

Objectives

- Define what we mean by 'leisure'.
- Explore how the nature and extent of 'leisure' changed over the century
- Examine how Belfast residents spent their leisure time – pubs, the home, clubs, theatre, popular pass times and sports.





What do we mean by leisure?

- Pursuits take up in people's spare time as hobbies, sports or collective acts that bring pleasure.
- They may include:
 - Participatory sports
 - Cultural activities theatre, museums, music
 - Social activities attending clubs, pubs or walks
 - Spectator sports racing, football, blood sports
 - Holidays and excursions.
- Leisure paradox: Despite a focus on work and discipline, leisure expanded significantly





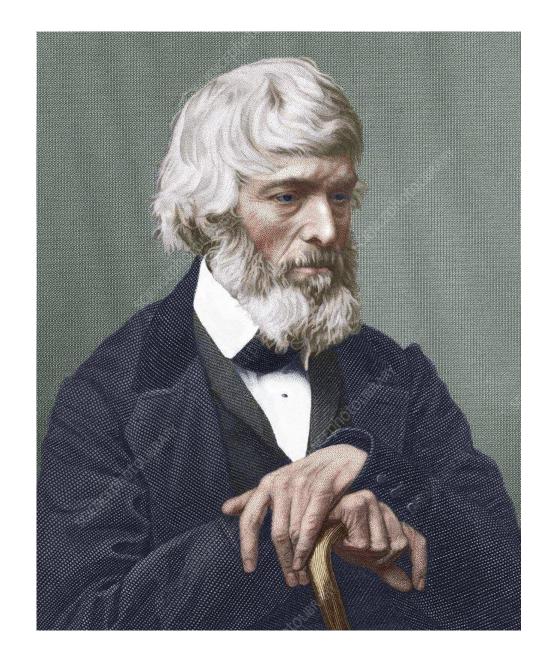


Early 19th century ideas

The idea of Leisure was not popular with early 19th century opinion leaders.

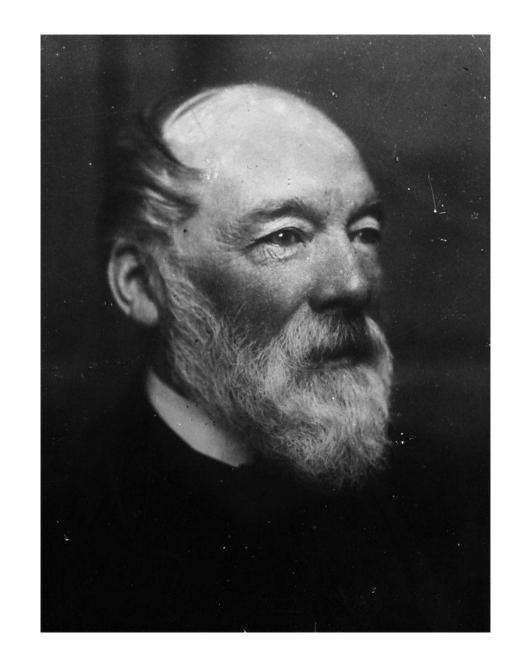
Thomas Carlyle said in 1839:

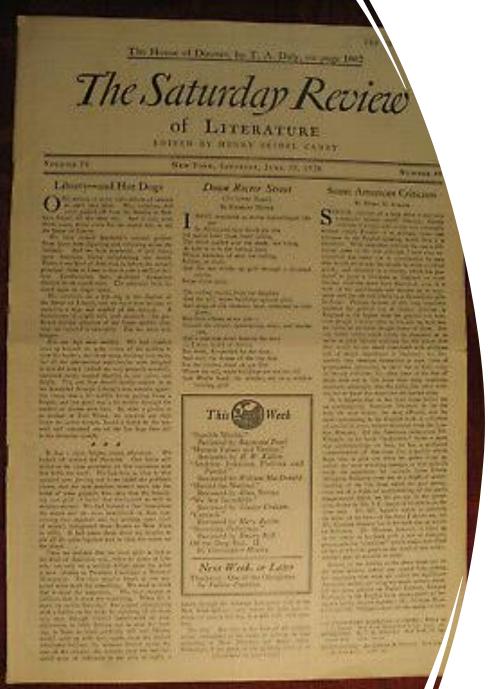
"A day is ever struggling forward a day will arrive in some approximate degree, when he who has no work to do, by whatever name he may be named, will not find it good to show himself in our quarter of the Solar System; but may go and look elsewhere, if there be any Idle Planet discoverable."



Samuel Smiles

His highly popular treatise on Self-Help (1859) connected industry and energy to 'uprightness' and success; idleness was the bedfellow of "selfishness and vice."





As the Saturday Review observed in 1866

Those respectable working class folk "trained to habits of order and punctuality, and the most scrupulous employments of every moment" were illequipped to deal with "the easy careless attitude" of a leisured society.

Time for leisure increases in the 19th century

As century progressed, the time people spent at work declined and they had more leisure.

- Bank Holiday Act. This Act in 1871 gave workers a few paid holiday days each year.
- Paid holiday. In the 1870s some clerks and skilled workers began to have one week paid annual holiday.



Further developments

- Half day Saturdays. In the early 19th century everyone had Sunday off. In the 1870s some skilled workers began to have Saturday afternoon off.
- In the 1890s most workers gained a half-day holiday on Saturday and the weekend was born.



Impact of Industrialisation

• Shift from pre-industrial leisure:

- Loss of irregular holidays like "Saint Monday" due to structured work schedules.
- Decline of local fairs and wakes replaced by formalised bank holidays.

• Factory Acts:

- 1833: Restricted child labour and mandated some holidays.
- 1847: Introduced the 10-hour workday in textiles.
- **Key result**: Clear distinction between work and leisure began to emerge.



Bank Holidays Act 1871

- The Bank Holidays Act 1871 established public holidays (known as bank holidays) in addition to those customarily recognised in the United Kingdom.
- The Act designated four bank holidays in England, Wales and Ireland (Easter Monday; Whit Monday; First Monday in August; 26 December if a weekday) and five in Scotland (New Year's Day, or the next day if a Sunday; Good Friday; First Monday in May; First Monday in August; and Christmas Day, or the next day if a Sunday).[4][5]
- In England, Wales and Ireland, Good Friday and Christmas Day were considered traditional days of rest (as were Sundays) and therefore it was felt unnecessary to include them in the Act; especially as the Act extended the existing law relating to those days to the new bank holidays.
- 27th March 1903, St Patrick's day designated a Bank Holiday



Class and Leisure

• Upper Classes:

- Exclusive participation in the London Season: balls, dinners, and Ascot.
- Summer retreats for yachting, grouse hunting, and house parties.
- Seaside resorts like Bournemouth catered to their refined tastes.

Middle Classes:

- Respectable leisure like museums, parks, and libraries.
- Cycling, tea gardens, and self-improvement societies.

Working Classes:

- Public parks, fairs, and music halls.
- Day trips to the seaside or countryside, often by rail.
- Segregation: Even in shared spaces like theatres, social classes were divided by ticket prices and seating.



Rational Recreation

- In mid-19th century, 'rational recreation' was popular amongst middle class moral reformers.
- Habits—whether good or bad—are developed through persistent repetition. Rational recreation aimed to replace bad habits with good ones.
- Proponents sought to eradicate and replace traditional working-class amusements with new ones that fit bourgeois notions of domestic, temperate, and self-improving occupations that would help with social control of the working classes.



March 1845

The papers reported: The Belfast Museum opened on Easter Monday at a reduced charged to encourage 'rational entertainment of the working classes'. 960 persons from the working classes attended.



Rational recreation remained popular

- Paternalist attempts by the middle-class elites still stressed the importance of rational education.
- North Belfast Working Men's Club opened in 1894.
- The BNL said it aimed to maintain 'social order by providing workers with an alternative to the tavern'.
- The primary function of the NBWMC was to 'enable young men to pass their evenings in a quiet and rational manner'.
- Recreational opportunities within the NBWMC, stipulated in club guidelines, adhered to middle-class notions of 'rational recreation' and 'mental and moral improvement'.



Leisure as education

- Many reformers saw education through leisure as a way of reforming the working classes.
- January 1847 papers reported: A new magazine
 has been launched, called 'The Belfast People's
 Magazine' devoted to the elucidation of all
 subjects except the political and sectarian. The
 magazine is endeavouring to advance the working
 classes.
- Belfast Working Classes Association has issued a second print of the Belfast Peoples' Magazine due to huge demand.



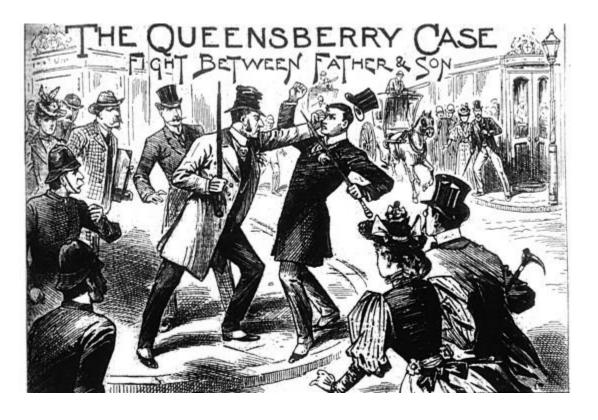
Organised leisure as soul saving

- Many churches saw sport as a way of helping protect young men coming to the city for work (e.g. YMCA).
- Church of Ireland Young Men's Society formed in 1851.
- Acquired premises at Clarence Place Hall, at the corner of Donegall Square East and May Street
- The aim was to provide sport and social engagement to the young men of Belfast as the city's population grew rapidly with the industrial revolution.



Recreation became codified

- Victorian obsession for order applied to sport.
 Rules of games codified and written down.
- The first written rules for rugby were drawn up in 1845.
- The London Football Association devised the rules of football in 1863. The foundation of the Football Association in 1863—Assoc., hence "soccer
- In 1867 John Graham Chambers drew up a list of rules for boxing. They were called the Queensberry Rules after the Marquis of Queensberry.



Organisation of sport in Ireland

- 1879: Irish Rugby Football Union
- 1880: Irish Football Association
- 1882: Irish Bicycle Association
- 1884: Gaelic Athletic Association
- 1885: Irish Amateur Athletic Association
- 1890: Irish County Polo Association
- 1892 Irish Hockey Union
- 1904: Irish Bowling Association
- 1905: Cumann Camógaíachta (the Camogie Association)



Impact of codified games

- Uniform rules meant everyone could play the same game.
- Games could be easily adopted by others.
- Competitions and leagues could be easily organised on a local, national and international levels.
- Rules could be disseminated via leaflets, publications and media.
- High levels of literacy towards the end of the 19th century meant ordinary people could adopt and play them.

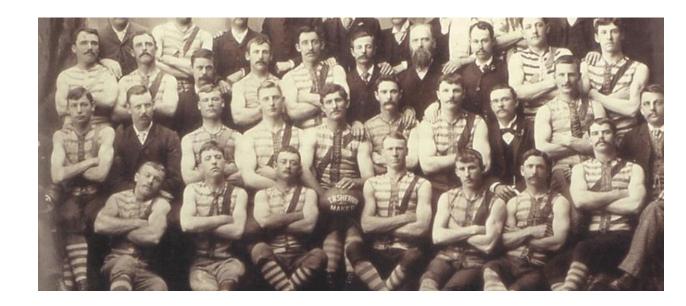


- Second is to bring his Man to the fide of the fquare, and place him opposite to the other, and till they are fairly fer-to at the Lines, it shall not be lawful for one to thike at the other
- II That, in order to prevent any Difputes, the time a Man lies after a fall, if the Second does not bring his Man to the fide of the square, within the space of half a minute, he shall be deemed a beaten Man.
- III. That in every main Battle, no perion whatever thalf be upon the Stage, except the Principals and their Seconds, the fame rule to be observed in byebartles, except that in the latter, Mr. Broughton is allowed to be upon the Stage to keep decorum, and to affait Gentlemen in getting to their places, provided always he does not interfere in the Barrle: and whoever pretends to infringe thefe Rules to be turned immediately out of the house. Every body is to quit the Stage as foon as the Champions are limpoed, before the fer-to.
- Second is to be allowed to ask his man's Adversary any questions, or advite him to give out.
- V. That in bye-battles, the winning man to bave two-thirds of the Money given, which thall be publicly divided upon the Stage, notwiththanding any private agreements to the coderary.
- VI. That to prevent Disputes, in every main Battle the Principals thall, on coming on the Stage, choose from among the gentlemen pecient two Umpires, who thall abfolutely decide all Disputes that may arde about the Buttle; and if the two Umpires cannot agree, the faid Unipores to choose a third. who is to determine it.
- VII. That no perion is to lot his Adverlary when he is down, or feize him by the ham, the breeches, or any part below the wailt : a man on his knees to be reckoned down.

