commissioners were established in January 1852, a

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

form of local government that was to remain until 1899 when the Holywood Urban District Council was set up. They provided such public amenities as sewage disposal and the supply of water. It was only natural that the expanding community's new-found status should be reflected in some public buildings of architectural pretensions. The Presbyterians replaced their small meeting house in the Strand area with a rather handsome Gothic-style church on the Bangor Road, designed by their own minister the Rev. William Blackwood, in 1841. Three years later the Church of Ireland followed suit when they abandoned the old Priory church in favour of a new edifice on Church Road, designed by the youthful Charles Lanyon, soon to become the leading Ulster architect of his generation. Similarly, the Non-subscribing Presbyterians moved from the bottom of Shore Street to a very fine classical-style building in High Street, also to designs by Lanyon in 1849. The firm of Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon (as it became in c. 1861) was responsible for the rather ornate Sullivan Schools, founded in 1862 to meet the town's growing educational needs, and, later in the same decade, the extension of the Parish church. St. Colmcille's beautiful French-Gothic style church by Timothy Hevey, a leading ecclesiastical architect, was consecrated in 1874. He also designed the "Star and Garter" public house in Shore Street, four years previously and William Batt gave Holywood a fine Town Hall in 1876. The one builder to whom the credit must go for the construction of many of the houses and

other buildings required to meet this growth is William Nimick (1819—1906) who was responsible for many of the more important edifices of Holywood during the second half of the century.

How ironic it was that the very same railway which had played a major role in the town's expansion should, after only seventeen years, be equally responsible for ending its days as a watering place. For it was in 1865 that the line was extended to Bangor, the resulting embankment separating the town from the sea, and the railway placed Bangor, with its superior attractions, within easy reach of Belfast. The Holywood of today is essentially an early Victorian town, for almost overnight it became little more than a pleasant backwater, serving as a dormitory town for Belfast merchants, and for the last thirty years of the Victorian era its population remained fairly constant at 3,500. Correspondingly, there were few major building works in the 'eighties and 'nineties.

However, there was a resurgence of growth in the early years of the twentieth century and the years since the Second World War have seen the town rapidly expand well beyond the limits formed about a century previously. The most notable developments have been the housing estates, both publicly and privately funded, creating a conurbation effectively stretching from Redburn in the south west to Whinney Hill in the east.



Looking up Shore Street towards the Maypole, c.1893. Photo by R. Welch. (courtesy Ulster Museum).

Chapter II

THE MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

Although evidence, both archaeological and documentary is available to prove that there was human occupation in the Holywood area between the Early Iron Age (c. 500 B.C.) and the close of the Celtic era (c. 1170), no permanent structures whatsoever have survived from this period. Father O'Laverty, writing of the Parish in 1880 in his incomparable *History of the Diocese of Down and Connor*, describes a souterrain then still existing in the townland of Ballygrainey, approximately two miles to the east of Holywood, but it seems to have disappeared. Although souterrains were being constructed in Ireland so late as the tenth century for the purpose of hiding both people and food, it is quite likely that the example at Ballygrainey pre-dated Christian times.

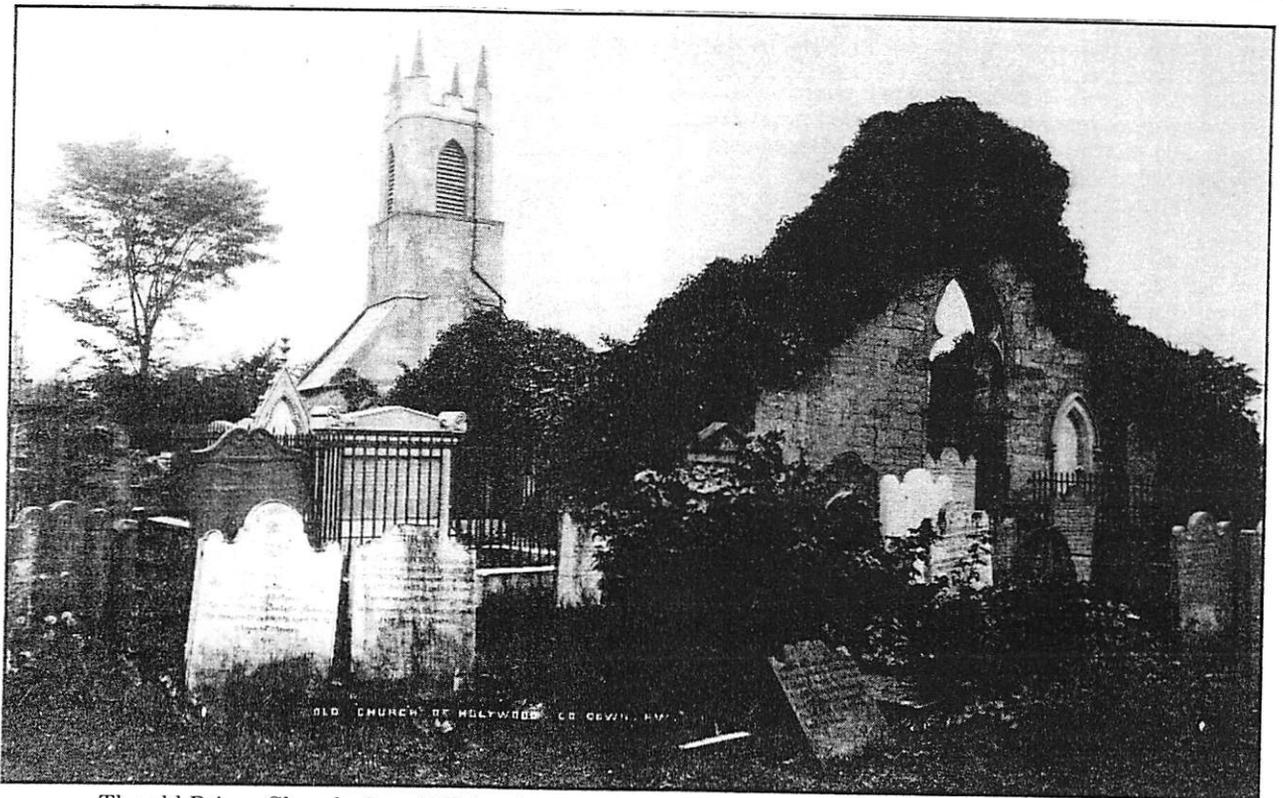
An archaeological excavation carried out on the site of a small rath in the garden of no. 41, Croft Road in the summer of 1958, revealed broken pottery, a bronze ring pin and evidence of timber dwellings. Although no definite dating was arrived at, there were certain similarities with other sites of the 5th to 7th centuries.

Artifacts found on the old raised beach of the Kinnegar in the last century would appear to be one thousand years older.

No trace has survived of the Hiberno — Celtic monastery founded by St. Laisieran in the early seventh century, but it is highly probable that it, together with its ancillary buildings and surrounding graveyard, stood on the site of the Old Priory. At that time a typical monastic complex of its kind consisted of a small wattle and mud church with either a thatched or shingle roof, a scriptorium, workshops and bee-hive shaped huts nearby for the community's living accommodation, the whole area being enclosed by a stout timber palisade; this would also have included the graveyard.

The old Priory Church and graveyard are situated at the north-eastern end of the town at the junction of High Street with the Bangor Road, and the tower forms a most distinctive closure to the vista at the eastern end of High Street. Viewed against the background of the mature forest trees on the Bangor Road, the venerable ruins impart an aspect to that locality of the town that is both quaint and dignified. The ruins are in essence those of the church that the Anglo-Normans erected eight hundred years ago.

Thomas Whyte, acting as an agent for John De Courcey, Earl of Ulster built the Augustinian Abbey, most probably on the site of the Celtic foundation, about the year 1190, as a daughter House of Bangor Abbey. It was a simple rectangular nave and chancel

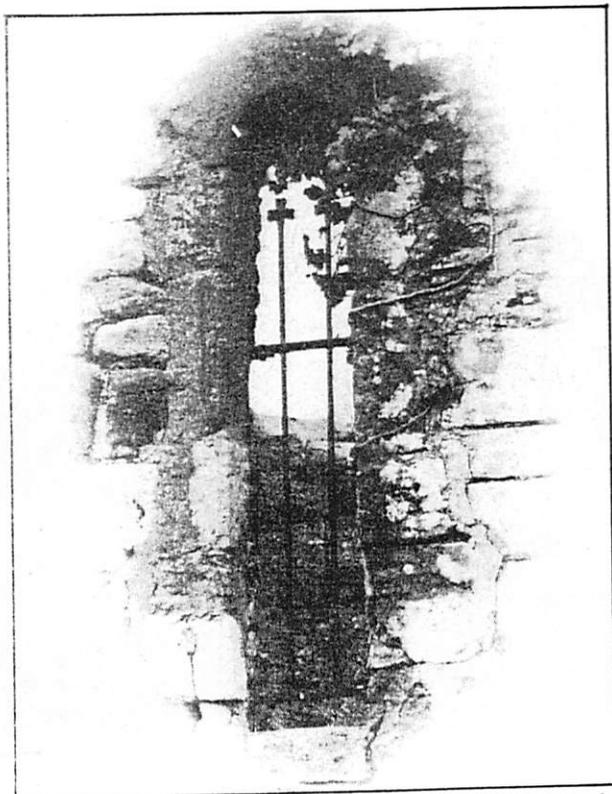


The old Priory Church, from S.E. in about 1893. Photo:- R. Welch (courtesy Ulster Museum).

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

structure, without internal division measuring seventy-eight feet by twenty-four feet externally. The church was constructed of neatly cut blocks of honey-coloured sandstone, quarried at Cultra, only one mile to the north-east, much of this work still being evident in the north wall. It was lit up by a few small and narrow round-headed windows with widely splayed inner reveals, such design being typical of Romanesque architecture; the two windows nearest to the east end still survive. It is likely that the east window would originally have consisted of a pair of larger but similarly designed windows or one that was even bigger and enriched by a simple moulding. However, this must remain in the realms of speculation. At all times the church must have presented a dark and mysterious appearance internally, for although there was probably no stained glass at that period the windows were too narrow to admit much daylight and leather curtains were commonly used to reduce draughts. Some additional light would have come from the candles on the altar. Prior to the end of the Middle Ages, the arrangements for accommodating the congregation, particularly in small rural churches, were primitive. Generally speaking, only the clergy were provided with seats, whilst the congregation stood and knelt on the ground which in the church at Holywood would probably have consisted of compacted mud treated with bullock's blood in order to keep it reasonably dry, rather than stone flags.

Examination of the church by archaeologists has



Twelfth-century window in the north wall of the old Priory.

revealed that the original entrance door was in the south wall. There is no evidence to suggest how it was roofed, but it is quite likely that thatch was used until the sixteenth century.

There is ample proof that the graveyard at that time covered a much larger area than it does at present, for stone-lined graves were discovered in the grounds of Churchfield House in the nineteenth century, and human remains have been unearthed in gardens at the back of Rollo House, High Street and in the garden of Mill Moat, Victoria Road. Such discoveries would suggest that the boundary originally followed a line from the River Twisel, running behind the site of numbers 5 to 8 The Crescent, then across Victoria Road and in front of the present-day Churchfield House and the Warren, finally dropping down to the sea from a position now occupied by the Bangor Road Presbyterian Church. Interestingly, when Mr. Collins's bicycle shop at No. 16 High Street was being demolished in 1969, part of a gravestone dated 1706 was discovered beneath the foundations, but its presence there is a mystery since houses between that site and the Old Priory Church are clearly marked on Raven's map, compiled over eighty years before. In the era under discussion, a burial ground of such magnitude was necessary since people came from a very wide hinterland around Holywood, both to worship and bury at the Abbey.

An interesting relic of this period survives in the form of a wedge-shaped gravestone dug up in 1879 near the first cross-wall to the east of the Old Priory Church. It is carved with a fine floreated cross on a calvary and is decorated with a pair of shears indicating that it covered the grave of a woman. The stem of the cross is adorned with eleven leaves, symbolic of the deceased's six sons and five daughters. Although there is no name on the stone, it is certain that the dead woman was a person of considerable standing in society. The stone would have formed the lid of a stone-lined grave. For many years this memorial was secured to the south wall of the old Priory for exhibition purposes, together with a number of mediaeval carved heads dug up at different times, but these were taken indoors to protect them from the effects of weathering. In the nineteenth century the mediaeval font was discovered, and came into the safe-keeping of Rev. O'Laverty P.P.

The Abbey Church seems to have undergone few structural alterations of any significance until about the year 1490 when, under the patronage of the local chieftain Niall O'Neill it was transferred from Augustinian rule to that of the Third Order of St. Francis. The Priory Church, as it then became called, was considerably remodelled, the chief work being the insertion of a very large and what must have been a rather beautiful traceried window in the east gable, and the creation of the low and pointed doorway in the west gable to replace the original entrance. The rather delighted little lancet window with its ogee arch and square drip-stone, above the west door, was inserted at the same time. Extensive monastic buildings may have existed to the south-east of the Church.

THE MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

Following the dissolution of the Priory in 1541, the Church probably continued to be used for public worship until it was burnt by Sir Brian McPhelim O'Neill in 1572. It was to remain a roofless ruin for more than forty years until Sir James Hamilton restored it for use as the Parish Church in about 1615, so ushering in a new phase in the life of the building.

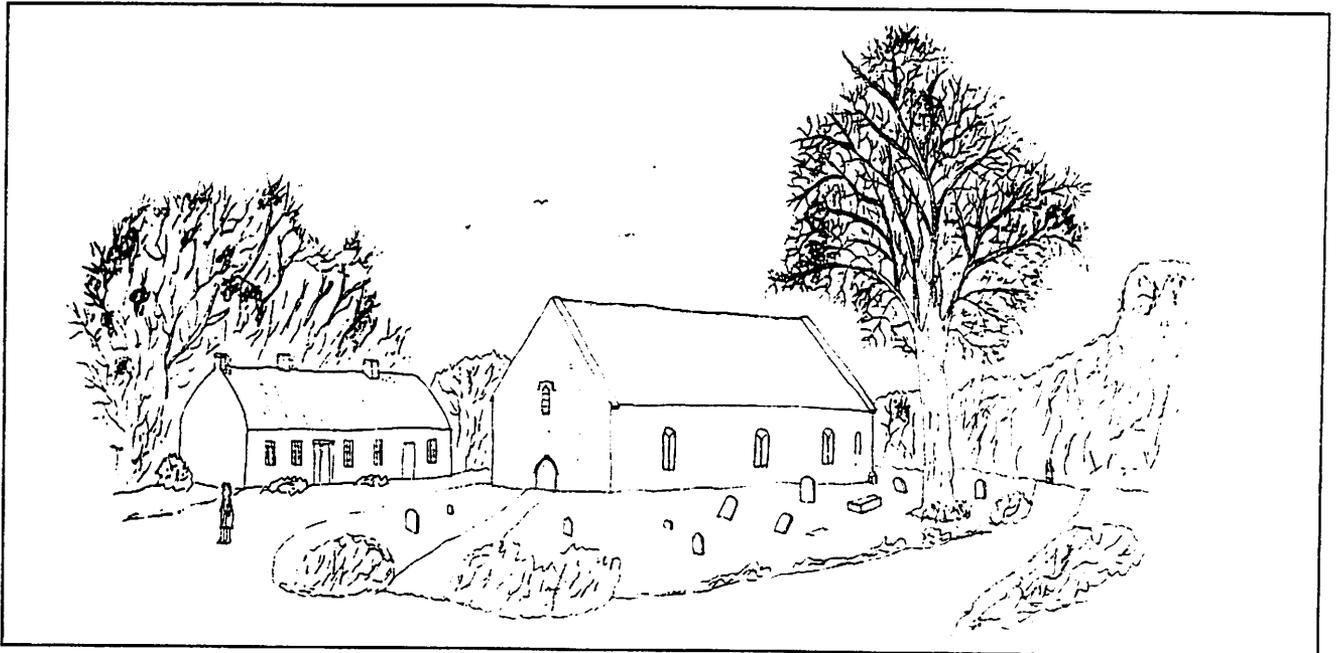
In the course of this work, the opportunity was taken to form three new and larger round-headed windows in the south wall; inevitably this entailed the destruction of some original architectural features. The new roof was probably slated. Raven's map of 1625 depicts the Church as having a cross on each gable; probably this was merely a cartographer's symbolism. Overall, the building presented a barn-like appearance. There were no further changes until the year 1800 when the small tower with its square base and octagonal upper stage, topped by rather striking pinnacles was constructed on top the west gable. At the same time a rather fine clock, made by James Waugh of Dublin, was fitted in the tower and remained there until its removal in 1845 to the new Parish Church where it is still keeping good time.

The Vestry Minutes of the Parish inform us that in the early nineteenth century the church and enclosing graveyard wall were kept whitewashed at an average cost of one guinea every two years. It must have formed a rather striking sight. By the 1830's the growth of the town had rendered the Old Priory Church too small, despite the fact that it boasted a gallery at the west end (the blocked up doorway at high level is still visible) in addition to the box pews in the nave, giving a total accommodation of two hundred. In 1835 there were over six hundred Anglicans resident in the Parish, and four years later there was a proposal to greatly enlarge the Old Priory Church.

Wisely and thankfully, the ecclesiastical authorities and the Vestry instead decided to build a completely new Church on the thirteen Irish acres of glebe land, already owned by the Church, on what is now Church Road, work began in 1842 and was completed two years later, at which date the Old Priory was abandoned.

Many of the old fittings, including, it is said, some of the stained glass, were installed in the new building. In 1845 the Old Priory was un-roofed, the materials being used for the roof of the new Parochial National School (now the Scout Hall) on Church Road. The large round-headed windows in the South wall were blocked up, niches being provided on the inside for monuments. From that time burials were permitted to take place within the walls of the Old Priory Church. The building finally passed out of ecclesiastical hands with the coming into force of the Irish Church Act in January 1871. In the 1920's the town morgue, a rather utilitarian flat-roofed red brick structure, was built against the north wall, unfortunately hiding much of the cut stonework of the late twelfth century.

In the early nineteenth century the graveyard was a small and unenclosed area immediately to the south and east of the Church, and there were several big trees growing in it. It was enclosed with a stone wall in 1826, the west and south boundaries approximating to those of today, whilst traces of the east boundary can still be discerned about half-way between the old Priory and the modern cross-wall. In accordance with custom, few burials took place on the north side and the wall passed close to the church. In 1866 this boundary wall was replaced with the present one and the new eastern edge was delineated by what is now



A conjectural view of how the old Priory church appeared in the late eighteenth century.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

the cross-wall. The extra quarter of an acre so gained was consecrated in 1868 and increased the graveyard to one acre in size. In 1880 the concern was doubled by the addition of that ground lying between the cross-wall and what is now the Priory Filling Station. The graveyard had passed to the Belfast Poor Law Board of Guardians in 1879 and subsequently was taken over by the Holywood Town Commissioners since when it has remained under local authority control. In the early 1890's the Town Commissioners acquired extra ground on the north side of Priory Park; this adjunct to the Priory Graveyard is known as Holywood New Cemetery and was doubled in area in 1938.

No survey of the town's buildings would be complete without at least a brief consideration of the Motte which is the only other surviving mediaeval structure in Holywood. Situated a few yards to the north-west of Brook Street, this is an earthen artificial mound, approximately fifteen feet high and thirty-seven feet across at the summit, in the shape of a truncated cone, thrown up for defence purposes. Holywood Motte (the term Motte is a corruption of "moat") formed part of a chain of such defensive forts erected by the Anglo-Normans across much of County Down and south-west Antrim in the late twelfth century. It was usual for the top of a motte to be ringed with a stout wooden palisade with a small timber residence in the middle, and this was certainly the case with Holywood, for excavations carried out in about 1915 revealed the darkened traces of the post-holes. Although the first documented reference to "Holywood Castle" does not occur until 1234, and there is no evidence to link the Motte with King John's visit in 1210 when he spent one night "apud Sanctum Boscum", it is likely that it was in existence by the late twelfth century.

It was common for a small hamlet to cluster round a motte for protection, and as the old monastic graveyard originally extended nearly as far as the Motte, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that the ground between it and where Sullivan Street used to be, was covered by a settlement of wattle and daub huts, but this must remain purely a matter of conjecture until specific evidence is uncovered.

Chapter III

PLANTATION SETTLEMENT

Although the centre of Holywood assumed its present plan-form when Sir James Hamilton, later Viscount Clancuboye, re-established the settlement in about 1615, few recognisable buildings dating from the period between then and the opening decades of the nineteenth century have survived. The earliest proper representation of Holywood's appearance that has come down to us is Raven's map of 1625, already discussed in Chapter I.

The main thoroughfare of the little market town established by Hamilton followed the line of the pre-historic beach-head as that was the area nearest to the sea that could be guaranteed to be free from flooding at all times. This explains the steeply sloped ground on the seaward side of the upper part of High Street and the sloping nature of Sullivan Place, Shore Road, Stewart's Place, and the ground between the Old Priory Church and the Strand estate. Then, as now, the main street followed a straight line from its west end until it bridged the River Twisel (i.e. where it is nowadays joined by the Crescent), at which point it veered to the right, to skirt round the graveyard and merge with the road to Bangor; hence the origin of the famous S-bend.

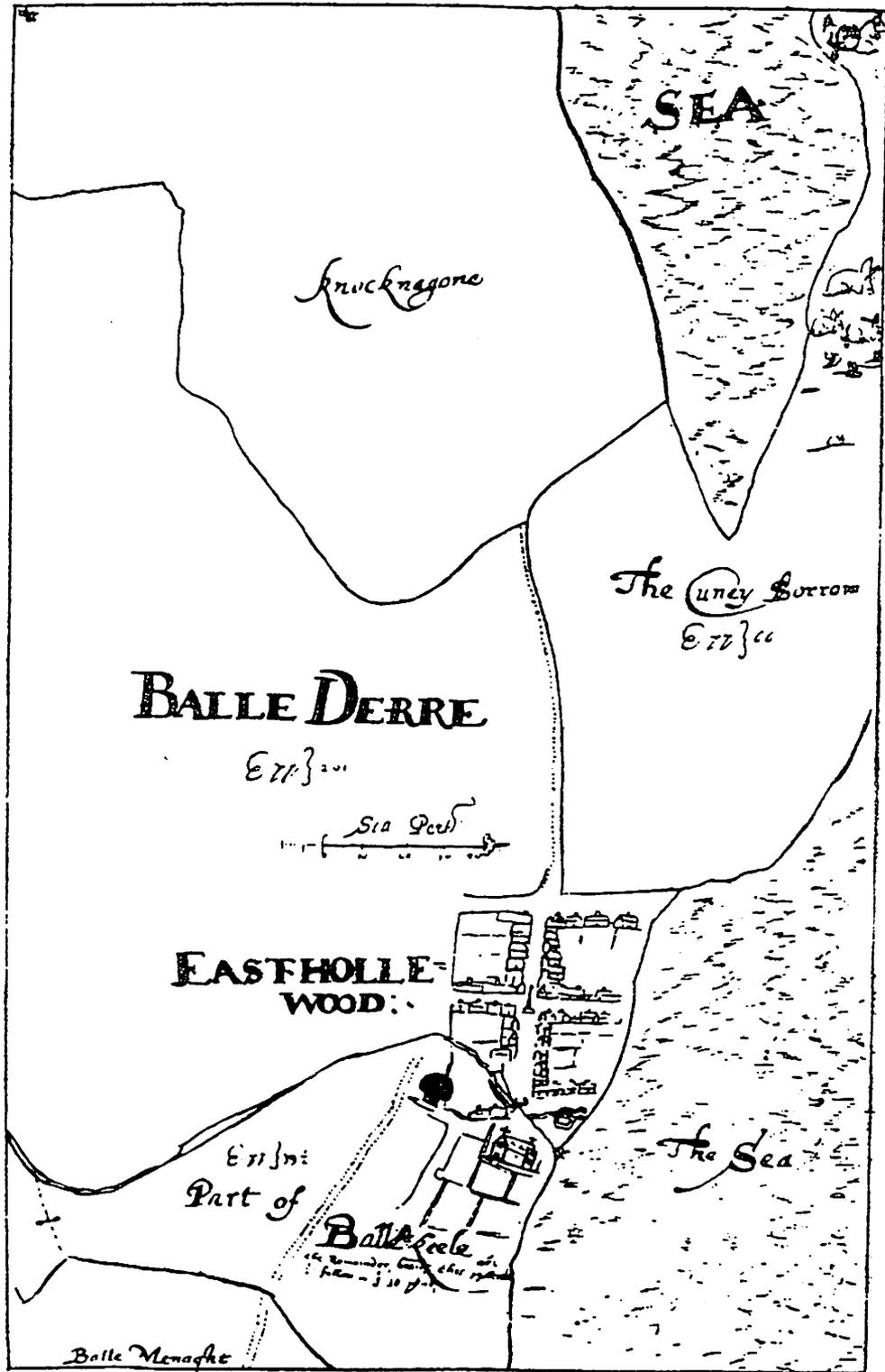
Raven's map clearly shows a village of two intersecting thoroughfares with a small maypole at the crossroads and consisting of a total of forty-five thatched cabins. At this early stage High Street stretched from what would appear to be the junction with the modern Hibernia Street to the old Priory church. Shore Road was in existence as was Church Road in a truncated form. Dwellings lining a thoroughfare that was built on one side only seem to be the forerunner of Hibernia Street; opposite this a laneway took one to the future Church View. It has already been pointed out in the historical introduction that the part of High Street between the Maypole and the church was unusually wide to accommodate the market, and the bulk of the village was centred around it.

From the seventeenth century, if not earlier, the road to Newtownards was the modern Victoria Road, of which at least the lower part, is thought to have formed the beginning of the highway used by King John on his march from Holywood to Dundonald in 1210. The three corn mills near Victoria Road are not shown on Raven's map and were probably erected in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in order to serve the surrounding countryside and will be discussed more fully in chapter XIII.

Holywood's position as a market village seems to have declined from the late seventeenth century onwards, and it was soon relegated to little more than a small fishing community which barely developed before the close of the eighteenth century. It is quite possible that most of the dwellings built in Hamilton's time were of a mud and harled construction, this being a popular mode for humbler abodes in Ireland at that period. However, as time passed these would have been replaced with cottages of Cultra sandstone, also single-storied and thatched.

There are one or two heavily disguised survivors of the thatched village to be seen in Holywood. In 1984 when major conversion work was being carried out in the premises now occupied by Rodney Campbell at no. 58 High Street, the internal wall plaster was completely stripped, showing that the thick walls were made of rough blocks of Cultra sandstone. What was even more interesting was that the upper storey was constructed of brick, indicating quite clearly that this had been originally one of the old single-storey cottages that had been heightened, probably in the

PLANTATION SETTLEMENT



Hollywood, from one of a series of maps prepared by Thomas Raven in 1625 for Viscount Clandeboye.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

1839'. Further interesting information was furnished by the discovery of a tiny blocked-up window in the wall next to Bunter's at no. 56, so proving that the latter site was once an open space, probably a garden between two rows of cottages. Work being done simultaneously to Brian Morton's premises at no. 60 revealed that it, too, had been similarly heightened. The very last of the single-storey cottages in High Street was to be found at the corner with Ean Hill and for many years lay derelict until its demolition in 1985. The main walls of the Olde Priory Inn are those of a row of old cottages which became the premises of the "Belfast Bar" in the 1840's; when it was burnt down in 1940, the shell was retained.

The first slated two-storey house in Holywood is said to have been built in about 1750, but it is on record that by the end of the eighteenth century there were still only three slated houses, the remainder being thatched. One of these slated houses stood on the site now occupied by the Cinema building at the corner of Downshire Road, then Morrow's Lane and High Street. It first became noteworthy at the time of the 1798 Rebellion when it was used as a barracks by the Earl of Westmeath's yeomanry who threw up a defensive earthen rampart at the back, traces of this still being visible in the early years of the twentieth century. The house was subsequently owned by Sir James Bristow and later by a Major McDowell, Commissioner of Penang. In the course of renovation

work in the early part of the twentieth century, one of the inner walls was found to be made of turf and an old inn-board of the swinging type, bearing the name Agnes Mawhinney, came to light. The house became a police barrack in the mid-1860's, and continued to fulfill that function until its demolition in about 1934 when the R.U.C. moved into their present station. Another of the slated houses about which anything is known is the Lynch Building. This appears to have started life as a two storey dwelling, valuation records inferring that it was heightened to three storeys in about 1840. At about that time John Power (1797—1874), later to be a town commissioner opened a hotel there, for many years known as the Belfast Hotel and the leading establishment of its kind in Holywood.

It is worth noting that Samuel Lewis in his Topographical Dictionary of Ireland (vol. 2) of 1837 is erroneous in stating that "the village....previously to 1800, contained only about thirty dwellings, chiefly poor cabins".

Even some of the churches were thatched. The Presbyterians, on ceasing to worship at the old Priory in 1661, built a meeting house on a grassy site at the foot of Shore Street, the spot now being about one hundred yards out to sea from the present shore line. In 1726, following the rift within the Presbyterian Church, concerning the Westminster Confession of Faith, the minister of the Holywood Presbyterian Congregation, the Rev. Michael Bruce refused to subscribe to it and joined the Synod of Antrim. Many



A conjectural painting by J. Carey, showing High Street from the east, c.1790.

PLANTATION SETTLEMENT

of his congregation supported him, so forming the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in Holywood. They remained in their old building, whilst the remnant of the congregation, continuing to be subscribing Presbyterians, moved to a thatched cottage in what soon afterwards was called Gospel Lane, and much later, Strand Street. In the late 1740's, under the leadership of their minister the Rev. William Rodgers, they built another meeting house in the same street and stayed there until the move to their present very fine church on the Bangor Road in 1841. The old meeting house then became a school, and in the late 1870's and early 1880's was used by the Church of Ireland as a mission hall; it seems to have become ruinous by 1890.

Meanwhile, the non-subscribing Presbyterians, built a meeting house in Shore Street, on the corner with Marine Parade, the site now being occupied by the grounds of Terence McKeag's motor showroom. This was succeeded by another on the same site where the congregation remained until their present commodious church was opened in High Street in 1849.

The very limited amount of growth that took place during the phase of the town's history under review is represented by the appearance, probably towards the close of the eighteenth century, of what is nowadays Brook Street, Church View and the short stretch of Downshire Road linking it to High Street. Church View was at that time a muddy lane at the rear of the gardens belonging to houses on the south side of High Street, and boasted a few rows of thatched cabins, one of which was Poole's Row, sited where the Plymouth Brethren meeting hall is now. This entire district of Holywood will be discussed more fully in Chapter XI. By that stage, the dwellings of High Street had been extended as far as the modern Downshire Road.

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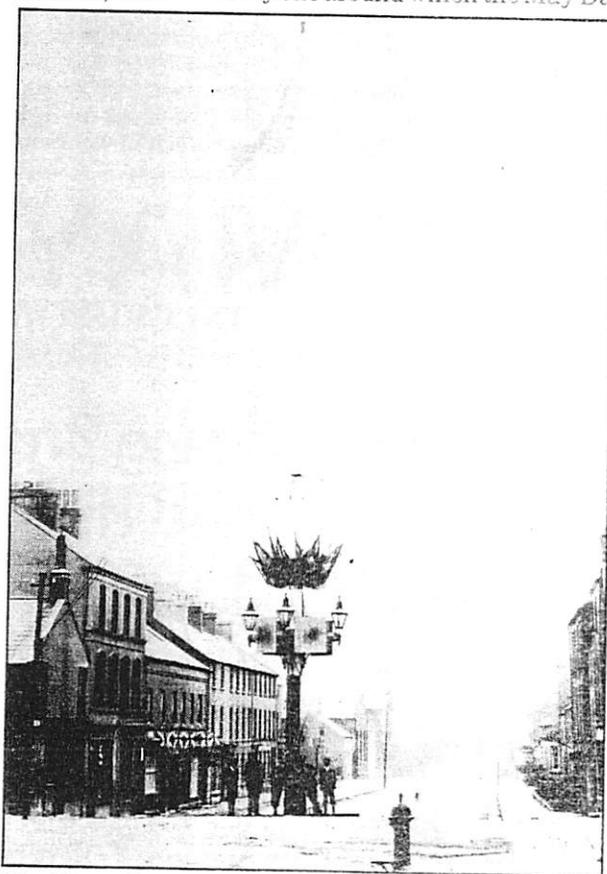
unfortunately the name of the blacksmith is lost. At that period, also, there were farms very close to the village, one being located between the old Priory church and the sea, at the edge of the Strand area. Another farm-house has been incorporated into one of the terraces of the Crescent; these will be looked at in more detail in Chapter XIII.

