

The Blue Plaques of Strabane

Places called after People

- **Flann O'Brien's** **Delaney Crescent**
- **Collins Way** **Alexander Terrace**
- **Abercorn Square** **Bradley Way**
- **Kennedy's Street** **Carlton Drive**
- **Doherty's School** **Young's School**
- **John Perry School** **Lowry's Corner**
- **Parc Ui Sigerson** **Scoil Ui Docherty**
- **McGregor's Wood** **Melvin Park/Hall**
- **O'Nolan Park** **Ivan Barr Bridge**
- **Craig Memorial** **Hamilton's Corner**



ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE

- **Blue Plaques Society was founded in 1866**
- **Ulster History Circle was founded in 1980**
- **It celebrates the links between notable figures of the past and the buildings in which they lived and worked**

- **The Ulster History Circle is a voluntary organisation**

Criteria

- **The person has been dead for 20 years**
- **A century has passed since his/her birth**
- **He/She is famous for distinguished service**
- **In 2009 Strabane had no nominations!**
- **(James McCullagh, Plumbridge, the closest)**



**Who
was
Oliver
Pollock?**

WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?

\$ Who was Oliver Pollock?

\$

- In 1737 he was born in Bready
- Aged 23 he set off for Pennsylvania
- In 1762 he arrived in New Orleans
- He became a wealth, successful businessman.
- In 1777 he was appointed Commercial Agent for the Continental Congress.
- In 1778 he helped finance the George Roger Clark campaign in Illinois
- He served as aide-de-camp v British in Louisiana, Alabama
- In 1781 he fought at the Siege of Pensacola.
- He attended the British surrender at Fort Panmure, Natchez.
- In 1783 he was appointed US Agent to Havana, Cuba.



\$ Who was Oliver Pollock?

\$

\$\$\$ sign due to Pollock's bad handwriting of ps for the pesa
Morris started to use the \$ sign.

In 1778 he borrowed \$70,000

In 1785 he borrowed \$150,000. He was prosecuted for debt.

He & friend Robert Morris both debtors, BUT both creditors to
US Government.

In 1800 Pollock acquired land and remarried.

A sculpture stands in Baton Rouge in honour of \$ Pollock

He died in 1832.



WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?

John Dunlap



**Who
was
John
Dunlap?**



Who
was
John
Dunlap?

Who was John Dunlap?

- He was born in Strabane in 1746
- He left to travel to America in 1757
- He went to Philadelphia to work for his uncle
- In 1776 John took over the business of printing
- In 1771 he printed *The Penn. Packet* weekly.

Who was John Dunlap?

- He was a member of the Friendly Sons of St Patrick
- He was on George Washington bodyguard
- He printed the American Declaration of Independence
- He was the official printer to the State of Pennsylvania
- In 1778 he was appointed Official Printer to the United States Congress
- He died on 27th November 1812, aged 66

• **BUT!**



WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?





**Who
was
James
McCullagh?**

Who was James McCullagh?

James McCullagh was born in 1809.

He was born in Landahussy, Upper Badoney, Plumbridge

He was the eldest of 12 children.

He went to Trinity College, aged 15.

He became an inspiring teacher of Mathematics & Physics.

He became a fellow of the College in 1833.

He was one of the most important mathematicians and physicists in Europe.

Who was James McCullagh?

In 1838 he was awarded the Royal Irish Academy's Cunningham Medal for his work on "*The Laws of crystalline Reflexion*"

In 1842 he was awarded The Copley Medal by the Royal Society, London for his work "On surfaces of the second order".

In 1843 he was made a fellow of The Royal Society.

He committed suicide on 24 October 1947

He was buried at St Patrick's Church, Upper Badoney, Co Tyrone where the Blue Plaque proudly stands (2009)

Who was Cecil Frances Alexander?



WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HER?



**Who
Was
Cecil
Frances
Alexander?**





Who was Cecil Frances Alexander?

Cecil Frances was born in Dublin in 1818.

She was the 2nd daughter of Major & Mrs. John Humphries

Came to Strabane at age of 16.

Major appointed land agent to Earl of Abercorn

She lived at Milltown House.

