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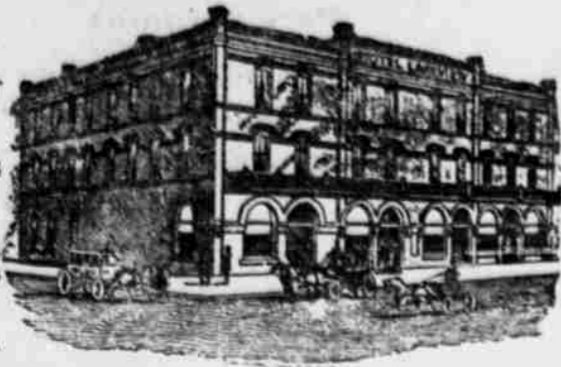
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Interesting Article From Thomas Linehan's Pen Tells of County Cork's History--
Writer Proud to Cast Lot in Lake County

From The Irish News

The extensive county of Cork, for purposes of judicial administration, is divided into East and West Riding. At the extreme northern corner of the West Riding, where it bounds the fertile plains of Limerick and the rugged mountains of Kerry, lies the broad Barony of Duhallow.

The name Duhallow is derived from a combination of the names of two rivers, the Duhla and the Allos, which had their confluence at the town of Kanturk, the capital of the Barony. As a reason why we feel a sense of pride in hailing from that particular part of the Emerald Isle, lies some of the more recent story of the sad and chequered history of our dear old motherland; the story of a people for centuries crushed by oppression in fierce combat with the most powerful aristocracy in Europe and the government of the greatest empire the world has ever seen; the ultimate triumph of their cause and the downfall of feudalism in that glorious night for the land.

Thirty years ago when the Irish people once again harked to the tocsin of freedom sounded by the land league, and the slogan "Ireland for the Irish, and the land for the People" fanned into white heat the battle fires of Munster and Leinster, the conditions of land tenure was to say the least lamentable. Tenants found it impossible to pay the exorbitant rents the landlords demanded and awaited the advent of the sheriff to be cast adrift from their homes, with nothing left but the workhouse and the emigrant ship.

Happily, Ireland reared chieftains who led her through the bitter conflict to a triumph unexampled in the history of the world. Principal among these men were Michael Davitt, the founder of the Land League, and Charles Stuart Parnell, a man of Napoleonic personality, who gathered around him a galaxy of brilliant lieutenants, mostly young enthusiastic men, whom he led in the English House of Commons and in Ireland with inimitable genius.

Tackling the seemingly unsurmountable task of overthrowing landlordism in Ireland under the banner of the Land League, the people were organized to offer active and passive resistance to the tyranny of the landlords and then commenced and continued a condition which entailed all the torments and suffering of Civil war for close to 25 years. In this crisis of our country's fortunes it was that the indomitable men of Duhallow won fame, not only in Ireland but wherever the scattered children of Erin had found a home.

There is a courage for the battlefield when the clang of bugle and roll of drum turn the blood to fire; there is a courage of higher order when in the quiet hour, removed from the world's applause, men deliberate and decide to face long years of trouble and persecution for a common cause. For all that raises human action into the heroic, not at Lexington or Thermopylae was there anything to excel the splendid devotion with which an unarmed people faced battering ram, buckshot, batonnings and bayonetings among the tablelands and bogs of Curras and Meelin under the "Plan of Campaign." The high patriotic purpose was there: the courage to endure strong and long again, and yet again, the tortures of the prison cell, inflicted by tribunals manned by their tormentors.

Among all this matchless brigade which Duhallow contributed to the National army there were none who had the record of the dauntless men of Newmarket and Meelin, led by a gallant priest, whose memory will be cherished with the remembrance of the resistance made to the infamous Coercion act.

While in the throes of this ordeal, the hearts of the people were saddened almost to dismay by the tragic and romantic fate which cut away from them the service of the leader they loved. Parnell's death left the forces of the nation in dismay but freedom's cause never dies and after a short interval the United Irish League sounded once more the clarion which renewed the battles of the estates and sent hope pulsing through the hearts of the evicted. Again Duhallow heard the martial music and took its place in the bandstand.

After more years of protracted fighting some of the more liberal landlords suggested the holding of a conference between representatives from both sides. This course received the approbation of the Chief Secretary of Ireland, and accordingly the famous Land Conference, composed of representatives of the landlords and of the Irish people, was held in Dublin in 1902. The

unanimous result of their deliberation was that the British Treasury must finance the gigantic transportation of the land of Ireland to the people from the lords, and in addition the Treasury must give a bonus of \$100,000,000 to expedite the operation.

This bonus was a sine qua non of the great treaty. It represented the sum necessary to bridge the difference between the price which the tenants could afford to pay and the price which the landlords would accept.

Throughout the country a general truce was proclaimed and coercion was suspended. The Irish chief secretary introduced a Land bill, framed on the findings of the Land Conference report. The bill passed the House of Lords and went on the statutes as the great Land Act of 1903.

So the long drawn battle which had been waged through seven centuries in various forms, according to the exigencies of the times, was at last won. Never was capitulation more complete: never was victory more deserved by such display of real comradeship in the ranks. The surrender came from the Tories, the implacable foes of Ireland.

By the act the British treasury was to provide \$500,000,000 for Irish land purchase and in addition to give the necessary free bonus to the amount of \$60,000,000. What had cost France a deluge of blood and the horrors of the Revolution, the Irish race had accomplished by struggle and persistence, by a magnificent loyalty to the cause they swore fealty to, the complete overthrow of landlordism, and the day is fast approaching when Ireland will be as free from the last remnants of feudalism as it was ere the first mail-clad Norman set foot on the shores of Wexford.

At Christmas time 9 years ago, the hearts of the old Gaelic race from far Australia and New Zealand to the Arctic circle were gladdened by the news of the great victory. Once again Irish exiles await news, the joyful tidings of the restoration of the National Parliament.

In the hour of triumph the old motherland is not forgetful of the great ocean of gold, the kindness and generous sympathy which her exiled children and the liberty-loving people of the United States and the flourishing British colonies ever kept pouring on her in dark and evil days. In the approaching final triumph of the old cause, the boys from Duhallow who have found a home in Lake county feel a pardonable pride in hailing from the barony which led the van in the glorious fight for freedom of the land.

The sunburst is over Erin. Happier days and fairer fortunes will come with the bright light of liberty: the stunted National intellect and character will be regenerated by a congenial system of education and the vigor of the race will be restored by the tonic of achievement. When this will have taken place watch our "Dark Rosaleen" emerge from tribulations to give to the world sons of genius and daughters unrivaled, unexcelled without the shores of Paradise. The followers of the Orange and Green will forget the days when men killed each other for the love of God, and Limerick and the Boyne will be the common heritage of a United Irish Nation. A people whose life work is to fashion in a virgin land from the rough that God wrought, know nought of the intense patriotism of an emotional race, inspired by the golden glories of tradition, the mystic enchantment of folk-lore, "where the fairies and the blarney never die." Yet we are full of gratitude to Dame Fortune and to the strong men of our race for the destiny which led us to this great county of Lake and cast our lot among the peerless people, for whose generous hospitality we wish feebly to confess our appreciation. We boast not the advanced culture of the French, but we do proudly boast of the warm heartedness and patriotism of the Irish which has added strength to every land where we have mingled, and so in the day of our victory it might be well to sum up by saying, "We do not love Oregon less, because we love Ireland more."

THOMAS LINEHAN,
Plush, Oregon.

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