With the economic developments taking place in Belfast at the beginning of the nineteenth century, combined with the new fashion for sea-bathing and the realization that Holywood held great potential as a healthy resort nearby, the stage was set for radical changes in the village, both socially and physically.

Chapter IV

THE MAYPOLE

Holywood's most distinguishing feature, in the popular mind at least, is undoubtedly its Maypole, situated at the junction of High Street and Shore Road. It is unique in that not only is it the only maypole surviving in Ireland, but even at a time when others existed, it was the only one around which the May Day



The Maypole on Jubilee Day, 1897, with Shore Street in the background. Photo by James Kerr. (Kind courtesy of the late Miss E. Kingan).

As recently as the opening of the nineteenth century the surface of the streets was little better than mud, and there were no properly made side-walks beside the houses, a state of affairs already touched on in the historical introduction. The space at the sides was taken up by up-ended carts, manure heaps and large piles of mussel shells. Grass patches sprouting at the sides of the streets afforded grazing for geese. Street-lighting was practically non-existent, and so late as 1834 the O.S. Memoirs comment on the lack of paving and lighting.

It is on record that a smithy stood for many years on the site now covered by the old Sullivan Schools, but

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

festivities continued to be observed. At one time there were at least six such poles in this country, located as diversely as Limerick, Dublin, Maghera, Ballymena, Ballycarry and Kilmore, near Crossgar, Co. Down, this last one still existing in the early 1950's. Significantly, these maypoles were to be found in those areas where British, preferably English, influence was prevalent.

The maypole is essentially an English institution, based on the ancient Pagan celebrations of fertility that were held at the beginning of May. In the Middle Ages practically every English village green possessed one, and the May Day festivities were really most elaborate, the pole being lavishly decked with ribbons of many colours, flowers and greenery made up into garlands. As recently as the early nineteenth century, it was the custom for the villagers to elect a May Day King and Queen from among their number. They would then spend the rest of the day presiding over the proceedings, seated upon an elevated platform near the pole, whilst the young men and girls of the village danced around both the pole and the streets, dressed in long white linen shirts decorated with coloured ribbons, over their ordinary clothes. More than one authority on ancient folk customs has compared these white shirts with the smocks that were commonly worn by men in the rural areas of the south of England. The entire populace joined in with the celebrations, and it was quite common for fairs to be held and plays performed. The Maypoles were in general no more than twenty feet tall, unlike the present day one in Holywood. The modern May Day celebrations in Holywood have much in common with

those of the Middle Ages and Plantation period, although it must be admitted that from the early nineteenth century (see Kelly) until the early 1980's, they were comparatively modified and sporadic, of which more shortly.

It would appear that Holywood has possessed a Maypole since the formation of the small market settlement in the early seventeenth century, for Thomas Raven's map, prepared in 1625, clearly marks it at the centre of the intersection of the modern High Street, Church Road and Shore Road, and even shows a small flag at the mast-head. This disproves the local legend that the first Maypole was a ship's spar, erected about the year 1700 by Dutch sailors as a token of thanksgiving for having escaped death by drowning when their vessel foundered off Holywood.

Little is known about the successive Holywood Maypoles between then and the early part of the nineteenth century, apart from the fact that they were reasonably short, and that the traditional and more elaborate May Day festivities, already described, were observed. The earliest illustration showing the very tall pole that has become customary is that published by Marcus Ward in about 1842, showing the seaside spa of Holywood as it appeared, viewed from Sea Park. Both this view and one published by J. B. Doyle in his "Tours in Ulster" in 1854, clearly depict the Maypole projecting above the centre of the town. This was perhaps the first of several successive poles presented to the town in the last century by the Harrison family of Mertoun Hall and Holywood House.

The Belfast and Ulster Directory for 1898 has

MAYPOLE

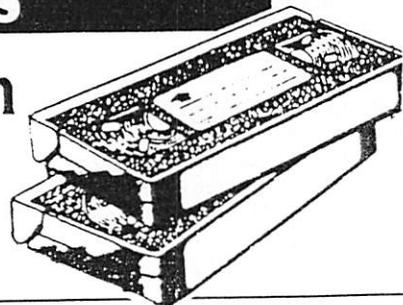
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THE MAYPOLE

furnished us with a very informative description which may be taken as being typical of the Maypoles of this period — "The Maypole, probably the last of its kind in Ireland, stands at the junction of High Street, Shore Street and Church Street, and is the gift of Captain Harrison, D.L. It is an immense Norwegian spar standing about sixty-four feet above ground and twenty under it. The ceremony of dressing it with bunting and flowers on May Eve is still continued." The great height of this and subsequent poles has necessitated their replacement periodically as the stress on the ground level section of such a tall, totally unsupported mast, combined with the degree of rot that must inevitably occur just below ground level, renders the pole unsafe after twenty or thirty years. The Hollywood Maypole is reputed to be one of the longest flag-poles in the British Isles.

In the latter part of the nineteenth century the pole acquired certain rather distinctive characteristics, two of which still survive. There was a cross-tree about one third of the way up, each end of which carries a set of four small revolving yachts, these being mounted at the beginning of May and taken down in September. The pole was topped by a weather vane and cock. For many years it was not used but was restored in the early 1980's. The weather cock, as a symbol, dates from the sixth century and is associated with the denial of Jesus Christ by St. Peter. The early Church considered this to be a suitable means of reminding passers-by of the weakness of humanity. There is photographic evidence that from the 1870's to the late 1890's four large hexagonal gas lamps were carried on highly decorative wrought iron brackets about fifteen feet above the ground.

As one would expect with a feature that has almost assumed the status of an institution, anecdotes concerning the Maypole abound. Captain John Harrison, who provided one of the poles in the late nineteenth century, strongly disapproved of the politics of his nephew Henry Harrison (1867-1954) who was a close colleague of Charles Stewart Parnell, and in his will directed that if a Home Rule flag ever flew from the Maypole the upper portion should be cut away! The story is told that Lord Roberts of Kandahar was present at the placing of one of the poles, probably that presented in 1902 by Henry Harrison, when he observed among the crowd one Mr. Mahon who had been his batman in India. After exchanging reminiscences he gave Mahon a sovereign to buy a drink, which he did to such good effect that he appeared in the local magistrates court the next day for being drunk and disorderly. On hearing the circumstances the magistrates dismissed the case. William ("Crow") Nimick, a well known builder, was frequently drunk, and in this state would attempt to climb the Maypole.

On days of official celebrations and joyful occasions the Union Flag is flown at the mast-head and on the death of notable residents it is flown at half-mast, this being considered a special honour. Strictly speaking, in order to qualify for this honour, the deceased should have been either born in Hollywood or else resident

there for at least fifty years. In the early part of the present century it was also customary to lower the flag right on to the coffin for a moment as the cortege passed by, this duty usually devolving upon Barney Abraham (d. 1930) who owned a confectionary shop at No. 5 Church Road.

In 1936 the Hollywood Urban District Council erected a pole which stood eighty feet above ground with fourteen feet below. However it was blown down at mid-day on 12th February, 1943, mercifully without causing casualties as it narrowly missed a bus which was taking on passengers at the Maypole bus stop.

Hollywood was without a Maypole until 15th October 1949 when a replacement was presented to the town by Councillor William P. M. Dunn and family of Tudor Hall, this pole having been prepared by Harland and Wolff and towed down Belfast Lough. It stood 72'-3" above the ground with twelve feet below and only lasted until 1954 when it had to be removed as being unsafe. It was at the presentation ceremony in 1949 that the tradition of dancing around the Maypole was revived. In the course of his speech Mr. Dunn referred to Hollywood without a Maypole as being "a town without a heart". This was also the first Maypole to be positioned at the very head of Shore Street, previous ones having been about ten feet into High Street.

On 1st May 1954 Miss Muriel Rainey, from Cultra, was elected the first May Queen for over a century, the crowning ceremony being performed by Lieutenant-



Inauguration of new Maypole. Presented by Henry Harrison, Esquire, 26th June, 1902.

Colonel H. Ervine-Andrews V.C. Sixteen local girls aged between six and eleven danced around the Maypole.

The next Maypole was presented to the town by the Dunn family in May 1957. The bottom ten feet were removed from this pole in 1976 owing to rot and it was re-instated, the present height being approximately fifty-five feet, and the thickness one foot, with eight feet below ground.

It was only in 1983 that the old carnival-type celebrations once more accompanied the May Day observances, the whole of High Street being given over to stalls and entertainment stands.

Chapter V

THE "BIG HOUSES"

In Ireland, the advent of the large undefended mansion as distinct from the tower house and fortified mansion, as a place of residence for the land-owning classes, is a phenomenon of the early eighteenth century, for it was only with the cessation of the Williamite Wars in 1691 that this country embarked on a period of comparative peace and stability, arguably the longest in its entire history until that time. At first the development was slow, but as the country became more prosperous (for the aristocracy and landed gentry at least) and obviously politically stable, so did the pace of building ventures quicken, particularly from the middle of the century onwards.

These dwellings which ranged in size from large comfortable mansions, occupied by the gentry to the stately homes of the higher echelons of the aristocracy, stood in extensive wooded estates and were often several miles apart. Very much looked up to by the local tenantry who regarded them as a focal point in the local socio-economic structure, they were respectfully and affectionately known as the "big house".

As distinct from the smaller merchants' villas of the Victorian era, most of the large mansions, or "gentlemen's seats" to quote frequent contemporary descriptions, that were built in the Parish of Holywood, belong to the second half of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The great majority were to be found fairly near the landward side of the main Belfast to Bangor road which, incidentally, had assumed more or less its present route by 1783 (see Taylor and Skinner), if not earlier. Captain Henderson and Lieutenant Bordes who compiled the O.S. Memoirs for Holywood in 1834 were both moved to comment on the picturesque aspect of the wooded demesnes which clothed the lower ground just below the Holywood hills.

The "big houses" under consideration are best described in geographical, rather than chronological

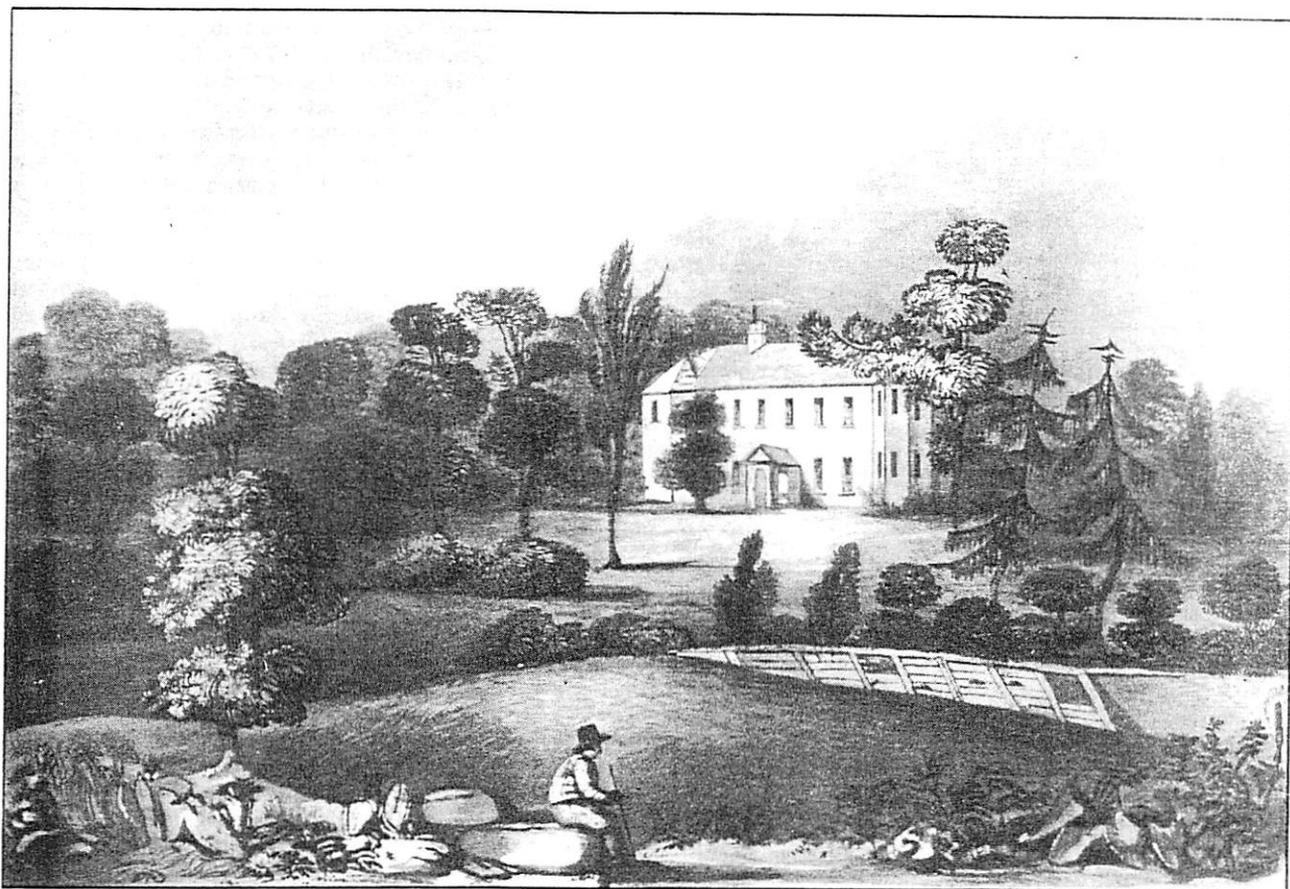
order, commencing at the townland of Knocknagoney in the west and moving towards the townlands of Ballyrobert.

Clifton House, also often spelt Clifden, was situated near the bottom of the Knocknagoney Road, the site being practically identical with that of the present day Knocknagoney House. It is not known when the house was built, but it was definitely in existence in 1783 when it was the home of the Haliday family. Alexander Henry Haliday (1806-1870), the leading Irish field naturalist of his day and a son of Dr. William Haliday, lived there from his birth until the early 1850's. In 1833 he published an important paper relating to the insect life of the Holywood area. The well-known rose, *Rosa Hibernica*, was discovered at Tillysburn nearby by John Templeton, the famous naturalist, in 1795. Following A. H. Haliday's departure, the house was taken over by the Finley family. Clifton seems to have been pulled down in the 1880's to make way for the new Knocknagoney House, a massive red brick pile erected by the McCance family who were linen bleachers from Suffolk, west of Belfast. This building in turn passed out of the hands of the McCances in 1956, following which it became the Windsor Hotel. It is currently owned by the N.I. Police Authority who bought it in 1978. Regrettably, no illustrations of Clifton seem to have survived, but both the O.S. maps for 1834 and 1859 show a rather long house with a projecting central portico facing due north and with wings built onto the back.

Further up the Knocknagoney Road, Richmond Lodge, a large two-storey symmetrical late Georgian residence with octagonal bays at either end and a central porch, stood in its own small park very close to the site of the present day Knocknagoney housing estate. The house bore the appearance of having been built about the year 1800, but the first occupant of whom there is a record was Francis Turnly (1765-1845), the son of Francis Turnly J.P. of Downpatrick. As a young man he was an East India merchant in China and on his return to Ireland in 1804 he married. Related to the Batt family of Purdysburn, he was also the builder of Drumnasole House, Carnlough and was a Sheriff and J.P. for County Down. He is first mentioned as living at Richmond in 1824. The family also built Rockport House (q.v.). Following the death of his widow Dorothea in 1846 the house passed to John Dunville (1786-1851) the founder of the famous whiskey distilling firm and it was his great-nephew Robert Grimshaw Dunville who was responsible for Redburn House (q.v.).

The old Knocknagoney House stood some distance to the east of its modern namesake, and close to Mertoun Hall. It is not known for certain when it was built, but a derelict house nearby, marked on the O.S. map of 1834 as being part of the complex associated with the main residence, still contains some plasterwork of about 1790. Knocknagoney House had gone by 1859. The directories of the period shed little light on who was living there, for all those members of the gentry who are listed as being resident at Knocknagoney, have been found to have had addresses other than Knocknagoney House.

THE "BIG HOUSES"



Richmond, the seat of Francis Turnley Esquire engraved by Edward K. Proctor, 1832.

Mertoun Hall was built in about 1835, evidently by Dr. James Taggart and within two or three years became the property of John Harrison, a well-doing ship-owner and agent for the National Assurance Company, who had an office at 1, Donegall Quay, Belfast and lived in a rather grand four-storey Georgian terrace house at No. 9, Donegall Square West. After his death in 1857, Mertoun became the home of his son Captain John Harrison, another son Henry inheriting Holywood House (q.v.) which the family had acquired in 1854. The main part of the house is typical of the late Georgian period and much of the original and rather fine plasterwork survives. However it was given a radical facelift and was extended, probably in the 1860's. The extensive grounds still retain many of the trees which are greatly varied in type. Its gate-lodge which has features echoing the style of the main house, is still standing near the Tillysburn roundabout.

Moving eastwards, the neighbouring property was Maryfield, a rather severe-looking mansion, typical of the late-Classical tradition. It was probably erected in about 1830 and the first resident whose name is known is John Kennedy. The place was bought in about 1840 by John Heron (1781-1870), one of the co-founders of the Ulster Bank in 1836 and it was to remain in the

ownership of his family until it was burnt down by vandals in July 1969. The attractive little octagonal gate-lodge at the main entrance was pulled down in 1971.

The Rt. Rev. Richard Mant, Bishop of Down and Connor, was responsible for completing the Bishop's Palace in 1827. This was a rambling two-storey establishment with a long colonnaded porch set in a recessed frontage which enjoyed commanding views over Belfast Lough. In 1887 the Church of Ireland sold the Palace and its sixty-seven acres of ground to the Government who acquired it on behalf of the Army. It was demolished in about 1890 to make way for the Palace Barracks whose clock tower marks the approximate site of the Palace.

Westbrook, which stood in what is now that portion of the Palace Barracks grounds nearest Jackson's Road, was occupied by the Rev. Edward May, a former Sovereign of Belfast, in about 1820. It was greatly enlarged sometime between 1834 and 1859.

Garden Lodge, situated on the Old Holywood Road, fairly near the junction with Jackson's Road, contains some features which tend to suggest that it dates back to the 1760's, at which time it was owned by the Jackson family; local tradition states that General

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

“Stonewall” Jackson’s father was born and brought up there and that he emigrated to America sometime before 1800. The house seems to have been given a completely new frontage sometime in the 1840’s and was extensively enlarged in 1886.

Redburn House, possibly one of the best-known of the palatial mansions in the Holywood area, stood in 170 acres of prime parkland and woodland, set against the rather dramatic back drop of the Holywood hills, on the south side of the Old Holywood Road. Built in about 1867 by Robert Grimshaw Dunville of John Dunville & Co., whiskey distillers, it was a very spacious stone-built mansion of two storeys. It looked massive, strong and opulent and as such represented the wealth that enabled it to be built. The house also boasted an enormous and ornate wrought-iron conservatory on one side and a very extensive stable block. In the early part of this century it was one of the venues of the most fashionable social gatherings in the north of Ireland and the Dunville family retained a very large staff. In the 1920’s Captain R. L. (Bobby) Dunville established a private Zoo in the grounds, bears and leopards being amongst the many exotic animals kept there. The house remained in the family until the death, in 1940, of Violet, widow of Wing Commander John Dunville whose father had built it. During the Second World War the house was occupied by the Air Ministry and in 1950 the Holywood Urban District Council bought it. For many years it lay derelict until its demolition in about 1972. The clock mechanism from the stables was installed in the tower of the old Priory Church in 1958. The gate-lodge is still standing near the corner of the Old Holywood Road and Jackson’s Road.

The firm of John Dunville & Co. had been founded by John Dunville, of Richmond Lodge (q.v.), who began his career in about 1802 as an apprentice to William Napier, distiller, of Bank Lane, Belfast, became his partner in 1808, and finally bought him out in 1925 by which time the firm had moved to Callendar

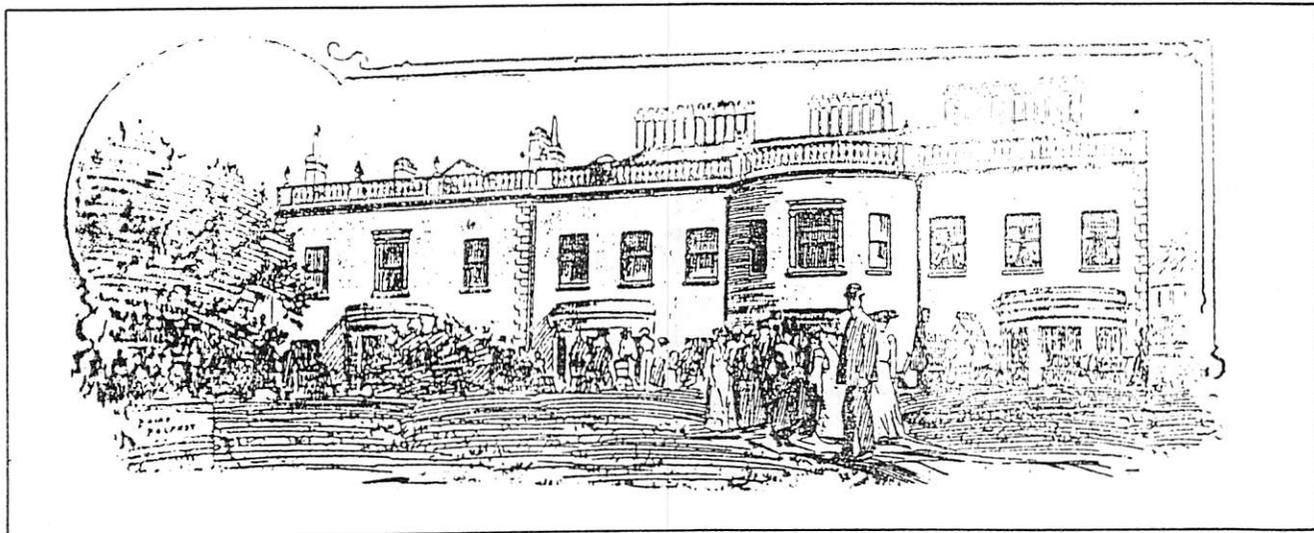
Street. Between then and about 1860 the firm also dealt in tea. His son William (1812 — 1874) who was R. G. Dunville’s uncle, continued to live at Richmond Lodge after Redburn was built.

Hollywood House, which stood almost exactly on the site of the modern shops in the Loughview housing estate, is reputed to have been originally built by Simon Isaac who purchased the townland of Holywood in 1705, the background to which has already been discussed in the historical introduction. It was most certainly in existence by 1740 when Harris and Smith compiled their smaller survey of County Down, Simon Isaac’s son John being then the proprietor. The Isaac family appears to have lived there until they sold the Holywood estates in 1812, but it is far from clear if their successor William Kennedy resided there.

What is known is that Hollywood House was inhabited by a number of different tenants from the 1840’s onwards, at which time Dorothea, widow of William Kennedy, died. The last of these tenants was Henry Harrison who took up residence in about 1851 and whose father John bought the house and estate in 1854. Henry continued to live there until his death in 1873 at the age of 46. The place was a dairy farm between the two World Wars and was called Hollywood Farm, the owners being the Lough family. It was finally pulled down by the Army in 1941 before the Loughview Housing Estate was laid out (see Chap. XIX).

The only illustration of Hollywood House, known to exist, shows it as consisting of a central two-storey block facing the sea and with wings at the sides. One rather striking feature was that the front steps ran for the entire length of the house.

The original residence of the Vicars of Holywood appears to have been a farm-house standing in ten acres of farmland and orchard, in the Priory Park to the north-east of the old Priory Church and probably on the site now occupied by the Priory Filling Station.



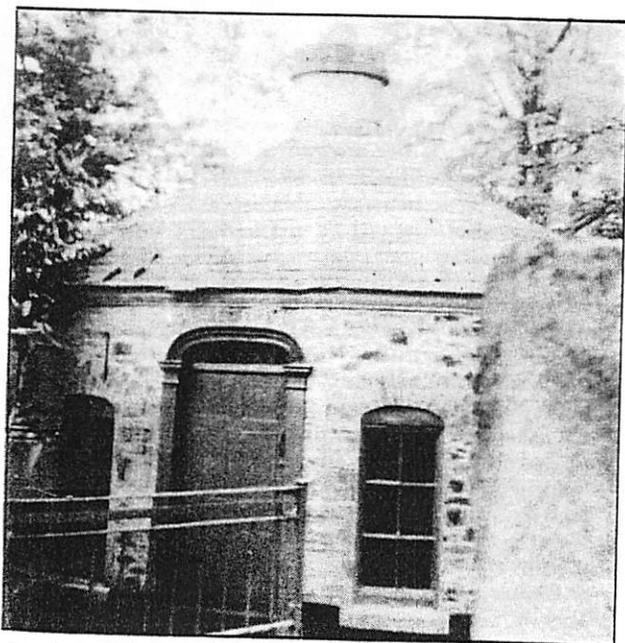
Ballymenoch House, from north, in 1906.

THE "BIG HOUSES"

This was given up in 1813 in exchange for a new Glebe House (now the old Vicarage) built by the Rev. W. A. Holmes on twelve Irish acres of Glebe land beside the modern Church Road.

Ballymenoch House was set in extensive and wooded grounds stretching originally from the Ballymenoch Road to the coast near the modern Sea Park and bisected by the main road to Bangor. Proctor's view shows an elegant, neat and tidy almost square house of two storeys, exhibiting such features as tri-partite windows, a centrally placed portico and urns on the roof balustrade, suggesting a possible construction date of around 1780. It definitely existed in 1783 when the Hamilton family owned it. Ballymenoch was in the possession of a Mr. Holmes who was closely related to Robert Holmes the eminent Irish barrister. Acquired in about 1802 by Cunningham Greg, a successful Belfast merchant and land speculator, it was herited in 1830 by his son Thomas Richard (1805-1884) who was a JP for both Down and Antrim and was a Poor Law guardian. He sold it in 1863 and the next prominent occupant was Sir Daniel Dixon, the first Lord Mayor of Belfast, who bought both the demesne and the stretch of coastline from Holywood Pier to Clanbrassil in 1889. In 1913, just six years after his sudden death the house was burnt down, and its successor, now the Eventide Home, was built on a slightly different site by Sir Samuel Kelly the coal and shipping magnate.

Originally Ballymenoch House was served by two charming little gate-lodges, elliptical in plan and were locally known as the "inkwell" cottages. That at the entrance near Croft Road was demolished before the Second World War, whilst its counterpart which stood at the gateway to the Eventide Home, lasted until 1971.



The inkwell-shaped gate-lodge to Ballymenoch House. Photo reproduced by kind courtesy of Mrs. M. A. K. Garner.

Nearby, Marino House, originally Marino Farm, dates from the mid-eighteenth century, and Ardville, situated on the other side of Old Quay Road, was probably started in the 1820's and added to the 1840's. Farmhill House also developed in two stages, the original farm, now a mews cottage, reputedly belonging to the early seventeenth century; the main house, a rather substantial two storey affair, has many features which suggest a date of about 1730-40.

Cultra House, for well over two centuries the seat of the Kennedy family, was situated near the present day Cultra Avenue, the site nowadays being occupied by a large establishment of the same name which serves as a hospital for the mentally handicapped. The Kennedys, who were descended from the ancient and noble family of Cassilis in Scotland, settled at Cultra 1668 and three years later John Kennedy bought the estate, which extended as far as Ballyrobert, from the Earl of Clanbrassil. It was probably he who built the original house, for we are told that in about 1817 it "... is an old structure, but the present proprietor is now adding to and improving it after the Gothic fashion." The mansion, two storeys high and irregular in plan, then took on a somewhat castellated appearance, notable features being a battlemented parapet and hood mouldings to the doors and windows. The "present proprietor" referred to above was John Kennedy's great-grandson Hugh (1775-1850) who, incidentally, was twice married and fathered eighteen children. It was his grandson Sir Robert Kennedy, the well-known diplomat, who was responsible for erecting the present Cultra Manor in 1902 in what are now the grounds of the Ulster Folk Museum, at which time the old Cultra House was taken down and the present Cultra House, already mentioned, built.

Craigavad House was in existence in 1783 when Mrs. Pottinger lived there. The next recorded owner was Arthur Forbes J.P. (1781-1847) who was in residence by 1817. He belonged to a landed family in Moretown Forbes, County Meath and like the Kennedys of Cultra, was of Scottish aristocratic descent. He was followed by John Mulholland, the future Lord Dunleath. The present house, which accommodates the Royal Belfast Golf Club, belongs to the mid-Victorian period. The mediaeval church of Craigavad or "Cragger" lay approximately half-way between the house and the sea, and is described by Dr. W. Reeves in his excellent and scholarly work entitled "Ecclesiastical Antiquities of the Diocese of Down, Connor and Dromore."

Glencraig House, standing in thirty-one acres of parkland between the main Belfast to Bangor road and the sea, next to Rockport, was built in 1833 by Miss Mary Symes who resided there until her death in about 1863. She had donated over one acre for the building of Glencraig Parish Church in 1858. The local Rudolf Steiner School is today housed in the grounds.

