Limavady and District War Memorial Roll of Honour

To commemorate alike the brave Sons of this district who died fighting for their Country, and the gallant survivors who shared their dangers, toils and sufferings. To show honour to the dead and gratitude to the living by a Memorial, whose object is to imbue successive generations with the same love of Country and sense of duty, and to forge, by memory of valour and self-devotion, a fresh bond of union and friendship among all who dwell in the District.

Dedication on Limavady and District War Memorial Roll of Honour.

Limavady & District War Memorial Institute and Roll of Honour Boards

At a public meeting in Limavady in November 1918, "it was unanimously resolved to erect a suitable and fitting memorial in grateful recognition of the sacrifice and service of the 800 or more members of the community who responded to the call of King and country and took part in the great war. It was considered that the most fitting form for the commemoration to assume would be an institute, in which the inhabitants of the urban and rural areas of every class and denomination, could enjoy the benefits of a free library, reading, recreation, and other rooms, the building itself forming the outward and visible memorial."

In April 1919, local newspapers carried a notice for Limavady and District War Memorial stating, "A List of Soldiers, Sailors, and Airmen from the Limavady Urban and Rural Districts who Volunteered for Service in the War is being compiled for the purpose of having the Names recorded in the above." Details were to be forwarded to R. G. Connell, Limavady. The Boyle family offered their old house, Bridge Hill, at a reduced price for this purpose. An invitation for plans and designs for the proposed Memorial Institute followed in October 1918.

The War Memorial Institute was opened in March 1922 by Major-General Oliver Nugent, K.C.B., D.S.O., and in April 1923 a tender went out for the supply and erection of a Roll of Honour in oak with lettering.

The Roll of Honour was unveiled by Major Henry H. N.

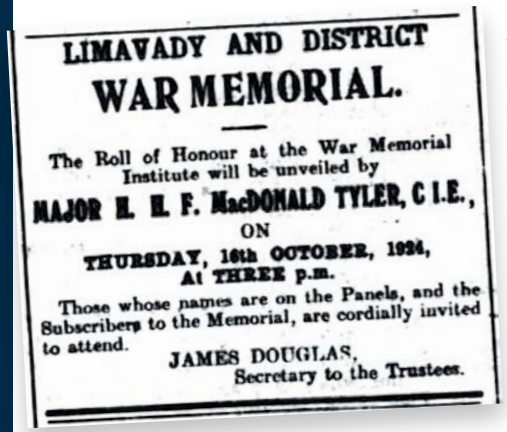
Dedication of Limavady War Memorial Institute in March 1922.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

F. MacDonald Tyler, C.I.E., on Thursday 16th October 1924. The boards carried the names of 533 volunteers from Limavady and district, 71 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. The names of those who were killed are in letters of gold, and those who served in vermilion. Speaking at the unveiling of the boards, Mr J. D. Boyd, J.P., noted that the memorial was fitting but "he had been wondering if it would not have been more complete if it had included the names of the noble band of women workers who, in various ways, were the sustainers of the men of the district." The *Londonderry Sentinel* reported his remarks were greeted with cheers of "hear, hear" and applause.

In the late 1920s, a Celtic Cross was erected at the War Memorial Institute; this became a focal point for Remembrance annually.

A small fire broke out at the Institute in January 1930. The alarm was raised quickly and police from the neighbouring barracks soon extinguished the outbreak and little damage was done.

In 1936, a proposal to sell the War Memorial Institute was met with resistance from the community, including the British Legion. A recommendation in 1947 to remove the lime trees which had been planted in Catherine Street and Main Street 30 years previously, as a memorial to those who had given their lives in World War One, was rejected by Limavady Urban Council amid much public outcry.



LIMAVADY AND DISTRICT
WAR MEMORIAL.

The Roll of Honour at the War Memorial Institute will be unveiled by
MAJOR H. H. F. MacDONALD TYLER, C.I.E.,
ON
THURSDAY, 16th OCTOBER, 1924,
At THREE p.m.

Those whose names are on the Panels, and the Subscribers to the Memorial, are cordially invited to attend.

JAMES DOUGLAS,
Secretary to the Trustees.

Advertisement for the unveiling of Limavady and District Roll of Honour, *Londonderry Sentinel*, 11th October 1924.

A car bomb exploded outside Limavady Police Station on 28th March 1972, severely damaging the War Memorial Institute, which was later demolished. The Memorial Boards, which fortunately, were not damaged, were moved to the Town Hall. It is believed an additional panel of names was added at this time.

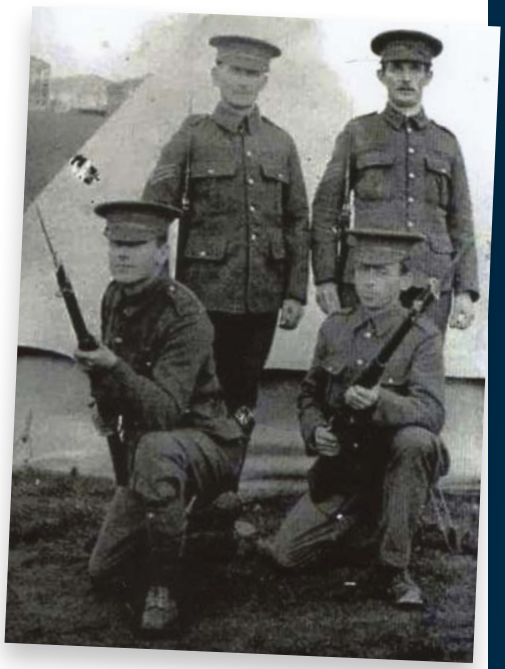
William Baird
10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

William Baird was born on 2nd June 1889 in Tamlaght. By 1911, the family was living in Mullagh and William was working as a general labourer. In September 1914, William enlisted to the the 10th Service Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Derry Volunteers), with comrades from the Ulster Volunteer Force. He married Marian Livingstone on 29th May 1915 at Second Limavady Presbyterian Church. Prior to going to France in October 1915, William was demoted from sergeant to private.

On 1st July 1916, on the opening day of the Battle of the Somme, William, a bomber with 'C' Company, was awarded the Ulster Division Certificate of Gallantry. He was wounded, with some reports suggesting his injuries were severe, requiring hospital treatment in England.

