MONAGHAN
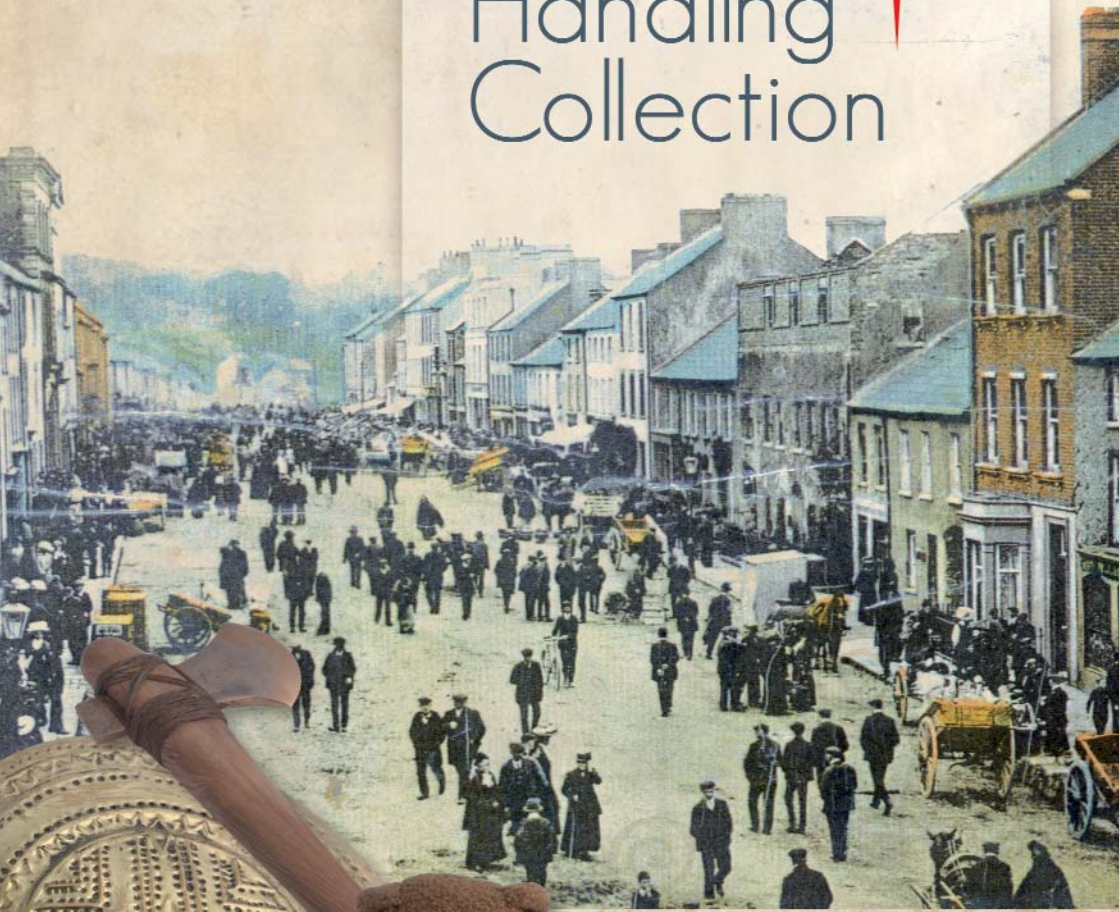*Músaem Chontae Mhuineacháin*
COUNTY
MUSEUM

Handling
Collection

Applying for Loans

It is essential to make a booking for all loans from the Handling Collection. At least two to three days notice is required by the Education and Outreach Officer but you are advised to book as early as possible to avoid disappointment. To borrow material, a list of items required should be telephoned or preferably emailed to the Education and Outreach Officer stating the date you wish to collect loans and when they will be returned. Items can be borrowed as themed groups or as individual pieces.

Duration of Loans

Objects may be borrowed for a period of time up to a maximum of one month. This time may be reduced subject to demand and waiting lists.

Collection & Return of Loans

Booked loans can be collected from and returned to the Museum between 9.15am and 4.00pm from Monday to Friday or on Saturday by prior agreement. Loans must be returned no later than 4.30 on the last day of the agreed loan period and must be accepted by a member of staff. It is essential to return the items on or before the agreed date to facilitate other bookings. Any borrower who retains material beyond the loan period may not be eligible for future loans.

handling collection

monaghan county museum

Monaghan County Museum's Handling Service was established in 1982, with a small number of items. A successful application to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was made to expand this service. It has made it possible to greatly increase the number and variety of items available for loan. This service is available to schools, the community and special interest groups.

Collection of hafted and unhafted
bronze axe and spear heads

Collection of Crannóg related material

Archaeology

Monaghan County Museum Handling Collection

1 'Bann' Flake

A Bann flake is a large, butt-trimmed, leaf-shaped stone blade. Dating from the late Mesolithic or middle Stone Age Period (7000BC to 4,500BC). They are named after the river Bann in Northern Ireland and were used as spearheads, which were attached (hafted) to wooden poles.

2 Plano-Convex Stone Knife Blade

This particular type of knife dates to the late Neolithic, early Bronze Age period (c. 2,500BC to 2,000BC). These are quite long leaf shaped flint knifes or blades. It would have been used in the cutting of corn or other crops.

3 Stone Axe Heads

(1975.81 / 1976.15)
These were used to cut down trees by the early farmers in the Neolithic Period (4,500BC to 2,500BC). Modern experiments show the efficiency of such axe heads in cutting down trees. Early axeheads were hand held, however they were later mounted on wooden handles and tied in place with leather straps.

4 Bronze Flat Axe Unhafted

From about 2,000BC the use of bronze in axes took over from stone. These were attached or 'hafted' onto handles made from wood using twine and resin (a sticky substance that comes from some trees and used as glue). This example is unhafted.

5 American Indian Arrowheads

(1980.2A,C,O)
These arrowheads, which were found in America and subsequently donated to the museum, are very similar to the type used by Irish hunters during the Neolithic Period (4,500BC to 2,500BC)

6 Bronze Flat Axe Hafted

From about 2,000BC the use of bronze in axes took over from stone. These were attached or 'hafted' onto handles made from wood using twine and resin.

7 Bronze Palstave Axe Unhafted

This type of axehead has flanges and a stop-ridge to hold it firmly on its handle. This made it easier to use than earlier simple flat axeheads. Date c.1500BC

8 Bronze Palstave Axe Hafted

This type of axehead has flanges and a stop-ridge to hold it firmly on its handle. This made it easier to use than earlier simple flat axeheads. Date c.1500BC

9 Bronze Socketed Half-Moon Spear Head

Large Bronze Spear Head, this example would have been attached or 'hafted'. Date c.1000BC

10 Bronze Socketed Axe Hafted

Socketed axeheads like this one developed from older flat examples and were attached (hafted) to a curved wooden handle. The loop was for tying both firmly together. Date c.1000BC

11 Bronze Spearhead

(1975.185)
This is a kite-shaped spearhead with a socket, loops and high ridges on the blade. The spear would have been mounted on a long wooden pole and attached with twine through the side loop. Date c. 1000BC

12 Bronze Socketed Axe Unhafted

Socketed axeheads like this one developed from older flat examples and were attached (hafted) to a curved wooden handle. The loop was for tying both firmly together. Date c.1000BC

13 Bronze Side-Looped Spear Head

Kite-shaped spearhead with socket, loops, and high ridge on the blade. The spear would have been mounted on a long wooden pole and attached with twine through the side loops. Date c. 1000BC

14 Bronze Basal-Looped Spear Head

This type of spear would have been used for hunting as well as warfare. Date c. 1000BC

15 Stone Spear Mould

Stone moulds were used in the Bronze Age (2,500BC to 500BC) for manufacturing objects such as spears and axes. Clay moulds were also used. This is probably one half of a closed mould.

