



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

## Life, Love and Loss.

**Peace**   
Northern Ireland - Ireland  
European Regional Development Fund



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

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



**ALL NEW MEMBERS WELCOME  
CONTACT US**

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

We also wish to see the Canal and its environs revitalised, becoming usable public space. The preservation of the built heritage and indeed the Waterway itself is of paramount importance and this must be protected for future generations.

We aim to raise public awareness of the hidden gem in their midst which ultimately will lead to the instilling of civic pride amongst our residents. Here in Newry our Maritime Heritage can be traced back to the arrival of the Cistercians in the 12th century. The monks traded between the various abbeys and monasteries using small boats known as "cogs".

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

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

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

***James McAreyey  
Chairman***

# Foreword.

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

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



**Claudine Nic Giolla Chomhaill**

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

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

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

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

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

# James Mac Mahon.

## 1804 - 1895

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

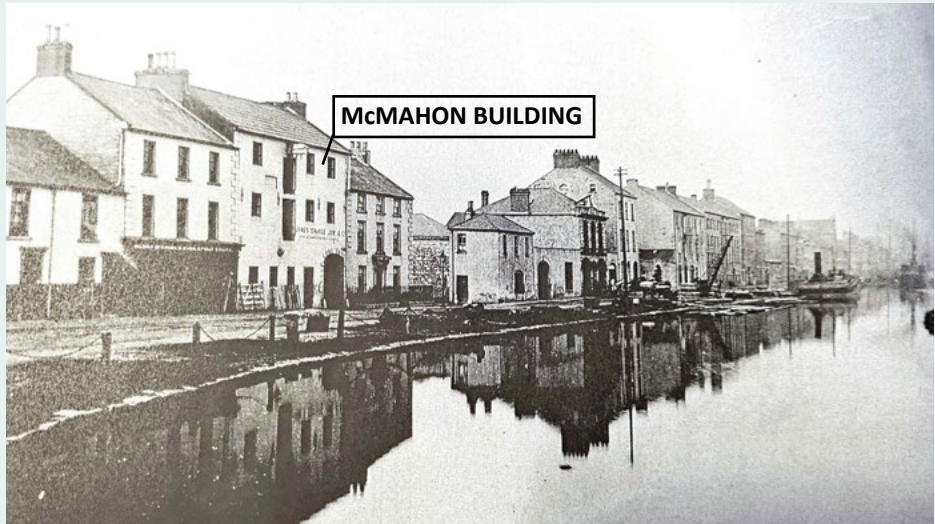
The waterway was an arterial trade route and on reaching Lough Neagh vessels could access the Ulster and Lagan Canals and the River Bann. The Canal had been built to facilitate the passage of newly discovered coal from Coalisland to the burgeoning city of Dublin. The enterprise was short-lived as the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

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



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

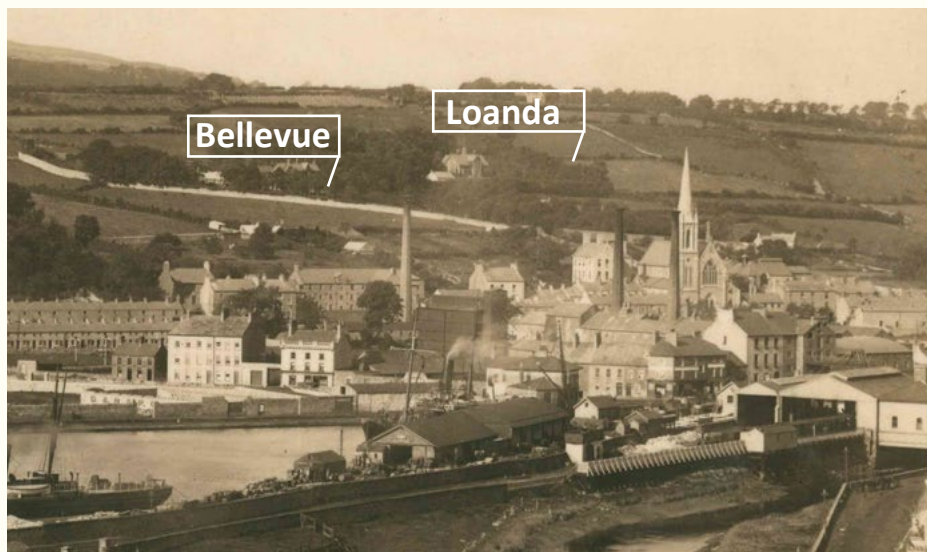
“By hard work and close attention to business he soon came to do a large trade, and, never taking risks of any kind, by a rigid frugality acquired, and closely held together means sufficient to enable him to retire”



