



The Federation for Ulster Local Studies Ltd

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Newsletter 10

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Hidden Gems and Forgotten People

A Joint Venture

The Federation of Ulster Local Studies and the Federation of Local History Societies have been working to identify areas of mutual interest in the development of local history and studies in the island of Ireland. One of these was the highly successful joint event in September to visit Tara and the newly opened Boyne Centre in which over 100 people from the Federations took part.

A second project is to involve Societies in identifying interesting but lesser known places and people; places that don't make it on to the tourist circuit but which have some local historical interest or significance. Also, there will be local knowledge of men and women who have made a significant contribution to their own locally or more widely but whom time has largely forgotten.

- The aim is to document these places and celebrate these people before they slip out of memory.
- The intention is to compile a number of these into either a book, a CD or place them on a website, or a combination of all three.

Some examples of the sort of thing we have in mind are provided overleaf.

This Bulletin invites member Societies to take part in the Project.

The following guidelines are to help in compiling the information on the chosen subjects in the local area.

- The topic should be on one A4 page.
- The format on the page to be as in the attached sample. It should include
 - Name of the History Group/Society.
 - Place or Person name
 - Location of place
 - Images: Scanned photographs or digital camera photos at as high as resolution as possible. Colour or b/w if this was the original print. Send images separately from the text i.e. do not embed in the document unless the text/image is an image in itself.
 - Text giving the story behind the subject. 100- 200 words
- Type the page in Word document
- Target is to select any number, up to ten, places or people
- When completed send to:

Pat Devlin , Federation for Ulster
Local Studies, 18 Ardmore Drive,
Downpatrick, Co. Down, BT306JU.
E-mail; info@fuls.org.uk;

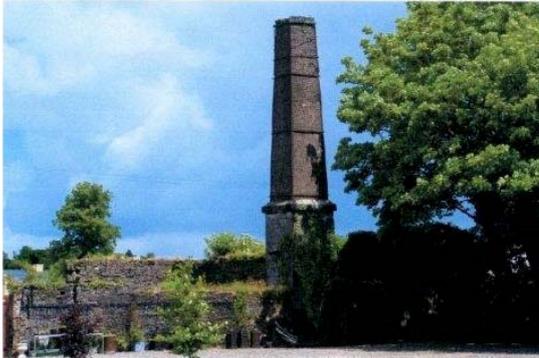
*We would like all contributions to be received
by the end of June.*

*To assess the likely scope of the project we
would be grateful if Societies would let us
know, **by the end of March**, whether they
intend to provide material, with some
indication of what this might be.*

Hidden Gems and Forgotten People

NAAS LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

NAAS GASWORKS - CANAL BANK



Along the banks of the canal you will find the well maintained building that was the former town gasworks. Once an important local industry, it supplied heating and lighting in the pre-electricity era to the town through an intricate network of underground pipeworks from the gasworks to the town. The fuel, which was coal, was delivered by barge from Dublin and the story is told how "children were brought to inhale the fumes, thought to be a cure for whooping cough. A quick visit to "Tommy Fletchers" pub in North Main Street will allow one the opportunity to see some of the original gas fittings, now dormant but still intact and safely in place above the bar.

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CARRICKFERGUS AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JOHN (SEAN) ERNEST LESTER



John Lester was born in Woodburn, Carrickfergus to Robert (a grocer) and Henrietta Lester in 1888. He was educated by a scholarship to Methodist College, Belfast. He began his career as a journalist in Portadown. Later worked on the Freeman's Journal in Dublin. Became a member of the Gaelic League and the Irish Republican Brotherhood by conviction and influence by friends such as Ernest Blythe. He said he "became an Irish Nationalist of the positive kind looking for Irish freedom and happiness...". In 1929 he was appointed by Desmond Fitzgerald, Irish Minister of External Affairs, to the League of Nations as permanent representative to publicise the activities of the new State. In 1932 at the same time as Eamon De Valera became President of the Dail, Lester was appointed as the League's High Commissioner to the Free City of Danzig when his name was often in the newspaper headlines. Due to non co-operation by the German Nazi Government in 1936 he was withdrawn from Danzig and became Deputy Secretary-General of the League of Nations. In 1940 he was made Acting Secretary-General of the League of Nations until the organisation's demise. In 1948 he was offered the job by Trygve Lie the United Nations Secretary-General to be the UN Head of Staff of the commission to deal with the then explosive India/Pakistan situation. He refused. He died in 1959 and is buried in Clifden, Co. Galway