Rockport House was built by John Turnley (1764-1841), J.P., probably about the year 1800. Closely related to Francis Turnly who lived at Richmond Lodge (q.v.) he belonged to a family that had made its wealth in the brewing industry. John is commemor-

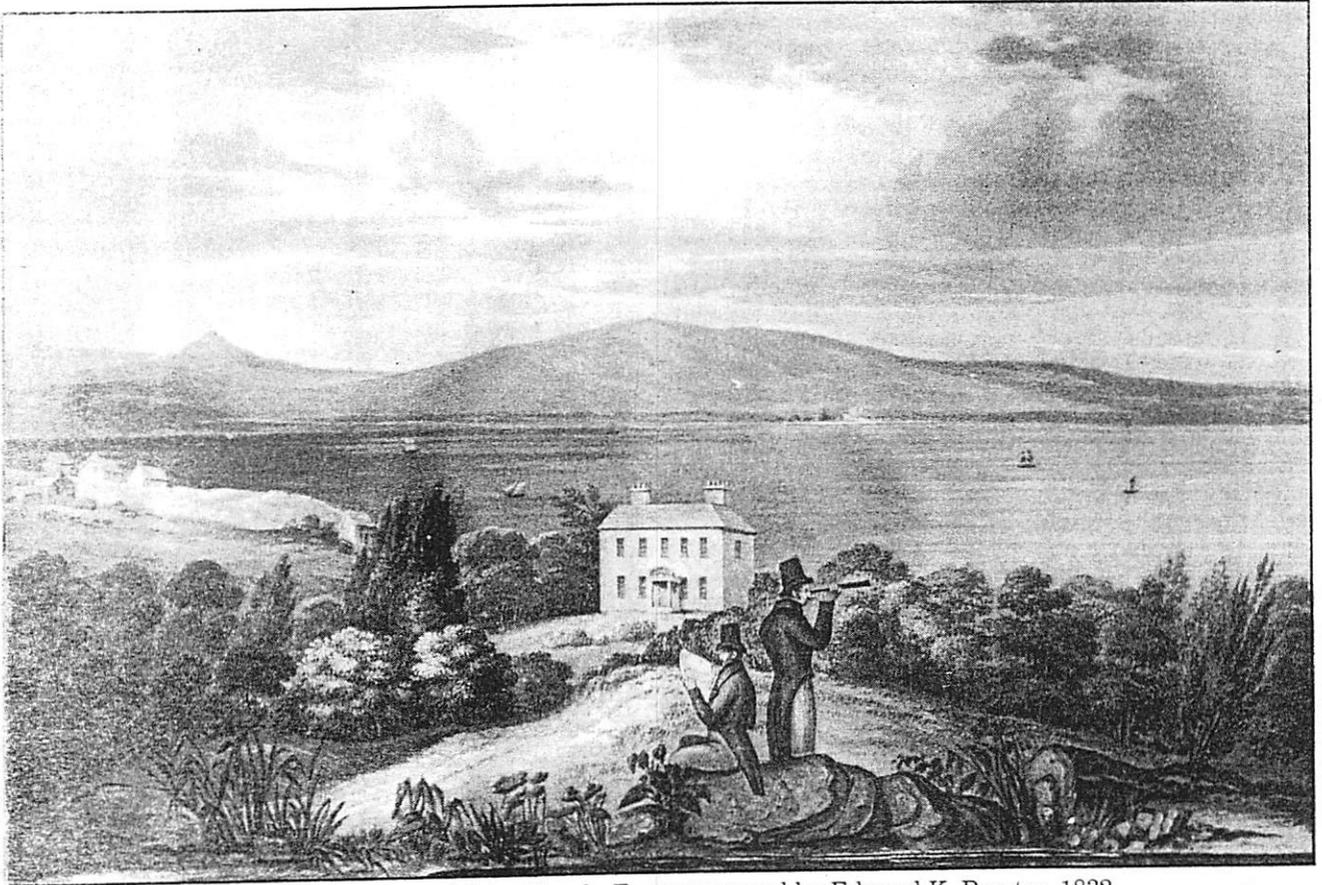
BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

ated on a tablet in Holywood Parish Church (originally in the old Priory) as being of "an unpretentious and retiring character" who had lived "an useful and a happy life". His son John lived at Rockport until the late 1850's following which there was a succession of different owners until 1906 when it was bought by Geoffrey Bing for use as a preparatory School which function it still serves. A large wing was added to it in about 1920.

Located in sixty-four acres of sweeping grounds, the

house enjoys commanding views of Belfast Lough and the town of Carrickfergus on the opposite shore. The original building remains largely intact and is an elegant and dignified rectangular block sporting such features as excellent fanlights and a rather grandiose staircase window. Internally, some of the original carved woodwork and dados have survived.

The adjacent little harbour, now broken asunder by the sea, dates from the very early nineteenth century.



Rockport — The seat of John Turnly Esqr. engraved by Edward K. Proctor, 1832.

Chapter VI

HIGH STREET AND ITS ENTRIES

For the most part the buildings of the modern High Street are essentially those that emerged in the 1820-50 period when the town was being transformed from a thatched fishing village into a respectable and booming watering-place, a phase that has already been discussed in the historical introduction. This

radical face-lift involved either the total removal of the old single storied cottages or else they were heightened and slated roofs put on. Many of these buildings still survive, although modern commercial alterations largely disguise the fact.

As High Street lay on the main road from Belfast to Bangor it was only natural that this thoroughfare, more than the others, should develop as the shopping centre, so giving rise to the multifarious ground floor family businesses with living accommodation upstairs. These concerns included grocers, bakers, butchers (often they used to be called fleshers), poulterers, publicans, tailors, dressmakers and shoemakers. There were also one or two blacksmiths, cart-makers and wheelwrights. As the century progressed several apothecaries and medical halls

HIGH STREET AND ITS ENTRIES



James Lennox's grocer's shop at 59 High Street, in c.1906. This was typical of many of the smaller family-run shops in Holywood in the late nineteenth century. Photo reproduced by kind courtesy of Mrs. M. Tracey.

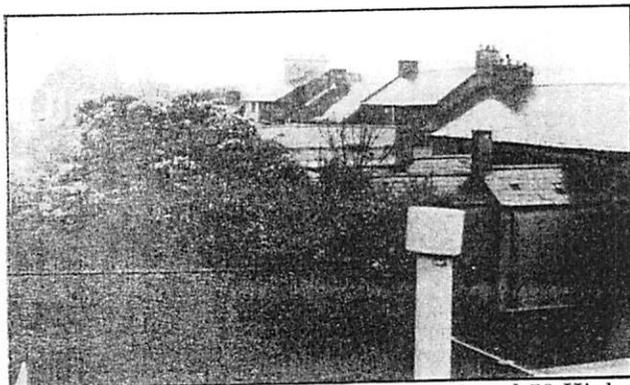
were also to open their doors. In appearance the shops of that era were not vastly different from ordinary dwelling-houses, the principal distinction being that instead of an ordinary domestic ground floor window with double-hung sashes, there was a large display window, often with four or six panes of glass, with a name-board above. During business hours, it was common to exhibit many of the goods, particularly vegetables or hardware, on the pavement. The main door was identical to that for a conventional dwelling.

Many of the buildings were erected as dwellings, for it must be remembered that Holywood was (and in large measure still is) a place where people came principally to reside and enjoy the healthy and bracing surroundings. Indeed, it is pleasant to record that several of the old houses in the central portion of High Street are still purely private residences. Nevertheless, it was common for residents to take in lodgers, especially during the summer months, in the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, in order to supplement their income and to meet the demands of the seaside resort. Some of the houses, not only in High Street, but in the other main thoroughfares, had small front gardens with railings, an interesting and pleasant feature that does not seem to occur in the centre of many other towns. Surviving

examples (the railings were removed during the Second World War to help the war effort) are to be seen at nos. 39 and 41, 66 to 72, 102 to 106 and 140 to 150, High Street. Until well within living memory most of the properties in High Street had long back gardens, and at the present time (1986), a surprising number still remain, good examples being that at the back of Sweeney's at Nos. 50 and 52, and to the rear of Nos. 102 to 114.

The twenty years since the mid-1960's have witnessed more profound changes to the outward appearance of High Street than the previous one and a quarter centuries. These changes include the removal of two rows of old houses near the past end of the street and their replacement by flat-roofed flats whose appearance and siting are totally inappropriate to the surroundings. Three rather distinctive buildings, among them Thompson's bakery which occupied a three-storey house, made way for Stewart's supermarket in 1970 and an almost complete row between Hibernia Street and Gray's Lane was replaced by the Mace Supermarket building in 1967. Other alterations have included the wholesale removal of chimney stacks and the fitting of the most up-to-date shop facades, now endemic in almost every city, town and village.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Long rear gardens belonging to nos. 50 and 52 High Street.

Prior to the 1960's, almost every house on either side of that portion of High Street between the old Priory Church and the Crescent was a private residence. The section of High Street between Downshire Road and the Belfast Road was mostly residential until well into the twentieth century, those living there including doctors and retired professional people, among them a high proportion of elderly spinsters and widows. In the last century the shops were between these two extremities and there were also many private dwellings, these supporting the shop-keeping and artisan classes; some of these residents worked at home as tailors and seamstresses.

Throughout the nineteenth century most of Holywood was leased from the chief proprietor, that before 1854 being the Kennedy family and their representatives and after that date the Harrison family. Many of these lessees were not, in fact, the tenants as they sub-leased or rented the properties. During the second quarter of the century the main owners were John Rowley, whose properties were mostly concentrated in the Strand area and the east end of High Street, Captain Daniel Sullivan, father of the famous Dr. Robert Sullivan and Hugh Stewart who probably owned more than anyone else in Holywood and was prominent in the life of the town being a leading Town Commissioner and the first Post-Master. Other extensive property owners in High Street were John Killips, a leading publican, David Patton, Sir James Bristow and William Gray.

In considering the buildings of High Street in more detail, it is best to commence at the east end, for not only was this the earliest part to develop, but it is still, after nearly four hundred years, virtually at the edge of the town.

No. 2 High Street, situated at what is variously known as Priory Corner and Gaussen's Corner, was in existence in the very early nineteenth century, and the first valuation of the town, dated 1834, tells us that it, together with nos. 4 and 6 which are nowadays called Rollo House, were owned by John Rowley. No. 2, then a plain square house, was a doctor's residence so long ago as 1856 when Dr. George Young lived there. The present building seems to date from around 1900 and

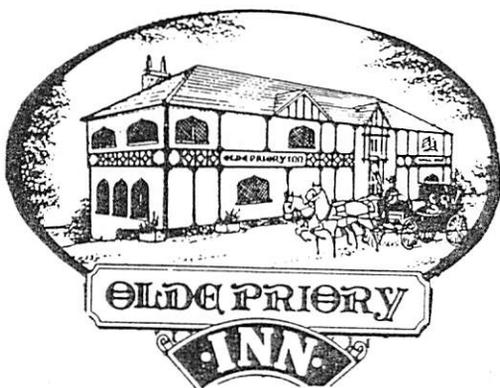
the tradition of its being the home of those in the medical profession continued in the present century with the occupancy of Dr. Gaussen and the late Dr. K. Kennedy.

Rollo House could well date from around 1800, a factor that supports this probability being that it is known to have been the venue of the Holywood "squeezes". The "squeezes" were highly fashionable evening and sometimes all-night social gatherings which were frequently held in the 1790's and 1800's. Of all the buildings in this particular group, Rollo House is the only one to retain its Georgian features and proportions intact. Its neighbour, Knockagh House at No. 8 (modern numbering), also belongs to this period, but was greatly altered in Victorian times and together with the remainder was owned by Hugh Stewart.

Hugh Stewart (d. 1858) was appointed Holywood's first Post Master in 1822 at a salary of £10 per annum, the first Post Office having been established four years previously at an unknown location. He ran it from his private house at No. 10 High Street until he relinquished the post sometime between 1835 and 1842 in which year James Greenfield, a merchant and later to become a Town Commissioner, is first noted as being Post Master. The Post Office remained at No. 10 until about 1860 despite the fact that the Stewart family continued to live there. In about 1860 there came the move to 27 (old numbering) Shore Street which premises are nowadays owned by H. S. Warwick. William Mill, a stationer, succeeded Greenfield in 1865, and it was following Mill's death in 1872 that the Post Office again moved, this time to 57 (old numbering) High Street, premises lately occupied by Stewart's Winebarrel. His widow ran the establishment until the appointment sometime between 1878 and 1880 of Thomas T. Porter, one of the Town Commissioners. His tenure lasted until 1896 when Mrs. R. Geddis, one of the best-known holders of the post, became Post-Mistress. In 1898 the Post office once more changed its address, this time to No. 15 (modern numbering) Church Road, a building nowadays occupied by Hannah's flower shop and used during the 1940's as the Labour Exchange. Here it remained until about 1935 when it moved to its present location at No. 43, High Street, which building had started life as a three-storey private dwelling in the 1840's.

The two-storey cottage-type houses at Nos. 1-11, situated on the opposite side of High Street, are also clearly shown on the O.S. map of 1834 and probably belonged to the previous decade. A curious sidelight is that at this period they were exclusively occupied by widows and spinsters. The first telephones in Holywood were installed in about 1885, the main Exchange being in the Town Hall, and three years later an auxiliary Exchange, initially for night calls only, was opened in No. 3 High Street where it was to remain until after the First World War. The row, which for so long had constituted somewhat of a landmark as one entered the town from the Bangor direction, was finally pulled down in 1971 to make way for the N.I. Housing Executive (then Trust) complex of flats.

HIGH STREET AND ITS ENTRIES



Holywood's oldest established public house first opened its doors in the 1840's as the 'Belfast Bar'. It did not acquire its present name until the 1920's.

Built on the site of an old row of 18th century cottages it was ably managed in those early years by John Killips, and later his widow, before passing into the hands of the Rogers family in the 1880's.

Between 1842 and '48 a room measuring 24' x 12' with its own hipped roof was built over the River Twisel which ran between the Belfast Bar and the large house on the corner of Stewart's Place, then owned by a Mr. Lowry. Access was via the bar and for this reason it became known locally as 'the room above the pub.'

From July 1848 to July 1849 the room was rented from Mr. Killip by local Methodists for use as a church or meeting house, to use the contemporary expression. To prevent noise from the pub disturbing the worshippers they blocked up the adjoining door and filled the wall cavity with sawdust.

In later years 'the room above the pub' served as the Holywood Ballroom a scout hall, and a motor cycle repair shop. It lay derelict from the 1960's and was eventually demolished in 1982.

During the last century the Olde Priory Inn provided sleeping accommodation in the upstairs rooms and was used widely by those travelling between Belfast and Bangor.

In 1940 the building was destroyed by fire after which it was refurbished in mock Tudor style.

More recently it underwent major renovation work in 1982 when it passed from the hands of the Brady family to the present owners.

During this operation the River Twisel was once more revealed. It now runs directly underneath the new bar.

The Olde Priory Inn has come a long way since 1840. Today's visitors can relax over drinks or a meal in the most sumptuous surroundings.

A delightful range of wholesome home cooked lunches are served daily between 12.00 noon and 2.30 p.m. The comfortable Twisel Grill Bar is the setting for evening meals which include the very popular Priory Bistro.

The most recent addition to the premises is the splendid Strathearn Room on the first floor. Capable of holding up to 70 people it is ideal for weddings, parties or conferences.

Whatever the occasion the Olde Priory Inn promises to make any occasion 'JUST THAT LITTLE BIT BETTER'. For bookings telephone Belfast 428164.

Immediately adjacent to No. 1 and running parallel to the old Priory Church was a single-storey and long thatched cottage, owned by one John Cooper. In the 1860's its place was taken by a solitary three-storey house with a narrow frontage, owned at the time of its demolition in 1971 by Mr. D. Cosgrove.

The pair of rather large and distinctive round-cornered houses still standing on either side of the junction of High Street and what used to be Stewart's Place, seem to have been built in about 1840 on the site of older property owned by John Rowley. That nearer the town centre, later owned by a man called Lowry, shows signs of having been modified in mid-Victorian times.

The River Twisel which forms the boundary between the townlands of Ballykeel and Holywood is nowadays completely culverted from Mill Bank, Victoria Road until it reaches the sea at Conaty's Arch, but up to the 1840's was totally open to the sky, as it skirted the Crescent and having passed under High Street, flowed along Stewart's Place, then built on the east side only. At that time High Street crossed the Twisel by means of a little bridge as the stream bubbled its way between Lowry's house and the Belfast Bar (today called the Old Priory Inn). This bridge was extended sometime between 1842 and 1848 when a room with its own hipped roof was built actually over the stream by John Killips, the owner of the Belfast Bar, from the upper floor of which there was access to the new structure. Traditionally called the "room above the public house" it served as a

Methodist Chapel in 1848 and 1849, and much later was the Ballroom of Holywood. In more recent years it was a motor cycle repair workshop and was demolished in 1982.

The building which ultimately became the Old Priory Inn began life as one of the single-storey cottages, probably in the eighteenth century at which period it would have had a thatched roof. It was still a private dwelling in 1834 when John Rowley was the owner. The first mention of commercial usage occurs in 1848 when John Killips (d. 1853) ran the Belfast Bar there. After his death his widow Jane continued the business, possibly right up to the time of her own demise thirty years later, following which it passed into the hands of the Rogers family. The concern took on its present name in the 1920's. Burnt down in 1940, the building was refurbished in mock-Tudor style and was extended in 1982 on the demolition of the single room already discussed.

The Crescent is off the south side of High Street, directly opposite the Old Priory Inn and will be investigated more deeply in Chapter XIII. Reference has already been made in Chapter II to Collins' bicycle shop which stood at the bottom of the Crescent beside what is now the Baptist Church. This was a three-storied building, wedge-shaped in plan and was erected in the early 1860's.

On the same side of High Street and on the site now occupied by the Johnny the Jig statue (by Rosamund Praeger, 1953), a row of the old single-storied cottages survived until the 1930's, a distinguishing visual

BUILDINGS OF HOLLYWOOD

feature being the disproportionately tall chimney stacks. Mostly inhabited by artisans, typical occupants were David and Hugh Patton, shoemakers, who lived in the one at the eastern end in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Near this row was a pair of three-storey houses at nos. 22 and 24, of which the former fulfilled a duty as an Air Raid Precaution centre during the Second World War. Beside these, was another pair dating from about 1850 and with very deep front gardens. Their last owners were the Madill family and were demolished in the 1970's having lain derelict for many years; the grounds are now covered by a Health Centre. William Killips, almost certainly a kinsman of John of the Belfast Bar, was a grocer at No. 30 (old numbering), nowadays the "Schooner", in the 1850's and 1860's.

The building nowadays occupied by Hollywood Home Decor at the corner of High Street and Church Road was a private dwelling for a long time, and in 1834 was owned by one John Braddell. We are told that in 1860 Robert Butler lived there and it was still residential until the present century. The property kept its small railed garden on the Church Street side until the 1920's and a photograph taken in about 1893 shows a little tree growing in it. The house which has a rather quaint roof arrangement must have formed a charming corner-piece in the town centre at that time. The small bollard still to be seen at the corner was a hitching post for horses and was in use up to the time of the First World War. Turner's the fruiterers occupied the property until the 1950's.

Returning to the north side of the street, the row of houses at Nos. 15 to 37 (modern numbering) mostly

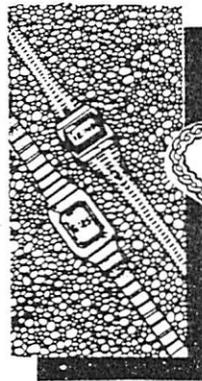
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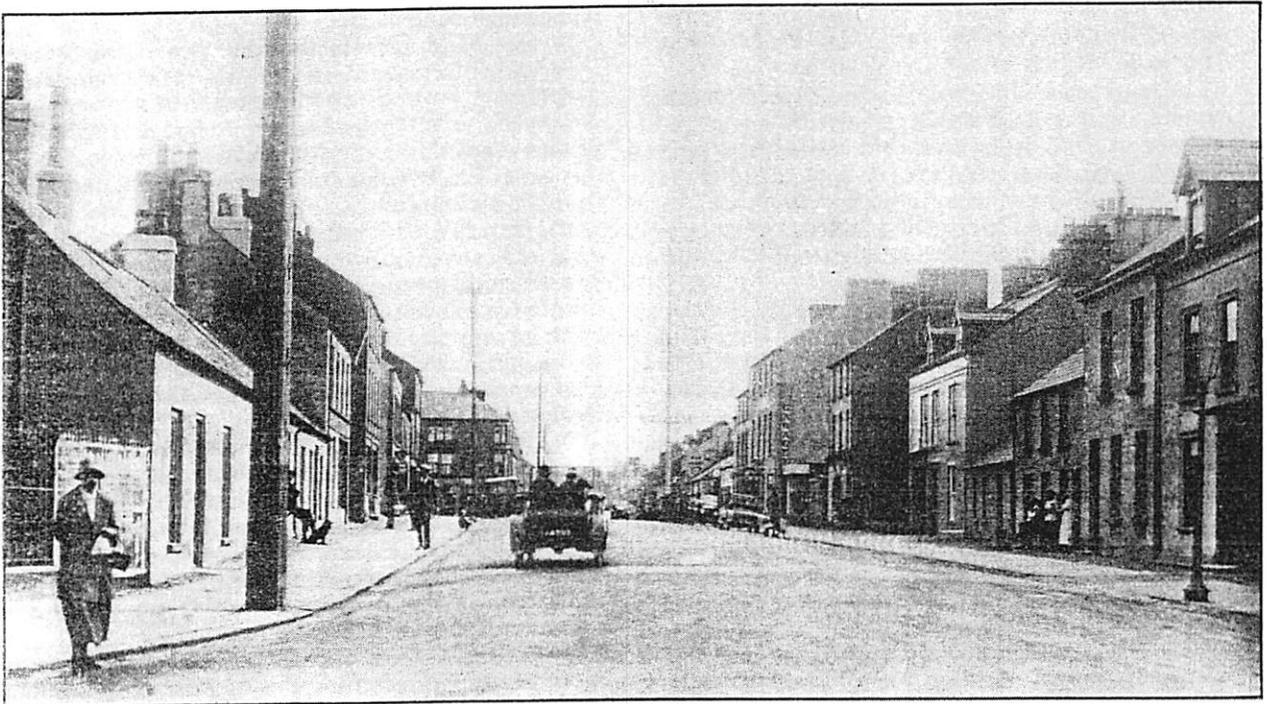
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Looking along High Street from east, c.1931.

HIGH STREET AND ITS ENTRIES

dated from the first quarter of the nineteenth century with some alterations carried out in the Victorian period. An odd aspect of the layout of this particular group was that instead of following the natural curve of the street as one moved towards the Belfast Bar, it simply continued in a straight line, so resulting in an appreciable gap between the end houses and the Belfast Bar; this provided an alternative access to the Strand area. Overall, the group presented a varied and attractive elevation to the street.

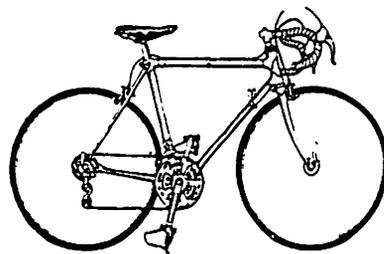
The houses at the eastern end of this group were single-storey and as such probably pre-dated 1800. Prior to their removal in 1970, no. 23 (modern numbering) was a confectioner's shop run by Mrs. McKenna. Three doors further up, William Anderson owned the Bangor Hotel at Nos. 21 and 23 (old numbering) for some years until his death in 1854, after which his widow continued the concern. It was here, too, that William Miller, one of the town's better known builders and cabinet-makers, operated his business in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A large open courtyard at the back of these premises also served houses in Strand Street.

No. 33 (numbered 25 in 1854) was a single storey cottage which never lost its character. Two doors further on, No. 37 was occupied by William Nimick, Holywood's leading builder in the second half of the last century, and whose significance has already been evaluated in the historical introduction. The house which had a coach arch readily lent itself, in the twentieth century, for use by Moore's Taxis Ltd.

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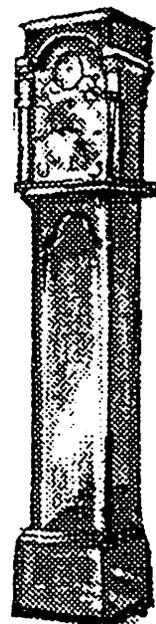
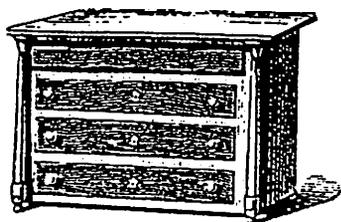
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BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Early 19th Century houses at nos. 17-35, High Street. (demolished in 1970).

houses, set behind gardens, was probably built in the late 1830's, a telling feature being a small ogee window in the attic of each gable. That in No. 41 is now masked by the Post Office building, showing that this pair originally stood on its own. These houses also have a centrally positioned coach arch with the main entrance doors opening off the inside of it, a feature which occurs in very few other Ulster towns.

The Belfast Hotel, now the Lynch Building at No. 47, a prominent edifice in this part of the street, has been looked at in Chapter III. The earliest record of what is now the Maypole Bar at the corner of Shore Road and High Street occurs in the year 1834 when one Thomas Read was the owner, the building probably dating from the previous decade. By 1854 the ground was

leased by Adam J. Macrory, the well-known Belfast solicitor, and the concern had become known as the Duke of York public house. This is one of the smaller two-storey cottage-style houses and, happily, still retains much of its semi-rural charm.

The south side of the remainder of High Street has also witnessed many changes over the years. In the 1830's the buildings at the corner with Church Road were owned by John Cooper and were removed in 1864 to make way for the present rather fine three-storey building which nowadays accommodates E. A. Baird's Chemist Shop. It has a rounded corner typical of mid-Victorian commercial architecture and forms an important contribution to the streetscape of the centre of the town. Numbers 50 and 52 (modern numbering) is another good example of a pair of houses with a communal coach arch. They seem to have replaced much older property in about 1846 and are set back from the street so allowing the later construction of shop premises in the garden of No. 50. In 1860 Robert Usher lived at 52. Originally the front gardens were railed. Here, in the early 1870's J. C. Payne from Belfast opened the medical hall which was bought in 1918 by Charles Sweeney.

The premises nowadays occupied by Rodney Campbell and Brian Morton and Co., to which reference has already been made in Chapter III, were used as a public house in the 1850's. In much more recent times it was a hardware shop owned by the Ballagh family who started a coal yard in High Street in 1855. Next to it Alexandra Place existed purely as a

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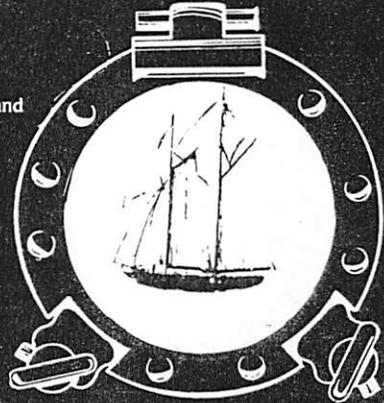
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narrow path running past the neighbouring cottages and then between the back gardens, ultimately reaching Church View. The rather substantial building that nowadays includes both the Gallery Bar and Balmer's was erected in about 1870. What is now the Gallery Bar was, at the turn of the century, called the White Star Inn and was run by the Trainor family. This building occupies the site of two cottage-type houses which originally belonged to a row of six, the remaining ones still standing behind small gardens, nowadays numbered 66 to 72. In the 1860's one James McNally ran a posting establishment in the end house (then numbered 76) and sixty years later a rather enterprising gentleman by the name of Mr. Webster (nicknamed "Old Webbey") conducted a book-maker's business in the back room of this house.

The ground in front of what is now the High Street Presbyterian Church was, prior to its construction in 1858, taken up by two dwellings, presumably of the cottage type. This church will be discussed more fully in Chapter XVI. Immediately to the west of the church, Gray's Court, dating from about 1840, was an L-shaped little enclave of white-washed two-storey cottages which lasted until 1921 when it was removed to make way for the rather grand red brick bank, now occupied by the T.S.B.

In the late 1840's one of the doctors to settle in Hollywood was Dr. John Gabbey (1822-1885) who made his home at 88 (old numbering) High Street, nowadays occupied by Tog's Ices. Surgeon T. Kelly, the historian, opened a medical hall in this part of High Street in

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BUILDINGS OF HOLLYWOOD



The central part of High Street, from N.E. in about 1922. Photo:- C. Henfrey.

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HIGH STREET AND ITS ENTRIES

about 1850. One J. McMurray was a spirit-dealer at No. 94 in the year 1860, the premises being at the corner with Patton's Lane, then a thoroughfare of small dwellings leading to Church View. Very much later this concern became known as the Palace Bar which was replaced by the Martello Inn in 1974.

Chapter XVII will consider more fully the Sullivan Schools, one of High Street's most dominant edifices, erected on the site of an old Smithy in 1862. The old house at the corner with Downshire Road, and already described in Chapter III, was a public store during the 1850's. Most of the houses further up the Street on this side are survivors from the 1825 to 1850 period, those at nos. 118 and 120 being virtually unspoilt. No. 116, named Grendor in the 1930's by the late William Wilson, and set far back from the street, was already built by 1834 at which time it was occupied by Dr. Samuel McIlveen. Both he and his colleague Dr. Robert Orr McKittrick who lived at no. 126, then called Auburn Place (itself built in about 1830), were both very prominent in the life of the village, being leading members of the Parish Vestry which body ran many of the community's municipal affairs. A row of old single-storied cottages between Auburn Place and Ean Hill was removed in the 1930's — the end one lingered on till 1985. Walmer Terrace, a rather dominant group of three storey town houses at nos. 140-150, was built in 1856.

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Returning to the survey of the north side of High Street, the Sea-Horse Inn at the corner with Shore Road has a long history. The building was certainly there in the early 1830's when it was a row of two-storey cottage-type houses, probably still purely residential at that stage. We first hear of commercial usage in 1849 when William Kincaid was a publican there, and it was called Kincaid's Hotel (at that time accommodation was, often provided upstairs). He renamed it the Railway Hotel in 1852 (confusingly there was also a Railway Hotel in Hibernia Street, then Place), and was succeeded in 1860 by Patrick Burns. Following the latter's death in about 1878 his

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widow Ellen ran both it and a tobacconist's shop next door at 2 Shore Road until her retirement in 1897. Later it was called the Victoria Bar and in more recent times took on its present name. It was completely rebuilt and modernised in 1975.

Alexander Lennox opened a grocer's shop three doors away at No. 59 (old numbering) in the 1860's, and his son and grandson, both called James, carried on the business until well into the present century, The premises are now occupied by J. A. Mackey, optician.

Killop's Court was the locale of a little community living in eight cottage-type houses (reduced to four in the twentieth century) on sloping ground to the east side of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. Reached through a coach arch beside No. 71 (modern numbering) High Street it was built in about 1840 and among its inhabitants at the beginning of the present century was a blacksmith, Daniel Barry whose family had been prominent in that calling in High Street for the previous half century. The little entry was demolished in 1966 and Meneely's garage complex built on the site. Two doors away the end house of the group was a public house, run by a Mrs. Nimick in the 1850's and 1860's, and nearly one hundred years later "Jimpy" Lennox kept his furniture shop and made his yellowman there. Delta Travel are now on the site.

For some years after the opening of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in 1849, the ground in front of it was partially occupied by two small houses which were then pulled down to provide a better view of the Church's facade. In the mid-1870's one Francis Crozier was a tailor in a house several

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doors further along at No. 77 (old numbering), now occupied by the Co-op butchers. The very last house in this row of rather low two-storey cottages is nowadays occupied by the By-Stander newsagency, but in the 1850's and 1860's was a tavern run by James Gourley. An interesting feature of these buildings, which seem to belong to the 1820's, is that many of them still have back rooms at a level much lower than those at the front, a circumstance that reminds one of the pre-historic beach-head on which they are built.

Crossing the mouth of Hiberia Street, one came to a similar row of dwellings, all of which except no. 99 were demolished in 1967 to make way for Mace Supermarket and neighbouring shops. The Ulster Bank at No. 101 is on the site of a grocery run by one John Butler in the 1860's and in the first half of the present century, by the Barr family. The remnants of Gray's Lane can still be seen at the end of this group. Dating from the 1830's, it was elbow-shaped in plan and one of its residents at the turn of the present

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HIGH STREET AND ITS ENTRIES

century was M. McCall who was the sexton of the Old Priory Graveyard. The Rev. Richard Oulton, garrison chaplain at Belfast, lived next door at No. 111 in the fifties and sixties of last century, and the buildings between Gray's Lane and Sullivan Place date from 1870 and 1918, having replaced older properties.

In the 1850's Sullivan's Place did not exist, but there were old cottages occupying what is today the site of Kearney's Buildings and approximately half the width of Sullivan's Place. When these were demolished the ground lay vacant for many years until 1936 when Kearney's Buildings, a good specimen of Art Deco commercial architecture, were erected. Further up the Street, a small Methodist Chapel was built in 1838 on the site of Laurence Henry's Motor Showroom forecourt, and a tiny fragment of one of the walls survived until 1971. Next to it, on a very steeply sloping site two dwellings, single-storey at the front and two-storey at the back, appeared in about 1830, and had substantial gardens, both back and front. At that time they must have enjoyed a splendid view across Belfast Lough. The houses were served by a stone built coach house beside the Street. A well known resident of the house nearer the town centre was the late Dr. S. Magowan. The entire site was cleared in 1971 and eventually replaced by the Habinteg housing complex in 1984.