Obviously, James watched the pennies and didn't subscribe to extravagance. He added stone and ornamental works to his portfolio of diverse commercial interests. His increasing business profile was evidenced when he was elected as one of the 18 Newry Town Commissioners in 1845. James served as a Commissioner for the next 50 years and was Chairman for the last 12 years of his tenure

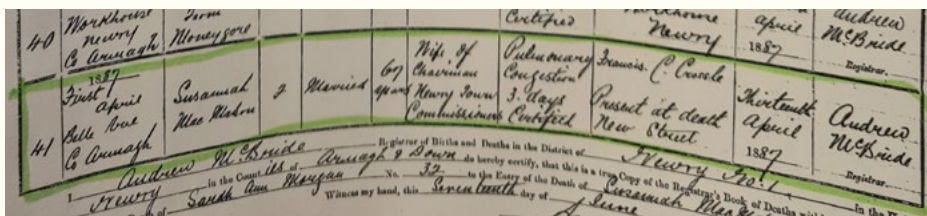
He married a local girl, Susanah Henrietta Fletcher, 16 years his junior. No record of the marriage was found but we can reasonably assume that it was around 1840. Details of children from the union are scant also but we know there were 2 sons, Matthew and Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon. The latter, although younger, assumed control of his Fathers business upon his retirement. A now affluent James purchased 8 acres of land on Dorans Hill in the Townland of Ballinlare and set about building a prestigious residence befitting a gentleman of his status.

The mid-Victorian house completed circa 1860, boasted a large conservatory, leaded stain glass windows, a turret and landscaped gardens. A gatehouse stood at the entrance and a long sweeping driveway led to the residence which James named, Bellevue. The house stood on a commanding elevated site overlooking the town and was located, roughly, where the football field is situated in Barcroft Park today. Just below Bellevue and on the opposite side of Dorans Hill stood the later Neo-Gothic Loanda House, home to the Reid family who were wealthy farmers and landowners.



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

On 1st April 1887, James Mac Mahon was sadly bereaved when his wife, Susannah (67), died of heart failure at Bellevue. Susannah, who had been in the care of the eminent Newry physician, Dr. Francis Crossle, was buried in St. Patricks COI, Newry.



Death Certificate for Susannah McMahon

# Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon

## 1857 - 1905

Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon was well known to the higher echelons of Dublin society and just 2 months after his Mothers death he married there just like his brother, Matthew. Catherine Campbell (25) was the daughter of Rev. Dillon Campbell and the family lived in Waterloo Road in the Ballsbridge area of Dublin. Once again the nuptials were celebrated in St. Stephens Green with Rev. Campbell officiating. Catherine quickly fell pregnant but the joyous news was to be overcome by tragic circumstances.

Second Page.

SCHEDULE G.] Registrar's District of 05939778

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

| No. | When Married. | Names of Bride and Groom.                    | Age. | Complexion. | Race or Profession. | Residence at the Time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Residence.                | Race or Profession of Father. |
|-----|---------------|----------------------------------------------|------|-------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 32  | 22/07         | Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon<br>Catherine Campbell | 25   | Rosy        | Irish               | 65 Waterloo Road, Dublin           | Rev. Dillon Campbell, (Clerk of the Parish) | Irish                         |

Married in the Parish of St. Stephen according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Church of Ireland, by license by me

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

Richard James Smith

Marriage Certificate, Catherine and Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon

On 11th March 1888, Catherine went to Bagot Street Private Hospital to be delivered her baby. Problems quickly arose and after a period of 13 days in labour, Catherine gave birth to a baby girl but tragically died from cardiac arrest. Edmund named the baby girl, Iris, and brought Catherines remains back to Newry where she was interred in a new grave in St. Patricks COL.

|      |            |      |                        |                    |                     |                 |      |
|------|------------|------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|------|
| 1888 | 11th March | Iris | Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon | Catherine Campbell | St. Stephen's Green | 11th March 1888 | 1888 |
| 322  | 11th March | Iris | Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon | Catherine Campbell | St. Stephen's Green | 11th March 1888 | 1888 |
|      |            |      |                        |                    |                     |                 |      |

1888

Birth Certificate for Iris

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

solemnized between us, *Marcella Mac Laurin* of us, *Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon*

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

| No.          | When Married.          | Name and Surname. | Age.     | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the Time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|--------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 12th         | Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon | Full              | Widower  | Gentleman  | Belle Vue Newry     | James Mac Mahon                    | Gentleman                  |                               |
| 9th December | Marcella Mac Laurin    | Full              | Spinster |            | Market Hill         | John Mac Laurin                    | Minister of the Gospel     |                               |