William returned to his unit and during divisional reorganisation was transferred to the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in March 1918. During the German spring offensive, he was captured and held as a POW. He was sent to work for a German farmer, where he reported being "fairly treated." William returned home to Limavady in 1919.

William's brother Thomas, who was in 'D' Company, was killed on 1st July 1916 and is buried in Connaught Cemetery.

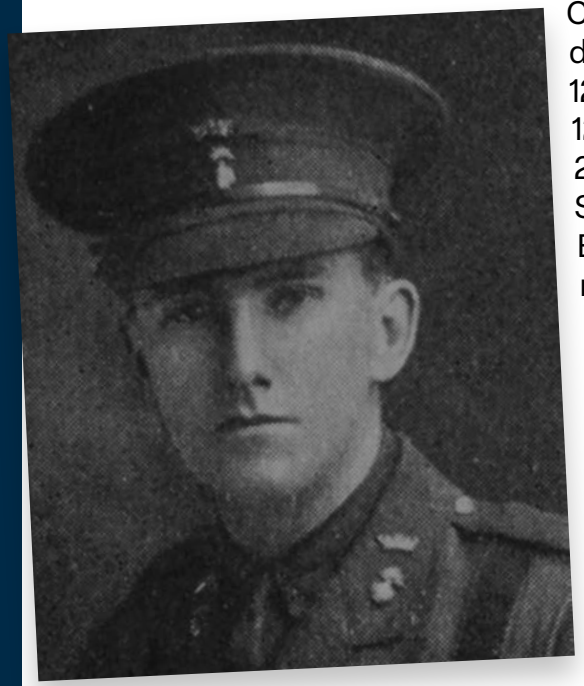


Sergeant William Baird, standing back right.
Image courtesy of Margaret Gault & Caroline Stewart.

James Joyce Beasley
6th Battalion Royal Irish Fusiliers

James Joyce Beasley was born in Londonderry on 5th March 1894. He attended Foyle College before going to study medicine at Trinity College, Dublin. James was a member of the Officer Training Corps at Trinity and when war was declared he was commissioned into the Royal Irish Fusiliers in September 1914. He was posted to the 6th Battalion, part of the newly formed 10th Irish Division, and after training was sent with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force to Gallipoli, Turkey.

The 6th Royal Irish Fusiliers landed near Sulva Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula on 7th August and were in action within a few hours. Two days later the battalion was tasked to attack Hill 70. Despite two attempts they failed to capture the hill completely. Casualties reported for the day were five officers killed, 12 wounded or missing, 12 other ranks killed and 220 wounded or missing. Second Lieutenant James Beasley was one of the missing officers.



Second Lieutenant James Beasley.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

His family later learned that his body was discovered and buried in October by members of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers but unfortunately, his grave was lost after more fighting in the area. James Joyce Beasley is commemorated on the Helles Memorial, Gallipoli.

James Blackburn
10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

James Blackburn was born in Myroe in 1889. The 1911 census shows the family living in Irish Green Street; James was working as a tailor.

James was a member of the local company of the Ulster Volunteer Force, and with his comrades he joined the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers (Derry Volunteers).

The Derrys went into action on the 1st July 1916, and unlike many of his comrades, Sergeant Blackburn came through the attack unscathed. The *Northern Constitution* reported in November 1916, that James was home on leave and that, "with his battalion had been through all the big engagements, and tells a thrilling story of the desperate fight on the 1st July."

The 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers was present at the attack at Messines in June 1917, and in August they took part in the battle of Langemarck, 3rd Ypres. James was injured in this action and returned to England for hospital treatment. He did not return to active service and was posted to the depot in Enniskillen, where he remained for the rest of the war.

James married Elizabeth Alcorn Whyte on 3rd January 1918, in Second Limavady Presbyterian Church.

Sergeant James Blackburn. The stripe on his left arm denotes he had been wounded.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

Samuel MacDonnell Campbell
13th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers

Samuel MacDonnell Campbell was born on 16th October 1882 in Dungiven. He was educated at Coleraine Academical Institution and was working in the Northern Bank in Larne when war broke out.

Samuel enlisted in Belfast and after initial training was posted to the School of Instruction in Dublin in May 1915, possibly for officer training. He was commissioned to the 13th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. In early 1916, he was posted to Egypt where he joined the 1st Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers.

The battalion left Egypt for France in preparation for the Somme offensive. Second Lieutenant Campbell was attached to the 86th Trench Mortar Battery, a unit used to give close support to advancing infantry. On the morning of the 1st July, Lieutenant Campbell and his men advanced under heavy machine gun and rifle fire. It was reported that Samuel was hit just after going "over the top". He had been shot in the side and his orderly, who was later wounded, put him in a shell hole and dressed his wounds. However, Samuel died about 30 minutes later.

Second Lieutentant Samuel McD Campbell.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

Samuel Campbell is interred in Beaumont-Hamel British Cemetery, which is close to the point where Lieutenant Campbell and his men left their trenches to "go over the top."

Robert Cromie
6th Inniskilling Dragoons

Robert Cromie was born in Tamniarin, Dungiven in February 1878, his parents were Robert and Margaret Cromie. At a later stage the family moved to Ballyness. Robert worked as a grocer's assistant in Dungiven before joining the army in 1897.

He fought in the Boer War (1899-1902) and was serving in India when war broke out in 1914. His regiment sailed for France; they were assigned to the trenches in the north of the country where many suffered from frost bite in the harsh conditions.

The 6th Inniskilling Dragoons carried out various duties during the war. In December 1917, they were being held in reserve during the Battle of Cambrai. When the Germans counter attacked and regained the trench system which had been captured by the British, the 6th Inniskilling were ordered to carry out a full cavalry charge to stop the German advance. The German trench system was heavily defended by barbed wire and machine guns; Squadron Serjeant Major Robert Cromie was wounded and captured during the attack.

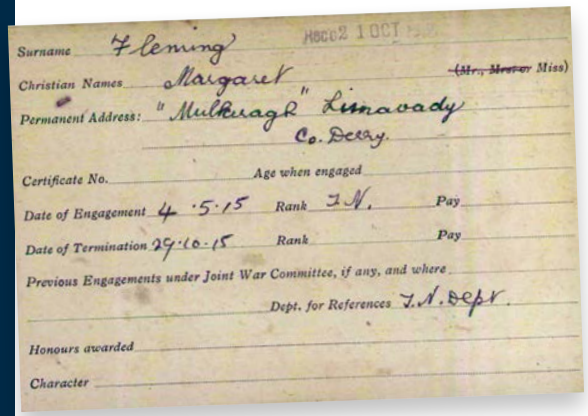
He died a few days later on 4th December 1917, and was buried in Honnechy, Northern France, by the Germans.

