



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

2017 No. 15

A History of Adare Cottages

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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
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share

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Promoting University Community Collaboration

Project Aim

We worked with a community member, Eleanor Purcell, to research the social history of three of Adare's cottages and provide the community with a brochure that personalizes the history of the cottages for Adare's visitors.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project were to find information on the cottages and help people understand their significance.

Project Rationale

The project was undertaken because no concise source of information on the cottages exists for visitors, even though the cottages are one of the main attractions of the village. There is no organisation that researches the history of Adare for the purpose of promoting tourism, and thus we endeavoured to fill this need in the community.

COMMUNITY

Community Partners



Eleanor Purcell is a local shop owner in Adare with a strong interest in its history and community. She is a member of the Tidy Towns organisation and is dedicated to preserving the history of Adare and making it accessible to people everywhere. She was our main community contact and provided us with a wealth of information and sources.



Lucy Erridge is the owner of one of the cottages and runs a small gift shop in it. As a cottage owner, she is interested in the history of the village. She provided us with graphics and helped with the design of the brochure. Alison Erridge, Lucy's mother, painted the images used in the brochure.

STUDENTS



Carmen Ebel – University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

I am a study abroad student from Minnesota studying at the University of Limerick. I'm majoring in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science, Policy, and Management. The UL Practicum Project has given me the opportunity to engage with a local community and learn outside of the traditional classroom environment. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to connect with members of Adare's community and work alongside them to



Tanja Piork – Carl-von-Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg

I am an international student from Germany studying at the University of Limerick. I'm studying an education programme, majoring in English with a minor in Protestant Theology and Religious Pedagogy. For me the UL Practicum Project has been a wonderful experience that I would recommend to everyone who has a chance to apply.

OUTCOMES

This project resulted in a few important outcomes. The first was the creation of a brochure on three of the cottages on Main Street. It gives a general history of the cottages as well as an overview of each of our three cottages. This will be made available at the tourist information stand and thus give visitors a better appreciation of the significance of the cottages.

Additionally, we collected information on residents of all cottages in the terrace that will be available to future UL Engage groups as well as any interested researchers. Making this information more available to the public will aid historical and personal ancestry research.

The third outcome of our semester was a video. We modified the video project that we created for the UL Practicum class and gave it to our community partners. It can be used as an informational and promotional tool on Adare's website and Facebook page.