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

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon* in the Presence of us, *Arch. J. Johnston* *Marcella Mac Laurin* *Essie Helen Mac Mahon*

18 Marriage solemnized at \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_

### Marriage Certificate for Edmund and Marcella

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

|     |                                                              |                              |        |                                        |                                 |                                                                           |                  |                                |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 202 | 1890<br>North Oyster<br>Bellevue<br>Borand Hill<br>Co Armagh | Violet<br>Hayes<br>Mac Mahon | 2 days | daughter<br>of a<br>Bride<br>Gentleman | Premature<br>Birth<br>Certified | Edmund H. Mac Mahon<br>father of deceased<br>Present at death<br>Bellevue | November<br>1890 | Quoted<br>M. Bred<br>Registrar |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------|

### Death Certificate for Violet

Edmund and Marcella were living at Bellevue with little Iris and old James, 3 generations of the family in residence in the family home.

James Mac Mahon had been in fine health despite his advancing years, 91, but in April of 1895, he tendered his resignation to the Newry Town Commissioners (NTC) after 50 years of dedicated service.

# Newry Reporter

DOWN, ARMAUGH, AND LOUTH TIMES.

Guaranteed to have larger local circulation.

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

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

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

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

## The Late Mr James Macmahon, J.P.

### THE FUNERAL.

The remains of this gentleman were removed yesterday at 1.30 o'clock from his late residence, Bello Vue, for interment in St. Patrick's Churchyard. The members of the Newry Town Commissioners walked in front of the hearse, followed by the employees of the Board. There was a large attendance of the general public. Rev S. Smartt, M.A., officiated at the graveside.

[Mr James O'Neill, King Street, had charge of the funeral arrangements.]

### REFERENCE AT THE BOROUGH COURT.

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

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

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

The Court was then adjourned till Friday next.

James Mac Mahon JP. had played a stellar role in the commercial life of Newry and contributed greatly to the improvements it generated for the town.

This exemplar of honour and integrity was laid to rest beside his wife Susanah on 29th May 1895 in the cemetery of St Patricks COI, Newry. He was 91 years old.



# Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon Inherits the family business

After his Fathers death, Edmund [37] assumed control of the business. He was living in "Bellevue" with his 2nd wife, Marcella, and his daughter from his 1st marriage, Iris. But all was not well.

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

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

Seaview Warrenpoint.

## CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

### FORM A.

No. on Form B

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

| NAME AND SURNAME.      | RELATION to Head of Family. | RELIGIOUS PROFESSION. | EDUCATION.   | AGE. | SEX. | RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION. | MARRIAGE.   | WHERE BORN. | IRISH LANGUAGE. |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|------|------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon | Head                        | Church of Ireland     | Read & write | 43   | Mr   | Engineer from Seaview            | Married     | Co Armagh   |                 |
| Marcella Mac Mahon     | Wife                        | Church of Ireland     | Read & write | 33   | W    |                                  | Married     | Co Down     |                 |
| Iris K Hayes Mac Mahon | Daughter                    | Church of Ireland     | Read & write | 13   | F    | Scholar                          |             | Co Dublin   |                 |
| Catherine Kelly        | Servant                     | Roman Catholic        | Read & write | 22   | F    | Domestic Servant                 | Not married | Co Louth    |                 |

Census Return for 1901

He underwent a number of surgeries and treatments in the care of the eminent surgeon, Sir Patrick Deanes. Alas, to no avail.

Edmund Hayes Mac Mahon succumbed to Corectal Cancer on 16th June 1905 and was buried with his first wife, Catherine, in St. Patricks COI, Newry. He was 48.

|    |                                       |                              |            |             |                      |                                                   |                                                                               |                                    |                                |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 31 | 1905<br>Millenth<br>Kene<br>Bella Vee | Edmund<br>Hayes<br>Mac Mahon | M. Married | 48<br>years | Private<br>Gentleman | Carcinoma<br>of Rectum<br>Exhaustion<br>Certified | Hathleen Harris<br>Present as Death<br>in Patrick Deane's<br>Hospital, Dublin | Youngest<br>second<br>Kene<br>1925 | Henry M.<br>Smith<br>Registrar |
|----|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

### Death Certificate for Edmund



Headstone for Edmund



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

the  
**modern**fireplace  
company

# Iris Hayes Mac Mahon.

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

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

under the authority of a Special License issued by the Registrar of the County of Wick, Ireland, in the County of Wick