Squadron Sergeant Major Robert Cromie.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

Margaret Fleming, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve

Margaret Fleming was born on 8th August 1885, at Mulkeragh, Limavady, where her father, Samuel, was a farmer. Margaret attended Lislane National School, before training as a nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH), Belfast. Margaret left the RVH in December 1912 to undertake further training at the Ulster Hospital. She worked in a private nursing home before taking up a nursing post in Birmingham in January 1915.

In May 1915, Margaret went to nurse in France, at the No.2 Anglo-Belge BRCS Hospital, Calais, with the British Red Cross. She applied to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve (QAIMNSR) on 28th October 1915, giving her address as c/o Dr McKee, Keston House, Aston Rd, Birmingham. Margaret joined the QAIMNSR on 15th November 1915, training at Fovant Military Hospital, Salisbury Plain, before travelling back to France on 28th June 1916. She served in various hospitals and on several occasions on Ambulance Trains, a dirty, difficult and dangerous job. Reports described her professional ability as excellent and she was strongly recommended for promotion as "stolid and resourceful, thoroughly dependable and a very good worker."


Surname Fleming
Christian Names Margaret
Permanent Address: "Mulkeragh" Limavady Co. Derry.
Certificate No. Age when engaged
Date of Engagement 4.5.15 Rank T.N. Pay
Date of Termination 29.10.15 Rank Pay
Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where
Dept. for References T.N. Dept.
Honours awarded
Character

Margaret Fleming's Red Cross record card.
Image courtesy of British Red Cross, CC BY-NC 4.0

Margaret left No.14 Stationary Hospital, Wimereux, for England on Wednesday 28th January 1920, and was demobilised on 5th February, after nearly four years' service in France.

Matilda Fleming, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve

Matilda Fleming was born on 27th December 1878 in Mulkeragh, Limavady. She was educated at Lislane National School and privately, before training as a nurse at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, in 1904. Matilda worked as a sister in medical and surgical wards at the RVH until 1915.

In July 1915, she joined the Queen Alexandra Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve. She sailed from Southampton to Egypt, reporting for duty at No. 17 General Hospital on 11th September 1915. She served at No. 17 General Hospital, managing medical and surgical wards, and occasionally operating theatres, until January 1919. A medical board recommended her return to England, and she was granted sick leave until April 1919.

Upon being declared fit for duty, Matilda was transferred to the Home Establishment and assigned to King George V Hospital, Dublin. In 1920, she extended her service for another 24 months at a salary of £112 10s per year. She was later posted to Fermoy Military Hospital, County Cork, in December 1921.

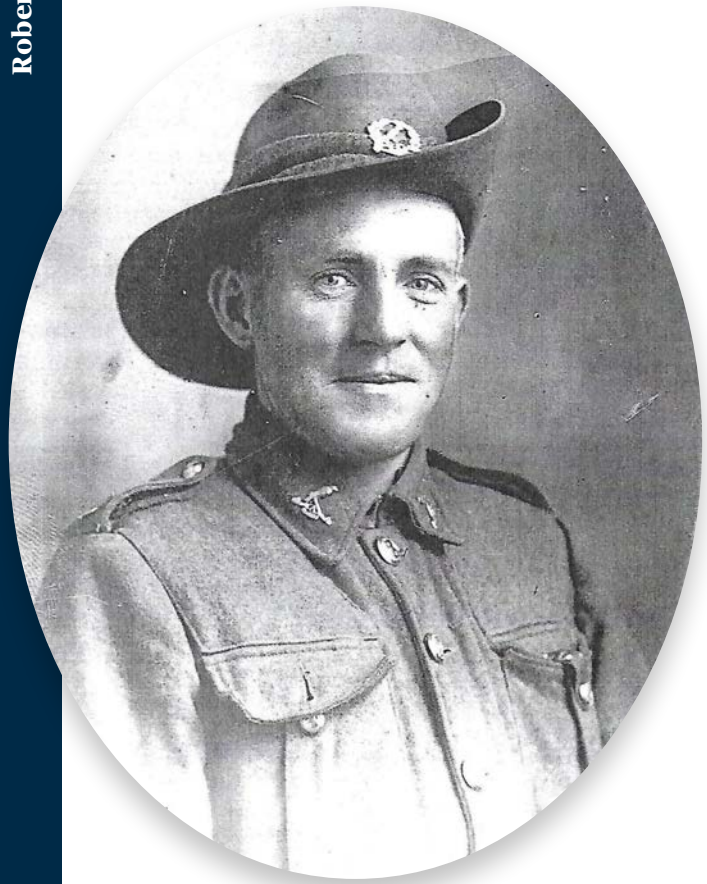
Matilda was demobilised on 30th April 1922, and in May, she received a letter of appreciation from the Matron-in-Chief, QAIMNS, for her dedicated service.

Matilda Fleming (left) in an operating theatre at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper

Robert Guthrie
Auckland Mounted Rifles

Robert Guthrie was born on 31st March 1886, the second son of Robert and Margaret Guthrie. After leaving school, Robert worked on the family farm, before emigrating to New Zealand in 1910, where he worked as a sheep farmer.

After World War One broke out, Robert enlisted to the Auckland Mounted Rifles and served with his squadron in the Gallipoli, Sinai and Palestine campaigns. Robert was admitted to hospital in February 1917, suffering from malaria; he was readmitted later in the year.



Robert left Port Said for leave in the UK in January 1919, before returning to New Zealand on board *HMNZT Pakeha*. He disembarked at Wellington on 30th May 1919 and was discharged from the army on the 27th June 1919.

Trooper Robert Guthrie.
Image courtesy of Robert Guthrie.