She wrote several famous hymns

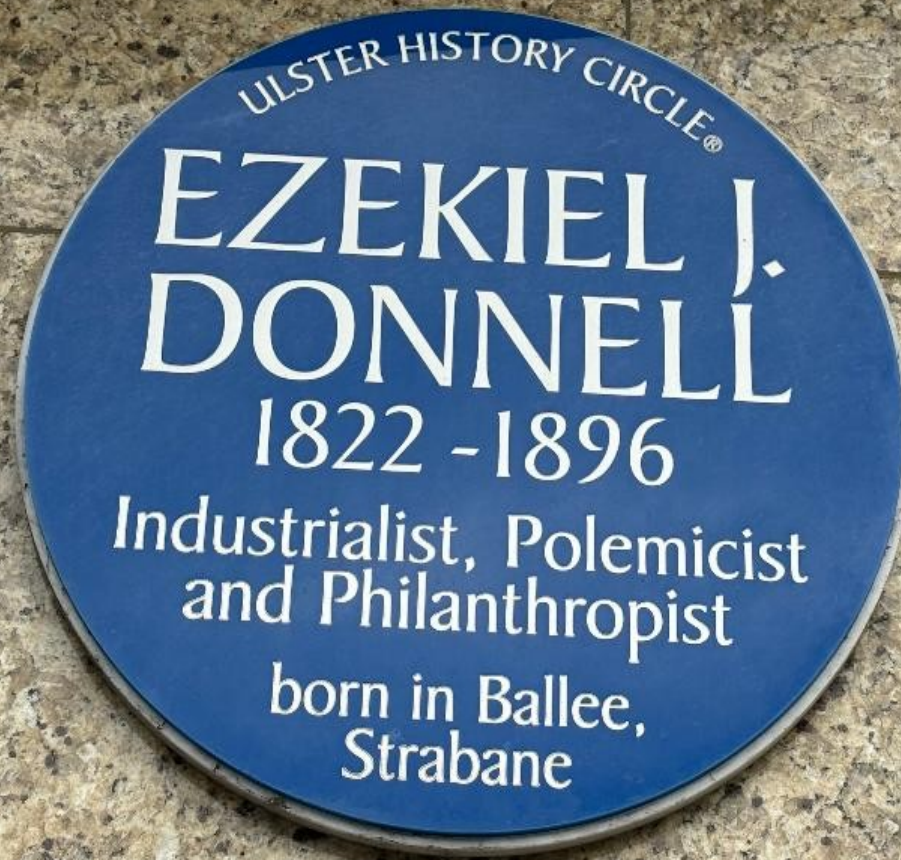
Married Bishop Alexander

BUT!

Cecil Frances Alexander



BISHOP'S STREET, DERRY



WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?



**Who
was
Ezekiel
Donnell?**

Who was Ezekiel Donnell?

Ezekiel J Donnell was born in Strabane in 1822.

He was born in the townland of Ballee.

He was the youngest of a large family.

He went to America , aged 18, in 1840.

He returned to Ballee where he bought the tenant rights of a large farm at Milltown.

He originally settled in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1854 he left Alabama and went to work in New York.

Who was Ezekiel Donnell?

He established himself as a successful cotton merchant.

He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce.

He was a member of the Reform Club.

He was a founder member of the Democratic Club.

He was an outspoken opponent of protectionism

He was an advocate of Free Trade

Many of his public speeches were published as pamphlets.

Slavery & Protectionism was published in 1882

The impending crisis was published in 1883

Wages & Tariffs: influence of the Protective System on wages, social organisation and the distribution of wealth

was published in 1884

He donated \$1 million to establish a library where young people

He died on 25th January 1896 in New York.