Next door the R.U.C. are stationed in Redclyffe at no. 137, built by Dr. David Johnston in 1889. An opulent two-storey red brick house with sandstone dressings to the windows and doors, it makes use of

such Arts and Crafts features as elliptical windows at the front and a fine staircase in the neo-Jacobean style, lit by a large stained glass window. Immediately adjacent, a pair of three-storey town houses, served by a communal coach arch with the entrance doors heading off it, was built in 1830 by Hugh Stewart. Given a facelift in the 1850's they are now shops, that at no. 139 being owned by Mr. Richards. It would appear from the deeds that the rabbit warren associated with the Kinnegar extended as far as this property at the time of building.

The buildings that straggled out at this end of the town in the 'twenties and 'thirties of the nineteenth century were mostly single-storied affairs, many still thatched. The process of their replacement by more substantial edifices was much slower than that carried out at the eastern end of Holywood. St. Helen's at no. 155 High Street (modern numbering) was probably the last classical style mansion to appear in the town and was built in 1876 by Dr. Archibald Dunlop (1834-1902), a native of Derrriaghy, Co. Antrim and for over forty years until his death a Town Commissioner and a leading doctor in Holywood. His surgery was not far away at 108 High Street. An Italianate style stuccoed villa, reminiscent of Ballywalter Park, the grandly scaled house, set against a background of mature trees, imparts a dignified and opulent air to the upper part of High Street. It is a massive four-square edifice, set well back from the street, is two storeys high at the front and three at the back, owing to the steepness of the pre-



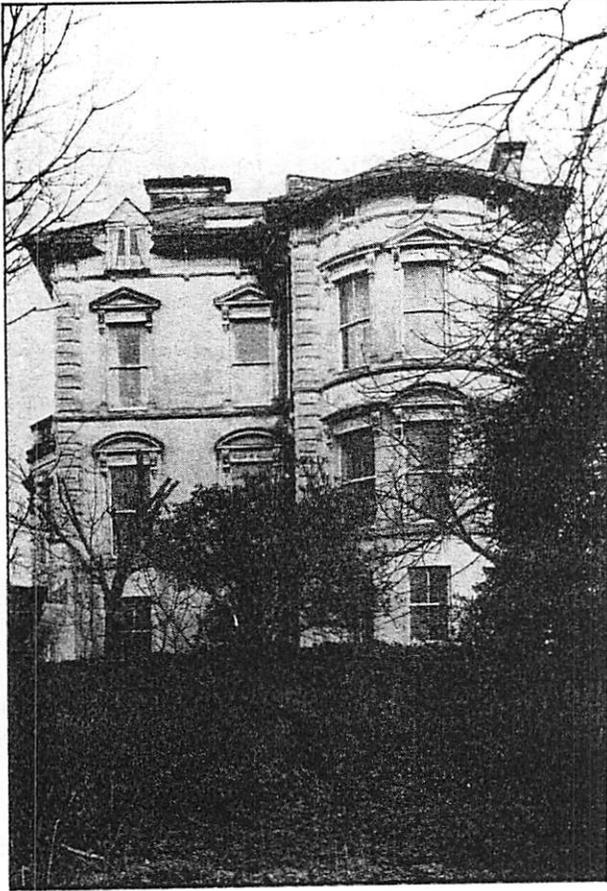
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St. Helen's, High Street from the back.

historic cliff-face on which it is located. Among its more outstanding features are the heavy portico at the front door, the ornate window surrounds, the overhanging roof with the attic windows cleverly tucked in below the eaves and the bow-fronted bay running the full height of the back of the house; originally one would have enjoyed an uninterrupted view of the Lough from that side, but trees have since grown on what used to be a fine lawn. The front hall boasts some well-carved wooden pillars in the Corinthian style.

Close by, nos. 157 and 159, Victoria Terrace is a pair of substantial and rather elegantly proportioned town houses, also sited on very steeply sloped terrain. Built about the year 1847 by Hugh Stewart they remain largely unspoilt. Throughout its long life, Spafield was, as it were, the furthest outpost of High Street. Situated at the very bottom of the steep bank that skirts the thoroughfare at that point, this charming terrace was largely hidden amongst the trees, although initially it would have had a good outlook over the Lough. The four houses making up this group turned their fronts towards the sea rather than the road and were probably sited there owing to the proximity of the health-giving chalybeate springs. As well as having an elegantly proportioned facade made of a deep brown brick, there was specific architectural

features such fine doorcases and a delightful little ogee window in one of the gables. The terrace was built in 1832 by a prosperous young provision merchant Jonathan Cordukes (1802-1865) who together with his father and brother settled in the Nile Street area of Belfast in about 1822, having arrived from Harby in Yorkshire. His business was in York Street and he distinguished himself in civic life, being one of the first Councillors of the re-constituted Belfast Town Council in 1842 and later on he served as a Town Commissioner of Holywood for several years. Spafield was demolished in 1980 to make way for the Fold Housing Association flats.

Chapter VII

SHORE STREET

AS we have already seen, the street that took one from the Maypole at the junction with High Street, down to the sea-shore, was one of the original thoroughfares of the small market village laid out in the early seventeenth century, and also, that like the rest of Holywood, it consisted of thatched cabins until the opening of the nineteenth century. By the time Holywood was surveyed in 1834 by the Ordnance Department of the Army, most of these cottages had been replaced by more substantial dwellings, but one or two rows belonging to fishermen still remained near the lower end.

The nineteenth century was an age in which society in general was extremely conscious of its class distinctions, an aspect of life which made itself particularly manifest in Holywood. During the town's heyday as a watering place, the professional and mercantile classes tended to gravitate to Shore Street which, although not quite as fashionable as High Holywood, nonetheless had a genteel quality about it. Until well into the twentieth century Shore Street was for the most part purely residential and one entire terrace is still completely so. In the middle decades of the last century the residents included academics such as Professor Masson, doctors, insurance agents, and people with limited private means. For a very long time the few shops were mostly to be found near the Maypole end of the thoroughfare. Those engaged in trade included provision dealers, grocers such as Thomas Moffatt who was there in the 1850's, one or two publicans and at least one tailor, Francis Crozier who returned to Shore Street in the late 1870's having spent some time in High Street (q.v.). One or two people ran lodging houses to cater for visitors during the bathing season. A certain Miss Mulligan ran a small private school in the 1880's.

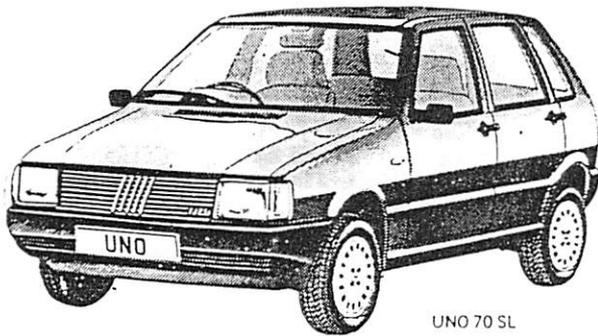
At the time of the 1834 survey a row of eight tiny cottages, possibly thatched, covered the ground nowadays occupied by numbers 2 to 6, situated on the west side of Shore Street. Slightly bigger dwellings stood on the future site of nos. 8 to 18. The rather solid looking pair of three storey buildings, currently

SHORE STREET

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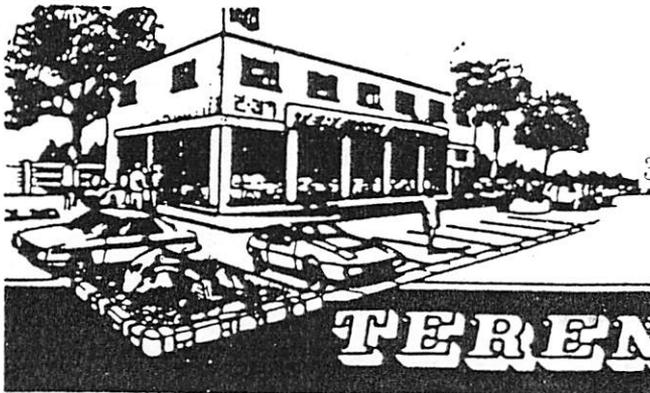
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BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



No. 14 Shore Street (now Road). Built in about 1839, this is typical of the better-class dwellings of that time.

numbered 2 and 4, was erected between 1854 and 1859. They were private houses until the 1870's when they were converted into shops with living accommodation above. In 1890, one Sarah Robinson was a milliner at No. 4, and the Sheridan family were tobacconists at No. 2 until the 1970's.

The ground now the site of Nos. 6 to 26 was owned by Dr. James Brison in the early 1830's. Nos. 6 and 8 is a pair of rather pleasing two-storey houses, probably built in about 1835, numbers 10 to 14 are three-storey houses built by Thomas Spence in 1839, and Nos. 16 and 18, also three-storey, date from about 1841, and to this day retain their essential character despite commercialisation of all the ground floors. In 1860 William Armstrong, by that time their owner, lived at No. 16. In the late 1890's, Captain Harrison's estate office was located in No. 8, today occupied by Bell's Bakery. Next to this group, the four rather well-doing three storey houses, which still retain their original semi-elliptical fanlights, are set behind fairly deep gardens and are still unspoilt private dwellings belonging to the late 1820's. In the 1890's, Mrs. Sarah Gilpin appears to have been a coal merchant at No. 20, whilst Dr. J. T. Woodside lived at No. 22. In 1840, a similar terrace of three dwellings, called Archville (Nos. 28-32) was erected by John Jackson on the site of

two single-storey cottages; the third cottage belonging to that group is still partially standing and is used as a car repair shop. In the early 1860's, one Raymond Kirner who had a clockmaker's business in Church Lane, Belfast, lived there.

In the middle of the last century, the modern position of the gates of Terence McKeag's motor showroom was occupied by David Lennox's private house and there was a public house next door at No. 42 (contemporary numbering). Lennox's house was removed in the 1870's to make way for a gymnasium, a red-brick barn-like structure, itself demolished in 1974. Finally, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian meeting house, already referred to in Chapter III, stood at the corner with Marine Parade, and had an upstairs school which in 1834 had forty pupils, of whom only fourteen were over the age of ten. The baths which replaced it in 1852 will be described in Chapter VIII.

The east side of Shore Street developed somewhat more slowly than the other side and today presents a fragmented appearance owing to the removal in the 1960's of nos. 13 to 17 in order to provide an access to the Strand estate. Numbers 5 to 11, were also cleared and a warehouse, simulated to look like a terrace, has been built. The east side also seems to have boasted more commercial concerns than the west side, and among them was the Cyclist Arms Hotel run by Fred McDonald from 1898 to 1907. Most of the properties here had long rear gardens in the middle of the nineteenth century, those at the lower end forming part of Shorefield.

James McKelvey kept his well-known bicycle shop at no. 3 Shore Street from 1909 until the early 1940's. Next door at no. 5, a provision store was run in the 1890's by Alexander Patty whose family was involved in the victualling trade in both High Street and Church Street. Numbers 5 and 7 were a pair of three storey dwellings dating from around 1870.

Loughview Terrace was a group of three-storey dwellings at numbers 9 to 15 with railed front gardens. Built in about 1850 by John Power, one of the first residents was Dr. James Marshall, a noted apothecary with a business in High Street, Belfast, and whose father was one of the founders of the medical profession in that town. Numbers 19 to 25 are two-storey houses probably belonging to the 1820's, but are now greatly altered, only one original doorcase surviving. Next to this group Jubilee Terrace, consisting of three houses with bay windows, was built in about 1880 on the site of much older property. William Dunwoody's coal business had been founded in Church Street in 1858, and subsequently flourished for many years at no. 27, Shore Street. The firm later added house and insurance agency to their activities and went out of business in the 1930's. In the 1890's, Alexander Gray, who owned land in the Strand area, was a coal merchant and contractor two doors away at no. 31. Here, also, Mrs. Wright had a haberdashery on the site, in the 1860's.

Stewart's Court, a little entry consisting of seven houses, was located between no. 31 and 33 (modern numbering). During the 1860's one of the inhabitants of Stewart's Court was John Epperson, a boatman.

SHORE STREET



No. 33, Shore Street (now Road). Built in the late 1820's, it is a good example of a double-fronted town house of the period.

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BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Architectural drawing showing the "Star and Garter", prior to its construction in 1870.

No. 33 is a very fine example of a small Georgian double-fronted town house and dating from the late 1820's is in a remarkable state of preservation, having been lately restored by the owners, H. S. Warwick. Its immediate neighbour at no. 35, although altered, was identical and was the town's Post Office from 1860 to 1872 (see Chapter VI).

Immediately beyond, two of the old fishermen's cabins, which had originally come to within a few feet of the high tide mark, were pulled down in 1869 to make room for Patrick Burns' new public house. Completed in 1870 to designs by Timothy Hevey the well-known ecclesiastical architect and built by

William Nimick, it was a substantial two-storey, red brick structure with polychrome dressings to the doors and windows and was a splendid example of mid-Victorian architecture. Initially called the "Pier Hotel", it became the "Brittania" shortly after Burns' death in 1878. Thomas Archibald was the proprietor during the 1890's. At the time of its demolition in 1970 to make way for the Through-Pass it was called the "Star and Garter."

In the 1850's there was a small flagstaff at the lower end of Shore Street.



Looking up Shore Street, from the railway, shows Baths-house on right, c.1878. Photo by W. Lawrence. Courtesy National Library.

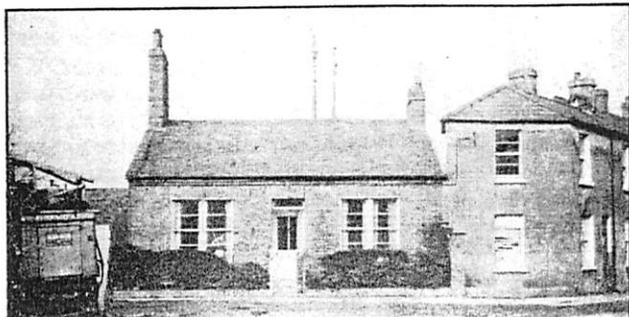
Chapter VIII

THE OLD SEA-FRONT

Along the sea-front... a large portion of the houses are provided for the accommodation of the visitors. These are of various capacity, and consequently, of various cost; so that no family, however large or however small its establishment, need despair of meeting with suitable accommodation in this situation." Thus Surgeon Thomas Kelly, writing in his "History of Holywood" in 1850, described those parts of the town that stood on the water's edge, during its hey-day as a summer retreat. In the forty or so short years since the first visitors, seeking the health-giving properties of the little sea-side village, had received make-shift accommodation in the better fishermen's cabins that huddled near the shoreline, the whole district nowadays covered by Strand Avenue and Marine Parade had transformed into a fashionable quarter of the town. Neat new houses were springing up as those of the lower middle classes arrived from Belfast, initially to holiday, but later to make their permanent home there, a trend which gained even further momentum with the opening of the Belfast and Holywood railway in 1848.

Modern Holywood can thus be said to not only owe its *raison d'être* to the bracing air and then comparatively clean beaches bounding Marine Parade and the present Strand area, but it originated there. An added attraction was the presence in and around Holywood of chalybeate springs, some of which were near the railway station.

There is evidence to suggest that Stewart's Place, Strand Street and Marine Parade were laid out in their eventual form by the 1810—1820 period and they were most certainly there by 1834. Until the railway embankment was created at the commencement of extending the line to Bangor in 1859 the view from this area across the Lough was completely uninterrupted and the beaches were readily accessible from localities as far apart as the site of the modern Redburn Square to Cooper's Bay which was between the site of Conaty's Arch and Sea Park. The embankment was



Cottage type residence in Stewart's Place. Built c.1862. Demolished 1969.

placed on the exact line of the coast from the railway station to Cooper's Bay and in turn was replaced by the Through-Pass and a new embankment formed even further out to sea in 1972.

It has been reliably stated that the entire coast-line from the site of the present-day Esplanade to the little old harbour at Cultra, was between fifty and one hundred further out than it is nowadays. This coastal strip was basically low-lying waste land and, prior to its disappearance in the early part of the nineteenth century through the agency of erosion by the sea, supported several fishermen's cabins and the very first Presbyterian Meeting House of Holywood, already referred to in Chapter III, some distance below the present high water mark; there were also at least two thatched cabins similarly positioned at Cultra.

An early manifestation of the development of the spa came in May 1824 when Hugh Stewart opened hot sea-water baths in a small building right on the edge of the sea at the junction of Strand Street and the future Bath Terrace. The public announcement, carried in the "Northern Whig", also informs us that he had some good lodging houses to let. This particular venture failed after a few seasons, but in the 1840's and 1850's John Rowley's daughter Ann (d. 1859) ran private baths in a house built by her father, very close to the sea and near the junction of Stewart's Place and the future Conaty's Arch.

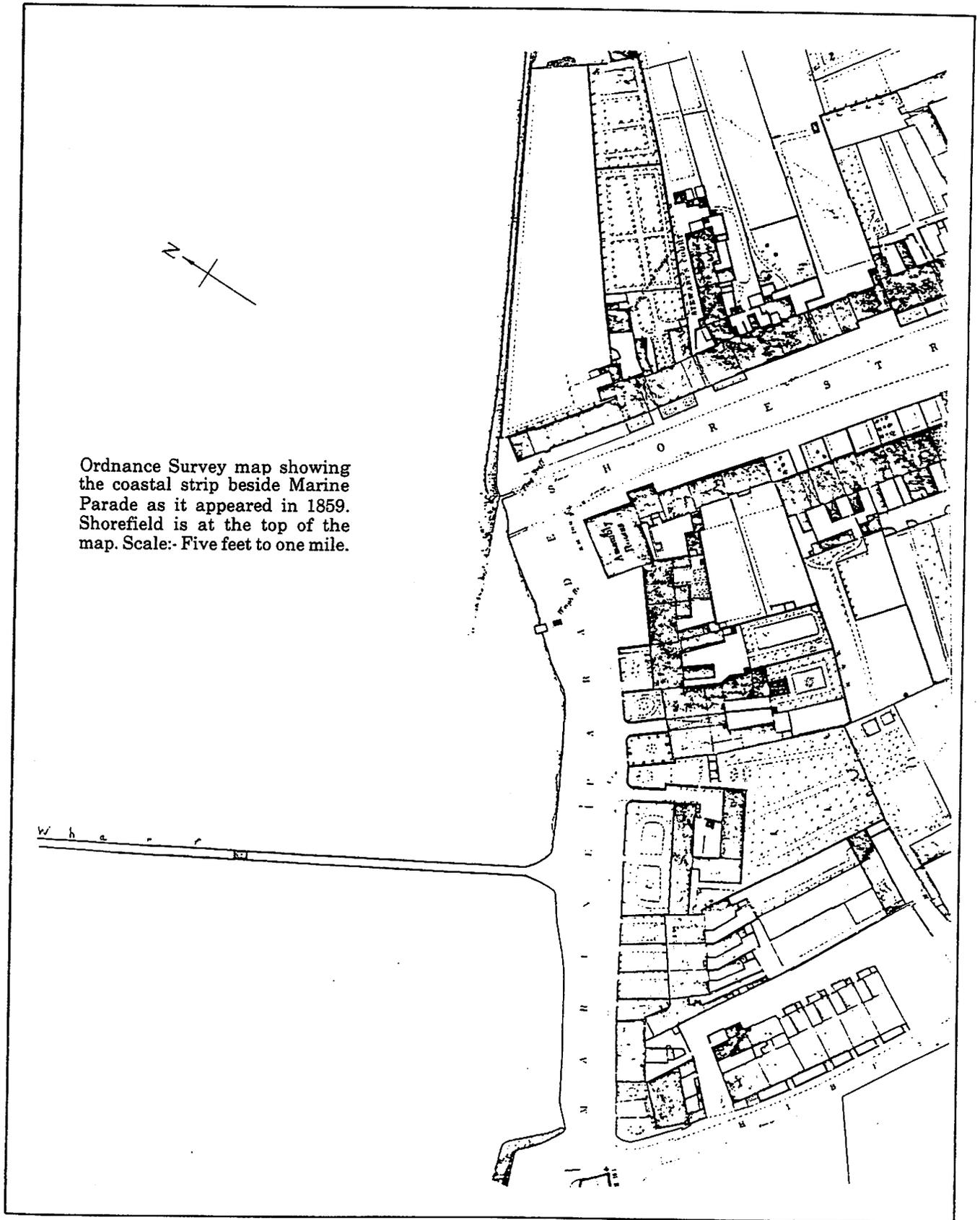
Those settling along the sea-board included merchants and academics, artisans and a few labourers, the latter group tending to gravitate to Stewart's Place and Strand Street, and the former to Marine Parade.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1834 clearly shows most of the east side of Stewart's Place as being lined with houses and outbuildings almost as far as the sea. At this time they were mostly owned and very likely built by Hugh Stewart who was also responsible for much of Strand Street and Bath Terrace. In the 1850's residents included the Rev. Charles McAlester of the N. S. Presbyterian Church and John Cosgrave, surgeon. The River Twisel flowed down the middle of Stewart's Place and open to the sky until so recently as the 1860's, and was crossed at intervals by little footbridges, also known as foot-sticks.

Apart from Ann Rowley's bath-house, already mentioned, the west side remained undeveloped until the appearance in the 1860's of Lennox Place which was the home of such artisans as bakers, carpenters and shoemakers. The Seaside Tavern seems to have opened in the mid-1870's, one Henry Godbey being the first owner. In the 1850's there was a gate in the sea-wall near the bottom of Stewart's Place, admitting one to the beach; this sea wall extended from that point to the bottom of Shore Street.

Strand Street ran at an angle between High Street and Stewart's Place, and seems to have existed at least as early as 1726 when the First Presbyterian Congregation originally moved there (see Chapter III). By 1834, both Strand Street and Bath Terrace had been partly built, much of the property being owned by Hugh Stewart. There was a row of thatched cottages on the north side, removed in the 1850's and beside

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Ordnance Survey map showing the coastal strip beside Marine Parade as it appeared in 1859. Shorefield is at the top of the map. Scale:- Five feet to one mile.

THE OLD SEA-FRONT

them, the Presbyterian Church (at that time often called a Meeting-House), a plain rectangular building measuring 70 feet by 33 feet. Beside it was the Sessions House, a somewhat smaller edifice, apparently incorporating a little gaol. In the 1830's the Court was convened on alternate Mondays and in its latter days only once every three weeks in order to hear cases of minor debt; more serious cases were heard in Downpatrick. The approximately site of these buildings is nowadays covered by the four-storey flats of Strand Avenue. Until the 1860's the triangle of ground between Strand Street and the sea was purely waste land. The residents of Strand Street in the 1870's included Robert Arthurs, a solicitor, Robert Bradley, a labourer, John Maginnis, a painter, James Nimick, a carpenter and William Gilpin who was the harbour master for the new pier (see Chapter XVIII). The Masonic Hall was in Strand Street in the 1870's.

An elbow-shaped corner took one into Bath Terrace which thoroughfare hugged the coast-line. In addition to lodging-houses, other dwellings here were occupied by William Jamison, a plasterer who was there in 1870, and in the same decade Francis Sloan, a car-owner, previously resident in Shore Street. He was one of the band of ten of so who busily supplied the needs of both visitors and inhabitants of Holywood. Bath Cottage was built in about 1850 as part of the group.

The rectangle of ground immediately behind Bath Terrace was bounded by the backs of properties in High Street, Shore Street and Strand Street, and by the 1850's was mostly taken up by long and neat gardens. This area was known as Shorefield and its view over the sea was uninterrupted since Bath Terrace was only partially built and there was no railway embankment. On this patch of land and quite close to the "Star and Garter" tavern there was a small coastguard station, manned by one officer and an assistant. From the 1860's the coast-guard station was located at the Kinnegar. In 1867, some years after the closing of the Shorefield coast-guard station, Captain Harrison started a small market and although it was short-lived, the area was locally known as "the markets" till within living memory. In the same year Alexander Gray erected some houses nearby. The entire area was re-developed by the N.I. Housing Trust between 1967 and 1971.

It is highly likely that there were fishermen's cabins on the ground nowadays occupied by the south side of Marine Parade as early as the eighteenth century. Many of the houses still there were already in existence by 1834, and were either lodging-houses for holiday-makers or homes for those of the mercantile and academic classes. In the 'thirties and 'forties the principal owners were John Gray, William Bottomley and David Lennox. At that time and until the formation of the railway embankment, the sea came right up to Marine Parade, and there was no sea-wall, so enabling bathers and fishermen to enter the water directly from the road; also bathing boxes would have been wheeled into the water from there. When the embankment was thrown up a large pond of sea-water was trapped on the north side and it was filled in so recently as the early part of the present century; semi-



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Bath Buildings, Holywood, 29th May, 1854.

Advertisement for the Holywood Baths, Marine Parade, taken from Belfast and Ulster Directory, 1854.

detached houses were erected on the reclaimed land in 1934.

On entering Marine Parade from Shore Street, the very first building that one encountered was the Baths-house, erected on the site of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church (see Chapter VII). This was to prove to be the most successful venture of its kind in Holywood, the two previous curative baths having been of comparatively short duration. The Holywood Baths Company was formed and opened the salt-water baths in 1852. This was a long overdue step in view of Holywood's status as a spa and rate of growth. From the very outset, the directors, of whom David McCance was Chairman, made arrangements with the Belfast and County Down Railway Company whereby people coming by train could purchase both the return fare and the use of the baths for a concessionary price. On weekdays the baths were open from six o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night. The prices ranged from three pence for a cold shower bath to one shilling for a warm

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

salt water bath which was relatively expensive at the time, despite which they were well patronised. Four years later they came under the direct control of the Railway Company and were to remain in business until long after Hollywood's heyday as a resort. The baths were located in a simple and unpretentious two-storey building that looked not unlike a private house, of which the upper floor was the Assembly Room where the Town Commissioners met at first. In 1917 it became Hollywood's first cinema, and in the 1930's acquired the nickname of "bottom house" as opposed to the "top house" which was then opened as the new Cinema at the beginning of Downshire Road. It was mysteriously burnt down in 1940.

Adjoining it was a pair of two-storey houses which were demolished in 1970, the site now being occupied by Terence McKeag's motor showroom complex. Opposite these and almost at the water's edge there was a small weigh-bridge, and we are told that in 1877 one John Mercer was the weighmaster, living in Shore Street. Next in the group came Marine Cottage, occupied in the 1860's by John G. McGee, proprietor of the prosperous and leading clothiers and outfitters at Nos. 46 to 50, High Street, Belfast. Beside it was the Marine Hotel, already well established by 1850 and reckoned to be the second best hotel in Hollywood. Owned in the 1850's by William Bottomley, it boasted an American Bowling Alley at the back which proved to be very popular with the towns people. The building, complete with its central coach arch, is still standing but much altered.

Immediately beside the hotel was a pair of single-storey fishermen's cottages which were used as a holiday home by the Batt family in the middle of the nineteenth century. They must have been one of the last thatched dwellings in Hollywood, a photograph taken in 1878 showing it to be still thatched. They were removed in 1970. Directly opposite these cottages, a two hundred yard long wharf leading from the beach was constructed in 1855, a structure which will be discussed more fully in Chapter XVIII.

John Gray erected four rather substantial and dignified town houses next to these cottages in two stages in about 1830 and 1835, arranging them in an elbow-shaped plan. Known as Gray's Buildings, their inhabitants included Professor Craik (see Chapter I) living at No. 7 (modern numbering 18) in 1860, Professor John Ferrie and Dr. Blain. They were partially demolished in 1970 in preparation for the new Through-Pass.

Next to Gray's Buildings, the House of Industry stood on a site nowadays taken up by the sub-way passing under the Through-Pass. This was opened in about 1813 by the Rev. W. A. Holmes, Vicar of Hollywood to provide support and shelter to fifteen aged and infirm paupers. Outdoor relief was also distributed to thirty people. It seems to have closed its doors with the completion of the Belfast Workhouse in 1841.

The only intrusion at this time in this quiet backwater came with the opening in August 1848 of the very first branch of the Belfast and County Down Railway which ran from Queen's Quay in Belfast to a



AT HOLYWOOD. CO. DOWN. 1278. W.L.

Marine Parade, from the north, c.1878. The Marine Hotel is to the left of the trees. Photo by W. Lawrence. Courtesy National Library.

rather elegant terminus at Holywood. The Railway Company had been formed in 1846 by an Act of Parliament in response to the growing traffic to the seaside resort. Interestingly, two brothers Alexander and John Montgomery put forward a rival scheme for a railway run on the atmospheric principle, but withdrew on account of technical difficulties. The work was primarily the product of three very brilliant men. John Godwin was the engineer and overcame the problem of crossing the sloblands at Ballymacarrett and Tillysburn; William Dargan, who already had the experience of forming the new channel for the Port of Belfast in the late 1830's, was the contractor, and Charles Lanyon, Surveyor for County Antrim and rapidly coming to the fore as Ulster's leading architect, was responsible for the station buildings. Situated in what was later to become Redburn Square, it was a rather long and low structure, complete with waiting rooms (heated with open coal fires), a refreshment room, booking office and station master's accommodation. It was a dull grey building and the main platform awning had a finely executed decorative timber ceiling. It was accidentally destroyed by fire in August 1964.

It is of more than passing interest to record that the majority of the workmen engaged on the construction of the scheme were from the West of Ireland and had come North during the worst days of the Famine, seeking work. An additional rather curious sidelight is that for a short time after the opening of the extension to Bangor in 1865, travellers to Bangor had to change trains at Holywood by ascending a staircase to the Bangor-bound platform.

In the 1890's sailing coal-boats used to discharge their cargo near Conaty's Arch at low tide. After that time, however, coal came to Holywood by train and was unloaded at the sidings.

Chapter IX

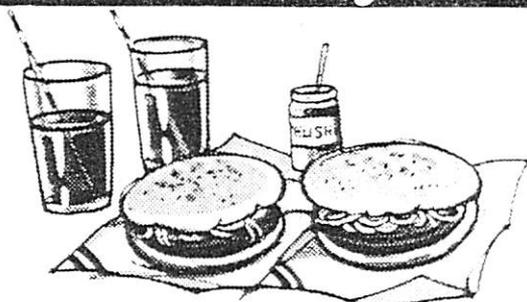
HIBERNIA STREET & SULLIVAN PLACE

The area of the town made up of Hibernia Street, Sullivan Place and Redburn Square was something of a quiet backwater from the time it began to develop in the 1840's until 1972 when the Through-Pass was opened, so completely changing its character.

One of the factors which stultified its development, particularly on the west side, was the inherently marshy nature of the ground - even at the present day one encounters salt-water at a depth of only two feet. It was also comparatively distant from the centre of Holywood.

The first throughfare to be built up was Hibernia Street (then Place). Raven's map of 1625 shows a line of thatched cabins on what seems to be the future

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position of the east side of Hibernia Street and Redburn Square; unaccountably these had disappeared without trace by 1834 and quite probably by the eighteenth century. It would appear that in the last century a little stream flowed down the side of what is now Downshire Road, underneath the site of the old Sullivan Schools, crossing High Street, and then running parallel to Hibernia Street, finally to discharge into the sea near the railway station. A row of cottages located on what is nowadays the west side of Sullivan Place is shown on maps dated 1810 and 1817, but not on that of 1767. They had been totally removed by 1834.