1919 Marriage solemnised at Loanda House in the Parish of St. John's in the County of Wick

| No. | When Married.   | Name and Surname.            | Age. | Condition. | Rank or Profession. | Residence at the Time of Marriage. | Father's Name and Surname. | Rank or Profession of Father. |
|-----|-----------------|------------------------------|------|------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 75  | 25th June 1919. | John Reid                    | 20   | Single     | Sergeant            | Crossbeggy Dungannon.              | William Reid               | Farmer                        |
|     |                 | Mrs Kathleen Hayes Mac Mahon | 20   | Spent      | -                   | Loanda House Wick                  | Edmund Mac Mahon           | Farmer                        |

Married in the at Loanda House Wick according to the form prescribed by the Registrar General by me, K. E. Hadden

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { John Reid } in the Presence of, { K. E. Reid and K. E. Hadden } { Mrs K. Hayes Mac Mahon }

## Marriage Certificate John Reid and Iris Mac Mahon

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

|     |                      |                |                      |                          |                             |             |             |
|-----|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 250 | 10th April 1920      | William Edmund | John Reid            | Iris Kathleen Hayes Reid | John Reid                   | Fourth Mary | H. D. Smart |
|     | Loanda Ballinacorney | Ballinacorney  | Loanda Ballinacorney | termately M. Mahon       | Farmer Loanda Ballinacorney | 1920        | Registrar.  |

## Birth Certificate for William Edmund Reid

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



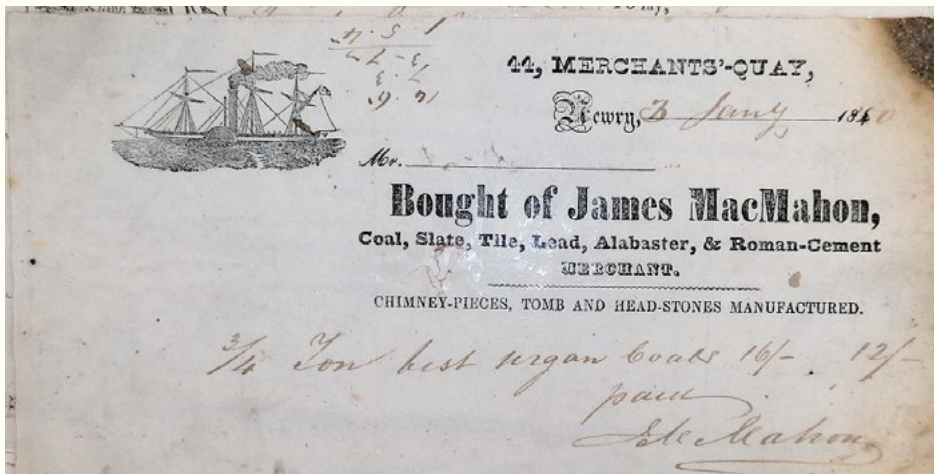
### **Bellevue.**

And what of the family pile. Following Redmond's death, the house was sold and became a nursing home and maintained this role until the early 1950s after which it lay derelict but some trappings of former grandeur remained. Peter Mallon, now a sprightly 85-year-old, and a stalwart of the Ballybot community recalls being in the orchard as an uninvited guest,

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

### **Peter Mallon**

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



# Bellevue.

## The Bessbrook Connection.



“Bellevue” is one of 4 houses built on Green Road, Bessbrook in 2 semi detached blocks. The owner of the house and adjacent was James Fennel, a successful Newry merchant who had a thriving corn mill at Dublin Bridge.

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

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



**Bessbrook Mill**



|     |                                         |                           |   |         |    |                             |                                                       |                                                         |               |            |  |  |
|-----|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---------|----|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|--|--|
|     | 1920.                                   |                           |   |         |    |                             |                                                       |                                                         |               |            |  |  |
| 230 | Thornly<br>deceased<br>May<br>Bessbrook | Samuel<br>Fergus<br>Scott | M | Married | 49 | Laetia<br>Jun<br>R.R.C.S.I. | Much Bess<br>Cardiac failure<br>3 months<br>Certified | E.E. Scott<br>Daughter<br>Present at death<br>Bessbrook | James<br>1920 | Registrar. |  |  |

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



CW GC Headstone



Dr Stone

In 1926 another Doctor moved into the property. Edward Fitzgerald O Connor was also a veteran of World War 1 and was awarded the French Croix De Geurre Medal.

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



LATE DR. E. F. O'CONNOR.