As agreed by feneral Gentlemen at Broughton's Amphitheatre, Tollenbam Caurt Road, August 16, 1742.

Rise of organised sport

- Associational nature of Victorian society meant sports became organised.
- Clubs formed, leagues arranged and competitions held.
- In late 19th century, clubs formed around workplaces, societies and social and community hubs



Formation of Collegians Rugby

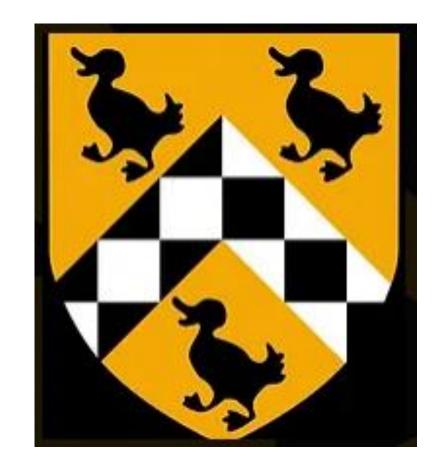
- A meeting was held on 6th October 1890 at Methodist College for the purpose of forming a new club to replace the old club called "Rugby" which had ceased to exist. Those attending were former pupils and several members of staff of the College.
- It was resolved that the club be named 'Methodist Collegians" comprising former pupils and present masters. Home matches would be played on the College ground known as Eglantine near where Eglantine Avenue is today and then on the College "Rugby-Lacrosse" pitch at Tate's Avenue for which use the college was paid £3.





Formation of the Cregagh Cricket Club

- Club formed in 1906, when Mr. J. W. A. Hamilton, who was an elder within the McQuiston Church on the Castlereagh Road, brought together a small band of men one summers night.
- Hamilton was a great believer in outdoor activities for the young men in the church and would lease the land from the Church to allow the local boys to play cricket during the summer.
- The boys from the 19th Company of the Boys Brigade would provide a steady stream of cricketers who would play for the club.



Organisations became national

- Teams started as individual clubs. Clubs formed leagues. Leagues formed governing bodies and these became national.
- For example, the Irish Rugby Football Union.
- Initially, there were two unions: the Irish Football Union, founded in December 1874, which had jurisdiction over clubs in Leinster, Munster and parts of Ulster.
- Northern Football Union of Ireland, which controlled the Belfast area and was founded in January 1875.
- These merged to form the IRFU in 1879.



Sport became cultural expression

 Nationalist Gaelic revival – language, traditions, music, history – in late 19th century also led to creation of new games.

- Gaelic football created in 1885.
- Governing bodies also formed
 - 1884: Gaelic Athletic Association
 - 1905: Cumann Camógaíachta (the Camogie Association)



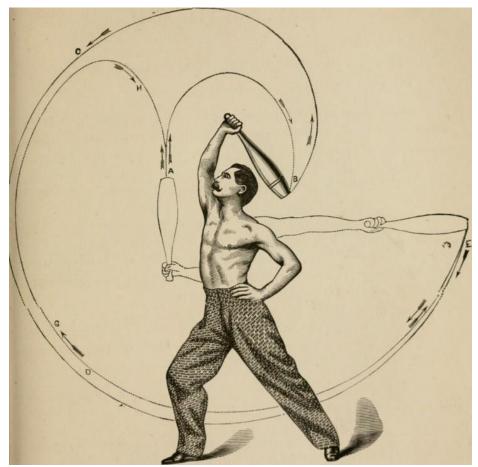
Municipal and moral drivers for leisure

- Civic pride added handsome new public buildings to provincial city centres—art galleries, museums, libraries and concert halls.
- E.g. City purchased Ulster Hall in 1902 and Botanic Park in 1890s.
- Parks were seen as places of health (getting back to nature) and public spaces that were not the pub.



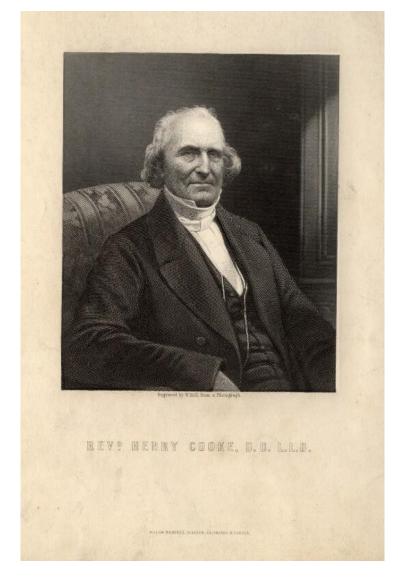
Belief in physical exercise was promoted as positive

- After the Second Anglo-South African War (1899-1902) many commentators believed Britain's troubles waging war was due to the physical degeneracy of its soldiers.
- Of particular concern, was the physical state of working class recruits who had volunteered for the army.
- Education reform advocated physical activity being 'indispensable both for the development of the body and for the correction of the defects or evil habits induced by an unhealthy physical environment'. Its object was also to 'help in the production and maintenance of health in body and mind'.
- Gyms started to being built; the first was at the Bristol YMCA that built a gym in 1879.



The dangers of modern amusements

- Editorialising on 'Modern Amusements' in 1876, The Times noted 'a mingled mass of perfectly legitimate pleasures ever thrusting themselves forward'. For all a greater acceptance, leisure remained unsettling.
- Churchmen warned about the dangers of 'leisure'. For example in January 1844 the papers reported that a number of Reverend gentlemen have held a meeting concerning the desecration of the Sabbath by the population of Belfast. Dr. Cooke condemned the 'Sunday Trap', also known as the Botanical Gardens. Three hundred persons visited the Sabbath Trap, known as Botanical Gardens after public worship on Sunday, the weather being unusually fine.
- In June 1844 it was noted that 590 people visited Botanic Gardens on Sunday despite the Reverend Dr. Cooke's admonishment that to do so was against God's will to keep the Sabbath day holy.



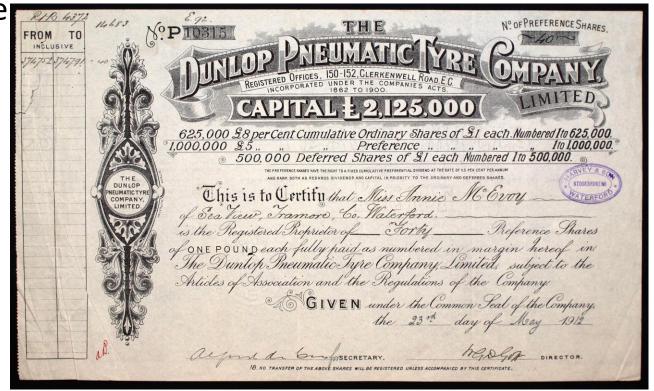
Demand for leisure created a 'leisure industry'

- People wanted uniforms, equipment, kit, etc that created a new industry.
- Demand for public entertainment saw the creation of many venues in Belfast:
 - Ulster Hall, 1860s
 - Grand Opera House 1890s
- In 1872, the Graphic, declared 'We are now living in the Music Hall and Refreshment Bar epoch; an epoch of much gilding and abundant looking glass'.
- People in leisure theatre, sports, literature became celebrities (e.g. Charlie Chaplin, sportspeople).



Technology facilitated leisure

- Trams conveyed people around the city to football matches
- Flood lights were used at Cliftonville in 1891. They became the first Irish football club to use such illumination. Matches could be played at night or in poor light.
- Bicycles gave new found freedom.
 Pneumatic tyre developed by John Boyd Dunlop, in 1910 in Belfast.



John Boyd Dunlop on one of his bikes

Role of Employers and Paternalism

Employer initiatives:

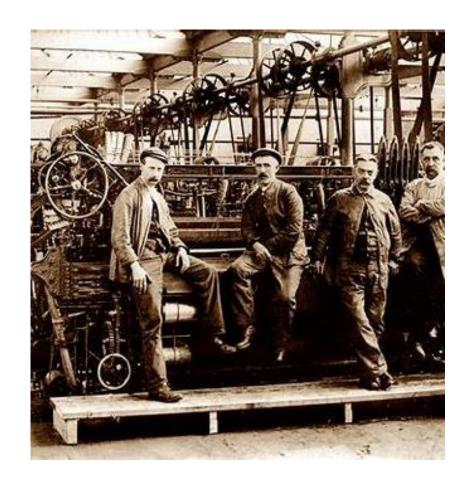
- Recreational offerings included libraries, reading rooms, and gardens.
- Sponsored outings, music classes, and educational societies.

• Examples:

- Harland and Wolff sports tesm
- Dunville Distillery football team

Worker responses:

- Mixed reactions: appreciation for benefits but suspicion of underlying motives.
- Paternalism often seen as a means to control workers' behaviour.





Taverns, pubs and clubs



Gentleman's clubs

- The Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) is a non-political and non-sectarian international fraternal order of Odd Fellowship.
- Union Club (formed 1837) attended by merchants and professionals.
- Ulster Club (1856) resort of country gentlemen and landowners.
- Ulster Reform Club (1885) attended by Liberal Unionists.



Ulster Reform Club

- Club planned by Ulster Liberals in 1880.
- 1885 club opens
- 1890 electric light is introduced





Gin palaces

- For overworked, poorly paid, and miserably housed industrial workers, the tavern or pub provided convivial company, familiar indoor games, and drink to drown their sorrows.
- The pub was at the forefront of new commercial development, transformed into the brightly lit, lavishly furnished "gin palace".
- Its unaccustomed opulence and more efficient service were designed to increase patronage and profit from a more numerous urban crowd (think of the Crown)
- The Crown Liquor Saloon, also known as the Crown Bar, in Great Victoria Street. Originally the Railway Inn, refurbished in 1885, and at least twice since, it is an outstanding example of a Victorian gin palace.



Pubs in Belfast

- 18th century, one in every 17 houses in Belfast was occupied by a publican or spirit dealer
- 1836 346 tavern keepers in the city
- 1847 554 pubs
- 1853 889 pubs
- 1899 526 pubs



Development of the pub

- Development of railways helped development of pubs. Many pubs built near rail terminus (e.g. Railway Tavern (that became Crown).
- Pubs could concentrate in small areas Barrack St, 15/53 houses were pubs.
- Pubs started to have entertainment. Star Saloon in Ann St, opened in 1850s and was a bawdy place with 'disreputable female vocalists who dared to show their brazen and drunken faces before the very lowest audience that could be collected in Belfast'.
- Some pubs were 'men only' Kelly's Cellars maintained this until the 1940s.



Northern Bar



Working men's clubs

- South Belfast Working Men's Club, built 1893.
- The 1894-built NBWMC (examples right) was founded on 'temperance principles, [and] ... thoroughly non-sectarian and non-political'.
- The club opened from March 1894 between the hours of 9am 11pm (Sundays excepted). Annual membership in 1911 cost four shillings.
- Facilities included a reading room stocked with material 'of an instructive and improving character'.
- A lecture hall for educational classes was added in 1909. Evening classes 'for the purpose of people making themselves better citizens' were funded by grants from the Commissioners of Education.
- The classes proved popular and 'about 200 pupils' were enrolled each year.
- By 1902 'the number of members and visitors amounted to about 1,500' which represented 'no less than 35,000 visits' to the club per year.