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

Alexander
Ector
ORR

1831-1914

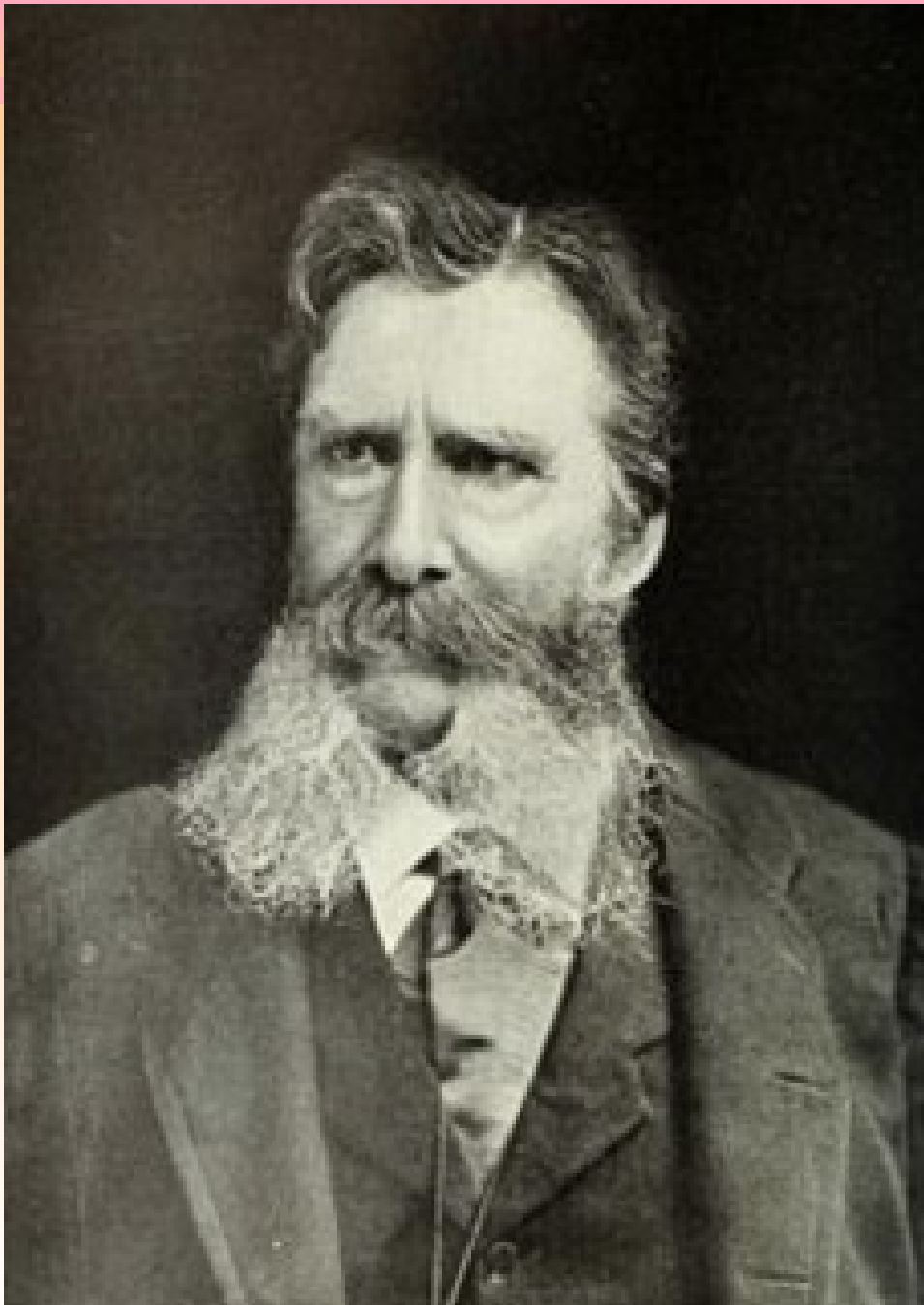
Businessman
Financier

'The Father of the
New York Subway System'

1904

born at
Bowling Green

WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?



**Who
was
Alexander
Ector
Orr?**



Who was Alexander Ector Orr?

Alexander Ector Orr was born in Bowling Green Strabane
He was born in 1831

Aged 19 he set sail for America, settling in New York.

Worked successfully for David Dows, Grain Dealer.

Became a partner in the Company within 3 years.

He was on the Board of Directors of 29 Companies

He was President of New York Life Insurance Company

He was on the Board of Brooklyn Academy of Music

He was on the Board of Long Island State Hospital

He was on the Board of the Society of Reformation of
Juvenile Delinquents



Who was Alexander Ector Orr?

In 1894 he was asked to plan, build and supervise the construction of a fast track transit system for the city. This became the New York Subway.

Elected President of the Rapid Transit Commission until 1907.

237 miles of railway

481 stations

8,500 trains daily

Annually carried a billion and a half passengers

Over 125 years the New York system is considered one of the safest undergrounds in the world



WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?



