

Matthew Tuohy, born in 1844, spent some years studying for the priesthood in America but due to ill health had to return home where he helped his ageing father in the classical school. Matthew married Bridget Patterson, sister of Johnny Patterson the famous circus clown, at Killaloe on 27 July, 1887. During the eighty or so years of the school's existence it was held in various houses, wherever the Tuohy family lived at the time. The final location of the school was the house on the Canal Bank which was occupied by Matthew's daughter, Millie, up to her death in October, 1974.

Unfortunately, no school records can be traced and we are left without such vital information as the names of pupils, fees paid etc. The information contained in the census of 1901 may be typical of the number attending at any time. In that year 19 pupils, all Catholics, were enrolled. Four pupils were over 18 years; seven were between 15 and 18, two were between 14 and 15; while six were under 14. The attendance included only one girl.

Pupils walked six or seven miles to the school from Ogonnelloe, Kilbane and Ballywilliam. Pupils from the Tuohy classical school went directly into seminaries such as All Hallows, Dublin, and to the universities. One wishes that a list of all the past pupils who came to occupy prominent positions could be compiled. This is however, impossible, but the following list illustrates why the Tuohy classical school occupies a unique place among the schools of Clare. Past pupils included Dr. W.G. Niall; Fr. Denis Lynch, S.J., Fr. Lot Minehan, D.D.; Dr. Alec Johnson; Dr. George Elliott; James Canon Halpin; Rev. D. Courtney; Rev. T. Lynch; Rev. M. Scanlan; Michael Canon O'Rahilly; Dr. Mary Courtney; Rev. W. Scanlan and Fr. Dan Fogarty.

Matthew Tuohy died 30 September, 1930.

The obituary notice in the **Nenagh Guardian** of 4 October, 1930, paid him the following tribute:

'The deceased ... was a first rate educationalist and taught classics at Killaloe and in some of the principal Catholic colleges in America in his early days. He finally, on the death of his father, took charge of the Killaloe Intermediate School, then a private concern, and the great success of the school earned for him that great scholarly reputation which he maintained throughout his long span of years in the town. He was a great classical scholar and taught Greek, Latin, German and French with wonderful results ... Indeed, there are many in Killaloe, Limerick and Tipperary, both lay and clerical, who owe their high position in life to Mr. Tuohy's teachings. His loss to Killaloe is incalculable. Here, the young people had the unique opportunity of receiving a University education at their very doors, which many of them availed of to their own advantage, and to the betterment of their position in life.'