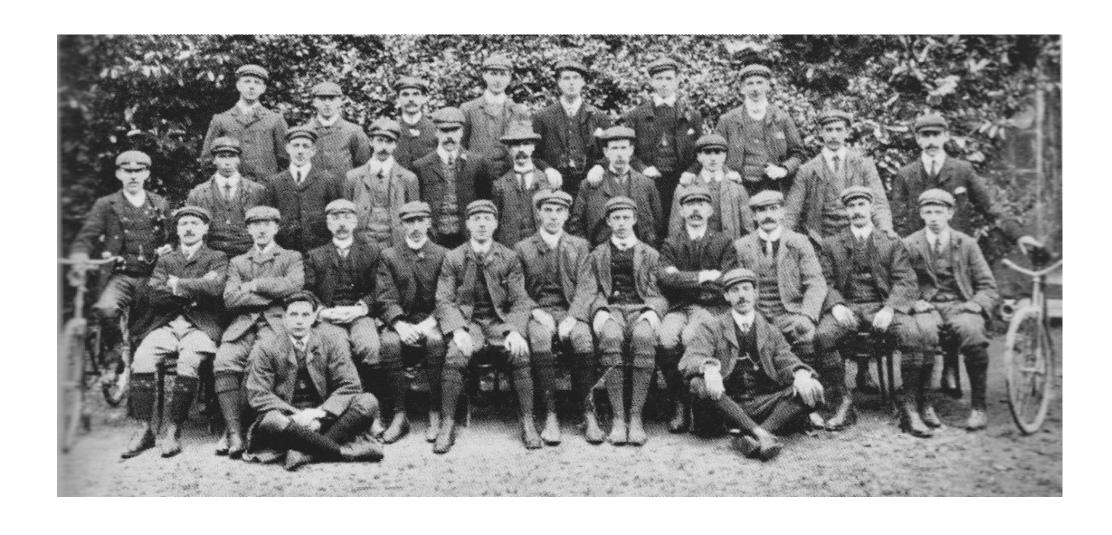
Clubs and associations

- Late Victorian era massive rise in clubs and associations for various range of activities.
- Facilitated by:
 - Associational nature of Victorian society.
 - New technology e.g. photography clubs
 - Mass literacy and communications
 - Rising living standards
 - Greater leisure time
 - Transportation bike, tram, rail



Alexander Hogg's photography club, New Forge House, 1900

Belfast Cycling Club



Belfast Art Society, trip to Skertrick Castle, 1910



Belfast Naturalists Field Club, Crebilly House, 1907



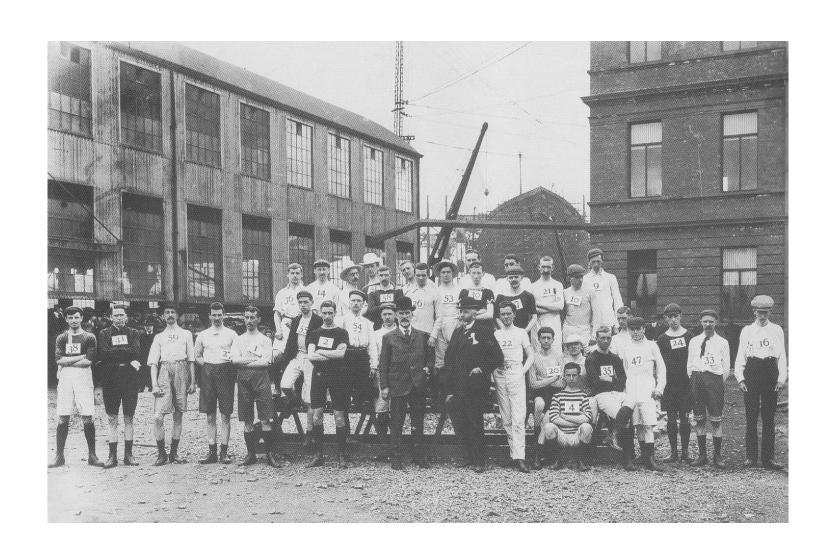
1892, outing on Lough Erne



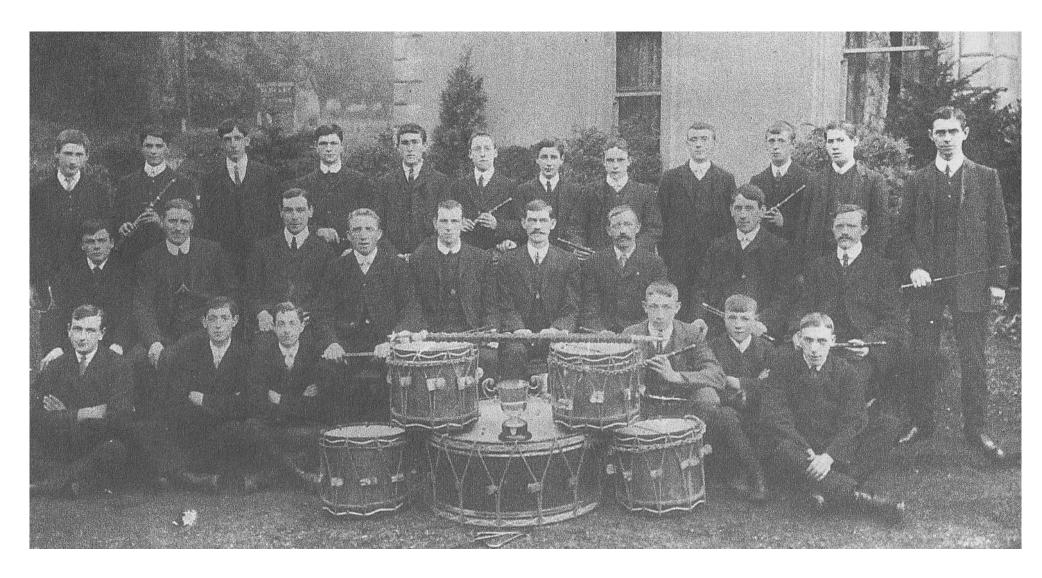
Millers Merchants golf competition, 1906



Harland and Wolff sports team, 1915



Deramore Flute Band, 1908



Ulster Amateur Flute Band International Championships, Manchester, 1911





Home, calendar and social life

- Victorian families embraced the home as a centre of leisure and social gatherings.
- Leisure activities varied across classes but often revolved around family life.
- Social gatherings marked by occasions like birthdays, weddings, and Christmas were integral.
- The middle class aspired to extend their vision of domesticity to the lower classes.



Family Gatherings and Socialisation

- Upper-Class Families: Large networks with regular exchanges of hospitality, often for weeks.
- Working-Class Families:
 - Frequent visits between relatives, especially on weekends.
 - Informal gatherings involved music hall songs, party pieces, and storytelling.
- Socialising outdoors: Gossiping and sweethearting in streets and shared gardens.



Music as a Family Pastime

- The piano was a central feature in many middle-class homes, symbolising status and refinement.
 - Other instruments included violins, harmoniums, concertinas, and guitars.
- Music lessons were common, even for working-class children.
- Sheet music sales soared with popular pieces like The Lost Chord and The Holy City.

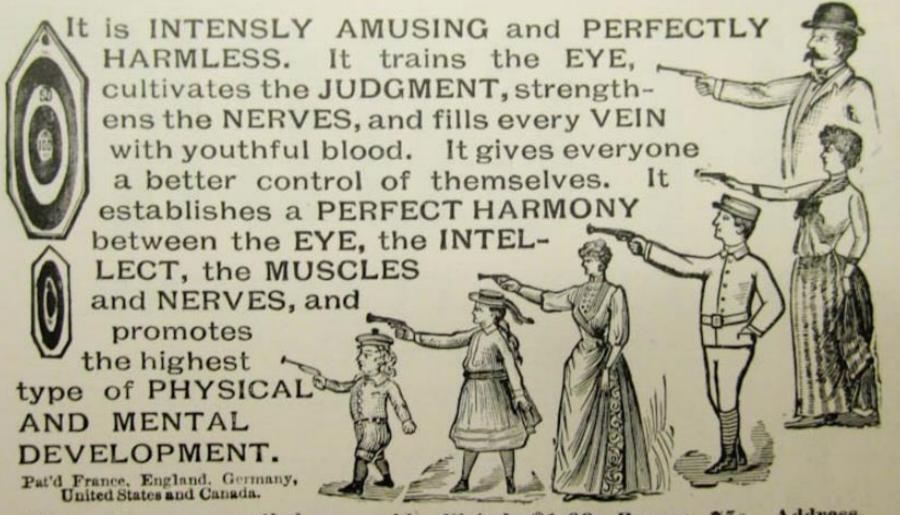


Victorian Parlour Games

- Charades: The game of Charades was mentioned by Charles
 Dickens (right) and Jane Austen and was certainly a Victorian
 favourite.
- **Blindman's Buff.** It was certainly played in Victorian times and was mentioned by the English poet laureate, Alfred, Lord Tennyson, who is said to have played it in 1855.
- Pass the Slipper.
- Lookabout. Hiding an item in plain sight.
- Squeak Piggy Squeak. A variation on Blind Man's Buff.
- Reverend Crawley's Game. Human knots
- Kim's Game. This is a simple memory game, named after Rudyard Kiplings novel, Kim, published in 1901.



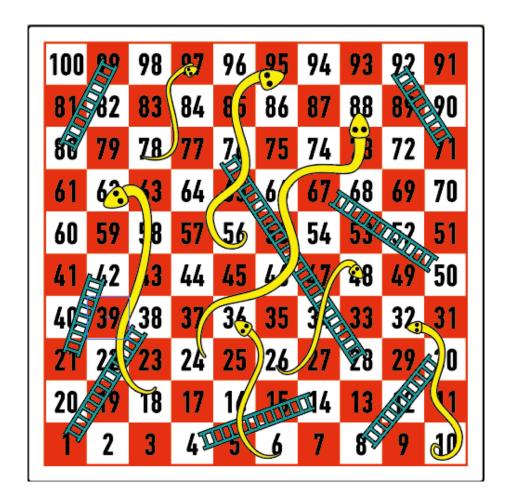
ALL AGES ENJOY THIS PARLOR GAME.



RUBBER TIPPED ARROW CO., Patentees and Manufacturers, CORNER CORNHILL AND WASHINGTON STS., BOSTON, MASS., U. S. A.

Board games and others

- Favourite games were draughts, chess & backgammon.
- Others were invented such as ludo, snakes and ladders and happy families
- Spillikins sticks were dropped in the middle of a table and each player took a turn removing a stick from the pile, while not moving any other stick.
- Marbles The marbles that were placed inside the circle were called, nibs". The players crouched outside the ring, and each took a turn flicking a large marble, called "the shooter", into the circle. The goal was to knock other marbles out of the circle, and each player got to keep the marbles that he/she knocked out. The winner was naturally the player with the most marbles.
- Tiddleywinks -. Players used a disk called a "shooter" to flip smaller disks, called "winks", into a cup that sat in the middle of the playing area or table. The aim of the game was to be the first player to sink all of his/her "winks" into the cup.





Gardening and Outdoor Activities

Private Gardens:

- Became a hallmark of middle-class success and suburban living.
- Families grew flowers, vegetables, and kept small livestock.

Leisure Activities in Gardens:

- Games like croquet, lawn tennis, and archery were popular among the affluent.
- Garden parties became fashionable for informal socialising.
- Working-Class Gardening: Allotments and window-box gardening thrived as sources of pride and recreation.



Art and Creativity

- **Needlework and Sketching**: Common pastimes for women, often combined with socialising.
- **Botanising**: Collecting and pressing flowers, especially among working-class enthusiasts.
- Artistic Movements:
 - William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement influenced furniture and decor.
 - The Aesthetic Movement promoted beauty and simplicity in home design.



Pitch and toss

This is a game of skill and chance in which the player who pitches a coin nearest to a mark has the first chance to toss all the coins, winning those that land heads up. Newspapers reported:

- September 1856: Henry Dunlop and John McNeice were charge with being engaged in a game of pitch and toss. McNeice is described as being a very little boy. They were both granted bail.
- January 1864: Hugh Moore was fined in 20s and costs for playing pitch and toss at twelve o'clock on a Sunday in the public street, thereby interfering with people going to their places of worship.
- April 1864: William Gibbon, a 'miserably dressed" newsboy was fined 40 shillings or one month in gaol for playing pitch and toss on the public street.



Cockfighting

June 1844: A large crowd of five hundred people gathered in Pound Street to witness a cockfight. Three men were arrested. Charles Morrison was fined £2, Henry Graham was discharged and James Boyle was fined £3.

August 1863: Pierce Daniel and Charles McShane were fined £5 each for cock fighting.

June 1868: The Belfast Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals posted placards on the dead walls of the town offering a reward of £5 to any person who would give information that would lead to the conviction of any of the parties who took part in a cock-fight at Carnmoney Hill. Many exhibitions of cock fighting had taken place in this neighbourhood in recent weeks.



Dogfighting

- July 1839: James Mitchell, chimney sweep, was find 2s 6d by the Magistrates for dog fighting in Robert Street.
- April 1884: Andrew Magee of the Newtownards Road was charged with cruelty to dogs, when his terrier began to fight with another dog, he carried it off while it still had it teeth in the other dog's throat. He was fined 10 shillings plus costs.



Street cricket

November 1883: David McCormick, W. A. Logan, William and Robert Wright were summoned for riotous conduct. They were part of a riotous mob of 50 boys throwing stones at each other. The cause was the Shankhill Road boys wanted to play cricket in a field and the Tennent Street boys would not let them.