16 Tydavnet Sun Discs

A pair of gold "sundiscs" was found in the roots of an oak tree in Tydavnet, County Monaghan and purchased by the National Museum of Ireland in 1872. These are replicas of the original sheet gold discs. Decoration was achieved by using the "repoussé" technique (hammered from the reverse side). The discs date to the Bronze Age (2,500BC to 500BC) and were worn by Chieftains at the shoulders where the cloak was pinned.

17 Funerary Pot

These types of pots, know as beakers, date to the Bronze Age and were typically found with burials of that time. As with this example, they were decorated with various designs. Date c. 2500-500BC

18 Jigsaw Pot

This is a replica funerary pot in pieces. It gives people the opportunity to piece the pot back together. Broken pottery is one of the most common archaeoligcal finds as it does not decay.

19 Clay Spear Mould

Clay moulds were used in the same way as stone moulds for the manufacture of objects. In the late Bronze Age clay took over from stone as the material of choice as it was easier to work with.

31

20 Iron Age Ring Headed Pin

This pin is made of bronze and was used for fastening clothes. Date. c.500BC

21 Iron Age Decorated Pin

This decorated clothing pin or hair pin is made from bronze. Date c. 500BC

22 Roman Lamp

This replica lamp in the Roman style c 1st to 2nd century AD was made from fired clay. Oil was poured in and a wick was placed in the nozzle and lit to provide light.

26 Medieval Shoe (Pair)

These shoes were made with stitched leather and were worn only by the wealthiest people in society such as local Chieftains and their family. Date c. 1000AD

24 Viking Sword Hilted

This type of sword was carried by Scandinavian sea-raiders, who are known as Vikings. Viking swords were made of iron with bone, leather or wooden handgrips, most examples of which are now decayed down to the bare iron. The broad and long blade was good for thrusting as well as slashing at an opponent. The hilt was used to both protect the hand and strike the enemy. Date c. 800-900AD

25 'Bratt' Cloak/Shawl

The term 'bratt' derives from the old English slang for a beggar's child. In this context it refers to ragged cloak.

26 Bone Double Comb and Bone Single Sided Comb

These types of combs were made from bone. The decorated surfaces on the combs show that they were regarded as important items in the daily lives of their owners, who cared for their personal appearance. Date c. 800-1000AD

27 Amber & Blue Glass Beads

These types of beads were worn as part of decorative necklaces and bracelets by the wealthy local Chieftains and their family. They were a way of showing their importance and position in society. Date c. 800-1000AD

28 Wood, Bone and Stone Spindle Whorl

These disc shaped objects were used as weights on a weavers spindle to steady the motion of the spindles. Date c. 1000A

29 Working Drop Spindle and Fleece Set

A drop spindle was a typical type of spindle used in the medieval era, in Ireland, to spin wool into thread for making clothes. Date c. 800-1500AD

30 Medieval Riding Spurs

These riding spurs were made by the Lorimer (a person who specialised in making all the pieces of a horse harness). The Lorimer, in medieval times, was of similar importance to the Blacksmith. Date c. 1200-1400AD

31 Tuyére

This unusual looking clay nozzle was used to blow air into a smithing hearth where ore was being melted for making iron tools. It was used throughout the Iron Age (500BC to 500AD) as well as the early medieval era (500AD-1200AD).

32 Model Crannóg

Crannogs are man made islands found in lakes that are accessible by boat or a hidden underwater path. Due to the large amount of shallow lakes in Monaghan, there are over 80 recorded examples in the County. A prominent example in Monaghan Town is Mullaghmonaghan Crannóg in the Convent Lake, which belonged to the McMahon clan. They mostly date to the medieval era (400AD to 1600AD).

33 Assyrian Cuneiform Tablet (1986.58)

This tablet is from Assur (Ashur), the ancient capital of Assyria. The inscription is in Cuneiform Script, a wedge-shaped script created by the Assyrians. The tablet is an example collected by a traveller in the last Century.

205

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY CO.
(IRELAND)
ARTISANS' EXHIBITION NOW OPEN
CHEAP TRIP
TO
DUBLIN & BACK
AUGUST 15, 1885,

Transport

The Great Northern Railway

Between 1845 and 1849 a railway line from Dundalk to Castleblayney was built during the railway boom, which began in Ireland about 1840. It passed through Newbliss (with a junction at Ballybay for Cootehill) to Clones by 1858. It then extended to Enniskillen in County Fermanagh. This Dundalk and Enniskillen Railway was met by the Ulster Railway from Portadown, County Armagh, coming to Monaghan town in 1858 and Clones in 1863. At Clones it joined with the Irish North Western Railway. These lines formed a major part of the Great Northern Railway (GNR) in 1876. The GNR lasted beyond the partition of Ireland in 1921 and was jointly operated by Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland up to its closure in 1957.

1 Photographs of GRN (I) Staff (c1930's)

A selection of images of Great Northern Railway (I) employees at stations based in County Monaghan.

2 Railway Guard's Whistle (1980.5)

When all the passengers were on board and all doors were safely closed, the Guard would use the whistle to tell the driver it was safe to start the train moving. This whistle bears the Acme brand. They are still manufactured today.

3 Carriage Lamp or Coach Lamp (1976.43)

This lamp is made from tin with a plain glass front panel and a round red panel at the back. The candle compartment contains a spring which automatically fed the candle into the box.

4 Signal Staff (1974.64)

This staff was used as part of the block system of signalling to ensure that only one train was on a section of track at any one time. The staff or token was unique to that section or block of the track and was used to send a signal by telegraph that it was safe to proceed. These systems were made compulsory in Britain and Ireland after the 1889 Armagh railway disaster.

5 Railway Signs

These are replicas of County Monaghan station signs.

6 Tickets

These are copies of Great Northern Railway tickets which are dated 1940. They have a punch mark which means they were used by passengers on the trains.

7 Timetables

These are a selection of timetables, which date from the 1880s to the 1950s.

8 Photographs of Railway Stations

A selection of images of railway stations and trains throughout County Monaghan in the 1950s.

MONAGHAN RAIL NETWORK

GLASLOUGH · MONAGHAN · SMITHBORO · CLONES · NEWBLISS · MONAGHAN ROAD · DOOHAMLET SIDING · SHANTONAGH JUNCTION · BALLYBAY · CASTLEBLAYNEY · CREAGHANROE · ROCKCORRY · CULLOVILLE · BLACKSTAFF · INNISKEEN · ESSEXFORD · CARRICKMACROSS · ROCKCORRY

TO BELFAST · TO ARMAGH · TO ENNISKILLEN · TO CAVAN · TO COOTEHILL · TO DUNDALK

BELFAST TO CAVAN LINE
DUNDALK TO ENNISKILLEN LINE

9 Map of Railway System in County Monaghan

This map shows the rail network throughout the county and the two lines that serviced County Monaghan.

10 Book: Great Northern Railway of Ireland Rules and Regulations 1914

This book was issued to employees by the Board of Directors of the company after a meeting on the 3rd December 1913 for instruction and guidance commencing 1st June 1914.

## 11 Book: Great Northern Railway of Ireland Rule 1949

This book was issued to employees by the Board of Directors of the company after a meeting on the 17th November 1949 offering instruction and guidance to employees commencing 1st June 1949.

12 Book: Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Regulations for Train Signalling on Double Lines by the Absolute Block System and Single Lines by the Electric Token Block also General Instructions to Signalmen.

This book was issued to employees operating the lines of the Great Northern Railway (Ireland), Ulster Transport Authority and County Donegal Railways (Joint Committee) offering instruction and guidance to employees in relation to train signalling.