**Who
was
George
Sigerson?**

Who was George Sigerson?



Who was George Sigerson?

He was born at Holyhill, outside Strabane in 1836.

At the age of 6 he attended the local Glebe school.

In 1850 Sigerson was sent to The academy in Letterkenny and then Tergevil in Maghera.

In 1852 he was sent to St Joseph's College in Paris.

In 1855 he returned to Galway to pursue a career in medicine.

In 1860s he wrote Poets & Poetry of Munster.

He married Hestor Varian from Cork on 11th December 1861.

They lived at Synge Street where George had his practice.

Who was George Sigerson?

He wrote for The Irish People, The Nation, The Irishman, Hibernian Magazine, The Shamrock, The Harp.

In 1868 he wrote Modern Ireland about vital questions and secret societies and Government.

He published under the pseudonym '@Erionnach'. He wrote for The Irish People, The Nation, The Irishman, Hibernian Magazine, The Shamrock, The Harp.

In 1868 he wrote Modern Ireland about vital questions and secret societies and Government.

In 1870 he wrote about the true site of the Battle of Knockavoe in '*Observations of some sepulchral urns...*'

Who was George Sigerson?

He wrote The History of Land Tenures and Land Class.
His books include The Last Independent Parliament of Ireland
His poems included The Easter Song of Sedulius (1922) and
Bards of the Gael and Gall .
He was a Senator in the new Irish free State
He was President of the National Literacy Society.
He was a founder of Feis Ceoil
In 1911 he established the Sigerson Cup for higher education
In 1913 he wrote the classic ‘The saga of King Lir’
He died in Dublin on 17 February 1925.



ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

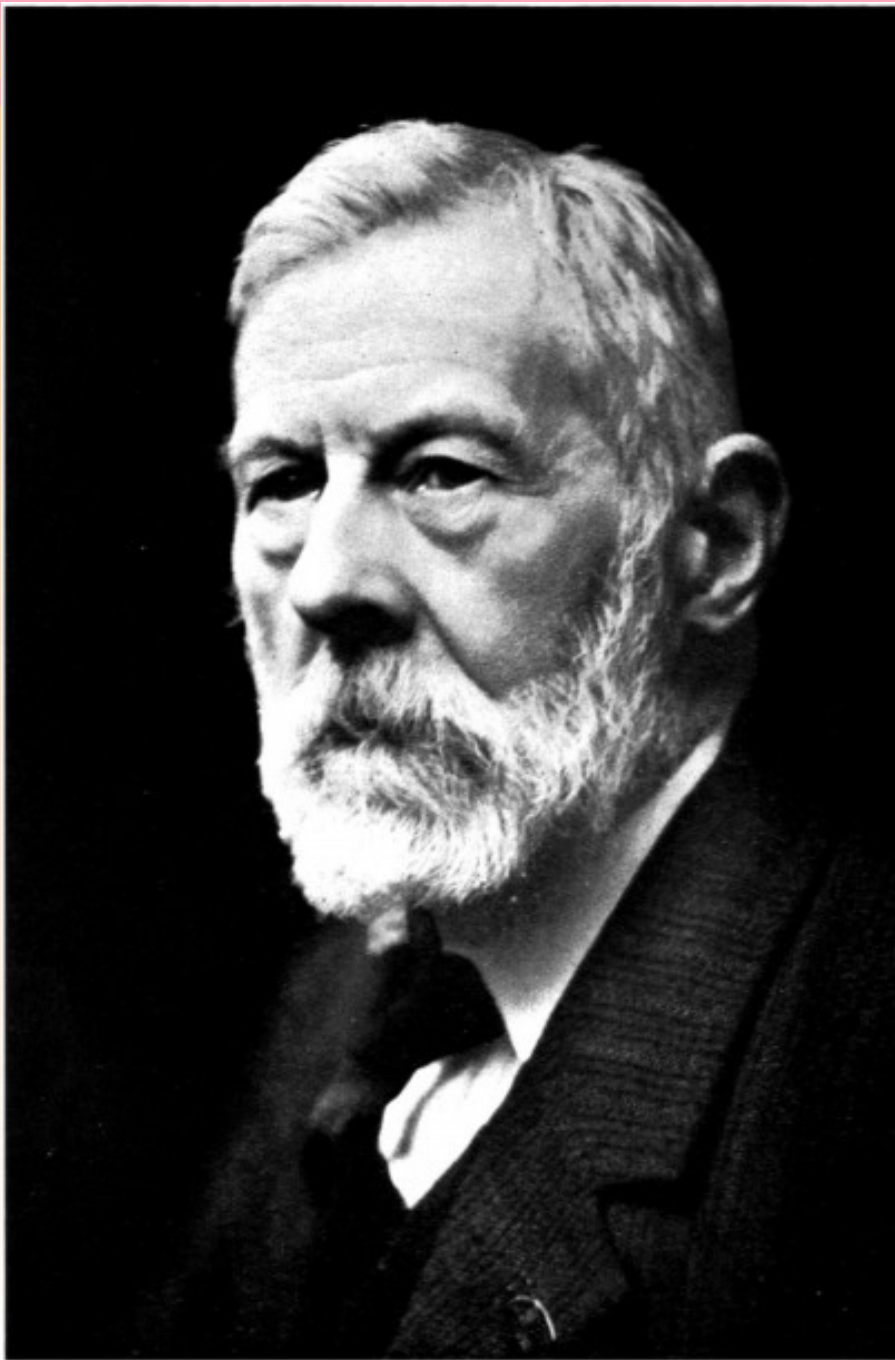
ROBERT JOHN
WELCH

1859 - 1936

Photographer

born in a house
at this site

WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR



**Who
Was
Robert
John
Welsh?**



Who was Robert John Welsh?

Robert John Welsh was born on 22nd July 1859
He was born at Upper Main Street, Strabane.
His father was a photographer until he died in 1875.
Robert went to Belfast that year to work as a photographer.
He was apprenticed to E.T. Church.
In 1883 he set up his own business in Lonsdale Street.
He specialised in the life of people and contemporary
landscapes.



Who was Robert J. Welsh?

A collection of street scenes in Belfast till 1930s exist.

In 1900 he was awarded a Royal warrant by Queen Victoria.

In 1886 he was commissioned by the Royal Commission of Enquiry to record the damage caused in Belfast after the anti-Home Rule riots of that year.

He was appointed official photographer to Harland & Wolff.

He found fame with his photographic coverage of the buildings of, and the launch of the great ocean-going liner, The Titanic.

In 1923 he received an Honorary Doctorate from Queen's University.

He died on 28th September 1936.



ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

ANNIE RUSSELL
MAUNDER

1868-1947

Mathematician
Pioneering Astronomer

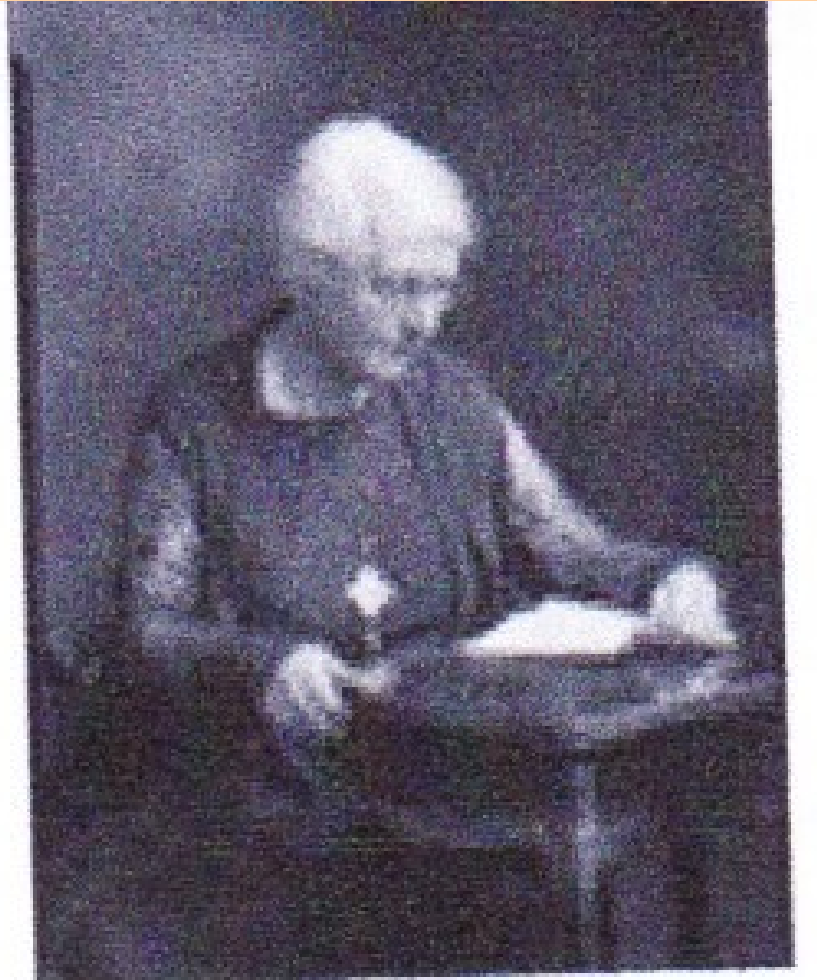
Maunder Lunar Crater

Maunder Minimum

born in Strabane

WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HER?

Who was Annie Russell Maunder?





Annie Scott Dill Maunder

She was born at Derry Road, Strabane

She was born on 14th April 1868

She attended Belfast (Victoria) Collegiate

She won a 3year scholarship to Girton College, Cambridge

In 1891 she started work as a 'lady computer'.

In 1892 she discovered a giant spot on the sun
(a magnetic storm)

In 1894 she had devised the Solar Maximum



Annie Scott Dill Maunder

She was appointed editor to the Royal Astronomical Society

She followed solar eclipses in India and other countries

In 1895 she married her boss, Edward Walter Maunder

In 1908 she published her work in “The heaven & their story”

In 1916 she became the first female to be elected to the Society

She died in 1947, aged 80 at Wandsworth, London.

There is a crater on the Moon known as The Maunder Crater

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

BRIAN O'NOLAN
(Brian Ó Nualláin)

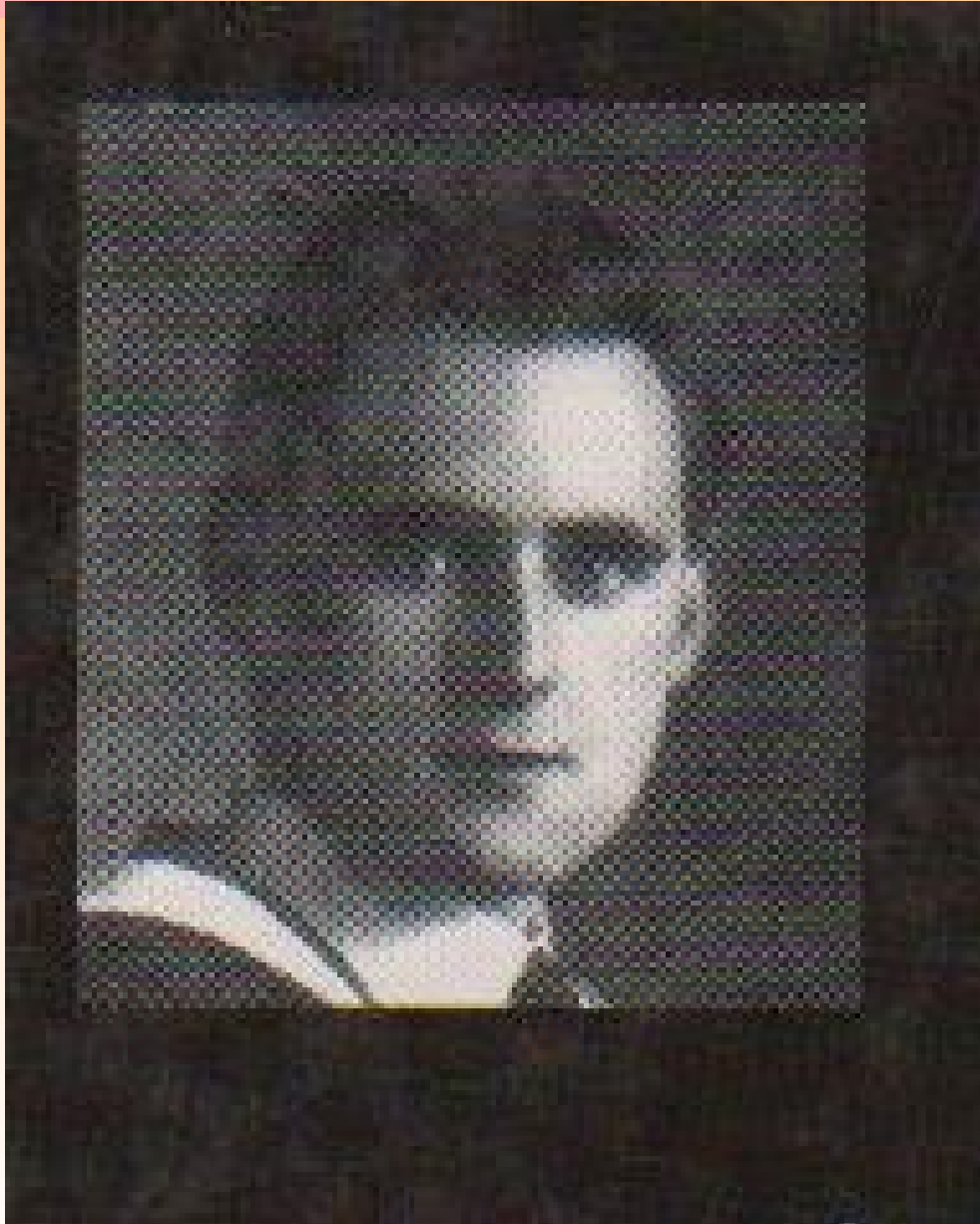
(Flann O'Brien - Myles na gCopaleen)