Free public events



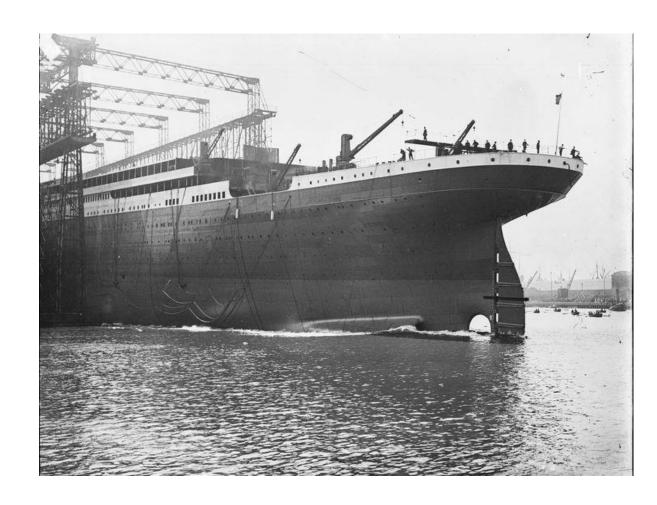
Unveiling of Temple Blackmore Statue, 1906



Unveiling of Lord Kelvin's Statue, Botanic Park, 1913

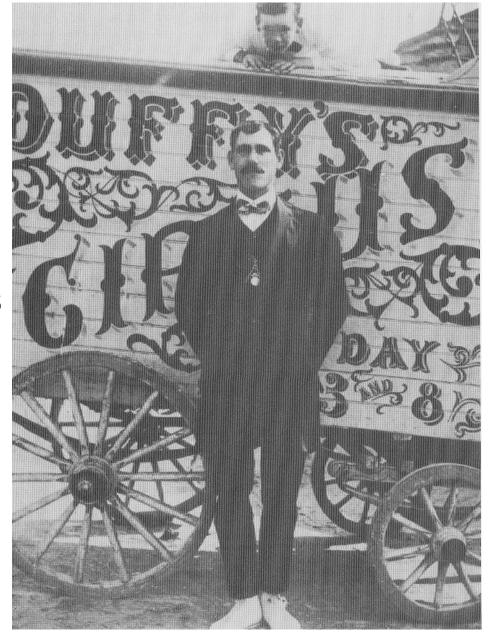
Launch of the Titanic, 1911

- 100,000k watched the launch.
- Tickets sold to raise money for the RVH.



Travelling Circuses

- During this time, Herbert Cooper documented various circus shows that arrived in Strabane, a town in Northern Ireland, the three main ones being Duffy's Circus, Buff Bill's American Circus, and Hanneford's Canadian Circus.
- His pictures capture scenes from the parade in Abercorn Square, Strabane, from a wall of death act (using a car), and of the animals of the circus, including lions and a sign for 'bears that talk'.



Performers with Buff Bill's Circus



Performers with Buff Bill's Circus



Punch and Judy

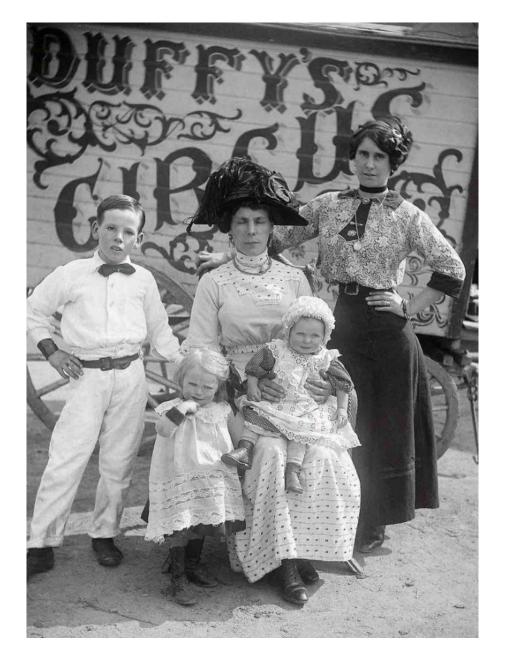


The Dixie Girls of Buff Bill's Circus











Performers for Duffy's Circus



"Funny George," a clown with Duffy's Circus

Young performers with Hanneford's Canadian Circus



Dog shows - background

- Pet ownership promoted by Queen Victoria. Pictures in the press promoted animals as status symbols and fashion accessories rather than tools for work (e.g. farming).
- Crufts is an international dog show held annually in the United Kingdom. Formed in 1891 and organised and hosted by the Kennel Club



Pet shows

- June 1880: The Belfast Dog Show was held at the Royal Horse Bazaar, Chichester Street.
- July 1890: Belfast Dog, Poultry and Pigeon Society held its first annual show.
- September 1895: The fifth annual Belfast Dog, Poultry and Pigeon Society Show was held at St. George's Market.





Ulster Museum

Belfast Natural History Society in 1821 and began exhibiting in 1833 (right).

Reported in the papers:

- April 1849: Belfast Museum was opened to the working classes on Easter Monday at a nominal charge for the 'purpose of popular enlightenment'.
- April 1881: 5,000 people visited the museum over the Easter holiday.



Parks

- Ormeau Park. Opened in 1871. Formerly owned by the Donegall family estate.
- Woodvale Park. Became Belfast's fourth public park when it opened in 1888.
- Botanic garden. The gardens opened in 1828 as the private Royal Belfast Botanical Gardens. It continued as a private park for many years, only opening to members of the public on Sundays prior to 1895.



Why develop public parks?

Lack of Public Green Spaces Pre-1840s

- Before the 1840s, Britain lacked large urban green spaces open to all.
- Urban populations relied on private estate parks, pleasure gardens, or narrow paved walks.

Urbanisation and Separation from Nature

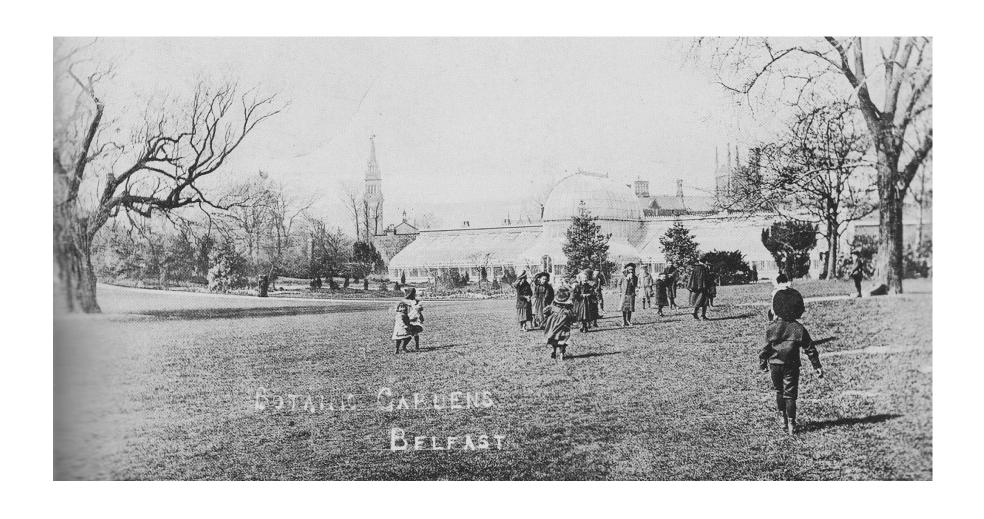
- As towns expanded, rural areas receded, leaving urban populations divorced from nature.
- This separation caused physical and psychological challenges for city dwellers.

Reformers and the Parks Movement

- Figures like Edwin Chadwick and Robert Peel advocated for green spaces to improve public health and well-being.
- The parks movement aimed to provide accessible green spaces for all social classes.

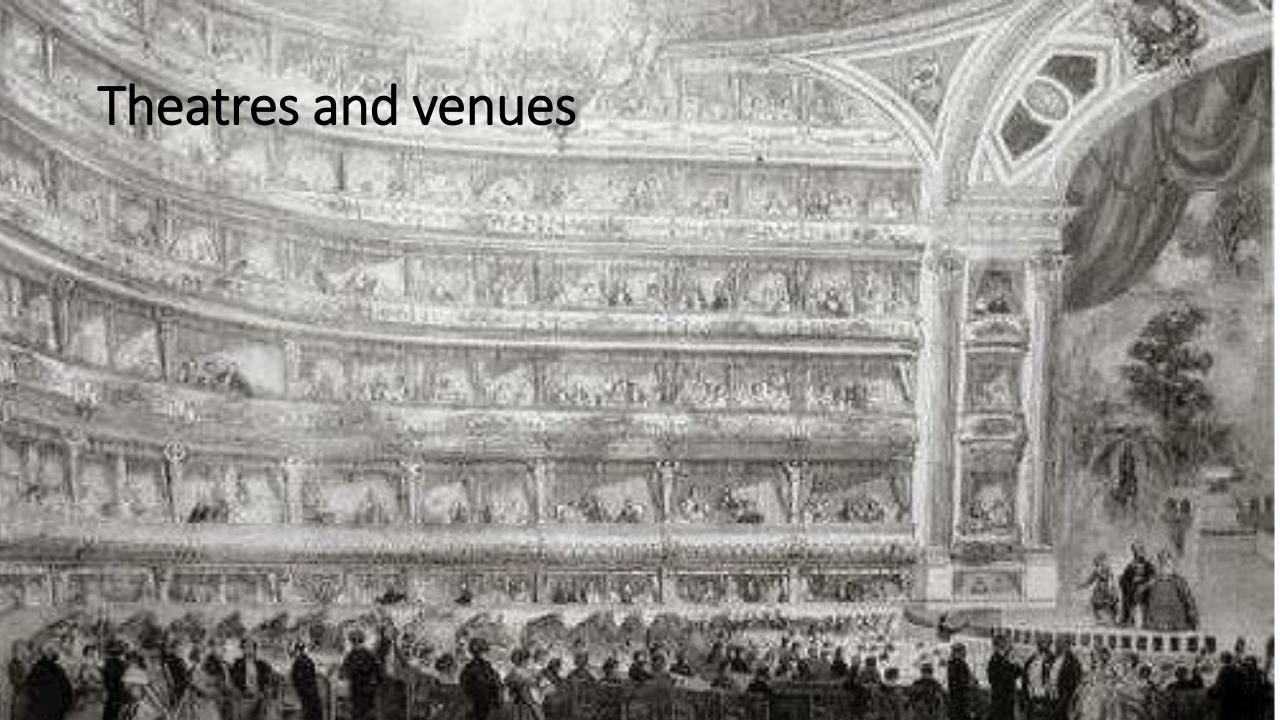


Botanic Gardens, 1900?



Botanic Garden Duck Pond





Theatre Royal

- First incarnation; operational in 1793.
- Second incarnation; theatre redeveloped in 1870; opened in 1871
- Third incarnation; major fire June 1881; redeveloped building opened in December, 1881. Demolished in 1915. Today the site is occupied by Starbuck's café.



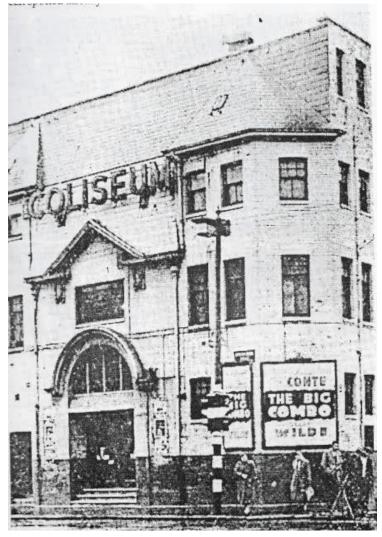
Ulster Hall

- Built in 1859 and opened in 1862 to provide the expanding city of Belfast with a multi-purpose venue of sufficient size.
- It was designed by William J. Barre.
- In 1902 the hall was purchased by the Belfast Corporation for £13,500.
- In 1902, Belfast City Council commissioned the local artist **Joseph W. Carey** to produce thirteen scenes from Belfast history on canvas, to be mounted within the Ulster Hall.



The Coliseum, Grosvenor Road

- Built in 1875 and was rebuilt in 1909 and renamed the Alexandra Music Hall.
- Arthur Lloyd is known to have performed at the Coliseum, Belfast in 1861 and 1862.

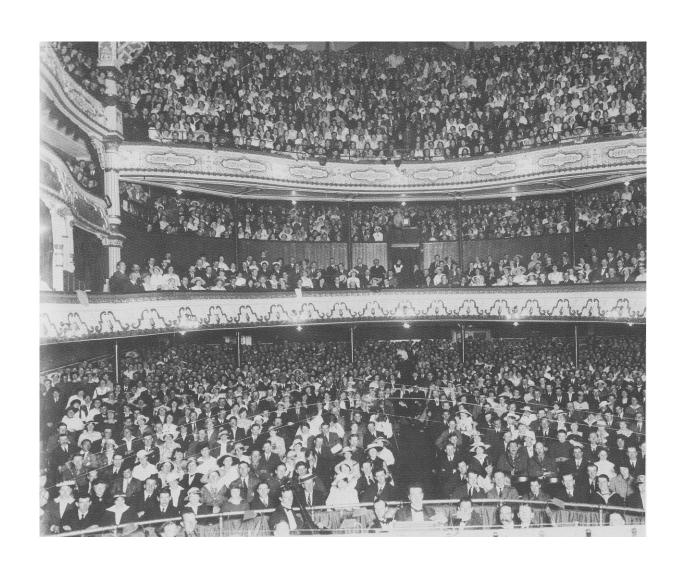


Grand Opera House

- Opened on 23 December 1895.
- It was renamed the Palace of Varieties in 1904.
- Charlie Chaplin performed there in 1908.
- The Theatre's annual pantomime, which has been performed since its opening
- Capacity is 1,058.