13 Railway Flags

These are signal box flags used for signalling to the train crew. Red means stop, green originally meant caution but later meant go.
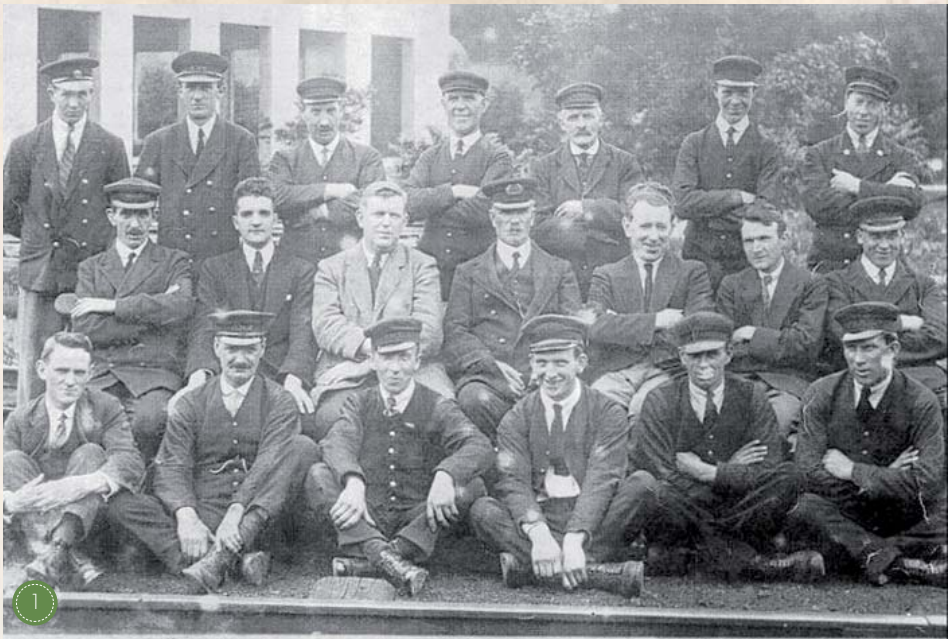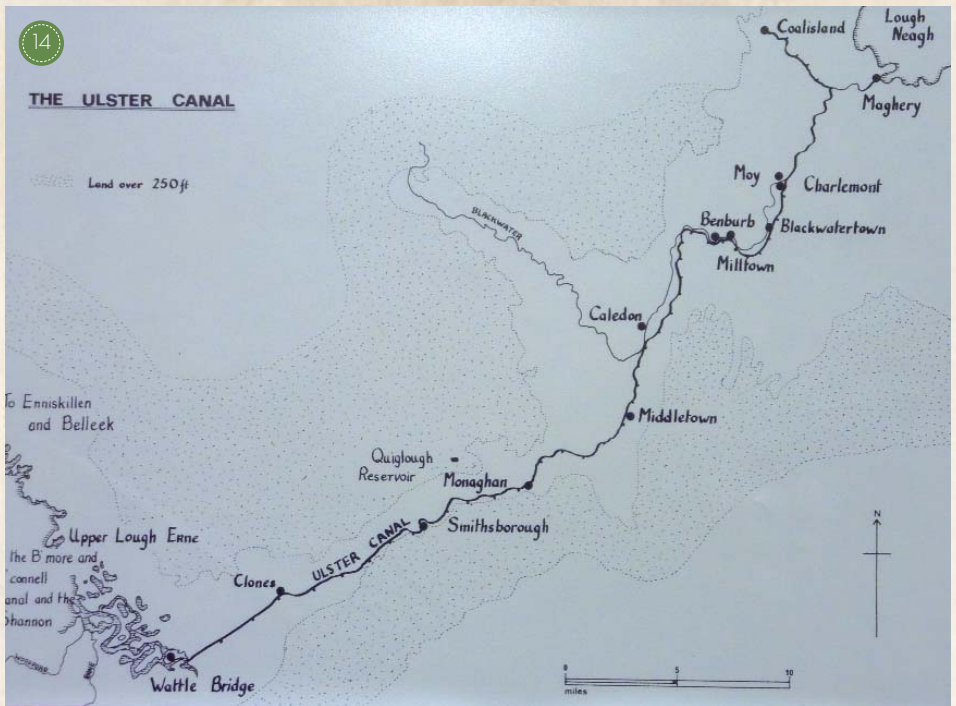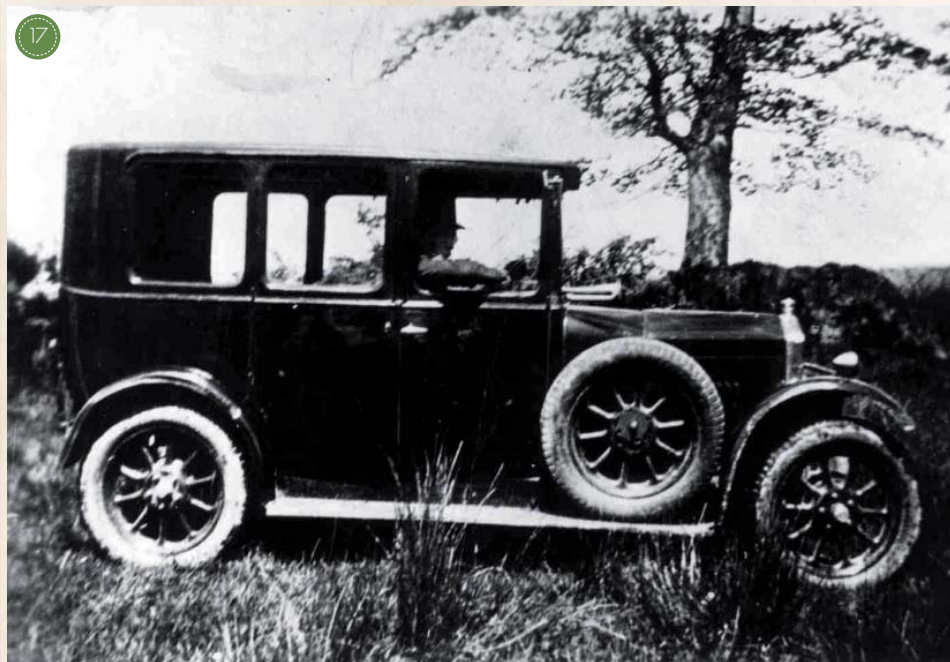
The Ulster Canal

A short-lived venture in County Monaghan was the Ulster Canal built by William Dargan, who also laid the Ulster Railway. The Canal was completed by 1842 from which time it was doomed to failure in the face of speedier railways. This 74 kilometre (46 miles) canal from Lough Neagh in County Armagh went across North County Monaghan through Tyholland, Monaghan and Clones to upper Lough Erne in County Fermanagh. It failed not only against railway superiority but its locks were too small for modern barges and goods transfer delays were highly uneconomical. It had no link with the River Shannon and its Western upland stretches were frequently without water. Although commercially unviable after 1880 it was abandoned as late as 1931.

14 Map of Ulster Canal

This map of the Ulster Canal gives an indication of the canal system that was in place in County Monaghan

THE ULSTER CANAL

Land over 250 ft

Coalisland · Lough Neagh

Maghery

Moy · Charlemont
Benburb · Blackwatertown
Milltown

Caledon

To Enniskillen and Belleek

Middletown

Quiglough Reservoir

Monaghan

Upper Lough Erne

Smithsborough

Clones · ULSTER CANAL

Wattle Bridge

miles

Motoring

15 Motor Car Passes for Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland

Under the Motor Cars (temporary Importation) Regulations 1952 to 1955 a pass was issued to cover the temporary importation of a Motor Vehicle. The person to whom the pass was issued to had to produce it to the Officer of Customs and Excise at the Frontier post on all occasions when importing or exporting the vehicle to which it refers. The pass most also be surrendered at the time the vehicle is finally exported from the Republic of Ireland

16 Book: Early Vehicle Lighting

This book illustrates the different styles of lighting used on bicycles, motorcycles, horse-drawn carriages, and cars.