1911-1966

Scribhneoir - a rugadh anseo

Writer - born here

WHY PUT A PLAQUE UP FOR HIM?



**Who
was
Brian
O'Nolan?**

Who was Brian O’Nolan?



Who was Brian O'Nolan?




Who was Brian O’Nolan?

- Brian O’Nolan was born in the year is 1911.
- On 5th October 1911 Brian O’Nolan, 3rd son born to Michael V. and Agnes, nee Gormley was born at No. 17 Bowling Green.
- He lived at Ballycolman during his early life.
- He was an author, journalist, civil servant.
- He wrote *At Swim-Two-Birds*, *The Third policeman*,
- *An Beal Bocht*
- His column in the Irish Times was *An Cruiskeen Lawn*
- He died, aged 54, on 1st April 1966 (April Fool’s Day)
- He is buried at Deansgrange cemetery in South Dublin



**Brian O’Nolan
was
Flann O’Brien,
Myles na gCopaleen,
George Knowall,
Brother Barnabas.**



Foremost Mathematician in Ireland
New York Subway
American Declaration of Independence
Photos of the Titanic
Maunder Crater on the Moon
The Donnell Library in New York
Sigerson's Contribution to Medicine
The writings of Brian O'Nolan

Why?

- None of these people have added to the quality of life in the town of Strabane
- Blue plaques have cost the Council £500 for each plaque + cost of erection
- Each requires maintenance and cleaning
- How much do people know and care about these famous people?