Audience at the Grand Old Opera House, 1917



The Royal Hippodrome, Great Victoria Street

- Royal Hippodrome Theatre was built next to the Grand Opera House
- Opened on the 2nd of November 1907 as a variety Theatre

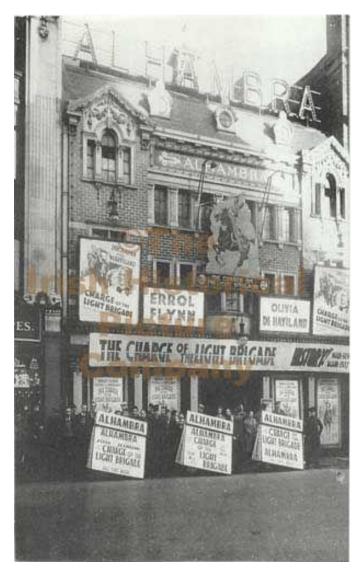


Royal Hippodrome and Palace of Varieties, 1907



The Alhambra Theatre, Lower North Street

- The Alhambra was first built as a Music Hall
- Opened in September 1873
- Arthur Lloyd is known to have performed at the Alhambra Theatre in 1892.



The Empire Palace of Varieties

- Located in Victoria Square.
- Empire Palace of Varieties opened in 1894.
- Venue formerly The Imperial Colosseum / Travers' Musical Lounge / The New Colosseum / The Buffalo Music Hall
- Opened originally in 1860s.



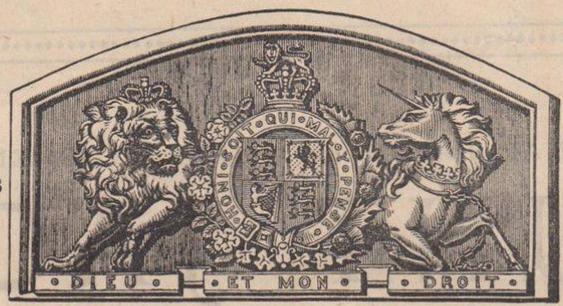
Programmes Royal & Gourt & Theatre.

LICENSED

BY THE

MAGISTRATES

TO THE



Proprietors:

Mrs. John Wood

AND

Mr. A. Chudleigh.

Under the Management of Mrs. JOHN WOOD.

Theatre programmes, 1840s

Monsieur Chillinski, the 'Fire King', has performed his fiery feats in the Theatre to the great delight of the audience.

The Virginia Minstrels, who 'impersonate American Negro characters', were 'very well received at their performance in the Theatre'

Oct. 1842

Aug. 1841

May 1844

The Theatre Royal in Arthur Street is to hold an evening of Scottish entertainment which will include an opera entitled 'Rob Roy'.



Theatre programmes, 1840s, cont

- June 1844: Mr. Hughes opened his Circus in Belfast for a brief spell. It was called the 'Grand Modern Roman Amphitheatre of Art' and was be held in Chichester Street. One of the main attractions was Mr. Hughes', also known as the 'Prince of Whips' splendid musical carriage which was drawn by thirty horses in pairs.
- October 1844: The Theatre Royal is to host the celebrated Polka, danced by Carlotta Grisi and M. Perrot.



THEATRE ROYAL, BELFAST.

NOTICE.

THE original VIRGINIA MINSTRELS, from America, Messrs. F. M. B. BROWER, R. W. PEL-HAM, D. D. EMMIT, in conjunction with Mr. J. W. SWEENEY, the original BANJO PLAYER, beg to state to the Public, that they have taken the Theatre Royal off Mr. Cunningham, for a few nights, to give their ETHIOPIAN CONCERTS. They have played in every principal city in the United States; the following in England:—London, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, &c., and are now concluding a re-engagement with Mr. Calcraft, at the Theatre-Royal, Dublin, for seven nights. Their first Concert will take place

On MONDAY, the 13th of May,

In which they will pourtray, through the medium o Songs, Dances, Lectures, Refrains, Sayings and Doings, the Oddities, Peculiarities, Eccentricities, and Comicalities, of that Sable Genius of Humanity.

Each performer plays on an Instrument such as the Slaves use in the Southern parts of the United States.

R. W. Pelham, on the Tambourine; D. D. Emmit, on the Violin; J. W. Sweeny, on the Banjo; F. M. Brower, on the Bone Castanets; forming, altogether, a complete Band of Negro Music, showing a true copy of Negro Life.

Note.—Not a trace or shade of vulgarity is mixed up with the truly original attempt at introducing a new and better school of Negroism. There is nothing offered either in word, look, or action, that can, in the least degree, offend the most fastidious taste.

Tickets to be had at the Theatre, from Eleven till Four, where places can be secured; also, at the principal Music Shops.

Northern Whig - Tuesday 14 May 1844, p.3

THEATRE.—THE VIRGINIA MINSTRELS.—These personators of the American Negro characters made their first appearance, here, last night, and were remarkably well received. Their songs, dances, and characteristic musical accompaniments, called forth repeated plaudits; and several of their pieces were loudly encored.

Belfast Commercial Chronicle - Wednesday 15 May 1844, p.2

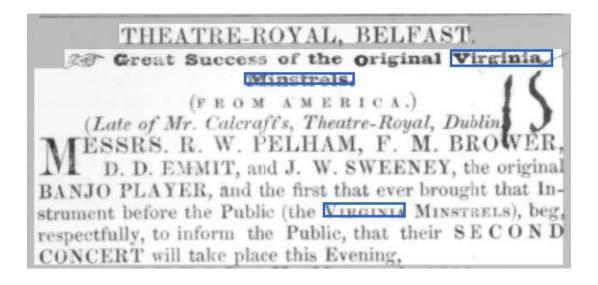
The Virginia Minstrels.—These celeberated personators of negro character made their bow to a very numerous Belfast audience on Monday evening, by whom they were very well received. The performance is certainly quite unique, the songs, dances, and musical accompaniments being of a character altogether different from anything of the kind we have hitherto seen or heard, and admirably illustrative of the liveliness and drollery which distinguish the negro in his hours of enjoyment. The dancing of Mr. Pelham and Mr. Brower was capital, in its way; and Messrs. Emmit and Sweeny, on the Carolina violin and Virginia banjo, performed to admiration. The entertainment, altogether, was excellent, and called forth frequent bursts of well-merited applause.

Northern Whig - Saturday 18 May 1844, p.4

THEATRE.—THE VIRGINIA MINSTRELS.—The very entertaining representations, which have been witnessed in our theatre, for several evenings, conclude to-night. "The sayings, doings, oddities, whimsicalities, eccentricities, and comicalities of that sable genus of humanity," create uncommon merriment; the house continues, nightly, to shew that the performances gain in public opinion; and several of the "parts" continue to be enthusiastically encored. The low vulgarities that generally characterize things purporting to be representations of the Negro character do not offend the spectator; and, although the whole affair is laughter-creating in the extreme, there is a "holding of the mirror up to Nature," that causes the thing to go off with great éclat, and calls forth the approbation of the more intellectual portion of the audience.

A contradiction?

- Modern attitudes would find this difficult to stomach
- People could attend these performances and welcome Frederick Dougalss six months later.



Abolitionists visited Belfast from 1840 to 1854

- 1840 J. G Birney, H. B. Stanton and John Scoble
- 1841 Charles Lennox Remond
- 1844 Charles Wright Clarke
- 1845 Frederick Douglass
- 1846 Frederick Douglass,
 William Lloyd Garrison
- 1854 Samuel Ringgold Ward

Important Meeting TO-MORROW. TING of the BELFAST AUXILIARY to SOCIETY will be held in the PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ROSEMARY-STREET (in connexion with the General Assembly), on THURSDAY Evening, 29th inst., at SEVEN o'clock. Important information on the results of Emancipation the British Colonies, also on the condition of slavery the United States of America, will be given by the Hon. I. G. Birney, H. B. Stanton, and John Scoble. Esq., who visit Belfast for this purpose. October 27, 1840. (626)

The public in Belfast were prepared for the meeting

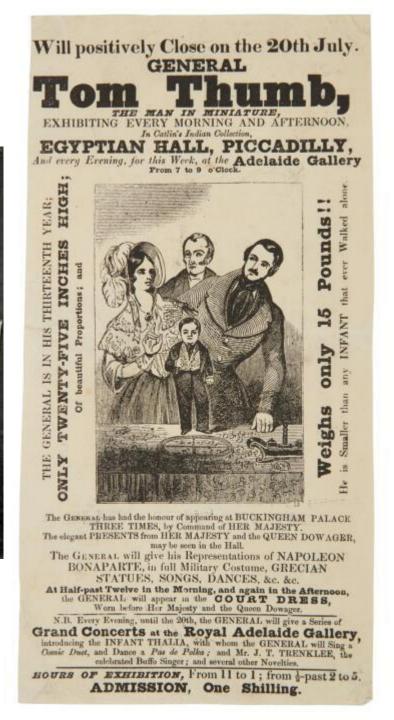
Visit of the Anti-Slavery Delegation .- We are gratified to learn that J. G. Birney, III B. Stanton, and J. Scoble, Esq. three of the most distinguished champions of negro emancipation of the present day, will arrive here this week, for the purpose of holding a meeting to further this great cause. We have reason to believe, that the occasion will be one of the most interesting that has taken place in town, as well from the presence of these eminent individuals and others who have proved themselves ardent friends of freedom throughout the world, as from the statements which will be submitted to the meeting. The precise day is not yet announced, but we expect to be able to do so in our next; and, in the meantime, we would direct the earnest attention of our readers to an article in our first page, in which a most interesting account is given of the three gentlemen mentioned above, and in which their abundant claims upon public confidence and gratitude are pointed out.

Visit of Anti-Slavery Delegates to Belfast.—During the next week this town will be visited by three distinguished slave emancipationists:—J. G. Birney, H. B. Stanton, and John Scoble Esqrs., who will hold a public meeting, for the purpose of affording information relative to slavery in the United States of America, and the results of emancipation throughout the British Colonies.

Vindicator - Saturday 24 October 1840, p.2

General Tom Thumb

- Reported in December 1844 in the papers: General Tom Thumb, 'The American Man in Miniature', who measures 25 inches high and weighs fifteen pounds, will be on exhibition at the Music Hall. Admission is to be charged at one shilling
- Charles Sherwood Stratton (1838-1883), better known by his stage name "General Tom Thumb", was an American performer who achieved great fame as a performer under circus pioneer P. T. Barnum.

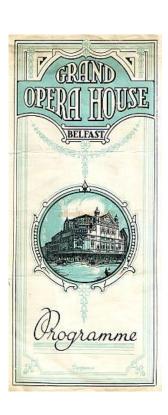


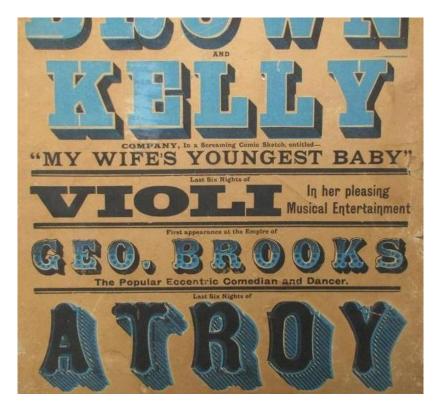
General Tom Thumb -Yesterday evening, this most diminutive, at the same time, most symmetrical, of dwarfs, held his first levée in the Music-Hall, Belfast. The attendance was numerous and respectable; and, though the Gitneral was stated to be somewhat fatigued, after his journey, still he appeared lively, frolicsome, and, as he stated himself, "first rate," and seemed to be the very personification of health. Although the public were prepared to witness something extraordinary, in consequence of what had been written of his Lilliputian Generalship, in the English and Scotch papers, yet we venture to say, few of those present, yesterday evening, expected to see so perfect a mannikin. Dwarfs we have seen whose diminutive size was accompanied with deformity; but the General, on the contrary, exhibits a most pleasing and proportionate shape. In his performances, he appears in the dress of a private gentleman; in the Court dress, in which he appeared before her Majesty; in the dress of Napoleon (whose thoughtful pacing to and fro, he imitates, with much success;) and, lastly, in a beautiful Highland costume, presented to him, by a lady, while in Scotland. He relates his history; exhibits the attitudes of the Grecian statues; sings "Lucy Long;" "God Save the Queen;" "Yankee Doodle," and a variety of other songs; and converses with all around, with the utmost urbanity. We were greatly pleased with the General, and his performances; and would recommend our friends to lose no time in visiting him, for it is more than probable they will never have an opportunity of looking upon his like again.

