

OBITUARIES

ANNIE MURRAY 1914 - 2002

With the death of Annie Murray, our society has lost one of its most enthusiastic and long-term members. Annie contributed to our activities in so many ways. She had a wonderful memory and a vast amount of lore about her native Acton and the Poyntzpass area. Annie assisted many of our members when researching local topics and recounted many tales, which had been handed down from earlier times. Blessed with a beautiful singing voice and an infectious sense of humour she is sadly missed.



MINNIE SAVAGE 1908 - 2001

Our Local History Society, which was set up in 1971, has been blessed with having in its membership several outstanding characters, both men and women. Minnie Savage, who died on February 8th 2001 aged 92, was one such who contributed to the rich variety of topics considered at the Society's meetings.

Being diffident by nature, she herself seldom addressed us but many talks by others were inspired and enhanced by her observations and memories. Minnie Savage had vivid powers of recollection so she could paint a word-picture of an event from her childhood as if it had happened yesterday. There are many examples of her snippets of information which helped speakers on topics such as - The Big Wind, Gates & Gatemakers, Old people of the Road, Wells, Lissummon Tunnel, Hiring Fairs, Fair Days, Old Farming Practices, Folklore and Customs.

Minnie Savage, and her sister Sara, who died in 1995, were gifted women who shared their talents with the wider community. Their home, Laurel Hill in Cullentragh townland, about four miles west of Poyntzpass, having been in the family since 1849, was a welcoming place, fragrant with memories. Among their forebears was R.N.Savage who was chosen by the tenants of the Close Estate to represent them in negotiations to get agreed terms for purchase of their holdings under the Land Act 1903. The trust shown by neighbours at that time was fully justified and the affection showered on Minnie Savage in her later years told how she had endeared herself to all who knew her.



As we recall her values and qualities it is clear that they stemmed from a profound and practical faith. In meetings of our Society her clear piping voice was distinctive and commanded attention. Invariably her input was worth listening to, not least because she said her piece using a minimum of words and in a forthright manner. Her legacy to the Society included many items of historical interest gathered over the years, which are continuing reminders of Laurel Hill and the Savage family. In a deeper way, may we dare to hope that we are not just better informed, but actually better people through having been acquainted with Minnie Savage.