Henry Irwin
16th Battalion Canadian Infantry

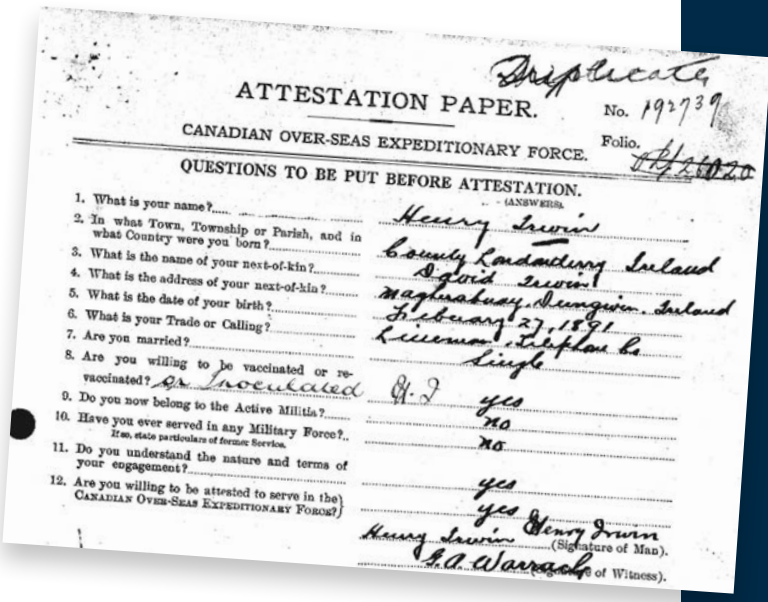
Henry Irwin was born on 27th February 1891, at Magheraboy, Dungiven. He later immigrated to Canada and enlisted in the Canadian Army on 1st September 1915. He completed his training with the 92nd Infantry Battalion before being transferred to the 17th Battalion in Kent, England in December 1915.

On 15th March 1916, Henry set sail for France having been transferred to the 16th Battalion Canadian Infantry (Canadian Scottish). In August 1916 they moved south to the Somme area.

The battalion moved into the front line at La Boiselle on 4th September. Henry was among many casualties in this battle, suffering a shrapnel wound to the arm. He was evacuated to England to recover.

Henry returned to the 16th Battalion in France, at Farbus Wood in April 1917. In August his battalion were in the Loos area where, on Wednesday 15th, they took part in an attack on "Hill 70".

Henry was killed in action on 16th September 1917 and was buried nearby in a wood called Bois Ruse. Henry is commemorated on the Canadian National Memorial, Vimy Ridge, Pas de Calais, France.



Duplicate

ATTESTATION PAPER. No. 192739

CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE. Folio. 1170

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION. (ANSWERS).

1. What is your name? — Henry Irwin
2. In what Town, Township or Parish, and in what Country were you born? — County Londonderry Ireland
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? — David Irwin
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? — Magheraboy, Dungiven. Ireland
5. What is the date of your birth? — February 27, 1891
6. What is your Trade or Calling? — Lineman, Telephone Co
7. Are you married? — Single
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? — Inoculated Q.I
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? — yes
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force? If so, state particulars of former Service. — no
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? — no
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force? — yes

yes Henry Irwin (Signature of Man).

Henry Irwin (Signature of Witness).

Henry Irwin's Attestation Paper.
Image courtesy of Library Archives Canada.

Matilda Irwin
Voluntary Aid Detachment

Matilda Boyd was born about 1864. She married Henry Irwin on 5th February 1889, at Ballyarnett Presbyterian Church, Templemore, Londonderry. Matilda and Henry had six children, four of whom survived to adulthood.

In 1901, the Irwin family were living on Main Street, Limavady, above their draper's shop. The census records Matilda and Henry and four sons – Robert John, 11; Henry James, 7; Walter Laurence, 3; and Victor Norman, 10 months. Ten years later the family were still at the same address.

Matilda registered as a VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) with the Red Cross and served as Commandant of the St John Ambulance Depot 4373 in Limavady between October 1916 and January 1919. She undertook cutting hospital garments at home and gathered sphagnum moss in the hills nearby. Matilda was awarded the Volunteer Workers badge and certificate.

Matilda's son, Henry James Irwin, was born on the 30th September 1893, when the family was living in Linen Hall Street, Limavady. Harry, as he was known, served with the Royal Irish Rifles during World War One; he was wounded in late 1917. Harry was elected to committee when a Post of the Comrades of the Great War was formed in Limavady in October 1919.

Matilda Irwin (centre) during William Massey's visit in 1916. *Image courtesy of Limavady Museum.*

William Kelly
2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

According to *Ireland's Memorial Records*, William Kelly's birthplace was Banagher, County Derry. He married Sarah Kealey in St Patrick's Church, Dungiven, on 15th November 1908. Army pension records show Sarah Kelly living at Whitehill Cottages, Limavady.

William, a reservist, reported for duty in Londonderry when World War One broke out in August 1914. He was posted to the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, and arrived in France on 23rd August 1914. William's battalion saw their first action at the Battle of Le Cateau in the area of Ligny-en-Cambresis; it is believed William was captured at this time. He was held in a prisoner of war hospital in Lippspringe in January 1915, before being moved to a camp at Limburg an der Lann, where about 2,200 Irish soldiers were held.

Private William Kelly died in Limburg on 4th July 1915 and was interred in Dietkirchen Prisoner of War Cemetery, where a Celtic Cross was later erected in memory of the Irish soldiers who died there. After the war, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission concentrated the burials of British soldiers and William's remains were moved to Niederzwehren Cemetery, Cassel, Germany.

Private William Kelly's CWGC headstone. *Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.*

James B Kyle
Royal Marine Artillery

James Brown Kyle was born in Kilrea on 22nd October 1899. He later lived on Main Street, Limavady, where his father was the local vet. After attending Roe Bank School, James went to Coleraine Academical Institution.

One morning, not long after his sixteenth birthday, James set out for school in Coleraine but travelled on to Belfast, where he joined the Royal Marine Artillery. He gave his age as 18 years, 6 months and 9 days. James, a dispatch rider, was injured in October 1917, while carrying an important message. In April 1918, the *Northern Constitution* reported that he had been gassed and wounded.

James returned home from the war in February 1919, before going to Kenya in 1921 to work in the flax industry. His father persuaded him to train as a vet after he returned to Limavady the following year. After he qualified in 1927, James applied for a position with the Colonial Service. He married Dorothy Halliwell in September 1927, and after his father became ill, he again returned to Limavady. After his father's death, James took over the practice.