Theatre Royal in the 1880-1890s

Papers reported that:

- March 1880: Rip Van Winkle was performed.
- September 1880: Mr. Edward Terry is appearing as Captain Ginger in the comedy 'A Weak Woman'
- March 1893: The pantomime entitled 'Puss in Boots' was performed
- May 1894: A performance of the Burn and Sullivan comic opera 'The Chieftain' will take place
- November 1894: Mr. Wilde's play, 'A Woman Of No Importance' will be performed





Arthur Lloyd 1839 - 1904

- Popular and immensely successful song writer, composer, playwright, comedian, and Music Hall performer during the last four decades of the 19th century, and became known as the first of the 'Lion Comiques'.
- He wrote more than 1,000 songs, many of which were performed by himself and others.
- One of his compositions, Not for Joseph was the first comic song to sell more than 100,000 copies.



Opening night at the Empire Theatre of Varieties, 1894

Music Hall Bill including:

- Little Tich
- The Great Karno Troupe (Fred Karno right)
- Chirgwin, the celebrated pantomimist.



Cinema

- The first cinema screening occurred by the Lumiere Brother's in Paris 1895.
- First in Belfast was at The Empire Palace of Varieties in 1896.
- The earliest cinemas known in Belfast were the Princess Palace, the Kevlin, Shaftsbury Pictoria, Picture House on Royal Avenue and the Shankill Picturedrome.



Kelvin Picture House, College East Sq, 1911

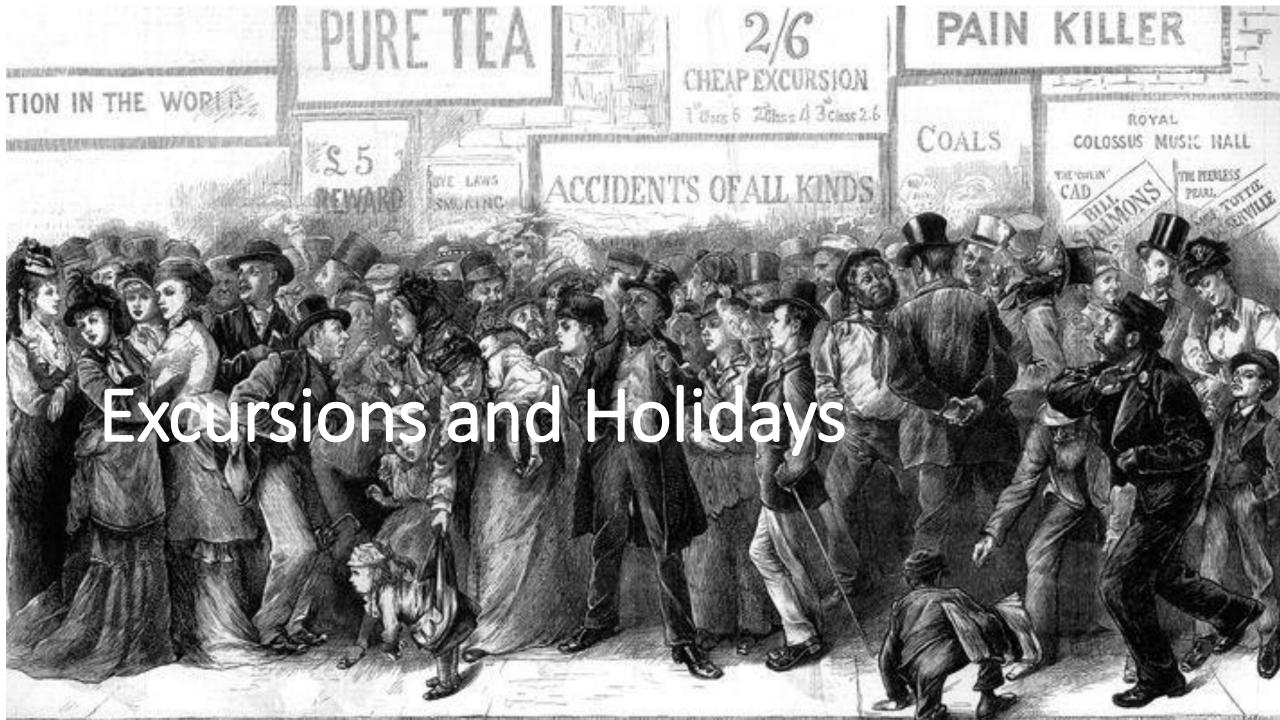


Other amusements...

• September 1848:

- The 'Parisian Anatomical Venus' is currently on display at the Commercial Buildings. The skin may be removed to reveal the internal workings of the human body. Blood vessels, nerves, muscles etc can all be clearly observed. Admission is one shilling; ladies are admitted on Tuesdays and Thursdays
- The Assembly Rooms, Commercial Buildings are holding an extraordinary exhibition of African savages, who will perform a war dance. Front seats cost 2 shillings, back seats one shilling.

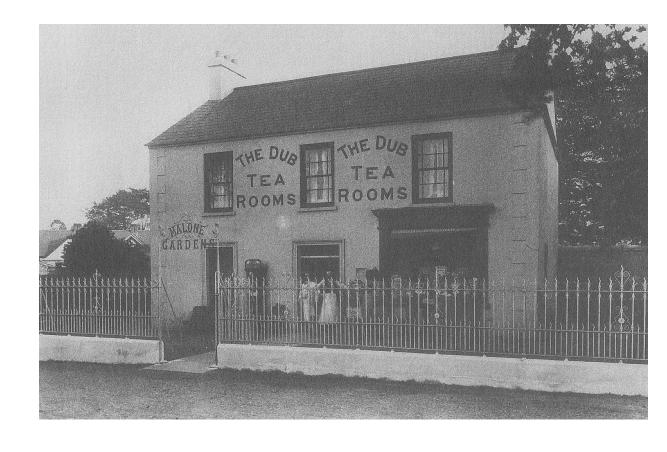






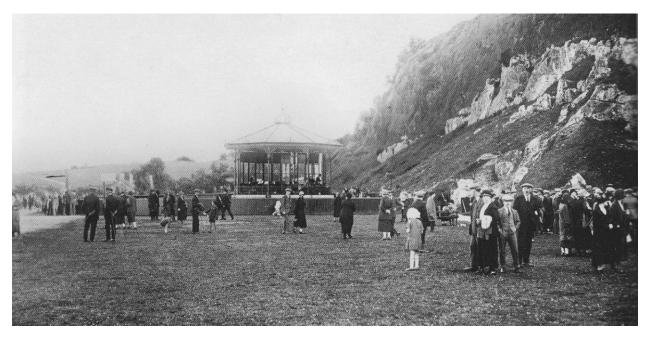
The Dub Tea Rooms, Upper Malone



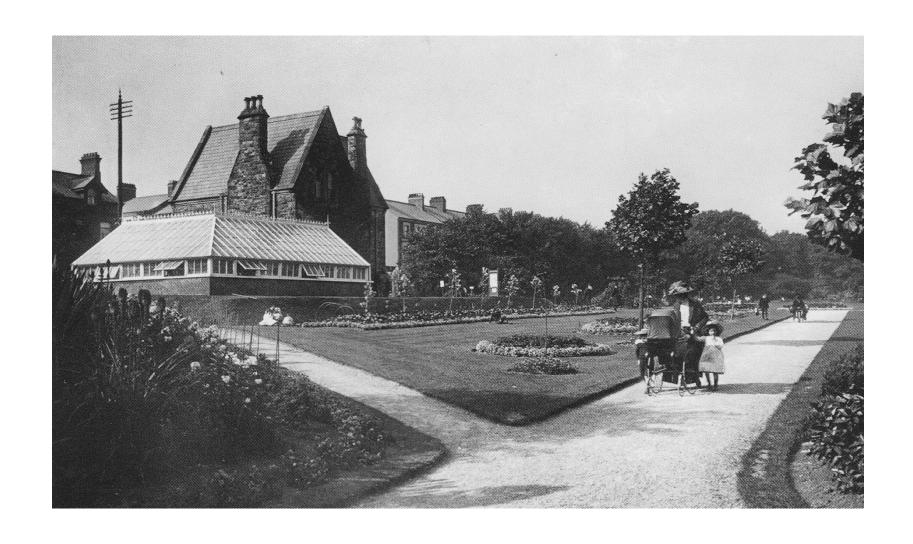


Bellevue, North Belfast



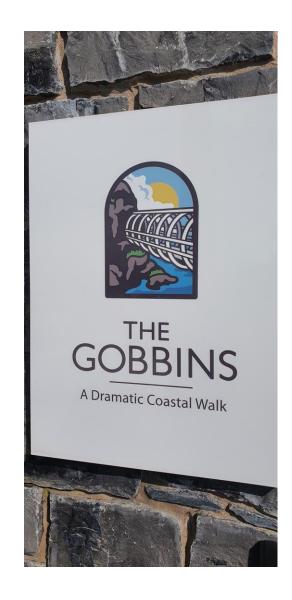


Alexandra Park, Northern Belfast



The Gobbins cliff-face path

- The Gobbins was created by an Irish railway engineer called Berkeley Deane Wise.
- He designed and built the path as a tourist attraction for the Belfast and Northern Counties Railway Company.
- The path first opened to the public in 1902



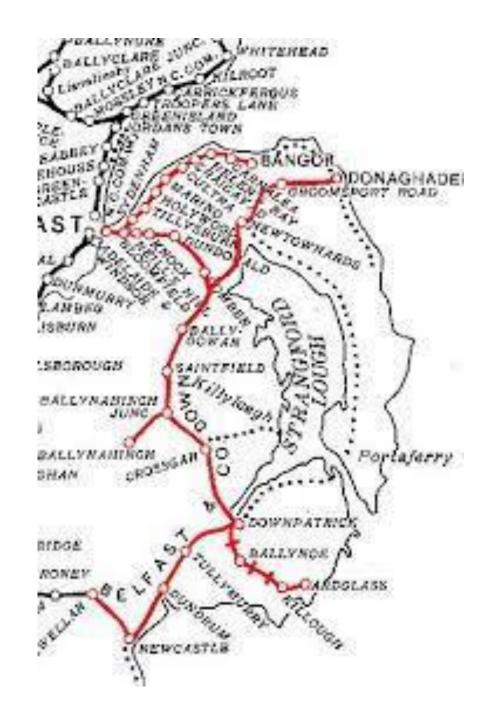
Steamers to Bangor

- Launched on 20th July 1864;
 Built for the Belfast, Bangor and
 Larne Steamboat Company.
 Operated sailings on Belfast
 Lough between Belfast and
 Bangor. Taken over by the Belfast
 & County Down Railway.
 Broken up 1894/5
- September 1880: Belfast Union Workhouse held an annual excursion for the children, to Bangor on the steamer Erin.



Trains out of Belfast:

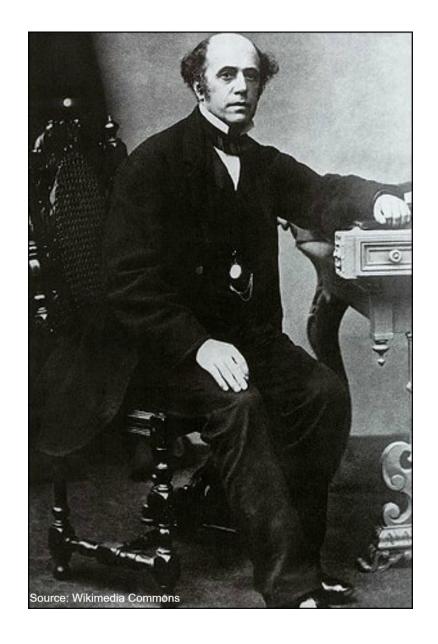
- Train to Newcastle, Downpatrick and Ardglass opened from 1850s.
- Train to the North Coast and Derry/London Derry
- August 1880 the employees of Messrs. Fenton, Connor and Co, Linenhall Street held their eleventh annual excursion to Newcastle. Employees of Messrs. Harland & Wolff met at Whitla Street for an excursion to Portadown.





Background

- Thomas Cook (right), temperance reformer, later travel magnate, ran his first railway excursion in 1841, removing working-class children from the corruptions of Leicester races.
- Shrinking travel time and costs, the new railway had a massive impact on leisure.
- Seaside resorts were a favourite destination, their numbers expanding more rapidly than any other group of towns of the period.