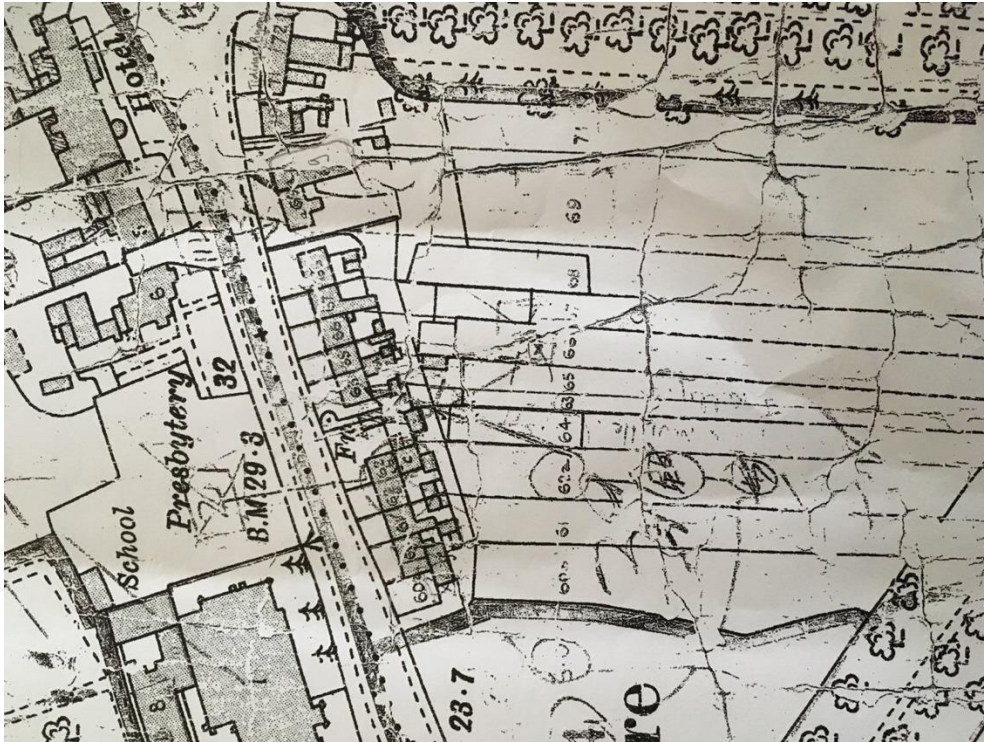
TESTIMONIALS

In this section please include quotes or comments from the participants in your community project about their experiences of working and learning with you, e.g. what your involvement has meant and how the project has impacted on them. If possible, please include a photograph of the person who provided the quote with their name (please get permission to use this photograph)

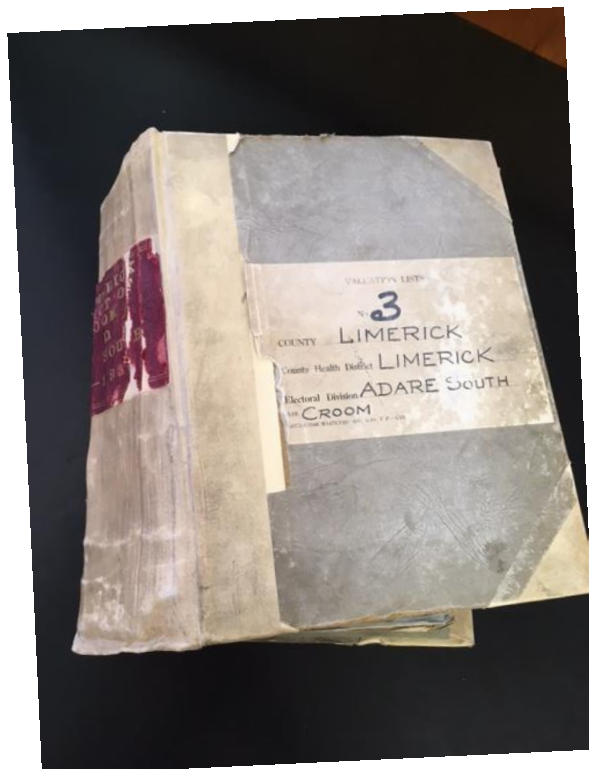
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Research the remaining cottages in the 1901 and 1911 censuses using the names previously gathered from the valuation office records
- Look through the Dunraven papers in the Glucksman Library and connect it with information from the censuses and valuation office records
- Conduct informational interviews with residents of Adare, or people with a knowledge of the local history
- Read Dr. Milo Spillane's thesis on the 4th Earl of Dunraven
- Collaborate with the Dunraven Estate to uncover possible new sources of information
- Work with Pat Fitzgerald to find more historic data and background sources
- Add the remaining cottages to the brochure
- Design signs to be placed near each cottage detailing a short history of the cottage

GALLERY



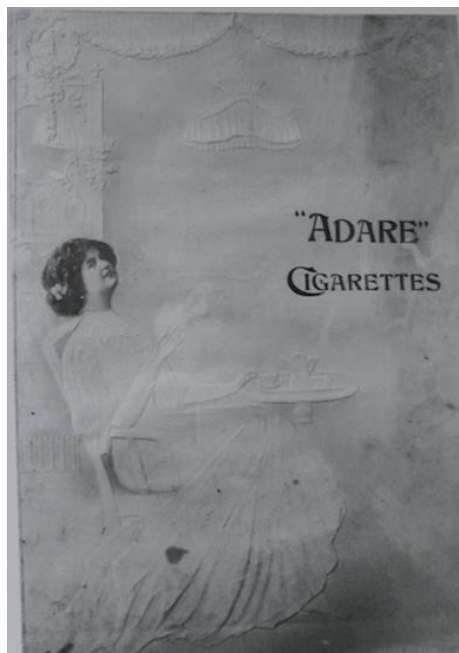
Map of Adare obtained from the Valuation Office



The Cancellation Book in the Valuation Office that allowed us to connect the residents of the cottages to the specific cottage they lived in.



Picture taken c. 1910 of workers at the Adare Cigarette Company.