He contracted an illness after working with diseased cattle which proved serious due to having been gassed during the war. James died in September 1930, leaving a wife and young son.

Gunner James B Kyle.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

Samuel McCunn
10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

Samuel McCunn was born on the 21st May 1894, at Claggan, Tamlaght Finlagan, to Thomas and Annie McCunn.

He worked on the family farm, and when war broke out in August 1914, Samuel and four of his friends from Myroe, joined the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. The friends left Limavady for Finner Camp by train on Tuesday 15th September; it was to be a great adventure and many said they would be home for Christmas.

Sam was badly injured on the 1st July 1916, the opening day of the Battle of the Somme. He was shipped back to England and after a long period in hospital, he returned to his regiment in France. Sam carried the scars of that day for the rest of his life and never worked again on the 1st of July.

After peace was declared in November 1918, Sam was given special permission to make his own way home ahead of his regiment, as his father was gravely ill with Spanish flu.

Sam married Hester Stevenson on the 21st November 1921. He died on the 2nd October 1961, aged 67, and is interred in Tamlaghtfinlagan Churchyard, Ballykelly.

Thomas McCunn was born on the 16th May 1899, and he was too young to enlist alongside his brother in 1914. Thomas was working in Belfast when he enlisted to the Army Service Corps. Thomas McCunn died of pneumonia while on active service in France on the 21st April 1918. He is interred in Wimereux Communal Cemetery.

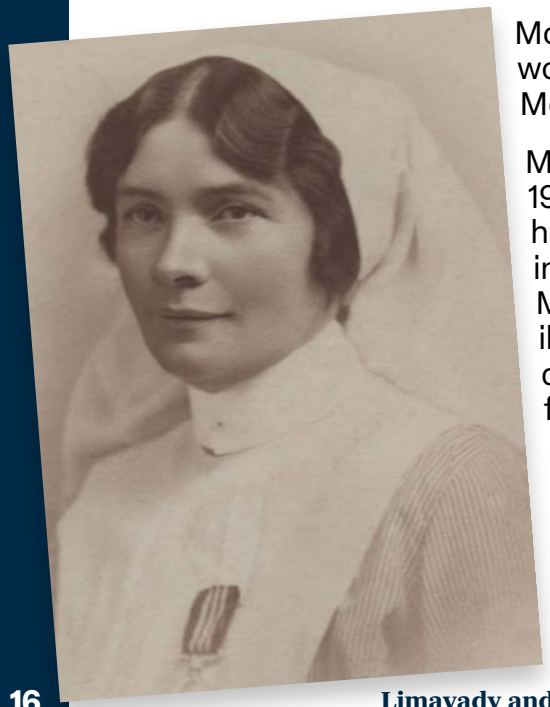
Private Samuel McCunn (seated front).
Image courtesy of Hester McCunn.

Molly McGinnis
St John Ambulance Brigade

Molly was born in Legahoire, Carrichue, near Ballykelly, in January 1880, the fifth child of Patrick and Roseanna McGinnis. Molly trained as a nurse at the City of Dublin Nursing Institute and was working as a nurse in Dublin when she enlisted as a St John Ambulance Nurse. In February 1916, Molly was posted to the St John Ambulance Brigade Hospital at Etaples, France, with the rank of sister.

During May 1918, the Etaples area endured sustained bombing raids by German planes. On 31st May, the St John Hospital suffered a direct hit and many were killed and injured. Sister McGinnis was awarded the Military Medal, the highest civilian honour available:

"For gallantry and devotion to duty during an enemy air raid. She showed great courage, took charge of a ward, and sustained her patients." *The London Gazette, July 1918 and Edinburgh Gazette, August 1918.*



Molly was one of only nine Irish women to be awarded the Military Medal during World War One.

Molly returned to England in July 1918, where she worked in a Kent hospital. She returned to Ireland in 1919 to train as a midwife. Molly's brother, Patrick, became ill and she nursed him until his death in 1933; she did the same for her brother, John, until his death in 1949. Molly retired in 1962 and died at Roe Valley Hospital in September 1967.

Sister Molly McGinnis.
Image courtesy of Rosemary Henderson.

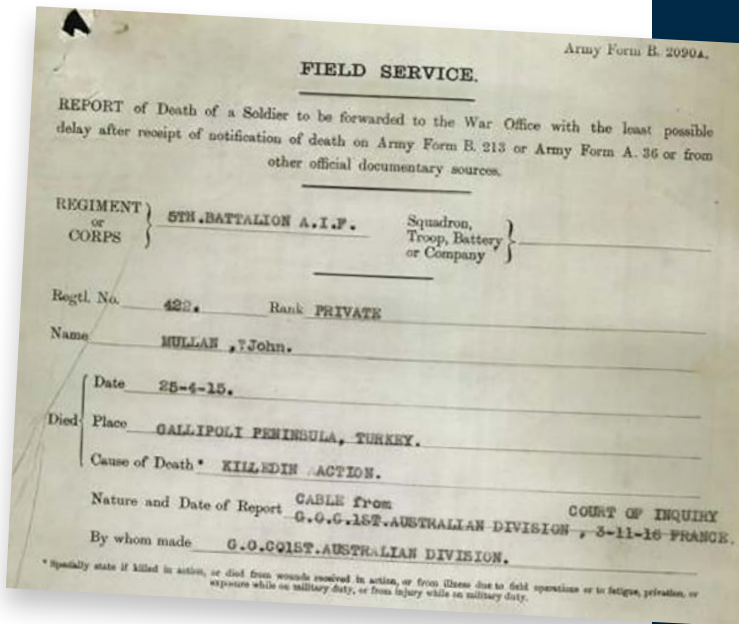
John Mullan
5th Battalion Australian Imperial Forces

John Mullan was born on 14th January 1884, to John and Ellen Mullan, Market Street, Limavady. The 1901 census lists the Mullan family living in Market House Street, with John Mullan senior's occupation given as a spirit dealer. In 1911, John junior's occupation is given as a draper.

John emigrated to Australia and was working as a draper's assistant in St Kilda, Victoria, when he enlisted to the 5th Battalion Australian Imperial Forces on 21st August 1914, within weeks of war being declared. The battalion arrived in Egypt in December 1914, and later took part in the Gallipoli landing on 25th April 1915.