Holidays: Portrush

Grew heavily in the 19th century as a tourist destination, following the opening of the Ballymena, Ballymoney, Coleraine and Portrush Junction Railway in 1855.

Attractions:

- Royal Portrush Golf Club (opened 1888)
- the nearby Giant's Causeway
- Giant's Causeway Tramway at the time, one of the world's longest electrified railways – built in 1893 to cater to travellers coming from Portrush.



Holidays: Newcastle

- Slieve Donard Hotel opened on 24th June 1898 at a cost of £44,000.
- It was one of the most majestic hotels of its time and was almost self-sufficient with its own bakery, vegetable gardens, pigs, laundry and innovatively a power plant, which also provided electricity for the railway station.
- The Slieve Donard typified the ideas of Victorian grandeur and luxury with its Drawing Room, Grand Coffee Room, Reading and Writing Room, Smoking Room, Billiard Room and Hairdressing Rooms
- Guests could even partake of seawater baths, douche, spray, needle and Turkish baths all provided by an electric pump straight from the sea.





NEWCASTLE, CO. DOWN.

SLIEVE DONARD HOTEL.

(Owned and Managed by the Belfast and County Down Railway Company.)



IDEAL GOLFING AND WINTER RESORT.

OVER

SEA AND FRESH WATER BATHS.

LARGE LOUNGE.

ELECTRIC LIGHT THROUGHOUT. ELEVATOR.

FIRST-CLASS CUISINE.

COUNTY DOWN GOLF LINKS ADJOININ

ROYAL COUNTY DOWN GOLF LINKS ADJOINING. REDUCED FEES TO HOTEL VISITORS.

Orohestra at Christmas, Easter and Whit-Week, and during Summer.

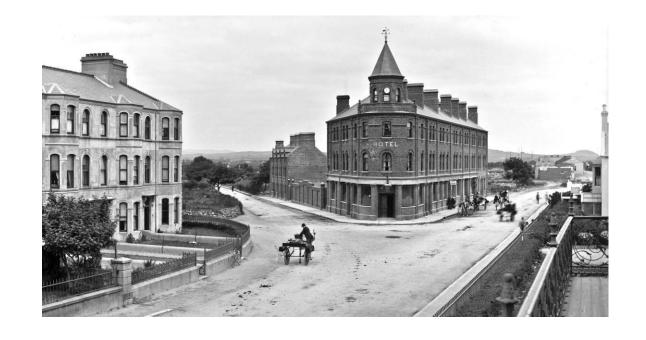
Tariff-J. W. MANNING, Manager.

Telephone No. 6, Newcastle. Telegrams-"Slieve, Newcastle, Down."

1908 advert for the Slieve Donard Hotel.

Donard Hotel

- Built in 1898 using bricks left over from the Slieve Donard Hotel.
- It was aimed at commercial travellers, cyclists and families.
- It was known as 'The Family and Commercial Hotel' and took up most of 'Donard Buildings'.





Boy Scouts

- Robert Baden Powell took 20 boys to Brownsea Island in Dorset in August 1907 as the first experimental Scout camp.
- 1910 association formed; 1912 given a royal charter.
- Scout troops formed in Belfast in the early months of 1908.



Girl Guides

- Formed in 1910.
- In 1914 Rosebuds were established for girls aged 8–10, this name was later changed to Brownies.



Boys' Brigade

- Founded in Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith on 4 October 1883.
- Aimed at "The advancement of Christ's kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."
- Achieve this through the use of a semi-military discipline and order, gymnastics, summer camps and religious services and classes.
- By 1910, there were about 2200 companies connected with different churches throughout the British Empire and the United States, with 10,000 officers and 100,000 boys.
- 1st unit established in Belfast was the the 1st Irish (1st Belfast) BB Company in the Charlotte Street Mission Hall under the leadership of Mr. William McVicker.



Girls' Brigade

- Began in Sandymount Church,
 Dublin in 1893 by Miss Margaret
 Lyttle.
- Purpose: 'the extension of Christ's Kingdom among girls' through Bible study and physical training.
- 1897: Annual Inspection of Belfast companies held at May St Hall.

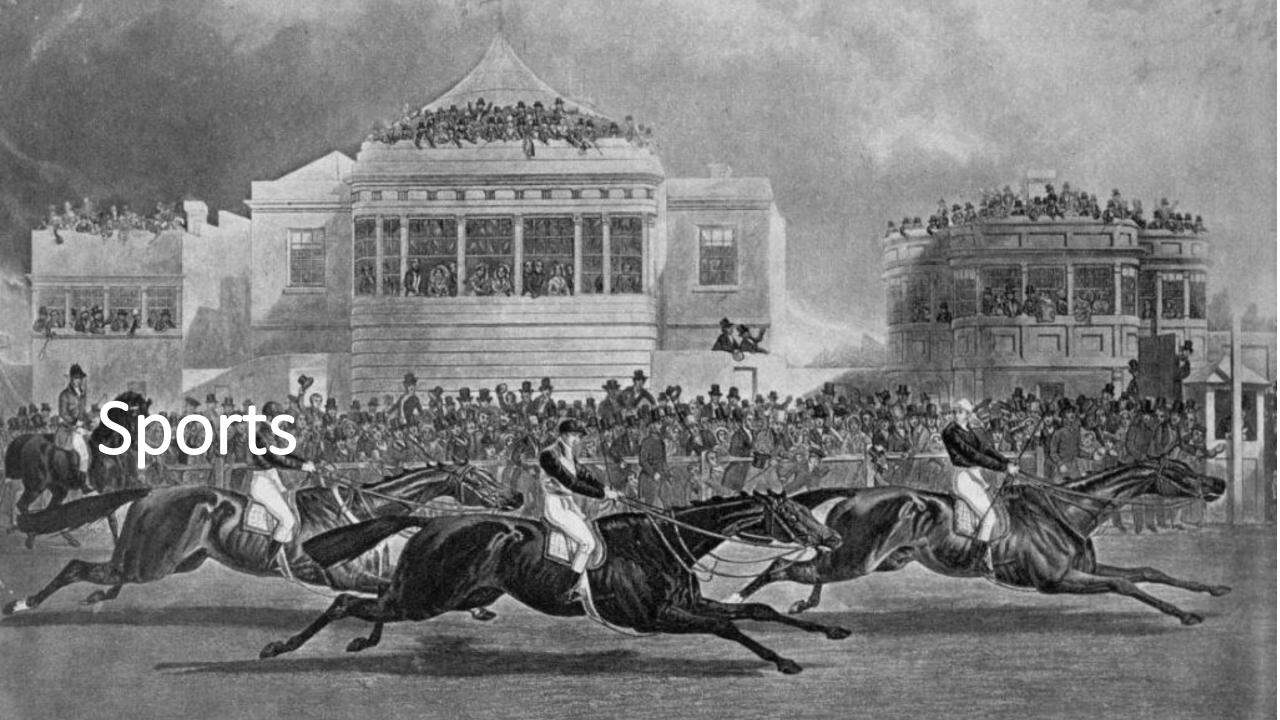


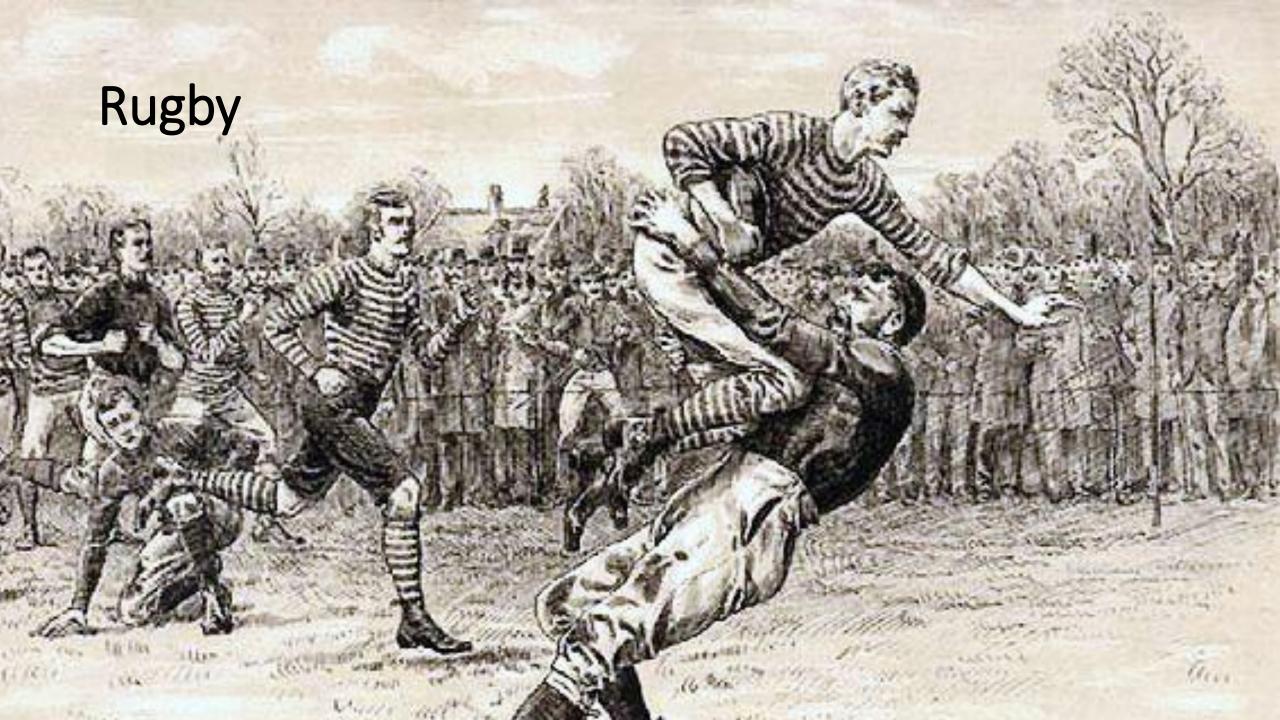
YMCA

- Founded by was founded by George Williams in 1844.
- He was a London draper who was typical of the young men drawn to the cities by the Industrial Revolution.
- He was concerned about the lack of 'healthy activities' for young men in major cities that were not pubs or brothels.
- YMCA's purpose was of "the improving of the spiritual condition of young men engaged in the drapery, embroidery, and other trades."
- It promoted evangelical Christianity in weekday and Sunday services, whilst promoting good sportsmanship in athletic contests in gyms and sports.



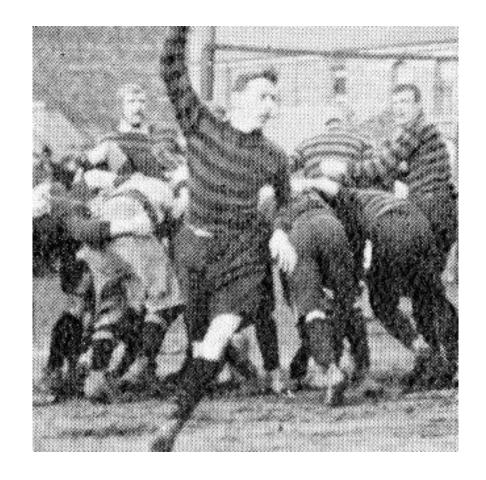
YMCA, Wellington Place, Belfast





Origins

- Dublin University was the first organised rugby club in Ireland, founded in 1854.
- The club was organised by students who had learnt the game while at English public schools.
- In 1874, the Irish Football Union.



Rise of clubs in Ireland (Belfast)

Clubs formed:

- NIFC (1868)
- Wanderers (1869)
- Queen's University (1869)
- Lansdowne (1873)
- Dungannon (1873)
- Co. Carlow (1873)
- UCC (1874)



North of Ireland Football Club

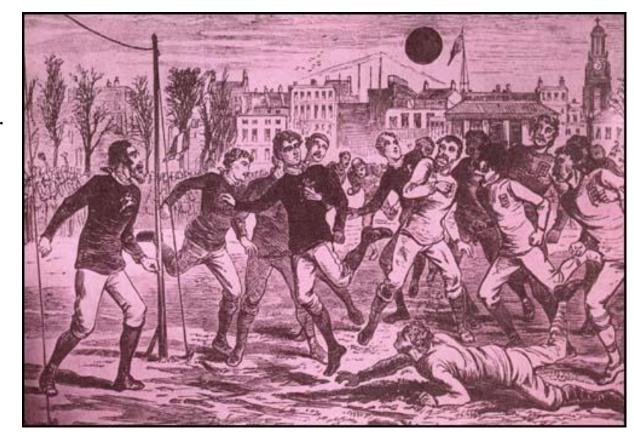
- North of Ireland Football Club formed in 1868.
- It was founded in 1868 by members of North of Ireland Cricket Club.