17 Image of first car registered in Counties Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan

This is a newspaper cutting of a "Gladiator" Motor Car 1903. It is the first car registered in counties Louth, Meath, Cavan and Monaghan.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

Emyvale

Handed in at 10 M., Received here at 10.25 M

TO} Mowbray Auburn Malahide

Carpenter not going till gets months notice on house

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

This Form must accompany any inquiry respecting this Telegram.

Office of Origin and Service Instructions.

C. or B.

Recd. from

By Prefix Handed in at 6.46 M

Words Received here at M

No. of Telegram

Sent M To By

Malahide 29

martin Solr Monaghan

Please phone no 2 Malahide coleman has gived me have told him to go see you tomorrow
not might give him pound coal 15/- potatoes mowbray

Communication

Communication is something that is necessary in our everyday lives. How we communicate has changed dramatically over the past 50 years, moving from the use of telegrams to the internet. In this section we have a selection of items relating to communication.

1 1950s Telephone

This is a typical type of telephone as used in the 1950s.

2 Mobile Phones

We have a selection of mobiles dating to the 2000's.

3 Postman's Lamp (1976.42.b)

This lamp dates to the early 1900s. The postman would have clipped this lamp onto his breast pocket in order to be able to read the names and addresses on the letters on dark winters mornings.

4 Stamps

A collection of stamps issued from An Post.

5 Photographs from the Telephone Exchange Offices in Co. Monaghan in the 1970s.

A telephone exchange is part of a telephone communication system that connected calls for a user in one area to a user in another. In 2002, Eircom formally discontinued the telegraph service in Ireland. (Images courtesy of Donal McEnroe)

6 Photograph of Operator Head Set from the Telephone Exchange Office in Monaghan.

The operator headsets were used by staff in the telephone exchange office. (Images courtesy of Donal McEnroe)

7 Telegrams

Telegrams are messages transmitted by a telegraph.

IRISH FASHION DESIGNERS
DEARTHÓIRÍ FAISIN NA hÉIREANN

irishstamps.ie   Clúdach Chéad Lae   **POST**

8 Memorandum from the Great Northern Railway

A memorandum is a short note that was sent to members within the organisation The ones in our collection were sent from various train stations in County Monaghan regarding holiday and reports on the condition of the lines.

9 Book: Old Telephones

This book illustrates the types of telephones that have been used in Britain since its invention in 1879.

10 Book: Old Letter Boxes

This book shows the types of letter boxes that have been in existence in Britain since 1952 to the present day.

11 Book: The Irish Post Box. Silent servant and symbol of the State. By Stephen Ferguson.

This book was published by An Post and tells the story of the post box and the role it played in Irish society.

12 Book: Robbery on the Road. Post Office Reward Notices 1820-1870.

This book was published to coincide with an exhibition of the same title that the National Print Museum exhibited in 2008. The exhibition displayed a small number of Reward Notices from the 1800s in Ireland. These notices help to convey a social aspect of Ireland, detailing crimes and how information on criminals was rewarded.

£20 REWARD.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, DUBLIN,

26th November, 1835.

WHEREAS It appears by Informations on Oath, that on the night of Monday the 23rd of November instant, as Patrick Curry, Post-boy, was conveying His Majesty's Mails, in a Mail Car, from the town of Castleblaney to the town of Monaghan, he was attacked near the Rev. Mr. Bellew's Gate, about a Quarter of a Mile from the latter town, by a party of Men armed with bludgeons, who seemed waiting for him, and who immediately came forward on each side of the Car. One of them seized the reins, and, with a bludgeon, broke the Lamps,—they then cut or broke the reins, turned the horses back, one man holding them and another beating them, when they were ultimately turned adrift, and not found until the succeeding day. The Post-boy was also beat with sticks, but ultimately succeeded in carrying away the Mail, which he brought safe to the Post Office, Monaghan.

NOTICE is hereby given, that whoever will apprehend and convict, or cause to be apprehended and convicted, the persons, or any of them, who so committed said wanton and malicious assault, will be entitled to a Reward of

Twenty Pounds;

And if any person, whether an Accomplice in said attack, or knowing thereof, will give such private information as will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the said persons, or any of them, such person will not only be entitled to a Reward of TEN POUNDS, part of said Twenty Pounds, but application (if required) will be made to Government for his Pardon.

By Command of the Postmaster-General,

AUG. GODBY,
Secretary.

200 Printed by A. Thom, 21, North Earl-street, for H. M. S. O., November, 1835.
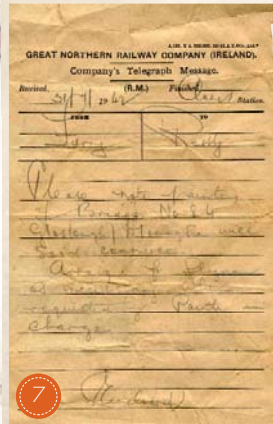
Household & Agriculture

This section focuses on the many household and agricultural implements that were used in Irish homes. Many of these objects have been replaced with more modern instruments and would now only be seen in museums or country homes. This section deals with objects that would have been commonplace in the past.

1 Washboard
(1994.131)
A washboard is a tool designed to wash clothes. Clothes were soaked in hot soapy water in a washtub, then squeezed and rubbed against the ridged surface of the washboard to force the cleansing fluid through the cloth to carry away the dirt.

2 Wash Dolly
(1986.58)
A washing dolly was used to plunge and agitate the clothes in boiling water.

3 Laundry Tongs
Laundry tongs were made from wood and used for mixing and pulling clothing from boiling water.

4 Carpet Beater
Carpets, rugs, clothes, cushions, and bedding were hung over a clothesline or railing and the dust and dirt was beaten out of them using the carpet beater.

5 Irons (1992.IIIb-c)
These irons were known as flat irons and were used by being placed on top of the range to heat the iron.

6 Butter Bats
(1978.121.a-b)
These bats were used for cutting and shaping butter into a block.

7 Box Iron
(1975.120)
A box iron was heated by a piece of hot iron, known as a slug which was heated on the kitchen range and then placed inside the hollow.

8 Butter Prints
(1976.32/1974.199)
Butter prints were used to make prints on the butter.

9 Butter Churn
(1979.76)
This was used to churn the butter.

10 Cream Jar

(1979.53)

This cream jar is made from a hard pottery known as stoneware and was used at the Willow Park Creamery in Newtownbutler, Co Fermanagh and in the Clones area. Stoneware was in common use from the 1850's.

11 Candle Snuffer (1975.544)

A Candle Snuffer is a scissor like object which was used to quench candles.

12 Bread Iron

(1975.78)

In Ireland bread was always baked either in front of or on an open fire. Flat bread baked on the griddle was a very common food. The griddle was hung over the fire or set on a low stand. An older method used a bread stone or more commonly a bread iron.

13 Sugar Nippers

(1975.484)

These were used to cut pieces of sugar which used to be bought in large lumps.

14 Hamiliton Bottle (1975.450a)

This type of bottle was patented by William Francis Hamilton of Dublin in 1814. It was used for bottling soda water up to 1916. Purpose of the rounded bottom was to prevent the bottle from being stood, thus ensuring that the liquid was always in contact with the stopper and that air could not escape through the cork.

15 Stoneware Hot Water Bottle

A hot water bottle is a container filled with hot water and sealed with a stopper, used to provide warmth, typically whilst in bed.

16 Book: Domestic Bygones

This book illustrates the typical items used within homes to carry out everyday domestic chores.

17 Book: Dairying Bygones

This book illustrates the dairying process on farms looking at the breed of cows used for milking, the type of equipment used for making butter and cheese, and for delivering milk to the creamery.

18 Sheep Shears

(1975.493)
Iron sheep shears were used to shear the wool from the sheep.

