

The Post-Primary Schools

IN 1835 there were two classical schools in the town of Killaloe. One was conducted by Mr. Smith and the other by Mr. Hayes.⁽¹⁾ No further details of these schools are available. However, one wonders if the Mr. Hayes mentioned above is the Roger Hayes who left the Aillemore hedge school in 1824.

Mr. P. O'Connor held a classical school in Killaloe during the early 1840s. The **Limerick Chronicle** of 25 May, 1842, has a short account of an accident in Limerick in which his son, Charles, was killed. Mr. O'Connor was a native of that city.

The outstanding local classical school of the last century and of the first quarter of this century was undoubtedly the Tuohy School taught by father and son. The founder of the school was Jeremiah (Darby) Tuohy, who was born at Lacarroe, parish of Feakle, c. 1801. Early in his career he taught in Tulla, Limerick and Nenagh. We do not know the exact date of the opening of his classical school in Killaloe, but he certainly had it established by 1844. About this time also he married Catherine Frost. Two children were born of the marriage, Matthew,⁽²⁾ who succeeded his father, and Mary, who died 1879 aged 31. Darby had two brothers, John and Michael, priests in the diocese of Killaloe who went to America c. 1850.

Maurice Lenihan, the Limerick historian, was a friend of Darby Tuohy who introduced him to the antiquities of east Clare and North Tipperary. The usual arrangement was that Maurice Lenihan would take the train from Limerick to Killaloe where Darby would have a car waiting to take them to some historic site. The notebooks of Maurice Lenihan are still extant and contain many references to his outings with Darby Tuohy.⁽³⁾

Darby was among the best known and most sought after of the classical teachers of this transition period. The diocesan publication, **Molua**, of 1935 states:

'Such academies as Darby Tuohy's of Killaloe ... (was) still there as links with another age, and persevering in the good work of Catholic education, especially of students intended for the priesthood. Indeed, posterity owes them at least this passing tribute in appreciation of their labours in days when they supplied a very crying need by offering limited facilities to students athirst for learning, or conscious of a Divine urge to the most sacred Calling.'

Darby Tuohy died on 18 July, 1880.