Background

- John McCredy McAlery, a Belfast businessman in his late 20s had an important role in bringing football to Ireland; the extent of his role if debated.
- Football may have been played earlier that this but this was the first 'proper' match but this match was the first official 'exhibition' and 'commercial' football match under 'association' rules played in Ireland.
- First football match played under 'association' rules was played between two Scottish sides, Queen's Park and Caledonian, at the Cliftonville Cricket ground in 1879.



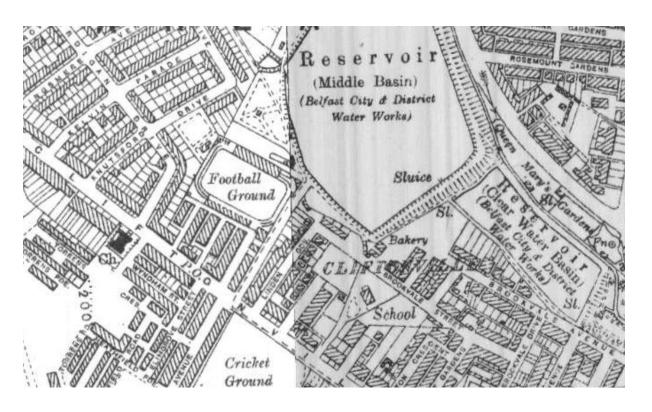
Impact of match

- On Saturday 20 September 1879, the Belfast News-Letter and the Northern Whig both announced that, following the introduction of association football the previous season, a club had been formed to play at the new ground of the Cliftonville Cricket Club.
- Irish Football Association formed in 1880. The seven founding members were Cliftonville, Knock, Oldpark, Avoniel and Distillery from Belfast; and Moyola Park and Alexander from County Londonderry.



Growth in the game

- When founded in 1879, Cliftonville's original home ground was at the old Cliftonville Cricket Club grounds.
- Land opposite the Cricket Club on the Cliftonville Road was later purchased and on August 20, 1890 the new ground was officially opened.
- However, the event chosen to unveil the facilities was not a football game, but rather an athletics meeting. Like other Football Clubs, football was not the only sporting outlook, hence the Club's full title of Cliftonville Football and Athletic Club.



Where did the players come from?

- Of the 61 local players who turned out at least once for either Cliftonville or Knock during 1880-81 season, 20 can be identified as having played rugby in the previous season and 41 (about two-thirds) cannot.
- If the survey, however, is restricted to the 25 who played at least three or more association games, then the proportion of rugby players reduces to one-fifth.
- The members who form the second Irish club, Knock, was drawn from the members of the Knock Lacrosse Club.
- Another significant factor that these 3/7 clubs had in common was the involvement of Scottish migrants in their teams. Avoniel club was said to have been formed by Scotsmen.



Varying fortunes of clubs

- Glentoran: founded in 1882. In 1914, Glentoran won the Vienna Cup, becoming the second U.K. team to win a European trophy.
- Avoniel FC: founded in 1880 but disbanded in 1883 with many of their players joining Glentoran. Members drawn from the Avoniel Distillery in Belfast.
- Crusaders Football Club: Founded in 1898.
 Various names were suggested for the club, including 'Rowan Star', 'Cultra United', 'Mervue Wanderers' and 'Moyola' but "Crusaders" was chosen after the medieval Christian knights.



Early hooliganism

May 1891: Three cases were heard in connection with disturbances at a charity football match in Cliftonville. Ezekiel Johnston of 43 Moscow Street summoned Thomas Morrison of Beechfield Terrace; William Cunningham, of 21 Somerset Street summoned William Henry Johnston of 5 Glenallen Street and William Cunningham summoned James Morrison of 1 Beechfield Terrace. The complainants were members of the Ulster Football Club who had been assaulted by the prisoners. Johnston and Morrison were fined 20 shillings plus costs.



Women's football

- Earliest games seem to have taken place in Belfast in September 1917.
- Clubs were formed, probably during WW1 e.g. Whites (Distillery) and the Stripes (Belfast Celtic)
- On the 26 September, an estimated 5,000 spectators watched Belfast Ladies take on a men's side from the Royal Navy.

FOOTBALL NOTICES.

LADIES' FOOTBALL MATCH

(Under the Auspices of the Footballers Guild.)

"STRIPES v.

WHITES,"

BELFAST SAILORS' & SOLDIERS'
JERVICE CLUB,

At GROSVENOR PARK,

TO-MORROW (FRIDAY) EVENING, 7th inst.

Kick-off at SEVEN o'clock sharp.

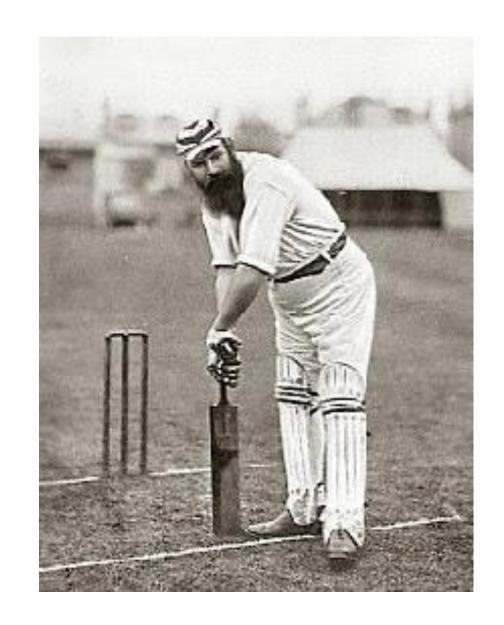
ADMISSION-Reserved, 1s; Ladies, 6d; Un-

Wounded Soldiers and Sailors admitted



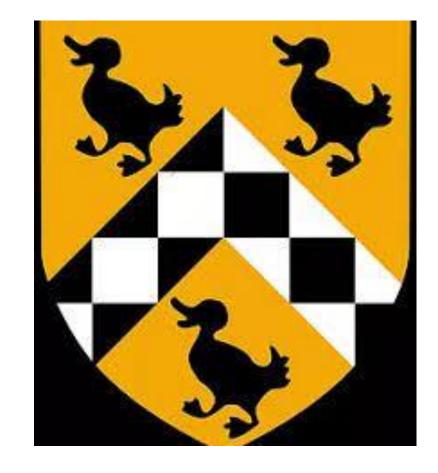
Development of cricket

- September 1838. Reported that the Ulster Cricket Club played their first match at May's Field near the new bridge.
- North of Ireland Cricket Club formed in 1859.
- Clubs start to emerge in Belfast in the late 1880s



Cregagh Cricket Club, 1906

- Mr. J. W. A. Hamilton, an elder within the McQuiston Church, Castlereagh Rd, brought together a small band of men one summers night.
- Hamilton was a great believer in outdoor activities for the young men and leased land from the church.
- He also ran the Helping Hand Bible class and many of his class members played cricket.
- Players also came from 9th Company of the Boys Brigade attached to the church.



Cliftonville Cricket Club

- Club was formed as Enfield in 1870, using a pitch in Clifton Park, now Clifton Park Avenue in north Belfast, disbanded in 1873, and reformed in 1874.
- 1880, the club adopted its present name and moved to the Cliftonville Cricket Ground on the Cliftonville Road.



Muckamore Cricket Club (connection to Belfast)

- Club formed by John Robinson, a member of the staff of the York Street Flax Spinning Company, who played for Massereene in the late 1860s.
- When he came to live at the Muckamore School House with the Entwhistle family in 1874 he formed Muckamore Cricket Club.
- In 1894, a local minister strongly disapproved of a barrel of beer being delivered to the ground each Saturday and finished on the Sunday, so he formed Greenmount Cricket Club for the junior members and boys from his Bible class.
- This club played on the opposite side of the Six Mile Water from Moylena, but in 1897 the two clubs agreed to merge, electing John G. Entwhistle to captain Muckamore, a position he continuously held for 27 years.





Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA)

- Formed in 1884.
- Sought to promote traditional Irish sports and to reject "foreign" (particularly English) imports.
- 1886: Wexford County Board became the first GAA county organisation in the country.
- 1900: The provincial councils of Munster, Leinster, Connacht and Uls ter were sanctioned.
- 1903: GAA introduced rules banning its own members from playing rival or 'foreign' codes, and from joining the British Crown forces.



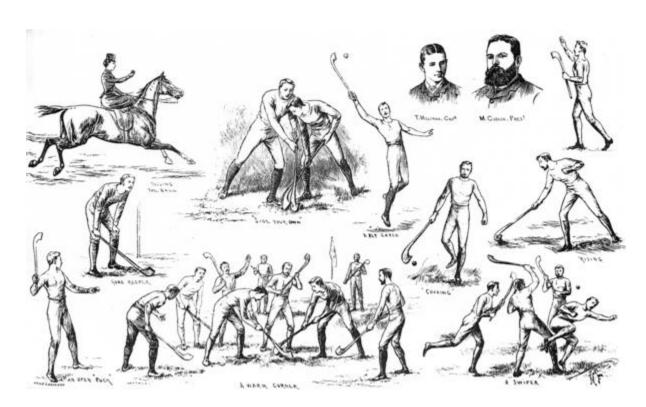
GAA in Ulster

- Late 1880s: initial enthusiasm.
- 1890s: No county boards operating. Few clubs affiliated to GAA.
- 1901: Belfast based Antrim GAA board establiheed.
- 1901-10: Ulster remained the weakest province of the GAA throughout this period.
- Up to 1910 the Great Northern Railway Company refused to run special trains to sports on Sundays - a policy which greatly limited the GAA's ability to make a profit from championship games and to reinvest in infrastructure



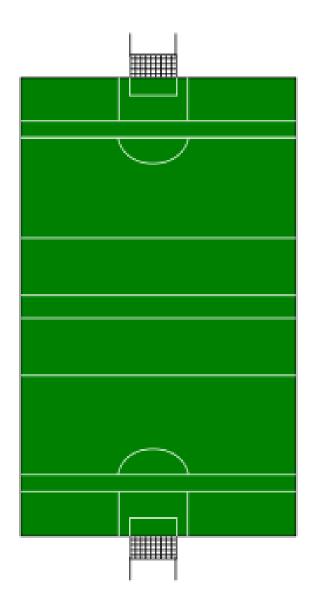
Hurling

- The Statute of Galway of 1527 allowed the playing of "foot balle" and archery but banned "hokie'— the hurling of a little ball with sticks or staves" as well as other sports.
- One of the first modern attempts to standardise the game with a formal, written set of rules came with the foundation of the Irish Hurling Union at Trinity College Dublin in 1879.
- GAA published a set of rules.



Gaelic Football

- The first legal reference to football in Ireland was in 1308, when John McCrocan, a spectator at a football game at Novum Castrum de Leuan (the New Castle of the Lyons or Newcastle) was charged with accidentally stabbing a player named William Bernard. A field near Newcastle, South Dublin is still known as the football field.
- The earliest record of a recognised precursor to the modern game dates from a match in County Meath in 1670, in which catching and kicking the ball were permitted.
- "foot-ball" was banned by the severe Sunday Observance Act of 1695, which imposed a fine of one shilling for those caught playing sports.
- Rules published in 1887.
- First Gaelic Football under GAA rules played in 1885.



Camogie

- Founded in 1903, first matches played in 1904.
- The sport's governing body, the Camogie Association or An Cumann Camógaíochta was founded in 1905 and reconstituted in 1911



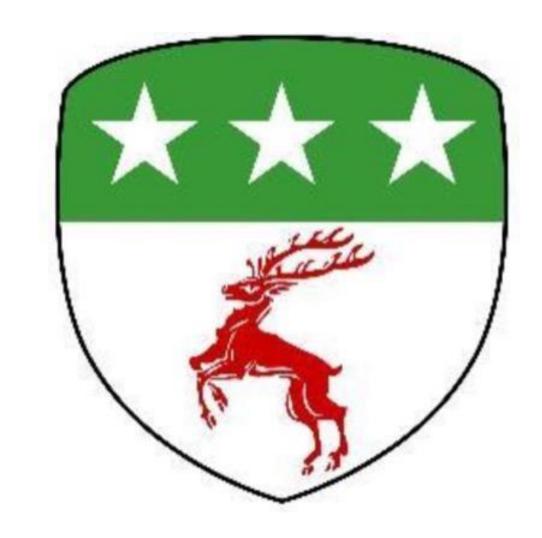
St Galls Club

 Club formed in April 1910 when pupils from St. Gall's De La Salle School persuaded their teacher, Tipperary-born Brother Albeus Ryan, to start a football and hurling club.



Michael Davitt GAC

- Officially established in 1912 at 2a Dunville Street.
- Michael Davitt (1846-1906) was an Irish republican activist for a variety of causes, especially Home Rule and land reform. He began his career as an organiser of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. Convicted of treason felony for arms trafficking in 1870, he served seven years in prison.



Questions?