Like Shore Street and Sullivan's Place, Hibernia Street slopes down from High Street as it is on the prehistoric beach. It began life as a path running from Gray's Lane, off High Street (see chapter VI). The first houses were built near the top of the street, probably sometime in the 1840's, those on the east side being both three-storey and two-storey town dwellings, the former having railed front gardens. They were demolished in the late 1960's. Immediately below them, James Withers opened the "Railway Tavern", soon to be called a Hotel, in the early 1850's. Following his death in 1870 at the age of 90, his wife Mary continued the concern. In the present century it became known as the 'Railway Bar' and was pulled down at the same time as the neighbouring terrace, to be replaced by the present single-storey tavern, 'The Railway Inn'. The two-storey house beyond it was built in the 1920's and was Rosamund Praeger's studio

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chimneys. At the same time a pair of two-story houses was erected between that terrace and Marine Parade.

The other side of Hibernia Street developed much more sporadically, one detached private house at no. 22 being built as recently as 1896. In about 1880 a Salvation Army Hall was erected on the site of a pleasant formal garden between nos. 2 and 4 (old numbering), and it in turn has been replaced in recent years by D. McGranaghan's book-making premises.

Until the 1960's Hibernia Street was mostly residential, with a social structure very similar to that of the Strand area. In the 1860's a Mrs. Lowry was a washerwoman, and other residents included John Hanna who was a solicitor, Jane Connolly, newsagent, William Ord, photographer and Francis Robinson, organist. Among the wide variety of artisans were shoemakers, saddlers, grocers, bakers, bank clerks, tailors and a carpenter. During the following decade one Miss Reid ran an academy for young ladies, Thomas Hunter, secretary to the Holywood Gas Works lived in the street and William McIlroy had a posting establishment. The several car-owners living there undoubtedly chose this vicinity owing to its proximity to the railway station.

In the 1850's the area nowadays covered by Redburn Square was still open green fields, mostly owned by Dr. James Bryson; the lower portion belonged to the railway authorities. When the Square finally took shape, it consisted of a semi-circular garden on the south side and an open area for carriages outside the station.



Looking down Hibernia Street from High Street, c.1966. Reproduced by kind courtesy of Mrs. M. A. K. Garner.

for many years, and is now the 'Golden Chip'. Beside it the rather commanding terrace of four houses, three storeys in height, nowadays nos. 3 to 6, Redburn Square, but at the time of construction in about 1856 part of Hibernia Place, has lately been shorn of its

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The rather distinctive three-storey house at the corner with Hibernia Street was built in 1869, and ten years later the Orange Hall was erected at the corner of what is now Sullivan Place. This is a red brick structure in which polychrome brick has been extensively used around the Gothic-style windows and doors; on the whole rather unostentatious by Victorian standards. The War Memorial was completed in 1921 and is by L.S. Merrifield, a well-known sculpture.

Until about the year 1870 green fields reached right up to that part of High Street which is now the beginning of Sullivan Place. Following the laying out of the thoroughfare in the 1870's, development was both slow and intermittent and even at the present time, it gives the impression of a disjointed collection of buildings of indifferent quality. The most impressive edifice to have existed here was the Town Hall, erected in 1876 on the east side; it will be described more fully in Chapter XVII.

Devoted primarily to civic and public buildings, Sullivan Place has only one pair of private houses, erected at nos. 3 and 5 in 1879. Cement rendered and two-storied with dormer windows and with hood mouldings over the doors, they dominate the upper end of the street. In 1880 Adam Speers, headmaster of the nearby Sullivan Schools lived in one, and his neighbour was Hugh Rankin, noted watch-maker and jeweller of no. 5 Castle Lane, Belfast. The corner with High Street was not built until 1918.

On the same side there stood the Town Hall (now the site of the electricity showrooms) and below it, the



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BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

McCammon Memorial Masonic Hall was opened in 1905. It is a good example of Arts and Crafts design, notable features being the large Diocletian stained glass window on the ground floor and the small dome at one corner. Next door, the King Edward VII Memorial Building was completed in 1912 and today served as a social club.

The whole of the west side of Sullivan Place remained an untended wilderness until the 1930's when Kearney's Buildings appeared at the corner with High Street (see chapter VI) and Grainger Brothers' building at the far end. The Second World War saw the appearance of the Civil Defence Gas Cleansing Station which building was adapted for use as the Hollywood Library in 1948. Five years later the Queen's Hall, which incorporated the former gas cleansing station, was opened as a replacement for the Town Hall, destroyed in 1940. The Queen's Hall, designed by Munce and Kennedy, leading Belfast architects, is a two-storey, flat-roofed, red-brick edifice, typical of the "clean lines" movement then in vogue. Its principal feature is a very large auditorium on the first floor, and there are offices and smaller meeting rooms throughout the remainder of the building.

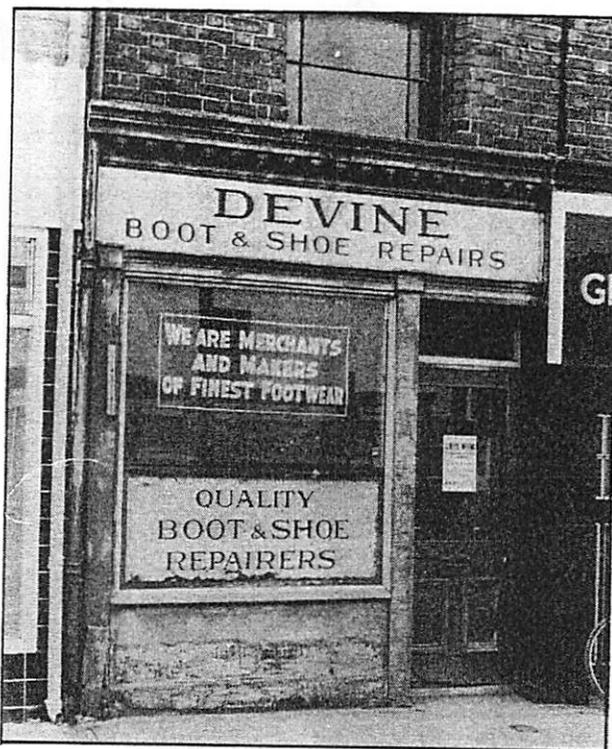
Chapter X

CHURCH STREET

Although Church Street (now Road) existed in embryo form at least as early as 1625, it, like the rest of Hollywood, barely expanded over the course of the next two centuries. By 1834 its west-side stretched from the junction with High Street up to what is now Church View whilst the other side was built up as far as the little winding laneway that ultimately became Brook Street. Also in common with the rest of the town, it originally contained only thatched cottages, one of which, interestingly, survived (but with a slated roof) at no. 12 until so recently as 1982.

The process of rebuilding during the early years of the nineteenth century seems to have been somewhat slower in Church Street than in other parts of the town, principally because that locality was furthest away from the sea and hence was not in demand by those seeking holiday accommodation. In 1834 there was still a row of eight little cottages on the site of nos. 27 to 37 (modern numbering), directly opposite the entrance to the modern car park. There was a long and straggling row of ten single-storey cottages between the entrance to the future Sullivan Street and Brook Street; most of these had been replaced by 1859. Many of the dwellings erected between 1830 and 1850 tended to be of the rather low two-storey cottage type, numbers 21 and 23 being good surviving examples.

Socially, the residents of Church Street were similar to those of the Strand area and Hibernia Street. The shop-keepers and artisans naturally tended to



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CHURCH STREET

congregate near the junction with High Street, whilst many of those living between Sullivan Street and the grounds of Riverston House (some of the old cottages were removed in 1858 when those grounds were laid out) were labourers and gardeners, the latter being mostly employed by the owners of the larger houses of High Holywood. The residents of the rather bigger two-storey houses between O'Neill's Place and Church View were mostly widows and spinsters with private means; they aspired to a slightly more gracious lifestyle than their immediate neighbours.

As we have seen in Chapter VI, the rather dignified rounded corner piece at nos. 1 and 3, Church Street and 46 High Street (modern numbering) was erected in 1864 in place of what would appear from the Valuation records to have been a group of single-storey cottages. The present-day Belfast Gas showrooms at nos. 9 and 11 were built in 1970 on the site of a pair of three-storey plain and grey painted houses, probably belonging to the 1840's, of which no.11 (originally no. 7) was the constabulary barrack until the move to High Street in about 1864. In the 1830's the station, or police house as it was then called, had been located at a small house whose site is nowadays occupied by Herron's newsagency at no. 22 on the far side of the street. At that time the barrack in Holywood was manned by only one constable, and it was not until the 1870's that he was given an assistant. Between 1896 and 1903, no. 11 was a Medical Hall run by John Shanks, M.P.S.I., his successor William Kennedy keeping it until 1919.

Next to it, the rather massive and sturdy looking two

storey building at nos. 13 and 15 dates from about 1855, and mention has already been made of the role of no. 15 as the town's Post Office from 1898 to 1935 and Labour Exchange during World War II. It is currently Hannah's flower shop. Herron's family grocery next door at no. 19 is in a distinctive gable-fronted cement faced building erected in 1894 as a replacement for a very small two-storey cottage-type house in which one Archibald Connolly, a painter, had lived in the 'fifties and sixties'. Nearby, O'Neill's Place, a small courtyard containing four dwellings, dates from about 1840.

No. 25 (modern numbering) is a pleasant two-storey dwelling with a front garden and until very recently was a private residence, built in about 1869 on the site of a rather short-lived house which itself had replaced little cottages in the 1840's. Next door, the pair of rather elegant town houses, of which no. 27 is McClelland's Health Food Shop, were built by William Wilson in 1845. The terrace of somewhat grander houses at nos. 31 to 37 was erected in 1857 by Archibald Sloan, a well-doing cabinet-maker and upholsterer with a business at 33 Castle Place, Belfast. He lived in one of these houses and also owned property in Church View.

The rather lofty coffin-shaped building at the corner with Church View was erected in 1875 on the site of much older property. From 1883 to 1893 and then from 1899 to 1904 it was the venue of the Working Men's Reading Rooms.

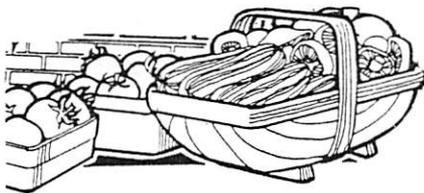
In 1854 the Public Fountain was erected on a grassy

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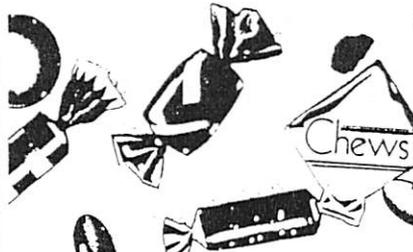
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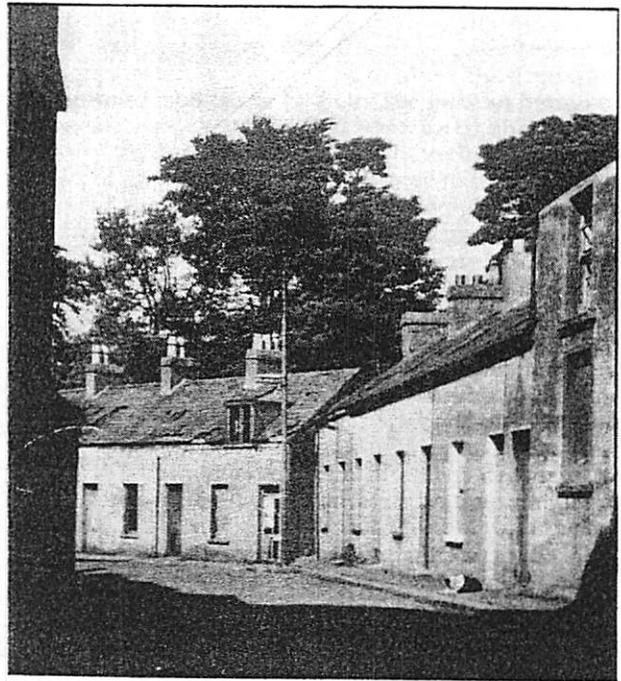


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BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

plot on the opposite corner of Church View, as a gift from Viscount Dungannon, a former owner of the manorial rights of Hollywood, to the people of the town. The plot, measuring 46' x 37' was surrounded by railings and was very close to the site of the present gates to the Methodist Church. The fountain was removed in about 1925 as unessential and was finally used for scrap metal during the Second World War. Beyond the fountain the Dunlop Memorial Home for Nurses at 43, Church Road was completed in 1903 to designs by James Hanna, a leading Ulster architect. It is now an Abbeyfield home.

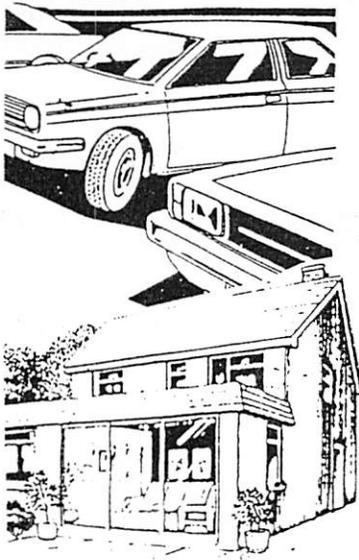
Numbers 2 to 8, on the east side of Church Street, were built as private houses in the 1820's and are still standing. For a long time they were white-washed and had small front gardens with railings. No. 2, now forming part of the premises belonging to Hollywood Home Decor, had a coach arch and in the 1850's was the private home of one Robert Butler and at the same time John Patterson a carpenter lived next door. In 1858 William Dunwoody opened his coal importing agency at no. 8, beside premises currently occupied by Adamson's the outfitters, and he moved to Shore Street in the mid-1870's. In the year 1856 Rowley Carson was a grocer at no. 16, the property being pulled down in 1873 to make way for the houses at nos. 18 to 22 which nowadays incorporate Herron's newsagency - nos. 24 to 30, constructed as part of the same terrace, were demolished in 1969. Meanwhile numbers 14 and 16, still used as private dwellings, were erected in about 1857 on the site of a cottage.



Looking up Sullivan Street from Church Road, 1968.

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CHURCH STREET

The present-day end gable of Herron's newsagency marks the position of the entrance to a little elbow-shaped entry called Wilson's Lane. Its nine small houses lined one side only and reached nearly as far as the River Twisel. The upper floor of no. 8 was reached by an outside staircase. In about 1863 this little white-washed row was taken away and Sullivan Street, also elbow shaped but veering the other way, was laid out. Consisting of both two-storey and one and a half storey cottage type dwellings, this little enclave was demolished in 1969.

Further up the street, several groups of differing types of terraces were erected between 1840 and 1870 and were cleared away in 1982 by the Housing Executive to make room for modern red brick terrace houses.

Apart from the preponderance of labourers and gardeners who lived on this side, as already mentioned,

there were others who followed a wide variety of callings in the second half of the nineteenth century and well into the present one. During the 1860's the Anderson family were tailors, Mrs. Collins and Mrs. Dunbar were dress-makers, Mrs. McBride was a haberdasher and H. Gresham ran a millinery establishment. Patrick Downey was a poulterer at no. 3, James Lemon and Thomas O'Kane were among several grocers, and in the 1870's James Hutchinson was a baker. Isaac Doggart was a bailiff and property-owner, A. Lennox is listed as a washerwoman and James Girvan was a car-owner in the 'seventies. William Neeson was among several carpenters and James Sloan was a mason. Mrs. Butler kept lodgings and in the late 1870's a Miss White ran a small school for girls. There were also butchers, tobacconists and newsagents, shoemakers and early in this century an insurance agency was set up.



Nos. 44-52, Church Road, from west. The Hollywood Abattoir was located in the tall building at the extreme right. The whole group was demolished in 1982.

Chapter XI

THE "COMMONS"

The steady flow of new residents to Holywood, which had accelerated following the opening of the railway in 1848, continued throughout the 'fifties and into the 'sixties, and resulted not only in the development of such existing thoroughfares as Croft Road and Victoria Road, but it precipitated the laying out of new ones through what had been green fields. The area most radically affected by this trend during the growth period under discussion, was that bounded by Church View, Downshire Road, Demesne Road and Church Road. Prior to the mid-1850's it consisted of long strip fields, known as the "Commons", or the "Elders", running up from Church View to the northern boundary of the seventeen English acres of glebe land which ran through what is now the playground of the Primary School, and to the newly formed Demesne Road.

Church View, already referred to in Chapter III as forming the southern edge of the town, became almost totally built up between about 1855 and 1870, from Church Road to St. Patrick's Chapel. Beyond that there were only a few single-storied cottages beside a muddy lane, principally at the junction with the future Ean Hill near which there had been a cholera house in the 1830's. Until the early 1850's there were few dwellings in Church View, the best known of which was a row of single-storied thatched cottages called Poole's Row. Located on the exact site now occupied by the Plymouth Brethren Hall at the corner with Downshire Road, they were in a ruinous condition by 1860. Alma Terrace, of which only No. 25, Church View now survives, complete with its coach-arch, dates from about 1858, and Nos. 15 to 21, built by the Read family at about the same time, form a rather homely terrace, set behind well cared for gardens. Directly opposite, Nos. 16 to 22, set far back from the pavement, were erected in stages between 1861 and 1863, whilst the pair of rather attractive dwellings at Nos. 12 and 14, on the other side of the entrance to Church Hill, appeared in 1868. No. 26, belonging to a neighbouring row, retains a rather distinctive Victorian shop-window dating from 1870, this being one of the few unspoiled examples of its type still remaining in Holywood. In 1871, the Methodist Church was opened at the corner with Church Road and this will be described in Chapter XVI.

In the late 1850's thoroughfares following the boundaries of the "Commons" began to emerge. These had originally belonged to the proprietors of Holywood, William Kennedy and subsequently his widow Dorothea being the owners between 1812 and 1854, followed by the Harrison family of Holywood House and Mertoun Hall. The strip fields were gradually sold from 1840 onwards although building work on them did not necessarily begin at once. The strip of land that was to become Sea View was sold by Mrs. Dorothea Kennedy to John Jackson of

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THE "COMMONS"

Gardenvale in 1840, he in turn selling it in 1846 to James Pelan, a Belfast grocer who kept it for ten years. Dennis Sullivan, a younger brother of Dr. Robert Sullivan, the noted educationalist, then became the owner, and it was he who built Seaview Terrace at the southern end of the land in two stages, in 1860 and 1869. He also built Nos. 3 and 5 in 1868 and it was in one of these that he made his home. Running parallel to it, the field that was to become Church Hill was sold in 1864 by John Harrison to Archibald Sloan, a resident of Church Street and owner of several properties in Holywood. He had a prosperous cabinet-making and upholstery business in Castle Place, Belfast, and it was he who built the solitary pair of fine three-storey houses in 1868. Further to the west and also following the old field pattern, Hill Street and Spencer Street were laid out in 1869 and 1872 respectively; Hill Street then largely consisted of two-storey, white-washed cottage-type dwellings, and in about 1880 had a Church of Ireland Mission Hall.

For many years Church View had been connected to High Street by a very short and narrow thoroughfare called Morrow's Lane, and some houses at Nos. 2 to 6 which date from about 1840 still survive. On the opposite side, at the corner with Church View, the building nowadays, occupied by the Golden Age Club housed the Holywood Loan Fund Office in the 1850's. In about 1858 the street seems to have been extended as far as Demesne Road in the form of a narrow country lane, soon to be Downshire Road, running along the line of the "Commons". However no building took place until 1866 when a row of three houses (nowadays numbered 24 to 28) was erected and at

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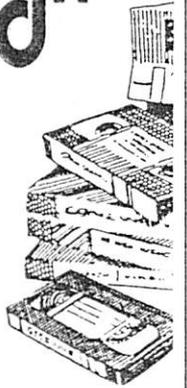
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Looking up Downshire Road from Church View in about 1910.

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"Pope's Row", Ean Hill. Note the backs facing the street.

about the same time an isolated group of eight houses called Sunnyside Terrace (now numbered 81 to 95) appeared on the opposite side of the road, much further up the hill. Over the next sixty years Downshire Road

was to be developed in the same sporadic fashion, so giving it a greater variety of house-types than any other thoroughfare in Holywood. Fernbank, a group of three rather splendid merchants' houses (now Nos. 117 to 121) was built at the junction with Demesne Road in 1863, an early occupant being Edward Pim, a prosperous tea-dealer and wine-importer in High Street, Belfast. The land to the west of Downshire Road was for long known as "the plots" and its coverage by Trevor Street, Park Drive and Park Avenue was a development of the early twentieth century, (see Chapter XIX).

Ean Hill had been in existence as a narrow lane since the 1830's and amongst its first dwellings was a row of four single-storied cottages, for long affectionately known by its residents as "Pope's Row" which survived until so recently as 1972; a peculiar feature was that they turned their backs directly on to the street. A terrace of two-storied houses with polychrome brickwork was built on the same side of the street in about 1890.

Chapter XII

CHURCH ROAD &
DEMESNE ROAD

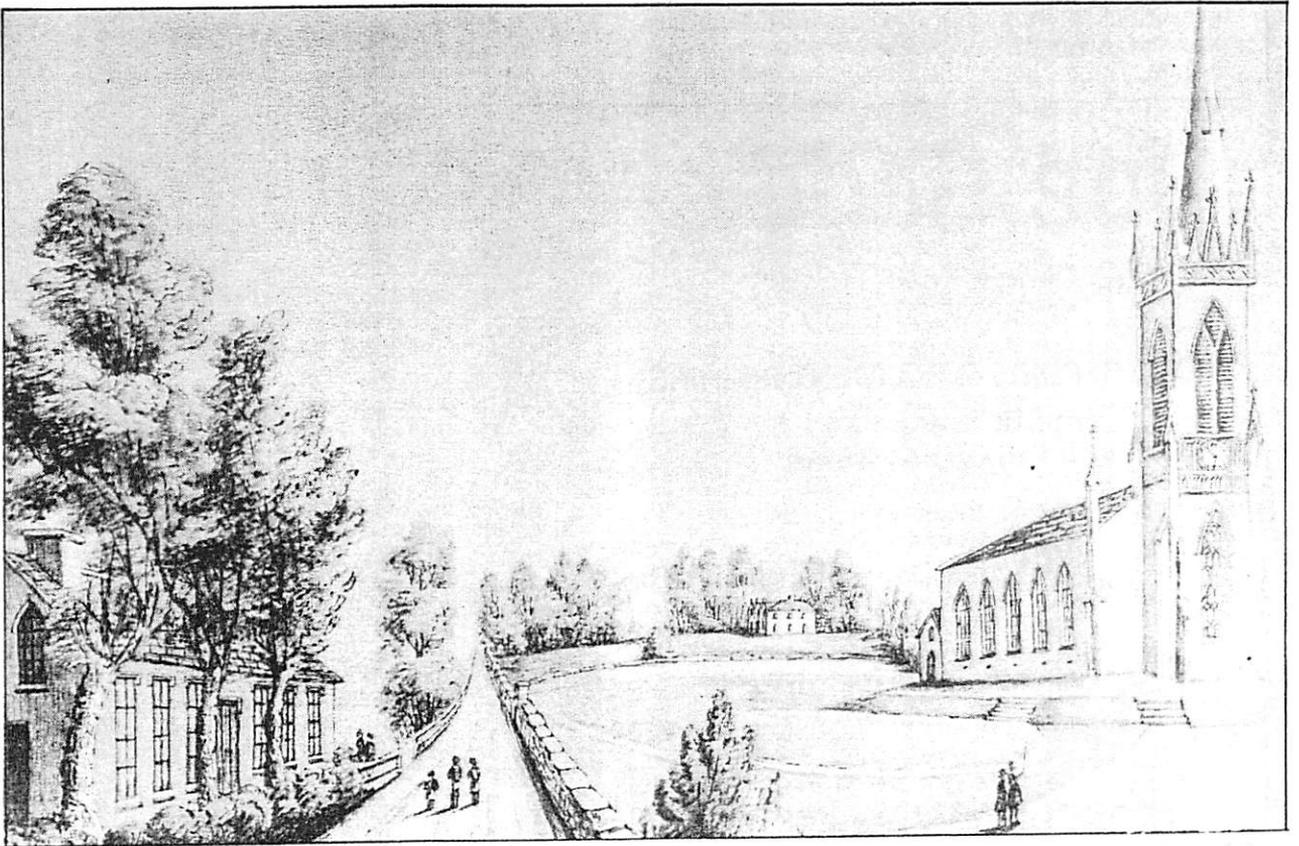
The north and east sides of the 'commons' were bounded by Church Road and Demesne Road which thoroughfares from the late 1850's onwards began to attract the attention of successful entrepreneurs who came from Belfast to the more salubrious climes of Holywood, seeking to establish opulent and spacious homes as status symbols in the same way that they were developing High Holywood.

Demesne Road first appeared sometime before 1834 as a narrow laneway cutting through the glebe land between the vicarage and the site of the future Parish Church, beginning at Church Road, continuing in a straight line along what is now Lemonfield Avenue; it then veered to the left and terminated at a stream in fields near the site of the modern Inver Park, above My Lady's Mile. That portion of Demesne Road that nowadays runs between Downshire Road and Jackson's Road did not exist until about 1870; instead a narrow lane ran up the hill from what is nowadays

Lemonfield Avenue, and after a short distance turned right to follow the line of the present-day Demesne Road, ending where Demesne Park is now.

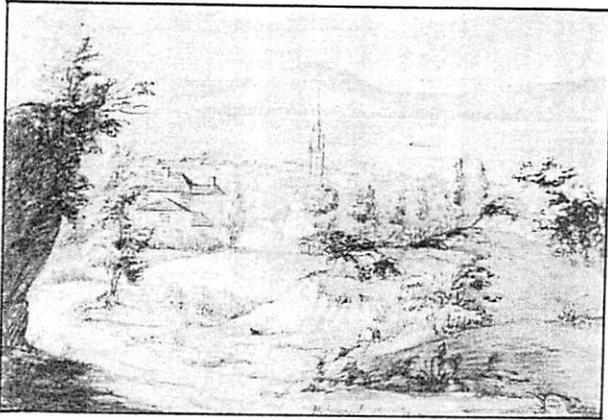
In about 1845 Loughview House was erected on the east side of Demesne Road, commanding a fine view of Lough and stood there in solitary splendour. Cornwall Villa's, situated behind it, date from 1866. Woodville, a fine pair of semi-detached villas at numbers 1 and 3, was built on the other side of the road in 1860; next to it is the equally palatial Kilmore, built in 1867 and subsequently occupied by Richard Patterson, the noted Chairman of the Holywood Urban District Council and owner of a large hardware concern at 59, High Street, Belfast. In about 1865 a row of single-storied white-washed cottages appeared on the north side of Downshire Road, very near the junction with Demesne Road and were removed in the late 1950's to make way for modern housing. A rather fine house with neo-Tudor features at no. 6, Lemonfield Avenue, dates from about 1859.

Church Road in the 1850's was still an alternative route to Newtownards (the more commonly used way was Victoria Road), and at that time was virtually undeveloped above the junction with Church View. The Vicarage (formerly the Glebe House) was completed in 1813 and the new Parish Church consecrated in 1844. The new Parochial National School, a rather long and low building erected on the



Looking up Church Road, from north, in 1849. Reproduced from a water-colour by kind permission of the Select Vestry of Holywood Parish Church.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Looking down Church Road from near Plas Merdyn, in 1847. Water-colour reproduced by kind permission of the Select Vestry of Holywood Parish Church.

opposite side of the road to the church in 1845, is said to incorporate the roof timbers of the old Priory Church which had been unroofed that year.

It was only in the late 1850's that development above the Parish Church began to take place. In 1858, John Harrison, of Holywood House, sold two adjacent parcels of ground on the north side of Church Road, totalling three acres, for building purposes. One portion, measuring almost an acre in extent and located beside the road, was sold to one William Wetherall who built Stanley House on it the following year. Its first

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occupant was Hugh Rea, a merchant who had previously lived in High Street, Holywood. A few years later it was the home of Mrs. Langry whose grandson was married to Lily Langtry of Edwardian fame. The two acre plot immediately behind Stanley was also bought in 1858 by John Burgoyne who soon afterwards built Marmion whose first resident was Forster Green the prominent Belfast tea merchant; the house was demolished in 1979. At the same time Burgoyne built Chester House (renamed Rialto in 1868), first lived in by William Reid, and since 1870 occupied by the Garrett family. Tradition has it that the three houses derived their names from the two lines of a poem:

'Charge Chester charge, on Stanley on,
 was the last cry of Marmion'.

On the opposite side of the road and much further up the hill the first houses in Plas Merdyn, two large semi-detached villas, were built in about 1860 by William Chermiside the Belfast agent for a Yorkshire manufacturing company. Numbers 3 and 4, Plas Merdyn, date from 1869 and St. Valentine's at no. 7 is a rather substantial white painted dwelling that looks as though it belongs to the 1930's, but in fact dates from 1897 and appears to be designed after the manner of Voysey.

Much further down the road and at the corner with Demesne Road, Willesden, a typical merchant's villa of the period, was built in 1861 by John R. Neill, a partner in Neill Brothers, noted jewellers and

CHURCH ROAD AND DEMESNE ROAD

watchmakers in High Street and Donegall Place, Belfast. It was later the home of the Finlay family, well-known soap-manufacturers.

Returning to the north side, Church Avenue, following an elbow-shaped route, was laid out in 1869 a short distance below Stanley House. A path leading from the end of this cul-de-sac takes one to the Twisel Bridge (built 1912) whose predecessor was a wooden structure known as the Kissing Bridge with a long wooden approach overhanging the river.

Further down Church Road and also on the north side, rather grandly-scaled terraces and an avenue appeared opposite the Parish Church in the late 1860's to cater for the rising professional classes; the whole vicinity is not unlike a microcosm of the Queen's University area of Belfast.

Not far below Church Avenue, Woodview Terrace (nos. 116 and 118 Church Road) appeared in 1868 and next to it, Riverside Terrace, a pair of rather plain two-storey dwellings at nos. 112 and 114 was built at about the same date. The neighbouring group, Church Hill Terrace (nowadays nos. 94 to 110 Church Road) was constructed in 1868 by John Browne, junior of Chichester Street, Belfast; his father had been responsible for the erection of the original Parish church in 1842-44. These nine rather elegant three-storey dwellings were inhabited by such people as John Smyth, linen merchant of Richardson, Sons and Owden, and William Rodman, the well-known stationer and artists' goods manufacturer. Between these latter two terraces is Riverside, an absolutely charming backwater consisting of a row of four substantial double-fronted houses, dating from 1870, with gardens overlooking the River Twisel.

The next group of dwellings below Church Hill Terrace and situated on the far side of the Parochial National School, is Riverston Terrace at nos. 80 to 90 Church Road (modern numbering). Erected in 1869, this set of six rather massive and domineering-looking three-storey town houses with alternatively rectangular and octagonal bay windows, is also the work of John Browne. Early residents included Wilbore Burnett, a music teacher from Belfast and Gerald Martin who was manager of the Belfast, Holywood and Bangor Railway.

Much nearer the town centre, Brook Street, linking Church Road to Victoria Road, has origins reaching back to the late eighteenth century, if not earlier. Apart from the old mill workers' cottages at the top of the street, already discussed in chapter XIII, the only dwelling of note that existed here was Riverston House, built adjacent to these cottages and in front of the old Motte. Riverston House, a rather imposing brown-painted edifice, was constructed with its side wall immediately beside Brook Street and its front overlooking a long garden approached from Church Road. Dating from about 1858, it was a typical merchant's house of the time, three storeys high and with groups of round-headed windows in the upper storeys. It was demolished in the late 1950's. An early resident was W. Browne of Browne, Reid and Co., Woollen merchants of Waring Street, Belfast. Later, Bernard ('Barney') Hughes, founder of the famous

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Belfast bakery, lived there from 1869 until his death in 1878. As we have seen in Chapter XIII a corn mill was pulled down to make room for it.

Close to the corner with Church Road and fronting Brook Street there stood a row of four little workers' cottages, most probably of eighteenth century date and removed in the 1860's in order to enlarge the garden of Riverston. About the year 1815, a coach-house belonging to a Mrs. Connor and located immediately behind these cottages, was used for the celebration of Mass, there being no proper place of worship for the Catholics of the district at that time.