19 Milk Pail

(1986.136)
This would have been used to hold the milk while milking the cows. This particular pail (bucket) was made from teak wood by a cooper called Ned Gavin from Co. Cavan.

20 Hay Knife

(1992.90)
The hay knife is a long bladed knife used for sawing off sections at the end of a hay stack.

21 Horse Shoe

(1985.495d)
A horse shoe is an object usually made of metal that is designed to protect the hoof from wear.

22 Donkey Shoe

(1977.177c)
Similar to a horse shoe in that is it made for protection of the hoof, only designed for donkeys.

23 Weed Pullers

(1994.132)
The women of the house would have used these to pull weeds and keep the yard around the house tidy.

24 Thatching Needle

(1992.87)
The thatching needle was used for threading the twine through the layers of thatch that holds them together.

25 Thatching Comb (1994.146b)

A thatching comb was used to comb small bits and pieces of material out of the straw. Combing also helps to compact the straw roof.
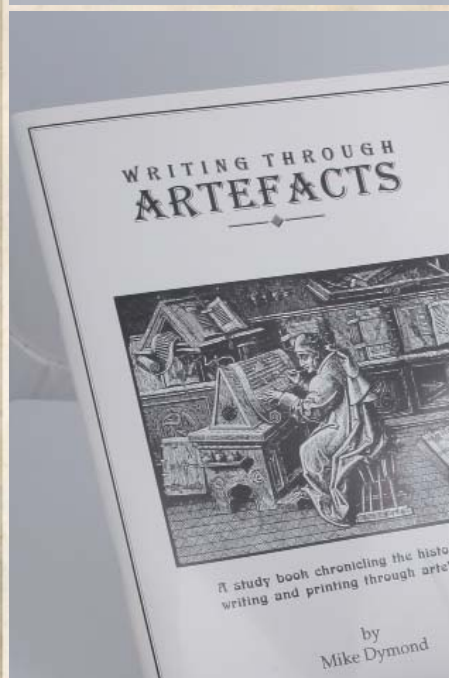
26 Book: Agriculture Hand Tools

This book illustrates the different hand tools used by the farmer in preparing and maintaining the fields, sowing, weeding, harvesting and processing the crops.

27 Book: The Village Blacksmith

This book illustrates the role of the village blacksmith, the tools, materials and methods used in blacksmithing and also the role of the Farrier within the community.

28 Book: Thatch and Thatching

This book illustrates the different methods, material and tools used by the Thatcher to thatch houses.

WRITING THROUGH
ARTEFACTS

A study book chronicling the histo[...]
writing and printing through arte[...]

by
Mike Dymond

School and Education

1 Writing Slate (1982.43)

Writing slates were used in the 19th Century for children to practice writing and arithmetic. Slate was cheaper than paper and reusable.

2 Inkwell (1979.84c)

An inkwell is a small container which was used to store ink. Inkwells were generally made from glass, ceramic, silver or pewter. This one is ceramic.

3 Ink Jar (1975.360)

Containers such as this were used to store ink and as with the one in our collection had a lid on it to ensure the ink did not go hard.

4 Quills

A quill is a writing instrument made from a large feather. The end was dipped in ink and made for a sharp stroked writing style. Dip pens later took the place of the quill.

5 Slate Pencils

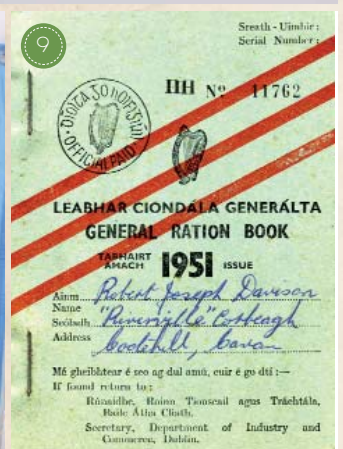A slate pencil is a rod made up of soft slate that was used as a writing implement.

Collection of objects from the Politics and Conflict

Politics and Conflict

Monaghan County Museum Handling Collection

1 United Nations Helmet

Personnel from the Irish Army wore blue helmets on the ground during United Nation peacekeeping missions. Every day, United Nations military personnel are on patrol, providing vital security and stability in missions around the world.

2 United Nations Flag

The Irish Army joined the United Nations in 1955, and has been deployed almost continuously over seas on peacekeeping missions since 1958. The flag shows a map of the world with two olive branches to symbolise world peace.

3 Bag of Rations

Ration bags or packs usually contain a prepacked meal or canned foods which are used by troops when they go into combat. This food is easily prepared and eaten which is ideal for the armed forces. There is a detailed list of contents with the ration pack.

4 Army Boots

These Army boots are a male size nine. They are standard issue as worn by members of the armed forces.

5 Army Bag

This army bag is made for members of the armed force to carry items when they are on patrol.

6 Mess Tin

A mess tin is a container that is used generally by people in the armed forces for heating or cooking food. This one is rectangular shaped and comes from Monaghan Army Barracks.

7 Photographs of Monaghan Militia The Officers 1893

8 Photographs of Two Irish Volunteer Soldiers 1921.

9 Ration Books

During the "Emergency" in Ireland rationing was put in place to help overcome the shortages brought about by the drastic reduction in supplies being shipped into the country. These books were issued by the Irish Government in 1944 and 1951.

11 World War II Gas Mask and Carrier Bag

Gas masks were issued to civilians during World War II (1939 – 1945).

12 Book: List of Articles Customs and Excise.

This book gives a list of items that were liable to custom duty and rates of duty.

Military Collection

On display in Monaghan
County Museum (not part
of the Handling Collection)

Natural History

1 Stuffed Grouse (1980.34)

A red Grouse is a subspecies of the European Willow Grouse that is found in Ireland. It is a popular game bird and is usually found in bog land areas.

2 Wood Rings

Wood rings help to explain the method of Dendrochronology which is the dating of a tree's age using the rings inside the bark.

3 Stuffed Kestrel with Greenfinch (1976.114)

The Kestrel is a bird of prey and was once the most common in Ireland. Due to climate change and changes in agriculture the number of Kestrels in Ireland is declining. The Greenfinch is one of Ireland's most common birds and it lived mainly in the countryside in hedgerows and large gardens.

4 Turf

Turf is decayed vegetation that is found in bogs and then cut and used as fuel for heating homes.

5 Gypsum

Gypsum is an important raw material in the building industry. It is used in the manufacture of plaster and plasterboard and as an agent to stop cement from drying too quickly. In the 19th century, Carrickmacross was the capital of the gypsum industry.

Collection of objects from the
Folklife Handling Collection

Folklife

1 Clay Pipes

Clay pipes were the most popular means of smoking before cigarettes; known as "dudeens" these white clay pipes were produced in vast quantities and are very often found incomplete or in broken form, either by accident or in the course of archaeological excavations.

2 Harvest Knots (1977.271a-e)

These are made from plaited straw and were worn as a sign that the harvest was over. They were also often given as love tokens. These examples were made in 1977.

3 St Brigid's Crosses

These crosses were made out of rushes on the 1st of February to mark the feast day of St Brigid and the start of spring.

4 Lace Patterns

These hand made patterns or doilies were used to make lace objects, including table runners and mats.

5 Book: Patton's – A complete guide to basic knitting methods and aftercare.

This book offers step by step instructions on how to knit and care for your knitting items.

6 Book: Looms and Weaving.

This book illustrates the different types of looms used in the production of clothes and carpets.

7 Book: Pillow, Lace, and Bobbins.

This book shows the variety of items used in the production of lace in Britain, Belgium and France.

8 Clones Crochet Lace Collar (1974.108)

This piece was made around 1880 to cover a high-necked dress.

9 Sailor's Collar
(1974.110)

This was made using Clones lace and was worn around the neck. The collar was inspired by the traditional sailor's uniform.