In June 1915, the *Northern Constitution* reported that Mr Daniel Mullan had been notified that his brother, John, was missing in action. Initially listed as missing, John was later declared killed in action on 25th April 1915, and a pension of £2 per fortnight was awarded to his mother, Ellen, from October 1916. His personal effects were forwarded to her in August 1917.

Private John Mullan is one of 4,932 Australian and New Zealand troops commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial on the Gallipoli Peninsula, Turkey.



Army Form B. 2090A.

FIELD SERVICE.

REPORT of Death of a Soldier to be forwarded to the War Office with the least possible delay after receipt of notification of death on Army Form B. 213 or Army Form A. 36 or from other official documentary sources.

REGIMENT or CORPS: 5TH.BATTALION A.I.F. Squadron, Troop, Battery or Company:

Regtl. No. 422. Rank PRIVATE

Name MULLAN ,John.

Died — Date 25-4-15.

Place GALLIPOLI PENINSULA, TURKEY.

Cause of Death* KILLED IN ACTION.

Nature and Date of Report CABLE from G.O.C.1ST.AUSTRALIAN DIVISION , 3-11-16 COURT OF INQUIRY FRANCE.

By whom made G.O.C.1ST.AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

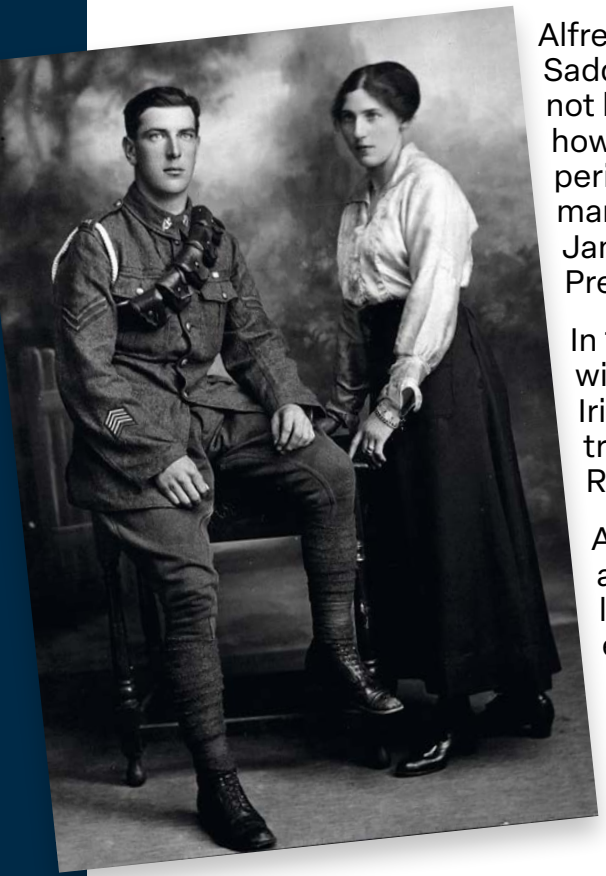
* Specially state if killed in action, or died from wounds received in action, or from illness due to field operations or to fatigue, privation, or exposure while on military duty, or from injury while on military duty.

Field Service Report in John Mullan's army record.
Image courtesy of the National Archives of Australia.

Alfred Neely
North Irish Horse

Alfred Neely was born in Limavady on 11th August 1895, one of eight children of James and Margaret Jane Neely. The 1911 census lists the family living in Main Street, Limavady, and 15-year-old Alfred was a saddler, most likely an apprentice. He enlisted in the North Irish Horse in April 1913.

Within weeks of war being declared, Alfred travelled to France with 'A' Squadron on 17th August 1914. His squadron was involved in the retreat from Mons and the Battle of the Asine. The *Northern Constitution* reported, "Private Alfred Neely, North Irish Horse, (somewhere in France), promoted to Corporal..."



Alfred served as a Corporal Saddler throughout the war. It is not known if he was wounded, however, he did enjoy several periods of home leave. Alfred married Etta Crawford on 12th January 1917, in Drumachose Presbyterian Church.

In 1918, Alfred was serving with the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars and he was transferred to Class Z, Army Reserve, on 1st May 1919.

Alfred returned to Limavady after the war before going to live and work in Dungiven. He emigrated to Canada in 1927, where he was joined by his wife and six sons in 1929.

Alfred and Etta Neely.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

James C B Proctor
10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

James Claudius Beauchamp Proctor was born on 21st June 1885. He was commissioned to the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers in September 1914.

Captain Proctor was killed in action on 1st July 1916. *Coleraine Chronicle* reported, "He was leaping into a German Trench when he was fired at point-blank by a German officer, who immediately threw away his revolver and held up his hands. Captain Proctor's men refused to accept the surrender..." James Proctor is interred in Mill Road Cemetery, Thiepval.

George Norman Proctor was born on 22nd August 1886. He served as a Major with the Kashmir Rifles. Major Proctor survived the war and returned to India.

Edmund Vere Proctor was born on the 22nd March 1888. After emigrating to Australia in January 1914, he enlisted in the Australian Army in October 1914. He was returning from home leave on the *RMS Leinster* when it was torpedoed in October 1918. Edwin was discharged from the army in 1919 and returned to Australia.

Mary Eveleen Proctor was born on the 16th November 1890. Eveleen served as a Red Cross VAD from 1914 to 1919.

The 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers at Lodge Road, Coleraine, May 1915. Captain Proctor on horseback. *Image courtesy of the Sammy Walker Collection, Coleraine Museum.*

William J Stevenson
10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

William James Stevenson was born in Lomond, Myroe in January 1893, to William John and Jane Stevenson.

After the outbreak of World War One, William joined the 10th Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers, along with his older brother John, and his future brother-in-law Samuel McCunn.

William wrote home to his parents regularly – "I received the parcel yesterday. It had got smashed upon home depo and was repacked, but everything was correct unless the honey ran out. We are in a quiet part of the line at present. You would scarcely hear a shot being fired."

Private William J Stevenson.
Image courtesy of Hester McCunn.

William survived the war; however, his health was not good after he returned home due to having been gassed during the war. He taught carpentry in Limavady Tech. He died on 31st January 1938, aged 42, and is buried in Tamlaghfinlagan Parish Church, Ballykelly.