Nos. 94-110 (Church Hill Terrace), Church Road, from South.

Chapter XIII

THE CRESCENT AREA

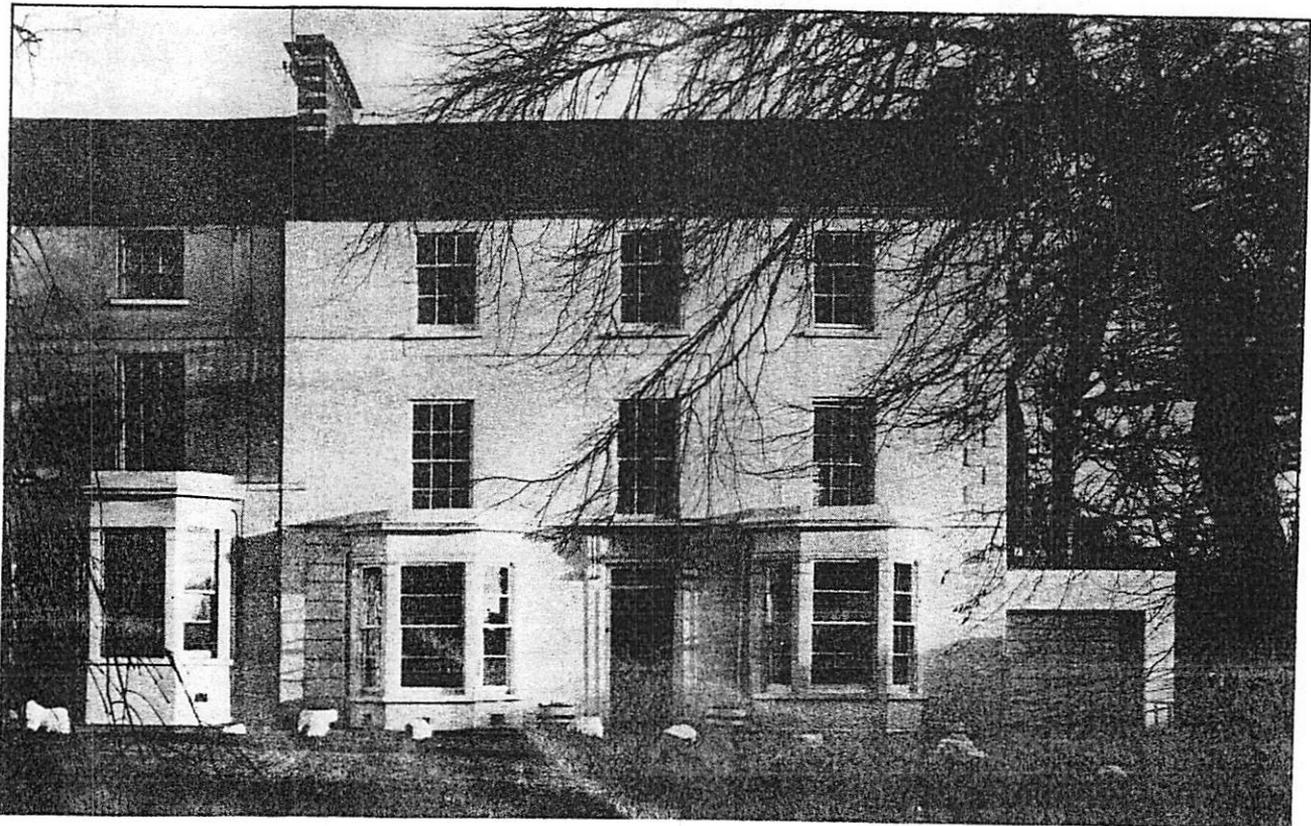
The entire area under review in this chapter lies in the townland of Ballykeel which is separated from that of Holywood by the River Twisel. The district at the eastern of the town and to the south of High Street, although not part of High Holywood, has since the 1830's been a quiet and very pleasant backwater, to which the professional and middle classes tended to gravitate.

The Crescent is situated at the end of an avenue leading from the east end of High Street, and the whole cul-de-sac is bounded on the west by the River Twisel, nowadays culverted over along that stretch of its course. Historically, this locality formed part of the western end of the mediaeval graveyard. The dwelling, now known as no. 8, The Crescent, began life as an isolated farmhouse, most probably in the late eighteenth century at which time the farm lay at the edge of the village of Holywood. A lease map of the district dated 1831 shows it as forming part of a terrace of four town houses (nowadays nos. 5 to 8). These had been built by Hugh Stewart, probably in the previous

decade and the triangular lawn fronting them was encircled by the driveway as it is at the present day. At that time the River Twisel was still completely uncovered and was to remain so until about 1858 when a short stretch was culverted to allow the grounds of Riverston House to be laid out; the portion beside the Crescent was not covered over until the present century. In the 1850's there was still a tiny cottage and a pair of gate-pillars at the entrance to the Crescent.

In 1864 another terrace of four town dwellings was constructed quite close to the original group and on the east side of the Crescent. Numbered one to four, these double-fronted houses use to good effect polychrome brickwork which was then coming into fashion.

The residents of the Crescent have always tended to belong to the mercantile and professional classes, or they have been people with private means. In the mid-1860's James Campbell, owner of a bonded warehouse at no. 13 Corporation Street, Belfast, was living there, and his widow stayed there after his death in the following decade. A neighbour at the time was Lewis Kamcke, a partner in the firm of William R. Kamcke & Co. who were linen merchants with offices in the White Linen Hall, Belfast. Perhaps the best-known resident of all was William E. Praeger, a linen merchant who arrived from Holland in about 1861 and lived in the Crescent until he moved to the Croft Road in about 1869. However, his two famous children Robert (1865-1953) the naturalist and author, and Rosamund (1867-



No. 8, The Crescent. Originally a farmhouse, it was heightened when the remainder of the terrace was built in the 1820's.

THE CRESCENT AREA

1954) the sculptress, were both born on the Croft Road. Mrs. Matilda Brett, a member of one of County Down's longer established families, lived there in about 1870.

Another farmstead that was situated near this part of the village of Holywood in the 1830's was that between the door of the old Priory Church and the sea. By the year 1836 the Church of Ireland was running a Parochial School in the barn attached to this farm, the school-master being the clerk to the Vestry, employed at an annual salary of £2. Saleen Park is now on the site.

Reference has already been made in Chapter III to the possible mediaeval origins of Victoria Road. During the nineteenth century there was little development below the junction with Brook Street except for Churchfield House which, strictly speaking, belonged to High Holywood. Victoria Place, (modern numbering 1 to 5) is a terrace of three rather massive and brooding three storey town houses on the west side of Victoria Road and backing on the Crescent. Clad with a dull grey cement they have sizeable front gardens and still retain much of their architectural character. They were erected in about 1855 as part of the same movement of the professional and merchant classes which gave rise to the development of the Crescent. Among the very early residents of Victoria Place was Leslie Sherrard of the firm of H.L.J. & E.F. Sherrard, jewellers, ironmongers and hardware merchants with business premises at 42 Castle Street, Belfast.

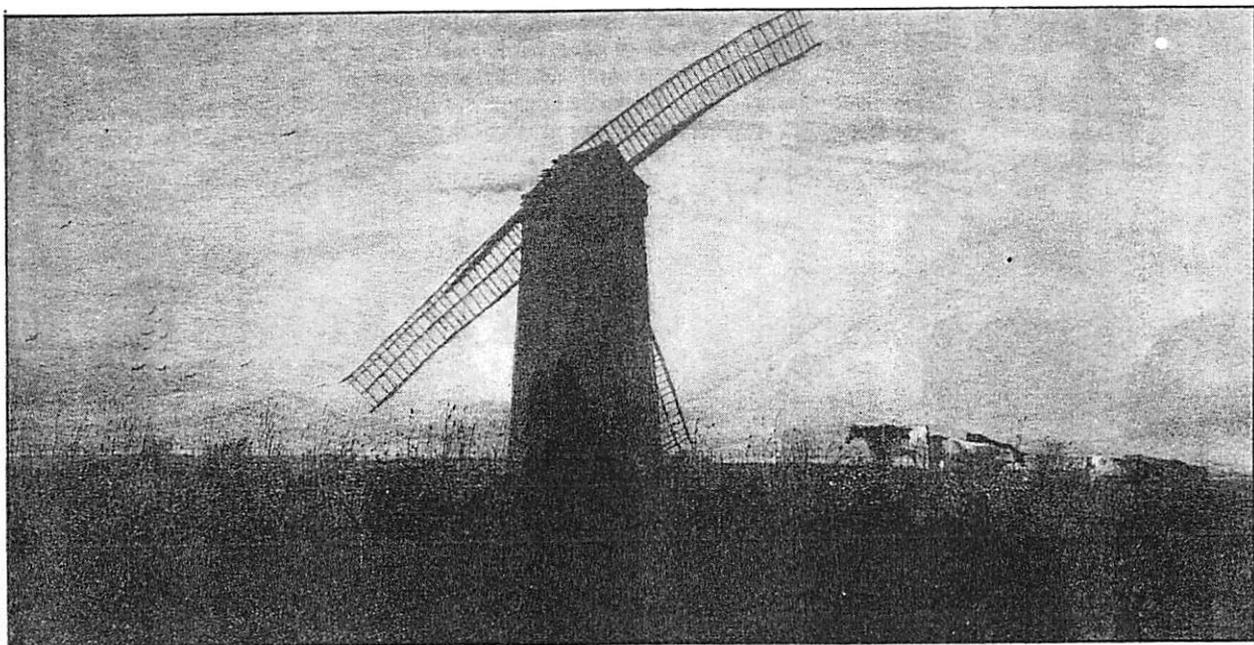
In the last century the ground between Victoria Place and Mill Moat (now no. 21, Victoria Road) consisted of woodland very similar to that which nowadays exists behind the Crescent and it was not built over until about 1930. The other side of Victoria Road was lined

with trees, many of which are still standing.

The three corn and flour mills that stood near Victoria Road and Brook Street were probably erected in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries in order to serve the surrounding countryside. One still survives in the form of a ruined windmill, close to Martello Terrace. This mill functioned until the 1840's, the last owner during its working life being one William Patton. At one time it was mistakenly called a Martello Tower; although there is no evidence, it is possible that the windmill was used during the Napoleonic Wars as a look-out post in case of invasion, there being an uninterrupted view of the whole of Belfast Lough since the surrounding trees had not yet sufficiently grown and Ballykeel House and Clifden still lay in the future.

Close to the windmill there was a large artificial dam which supplied water to one of the other mills which was located practically on the site of Mill Bank at nos. 33 and 35 Victoria Road, the water being conveyed to it through a brick-lined sluice of which traces were uncovered some years ago. The third mill was beside the present Brook Street and on the banks of the River Twisel, the site nowadays being occupied by the Telephone Exchange. Both these mills, which are marked on the 1834 Ordnance Survey map, but not on that of 1859, were totally removed, and the neighbouring complex of mill-workers' cottages sold, probably soon after the death of their last proprietor William Patton (1805-1852), and just before Mill Bank and Riverston House were built.

Of all the property relating to the mills, the most important was, arguably, Mill Moat which seems to have been the mill-owner's residence. This is a good-sized and charming house flanking Victoria Road and with its own grounds behind it. Like the adjacent mill-



The windmill near Victoria Road, painted by A. Nicholl in 1834. Reproduced by kind courtesy of the Ulster Museum.

HIGH HOLYWOOD

workers' houses, it was probably built in the late eighteenth century, but surviving architectural features suggest that it was considerably improved about the year 1820. Nonetheless the entire group must be among the oldest surviving domestic buildings in Holywood.

Perhaps best-known among the residents of Mill Moat were the Read brothers and their sister, by origin a Country Antrim family, who bought the house in 1862 and spent over forty years there. Two of the brothers, Robert (1809-1871) and Daniel (1815-1881) founded in 1855 the "Belfast Morning News", a tri-weekly newspaper which was the first in Ireland to sell for 1d and was the forerunner of the "Irish News". They also owned property in Holywood including the four houses now at nos. 66 to 72 High Street, and the family were generous benefactors of St. Colmcille's Church (see Chapter XVI). At that time the Motte still belonged to the grounds of Mill Moat.

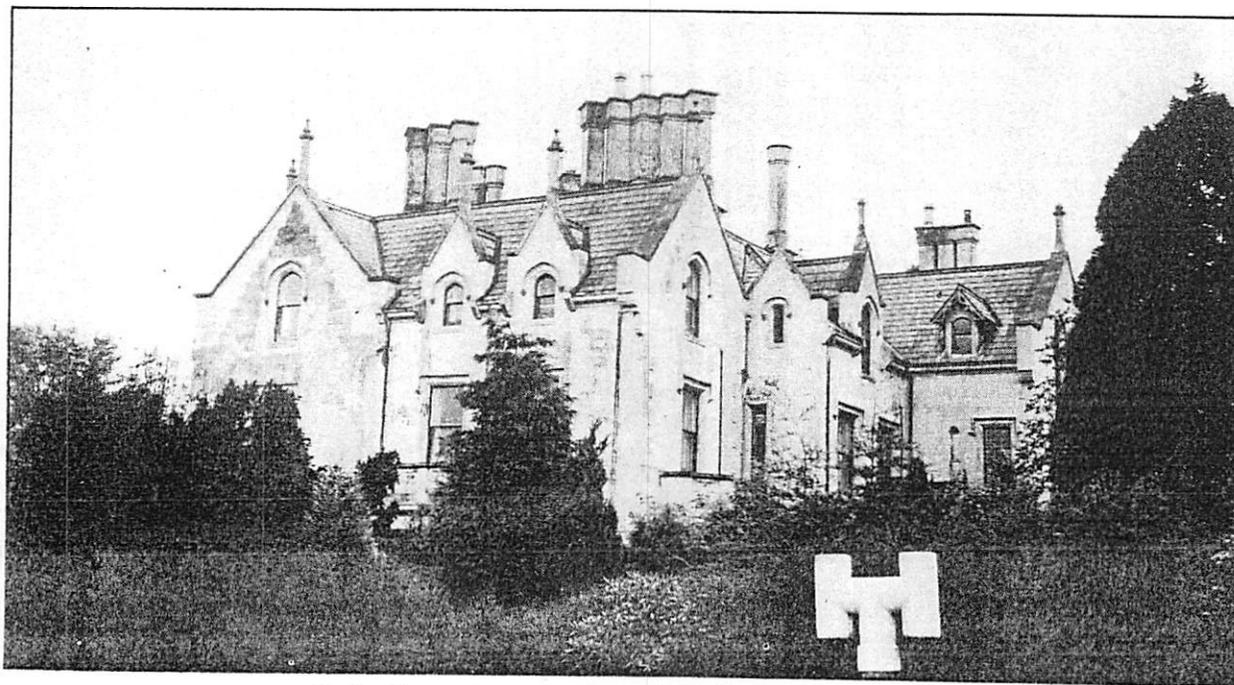
Mill Moat is at the end of the row of mill-workers' white-washed stone-built houses which runs up Victoria Road and then turns down Brook Street to stop at a small gate leading to the Motte. The entire group has lately been well restored. On the opposite side of Victoria Road and at the edge of the grounds of Churchfield, a row of five single-storied mill-workers' cottages reached up to the near entrance to Martello Terrace; they disappeared in the late nineteenth century. Also belonging to this collection built by the Patton family, a little row of three, called Martello Cottages, stood on the far side of the rear entrance to Martello Terrace until the late 1950's.

The four single-storey cottages at the bottom of Brook Street, mentioned in Chapter XII, were presumably inhabited by those who worked in the mill whose place was taken by Riverston House.

A part from the renewal and development during the 1830's and 1840's of the main thoroughfares which accommodated the bulk of the population of Holywood, the immediate surroundings, particularly the higher ground at the back, were starting to attract the wealthier merchants from Belfast.

One of the more tangible signs of the arrival in the community of well-doing businessmen and merchants, with their attendant affluence, was the rash of suburban type villas set in reasonably spacious gardens which began to appear as a trickle at that period, developing into a spate during the 'fifties and 'sixties following the opening of the railway. The district most favoured by this newly and rapidly evolved class was the triangle of land bounded by Bangor Road, Victoria Road and Croft Road. This higher ground proved attractive because being outside the town, there was the scope to site each villa in four or five acres of prime woodland which could then be landscaped to look like a small country estate and more importantly, the entire area commanded unrivalled views of Belfast Lough and the County Antrim hills without being too exposed. It was soon to become unofficially known as High Holywood. There was also a similar development on the upper reaches of Church Road which has already been looked at in Chapter XII.

This was the age of the Victorian self-made entrepreneur when large sums of money could be made by those who both worked hard and were attended by



Tudor House (now nos. 5 and 6, Tudor Park) from west.

HIGH HOLYWOOD

good fortune and they wanted to show it. Frequently they expressed their palatial aspirations by adopting a form of Italian palazzo style of architecture.

The first portion of High Holywood to be exploited in this fashion was that bordering the landward side of the Bangor Road which belongs to the townland of Ballykeel. The first residence to appear near the road was "Ballykeel" at numbers 9 and 11. Dating from about 1830, this is probably one of the earliest examples of a pair of semi-detached villas in this country, and is a rather large Georgian-style block, four square in plan, standing in substantial and well-wooded grounds. Martello House and Clifden (nos. 13 and 15) were built next to it in 1834 as another pair of large semi-detached villas, each with flanking coach arches. At the corner with Victoria Road, Churchfield House (now the Warren and Churchfield) was also built as a pair of substantial semi-detached villas in about 1845, and took its name from the fact that the ground once formed part of the old Priory graveyard, already discussed in Chapter II. Matthew McMullan, the founder of the well-known paint firm in Smithfield Square, Belfast, came to live here in about 1862, and the family, several of whose members were J.P.S., stayed until 1934. Two years later a nursery school called the Warren was opened in no. 1, Bangor Road.

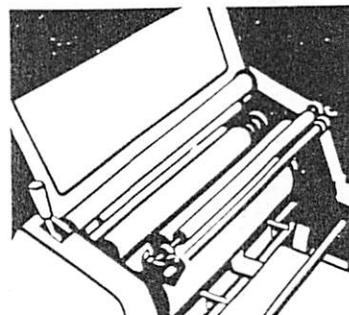
Perhaps the most striking pair of semi-detached houses on the Bangor Road is Tudor House, one of two separate mansions, built in 1849 at a total cost of just over £6,000 by Henry Murney, the noted tobacco merchant with a flourishing concern in High Street,

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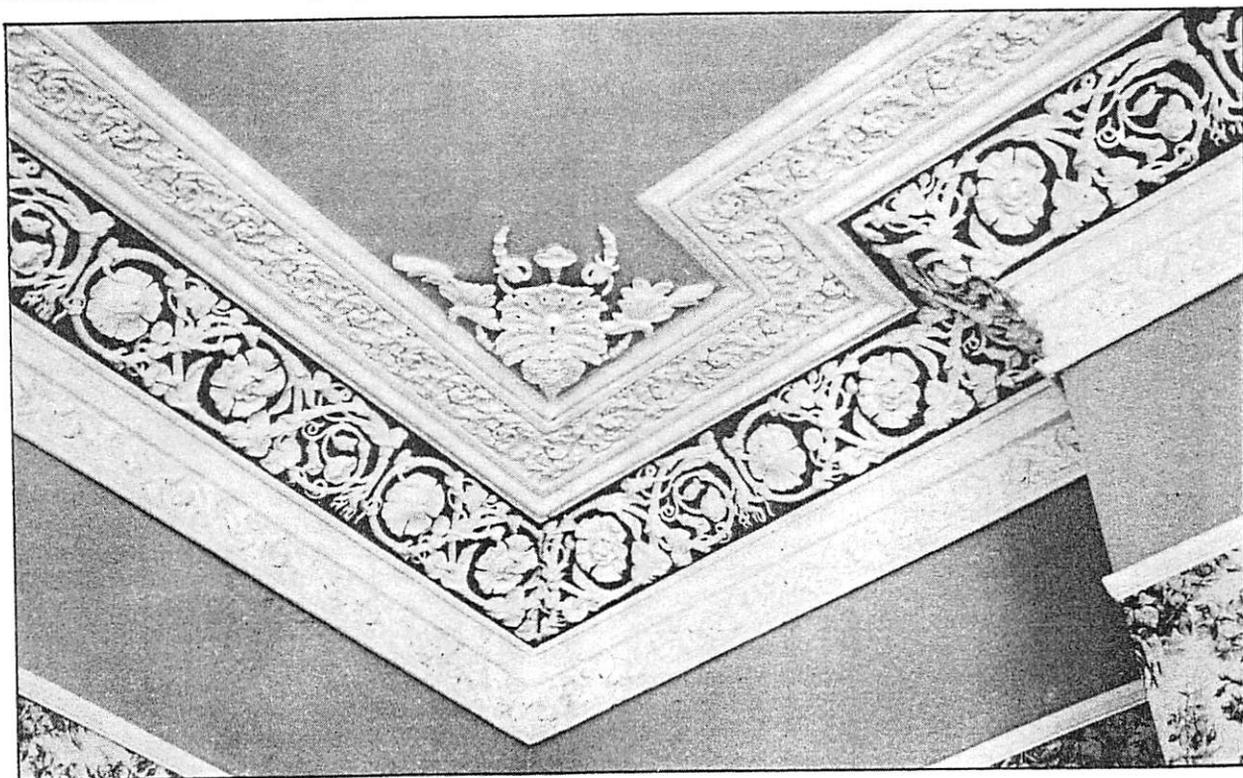


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Moulded cornice in drawing-room of no. 3, Tudor Park. Dated 1849.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



"Claremont", no. 89, Victoria Road. A typical example of the merchants' villas being erected in High Holywood in the 1850's.

Belfast (see Kelly). Located on an escarpment overlooking very spacious and wooded grounds that swept right down to the road, they enjoyed a superb vista of the Lough. It is a matter of considerable regret that so much of this woodland and the little gate-lodge with the castellated entrance gates to the demesne were lost when the private housing estate was built in 1970. Tudor House is a fine example of the fully fledged neo-Elizabethan style of architecture and the roof-line which is alive with chimneys and gables looks most impressive as it rears above the surrounding trees.

Victoria Road, being immediately adjacent to the town, yet offering the facilities of the countryside, began to be developed by the middle-class merchants and professional people from about 1850 onwards whereas building work did not start to take place on Croft Road until about 1866. Mill Bank, already referred to in Chapter XIII as occupying the site of a mill, beside Victoria Road, is a rather substantial pair of two storey semi-detached town houses with a fully exposed basement and rather fat porches, built in about 1856 on very steeply sloping ground with its back overlooking the River Twisel near the corner with Brook Street. In the 1860's and 1870's one of the houses in Mill Bank was a seminary for girls run by Miss Thorn. A little further up the road and on the same side, Martello Terrace, consisting of three dwellings, was built in about 1858 whilst on the opposite side Martello Crescent (nowadays also called Terrace), situated beside the old windmill, dates from the following year. Still further along and at the first

sharp bend, also on the right-hand side, Glenside Place, a rather pleasant pair of semi-detached dwellings, was built in about 1850.

Not far away and on the left side, Glenburn, an Italian style villa set in rambling grounds, and so typical of many in the neighbourhood, was erected in the early 1850's. Next door to it, Hillbrook, built at about the same time, was used as a school by John Turpin in the 'fifties and 'sixties and is now a pair of semi-detached residences, many of the classical revivalist features that were still very much in vogue in early Victorian times, surviving at the present day. Returning to the right-hand side of the road, Brooklyn was built in about 1853 with its back to the Twisel, and among its more distinguished occupants was Joseph Jaffé, a merchant from Hamburg, whose son Otto later became Belfast's only Jewish Lord Mayor and was knighted; also James Keegan J.P., one of the more prominent spirit merchants and distillers in Belfast, lived here in the 1870's.

Further up the road, Glenside, the Manse belonging to the Bangor Road Presbyterian Church, was built in the 1850's (it became the Manse later), and beyond it, set in dense woodland, Glenlyon, a rambling house in the Tudor style, dates from about 1854. It was for long occupied by the Marsh family whose large biscuit factory at the top of Donegall Street in Belfast, was a well-known concern in its day. Marsh's Glen, at the back of the house, is a reminder of their occupancy, and King John's Walk, in the grounds, is a relic of the old mediaeval road that followed a route from near the Motte, over the hills towards Dundonald.



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Ardmore Terrace, made up of seven large town dwellings, in the grand classical style still fashionable when it was built in the late 1840's, is a rare survivor of its kind. Not far away and close to the junction with Croft Road, County Down's Agricultural School was opened in the year 1849 in what is now Crofton and Burnleigh (numbers 93 and 95 Victoria Road, respectively), but it proved to be a short-lived affair, closing in 1852 and the building became a pair of identical dwelling houses. They are as good an example as any of the early Victorian love of incorporating such mock-Tudor features in their buildings as drip-stones over the doors and windows and moulded arches.

Croft Road was, until the mid-1860's, a country lane with only one farm which was owned by the McKibben family and later by the Ballaghs. It was pulled down in about 1866 to make way for Croft House, the home of Dr. Milford Barnett, a retired naval surgeon. Croft Cottage, built in 1868 at the corner of Croft Road and the Bangor Road, was the home of Francis Rea, a retired cotton spinner, whose son John (1822-1881) was a noted and controversial figure in Belfast in the 'sixties and 'seventies. On the opposite corner, Croft Hall, dating from the previous year, was built by William Moreland, a co-proprietor of the Loopbridge Flaxspinning Mill. Its gate-lodge, built in a matching style with round-headed windows in pairs, was demolished in 1970 to facilitate the re-alignment of the junction of Croft Road with Bangor Road. In November 1985 Croft Road was widened, probably for

the first time in well over a century and in the course of this work many very old trees which gave the road so much of its rural character, were felled on the east side.

Chapter XV

THE KINNEGAR

That portion of Holywood, known as the Kinnegar, has always been cut off from the rest of the district, first by a stretch of water and nowadays by the railway line. It is that separateness that gives the area its distinctive, almost independent feeling.

According to at least one source flints and spear-heads belonging to the Early Iron Age (i.e. about 500 B.C.) were found near the beach of the Kinnegar during the nineteenth century, so indicating that it was one of the earliest human settlements in North Down. The first documentary evidence of the Kinnegar appears on Raven's map of 1625 where it is shown as a spit of land projecting into the sea to the west of the village of Holywood. At that time it was a low-lying area of sand-dunes and rough pasture which the map quite clearly shows as being a rabbit warren (see p.11.). There was an inlet of the sea between it and what is now the dual carriageway and this has since been mostly reclaimed by the dumping of rubbish.

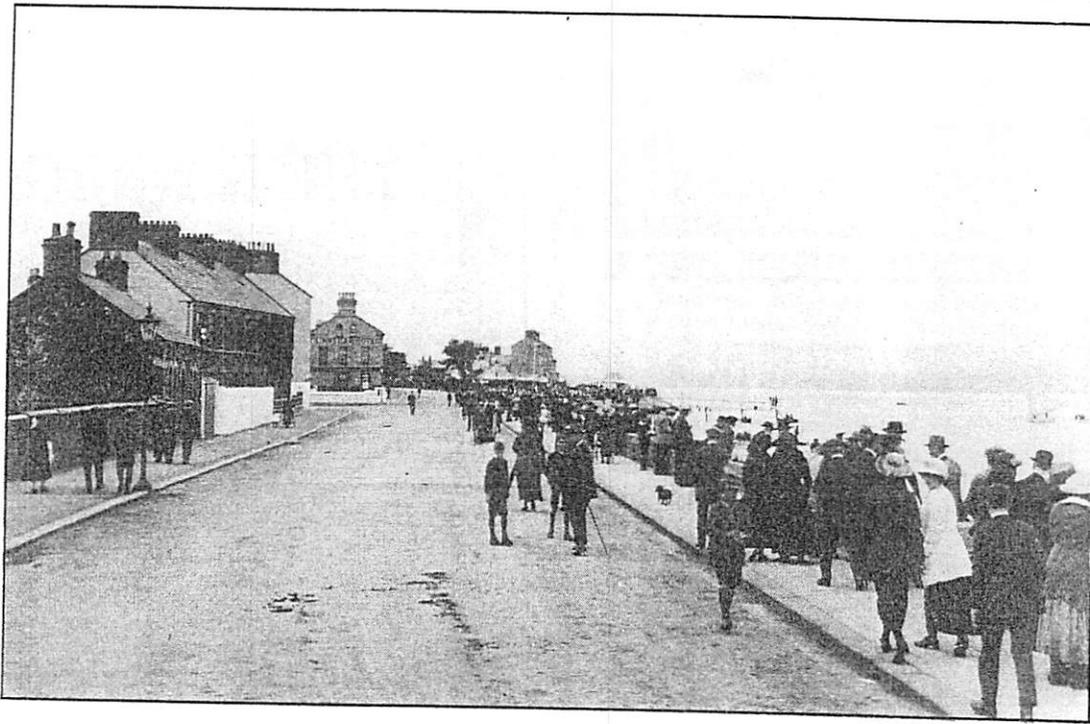
It is on record that so early as 1703 sailing vessels belonging to the port of Belfast were beached at the Kinnegar for the purpose of careening and general overhaul, because Belfast did not then have water deep enough to conveniently facilitate such work.

Throughout the eighteenth and for much of the nineteenth century the area was noted for its rich and numerous banks of mussels or shellfish as they are often known. These were readily accessible at low tide and constituted a major food supply for the population of Holywood, the water of Belfast Lough being relatively uncontaminated at that time. It was quite common for Belfast people of a rougher type to encamp on the sand-dunes during the summer months specifically for the purpose of gathering and devouring the mussels. We are told that in the winter of 1739 to 1740 the frost was so severe that food was rendered sufficiently expensive as to force droves of people from Belfast to spend the entire winter in tents on the Kinnegar, living on the mussels.

Even so recently as the early years of the twentieth century mussel-gatherers came and filled their carts. One Hughie Shannon was a retired sailor living in Anchor Lodge, one of the older terraces in the Kinnegar and he used to supplement his income by selling mussels and also fowl that he shot nearby. Thereafter increasing pollution of the Lough ended mussel-gathering. Before the 1860's farmers used to bring their cattle to graze on the poor quality pasture which made up much of the area.

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the mud flats between the Kinnegar and Tillysburn

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Looking along the Esplanade towards the Kinnegar, c.1920. The "Clipper", then the Kinnegar Hotel is in the background. Photo by W. A. Green. Reproduced by kind courtesy of Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.



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There has been licensed premises on the corner of Kinnegar Avenue and Kinnegar Road for almost 120 years now.

The Kinnegar Hotel first opened its doors in

about 1868. It was owned by one Daniel Ship, a fitting name for any resident of that particular area.

Four years later the establishment was bought by Charles McCadden (1842-1912) on his arrival in Holywood from Rathmullen in County Donegal.

He appears to have given it up in 1894 when it was taken over by Joseph Boyce who renamed it the Kinnegar Bar.

During the First World War another new owner, Alexander Steen, reverted to the original name, although among the local population it became known simply as 'Steen's'.

And so it remained until the late 70's when the building was extensively modernised and re-opened first as the Kinnegar Inn and then in 1984 The Clipper.

During the past two years the man at the helm of this illustrious sailing ship, proprietor and Captain Clifford Moore has turned it into one of the most popular attractions in North Down.

People travel from far and near to sample the delightful lunches which are served daily from 12.00 noon to 2.30 p.m. or to enjoy one of the super evening parties regularly thrown by the Captain and crew.

And the Clipper has gained a reputation among the rich and famous far beyond these shores. Among the big names who have dined there are Gloria Gaynor, Janet Brown and The Three Degrees.