10 Carrickmacross Lace

This framed piece is an example of the detail and delicateness of Carrickamcross lace. It is a modern example of Carrickmacross Lace.

11 Patchwork Quilt

This quilt is made using pieces of different coloured fabric. This style of quilting was introduced to Ireland in the eighteenth century by women who taught their servants needlework skills.
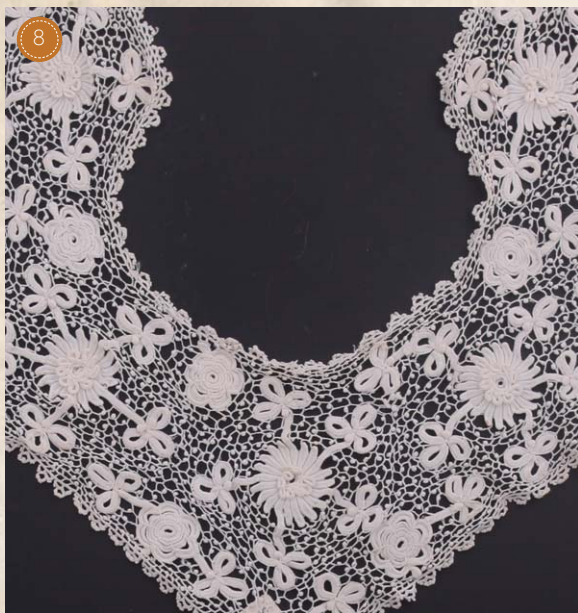
Early Transister Radio
on display in Monaghan
County Museum (not part
of the Handling Collection)

Towns, Villages and Estates

Monaghan County Museum Handling Collection

1 Map of Monaghan Town 1787

This is a mounted photocopy of a map of Monaghan in 1787, made by Arthur Neville for the estate of Lord Blayney. It shows the old street plan of the town, which has now changed.

2 Map of County Monaghan 1837

This is a mounted photocopy of a map from "Lewis Topographical Dictionary" of 1837 and was drawn by R Creighton.

3 Map of County Monaghan 1657

These are modern colour copies drawn by William Petty around 1657.

4 Map of County Monaghan 1790 – 1793

These are photocopies of five maps showing the Monaghan baronies. Each map shows the roads, towns, villages and lakes of County Monaghan. They were drawn by William McCrea between 1790 to 1793.

5 Photographs of Monaghan Town 1900s

A selection of images of the streets and buildings in Monaghan town from the 1800s and 1900s.

6 Photographs of Clones 1900s

A selection of images of the urban area of Clones, from the 1800s and 1900s.

7 Photographs of Ballybay 1900s

A seletion of images of the streets and buildings in Ballybay, from the 1900s.

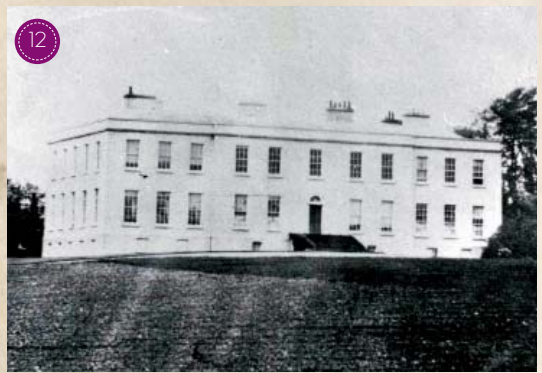The Celebrated Sara Gray's Signboard, Ballybay

8 Photographs of Castleblayney 1900s

A selection of images of the streets and structures in Castleblayney, from the 1900s.

9 Photographs of Carrickmacross 1900s

A selection of images of the streets and buildings in Carrickmacross from the 1800s and 1900s.

10 Print of Blayney Castle 1791

This is an illustration of Blayney Castle by Francis Grose. It was published in his book, "The Antiquities of Ireland", in 1791.

11 Photographs of Villages

Annalore, Ballinode, Drum, Emyvale, Glaslough, Inniskeen, Laragh, Mullen, Newbliss, Rockcorry, Scotstown, Smithboro and Tydavnet. These are villages which are located around County Monaghan. These images, some photographs and some postcards, capture the towns in the early 20th Century.

12 Photographs of Hilton Park

Hilton Park (formerly Maddenton) is located outside Clones, Co. Monaghan. It is a large late-Georgian house of two storeys over a basement. It has an eleven bay entrance front with five bays coming forward to form the main entrance. The house was rebuilt after a fire in 1804. In 1872 the basement was excavated and became in effect the ground floor, while at the same time a handsome ionic style porte-cochere (carriage porch) was added with columns forming the main entrance..

13 Print Gola House

Gola House, Tydavnet, Co. Monaghan was an early Georgian House which sadly burned on 25th February 1921. It is important for its innovative display of Palladian motifs and its rather striking rooftop tower. A remarkable 18th century house of two storeys and five bays with a high cable ended roof and a central attic tower. The square tower had a pyramidal roof surmounted by a lantern and had a venetian window which echoed the venetian entrance.

14 Photographs of Hope Castle

Hope Castle or Blayney Castle is located in Castleblayney, Co. Monaghan. Robert Woodgate, a pupil of John Soane, one of the most prominent architects of the period, designed it for Andrew, eleventh Lord Blayney in 1799. While built in 1799 the house was remodelled in 1834 and again in c.1860. The house was sold in 1853 by the twelfth, and last Lord Blayney to Henry Hope of Deepdene Surrey. The house was sold in 1928 and was occupied from 1943 to 1974 by Franciscan nuns, and then acquired by Monaghan County Council. It was leased in the 1980s as a hotel, when most of the nineteenth century additions were demolished and the interior gutted. It was badly damaged by fire in 2010.

15 Photograph of Castle Leslie

Castle Leslie is located in Glaslough, Co. Monaghan. It was designed in the Scots-Baronial Gothic style by the Belfast based architects Charles Lanyon and William Henry Lynn. Construction of the new house began in the 1870s, and was finally completed in 1878. The Italianate house and gardens sit proudly overlooking a glorious lakeside setting, and an Italian Renaissance style cloister connects the main house to an older wing of the previous house.

Fermanagh Street, Clones : Tuberculosis Exhibition

16 Photographs of Castleshane House

Castleshane House was built in 1836, replacing an earlier house which may have incorporated a castle built in 1591. This 1836 house consisted of a four storey tower with corner bartizans copied from the O'Neill tower at Ardgonnel, Co. Armagh. It was the intention to build this house in the Elizabethan or Jacobean style. Today, only a ruin remains, as the house was burned in 1920.

Mc Mahon Street, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan

636/28. Mill Street, Monaghan.

17 Photographs of Lough Fea House

Lough Fea house is located in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. One of the largest houses in County Monaghan, and an usual Tudor-Gothic house. It was designed by Thomas Rickman for Evelyn John Shirley to commemorate the grant of lands to his ancestors by Queen Elizabeth I. William Walker later completed the building and many of its associated estate buildings in what is a modest Tudor style. Unlike most houses of its period and style, Lough Fea has no battlements and few gables; but a solid parapet which conceals much of the roof. The castle boasts an interior of great complexity, and its gardens at the front of the house face a vista to an immense Celtic Cross erected by the tenants as a gift to the Shirley family.

18 Photographs of Rossmore Castle

Rossmore Park in Monaghan, was a castle of great size and complexity; partly Tudor-Gothic (1827 by William Vitruvius Morrison) and partly Scottish Baronial (1858 by William Henry Lynn). Over the following years, small additions were made in order to enlarge aspects of the house as Lord Rossmore vied with Mr Shirley of Lough Fea, as to which of them could build the bigger room. In the late 1940's, the castle became severely infested with dry-rot and it was abandoned by the 6th Lord Rossmore in favour of Camla Vale House. Both houses have been demolished.