Advertisement for the Adare Cigarette Company.



Caroline, Countess of Dunraven – ordered the cottages to be built.



Ida and Mary McGrath, sisters who lived in Lucy Erridge's cottage.

APPENDICES

Welcome to Adare...



...the village that extends a 'Céad míle fáilte' to each and every visitor.

Welcome to the cottages of Adare. Though they may seem like ordinary cottages, the history of these buildings holds some very interesting stories. The tale of Adare's cottages begins in the 1830's when the wife of the 2nd Earl of Dunraven, Caroline Countess of Dunraven, gave the order for them to be built. Servants and workers of the Dunraven Estate lived in the cottages. Though they appear small today, residents of the cottages lived a very good life. Cottages came with a garden plot big enough to live off of or to hold a pig or goat in.

Tourist Information:
www.adarevillage.com
phone: 061-396666

Designed and created with contributions from:

Carmen Ebel, Alison Erridge, Lucy Erridge, Tom Cassidy
Pat Fitzgerald, Tanja Piorck, Eleanor Purcell, Michael Ryan

The Gate Lodge Cottage



- James Connolly and his family of five lived in the cottage from 1868-1939
- James and his son Thomas were carpenters at Adare Manor, while two daughters were dressmakers
- The third daughter, Agnes, was a housekeeper and the official occupier of the cottage in 1924
- The cottage's garden was separated from the house in 1902
- In 1936 Jack and Margaret Ryan lived in the cottage
- It is still owned by the family today and is available as a holiday home

The Wild Geese Restaurant



- It was a tobacco factory founded in 1908 by the 4th Earl of Dunraven
- It was a thriving industry that employed around 70 people to grade tobacco leaves
- Women were employed to roll Virginia, Turkish, and Egyptian blend cigarettes
- Tobacco was cultivated in Adare and throughout Country Limerick
- The factory was destroyed in a fire on New Year's Day in 1917
- By 1922 the Adare Cigarette Company closed
- The building is currently a top notch restaurant owned by the Foley's

Lucy Erridge's Cottage



- Michael Fitzgerald lived in this cottage from 1861-1882
- It was split into two separate spaces in 1868
- The office and yard were used by the Roman Catholic clergy until 1929
- The McGrath family moved into the cottage in 1886 and remained there until Ida McGrath died in 1970
- In the early 1900's the McGrath family worked as carpenters and housekeepers. The youngest son was a scholar
- Lucy Erridge took ownership of the cottage in 1994 and turned it into a small shop

COMMUNITY VIDEO

The project we undertook this semester was “The Adare History Project,” which aimed to formulate a social history of the village’s famous cottages. The motivation for this was to heighten the interest of both tourists and locals through information that is more personal and that brings the history of the cottages to life. Furthermore, it is important to collect the information while the records exist and make this knowledge more accessible to interested parties. Therefore, a brochure was created and will be made available at the local tourist information center.

Our group consisted of Carmen Ebel and Tanja Piork. We did most of the project work together. We completed our research on the census and valuation office records together and met to discuss different options for the project and brochure designs. Additionally, we visited Adare almost every week and talked to Eleanor Purcell and other locals she introduced us to. We did, however, divide some parts of the project. Carmen was responsible for the communication between Eleanor and other community partners as well as the editing of the video project, while Tanja was responsible for finances, the layout of the brochure, and the abstract for the presentation.

Our project aimed to collect historical data in order to present the social history of some of Adare’s oldest buildings. The importance lies in making the local history accessible to everyone including tourists and residents. The project mainly consisted of the information we were able to gather from the valuation office and census records, furthered by the information we collected from different residents. The brochure we produced gives a concise and understandable history of the buildings and will be placed in the local tourist information center. It will hopefully help people realize the historical significance of the cottages and increase their interest in the village.

We gathered the information on the tenants of all cottages along Main Street, so that future research on the social history of the cottages will be easier to conduct. Future groups will work on gathering more detailed information about the residents of each cottage. There are many more sources of information to explore. The next step will be the production of a brochure listing the social history of all cottages and then individual informational signs for each cottage along the street. Hopefully this will lead to a better understanding of and an increased interest in these historic cottages.

Video Link:

<https://media.heanet.ie/page/648a4782f2af9e1d6d596cadda7ed184>



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