John Martin Stevenson was born on 4th June 1891. John died on active service on 11th August 1917, age 26, and is commemorated on Panel 22 on the Menin Gate, Belgium.

Margaret Alice Stewart
Women's Royal Naval Service

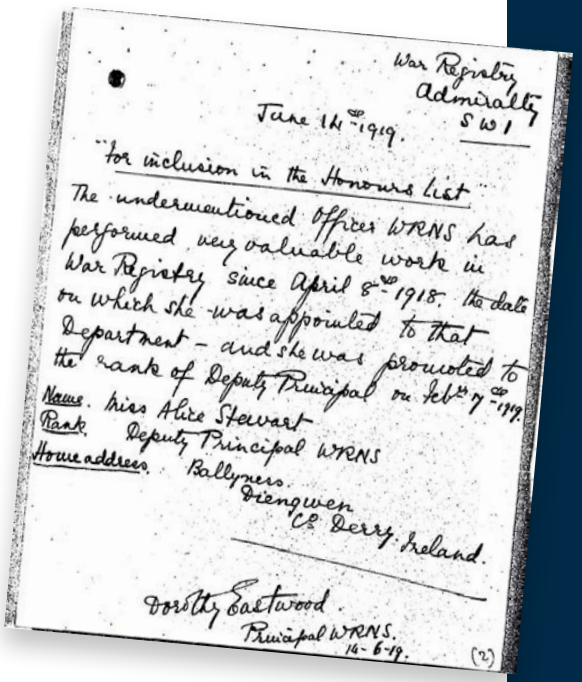
Margaret Alice Stewart (known as Alice) was born on 26th March 1895, the second daughter of George Stewart and his wife, Margaret Morrison, of Ballyness, Dungiven. She was educated at Drumneecy National School, St Lurach's College Londonderry, and Trinity College, Dublin where she obtained a BA in April 1917 in Languages (French, German and Latin).

In 1917 she joined the Secretariat of the War Office in the School Cadet Branch, Whitehall. When the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) was formed in November 1917, Alice applied to join. She began her career there as an Assistant Principal (the lowest commissioned rank, equivalent to a Royal Navy midshipman) the following April.

Alice was employed in the decoding section of the Admiralty War Registry. She was promoted to Deputy Principal in February 1919 and remained in post until the WRNS was disbanded later that year.

In August 1919, special services were held in Dungiven Presbyterian Church, unveiling two stained glass windows for the congregational war memorial. Alice unveiled one of the memorial windows and the other was unveiled by Reverend Davison.

Alice then went on to join the League of Nations before she married Dr Kenneth Paddle late in 1920. She died in 1987.



War Registry
Admiralty
S.W.1

June 14th 1919.

"for inclusion in the Honours list"

The undermentioned Officer WRNS has performed very valuable work in War Registry since April 8th 1918. the date on which she was appointed to that Department – and she was promoted to the rank of Deputy Principal on Feb 7th 1919.

Name. Miss Alice Stewart
Rank. Deputy Principal WRNS
Home address. Ballyness
Dungiven
Co Derry. Ireland.

Dorothy Eastwood.
Principal WRNS.
14-6-19.

(72)

Letter of recommendation on Alice Stewart's WRNS record.
Image courtesy of the National Archives.

John Sweeney
2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

John Sweeney was born in Limavady Workhouse on 11th December 1883; his mother Margaret was a domestic servant. John joined the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers between August 1908 and April 1909. The 1911 census records him stationed in Aldershot, England, with the 2nd Battalion.

A report in the *Northern Constitution* stated that John was home on leave in Limavady, from the 1st Battalion, when war broke out in August 1914. He returned to barracks and travelled to France on 23rd August with the 2nd Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. The battalion took part in the Battle of Festubert and suffered around 700 casualties in their attack on the night of 15th/16th May 1915.

The *Northern Constitution* reported that John had been seriously wounded in the stomach and abdomen and had to crawl about a mile to reach the British lines. He was eventually moved to a British hospital where he underwent a number of operations. John's mother was sent for and was at his hospital bedside in Birmingham, when he died on 5th July 1915. Private John Sweeney was buried in St Canice's Roman Catholic Burial Ground, Roemill Road, Limavady, with full military honours; the guard was provided by the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers stationed at Ebrington Barracks.

Private John Sweeney's CWGC headstone.
Image courtesy of Alistair Harper.

Henry Hewey Francis MacDonald Tyler
Gurkha Rifles

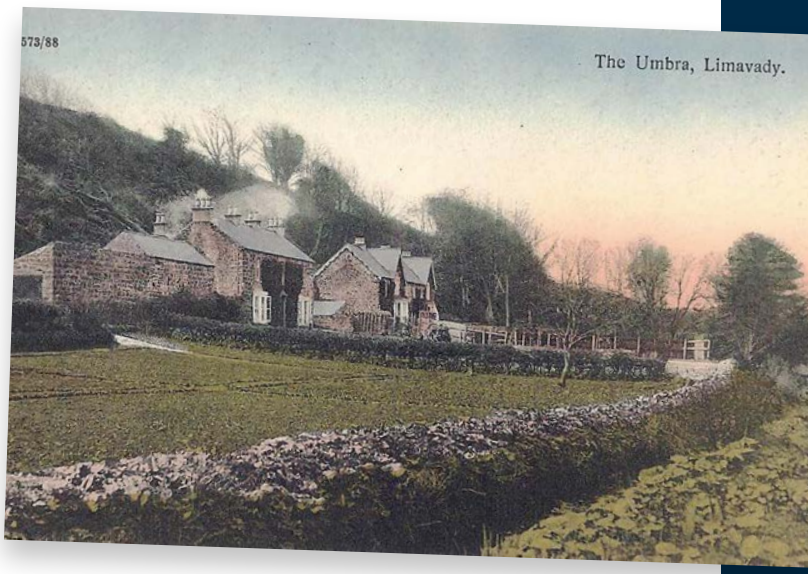
Henry Hewey Francis MacDonald was born on 13th February 1877 on Main Street, Limavady. His father, Henry, was a clerk in Holy Orders. Henry was educated in England and enrolled in the Indian Civil Service in 1892. In December 1901, he took up post as Assistant Collector and Magistrate in Madras, India.