19 Photographs of Dartrey House

Dartrey House also known as Dawson Grove, Rockcorry, Co. Monaghan, was a large Elizabethan-Revival mansion designed by William Burn. Built in 1846 to replace the previous house owned by Richard Dawson, 3rd Lord Cremore and afterwards the first Earl of Dartrey. This spectacular house overlooked Lough Dromore, where on a wooded island Thomas Dartery built a domed mausoleum (c.1770) designed by James Wyatt in memory of his first wife, Lady Anne. This mansion, after remaining empty for many years, was demolished in the 1950s, all that remains are various gatehouses.

CASTLESHANE

DARTREY CASTLE, COOTEHILL.
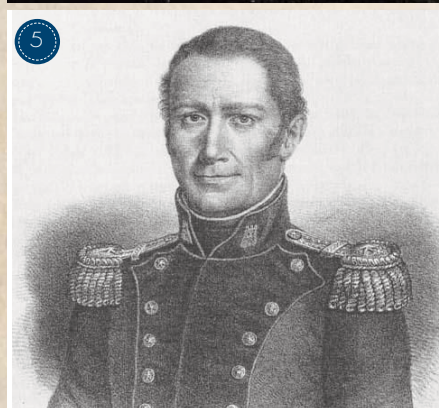
Local People

All images will be accompanied by a brief history on each person or organisation.

1 Charles Gavan Duffy

Charles Gavan Duffy was one of Monaghan's most famous sons. A prominent nationalist, writer, editor and statesman, Charles Gavan Duffy was born on 12th April 1816 at Number Ten Dublin Street. He was the son of John Duffy, a shopkeeper and his wife Ann who was a daughter of Patrick Gavan of Latnamard. Charles Gavan Duffy became a leading figure in Irish literary circles. He was also one of the founders of The Nation newspaper and became its first editor. He emigrated to Australia with his family in 1856, where he settled in Victoria.   He became the 8th Premier of Victoria. The Premier of Victoria is the leader of the government in Victoria. It is appointed by the Governor of Victoria, and is the leader of the political party able to secure a majority in the Legislative Assembly. He died in Nice, France in 1903 at the age of eighty six and is buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

2 Eoin O'Duffy

Eoin O'Duffy was born Owen O'Duffy on 30th October 1892 in Lough Egish, near Castleblayney. He was an Irish political activist, soldier and police commissioner. He was the leader of the Monaghan Brigade of the Irish Republican Army during the successful Irish War of Independence and in this capacity became Chief of Staff of the IRA in 1922. He was one of the Irish activists who along with Michael Collins accepted the Anglo-Irish Treaty and fought as a general in the Irish Civil War. Eoin O'Duffy was also a leading member of the Gaelic Athletic Association of Ulster in 1910. A stand in St Tiarnach's Park in Clones is named after him. He died on 30th November 1944 at the age of fifty two.

3 Patrick Kavanagh

Patrick Kavanagh an Irish poet and novelist, was born in rural Inniskeen on 21st October 1904. He was the fourth of ten children born of Bridget Quinn. His grandfather was a school teacher called 'Keaveney', which a local priest changed to 'Kavanagh'. Patrick Kavangh is regarded as one of the foremost poets of the 20th century, his best known works include the novel Tarry Flynn and poems Raglan Road and The Great Hunger. He died in Dublin on 30th November 1967 at the age of sixty three.

4 Blayney Family

The Blayney family are descendants from Cadwallader King of Cambria, Wales. Edward was the first of the Blayneys to come to Ireland and was founder of the town Castleblayney. The 11th Lord Andrew Thomas, was perhaps the most famous Blayney of all. He ruled the estate for fifty years from 1784 to 1834. He fought with distinction in the Napoleonic Wars. He died on 8th April 1832 and was succeeded by his son Cadwallader who became the 12th and last Lord.

5 John MacKenna

John MacKenna was born at Willville House, Monaghan in 1771 and left Ireland at the young age of eleven to be educated at the Military College in Barcelona. He was appointed cadet in the Regiment Irlanda in the Spanish army and was made captain when he was only twenty three. In 1796 John MacKenna left Spain and travelled to South America. He Arrived in Chile and used his military engineering training to rebuild the city of Osorno, of which he later became Governor. Today, he is a celebrated liberator of Chile and his descendants are prominent in Chilean political and cultural life.

6 Leslie Family

The Leslie family have been in Monaghan for over three centuries. Bishop John Leslie was the first to arrive in 1665, when he took over as See of Clogher. There had previously been Leslies in Blayney but this new part of the family settled in Glaslough, where Bishop John bought the estate and castle. He extended the castle and built the Church of Ireland Church in 1870, which is still in use today. The Leslies were a very political family and three members of the family all with the same first names, Charles Powell, sat as MP for Monaghan. When the last Charles Powell died, the estate was passed over to his brother John. John's grandchild is the influential Sir Shane Leslie. He was a prolific writer and amassed a large collection of works. Sir Shane converted to Catholicism and was a supporter of the fight for Home Rule. Sir Shane's children John, Desmond and Anita were also very influential and did much to continue the legacy of the Leslies. Sir Desmond's daughter Samantha now runs the Leslie estate and has turned it into a thriving business as a luxury hotel.

7 William Carleton

William Carleton was born in 1794 in Prolusk, Co. Tyrone. He was a prolific novelist, probably best known for his work "Traits & Stories" of the Irish Pesantry. Carleton never really made a living from his writings and welcomed the pension voted to him by the Government. He died in 1869 before he got the chance to complete his biography. It was later completed by David O'Donoghue.

8 Rossmore Family

The Rossmore estate originally belonged to the Blayney family, however due to struggles from the Rebellion of 1641 and the Revolution in 1688, the estate fell out of their hands. The title Baron of Rossmore was not created until 1796, for Robert Cunnighame, the first Lord Rossmore. His nephew succeeded him as the 2nd Lord Rossmore, however at this stage the house and the estate were in disrepair. It was not until the 3rd Lord Rossmore, Henry Robert, came to power that the estate was refurbished. In 1884, the house was extended and a new wing was added. Unfortunately, during the 1940s the house became unoccupied and in 1975, the house left in ruins, was demolished.

9 Shirley Family

The Shirley family were absentee landlords from Ettington Park, Strafford-Upon-Avon who acquired their estate in Carrickmacross during the reign of Queen Elizabeth 1. About 1750 the Shirley family erected a house adjoining the town and this became the occasional residence of the Shirley family. In 1777 the Hon. George Shirley made preparation to erect a castle on the high grounds of an area called Lurgans. The design of this castle was abandoned and it was not until 1826 that the Hon. George Shirley's grandson, Evelyn John Shirley Esq. laid the foundation of a mansion worthy of the estate near Lough Fea. This house still remains today.

10 John Hughes

John Hughes was born in 1797, the third child, and the third son, to Patrick and Mary in Ammalogan, County Tyrone. A second farm was rented at Dernavad, County Monaghan and it was from here that John immigrated to America in 1817 as a twenty year old gardener. In America he became a priest, a bishop and eventually the first Catholic Archbishop of New York Diocese. He was responsible for building the famous St Patrick's Cathedral on 5th Avenue New York. He died on 3rd January 1864 in New York at the age of sixty six.

11 James Connolly

James Connolly was an Irish republican and socialist leader. He was born in the Cowgate area of Edinburgh, Scotland on 5th June 1868, to Irish immigrant parents who emigrated from Monaghan. He was executed in Kilmainham Goal, Dublin on 12th May 1916 at the age of forty seven for his part in the Easter Rising 1916

12 St Louis Nuns

The Sisters of St Louis have been in Ireland since 1859, when the first three Sisters came to Monaghan from the French Motherhouse at Juilly near Paris. Post-famine Ireland had a great need for education, especially for the poorer people, and the Sisters influence was felt in local schools. By the 19th century, St Louis Convents and schools existed in many countries throughout Ireland, including Monaghan Town and Carrickmacross. They were also associated with the revival of Carrickmacross Lace.