Yes this popular seafront bar has certainly come a long way since the days of Daniel Ship and the Kinnegar Hotel.

THE KINNEGAR

were frequented at low tide by some of the richer young men from Belfast to shoot such specimens of wildlife as duck, pheasant and plover.

Before the railway station was opened in 1848 the Kinnegar was reached from the town by way of what is now Redburn Square. Between then and 1859 when the work of extending the railway line to Bangor commenced, access was along Marine Parade which, as we have already seen, was bounded on one side by the sea; the Esplanade was constructed on reclaimed land in the 1860's.

In 1857 most of the land now bounded by the sea, the railway line and the Ordnance depot, was sold by John Harrison to William Weatherall who subsequently sub-leased some plots for building. It would appear that the very first permanent dwelling to be erected on the Kinnegar was Milton Park, a pair of semi-detached houses dating from about 1858, later to be called St. Leonard's, and now numbers 22 and 24, Kinnegar Road; originally their front gardens ran down to the sea. The development in the sixties and seventies was slow, sporadic and disjointed, but during that time the present day road pattern was laid out. Many of the people who arrived there at that time were smaller merchants and shop-keepers.

The oldest terrace is Marine Place, erected at the end of what is now Kinnegar Avenue between 1863 and 1866. This rather attractive red brick row is characterised by the heavy mouldings around the windows, the recessed coach arch with its decorated corbels, and at the back the extensions all have curious Dutch gables. Numbers 2 and 4 Kinnegar Avenue were built in 1859 and their immediate two neighbours at 6 and 8 followed five years later. During the 1870's a Music Hall was housed next door. Between these and the railway station the end gable of a terrace of three cement-coated dwellings, erected in 1866, boasts one of the very few ogee windows surviving in Holywood. Beyond the Yacht Club, Seaview Terrace at nos. 6 and 7, The Esplanade, is a rather dignified block dating from 1869. Beyond it, at number 11, Kinnegar Villa built in 1870, is a double-fronted house wearing a rather prosperous aspect.

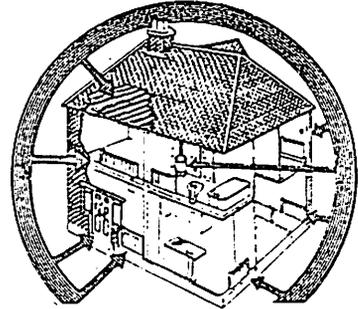
Pier View Terrace at nos. 10 to 20, Kinnegar Road, was another very early row to appear, having been built in 1867 at which time its view over to the fishermen's little jetty was uninterrupted. Its uniform appearance is rather striking and it is refreshingly unspoilt. "The Clipper", originally the Kinnegar Hotel and until recently the Kinnegar Inn, was built in 1868 by one Daniel Ship. In 1872 it was bought by Charles McCadden (1842-1912), a native of Rathmullen, Co. Donegal, whose family has remained closely associated with the Kinnegar since that date.

In 1868 John Henderson, evidently a well-doing dealer, built a pair of semi-detached houses on ground now covered by the Ordnance depot, close to Kinnegar Avenue. Later known variously as Golf Villas and Golf House, they were eventually acquired by the Army and demolished in the mid-1960's. Approximately one quarter of a mile towards Belfast, Eldon House, called the Red House in its latter days, was

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built in about 1869 by John Power (1797 - 1874), for many years the proprietor of the Belfast Hotel and a leading Town Commissioner of Holywood. Later bought by the Army, it was the home of the Range Warden and throughout its existence was a prominent landmark as it stood totally isolated from all other buildings.

For a long time Laburnum Cottage, located between the railway line and Golf Villas, was a farm for cattle, turkeys and pigs. Its final owner was the Greer family and it was pulled down by the Territorial Army in about 1943.

The bulk of private housing in the Kinnegar appeared between 1858 and 1880, to be followed in 1909 by nos. 8 to 10, The Esplanade and dwellings in Kinnegar Road in the late 1920's. The houses were almost exclusively confined to the eastern portion of the area, but from the late 1870's onwards developments of a different, but nonetheless equally interesting, nature occurred in that part furthest away from Holywood. Quite plainly it was always realized that the land was lying to the west of what is now Kinnegar Avenue was unsuitable for housing because the ground was of a very poor quality and was more subject to erosion and flooding than that in the immediate vicinity of the railway station.

The uses to which this area was put were primarily sporting and military. It would appear that the first organised activity to be held in this, the most remote and windswept part of the Kinnegar was marksmanship. About the year 1870 the Ulster Rifle Club began to practice regularly on an area soon to be called the Kinnegar Rifle Ground, and it is on record that some of the leading marksmen of the British Isles were trained

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

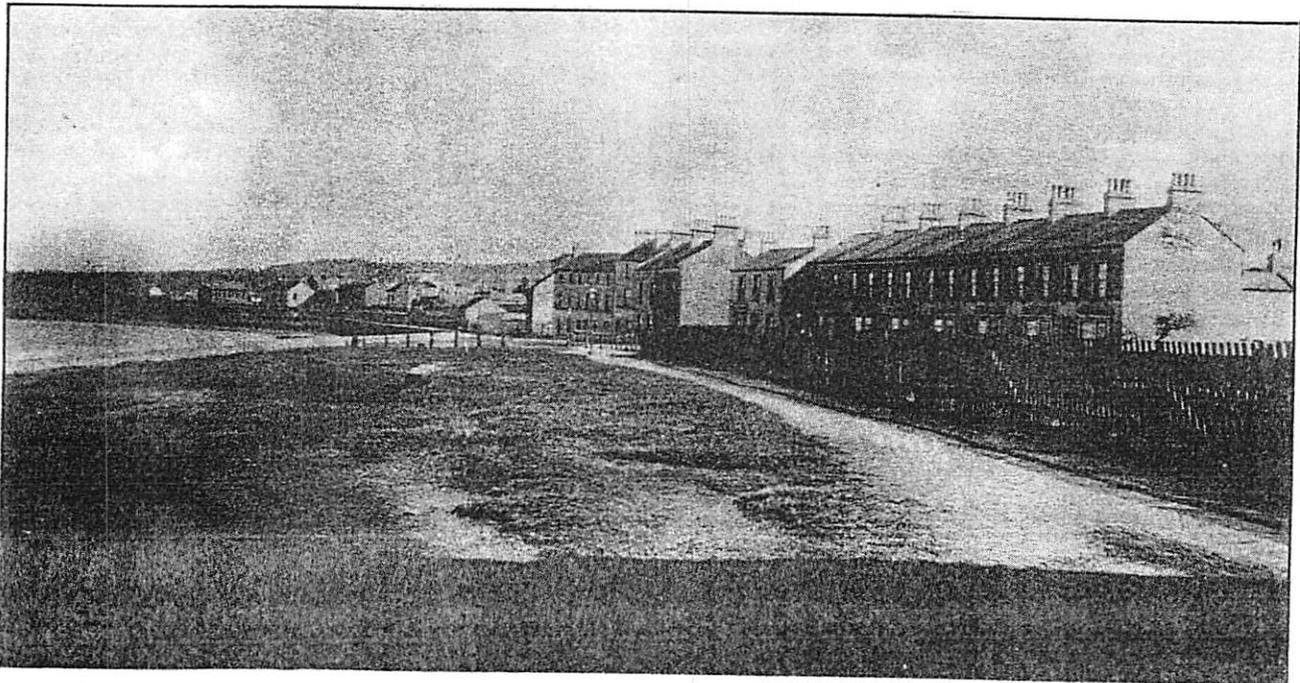
there. In later years the Army was to establish its own firing range in the vicinity and that portion of the Kinnegar is still known as the Butts.

In 1879 the Holywood Cricket and Lawn Tennis Club was founded in the Kinnegar as a successor to a cricket club which had been started nearer the town in 1871 and had lasted for only one season. The first club house was in the barn of Eldon House which at that date was owned by a retired officer of the American Army, Robert Erskine who was also an active founder member of the Club. Both the cricket ground and the surrounding golf links which opened two years later were rented from Captain John Harrison J.P., of Ardtullagh (located near Redburn) for a nominal one shilling per annum. A prominent founder was Robert Grimshaw Dunville of Redburn. However the Club was destined to be plagued by misfortune during the short time it was located in the Kinnegar, for the area was subject to severe flooding, successive wooden pavilions being destroyed by storms in 1884 and 1887. Finally the Kinnegar Bank was breached during a combination of heavy rain and high seas and the pavilion actually floated on to the railway embankment! Captain Harrison immediately came to the rescue by offering the use of the meadows at Spafield whereupon the pavilion was bodily carried to it, the Club has been domiciled in the vicinity ever since. The present pavilion dates from about 1950. Among the more noteworthy citizens who graced the Club with their membership in its early days may be counted, Dr. J. B. Crozier, then Vicar of Holywood and later Archbishop of Armagh, Richard Rowley well-known author and Sir Dawson Bates, first Minister of Home Affairs in the Northern Ireland Government.

The Kinnegar's greatest claim to fame, from an international point of view at least, is that it was the venue for the first golf club in Ireland. The Belfast Golf Club was founded in 1881 by Thomas Sinclair who had just returned from a stay in Scotland where he had been suitably impressed by that country's traditional game. Golfing was taken up enthusiastically by both Holywood and Belfast people and within a year the Club's membership stood at seventy. It was a 9-hole course and eighty acres in extent, being disposed around the cricket pitch in the shape of a horse-shoe. That part nearest to the railway was a swamp (which it is still), the middle area was grass and the section next to the sea was studded with whin bushes. There appears to have been a small quarry between the golf links and the cricket pitch.

The Club's excellent reputation quickly spread and soon important tournaments, some of them international, were being held there. A visit by the Prince of Wales in 1885 resulted in the Club being granted the prefix "Royal" and its fortunes were further enhanced a year or two later by the arrival of the Army, for many of the officers were keen golfers. From 1887 until the Club's departure five years later, a small house near the first hole was used as the Club house. By this stage the War Office was the owner, to which the Club had to pay an annual rent of £60.

Overcrowding by golfers at the first tee and increasing military activity on the links prompted the Club to seek alternative accommodation. The event that finally precipitated the move to Carnalea in September 1892 was the breach of the sea defences during a storm which caused extensive flooding. The



The Esplanade in about 1910, from west, before the Yacht Club-house and houses on north side of Kinnegar Road had been built.

Club moved from Carnalea to Craigavad in 1925.

The Yacht Club started life as the Holywood Sailing Club in 1862, its early activities being centred around the old pier at the foot of Shore Street. Like many other organisations in Holywood at that time it was run by men of position and influence, and among the Club's early Patrons were Lord Hill-Trevor, Sir Charles Lanyon the architect, and John Mulholland, later 1st Baron Dunleath. In 1877 John Heron of Maryfield was Commodore. For a long time there was no headquarters and from 1876 Committee meetings were held in the Town Hall. Between 1902 and 1911 the Club suspended its activities altogether owing to a lack of support. Interest revived, and a timber hut was purchased in 1923 for 17 guineas, for storage and for time-keepers. It occupied the site of the present Club house and in 1932 gave way to a larger pavilion which in turn was replaced by the present premises in 1957. The organisation became a Yacht Club in 1934, the Commodore the following year being Sir Samuel Kelly; the Shannon and Donnan families were also prominent in it.

The first military occupancy of the Kinnegar seems to have been in 1885 when several battalions of the Royal Irish Rifles held camp in June and July. Over the next year or two units of the Highland Light Infantry, the Gordon Highlanders and Queen's Own Regiment also came. Initially the summer camps were intended to act as a military out-station for drill purposes by various regiments stationed in Belfast, as many as four hundred men pitching their tents. Thus was ushered in Holywood's tradition as a garrison town. In about 1887 the War Office bought part of this section of the Kinnegar as an adjunct to the newly-opened Palace Camp and they acquired more in the following decade. At this stage the camp was still unfenced.

At this time it was inevitable that the presence of so many soldiers should bring some rowdiness to the streets of Holywood. Nonetheless the soldiers were popular with the girls, and many marriages resulted, many soldiers subsequently making Holywood their home.

Chapter XVI

THE CHURCHES

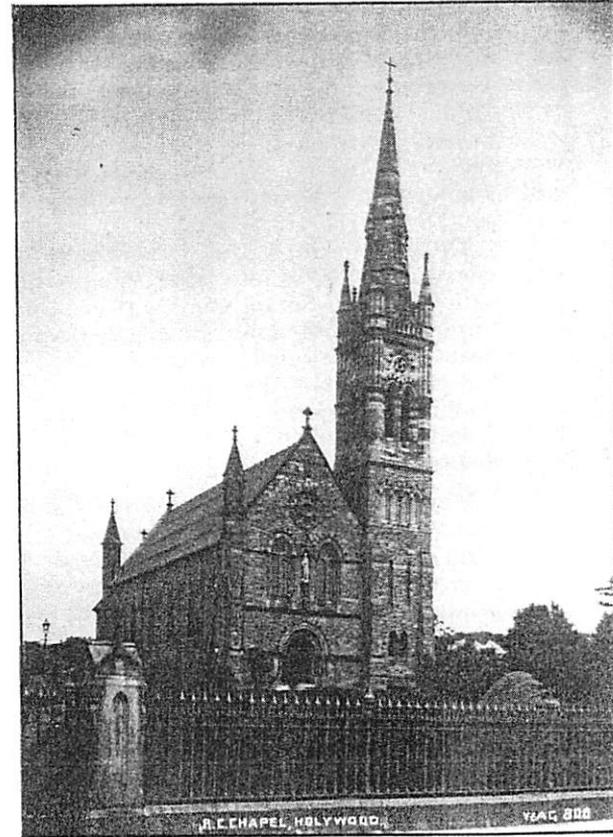
The transformation and growth of Holywood during the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century naturally meant that the spiritual needs of the community had to be met in a fitting manner. The construction of the different churches during this period will be considered in chronological order.

The Catholics, who had been virtually unrepresented since the Ballydavey massacre of 1642, started to return in the opening decade of the last century. In 1811 the Catholic Parish of Newtownards and Holywood was constituted, when Mass was celebrated in different private houses and later a coach-house

owned by a Mrs. Connor at the corner of present-day Brook Street and Church Road was used. Subsequently a gardener's house near the top of Whinney Hill was the locale, followed by the earlier practice of meeting in private houses in Holywood. The village's first Catholic Church, St. Patrick's, a simple structure consisting only of a nave and sited beyond the edge of the village on the north side of the narrow cart-road (nowadays Church View) that ran from Morrow's Lane towards the modern Ean Hill, was consecrated in 1830, Dr. William Crolley, Bishop of Down and Connor being mainly responsible for the work. The following year, a survey carried out on his orders showed that there were only eighty-one Catholics belonging to the Parish of Holywood (Newtownards had been severed from it in 1828) see O'Laverty.

In the late 1840's the Parish Priest, Father James Killen added a small chancel and replaced the round-headed windows with Gothic ones. Converted to St. Patrick's National School in 1874, then in 1938 to St. Patrick's Church Hall, it was demolished as recently as 1977.

By the time of the 1871 census, the number of Catholics resident in the Civil Parish of Holywood stood at 1,210, but the Rev. (later Mgr.) James O'Laverty, on becoming Parish Priest in November 1866, had already decided that a new and much larger



St. Columbcille's Church, from north, in about 1915. Photo by W. A. Green. Reproduced by kind permission of Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

chapel was necessary and that the one and a quarter acre field overlooking the road to Belfast would be the most suitable site. After protracted negotiations with Captain Harrison's agent, during the course of which it was at one stage proposed (not entirely seriously) that the new church should be built beside the High Street Presbyterian church, Robert Read, of Mill Moat (see Chapter XIII), procured the Belfast road site on behalf of the Church on favourable terms.

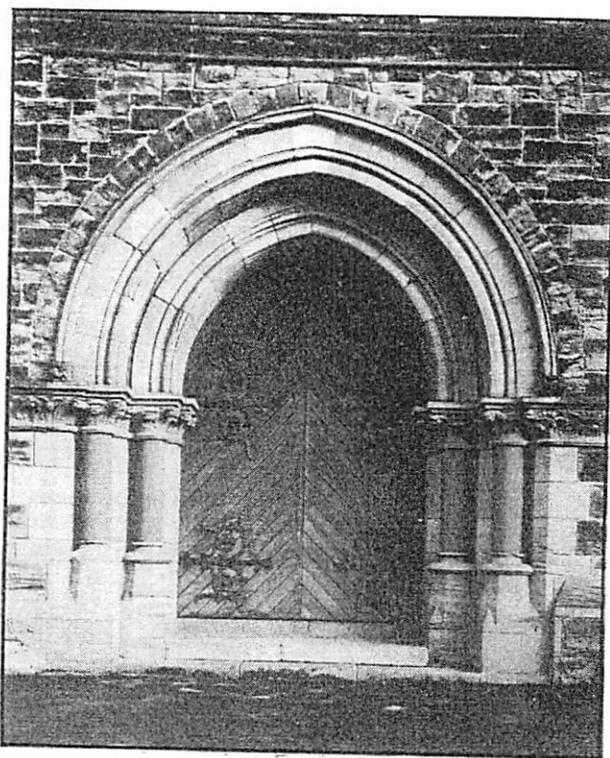
The foundation stone which was brought from St. Columbcille's birthplace at Gartan, Co. Donegal, was laid on 28th July 1872 and the church was solemnly consecrated by the Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr. Patrick Dorrian, under the Invocation of St. Columbcille on 14th June 1874. It was constructed by John Ross, of Belfast, at an initial cost of £3,493 (by the time stained glass windows etc. had been installed and the tower and spire completed in 1891 to designs by Mortimer Thompson, the final figure was £7,468). It was designed by Timothy Hevey (1845—1878), one of the leading ecclesiastical architects of his generation in Ireland.

Hevey produced a design in the full-blooded French Gothic style with the emphasis placed on loftiness and lightness. The plan is fairly simple, consisting of a nave, measuring eighty-seven by thirty-one feet and a chancel twenty-four by twenty-two feet. The sacristy was placed on the south side and the tower which initially was only constructed to the height of the nave is on the same side and beside the west gable, so giving the tower and gable composition of which our Victorian forefathers were so fond. The nave is lit by six double-lancet windows on each side and filled with beautiful stained glass; the west gable is pierced by two such windows and a fine rose window. The east window which was presented by "Barney" Hughes's son Edward, is set at high level.

The outer skin of the walls which are of cavity construction are of dark Scrabo stone whilst the inner skin is of white Scrabo stone with red Dumfries stone linings to the windows. In the 1880's the nave was beautifully decorated to designs by J. J. Philips and the panels below the windows were adorned with illuminated verses of the *Altus Prosator*, a hymn by St. Columbcille, which together with the very fine altar and reredos, was removed in the mid-1960's.

It would appear that Primitive Methodists were living and worshipping in Holywood in 1818 if not earlier, but their first chapel which was on the site of Laurence Henry's forecourt in High Street, already mentioned in Chapter VI, was not built until 1838. In 1857 they combined with the Wesleyan branch which had flourished in the town since 1830 and had occupied, amongst other places, rooms beside the present-day Post Office and beside the Olde Priory Inn. The Methodists then met in what had been the Primitive Society's premises, but by 1870 the increase in numbers occasioned by the linking of the two branches and by the overall rise in the town's population, rendered imperative the provision of a completely new Church.

In December 1870 negotiations with John Harrison



The west door of St. Columbcille's Church.

of Mertoun Hall for the purchase of a grassy plot of land beside the Holywood Public Fountain at the corner of Church Road and Church View were completed and the foundation stone of the new building laid the same month. The new buildings combined both a church with accommodation for 380 worshippers and a school-house and were constructed of red brick in the Gothic Revival Style with a strongly Lombardic flavour. The design was the work of James Kendall of the little-known architectural firm of Kendall and William Gray, and it was constructed by William Nimick of High Street, Holywood at a cost of approximately £1,800. The opening ceremony was performed on 17th June, 1871.

By the late 1830's the population was growing so rapidly that the Presbyterian Meeting House (see Chapter III) in Strand Street was becoming too overcrowded, and so the congregation acquired a site on the Bangor Road, opposite the Old Priory Church, from William Patton, senior, owner of the windmill whose ruins can still be seen beside Martello Terrace. The new church, completed in July 1841, was designed by the minister the Rev. William Blackwood who also superintended its construction. Interestingly, William Nimick served his apprenticeship on this work. Built at a cost of £1,500, it is a very spacious and well-lit edifice in the Gothic Revival style, then coming into vogue for both public and private buildings. It is cruciform in plan with a seventy feet high tower forming part of the west gable and centrally positioned; as such it echoes the appearance of the old Priory Church. The cream paint around the windows

THE CHURCHES

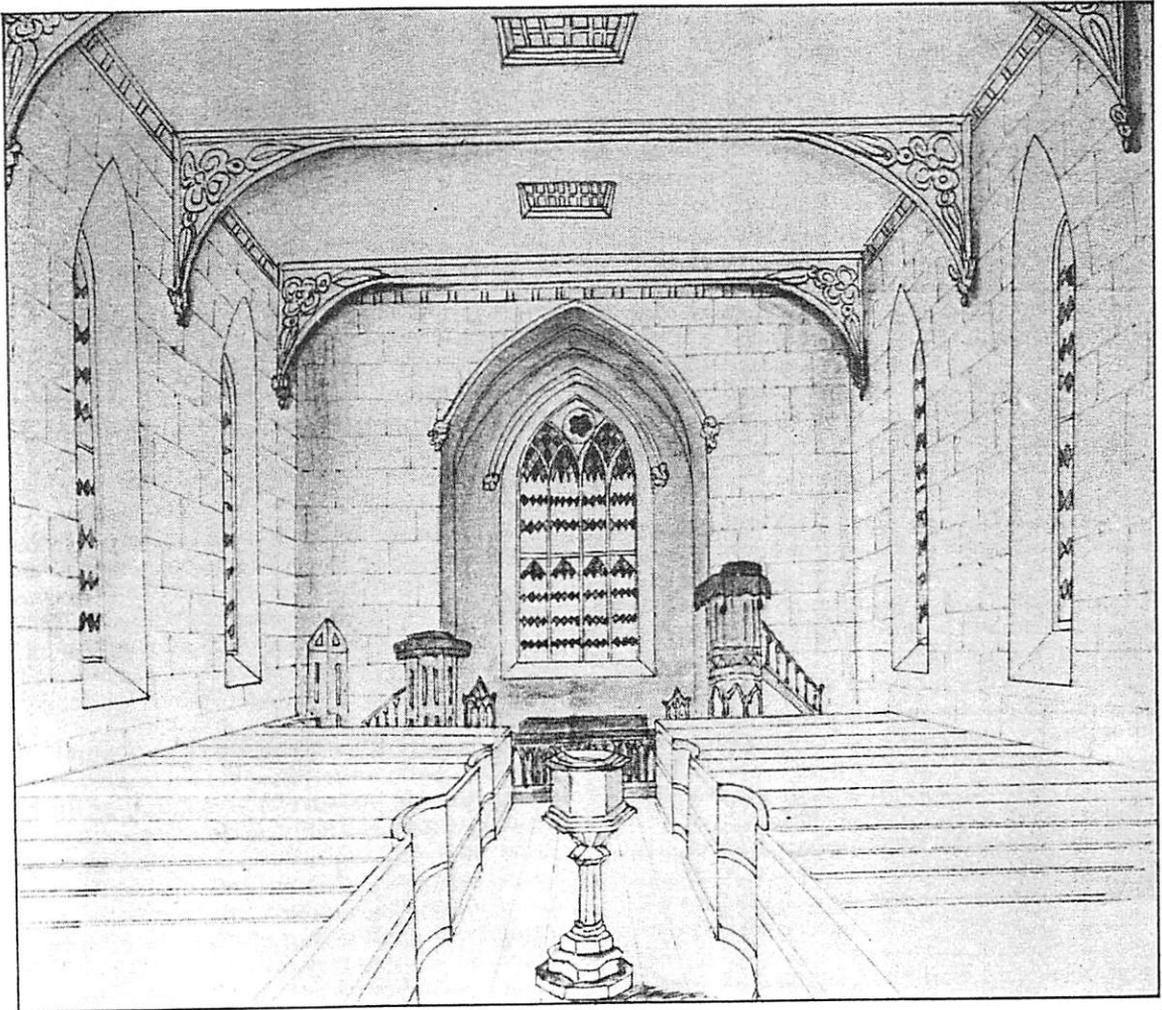
is in striking contrast to the dark stone walls. At this time public buildings were still being designed symmetrically and it was not until the 1860's that the Victorians' love of asymmetry became much more general.

In Chapter II we have seen how the over-crowding in the Old Priory Church by the late 1830's forced the Church of Ireland to seek alternative accommodation. The decision to erect a completely new Parish Church on the seventeen English acres of glebe land on Church Road, already in the Church's hands, was taken at a special Vestry meeting in April 1842 and work on the new edifice began the same year. Charles Lanyon who was already undertaking a major Church building programme for the Diocese of Down, Connor and Dromore, was appointed as the architect. The building contractor was John Brown of Gloucester Street, Belfast, and the cost was £1,870 most of which was raised by public subscription. This new church, which still survives as the south aisle of the Parish church, was a simple nave and chancel structure in the neo-Tudor style of architecture. It had five large lancet

windows on either side, and a tall tower and spire centrally positioned at the west end. The bricks came from brickfields, then functioning on the Belfast side of the Shepherd's Path, a bridle path which has become today's My Lady's Mile, and the outside of the building was faced with cement, rusticated to simulate layers of cut stone. Tradition has it that some of the stained glass in one of the windows in the south wall came from the old Priory Church. The clock also came from the old Priory. The new Church was consecrated on 30th April 1844 by Dr. Richard Mant, Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore.

Within twenty-five years the Anglican adherents had nearly doubled in number, despite the consecration of a new church at Glenraig and a Chapel-of-ease at Dundela, so rendering too crowded Lanyon's original building which could accommodate less than five hundred.

At the beginning of 1868 work commenced on enlarging the Church to nearly three times its original area and the provision of more spacious pews, giving



A water-colour dated 1849 showing the interior of Holywood Parish Church as completed to designs by Lanyon in 1844. Reproduced by kind permission of the Select Vestry of Holywood Parish Church.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

seating for 720. The Select Vestry employed as architects the by then greatly enlarged firm of Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon of which Charles (by now Sir Charles) Lanyon was, nominally at least, the senior partner, but there is evidence to suggest that his son John was chiefly responsible for the extension. The building contractor was John Lowry and Son of Great George's Street, Belfast, and by the time the work was completed sixteen months later, the cost was approximately £5,000. The impressive consecration ceremony on 19th May 1869 was conducted by Dr. Robert Knox, Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore, the dedication being to Saints Philip and James the Less.

Whereas the original Church had been built in the neo-Tudor style but with classical proportions and symmetry, popular taste now favoured the full-blooded Gothic Revival with its attendant love of asymmetry. The particular type of mediaeval architecture adopted for the new edifice was Early English, and one of the basic features of the design is the differing levels of both floors and roof-lines, thus enabling each part of the Church to be seen to be performing a separate function. The successful marrying together of the old and new work is best appreciated when one views the Church from the north-west, for the siting of the new west gable beside the original tower facilitated the tower and gable composition.

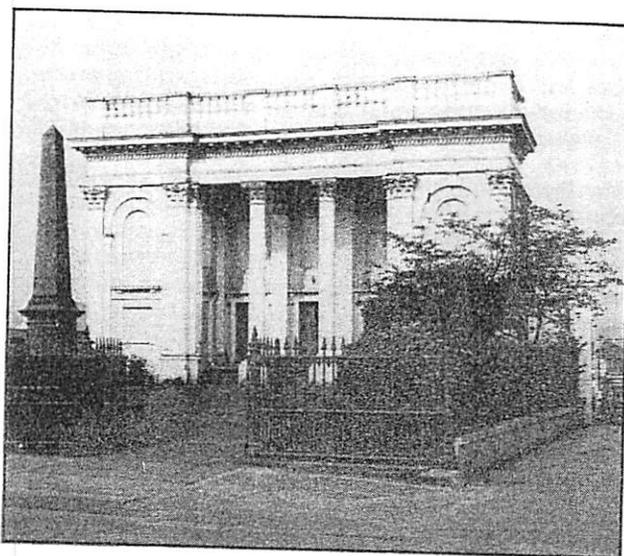
The choice of building materials also accentuates the difference in feeling between the two structures, for whereas the earlier building is faced with a smooth render rusticated to simulate neat ashlar blocks, the extension is faced with darker and irregularly-shaped Scrabo stone blocks.

A completely new nave, thirty feet wide and fifty-eight feet tall, and a new chancel were built immediately to the north of the original Church, of which the north wall was taken down and replaced by four arches, thus enabling it to be converted to use as the south aisle of the new structure. The height of the new nave left room for the provision of clerestory windows, this being a typical feature of mediaeval Church architecture.

The new Church was provided with a north aisle with its own lean-to roof, and lit by four pairs of fairly small, pointed windows. The main entrance porch and a small Vestry room, each with their own roof, were built at either end of the north aisle. The chancel, whose floor is at a slightly higher level than the rest of the Church, is lit by three pairs of rather slender lancet windows, set in the hexagonally-shaped apse. Over the ensuing thirty years the windows, including the great west window, were filled with the most beautiful stained glass which is one of the great glories of the Parish Church.

A rather striking overall feature of the interior is the red brick, relieved with black (originally yellow) banding, with which all the walls are lined. In addition the main roof timbers are exposed, this being another mediaeval tradition.

By the late 1840's the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian congregation, still located near the bottom of Shore



The Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, from S.E.

Street, was faced with an accommodation problem similar to that experienced by the other religious denominations in Holywood. Increasing numbers compelled them to acquire the present site in High Street where in 1849 they built the very fine classical style Church to designs by Charles Lanyon. This is a large and spacious building whose principal feature is the tall facade which, with its Corinthian pillars and parapet, imparts a strong feeling of solidity and dominance. It is said that Lanyon used it as a model for the County Antrim Courthouse on Belfast's Crumlin Road, which was built the following year.

The church was largely paid for by the widow of John Suffern a well-known Belfast merchant and the work superintended by Francis Ritchie, felt manufacturer, of Ballymacarett. For some years afterwards, the view of the front was partially obscured by a row of old houses; in the early part of the twentieth century a large tree grew in front of the Church.