At the outbreak of World War One, he joined the Gurkha Rifles with the rank of major. His regiment served in France between 1914 and 1915 before going to Gallipoli, where the Gurkha Rifles were the only unit to reach the high ground at Sari.

After the war, Henry returned to the UK and on 28th October 1920, he married Judith Drayton Grimke-Drayton in London.

Major H H F MacDonald Tyler, CIE, unveiled the Limavady & District Roll of Honour, at the War Memorial Institute, on 16th October 1924. He later served as secretary to the Simon Commission into constitutional reform in India from 1928.

Henry was knighted in 1930 and went on to serve as High Sheriff and Deputy Lord Lieutenant of County Londonderry in 1940. He died in Londonderry on 26th October 1962, aged 85.



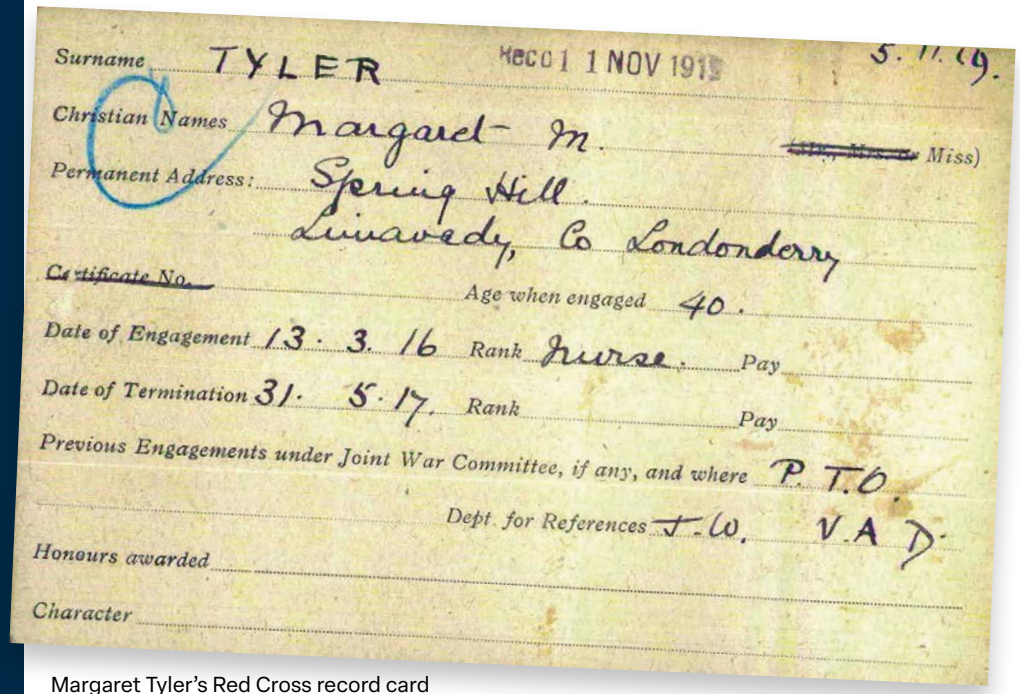
Henry MacDonald Tyler lived at The Umbra.
Image courtesy of Limavady Museum.

Margaret M Tyler Voluntary Aid Detachment

Margaret MacDonald was born on 18th May 1875, in Limavady, the eldest of eight children of Henry Francis MacDonald and Marion Tyler. Henry at some point after Margaret's birth adopted his wife's name of Tyler for the family.

Margaret enlisted as a Red Cross VAD on 21st December 1915, serving with the St John Ambulance at Grayshott Military Hospital in Haselemere, before transferring to the Star and Garter Hospital for Incurables, Richmond, in March 1916. In 1917, she took up service motor driving at the Aircraft Factory at Feltham, where she remained until it was disbanded in September 1919.

After the war, Margaret worked as a missionary for many years. Margaret died on 25th August 1958, whilst living at the St John's Mission at Umtata, Cape Town in South Africa, and is buried there.


Surname TYLER Recd 1 NOV 191[illegible] 5.11.19.
Christian Names Margaret M. (Miss)
Permanent Address: Spring Hill. Limavady, Co Londonderry
Certificate No. Age when engaged 40.
Date of Engagement 13. 3. 16 Rank Nurse. Pay
Date of Termination 31. 5. 17. Rank Pay
Previous Engagements under Joint War Committee, if any, and where P.T.O.
Dept. for References T.W. V.A.D.
Honours awarded
Character

Margaret Tyler's Red Cross record card
Image courtesy of British Red Cross, CC BY-NC 4.0

Bombardier Robert J McLean, writing under the penname 'The Dungiven Poet', regularly sent poems from the trenches of the Western Front to the *Northern Constitution* for publication.

Our Dead

(By special request of a number of Subscribers to our local War Memorials)

Oh, little I deemed when those faltering fingers
Attuned my wild harp with the recruiting drum.
And joined the loud chorus of those luring singers
Who called to the youth of the nation to come,

That ere I'd be tempted in moment of leisure—
Yea, scarce ere the din of the battle hath fled—
To string that rude harp to a mendicant measure,
And crave for a tombstone to honour our dead.

Let the men who returned suspect we were hoaxing,
But what if the ranks of the dead
Should remember our flatterly, cajole, and coaxing,
The vows and the promises made?

A plain granite slab was a permanent fixture
Of grateful respect, was a visible sign,
Though rude the design or rough be the texture,
Or the carving be never so fine.

Then, why this delay—why all this cost counting?
Did they count the cost when they gave up their all,
When those human walls on the parapets mounting
Stemmed the rush of the foeman before they did fall?

Priceless their gift - since their lives have been given
Replacing a hero wounded and bled,
That the sword that was aimed at the hearts of the living
Might be sheathed in the hearts of the dead.

The Dungiven Poet

This booklet has been produced to accompany the exhibition marking the centenary of Limavady & District War Memorial Boards.

Causeway Coast and Glens Museum Services wish to thank World War One historian Alistair Harper and the members of Binevenagh Historical Society for their hard work and commitment researching individuals for inclusion.

If you have information about any of the men named on the War Memorial Boards please email **museums@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk**

This project has received financial support from The Executive Office through the District Councils Good Relations Programme, as part of the Together Building a United Community strategy.

Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Museum Services

The Executive Office

T:buc Changing for the better, together

T:buc Councils Delivering together for the better