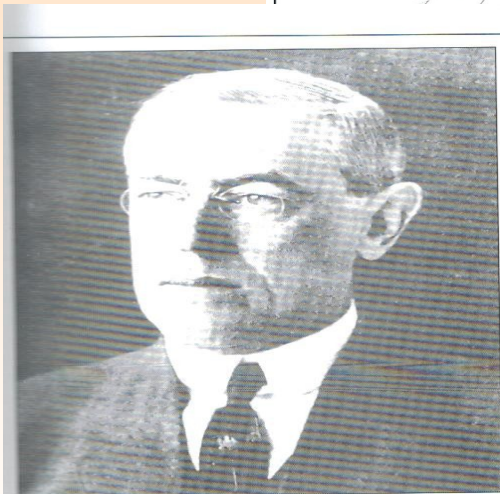
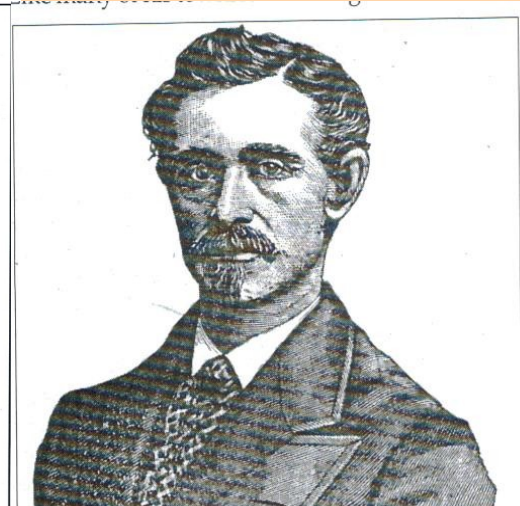
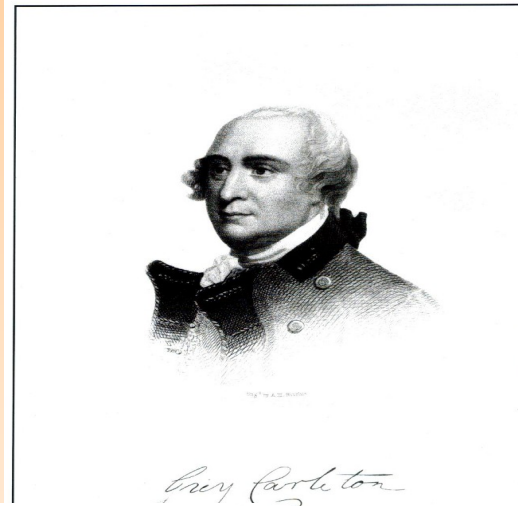
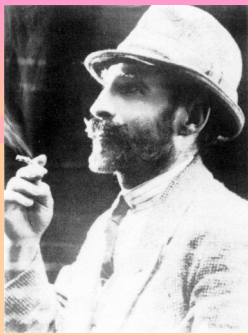


**Our famous sons and daughters
MUST be remembered**

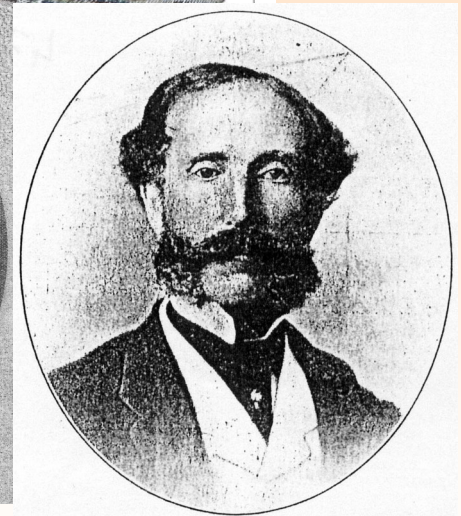
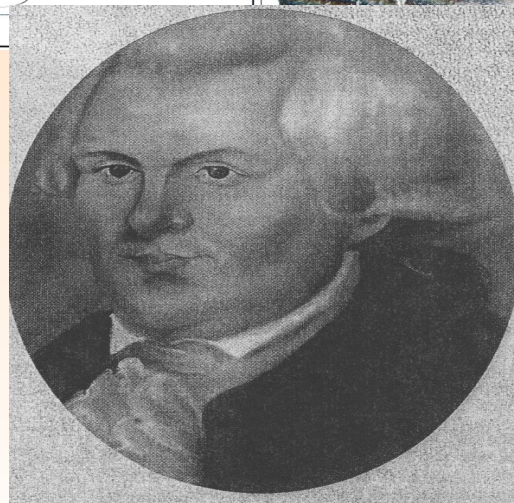
**Our famous sons and daughters
MUST be recognised**

**Our famous sons and daughters
have achieved great distinction**

WHO NEXT?



President Woodrow Wilson, whose family came from Dergalt, outside Strabane



Who next?

President Wilson

Sir Guy Carlton

Paul Brady

Hugh Duncan

Phelim Egan

James Herdman

Archbishop Simms

Archbishop Alexander

Ashley/Douglas Cooper

Clipper Carlton

Sister Catherine McAuley





Who would you nominate?

And why would you nominate this person?

Great achievements?

Charity work?

Work for the community?

Legacy?



Who deserves consideration?

**Who deserves consideration
but would not reach the level
of criteria considered
necessary to be placed on a**

BLUE PLAQUE?