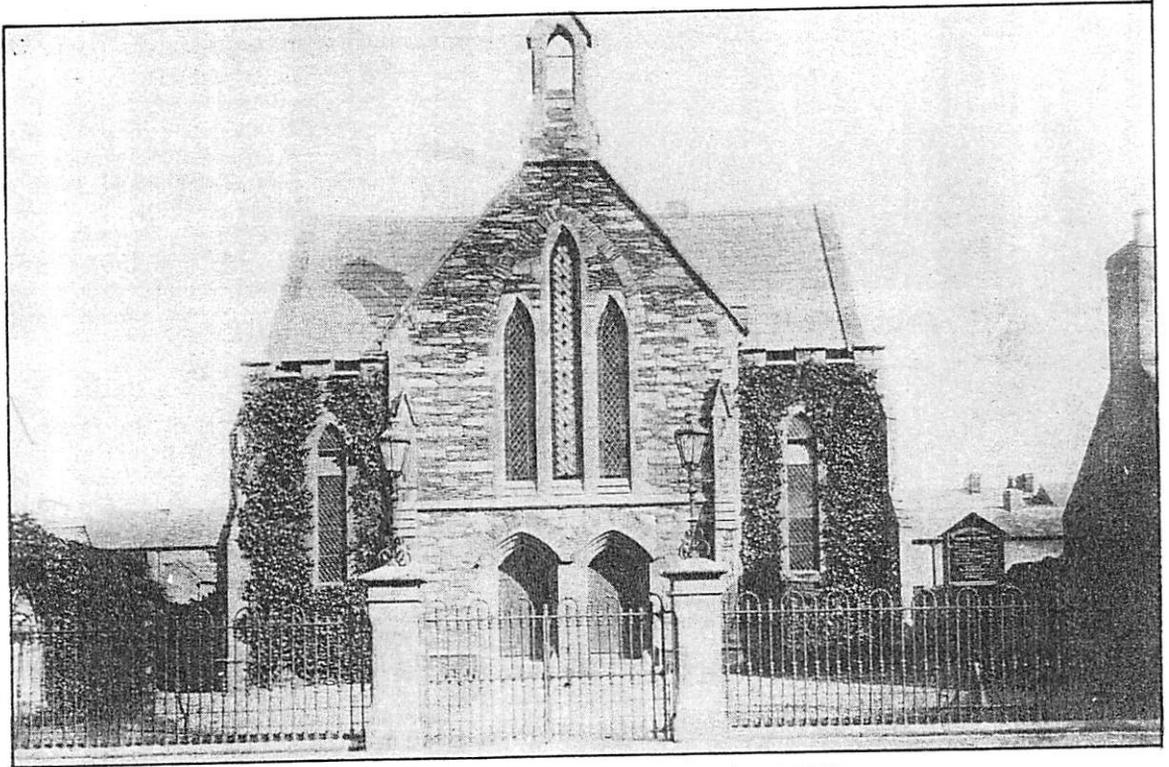
In 1854 the minister the Rev. Charles McAlester, prominent in the life of Holywood, opened his Select School in the large hall beneath the Church. Nicknamed the "Underground Academy" it lasted at least until the 1880's and in the 1870's numbered amongst its pupils the future Lord Craigavon and the future Dr. Robert Praeger, famous botanist (from thesis by D. Ogborn).

By 1855, the First Presbyterian Church, Bangor Road, was starting to become overcrowded owing to the continuing increase in population, so the heads of fifty-two families sought permission from the Belfast Presbytery to establish a second Presbyterian congregation. Permission having been granted, the new congregation moved into a small mission hall, formerly the Loan Fund Office, in Morrow's Lane, which building is nowadays used as the Golden Age Club, and in 1856 their first minister, the Rev. J. S. Denham, was appointed.

SOME PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The ground on the south side of High Street where the present Church stands, was bought in 1857, a row of old dwellings fronting the street was removed, and work began in May of that year. When it was opened for worship in February 1858, a collection taken for it in the Rosemary Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast, raised £275. Built of dark grey stone in the Early English style at a cost of £1,000, the architect was Robert Young, later to establish the well-known firm of

Young and MacKenzie, and himself a former assistant to Sir Charles Lanyon. The builder was Samuel Moore of Morrow's Lane, and the plaster work, rather fine and delicate in itself, was the work of William Hayes of Marino. Set well back from the street, the front gable was topped by a rather distinctive bell-cote which accidentally fell down while the Church was being extensively modernised in 1956.



High Street Presbyterian Church in about 1910.

Chapter XVII

SOME PUBLIC BUILDINGS

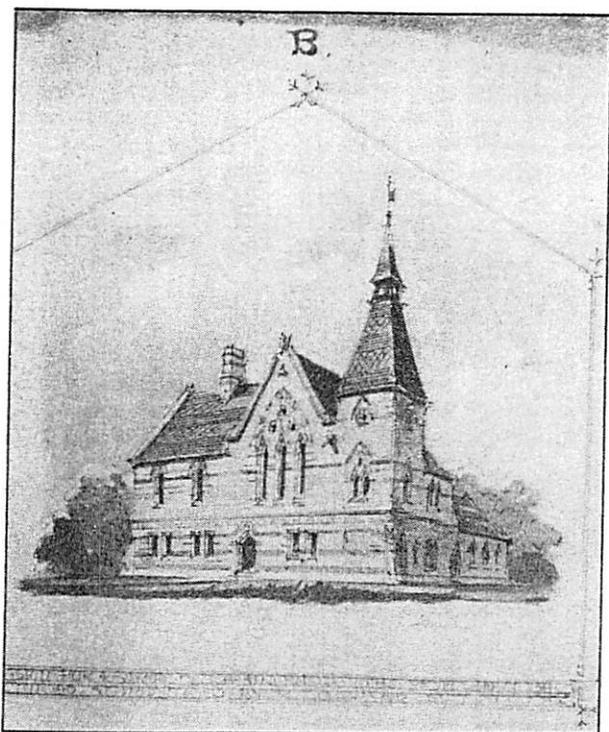
Following the granting of the official urban status to Holywood, the 'sixties and 'seventies saw a spate of construction of rather grandiose buildings for the benefit of the public.

The first and probably the most striking of these edifices was the Sullivan Schools, constructed in 1862 and 1877. So far back as 1817 when the Rev. W. Holmes, Vicar of Holywood, compiled his statistical survey of the Parish, there existed five small privately run schools, one of which was located in the village. In 1822 a school began in Church View near the junction with present day Downshire Road, the premises now being a Scout Hall, and ten years later it became the

first in Holywood to adopt the Irish National School System. A Parochial School run by the Church of Ireland was started on a site between the old Priors Church and the sea-shore, probably in the early 1830's, and when it moved to a new building opposite the new Parish Church in 1845, it seems to have adopted the National System at that date. Holywood's expansion during these years also occasioned the opening of a variety of small private academies in the town.

The first really important school in Holywood was the Sullivan National Schools, completed in April 1862 at a cost of £2,000, the money being donated by the well-known educationalist the philanthropist Dr. Robert Sullivan (1800-1868). He was born in a thatched cottage in High Street, was brought up there and retained a deep and abiding love for his native town all his life. This is the building that still stands on the site of an old smithy, in High Street, opposite Sullivan Place, with the exception of the clock tower and the adjoining hall; these were built in 1877 in an identical style of architecture and also for £2,000, the money on that occasion being part of a bequest left by Dr.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD



Perspective of Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon's executed design for the Sullivan National School, completed 1862. This may well be an example of W. H. Lynn's draughtsmanship.

Sullivan. The Sullivan National School subsequently became known as the Lower Sullivan School, whilst the new building was the Upper Sullivan School, the two corresponding to the modern primary and secondary systems of education respectively.

The architects responsible for the design were Messrs. Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon, then the leading firm of its kind in the north of Ireland, the individual partner most likely being W.H. Lynn. The builder was John Ross of Great George's Street, Belfast. The entire style of the Sullivan National School is ecclesiastical in both concept and detail, and consists essentially of a nave with side gables designed to look like transepts and a squat tower with a conical roof at the west end. The single storey wing at the back was the infant's school. The lower floor contained the boys' schoolroom, whilst the upper floor was reserved for the girls, each being fitted with eight desks of the latest model, accommodating fifty-six pupils in each floor. Three batches of classes were taught every day, so providing education for a total of one hundred and sixty-eight children on each floor.

The architectural style of both buildings can best be described as Venetian Gothic, and its most distinguishing characteristic is its overall church-like appearance, already mentioned. It is exceedingly rich in decorative details, one of the most striking features being the total use of polychrome brickwork, of which yellow is the prevailing colour, skilfully relieved by black banding and red and black arches over the

windows and doors. Each of the gables is pierced by a rose window, and the doors and windows all have trefoil-shaped heads, carved in pale brown sandstone.

From whatever position in High Street the old Sullivan Schools are observed, the buildings with their two distinctive towers, automatically draw the eye and so provide an essential focus to not only the town's main thoroughfare, but other parts of Holywood as well. It is therefore essential to the character of Holywood, and imperative to both retain it and bring it into full and meaningful use once more.

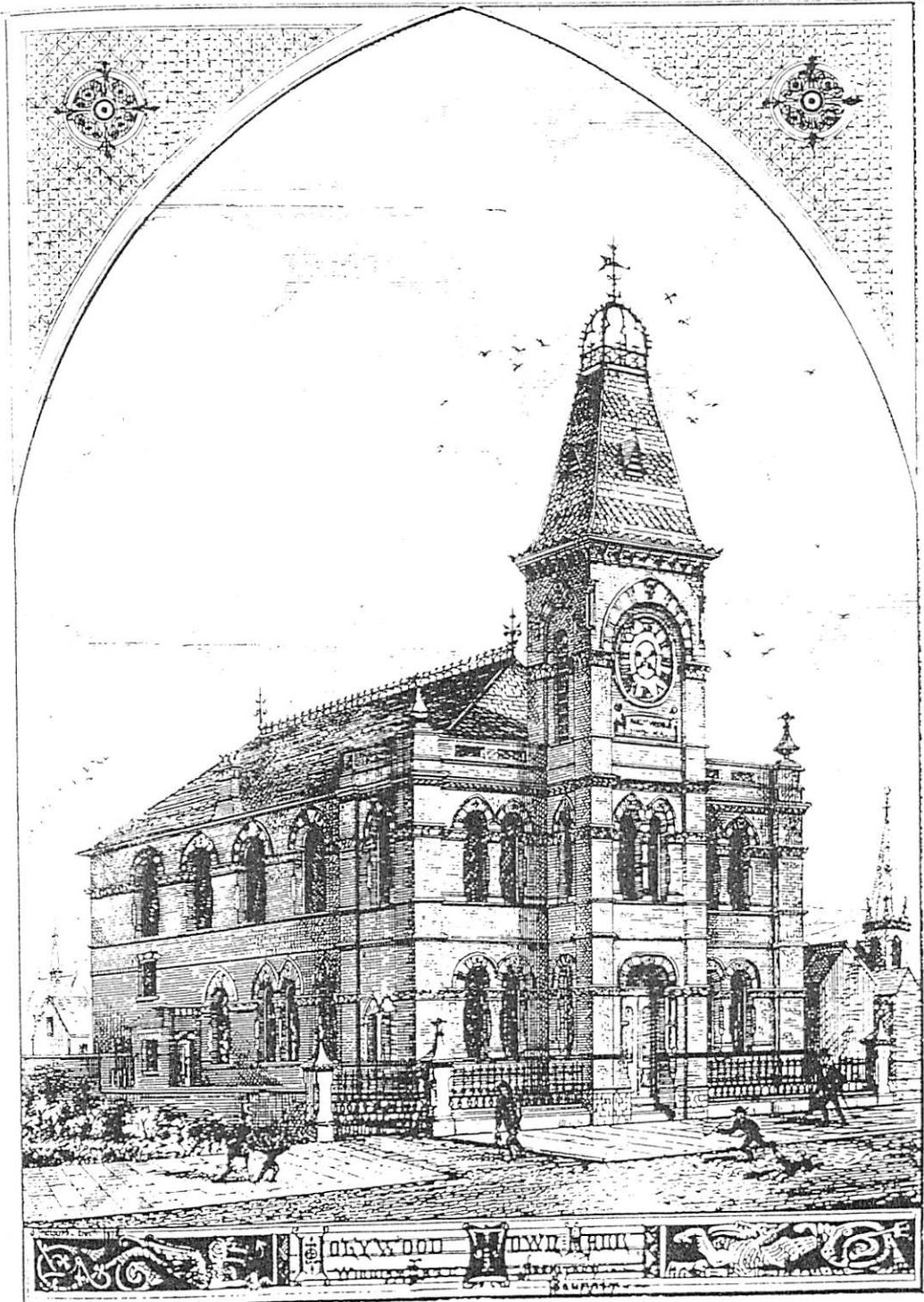
When one considers that Holywood officially became a town in 1852, it is a matter of surprise that nearly a quarter of a century was to elapse before its first purpose-built Town Hall opened. During that period the Town Commissioners met in the old Assembly Rooms which were situated on the first floor of the Baths House at the corner of Shore Street and Marine Parade. In 1872 a vacant plot of ground on the east side of Sullivan Place was purchased and the new building was completed in March 1876.

It was a large and commodious rectangular structure with an ornate clock tower facing the Street and built of red and white brick in the Lombardic Style of architecture. The ground floor contained the public library and news-room, the Town Commissioners' chamber and caretaker's apartments. Two symmetrically disposed broad staircases led to the first floor which was given over to a large hall, used for assemblies and dances, having a gallery at one end, an orchestra pit at the other and with rooms off it. The architect was William Batt of Belfast and the builder was William Nimick, the cost being a little over £2,000. The Town Hall faithfully served Holywood in many capacities until the early hours of Christmas Eve 1940 when it was totally destroyed in a spectacular fire. The Electricity showroom now occupies the site. The Holywood Urban District Council (as the Town Commissioners became in 1899) then continued to meet in accommodation over the Civil Defence Station in High Street until 1953 when the Queen's Hall was opened.

As a direct consequence of the town's growth, the Church of Ireland was expanding its parochial activities. By 1875 the Parochial National School on the east side of Church Road was deemed to be too small for the growing number of pupils, so it was proposed by the Select Vestry to enlarge the building at the rear. John Browne, the owner of the adjacent ground was approached, but was unwilling to sell on reasonable terms. As a result, Captain Harrison donated half an acre of ground to the west of the church grounds, and at the same time William Batt was briefed to design a two-storey school.

Batt's proposals were for class-rooms to be housed on the ground floor and a library and lecture rooms on the first floor. As the tenders, which were submitted in September 1876, all exceeded £2,200, the design was rejected as being too expensive. He was then instructed to design a single-storey building, William Nimick was the successful contractor, his estimate being £1,665. Work commenced in May 1877 and the

SOME PUBLIC BUILDINGS



Architectural drawing of the Town Hall, Sullivan Place, 1876. Architect, William Batt.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

new schools were formally opened by the Vicar, the Rev. G.R. Wynne in April 1878, They remained in use as the schools until 1954 when the building became the Parochial Hall.

The schools, which could accommodate well over two hundred pupils at any one time, are T. shaped in plan and built to scrabo stone in the Early English Style. There were separate entrances for boys and girls, the latter being taught in the larger hall.

Chapter XVIII

PUBLIC WORKS

With the rapid growth of Holywood in the 1840's as its status moved from that of a pleasant watering place to a thriving town, and the community's official elevation to town status in 1852 with its own governing body of Commissioners, it was anticipated that its population would continue to expand at the same rate, the figure reaching 2,422 by 1861. Consequently public utility undertakings were both highly necessary for a town of this size and expected development, and befitted Holywood's newfound urban status.

One of the more important public concerns to appear in the town at this time was the gas-works. Until 1860 Holywood was lit by oil lamps which state of affairs had prompted a group of interested parties, under the chairmanship of Henry Harrison to form the Holywood Gaslight Company (soon to be the Holywood Gas Company Ltd.) in 1856 and it was the Company's aim to provide one thousand lamps in the town. In November of the following year William Wetherall, a resident of Holywood and owner of a tannery in Mill Street (now Castle Street), Belfast, took a lease of the site on the Kinnegar where construction work then began. The contractor was Mr. D. Leadlaw of Glasgow with Mr. George Smith as engineer, and by 1860 three gasometers and all the necessary ancillary buildings, including three retorts, had been completed.

The opening ceremony, witnessed by most of the townspeople, was performed on 1st December 1860. As the lamp-lighters were escorted round the town, they were greeted with cheers each time a lamp was lit, following which there was a celebration dinner in the Assembly Rooms at the foot of Shore Street. Despite the promising start, we are told that within three or four years there were numerous complaints concerning the poor quality and high price of the gas. In 1867 the mains were extended as far as Craigavad. Nearby Gloucester Terrace was pulled down in 1913 to enable extension of the Company's grounds.

With the introduction of electricity to Holywood in 1924 the gas industry declined and in 1937 the concern was purchased by the Belfast Corporation. Among the well-known personalities connected with it were Thomas Frizelle who at the time of his death in 1929

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had been Engineer-Manager for forty-two years, and Alexander Finlay, soap-manufacturer, of Willesden, Church Road, was a director for forty-eight years.

The town's expansion was such that the boundaries were considerably enlarged on 14th January 1865 and the Town's Improvement Act (Ireland) 1854 in its entirety was extended to Holywood, so giving the Commissioners wider powers. One problem to receive their early attention was that of sewage disposal, for at that time refuse who still being collected from houses by horse and cart. They were given a substantial loan by the Government Loan Commission in September 1866 for the purpose of proper disposal and the following month they employed William Nimick to execute the necessary works. He completed the contract within one year as scheduled and in that time laid over one mile of pipe runs and connected three hundred and fifty houses, the effluent discharging directly into the sea. However, it turned out that approximately half the householders so benefitted failed to take advantage of the new system and had to be threatened with legal proceedings. In 1868 the system was extended from Brook Street to Church Hill Terrace and Church Road and four years later it was linked to the Vicarage (then on Church Road) and other dwellings further up the hill.

Although some footpaths at the sides of thoroughfares had been provided in the earlier part of the nineteenth century, the question of laying proper pavements was not seriously tackled until the 1850's.

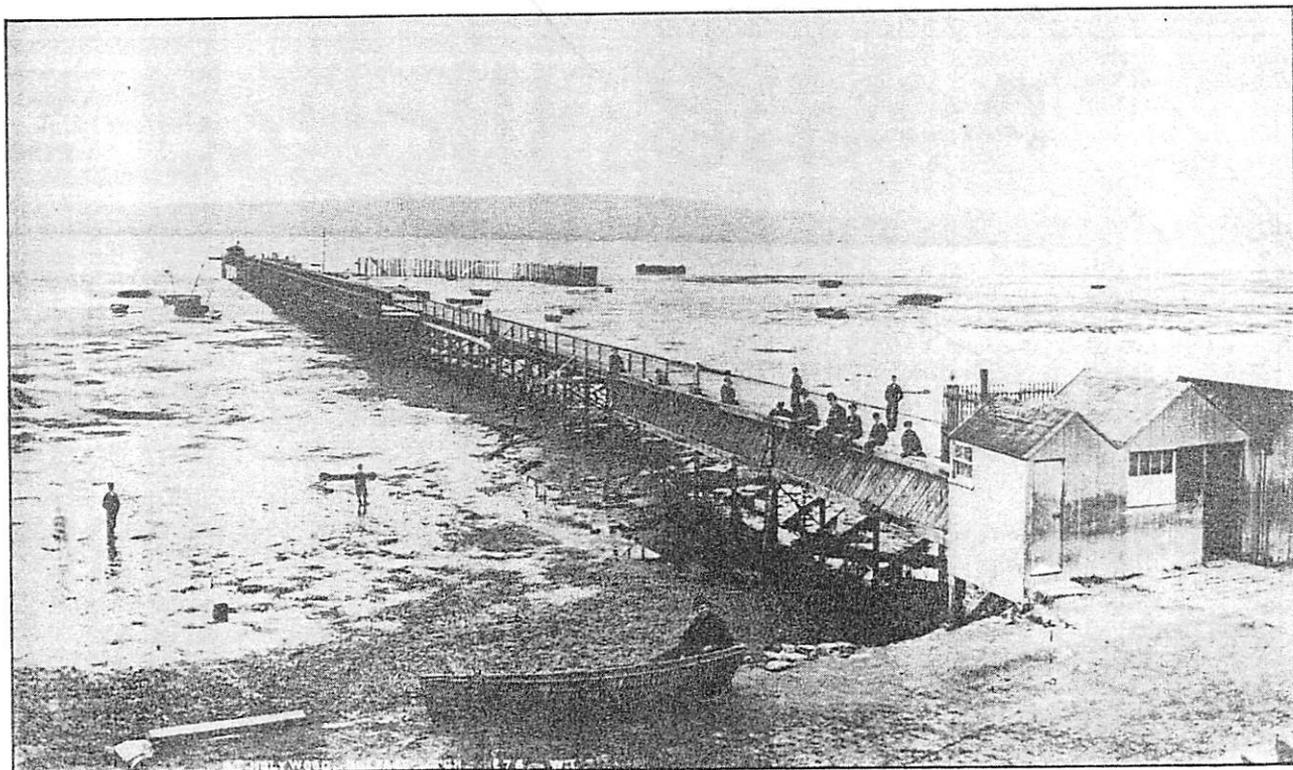
PUBLIC WORKS

At that time they were made using kidney-shaped cobblestones taken from the sea-shore, and were usually formed by driving the stones directly into the earth which sometimes had some gravel mixed with it. Many of these cobbled footpaths survived in part, at least, until the 1920's. The actual carriageways were so filthy from a combination of mud and horse manure that proper pedestrian crossings consisting of large smooth granite blocks had to be provided near street junctions.

Hollywood had for long boasted a small jetty for the benefit of the fishermen, but by the 1840's it had fallen into disrepair. In 1855 a timber pier about two hundred yards long was built at the beach approximately half-way along Marine Parade which thoroughfare at that time had buildings on its south side only, the sea coming right up to the roadway. This pier cost £257, two of the subscribers being Captain John Harrison and his brother Henry and was initiated by John G. McGee who lived nearby. However, the opening of the gas-works made imperative the provision of a much more substantial pier and coal wharf, capable of accommodating small coal steamers. The Hollywood Pier Company Ltd. was formed in 1863 and the next year received authorisation by Act of Parliament; it soon became the Belfast and Hollywood Steamboat and Harbour Company. By 1867 the first vessel, the "Erin" was able to call and in 1869 the pier was completed at a cost of £20,000 at which time the "Lady of the Lake" plied instead.

This pier ran out to sea for nearly a quarter of a mile from the bottom of Shore Street, following an L-shaped plan and incorporated a coal quay three hundred feet long by twenty-five feet wide. In addition to coal boats, the passenger steamer of seventy-five tons, one hundred and thirty feet long and able to carry five hundred people, called regularly. The steerage fare from Belfast was two-pence! Alas, owing to the nature of the tides and beach silting soon became a problem and by 1875 the service stopped. The pier changed hands several times and was storm damaged over the next few years but in 1883 was repaired, only to be burnt immediately after the opening ceremony that August. In 1889 it was sold to Sir Daniel Dixon who also acquired the whole shore as far as Clanbrassil (see Chapter V). The remains gradually disintegrated and the stumps were covered by the mud, only to be re-exposed in the early 1970's as a result of the change in currents occasioned by the re-siting of the railway embankment, and at the present day they can be distinctly seen at low tide.

Although many of the public amenities had been provided by the 1860's, the town's water supply was not catered for until 1882 which year saw the completion of the Hollywood Reservoir on the upper reaches of Church Road, the engineer in charge being Luke Macassey C.E. (d. 1908), who lived at Stanley House. This reservoir is nowadays called the Old Hollywood Reservoir.



The Hollywood Pier, looking from the Esplanade, c.1882. Photo by W. Lawrence. Copied from an original kindly lent by A. McDonald.

Chapter XIX

WEST OF
DOWNSHIRE ROAD

Although the main road from Belfast to Holywood passed through Strandtown, Tillysburn and then along the pre-historic raised beach-head till it reached High Street, as long ago as the eighteenth century if not earlier, the western end of Holywood was the last district of the town to develop properly. In the historical introduction reference has already been made to the lack of growth in Holywood during the final quarter of the nineteenth century. What small amount of building work there was during this period was mostly confined to the area to the west of Downshire Road; similarly it was only in the early part of the present century that this area was properly built over and became a very real part of the town.

The earliest terrace to appear on the Belfast Road was Bellevue Terrace at Nos. 35 to 39 (modern numbering). This rather elegant group dates from the mid-1840's and is sited near the edge of the pre-historic cliff-face, with the fronts of the houses overlooking the sea. They are two storeys high and still retain such original features as moulded door-cases and six-pane sash windows. Immediately on the Belfast side of it the Soldiers' Home, a fairly typical Arts and Crafts

building (the Arts and Crafts style usually involved incorporating domestic details from different periods of architecture) was completed in 1903. This building became the Loughview Cafe in the 1920's, the Loughview Hotel in the 1950's, and finally the Strathearn Hotel, before being burnt down in 1977.

Nearer Holywood and also on the north side of the road, Pebble Lodge a rather large and charming cottage-type of dwelling in the Tudor style, and with basement rooms, dates from 1870. On the opposite side of the road, the "Firs" (strictly speaking, No. 160 High Street), till lately the Convent of the Sacred Heart, was built in 1889 as a successful merchant's residence. Built of red brick, it exhibits gables to great effect and makes use of such typically Arts and Crafts motifs as panelling in the front hall and a "mouth-organ" fanlight. An early occupant was Reuben Payne, a prosperous merchant tailor and ladies' outfitter in Chichester Street, Belfast. The charming little gate-lodge was provided four years later.

Nearby, Begthorpe, a substantial pair of red brick semi-detached dwellings at Nos. 156 (now the Vicarage) and 158, High Street, was built in 1894. It is distinguished by cream-painted string-courses and window heads, round-headed windows and delightful little Byzantine style marble columns in the main doorways.

What is now My Lady's Mile was laid out in the later part of the nineteenth century on the line of an old and somewhat shorter bridle path for sheep, and at that time boasted a solitary farm at the junction with

Antique's Wanted

In Any Condition

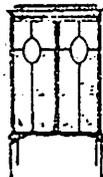
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WEST OF DOWNSHIRE ROAD



"Craig Tara", My Lady's Mile, from south. Built in 1896 it embodies all that is best in High Victorian domestic architecture.

Demesne Road; this was Coogan's Farm and it supplied much of the town's milk. My Lady's Mile is chiefly made up of fairly opulent-looking suburban dwellings, one of the first to appear being "Craig Tara", built by one George C. Henderson at No. 1 in 1896. It is a substantial three-storey red brick villa that would be equally at home if it were sited on the Malone Road, Belfast. In many ways it epitomises High Victorian domestic architecture. Its main facade is double-fronted with projecting bays, two storeys high with paired Gothic-arched windows above. Other late mediaeval features that have been introduced include drip-courses over the doors and windows; also imaginative use has been made of decorative terra-cotta lozenges. For some years "Craig Tara" was practically the only dwelling on the road, but some more gradually appeared before the Great War, and the remaining plots had been built over by 1939.

Numbers 1 and 9, Alexandra Park, sizeable red brick suburban houses in large gardens in a pleasant tree-lined cul-de-sac, off My Lady's Mile, date from 1895 and 1896 respectively. Ardlee Terrace, occupying a rather commanding position at the corner with Downshire Road, is a rather tall group of five red brick houses with an irregular frontage. There is an interesting variety of round-headed and square-headed windows, and the whole facade is enlivened by triangular brick pilasters, varied dormers to the attic, and the extensive use of terra-cotta panels of plant motifs. The terrace was erected in 1899 and the original owner bought the ground immediately opposite in order to prevent any building work which might detract from his view of the Lough.

Close by, Park Avenue was laid out in Graham's Fields, open ground between Downshire Road and My Lady's Mile, in about 1902 and the terrace of three-storey houses, built in two separate phases, at Nos. 2 to



The Soldiers' Home, Belfast Road in about 1910. The building later became the Loughview Hotel.

BUILDINGS OF HOLYWOOD

18, dates from that time. Also near at hand and running down to Church View, Trevor Street was laid out and first built upon in 1896. From the start, the residents were mostly artisans and labourers. Running parallel to Trevor Street and nearer My Lady's Mile, Park Drive was mostly built in about 1934.

At the turn of the century, that stretch of Demesne Road between Downshire Road and Jackson's Road began to be lined on both sides with middle-class suburban houses in spacious gardens. One particularly striking example is "Abingdon", nowadays used as a nursing home, at No. 43, which was built in about 1899 by one Henry Davis. Located in two acres of gardens on the north side of the road, it is Arts and Crafts architecture at its best, employing to good effect features of the Jacobean era, such as half timbering, panelled ceilings and a finely carved staircase. On the far side of the road, and a little nearer to Belfast, the dwelling now called the Tudor Guest Lodge belonging to the same period, is another notable example in the same vein.

In Chapter V, reference has already been made to the Palace Barracks having replaced the Bishop's Palace and its extensive demesne. The first buildings of the Palace Barracks were completed in 1897 and 1898 on the site of what had for the previous ten years

been known as the Palace Camp. Buildings, both domestic and purely military, have been added at intervals throughout the present century. The Clock Tower, erected in about 1900 on the actual site of the Palace, is a good example of Arts and Crafts work.

Following the Second World War there began a movement to improve the quality of housing stock throughout Northern Ireland which led to the formation of the Northern Ireland Housing Trust in 1945. One of the Trust's early ventures was the construction in 1948 and 1949 of the Loughview Housing Estate, now affectionately known as the "White City". Consisting of approximately four hundred roomy dwellings, the layout was revolutionary for the time, one departure from tradition being the main semi-circular thoroughfare, called Abbey Ring. As we have previously seen the shops occupy the actual site of Holywood House which had been demolished by the Army in 1941. Many of those who came to live there had lost their homes in the York Street area of Belfast during the Blitz.

In 1956, a much smaller estate, this time partly built of red brick, was erected by the Housing Trust in what had formed part of the grounds of Redburn House. Called the Redburn Housing Estate, it is built on either side of the east end of the Old Holywood Road.



Oakley Avenue, Loughview Estate from south, in 1982.



1970 - Orr's Chemist, 46 High Street, Hollywood.



1986

Baird Chemist

46 High Street, Hollywood

*THE CHEMIST AT THE MAYPOLE
SINCE 1911*

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GLOSSARY OF ARCHITECTURAL TERMS

Alsie. Lateral division parallel with the nave in a church.

Apse. The circular or many-sided termination of a church sanctuary.

Byzantine architecture. The style evolved at Constantinople in the fifth century which is still the style of the Eastern or Greek church.

Chancel. The space for clergy and choir, separated from the body of the church.

Clerestorey. An upper stage in a building with windows above adjacent roofs; especially applied to this feature in a church.

Column. A vertical support, generally consisting of a base, circular shaft and spreading capital.

Corbel. A block of stone, projecting from a wall, supporting the beams of a roof, floor, arch etc.

Door-Case. The complete surround, usually moulded, to a door.

Dormer. A window in a sloping roof, usually that of a sleeping apartment.

Drip-Course. In Gothic architecture, the projecting moulding over the heads of doorways and windows to throw off rain.

Early English. The first of the three divisions of English Gothic architecture, prevalent during the thirteenth century.

Eaves. The lower part of a roof projecting beyond the face of the wall.

Facade. The face or elevation of a building.

Gothic. The name generally given to the pointed style of mediaeval architecture prevalent in Western Europe from the thirteenth to the fifteenth century.

Lancet arch. A sharp pointed arch, resembling a lancet, chiefly in use during the Early English period.

Lozenge. A diamond-shaped panel.

Moulding. The contours given to projecting members.

Nave. The central portion of the main body of a church.

Ogee. A moulding made up of a convex and concave curve. Also applied to an arch of similar shape.

Panel. A compartment, sunk or raised, in walls, ceilings, doors, wainscoting etc.

Parapet. The portion of a wall above the roof-gutter. Also applied to the same feature, rising breast-high in balconies, platforms and bridges.

Pilaster. A feature in the shape of a pillar, but projecting only about one-sixth of its breadth from a wall.

Plan. The representation of the shape of a building showing the general distribution of its parts on the ground.

Portico. A colonnaded space forming an entrance or vestibule, with a roof supported on at least one side by columns.

Priory. A monastic establishment presided over by a prior, who was often subordinate to an abbot.

Reveal. The surface at right-angles to the face of a wall, at the side of a door or window opening.

Romanesque. That style of architecture prevailing in Western Europe in the 9th to 12th centuries.

Rose Window. A circular window, whose mullions converge like the spokes of a wheel.

Rustication. A method of forming stonework with roughened surfaces and recessed joints.

Sacristy. Repository for vestments, vessels, etc. of a church.

Storey. The space between two floors.

String course. A moulding or projecting course running horizontally along the face of a building.

Terra-cotta. Earth-baked or burnt in moulds for use in building construction and decoration, harder in quality than brick.

Tracery. The ornamental pattern-work in stone filling the upper part of a Gothic window.

Trefoil. A term applied to the three leaf shape in Gothic tracery.

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