13 Cassandra Hand

Cassandra was born in 1809, the ninth child to James More Molyneux and Anne of Losely Park, Surrey. Hand came to Clones at the height of the Great Famine in 1847, when her husband Revd Thomas Hand was assigned to the Church of Ireland parish of Clones. Seeing the distress on her doorstep, she set up a school at her home in Bishopcourt (outside Clones) to promote crochet lace-making as a famine relief. Cassandra died in 1868.
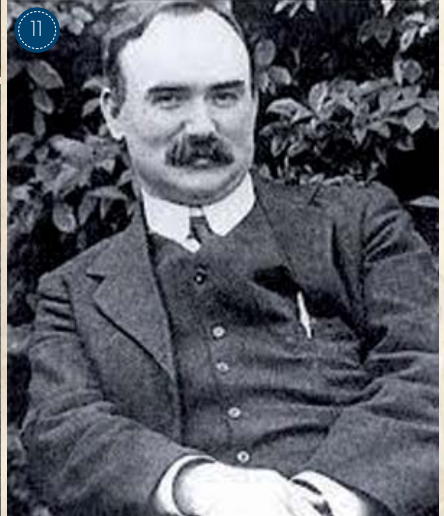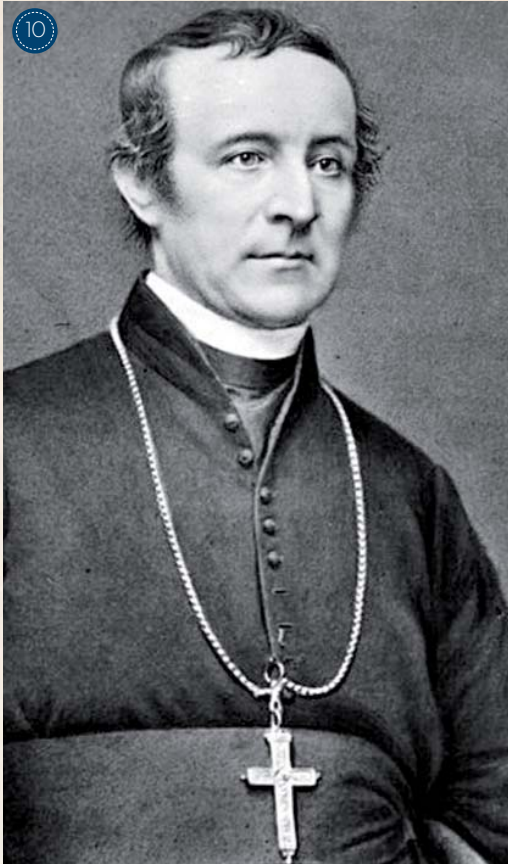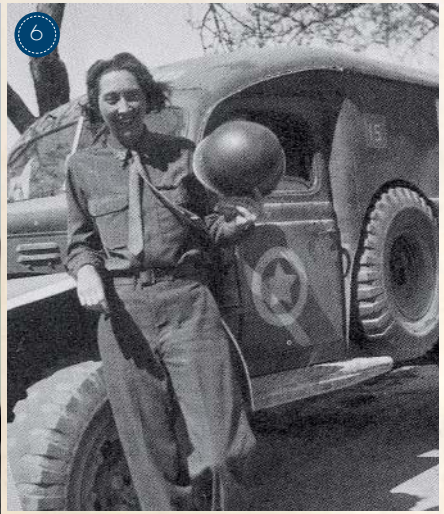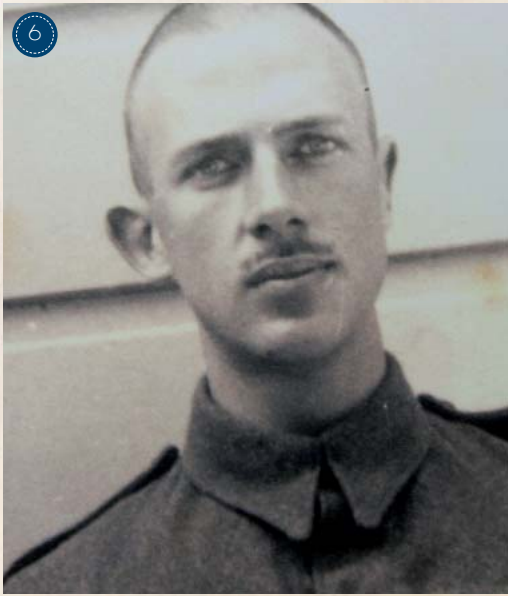
Time Capsules

1 Viking Time Capsule

This pack includes a Viking lamp, a spouted pitcher from a typical Viking home, two double-sided coins, a horn cup and necklace of a Hammer, which represents the Norse god Thor.

2 Victorian Childhood Capsule

This pack includes a writing slate and pencil, dip pen, copybook, cup and ball, top and whip, swing toys, a yo-yo, skipping rope, pick-up stick game, five stones and a Diablo, which was a juggling game.

3 Roman Settler Capsule

This pack includes a writing tablet, oil lamp, stigil (an instrument used to scrape the body after bathing), bangle, toy horse and coins.

4 Writing Through Time Capsule

This pack consists of wooden implements, a scribe's writing set, sheets of papyrus paper, a wax tablet and stylus, inkpot and sandshaker from the Tudor era. Sand was used to soak up any excess ink. Quills, dip pen, writing slates and pencils are also included, as are copy books, and newspaper front pages from 1900, 1950, and 1970.

5 Toys Through Time Capsule

This pack takes a look at a selection of toys from Ancient Rome and Greece, and the Tudor and Victorian Periods.

6 Light Through Time Capsule

This pack includes a set of eight artefacts looking at the development of ways to produce light.
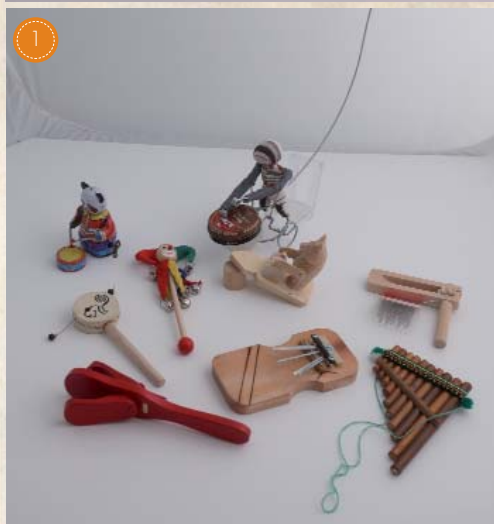
Locality Packs

Monaghan County Museum Handling Collection

1 World Toy Pack

This pack consists of twenty four typical and traditional toys from various countries around the world, including North and South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia.

2 Chinese New Year Pack

This pack consists of a selection of lanterns, a Chinese dragon, New Year greeting cards, red envelopes, which are used to give monetary gifts, Chinese coins, chopsticks, a traditional tea mug, a writing set and a Zodiac calendar from the Year of the Rat. The Rat ranks first on the Chinese Zodiac and is an animal with spirit, wit and alertness among other things.

3 Indian Artefact Pack

This pack consists of a girl's lehnga (long flowing skirt), a boy's shalwar kameez (long shirt or tunic), a statue of Ganesha (Hindu god of wisdom), a tuk-tuk model, a tea set, a monkey drum, snake-headed symbols, Bollywood DVD of dancing, a flour bag and a book of childhood stories, Krishnaleea.

4 African Locality Pack

This pack contains artefacts sourced directly from the Gambia, including recycled cooking utensils, traditional clothing, wood carvings, and typical everyday items, such as a ladle, a brush, a sieve and a wooden bowl.