#### Croix de Guerre



|              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Type         | <p>Military decoration (four class decoration)</p> <p>Four degrees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Croix de Guerre with Bronze Palm</li> <li>Croix de Guerre with Gold Star</li> <li>Croix de Guerre</li> <li>Croix de Guerre with Bronze Star</li> </ul> |
| Awarded for  | individuals who distinguish themselves by acts of heroism involving combat with enemy forces                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Description  | A bronze cross with swords                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Presented by |  France                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Eligibility  | Military personnel only, often bestowed to members of allied countries                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Campaign(s)  | <p>World War I</p> <p>World War II</p> <p>Other wars not fought on French soil</p>                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Clasps       | None for wars or campaigns; stars and palm denote level of each medal awarded                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Status       | Active                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Established  | April 2, 1915                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



Unmarked Grave

Like his predecessor, Dr Scott, Edward was the Medical Officer in the Mill. Tragically, he died as a result of injuries received in a road accident in 1934. He too was buried in Christchurch, but inexplicably, lies in an unmarked grave, something which will need to be addressed in the near future. Dr O Connor was 45 years old.

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

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

**A view from Bellevue courtesy of Tommy Murray**



James Fennel, the original owner, was a brother in law of John Grubb Richardson who owned Bessbrook Mill. In 1853, Richardson married Marian Wakefield and in 1865, Fennel married her sister, Jemimah and they had 6 children, a boy and 5 girls.

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



Position of James Fennell grave in the Quakers Burying-ground, Bessbrook.



Newry Town Hall & Board Room  
where the commissioners met



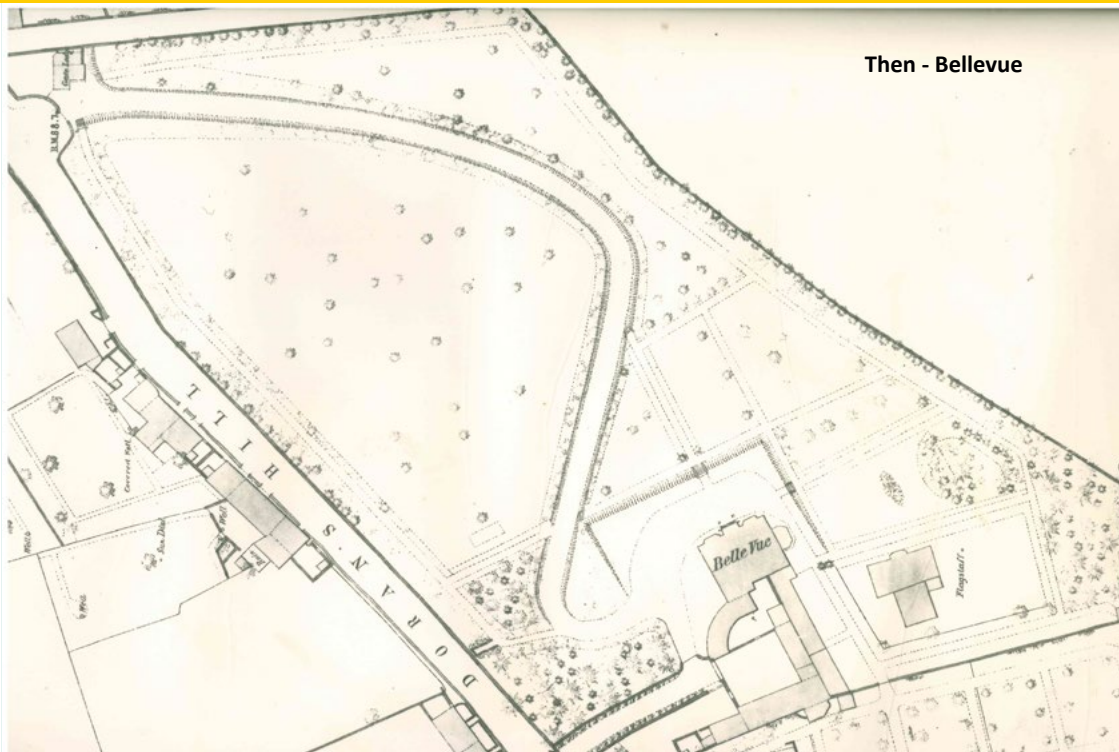
**St Catherines, Newry.**  
**The Dominican Order Arrived**  
**in the town in 1871**



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



**Then - Bellevue**



**Now - Barcoft**





**With special thanks to Chris Cassidy and Jenny Wilson, Libraries NI and Claudine Nic Giolla Chomhail for thier help and support**

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

**James Mac Mahon**

## **A TITAN OF NEWRY COMMERCE.**

**Life, Love and Loss.**

**Peace**

**Northern Ireland - Ireland**

European Regional Development Fund



EUROPEAN UNION



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

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

**“A project supported by the European Union’s PEACE IV Programme, man-  
aged by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)”**